

eclipse

Gays in the Ghetto

There's a little bit
of everyone in the
characters of
'Chelsea Boys.' **p14**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

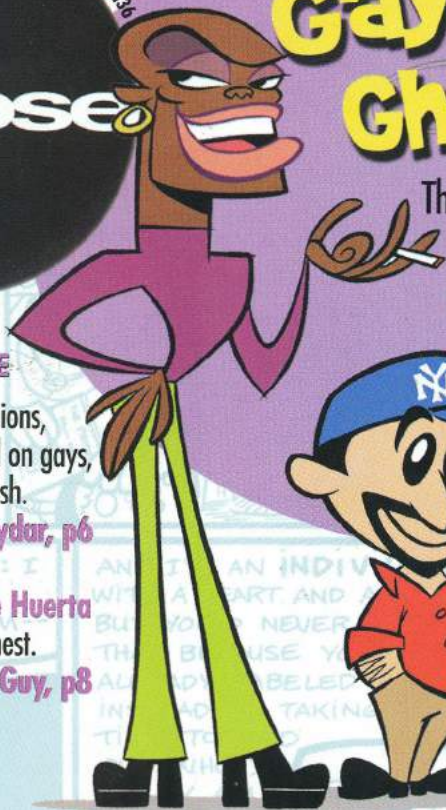
Texas bishops say no to unions,
Houston companies ranked on gays,
The Fab Five on George Bush.

Gaydar, p6



Houston's **Noe Huerta**
likes a good chest.

Our Guy, p8



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Summer is over.

Labor Day is passed. The pool parties are wrapping up. The barbecues are over. And the weekend beach getaways will become fewer and further between.

But it's been a summer to remember: From the U.S. Supreme Court victory, the 25th anniversary of Gay Pride in June and the success of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," to the many parties in clubs throughout the gayborhood, we aren't at a loss for memories to celebrate.

But there's no need to give up the frivolity of summer quite yet. With that in mind, we take a look at the cartoon world of Allan Neuwirth and Glen Hanson, the creators of the popular "Chelsea Boys," which appears in *Eclipse* every other week.

The success of the strip spawned a collection of their work published by Alyson, which appears in stores this month. The two artists conceived the cartoon in 1994 and it slowly expanded from appearing in a New York magazine to gay publications across the country. Its title references the gay ghetto in New York, but Neuwirth and Hanson say there's a bit of all of us in each character, whether we live in Chelsea or Montrose. **(Page 14)**

There's also our line-up of regular features: "Troy" **(Page 22)**, "Kyle's Bed & Breakfast" **(Page 20)**, Our Guy **(Page 8)**, Nightlife photos **(Page 10)**, Bitch Session **(Page 18)** and Need Wood **(Page 24)**.

Matt Hennie
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:

'God Save the Queens!'

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Tue-Fri 4-8pm

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Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

Houston's gay chorus kicks off 25th season

With an all-time high membership, a large following, and for the first time, a new paid executive director, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston comes of age for its silver anniversary season, which begins next month at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. From meager beginnings, the Chorus grew from a small group of gay men with no budget getting together in 1979 as the Montrose Singers, to a 165 singers and another 45 who perform other tasks, with an annual budget of around \$400,000. And the Chorus is not only for men. As well as Executive Director Mary Jean Tiernan, there are six other women involved with the Chorus. "I've never had so many men in my life, and they have made me feel so

'President Bush. He wears far too many dark suits with red ties. You've got to look good when you're addressing the nation, for god's sake. You've got the No. 1 audience in the country.'

— Carson Kressley, fashion guru on 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,' when asked who he'd most like to make over.

welcome," Tiernan says. The men of GMCH enjoy having women work with them in many capacities and would like to have more, says Randy Reddeman, president of the board of directors. "We don't discriminate," he says. Last season, the Chorus entertained more than 6,000 people. The group released its first CD to celebrate its 15th anniversary, and has a holiday CD in the works to release in September. Another CD is scheduled for March 2004.

Showtime series includes gay UT students

For those who didn't get to college or want to re-live those years, Showtime's new "Freshman Diaries," which premiered Aug. 28 and runs on subsequent Sundays, gives



Luis Rocha and Neil McGurk

12 of the 10,000 first-year students at the University of Texas at Austin a camera to record a video diary. The cameras also follow the students and their friends to get their first year at school onto small screens across the country. The cast includes two gay men, Neil McGurk and Luis Rocha. Several of the cast members spend time with each other, and McGurk and Rocha eventually begin a relationship. In the second episode, Rocha, the consummate

drama queen, makes a mistake trying to cut his own hair, with disastrous but hysterical results. "I wanted to have sex, and now no one's going to have sex with me looking like this," he said after the incident. Ultimately, embarrassing youthful moments are the appeal of this show. Watching "Diaries" is like reliving the awkward adjustment to college all over again.

Texas companies among best, worst on new HRC 'corporate equality' list

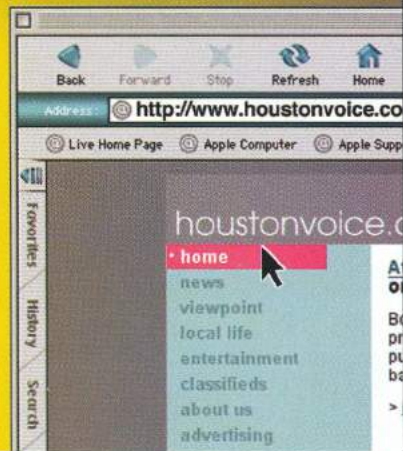
More of the nation's largest and most prominent corporations adopted policies favorable to gay employees or gay consumers this year than they did one year ago, according to the Human Rights Campaign's second annual Corporate Equality Index, released Aug. 25. The index rates 250 companies, including 19 based in Texas, that responded to inquiries directed to 697 firms that appear on the list of Fortune 500 Companies and Forbes Magazine's list of 200 largest, privately held firms. The number of firms receiving a perfect, 100-percent rating in the HRC index increased from 11 in 2002 to 21 this year. Only one Texas company, Dallas-based American Airlines, was among the perfect scores. No companies received scores of 0 this year, but of the five that received the lowest

score of 14, two — ExxonMobil and Perot Systems Corp. — are based in Texas. ExxonMobil, based in Irving, dropped sexual orientation from Mobil's EEO policy when the two corporations merged in 1999. The joint firm also ended Mobil's domestic partner benefits following the merger. The entire report is available at www.hrc.org.

Reichen and Chip win 'Amazing Race,' but will their 'marriage' survive?

Last month, the grand prize on CBS's "The Amazing Race" went to Chip Arndt, 36, and Reichen Lehmkuhl, 26, a gay couple of nearly five years who early on the show described themselves as "married." But now that the race is finished, it looks like their relationship might also be done. "I wish I could give you a cut-and-dried answer on whether we're together or not," Lehmkuhl said. "But it's just not that easy." Arndt said their lives are "interesting" since they won the big prize. Lehmkuhl just filmed a small part for the season premiere of "Frasier" and said he's "smitten" with the entertainment industry. He also appeared nearly naked in the June edition of *Instinct* magazine. The couple is looking to rebuild a home and donate a portion of the \$1 million prize to charity.

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Photos by Dalton DeHart

OUR GUY OF THE WEEK

8 | 09-05-03 | eclipse





Location: Houston
Age: 28
Occupation: Student
Status: Single

What word is not in your vocabulary?
Never.

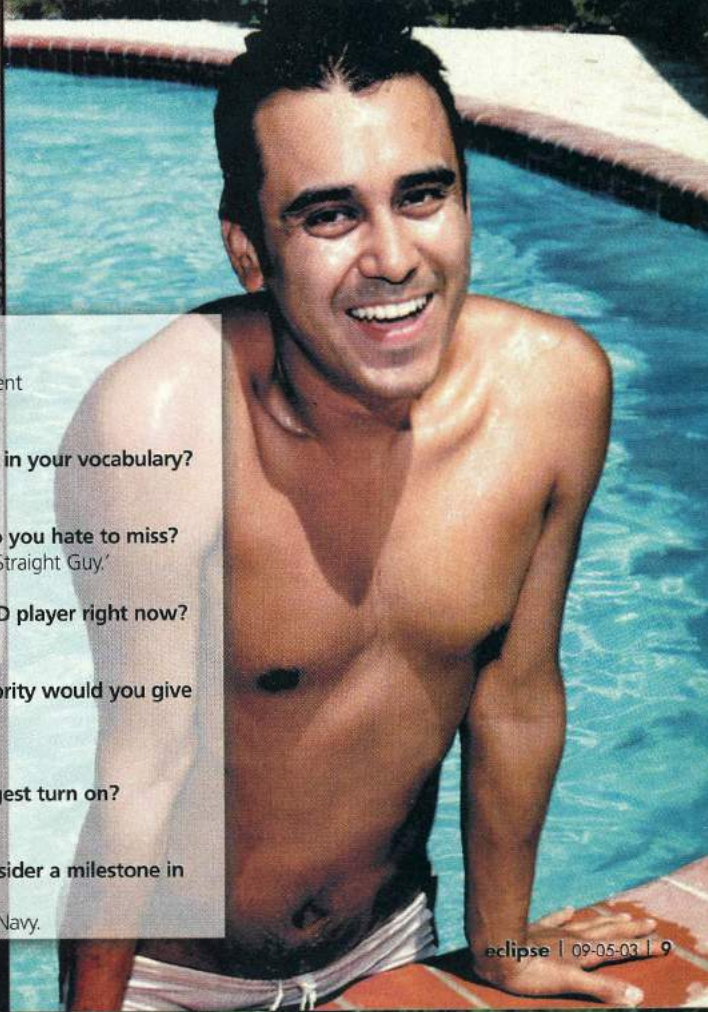
What TV show do you hate to miss?
'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy.'

What is in your CD player right now?
Thalia.

What movie celebrity would you give it up for?
Collin Ferrell.

What is your biggest turn on?
Chest.

What do you consider a milestone in your life?
Getting out of the Navy.



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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, SEPT. 5

611. Free buffet, 5:30p. Male dancers, 9p. 713-526-7070.

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

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. 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.

