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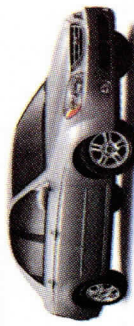
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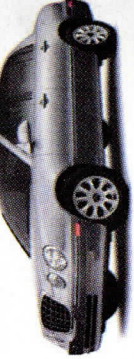
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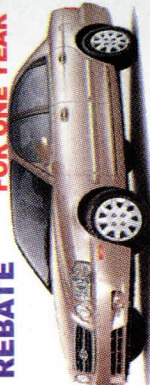
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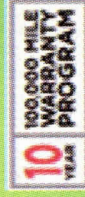


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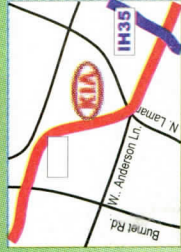
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Texas Gay & Lesbian Arts, Entertainment, Leisure and Lifestyle

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Equality Texas About
What Lies Ahead in the
Wake of Proposition 2

FronteraFest 2006 and The
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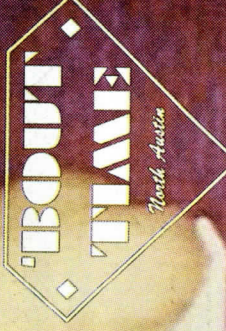


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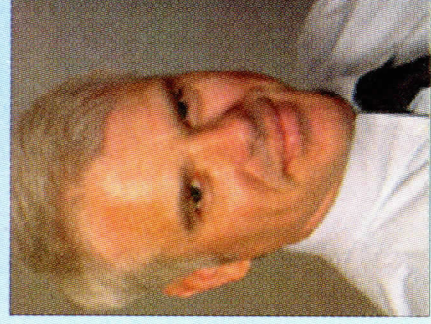
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Capitalism and Social Change

In this issue, Nick Manix writes about Proposition 2 and what our community can expect in 2006 from the fallout of the new Constitutional Amendment. But we may have a new ally in our fight for equality: big business.

Malcolm Lazin, the Executive Director of the non-profit organization Equality Forum, noted recently that 92.2% of the Fortune 500 companies now provided sexual orientation workplace protection. This is a sharp increase from just five years ago when only a minority of big businesses protected their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered employees.

And the corporate powers are discovering that the GLBT market is far larger than they realized. Voters News Service and Zogby International data reflect that between 4% to 5% of the American voting population self-identifies as gay or lesbian.

According to various recent studies, there are an estimated 15 million adult GLBT Americans with an annual buying power of \$610 billion. That compares with 9.3 million adult Asian Americans with a \$344 billion annual buying power, 23.8 million adult African Americans with a \$688 billion annual buying power and 26.5 million adult Hispanic Americans with a \$653 billion annual buying power. Those figures make the GLBT population a very powerful constituency - who actively vote with their checkbooks.

Wal-Mart, the largest of the Fortune 500 companies, realized that and now includes sexual orientation protection in its workplace policies. They have also retained Witeck-Combs, a marketing consulting firm specializing in the gay community, to conduct staff seminars on the GLBT market.

Lazin notes that conservatives will now not only find themselves up against core American values such as fairness, but also core principles of free enterprise. Let's hope that, as we move back into election season, those values and principles will also apply to political contributions and candidate support.

Rob Faubion, Editor and Publisher

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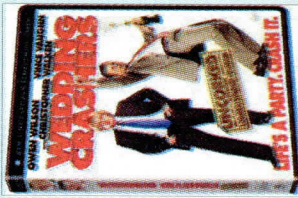
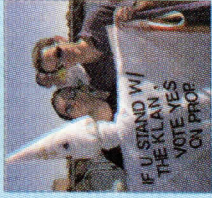
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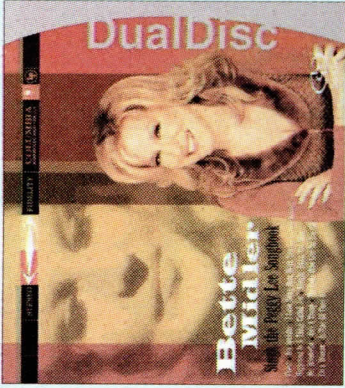
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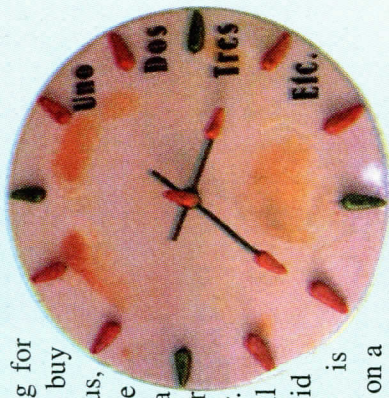
GOTTA HAVES



We've been listing to our copy of *Bette Midler Sings the Peggy Lee Songbook* so much that we are wearing out our CD. Released recently by Columbia Records, the new album reunites the Divine Miss M with producer Barry Manilow, her original piano accompanist and musical director.

Every track on the album is a winner, but we're partial to the numbers personally arranged by Manilow himself. Bette's big and brassy Broadway-styled version of "Fever," originally recorded by Peggy Lee in 1958, is pure ear candy.

Bette's tribute to Peggy Lee follows her gold-certified *Bette Midler Sings the Rosemary Clooney Songbook*, her highest-charting album of the SoundScan era. *Bette Midler Sings the Peggy Lee Songbook* is in stores now.



If you are looking for something unique to buy with that holiday bonus, then the Texas-made Tortilla Clock will be a tasty addition to your office or home décor. Handmade by Hill Country artisan David Jordan, each clock is unique. After cooking on a 500-degree grill, each tortilla is sealed with a protective coating. Green and red chili peppers are applied to mark the hours, and the quartz clockwork keeps time.

The clocks were originally the brainchild of New Mexico artist Charlie Walton, who brought his creation to Texas in 1994. Jordan acquired the secret tortilla recipe and production process from Walton, and the Caliente Clock Company was born.

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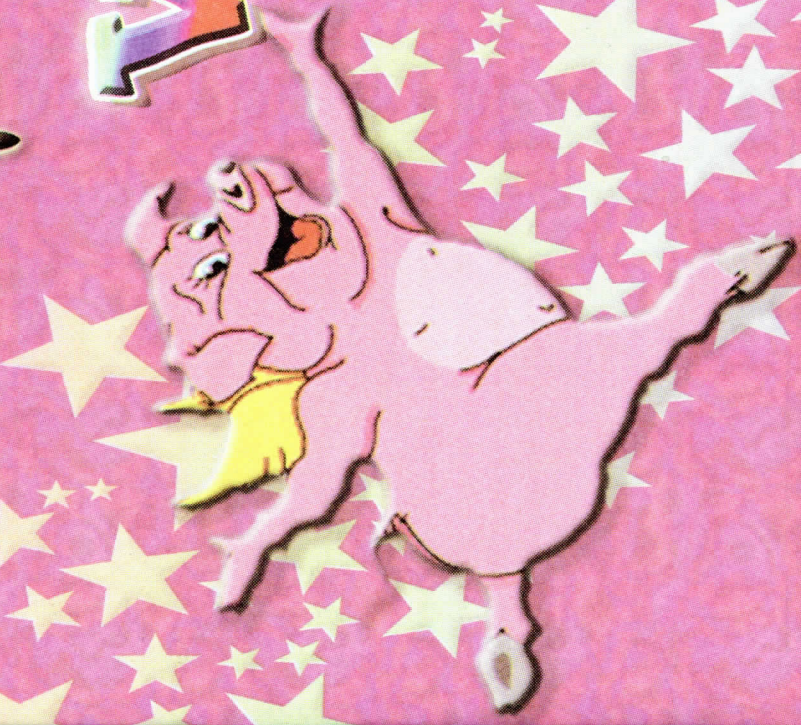
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Where Do We Go From Here?

AUTHOR NICK MANIX TALKS TO CHUCK SMITH OF EQUALITY TEXAS ABOUT WHY PROPOSITION 2 PASSED AND WHAT WE CAN EXPECT IN 2006

And so it has come to pass.

The masses have spoken, and Texas is now the most recent state to adopt a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage and civil unions. Despite the fact that the wording of this new law does indeed prohibit any marriage or civil union regardless of sexual orientation, we all know that only the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community will feel the true degradation of this law.

The media broadcast images of the cheering throngs of supporters of Proposition 2 at numerous churches and meeting places around the state as election results poured in. This led a friend of mine to state, "I've never felt more hated in my life."

Perhaps the most disturbing and confusing images came from the November 5th rally on the steps of the Austin City Hall, where an unlikely partnership seemed to have formed between the Texas Republican Party, The Ku Klux Klan and African America Mayor Pro-Tem Danny Thomas. All three - although not bed-fellows - were supporting the same amendment.

It appears slightly ironic that America has spent the better part of its history trying to resolve age-old enmities, only to further fuel a fire with the LGBT community.

