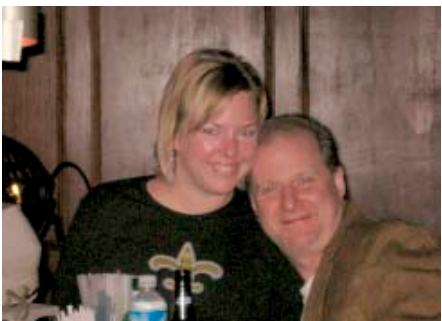
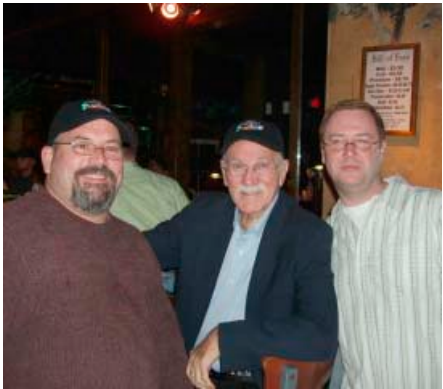


Wood Enterprises Employee Holiday Party: Good Friends, Lafitte's, Rawhide ~ New Orleans ...photos: DJ Johnny Love, Rip Naquin-Delain





Bartender Bobby is my kind of Santa



Diane & Trisha enjoying the holidays



Glenn welcomes the party goers



The lovely Vanessa



Dane & Joe are ready for the holidays



Chad collects for charity



Zach Scott's Jim at OCH Holiday Party



New kid on the block Justin



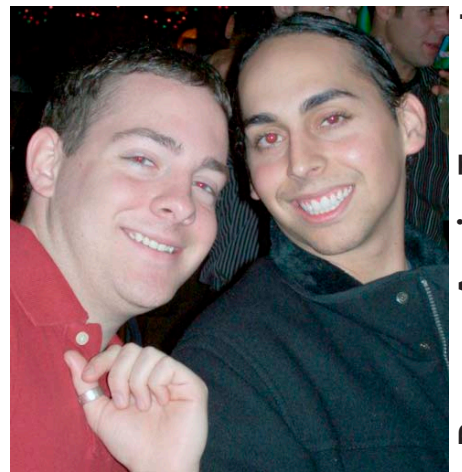
Denise keeps watch



Finus capturing the moment



Joey & Scott



Patrick & Zack enjoy the carolling



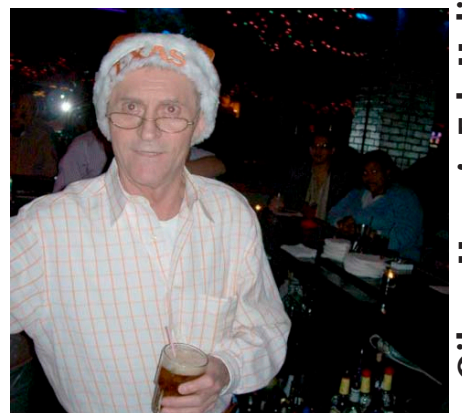
Jeff helps collect toys



Holiday Voices



Kyle is serving holiday cheer



An Austin icon Steve



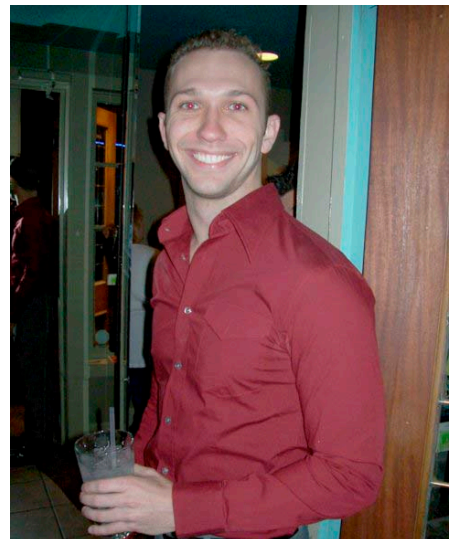
Brandon's killer smile



Bobby C, Oilcan's crackerjack elf



Tommy, Kaya & one great holiday spread



Scott is a new member of OCH

Oilcan HARRY's Fab Holiday Party ~ Austin, Texas ...photos: Bob Hemby

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capitol comments

by Bob Hemby, Austin, TX
E-mail: capitolcomments@yahoo.com

Christmas time is here and Austin is alive with the sights and sounds of the most wonderful time of the year. The shops are bustling as shoppers scurry about searching for the absolute must have token of their esteem to tastefully wrap and place beneath a perfectly decorated evergreen. The city is glowing from tinsel and twinkling lights. Even the weather has cooperated and lowered the temperature from its previous setting of Hell to a delightfully crisp coolness that makes everyone long to sip hot toddies and settle in for a long winter's nap.

Usually more Ebenezer than Kringle, there is something about this year that has me decking the halls and walking 'round in women's underwear. While my home doesn't have that "leftover Macy's Parade explosion" look as some on my block, this year I added a colorful light here, a 45 foot inflatable snowman there and I am still trying to figure out where to rent a camel for my living nativity.

The husband is happier this year as he is the one who has tried desperately over the last decade to conjure up some kind of elfin magic that will somehow spark the tiniest glimmer of Christmas cheer in my otherwise perfected Grinch personae. He has always made sure the house positively reeked of pine and that all the stockings were hung by the chimney with the utmost of care. He even knows all the words to "The Night Before Christmas" for goodness sakes. And while this has usually been enough for me to blissfully imagine him choking to death on one of his ever-so-tasty Christmas figs, this year I find it endearing.

