

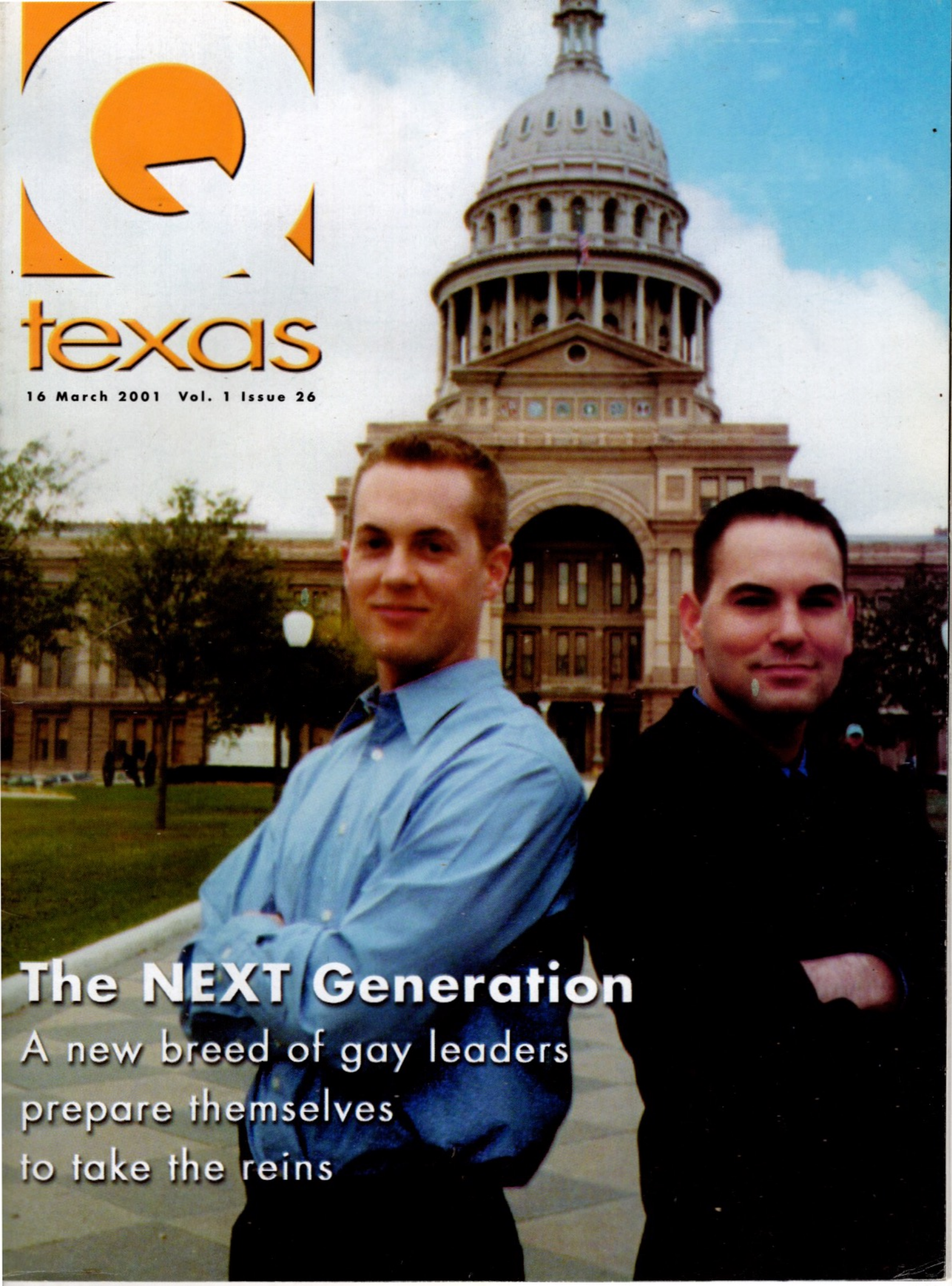


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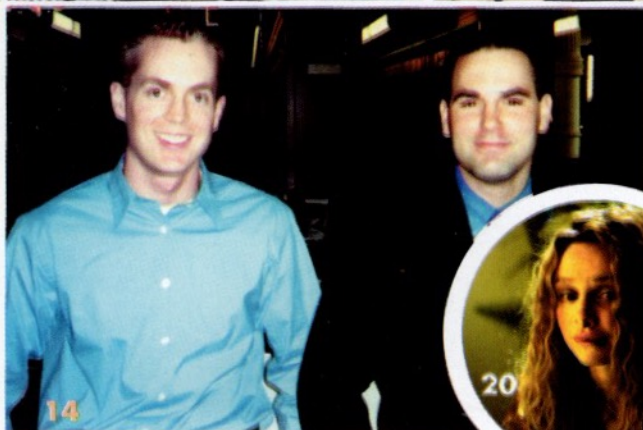
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Andrew Fouche, left, and Brent Biggs. For more about these young gay men and their work at the state Capitol, see Page 14.
Photo by Chad Ballard

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Q She's seen Bette-r days

As it continues its spiral to the ratings cellar, CBS pulls the plug on Midler's sitcom

chat

march 7th, 2001 — A day that will live in infamy. It's the day CBS unceremoniously pulled the plug on Bette Midler's sitcom, a good two months before expected. Of course, Bette went into the show without all the hype-me, plug-me madness that usually accompanies the debut sitcom of a star of her stature. Bette's attitude from the beginning was, "If it works, great. If it doesn't, I'll survive."

Throughout the season, Midler has made one complaint after another about the program

as she made the requisite appearances on the talk shows. And according to Fox News' Roger Friedman, Bette and producing partner Bonnie Bruckheimer, making the rounds at the Warner Music after-Grammy party, made no secret that they were contemplating putting the show out of its low-ratings misery.

CBS entertainment prez Les Moonves wasn't about to let that precedent-setting move happen, according to Friedman. But Moonves was generous enough to allow that Midler was a huge talent, and sometimes huge tal-

ents just don't fit well in a little box.

As much as we love Bette, it's sad to say that she's getting little sympathy in filmtown. Not known as a team player at CBS, she also had great difficulties getting along with her cast-mates. Three central characters bowed out in just the first few months. When James Naughton went to L.A. to film to pilot as Bette's husband, he left before the week was out. Then Naughton's successor, Kevin Dunn, left a few weeks ago. And Lindsay Lohan, who played Bette's daughter, also said her

Quotables

"Come on! You have to stick your tongue deep in there! Waaaay deep! All the way down. Now swirl it around."

— Actress Charlize Theron loudly coaching a girlfriend on the art of French kissing during dinner at Milan's chic Bice eatery

"It's an action movie, and I'm too fat to hang from cables."

— Oscar-nominated Javier Bardem of *Before Night Falls* on turning down a part in Steven Spielberg's upcoming *Minority Report*

"We take back all the fabulous and glowing things we said (and have said over the years), since it is impossible to please Barbra [Streisand] and why even try?"

— New York Post gossip maven Liz Smith

"I had had an unusually belligerent day, and I went home and I was sitting there and I was struck by the realization . . . I said, 'David's going to kill me.'"

— Soprano's star James Gandolfini on his fear that producer David Chase will have writers knock his character off.

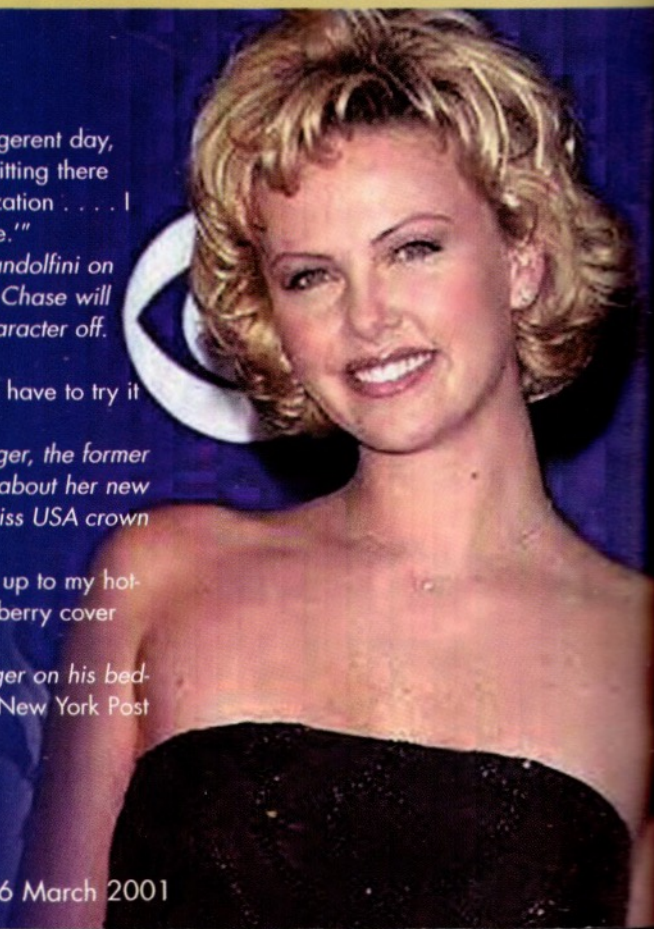
"Every once in a while you have to try it on and see how it looks."