Some feel that our Governor, our President, and many elected officials are against us. Our neighbors, our business leaders, and - according to the election results - 1,723,782 Texans are against us. So what's next? Where do we as a community go from here?

I recently sat down with Chuck Smith, Deputy Director of Equality Texas, to discuss Proposition 2, its ramifications, what to expect in Texas for the future.

Nick Manix: Many people want to know "why" and "how" it has gotten to this point. Was Proposition 2 political, was it based on religious beliefs, and how far is House Representative Warren Chisholm going to take this? Was gay marriage only the first step? What's next, adoption?

Chuck Smith: First, I don't use the term "gay marriage" - marriage is marriage. There are certain people that were interested in promoting that legislation (Proposition 2) based on the belief of what they perceive marriage to be. In their minds, it is first a religious institution and second a civil institution. Warren Chisholm's initial resolution that he introduced was only that first sentence (of

Proposition 2), and I think that's primarily what he's interested in.

Since the amendment, he has stated that's all it was about for him and that he isn't interested in going after adoption or foster care or beating up on gay and lesbian people. There are other people that promoted and pushed that amend for no other reason but for politics and used it to motivate a base of voters that certain candidates wanted to turn out to elect them. Those are the two different reasons that this was pushed.

NM: So is this a bump in the road, or can we expect worse things to hit the LGBT community?

CS: I would tend to look at it more as a bump in the road. It was a single occurrence in a long-term movement.

One comforting thing is to look at it is the broader scope of the movement. If you look at places like Oregon and Maine - each of which has had about maybe five statewide ballot referendums that dealt with LGBT issues that have gone before voters there - the first one in each of those states got slaughtered. In the context of it being part of a longer-term movement in each of those states, the first time was in fact an exercise in movement building.

And I think that's where we are in Texas, from the standpoint of it's a learning experience. And there were certainly positive lessons that can be learned from this campaign that will ultimately help strengthen the pro equality movement in Texas.

NM: Do you feel that Proposition 2 will be ruled unconstitutional? The wording of the amendment can be taken several ways, including making all marriages in the state of Texas are null and void.

CS: I honestly don't know the answer to that question, and I don't know who does. I think it comes down to a strategic decision from an organization on either side to challenge that. At this point in time, speaking from our (Equality Texas) perspective, we haven't done enough research to determine what the best strategy would be. Any decision related to that would need to be exhaustively thorough and look at the consequences both positive and negative that could occur.

And not just in the initial court of hearing, but up the whole chain of appeals process. We can't just look at the initial outcome might be. If you're talking about court actions, then a bad precedent is worse then leaving things alone, from a legal standpoint.

NM: What does Equality Texas have planned for 2006?

CS: We are in the process now of starting to release the initial findings of our analysis of the November 8th election. I think the largest caveat that I would attach to these findings is that it literally is the tip of the research iceberg. What Equality Texas will be doing in the next several months is digging further and further into analyzing these election results and trying to gleam as much as possible as to what they mean.

Initial findings in what we are releasing show that it is import to look beyond a statewide level of 76% to 24%. This analysis is breaking it down to state House districts. And if you look at it on that level, there are areas of encouragement - not only in Travis County, but in other places as well. There is a whole lot more information that can be gleamed from this.

Part of what we will be doing is to looking at who voted in these districts; why they voted the way that they did, and how can that information can be used to better inform our discussions with legislators. I think that some of the surprises are areas in certain districts where the amendment was actually defeated, and also in a number of districts where the opposition was between 40% and 50%. And in many of those districts the people that represent those districts are not currently considered allies of our community.

So at this point, we're not saying that we're declaring war on those people. We want to get a better understanding of who are the constituents in that district and - to a certain extent - how we can educate ourselves as to who the voters are in this district and what are they trying to say, in order to have conversations with people that are already elected.

NM: The LGBT community has always seemed to lean more toward the Democratic side of politics, but looking at the number of people that voted, it was obvious that more than just Republicans voted for Proposition 2. When it seems like all sides are against us, who do we as a community side with?

CS: I think one of the things that we hope to learn through this analysis is that I think it's premature to say that a "yes" or "no" vote on Proposition 2 was a Republican or Democratic decision. That is some of the stuff that raises questions, particularly in some of the districts in Dallas County and in Harris County as well. If you look at it on a district-by-district basis and margins of "for" and "against," it sort of raises more questions. Was it (the votes cast) not based on whether someone was a Democrat or Republican? Did it have more to do with levels of education? Did it have more to do with levels of income? Did it have more to do with ethnicity? These are the types of things that we want to dive further into and understand.

There is a House district in Dallas that is represented by Dan Branch. He is a conservative Republican, and his

district voted 59% against Proposition 2. That district includes parts of downtown, uptown, University Park and Highland Park, and initial demographic analysis of that area would not necessary indicate it would have voted that way.

What we want to learn is "who are these voters" and "why did they vote that way." There is a portion of that district that does have an LGBT component, and we don't know if those were the only people that tuned out to vote. Or does it show that higher educated and more affluent people in the Park cities in Dallas voted against the amendment because they know and work with LGBT people? We don't know the answers to those questions.

So I think that in terms of "who do we side with," we would like to side with those who are open and responsive to pro-equality for all Texans. And that doesn't necessarily mean that it will fall on party lines.

NM: On November 5th, the KKK held a rally on the steps of City Hall. That day was pretty confusing to a lot of people. What are your comments on that day?

CS: In regards to what happened at City Hall, that day was confusing for many. But I certainly don't and would not equate people that were proponents of the amendment as being proponents of the Klan. Any attempt to link that directly is bogus.

Reverend Johnson, a speaker from Dallas that attended as part of a counter demonstration, made the comment "As long as there is injustice for anyone, there is injustice against us all." That is the direction that Equality Texas and other grass roots organizations like ours are headed in the future - equality for all.

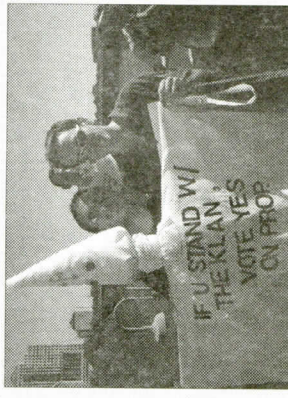
NM: What is the light at the end of the tunnel? Tell us what the silver lining is.

CS: I'll come back to that the reason for hope is that this was only a bump in the road. In any movement, if you put the rights of a minority up for a vote, they're not going to win.

Unfortunately that was the first lesson that we in Texas had to learn. The silver lining that exists now is that we didn't loose the election by a million votes. We lost the election by three votes.

And that was in April when the House of Representatives voted on it; it only passed by one vote more than it needed. In May, when it passed in the Texas Senate, it only passed by two votes more than it needed.

(Continued on Page 12)



Protesters at the Klu Klux Klan counter-demonstration.

Photo by Joeline Schumann

COVER STORY

(Continued from Page 11)

The bright light is that the results of the election show that there are House districts where more people do support a pro-equality position. And this is an opportunity either for us to educate ourselves and to educate our legislators that they don't need to be afraid to vote for equality for all Texans, or as an opportunity to vote for people who aren't afraid to vote for equality for all Texans.

Ultimately that is the bright light. If people will look at this and take from it the importance of electing officials who actually will represent people that believe in equal treatment for all Texans, then these types of things won't go to a ballot. And by those types of things, I mean putting minorities up for a vote before a majority.

NM: Any *parting comments*?

CS: People cannot sit on the sidelines and expect that someone else is going fight this movement for equality for them. If people want equality, then they have to get involved in the movement themselves.

That doesn't mean that they have to do marches, but they have to get involved in the process. They need to support organizations like ours that are fighting for equal rights for all Texans. That's what people need to do. They can't let someone else do it for them.

The road to equality has been a jagged and a bloody one at best. On January 31, 2005, America marked the 140th anniversary of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which banned slavery. 2005 also marked the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote. We claim to be "The Land of the Free," and we are fighting across the globe in the name of freedom. Yet here we are slowly loosing ours.

But there is hope. This was only one hurdle that we had to jump, and there will be more down the road. We can't stand by and think that we've done all that we can do. We need to continue to fight for the rights that are apparently granted to all Americans.

I would like to leave you now with some words of wisdom and - hopefully - hope:

"We have talked long enough in this country about equal rights. We have talked for a hundred years or more. It is now time to write it in the books of law."

Lyndon B. Johnson
November, 27th, 1963

Nick Manix is an author, social commentator, and journalist living in Austin.

Festival Fever in Austin

Two of Austin's annual festivals return this year with bigger line-ups and more events. The theatre festival FronteraFest beginning on January 10th and runs through February 11th at locations across the city. The Austin Jewish Film Festival running January 21st through 28th at the Arbor Cinema at Great Hills, located at 9828 Great Hills Trail.

Organizers promised "a troubled adolescence" as FronteraFest enters its lucky 13th year, and continues as the largest and longest-running fringe festival in the Southwest United States. Featuring more than 800 performers and encompassing more than 100 original works, the event is viewed annually by an average of 6,000 patrons.

