

Montrose GEM

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Our Congressperson, Sheila Jackson Lee

This post on a recent lobby visit comes from Meghan Stabler of Houston, a member of Human Rights Campaign's Business Council

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee does not play games when it comes to civil rights. Most importantly for the LGBT community in Houston, and district 18, she has been a long supporter and advocate for community issues at both the local AND national level.

On a recent Sunday, Congresswoman Jackson Lee took time out of her schedule to meet with some of the leadership of HRC Houston Steering Committee. The Congresswoman discussed many topics forefront in the LGBT Community from Hate Crimes, to her commitment and co-sponsorship of a fully inclusive ENDA, repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and the current Health Care Reform discussions underway. She offered advice that we must continue the conversations with other members of both sides of the Congress to ensure that a majority of votes be garnished in favor of passing an inclusive ENDA, and noted that Health Care is demanding prime attention in the house,

and will do for the coming weeks/months. She stated that Congress has a unique opportunity this year to reform health care in a way that helps all Americans and addresses the needs of specific minorities, including



LGBT Americans.

Congresswoman Jackson Lee discussed co-sponsoring the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (MREA), to repeal DADT and her signing a letter sent to President

Obama asking him to use his stop-loss power to end investigations against service members accused of violating "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". Additionally she is calling for a full congressional inquiry into the murder of August Provost, the 29-year-old sailor from Houston found dead in a Camp Pendleton guard shack.

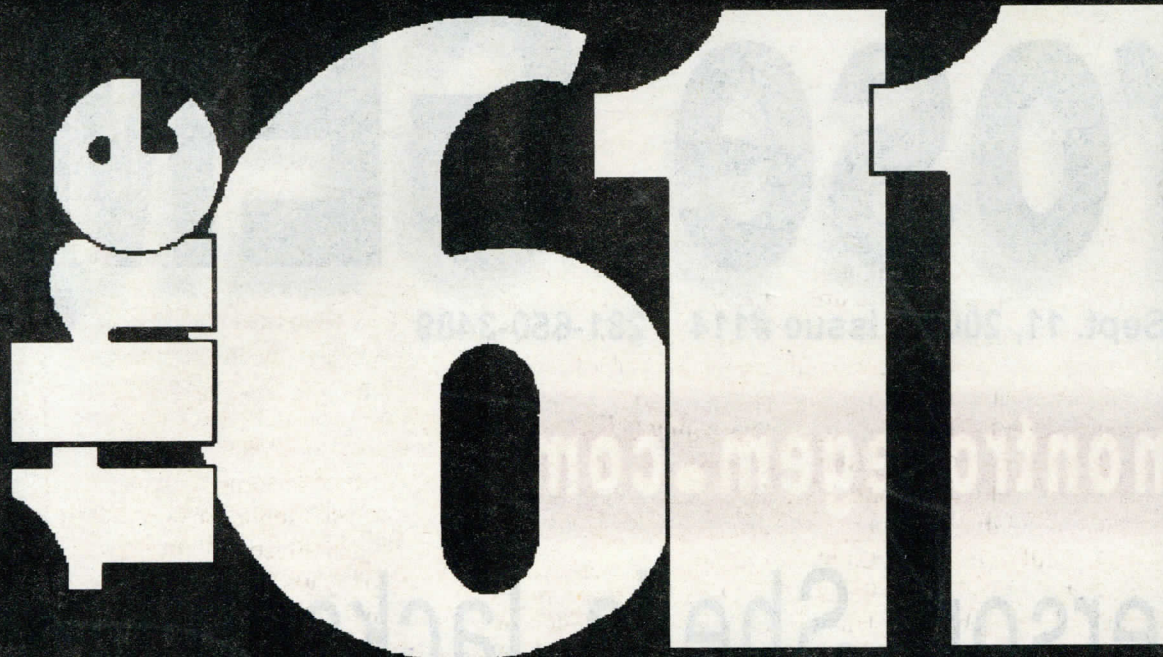
Detailing the continuing prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the Houston area Congresswoman Jackson Lee stressed the importance of helping those in the community who are often the hardest hit when the economic climate is down. She noted that many of the local AIDS service organizations available resources are over stretched from new requests for help whilst charitable giving and corporate sponsorship is significantly down. She mentioned the importance of, and potential assistance in finding additional funding sources where possible.

During the meeting Congresswoman Jackson Lee clearly showed that she is knowledgeable and passionate about the many issues facing the LGBT community. She maintained her stance that **all** citizens should be treated as full and equitable citizens.



Hurricane Ike Was One Year Ago

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News from Montrose Counseling Center

From Press Release

So far this year, Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston has logged 522 calls, with callers looking for anything as simple as a referral to GLBT and GLBT-friendly organizations and businesses, to callers with serious concerns about sexuality, HIV, substance abuse, relationship problems, domestic violence, sexual assault and crisis intervention. September is Suicide Prevention Month, and Switchboard workers know, more than most, the importance of suicide prevention efforts.

