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c. Gulf Features February 20 2009 281-650-3489 WE HAVE MAPS!

**Mardi
Gras
Continues,
L.U.E.Y.
Begins**

ISSUE #100



These 2
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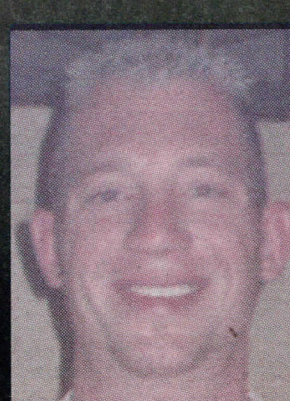
LARRY



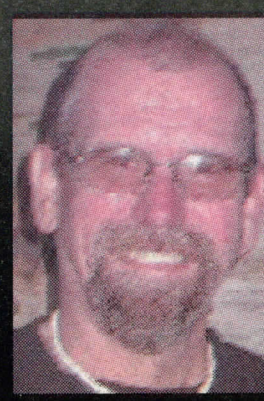
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ISSUE # **100**

FEBRUARY 20, 2009

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"The Houston/Galveston
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Published Every
 Other Friday

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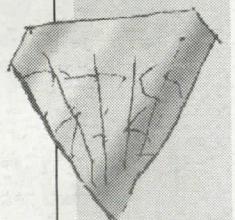
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The New Montrose Hangout!