Presented by Hyde Park Theatre in collaboration with Austin Script Works, the festival runs in multiple venues around Austin for five weeks. Comprised of the Short Fringe, the Long Fringe, Bring Your Own Venue, and Mi Casa, FronteraFest is five weeks of alternative, offbeat, new, and just plain off-the-wall fringe theatre.

Ticket prices and showtimes vary by show. Visit www.HydeParkTheatre.org for a full schedule.

The fourth annual Austin Jewish Film Festival features more than 20 films and several short subjects this year, including several films that are being screened for the first time in Texas - or even in America! Several of the featured films have won awards and recognition at film festivals in the United States and abroad, and guest artists and other knowledgeable speakers will be in attendance for Q & A sessions at select screenings.

Featured films include the lesbian-themed *Keep Not Silent (Orthodykes)*, which will be screened on Tuesday, January 24th at the Arbor and again on Thursday, January 26th at The Hideout, 617 Congress Avenue. Another gay-themed feature - *Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School* - will be also showing on Thursday, January 26th at The Hideout.

The opening night film, *Ushpizin* is a heartwarming and humorous look into the customarily closed world of ultra-Orthodox Jews living, learning, and loving in modern day Israel. Organizers say that even those unfamiliar with the religious rituals will be drawn into an exotic world with a wonderful story and universal themes.

Festival passes and individual screening tickets are both available. For a complete listing of titles and times, call the Festival Hotline at (512) 735-8426 or visit on-line at www.AustinJFF.org.



DATELINE

BY JENNIFER PARELLO

Matchmaker, Matchmaker

By the time this column is published, I might be dead. My friend Geoff threatened to kill me last night.

We were sitting next to each other at a restaurant when he turned to me and flashed a smile that wasn't really a smile. Rather, it was one of those faces a dog makes right before he bites you.

Geoff wrapped his arm around my shoulder and whispered in my ear, "I'm going to kill you." I gulped loudly and slid a steak knife out of his reach.

The reason Geoff wants to kill me is because my attempts at matchmaking have ruined yet another dinner party. Last night, I insisted - against Geoff's wishes - to set up our friends Matt and Phil.

It didn't go as well as I had hoped.

The best thing that could be said about the evening is that they didn't punch each other. (So, it was a vast improvement over my last attempt to match-make.) They simply ignored each other while I desperately tried to convince them of all the things they have in common.

"Phil, did you know that Matt has both of his lungs? And so do you! Isn't that amazing? It's like you were made for each other."

They grunted with indifference as they stabbed at their mashed potatoes.

"And you both love to play with your food! Marriages have been built on much shakier foundations than that."

After the meal, as I helpfully jotted their phone numbers onto slips of paper and shoved them into their pockets, Geoff grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and dragged me out to the parking lot.

"How many painful evenings will I have to suffer through before you stop doing this?" Geoff demanded. "You can't even manage your own romantic life. Why do you think you can manage anyone else's love life?"

"But that's the point," I told him. "No one can manage their own romantic life. We'd all be better off in arranged marriages."

Let's face facts. When left to our own devices, most of us do a miserable job in choosing a mate. When you want to sleep with someone, you are not fit to judge whether this is the person you should sign a 30-year mortgage with.

As a result, we wind up picking very sexy people who drain our bank accounts and run off with our best friends. We'd do much better by letting an objective outsider (i.e.: someone who doesn't care how big his pee-pee is or how large her rack is) select a spouse for us.

Case in point: my only criteria for entering into a serious relationship is that the woman look good in a picture hat. And it doesn't hurt if she's underemployed and treats me with cool indifference.

On the other hand, if I let my parents choose my spouse, I'd be happily married to a solid citizen, who makes a lot of money, cleans up after me, and remembers to take the car in for regular oil changes.

And my friends are even worse at picking suitable mates than I am. So, I will continue to ruin dinner parties until I manage to arrange happy, if passionless, relationships for all my friends.

Or until I am murdered. Whichever comes first.

Jennifer Parello is a nationally-syndicated humorist and journalist. You can reach her at www.JenniferParello.com

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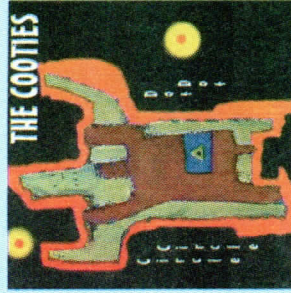


GROOVE LINES

BY CHRIS ALLEN

The Texas music scene is always full of surprises. There is so much talent hiding in the shadows, like the Austin based garage punk trio The Cooties. *Circle Circle Dot Dot* is the new CD, and it totally kicks ass.

I love this album. It is classic, and so fitting right now. At times, their music reminds me of Minor Threat and The Ramones, other times The B52's and The Go-Go's. Like many of the bands that have influenced their writing, The Cooties' songs are solid, catchy, and inviting. Punk with a pop twist, and often with surfer rockabilly appeal, less is more here - and it works. Highlights on *Circle Circle Dot Dot* include "Ball," "Not Too Fine," "Tree," "Suicide," "Doom," and "Sun." This band's music is quite infectious, as I found myself cranking it up track-by-track. This



Punk with a pop twist, and often with surfer rockabilly appeal, less is more here - and it works. Highlights on *Circle Circle Dot Dot* include "Ball," "Not Too Fine," "Tree," "Suicide," "Doom," and "Sun." This band's music is quite infectious, as I found myself cranking it up track-by-track. This

album is now on my Ipod.

You can also listen before you buy at www.MySpace.com/CootiesForever, where you can also buy the disc, T-shirts, and the most popular item to date - Cooties brand underwear in ladies boy briefs. Fun!

No stranger to the scene, The Cooties have played many venues around the state since their 2001 infection - including Beerland, Flamingo Cantina, Vortex Theatre, and Hole In The Wall. This month, The Cooties will be performing in Austin for "Local Live" on KVRX (91.7 FM) on January 15th. You can also catch this rockin' trio live in San Antonio on the 14th at The Lounge on Ave. B, and in Austin on the 21st at Trophy's on South Congress. Get your Cootie shot today online at www.TheCooties.org.

The Cooties will be playing at The Chain Drive in Austin sometime in January. No set date as of press time. Please note: a Cooties shot will not protect you from the bird flu.

This month's mix CD hot pick comes to us from the super talented East Coast-based producer, songwriter, remixer, programmer and engineer Giuseppe D. He has remixed hits by artists like Lenny B Eamon, Judy Torres, Oscar G., and Georgie Porgie. His thumpin' non-stop groove CD, titled *Evolutions*, is fabulously relentless!

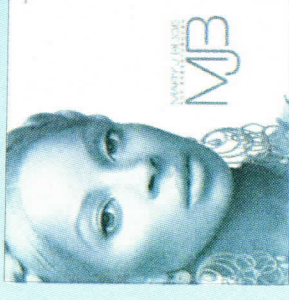


Evolutions is a flawlessly executed party disc with a true "old skool nrg flair" in its smooth blending of today's latest sounds. It is packed full of hits, too - Michael M., Paul Lekakis, Next Level, Corona. You can listen to Giuseppe D's tracks and learn more by checking out www.MySpace.com/GiuseppeD, as well as his official site at www.HotHeadProd.com. Visit www.PerfectBeat.com or any other on-line

Giuseppe D, photographed by Jimmy R. Smith

music retailer to purchase *Evolutions* on-line.

Mary J. Blige has a new CD out that is sure to touch your sense of soul. *The Breakthrough* is an amazing compilation of work from one of R&B's most treasured talents. Be sure to checkout the release party for Mary J. Blige's *The Breakthrough* at The Cockpit Club in Austin on Friday the 13th. There will be CD giveaways and more! It could be your lucky day!



So, Happy New Year, everyone! Deep in the heart of Texas, that's the groove lines for now. Remember, life may not always be the party you had hoped for, but while you're here you might as well dance!

DJ Chris "Dig'm" Allen is a musician and journalist who lives in Austin. Catch him spinning live at RAIN and The Cockpit Club in Austin and Halo in Bryan/College Station.

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BY ROBYNN BETZ

New Year's Health

Happy New Year boi's and grrls! We all know what that means - UGH! It's time to make our New Year's health resolutions. And in my search, I have found an excellent outline for a woman's annual health checklist at LifeTimeTV.com. Below are a few of their recommendations - based on age - that every woman should consider for a healthier 2006.

The new year means it's time for your annual checkup. And, if you're like most women, you wish you could go back to the time when "checkup" meant a few taps on the chest with a stethoscope and walking away with a lollipop in hand.

As grown women, we have more serious - and sometimes, more invasive - things to look forward to. But the annual once-over doesn't have to be a major source of anxiety, especially if you're prepared. Therefore, here is a decade-by-decade guide to getting the best exam possible.

