

Montrose

Gem



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713.523.2828

www.montrosegem.com

A Tribute to "The Mayor of Lower Westheimer"

Ed Moninger was many things to many people in our community. He was not just a bar owner; he was friend, mentor, and even Santa Claus in some eyes.

I talked to some of the employees and patrons at EJ's the morning the news of Ed's death became public. Bradley knew Ed for 20 plus years and is an EJ's employee. He referred to Ed as a "rare breed" and went on to say "the world is all commercial now but not Ed. He was hands on and that's how he ran his bar and his life....Ed embraced his community, it's organizations and the people. In this day of corporations and big brother Ed had old school values." He added, "He [Ed] was also very political, always encouraged people to vote, to stand up and be heard, to do it right."

Devon is another EJ's employee who was on duty that morning. When I asked him he looked up toward the sky and gave a kind of half-smile. With eyes slightly glistening he finally answered,

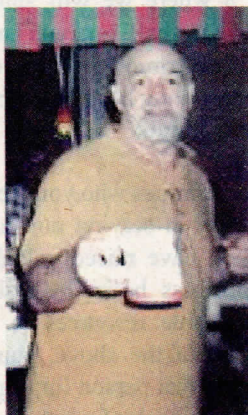
"I asked Ed a few years back about doing a memorial wall to remember folks who passed....Ed said, 'Blanche, this is a bar. I want people to come in here and drink and laugh, not be sad and cry.' It's funny now, I guess he'll be mad at all of us."

He shook his head and turned his attention to the customers at the bar.

According to employees Jeff, Ed's partner of more than 35 years, has said that if any cards were received they would be displayed on the walls around the bar for a time.



Ed Moninger and his Partner Jeff
The E and J of EJ's



Jack Spears, a bar patron who was there that morning had this to say. "Ed was a beautiful man...you could always see him in the mornings with a cup of coffee and that constant smile on his face..."

Jack's friend Andy was sitting beside him and added, "Ed was always proud and supportive of the community... he never hid in a closet."

Bob Bouton recalled, "Ed and I go back a long long way, so far back we were both young and considered "HOT PROPERTY" can't even imagine that any more."

Bouton reminded us, "Our Community has lost a good friend."

"We both came along way from that little bar on Richmond, and our journey lead us in different directions, but it was always a happy time to see Ed, get a hug and a smile" he reminisces.

Skip Willett aka Mother Morgan Fairview said of Moninger, "He was someone I enjoyed being around and talking with when I felt down, He seem to always lift my spirits even if it was just talking about the birds."

And always, 'Sure Morgan, you can have your show here and I'll make something to serve."

Adding, "He has been a dear friend to me, and the community, and he will be forever missed..."

"My heart is heavy and with the passing of anyone who has done so much for others, Another light has gone out. So I have to say goodbye to Ed, till we meet again someday."

Scott More, Director of Community Resources Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County said of Moninger, "Ed will be missed but NEVER forgotten."

No one was ever an acquaintance of Ed's, he ONLY had friends and he had many, many, many friends."

"Often times I witnessed him helping out a friend.", More explained, "Not necessarily monetarily, but with a friendly smile, hug or a good lead in the right direction. All given freely with ZERO expectations of expecting something in return."

"Don't get me wrong, he would hold you to your word, but had the GIFT of forgiveness.", More further stated.

The day of Ed's passing Melissa said it best, 'We have just lost the Mayor of lower Westheimer!' God Bless you Ed and we will all see you soon..."

While Brian Keever covered his and the feelings of many by stating simply. "...he was a great man and we loved him."



Ed with one of his many friends

By the time of this printing both of the public gatherings in memory of Ed, one at Bradshaw-Carter Memorial & Funeral Services on West Alabama and the other at EJ's Bar on Ralph Street, will already have taken place. I was present at both events and can tell anyone who was not there that both were well attended and I feel that Ed would have hated them...which is what made them so successful.

The one thing Ed hated more than just about anything was praise or being in the limelight. I feel confident that Ed winged his way up to heaven, sat at the bar next to such individuals as "Fannie" Farmer, Lady Victoria Lust and Eartha Quake and, after finishing his first-cup of coffee, asked 'Where do we go from here, Blanche?'

Judy Reeves, Curator of the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum compiled this tribute to Ed Moninger.(GCAM).

Photos by Scot More

PRIDE NOT PREJUDICE

THE 2010 LGBT CELEBRATION

PRESENTED BY

VOTE ONLINE FOR THIS
YEAR'S GRAND MARSHALS



Bunnies
on the
Bayou

HOP DOWNTOWN FOR ONE OF THE
BEST PARTIES OF THE YEAR



SPRING

AT LAST!



NEW FEATURE
IN OUR NEXT ISSUE
Cooking Capers with Dr. Dave



Michael's
OUTPOST

Live Singer
Thursday

Piano Players
Wednesday
through
Sunday

1419 Richmond Houston
713-520-8446

Pot Luck
Dinner
Wednesday



Grand Marshal Voting ... It's On!

The time has already come. It's in your hands (or perhaps pen or mouse is a better fit here). The Pride Houston Kick Off Celebration is just a few weeks away on Thursday, April 8 where we will announce the 2010 Grand Marshals, and you have the fun privilege of determining who those Grand Marshals are. Voting has already begun with online vote casting!

Your vote determines who you feel has gone that extra mile in serving our community. Whether they have raised valuable funds, donated countless hours by volunteering, provided valuable resources to our community, or all of the above, you now can help recognize that person (or organization) though a simple click of a button.

