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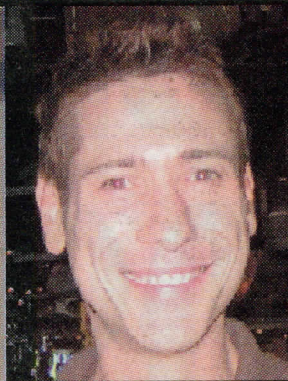
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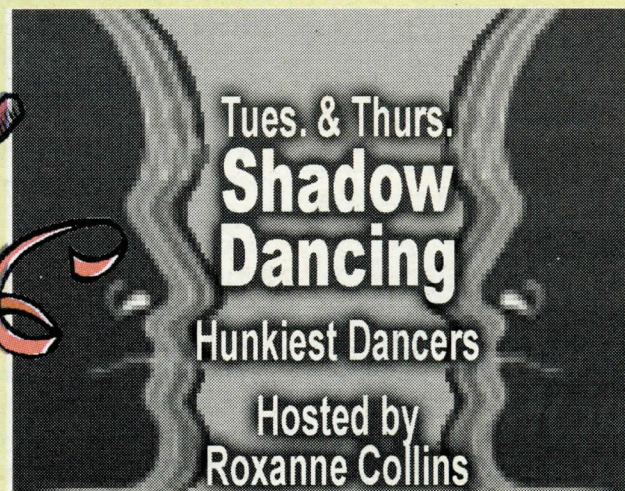
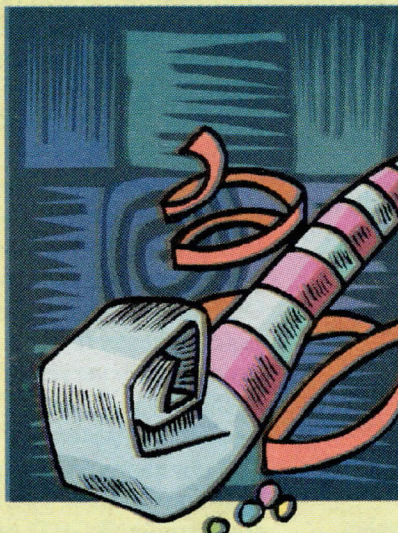
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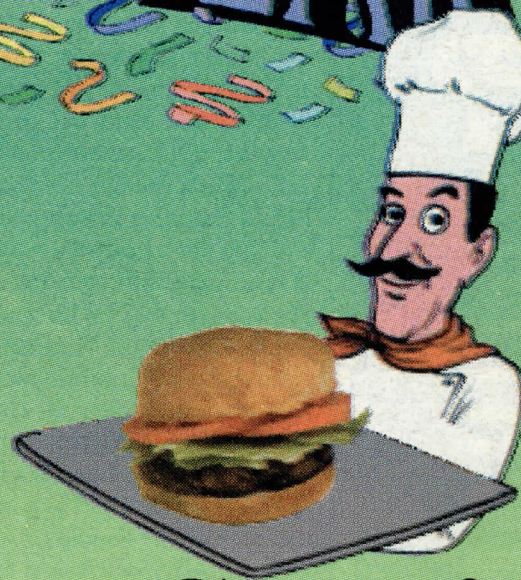
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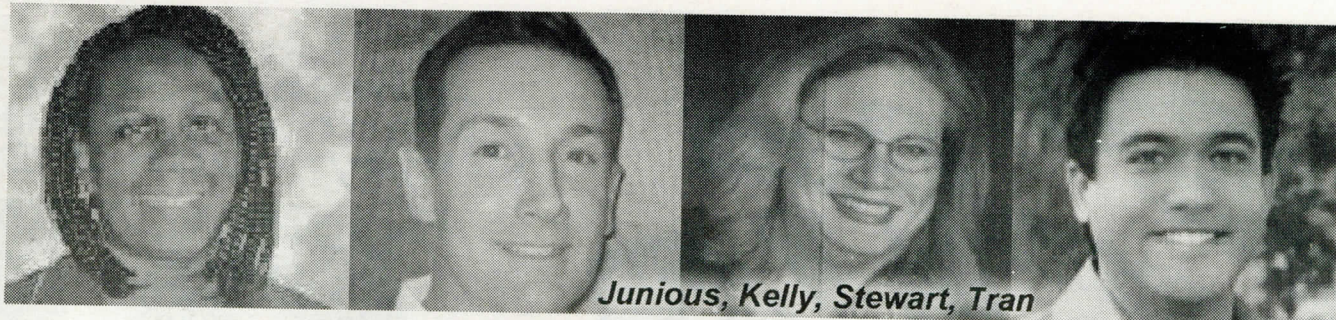
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Junious, Kelly, Stewart, Tran

New Board Members for Equality Texas

PRESS RELEASE from Equality Texas

Equality Texas announces the election of four new members to its board of directors. They are Ellen Denise Junious, Houston; Whitney Kelly, Amarillo; Katy Stewart, Bryan/College Station; and Paul Tran, Dallas.