For Every Woman: Everyone should get a standard yearly physical,

during which you can expect a few basics - no matter what your age - says Lori Farnan, M.D., an instructor of clinical medicine at Harvard Medical School. Among them: height, weight and a head-to-toe skin check for any suspicious moles that might signal cancer.

If you have a family history of certain diseases or if you have specific health concerns, you might also get a blood test that checks things such as your blood's iron level or your thyroid function. And if you have any special risk factors for coronary heart disease - that is, if you smoke, are very overweight, have diabetes or high blood pressure, or if you've had a close female relative who developed heart disease before age 65 - your doctor may recommend an EKG or a chest X-ray.

Regardless of whether your primary care physician is an internist, a family practitioner or an ob-gyn, you should get a Pap test at least once every three years (some doctors recommend annually). Pap tests also can detect human papillomavirus, or HPV, a sexually transmitted disease that can increase a woman's risk of developing cervical cancer.

Plus, every 10 years, you should get a booster shot against tetanus and diphtheria. If your exam is missing any of these basics, find a doc who'll give you a more thorough exam.

If You're 20 or Older:

In your 20s, in addition to the tests outlined above, you should also get your cholesterol checked; if it's normal, the test should be repeated every five years. You should also be provided with some general health and wellness counseling. For patients at this age, many doctors also emphasize the importance of doing breast self-exams and practicing safe sex.

If You're 30 or Older:

When you're in your 30s, you can look forward to roughly the same tests and exams that you got in your 20s, plus any discretionary tests your doctor orders. For example, a mammogram would be in order if you have a family history of breast cancer.

At 35, you should also start paying attention to your bones. Most women don't require a bone-density exam (Continued on Page 31)

BY RYAN STEVENS

Wedding Crashers

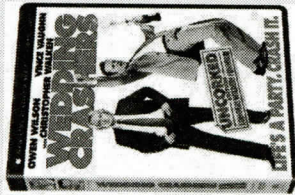
(The "Uncorked" Edition)

- Release Date: January 3rd
- Rated: PG-13 - Bonus features unrated
- Single disc, 128 minutes
- New Line Home Entertainment

Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn star in this hilarious comedy about two divorce mediators and lifelong best friends (John and Jeremy), who make it their mission in life to "crash" weddings and "conquer" as many women as humanly possible. Their plans, however, get cut short when John falls for the daughter of an influential and eccentric politician and decides to break the rules in pursuit of love. The result is a wild and crazy weekend at her family's palatial estate, where both John and Jeremy find themselves way over their heads.

EXTRAS: This DVD is loaded with extras, including a longer version of the film (nine additional minutes longer than what was shown in theaters). Extras include the infamous "99 Red Balloons" scene, commentaries, deleted scenes, "The Rules" featurette, an "Event Planning" featurette, test audience reactions to specific scenes, interactive soundtrack promo, music video, and trailers. This DVD is a must have, if only for the movie alone. And having an additional nine minutes added to the film can only make it funnier.

Grade: A-



My Date with Drew

- Release Date: January 3rd
- Rated: PG - Bonus features unrated
- Single disc, 90 minutes
- Lucky Crow Films

Brian Herzlinger is an ordinary guy with a lifelong dream to get a date with Drew Barrymore. He's 27 years old, no job, no girlfriend, and he's decided to document his quest to get a date with Ms. Barrymore. The only problem is, Brian's completely broke, and he doesn't even own a video camera. Fortunately, he recently won \$1,100 on a game show, where the winning answer was "Drew Barrymore" - so he figures it must be fate.

With the help of his three best friends, Brian will use this cash prize to seize the moment and pursue his dream. And as it turns out, you don't even need any money to buy a video camera these days thanks to Circuit City's 30-day return policy. So he grabs his buddy's credit card and picks out the most expensive camera in the store, knowing he will have to finish his movie before the camera has to go back. So now Brian has 30 days and \$1,100 to get a date with Drew Barrymore.

EXTRAS: None. However, this charming film has captured hearts and won awards in festivals across America. And with a budget of only \$1,100, it's a journey that proves that with a little bit of passion, anything is possible. Trust me, you'll like it.

Grade: B-

Dumb and Dumber (Unrated Edition)

- Release Date: January 3rd
- Rated: PG-13 - Bonus features unrated.
- 2-disc set, 113 minutes
- New Line Home Entertainment

Harry and Lloyd are back! But not in a stupid cheesy sequel, like the one created in 2003 (*Dumb and Dumberer*). This is actually the original film, with all the bonus features we missed in the first DVD release of this crazy, hilarious comedy about two dorks - Harry and Lloyd - who get fired from their jobs and get themselves tangled up in a web involving murder, mayhem, and a woman.

EXTRAS: This new version finally rights the wrong of the bare bones first version. With extended scenes, nine deleted scenes, and two alternate endings, this is a gold mine for those who love the film. This DVD also contains documentaries, DVD ROM features, hidden Easter Eggs, and trailers to round things out. You probably have seen the movie, so I don't need to tell you to put your brain on hold for a while and laugh out loud!

Grade: B+



Also Now Available:

- *The Cave*
- *Broken Flowers*
- *Snatch (Special Edition)*

Upcoming DVD Releases:

- January 10th:
 - *Ferris Bueller's Day Off (The Bueller, Bueller Edition)*
 - *Dead Poets Society (Special Edition)*
 - *Good Morning Vietnam (Special Edition)*
 - *Transporter 2*
 - *Hustle & Flow*
 - *Red Eye*

January 17th:

- *Lord of War (2-Disc Special Edition)*
- *Venom*
- *Underclassman*
- *Final Destination: (Scared 2 Death Pack)*
- *Doogie Howser M.D. - Season Three*

Ryan Stevens is an industry insider living in Hollywood.

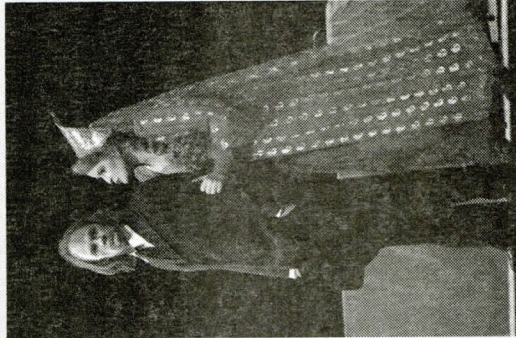
THEMUSES

The theme of war permeates two productions opening in Austin this month. The Rude Mechanicals bring back their down and dirty theatrical adaptation of David Rees' savage and hysterical internet comic strip, *Get Your War On*. The show represents stunned and outraged people of all political faiths as they react to 9/11, the Bush administration, and the War on Terror. Directed by Shawn Sides and adapted by Kirk Lynn from the work of David Rees, the play runs January 19th through February 4th at The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo Street in Austin. Call 512-476-RUDE (7833) or visit www.RudeMechs.com for information and reservations.

Different Stages continues its 2005-2006 season with the American Premiere of *Two Into War*. A double-bill of one-act plays - *The Gifts of War* by Fraser Grace and *The Retreating World* by Naomi Wallace - the production plays January 20th through February 11th at play! Theatre, 1204 Cedar Avenue in Austin. For tickets and information, call (512) 474-8497.

Austin Lyric Opera

welcomes the New Year with a stunning "new production" of Dmitri Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk*, playing January 7th, 9th, 13th, and 15th at Bass Concert Hall. The opera is the inaugural event of the "Shostakovich 100: Austin Celebrates," a year long festival that includes a consortium of central Texas arts organizations and universities celebrating the genius of this important Russian composer on the centennial of his birth.



"We are employing more than 177 artists, stagehands, etc. to bring this 'new production' to fruition," said Artistic Director Richard Buckley. "It will be Austin Lyric Opera's largest production to date."

Sung in English with English Supertitles, this production will be a rare opportunity for Texans to experience this rarely performed masterpiece. Tickets range from \$15 to \$109, and are available by calling (512) 472-5992, toll free at 800-31-OPERA, or on-line at www.AustinLyricOpera.org.

In her farewell performance as the boy who never grows up, Tony Award nominee Cathy Rigby takes flight in the 100th Anniversary of the musical *Peter Pan*, playing the Bass Concert Hall on February 7th through 12th. This timeless musical masterpiece - complete with Captain Hook,

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BY **ROB FAUBION**
a crafty crocodile and the enchantment of Neverland - includes Rigby flying over the heads of the audience. For tickets, call (512) 477-6060.

The VORTEX Repertory Company's most successful and well-attended production returns with an all-new performance that brings together theatre and ritual. Dark Goddess 2006 teams up with 13 dynamic goddesses to create a brand new theatre ritual - similar in genre, but entirely different in content than the previous four productions of Dark Goddess.

Live original music, dance, and text blend to bring forth the essence of each goddess. In a magical ritual setting, these dark Goddesses explore the mysteries and stories of their cultures and their roles in their own mythologies. The journey runs January 21st through February 25th at The VORTEX, 2307 Manor Road in Austin. Call 512-478-LAVA (5282) or visit www.VortexRep.org for information and reservations.