— Kandace Krueger, the former Miss Texas, talking about her new Miss USA crown

"I spend most nights cuddled up to my hot-water bottle — I've got a Burberry cover for it."

— Aging rocker Mick Jagger on his bedtime pursuits, to the New York Post

Q



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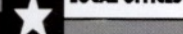
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goodbyes a few weeks back.

Although his *Will & Grace* cohorts can barely bring themselves to acknowledge that he's officially reached adulthood, boyish and queenly Jack (Sean Hayes) may find out that he's a daddy. According to *Daily Dish*, the producers of *Will & Grace* are searching for a 13-year-old actor to perform in an episode entitled "Jack — The Next Generation." The rumored storyline has the boy, a product from a long-ago sperm bank deposit, tracking down and surprising his unsuspecting father as the cliff-hanger finale for this season's show. If it works, the boy will be brought back next season. If not, no harm done. NBC reps are mum.

Turns out the good Rev. Jerry Falwell outed the wrong Teletubby. Falwell made a fool of himself two years ago when he complained that Tinky Winky, with his lavender color and swishy dancing, was a gay icon on the recently-cancelled series. But it appears Rev. Jerry should have set his gun sights on Po, the red Teletubby played by actress Pui Fan Lee. Lee has caused an uproar in Britain by playing a lesbian in one of the most explicit sex scenes ever shown on British TV. "Her sex-mad character in the Channel 4 series *Metrosexuality* is seen romping naked with other women and performing oral sex," reports the *London Sun*.

Recently Hizzoner Rudy "Rhoda" Giuliani flashed some leg as he performed with the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes in an annual show sponsored by



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the New York press. But it appears that the famous Radio City high-kickers may have a female impersonation fetish, according to the *New York Post's* Cindy Adams. Barry Humphries, who dazzled Broadway audiences with his pink beaded gowns and rhinestone harlequin glasses as Dame Edna, will appear with the Rockettes in an upcoming Radio City extravaganza still in the



hayes

planning stages.

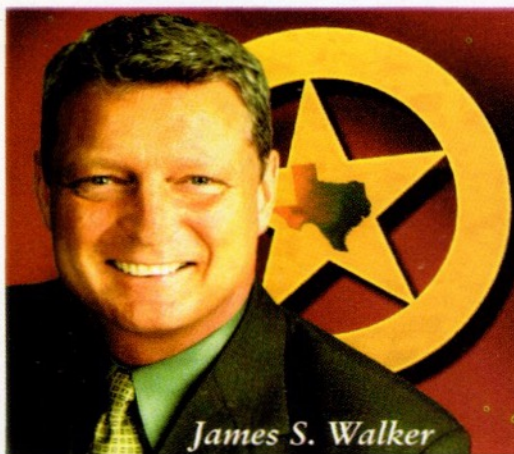
Quick bits — Russell Crowe



falwell

may play Ari Onassis in the upcoming *Greek Fire*, about Onassis and longtime lover Maria Callas, the diva of all opera divas. Rumor has it that Catherine Zeta-Jones has been approached to play the fiery opera singer, but Zeta-Jones may have to pass. She's also in talks to play the role of Elizabeth Taylor in the planned biopic on gay actor Montgomery Clift Rapper Sabrina Setlur just admitted she had a boob job to boost her romance with German tennis ace Boris Becker. Lotsa luck, babe. A noted womanizer, Becker recently split with wife Barbara after a paternity scandal that followed a tryst in a broom closet at London's shiek Nobu restaurant with Russian model Angela Ermakova Bruce Pask, former associate fashion editor at *GQ*, will debut as a costume designer for the upcoming revival of gay playwright Noel Coward's *Design for Living* Spanish actor Javier Bardem, nominated for a Best Actor Oscar for his stunning portrayal of gay Cuban poet Reinaldo Arenas in *Before Night Falls*, says his fellow Spaniards are cheering him on in the Oscars race as if he were an Olympic athlete. In Spain, Bardem says he's constantly told, "You have to win for our country!" In other Oscars territory, Julia Roberts, nominated for her star turn in *Erin Brockovich*, is planning to wear a pair of 10-carat diamond drop earrings and matching triple-strand necklace at the Academy Awards ceremony on March 25. Drawing \$20 million a pic, *Q* supposes she can afford the \$2 million price tag.

Q



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by michael kasten

Michael Kasten is a certified fitness instructor and writer based in Fort Lauderdale. His column appears weekly in QTexas. He also writes for Men's Fitness and Exercise for Men Only. He may be reached by e-mail at Mkworkout@aol.com



for more than two centuries, people throughout the world have enjoyed the ancient Chinese art of being stuck with lots of tiny needles in an attempt to relieve common ailments. In America, acupuncture continues to gain momentum as an alternative therapy in health care. I recently checked through my local Yellow Pages and found no fewer than 50 licensed practitioners.

Acupuncture has actually been well-studied over the last few years, and the results are very promising. So promising that the National Institutes of Health deemed acupuncture "an acceptable alternative, or part of a comprehensive treatment program" for certain conditions.

Can acupuncture really help relieve conditions like post-operative pain? Does it have a positive effect on chemotherapy-induced pain and nausea. Does it have a calming effect and make your immune system function better?

Fist, let's talk about how acupuncture works — or how it might work, since no one really is absolutely certain. Acupuncture involves the stimulation of specific anatomical points on the body by puncturing the skin with sterilized, flexible and extremely fine needles. This process is supposed to promote natural healing and improve functioning. The needles are inserted at points on the body on pathways called meridians. These points can also be stimulated with heat, pressure, friction and electromagnetic impulses.

Why should you try acupuncture? There are two theories on why it works.

The ancient Chinese theory held that the insertion of needles at particular points helps restore the normal flow of "qi" (pronounced "chee"), a process essential for good health. In the last 40 years, Western studies have suggested that the insertion

of needles at acupuncture points helps release chemical neurotransmitters in the body. These chemicals, including endorphins, help reduce pain and inflammation.

Acupuncture may help the body to heal itself. By restoring the natural equilibrium in the body, the Chinese believe that channels of energy run in regular patterns through the body and over its surface. An obstruction of this movement of energy is like a dam that backs up the flow in one part of the body and restricts it in others.

The acupuncturist believes that any obstruction leads to a deficiency in energy, blood and nervous impulses that eventually lead to disease. Needling the acupuncture points can stimulate the nervous system to release chemicals in the muscles, joints, spinal cord and brain. These chemicals either change the experience of pain or trigger the release of other chemicals and hormones that influence the body's own regulating systems.

Acupuncture then can force bioelectrons in the body to resume their normal and regular movements and provide a balance of "yin" (negative) and "yang" (positive) energy.

But before you run out and get poked, here's what you should look for and expect in a professional acupuncturist.

The acupuncturist should be licensed by the state and display the license in his or her office. It's usually best to find an acupuncturist by word of mouth. Your physician may not be the best person to ask, since acupuncture is still viewed with skepticism by many in the modern medical community. Ask friends, social workers, personal trainers and massage therapists. They probably will be your best source of information for referrals since they will be more likely to be

plugged into this treatment modality.

When you get to the acupuncturist's office, here's what to expect. First, you will probably undergo an initial evaluation. You should be asked about your family history, current symptoms or condition, your general health history and, perhaps, mental health issues. Sometimes personal issues like color, food and seasonal preferences are examined. An acupuncturist is also more likely to spend extra attention to your pulse points and to the appearance of your tongue.

