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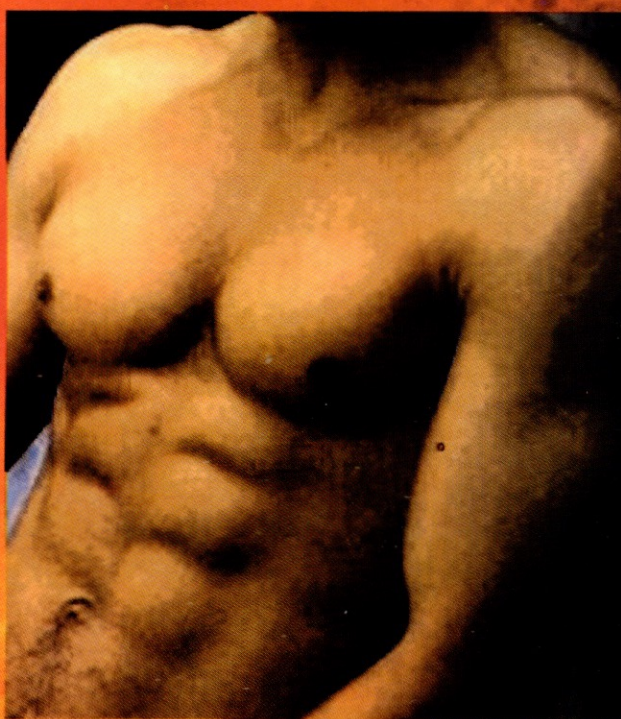
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Showtime's leading show

**Producers
promise new
twists for
Pittsburgh pals
in *Queer As
Folk's* upcoming
season**

chat

For those who care — and evidently many of you do — Showtime's series *Queer as Folk* has become the cable channel's only breakout hit, attracting viewers in the millions. The drama's provocative (and some feel lazy and insulting) portrait of gay life has shaken up the way gays are portrayed in the media — and it's shaken up the lives of its sexy stars as well.

"Surreal is definitely the easiest word to encapsulate the feeling," said openly gay *Folk* star Peter Paige to *Out* magazine of the whirlwind past 12 months. The dramatic series, which debuted last December and follows the lives (mainly sex lives) of a group of gay men and lesbians in Pittsburgh, has become

Showtime's highest-rated show, thanks to an abundance of explicit sexuality, drug use and, oh yeah, the performances. Particularly that of Paige — who as Emmett has given a richness to his flamboyant character — and Randy Harrison — who plays typical blond party boy Justin.

"He is this extraordinary, intelligent, insightful, incredibly kind little punk, who I love," said Paige of his openly-gay co-star.

"Peter has been a lifesaver to me," said Harrison. "He teaches me about acting, about being a gay man, about figuring out my place as an openly gay man, and about being a part of this show."

Queer comes back in January for a second season, and the drama (and sex) has just begun!

Fans who fretted all summer long can rest assured that Justin, who was gay-bashed in the season finale, is alive — but maybe not so well.

"There's a lot of therapy that I have to go through," says Harrison of his character, who is off to art school next year. "Specifically with Brian."

Michael will start dating a gay studies professor from Carnegie Mellon University. Co-executive producer Daniel Lipman promises "A lot of dancing at Babylon. A lot of drugs. Lots of sex." What a surprise. And Emmett gets a job that, Cowen hints, gives him a "new reason to show some skin." As if the characters actually need a reason.

"Emmett's getting a lot of

Quotables

"Why don't they have one of those *Tattoo Magazine* East Village girls, with bright-red Betty page bands, and a huge back piece? That would be a good character. I'd watch it if they had a really stylin', semi-dyke East Village Wicca bitch."

— Singer/actress Courtney Love on the television show *Sex and the City*

"The moment I booked the job, this lady came up to me and said, 'So, I hear you're playing a dyke on TV.'"

— *Queer as Folk* actress Michelle Clunie

"He would get a big kick out of models pulling their pants down under the table while (he), with a big smile on his face like a little boy, flashed his camera."

— Actor Joey Arias on Andy Warhol

"Versace is the premiere designer for many young gay men, both as an openly-out gay designer and someone whose clothes have always projected a very sexually oriented kind of man — or, indeed, woman."

— Openly gay film director James Kent on Versace

love

action in many different ways," reveals Paige.

Harrison and Paige have gotten their share of action as well. This summer Harrison filmed the Showtime flick *Bang, Bang You're Dead*, playing a teen who seeks revenge against his tormentors in a film that explores violence in high school. And Paige fulfilled a longtime dream by starring in a play (*Secret Agents*) in Los Angeles and also played a radio producer in the upcoming Showtime movie *Our America*. Well, if nothing else, the cast will always have steady work on the cable channel.

At 54, the "Queen of Pop," Elton John, has figured out a new way to seduce a young audience — turn himself into 20-year-old Justin Timberlake. With the help of big, round glasses, platform shoes and a few hours in hair and makeup, the 'N Sync heartthrob has morphed into the Rocket Man (circa 1974) in a new video that winks at some of Elton's past scandals.

Just shot in L.A. by director David LaChapelle, the clip for



"This Train Don't Stop There Any More" won't air for at least a month. But Elton and Justin gave Kevin Spacey and other friends a peek at their collaboration a few weeks ago after Elton's show at Madison Square Garden.

"Elton didn't want to be in the video," LaChapelle said. "But I wanted him — from the days when he was hanging on the wall of my bedroom."

And although the casting of Mr. Britney Spears is odd for all the obvious reasons, LaChapelle

had nothing but praise for the singer. "I thought I'd have to coach Justin," the director added.

"But he ended up blowing everybody away. He knew so many of Elton's mannerisms. Even Elton said, 'My God, the hair stood up on my neck.'"

Lip-synching as Elton sings, Timberlake is seen working his way from his dressing room to the stage. Shielding him from hangers-on (who look suspiciously like Liza Minnelli, Halston and Britt Ekland) is Paul Reubens, taking the role of Elton's manager, John Reid, whom Elton sued without

"Unless there's lesbians and vibrators, I will not be involved. In fact, my new movie is nothing but lesbians and vibrators."

— Actress Natasha Lyonne to *Details* magazine

"I've been out since I was 15. ... I'm not about to go back into the closet because I got a TV show. It seemed superficial to consider trying."

— Queer as Folk actor Randy Harrison on his decision to be open about his sexuality

harrison



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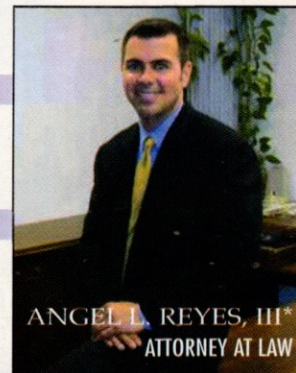
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success last year for financial negligence. Handed a contract, Timberlake signs it — only to see Reubens rip up the document. Timberlake also stops to open the door to a dark room, where people seem to be engaging in the sort of activity that put Elton in rehab. Timberlake quickly slams the door shut, flings a feather boa over his shoulder and takes the stage.

Goodbye, Britney; hello, "Yellow Brick Road"!

Rod Stewart's plea of "Do ya think I'm sexy?" was answered last week with a resounding "No!" by Atlantic Records, which reportedly dropped him, Anita Baker and out-then-in newlywed Sinéad O'Connor from its roster, according to music news sources. Maybe you didn't care for Sinéad after all of her shit, but Rod's been with Warner Music Group for 26 years and has given them a truckload of hits. Baker, while idle the last several years, is considered a standard-bearer and a classic R&B singer in the industry.

In the case of both of Rod and Anita, they were shifted over to Atlantic from other in house labels. Rod had been on the Warner label, Anita on Elektra.

For his most recent album, Rod (who is still sexy, thank you very much) made the move because the Warner label had become moribund and he was hoping for a lightning strike of excitement. (There wasn't even a spark.) Instead, he's been given the boot.

Baker, on the other hand, had moved over to Atlantic from Elektra — the label that distributed all her hits, including "Giving You the Best That I Got" and "Sweet Love" — because she played the diva card with Elektra chairman Sylvia Rhone and was trumped. Baker, who has a large gay fan base, never even got the chance to release a recording on Atlantic. Stewart had one.

Atlantic, not surprisingly, also made numerous staff layoffs weeks ago. For Atlantic that makes six name artists

laid off in less than a month.

Two weeks ago they also dropped Collective Soul, and gay icons Tori Amos and Poe. All of this turmoil at Atlantic is happening while the company's co-founder and industry

legend Ahmet Ertegun, 80, is said to still be fighting some kind of viral infection in a New York hospital. You can't think this news will make him feel much better.



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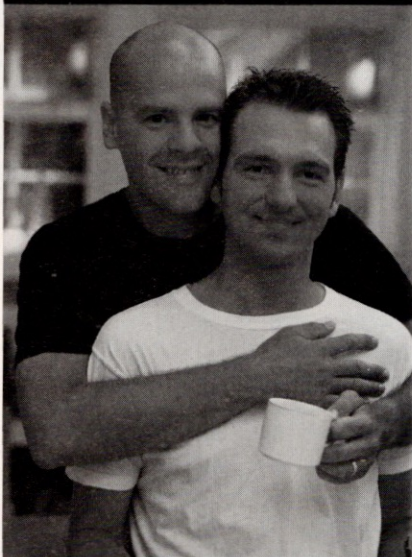
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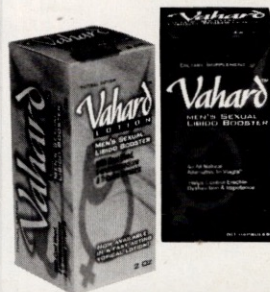
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fitness

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.



all the benefits surrounding a program of physical fitness wind up being characterized by a very simple equation. About 60 percent of our dietary habit (what we stuff into our mouths) and 40 percent of our tenacity about exercising (the intensity and type of training we actually do) are responsible for the gains — and losses — we make as physical fitness junkies.