Central Texans can get a double-dose of comedienne Kathy Griffith this month. The fiery redhead brings her "Celebrity D-List" stand-up performance to San Antonio's Majestic Theatre on January 25th; call (210) 224-9600 for tickets. The following night, catch her at the Paramount Theatre in Austin; call (866) 4GET-TIX to grab a seat for the Capital City performance.



The San Pedro Playhouse in San Antonio begins the New Year with a lavish production of the musical *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Director and choreographer Michele Pietri was nominated for a "Big Easy Award" when she choreographed the show in New Orleans last year. That production transferred to the Grand Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The popular musical about Texas' famous Chicken Ranch, and the radio/television crusader and his zealous campaign to shut the place down, opens January 20th and runs through February 26th. Call (210) 733-7258 for tickets.

The wildly entertaining stage musical *Johnny Guitar* is now playing at Stage West, located at 1300 Gendy Street in Fort Worth. Based on the 50s B-movie of the same name, which starred Joan Crawford, this quirky homage to the film (Continued on Page 20)

WILLY BIETAK'S

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Western manages to be both as campy as *Lust in the Dust* and as affectionate as *Silverado*. With archetypal characters and the expected stagecoach and bank robberies, saloon fights, romance, and a climactic and surprising gunfight, the show wraps everything in a tuneful and witty score that channels everyone from Peggy Lee to Marty Robbins.

Winner of the 2004 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical, the Fort Worth production runs through Sunday, January 15th in the Scott Theatre at the Community Arts Center. For tickets and information, call (817) STG-WEST (784-9378) or visit www.StageWest.org.

The Kimbell Art Museum recently placed one of its most important sculptures back on view after months of research and restoration work. The sandstone sculpture of the Hindu deity Harihara, a masterpiece of ancient Cambodian art dating to around 675-700 A.D., had part of its missing left leg reattached. The additional fragment had been in the Museum's vault since the sculpture's acquisition in 1988.

The sculpture joins another recent Kimbell acquisition: a highly important tomb sculpture dating to the period of the Fifth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom in Egypt, around 2400 B.C. Carved from limestone, the figures were originally painted and retain much of their color on the hair and eyes, with traces on the skin, garments, and jewelry. The Kimbell Art Museum is located at 3333 Camp Bowie Boulevard in Fort Worth; call (817) 332-8451 or visit www.KimbellArt.org for more information.

Finally, get closer than ever before to some of the largest animals on the planet from the safety of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History's Omni Theater at 1501 Montgomery Street in Fort Worth's Cultural District. From January 9th through 26th, take a giant-screen journey through bear country in the National Wildlife Federation's film, *Bears*. For show times and information, call (817) 255-9300 or visit www.FortWorthMuseum.org.



Gary Taggart, Chris Robinson,
Lois Sonnier Hart in Johnny
Guitar; photo by Buddy Myers.



Group Statue of Ka-nefer and His Family, limestone, with traces of original painted decoration, Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth.



Friday, January 13, 2006

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"Gift of Life" Benefit Events Honors Miracle Couple

Finding a living donor for a kidney transplant is never easy, and patients suffering from renal disease sometimes die while on the waiting list for a donation. Family members are usually the best donors, but sometimes a family member is not available. That was the case for Lupita Treviño, an educator and administrator with a background in bilingual/bicultural education, 2005 Ms. Gay Fiesta, and Dowager Empress of the Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Alamo Empire.

About 11 years ago, after finding blood in her urine, doctors diagnosed Lupita with polycystic kidney disease. This hereditary disorder affects the kidneys and other organs, causing clusters of fluid-filled sacs - called cysts - to develop in the kidneys and interfere with their ability to filter waste products from the blood. The growth of cysts causes the kidneys to become enlarged and can lead to kidney failure.

It was immediately apparent that a transplant would be necessary at some point in the near future, and that

dialysis would be indicated to keep Lupita alive until a donor could be found. From December 1993 to February of 2000, Lupita underwent five surgeries to alleviate her symptoms, but the symptoms persisted, and she was forced to retire.

Fortunately, there was someone at her side during the entire ordeal. Shortly before her diagnosis, Lupita met her soul mate, Annette DeLeon, at the Zoo, a north San Antonio women's club that existed during the early 90s. They moved in together in 1994 and had a Holy Union Ceremony in July of 1995. They had no idea at the time that their relationship would save Lupita's life.

In August of 2004, doctors told Lupita it was time for a transplant. They looked to her family for a donor, but Lupita's daughter suffered from the same illness as Lupita, and her brother's kidney would be needed at some point in the future to save his sister. Lupita went on the waiting list, which would likely take three to five years for her turn to come up.

According to ustransplant.com, there were 56,490 patients on the waiting list for the year ending June 30, 2004. During that same year, 3,281 patients died while waiting for a kidney donation.

Surprisingly, Lupita's donor was at her side the entire time. Annette's kidney turned out to be a compatible match. Doctors scheduled their surgery for January 13, 2005. Almost one year later, both donor and recipient are doing fine, and are about to celebrate the first anniversary of the day Annette's kidney gave Lupita the gift of life.

To mark this date, to raise awareness for the need for organ donors, and in her role as Ms. Gay Fiesta 2005, Lupita is organizing the first annual "Gift of Life" benefit, scheduled for Friday, January 13th, at HEAT Nightclub. This event will feature a fundraiser dinner served from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., with door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will benefit We Are Alive and the Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Alamo Empire.

After dinner, a benefit show featuring Shady Lady as Emcee and the Ladies of HEAT will take the stage. Information will be available for those interested in learning more about becoming an organ donor, and donor registration cards will be available.

This event is sponsored by HEAT Nightclub and SHOUT Magazine. For more information, contact Joe Caldero at HEAT, (210) 473-2481, or Annette DeLeon at (210) 625-2666 for reservations ticket purchases.

- Don Jones

Workshop to Address How Churches Can Support GLBT Members and Partners

In the wake of Proposition 2, the Spirit of Peace Church will present "Marriage for All: How Churches Can Support GLBT Relationships" on January 7th at the Slumber Falls Camp at the New Braunfels, Texas. The workshop will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Despite the passing of Proposition 2, we need to remember to 'never place a period where God has placed a comma,'" said Rev. Rita Wilbur, pastor of the Spirit of Peace Church. "Last November's election was merely a comma in God's history, and our mandate as churches remains clear: what God has joined, let no one - even the Texas Constitution - keep apart."

A member of the United Church of Christ, the Spirit of Peace Church has sponsored workshops during the past five years concerning the churches ministry to GLBT people. Past topics have included "On Becoming an Open and Affirming Church," the needs of youth, and GLBT people and liturgy.

The upcoming workshop will address question, such as:

- What, then, is the role our churches can play in supporting our GLBT members and their spouses?
- What are the pastoral issues we all face in the current climate of intolerance and bigotry?
- How can we minister to the community and also be a prophetic voice reminding all that "God is still speaking?"

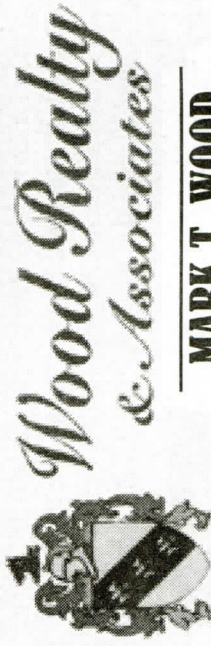
Organizers say the workshop will explore pastoral, legal, and liturgical issues on marriage and covenant. The schedule will also include time for participants to strategize on how to address these matters in their local congregations. Participants will also have the opportunity to strategize and share ideas with others from around Texas.

The United Church of Christ made history on July 4th, 2005, when it General Synod met in Atlanta and passed the "Equal Marriage Rights for All" resolution. The resolution reaffirmed the church's affirmation of GLBT persons and confirmed their place within the spiritual life of the denomination.

Cost for the workshop is \$25 per person. For more information, call Rev. Rita Wilbur at (210) 403-9084 or email sopucc@sbcglobal.net.

- Rob Faubion

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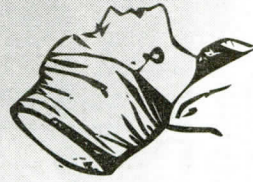
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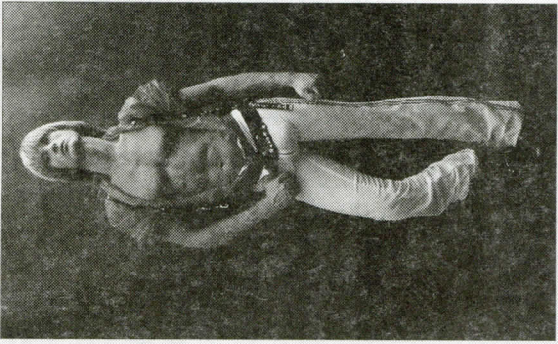
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aGLIFF to Screen 2005 Festival Favorite "That Man: Peter Berlin"

The Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival (aGLIFF) will exhibit an encore presentation of *That Man: Peter Berlin*, winner in the aGLIFF 2005 Best Feature Documentary category, on Thursday, January 12th. The screening is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409 Colorado in Austin.

