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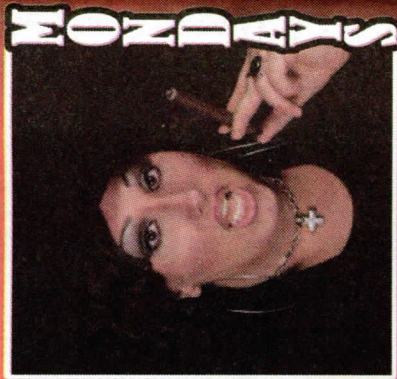
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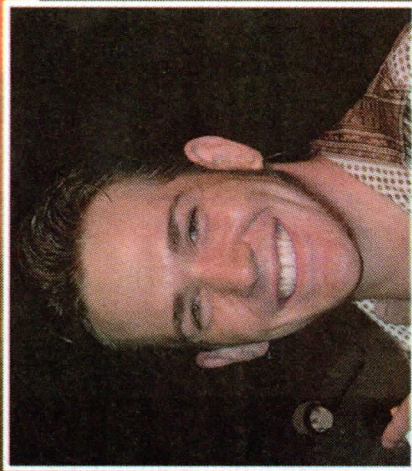
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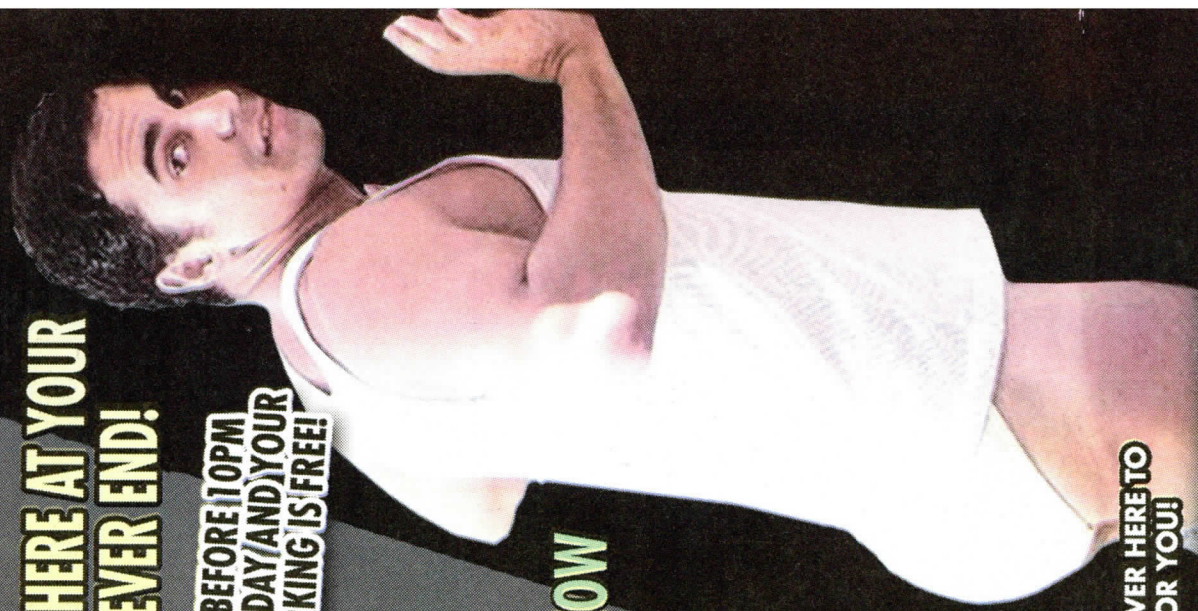
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GOTTA HAVES

Former Texan Bill Quinn emailed us with an alternative to the usual flowers or candy for Mother's Day gifts. As the founder of GiftGazer.com, he's created a line of elegant and fire-safe oil lamps, which guarantee the safety of not containing an open flame and effusing soot, as compared to fragrance candles.

More than 90 styles of lamps are available, featuring more than 40 fragrances - such as Island Bungalow, Grass Roots, and Wisteria Lane - to complement the lamp designs. And when your selected scent runs out, just visit the website to order another fragrance.



The T-shirt company Local Celebrity - well-known on the West Coast for its cheezy saying and tongue-in-cheek humor - is looking to turn the brand into a worldwide phenomenon. The designs are faux 1970s cool, with lots of sass. Started by three young siblings in a barn - their grandmother's barn to be exact - the clothing line is now available at stores such as Urban Outfitters and on-line at www.LocalCelebrity.net

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The Blanton Museum of Art

CREATING A TEXAS MASTERPIECE

By Nick Manix

"Those are the 600,000 coins for one of the pieces," Jessie said to me as I walked up along side the armored truck. "We've already hung the 200 cattle bones."

"For the Meireles?" I asked.

"Yes," she replied.

Jessie Otto Hite is the director of the new Blanton Museum of Art, which is housed in the new Mari and James A. Michener Building. Located on the south side of University of Texas campus in Austin, the new museum officially opened to the public on April 29th.

During my pre-opening visit a couple of weeks ago, it was obvious that Hite was thrilled with the progress leading up to opening day. Some of the more than 17,000 works of art had not been completely installed, but from what I saw - and from the twinkle in Jessie's eyes as she gave me the tour - it's obvious that the Blanton will serve as a vital cultural cornerstone for Austin.

"Someone from MOMA (the Museum of Modern Art in New York) came by to see the progress and was extremely jealous," she confided.

The Blanton is one of the foremost art museums in the country and the leading museum serving Central Texas. At 124,000 square feet, the museum now houses not only thousands of permanent pieces - including priceless works by Degas, Picasso and Lichtenstein - but rotating exhibits featuring some of the most anticipated and creative works of art in the world.

Our first stop during my pre-opening tour was the main entrance, where I was surprised to see construction crews pouring concrete into a gaping hole.

"That is the Edgar A. Smith Building," Hite said, as if reading my mind. "It will be 56,000 square feet when

completed and will house a café, museum shop, classrooms, an auditorium and offices. It will open next year."

In addition to the new building, the continuing construction will include a public garden and plaza, which spans an impressive 145,000 square feet and was designed by internationally renowned architect Peter Walker. Walker, along with architect Michael Arad, was recently selected as the designer of the World Trade Center Memorial in New York City.

Outside the main building, intricate courtyards - complete with benches, tables, and trees - provide a resting and reflecting area resplendent with shade for the hot summer months. By creating such a warm and inviting atmosphere - and being located directly across the street from the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum - the Blanton is poised to become a major Texas tourist destination.

"The Blanton has retractable screens on the windows and the roof in order to let in the natural light," Hite pointed out as we continued our journey through the galleries. "That is the only way to view art. We can control the amount of light that is let in giving patrons the best viewing experience possible."

Included in the Blanton's collection are 15th century contemporary prints and drawings, including the Barbara Duncan Collection. Containing more than 13,000 prints, the collection, forms the only encyclopedic collection in Texas and one of the finest on an American campus.

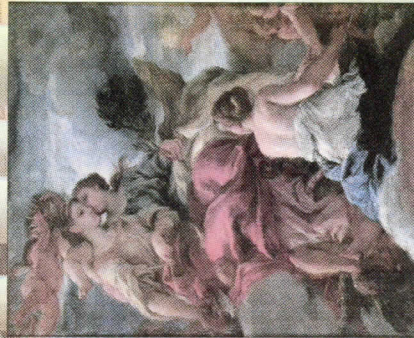
More than 300 European paintings - including the



Luca Cambiaso
"Madonna and Child with the Young Saint John the Baptist,"
c.1550
Oil on wood panel



Guido Reni
"The Christ Child Playing with a Finch," c. 1634-45
Oil on canvas



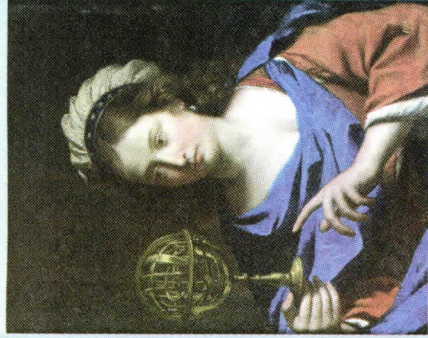
Jan Brueghel the Elder,
"Diana and Callisto,"
c. 1610-c.1620
Oil on copper

Suida-Manning Collection of Renaissance and Baroque Art - are featured in the new galleries. During my tour, I revealed in pieces of work by the Italian Old Masters, such as Sebastiano del Piombo, Parmigianino, Veronese, Rubens, Claude Lorrain and Guercino.

Hidden surprises are revealed at every turn. There is a Kandinsky, Crespí and a Rembrandt. Romanelli, Morin and Blanchard are found around another corner. Renowned author James A. Michener and his wife Mari also donated a collection of 20th Century American paintings in 1972, which are now on display in the new museum galleries.

"When we acquired this painting," Hite said, pointing to Riminaldi's *Saint Agatha*, "her breasts were painted out of the picture. We had to hire someone to restore it."

(Continued on Page 8)



Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, called Guercino
Personification of Astrology,
c. 1650-55
Oil on canvas

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Capital City Men's Chorus and Human Rights Campaign are proud to present this landmark choral work for the first time in its entirety, with full orchestra, for Austin audiences. First commissioned in 1996 for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, *NakedMan* speaks universally of rage and love, despair and hope.