No magic cream will eliminate fat. And no mysterious pill will somehow “burn fat” while you sleep. Incredible claims are usually just that — incredible, meaning *not* credible! These quick fixes just don't work. Those supplement advertisements we see in fitness magazines are just plain crap. I can tell you with absolute certainty that no drug-free athlete ever gains “22 pounds of rock hard muscle in 12 weeks.” Those sorts of claims are just bull. Even the “before and after” photos shouldn't be believed. Computers are really sophisticated now, and are able to “improve” the physique of that fat, slouchy guy in the “before” shot. If you guys believe those ads, I've got some swamp-land — oops, I mean home sites — in Florida to sell you!

When I'm asked, “How can I get abs like yours?” I simply respond by saying, “It's really all about diet.”

Of course, I'll admit that I follow a fairly intensive abdominal routine. I exercise my abs three to four times a week (never every day) with a routine that constantly changes. My muscles never really become accustomed to one set routine and, as a result, it's never quite the same. The muscles continue to be shocked, and — voila! — they stay in peak form and sometimes even grow.

Have any of you experienced the “100 sit-ups every night for the past 4 months” funk? You find yourself consistently banging your head against the wall because you

just don't see results. Ugh. Where's the gain from all that pain? Let's see by a show of hands just how many of us fit into this category. Aha, that many, huh?

It's rather commonplace for lots of us to fail when we are trying so hard to succeed. Let me tell you, I think that really sucks! Lots of times we expend amazing amounts of energy thinking we know what we are doing, but are unfortunately uninformed. By not knowing for sure what to do, we allow ourselves to think that we know what we are doing and perform the wrong exercises and eat the wrong foods, all because we assume. Remember what Mom used to say about the word assume? You wind up making an ASS out of U and ME? Then again, sometimes we're just plain misinformed by outdated information. In that case, it's not your fault.

For the most part, that abdominal “six-pack” will start to show up only after a serious change in your dietary habits and a serious change towards a good solid workout program — and then, ultimately, muscle growth and fat loss. Here's the truth: you are gonna have to make some choices about life changes if you want to develop awesome abs.

Eating a low fat, moderate carbohydrate, high protein diet may just do the trick for most of us struggling to get some “all over” body and specific abdominal definition. General body tone and even “razor” cuts are possible, only when you practice eating a diet that calls for a multitude of good protein sources and a minimum of fat and modicum of carbohydrates.

OK, so how much protein, carbs and fat should you eat? Good question. There is lots of lousy, misinformed “gurus” out there giving out incorrect information. As these gurus continue to write books to sell to those of us who are starved for the “answer,”

we continue to be misled. I'm convinced that even the federal government's information about the Recommended Daily Allowances for protein, carbs and fats is obsolete.

In the handbook published in 1989 by the National Academy of Sciences, the RDA stated that the average American needs no more than 0.8 grams of daily protein per kilogram of bodyweight in their diet. (For those who didn't grow up metric, there are 2.2 pounds to a kilogram.) The National Academy of Sciences also notes that, “in view of the margin of safety in the RDA, no increment is added for work or training.” Translated, that means that an athlete, like you, who works out 3 to 5 times a week, needs the same daily protein as a couch potato. And that's more bullshit!

For someone pursuing a serious exercise regimen, that 0.8-grams of protein per kilo of body weight would probably not even be enough to maintain existing muscle, let alone grow any new muscle tissue. Yet, lots of fitness gurus base their information about protein ingestion on the information provided by the feds. That information is based upon protein ingestion, not absorption — a huge difference. Again, it's not their fault; they are just being given fallacious, outdated information.

Here's what I believe to be better information for you to use to get the lean muscle gains you're looking for. This information may be useful to you if you are willing to do it naturally, without steroids.

First understand this — your body has storage depots for unused carbohydrates in muscle and liver cells, and for unused fat in adipose cells (those love handles, spare tires, thunder thighs, etc.) Protein, on the other hand, has no place for storage. What you put in either is used or “pissed away.” Consequently for optimum

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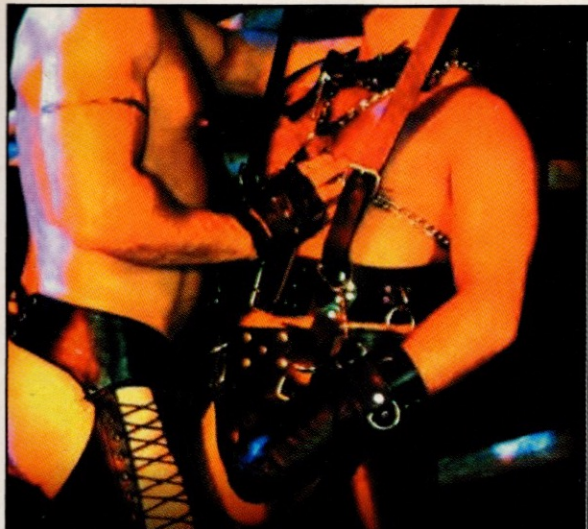
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muscle growth, you have to eat the right protein in the right amounts, every day.

Any source of protein must have a high biological value (BV); otherwise, forget about eating it. The BV is simply the ability of the protein source to be absorbed and used by the body. The worst are beans. With a BV value of 49 percent, they are lousy sources of good protein. And we all know the end result of eating a plate of beans — watch out! Soy is another not-so-good source of BV protein. It weighs in with a BV of 74 percent.

Fish, beef and chicken, on the other hand, start to resemble decent forms of BV proteins, although not really tops. At a BV of about 83 percent, they are decent sources. However, beef and chicken have fat. The more red meat you carnivores chomp down, the more fat you are ingesting also. Remember eggs? At a BV of 100% they are pretty good (you'll want to remove the yolks because of their high concentration of cholesterol).

The very best source of BV proteins is whey. Whey, by the way, is a bovine (milk) product. Whey peptide blends and whey concentrates are the best, with a BV of 110 percent to 159 percent.

So now you know about the right stuff, that good, solid, high-BV protein. Although an accurate measure of your lean body mass should be obtained to find the right amount of daily protein to ingest, let's follow this good rule of thumb if you can not get to the physician's office and get hooked up to a body density computer. If you are physically active and want to gain lean muscle mass consider protein ingestion this way first: Weigh yourself. Take the number

and divide by 2.2. Now you have your weight in kilograms. Then multiply that number by 1.9 and you have the correct number of protein grams to consume daily.

Here is an example. If I weigh 189lbs, I divide that by 2.2 and I get 85.4. I then multiply 85.4 times 1.9 and I get 162. That is how many grams of good protein I need to consume daily to maintain my lean body mass and grow more. This is not an easy task and cannot be accomplished with whole food, so adding whey to your diet is a must.

One more thing: don't go out and by the expensive, all encompassing, "super-awesome" protein powders. They probably have stuff in them that is useless and expensive. Find simply a whey protein powder that will give you at least 40 grams per serving.

If you are not completely confused, here's more information for you to consider. The old daily ratio of 40/30/30 (40 percent carbohydrates, 30 percent protein and 30 percent fat) is now out the window. Most physiologists plugged into nutrition and exercise find that the ratio that seems to be the most effective helping you to grow lean muscle mass is 53 percent carbohydrates, 26 percent protein and 21 percent fat in the daily diet (based on a total caloric intake of 2,600 to 3000 calories). You do the math and figure out what works for you.

With this new information, you are now armed with more of what it takes to get you what you want: a lean muscle. I get with you on your way to a wonderfully built, muscular, healthy, protein-rich body, inside and out!



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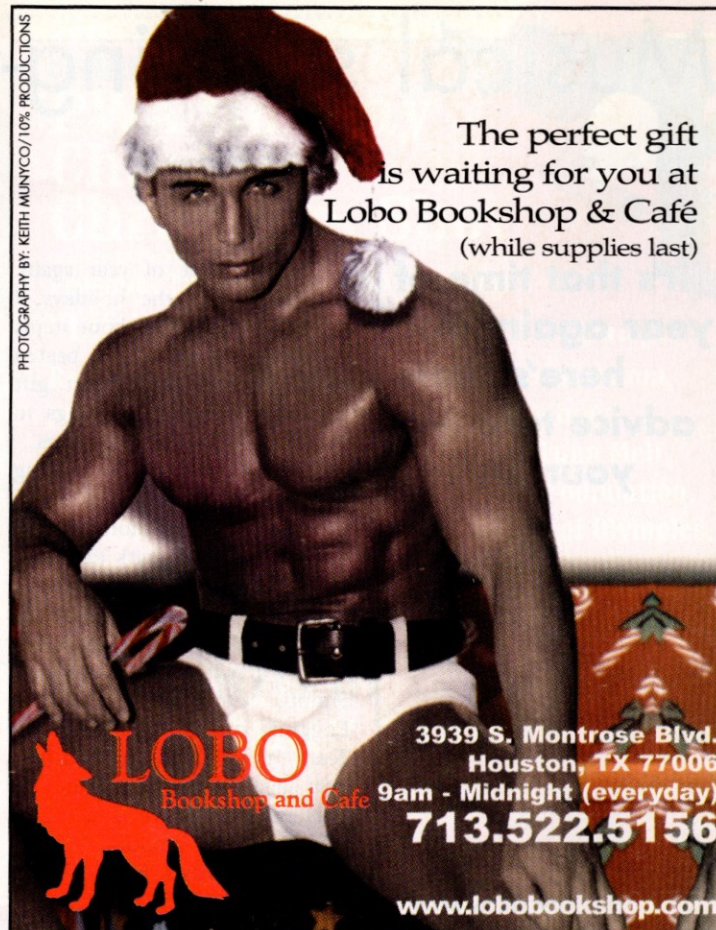
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Musical stocking-stuffers

It's that time of year again, and here's some advice to guide your buying

beat

by jimmy smith

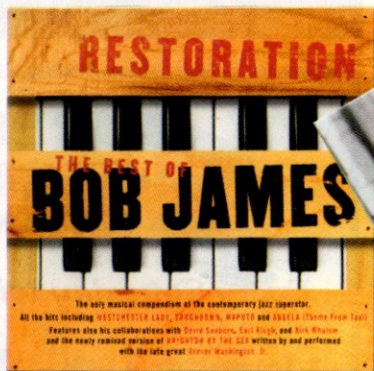
Native Texan Jimmy Smith writes about club music news and trends.