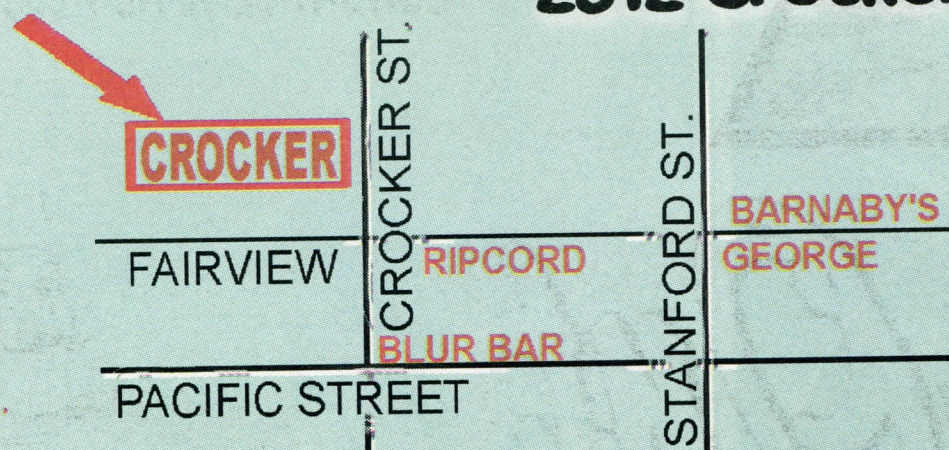


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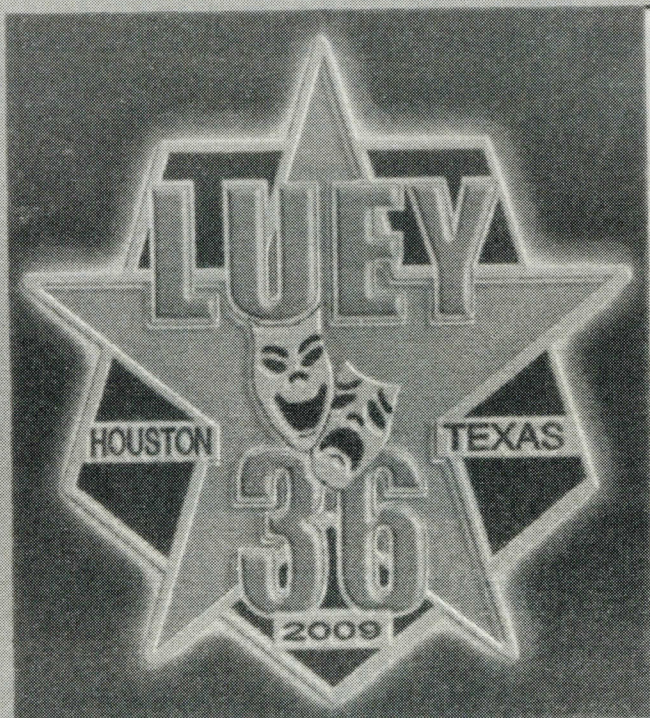
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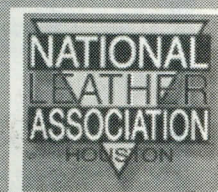
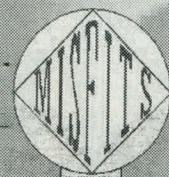
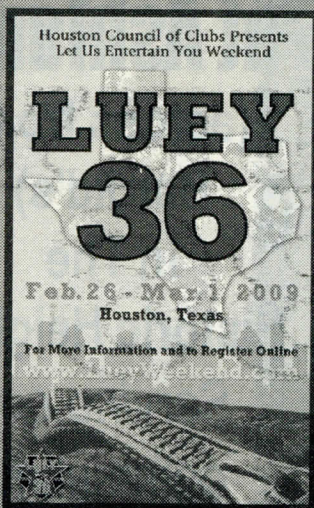
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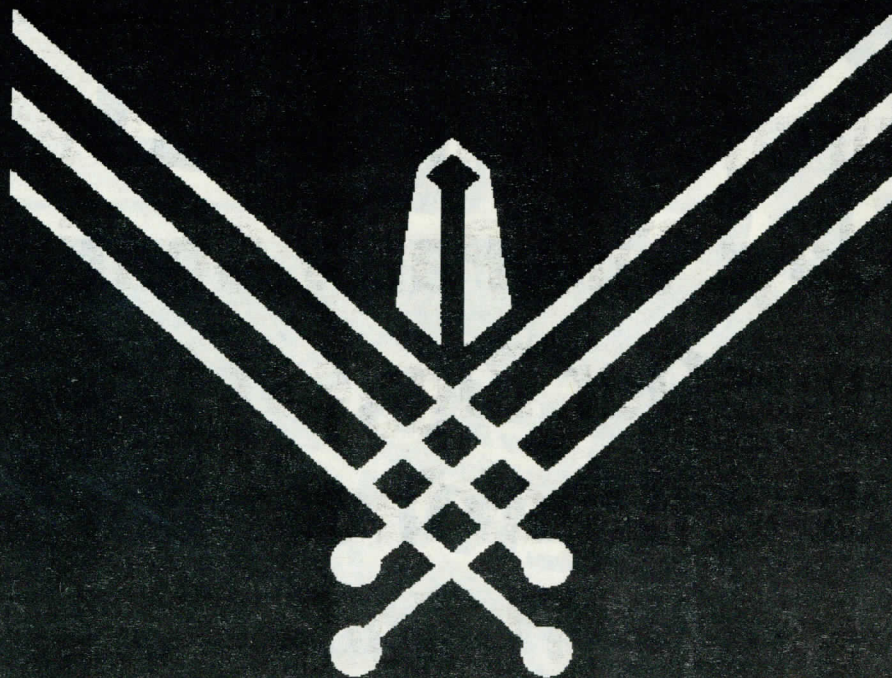
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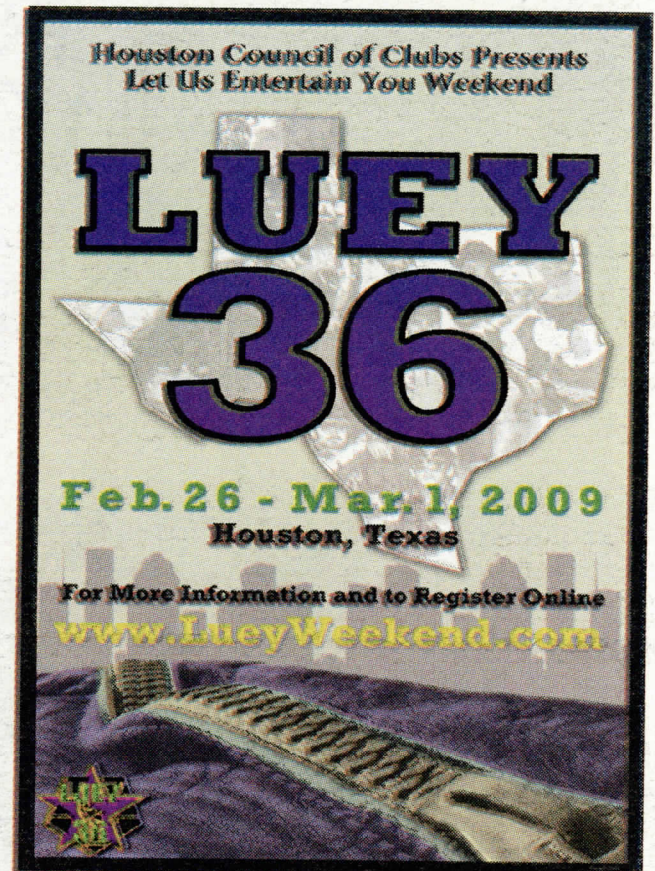
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THE MADDNESS!
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www.tonyscornerpocketbar.com