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This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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Blanton Museum of Art (Cont. from Page 7)

For the first time, the Blanton will integrate Latin American and American works of art - will encompass 125 pieces and spanning the early 20th century - in a comprehensive, permanent installation. The installation *America/Americas* explores the artistic convergences and divergences among these major works, comparing the related history, politics, economics and cultures of both continents.

"The Blanton is exceptionally positioned among the U.S. museums to present this groundbreaking project, given our collection, history of scholarship, and commitment to expanding the framework to discussion for art history," Hite said.

During my visit, I was lucky enough to meet one of the artists as he was installing his work. Daniel Jorglar - one of the leading young artists working in Argentina today - creates magical and evocative formal compositions out of everyday objects, such as Post-It Notes, rulers, wood and reams of paper. His piece *The Invisible Jump* -



Diego Gravinese
"Buenos Aires (I used to love that suicide world), 2000." Acrylic on canvas

which I witnessed being installed - is incredible. Words can't describe what I saw, and to see it is to believe it; be ready to experience a suspension of disbelief.

The Meireles work that Hite and I discussed as I began my visit is entitled *Missao/Missoes (How to Build Cathedrals)*. Created by Cildo Meireles in 1987, the work consists of 600,000 coins, 800 communion wafers, 200 cattle bones and 80 paving stones. The coins are scattered on the floor and are boxed in by the paving stones. The communion wafers create a column up the middle of the piece, reaching into the cattle bones that are suspended from the ceiling.

"This is a very exciting time for us," Hite said, "Finally, Central Texas will have a leading art museum. We are overdue."

The Blanton Museum of Art is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; on Thursdays, the museum stays open until 8 p.m. Sunday hours are from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and the building is closed on Mondays. For information about exhibitions, programs, parking and hours, visit www.BlantonMuseum.org or call (512) 471-7324 or

Nick Manix is a writer and journalist living in Austin.

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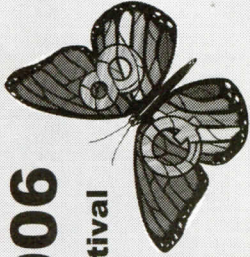
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Photography: Shawn Northcutt, Photography

Q Cinema 2006

Fort Worth's GLBT Film Festival Takes Flight May 18th

By Timothy J. Niehay



The portrayal of the human experience through heterosexual eyes has been the dominant public view for quite some time. But recently, GLBT moviegoers found relief in the form of the film *Brokeback Mountain*, which allowed mainstream audiences to observe life from another perspective.

Yet, movies from Hollywood that show a fair and balanced view of anything other than heterosexuality are few and far between. Is it any wonder the battle for equality is still being fought in our court systems and political arenas?

Helping to win the battle for equality and acceptance, the eighth annual Q Cinema Film Festival - slated for May 18th through May 21st in Fort Worth - promises to provide valued entertainment that tells the numerous stories from the GLBT world.

At the Rose Marine Theater, located on 1440 North Main Street, Fort Worth's longest running film festival will showcase the lives, loves and cultures that aren't always produced by Hollywood.

"Our world is so heterosexual, and it's important to me as an independent filmmaker to be able to tell our stories and give our community entertainment that they can relate to," said Andrea Meyerson, film director and distinguished Q Cinema festival guest. "It's so great to have a vehicle to showcase our work to the LGBT community, and the gay film festivals provide that."

Meyerson is the director of the film *Laughing Matters* ... *More*, an ongoing stand-up comic series and one of the world premieres at this year's Q Cinema festival. Like other festival specials guests - including cartoonist Eric Orner and director George Bamber who will attend the opening night film *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green* - Meyerson will



Q Cinema guest director Andrea Meyerson

spend most of this year presenting her movie at film festivals.

"I would like it to be shown on cable and then release the DVD - basically the same life my first film, *Laughing Matters*, had. I'm talking to distributors now," Meyerson said. "I am also planning on producing and directing two more films in this series: *The Men of Laughing Matters* and *Laughing Matters, The Next Generation*."

Also attending the festival as distinguished guests will be local directors Dave and Kim Stovall, for the world premiere of the film *Blue Saloon*. Several of the movie's cast members will be in attendance for the debut.

While the movies selected for the festival are geared toward the GLBT community, the event isn't meant to be exclusive.

"Basically, we want to show films that most people never get to see," said Todd Camp, Artistic Director for "It's not necessarily about gay movies or that only gay people should see them. No matter what their sexuality, we are really trying to reach out to the straight people of our communities."

This year's festival - and festivals in the past - are all about bridging the gap in equality by bringing the community together as a whole, Camp said.

"Gay film festivals give our community an opportunity to enjoy art and culture that we can relate to, and it doesn't matter what part of the world you live in," said Meyerson.

Volunteers are still needed for this year's festival and on-going events in the future.

"We want more people to step out and volunteer," said Stuart Michael, Coordinator for Q Cinema. "We



Director George Bamber, who makes his directorial debut with "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green," photo by J. Kawaja.

While the movies selected for the festival are geared toward the GLBT community, the event isn't meant to be exclusive.



Joel Brooks and Richard Riehle star as the irrepressible Hat Sisters in "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green," Photo: Bob Sebree.

2006 Q Cinema Highlights

Thursday, May 18th, at 7:30 p.m.:

- *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green*
- *Available Men* (Texas Premiere)

Friday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.:

- *The Blue Saloon*, with directors Dave and Kim Stovall and several cast members in attendance (World Premiere)

- *Begging for Change*, with director J.T. Tepnapa, producer Bill Warren and star Brandon Michael Larcom in attendance (World Premiere)

Saturday, May 20th:

- 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. - *All in the Family* Shorts Program, featuring several U.S. and world premieres, plus several directors in attendance

- 9 p.m.: Wilson Cruz Tribute - *Fabulous! The Story of Queer Cinema* and *Looking for Mr. Right*

Sunday, May 21th:

- 1 p.m. - *Lesbian Grandmothers From Mars*
- 3 p.m. - *Our Shorts Are Showing...Again* Shorts Program, featuring several U.S. and world premieres, plus several directors in attendance



- 7 p.m. - *Laughing Matters* ... *More!*, with director Andrea Meyerson in attendance (Texas Premiere)
- 9 p.m. The Q Awards and Closing Night Party

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday, May 10th @ 7 pm - Josh Frank, "Fool The World: The Oral History of a Band Called Pixies"
- Friday, May 12th @ 7 pm - Sasha Abramsky, "Conneted: How Millions Went to Prison, Lost the Vote and Helped Send George W. Bush to the White House"

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need folks who could work in the box office or perhaps concessions. We also need greeters, ticket takers and ushers."

"Our volunteers' time is appreciated," he said. "And to show them our thanks, they all get complimentary passes into the shows."

Individual tickets for opening and closing night feature films will be \$10 each for the general public and \$8 for students. Individual tickets for the other nights will be \$8 for general admission and \$6 for students.

Also offered this year is a Festival Pass for \$80, which includes all the films in the festival plus the opening and closing night parties. Organizers expect this year's festival to be a full house.

"Getting good seats is always an issue, and those with the Festival Pass will get the VIP treatment," said Michael.

For those still wishing to secure good seats but who don't want spring for the pass, Michael suggests that attendees arrive at least 15 minutes prior to each posted show time. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.BoxOfficeTickets.com or at the door before each screening. For more information on volunteering, contact Stuart Michael at (817) 846-5089. Visit www.QCinema.org for full programming details.

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DATELINE

BY JENNIFER PARELLO

Outing Myself to My Mom

So, I finally came out to my mother. "Mom," I said, "I'm gay."

My mother was lying in a hospital bed, heavily sedated and breathing on a respirator. I looked at the machine clocking her vital signs. Her blood pressure didn't shoot up following my announcement. So, I told her again.

"Mom, I'm a lez-bee-ane," I said, giggling madly. It was the first time I laughed since my mother was rushed to the emergency room a week before. My dad and I had spent the past several days pacing the halls of intensive care, wringing our hands as the news turned increasingly grim.

But, then, a ray of hope appeared at my mother's deathbed in the form of a stunningly beautiful - and chillingly remote - pulmonologist.

"Ms. Parello," she said, regarding me coolly, refusing to soothe my nerves with any hint of warmth. She seemed to be missing certain character traits that make a person human.

Oooh, she was just my type. I brushed the tears from my eyes and fluffed my hair hopefully.

"I'd like to talk to you about your mother's condition."

"Let's do it over cocktails," I said, shoving the respirator out of the line of vision so the doctor could admire my fetching figure, which had benefited from an onset of anorexia brought on by worry about my mother.

"Does the hospital cafeteria serve martinis?"

The doctor ignored me (which only made me love her more) and curtly announced that my mother was going to be fine. I swooned as I watched her white coat flapping out of the room.

And that's when I told my mother I was gay.

My mother is the most industrious person I know.



Picture courtesy ABC News

She is happiest when she is accomplishing four tasks at once. So, I knew that she'd appreciate my attempt to multitask in the ICU - demonstrating that I could both grieve and flirt inappropriately at the same time.

Although this is the first time I had "officially" come out to my mother, it would come as no surprise - assuming she had heard my announcement through the Judy Garland cocktail of morphine and assorted opiates dripping through the IV into her bloodstream. For years, she has acknowledged my sexuality through a complicated vocabulary of sighs.