Who knew? Who could have ever guessed that twelve years of persistent holiday hi-jinks and one good dose of electro-shock therapy from an errant

Christmas light would turn me from Bumble to one of the three wise ho's blindly following the Texaco star in the east to Barney's holiday habitat for homos. (Although I am still unsure as to how an over-grown bearded man calling for three "working girls" invokes the spirit of Christmas, but I digress...) I have actually managed to sit through this year's first 200 (of the required 2,562) showings of *It's a Wonderful Life* without madly running through the house ringing every bell in sight and chanting, "An Angel got his wings... woohoo... An Angel got his wings." Of course ten or twelve good 'ole shots of nog (forget the egg) helps to stifle this desire.

In any case, and for whatever the reason, this year the holidays are a more festive time around our happy hacienda. We are full speed ahead. Now if only I could find twelve Lords willing to leap...

This year the season began with KUT Radio's annual holiday sing-a-long at the State Capitol. Several thousand of my fellow Austinites joined voices to celebrate as the Downtown Alliance's Christmas tree blazed into life. Just before the festivities began, I wandered into a well known purveyor of Juan Valdez' favorite drink to get a warm super-mocha-grande-venti sized caffeine jolt, and what to my wandering eyes did appear but Kyan Douglas huddled in a corner looking all scruffy and ever so "Queer Eye." I didn't approach as I have always found viewing semi-celebrities from a safe distance to be the best way to prevent a stalking lawsuit, but it was fun sharing a knowing glance and a jaunty nod of the head.

Speaking of celebrities, the Dixie Chicks blew into Austin on the last leg of their whirlwind international tour promoting their new CD "The

Long Way." The mood was electric as the Chicks took to the stage mixing their new sound with their old and Natalie's heartfelt rendition of "I'm Not Ready to Make Nice" made the audience understand the rocky path this super group has traveled. It was nice sharing the audience with 10 or 12 gazillion of my lesbian sisters and I have to say from one look around the venue, a gay time was had by all.