WHERE YOUR NIGHT BEGINS

Meteor. Puretone promotion with free CD giveaways. 713-521-0123.

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

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.

Rich's. 713-759-9606.

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

Lesbian gossip maven and celebrity know-it-all **Liz Smith** hits Houston Sept. 3 for one night only at 7:30 p.m. at the Hobby Center for the Arts, 800 Bagby St. 713-629-3700.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

611. DJ and male dancers, 9p.

Briar Patch. Piano sing-a-long 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.

EJ'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.

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.

Rich's. DJ JD Arnold. 21 and up.

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

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

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7

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

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

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

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

Guava Lamp. Karaoke contest, 10p.

Mary's. Ladies' Night on the patio, 2-8p. 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.



From contests and TV parties to sexy camaraderie, something special is afoot every night at **Meteor**. 713-521-0123.

MONDAY, SEPT. 8

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

Briar Patch. Free pool.

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. Mind Mend 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, SEPT. 9

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

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

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

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

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. "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "Boy Meets Boy," 11p.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

Briar Patch. Geoffrey Cuellar, 7p. Marcy Rae, "Sweet Mama Cotton," 9:30p.

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, SEPT. 11

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, 9:30p.

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

EJ's. Roxxanne 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. "Queer Eye" and "Boy Meets Boy," 8 p.m. Singles with Lana Blake, 9p.

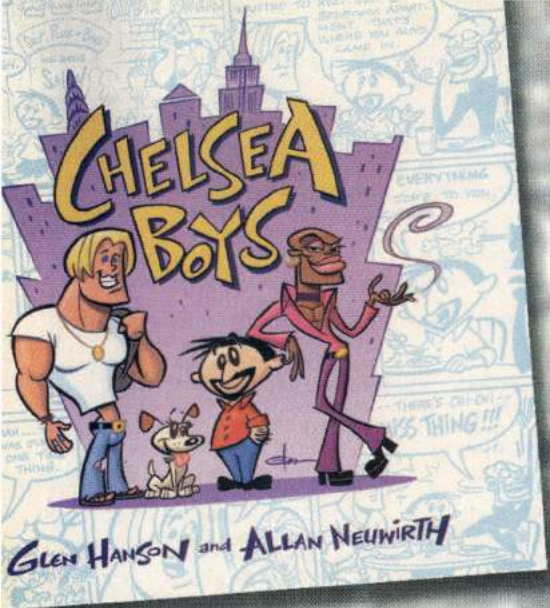
Michael's Outpost. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 4-8p.

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.

Rich's. "Hedonism2," with DJ JD Arnold, 9p.

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.



Chronicling the gay ghetto

Glen Hanson and Allan Neuwirth look to create a comic that resonates with urban gays

not only been producing their strip "Chelsea Boys," but it's also been widely syndicated in dozens of queer publications across the country, including an every-other-week gig in *Eclipse*.

Hanson and Neuwirth originally conceived "Chelsea Boys" as an animated short called "Think Pink." But that was in 1994, and launching a completely gay 'toon was difficult, so the duo decided to create public awareness of the characters through a strip. Various changes were made, and soon "Chelsea Boys" was born.

The popularity of the strip has spawned a self-titled book, hitting stores this month from Alyson Publications. It features most of Hanson and Neuwirth's work — they share most of the creative chores equally — from the past five years, as well as some development notes and color pages. What's more, the book allows readers to follow the Boys' evolution and detailed storylines. The

By Rick Andreoli

Gay men living in ghettos like West Hollywood, the Castro or Montrose sometimes appear like jokes unto themselves. So it's no surprise that someone would come along and produce a comic strip about them. What is amazing is that for five years Glen Hanson, who now lives in Los Angeles, and Allan Neuwirth, who remains in New York, have

The strip offers a specific take on queers living in an urban gay ghetto. Whether your interest is following the love foibles of nebbish Nathan, struggling with being true to yourself while being misunderstood by everyone else like muscle stud Sky, or clawing through tragedy to release your inner diva like the glamorous Soirée, there is a little bit of everyone in each of the characters.



Allan Neuwirth and Glen Hanson, creators of the popular comic 'Chelsea Boys,' say there is a little bit of everyone in each of the characters. (Photo by Stephan Gregoire/courtesy Alyson Publications)

two men, who partners in the comic strip but not life, recently talked about their work.

Eclipse: How did you get "Chelsea Boys" syndicated in so many papers?

Neuwirth: When we started doing the strip we realized it had to be published in more than Next magazine [in New York] which is where we started out. So I just started researching, finding out what all the gay and alternative newspapers and magazines were in this country, and I started cold calling.

Eclipse: Did you meet any resistance initially?

Neuwirth: People were put off by the fact that it was called "Chelsea Boys." There were even times when I tried to sell the strip and whatever city it was that was trying to buy it would ask if I would change the name to accommodate their local gay ghetto.

Eclipse: Which is odd, because your characters are not stereotypical Chelsea boys.

Hanson: Exactly. Even Sky, [the

blond muscle stud] who looks like a Chelsea boy is not at all. He's quite the opposite, which is something that we tried to do with the characters in terms of making them quite different in personality to what one might assume they would be judging from the outside.

Eclipse: And yet you have a strip that's being stigmatized simply because of its name.

Hanson: We have tried to comment on many different issues [through the strip] and one of them being prejudging people on how they look rather than what's inside of them. I think Sky and Soirée serve as the biggest examples for surprising amounts of depth in what one would ordinarily think of as the typical muscle guy and typical flamboyant — he's not really a drag queen — performer should be. And that's life. That's reality that people are not necessarily what you would think they would be at first glance.

Eclipse: Why do you think you have such a loyal fan base?

Neuwirth: Boy, that's a tough question for the creators to answer. I mean, it may sound

cocky but I think that it's one of the best-looking strips around. And I'm not talking just gay, I'm saying just in general-mainstream comic strips too, most of them tend to place more emphasis on content than the imagery. You don't have to be a brilliant artist to have a successful comic strip, but Glen happens to be a brilliant artist and it's very pleasing to the eye.

Hanson: Be it Chelsea or be it Toronto or be it Chicago or L.A. or be it Miami, I think and I hope that most of the stories are universal enough because they're character-based, and that regardless of where you live you can sort of relate to what the characters are going through.

Eclipse: How much mapping out do you guys do in advance?

Hanson: We usually sit down anywhere from one month to six months ahead and we'll say, "OK, where do we want to take the characters?" It's sort of like sitting down at the beginning of a season of a television show and saying, "OK, what's the story arc for this season?"

Eclipse: Do you get a lot of fan feedback?

Neuwirth: As soon as it started to run in the very first publication, we started getting feedback, and people really liked it and it gave us some encouragement to try and get it more widely read. It always astonishes me because every couple of days I take a look [at the Web site] and I think, "Oh my God, look at all these people. Who are all these people? Is it the same comics nerd, you know, logging on over and over and over?"

Eclipse: What's in store for the future?

Neuwirth: Sky is going to be participating in an awful reality show called "American Hottie," Nathan's mother suffers from Alzheimer's and that's going to intensify as time goes on, and this isn't in the book yet, but he's made friends with a very famous baseball player who people are wondering as they're reading, is this guy really [a] closeted gay? And there's a surprise in store with that storyline that we've already worked out, which I don't want to give away, but it'll be kind of controversial.

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Jerry Atwood



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1 ☒ Special Guest Star
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Great Performance!

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3 ☒ Watch **MARCY RAE**
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Come see these great
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WARREN CHASE

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Special Performance! If you like
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Musical Movies
with Michael

Disco Music
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**LAURIE
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The Briar Patch



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

No you're not standing alone when you say "geeks, freaks and tweaks" at Gay Pride do not represent us. You are right on the money, babe!

Why are people so afraid of Black Gay Pride? African Americans deserve a day to celebrate their ethnicity as well as their involvement within the gay community. As a person of color, I remember my first Gay Pride event. I was surrounded by drunk, drugged-out white men who were neither interested in me or the celebration at all.

We "bitchers" need to raise our game. Where is that edge, that creative upperhand gay guys supposedly have? Reading most of these bitches you'd think we were a bunch of high school sophomores worried about dates to the homecoming dance. Remember, your bitch is another homo's entertainment.

I never thought I'd say this, but I'd rather see bitches about Cher and Celine Dion than the petty ones

To the two guys at the gym fighting over what should be on the TV: This should be settled like all things in life; the younger, cuter guy wins!

that have been printed lately. And the racist ones. And the ageist ones. And the just plain stupid ones. Yeah, you may all be a bunch of Log Cabin Republicans, but at least write like a Democrat, dammit. Think controversy!

I hear tolerance for gays has gone down. In other words, nothing has changed. Tolerance only means putting up with something you don't like. People who think they're being "tolerant" never are.

To the short, cute, 120-pound top: I'm a 6-foot-1, butch, handsome, athletic, 180-pound bottom who likes small tops. I feel your pain! Somewhere out there is a yin for our yang.

Why are gay men so fixated on "supposedly" closeted gay men? First there was John Travolta, then Tom Cruise, then Ricky Martin and now Ben Affleck. If any of these men are gay, that's their business. If they don't want to come out, that's their business, too. Are we *that* bored with our own lives?

To the person who wrote that "dykes" should wear a floral print dress once in a while: Hello? Do you want us to look good, or look like June Cleaver? Pick up a magazine once in a while.

I want somebody to open up a bar and call it Blue Collar, and it can cater to those good-looking landscapers, construction workers, mechanics, etc.

Yes there are gay men into rock and heavy metal. You're not going to the right bars if you're stuck listening to the same old house music. Search the right bars and try the Gay Metal Society for more rockin' fags like me!

The next bisexual guy who tells me my mouth feels just like a woman's privates is gonna get *his* privates bitten off.

To the guy in the bar bragging about his nine-inch penis while he drunkenly fell all over me: Anything more than a mouthful is a waste, and why don't you sober up?!

As Jane Fonda has said, it is better to be "interested" than "interesting."