She would drag me to Saks, for instance, and insist that I try on a St. John Knit dress. I'd slip into it and immediately push up the sleeves - causing the saleslady to rip the dress off me in a panic.

As the saleslady returned the dress to the safety of its hanger, my mother would shake her head sadly, and exhale deeply through her nose. Translation: My daughter, the lesbian, will never appreciate fine knits.

Or she'd casually mention that she watched an episode of "Primetime Live," and isn't Diane Sawyer wonderful? And I'd respond, "She certainly is" - trying hard not to drool.

My mother would stare at me for a moment in stunned silence, and she'd drop her eyes and emit a short blast of air from her mouth. Translation: My daughter, the lesbian, has some type of sick fantasy life that revolves around Diane Sawyer (Happily, all true!).

After I learned that my mother would recover, I feared that the trauma to her lungs would damage her ability to communicate through sighs. But the first thing she did upon waking was to point a disapproving finger at my hair and sigh heavily into her oxygen mask.

Translation: If my daughter, the lesbian, ever hopes to woo my pulmonologist - or Diane Sawyer, for that matter - she'd better get herself a decent haircut.

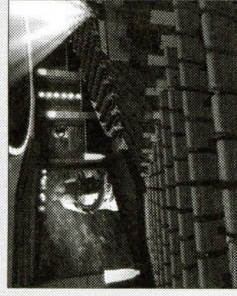
Jennifer Parello is a nationally-syndicated humorist and journalist. You can reach her at www.JenniferParello.com

GET OUTTA TOWN!

BY AMY FORD, CTC

ships in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Europe. The QM2 marks the first transatlantic charter for the well-known company.

While mainstream cruise ships offer amenities that include discos, spa services, a theater and more, the QM2 goes above and beyond to provide guests with every possible luxury at sea - such as the Canyon Ranch Spa, a full-scale planetarium, and a 500 seat lecture hall.



The Planetarium; photo courtesy Cunard Cruiselines

The crew to passenger ratio is unlike any other cruise line - 1:2. For guests who enjoy a more active vacation, the QM2 offers virtual reality golf as well as a full scale basketball court. Seasoned cruisers can still expect to

(Continued on Page 14)

Cunard Cruise Line

debuted the much-anticipated Queen Mary 2 on January 12th, 2004, when she set sail from Southampton, England. She is the largest, longest, and tallest ocean liner in the world, holding more than 2,600 passengers. She is 147 ft longer than the Eiffel Tower, her whistle is audible for 10 miles, and the cost for building such a marvel is estimated to be \$800 million!

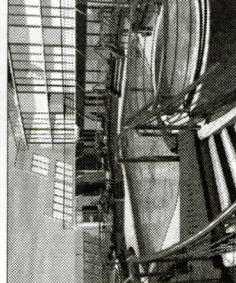


The Queen Mary 2; photo courtesy Cunard Cruiselines

Until now, the QM2 has only played host to the elite of the elite. But RSVP Vacations opens this luxurious opportunity to the masses by chartering the ship for May 2007, marking the first ever gay and lesbian charter for the QM2.

The QM2 will set sail from New York City on May 29th, 2007 - which happens to be Memorial Day weekend - en route to Southampton, England, with festivities planned in both cities. Passengers can expect numerous parties, activities, speakers, and special entertainment geared for GLBT clientele. The QM2 offers a variety of levels of style and comfort for travelers who desire sophisticated adventures.

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The on-deck pool; photo courtesy Cunard Cruiselines

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NATURALLY HEALTHY

BY DR. JEANNE GALLOWAY

Spring Cleaning

Detoxification - that is a word that is used a lot these days. Toxins are all around us in our modern existence. There are external toxins like food additives, chemical solvents like cleaning supplies, heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, drugs and alcohol.

There are even internal toxins. And when our bodies don't have the right balance of "good bacteria" versus "bad bacteria" we are setting ourselves up for an internal toxic soup.

There are many diseases that are directly associated with toxicity: headaches, muscle aches, joint pain, allergies, chronic fatigue, irritability and mental confusion. Major diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and rheumatoid arthritis are also associated with environmental toxicity.

There are several nutrients that are found in foods that help promote detoxification: magnesium, copper, zinc, vitamin C, B vitamins, and lots of good protein sources. Foods that carry a great deal of these nutrients include cruciferous vegetables - such as broccoli, cabbage, bok choy, arugula, cauliflower, oranges, tangerines and lemons.

A spice that has proven helpful to the detoxification process

is turmeric; sprinkle it on any savory dish. Onions and garlic are great detoxification agents, too.

Your liver is the main organ that detoxifies your body; it takes dangerous substances and converts them into more harmless compounds. Herbal treatments for the liver and for detoxification you should consider include milk thistle; it has been shown to actually regenerate liver cells and is a wonderful addition to any liver detoxification program.

If you want to detoxify, it is important to have a clean digestive system. Consider a program to help regulate bowel movements, balance good bacteria, and increase your in-take of fiber. Fiber is found in vegetables and whole grains primarily, although there are some great fiber supplements.

So, we spring clean for a reason: to make our summertime full of fun and enjoyment and to not live in a cluttered environment. Try finding a natural health practitioner this spring so that you can enjoy a phenomenal summer - feeling strong and vibrant.

Dr. Jeanne Galloway, ND - AustinsNaturalDoctor.com is a medical school trained naturopathic physician offering natural alternatives to your health concerns. She is also a member of Austin's Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

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BY ROBYNN BETZ

Heart Disease - Part 1

Recently, my girlfriend and I were told by our doctor that we are at risk for heart disease. It's not a high risk, but it's a risk none the less. That piece of information was a cold, hard reality check.

As I was perusing the internet for information to help lessen our chances of heart disease, I discovered that May 14th through the 20th is "National Women's Health Week." So schedule a check up and check out a website such as www.nlm.nih.gov to help combat this deadly disease.

Coronary heart disease is the main form of heart disease. It is a disorder of the blood vessels of the heart that can lead to heart attack. A heart attack happens when an artery becomes blocked, preventing oxygen and nutrients from getting to the heart. Often referred to simply as heart disease, it is one of several cardiovascular diseases. Other cardiovascular diseases include stroke, high blood pressure, angina (chest pain), and rheumatic heart disease.

My research showed that some women are not concerned with heart disease, because they think it can be easily "cured" with surgery. This is a myth, as heart disease is a lifelong condition - once you get it, you'll always have it.

True, procedures such as bypass surgery and angioplasty can help blood and oxygen flow to the heart more easily. But the arteries remain damaged, which means you are more likely to have a heart attack. What's more, the condition of your blood vessels will steadily worsen unless you make changes in your daily habits.

Many women die of complications from heart disease, or become permanently disabled. For this reason, it is so vital to take action to prevent and control this disease.

Important risk factors for heart disease - such as high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, being overweight, and being physically inactive - are preventable with simple changes in lifestyle and habits. However, some risk factors - such as age and family history of early heart disease - can't be changed.

For women, age becomes a risk factor at 55. After menopause, women are more apt to develop heart disease, in part because their body's production of estrogen drops. Women who have gone through early menopause, either naturally or because they have had a hysterectomy, are twice as likely to develop heart disease as women of the same age who have not yet gone through menopause.

A family history of early heart disease is another risk factor. If your father or brother had a heart attack before age 55, or if your mother or sister had one before age 65, you are more likely to get heart disease yourself.

While certain risk factors cannot be changed, it is important to realize that you do have control over many others. Protecting your heart can be as simple as taking a brisk walk, whipping up a good vegetable soup, or getting the support you need to maintain a healthy weight.

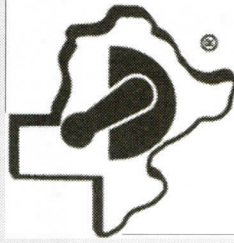
Each individual risk factor greatly increases a woman's chance of developing heart disease. But having more than one risk factor is especially serious, because risk factors tend to "gang up" and worsen each other's effects. So, the message is clear: every woman needs to take her heart disease risk seriously - and take action to reduce that risk.

Your physician can be an important partner in helping you set and reach goals for heart health. But don't wait for your doctor to mention heart disease or its risk factors, as many doctors don't routinely bring up the subject with women patients.

So during your next check up, ask questions about your physician about your chances of developing heart disease and how you can lower your risk. Also ask for tests that will determine your personal risk factors.

Next Issue: "Heart Disease - Part 2"

Robynn Betz is a nurse living in Austin.



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BY RHETT MARSHALL

The Art of Brunch

I joined a group of friends last weekend for a bite of lunch at a new downtown restaurant. In the course of our many conversations, we debated the origins of "brunch." I did a little research on the subject and discovered that the common American pastime is actually British by birth.

According to *Punch Magazine*, the term originated in 1896 as British student slang. A portmanteau of the words "breakfast" and "lunch," brunch typically lasts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No other meal period can claim such an expansive time slot.

In Texas, most brunch offerings consist of a self-serve buffet of standard breakfast fare - eggs, pancakes, sausages, bacon,



ham, fruits, pastries, and the like - plus salads, light entrees, and vegetables. More elaborate brunch buffets, such as the spreads at the nicer hotels, also often include carving stations, cold seafood, many types of breads, and desserts of all sorts.

However, the brunch trend now in restaurants is toward more of a special, lighter menu of specialty entrees. This allows the restaurant to offer deviations and variations from their regular menu selections, and the customer doesn't have

to hop around the dining room to retrieve their meal.