Sound like snake oil?

Well, the pulse points are energy locations, and the tongue can tell it all to someone who knows how to read the signals properly. All in all, you should expect the acupuncturist to gather lots of information about you before they begin inserting needles.

Now to the important question — does acupuncture really work?

The answer is yes. In a recent study at six clinics in five states, 575 participants answered detailed questionnaires before, during and after treatment. Almost all reported that acupuncture made them feel and function better. Most participants reported that they used acupuncture to help keep themselves healthy. Many used it for specific reasons such as to alleviate the symptoms and discomforts associated with HIV, allergies, depression, diabetes, neck and back pain, insomnia and PMS.

Of the 575 people in the study, nearly 14 percent reported that one or more of their complaints had disappeared, and 77 percent said that some symptoms had improved. Another 8 percent said that their symptoms had not improved.

Most people participating in the study were also using tradi-

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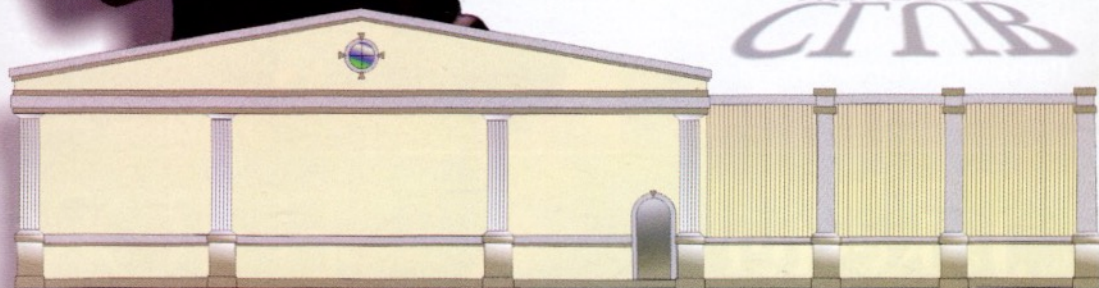
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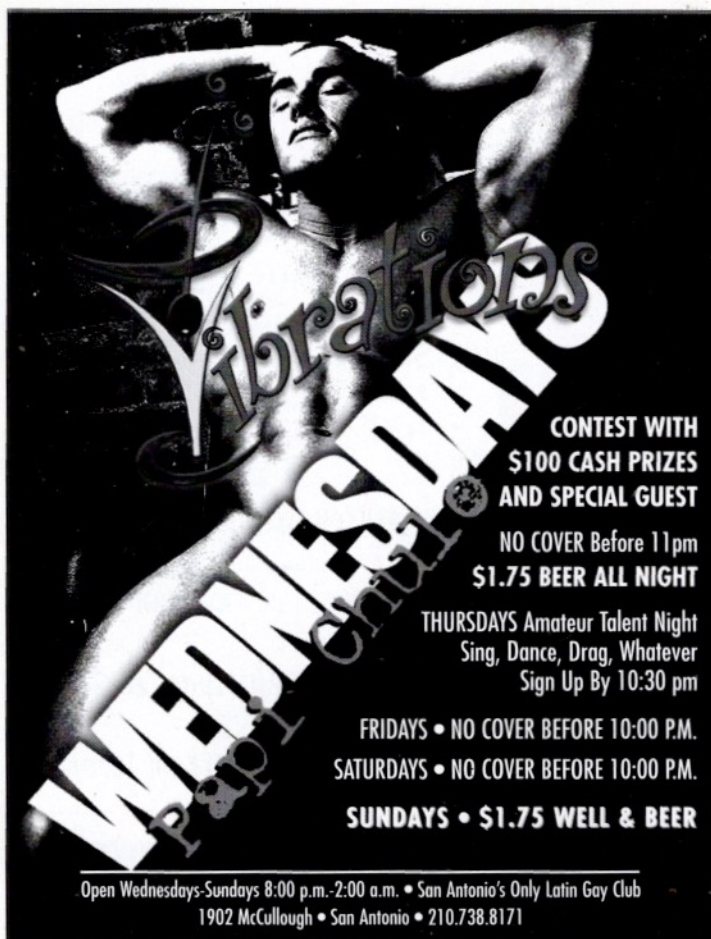


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tional Western medical treatments for their ailments in conjunction with the acupuncture. But 57 percent reported that acupuncture "made the difference" in their treatment success.

Of course, self-reporting by study volunteers can't take the place of controlled scientific studies, but the numbers revealed by this study certainly showed that acupuncture had some effect, even if just psychological, on these patients.

Are there any side effects to being used as a human pin-cushion? Not really. In this study, 72 percent reported no serious harm from an acupuncture needle. Another 24 percent said they had experienced a small bruise or a drop of blood at a specific needle site. Only 3.6 percent reported the development of a rash or pimple.

Acupuncture seems to be safe. If you have an ailment like the ones described above, or are just looking to make yourself as

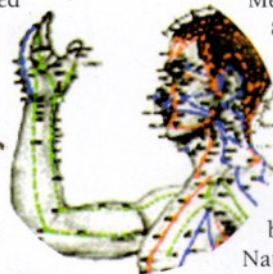
healthy as possible, check out acupuncture. There are more than 10,000 licensed acupuncturists in the U.S. About 3,000 of these are also conventionally-trained Medical Doctors or Doctors of Osteopathy. Contact

the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture at 800-521-2262 to find these highly trained practitioners.

Non-physician acupuncturists have their own schools and should be certified by the National Certification

Commission of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. You can contact this organization at 703-548-9004. Some health insurance companies will even reimburse certain treatments.

An even easier way to find out more on the "qi" of acupuncture is to do a search on the Internet. Just enter "acupuncture" in your search engine and you'll dredge up a wealth of sites.



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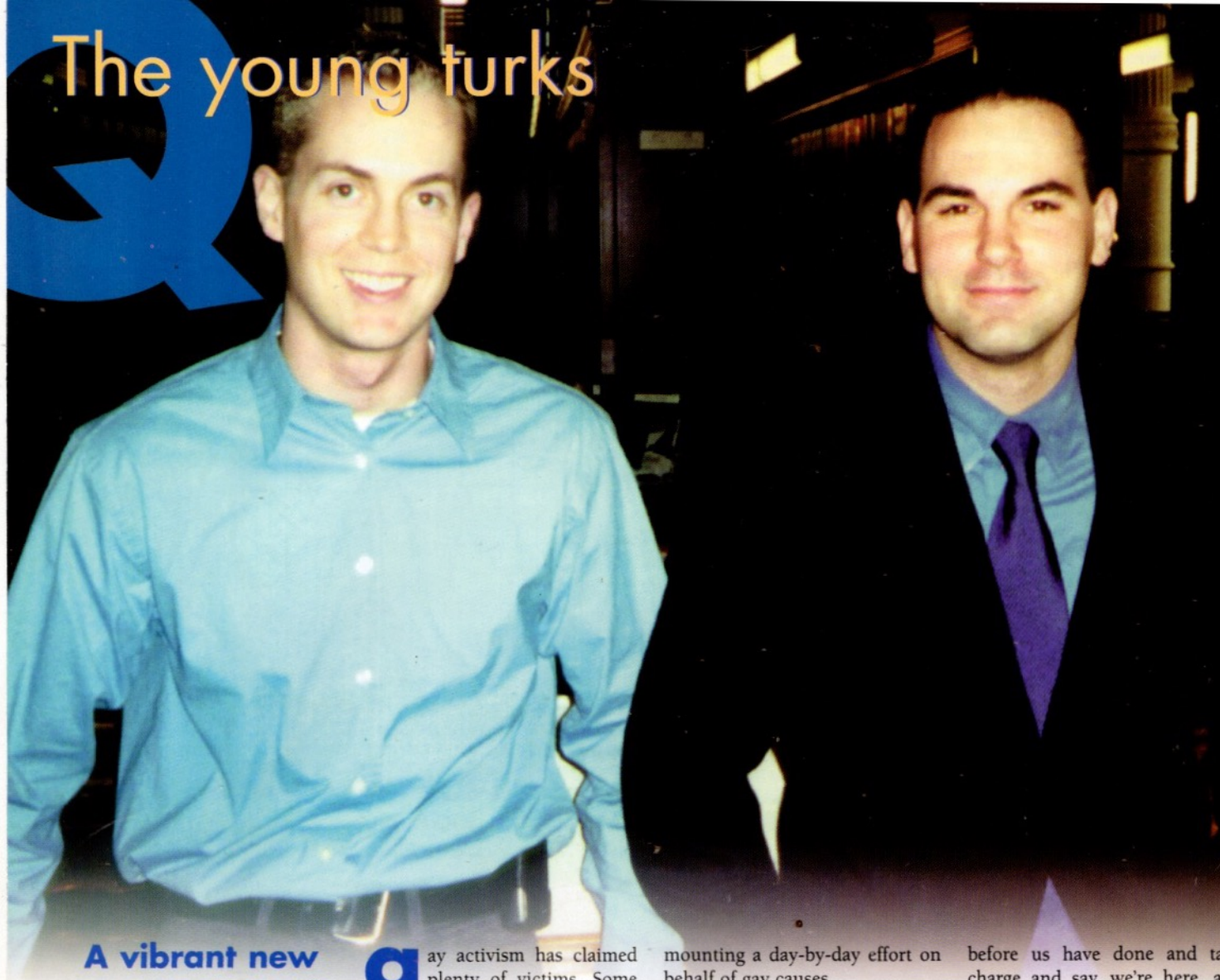
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The young turks