Twenty-five years ago, it was take a quaalude or hit of acid to be "cool" or feel a sense of acceptance from your gay brothers or sisters. Now it's do some "G" or smoke some "tina" or drop a hit or two of "X." The party crowd needs to take a serious look at itself and ask, "Do I feel a peace and a sincere love from all of those

around me caught up in this endless search for acceptance?"

To all those older guys who believe that just because you're young you're not necessarily responsible: I'm a 20-year-old and have a full time job and I pay my rent and my bills on time, just like anybody else.

An idea for all you stone throwers: Next time you feel the urge to pick up a stone and throw it at someone, something, or at yourself indirectly: Why not take that "stone" and begin building a wall of strength, tolerance, acceptance and love. Make a real "Stonewall."

To the older men who want to find younger guys and don't know how to meet them: Honey, take it from one who knows. Just post a personal with an accurate picture, and if you're worth it, they'll find you. If you're not worth it, you're wasting your time in any case.

My demise at 40 was exaggerated. At 60, my cadet look attracts decades-younger men.

To the self-described "anglophile" who makes racist comments: How do you expect people to accept you and your "humpback" when all you do is spew hate?



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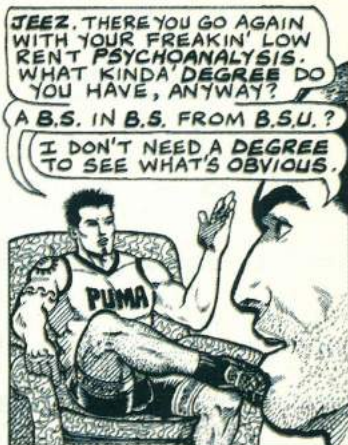
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By GREG FOX



LISTEN, KID... I
HAD SOMEBODY
ONCE WHO MEANT
EVERYTHING TO ME.
SOMEBODY I
WOULDA' DIED FOR.

AND WHAT
HAPPENED?



IT ENDED. BADLY.

OKAY. SO YOU AIN'T
READY TO DATE ANY-
BODY YET. THAT'S COOL.

YOU COULDA' TOLD ME
THAT, NICK... INSTEAD
OF PROJECTIN' THIS
WHOLE "FATHER FIGURE"
THING ON ME AS AN
AVOIDANCE MECHANISM.

NOW WHO'S PLAYIN' BARGAIN-
BASEMENT PSYCHOTHERAPIST?

HEY, I'M QUALIFIED. I
WATCH A LOTTA' DAY-
TIME T.V. TALK SHOWS.

SO, ARE YOU GONNA' TEACH
ME ABOUT FIXIN' CARS
NOW OR WHAT? I BEEN
WAITIN' FOR YOU TO
TEACH ME FOR WEEKS.



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ME WITHOUT MY
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GET OVER
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TROY

By Michael Derry

#73 "HOW BIZARRE"

SO THE **GIRLFRIEND** WALKS IN ON YOU BANGING HER BOYFRIEND... OH MY GOD, NIJA! THEN WHAT?



WELL, HERE'S WHERE IT GETS WEIRD... SHE RUNS OUT, COMES **BACK** IN WITH A VIDEO CAMERA, AND THEN...

ALL RIGHT BOYS, AS YOU WERE! COME ON BOY! **RIDE THAT BITCH!** YEAI **WHOOO HOOOO!!!** SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT!!!



SHE WAS INTO IT?

YEAI! APPARENTLY SHE GETS OFF ON WATCHING HER BOYFRIEND GET BANGED BY OTHER GUYS. YOU SHOULD **SEE** THEIR VIDEO TAPE COLLECTION!



SO ARE YOU NOW A PART OF THAT COLLECTION?



GOOD LORD, **NO!!!** I FREAKED! I GOT THE HELL OUT OF THERE. HAVE YOU EVER **HEARD** OF ANYTHING SO BIZARRE?

ACTUALLY, THERE WAS THIS ONE TIME... THIS GUY SAID HE WAS INTO THIS SORT OF KINK-FETISH AND I FIGURED, WHAT THE HELL.. I'LL TRY JUST ABOUT ANYTHING ONCE, RIGHT? SO I GET INTO BED, HE GOES INTO THE OTHER ROOM TO CHANGE, AND WHEN HE COMES OUT...



BARK!!!
BARK BARK!



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NEED WOODY?



Popping a pill for stiffness, not length

Pills may help below the belt, but be careful of what you're hoping to fix

Hey Woody!

I can't open my e-mail without being inundated with offers to make my dick as big as a rhino. Here's what I don't understand: Who in their right mind would click on these links and order penis enlargement pills or herbs?

It's so obviously a fraud, I figured the spam would decrease over time as the "male enhancement" industry realized that nobody was stupid enough to actually order their crap. Am I wrong?

— **Need a new spam filter**

Dear New:

Not only are you wrong, you're wrong squared. Wrong to infinity, actually.

You can never go broke over-esti-

ating male stupidity. According to Wired News, a security flaw at a Web site selling penis enlargement pills revealed just how many people were buying their dong dung.

by Woody Miller

An order log at one of these websites was left exposed and showed that over a month's time 6,000 people responded to their spam—and on average, ordered two bottles of pills at \$50 a pop.

If men were any more stupid, they'd have to be watered twice a week. You'd think only the uneducated would believe that you can take a pill or an herb and go from bi-ped

to tripod, but you'd be wrong. Get a load of some of the people revealed as customers by the exposed Web log: A manager of a mutual fund with a Park Avenue office, the president of an airplane parts company and the head of a credit firm.

Joe Miksch, a columnist for the Fairfield County Weekly, published an account of what happened when he bought the company's product, which I refuse to name on the grounds that my readers are constantly banging the stupid meter to the right, and I refuse to aid and abet them.

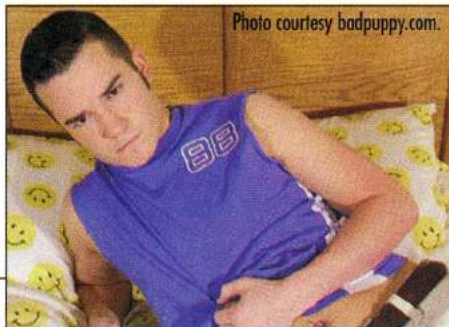


Photo courtesy badpuppy.com.

Anyway, his account of taking the pills that promised an additional three full inches went something like this: "Day One: No change. Day two: No Change. Day Three: No change. Days four through 30: See above."

So, no, don't expect the spammers to stop anytime soon. As long as idiot men are around, there will always be someone to separate them from their wallets.

Hey, Woody!

I heard there's a new impotency pill called Levitra that the FDA just approved. How is it different than Viagra? Do you recommend one over the other?

— **Swelling with joy**

Dear Swelling:

Forget about pills. I recommend a number of mechanical devices which increase sexual arousal. My recommendation: The Mercedes-Benz 380SL.

Levitra works the same way as Viagra — by increasing blood flow into the

penis. The main differences are timing and absorption. Viagra takes 45 to 90 minutes before you get an erection. Levitra takes 30 to 60 minutes.

Levitra doesn't seem to be affected by food, either, which is a big problem with Viagra. If you take Viagra with food, particularly high-fat meals (beware Atkins fans), it delays the onset and strength of your erection.

Officials believe that Erectile

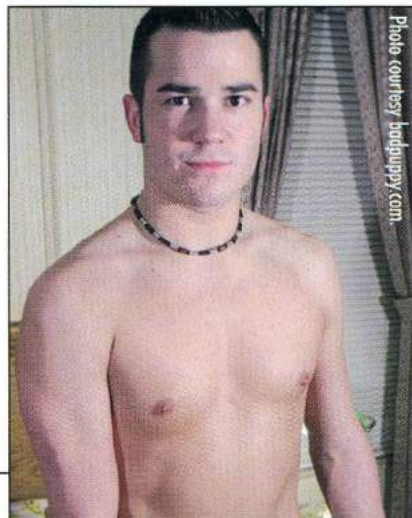


Photo courtesy: hardguy.com

Dysfunction affects more than 50 percent of men over the age of 40. We're talking 30 million men.

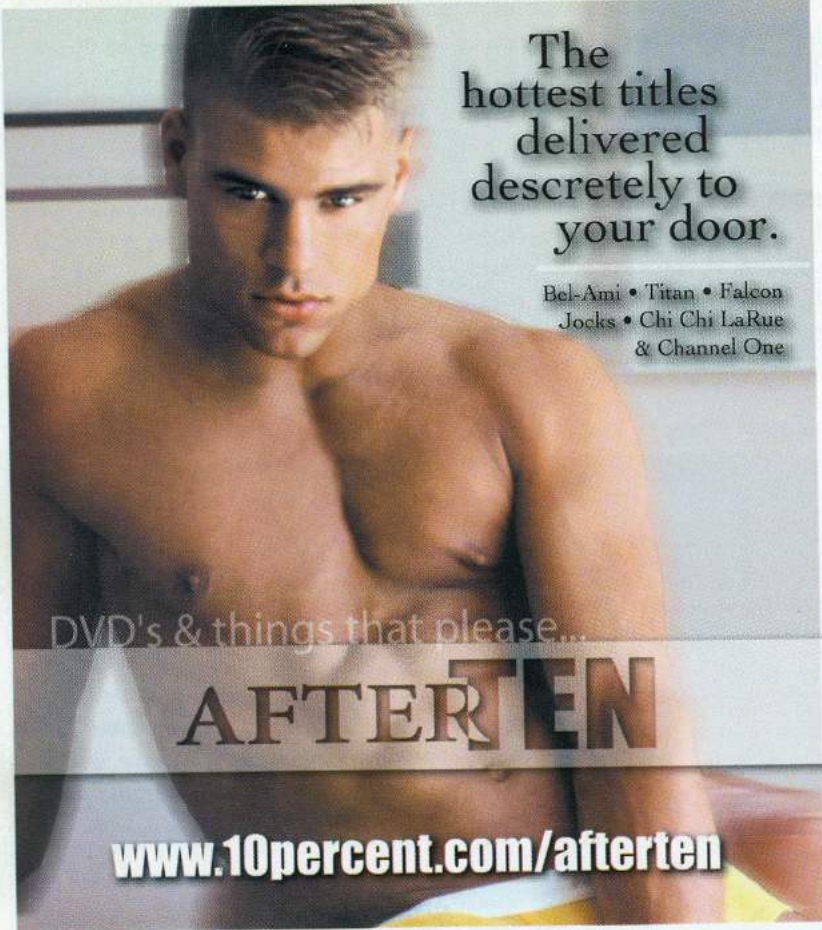
Sadly, statistics show that only about 10 percent of these men seek help, even years after Viagra's been on the market.

