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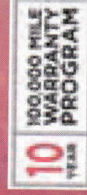


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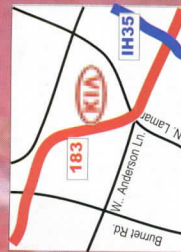
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Volume 3, Issue 9

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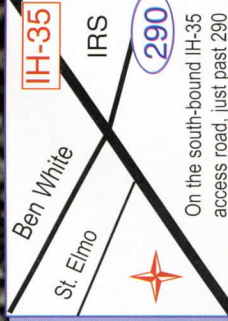
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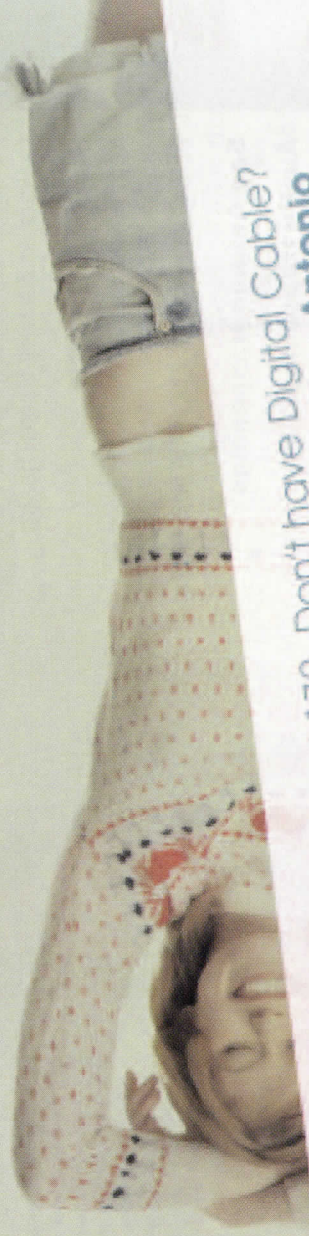
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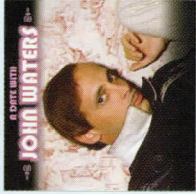
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SHOUT Magazine

500 South Congress Avenue, Suite 340
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 482-8252

On-line at www.ShoutTexas.com

Powered By QAVenue.net/Mach1Networks.com

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Publication is the currently the first Friday of each month. Each reader is entitled to one free copy of this issue. SHOUT Magazine is available at designated distribution locations throughout Texas, with primary distribution in Austin, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Dallas, Waco and Houston. Additional copies are available for a fee from the publication's offices while supplies last.

Subscriptions are available at \$50 annually, mailed first class postage, from the address listed above.

Vol. 3, Issue 9

Love Makes a Family

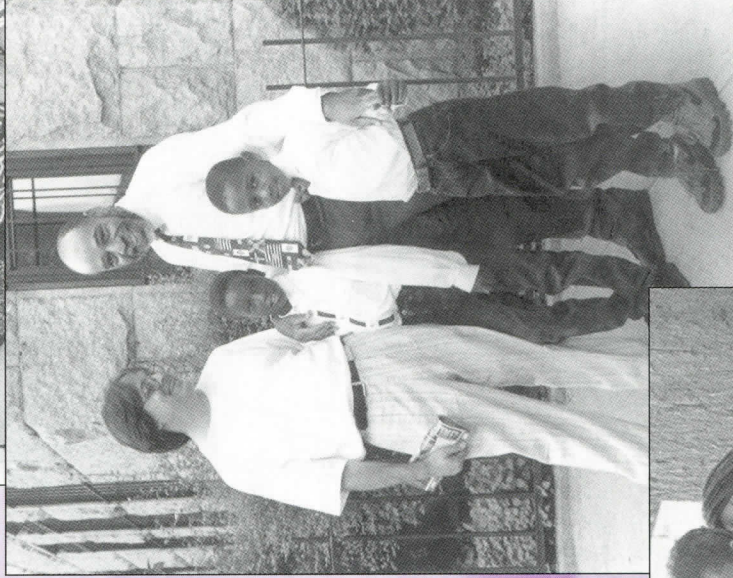
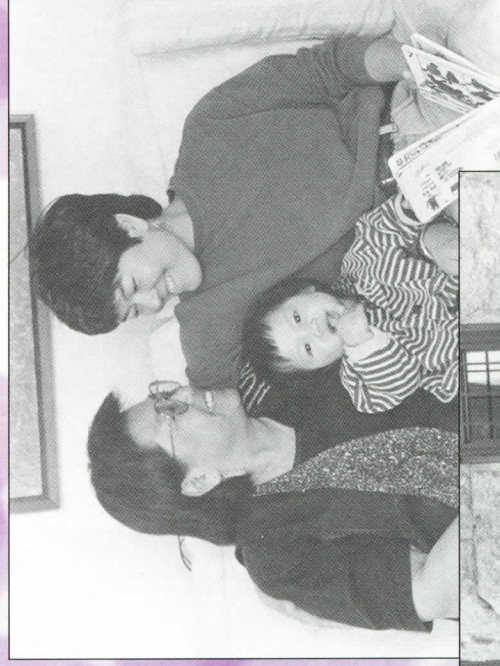
Equality Texas Brings Photo Exhibit Honoring Diversity of American Families to Texas

In the wake of the recent state legislative season that attacked GLBT families and individuals, Equality Texas brings the touring exhibition of *Love Makes a Family: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People and their Families* to Texas. Through positive images and accompanying real first-person stories, Love Makes a Family affirms and appreciates diversity in its many forms.

The tour premieres in Texas from February 6th through 11th at Northaven United Methodist Church. An opening night reception - featuring Equality Texas Foundation executive director Paul Scott, will be held February 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the church - which is located at 11211 Preston Road in Dallas.

"We are excited about the exhibit, which cuts through political arguments to the issues of love, caring and connection that are so basic to all families," says Scott. "We feel bringing the exhibit to Texas is a wonderful, positive way to continue dismantling the destructive power of prejudice and intolerance, making the world a safer place for all families."

In a state where all but three small counties recorded households headed by same-sex couples in the 2000 census, the exhibit is especially timely considering an on-going state legislative session where issues such as safe schools, legal protections for partners and families, and foster care will likely reemerge. The exhibit - which includes dozens of museum-quality photographs



From top to bottom: the Stokes family, the Elsasser Robinson family, and the Jang Otto family; photos by Gigi Kaeser.

depicting LGBT families of all races in familiar settings - is engaging for adults and children alike, Scott said.

Photographer Gigi Kaeser depicts a variety of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and their families of all races in familiar family

settings. The photos are accompanied by text edited by Peggy Gillespie from in-depth interviews she conducted with each family member, who speak candidly about their lives, their relationships, and the ways in which they cope with the realities of prejudice, bias, and intolerance on a day-to-day basis.

"It is Equality Texas Foundation's hope that the exhibit will encourage discussion and serve as a resource for families engaged in their own conversations about the universal concepts of love and inclusiveness that all families cherish, whatever their makeup," said Scott. "The exhibit expands the conversation, and makes sometimes invisible families visible."

Family Diversity Projects of Amherst, Massachusetts - a non-profit educational organization - created the exhibit as a way of helping to combat homophobia. Since it began touring in 1996, the exhibit has traveled to more than 1,000 communities

After its run in Dallas, the exhibit is scheduled to travel to San Antonio from February 19th through 25th, the Texas Capitol in Austin from February 27th through March 5th, and conclude the Texas tour in Houston from March 8th through 15th.

The exhibit also runs during the annual Equality Texas Lobby Day, slated for March 5th at the State Capital Building. For specific exhibit locations and information, visit www.EqualityTexas.org or call (512) 474-5475.

Was This Painting
CENSORED IN S.A.?