Brunch is often marketed as a premium meal, and there is a cult-like following of brunch fans who enthusiastically support its premium pricing. The trick for the restaurateur is to offer a selection that doesn't make them look like a glorified Denny's. At premium prices, diners expect more than run-of-the-mill omelets and a slice of melon.

Personally, I prefer to dig out my Martha Stewart cookbooks and whip up a nice brunch at my house and invite a few friends over to dine. Then we kill a couple of hours with mimosas and conversation. It's so civilized, it's practically British.

Rhett Marshall is a writer living in Austin.



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BY SAM SANCHEZ

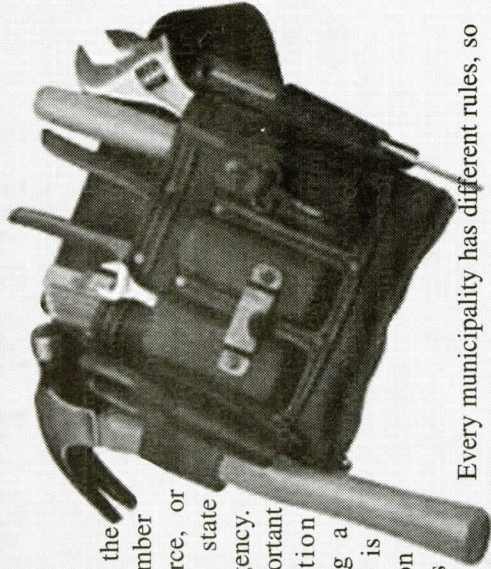
Hiring a Handyman

People born with the home improvement gene excel at installing mini-blinds, putting in dimmers, and replacing ceiling fans. For the rest of us - the great unskilled - the only choice is to hire a handyman to do these tasks for us.

There is no standard handyman profile; each individual brings to your home different abilities and experience. Remember that even though most handymen have a variety of skills, some jobs are best left to specialists. For example, handyman can install a chandelier, but it would be better to use an electrician to install a fuse box.

The best way to locate a handyman is through a referral from a friend, relative or business associate. Another way to locate a handyman is to inquire at lumberyards, condo associations and hardware stores. These businesses and organizations often keep lists of tradesmen who they refer. And don't forget to check your local GLBT telephone directory.

When interviewing a handyman, ask for references - and check them out. One way to check on a handyman's reliability is to check with the local Better Business



Bureau, the local Chamber of Commerce, or with the state licensing agency.

One important consideration when hiring a handyman is the question of business permits. Every municipality has different rules, so be sure your handyman's business is registered with the city or county.

Some home improvements must comply with local home building codes, and your handyman will probably need to be licensed to do this type of work. In some localities, handymen without the proper occupational license can face stiff fines if caught by the authorities.

And then there is the matter of price. Some handymen charge by the hour, with a minimum charge, and others charge by the job. It's probably best to negotiate a total price up front. This way, you avoid problems that arise when a workman under-estimates the time it takes to complete the job.

Let the handyman know if you have an upper limit on spending. In some towns, local regulations require that home improvement workers give a written estimate for jobs above a certain amount. A written estimate isn't a bad idea - regardless of the size of the job.

Your handyman should have some sort of liability insurance coverage, and it's not unreasonable to ask for proof. Insurance is a significant expense for the handyman and will be reflected in his overhead - and therefore your cost. Despite that, having insurance means your handyman is a committed professional.

Once you've hired your handyman set up an appointment to have the work done. Be sure to have everything the handyman will need to complete his tasks. If he's installing a light fixture, for example, make sure you have all the necessary screws and components.

You should be prepared to pay the handyman once the work is completed. How you pay - cash, check, credit card - depends on what arrangements you've made beforehand. Inspect the work carefully and make sure you get a signed receipt for your payment.

Sam Sanchez is a writer based in San Antonio and publisher of QSanAntonio.com.



BY RYAN STEVENS

RV

Williams, Daniels, and Chenoweth Make This "RV" Trip Tolerable

Grade: B+

An overworked Bob Munro (Robin Williams - *House of D*), his wife Jaime (Cheryl Hines - *Herbie: Fully Loaded*), their 15-year old daughter Cassie (Joanna "JoJo" Levesque - *Aquamarine*) and 12-year old son Carl (Josh Hutcherson - *Zathura*) are in desperate need of some quality time together. After promising to take them on a family vacation to Hawaii, Bob abruptly changes plans without telling them - and takes them on a road trip to Colorado in a recreational vehicle.

Dragging his wife and kids kicking and screaming into the RV, Bob's togetherness plan - which is partly a ruse to keep him from losing his job - almost immediately hits a major speed bump. The RV life is a far cry from their comfortable life in Los Angeles, and every attempt Bob makes to get them into the spirit of the vacation threatens to tear them further apart.

At an RV camp, the Munro family is befriended by the Gornicke family, an irritatingly happy-go-lucky clan of full-time RVers lead by hillbilly parents Travis (Jeff Daniels - *Because of Winn-Dixie*) and Mary Jo (Kristin Chenoweth - *The Pink Panther*). The more the Munros try to elude the Gornickes, the more their paths seem to cross. But misfortune has a way of uniting even the most dysfunctional family members, and each setback inadvertently helps the Munros become a true family again.

Director Barry Sonnenfeld (*The Addams Family*) delivers a family film that we would expect from him: dysfunctional. But by throwing a dysfunctional family into a confined space for a 31-hour road trip, he has provided the basis for a funny story where you dislike everyone except for Robin Williams' character.



Jeff Daniels and Kristin Chenoweth provide plenty of comic relief as the banjo-playing, singing, white-trash family. This film is perfect for people with children and people without. *RV* is one hour and 38 minutes and rated PG for crude humor, innuendo and language.



Hoot

Hoot Flies onto the Silver Screen

Grade: C+

Based on the bestselling family book by the same name, Hoot tells the story of a Montana boy named Roy Eberhardt (Logan Lerman - *The Butterfly Effect*) who moves to Florida and discovers a disturbing threat to a local population of endangered owls. With the help of a fellow classmate Beatrice Leep (Brie Larson - *13 Going on 30*) and her dinky, runaway stepbrother only known as Mullet Fingers, the trio take on greedy land developers, corrupt politicians, and clueless cops including Officer David Delinko (Luke Wilson - *The Family Stone*) to stop a popular Pancake House chain from building on the land where burrowing endangered owls reside.

Charming, pleasant, and full of new songs by Jimmy Buffett, this film delivers what it's suppose to - an adaptation of the book. But that's about it. It's cute, but not worthy of seeing again and again.

Similar to two of last year's bestselling books-turned-to-movies (*Because of Winn-Dixie* and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*), don't expect this film to generate more than mediocre grosses. It's a simple film, with a little bit of heart (toward the owls), and a lot of Jimmy Buffett - both singing and acting.

If your kids are dying to see it because they read it in school or at home, then go for it. If your kids are not begging you, then go see *RV* or *Akeelah and the Bee*. *Hoot* is one hour and 31 minutes and rated PG for mild bullying and brief language.

Ryan Stevens is journalist and Hollywood insider who lives in Los Angeles.



GROOVE LINES

BY CHRIS ALLEN

Let's take a quick look at a legendary disco sensation. Chic was formed in 1976 by guitarist Nile Rodgers and bassist Bernard Edwards. Chic is best remembered for their disco songs, including "Saturday," "Everybody Dance," "Le Freak," "I Want Your Love," and "Good Times."

As a group, Chic scored eight Top Ten Billboard hits during the course of 20 years. As producers, Nile and Bernard worked with artists such as Sister Sledge, Diana Ross, Madonna, Power Station, and Debbie Harry, just to name a few.



Chic has influenced countless other artists and musicians since their inception. That sophisticated sound is still present on dance floors today. Even though Edwards passed in 1996, Rodgers is going strong, and his latest magic can be heard in newer

releases from Duran Duran, Shapeshifters, Soul Decision, the movie Drumline, and much, much more.

A brand new Chic album is due out this year. Stop by www.NileRogers.com, and pick up a copy of *Dance, Dance: The Best Of Chic* - and get your groove started.

This episode's old school pick comes to you from Austin - based remixer/producer Francis Preve. Just so you know, Preve's latest remix of Gabriel & Dresden's hot new single, "Tracking Treasure," recently hit the Music Week Top 10 in the United Kingdom. The single has entered the Billboard charts on fire with a bullet as well.

Gabriel & Dresden play quite a few Texas clubs each year. Look forward to hearing more of Preve's work on the forthcoming album from Chunky Music artist Jacinta.



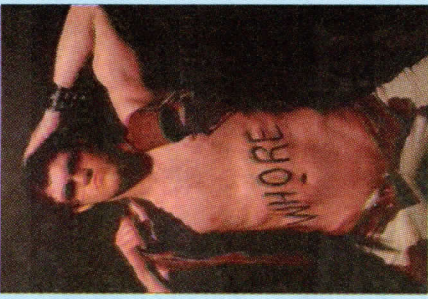
Gotta tell ya'll about the hot new single from the ever-fierce Michael M. His previous release, "Dear Diary," was a huge Texas hit. The genius returns to our dance floors and Ipods once again with "The Beat." Michael M teams up with programmer/producer Giuseppe D on this ferocious electro-track.