His column appears weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at Qbeatsix@aol.com.



It's that time of year again. And during the holidays, I like to tell you about items that are a bit off the beaten path. They make perfect gift items as well as nice things to play at your holiday gatherings.

One CD that's really turning me out is *The Best of Bob James* CD. This little Jazz morsel is a 2-CD retrospective that's too good to pass up, jazz fan or not. Bob James joined CBS Records in 1976 as director of progressive A&R, where he worked with Paul Simon, Neil Diamond, Kenny Loggins and Blood, Sweat & Tears. In 1977, Bob formed his own label, Tappan Zee, inaugurating a string of solo recordings and productions with artists he



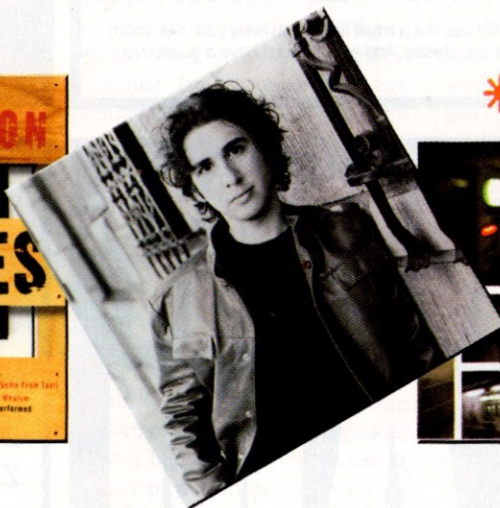
signed, including Mark Colby, Wilbert Longmire, Joanne Brackeen, Mongo Santamaria and Richard Tee.

At the suggestion of Bruce Lundvall, who was head of Columbia Records at the time, Bob made his first collaboration album, the 1979 LP, *One On One*, with Earl Klugh, which captured the 1980 Grammy for Best Pop Instrumental Performance. In that same year, he was named Jazz Artist Of The Year by Cashbox and continued his musical adventures with *Hands Down*, *Foxie* and *Two Of A Kind* (another duet with Earl Klugh). Cashbox also named Bob the Jazz Producer of the Decade.

But one of Bob's most famous

recordings is the theme music for the hit TV program *Taxi*. Beginning with basic cues, Bob enhanced and elaborated upon them. The music was then heard on every subsequent episode. It's since become one of the most instantly recognizable theme songs in television history. You'll be really pleased with this purchase.

Another interesting item is the Josh Groban album. At only 20, he was discovered by world-renowned producer-writer-arranger



David Foster. An interesting break for Groban came in 1999 when he was 17. Foster was enlisting him to fill in for Andrea Bocelli, who was unable to make the rehearsals for the Grammys. At first he balked at the idea, but then decided to do it. So he ran down to the Shrine to fill in for the rehearsal, and sang — in disbelief — with none other than Celine Dion.

The host that year was Rosie O'Donnell, who took a liking to him and invited him to be on her

show. And the rest, as they say, is history.

The album features "You're Still You" (my favorite), "The Where You Are" (from *Ally McBeal*), "The Prayer" (a duet with Charlotte Church) and a fabu cover of "Vincent (Starry Starry Night)." He also sings the theme to *Cinema Paradiso* (my favorite movie of all time). Let's face it, this album is quite incredible! Get your head out of the electronica-club gutter for a bit and experience the quality of Josh Groban.

OK, back to the gutter (just kidding). Speaking of Grammy awards, Grammy winner Peter Rauhofer, who recently inked a distribution deal for his own Star 69

* Essential Mix Mixed by Peter Rauhofer



Records through London/Sire, is back with another collaboration project. This time out it's with the *Pet Shop Boys* for a retooling of the classic underground smash "Break 4 Love," featuring the vocals of Neil Tennant. There are tons of mixes and all of them are lunchie!

Peter has also joined the ranks of other pioneers with the release of his 2-CD compilation, *Essential Mix*. This CD is packed with lovelies and Peter truly shows off his turntable skills nicely. Featured artists include Bedrock, Lula, Cevin Fisher, Arkana and more.

And that's the beats.

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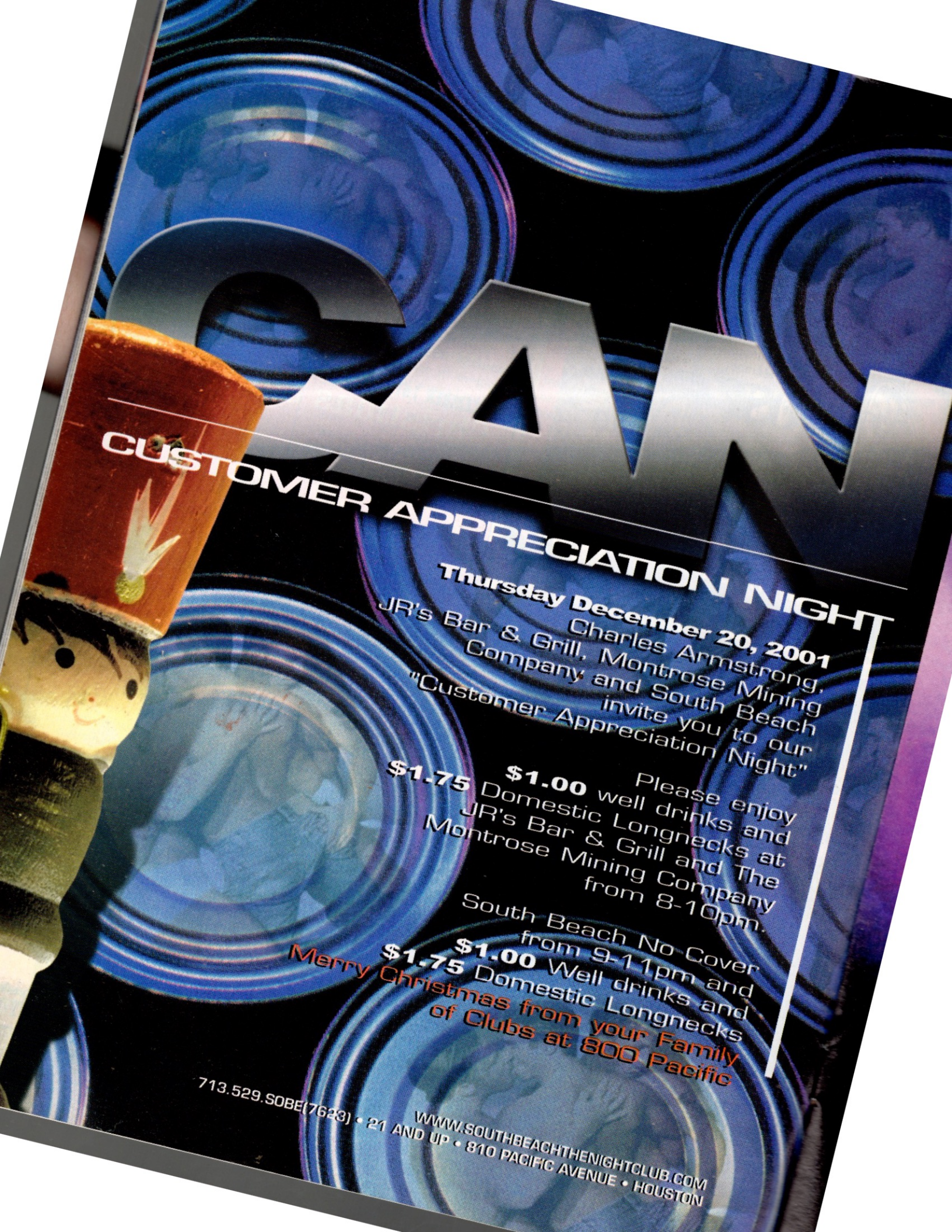
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Cyberspace tidbits for the holidays

Ending the year with a stocking-stuffer of miscellany

cyber

by gary n. reese

Gary N. Reese is a systems administrator in the Houston area.

E-mail him at garyreese@netscape.net



Several readers wrote back about the "slick trick" of adding dummy e-mail addresses to your address book as a way of stopping and/or informing you that a worm had inflected your e-mail address book and was secretly sending potentially damaging messages to friends and associates.

Since then, I've installed the new McAfee Virus Scan (version 6) and discovered it has this kewl feature built-in. If your e-mail client queues up a message identical to the one it just sent out, McAfee stops the process and displays a dialog box informing you that a harmful macro could be at work and asking if you still want to send the message. I haven't worked with Norton-Symantec's new release, but I'm assuming it will essentially do the same.

Windows XP
— Home and Office versions, and never the twain shall meet. In the

last column, I gave XP a thumbs-up and even went so far as to suggest that XP had finally bridged the gap between Microsoft's consumer operating systems (Windows 95, 98 or Me) and its more robust networking systems for business (Windows NT and 2000).

I'll correct myself and state that the basics are there — consumer and business versions share the same stable OS kernel, or the basic computer code, Windows runs on. I noted that XP Home does not have the Remote Control client that allows you to permit someone

across the hall or around the world take control of your desktop. And it lacks a whole lot else, too, compared to the Professional version, which costs about twice as much.

These limits should be heeded by small business owners or those who routinely schlep their home laptops to the office and plug them into the network there. If you're thinking of cutting corners by using the Home version at the

setup, Vaughan-Nichols says if you use Windows98 at the office and it still works for you, you're better off with it than upgrading to XP Home.