Community Projects Specialist Sally Huffer, who manages the Switchboard volunteers, says, "One of the most important services the Switchboard provides is to be an ear for the more isolated members of our community. Isolation may lead people to addictive behaviors, depression, and thoughts of suicide. Most callers just want someone to talk to, someone who will listen with an open mind, without prejudice or recrimination."

Experts believe that most suicidal individuals do not want to die. They just want their pain to end. A call to Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston at 713.529.3211 may be the first step to getting help. Switchboard volunteers are available for emergency crisis intervention 24 hours a day. They are trained to listen supportively to callers, help them find their own solutions, and make referrals to service agencies if the help that is needed is beyond their scope of peer support.

Volunteers are needed! If you are interested in becoming a Switchboard volunteer, please apply today by clicking here. Training happens only a few times a year, with the next training coming up this fall. For more information about Switchboard, please visit the newly designed Gay & Lesbian Switchboard website. GLBT-affirming agencies are encouraged to add/update their organization's listing by clicking here.

In addition to the Switchboard, Montrose Counseling Center (MCC)

offers year-round suicide prevention through the HATCH youth services, as well as through therapists' work with their clients. According to Lambda GLBT Community Services, "Suicide is the leading cause of death among gay male, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth, who are part of two populations at serious risk of suicide: sexual minorities and the young." Researchers believe the increased risk results from isolation, rejection, confusion, and shame due to being repeatedly marginalized by society. HATCH provides a supportive network for its participants, engages the youth in suicide prevention strategies, including the creation of Suicide Prevention Plans for those at risk, and provides Suicide Prevention information online for GLBT youth everywhere.

"Isolation kills people," says Youth Specialist Deb Murphy, "At HATCH, in a very real way, we lessen people's sense of isolation. We open up the world to the youth and show them, 'You can be a healthy, productive, happy, gay adult.'"

Montrose Counseling Center is a member of the Houston Area Suicide Prevention Coalition and promotes suicide prevention on a daily basis. Executive Director Ann J. Robison, PhD, says, "With the focus this month on suicide prevention, we hope members of Houston's GLBT communities know that we're here for them, whether it's through HATCH, the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard, or seeing a therapist in our GLBT-affirming counseling center."

Swine Flu Causes Concern for Those with Compromised Immune Systems

Predictions about an upcoming novel H1N1 flu, or Swine Flu, pandemic are somewhat conflicting. While the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that within the next two years as many as one third of the world's population could become infected, Ann Moen of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes that the swine flu outbreak will not be worse than a severe flu season. Either way, it raises concerns for those with compromised immune systems, such as people living with HIV/AIDS.

Although at the present time the CDC

does not have specific information about the risk of Swine Flu in people with HIV/AIDS, the CDC warns, "HIV-infected individuals, particularly those with low CD4 counts, can experience more severe complications of seasonal influenza." WHO also lists those with immunosuppression as a vulnerable group with an increased risk of severe complications. However, According to WHO, people co-infected with H1N1 and HIV are not at risk if they are receiving antiretroviral therapy.

The CDC encourages people, particularly those with HIV/AIDS, to take precautions against infection.

Wash your hands often. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with your hands. Try to avoid close contact with sick people. Review CDC's interim recommendations for facemask and respirator use. In addition, it helps to maintain an overall healthy lifestyle by eating right, getting enough sleep, adhering to prescribed medications, following the advice of your health care provider, and reducing stress as much as possible. If you are HIV+ and taking antiretrovirals or antimicrobial prophylaxis, the CDC urges you to adhere to your current prescriptions throughout the flu season.

Symptoms of Swine Flu infection are generally the same as for general influenza and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache, body aches, chills, fatigue, diarrhea, and vomiting. If you think you may have become infected, contact your health care provider and follow his or her instructions. It is also important to avoid contact with others, especially where you may come into contact with people with compromised immune systems. If you are sick and have an appointment at MCC, please call to reschedule your appointment.

There is no vaccine currently available for the Swine Flu. The CDC already recommends that HIV-infected persons get a regular (inactivated) flu shot this time of year and considers this a priority group should there be a vaccine shortage. If you have a severe allergy to hens' eggs or a history of Guillain-Barresyndrome, please let your doctor know because you may have a reaction to the flu shot.

Hurricane

Anniversaries

If it hasn't started happening already, it's just a matter of time before the media bombards us with stories about the first anniversary of Hurricane Ike. It was a very difficult time for our clients, friends, families and supporters. Still, most of us have made it through these last several months. Hurricane Ike impacting everyone in the Houston and Galveston areas.