Of the four variations of the original, my fave to play is the first - "Da Freaks Vocal Mix." This energetic mix brilliantly works in a sample from M.J.'s hit "Beat It" that is restructured and filtered - pretty damn cool. There is also a killer hard tribal mix on the single. Buy your copy today on-line at www.AmplitudeRecordings.com. Check out - and listen to - Michael M on-line at www.TheMichaelM.com as well as his MySpace home at www.MySpace.com/TheRealMichaelM. "The Beat" will let you have it!

Speaking of letting you have it, 25-year-old sexy shock rocker Houston Bernard certainly will with his Texas Bareback Tour. His CD, *Whores Have More Fun*, is an awesome blend of hip hop, house, and dirty nasty

electronic dance. It's food for thought with a killer groove - it'll either make you smile or really offend you. Me? I like it.



Catch the Houston Bernard live on May 4th in San Antonio at Sanctuary, May 5th in Corpus Christie at House Of Rock with THE JINX, May 8th in Denton at Rubber Gloves, and ending up May 10th in Austin at Beerland with the Tuna Helpers. This guy's a lot of fun, ya'll - and sexy too. Check him out live, on My Space, or have more fun by getting your own copy at CDBaby.com/CD/HoustonBernard.

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. Trust me, I know.

DJ Chris "Dig'm" Allen is a musician and journalist who lives in Austin. Catch him spinning live at Rain on 4th and Halo in Bryan/College Station.

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The Capital City Men's Chorus Performs Landmark Concert

The Capital City Men's Chorus and the Human Rights Campaign have joined forces to bring the first full regional performance of *NakedMan* to Austin on Sunday, May 7th, at 4 p.m. The special concert event will be held at First United Methodist Church, located at 1201 Lavaca Street in Austin.

NakedMan - a landmark work, born of the emotional power of the gay man's experience - was originally commissioned for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The intelligent and insightful text of Philip Little - a librettist known for the operas *Dangerous Liaisons* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* - combines with the stirring and majestic score by Robert Seeley to speak universally of rage and love, despair and hope.

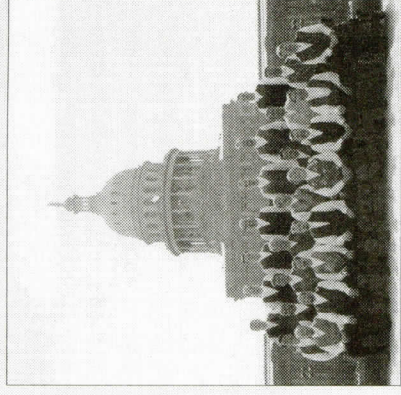
The Austin concert - complete with a full orchestra - represents the first time *NakedMan* has been performed in its entirety for Central Texas audiences. The concert also marks the first collaboration between the Human Rights Campaign and a GALA Chorus.

"Travis County, which encompasses most of Austin, was the only county in Texas to vote against Proposition 2

(the Texas Marriage Amendment)," said Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, Artistic Director for the Chorus. "*NakedMan* includes a movement entitled 'Marry Us' that speaks eloquently of the desire for love and marriage for all. We stand proud in our support of every American's right to marry."

The concert program will also include the world premiere of "To Singing," with words by Austin poet George Klawitter and music by Austin composer Karl Logue.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and are available at Lobo (3204-A Guadalupe), Tapelenders (1114 W. 5th Street), by phone at (512) 477-7464, or online at www.ccmcaustin.org. Student tickets will be sold at the door for \$15 with valid student ID. For more information, call (512) 477-7464 or visit on-line at www.CCMCAustin.org.



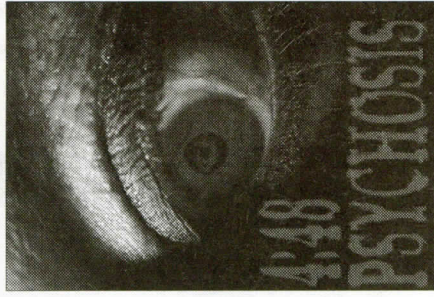
The Capital City Men's Chorus;
Photo by Yolanda Montemayor,
New Era Photography

BY ROB FAUBION

VORTEX Theatre Premieres Two New Works

This May, VORTEX Repertory Company, Austin's home for dangerous theatre, continues to push boundaries with the Texas premiere of *4:48 Psychosis*, a terrifying tale of suicide and mental illness. In her brief five-year career, British playwright Sarah Kane progressed from disrupter of the peace to dramatic icon.

Kane committed suicide in 1999 at the age of 28. Her final work, *4:48 Psychosis*, was first produced nearly a year and a half later and is a stunning piece of theatrical invention, as well as an autobiographical suicide note. Written shortly before her death, *4:48 Psychosis* presents a haunting poetic journey through the mind of a suicide victim.



Also at the VORTEX, actor/writer Alex Garza explores the life of the social outcast in the solo performance of *PULSE: One Man's Journey Through Himself*, playing May 11th through 28th. Through his own personal stories, some funny, some painful, some painfully funny, Garza tackles topics such as homosexuality, religion, performing children's theatre, body image, dating, - but above all, his obsession with Olivia Newton-John.

Garza is a Central Texas actor and writer whose original pieces *No Regrets* and *Harry the Homeless Homosexual Explains the Meaning of Life* were recently seen at FronteraFest 2006. He also writes a monthly column, "Deflections," for *SHOUT*'s online e-zine. The VORTEX is located at 2307 Manor Road; call (512) 478-LAVA (5282) for reservations and information.

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BY THERESA REBECK
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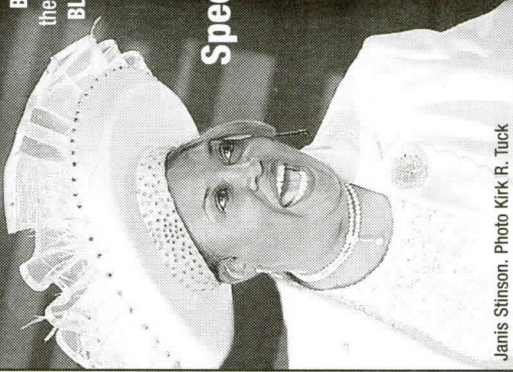


Photo Kirk R. Tuck

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Janis Stinson. Photo Kirk R. Tuck

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Drag Kings Team Up with Local Designers for Fashion Gala

On Friday, May 5th, expect to see bumblebee sculptures, pastel plastic wrap and fake flowers galore as the Austin Dragsters present "Trashy: The Spring Edition" at Elysium Nightclub, 705 Red River. Organizers say that the premier of "Trashy" in 2005 - featuring such fashions as garbage bag bubble skirts and a tin foil ball gown, was such a success that a repeat performance is in order.

"The Spring Edition" will showcase the work of Emily Clay and costume designer Allison Stelly. Models include drag kings and performers from Kings N Things, the Wunder Bois, and Austin Gender Conspiracy, along with special guests.

Cover is \$10 for 21years of age and older. Doors open at 9:00 p.m., and the show starts at 10 p.m. with live music by San Antonio darlings Girl in a Coma. The runway kicks off at 11 p.m., followed by a raffle, giveaways, and a dance party with the drag kings.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Eighth International Drag KingCommunity Extravaganza (IDKE 8), a four-day event celebrating gender performance and drag king culture. Coming to Austin on October 19th through 22nd, the event features an international performance showcase, academic workshops and panels, an art exhibit, film screenings, spoken word and additional performances during the weekend.

IDKE 8 will mark the first time that the annual event - the largest international gathering of drag king enthusiasts - will be held in the southern United States. To learn more, visit www.IDKEAustin.com.

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6th Street, on Saturday, May 6th., beginning at 7:30 p.m. May Day provides an exciting opportunity for art enthusiasts to gather in support of AIDS Services of Austin. The evening features food from nearby restaurants, including Wink, Cafe Josie, and Mars; live entertainment by Denia Ridley & The Marc Devine Trio; and living art by Coby Neal & The Flower Studio. Wine and other beverages are also included in the ticket price.

Tickets are \$75 each and may be purchased online at www.ASAustin.org or by calling (512) 406-6115. All ticket proceeds benefit ASA. Additionally, 10% of all art sales at the event will be donated to ASA

Top Drawer Puts Its Fashions On the Runway

On Sunday, May 7th, high fashion comes to Top Drawer Thrift when the store hosts its very own runway fashion show. "Top Drawer Coutur," produced by Austin's Almost Impatient style team, will display attire found solely at Top Drawer Thrift - that has been altered into new, hip, and elegant designs.

The Austin Chronicle's Stephen Moser is slated to host the event. The style show will also feature drinks, hors d'oeuvres, a live DJ, and live entertainment. After the runway show, select attire will be auctioned off to the event attendees.

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 dollars at the door. Ticket locations include Top Drawer Thrift, Project Transitions' administrative office, Orbit Salon, and Salon Kerizma. For more information, please call Project Transitions at (512) 454-8646.

Rugby Team Hosts Bachelor Auction

The Austin Lonestars Rugby Football Club plans to offset some of their game costs with their upcoming Bachelor Auction at the Rainbow Cattle Company, located at 305 West 5th Street. Members of the team will be auctioned off along with gift packages. Organizers say bidders could win hotel stays, dinner for two at participating restaurants, tickets to theatre and arena events, gift certificates for merchandise and services.