Fuming over CD burners. One of the big selling points for Windows XP is its built-in software support for CD writers. Put a CD in the tray, and XP automatically detects whether it's an audio CD, a video CD or a data CD and displays the contents, or it asks you how you want to proceed. You can write files to your CD using Windows Explorer by dragging and dropping files to a blank CD inserted in a CD writer, too.

It's similar to third-party software, like CDDirect, but only up to a point. I found that XP's support would not let me do basic cut-and-paste functions, like delete files I had written to a rewriteable CD or move the files around. Also, it could read CDs I had created with CDDirect

in the UDF file system, but I could not add any more files to those CDs. That might work for some, but I wanted my old setup under XP.

But I was surprised to discover the CD Create and CD Writer software that came up with my CD-RW device wouldn't work with XP (despite Microsoft's claims of XP's greater compatibility for legacy software compared to other versions of Windows.) After several hours of upgrading drivers and software and an e-mail to my CD vendor's tech support (and a few blue screens from XP), I managed



office, think again, says Steven Vaughan-Nichols in ZDNet Tech Update on the Web.

Home XP won't work in a corporate network that uses NT, Netware, Samba (for connecting to Linux or Unix) or Windows 2000 servers. You'll have problems, too, connecting from home over a VPN to your business network, for instance, to retrieve e-mail from your firm's e-mail servers.

What's the solution? For a small business eyeing an upgrade, XP Professional, or Windows 2000, is the only way to go. Or, remain with your current system

to get everyone to play together happily again. So, if you want to add a CD burner to your system after XP has been installed with more features than are bundled into Windows, expect to spend some time and patience to ramp it up, or find a friend with the technical savvy.

Unweaving the Web. Cybersocket touts itself as "the only gay Web magazine in the world." I don't have the time to research that claim, but since it's a narrow field at best, I'll take their word for it.

It's a freebie bimonthly publication (I picked up a copy recently at Crossroads Market) that's available on the Web at cybersocket.com. They also publish an annual web directory — fittingly not much larger than a hand-held — that lists more than 7,500 gay-related sites.

The mag's strong suit is in its column items you can scan in a few moments. In a recent issue, Megabytes, the mag's principal column, featured tips on good downloads and Web utilities, like Web Ferret's versatile search engine, a Net lingo glossary for the confused, Chi Chi LaRue's Hunk of the Month, and Web sites for circuit toys, work Web sites for the jobless and eye candy for the horny or those who are just plain bored.

The Cybersurgeon fields reader queries about Web-based e-mail versus your regular locally stored e-mail (covered in this column ear-

lier this year) and Unix commands for a Telnet session. The focus is on staying informative without launching into technical Geek-babble. The Health writer instructs on best posture at your workstation and how to tone up at your terminal. The Webmaster holds court on Web scripting and sites with tutorials on streaming video and virus alerts.

Music, videos, sex, clubs and events where to find them, and weird on the Web get their own column departments, and there is a lesbian column as well, although the magazine reports that 99 percent of its readers are male.

The feature articles tend to be on the fluffy side. The September/October issue offerings were "How Gays and Lesbians Use the Web" and its readers poll. The first was a jumble of interviews in Los Angeles — and Chi Chi LaRue, whose favorite website is, natch, her own. (I'll let you guess what the URL is.) Meatier issues aren't covered — like Net Nanny firewalls at the office that block any sites with the word "gay" or the calls for more surveillance and security on the Web since the Sept. 11 terrorism and how that could impact our privacy for e-mails and chat rooms.

Plug into Cybersocket as a good reference tool, like its annual directory, for some breezy Web surfing over the holidays.

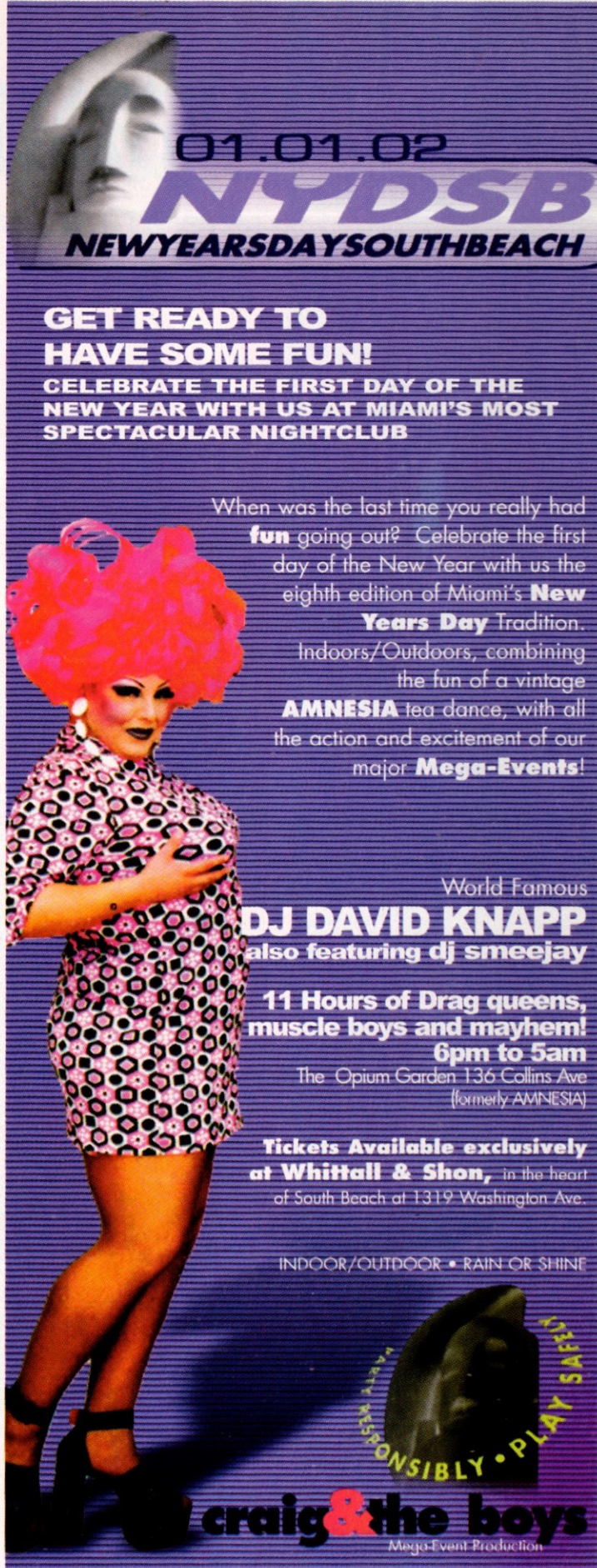
Q

Privacy takes a hit

A poll taken after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks shows a majority of Americans would support new powers to tap into private electronic communications.

- 73 percent support monitoring discussions in Internet chat rooms.
- 54 percent support monitoring cell-phone conversations and .
- 68 percent support establishing a national ID card system
- 87 percent are confident that increased surveillance would be used properly
- 63 percent were in favor of more camera surveillance in public places — the same percentage that support law enforcement monitoring of discussions in Internet chatrooms.
- Just over half — 54 percent — supported expanded government monitoring of cell-phone conversations and e-mail.

Source: Harris Poll of 1,012 adults between Sept. 19 and 24.



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Men with balls

The Iron Ladies
brings
crowd-pleasing
tale to the
silver screen

film

by steven lindsey

not since *The Bad News Bears* has a more unlikely group of athletes traveled the road to sports stardom. In *The Iron Ladies* (*Sa-tree-lex*), a volleyball team comprised of mostly gay men, transvestites and transsexuals takes the Thailand sports world by storm as they consistently beat the "normal men" on the other teams during fierce competitions attracting millions of fans across the country.

The premise alone sounds like the makings for promising comedy, but the fact that this particular story is true makes the team's accomplishments against all odds all the more amazing.

After constantly failing to make various volleyball teams, Mon (Sahaparp Virakamin) decides to give up his dreams and join best friend Jung (Chaichan Nimpoonsawas) in Bangkok for a fresh start. But when the district team for which they both tried out gets a new leader, Coach Bee (Siridhana Hongsoophon), she decides to select a brand new team for competition. Naturally, this doesn't please the manly players who thought their spots on the roster were secure, particularly homophobic Man (Suraphan Chaupaknam).

A new team is formed, including both Jung and Mon, but the straight players revolt and quit, putting Coach Bee in a quandary. So, Jung and Mon set out to recruit some of

The Iron Ladies (Sa-tree-lex) | Grade: B+

Directed by: Yongyoot Thongkooloon

Starring: Sahaparp Virakamin, Chaichan Nimpoonsawas, Suraphan Chaupaknam, Gokgorn Benjathikul, Giorgio Maiocchi, Phromsit Sittichumroenkun, Suttipong Sittichumroenkun, Anucha Chatkaew

Language: Thai, with English subtitles

Running Time: 104 minutes

Opens Friday, December 7 at Landmark's River Oaks Theatre in Houston.

their fellow misfit friends including Pia (Gokgorn Benjathikul), a transsexual star in a cabaret show; Nong (Giorgio Maiocchi), a flamboyantly gay sergeant in the Thai army; and Wit, a gay friend they locate just as he's deep into plans to marry a woman, against his wishes, of course. Rounding out the ensemble is a trio of nelly like-dressers named April, May and June (Phromsit Sittichumroenkun, Suttipong Sittichumroenkun, and Anucha Chatkaew), three players from Coach Bee's past.

Despite their outward differences and non-traditional sexual attitudes, the Iron Ladies (as they are later dubbed) are actually great volleyball players. To everyone's surprise, they begin winning matches left and right and are suddenly a force to be reckoned with in the 1996 National Championships. Even more unreal is the cult-like following this gay team found, with fans lining up for blocks, dressing like the players and chanting their names like giddy girls at an 'N Sync concert. The action culminates with the final match, with enemies at every turn ready to stop the gay team from succeeding.