Some sustained major losses: flooding, wind-related damage to their homes, downed trees and power lines. Many were unable to return to their homes for months, only to find them in such disrepair that alternative living arrangements needed to be made. That is, if they had a home to return to. That's not to mention the toll it took on everyone who went without electricity for weeks and weeks, the lines we had to stand in for food, water and ice, and the traffic delays caused by the stop lights being out of order. People lost income and jobs when businesses couldn't reopen.

For some, this time of year also brings back painful memories of Hurricane Katrina. The survivors tell us that stress comes and goes, even after several years have passed. Some people may be in a state of shock for some period of time. It is not unusual for anxiety to appear several weeks or months after something as devastating as hurricanes Katrina and Ike. Even if others around you seem to be managing well, keep in mind that you may not be seeing them at their worst.

Try not to compare your situation with others, and realize that everyone needs time to heal, and there's no set limit on how much time it takes. When the stories return to the television and in the newspaper, and the images take us back, it should not come as a surprise that the memories may conjure up tension, especially during these tough economic times.

The anniversary of any kind of devastating life-changing event is something you can prepare yourself for. If you suspect the upcoming anniversary will trigger painful memories, try to avoid the media coverage. If you are in recovery, check in with your sponsor, attend a 12-step meeting or other program. One way to manage the stress of feeling like things are out of your control is to take control of things in your life that you can.

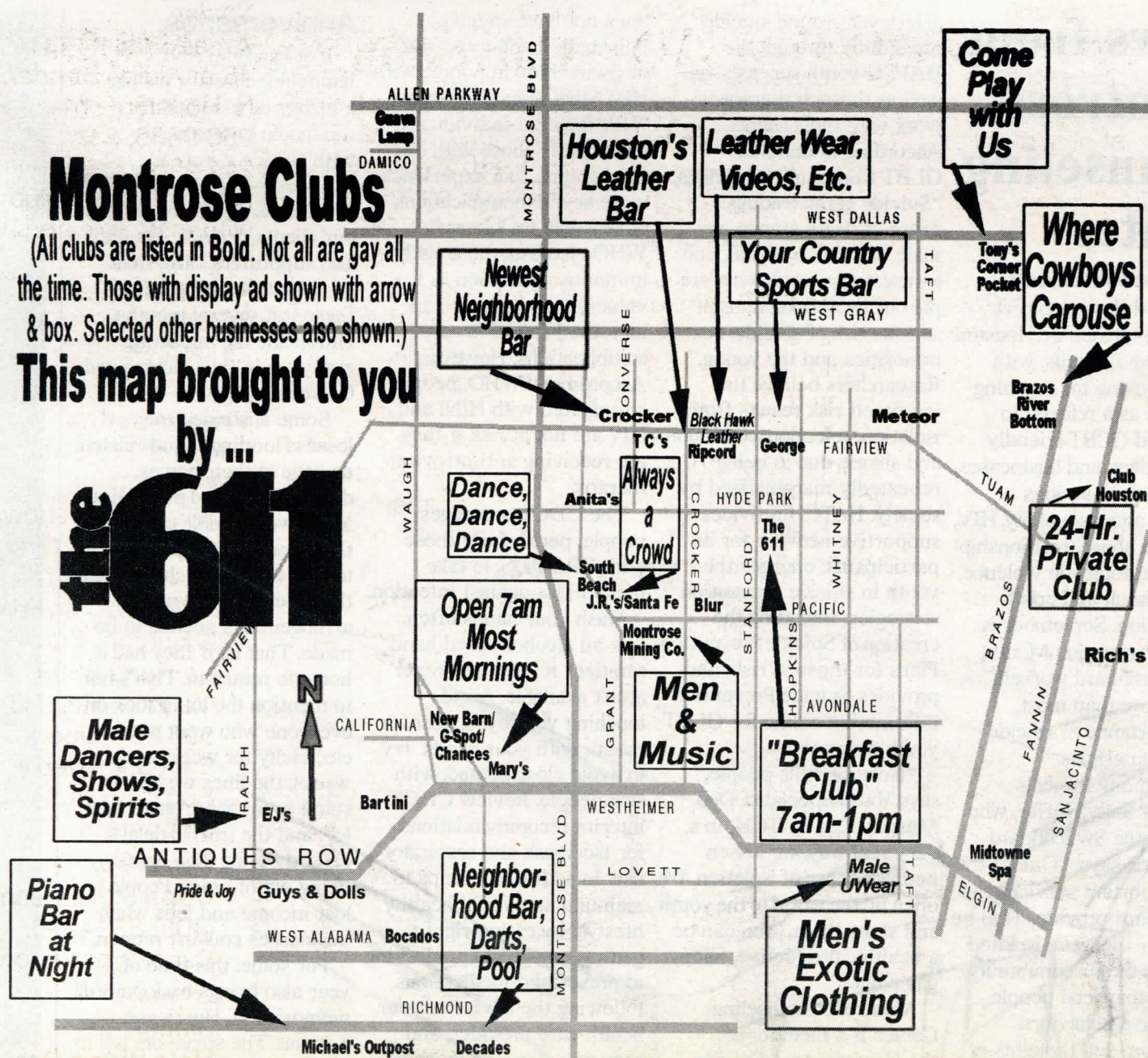
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Montrose Clubs

(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.)