Sunday Men of Manwatch 7-11

Monday \$2.50 Well Vodka

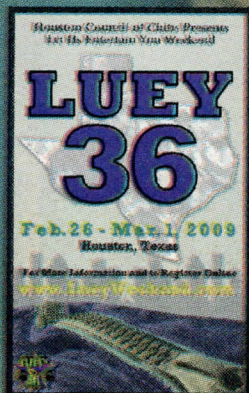
Tuesday \$1 Well Vodka

Wednesday \$2.50 Domestic Longnecks
PLUS Divas and the Boys

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Friday Amateur Strip

Saturday Amateur Strip
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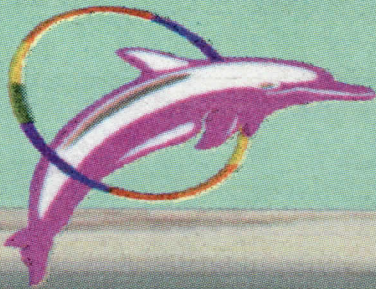
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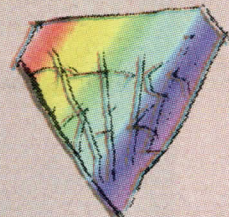
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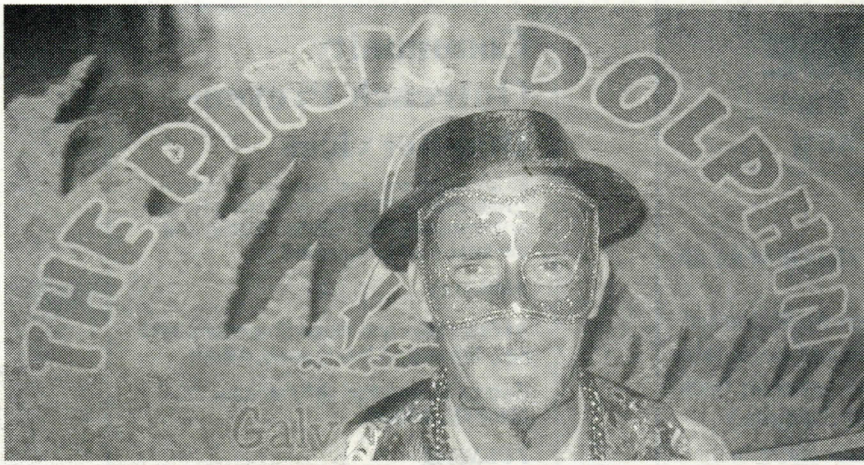
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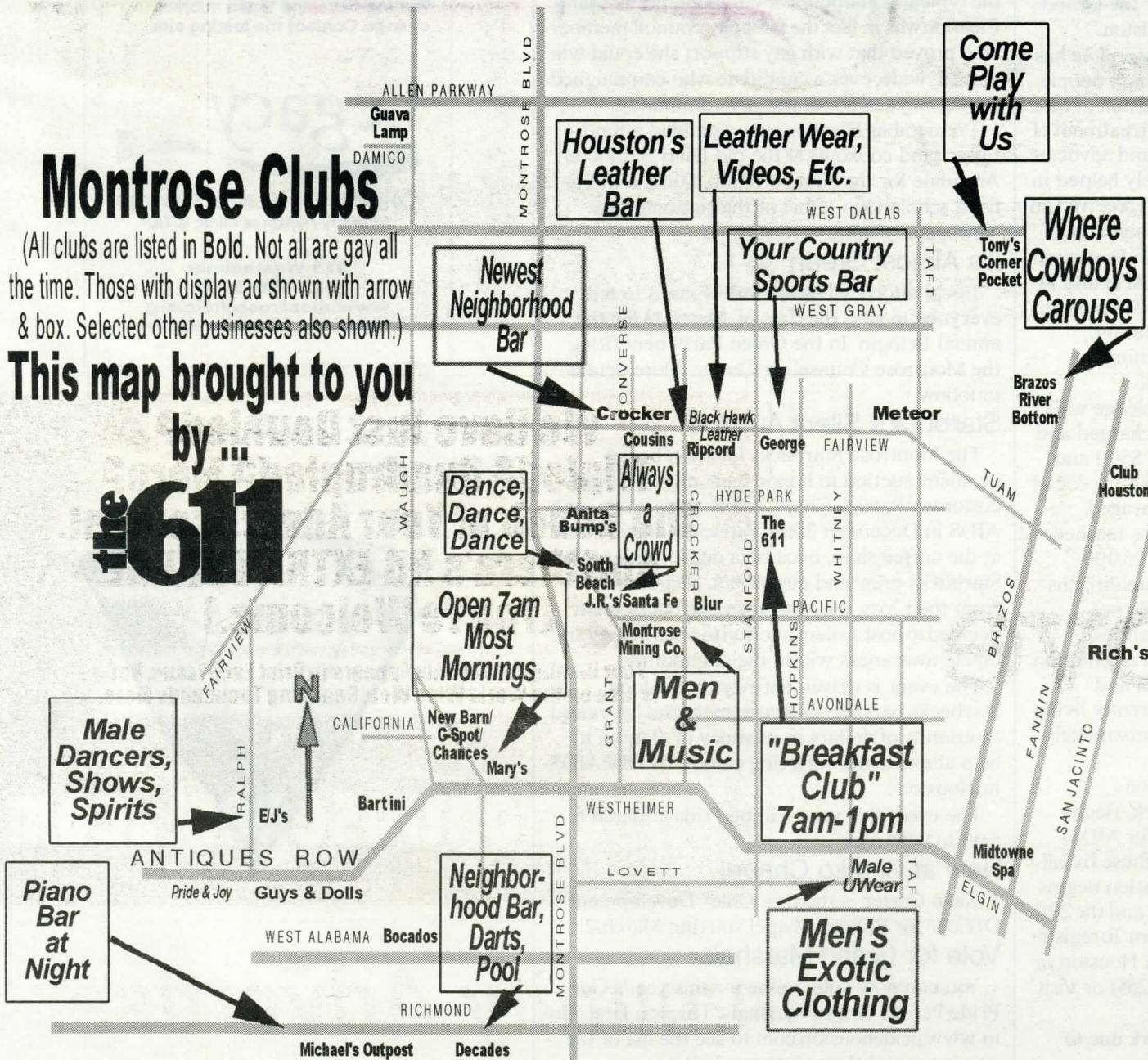
Scenes from the Banner Ball in Galveston, held this year at the Pink Dolphin. Photos by Frank

Montrose Clubs

(All clubs are listed in **Bold**. Not all are gay all the time. Those with display ad shown with arrow & box. Selected other businesses also shown.)

This map brought to you

by ...
the 611



www.montrosegem.com

Congresswoman Jackson Lee to Serve as Grand Marshal for AIDS Walk

PRESS RELEASE

AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH), in partnership with Chevron, is pleased to announce Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee as the Grand Marshal for the 20th Annual AIDS Walk Houston event on Sunday, March 15.

"AIDS Foundation Houston has been a major champion of fighting the devastation of HIV/AIDS, not only in the Houston community but worldwide," relates Congresswoman Jackson Lee. "I am proud to serve as Grand Marshal for an organization that uses its resources to pointedly help individuals who are dealing with HIV/AIDS as well as to encourage and create programs to educate and to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. AIDS Walk Houston, being one of the largest walks in the country, has proven the durability of the Foundation to never give up on the war against HIV/AIDS. Together with AIDS Foundation Houston's leadership, we will achieve victory in saving the many lives impacted by this disease."