A vibrant new generation of gay activists prepares for leadership

by dennis vercher
photos by chad ballard

Pictured above: 25-year-old Andrew Fouché, left, and 23-year-old Brent Biggs are both employed at the State Capitol in jobs that frequently see them working on gay and lesbian issues.

Gay activism has claimed plenty of victims. Some simply burn out. Others tire of the almost constant internal warfare that splits the ranks. Still others achieve a level of success in their business life and no longer can devote the time that activism demands.

And while there are plenty of old-line activists still carrying the banner on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, it's heartening to realize that a whole new wave of talented, enthusiastic and effective young folks are joining the ranks.

Plenty of them from around the state will be in evidence at this weekend's March Against Hate, called in Austin on Sunday to push the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act and other gay-favored measures now before lawmakers. But some besuited young gay people work amid the seats of power within the Capitol walls,

mounting a day-by-day effort on behalf of gay causes.

Brent Biggs and Andrew Fouché are two of them. Biggs, 23, is a former Marine who works as legislative director of public health in the office of gay state Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin. Fouché, 25, works for the Legislative Study Group, which gathers and analyzes information about legislative matters for a caucus of 74 state Democratic lawmakers.

"A lot of [older] gay activists paved the way for us. They fought hard," Biggs says. "But we have a long way to go."

Powerful conservative groups like the Conservative Coalition, the Christian Coalition and the Eagle Forum are all grooming youth to move up when older leaders step aside, Biggs points out.

"So it's important for the gay youth to look at what the activists

before us have done and take charge and say, we're here, and we're going to take charge so the next generation after us can have it even better," he said.

Working on health and human service issues, Biggs says he's often involved with matters that affect the gay and lesbian community.

Asked for an example, Biggs quickly mentions medical privacy, a bill his boss, Rep. Maxey, is pushing hard this session.

"You have a basic right to privacy when you're talking to a physician," he says. "But when you go to a pharmacy to have a prescription refilled, they can transmit that information. They collect information on the drugs you're using, so they have knowledge of your HIV status and who you are. The problem comes when they compile that information and sell it for marketing purposes, and pharmaceutical com-

panies start direct-marketing you."

As another example, Biggs says employees of firms that are self-insured are at risk now if they contract a sexually-transmitted disease: "They can get the knowledge that that person got gonorrhea, and the employer could assume that the individual is promiscuous." Depending on the employer, the worker could suffer on-the-job consequences as a result.

Despite the sometimes almost unendurable hours, Biggs says Rep. Maxey does a good job of motivating his staff.

First, the carrot: "He [Maxey] really puts it in perspective for his staff by pointing out when we're introducing a bill that we're affecting literally thousands or even millions of peoples' lives," Biggs says.

Then there's the stick: "He has this motto — he says he doesn't mind getting beat on the floor in a debate, but he will be damned if he's gonna get beat because his staff has dropped the ball," the aide adds.

Fouché, too, says his job is no cake walk. He currently works about 50 hours a week, but expects as issues before the Legislature begin to heat up in the next few weeks, he'll manage an easy 80. And that's in addition to his studies as a second-year graduate student at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.

"The Legislative Study Group has about 20 priority issues. Those are the issues we follow closely," Fouché explains. "Hate crimes is one of them."

All of his work, he claims, is of the "Hurry up, I need it yesterday" variety.

"It consumes all of our time. But it's varied from day to day, which is something I enjoy as well," he adds.

Fouché is also rewarded by the feeling that he's making a difference.

"I'm getting to do advocacy work on stuff like the hate crimes bill, Medicaid, things Texans need to realize are important," he says. "And on the hate crimes bill, it's just so nice to know that there is a lot of support. At last



Andrew Fouché works for the Legislative Study Group, which gathers and analyzes information about legislative matters for a caucus of 74 state Democratic lawmakers.

count it had over 80 co-authors. It's just so heartening to know that some of that is because [lawmakers] read my stuff."

Away from school and the Capitol, Fouché says he has little

time to play.

"I just go home and go to sleep. And I go to the gym two hours a day," he says.

Asked if he's buff, Fouché readily admits, "I am." His room-

mate is a trainer. "He's kept me in the gym with whip and chain for two hours every day," he says. In addition, Fouché runs 4 to 7 miles daily, and studies German in what little spare time he has.

Fouché soon will depart for Germany, where he won a scholarship to work on world trade and European Union issues for the government's Ministry of Finance.

While Fouché is heading to Germany as an out and proud gay man, it was in another foreign country where Biggs finally came to terms with his sexuality. As a Marine stationed in Virginia, he was the focus of a full-blown investigation when fellow barracks-mates harassed him. Biggs came out on top, and the other Marines were told to lay off.

**"We as gay people have
come a long way, and
it's because of a lot of
blood and sweat and tears.
But we've still got a
long way to go."**

His sexual coming-of-age happened at a duty post in Italy. "That was the big turning point for me," he says. "I was 19 and had a girlfriend. I was lying in bed with her and just said, 'You know, I think I'm gay.' She said, 'I know. That's why I dated you. Gay men are the best.'"

This was in the mid-90s, after the adoption of "don't ask, don't tell," and Biggs again became the subject of an investigation. This time he was honorably discharged. But he still considers it a good experience. "It was good because I took a stand, and I think I helped show that a lot of gay people serve with distinction in the military."

Since they bump into each other frequently in the state Capitol, it's interesting to note that Biggs and Fouché are former boyfriends who dated for about two months. They respected each other in the morning — and still do.

"He [Biggs] is a very intelligent guy," Fouché says. "He knows a lot about health and human services, so he's a great resource for a lot of the work I do."

Biggs is equally complimenta-



Brent Biggs is legislative director of health and human services for gay State Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin

ry. "He's great," he says of Fouché. "He's very intelligent and ambitious."

Biggs says the two split because of Fouché's impending move overseas. "I think we were becoming too close, and we both knew he was going to Germany," Biggs says. "We decided it was

better to end it now and be friends than to have a teary day when he moves."

Then Biggs grows philosophical.

"I think everyone you meet and date — and I'd love to meet someone and fall totally in love and have the white picket fence

out front — but I think everyone you meet teaches you something in life," Biggs says.

For instance, his new boyfriend, Jonathan, "makes me relax and have a little more fun."

But neither men plan a future filled with fun and games. Eventually, Biggs says, he'd like to run for office as a state representative. "That's where I think you can have the greatest impact on people's lives," he says. But Biggs adds that he's "totally loyal" to Rep. Maxey and intends to remain on his staff as long as Maxey serves in the Legislature.

In five years, Fouché sees himself in law school, studying international comparative law.

Both men realize they've laid a difficult path for themselves. But they wouldn't have it any other way. And they realize they have plenty of enthusiastic peers.

"We as gay people have come a long way, and it's because of a lot of blood and sweat and tears," Biggs says. "But we've still got a long way to go."

March Q&A

When and where will the March Against Hate be held?