They join returning board members: JD Angle, Fort Worth; Reed Bogle, Dallas; Dr. Paul Boskind, San Antonio; Rob Caballero, Houston; Stuart Campbell, Austin; Denise Mejia, San Antonio; Dawnetta Miller, Plano; Douglas Plummer, Austin; Rob Scamardo, Houston; Lisa Scheps, Austin; Marsha Warren, San Antonio; and Anne Wynne, Austin.

Ellen Junious

Ellen is a professional speaker, certified life coach, and business professor. She is the author of "Unleash the Power of Personal Advantage," and founder of Personal Advantage Resource Group, a coaching and consulting firm based in Sugar Land. Ellen's career spans more than twenty years as a technology professional in the areas of healthcare and financial services. She has made a lifelong commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion, and speaks at events throughout the country.

Ellen is a member of the Human Rights Campaign's national diversity training team and serves on HRC Houston diversity steering committee. She is a member of International Coach Federation, Houston Coaches Association, National Black MBA Association, Society for Human Resource Management, and Writers League of Texas. Ellen is a Leadership Houston Class XXVI graduate, a member of the People of African Descent Advisory Board for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and an avid fan of professional women's basketball.

"As a member of the Equality Texas board, I hope to help do the work that is necessary for us to have a greater impact on the equality of all humanity. I believe Paul Scott is deeply committed to making a difference in Texas, and I want to support him in bringing together the resources and people to achieve equality for all Texans."

Whitney Kelly

Whitney Kelly was the Associate Director, Document Management Operations Training and Quality Enhancement Departments, AIG

Annuity, Amarillo (2006-2008). He joined AIG in 2003 and retired in May of 2008. Previously, Kelly was a grants management consultant and taught business classes at Amarillo College Workforce Development program. Kelly was the Training and Documentation Team Leader for Corporate Systems, Inc. in Amarillo, where he implemented proprietary software for end users and supervised staff to develop and deliver training for internal and external customers.

Whitney Kelly is a native of Amarillo. He has previously served as the faculty sponsor for Amarillo College's Pink Triangle Association, board member of Friends in Need, board member and president of PanhandleAIDSSupportOrganization, board member and president of OUTstanding Amarillo, and host for Equality Texas fundraising events. He currently serves as President of the Komen for the Cure Greater Amarillo Chapter.

"I am happy to raise money for, and from, our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and am proud of our visibility in Amarillo. However, I know how much more work we have to do to secure equal rights, provide safe schools, and end workplace discrimination. I want to continue Amarillo's representation on the board because I have seen great progress and momentum in the last few years with our community and elected officials (namely, our mayor) and I would like that to continue."

Katy Stewart

Katy Dawn Stewart was born David Alton Friesenhahn on November 5, 1971 in San Antonio, Texas. She was graduated from Madison High School in San Antonio and Texas A&M University. Katy has a Bachelor of Art degree in Chemistry with a minor in curriculum and instruction. Currently, she is a graduate student at Texas A&M University working on a Certificate in Non-Profit Management through the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. Her professional career began in 1990 in the radio/television industry. She has spent considerable energy and talent in grassroots advocacy specific to civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

Stewart is the Texas State Coordinator of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and serves as facilitator between Texas chapters, community organizations, and national PFLAG offices. She also serves as President of the local Bryan/College Station PFLAG chapter. Stewart serves as Transgender Network Vice-President, a national officer board position. She serves as an Aggie ALLIES, Co-Facilitator/LGBT Educator and is responsible for scheduling and

logistics for LGBT educational workshops as part of the TAMU Aggie ALLIES safe zone program.

"I am passionate about the work of EqualityTexas because of the strength it engenders to our great state. We are Texans our identities as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual, and a whole lot more, give us personal power in a world in which Hate is too often the value by way of ignorance. Equality Texas sees the spark in each of us that desires more. I am honored to join a board of highly talented individuals that, despite hectic lives, are committed to fanning those sparks into bonfires."