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is serving her seventh term as a member of the United States House of Representatives. She represents the 18th Congressional District of Texas, centered in Houston.

For the past 5 years, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has participated in the Walk, becoming a voice for AFH and for HIV/AIDS issues by addressing the opening ceremony crowds from onstage. In March 2007, the Congresswoman secured a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for AFH and AIDS Walk Houston.

"Sheila Jackson Lee is an advocate for AIDS Foundation Houston throughout the Houston community," said Kelly A. McCann, CEO of AIDS Foundation Houston. "Her participation at numerous events and continued support for AFH makes her a perfect fit for the Grand Marshal of the 20th Annual AIDS Walk Houston."

Through legislation, Congresswoman Jackson Lee has helped bring \$48 billion dollars to three million people, many of whom are fighting HIV/AIDS in Houston. These federal dollars go toward the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. She has been a strong supporter and advocate of AIDS Foundation Houston. She has actively helped in HIV testing drives. The Congresswoman even received an HIV test to encourage all citizens to know their status.

AIDS Walk Houston is the largest HIV/AIDS fundraiser of its kind in Texas. Funds raised will help AFH and 14 other HIV/AIDS service organizations provide housing, testing, food, medical care, prevention education, counseling, pediatric programs and job training to thousands of Houston community members.

This fun, beneficial, non-competitive 5k pledge walk is open to the public. No registration fee is charged and incentive prizes are available for \$125, \$250, \$500 and \$1,000+ fundraising levels. Corporate, community, social and school walk team participation is encouraged.

In Houston, HIV/AIDS infection rates have reached alarming numbers. It is now estimated that 25,000 Houstonians are HIV-positive with three more citizens becoming infected every day. HIV/AIDS does not discriminate; it affects people of all communities, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age or sexual orientation. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over one million people are currently living with HIV/AIDS in the United States and approximately 40,000 new infections occur every year.

Join Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee on Sunday, March 15, 2009 in Sam Houston Park, Bagby at Lamar in downtown Houston, and walk for AIDS awareness, prevention, and to give hope to those living and affected by the disease. On-site registration begins at 8:00 am, opening ceremonies at 9:00 a.m., and the 20th Annual AIDS Walk Houston steps off at 10:00 am. To register for or donate to the 20th Annual AIDS Walk Houston or for more information, call 713-403-WALK (9255) or visit www.AIDSWalkHouston.org.

Dogs are not allowed at Sam Houston Park due to city ordinance.



THIS IS MONTROSE
News, Nonsense, Rants
By Henry McClurg

Welcome to L.U.E.Y.

Check the ads in this issue of The GEM for all the events at the different clubs.

How did L.U.E.Y. (Let Us Entertain You) start? Well there are several slightly different stories but here's the one I remember. (It was not clear back then. I was young and partied all the time.)

A group of German gay tourists came to Houston after Mardi Gras in New Orleans nearly 40 years ago and decided they wanted the festivities to continue. So, Houston decided to entertain them, mostly at our expense.

And that's it.

Barnich and Tinsley

We lost two good allies in the past few weeks.

John Paul Barnich was a community lawyer before being appointed as the first openly-gay male to a position as a Houston municipal. He was 63 when he died and suffered from diabetes. Mayor Lee Brown made the appointment.

I last saw John at Kroger on Montrose a few months ago.

As an attorney, he had an office at 3317 Montrose, in a building that was torn down to make way for Walgreens. I, with the Montrose Voice, was in that same building.

Barnich once represented a client who was suing me. They eventually dropped the case.

Also to pass on recently was former city councilperson Eleanor Tinsley. She was 82 and died of natural causes.

She was elected to a citywide counsel seat with the strong support of the gay community against the typical homophobe incumbent, Frank Mann. Eleanor was in fact the first city council member who proved that with gay support she could win out, citywide, over a candidate who campaigned on stereotypes about the gay community.

I remember Eleanor once attended a fundraiser (and cookout) at the old Dirty Sally's on Avondale for the Human Rights Fund, a short-lived scholarship effort of the National Gay Newspaper Guild.

It's Almost Green

Local attorney Dwane Todd Emails to tell everyone to save the date of March 13 for the annual Bringin' In the Green Party benefiting the Montrose Counseling Center. More details to follow.

Starbuck's Silent Auction

The Montrose Starbucks location began its silent auction to honor their most beloved customer, Patrick Chees, who lost his battle with AIDS in December 2004. Patrick, a daily fixture at the coffee shop, became a dear friend to the Starbucks crew and customers. Heartbroken from their loss, the Montrose Starbucks team decided to host a silent auction to raise money and create awareness within the community.

The event is driven entirely by the local Starbucks partners and customers and has raised thousands of dollars in memory of Patrick to help alleviate the suffering caused by HIV/AIDS in Houston.

The event this year will be Friday, March 6, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

New at Rothko Chapel

Sean Carter is the new Chief Development Officer for Rothko Chapel starting March 2.

Vote for Grand Marshals

You can now vote online for this year's Gay Pride Parade Grand Marshals. This is a first. Go to www.pridehouston.com to see the list of the nominees and then cast your ballot.

Community Outreach Prevention Services

We are where you need us, when you need us!
713-830-3070. FREE Rapid HIV Testing: Results in 20 minutes! FREE Syphilis Testing: Get the facts & protect yourself.