That means 90 percent of men out there still aren't getting treated for impotence. And that's the real value of Levitra. All the hype around it will hopefully bring more men to their doctors and address a problem they've been ignoring for too long.

The other good news is that Levitra might work for people who had no luck with Viagra.

So which one do I recommend you take? Neither. I may have a great bedside manner, but I don't make medical recommendations. Talk to your doctor.

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



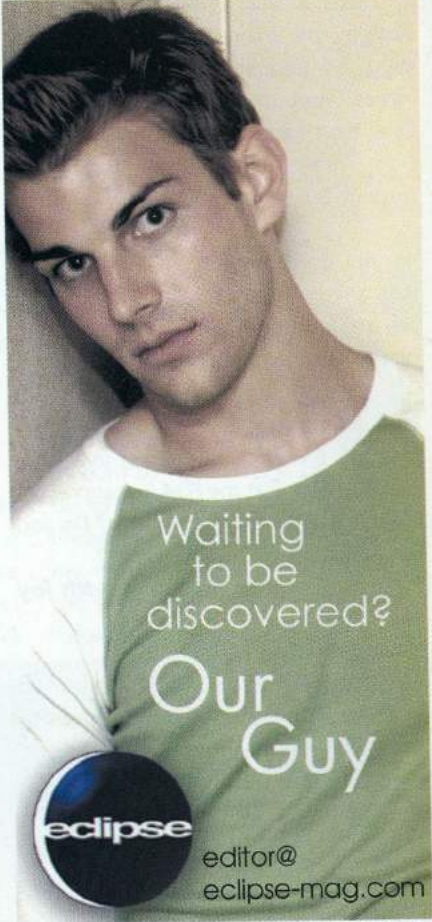
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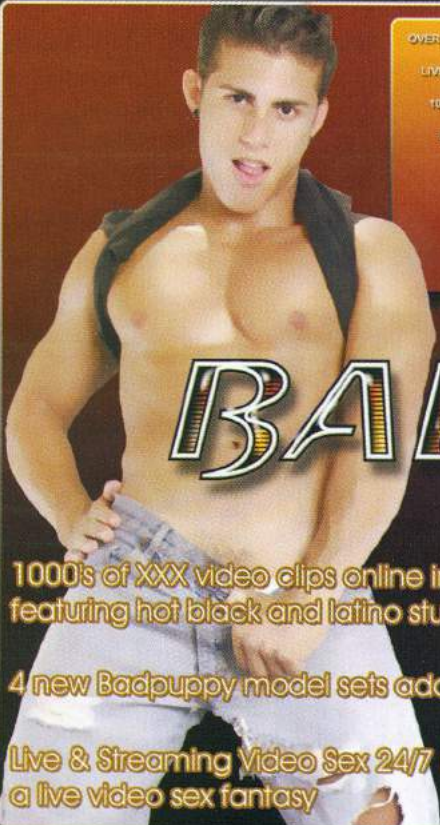


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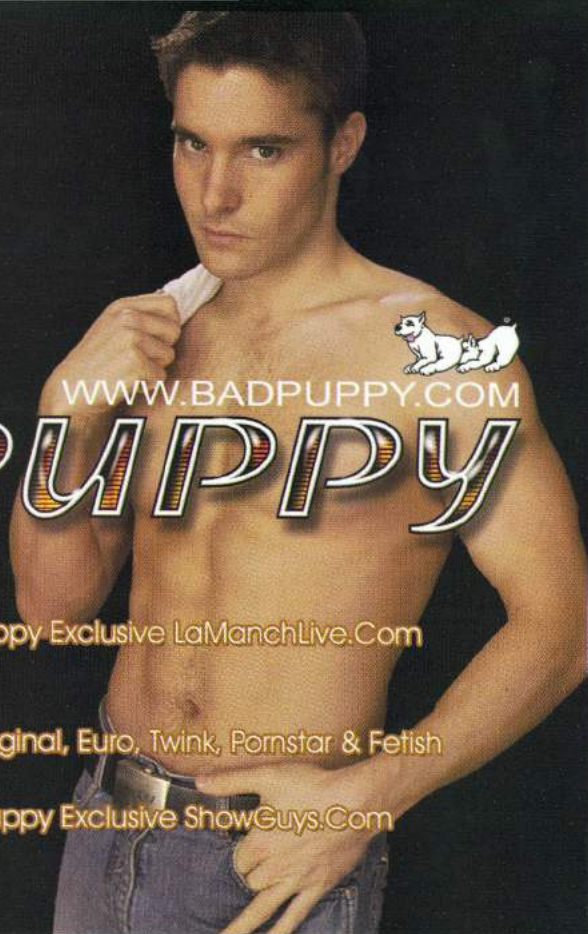
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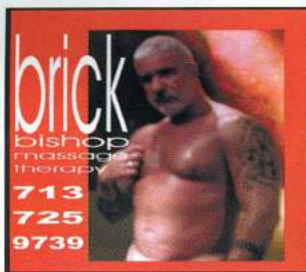
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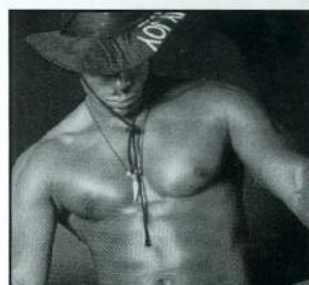
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Houston team protests at softball tourney,
James meets Wes in 'Boy' finale,
Southern Decadence hits Big Easy.

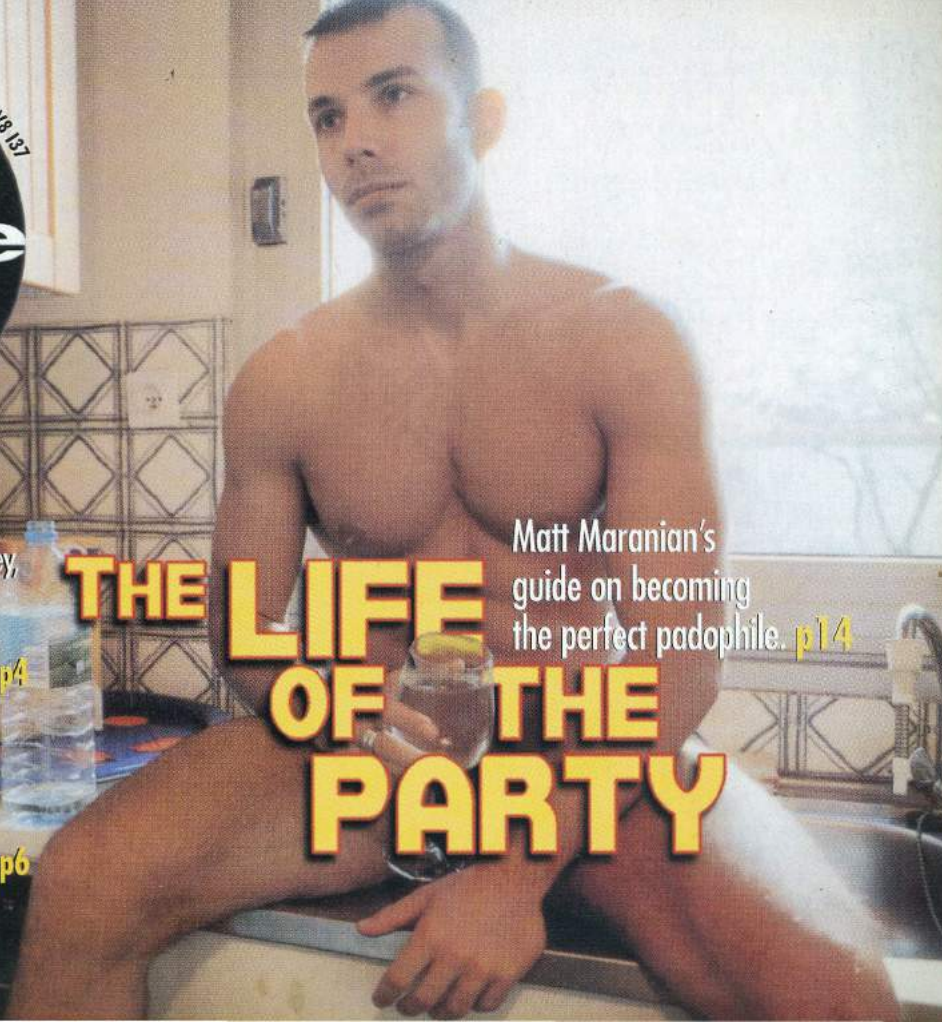
Gaydar, p4



Jerry Atwood says
Houston's gay scene is
active, supportive.

Behind the Scene, p6

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY



Matt Maranian's
guide on becoming
the perfect padophile. p14

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Gay men just can't keep a secret. It wasn't so much a secret that James picked Wes in the recent season finale of Bravo's reality show "Boy Meets Boy." (**Page 4**) But I missed the last episode and was hoping to make good use of my neighbor's TiVo a few days after the show and find out what happened.

I was successful for a bit in keeping friends from spilling the news so I could watch with some anticipation as James squirmed during the finale, wondering which of the three remaining men was the straight guy. It turned out my hopes for remaining ignorant of the winner were slim. Working in a gay office filled with reality TV junkies certainly didn't help.