Established in 2003, the Austin Lonestars Rugby Football Club is a Division III rugby team and a member of USA Rugby and Texas Rugby Union. An openly diverse team, the group does not to discriminate regarding skill level, race, or sexual orientation. For more information, visit the team website at www.LoneStarsRugby.org.

Prime Timers Grows From Dream to World-Wide Status

On August 15th, 1987, Woody Baldwin found himself tired of it all, and he wasn't going to take it anymore. He did what very few gay men ever have the courage to do: he actually stopped going to the gay bars. Even more courageous, he got off his couch, stopped eating the chips and dip and refused to be lonely or depressed.

The germ of an idea came to him rather quickly and quietly. He knew he wasn't the only mature gay man out there, and with a little bit of footwork, maybe he could bring those like minds together.

At first, his friends and associates said, "Sure. Sounds great. Do it" - but, none would volunteer to help. And they'd quickly have something better to do when he called them - like sit on the couch eating chips and dip and be lonely or depressed.

He knew he was on his own. If he could just get that ball rolling a little...

Almost twenty years later, Woody Baldwin - a retired university professor and the creator of Prime Timers - is 86 years young and very proud of the organization he spearheaded 19 years ago. Prime Timers - a first of its kind, non-profit charity, dedicated to serving the mature, 40-year-old-plus gay male population - now sports 63 chapters worldwide and still growing - and growing.

Baldwin began with a simple business card size add in a local newspaper in Boston advertising 'a social for senior gay men' at the Gay & Lesbian Counseling Center. He didn't know what to expect; in fact, he had no idea how many would show up.

"Forty-two people showed up," Baldwin said, much to his delight and shock. "As far away as New Jersey. I knew then that there was a critical need for socials of this type for this 'left out group' - my group."

With the birth of the Boston Prime Timers, suddenly Baldwin was fielding a plethora of phone calls asking him for not only state information and services, but national and global, too. Woody knew he had tapped into something big, and he knew the time was right to act.

New York City, Canada, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Mineral Wells, San Antonio, Palm Springs, Oklahoma City, Orlando, Ft. Lauderdale, Colorado, Minneapolis/ St. Paul, Japan, Sweden, Europe, the U.K., Australia. Independent chapters were popping up back-to-back, which only confirmed to Mr. Baldwin that his hunches had always been correct.

"The gay community is so youth oriented that it forgets about the rest of us," he said.

Prime Timers was supplying the demand and need to this age specific "market" that made a conscious decision to socialize away from the bars and dance clubs. And the word- of- mouth was spreading like wild fire.

As Prime Timers galvanized, it offered cook-offs, pot lucks, dining field trips, picnics, breakfasts, lunches, sports events, movie field trips, theatre going, game nights, bowling, clothing optional activities, and networking possibilities. Woody says what he tries to discourage most is "persons under the age of 40 wanting in."

"The kids have their own places to go," he said. "If the under-40 guys want to be a member of Prime Timers, then they must be involved with a partner that is over-40. I'm very sensitive to that issue."

Prime Timers boasts a uniquely diversified membership base - of not only gay men, but also lesbians, bisexuals and transgender members. Vocations and employment run the gamut, from business-

men, teachers, and maintenance crew to psychologists, craftsmen and retired persons.

There's even a World Wide Prime Timers Convention; the next national event will be in Reno, Nevada, on October 11th through 14th, 2007. There is even discussion of holding a larger meeting in Toronto in 2009.

Each chapter holds one general meeting a month, with annual dues of \$20 for a single member and \$30 for a couple. Each independent chapter has its own elected board members, and each host their own meetings and organize fund-raisers. The most popular annual events include the Annual Christmas Party, which also brings in a multitude of toys for children with AIDS and Toys For Tots, and the Annual Halloween Party.

Prime Timers is the perfect example of one man's desire to make a difference in his community. That's what Woodrow Baldwin has done.

"I wanted to make a difference," Baldwin said. "I wanted to do something that would have a lasting impact on the gay community and unite the older gay generation, which I have done. I'm very proud of that. I'm very proud of where Prime Timers has gone; it serves a very important purpose."

"How wonderful is that!," he says with a gleam in his eye and a toothy smile.

For more information on Prime Timers, visit on-line at www.PrimeTimersWW.org.

Waide Aaron Riddle resides in Austin and is the winner of four national poetry awards and the author of two self-published books; visit him on-line at www.WaideRiddle.com.

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BY SAM SANCHEZ

Planning for S.A. Pride Celebrations in Full Force

Now that Fiesta San Antonio has come and gone, planning for this summer's two San Antonio Gay Pride celebrations is in full swing. Organizers for PrideFest San Antonio 2006 and Gay Pride San Antonio 2006 have put out a call for corporate sponsors, advertisers and volunteers.

Proceeds from both events benefit a variety of San Antonio's GLBT charities. Each event also offers numerous opportunities for community involvement.

The 25th annual San Antonio PrideFest, scheduled for June 17th at San Antonio's HemisFair Plaza, is the city's oldest GLBT pride observance. According to organizers, the event offers local businesses an opportunity to showcase their products and services to San Antonio's GLBT community in a "family-friendly, festival-like atmosphere." To date, organizers have sponsorship commitments from Wells Fargo, ID Lube, the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages, *SHOUT Magazine*,



and the San Antonio Current.

The PrideFest planning committee meets weekly on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the San Antonio Metropolitan Community Church, located at 611 East

Myrtle Street. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Chris Nombrena at (210) 630-9176 or email at chris210@peoplepc.com. The web address is www.AlamoPrideFest.org.

Gay Pride San Antonio began three years ago when local GLBT businesses sought to create a community celebration in the predominantly gay area of town. The event includes a block party and a night parade on North Main Street. This year Gay Pride San Antonio will be held on July 2nd.

Beneficiaries of this year's event include We Are Alive, Metropolitan Community Church of San Antonio, Chrissy's Kids, Alamo City Men's Chorale and Mujeres Unidas Contra el SIDA. The parade will include floats and marchers from throughout the community.

Gay Pride San Antonio planners meet every Thursday at 7 p.m. at The Saint, located at 1430 North Main Street. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Sharon Smith at (210) 264-5393 or via email at sharon68tx@yahoo.com.

HRC's Ladies on the Loose

The San Antonio chapter of the Human Rights Campaign has started a new monthly event called Ladies on the Loose (LOL). Taking place every third Thursday, the cocktail mixers are designed as lively get-togethers where participants can meet in a trendy bar or restaurant to socialize, network and - most importantly, say organizers - laugh out loud.

The monthly get-togethers also allow San Antonio's HRC to spread the word to the community about the organization's upcoming events and happenings.

(Continued on Page 28)

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San Antonio Happenings

(Continued from Page 26)

One important event they're currently promoting is their Gala Dinner, to be held in on October 21st at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. Joe Solmonese, HRC National President, is scheduled as the keynote speaker to help the local chapter celebrate "VIVA Equality!"

Organizers say that one fun aspect of the LOL gatherings is that they happen in a new and interesting location every month. The inaugural event in April was held at The Silo Restaurant.

The next outing will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on May 18th at Paesano's (1604), located at 3622 Paesanos Parkway. On June 18th, the event moves to Pasion Latin Bistro and Bar, located at 1401 N. FM 1604 in the Vineyard Mall.

For more information about Ladies on the Loose and other HRC San Antonio events, send an email to sahrinfo@yahoo.com.

Sam Sanchez is a writer based in San Antonio and publisher of QSanAntonio.com.

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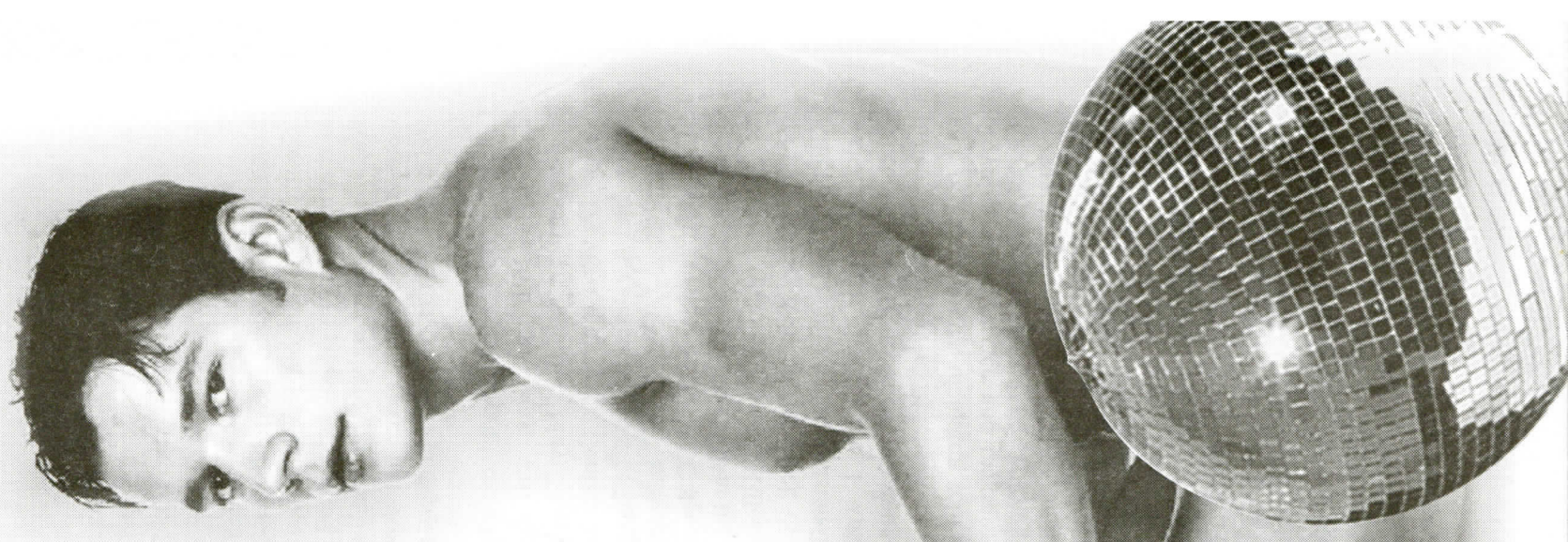
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HEART OF TEXAS HAPPENINGS

BY STEPHEN BOSTICK

Here in Waco, several big events are on the horizon. This May at Trix nightclub, performers such as Krystal Summers, Tommie Ross, and Sweet Savage will be entertaining the crowd. Visit the Club Trix website at www.TrixClub.com for details.