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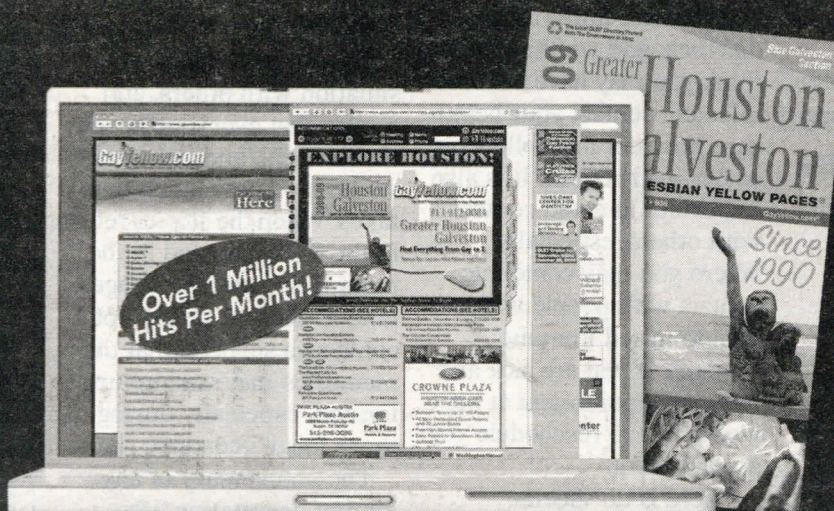
All Star News and Video
Emporium Monday, 4pm to 8pm
3415 Katy Freeway & Studewood
George Sports Bar Monday, 6pm to 10pm
617 Fairview
611 Hyde Park Pub Tuesday, 4pm - 8pm
611 Hyde Park
Midtowne Spa Tuesday, 4pm to 8pm
3100 Fannin
Club Houston Tuesday, 8pm to 12am
2205 Fannin
Club Houston Wednesday, 8pm to 12am
2205 Fannin
EJ's Wednesday, 10pm to 1am
2517 Ralph
Crystal Night Club Wednesday, 10pm to 1am
6684 Southwest Fwy.
Guava Lamp Thursday, 6pm to 10pm
570 Waugh Drive
Brazos River Bottom Thursday, 8pm to 12am
2400 Brazos
Ripcord Thursday, 8pm to 11pm
715 Fairview
Midtowne Spa Friday, 5pm to 9pm
3100 Fannin
EJ's Friday, 10pm to 1am
2517 Ralph
Testing days and times subject to change. Contact the testing site.

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www.legacycommunityhealth.org

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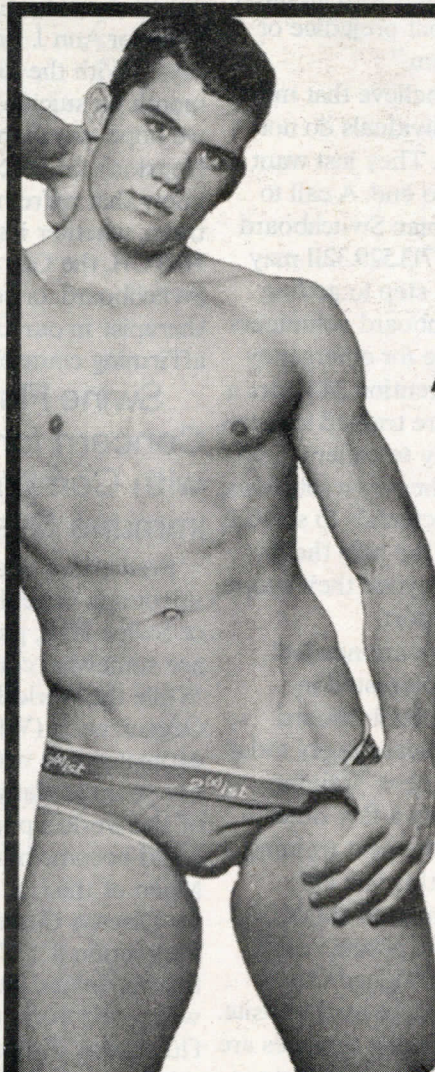
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Bocados 1312 W.