Paul Tran

Paul Tran has been active in North Texas politics for several years. As the student body president at The University of Texas at Dallas, he ran a Texas-wide lobbying group of students to protect student rights and fight tuition deregulation. After being graduated from The University of Texas at Dallas, he began his Ph.D. studies in Political Science. Paul was the Director for the British Election and acted as the Principal Investigator in the 2006 Political Support in America Study, a Research Assistant in Electoral Choice and Party Support in Contemporary Canada Study. He was also a Fellow at the University of Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection.

Tran founded the Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats and helped lead the fight against the anti-gay marriage amendment in Dallas. Since then, he has been at the conception of four more Stonewall chapters in Texas and serves on the Dallas, Texas and National boards of directors. He currently serves as the representative from the south-central region to Young Democrats of America Site Selection Committee and as the Minority Caucus Chair for the Texas Young Democrats.

"I believe in EqualityTexas' capability to reach out to voters and legislators alike to make a difference for every Texan. I've had the great opportunity to work with both young people and experienced activists from South Texas, Houston, Lubbock, Dallas, Austin and more. Our diverse views, our separate histories, and our rich cultures are not lessened in our fight together. We are united in our inspiration and dedication to seeing a better world. We're Texans. We will fight. We're not just fighting for fair and equal rights. We fight for the hope of the future and our dreams of the past. I am thrilled to be a part of Equality Texas."

Equality Texas advocates and lobbies for the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

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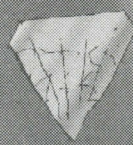
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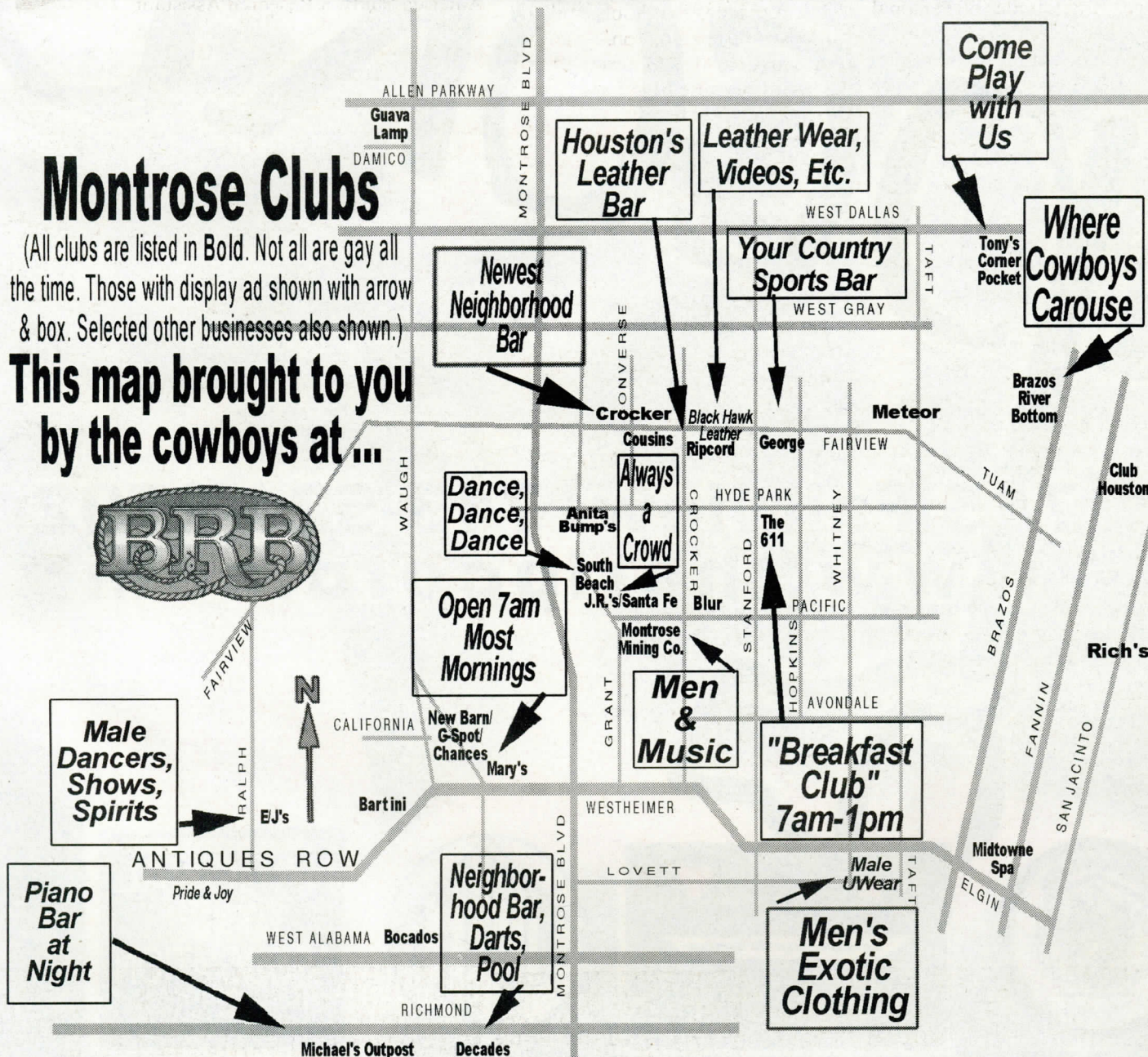
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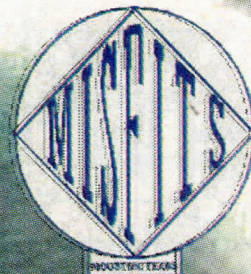
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Greetings from City Hall