By Don Jones

A piece of art with a controversial take on a revered Mexican icon - the Virgen de Guadalupe - has resulted in accusations of censorship, paralleling a similar situation in New Mexico a few years ago and in Mexico City in 1970. San Antonio artist Anna-Marie Lopez submitted her work for San Antonio's Centro Cultural Aztlán's *Guadalupana* show, celebrating El Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe, which occurs on December 12th each year.

According to Lopez, the Centro *Guadalupana* show's lead artist, Anel Flores, at first accepted - then later rejected - her disputed work, entitled "Virgin." Lopez's rendering depicts the Holy Mother nude, wrapped with a serpent, and bound in barbed wire. Flores claims the censorship came from the venue and artistic director Denis Cadena.

The question is why.

The Virgen de Guadalupe is a folk symbol of the Mexican culture, the result of a peasant's vision of the Mother of Jesus in 1531. If you live in Texas - and particularly in San Antonio - and don't know this symbol, it's time to catch up.

The traditional depiction appears everywhere in San Antonio, from candles in the aisles at H.E.B. grocery stores to the giant mosaic work on the Guadalupe Street side of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center on the West Side. Perhaps hundred of thousands of homes in San Antonio have shrines dedicated to the Virgen. There is no more revered image in the Mexican Catholic culture, and therefore in San Antonio.

Perhaps it is this revered status of the original image that gave Flores second thoughts about Lopez's submission. According to an email exchange on December 11, 2006, between Flores and Lopez, Anna-Marie wrote:

“dear anel, i find it very curious that i received a call 24hrs before the ‘virgin’ opening informing me that there was no room for my painting in the ‘virgin’ show. i had been told that my painting would be in the show and even received a call asking me for a selling price...if the content was controversial i must remind the center that this is art, the last bastion of free speech. i should be by on thur or fri to pick up my painting but thank you for allowing me the opportunity.”

In response, Flores wrote: “Anna, I want to begin by



sincerely

apologizing for what happened at

the Centro. I defended your piece to the end, with phone calls and emails. I even went as far as getting a third party involved to look at the picture of your image. After all that has occurred, I hope you might one day consider working with me again and possibly having a show together. Again, I am sorry about the censorship."

Anel Flores is a teacher, both in the public schools and at San Antonio College. She also writes in addition to her graphic arts, including fiction and poetry. She participates at the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center and is an activist for social justice and change and feminism.

So who pulled the piece from the show?

“Centro Cultural Aztlán of San Antonio develops, maintains, and promotes the consciousness of our art and culture through various programs,” according to their very out-of-date website. Also according to the website, they sponsor an annual “Lowrider” event. Calls placed to the Centro Cultural Aztlán and artistic director Denise Cadena were not returned as of press time.

According to Anel Flores, the *Guadalupana* show selection committee met on Monday the 4th of December in order to select the artwork that would be included, and there was some criticism of Lopez' piece.

“My conclusion was that they pulled the art because it would offend the community,” said Flores.

For the seven or eight days between this meeting and the notification to Lopez that her “Virgin” would not be

included, Flores did not return to the gallery. Also according to Flores, the person hired to hang the show did not put up the piece - and the ultimate decision was made by Denise Cadena, the artistic director of the show.

Additionally, according to Flores, the Centro Cultural Aztlán later sent out a letter identifying Anel Flores as a guest artist rather than as the lead artist, the position in which she believed she had been asked to participate.

A similar controversy occurred in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in response to a similarly non-traditional treatment of the Virgin entitled "Our Lady" by Alma Lopez. This was a digital print of a semi-nude Madonna with a bare-breasted angel in the position of the traditional cherub.

According to Alma Lopez - who is not related to either the San Antonio or Mexico City artists - another series of non-traditional portrayals of the Virgen were the subject of a storm of controversy in Mexico City in 1970. That artist, Yolanda Lopez, portrayed the Virgen as a series of regular women on the traditional star-spangled background.

The Anna-Marie Lopez/Centro Cultural Aztlan controversy has reached national levels. The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) has launched an email campaign to mobilize support for Lopez and to urge the Centro Cultural Aztlan to adopt a non-censorship policy, with strategies such as a disclaimer of endorsement of the views of artists.

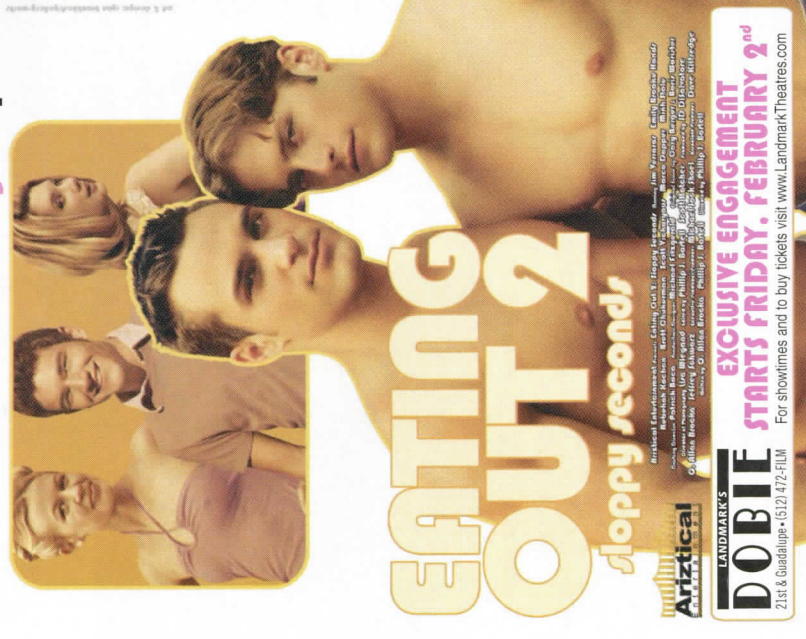
The NCAC email to the Centro also takes a strong stand on the Constitutional issue, stating that “even though some people might call for its removal, art expressing unpopular viewpoints remains constitutionally protected expression. As the director of an art center which [sic] receives public funding, you are obliged to follow First Amendment principles, which prohibit government officials from discriminating against ideas on the basis of the viewpoint expressed in them. We strongly urge you to adopt a free expression statement and a curatorial selection policy, as well as guidelines for response to objections against specific works.”

No matter who ultimately removed the piece from the show, the controversy has drawn protests from local and national artists - and has challenged the notion of “free speech versus community standards.” In a story by the *San Antonio Current*, Centro’s Executive Director, Malena Gonzalez-Cid, stated “[w]hen a community sets a standard, it’s going to be a pretty high mark for the Virgen de Guadalupe in this town. I’m going to support that standard.”

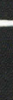
Clearly the image of the Virgin stirs strong emotions, but perhaps that is the intent of the artists and the reason that art - however controversial - is protected by the First Amendment. For lesbian artist Anna-Marie Lopez, the reason was simple.

"It was censorship," she maintains.

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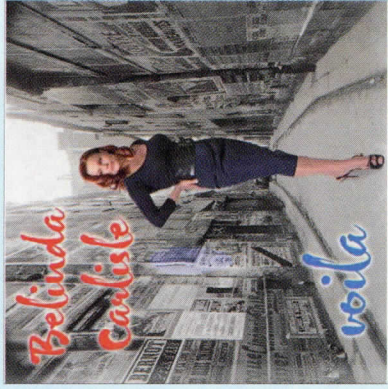
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GROOVE LINES

BY DJ CHRIS ALLEN

Released just in time for Valentines Day's, Belinda Carlisle's latest solo album, *Voila*, is a beautiful collection of classic French songs and pop music from the 40's, 50's, and 60's. A limited edition bonus disc features four songs from the album sung in English.