MONDAY

All Star News and Video Emporium, 3415 Katy Freeway & Studewood, 4-8pm

George Sports Bar, 617 Fairview, 713-528-8102, 6-10pm

TUESDAY

EROS 1207 Boutique, 7330 Southwest Fwy., 713-271-4999, 3:30-7pm

Urban Zone, Sharpstown Mall, 7500 Bellaire Blvd., 4-7pm

611 Hyde Park Pub, 611 Hyde Park, 713-526-7070, 4-8pm

Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 713-522-2379, 4-8pm

Club Houston, 2205 Fannin, 713-659-4998, 8pm-Midnight

WEDNESDAY

Club Houston, 2205 Fannin, 713-659-4998, 8pm-Midnight

E/J's, 2517 Ralph, 713-527-9071, 10pm-1am

THURSDAY

Guava Lamp, 570 Waugh Dr., 713-524-3359, 6-10pm

Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, 713-528-9192, 8pm-Midnight

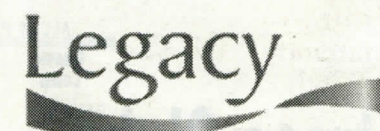
FRIDAY

E/J's, 2517 Ralph, 713-527-9071, 10pm-1am

Mary's, 1022 Westheimer, 713-527-9669, 4-8pm

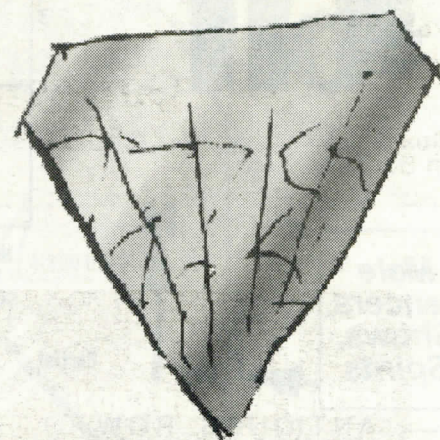
Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 713-522-2379, 5-9pm

Testing days and times subject to change. Contact the testing site.



Community Health Services
formerly Montrose Clinic & TAF

215 Westheimer
713-830-3000
www.montroseclinic.org
www.legacycommunityhealth.org

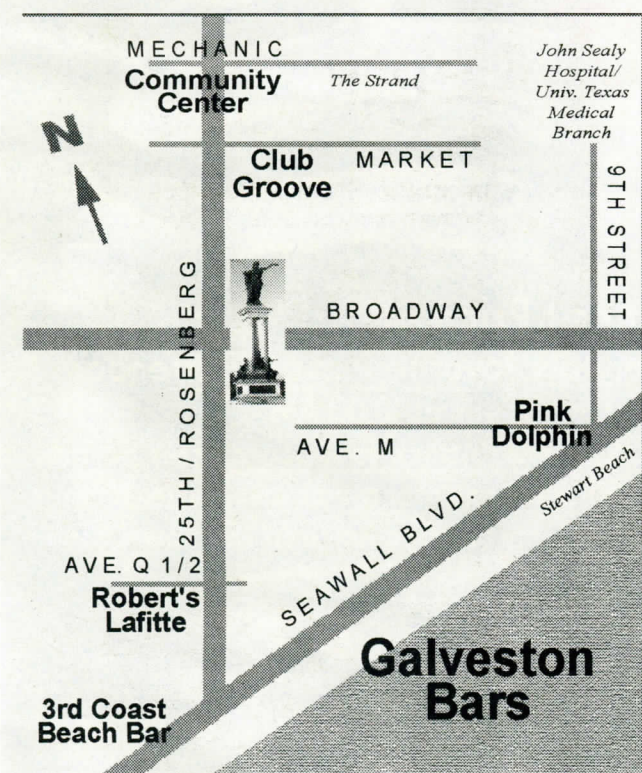




20TH year OF AIDS WALK HOUSTON 1990 - 2009

JOIN TEAM 611 the 611 Sign Up at The 611, 611 Hyde Park

PRESENTED BY **Chevron** PRODUCED BY **AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON**



www.montrosegem.com

COMMENTARY

By Trevor Kacedon

I'm Blessed!

"Being gay is a gift from God!" The Rev. Bacon from Southern California proclaimed on national television on January 7th. Thanks God? While I believe the sentiments of the Reverend, that it is important for every human being to understand that he or she is a gift from God, if you believe in one, I'm not all that sure I'd call being gay a "gift." If this is a gift, did I get a receipt for it? Which store carries gay, M2M? I don't know about you, but it seems like this gift has been handed down with a lot of baggage from everyone else.

We have a community that demands we remain forever young, vibrant, perfectly coiffed Greek statues, though I guess others have that too. Well, there's that pesky HIV/AIDS thing that hasn't been getting much attention lately. Oh, well, others suffer from that too, never mind. There is that expectation that we are to be hugely successful, flippant and excessively materialistic, then again that's kind of American too isn't it? So what is this gift that the Reverend Bacon speaks of?

When pressed further on his opinion he said gay and lesbian people are clearly outcasts in many areas of our life and it's so important for them to understand that when God made them, God said you are good. That is a gift, that is a blessing.

So because we are marginalized and treated as second-class citizen, we are gifted? Couldn't I get a gift-card instead? You know, so I could actually get something I wanted? Don't get me wrong, I'm not one of those people who goes around lamenting the fact that I'm gay and that it's a curse and "Jesus please save me!" Being gay is a part of life, and that's that. But a gift? Really? C'mon now, I can think of a lot better things God could have given me, like rhythm or Anderson Cooper. He should have known better.

I don't recall putting homosexuality on my wish-list next to the Wii, which I didn't get.