From Sue Lovell, City Councilmember

I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday season, and a wonderful New Year.

During this holiday season, keep in mind that there are people in our area who need our help, including families who are still coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

I also know that everyone likes to help kids at this time of year. But please try and remember there are teens in our city that may not receive gifts. They appreciate presents too, and a doll or a toy truck just won't make it with teens. We all need to think of a way to give them gifts.

Also remember our social-service agencies at the holiday season. As the economy slows, many of those organizations can use some extra financial help. There is still time through the end of the year to make a tax-deductible contribution.

While you are making

your holiday plans, most of all remember to tell your family and friends that you love them and care about them.

As the year comes to a close, my family and I along with my staff wish you a Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings and extend best wishes for the New Year.

Downtown Sparkles, Etc.

Downtown sparkled at the Mayor's Holiday Celebration Dec. 5. The holiday tree and decorations remain up through the season.

Thanks to Hess Toy Truck company for donating to Mayor White 5000 trucks to be given to Houston-area kids. We want to thank Neighborhood Centers Inc. for helping our office distribute 1,000 trucks citywide.

Christmas Tree Recycling: Don't just throw away that Christmas tree. From December 26 through January 7, drop it off for recycling at a City of Houston sites (closed Jan. 1).

They include (Mon.-Sat. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) Westpark Consumer Recycling Center (5900 Westpark) and (Mon.-Sat. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.) Memorial Park Ball Fields 4 and 5 (7300 Memorial Dr.).



PHOTO BY ANTHONY RATHBURN

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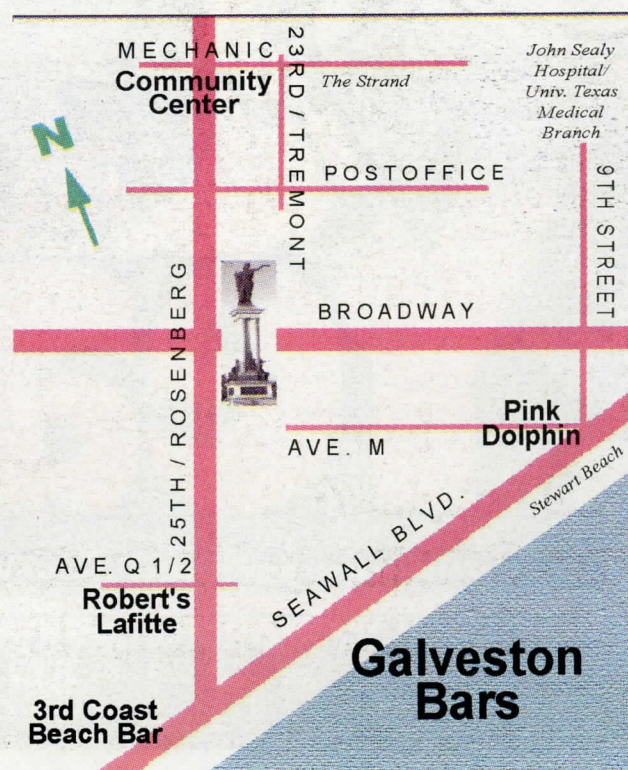
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A Step at a Time

By Billie Glover

There seems to be a loss of reality on the part of many Americans, no matter what their religious, political or sexual beliefs are. There seems to be no intellectual understanding of the connection between the passage of Proposition 8 in the bluest state in the nation and the hollering about a preacher who is going to give a prayer at the inauguration of Obama.

There needs to be a reminder of the words used against Obama during the election. Specifically these words are **still** hurting his attempt to change America. The evidence can be found, among other places in the real world, on a recent front page of The (Shreveport LA) Times of, reporting on the conflict in Claiborne Parish over not only the mistreatment of a black student who was overly eager after Obama's election, but more important, the fact that during the election a teacher circulated literature claiming Obama was the anti-Christ.