But secrets rarely ever survive. Just flip through the pages of Matt Maranian's new book — "Pad Parties: The Guide to Ultra-Entertaining" — and you'll soon learn the tricks to throwing a better party. He exposes the secrets of a successful event and presents them in such a straight-forward manner that most anyone can become a "padophile." The chapters on food and drink are must-reads. (**Page 14**)

And while you're flipping through the magazine this week, also check out Behind the Scene. (**Page 6**) There's also news you need to know in Gaydar (**Page 4**) and a profile of the production team Widelife. They created the peppy "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" theme song. (**Page 8**)

And as always, let us know what you think about *Eclipse*.

Matt Hennie
editor@eclipse-mag.com

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Wes and James

'Boy Meets Boy' finale marks end for chaste show

In the Sept. 2 final episode of Bravo's "Boy Meets Boy," gay bachelor James finally picked Wes, and viewers can say goodbye to the first gay dating show. The show had James whittle down a field of 15 potential dates. The mix included seven straight men, all pretending to be gay to win \$25,000 if they could win his affection. But James was none too thrilled about the twist, both on the show and in interviews after it was taped. "I think James was angry at what they pulled on him, and I think it was taken out on [Franklin]," says Stephen Tropiano, an expert on gay television. The bigger picture of the show was supposed to be putting straight men in a gay closet and challenging the stereotypes of what it is to be gay in America. But

'Absolutely not — not that there's anything wrong with that.'

—Bravo President Jeff Gaspin, answering whether the success of 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy' and 'Boy Meets Boy' meant the network was going gay. (Newsday, Aug. 10)

being let in on the twist from the show's premier, the audience used stereotypes to figure out who was who, proving that gaydar isn't enough in a world where lines are continually blurred and redefined.



Gays talk to protestor at Southern Decadence

Southern Decadence marked by violence

An estimated 100,000 people attended the annual Southern Decadence festival in New Orleans on Labor Day Weekend,

but the gay event was marred by an anti-gay attack and 47 arrests. On Aug. 30, a 53-year-old Pennsylvania man was stabbed in the back, according to the New Orleans Police Department. Tod W. Martinek, 53, was charged with attempted murder and may later face additional hate crime charges, police said. The annual French Quarter festival also saw protests from Rev. Grant Storms, who gained media attention when he unsuccessfully lobbied city officials to ban the festival. Counterprotesters gathered on French Quarter balconies, and some silently turned their backs, according to witnesses. Storms returned Aug. 31 with a video camera and tried to gain entry into Good Friends Bar on St. Ann Street. Some 47 arrests were made during the event this year, up from 18 in 2002, primarily for public urination and intoxication, police said. Police made no arrests for public sex violations, he said.

Gay softball series not gay enough for Houston team

Some 150 teams took part in the 27th annual Gay World Series in Washington, D.C., Aug. 17 - 23. A Houston softball team was the center of a protest last month when the Houston



2003 gay Softball World Series

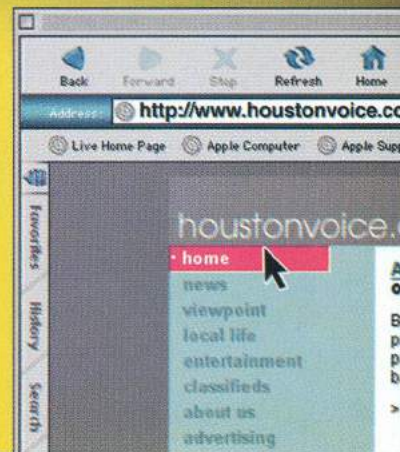
Force accused an Atlanta team of having five straight players — three more than the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance allows per team. The protest occurred early in the week in pool play, but it was not upheld. To diffuse the protest, members of the Atlanta Power had to answer questions about their sexual orientation from NAGAAA officials. NAGAAA implemented the two-person cap on non-gay players in the mid-1990s to assure gay players felt comfortable and received playing time. Seven teams from Houston attended the gay series, but only the Force left D.C. with a trophy. BRB Lobo tied for 17th place in Division B. In the 'C' division, the Texas Drillers tied for 13th, the Meteors finished in a tie for 17th, and the City Kitchen Butchers tied for 25th. Houston's Mary's Naturals tied for 7th in D division. The only women's team from

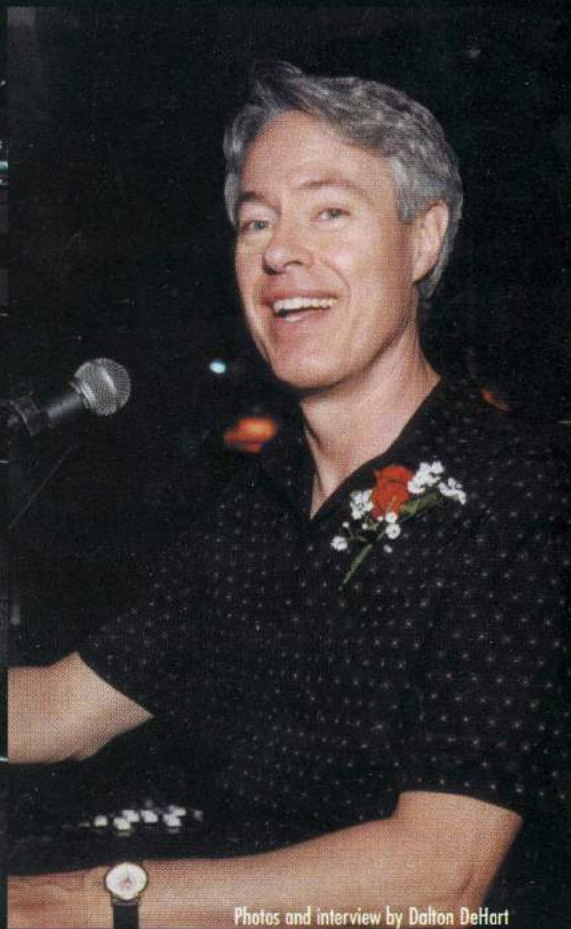
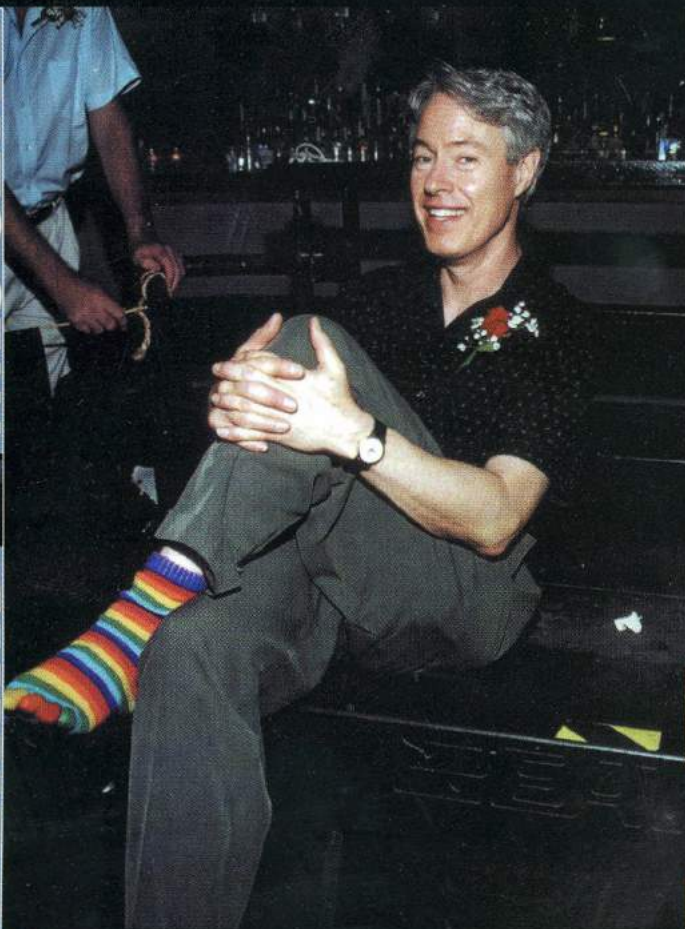
Houston competed in the Women's Alternative Division, finishing 7th from a pool of 31 teams. All proceeds from the games will go to the Mautner Project, Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League and the Whitman Walter Clinic.

Senate leader blocks vote on hate crimes bill

A popular foreign aid authorization bill has stalled since July and become hostage to an effort by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) to block a vote on a hate crimes bill that includes protections for gays. Frist, acting on the wishes of other Senate Republican leaders, stopped the foreign aid bill from coming to the Senate after Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) announced he would move to attach the hate crimes legislation to that bill. Capitol Hill observers say Kennedy has enough votes lined up to pass such an amendment, with a number of Republican senators expected to support it. The bill, officially known as S. 966, the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, would give the federal government authority to prosecute hate crimes based on a person's sexual orientation, gender or disability. The bill has 49 co-sponsors, and as many as 60 senators are expected to vote for it. The Senate passed similar versions of the hate crimes measure in 1999 and 2000. The legislation died in House-Senate conference committees.

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Photos and interview by Dalton DeHart

Jerry Atwood

Age: Mature but not too old

Occupation: Senior Electrical Engineer,
piano player

Status: Married

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

"At almost any scheduled or unscheduled fund-raiser or social event, the Briar Patch playing the piano on Tuesday nights and Guava Lamp on Thursdays."

How long have you worked amid Houston nightlife?

"For well over 20 years."

How do you rate the Houston gay scene?

"It is one of the most diverse, interesting, active and supportive scenes anywhere."

What is in your nightlife crystal ball?

"To continue doing everything I can to help those who are in need."

Where can you find the hottest men?

"At several of the clubs, but since I play the piano at the Briar Patch and Guava Lamp, I see many hot men there."





'Queer Eye' for club music

'All Things' just keep getting better for DJ team with TV hit

The immense popularity of Bravo's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" also puts the spotlight on Wildlife. The Toronto-based remix and production duo is responsible for the peppy "All Things" that serves as the official "Queer Eye" theme song.

Wildlife is Ian J. Nieman and Rachid Wehbi who have been spinning, mixing, writing and producing songs together since 1998. Notable achievements include work for Deborah Cox, Mariah Carey and Leann Rimes.

The pair hits clubs in Atlanta and New Orleans next month.