When it comes to gay 'ole times you just can't beat Oilcan Harry's and leave it to this Austin landmark to throw not a holiday party, but THE holiday party. From the lavish buffet to the delicious flowing libations, the vibe was pure holiday cheer and pure Oilcan Harry's. Tommy and crew entertained the festive crowd by crooning everyone's favorite holiday classics. Toys for Tots and cash donations were collected in memory of Col. Bob Collins to help make Christmas dreams come true. Oilcan Harry's is always ready and willing to give back to our community. Check out this issue's photo section as *Ambush* was on hand to capture all the fun.

Be sure to include Oilcan Harry's in your plans for a fabulous New Year's Eve. This is GLBT ground zero to say good-bye to Father Time and help welcome Baby New Year. You can always keep up with what is going on by visiting www.oilcanharrys.com.

Rainbow Cattle Co. celebrated the holidays with those decadently divine divas of comedy, The Austin Babbist Women's 20th annual Holiday Extravaganza - A Very Pink Christmas benefiting The Breast Cancer Resource Center. Andy and the entire Rainbow Cattle Co. family donated time and energy to help make this event a rousing success. For the past 20 years The Austin Babbist Women have been putting their

unique spin on holiday classics all in the name of charity. Wig's off to The Austin Babbist Women and The Rainbow Cattle Co. for always helping to make Austin a great place to live. Check out the next issue of *Ambush* for complete coverage.

The Cockpit also joined in the holiday spirit to lend a helping hand with their Holiday of Hope featuring the ever fabulous Topaz. The Wright House Wellness Center was the

[continued on Expose-8]

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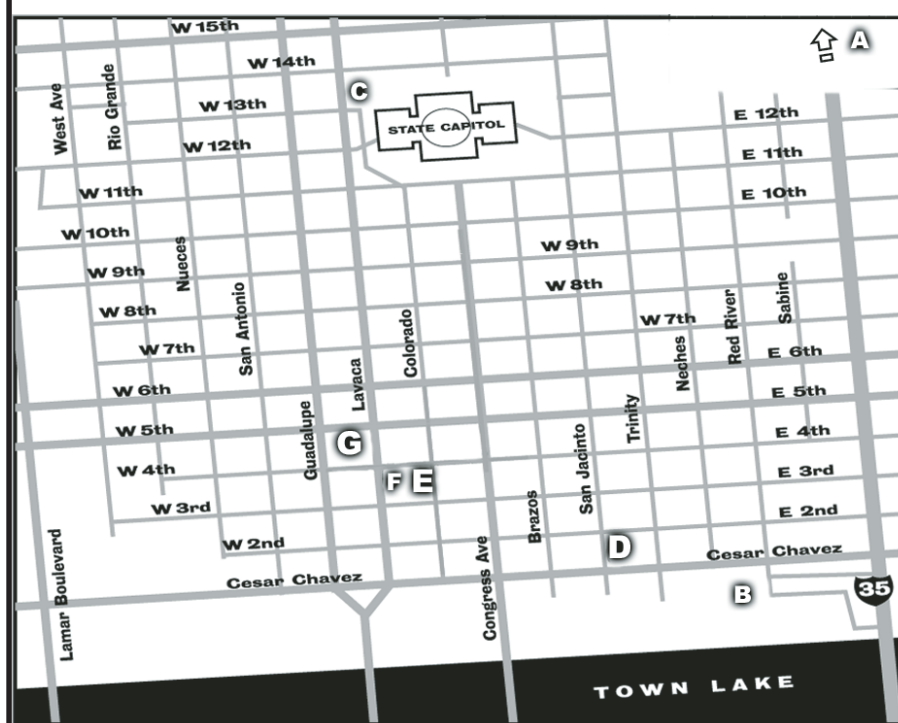
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B-Chain Drive, 504 Willow St., 480.9017
C-Charlie's, 1301 Lavaca, 474.6481

D-THE COCKPIT, 113 San Jacinto, 457.8010

E-OILCAN HARRY'S, 211 W. 4th St., 320.8823

F-Rain, 217 W. 4th St., 494.1150

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