The film itself is quite amusing, and not coincidentally the second-highest grossing Thai film ever. Much of the plot is predictable and corny, and the gay rights messages are a bit preachy, but there's something quite charming about a low-

budget film from a country with virtually no cinematic presence. Of course, I couldn't say that if the film wasn't actually entertaining. No matter how "cute" I found it, I wouldn't send you blindly to the theater for a bad movie (I warned you about *Punks*, didn't I?)

The only other problems with the film are purely technical. The nighttime scenes are so dark that you can hardly make out what's going on, but they are the only instances where the all-white English subtitles can actually be read. In the daylight scenes, many lines (and punch lines) are completely lost due to the poor color choice for the subtitles.

To the film's merit, however, the characters are all funny, human and well-rounded, an often rare combination. And the casting is perfect. Just wait until the final credits to see the real-life Iron Ladies and you'll understand why.

Overall, the film is a joyous escape, a true guilty pleasure in a year without many. After all, who really thought volleyball was interesting enough to fill an entire film? The sport was yet another of my many childhood traumas, so it's nice to finally have something positive associated with volleyball. Finally, people are laughing and it's not at me. Thank God.

Q

Steven Lindsey writes about film, theater and television. He may be reached by e-mail at Qtexeditor@aol.com

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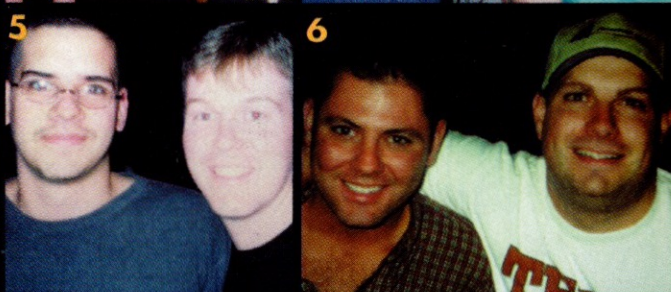
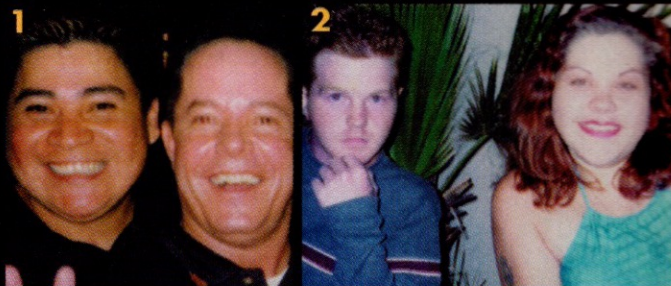
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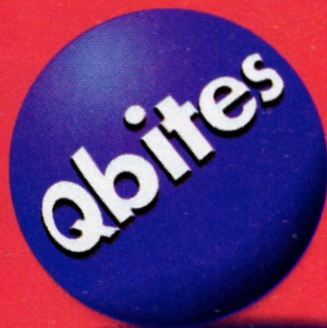
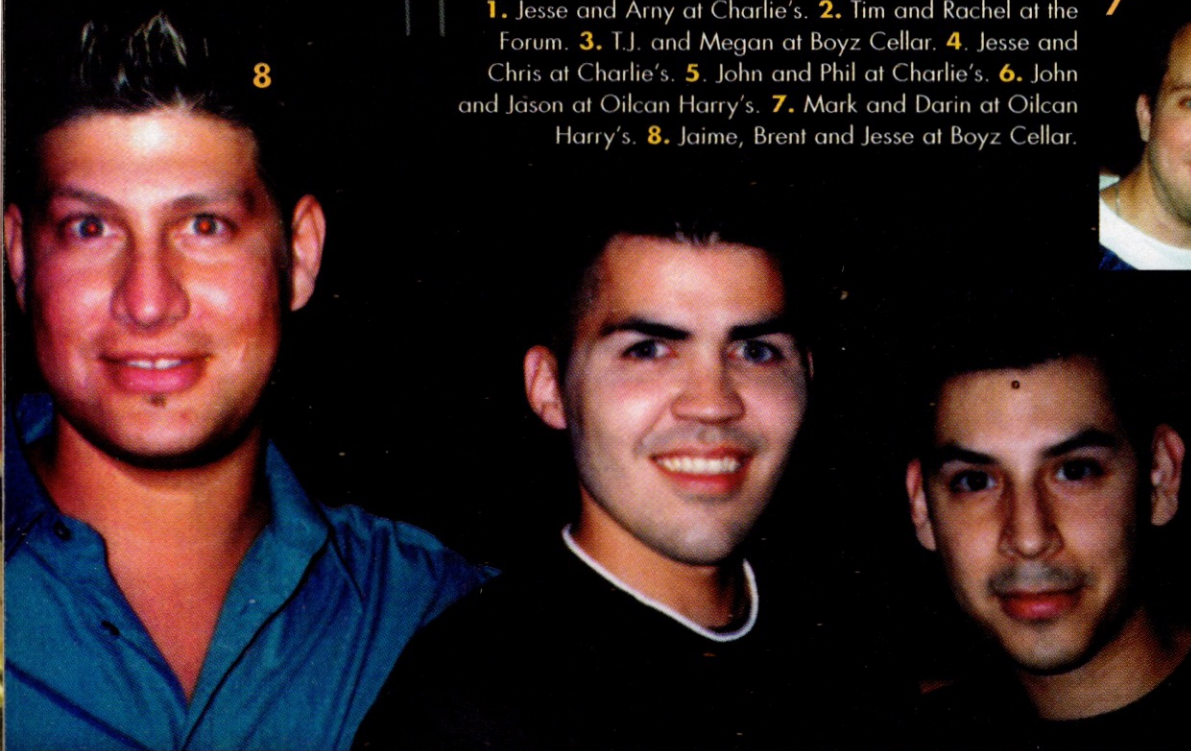
club land

austin

photos by cass hudson



1. Jesse and Army at Charlie's. 2. Tim and Rachel at the Forum. 3. T.J. and Megan at Boyz Cellar. 4. Jesse and Chris at Charlie's. 5. John and Phil at Charlie's. 6. John and Jason at Oilcan Harry's. 7. Mark and Darin at Oilcan Harry's. 8. Jaime, Brent and Jesse at Boyz Cellar.



Super Holiday Show — The Austin Baptist Women's 14th annual Star Studded Holiday Spectacular is set for Sunday, December 16 at the Rainbow Cattle Company. The event begins with an All-Star Comedy Happy Hour at 4 p.m. starring Steven J. Crabtree, Nancy Ford and Peter and the Adequate, along with a free buffet and door prizes. A Silent Auction gets underway at 7 p.m., and the pre-show festivities kick in at 7:30 p.m. starring the Kingdom Seekers Choir. The Big Show follows at 8 p.m., with MC Troy Kimmel and many special guests, including cabaret sensation Michael T. Thompson along with Alix Courtne and Ashley Collins. Proceeds benefit the Wright House (formerly the HIV Wellness Center).

Momma's Dirty Secret — Catch Momma's Boyz dancing every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10 p.m. at Boyz Cellar.

Davis Unleashed — Elektra Records joins with The Forum to present a pre-release party for Alana Davis' new Fortune Cookies on Friday, December 7. Participants get the opportunity to win free CD samplers and T-shirts.

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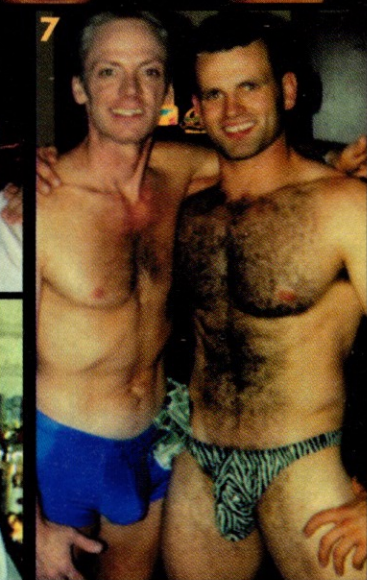
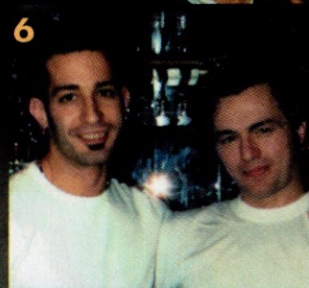
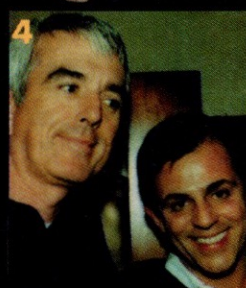
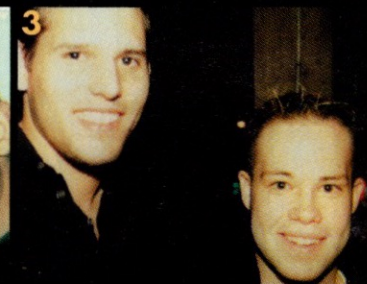
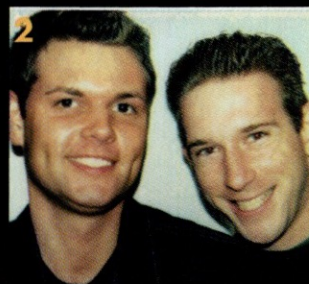
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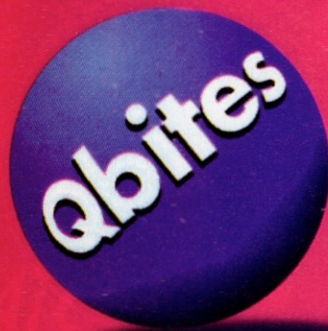
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club land dallas

photos by ben earley



1. Tony and Bobby at the Hideaway. 2. Jason and A.J. at JR.'s Bar & Grill. 3. Michael and Scott at JR.'s Bar & Grill. 4. Joe and Stace at After Dark. 5. Erica and Jeremy at Lime. 6. Mike and Jake at Village Station. 7. Steven and Jeremiah at the Male Boxx. 8. Bill at the Round-Up Saloon.