The duo's greatest chart accomplishment to date is the Billboard-topping single "I Don't Want U," which continues to be a top-requested dance hit at radio stations across the country. Time to find out more about those groovy melody makers behind "Queer Eye."

Eclipse: How did you get together as a duo?

Ian: It was actually through a common friend in 1998 who thought we'd be a good match. I was doing a lot of work with Barry Harris at the time, until he went to Los Angeles to work with Chris Cox in Thunderpuss. Both Rachid and I were looking for new partners and we hit it off well.

by Arjan Timmermans

Eclipse: What is the chemistry between you two?

Rachid: Hot!

Ian: That's right. We compliment each other very well. We both enjoy to mix in our songwriting skills with our love for dance music and DJ background.

Eclipse: How would you describe your remix style?

Ian: We bring a variety of emotions to what we do. It is not always upbeat like "All Things." We don't like to get stuck in one mood. A great song comes first, and then we find a musical arrangement that best fits that song.

Eclipse: Is there a signature Wildlife vibe?

Ian: Yeah, I think so. We try to be musicians to club music. We really try to combine our interests with the music we love.

Eclipse: How did you get into making dance scores for television?

Ian: Some television producers heard our big club hit "I Don't Want U," liked the sound and offered us the opportunity to score music for television shows. We did some work for "Queer as Folk" before, but "Queer Eye" is the first theme song we did. We are now working on music for a new show on ABC Family.

Eclipse: What has happened to Wildlife since "Queer Eye" premiered?



DJs Ian Nieman
and Rachid Wehbi

Rachid: It is absolutely crazy. We are inundated with phone calls and requests. We never thought the show would be this popular. We just did our thing, and we never knew that it would play out like this.

Eclipse: When can we expect the single?

Ian: Not yet. That is really out of our hands. The production company of "Queer Eye" makes those decisions, and there are a number of record companies vying to put this show out on the market. We are ready!

We have created a few very cool remix versions. There is also a full radio edit of "All Things." What you hear on the show is just a very short version of the original song.

Eclipse: Who is the vocalist on the song?

Rachid: That is Simone Denny. She is also on tour with us.

Eclipse: How did you come up with the concept and vibe of "All Things?"

Ian: The producers briefed us in depth about the new show. It was like a big puzzle. But when we sat down for a moment, it all made sense and the beat and melody came very naturally to us.

Rachid: "All Things" is really meant to translate the excitement and simplicity of the show.

That is why we kick off with a clubby vibe in the song, which evolves into a more organic pop sound with the guitars and the base.

Eclipse: What inspires you?

Ian: It really comes from the artist whose song we're remixing. That's how it worked with "Queer Eye" as well. When the producer explained the concept of these five guys, I got really fired up.

Eclipse: You spin, mix, write and produce music. Which do you prefer?

Ian: We actually like to think primarily of ourselves as club songwriters and musicians. We enjoy to spin and remix club anthems, but we have been enjoying writing original songs lately. "All Things" is a good example of that.

Eclipse: What artist would you definitely like to give a "Widelife" make-over?



DETAILS

Widelife
www.widelifeonline.com

Ian: Ha! Who doesn't?! Sarah McLachlan perhaps...

Rachid: Toni Braxton. She has a great voice. I guess any big artist that would like to try something different.

DJ TOP TEN

Rich's/DJ J.D. Arnold
www.richs-houston.com

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Dave Gahan

"GET IT TOGETHER"

Seal

"SLAVE NATION"

Africanism

"SHELTER"

Anne Nesby

"BUCCI BAG"

Andrea Doria

"STARTING WITH YOU"

Deborah Cox

"SUNRISE"

Simply Red

"I LOVE I LOVE"

Georgie Porgie

"LESS TALK, MORE ACTION"

Tim Deluxe

"HAREM"

Sarah Brightman

houston

NIGHTLIFE

PHOTOS BY DALTON DEHART

SOUTH BEACH



GUAVA LAMP



RICH'S

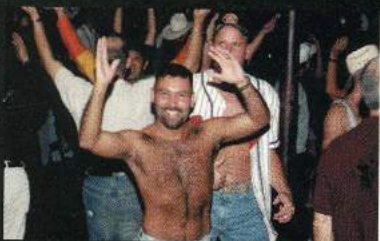


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Please submit calendar entries no later than 5p on Monday to make the following week's issue. Fax your calendar schedule to **eclipse magazine**, 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com, or call 713-529-8490. The first listing in the week for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

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

611. Free buffet, 5:30p. Male dancers, 9p. 713-526-7070.

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

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. 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.

WHERE YOUR NIGHT BEGINS

Meteor. Puretone promotion with free CD giveaways. 713-521-0123.

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

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

The guys at **Meteor** are showing Houston's gay men a good time each and every night of the week. 713-521-0123.

Sheena, Kara Dion and Diane Jackson, 11p.

EJ'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.

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.

Rich's. DJ JD Arnold. 21 and up.

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

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

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14

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

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

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

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, 2-8p. 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.

MONDAY, SEPT. 15

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

Briar Patch. Free pool.

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. Mind Mend 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, SEPT. 16

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

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

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

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.

Meteor. Drag Bingo hosted by Southern Comfort and Lillian Deveroux, with free prizes; benefits local charities. "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "Boy Meets Boy," 11p.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

Briar Patch. Geoffrey Cuellar, 7p. Marcy Rae, "Sweet Mama Cotton," 9:30p.

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.



The atmosphere is casual, the drinks are flowing and the guys are friendly at **Briar Patch**. 713-665-9678.

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.

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

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

Meteor. Total Request Night, 9p.

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

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

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, 9:30p.

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.

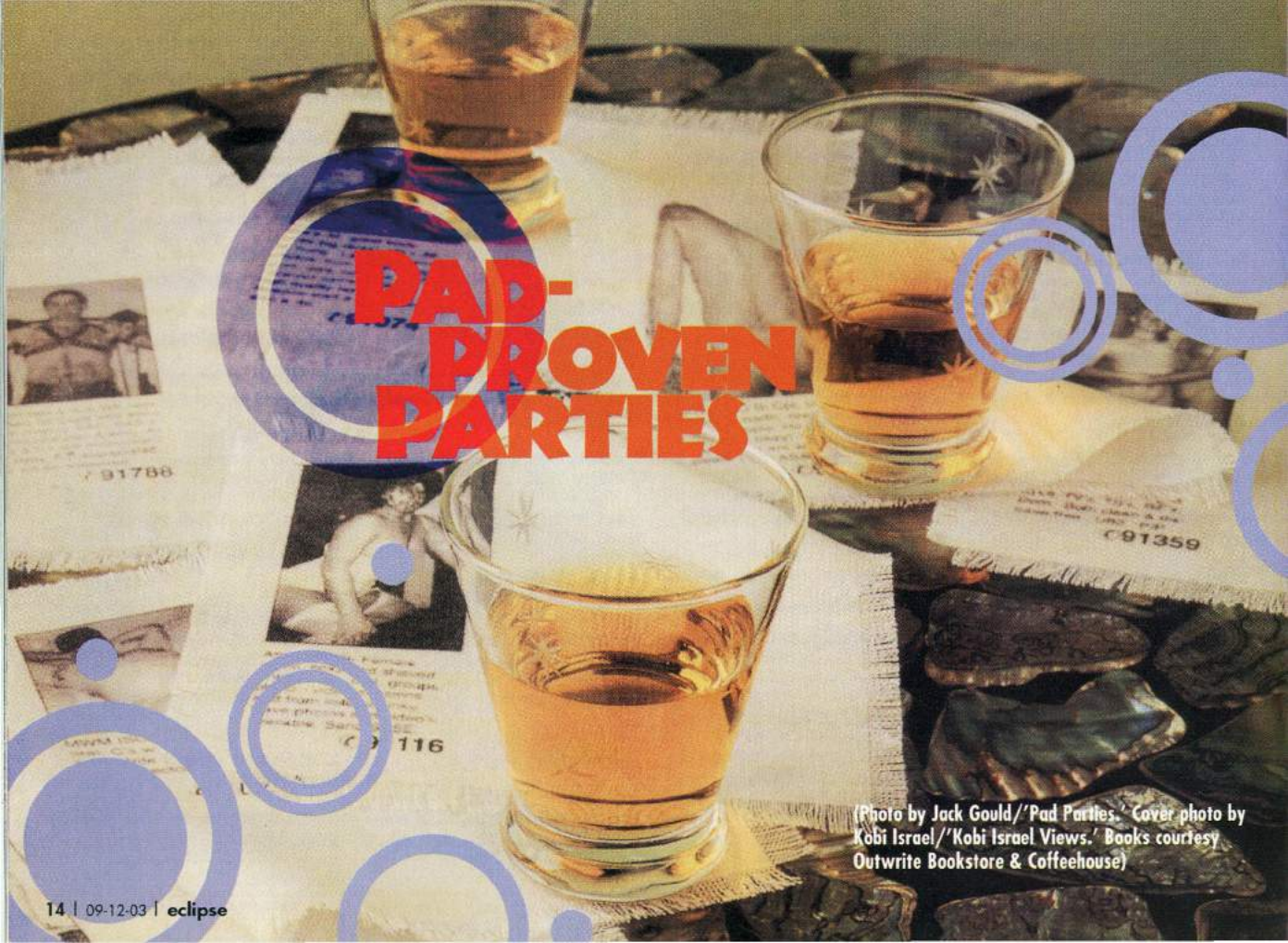
Meteor. "Queer Eye" and "Boy Meets Boy," 8 p.m. Singles with Lana Blake, 9p.

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.

Rich's. "Hedonism2," with DJ JD Arnold, 9p.

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.



PAD- PROVEN PARTIES

(Photo by Jack Gould/'Pad Parties.' Cover photo by
Kobi Israel/'Kobi Israel Views.' Books courtesy
Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse)

Connect-the-dots to enhance your partyscape

It's the fine details that really make a party. padophile in no time.

That's the advice from Matt Maranian, author of the new "Pad Parties: The Guide to Ultra-Entertaining," a how-to guide of ideas to turn you into the host with a little more than most. The book, a follow to Maranian's "Pad," hits the basics to enhance your partyscape with food to nibble, drinks to kick back and music with "ambient oddities."