Now think about how to combat this continuing attack on Obama from the radical nutty (usually "religious") right that will undercut his ability to make any good changes, and then add an attack on his coming administration from those on the left and some homosexuals over his invitation of a preacher (Warren) to lead a prayer at the inauguration.

Hopefully the youth of America will know enough history to understand how much better America is today for all minorities than it was even a decade ago, much less how life for blacks and homosexuals was in the civil rights days of the 1950s and 60s when their parents were marching for the right to even vote, and get an education in schools not divided by race.

That is what Obama needs to remind us, and ask for a little help from all of us, no matter who we voted for or how much hope we have for his administration.

Commentator Billy Glover can be reached at billygloverhic@hotmail.com

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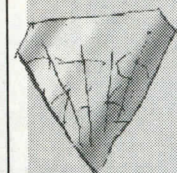
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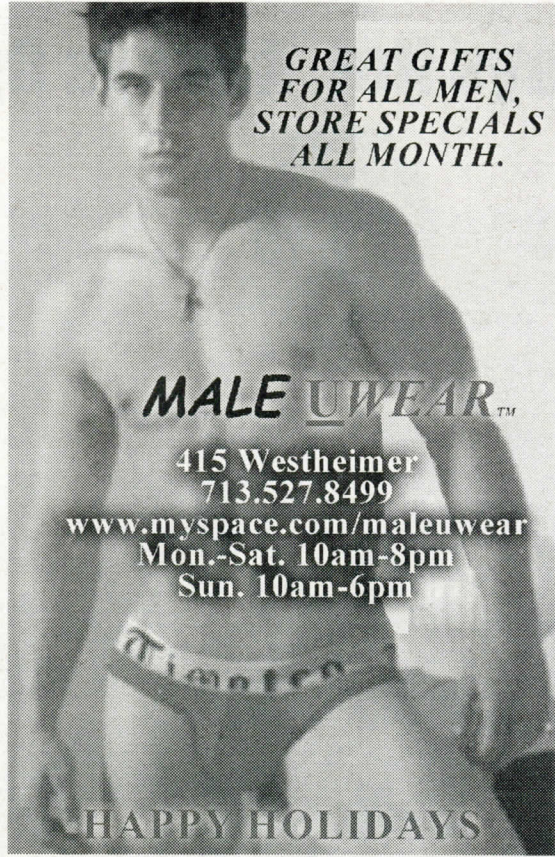


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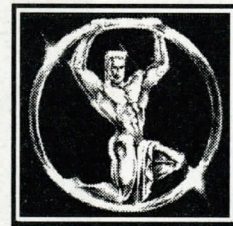
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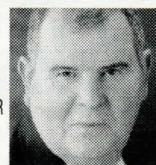
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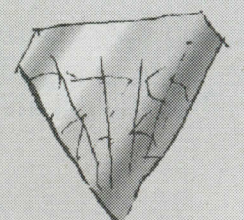
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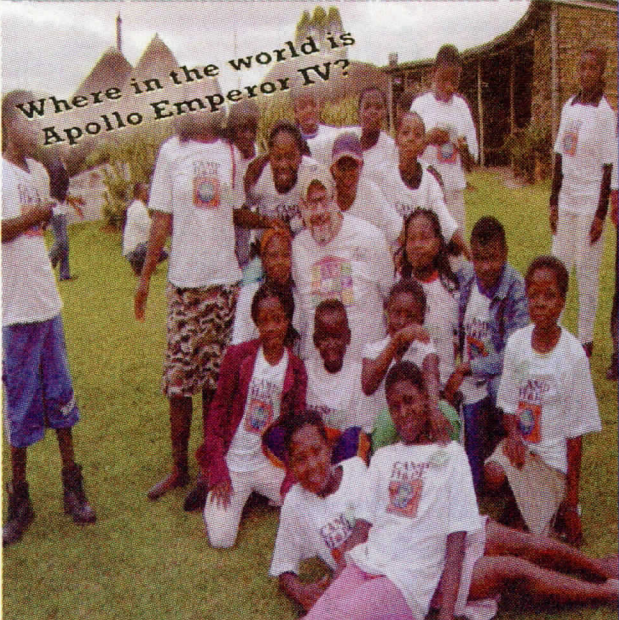


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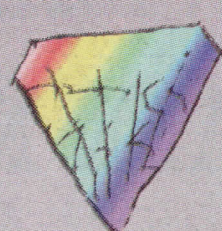
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