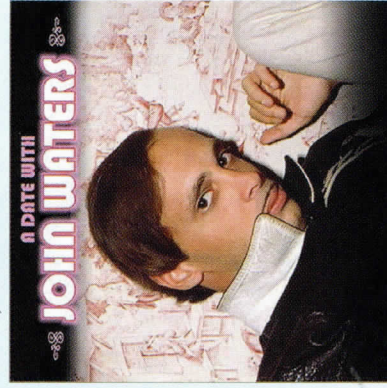


Another great Valentine's disc is the compilation from independent film maker John Water's titled *A Date With John Waters*. This heartfelt - and touchingly bizarre - compilation of love songs selected by the legendary film maker is a follow up to the previously released disc *A John Water's Christmas*. Featured on the new CD are songs from Ike and Tina Turner, Ray Charles, Dean Martin, Mildred Barry, and even Water's

longtime pal Mink Stole.

In the liner notes, John Waters writes, "Come on over, let's listen to some tunes. Have a seat on my sofa. Think I invited you over here to discuss the future of independent film? Hell no, I'm lookin' for a little action." A few other

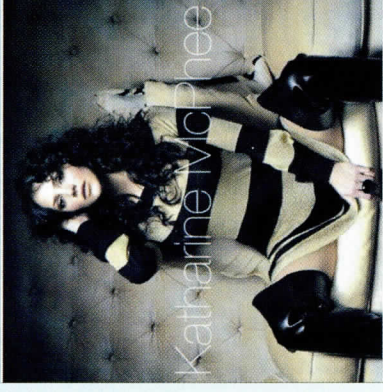
awesome love inspired tunes out there include Billie Myers provocative new single "Just Sex," Noa Tylo's sexually charged "Let's Do It," and "This Is Love" from Jason & deMarco.



American Idol finalist Kathrine McPhee's self-titled debut album has arrived. Its first single, "Over It," hit the airwaves on my birthday, January 15th, and is getting great response.

"Ever since I was on the finale of *American Idol*,

have been asking me what kind of album I'm going to record," says McPhee. "When I started working on my debut album, I was asked what types of music I liked. My favorite music is rhythmic pop and I love to dance, so that was our starting point."



"I was also asked what I wanted to sing about, what subjects I wanted to touch on. So this album really reflects me, a 22-year-old girl who knows what it's like to fall in love and to have her heart broken - and also a girl who really likes to have fun."

McPhee was set up by the folks at A.I. with Nate "Danja" Hills - best known for working with Nelly Furtado, Justin Timberlake, and Jennifer Lopez, and is nominated for two Grammy Award's this year. If you missed her recent appearance on *Ugly Betty*, you can get a taste of Kathrine McPhee live on the tube on *TRL* on the 5th, *The Early Show* on the 6th, *Jimmy Kimmel Live* on the 7th, and *Larry King Live* on the 8th. Learn on-line more at (Continued on Page 10)

The Boss

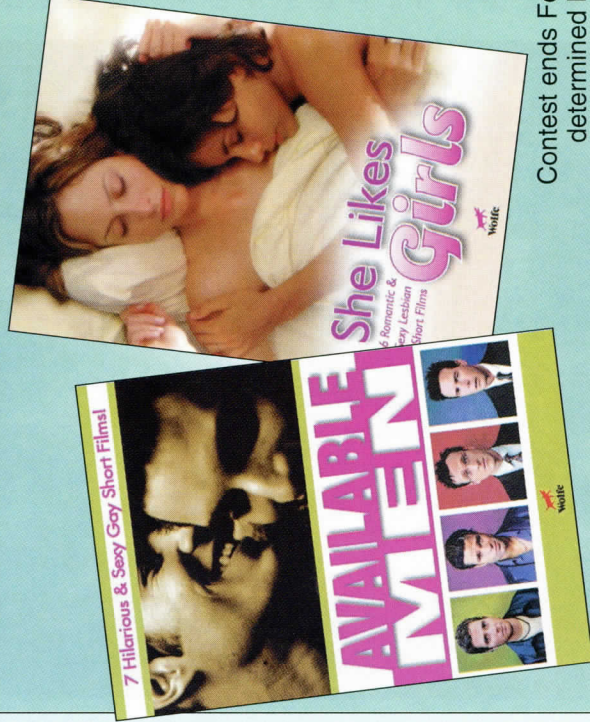
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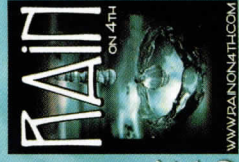
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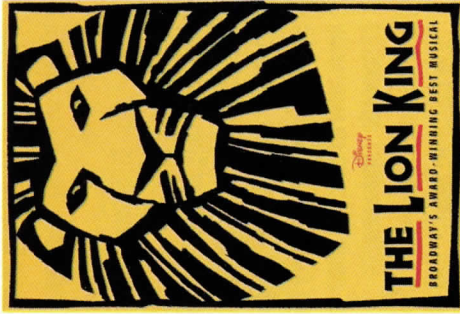
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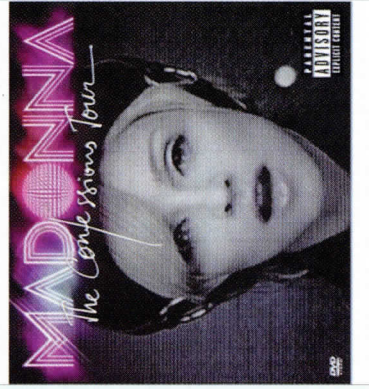
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Groovelines (Continued from Page 19)

www.KathrineMcphee.com.

Dance icon Madonna has released a hot new DVD - *The Confessions Tour*, filmed at London's Wembley Arena during her worldwide sold-out 25-city "Confessions" tour (2006's top-grossing tour worldwide). The disc features songs from throughout the dance diva's career, but largely focuses on *Confessions on a Dance Floor*. Extras include bonus footage and a photo gallery - two discs packed full of memories.



Newer tracks include "Jump," "Hung Up," "Sorry," and "Forbidden Love;" classics include "Like A Virgin," "Ray Of Light," "Erotica," and "Lucky Star." This one is a must-have for Madonna fans of all ages.

There will be release parties throughout the month of February, so be sure to check your favorite clubs' website. In fact, there will be release party for this hot new DVD at Rain on 4th in Austin hosted by *Shout Magazine's* own Nick Manix on Sunday, February 4th.

And if you're a true fan, you'll join the official Madonna fan club Icon at www.Madonna.com.

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

Chris Allen is the resident DJ at the club *Halo* in Bryan/College Station. Visit Myspace.com/DjChrisAllen or www.HaloBCS.com to learn more.

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DATELINE



BY JENNIFER PARELLO

I've Been to a Marvelous Party

I went to a marvelous party With NooNoo, and Nada, and Nell It was in the fresh air, and we came as we were And we stayed as we were, which was hell "I've Been to a Marvelous Party," by Noel Coward



expression.

The stormy cabal marched toward Greta, singing a song about Greta's many character flaws to the tune of "Getting to Know You." As the grim chorus line spit out the song, Tricia kept time by snapping her fingers.

Tricia's philosophy about ex-lovers differs greatly from mine. She believes that you should keep your exes in your life forever, dragging around these bitter, angry anchors, who like to remind you - every time they get a couple of drinks in them - that you were lousy in bed.

I, on the other hand, follow the praying mantis school of breakups: bite off their heads immediately after mating. After all, your exes can't sing hateful songs with poorly constructed lyrics if they don't have their heads. (Greta's exes rhymed "You are a moron" with "My heart with acid poured on.")

At the end of the party, as we all piled into the paddy wagon, Tricia - who was shackled to my ankle - smiled and said, "It really was a marvelous party."