The March will begin at noon on Sunday, March 18, with participants gathering prior to that on South Congress Avenue at James Street (near the Austin Motel). The March will move up Congress Avenue to the state Capitol's south grounds — outside the building's main entrance — where a rally will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Who is sponsoring the March?

The primary sponsor is Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. But about 20 other Texas civil rights, progressive and religious organizations are also co-sponsoring this year's March. Organizers say that's a giant step forward, and an indication of the growing support for gay and lesbian rights among many important state-wide organizations.

Why is the March being held?

A gay and lesbian March on Austin is held every two years, when the Texas Legislature is in session. This year's March is primarily intended to demonstrate support for the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act, which would increase penalties for those who commit acts of violence motivated by hatred toward race, color, disability, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, or sexual preference. The measure would also strengthen Texas' currently unenforceable hate crimes act in a number of other ways.

The March also will stress other gay and lesbian rights issues, including repeal of the sodomy law and the need to enact protections for gays in the workplace and in the public schools. Marchers will also support an effort to allow transgender persons to legally change their names and to change gender markers on documents such as drivers licenses.

The March will express opposition to efforts to prevent gays and lesbians from adopting children or becoming foster parents.

What is the rally for?

The rally concluding the March will be held on the Capitol's south grounds, and will get underway at about 12:30 p.m. Representatives of sponsoring organizations will speak, and Sen. Rodney Ellis and State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, lead authors of the hate crimes bill in the Senate and House, also are scheduled to appear. The rally will last no longer than three hours.

Why does my attendance make a difference?

Steve Atkinson, co-chair of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby board of directors, puts it this way: "I believe it is infinitely important for as many people as possible to be a part of it. We really are on the cusp of getting this [hate crimes] legislation passed, and the key is the legislators seeing and hearing that the support for the bill is out there."

— Dennis Verche

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**Dirty
Media**

Lionel Richie's *Renaissance*

Album set for March release has Lionel trying new things, but it's still classic Richie

beat

by jimmy smith

Native Texan Jimmy Smith writes about club music news and trends. His column appears weekly. He may be contacted by e-mail at Qbeatstx@aol.com



Last summer a friend of mine at Virgin Records asked me to do him a favor. There was a party, and he wanted to go dressed in drag as Tina Turner. Well, it's been a while since I'd last exercised my powder buff muscles, so I was down for doing it. To return the favor, my friend gave me tickets to Tina's concert at Madison Square Garden. You

can imagine my excitement as I anticipated seeing my first live performance of someone I consider one of my top five divas of all time!

When I walked up to the Garden, I happened to glance over to the big marquis to get yet another surprise. Who was opening for her? **Lionel Richie.** Guuurll! Opening acts are sup-

posed to get the crowd warmed up, but I have to tell you that Lionel literally had the crowd out of their minds from the minute he sang his first note. Of course he crooned though his slew of hits, even donning a huge afro wig for some of the **Commodores** classics and such. Then he sang a few of the tracks from his upcoming album, *Renaissance*, and I've been



waiting for it's arrival ever since.

Well, now the wait is over. As Richie begins his fourth decade of making music, 60 million albums and five Grammys later we find *Renaissance*. This time he's collaborated with a team of producers that have yielded an album of unique style for Lionel, reflecting his indomitable curiosity and his refusal to ever be pigeonholed.

"Making a new record is always a mystery. It's an affirmation into the unknown. I'll never forget when I was with the Commodores," he reminisces. "We were straight-ahead R&B,

This track comes with a bit of old-school flavor on the R&B tip.

Lionel takes further stylistic leaps with "Angel," the first single from the album. It's a full-on dance record produced while he was over in Europe, and it's magnificent. The CD Maxi comes with mixes by Metro, Boogiemann, and Crash & Burn. Also in the dance tip is track number 12, "Don't Stop the Music." This puppy comes with a more house vibe, and could easily fare well in underground house circles with the right remix.

Another thing I found inter-



and the producers and record company expected that from us, and that was that. In the middle of the disco craze I sat down and wrote a song called 'Three Times A Lady,' and they said I was out of my mind."

With *Renaissance*, Lionel has been able to stay true to his musical mission and more. "Working with Rodney Jerkens [who has produced Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Brandy, and more] was a wonderful experience. It reminded me of the early days of the Commodores, the way they are having fun, knowing that whatever they're involved with can do no wrong. There was a spirit and attitude that I could relate to."

This spirit really comes through on tracks like "Tonight."

esting was track 4, "Dance The Night Away." Clever use of Spanish guitars and flowing strings make this one instantly appealing. But whether it's the tropical feel of "Cinderella" or the almost "country-esque" vibe of "Tender Heart," this album is completely Lionel. There are the ballads and mid-tempo pop confections to wear you out. But then again, I am a fan.

Find out for yourself on March 20, when *Renaissance* hits the shelves. And let's hope there's a tour!

And that's the beats this week.



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Thing you can hate just by viewing it

Showtime ends its streak of top-notch originals with new women-oriented film

tube

by steven lindsey

Steven Lindsey reviews film, television and theater for Qtexas. He may be reached by e-mail at Qtexasman@aol.com

Things You Can Tell Just By Looking at Her

Grade: C

Airs on Showtime March 17 at 5 p.m. CST, on Showtime 2 on March 18 at 12:55 p.m. CST, and on Showtime on March 22 at 6 p.m. CST.

Of course, you can't completely blame the "No Limits" network. *Things You Can Tell Just By Looking at Her* was originally slated for a theatrical release until somebody at the studio actually watched this peculiar yawner and decided to avoid a box-office bomb and sell it for pennies to cable — at least that's my guess.

Granted, the premise is promising (say that quickly ten times). The lives and loves of several women are explored as their stories unfold and intersect in a roundabout anthological menagerie. On second thought, maybe it isn't that surefire after all. It seems the biggest mistake many new directors make is to try to duplicate the indie success formula mastered by Quentin Tarrantino in *Pulp Fiction*. One viewing of *Just By Looking* proves once and for all that it's not as easy as it looks.

Without one central character to hold the various stories together, the movie lacks focus and depth. The first story opens with Dr. Keener (Glenn Close) caring for her elderly mother on her nurse's day off. The mundane caregiving routine visibly drains the energy from Keener's soul until hope knocks on the door in the form of a lesbian tarot-card reader (Calista Flockhart) ready to unlock the secrets of the doctor's future.

Story Two focuses on Rebecca (Holly Hunter), a successful bank manager pregnant with a married man's (Gregory Hines) baby who's stalked by a homeless woman named Nancy (Penelope Allen). Oh, and she also has a one-night stand with bank subor-



Calista Flockhart plays a psychic with a dying lover.

dinate Walter (Matt Craven) to continually prove her sex appeal. Her story intersects with the first when Dr. Keener is called upon to perform her abortion.

The third tale features Kathy Baker as a woman suddenly obsessed with the dwarf across the street (Danny Woodburn). She's also got a penchant for smelling her teenage son's breath, but that's a whole other topic for discussion.

Next, we're treated to the home life of psychic Christine (Flockhart) and her dying lover Lilly (Valeria Gollino), where they share romantic memories, passionate kisses and a canary or two (don't ask).

Finally, Kathy (Amy Brenneman) and Carol (Cameron Diaz) are sisters looking for love despite their personal obstacles. Kathy is deeply involved with her work as a detective and Carol is empowered, yet embittered, by her blindness.

With so many stories to summarize, it sounds like there's a lot going on in this film. Actually, there is, but none of it goes anywhere. Each plot quickly dead-ends just when there's the remote possibility of something interesting happening. Writer and director Rodrigo Garcia creates some

unusually diverse characters, but he hasn't a clue what to do with them.

Naturally, I zeroed in on Flockhart's lesbian role, but there wasn't anything of value for which to devote more than a sentence or two. The only point worth noting is that Calista's skeleton-thin character looks worse than her deteriorating life partner.

Holly Hunter's contribution was up to par with the rest of her recent roles — including her obligatory titty shot. (Why is this

woman so obsessed with nudity? Does she gets boobie bonuses? But between the abortion jag and the homeless hag, it was just too scattered to elicit much emotion.

Similarly, Diaz and Brenneman worked wonders with the roles they were given.

But surprisingly, the most interesting subplot was Baker's infatuation with the little man across the street. With some more time and devotion, this could've blossomed into a genuinely funny romantic comedy all on its own. At the very least, one of the other stories could've been jettisoned to give this tale more screen time. But even that probably wouldn't be enough.