Alabama, 713-523-5230. Ladies nights on Wednesdays

Chances/G--

Spot/New Barn

1100 Westheimer, 713-523-7217.

Mega women's club

Club 1415 1415

California, 713-522-7066. Open for theme parties some nights.

Crocker 2312

Crocker, 713-523-0026. Wii game, newest neighborhood watering hole. Open 11am-2am

Decades 1205

Richmond Ave., 713-521-2224. A neighborhood bar. Open 11am (noon Sun.). Pool tables, darts, a great jukebox

E/J's 2517 Ralph,

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breakfast). Male strippers most nights. Frequent shows and benefits

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Guava Lamp 570

Waugh Dr., 713-524-3359. Open daily 4pm. Happy hour 4-8pm, piano playing sometimes, DJ other times

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Open 3pm (11am Sat., noon Sun.)

Montrose Mining

Co. 805 Pacific, 713-529-7488. A butch bar. Lots of cruising. Crowd, mostly men, is of all ages. Draft beer on the patio

Ripcord 715 Fairview,

713-521-2792. Houston's leather bar, open 1pm daily. Man-hunting crowds at night. After hours weekends

South Beach 810

Pacific, 713-521-9123. Major dance club. Get there early to get ahead of the line. Open

lunch

Galveston

3rd Coast Beach

Bar 3102 Seawall Blvd., (409) 765-6911. Overlooking the Gulf.

Club Groove 2409

Market, (409) 789-9134. Dance club with different themes different nights

Pink Dolphin 904

Ave. M at Stewart Beach, (409) 621-1808. Patio overlooks the Gulf. Open 10am to 2am. Frequent drag shows

Robert's Lafitte 2501

Ave. Q, (409) 765-9092. A down-to-

Spring

Amazonia 11449 I-45 at Aldine Bender, N. Houston, 281-260-9885, 832-244-4354. Latin-flavored dance club with male strippers, impersonators

Ranch Hill Saloon

247041 I-45N #103, 281-298-9035

Northeast Houston

Viviana's 4624

Dacoma, 713-681-4104. Frequent impersonation shows
Whispers 226 First St. E., Humble, 281-359-2900. DJ on Fri. & Sat., Burgers Sun.

La Raza 3869

Mangum Rd., 713-680-8911 Open 5pm-5am Wed.-Sun. Shows & strippers

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Copa 304 Orleans, (409) 832-4206. Dancing and shows

Bryan/College Station

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121 N. Main, Bryan, (979) 260-2437

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Main. Bryan, (979) 823-4044, "gay-friendly," live music nightly

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Mary's 1022

Westheimer, 713-527-9669. The oldest gay bar in Texas, open 7am (10am Sun.). Occasional shows and community events

Meteor 2306

Genesee at Fairview. Upscale crowd, open 1pm

Michael's Outpost

1419 Richmond Ave., 713-520-8446. Piano players some nights.

Wed.-Sun. with after-hours weekends

TC's 817 Fairview, 713-528-9204. All types of customers, from the retired to the young, some rough. Drag shows Thurs.-Sun. Open 11am (noon Sun.)

Tony's Corner

Pocket 817 W. Dallas, 713-571-7870. Pool and other games, open noon daily. Frequent shows & benefits

Other Inner Loop

In-N-Out 1537 N. Shepherd, 713-589-9780. "MetroSocial" open daily 11am with

earth bar open 7am (10am Sun.). All ages of people. Drag shows Sat. & Sun. nights. Swimming pool

Other Areas

Southwest Houston

La Academia 5829 S. Gessner, 713-334-5422, dance club

Club Big Yo 6305

Skyline, 713-953-0268. Women's club open Thurs.-Sun.

Crystal U.S. 59 at Hillcroft, 713-278-2582.

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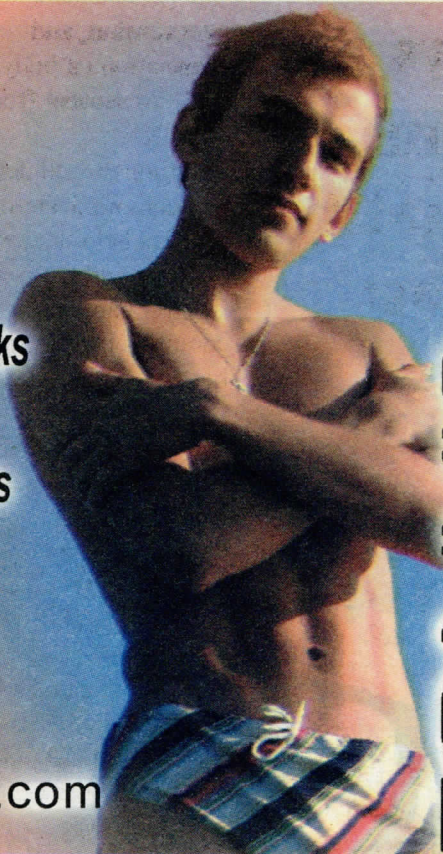
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QFest is the New Name for Our Film Festival

From Press Release

This year, QFest, the Houston-based GLBT film festival, and the Houston GLBT Community Center have announced a partnership on QFest 2009 and the screening of the new documentary *Out in the Silence*, which recounts the difficulties that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people face in rural and small-town America. The GLBT Community Center and QFest are finalizing both the date (late October or early November) and the venue.