I looked around the van at my friends, who were all merrily humming the "Getting to Hate You" song (it was rather catchy!).

"I've been to worse," I said with a shrug. And then I wrapped my arm around Greta and joined in the singing.

Jennifer Parello is a syndicated columnist; visit her on-line at www.JenniferParello.com





GET OUTTA TOWN!

BY **AMY FORD, CTC**

Deal or No Deal

The game show *Deal or No Deal* has grown increasingly popular among reality television fans. We all fantasize about striking it rich and winning millions of dollars; however, very few do.

In our quest to get richer, we also like to save money. Who among us hasn't used the Google tool Froogle to find the lowest possible price - or clipped coupons or begged for a bigger discount from your travel agent? We all want "a deal," and in my line of work, there are very few to be had. However, I have the mother of all deals for anyone who is available to travel in February!

RSVP Vacations has chartered the gorgeous Caribbean Princess on February 25, 2007, for a week long cruise to the Caribbean with visits to St. Maarten, St. John, and St. Thomas. Apparently, there are too many unsold cabins, so RSVP Vacations is offering two-



Picture courtesy Princess Cruises

need in the GLBT travel market to have vacation opportunities in which guests can truly be themselves. There are no closets here - don't panic, boys, there are functional closets to hang our dinner wear.

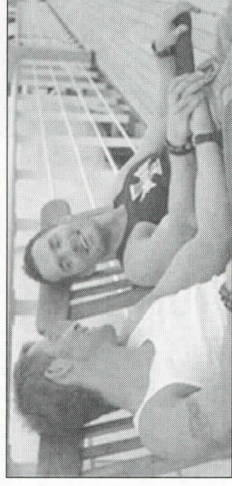
On these vacation experiences, Clark Kent can be Superman all the time, and Diana Prince can be Wonder Woman night and day. Every detail of these vacations is centered on the gay and lesbian traveler.

for-one cruises on this Caribbean Fantasy! Two people are able to travel for the price of only one person.

This is an amazing offer and truly the deal of all deals for the year. Anyone who has ever dreamed of taking part in an RSVP Vacation - and I know there are thousands of you - needs to jump on this offer like white on rice. Let me say it again - **two-for-one!**

Companies such as RSVP Vacations, Olivia Cruises, Atlantis Events, and R Family Vacations recognized a

RSVP Vacations paved the way for the others and, in doing so, set the trend of chartering ships from cruise giants such as Holland America, Princess, Norwegian Cruise Line, and more. Rather than buying their own ships to host these GLBT festivals and vacations, companies "rent" ships from their owners - thus making the price of the vacation more expensive than the average. In this scenario, the owner of the ship (the cruise line) needs to make money and the renter (RSVP, Atlantis, Olivia, etc) needs to make money as well. After all, why be in business if you can't make any money?



Picture courtesy RSVP Vacations

The price is also affected by the cost of providing special entertainment, such as the Indigo Girls on an Olivia Cruise or Gloria Estefan on the upcoming R Family Vacation cruise - or famous DJs such as De Leon and Kimberly S on the RSVP sailings. The prices for all-gay cruises usually start at \$999 per person plus taxes - which is much higher than a non-gay cruise - but who could live without Superhero Costume Parties, Underwear Parties, Pajama Parties and more? We pay for exclusivity!

RSVP is now making it possible for the Average Joe or Jane to have this experience at half the price. What an opportunity! As a professional travel planner for more than ten years, I can attest to how rare this opportunity is. If I were not returning from the Rosie cruise on February 25th, I would jump on this deal faster than a tick on a dog in summer!

So be your own Pirate of the Caribbean with this deal of all deals from RSVP Vacations by sailing on the Caribbean Princess (not a queen, but close) on February 24th. You deserve it - and your partner/lover/friend/cousin will never forget Valentine's Day 2007 when they receive this gift! Make the reservation today; it's worth every penny and a whole lot more.

Amy Ford, CTC is the owner of Signature Journeys travel agency in Austin. Email her at Amy@signature-journeys.com

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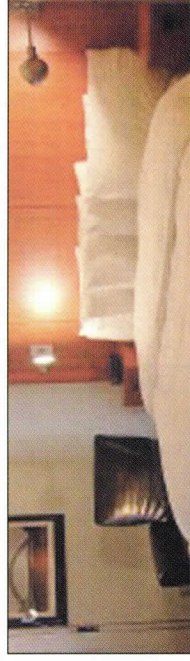
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WOMEN'S HEALTH

BY ROBYNN BETZ

Do You Take OTCs?

What do you do during cold and flu season? Have gallons of homemade chicken soup, sweat it out under the covers, and run to your healthcare provider for a prescription? Or are you like most of us - and head to your local pharmacy to see what's available on the shelves to take home for quick relief.

Millions of adults and children around the country trust their everyday aches and pains to OTCs: over-the-counter medications. While these drugs are extremely helpful for self-medicating, it is possible to have too much of a good thing. And not paying attention to a drug's fact label can land you in the emergency room.

Currently in the United States, there are more than 100,000 different OTC products that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for general purchase use. The most commonly purchased of these are OTC analgesics made for temporary pain relief. They come in two categories: drugs that reduce inflammation (called Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory

Drugs, or NSAIDS), and drugs that do not reduce inflammation (normally, acetaminophen).

These over-the-counter medications are recognized by the FDA as safe and effective without a prescription or the advice of a doctor. At the same time, OTC analgesics still have the potential to be abused intentionally or unintentionally. Just because it's OTC doesn't mean it doesn't have the potential to be misused.

It's true that many people who take OTC analgesics don't follow the drug's fact label. It's a very common attitude that "if I take two, three or

four won't hurt me - and maybe three pills will help me more." The OTC mindset is that it's perfectly safe, but just because it's OTC doesn't mean there aren't safety risks.

While there is convenience in being able to go into a store and self-diagnose, with that comes the responsibility to read the label and be an informed customer. It is important to pay very close attention to the Drug Facts label. It contains the information necessary to take OTC drugs safely and effectively.

Drug labels aren't recommendations; they are strict directions on how to take a medication. Yet many people up the dose they take - or take it for longer than they should - and the result can be a drug overdose. An overdose can manifest itself in different ways, depending on the medication.

One drug that you should be aware of at all times is acetaminophen, which is the active ingredient in medications such as Tylenol. According to the FDA website, acetaminophen "can cause liver injury through the production of a toxic metabolite." The more acetaminophen you ingest, the harder it is for your body to remove these toxic metabolites from the body, which can lead to acute liver damage.

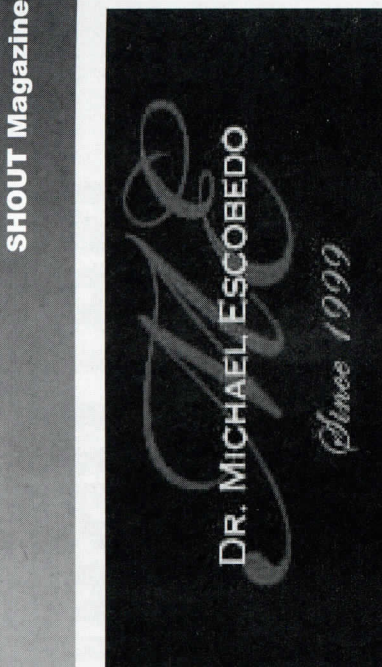
While they do not necessarily cause liver damage, NSAIDS - such as Ibuprofen - have their own separate list of potential overdose consequences. These include gastrointestinal (GI), or stomach, bleeding.