I couldn't find a single gay to admit being gay was a blessing, a gift or even a thoughtful gesture. Though none of them said that they hated being gay and that it was a curse. I can see the progression of self-acceptance as a gift, but being gay itself? I wonder if that's the point.

Perhaps my concept of a gift or blessing is backwards. Maybe a gift is an opportunity for change, to stir up the status quo. Each of us having experienced many of the same injustices does create a sense of unity which creates the possibility of us rising en masse to make changes to the world around us. Maybe we are expected to be successful in helping to create a more perfect union. I like my concept of a gift more, it doesn't require as much work, but like any present, I guess we have to smile and say thank you.

COMMENTARY

By Billy Glover

LONG-TIME ACTIVIST, B. BOSSIER CITY, LA.

50 Years Later: Mattachine's Creating Change

Received Friday, Jan. 30

Hundreds of people are meeting in Denver this week for The Task Force's Creating Change Conference. It has been well publicized. And it will be well received, before and after it does its educational work. That will be important for the homosexual community/movement to understand and think about. For that is far from the results of the first public homosexual meeting in Denver that Mattachine held there in 1959. What a difference 50 years can make.

While the Mattachine conference was covered by the local media and at first was thought to be a breakthrough for homosexual events, the result was a disaster for the Mattachine members who hosted the event. Their names in the paper led to their loss of jobs and some had to move out of Denver.

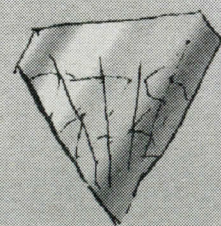
A side affect of the conference was a "congratulation" proposal suggested by a stranger and voted on to the mayor of San Francisco (the headquarters of the Mattachine Society) for his being what is now called gay-friendly.

This was a trick by an opponent of Mayor Christopher.

As a first indication that politics can be used by both sides, the media in San Francisco as well as the public, though not gay-friendly, were furious at this attack, and supported the mayor who won reelection. The problem is that they were furious that the city had been called gay-friendly. Think about San Francisco today. Think about the movie Milk.

So how do we view the Mattachine conference today. It was both a success and a warning of how much work had to be done to change people's attitudes toward homosexuality.

Now, 50 years later, it is doubtful that Creating Change's event will be anything but successful and the results will be helpful for homosexuals and the cause of civil rights for all Americans.



FREE
Leather Scented Candles
While Supplies Last
with This Ad, 1 per Customer
MONDAY-SUNDAY
711 FAIRVIEW
713-LEATHER