Dance4Toys — Boys4Toys presents a weekend of festivities in an effort to provide 8,000 toys for the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center and WFAA Santa's Helpers program. The main event — getting underway at 10 p.m. on December 8 at the Fair Park Hall of State — features Masterbeat DJ Brett Henrichsen (L.A.) and Bobby Jones (Dallas). Tickets are \$10 if accompanied by the donation of a toy dropped off at Union Jack, Sole Kitchen, Zeus Toys, Malibu Tan or Off The Street. Tickets purchased online or without a toy are \$40. In addition, there's a pre-party on Friday, December 7 at Throckmorton Mining Company, and DJ Don Bishop returns for the ToyDance on Sunday, December 9 at 6 p.m. at the Rotunda at 2800 Ross Avenue. For all the details, visit www.boys4toys.org.

Turnabout Show — It's a military theme as the Round-Up Saloon presents its annual holiday turnabout show, a "USO Christmas Show" at 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 9 in the main dance hall. All proceeds benefit the R.E.B.A. fund.

Not for Ladies Only — The Brick presents the Ladies Invitational Turnabout Show at 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 8. The evening features resident DJ Rick Herrington, all proceeds benefit women with breast cancer.

h earley

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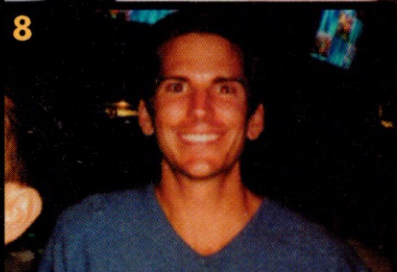
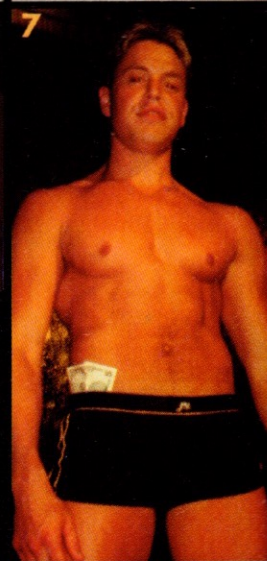
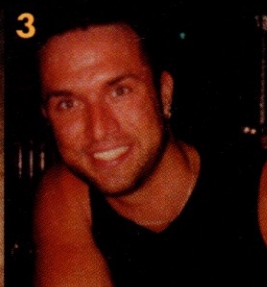
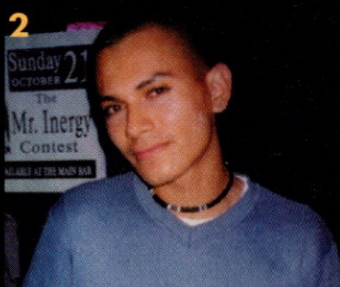
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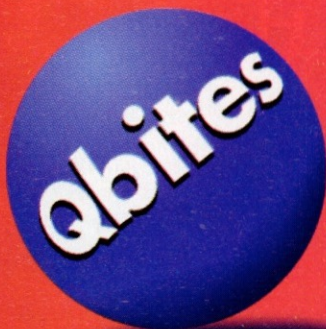
Village Station

club land houston

photos by leo cusimano



1. Bobby and Fidel at Venture-N. 2. Carlos at Club Inergy. 3. Stephen Michael at South Beach. 4. Brent at the Ripcord. 5. Troy at Meteor. 6. DJ Matthew at the Ripcord. 7. Jason at South Beach. 8. Steve at Meteor.

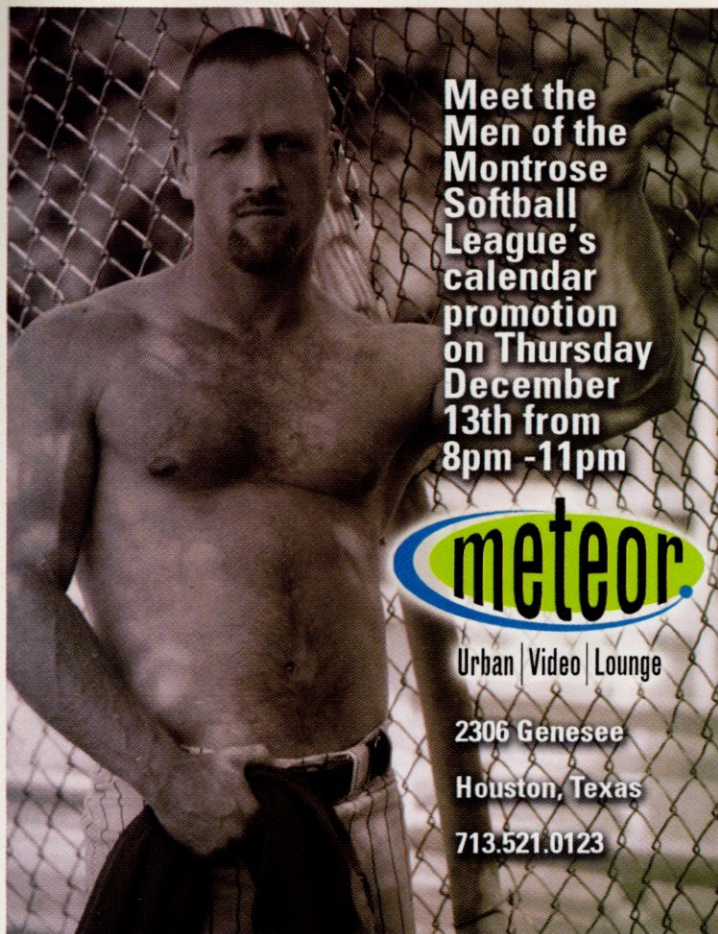


Sunday T-Dance — Need to work off those extra calories from Sunday brunch? South Beach can help with its post-brunch T-dance, featuring DJ Mike Snow on Sundays from 5-9 p.m. Then DJ Michael Tank takes over the turntables until the club closes.

Retro Experience — Rich's can help you re-live three decades of dance music direct from Rich's music vault every Thursday for Club 789, the retroactive club muzik experience.

Amateur Strip — Head over to E/J's on Wednesday for the Amateur Strip Contest with host Roxanne Collins.

Third Anniversary — Guava Lamp celebrates its third anniversary with a buffet from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and a complementary champagne toast on Saturday, December 8.



Meet the Men of the Montrose Softball League's calendar promotion on Thursday December 13th from 8pm -11pm

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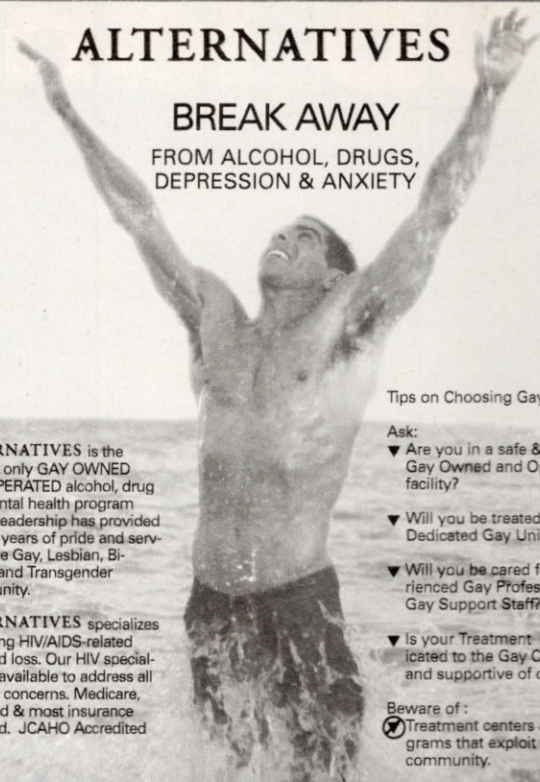
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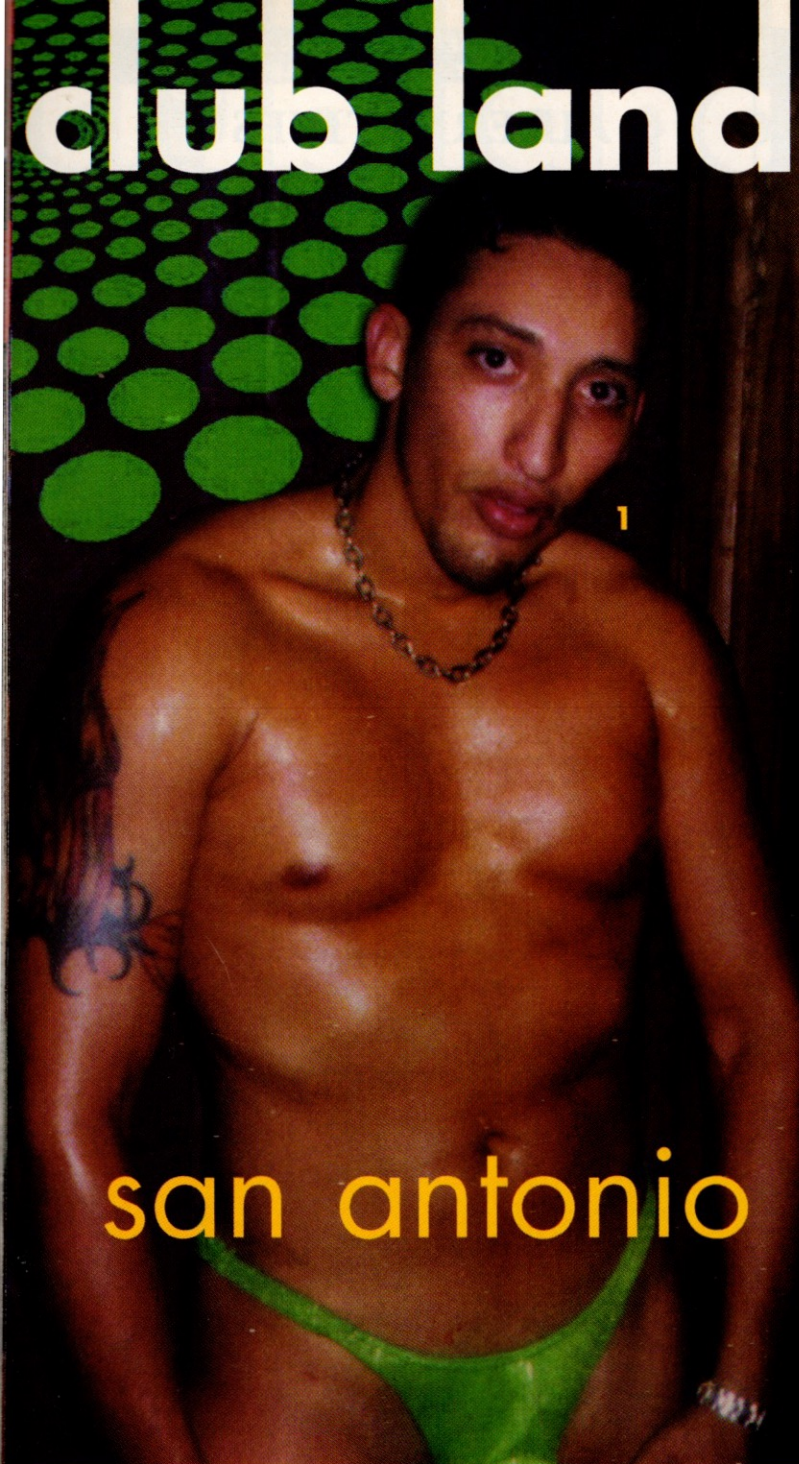
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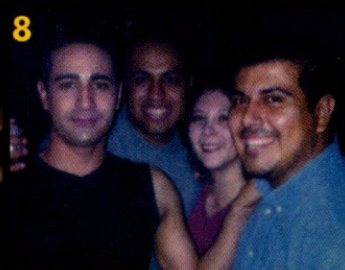
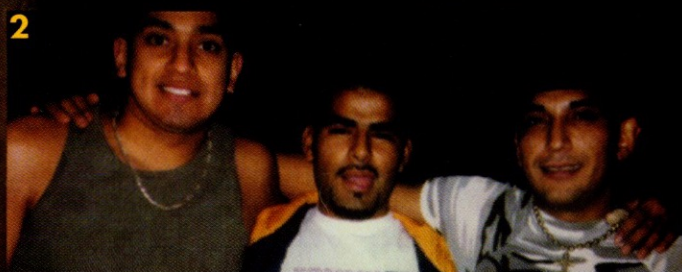
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club land