Additional problems arise from combining multiple medications with the same active ingredient. For example, combining acetaminophen tablets with some cold and sinus medications - Nyquil, for example - can lead to an overdose, as both contain acetaminophen as an active ingredient. Other problems can arise when you take OTC painkillers in conjunction with certain prescription medications, or while drinking alcohol.

Remember that any age group can suffer from overdosing problems associated with OTC drugs. For children, individual age, weight and size should help determine how much of a medication they should take. And remember that older patients - including our parents and grandparents - often forget to mention they take OTC drugs as part of their medical history.

As with every medication, the important thing is to consult your primary physician. That's their job, and they know about OTCs just as they do prescription medications.

Robynn Betz is a nurse living in Austin.



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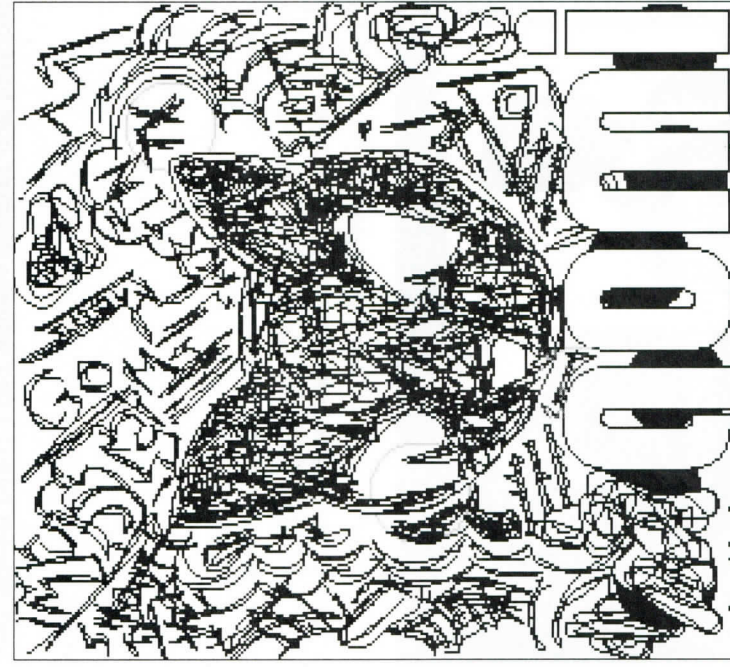
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NATURALLY HEALTHY

BY DR. JEANNE GALLOWAY

Are You Taking Your Vitamins?

The long running joke by the medical "establishment" has been that vitamins are just good for the health of our sewers, because it was thought that vitamins just got "pee'd" out.

It seems that this line of thinking is just plain wrong. Even the bastion of the medical world - the *Journal of the American Medical Association* - stated in the last few years that every adult could benefit from a good quality multivitamin.

Why vitamins? And what are they?

Vitamins are the essential building blocks of good health and substances the body uses to conduct its everyday business. Vitamins are like the eggs, the flour and the butter in chocolate chip cookies - without them, your cookies probably won't turn out so well.

If you search on-line and Google "vitamins," you get 53,000,000 hits. Yes, that is 53 million. How in the world is a person supposed to figure out what vitamins to take, and how much?

A really good guide to vitamin usage is found at www.Vitamins-Nutrition.org. This site tells you about all sorts of supplements, including vitamins, but it doesn't give very good information regarding the quantities that are safe. A better site to learn about how much of a specific vitamin to take is found at www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/vitamins.html

Other great sources of information are naturopathic physicians. These individuals are trained in a four-year medical school and are the only profession that

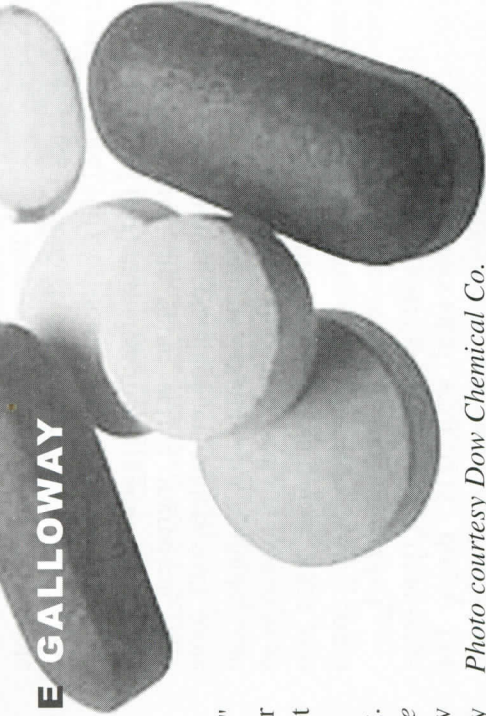
specializes in natural and alternative medicine at the doctoral level. For a list of naturopathic physicians in your area, check out www.Naturopathic.org. There are naturopathic physicians in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, El Paso and Dallas, as well as in many other parts of the United States.

Naturopathic physicians are doctors that listen. Your personal case is listened to in detail, and a very specific plan is designed to improve your health. No one else is like you, and generic vitamin plans found on-line may not be the best for your optimal wellness.

So do some research and take your vitamins. And don't worry if your pee is a brighter yellow - that's just a sign that you are taking Vitamin B.

Dr. Jeanne Galloway, ND is a medical-school trained naturopathic physician with a practice in Austin, Texas. Natural medicine has many tools to help you with chronic disease. Contact her with questions at www.AustinsNaturalDoctor.com

Photo courtesy Dow Chemical Co.



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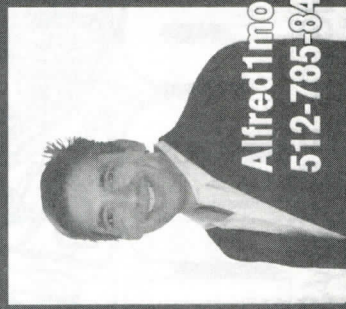
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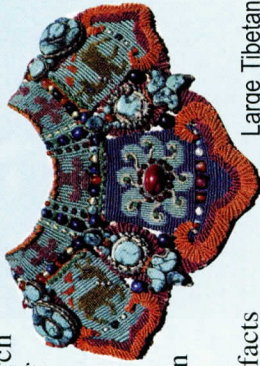
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THEMUSES

BY ROB FAUBION

History Woven into Jewelry at San Antonio Museum Exhibit

An exhibition of approximately 30 intricately woven necklaces by artist Barbara Natoli Witt are on display in a special exhibition at the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) through March 18th. Entitled *Legacies of Past Cultures*, items in the exhibition are related to the Museum's antiquities, Asian and pre-Columbian collections.



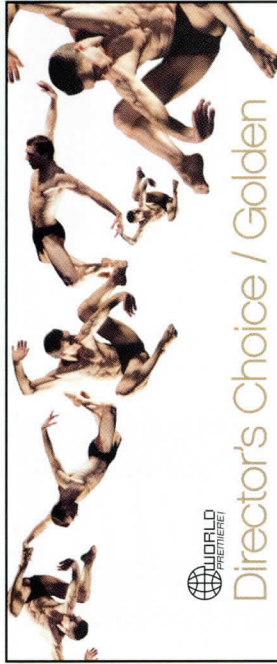
Natoli Witt weaves artifacts and beads into complex macramé works of art using turquoise, lapis lazuli, coral, rubies, silver and silk threads techniques from ancient cultures. She carefully selects colors, designs and artifacts to reflect a specific culture at a specific time in the past.

The exhibition is being held in conjunction with the 10th annual Mays Seminar at the Museum. Entitled

Acclaimed Austin Women's Performance Series Returns

Rude Mechanicals in Austin hosts the fourth incarnation of *Throws Like a Girl* - a groundbreaking women's performance art series that celebrates the contributions of original female theatre artists to the cultural landscape while promoting women's voices in the American theatre. All performances take place at The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo Street, from February 8th through February 24th.