"'Pad Parties' will help steer you in the right direction so that you can both enjoy your role as host and the scene you've worked so hard to cultivate, because, ideally, a Pad party is an event that should be as much fun to throw as it is to attend," Maranian writes.

The book's five chapters are easy to follow. They provide not only general tips, but specific recipes, music tips and instructions on creating your own gifts. Maranian will turn you into a

QUAFF: Hit the basics when building a bar for your party. Assume three mixed drinks per guest, or up to four for those swilling wine. That allows about 12 drinks per 750-ml bottle of booze.

Stock the bar with the four staples: gin, tequila, vodka and whiskey. You'll be surprised at the variety of drinks those can create.

Next, add a versatile liqueur, like Cointreau. Include club soda, Coke, cranberry juice, ice, lemons, limes, orange juice, lime juice, sweet-and-sour mix and tonic. And don't forget sparkling and still mineral water, sodas and tonic when creating your bar list. You don't need dozens of arcane liquors.

MASTICATION: Avoid the predictable, plan ahead and don't serve food so labor-intensive that you won't be able to enjoy the pad party. When considering a menu, consider if an item can be

prepped a day ahead without looking like it's been sitting around. Can guests eat it while standing? Is the time required to make it reasonable?

"I don't want to waste a whole lot of precious party time under the bright lights of the kitchen smearing what-not onto hot crostini — especially if I'm unable to focus my eyes or steady my hand," Maranian writes.

Food requiring a fork, spoon or knife to eat is out. If it has to be served immediately after it's prepared, don't do it. If it contains cream cheese or pimientos, spare your guests and surprise them with something new. And above all, give a new recipe a dry run before serving it to guests.

MOOD ALTERING: Mood lighting puts fire in the eye and enhances a room. Prepare a collection of music for the three stages of your pad party: gearing up, peaking and coming down. As the host, it's up to you to create a successful social setting — after all, that's what this party is about. Make it easy for your guests to feel included by cross-referencing during

introductions, making every guest the guest of honor, social trouble-shooting, being your own busboy and providing the winning refill.

SCENE STEALING: Provide intriguing focal points and purposeful amusements. How about a graffiti-friendly toilet seat? A cocktail caddy? Construct a debris cage for a place to store all of the junk you'd never want your guests to see.

GIFTED: Not every-party is a gift-giving event, but when it is, a handmade gift is a gesture not soon to be forgotten. Turn that old vinyl record into a popcorn bowl. Present your gift not wrapped, but in cryptic containers fashioned from 1-quart paint cans. Or consider a sexual survival kit housed in a capped shipping tube.

DETAILS

'Pad Parties: The Guide to Ultra-Entertaining'

by Matt Maranian
Chronicle Books

160 pages, \$22.95

Briar Patch

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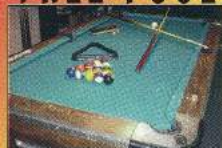
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Well Vodka
Drinks/Fountain Drink
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Play Pool on the House
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you've never heard. She's
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\$2

Domestic Beer & all
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Foxxi Boxxi



CONTEST 11pm

\$25 Cash to High Score Winner!
Come see our Flat Screen games!

9³⁰pm - 11³⁰pm

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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!



7⁰⁰pm - 9³⁰pm

Don't Miss This
Great Performance!

2 ☒ Free Drawing Watch * 11pm
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**CHOCOLATE MARTINIS
JUST \$4.50 WOW**

3 ☒ Watch **MARCY RAE**
"Sweet Mama
Cotton"



9³⁰pm - 11³⁰pm

Packed House!

*See Bar for Details

THREE DOLLAR THURSDAYS

\$3

WOW!!!
Corona, Heineken
or Shiner Bock

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**ALL
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**ALL
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HAPPY HOUR 4PM-8PM

**Huge Briar Patch
Drinks - well single
STILL JUST \$2.25!!**

Derrick Silva & Warren Chase
Houston's New Entertainers

9³⁰pm - 11³⁰pm

Come see these great
young performers.
Hear showtunes,
country, and even
love songs. You name
it, Warren plays it and Derrick sings it!



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34
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sized still just
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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
Music like "Proud Mary", "All Thar
Jazz", and "American Pie", you will
Love Warren's Friday Night Show!

STAR SILVA SATURDAYS



90c

All Single
Well Vodka Drinks
4pm-6pm

PARTY ON OUR PIANO



With **Derrick Silva**

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COME SEE DERRICK SILVA LIVE
You will hear songs from the past and
current SingA-Long songs. Derrick is a
Special Guest Star at the Briar Patch.
So enjoy this talent now - while he is
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with Michael

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**LAURIE
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LIVE MUSIC AFTER BRUNCH!
Stop by and see the Fabulous Piano
entertainers. Fast moving, great
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Then the house really rocks with

KIM YVETTE

9³⁰pm - 11³⁰pm

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

If you have to put a lockbox on your partner's genitals for him to prove his commitment to you, that's not about love, that's about control. For monogamy to mean anything, it should be a gift freely given, not an unconditional demand.

Now that the Republicans are planning to pass a constitutional amendment to make us third-class citizens, I have no hope left for this country. That's why every gay man I know is moving to Canada. Will Canada become paranoid of all this gay migration?

To the guy who compares smoking to bumping: Tell me about it when you breathe in my second-hand bump!

Regarding no pic, no profile, no chat: The reason I don't have a picture is because my computer doesn't have a scanner and it's not worth me getting one. But hopefully it's worth it for me to talk to you. Don't turn me down just because I don't have a picture. That's stupid.

If I want to, on my 45th birthday, bleach my hair and get a fake tan and hit the circuit parties, it's none of your business. You don't pay my bills, and you're not my boyfriend.

What really pisses me off are guys out there in chatrooms who hit me up and when I tell them they're not my type, they get pissed off. Look, if I say I don't like big, fat, hairy guys and you're a big, fat, hairy guy, then just leave me alone.

I'm a 55-year-old gay white male, and when I was in my teens, I would go to the park and older men always wanted to fool around with me, I let them, and I loved it. Now that I'm older, I can't find these younger guys; I'd just like to pay them back.

To the guy who's "more than his dick" and complains he can't bring this publication to work because

the ads are too risqué: Stop forcing your sexuality down your coworkers' throats! Do your job and read the paper on your own time.

We shouldn't be ashamed of this publication because of its sexual ads when there are other popular free publications that feature pages of even more explicit sexual ads of a heterosexual nature and nobody seems to be ashamed.

I am so sick of these so-called straight homo-thugs approaching me at 2 or 3 in the morning after getting rejected by so many females, trying to get a sniff. Sorry, but 7-11 is closed.

Got a bitch?

call **1-800-858-8088**

or e-mail editor@eclipse-mag.com

Who are the idiots trying to close down sex toy stores? Since when is a dildo more dangerous than a gun? Nobody's talking about closing the gun stores.

For Salvador, who wrote in that he wants people to send him videos of gay sex: If you don't know where to find it, then you certainly shouldn't be watching it.

Why is that, when it comes to online dating, after you send a flurry of e-mails back and forth about how you want to get together, and finally give out your phone number to firm things up, they never call you up to arrange the date?

To the guys who think the gay TV shows are really cool: Why don't you read between the lines? They are just giving straight people another reason to laugh at us. Do you really think they would ever have a gay-themed TV show with masculine men?

To the person who wrote that President Bush is bigoted, uncaring and selfish for opposing same-sex marriages: Then so are Howard Dean, John Kerry, Joe Lieberman and Dick Gephardt, since they oppose same-sex marriages as well.

Look guys, top means top, not a guy who occasionally is the bottom. Period.



To the self-described "anglophile" who makes racist comments: How do you expect people to accept you and your "humpback" when all you do is spew hate?

I'm tired of being looked down upon because I'm gay. We have the same wants and desires as other people, we just do them with the same sex.

CHELSEA BOYS

BY
HANSON & NEUWIRTH

NATHAN TAKES UP
DAN GIBSON ON HIS
INVITE TO CATCH A
GAME AT YANKEE
STADIUM...

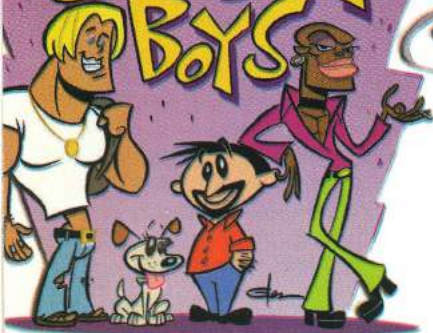
WHICH ONE IS DAN GIBSON--
THE QUARTERBACK?

THAT'S
FOOTBALL,
YOU BIG QUEEN!
DAN GIBSON
PLAYS THIRD
BASE.

SEE? THAT'S HIM OVER
THERE.

HOLY SHIT!!
LOOK AT
THAT ASS!!!

CHELSEA BOYS



WOULD YOU SHUT UP?! SEE? THAT'S
EXACTLY WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO
BRING YOU HERE. I HAVE FIFTEEN
FRIENDS, ALL OF 'EM BASEBALL FANS.
BUT NO--YOU, RICHARD, MY BEST
FRIEND-- BEGGED ME TO COME.
AND YOU PROMISED TO BE GOOD.

I WILL. I WILL.
BESIDES, GETTING ME
INTO THE YANKEE
CLUBHOUSE IS
PAYBACK FOR THE
TIME I BROUGHT
YOU BACKSTAGE
TO MEET
JULIE ANDREWS
ON BROADWAY.

AFTER THE GAME...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GONNA SEE DAN "THE MAN" GIBSON, NAKED, IN THE LOCKER ROOM. I BET HE HAS A BIG BAT!

DON'T YOU DARE! DAN IS A REALLY NICE GUY. I DON'T WANT HIM THINKING THAT WE'RE A COUPLE OF LEERING, PROOLING FAGS WHO JUST WANT TO GET INTO HIS PANTS.

YAH. BUT WE ARE.



HEY, DAN! GREAT GAME!!

'SCUSE ME, SUZYN. NATHAN--YOU MADE IT! GOOD TO SEE YA, BUDDY.