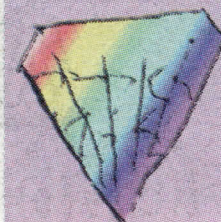
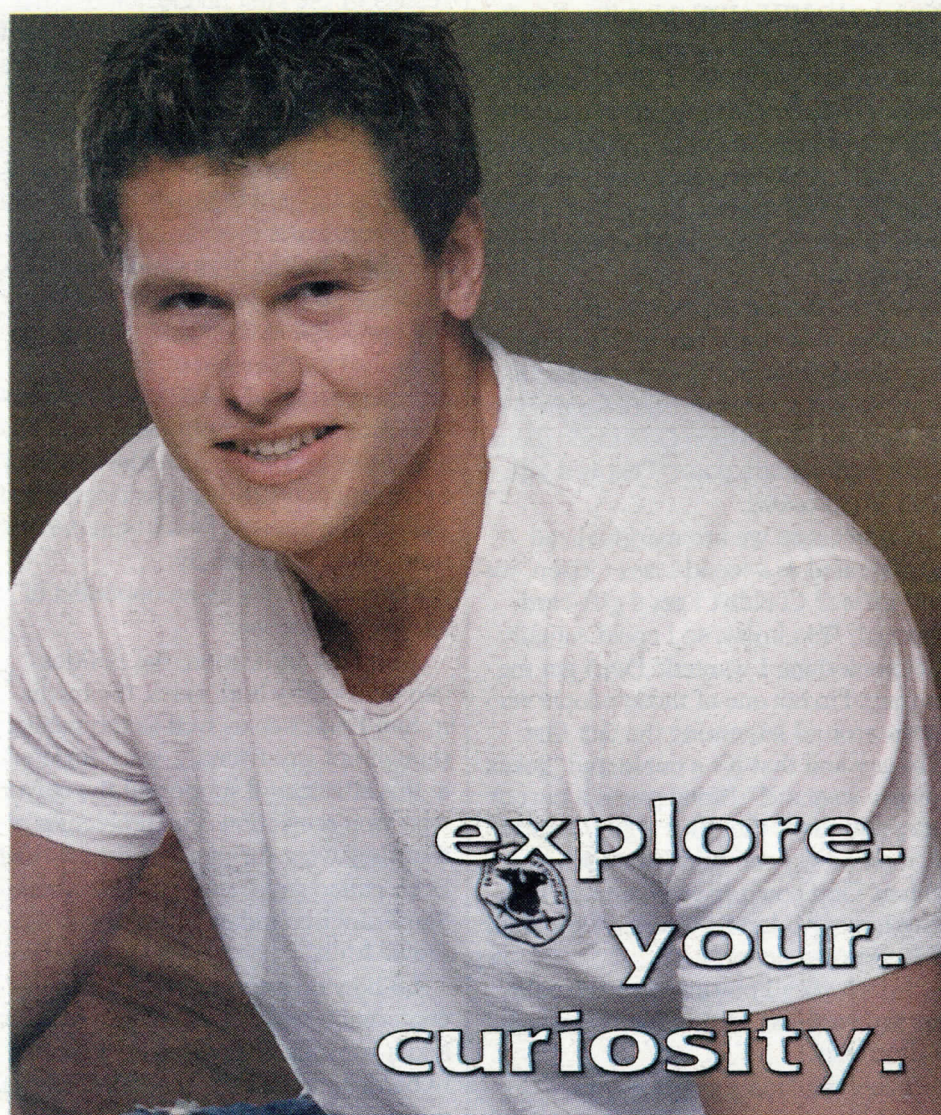
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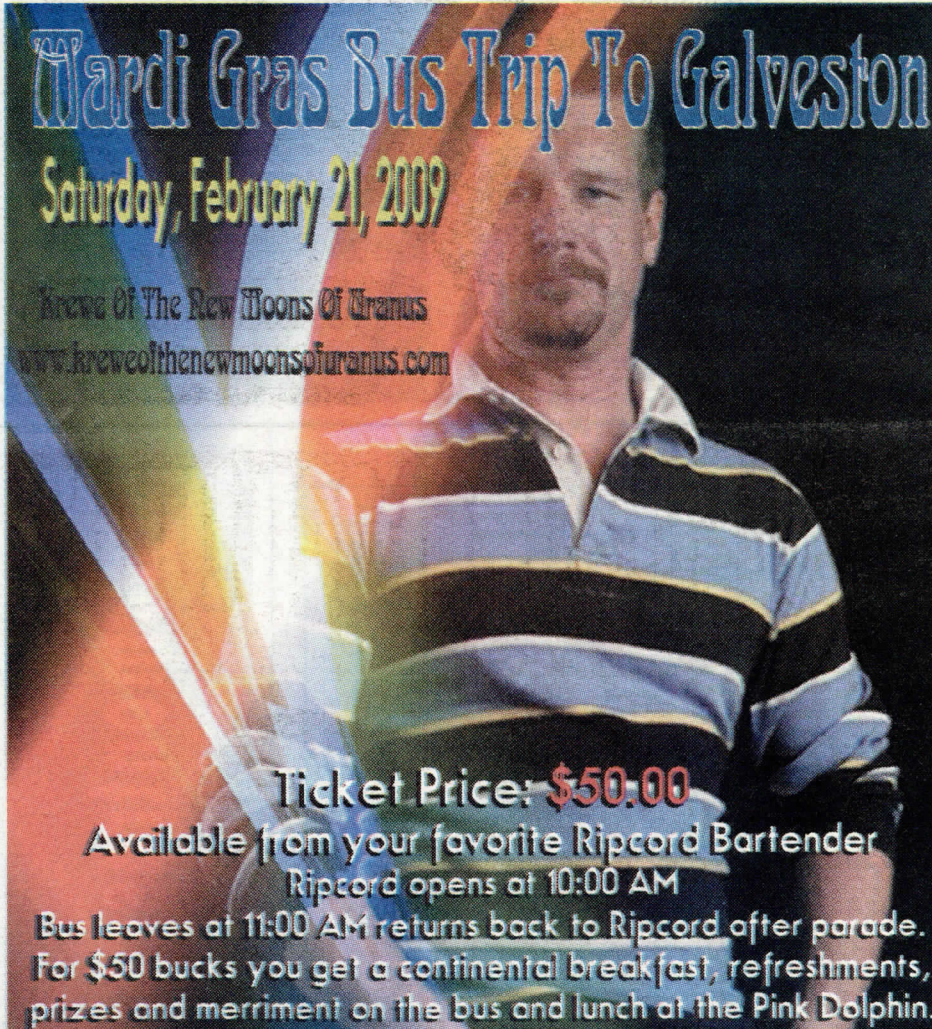
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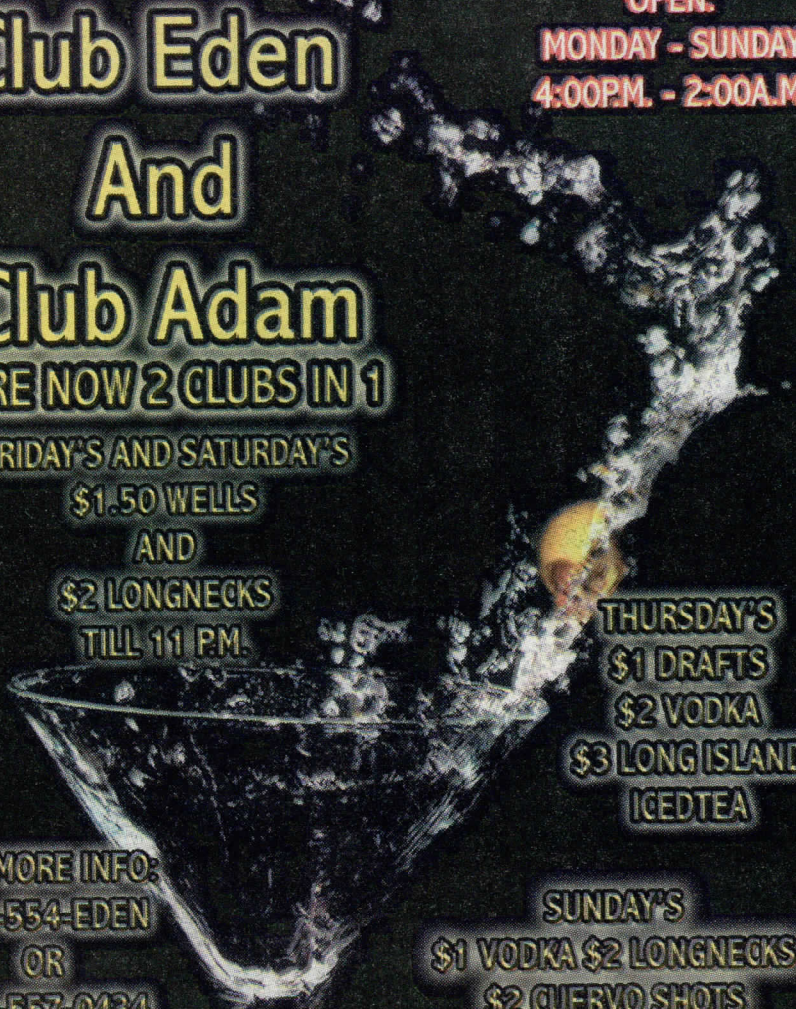
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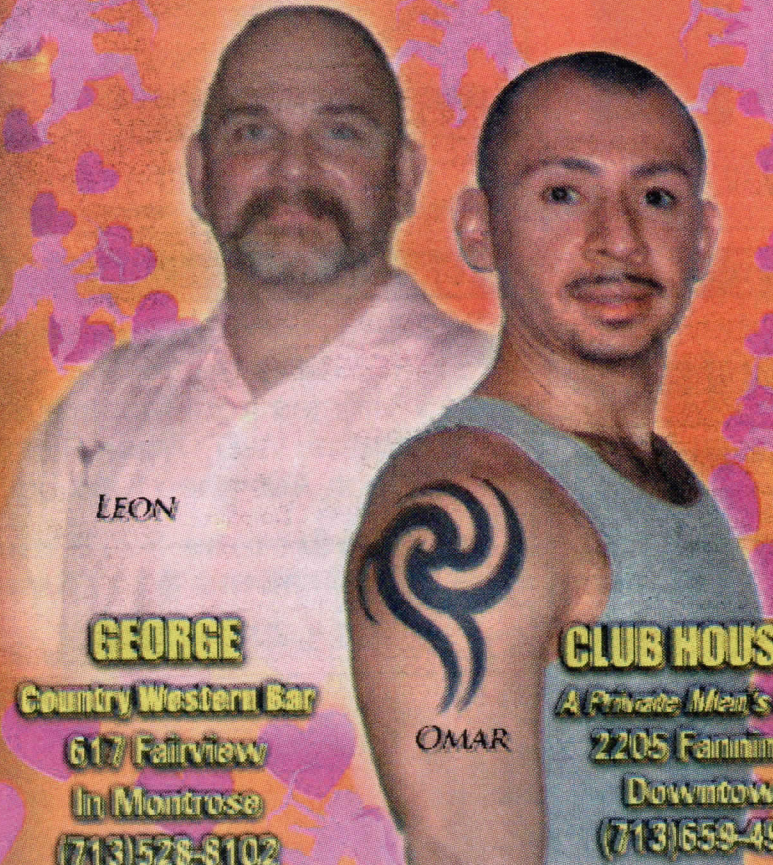