This year's series features performances by artists Gretchen Phillips, Lynn Breedlove and Bitch. Call (512) 476-RUDE or visit www.RudeMechs.com for tickets.



Director's Choice / Golden

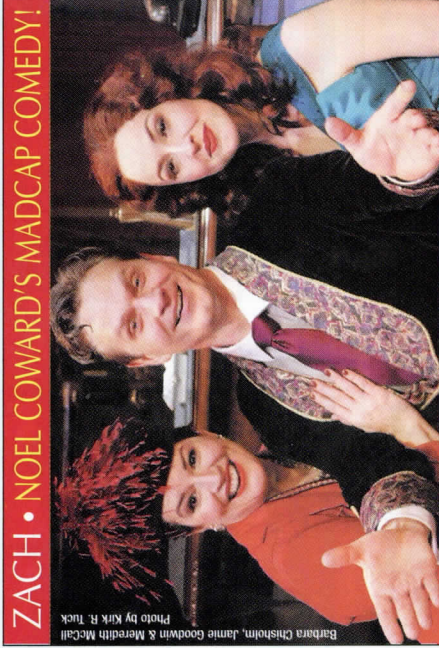
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For one weekend only, Artistic Director Stephen Mills brings you the work of Twyla Tharp (choreographer of the Broadway hit *Movin' Out*) set to the tunes of David Byrne of the Talking Heads. Give the gift of *Golden* this Valentine's Day with an Austin premiere that will have you rockin' in the aisles and dancin' out of the theatre!

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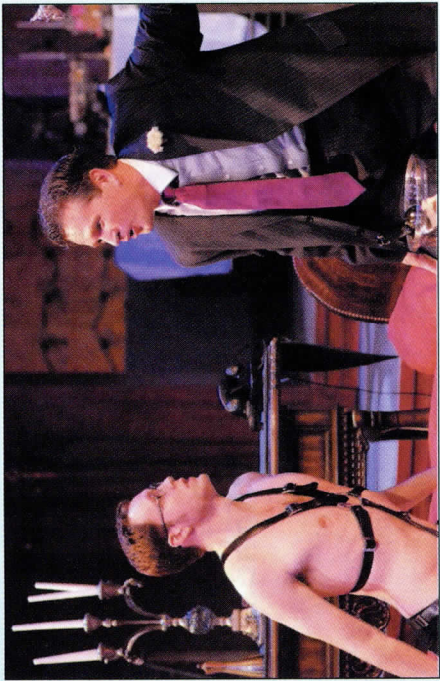
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A Tip of the Champagne Glass To Noel Coward at ZACH

Zachary Scott Theatre is scoring lots of laughs with their staging of Noel Coward's semi-autobiographical, madcap farce *Present Laughter*, now playing through March 11th. Starring Jamie Goodwin (television's *Guiding Light*, *Another World*, *Sex and the City*) and a host of Central Texas acting favorites, the show is drawing rave reviews from audiences - from the lavish sets and costumes to the perfectly-timed one-liners.

Stylishly attired and devastatingly charismatic, Garry Essendine is a famous, self-dramatizing actor who



Zach Freeman and Jame Goodwin. Photo by Kirk R. Tuck

never met a mirror he didn't like. He teeters reluctantly toward middle age, while everyone who encounters him is completely infatuated with him. As Garry says, "Everybody worships me, it's nauseating."

The stage is set for a battle of glittering egos as Essendine - the master of razor sharp repartee, ruthless put-downs, and spectacular tantrums - takes on an admiring young playwright, his tart-tongued secretary, his business partners, an hilariously acerbic ex-wife, and an hours-old tryst.

The play is presented in three acts with two intermissions, so note the slightly earlier evening curtain time of 7:30 p.m. Pianist Austin Haller performs during the two intermissions each evening - and in true Coward fashion, champagne service is available in the theatre at your seat. Charge tickets by phone at (512) 476-0541, ext. 1, or online at www.ZachScott.com

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San Antonio Family Appears on Oprah Show

The Sutherland-Trevino family from San Antonio was featured on the January 29th episode of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, giving voice to gay-headed households in Texas. Headed by two dads, the family of eight was part of the "Fascinating Families" episode and included an on-air interview with the family along with footage shot at the Sutherland-Trevino home.

"We decided to go on *Oprah* because we wanted to show a real family and give real facts about an issue that everybody seems to have an opinion about - gay families," said Mark Sutherland-Trevino. Mark and his significant other - Andy Sutherland-Trevino - traveled to Chicago for the *Oprah* taping with their five children and great-niece.

"We're like any other family, except that because our family does not have automatic legal status, we have to go to extraordinary measures to protect each other and our children," Mark said. "As gay fathers, Andy and I understand that protecting our children is the most important thing we can do as parents and local politicians continue to try to ban lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people from adopting kids or being foster parents."

The Sutherland-Trevinos plan to become caregivers to a seventh child this month, a nephew of Mark's. The Sutherland-Trevino family is part of Family Pride's OUTSpoken Families program - a national speakers bureau; participants work to change the way LGBTQ parents are talked about and treated.



The Sutherland-Trevino family; picture courtesy the family.

"The story of the Sutherland-Trevino family will reach more than seven million *Oprah* viewers, serving as an excellent example of what an LGBTQ-headed family can look like," said Family Pride Executive Director Jennifer Chrisler.

To date, Family Pride has trained more than 650 parents and their allies from numerous states and three countries to tell their family stories and provide credible, indisputable information about LGBTQ families.

"What's notable is that the show's focus was 'Fascinating Families,' not 'Gay Families.' Like all loving parents, LGBTQ parents want to protect our children, provide them with loving stable home environments, and experience the joy of family. This show helps illustrate that love makes a family."



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BY ROB FABUION

ALLGO'S 22nd BAILE: The DANCE! Slated for Feb. 9th

ALLGO, the statewide queer people of color organization, celebration's Valentine's Day with the 22nd Annual *Baile: The Dance!* on February 9th. This year's event - themed

"Pink Is The New Baile" - will be held at the Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row at the southeast corner of IH 35 and Highway 71.

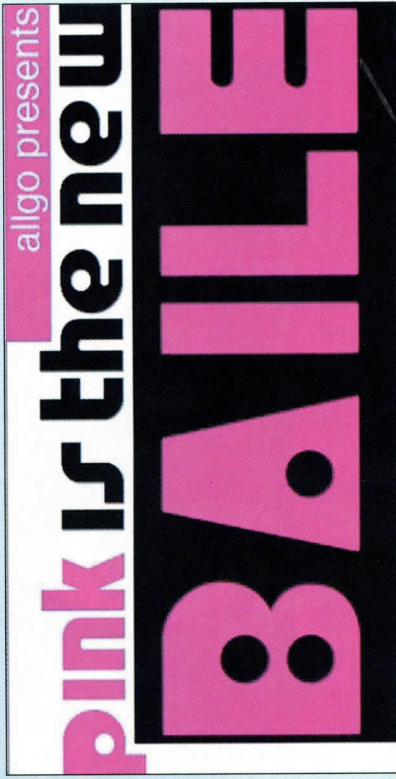
The dance features a cash bar and non-stop dancing by DJ Lenne of Rainbow DJ.

The pair will be spinning merengue, hip hop, salsa, country, Tejano, reggae, Spanish pop, R&B and Reggaeton throughout the evening, organizers said.

"Pink Is The New Baile" marks another year of

ALLGO's progressive community organizing and advocacy for social change. Proceeds from Baile directly benefit ALLGO's programming - including cultural arts programming that feature theatrical plays, poetry readings, artist workshops and visual art exhibitions. The event will also fund a health education programs focusing on HIV/AIDS, breast cancer and domestic violence.