As was recently the case with gay films, we were happy with anything that came along, just to see our stories on the screen. The same can now be said for women-driven films. Whereas Showtime's *A Girl Thing* was wonderfully entertaining and *The Joy Luck Club* and *Waiting to Exhale* were celebrations of culture and female bonding, *Things You Can Tell Just By Looking at Her* is just pointless.

Except for Holly Hunter's lifeless breast.

club land

photos by paul parkinson and chad balla

austin

1. Wes, Joe, Carl and Brhandi at the Forum
2. Backstage with Lauren Taylor at Charlie's
3. Brittany, Denise and John at Charlie's
4. Abreham, Richard and DJ Bang at Splash
5. Javi and Reni at Charlie's
6. Momma's dancers Lane, Marcus and Tim with birthday boy Steve and "Momma" Dale.
7. Jason and Scotty at Splash



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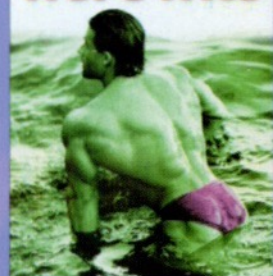
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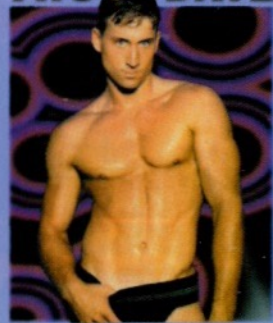
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WET & WILD



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JAME PERRY
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THURSDAYZ



CAMPUS BOYZ
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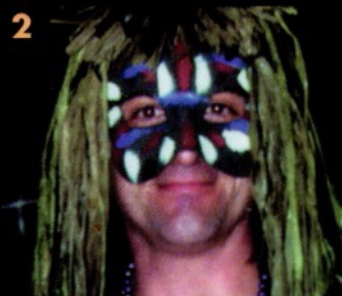


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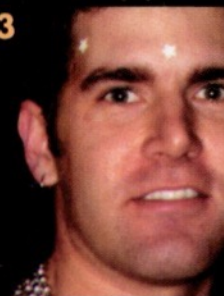
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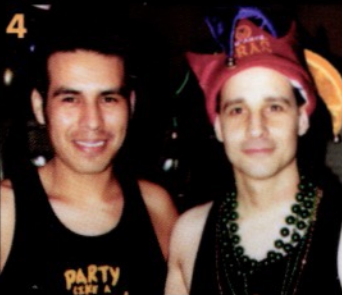
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5



6



6



8



1



1. Patrick and Bobby at the Brick

2. Jon at the Brick

3. Kevin at JR.'s Bar and Grill

4. Bradley and Chad at Throckmorton Mining Company

5. Sco at the Round-

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1. John, Joe, John and Bill
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2. Gilbert and J.D. at Decades

3. Eurasma, Joe, Eliza and
Selena at Pacific Street

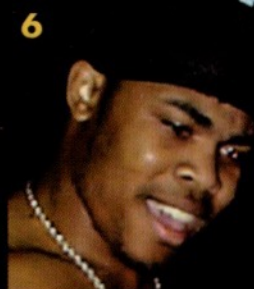
4. Elliott and Michael
at Montrose Mining Company

5. Ed and Felipe
at Pacific Street

6. Carmel Thunder
at Club Inergy

7. David at Mary's

8. Lawanda Jackson
and her boys
at Rich's



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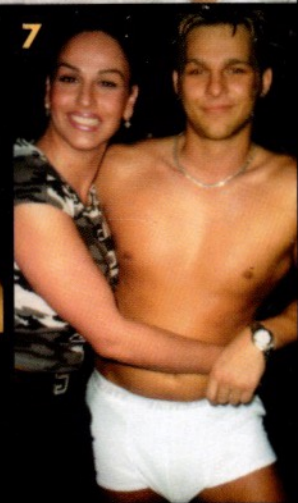
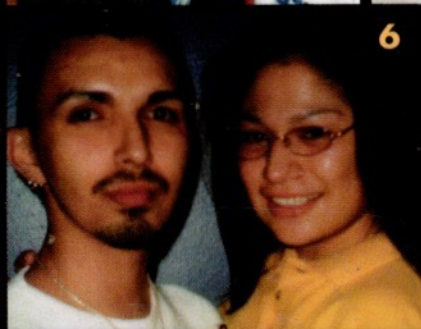
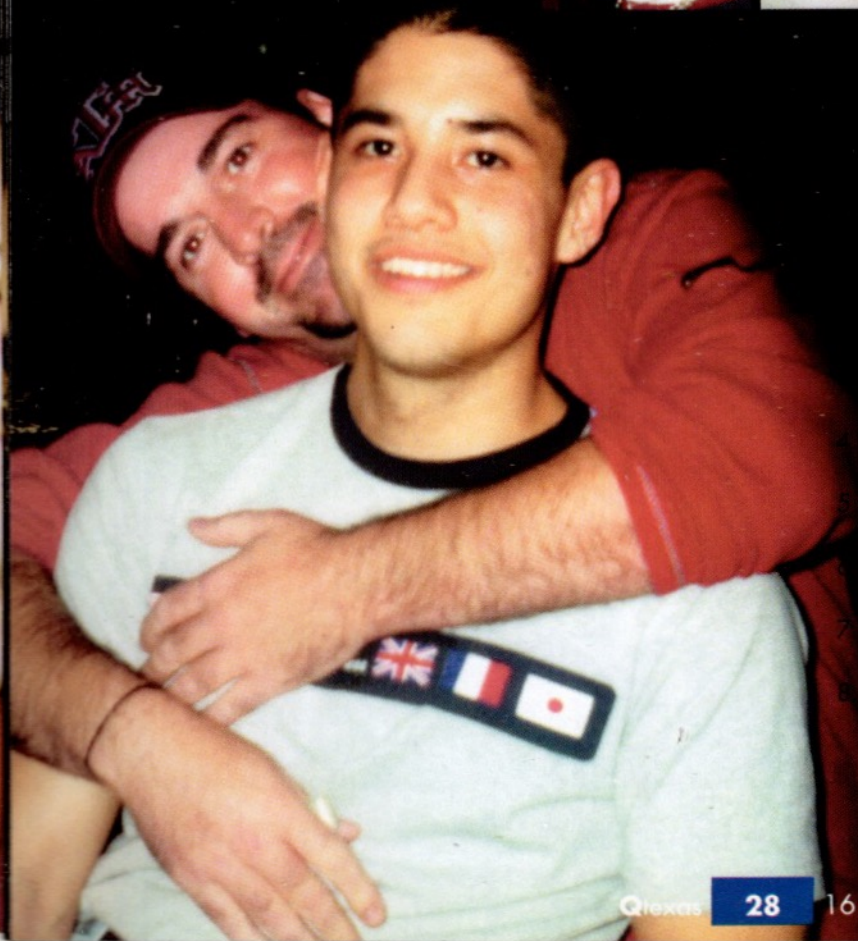
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Stardate

by rex. bill w

Pisces (February 19-March 20) Happily, this week for you should be very much like the calm after the storm. There shouldn't be nearly as much pressure as there had been. That backlog of e-mails and phone messages aren't going to answer themselves, Pisces. A parent is kind of down and would really just love to hear from you.

Aries (March 21-April 19) The Sun transits to your sign this week and this should cause quite an energy burst. Much of this will likely be applied toward job-related issues. You should be feeling a lot more comfortable as well. Try to cut down on both carbonated and caffeine beverages. Wear blue when going out on Friday night.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Much of the next seven days looks to be business as usual, with no curve balls being thrown at you. Please don't fix that wiring problem on your own (haven't we already had enough natural disasters this year?). Though your steady is almost ready to commit, something is holding him back. Ask what!

Gemini (May 21-June 21) That natural frantic pace of yours needs to be slowed down a bit, before you run into something. Ever hear the phrase, stop to smell the roses? Why not give it a try, Gemmy? Your diet has too much dairy in it. Try making a few adjustments. When that cute guy asks you out, don't propose on the first date.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Because of all the fiery planets doing their thing right now, you might be feeling a little bit like an outcast. This shift won't last too long and may actually help you to get a lot of that work backlog out of the way. Remember to use a really strong sunscreen when outdoors for extended periods of time, just to be safe.