The Community Center and QFest hope to bring the filmmakers to Houston for the screening, which will be a Texas premiere. Details will be announced soon.

The filmmakers, Dean Taylor and Joe Wilson, aim to use their movie "to promote dialogue and action that will help people on all sides of the issues find common ground," as they state on the film website,

www.outinthesilence.com.

From the website: "Out in the Silence captures the remarkable chain of events that unfold when the announcement of filmmaker Joe Wilson's wedding to another man ignites a firestorm of controversy in his small Pennsylvania hometown. Drawn back by a plea for help from the mother of a gay teen being tormented at school, Wilson's journey dramatically illustrates the universal challenges of being an outsider in a conservative environment and the transformation that is possible when those who have long been constrained by a traditional code of silence summon the courage to break it."

The film, which the Philadelphia Inquirer has called "stunning," in August received both the Alternative Spirit Award at the Rhode Island International Film Festival and the Audience Award at the Hardacre Film and Cinema Festival in Tipton, Iowa.

Following the screening of *Out in the Silence*, the GLBT Community Center will host a monthly QFest Movie Night at the Community Center, organized in conjunction with QFest (previously known as the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival).

News From Equality Texas: Safe Schools Forum

From Press Release

Every student in Texas schools deserves an education free from the harmful physical and emotional effects of harassment and bullying. However, as schools across the state are reopening for the fall term, thousands of Texas children dread going to school to face the taunts, jeers, humiliation, physical intimidation and pain inflicted through harassment and bullying.

The Equality Texas Foundation is concerned that most school districts' current policies on bullying and harassment may be inadequate, or inadequately enforced. Although Texas' schools have worked to make safe schools a reality by putting in place bullying and harassment policies required by the Texas Education Code, we believe current statutes do not yet adequately address the prevention,

intervention, and elimination of bullying and harassment from our schools.

Although well-defined and communicated policies help deal with bullying and harassment when it happens, a comprehensive program is necessary for prevention. Programs that integrate a data-tracking system for bullying and harassment incidents, a robust district-level policy that is consistently enforced, and a research-proven program to educate both students and staff about bullying and harassment have been found to be the most effective.

Community Forums on Safe Schools have been scheduled for Houston Wednesday, Sept. 23, 6:00 p.m., Lamar High School Cafeteria, 3325 Westheimer.

Annise Parker Endorsed

Equality Texas is asking its members to spend their time and resources to elect Annise Parker as the first openly lesbian mayor of Houston and the first openly LGBT mayor of our nation's fourth largest city. Annise Parker's election to office is a critical battle that must be won in order to advance equality in Houston and in Texas.

Annise Parker is simply the best candidate to move Houston forward.

Annise Parker has what it takes to manage Houston

through tough economic times. As City Controller, Annise directs Houston's financial investments and manages billions of tax dollars. Because of her fiscal responsibility and leadership, Houston is stronger today than other major cities that gambled their futures on risky investments and irresponsible budgets. Annise has a plan to create jobs, secure Houston's future as the headquarters for new energy development, and maintain fiscal responsibility.

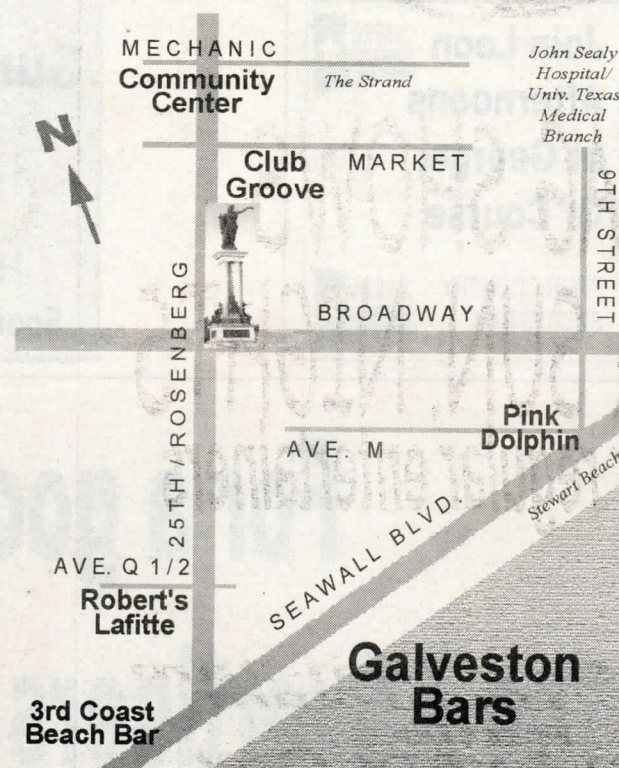
As Mayor, Annise will fight to create good-paying jobs using national stimulus program and local funds, and to make sure the paychecks go to Houston families. At every step of the way, Annise has worked hard to make Houston better and improve the quality of life for Houstonians. Annise's roots in Houston run deep. She was born and raised in Houston, as were her parents, who met as students at the University of Houston. Annise and her life partner, Kathy Hubbard, have been together since 1990. They have two children. Save the Dates, October 3rd & 4th.