During the past 20 years, ALLGO's efforts have given a powerful voice to LGBT communities of color in Austin and surrounding areas, while also providing a space where individuals in the area community can grow, learn, thrive and socialize. Tickets for the event are \$25 per person in advance and \$30 at door. For more information, visit www.ALLGO.org or call (512) 472-2001, ext. 101.

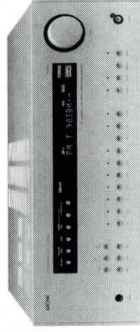


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Gallery - located at 6406 North IH 35 in the Lincoln Village Shopping Center - the program will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a discussion of HIV/AIDS and the high incidence of infection among African Americans.

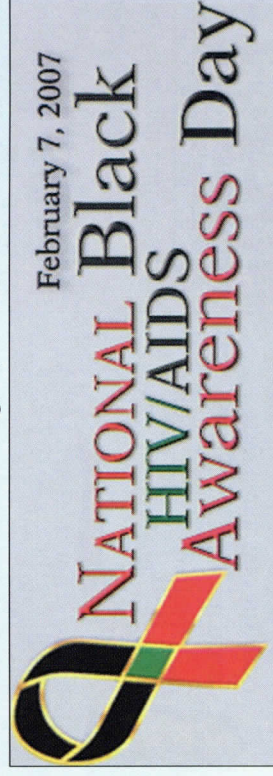
The observance marks an opportunity to spread awareness of the devastating and disproportionate effects AIDS is having in the African American community, organizers from the Wright House Wellness Center said. Featured speaker at this event will be Dr. Debbie Hagins, a Clinical Director of Outpatient Services for Georgia's Coastal Health District.

Also an ordained Pentecostal minister, Hagins' clinic serves some 850 persons living with HIV/AIDS annually. Three-fourths of her patients are African American, with more than half living in poverty.

Everyone of any ethnicity seeking information about the disease or wanting to be tested is welcome to the event. Testing is totally free, anonymous and confidential, and will be conducted through the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department.

According to the Wright House Wellness Center, between 500 and 1000 Austinites are HIV positive without knowing their status. African Americans are among the hardest hit populations in the United States, and accounted for nearly one third of all new HIV diagnoses in the Texas last year alone.

The Wright House Wellness Center provides services for more than 1,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and hepatitis C in the Austin area. For more



songs. One of Austin's most graceful mansion - the Chateau Bellevue at The Austin Women's Club, located at Eighth and San Antonio Streets, serves as the backdrop for the celebration of love.

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CCMC Sings of Love for Valentine's Day

The Capital City Men's Chorus celebrates love on Valentine's weekend with their 11th Annual Sweetheart Cabaret, slated for February 10th. Dine on a catered gourmet meal and shop the exclusive silent gift auction, then enjoy the romantic evening of entertainment and

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The Wright House Presents National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

The National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day will be observed in Austin on Friday, February 9th, with a free lunch and free confidential HIV testing. Hosted at Mitchie's Fine Black Art



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BY TIMOTHY J. NIEHAY

ICFWA Hosts Annual Slave Auction

Most people fantasize of being waited on hand and foot. For one night, the dream could come true for those seeking a personal servant - or just a hot date. The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington (ICFWA) hosts its annual Slave Auction on February 11th 8 p.m. at the Best Friends Club to benefit area charities.

The auction consists of two different parts: a silent bid for gift items, and the Slave Auction, which offers community members willing to donate their time to do various tasks. The services that each individual performs will differ - from lawn or house work to massages or dates.

The funds collected from both auctions benefit the Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network (TCAIN). Reigning Empress 24/28 Melody Lane (aka Jason Bernard) says - if nothing else - having a slave is cheap labor.

"It's a fun thing for us to do," admitted Bernard. "It's not something they (participants) could do on a regular basis. Once people kind of get in the mood and kind of get motivated and have a good time, you'd be surprised what kind of services they want to offer," he laughed.

According to Bernard, the important thing to remember is where the money is going.

"TCAIN is one of our biggest charities that we donate to every year," he said. "They now have a dental clinic, which is something that is new just within the past few years. Our money is helping them get their dental clinic up off the ground and get their equipment that they need purchased."

"They help a lot of people who are non-funded," said Bernard. "We hope to raise at least \$2,000 to go to TCAIN, which will go to the dental clinic itself."

ICFWA will be looking for potential slaves and auction items until the event commences. To donate goods or services, contact Emperor 26, Paul Harshman, at fwemperor26@sbcglobal.net.

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TCGPWA Logo and Theme Contest Underway

The Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association recently announced the annual theme and logo contest for the 2007 Gay Pride celebrations. The public is being asked to be creative and come up with a theme and logo

for the 2007 pride year, with the winner receiving a \$100 cash prize.

"Any theme and any logo can be submitted," said Bradley Leake, TCGPWA 2007 Secretary. "Please use all the creative energy you have; the winner will have their design worn by many people for many years"

2007 will mark the 26th annual celebration of Gay Pride Week in Fort Worth. Plans for this year include a parade, festival, picnic, pageants, and numerous other special events.

(Continued on the Next Page)



All submissions need to be submitted to a TCGPWA officer - via email or hand delivery - no later than February 18th. Visit www.TCGPWA.org for more information.

Tournament Championship Slated for Feb. 9th

Years ago, a small collection of men in Fort Worth grew tired of meeting at nightclubs and sought an alternative way to socialize. The group formed Tarrant County's first chapter of the International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) and became the Longhorn League - a division within the Texas Roll Off Tournament (TROT). On February 9th through 11th, the annual statewide competition for TROT and IGBO will return to Fort Worth, taking place at Don Carter's on 6601 Oakmont Boulevard.

"TROT has been in existence for many, many years," said former Miss. Trot 2004 - 2005 - and committee member - Jesse Negrete (aka Jessica Lord). "A lot of people don't know - because they think it is a sport event - but really, TROT came into being as an alternative to going to the club."

(Continued on the Next Page)

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- ◆ SATURDAY - Dance Night with Your Favorite Music
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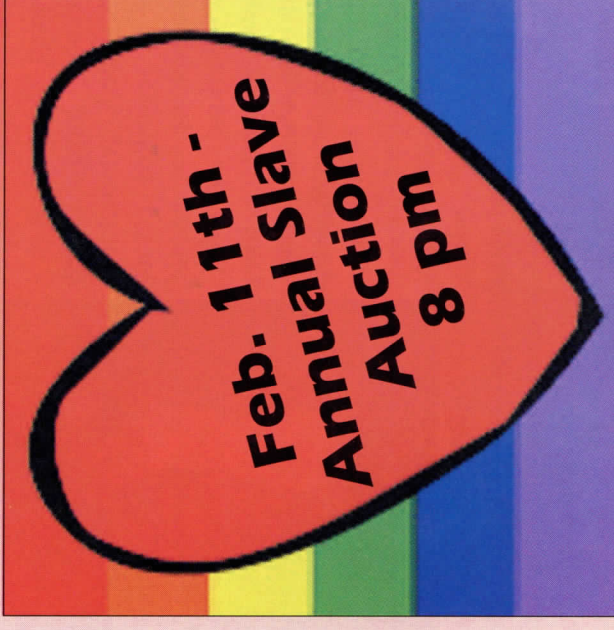
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HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

From the Management and Staff of



February 11th - TROT Awards
(After Bowling Is Over)



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DIFFA Dallas Returns

With grace and rhythm, a model struts upon a runway as crowds of people begin to bid on the fabulously-designed signature jacket that is as beautiful as it is rare. Not far from the catwalk, bubbles and high-energy music pop as another crowd watches a gigantic screen broadcast of the runway.