Also new in Central Texas is the opening of the new Ruth's Bar. Ruth has been in business several years and recently moved the bar to a new location, now located at the intersection of 8th and Franklin in downtown Waco. I visited recently for the first time, and the patron were very warm and welcoming. Ruth was very kind and made sure to say "hello" to every person who came to visit.

The Waco Metropolitan Community Church, located at 16th and Clay, will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Saturday, May 27th, at the Eddie and Velma Dwyer Community Center, located at 5th and Jefferson. A catered banquet at 7 p.m. will recognize the anniversary. On Sunday morning, the Reverend Troy Perry, founder of the MCC denomination, will be delivering a spirit-filled sermon at the church.

Finally, I ventured down to Killeen to check out the military boys - I mean, to check out the new bar in Killeen: The Beach. I had an outstanding time, as I was welcomed from the minute I walked in the bar. I received the VIP treatment, meaning I was not treated differently than any other customer. They truly take care of the customer, including waiters and waitresses providing table service and making sure you have a good time.

The Beach is also very strict with security. I have never felt so safe at a bar. From the time you walk in the bar, everyone is patted down and searched to make sure that they do not have a weapon. This might seem strange to some, but it is a nice feeling not having to worry about anything happening. The atmosphere in the bar was great, and the customers and all of the employees are very kind and welcoming. I will definitely return to The Beach to party again.

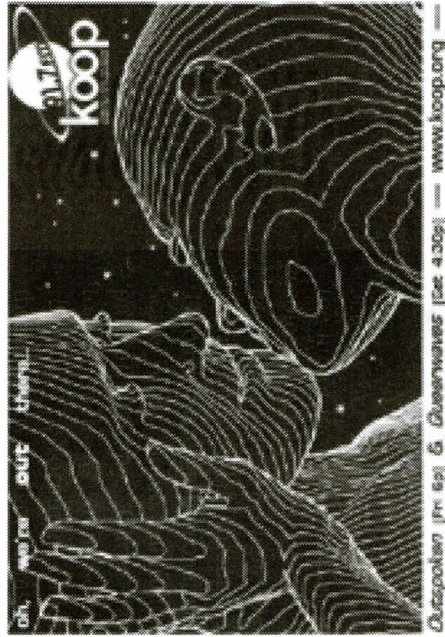
Stephen Bostick lives in Waco and represents the IH-35 corridor for SHOUT Magazine.



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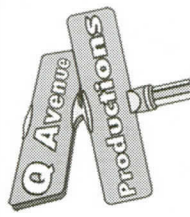
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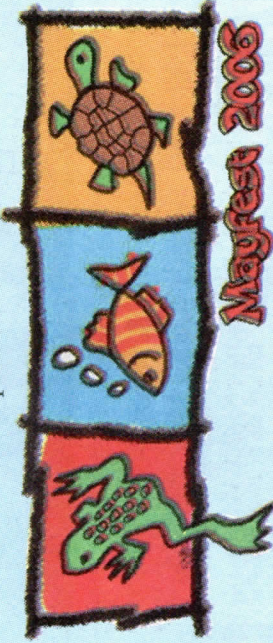
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BY TIMOTHY J. NIEHAY

34th Annual Mayfest Returns May 4th

Hundreds of yellow rubber ducks will be swimming to the finish line while stilted walkers delight crowds at this year's Mayfest, slated for May 4th through 7th. In its 34th year, the Fort Worth community festival will showcase many events the city has come to enjoy as well as some new experiences.



Located on the east side of University Drive, north of Interstate 30, Mayfest will occupy approximately 33 acres in Trinity Park along the banks of the Trinity River. The festival will offer seven stages of both theatrical and musical acts. The festival will also host

attractions such as jet-ski and bike shows.

Local artists will display their talent, and a contest will be held for student artists. Their artwork will be judged with a total of \$1000 to be awarded.

For the first time in its history, Mayfest will hold a 10K, 5K and 1K Fun Run. The race will be held May 6th and begin with registration at 6:30 a.m. in front of the Trinity Park Shelter House on West Seventh Street. Registration is \$25 for individuals and \$20 for teams of four or more, and includes an official race t-shirt, refreshments, entertainment, and complimentary Mayfest admission with race number on race day.

On Thursday and Friday, The event will be open from 3:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. On Saturday, gates will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The annual Mayfest event raises funds for community non-profit programs and the continued improvement and awareness of the parks and the Trinity River. For more information, visit www.Mayfest.org.

Diva Show Benefits TCAIN

The music and performance is rapture to some, but behind the glitz and glamour of the drag queen superstars remains a vital mission - the fight against AIDS. On May 5th, renowned drag diva and current reigning Miss Texas Roll Off Tournament (TROT) Ashley Rhone will host a special show at Best Friends, located on 2620 E Lancaster Avenue, beginning promptly at 8 p.m.

(Continued on Page 34)



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May 11th - Court Show 9pm

May 12th - Steak Night 8pm

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www.BestFriendsClub.net

BY TIMOTHY J. NIEHAY

Bono Visits Big D

For many years, Bono - the lead singer of Irish rock band U2 - has used his celebrity worldwide to influence the wealthy for the benefit of the poor. On Friday, May 5th, at 7:30 p.m., the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth presents "Bono Speaks Live" inside the Dallas Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 1st Avenue. Bono will speak on behalf of those struggling with poverty in Africa and the worldwide fight against global AIDS.

In 2002, Bono co-founded DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa) to raise public awareness of these issues and put pressure on wealthy governments to increase the quantity and quality of development resources for Africa. DATA also works with African leaders to improve democracy, accountability and transparency, to ensure aid is spent wisely.

Recently, Bono and DATA helped launch the ONE campaign in America. During 2005, ONE made news when it raised American voices to secure promises of near universal access to life-saving AIDS medicines, debt cancellation for 18 of the world's poorest countries, and a doubling of aid for Africa by 2010. To date, almost two million Americans have joined the ONE campaign (www.one.org).

Proceeds from the Bono Speaks Live benefit the non-partisan, non-profit World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth and its International Education Initiative - a program that offers extensive world-affairs knowledge and understanding to a majority of North Texas students each year.

Reduced-price tickets to Bono Speaks Live are available to World Affairs Council members; call (214) 965-8400 or visit www.DFWWorld.org to join. To purchase general admission tickets, call (214) 373-8000 or visit www.TicketMaster.com.

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Taste Addison Returns May 12th

The 14th annual Taste Addison will be held in Addison Circle Park, 4970 Addison Circle Drive, on May 12th through 14th. Organizers say more than 50 of Addison's most popular restaurants will be on hand, along with live music from such notable bands as the Go Go's, Hootie and the Blowfish, the Gin Blossoms, and the Fabulous Thunderbirds.

The event will be open on Friday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday's schedule will be from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the gate for \$5 per person before 5 p.m., \$8 after 5 p.m., or in advance at all participating Tom Thumb stores for a discounted price of \$5.

Parking is free and available at the corner of Dallas Parkway and Arapaho Road. For more information, call 1-800-ADDISON or visit www.AddisonTexas.net

Fort Worth Happenings (Cont. from Pg. 33)

"When I first began performing in drag, people told me I wouldn't be able to last six months - and here I am twenty years later hosting and performing to benefit TCAIN (Tarrant County Interfaith AIDS Network) and TROT," said Rhone. "You can have a thousand crowns in your closet, but none of those matters unless you have a crown for charity."

The girls will be putting their best foot forward in performance of this Las Vegas-style show, and only the best have been selected, according to Rhone.

"I've been putting on shows for the past three years, and they usually have been very good, in that the funds we raise are \$1,000 or better," said drag performer and TROT committee member, Jesse Negrete (a.k.a. Miss. Jessica Lord). Since a majority of state funding has been pulled from area non-profit organizations serving AIDS/HIV clientele, shows such as the ones Rhone puts together are the lifeblood for TCAIN, says Negrete.

"This will be a Las Vegas Style show, in that all the performers will be doing illusions of famous artists," he said. "When I began doing this, I thought if all I have to do is put on a dress and heels to help out, I'm gonna' do it. The generosity of the Fort Worth community always surprises me."

For more information, call the club at (817) 534-2280 or visit www.BestFriendsClub.net.