DAN, THIS IS MY FRIEND, RICHARD.

(3 OCTAVES LOWER) YO. GREAT PASS YA CAUGHT IN THE FOURTH INNING, DUDE.

UH... YEAH. THANKS, RICH.



CHEAL-SEABOYS.COM

SO, HOW'S YOUR MOTHER? WHAT DID THE DOCTOR TELL YOU?

UGH... NOT GOOD. HE THINKS MY MOM'S IN THE EARLY STAGES OF ALZHEIMER'S... BUT THEY WANNA DO MORE TESTS.



OH. WOW. I'M REALLY SORRY, MAN. I'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS WHOLE THING. LOOK, HERE'S MY NUMBER. IF YOU EVER NEED TO TALK, CALL ME.

GOSH. THANKS, DAN.



LATER...

WELL, I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA... ASIDE FROM THAT STUFF ABOUT CATCHING A PASS, YOU HANDLED YOURSELF PRETTY WELL BACK THERE.

THANKS, GIRL! CAN I SHOW YOU SOMETHING...?



DEREK JETER'S JOCKSTRAP! I STOLE IT OUT OF HIS LOCKER!

OY.



TROY

By Michael Derry

#74 "A DIVERSE COMMUNITY"

YOU GUYS WON'T **BELIEVE** THIS! I AM COMPLETELY FREAKING OUT!!! I JUST FOUND OUT THAT THEY MOVED UP THE OPENING OF MY SHOW, "NAKED GUYS BEHIND BARS, SING!" BY TWO WEEKS TO COINCIDE WITH GAY PRIDE!



AND WE'RE DOING THE OPENING NUMBER ON THE MAIN STAGE AT THE FESTIVAL!!! CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? I HAVEN'T TANNED AND I STILL HAVE, LIKE, THREE POUNDS TO LOSE! **WHAT** AM I GOING TO DO???

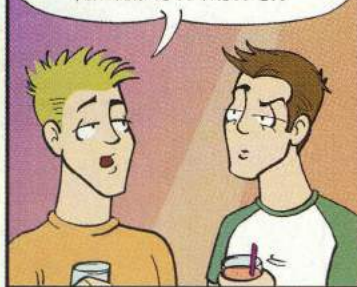


OH BEAUTIFUL! THAT'S **JUST** WHAT GAY PRIDE NEEDS.

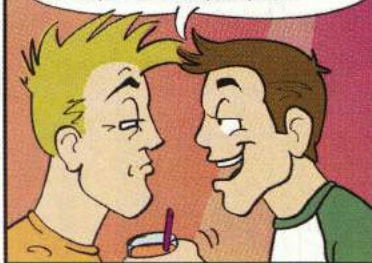
EXCUSE ME??? WHAT'S **THAT** SUPPOSED TO MEAN, RAY?



I'M SORRY, TROY. I JUST DON'T THINK TWELVE GUYS IN TOWELS CAVORTING TO THE REFRAIN OF "HE HAD ME COMING" IS ANYTHING TO BE PROUD **OF!**



REALLY? IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK? I SUPPOSE YOU'D RATHER SEE A BUNCH OF SWEATY, HAIRY BEARS IN JOCK STRAPS DANCING ON THE BACK OF A BEER TRUCK TO "I CAN'T GET NO SATISFACTION!"



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When sexcapades are in the way

Addicts who rearrange life around anonymous sex should worry

Hey Woody!

I've accomplished a lot, including graduating from NYU, working as a junior executive, owning a nice house, earning a great salary, and driving a luxury car. I've accomplished what most men in their early 30s have only dreamt about.

There's just one problem. Since my relationship ended, I can't seem to stop going to sex clubs, adult bookstores and the like to screw around with guys I've never met.

I've hooked up with gorgeous guys at the bookstore, and I really get turned on especially when we engage in oral sex. Some days, I've hooked up with three or four guys.

I often look forward to going to the bookstore during lunchtime, after work as well as at night and on weekends. The excitement is so fulfilling, it's a challenge for me to stop.

by Woody Miller

I've admitted to myself that I have a problem with anonymous sex, and lately I must say I've been able to control myself from going. I figure it would be easier to stop if I had a boyfriend.

Can you give me some suggestions where I can meet quality guys? I've tried the Internet, clubs, social events and meetings, but I always come up snake eyes.

— **Horny and bewildered**



Photo courtesy bodyspy.com.

Dear Bewildered:

A boyfriend is going to help you the way low alcohol beer is going to help an alcoholic. It'll slow the addiction, but not by much.

In the end, the only thing your boyfriend becomes is another obstacle to avoid in getting to anonymous sex.

At least you admit that you have a problem. If there's one thing I can't stand, it's guys who cloak their compulsive need for anonymous sex with high-minded talk of sexual freedom. There is no freedom in being chained to your desires.

Sexual addiction is a recognized disorder, and it follows very closely the pattern of any addiction — a binge that creates the high, followed by guilt, regret and a promise to stop. Which is followed

by an extraordinary hunger for the addiction, the creation of breathtakingly self-serving justifications for the behavior, and then the recurrence binge.

Repeat, oh, 500 or 600 times and you've got a full-fledged addiction.

So how can you tell if you're a sex addict? It's the same process as figuring out if you're gay. If you have to ask yourself the question, the answer is yes.

There's nothing wrong with anonymous sex if it isn't getting in the way of work, love or life. But when what you're doing starts doing you, when your want becomes a need, when you start organizing other activities around the addictive activity, you've got a problem. And might I add, a big one.

The essence of all addiction is the experience of powerlessness over a compulsive behavior. Addicts get to a point where they want to stop, try and repeatedly fail. They suffer.

They lose relationships, have difficulties with work, get arrested, have financial troubles, lose interest in other activities and end up with a rock-bottom self-esteem and an endless sense of despair. You know, like coming home from the bars empty handed.

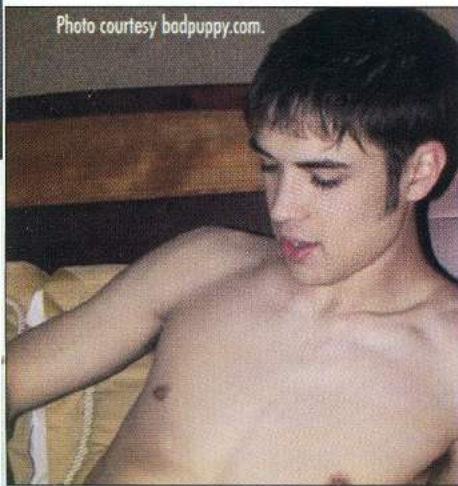
I talked to my advisors and came up with my own quiz to tell if you're sex addicted.

"Are You a Sex Addict or Just a Garden Variety Whore?"

Check it out at www.menarepigs-butwelovebacon.com/addictquiz.html If you redline the quiz, I suggest four moves: Find a good sex therapist. Attend Sex Addicts Anonymous meetings. Check out www.sexaa.org. And read the best book on the subject: "Out of the Shadows" by Patrick Carnes.

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

Photo courtesy bodpuppy.com.



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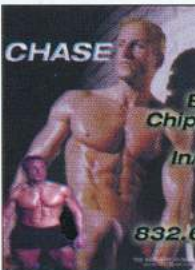


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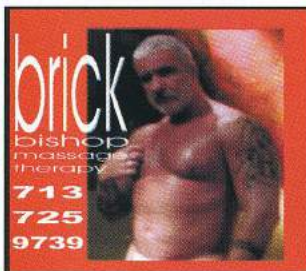
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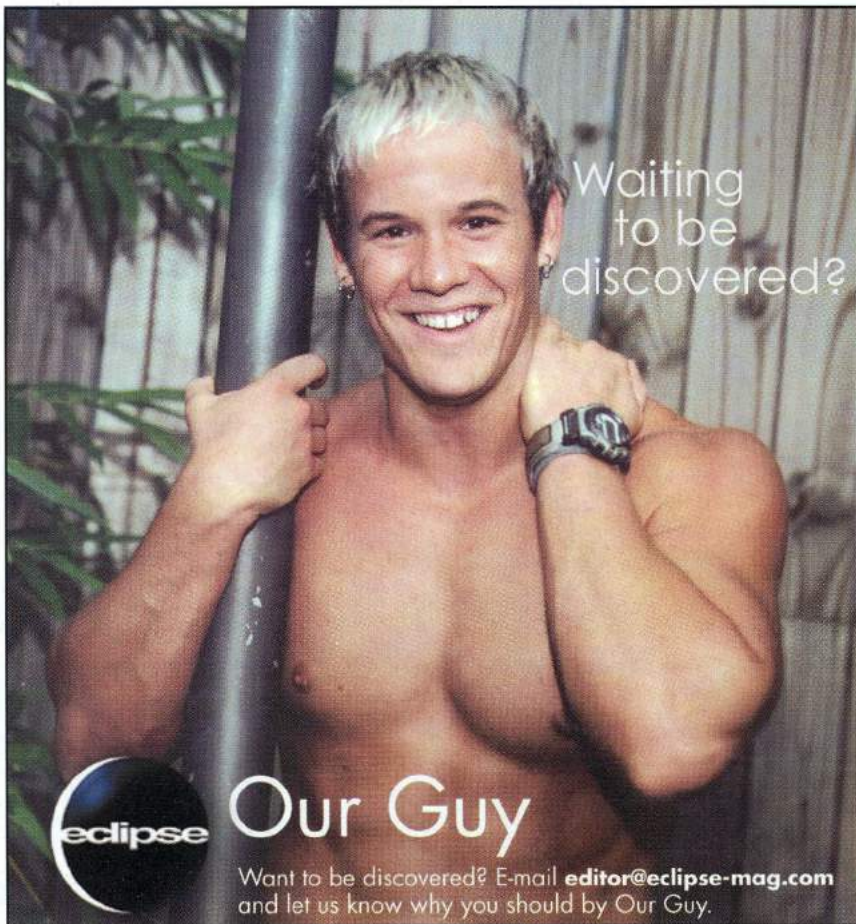
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