With his trademark Dutchboy haircut, Tom of Finland physique, and oh-so-tight trousers, Peter Berlin was the poster boy for the hedonistic and sexually-liberated 1970s. Jim Tushinski's fascinating cinema portrait traces Berlin's story during the past 40 years, from his birth in wartime Germany to his current life in San Francisco. The award-winning documentary shows the human being



Peter Berlin; photo courtesy Peter Berlin

behind the icon.

Most illuminating and exciting, organizers say, is the extensive commentary by Berlin himself, still looking remarkably boyish in his early 60s. Tushinski's interviews are complemented with an astonishing archive of photos and film clips that reveal the full scope of Berlin's impressive body of work.

aGLIFF is one of the Top Five film festivals of its kind in the nation and continues its mission to exhibit high-quality gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender films that enlighten, educate, and entertain. In addition to its recent Austin Film Festival award, the film was named Best Documentary in both the 2005 Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival and the 2005 Reel Identities in New Orleans.

Admission for the special screening is \$6.50 for the general public and \$5 for students, seniors, and aGLIFF members. For more information, please visit on-line at www.aGLIFF.org.

Red Ribbon Series Resumes on January 22nd

The culinary fund-raising favorite Red Ribbon Dinner Series returns on Monday, January 22nd with a special dinner at Wink Restaurant, located at 1014 North Lamar in Austin. Proceeds from the event benefit AIDS Services of Austin (ASA).

Dinner begins at 7 p.m. and is generally limited to 50 guests. Each Red Ribbon Dinner has a minimum of five courses, with a wine pairing for each course. Many of the dinners have special features, silent auctions and speakers.

Since it began twelve years ago, the Red Ribbon Dinner Series has provided a way for people to gather in support of those living with HIV and AIDS while enjoying an evening at one of Austin's premiere restaurants. The series has raised over \$175,000 for the agency.

The minimum donation for each Red Ribbon Dinner is \$125 per person, of which \$100 is each diner's contribution to ASA. For information and reservations, call Betty Mitchell at (512) 406-6115.

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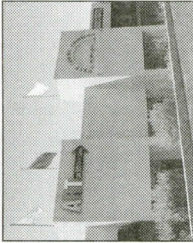
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FORT WORTH HAPPENINGS

• • • BY TIMOTHY J. NIEHAY

Q Cinema Returns for 2006

During 2005, Q Cinema - Fort Worth's Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival - delighted and entertained audiences with films that represented the diversity of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community. During the past several years, Q Cinema premiered dozens of new films for Texas audiences.

Q Cinema recently announce its return in 2006 for an eighth year of bringing North Texas some of the best in gay- and lesbian-themed films. Once again, the festival kicks off in January with many new-to-Texas titles.

Best Friends Bar and Dance Club, 2620 East Lancaster Avenue in Fort Worth, will inaugurate this year's events by hosting Q Cinema's Ultimate Lesbian Short Film Festival on January 25th at 7:30 p.m. Special screenings and events will be schedules throughout the Spring.



Then the annual four-day International Film Festival returns May 18th through 22nd, featuring a world premiere feature film shot in Fort Worth along with several other projects with local connections. The deadline for entries in this year's Film Festival is March 31st; guidelines and forms are available on-line at www.Qcinema.org/entries.

During its eight year history, Q Cinema has presented the Southwest premieres of major films such as *Trick*, *But I'm a Cheerleader*, *Lost in the Pershing Point Hotel*, *Paraglyph 175*, *Sixth Happiness*, *The Journey of Jared Price*, *Lost and Delirious*, *All Over the Guy*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Notorious C.H.O.*, *Danny in the Sky*, *Wave Babes*, *Neverland*, *Adored: Diary of Male Porn Star*, *9 Dead Gay Guys* and *Cowboys and Angels*. For more information, call (817) 462-3368 or visit www.QCinema.org.

(Continued on Page 28)

NEW YEAR BEGINNINGS

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Fort Worth Happenings

(Continued from Page 27)

Bear With Them This Year

A bear walks into a bar and orders a drink. He looks about and sees that others just like him are there, ready to eat and socialize. No hibernation for these bears because they're not wild animals, but they are party animals.

Formed in the late 1990s, The Trinity River Bears (TRB) are a Fort Worth-based social organization providing bears and bear admirers an opportunity to meet and enjoy time together in a variety



of environments and social situations. With a certain flair for the hirsute, the roughly 40 members gather together various times each month to celebrate not only each other's fuzzy company, but they also gather together to support the community.

"Our club, the Trinity River Bears, wasn't started as an organization to collect money," said Clayton Johnson, social chairman of TRB. "But through the different events, we have gotten quite a bit of money in our account."

"So instead of keeping all the money for ourselves - and more money than we needed to run the club - we decided to donate money back to the community to different charities," he said. "We vote on those charities



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each year, and we have given over \$3000.00 (during the last few years back to the different organizations."

The Trinity River Bears' schedule for the new year kicks off on January 8th with the Bear Brunch. The first Sunday of the month event is an official club function, but everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

Next, the Bears will host Steak Night on the second Friday of the month at Best Friends Club, 2620 East Lancaster Avenue in Fort Worth. Falling this month on Friday the 13th, the monthly cookout offers steak, baked potato, and salad - all for only \$6.00.

"Steak Night started several years ago at the old Corral Club in Fort Worth," said Johnson. "Different organizations were doing a cookout at the Corral on Fridays, and the owners/manager asked if we would be interested in doing one also."

"We talked about it and came up with a steak night serving steak, baked potato, and salad for only \$6.00," he said. "After the closing of the Corral Club, Scott Jones of the Best Friends Club asked if we would want to continue to have steak night at Best Friends, so now we are having it on the second Friday of the month."

"Best Friends donates most everything for Steak Night, so that just gives us more money to donate at the

end of the year," Johnson added.

On the third Wednesday of each month, the Bears host an organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Changes Nightclub, located at 2637 East Lancaster Street in Fort Worth. Finally, TRB hosts Bears Night Out on the fourth Thursday of the month, which involves going to dinner and activities such as a movie or bowling. For more information on the organization, visit on-line at www.TrinityRiverBears.com.

New UNT Ally Scholarship Honors Staff Member

At the University of North Texas (UNT), equality reigns supreme. Since the Fall Semester of 1999, students and faculty have had the Ally Program.

UNT's Ally Program promotes an open safe place within the campus for GLBT people to be themselves, without fear of persecution and unfairness. The program creates a welcoming place for persons to go for assistance. The group also promotes inclusiveness and diversity as well as addresses discrimination and harassment issues.

Sue Young, University of North Texas administrative assistant, gave her friend and fellow employee, Mary Finley, a one-of-a-kind gift this year: a scholarship in Finley's name to honor her years of commitment to diversity in the University community.

"It is important to me to provide the opportunity for education to everyone, and especially to those who may face discrimination and harassment," Young said.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Scholarship in Honor of Mary Finley, which is open to all qualified students regardless of sexual orientation, recognizes Finley's efforts in establishing the Ally Program. The scholarship will be awarded each year to a new, transfer or current undergraduate student.

Currently, there are more than 430 allies and more than 140 honorary allies in the program. Scholarship applications are available in UNT's Division of Equity and Diversity, in Room 175 of the Administration Building, or on-line at www.UNT.edu/Ally.

Tax-deductible donations to the scholarship can be made to the UNT Foundation by referencing the GLBTA Finley Scholarship. For more information about the scholarship, contact Dan Emenheiser, UNT Director of Diversity Education, at (940) 565-2456.

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GET OUTTA TOWN!

Sail Over to Columbus

With a natural beauty that has captured the eye and imagination of artists and explorers for centuries, Columbus is a town that possesses Texas-sized culture. Identified by *Texas Monthly* magazine as one of the "Best Small Towns for Art," this place has something for everyone.

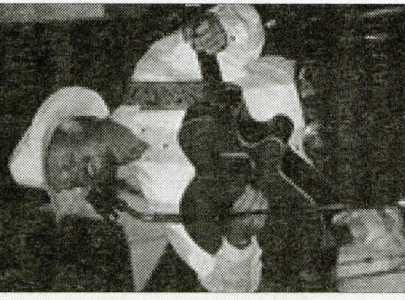
Columbus is located in Colorado County, one of the oldest counties still existing from the Republic of Texas. The town is named for the 900 mile Colorado River that runs through it.

Like the Wimberley area of the Hill Country, Columbus is a haven for bird watching. Thanks to the river and the climate that comes along with it, as many as 300 species of birds can be seen migrating in the area between the months of October and April.