6th Annual Houston Dragon Boat Festival

The Texas Dragon Boat Association (TDBA) presents its 6th annual Houston Dragon Boat Festival on Saturday, May 6th. The exciting event takes place at Buffalo Bayou at Allen's Landing in downtown Houston - off Commerce between Main and Fannin - from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Spectators and participants of this free public event will celebrate Asian culture as they enjoy the diverse food, music and entertainment provided by TDBA. Consul General Hua Jinzhou of the People's Republic of China and Houston City Council Member Carol Alvarado will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of this year's event, and Mayor Bill White will



Dragon Boat Festival entertainers; picture by Steve Hang

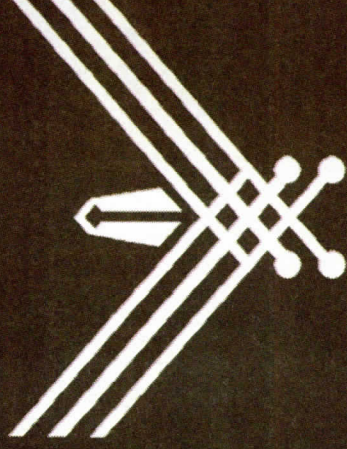
also be in attendance to deliver remarks at the opening ceremony.

"The Houston Dragon Boat Festival is one of the city's most culturally significant events," said City Council Member Alvarado. "I am proud to be part of an event that showcases our city and draws such a diverse crowd to its festivities each year."

The Dragon Boat Festival features corporate, community, youth and cancer survivor teams competing for the revered "Dragon Cup." Each team is formed of 20 paddlers, a drummer and a steersman, who bring new meaning to "the fast and the furious" as they race down a 250-meter stretch of water.

The Texas Dragon Boat Association is a 501(c)(3) Texas non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote the tradition and sport of dragon boating, increase awareness of Asian and Asian-American culture, and enhance cross-cultural understanding. TDBA organizes the Houston Dragon Boat Festival in Houston each May and the Gulf Coast International Dragon Boat Regatta in Bay Area Houston each October.

For more information, call (281) 808-6855 or visit www.TexasDragonBoat.com.



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ANNOUNCEMENT (Austin) Nude Campout! Austin Gay Nudists are hosting Nekkid Men Camping V for all Gay/Bisexual Male Nudists July 14th -16th at Buzzards Peak, a TCC Landsite south of Cameron, TX. A \$65 run fee covers all meals, beer, sodas, games, and entertainment. Call (210) 259-3936, email: david@cbsa.net, or visit AustinGayNudists@excite.com for more information.

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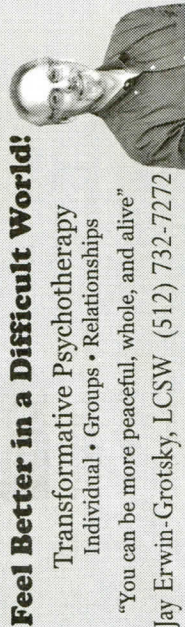
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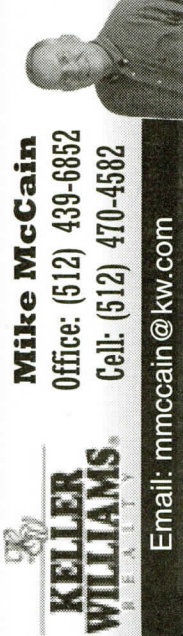


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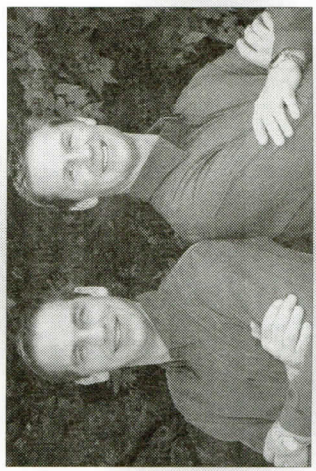
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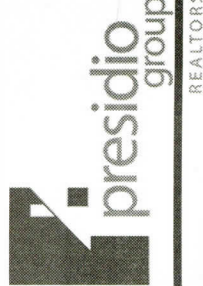
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.....BY **TRAVIS ROGERS**

Taurus (April 20- May 20) Taurus, this week will bring issues about how - and what - you communicate. You want to expand yourself now, and talk about things beyond the mundane. You are becoming more concerned about spiritual matters, but you feel that you are easily misunderstood.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) You feel this inner sense of peace, love, and harmony. This is a very creative time for you, and you notice that you are full of creative ideas and creative inspiration. Sometimes, these transits will bring out a real sense of romanticism and idealism that can cause you to be less grounded. This idealistic feeling is better expressed in arts, crafts, or some creative hobby than in relationships.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Cancer, Mars is now a big player in your life. You have a lot of energy right now, and it is easy for you to get things done. Things that you held off from doing are now easily done. However, relationships - both familial and others - could suffer, as you spend your time away from others.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) Leo, you want stability, and you are willing to work for it. You are more focused on immediate concerns, and you feel that you need to get your life in order. This is also a long lasting transit, and you may find yourself taking on more responsibility - including the responsibility of others - that may have lifetime effects.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) You will feel "lucky" these next few weeks, because Jupiter - the planet of good fortune - is working in your favor. You will be very successful in any group activity or organization. You may take on the role as the "messenger" between persons; if so, this can give you a lot of esteem from others.

Libra (September 23 - October 22) Libra, as I stated in the last column, there are issues again this week with relationships being broken apart. There is a word of caution here: you may become so enamored of an ideal, idea, concept, or moral position that you feel you need to be the crusader of a cause. This doesn't have to be something lofty. You may take a strong personal position on a situation within your family of friends - to the point that it causes damage to relationships.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) You have had a long-term and positive transit with Jupiter. Usually, this is good, but there is always a danger here. Firstly, watch for over-indulgence in food, spending, and drink. While Jupiter advocates you, this week can see you not keeping promises and heeding responsibilities. Jupiter is so fun-loving that it's easy for you forget that you still have things to do.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) Three planets are working for you these next few weeks: the Sun, Saturn, and Venus. This is the time to invest money, time, or anything of value. Saturn is giving you the self-discipline and control you need to make a wise investment, while Venus brings to you a concern for property and monetary matters. Use this time to your advantage.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) Capricorn, you could experience two outcomes from the planetary transits these next few weeks. First, this could be a great time of self-awareness, as incidents of hostility with others can make you very aware of your own ego drive and how you can use your ego positively. Second, this can be a time when you could experience accidents.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18) A long-term transit for you, Aquarius, has been the influence of Neptune working on your spirituality and world view. These next few weeks will see a burst of spiritual insight that expresses itself in a sensual, romantic, and abundant way. This could be the realization of the connection you have with others, or it could be that you see it in the human spirit expressed in art, music, etc. Whatever the case, these are planetary transits working on your deepest feelings.

Pisces (February 19- March 19) One thing you have probably noticed is how much your life has changed during the last few months. You want to travel to places you never thought you would ever want to visit, you have befriended people very different from yourself, and you want to do things you thought you would never do. During these next few weeks, you will push the envelope even further, as you do things even more outside the norm. This is a time of great experimentation.

Aries (March 20 - April 19) Three planets - Venus, Mars, and Saturn - are heavy actors right now in making some dramatic changes in your life. These transits are making you desire a stable long-term relationship; however, you find that your relationships come on strong and fast but end just as quickly. You may meet someone that you think is "the one," only to find that he or she was just a great fling.

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.

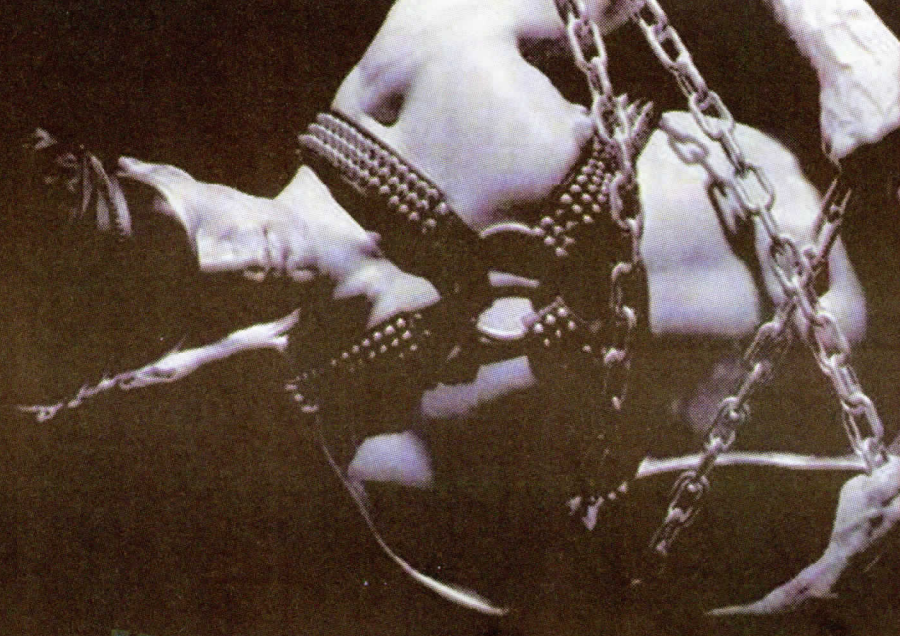
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