Leo (July 23-August 22) Most Leonians actually thrive on career pressures and all sorts of deadlines (that's because to your sign, boredom is the kiss of death). You won't be disappointed this week, then. You might actually set some time aside for a night out on the town. After all, all work and no playing makes for a grouchy lion.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) If that promotion interests you so much, you've got to let the boss know (after all, he's not a psychic). Make some noise and call attention to yourself (Leo can give you plenty of pointers). Those erratic sleep patterns won't be stabilizing for another week or so. Say yes to that invite for a weekend getaway.

Libra (September 23-October 22) The rough spell you went through after that last relationship went south is almost over with. It's time to dive back into the dating pool (we hear the water is fine) and start circulating. Try going to a new hangout for a change. Getting a new haircut and some flashy clothes is a good idea as well.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) Financial conditions are due to improve nicely by the middle of next month. Until then, continue to clip coupons and take advantage of 2-for-1 specials. You might have to work this coming weekend, but the overtime will come in handy. Your sweetie is feeling ignored. Tell him how much you really care.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) You've got more irons in the fire than a blacksmith, Sag. Exactly how many part-time jobs do you work? All of that hard work will be worth it when vacation time rolls around in a few weeks. Make sure there's plenty of food and drinks for that Academy Awards bash.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) We've calculated that you would require about 32 hours in each day just to get everything done (how you manage on 24 is beyond us, Cappy). That investment opportunity may have to be put on hold for a while because the financial backing is slow in coming. Be careful of those knees during workouts.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) It's probably almost time to scout around for a new job. The current one has you bored out of your mind. Look for something a little more challenging. Any thoughts about that close friendship becoming anything more should be dropped at once. How about letting love find you this time instead?

Bill has been a psychic reader since age 5. He is a certified astrologer and a Reiki healer (master level). He resides in South Florida but is relocating to the Southwestern U.S. later this year. Bill is available for phone and Internet readings, and also for parties and all sorts of promotional events. He can be reached at 954-527-5820 and online at mcentaur35@aol.com

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Q encounter

Friendships

DAL 31YO WM, workaholic wanting friend for workout partner at Bally's 7-11p.m. I'm 6'3", shaved, green eyes, straightforward, mature professional needing to get back into shape. People say I carry the weight well, but I'm way out of shape. Friendship preferred, fun safe play possible for right person, but with like motivation preferred. Box 35737

DAL I'm looking to meet people in general. I want to get out, do activities, have fun and be myself. If more happens, marvelous! (As I'm single as well.) If not, we can still have a great time as friends! I'm honest, flexible and full of interests. I really would like to find a new group of women to hang around with, someone to go do stuff with and such. Box 35720

DAL We are new to the Dallas area, and are looking for things to do. Box 35718

DAL I recently had a long term relationship end and would like to start new friendships to explore Dallas, go to movies, comedy clubs or plays. Box 35715

Women playmates

DAL I'm new to the Dallas area and looking for someone to play with my fiancé and I. Mainly me (he doesn't need to be involved, but I'd prefer it). I'm looking for a friendly open-minded outgoing person a personality is a plus. Hoping to hear from the right person soon. Box 35754

Women relationships

DAL I'm looking for feminine lesbians for friendship and of course maybe more. If you are interested in going down to Cedar Springs to meet for drinks, dancing, lunch or dinner. See a play or to hear a band. I'd love to hear from you. Box 35759

Men relationships

DAL GWM, 35YO, 5'10", 160#, fit, easy-going, professional, with many interests. Workout 4-5 times a week, rollerblade read, play cards, and watch movies. I'm HIV+, active, and healthy. Looking for an educated professional near my age who's fit, likes a balanced life, wants to date and maybe try something more. Serious only please. I'll return all calls.

DAL Do you have everything, but no one to share it with? You're 35-55YO, Christian, HIV, nonsmoker, very attractive, stable, honest, sincere, and looking for a lasting monogamous relationship with a GWM, of unquestionable character. I'm considered attractive, intelligent, ht/wt prop. non-promiscuous, tired of doing things alone. I'm in my 40s, but I'm very youthful, and seeking a masculine partner. Box 35745

DAL Submissive WM, 44YO, 215#, 6'2", br/gr, goatee, HIV, seeks ht/wt prop. dominant HIV, WM for LTR, casual relationship. Box 35750

DAL Teddy bear bottom boy looking for someone to bring my desires to life, or just looking for a cool guy to hang out with. Either way You could be the one I'm looking for. Box 35758

Men relationships

DAL Healthy HIV+ GWM, 40YO, 5'11", slender 167#, Au/Bl, mustache, goatee, smooth, pierced, tattooed, versatile bottom. Far East Dallas/Mesquite. I am looking for a physically intimate friend. I am not holding out for a monogamous boyfriend or a committed long-term relationship (although both are a possibility with the right person). My tastes are too varied to describe "my type". But I would prefer someone between 27-53YO who is emotionally and financially stable, drug free, without a criminal record. Box 35757

DAL Attractive, professional GWM seeking similar GW/HM for friends and possible LTR. I am 41YO, auburn/hazel, 155 #, slender build, very healthy HIV+ versatile/bottom. Nonsmoker, drug free, a very light drinker. Some of my hobbies include movies, theater, outdoors, cooking, and spending time with friends. I am looking to meet a similarly honest and trustworthy guy who shares the same or similar interests. Drop me a line guy, you have nothing to lose, but a future to gain. Box 35755

DAL I've always been told that I'm attractive. I fit the description of being clean-cut (yet I usually have a goatee, or slightly unshaven), 5'10", around 140#, 30w, smooth upper body, good head of hair. I'm seeking a partner who has a great head of hair (no preference to length, but enough to run my fingers through). I'm HIV+, and healthy. I only practice safe play; I'm very oral myself. I like a guy 25-45YO, who likes to be serviced (worshipped) and enjoys some S/M play. Give me a try, nothing ventured, nothing gained. Box 35755

DAL Call me. Handsome GBM, 34YO, masculine, with slim tone build, 5'6", 140#, nondrinker. I enjoy movies, music, conversation, and spending intimate time at home. I'm looking to meet a GM, 25-40YO, attractive, masculine, with slim tone build, open-minded, spiritual, sexual and drama free. Race unimportant, casual drinker OK. Take a chance it could change your life. Box 35738

Santa Fe 6'3", lanky top, easygoing, healthy, nonsmoking, good-looking, secure, college graduate, 40ish, nice build. Seeks young man for good conversation, music, romantic evenings, some fishing, snow skiing, and horseback riding. Love the outdoors, sunsets (particularly at 7000 ft.), and versatile guys not particularly into the bar scene, except for the occasional after dark drink or two-step. Box 35739

DAL GWM, attractive, nice guy, 6', 240#, br/gr, hairy, masculine, 47YO, HIV, nonsmoker, seeks a discreet relationship with an attractive W/HM, HIV, nonsmoker. I like kissing, cuddling, cooking, music, movies, quiet evenings at home, bingo, and Casinos. Box 35740

HOU Handsome, Greek, 38YO, 5'10", 170#, br/hzl, good body, nice moderately hairy, physique. ISO established, affluent, good-natured, older gentleman for companionship, maybe more. I'm attractive, well equipped mentally and physically, educated, easygoing, no baggage, drug free, HIV, sexy and hot. Very domestic and social at the same time. Make you look and feel good. Let's talk, if you're serious. Box 35742

Men relationships

DAL I'm looking for someone who'll be fun to hang with, who knows who he is, and what he wants. Someone who likes to get intimate and nasty and preferably someone who likes his guys on plump side. Box 34001

DAL Mid-Cities Leather Daddy looking for the right boy to spoil. Me: Early 50's (looks 40's), dominant top, 6'2", ht/wt prop., br/gr, sexy lips, E/F secure, HIV, love to live life to the fullest. You: Under 30YO, bayish looking, H/Asian males are real turn on, but race is not an issue, nice body and looking for that special man to fulfill all your fantasies with the possibility of LTR. Let's do dinner and drinks and see if we click. Box 35725

DAL Looking for LTR? Me too, with that special man. Me: GWM, 48YO, 5'7", 173#, buzzed haircut, HIV. You: GW/HM, 43-55YO, HIV, looks unimportant, compatibility is. Have a variety of interest date first, possible LTR. Call, let's talk. Box 35726