If you're getting a head start on your Valentine's Day plans, the 1886 Stafford Opera House will be hosting a special dinner theatre on Saturday, February 11th. Dinner and professionally produced theatre are hosted

at the state's largest flat floored opera house, which features a raked stage and curtains painted to look exactly like the curtains that hung on the stage in 1886. The opera house is located at 425 Spring Street; call (979) 732-5135 for information and reservations.

If your sweetie prefers the sound of music, classical guitarist Peter Fletcher of Atlanta will have a free performance on the eve of Sweetheart Day at Nesbitt Memorial Library. Call (979) 732-3392 for more information.



If you're a fan of country and western music, be sure to visit the Columbus Opry, which features live music on Saturday nights. Housed in the grand old Oaks Theatre House, this venue first opened its doors in 1995 and has showcases live country and western music shows throughout the year.

The Columbus Opry has also been the proud recipient of the American Eagle Award for "Opry of the Year."

BY KEE MCDANIEL

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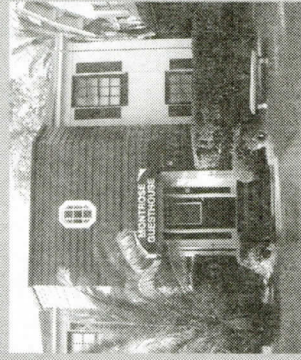
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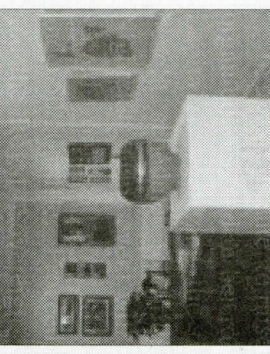
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Columbus is also home to the second largest live oak tree in Texas, which is located in the historic downtown area and is thought to be more than 500 years old.

Numerous points of artistic and architectural interest can be found in the downtown, including the Colorado County Courthouse with its Tiffany-style stained glass dome in the second floor district courtroom.

Around the corner at the Live Oak Art Center - a gallery that dates back to 1954 - local citizens created a gallery for new and aspiring artists, as well as those who wanted to include art in the many aspects of their own lives. The gallery is located in the historic Brunson Building downtown and features a "donation only" entrance fee.



Regular workshops for all ages, rotating exhibits, and an outstanding permanent collection keep visitors coming back to this hub for artistic activities in the area. Call (979) 732-8398 for current exhibitions and more information.

The Preston Kyle Shatto Wildlife Museum features more than 65 different mounted species, including elephants, lions, leopards, Cape buffalo - as well as a white rhinoceros, one of only two that are exhibited in the whole country! The museum is free and open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Conveniently located at the intersection of Highway 71 and I-10, Columbus is easy to reach from anywhere in the state. A wealth of information on the area is online at www.ColumbusTexas.org. So if you're looking to visit a warm town that sets the standard for southern hospitality, this area will definitely hit the spot!

Kee McDaniel is a journalist who lives in Austin.
Photos courtesy of Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau

WOMEN'S HEALTH

(Continued from Page 16)

for another 15 years, but those who are significantly underweight or who've had an eating disorder may need the test early. That's because women who are very thin can stop having periods, and therefore stop producing the estrogen that's required to maintain healthy bones.

If You're 40 or Older:

Beginning at age 40, you can add a mammogram to your health exam checklist. Mammograms, which screen for breast cancer, are recommended every other year from ages 40 to 50, and annually after that. Your doctor may also begin to focus on your diet and fitness, since this is the age at which most women put on weight.

Another addition to your annual physical: screening for colorectal cancer. This can include a fecal occult blood test, which evaluates any blood in your stool; a barium enema; or either a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy, in which the doctor views your colon using a tiny camera that's mounted on a slender, flexible tube.

And even though the average age of menopause is 51, many women in their 40s are curious and/or apprehensive about the signs and symptoms of this upcoming hormonal shift. Since there's a connection between menopause and lifestyle, your doctor can discuss the alternative things you can do to prepare for "the change."

If You're 50 or Older:

Beginning at age 50, you should add a bone density exam as well as a thyroid test to your checkup. If you show signs of a thyroid problem, such as significant weight gain and persistent fatigue, you might be given this test earlier.

Starting at 55, you'll also be advised to get an influenza vaccine every year, although women with asthma or other respiratory diseases may need them earlier.

Hopefully this will give you a good head start on a happy and health year. Have a Happy New Year, and good luck with your New Year's resolutions!

Robynn Betz is a nurse who lives in Austin.

Casanova

Ledger Brings a Newfound Intrigue to the Fabled "Casanova"

Grade: B

He was the world's most notorious seducer - a swashbuckler, master of disguise and wit. It was said no woman could resist Casanova's amorous charms - until now. For the first time in his life, the legendary Giacomo Casanova (Heath Ledger - *Brokeback Mountain*, *The Brother's Grimm*) is about to meet his match with an alluring Venetian beauty, Francesca Bruni (Sienna Miller - *Alfie*, *Layer Cake*), who does the one thing he never thought possible: refuse him.

Enamored by Francesca, Casanova is up to the challenge to win her heart. What he doesn't expect is that Francesca is already betrothed to Lord Paprizzio (Oliver Platt - *Ice Harvest*, *Kinsey*), the pork lard mogul. To make matters worse, Bishop Pucci of the Inquisition (Jeremy Irons - *Kingdom of Heaven*, *William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice*) is chasing after Casanova to arrest him for heresy and fornication.

Through a series of clever disguises and scheming ruses, Casanova manages to get closer to Francesca.

But now, he is playing the most dangerous game he has ever encountered - one that will risk not only his life and reputation, but also his only one chance at true passion. Beautifully shot in the city of Venice, Italy, Academy Award nominated director Lasse Hallström (*Chocolat*, *The*



Cider House Rules) brings the most famous womanizer, Casanova, to the silver screen. Hallström does a marvelous job at telling a story about Casanova's greatest adventure: losing his heart. Heath Ledger delivers a convincing performance as the desire of every woman's fantasy, and Sienna Miller is perfect as the sharp-minded, witty heroine who has made it her quest in life to prove to the world that Casanova degrades women.

The film is both cute and humorous as it is charming and clever. Oddly enough, I really cannot pinpoint why I enjoyed this film so much. I like romantic comedies, but I wouldn't say this is a typical romantic comedy. It is a smart film that captivates you and holds your interest to the very end. It almost plays like an adult fairytale. I guess I would consider this an enchanting romance film with a touch of comedy and a hint of adventure.

With a great ensemble cast, Casanova is a delightful film that is both fun and enjoyable. Memorable performances include Lena Olin (*Chocolat*, *Queen of the Damned*) as Andrea Bruni, Francesca's mother who is eager for Francesca to marry a rich suitor; Charlie Cox (*William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice*) as Giovanni Bruni, Francesca's weak but protective brother; and Omid Djalili (*Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, *The Mummy*) as Casanova's trusty right-hand-man Lupo.

Unfortunately, not only is the film in limited release, but it has also been given an "R" rating by the MPAA. I'm still trying to figure out why this is, considering there is no language, nudity, or violence in the film. There is only one sex scene, and it lasts only two seconds and doesn't reveal any skin. This film definitely deserves a "PG-13" rating, so it is safe to say it is appropriate for teenagers. *Casanova* is one hour and 50 minutes and rated R for some sexual content.

Ryan Stevens is an industry insider and journalist living in Los Angeles.

Match Point

Woody Allen Returns with "Match" Worth Watching

Grade: B-

Match Point is a drama about ambition and obsession, the seduction of wealth, and the often-irreconcilable relationship between love and sexual passion. Written and directed by Academy Award winner Woody Allen (*Melinda and Melinda*, *Bullets Over Broadway*), *Match Point* was shot entirely in London and the first film in which Mr. Allen filmed overseas.

As former tennis pro, Chris Wilton (Jonathan Rhys Meyers - *Bend It Like Beckham*, *Vanity Fair*) lands a job as the tennis instructor at a very exclusive tennis club. There, he meets and befriends his first pupil, Tom Hewett (Matthew Goode - *Chasing Liberty*). Before long, the two have discovered a mutual interest in opera, and Tom invites Chris to join his family in their private box at the Royal Opera House.

There, Chris is introduced to Tom's sister, Chloe (Emily Mortimer - *Scream 3*, *Notting Hill*), who is immediately smitten by the handsome stranger. This is Chris' official welcoming into a world of privilege and power, and it is impossible to know just how much of his mutual interest in Chloe is driven by Chris' own ambitions.

The enticements of wealth, however, prove no match for the seductive power of Tom's stunning and seemingly unattainable American fiancée, Nola Rice (Scarlett Johansson - *The Island*, *In Good Company*). Chris should have settled for happiness, but he is torn by his attraction to Nola. The attraction turns to an obsession that forces Chris to make the decision of either staying with his wife or pursuing his desires.

With its subtle character building and underlining overtones, *Match Point* offers a style of mystery and intrigue that only Woody Allen can deliver. Allen draws the audience into the lives of these characters, and takes them into the depths of their souls. He shows us the torture and dilemmas that Chris has put himself through with the decisions he makes - and the consequences he faces.