photos by junior hernandez



san antonio



1. Frankie at Pegasus. 2. Rick, Danny and Clemente at the Silver Dollar Saloon. 3. DJ Eric at Petticoat Junction. 4. Roach, DJ Junior and Andell at the Saint. 5. Adam and Marshall at Copa nightclub. 6. Ruben, Edward and Seth at the Annex. 7. Peter, Mike and J.R. at Bonham Exchange. 8. Art, Freddy, Angelica and Vincent at Bonham Exchange.



Friday Night Follies — The Saint has a whopping good time planned on Friday nights, when it's Friday Night Follies, featuring MC Shady Lady along with regulars Erica Andrews and Zori Zannell and after-hours dancing until 4 a.m. under the direction of DJ Junior Hernandez on the main floor and DJ CeCe Garcia in the Video Bar.

Sunday Slam — Petticoat Junction is now offering the "Sunday Slam," with \$1 longnecks and \$1 well all night long.

Don't Get Burned — Watch out, San Antonio, there's a new men's club headed your way. Heat will open in December, offering a new men's dance experience for the Alamo City.

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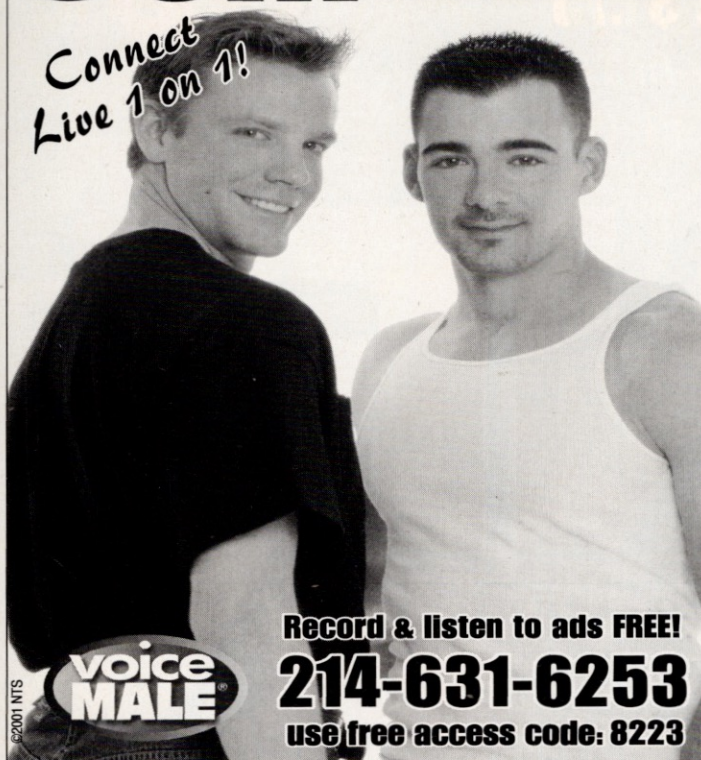
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Stardate

by rev. bill w

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) Any of you Sag "natives" celebrating birthdays this week are in for one heck of a rip-roaring series of parties. Be sure to rest up both before and after to avoid burning out. Next Friday's New Moon in your sign creates a sublime energy wave that carries you right through New Year's Day.

Capricorn (December 22-January 18) Most of this week looks to be business as usual, which for you means long work shifts and very little down time. Financial records should be gone over very carefully. Try actually going out on a date (look it up in the dictionary) this weekend. Your inner child wants out of solitary confinement.

Aquarius (January 19-February 18) Isn't it nice to actually have some extra money to spend? Just in time for holiday shopping, too. Don't try to spread yourself too thin on Saturday, or a price could be paid on Sunday. That potential new flame sure is a hot number, but we sense ulterior motives with him. Proceed with caution, okay?

Pisces (February 19-March 20) Mars entering your sign on Saturday brings a nice comfort zone until late next month. There shouldn't be too many obstacles that can't be overcome. Watch your temper on the 11th, or it'll cause trouble. Don't shy away from compliments or recognition of a job well done. Accept these and other rewards.

Aries (March 21-April 19) This week's energy pattern will be a mere warm-up for next week's Eclipse cycle. All of that hard work you've been putting in on the job pays off nicely (and it's about time, too). Let someone else take charge of this Sunday's outing. There's no shame in bargain-hunting in order to take care of that Christmas gift list.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) A much-needed (and deserved) financial shot in the arm has your spirits soaring by this weekend. It's nice to see that you're looking for love in the right places for a change. Be prepared to do a lot of driving on Tuesday. Friends from out of town may want to visit for the holidays. Allow this only if you're up for it.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) With four of the planets transiting through your opposing sign of Sagittarius this week, thoughts of romance and finding a mate will be a high priority. Don't neglect career matters entirely, though (getting holiday fever can do that sometimes). Don't expect those sleep patterns to stabilize until after the new year.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Mars (the planet ruling energy and vitality) moves to harmonious Pisces for a 41-day visit. This should cause you to mellow out nicely over the next six weeks. That period of sorrow and confusion has finally ended, Cancer. It's time to look ahead and make some concrete plans. But first, you need to have a special goal.

Leo (July 23-August 22) Be careful not to badger co-workers or employees on Thursday. Listen to what others have to say before passing judgment. A business deal that seems too good to be true most likely is. Spend some quality time with your sweetie this weekend. Your dwelling could use a major cleanup ASAP.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) There may not be too much time for socializing right up until the 22nd. Work priorities must have your undivided attention until then. That Christmas bonus will make all the effort worthwhile. Accept that invite to go out Saturday night, if only to prevent hurt feelings. You'll be rewarded for it at some point.

Libra (September 23-October 22) You'll most likely begin the week in a "grumpy bear" frame of mind, but this should disappear by Sunday night. You'll need to give up one of those part-time jobs after the holidays. Don't let an opinionated family member get to you on Tuesday. Spend more quality time alone when it's needed.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) The week begins with several delays and obstacles to be dealt with, but ends up on a rather harmonious note. Be prepared to fly out on that important business trip at a moment's notice. Several career ambitions are so close to being realized. A potential financial blunder on Wednesday can be averted.

Bill has been a psychic reader since age 5. He is a certified astrologer and a Reiki healer (master level). 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 via e-mail at Mcentaur35@aol.com.