DAL Multi degreed professional GWM, 47YO, 176#, 5'11", active in strength training, decorative arts, recreational basketball, civic endeavors, seeks similarly multifaceted G/Bi/W/HM, professional, 38-52YO, for city and outdoor activities of mutual interest. I'm bald, blue eyed, and in-shape. So should you be (in-shape, that is). Box 35729

DAL GWM looking for friendships and maybe more. Not into drugs or mind games, just real men, small medium build. I'm a nice looking guy, with a small build, am in my 30s, am versatile, HIV+, but healthy with a lot more life to share with someone. Time together will show you have nothing lose, and a friend to gain. Box 35731

DAL GWM medium build, 30s, smooth body, likes music theater, movies, cars, art. Would like to meet GWM, 34-40YO, small to medium build, HIV+, as I am, healthy with a good outlook on life, versatile, fun, wanting a monogamous relationship. Box 35732

DAL 47YO, GWM, 5'6", HIV, 145#, br/br, academic. Likes film, poetry, travel, music, cats, friendship. Looking to meet affectionate, secure, 30-60YO, gently companion. Box 35733

DAL 45YO, 5'8", 155#, fit, divorced BiWM, educated. Into physical fitness, fun, active, outdoors, a hunter, camper, fisherman, cowboy. Am interested in Bi, gay, smart, nice looking, tough, guy with similar interests. 20-45YO, non feminine, somewhat kinky risk taker. I have a great sense of humor and like adventure. Box 35734

DAL Why is it so hard to meet a great looking masculine, honest, genuine guy? I'm very good-looking, with no attitude, genuine, athletic, workout, educated GWM, 30YO, 5'10", br/hzl, nonsmoker, drug free, HIV. Anyone out there, I'm a great catch. Looking to build a LTR. Box 35721

DAL I'm looking to meet someone to start a friendship, and more later. I enjoy going out to dinner, theatre, movies, also like spending time at home just being myself. I like to travel, hit the casinos, and see other cities on weekend trips among other things. I'm 5'11" br/bl trim beard, 180#, 45YO, (am told I look younger). There must be someone else who's also been lonely too long. Box 35714

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■ Women Playmates ■ Alternatives

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Qmen relationships

DAL GWM seeks a man for a LTR. You should be 25-45YO nonsmoker, HIV-, able to commit to a monogamous relationship not asking you to be perfect but willing to invest time, energy, emotions and your heart. I'm 35YO 5'10" 230# shaved head, goatee, hairy "bear type" guy (so I have been told) with many varied interest who's willing to go the extra mile for the right guy. Box 35713

DAL Kevin Spacey look alike, seeks someone to date. A monogamous relationship is possible. You: 30-45YO, HIV-, attractive, masculine, nonsmoker, honest, sincere, considerate, E/F secure, ht/wt prop. I'm a very young 40's, medium to short, ht/wt prop., br/bl, hairy, in shape, Christian, desiring LTR. Box 35717

DAL Charming, good-natured, personable, talented, fun-loving, educated man, with boyish demeanor seeks butch guys for mutual foot/rib tickling, affection, and friendship. Your contact is worth your effort. Box 35744

Qmen playmates

DAL Submissive WM, 44YO, 215#, 6'2", br/gr, goatee, HIV-, seeks ht/wt prop., dominant HIV-, WM for LTR, casual relationship. Box 35750

DAL Bottom ISO top buddies for evening, weekend fun. You must be tall (6'1" or taller), ht/wt prop. under 40YO, smooth to moderate hairy, aggressive, creative mind a plus. I always play safe, you should too. Box 35749

DAL Hey fellas, I'm an active, healthy, drug free, HIV- male, wanting to share and enjoy good times with other hot guys. Drop me a line, we could have some fun. Box 34000

DAL I am a versatile guy who likes role playing/fantasies, I am versatile and looking for playmates who also enjoy outdoors activities. Box 35735

DAL 2+1 equals 3. I have been in a three way relationship before, and I'm looking for it again. I'm 5'10", 150#, br/bl, 33YO. If you're a couple already in a committed relationship, and looking to bring a permanent third, I'm the one you have been looking for. I'm a very good looking guy, very down-to-earth. You two should be ht/wt prop, good looking, under 40YO. I don't look my age, look much younger, hope to hear from you soon. Box 35724

Qmen playmates

DAL Doing it in the dark is like a different world. No words are spoken (moans are okay). Call for details. Box 35727

DAL 60YO male, as hot as a teenager, needs frequent oral service, your place or mine. Please call soon. Box 35728

DAL Looking for early AM play toy. You: Passionate bottom who likes to start the day flat on your stomach face down in your pillow. Prefer under 35YO, smooth, okay muscular, stocky or beefy. Must have ample butt and big meaty legs to play with. Me: Preppy White passionate top looking for safe play. Box 35719

Qlost & found

DAL Gray Silver Focus. Hispanic male driving south from Richardson to Downtown on I-75 on Monday, March 5th. You had a goatee and some necklaces hanging from your rear view mirror. Me: Driving a white Chevy Cavalier, short sandy blonde hair, blue sunglasses. You looked good from a distance, now what about up close? Box 35747

DAL Very cute Latino guy from Houston visiting Dallas on February 10th. I meet you and a couple of your friends at JRs. You were all going to the Village Station for the night. I made plans with friends and couldn't change them at the last minute. We talked a little but not long enough to exchange numbers. I have thought about you several times since then and would like to talk more. Box 35736

IRVING In Irving last week, I looked into your face, you're 19-20YO, red hair, blue eyes. You where at your work, delivering mail. You're the answer to my prayers. I truly hope you read this message and you recognize yourself, and contact me. Let's talk. Box 35730

DAL Arizona State Driver's license and date book with ASU info found on Sunday evening February 2nd, on Hall Street near Throckmorton. If this drivers' license is yours last name Ortiz please phone MC, leave a return phone number. Box 35723

Qlost & found

DAL Gorgeous blond with friends at Lucky's on Sunday February 4th brunch. Red short-sleeved plaid shirt, blue jeans. Incredible eyes and terrific smile. We kept exchanging glances across our tables. Me: Plaid shirt and olive cargo pants, brown hair, with two friends. Would enjoy getting to know you. Box 35712

Qalternative

HOU Transgender seeking active, athletic, free spirited male for traditional relationship. I'm 38YO, 5'8", 124#, nonsmoker, br/br, active, athletic, an artistic beautiful Spanish woman looking for that special man. Box 35746

DAL Seeking very cute Pre-Op TS. You should be convincing, tall, slim, nice breasts, live as a lady. Tall, slim, sexy SWM, mid 40's, very well endowed, seeking LTR. Box 35741

AUSTIN 30 something male seeks TV/TS to help bring out my feminine side. Looking for someone fairly attractive, emotionally stable, enjoys various activities, and easygoing. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Box 35722

DAL Brief and Jockstrap Fetish. Athletic 30YO, fit, br/bl, 160#, 32w, seeking similar, to obtain their used briefs, and or jockstraps. No boxer trades possible. Sexual encounters are not necessary. Box 35709

DAL Lesbian woman wanted to form an alliance so that she and GWM, in mid forties can possibly provide convincing cover for each other at respective sites of professional employment. Box 35743



ISO- In Search Of
LTR- Long Term Relationship
E/F- Emotionally & Financially
Ht/Wt prop- Height & Weight
Proportionate
G-Gay
BL- Bisexual
A- Asian
B- Black
W- White
H- Hispanic
M- Male
F- Female
HZL- Hazel
BR- Brown
GR- Green
BL- Blonde
S/P- Salt & Pepper
YO- Years Old
N/S- Non Smoker
TS- Transsexual
TV- Transvestite
CD- Cross Dresser

AUS- Austin
DAL- Dallas
FW- Fort Worth
HOU- Houston
SAN- San Antonio

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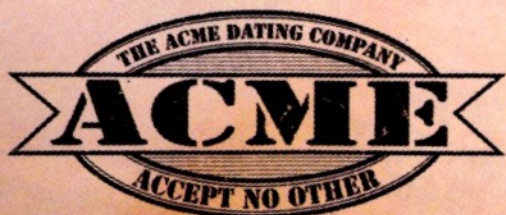
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