"Chris is married to a very nice, perfectly lovely woman, and he does love her," Allen said recently. "But



he has a passionate, lustful desire for Nola, which leads to problems because he not only has feelings for his wife; he has also been seduced into a very cushy lifestyle. He certainly has no intention of giving that up for Nola... even though he can't keep his hands off of her."

Allen also shows us how the decisions that we make can also influence the way we think. Allen displays desperation to us not only in the form of Chris keeping the secret of his affair, but also Nola's need and obsession with having Chris in her life.

Jonathan Rhys Meyers does an excellent job as the lustful - but loving - husband who is torn between what he's feeling in his heart and what he's thinking in his head. Scarlett Johansson continues to amaze us as the seductive - yet fragile - Nola who, despite her insecurities, is just a scared little American girl that wants to belong somewhere and be successful.

Prior to its national release, *Match Point* has already been nominated for four Golden Globe nominations including Best Original Screenplay, Best Movie, Best Director (Woody Allen), and Best Supporting Actress (Scarlett Johansson). Even though the film is a little slow, it's still worth your time.

Allen opens the film with a quote that really makes you stop and think, not only in relation to what is about to happen, but also about situations that we face in our everyday lives: "...There are moments in a match when the ball hits the top of the net, and for a split second it can either go forward or fall back. With a little luck, it goes forward and you win...or maybe it doesn't, and you lose." *Match Point* is two hours and 24 minutes and rated R for some sexuality.

SATURDAYS

2015 (SA) - Happy Hour 4 p.m. - 9 p.m., with \$1.75 wells and \$1.50 draft, plus \$1.75 longnecks all day and night

The Annex (SA) - Leather Night; \$1.50 wells and \$1 non-premium beer (til 9 pm), then \$1.75 wells and beer and \$1.50 Sangria

Bermuda Triangle (SA) - \$1 Saturday, \$1 well drinks all night

Best Friends Club (Fort Worth) - Reduced drink prices 3-9 pm, Manager Specials 9-11 pm, Dance till 2 am

Bout Time (Austin) - DJ Kimmakazi spins 9 pm - 2 am, and open volleyball

Changes (Fort Worth) - Male dancers, and after hours

Charlie's (Austin) - Happy Hour til 9pm: \$3 well and non-premium beer, Manwatch dancers 6pm-close, late night snacks

The Closet (Harker Heights) - Special events each Saturday, no cover before 9 p.m., open 7 p.m. to 3 a.m.

The Cockpit (Austin) - High energy dance night

Halo Bar (Bryan) - DJ Chris Allen of Austin spins with drinks from \$2 and no cover before 10:30pm

HEAT (SA) - \$1.75 well drinks and domestic beer until 11 p.m.

No Cover until 11 p.m.

Oilcan Harry's (Austin) - NETWORK with music provided by DJs LTD and Bryan Konrad

Petticoat Junction (SA) - \$2 wells and domestic beers until 10:30 pm; \$3 cover after 10 pm

SA Eagle Saloon (SA) - Party Night, \$1 wells & non-premium beer til 9 pm, then \$1.75 the rest of the night!

night, \$1 vodka til 10pm, \$1 draft all day & nite

The Cockpit (Austin) - Happy Hour all day and all night

HEAT (SA) - Showtunes 4-6 pm, Royal Tea Dance 6-9 pm. The Greatest Show Of All at midnight, and no cover until 10 p.m.

Oilcan Harry's (Austin) - \$2 beers 2-9pm, \$1 mimosas 2-7pm, well specials, Margie's Cocktail, dancers 6pm-close with Muscle Mechanic dancer shows at 10:30 and midnight

Petticoat Junction (SA) - \$1.50 wells and \$2 domestic beers

SA Eagle Saloon (SA) - \$1 wells & beer, \$4 calls, \$5 premiums, \$2 schnapps, \$1 Jello shots, 50 cent cherry bombers

SUNDAYS

2015 (SA) - \$2 Bloody Marys 4-9pm, \$1.75 wells & longnecks all day

The Annex (SA) - \$2 Willie Hamburgers 6-9 pm, \$1.50 wells, \$1 non-domestic beer, and \$1.50 Sangria

Best Friends Club (Fort Worth) - \$1.25 domestic draft beer & \$1.75 imported draft beer, charities shows at 9pm

Bout Time (Austin) - Rude Sunday with \$2.75 Frozen Marg's 2-8 pm, volleyball 2:30-8:30 pm, karaoke 8pm-1am

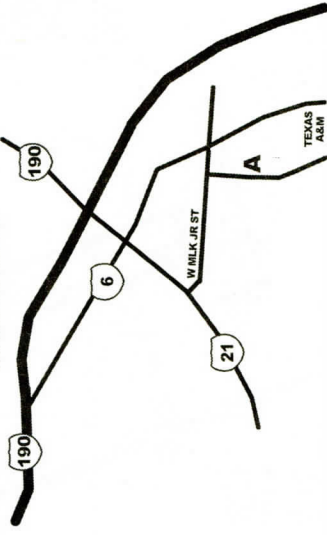
Changes (Fort Worth) - Super Show, \$3.25 Absolut Vodka, and \$1.25 draft beer

Charlie's (Austin) - Super Sunday Show with Jame Perry at mid

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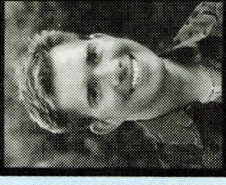


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SUNSIGNS

BY TRAVIS ROGERS

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) Well, happy birthday Capricorn. Like all birthdays, expect kudos and attention from others. However, this year, Mars will make for a very exciting and rambunctious party. You will party to the extreme and with great gusto. Just be careful and don't take it to the extreme.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) Hey Aquarius, you are going to have it good these next few weeks. The beauty here is that both Venus and Uranus are on your side. This combination will lead to a deep sense of liberation. You may hook up with someone who is very different from yourself. Or, you may break up from a relationship that was actually limiting and stifling.

Pisces (February 19 - March 19) Pisces, this is a great time to socialize with others, so go to parties and dinners. If you do, you will benefit from those you meet. Expect a friendship to occur from these festivities. You may benefit later from this relationship, so go for it.

Aries (March 20 - April 19) You will get kudos at work these next few weeks. People will see you as a leader and someone who can communicate well with the public, those in authority, and with fellow employees. Because of these great qualities of being self assertive and confident, you will be asked to assist in meetings, conferences, or take a short trip for business purposes.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Taurus, you will feel great these next few weeks and feel quite lucky and free from many of the more humdrum aspects of life. You feel confident and liberated from duties that have been piling up. You will be asked to attend many parties and social events. Others will find you more sexy and appealing. Watch out here - though - for arrogance and over-confidence. It could lead to an argument with a stranger.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Gemini, communication is essential for you these next few weeks. You feel overwhelmed with phone calls, emails, faxes, etc. Communication will be really important - especially with your partner - as you notice misunderstandings between you two. You feel that people are asking too much of you, not just in time but also in psychic energy. On a deeper level, Mercury is forcing you into situations that ask you to communicate in a more meaningful way.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) As you know, Cancer, you are the sign of the crab that hides in her shell when she feels threatened. Only when the threat comes really close to home do you bring out your claws. Please, don't withdraw from confrontation with others. It is in your vested interest to continue in dialogue with others and not surrender to your instinct to flee and cocoon yourself at home.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) Leo, if you have a life partner or a sexual partner, then your relationship will be quite strong and filled with sexual and romantic energy. There will be an almost idealistic romantic feeling between you two. The good thing is that your new-found romanticism will lead to a deep spiritual sense of connectedness to the one you love. Just remember not to lose your sense of reality - and that you still have bills to pay, a house to clean, and errands to run.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) There will be many issues around the home these next few weeks. This can be a physical manifestation with a broken phone line, a computer that has gone kaput, or general issues with reaching others. If there is no physical manifestations, then these next few weeks will be filled with miscommunication with others, especially those at home and neighbors.

Libra (September 23 - October 22) Libra, it's sometimes good to take a vacation or just hang out with friends and family. Especially with Venus currently in your chart, there is a good chance of a wonderful fling and relationship. If you do find another lover, it will be someone who will be totally different from anyone you have been attracted to in the past.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) Scorpio, lady luck is on your side. In astrological terms, this is Jupiter bringing you the benefits of fortune. Moreover, you will possess patience and a concern for detail that you have not had in a while. You will be more focused on projects than ever before, and you will have a pride in details that gives you a sense of satisfaction.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) Sagittarius, you most likely will have to sign a contract or deal with financial concerns these next few weeks. Paper work at home and work will be piling up, and this will effect your partnership with your significant other. You will find it hard to get away from your duties, and this may lead to arguments and frustration on the part of you partner.

*Travis is a bilingual teacher of early childhood with a Masters in Education.
He likes to study Astrology and writes children's story in his free time.*



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