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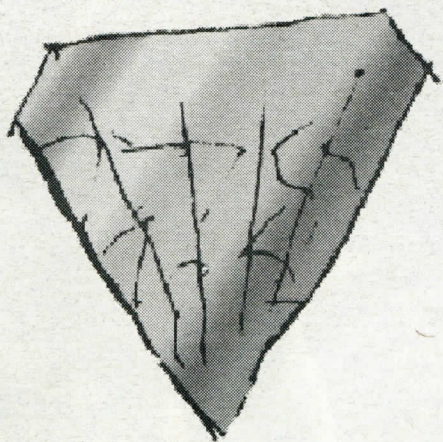
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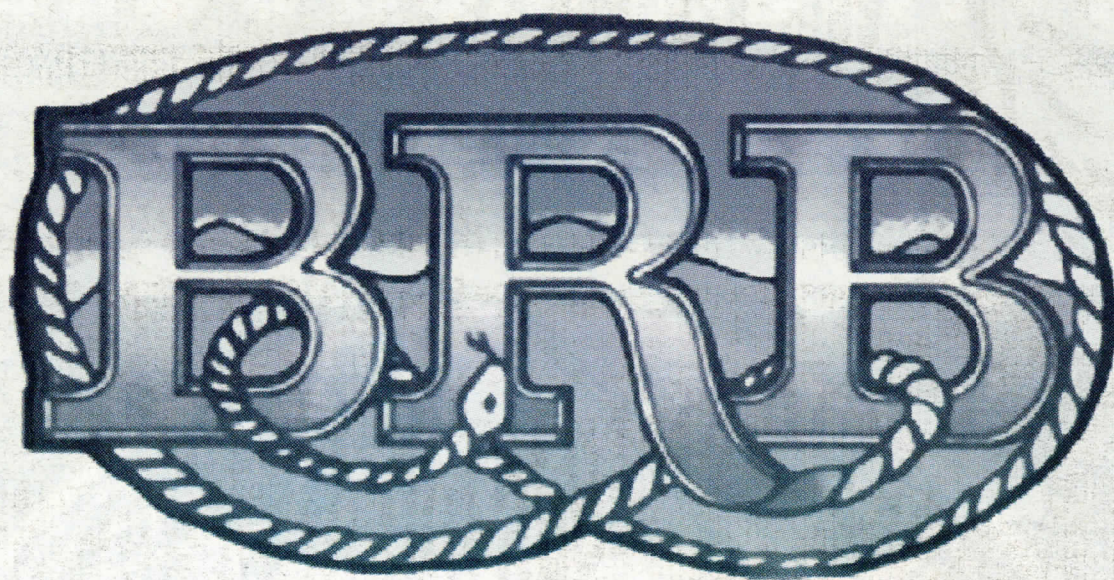
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