Volunteer opportunities will include block-walking and phone-banking. Volunteers interested in phone-banking do not have to physically be located in Houston.

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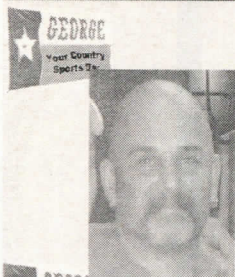
Community Television

Midtowne River Oaks

casey@televisionone.net

713.807.7707

PARTY TIME



Join Leon Afternoons at George, Of Course

YOUR COUNTRY SPORTS BAR

Houston Jacks
Sunday, Sept. 20 2:30 pm
Midtowne Spa

HoustonJacks2009@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Black Hawk Leather & Midtown Spa

For a good time ...

Visit the Advertisers in the Montrose GEM

MONTROSE MARKETPLACE



Presents the 2nd Annual Fire and Ice Ball

"CHICAGO STYLE"

Saturday September, 19, 2009

**The GLBT Cultural Center—401 Branard
77006— First Floor**

**8:00 PM to 12:00 AM— Meet the Mob Party for adults 21
and Over \$30 (pre sale) \$35 (at the door)**

6 person tables available for \$200 (includes ticket price)

4 person tables available for \$150 (includes ticket price)

**4 hours Open Bar, Buffet, Drag Show and Fashion Show Auction, Awards and More.
20'/30's Period Best Costume Contest!**

**To RSVP and Purchase Tickets, Contact JP Gill
jpgill2006@yahoo.com visit www.ersicss.org for more info**

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**E.R.S.I.C.S.S. is a 501c3
Organization and Gladly Accepts**



**Two thing are happening, both of which are good for business in Montrose.
The cooler weather is creeping in. And the recession is easing. And your
Montrose GEM is getting ready to make some changes. But we want to ask you ...**

What would you do if you were the editor of The Montrose GEM?

**There are obvious answers. But we want to hear from
you with your ideas.**

Email to montrosegem@yahoo.com

**If we like your suggestions, are you available
to put them in action?**

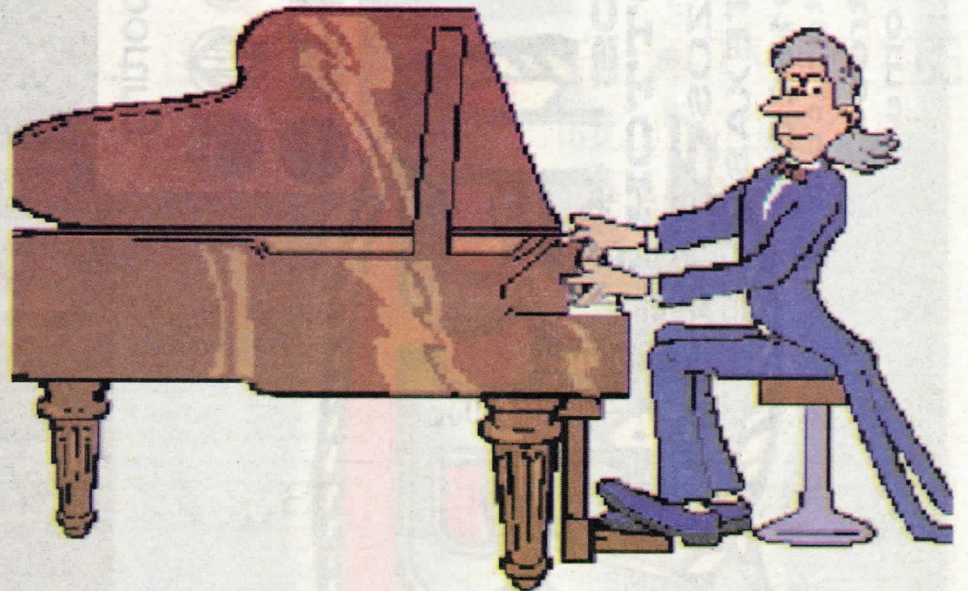
What would you do if you were advertising director of The Montrose GEM?