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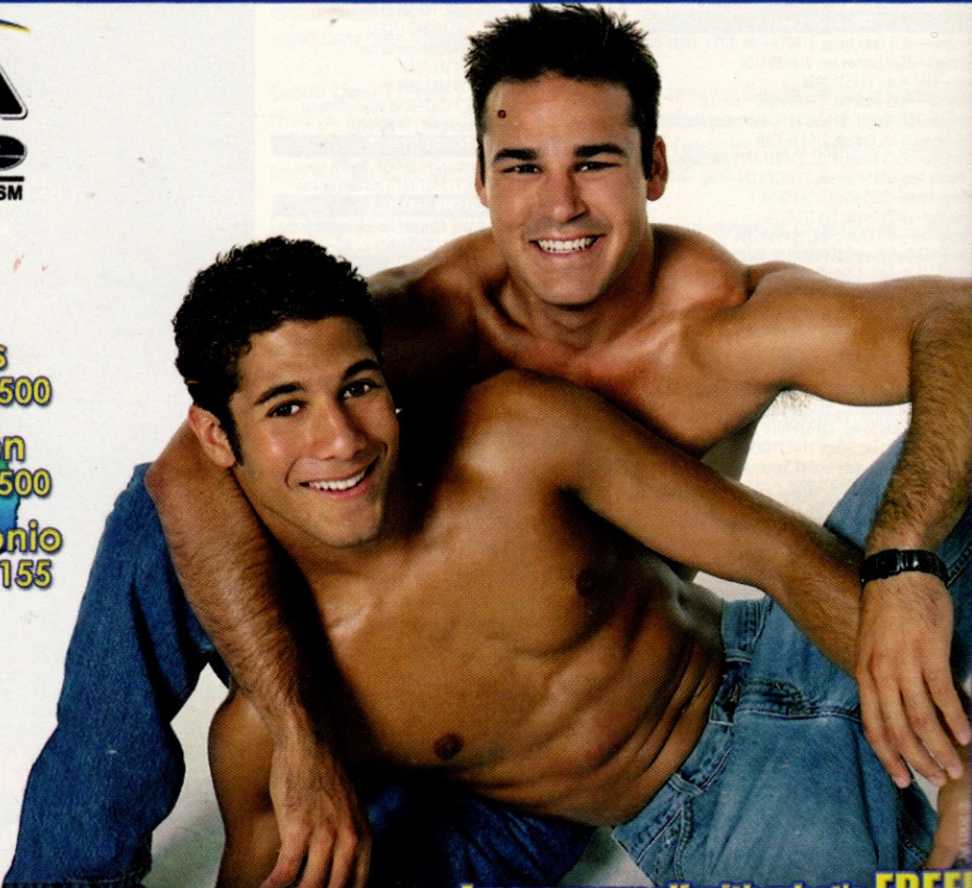
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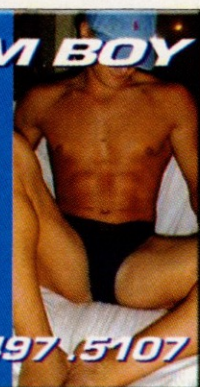
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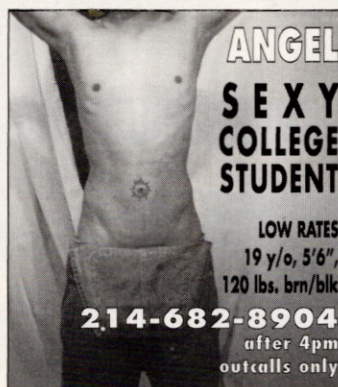
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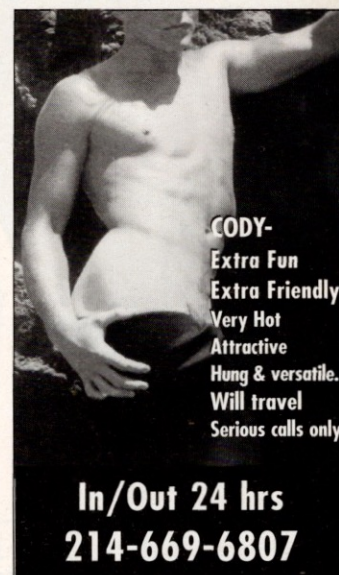
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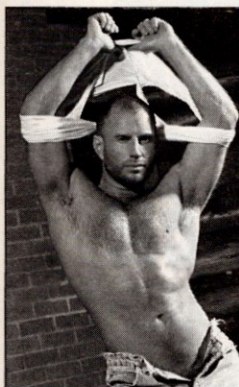
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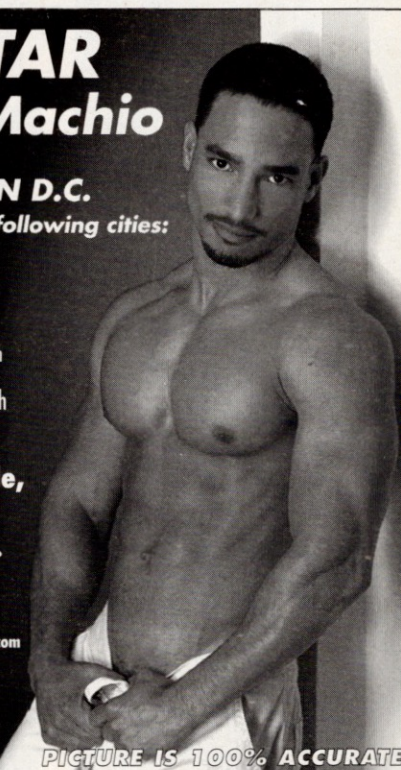
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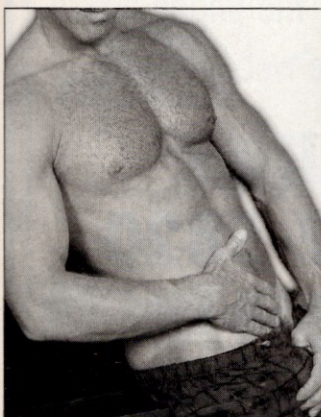
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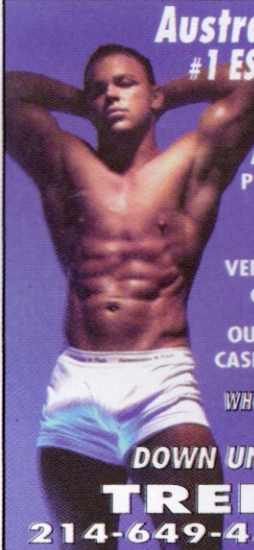
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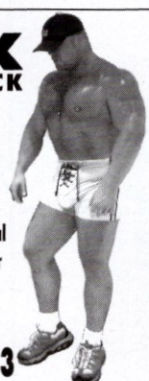
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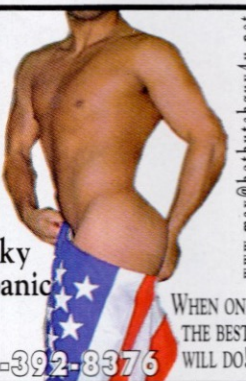


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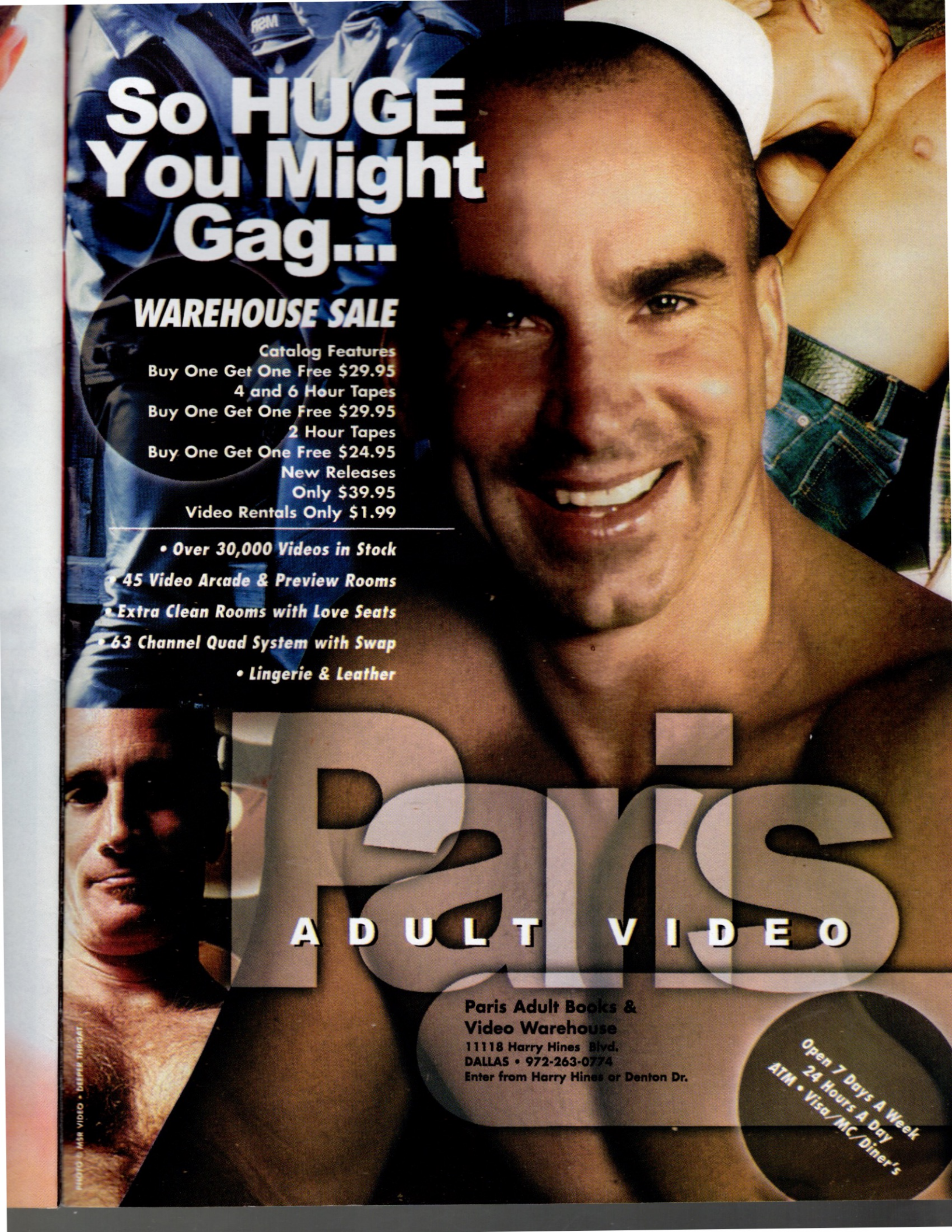
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