Fashion and charity will collide once again in an event that organizers say will be the best party of the year. Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) will host UPSIDEDOWN on March 31st at The Hilton Anatole Hotel.

The centerpiece of the event offers an auction of more than 100 Arizona-brand denim jackets donated by JC Penney - which have been redesigned, restructured and reworked into unforgettable works of one-of-a-kind art. Well-known artists from previous DIFFA events will return this year, along with more than a few celebrity designers.

“UPSIDEDOWN Collection 2007 brings back on the glitz and glamour expected of DIFFA/Dallas and more,” said Event Chairman of Jacket Collection 2007, Jeffery Horn. “This year, we hope to take the event to another level - Rosie O Donnell, Leslie Jordan and Delta Burke are all designing jackets this year! We plan to raise even more money and grant more money to the AIDS service organizations that do so much to improve the lives of those living with HIV.”

According to Horn, last year’s event brought in \$1 million that went into all aspects of the foundations’ fight against AIDS.

“The need is obviously greater in North Texas, and (Continued Next Column)

we are excited and honored to do our part,” Horn said. “This year, we’re looking to make even more money; we have very aggressive goals and hope to raise \$1.5 to \$2 million.”

New this year will be the huge party “Bubbleblast.” “We are adding a party for people who might be new to DIFFA and new to the collection event,” he said. “It starts at 8 p.m. on the same night - at the same hotel - but in a different part of the hotel.”

“It’s going to be a party with high-energy music and live feeds of the show,” he said. “Champagne, beer and things that have bubbles will be available. We have dancers, entertainment and DJ Spectro will spin.”

For those who can’t wait until March 31st to see the collection, the DIFFA/Dallas UPSIDEDOWN Collection 2007 preview party will take place on February 8th at the Victory Park Discovery Center on 2512 Cedar Springs. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit on-line at www.DiffaDallas.org.

Fort Worth Happenings (Cont. from Page 24)

During the tournament, an estimated pool of \$22,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded to bowlers and non-bowlers alike.

“There are a lot of people who come out to support and help,” said Negrete. “Our charity of choice this year is Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network. Some of their people will come out and sell raffle tickets. They sell 50/50 raffle tickets and tickets to win prizes. Our 50/50 raffle tickets usually net \$3,000.”

Of the money that is raised, half goes back to the person with a winning ticket and the other half goes into TROT’s prize fund and to TCAIN, according to Negrete.

“We don’t have a lot of people right now, we have 15 teams,” he said. “We’re always looking to grow on that”.

“It is something that we do - we enjoy each other’s company,” he said. “We go to different cities such as San Antonio, Houston, Austin and even Okalahoma City.”

For those interested in joining the Longhorns, Negrete says gay or straight doesn’t matter.

“It’s just a simple matter of just showing up and finding a team or bringing in your own,” he said. “One doesn’t have to be an avid bowler to win money. They can be a 1/10-1/20 average bowler and still do very, very well in prize money.”

For more TROT information, visit on-line www.TexasRollOff.com.



SUNSIGNS

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

With your birthday this month, your Sun is in conjunct with Neptune. This transit will be the two big influences on you throughout this year. First, you will begin to delve more into anything dealing with spirituality and metaphysics. And expect real issues around water; this transit could be so powerful that it could manifest itself physically - such as leaks in your house or buying a boat for a true Aquarius experience.

Pisces (February 19- March 19)

The Venus conjunct with Uranus in your sign represents strong and unpredictable changes in the areas of love and romance. The transit could also make you exhibit reckless behavior and make poor decisions. A good way to positively express this energy is to discover a new hobby or interest that liberates you from your day-to-day life.

Aries (March 20 - April 19)

Mars, your ruling planet, gives you the drive to break from the mainstream and escape the humdrum. Often times, you experience roadblocks that damped you goals. Jupiter is giving you a free pass and making things happen for you.

Taurus (April 20- May 20)

You Taurus folks are experiencing a double whammy to your ego. First, you may have experienced a few moments recently where your ego was severely bruised. Second, you may experience upcoming problems with a government or corporate structure. This could be a major problem - or as simple as a problem with a returning an item to your local "big box" store.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

You are greatly appreciated by your community and your friends this month. Your quick wit and strong ability to communicate with others gives you the upper hand in most situations. Your ability to communicate and express complex and vague ideas in a concrete manner put you on top.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

You long for the comfort and joy of family and friends. Problems in the world are so threatening right now that you feel the need to cocoon yourself in the familiar. Just ride out

the feelings; everything turns around eventually.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Two astrological forces are causing you to be more reflective than usual. First, the long-term transit of Saturn within your sign has slowed you down and has you dealing with many responsibilities - especially regarding other people and their problems. Second, another short-term transit is causing you to reevaluate your attitude and direction in life.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

"Unpredictable" is a good adjective to describe your weeks ahead. Things that seemed so solid and sure in your life are now not so dependable. This is primarily true for property possessions or financial resources.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

You want to educate yourself and learn something new this week. In general, you want to learn and discover more about the world and the greater community. This maybe as simple as reading a non-fiction book or biography - or it could be more complex, such as taking a course of study.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

When Venus is involved in your sign, it usually means something sexual or romantic is on the horizon. A Venus/Uranus conjunction brings out your hidden drive to try new things in your sex and love life. This could even express itself in exploring the metaphysical side of love-making.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

A transit between Venus and Jupiter is causing you to gain material wealth - however, not without stops and starts. This could mean that you may have to work harder than you originally thought to gain something - or that it may cost more than you thought.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Sometimes, the things that we love most are the things that we keep the farthest from us. It's the dilemma of a fear of success - of getting what we have always wanted. So you will keep farthest from you people whom you may want to be around with most.

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.

Community (Statewide)

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Employment (Austin) - **Marketing Assistant.** Zachary Scott Theatre (ZACH) is seeking a full-time assistant to the marketing director. Professional, outgoing individual with good communication skills and a keen sense of detail desired. Graphic design experience a plus, with knowledge of software programs Quark Express, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, MS Word/Excel. Salary: low 20's, includes medical and dental. Fun work environment and friendly staff. Hours can be flexible. Send cover letter & resume to jim@zachscott.com.



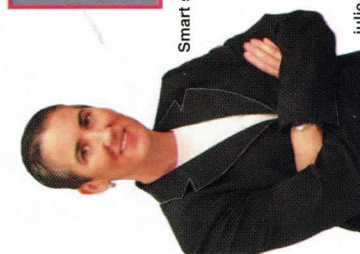
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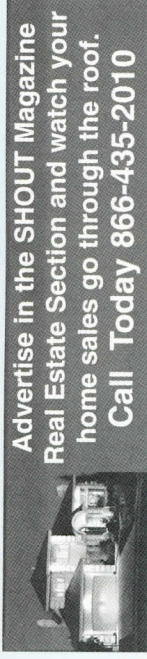
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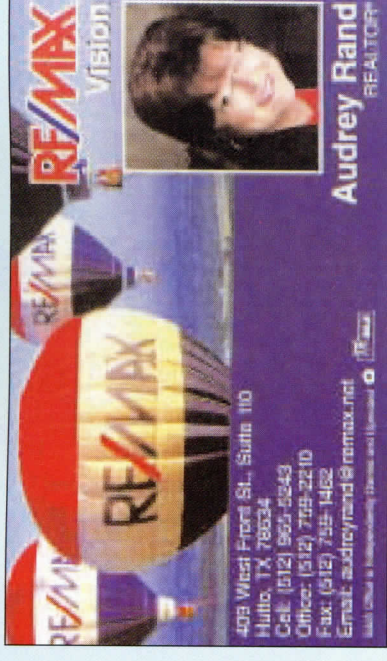


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