**There are obvious answers. But we want to hear from
you with your ideas.**

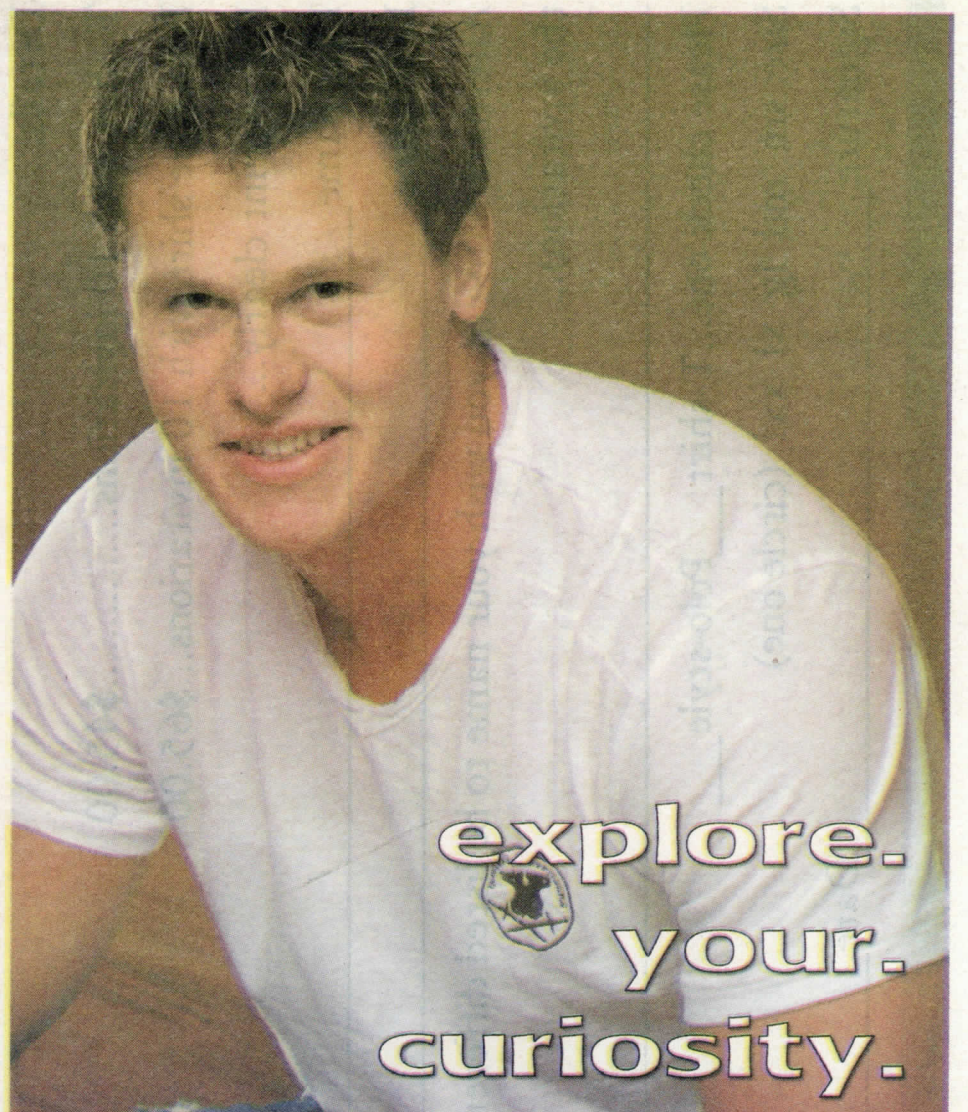
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Presents

Charity Calendar

Release Party

Tuesday

FOOD! FUN! FRIENDS!
September 15th

7:30 PM

BRB

12 Clubs Supporting...



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Now Accepting Applications for HOSTS for Denim Party

26th Annual Denim Party

Place: Brazos River Bottom Club

2400 Brazos St.

Houston, Tx 77006

Date: Sunday, November 8, 2009

Time: 5pm til midnight

Deadline for registration is Thursday, October 1, 2009. Host packets will be distributed Tuesday, October 20, 2009 @ 7pm.

Details...

T-Shirt with 10 invitations.....\$45.00

Polo-style shirt with 10 invitations...\$65.00

Please print clearly...

First name _____

Last name _____

Alternate name (if you wish your name to be listed differently on the invitation)...

Please check one...T-shirt _____ Polo-style _____

Size: sm md lg xl xxl (circle one)

Signature _____ Date _____