This is an amazing progress in our Grand Marshal decision process. The LGBT community has advanced so far over the past years, and we are fortunate to have reached the point where we feel comfortable in not secluding ourselves to one section of town. Today, we have members of the LGBT community living in the far corners of the greater community, and their voices can now be heard in this decision process.

So take a couple of minutes out today and vote. If you aren't quite sure who to vote for, then read through the online profiles of your Male Nominees, Female Nominees, Honorary Nominees, and Organization Nominees.

Go TO: www.pridehouston.org, or copy and paste the link below into your web browser: http://www.pridehouston.org/index.php/news/comments/2010_grand_marshal_voting_is_open

2010 PRIDE KICK-OFF PARTY

The announcement of the Grand Marshals will be held at "2010 Pride Houston Kick Off Party" on Thursday, April 8 at 6:30pm. at Momentum Audi. Everyone's favorite Emcee, Ernie Manouse will be there to host the event.

See comments on Page 6

Official Unveiling of Arts District sign

"First Ward - Houston, Texas
designated Arts District of Houston"

Please join us for a cup of coffee, blue berry scone, music from MECA and a bit more. Help us do the unveiling.

Saturday, March 27 at 10:00am

Houston Avenue at Crockett Street on the South-east corner.

2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner

(HOUSTON—Jan. 27, 2010) Kindred Spirits Foundation, Inc. announces the Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament and Dinner, Saturday, April 24, 1:30 p.m. at Bear Creek President's Golf Course (16001 Clay Road) in Houston.

The 18-hole event includes a barbecue dinner with a raffle, scratch off fantasy golf cards and awards presented for first, second and third place, the longest drive, and the closest ball to the pin. Humorous awards, including the "Girl Scout Award" which recognizes the last-place team, round out the day.

Entry fees for the tournament start at \$100 for individuals and \$400 for teams with a shotgun start and "bogey is your friend" format; mulligan, birdie, and the whimsical "Marion Drive" tickets are also available day of the tournament.

Since 2002, community leader Marion Coleman and a core committee of volunteers have produced fundraising events continuing the essence of Kindred Spirits, a popular nightclub established by Coleman in 1980 "for women and their friends," according to the club's motto. Now a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Kindred Spirits Foundation has distributed more than \$100,000 to AssistHers, Bering Support Group, Houston Buyers Club and Lesbian Health Initiative, its designated beneficiaries.

The golf tournament kicks off a full year of charitable events celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of Kindred Spirits, including Kindred Spirits Foundation's 1st Annual Softball Tournament, scheduled in June. The group's "main event", a cocktail reception and dance, is scheduled for August 28, 2010 at the SPJST Ballroom (1435 Beall Street) in the historic Houston Heights.

Please visit KindredSpiritsHouston.org to register for the golf tournament, and more information about Kindred Spirits Foundation events. Sponsorships are available; please call Deb Marshall, 281/795-8583 or 713/907-5378 for more information.



Kindred Spirits
2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner
April 24, 2010
1:30 p.m.

Silent Auction - Raffle
Bear Creek Masters Golf Course
16001 Clay Road - Houston, Texas

Benefiting:
AssistHers
Bering Support Network
Houston Buyers Club
Lesbian Health Initiative

\$100 Individual/\$400 Team Entry
Includes green fees, shared cart, range balls, tournament services, a BBQ Dinner buffet and tournament rewards

Registration Deadline: April 15, 2010
Visit www.kindredspritshouston.org for more details
or call 713-907-5378 or 281-795-8583

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DRAG ...? HOUSTON

COMING SOON



**MICHAEL'S
OUTPOST**

WATCH THIS PAPER FOR DETAILS

MONTROSE GEM

WWW.MONTROSEGEM.COM

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Deborah Moncrief Bell
Editor-in-Chief

Rate Card #6 in effect

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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that advertising in a community newspaper is one of the most cost effective ways to advertise? Reasonable ad rates and a targetted audience such as the readers of The Montrose GEM is a sure way to increase businesses. The LGBT demographic proves to be one of great diversity but also one that tends to take very seriously where they shop, and are more likely to support businesses they feel are inclusive of them. Just like everyone else these days, Gays are facing difficult economic times. This has resulted in discretionary dollars being spent in places that are carefully selected.

Gays look to find out about what is going on in their communities where they get reliable and interesting information. They also take this into consideration when they choose where to shop

OUR ADVERTISING RATES

Color Advertising Rates

Full Page \$300

Half-Page \$200

Quarter Page \$150

Black & White

Full Page \$200

Half Page \$150

Quarter Page \$100

Eighth Page \$75

Marketplace Ads

Business Card \$29

Double Buinness Card \$49
(Black & White Only)

Your Ad will appear on our soon to be updated website

In addition to the print publication your ad will be featured at www.montrose.gem (getting an estimated 6,800 hits every two weeks).

We work with you for the publishing schedule you select, twice monthly, once a month, one every three months, The choice is yours.

Perhaps you tried the GEM before, - We welcome you back and if you have not yet joined out family, then we invite you to so so.

The paper is going through changes and growing. One aspect of that growth is to target not only Montrose but the greater Houston and Galveston Community. You may have heard the term, "We are everywhere". And we are. So even if you are not in Montrose don't think you won't reach our market. We are also working to make this a true community paper that will be of interest to all the folks who live, work and play in Montrose and beyond.

Non-profits receive a 25% discount when they advertise with us.

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY FOR OUR
APRIL 9TH ISSUE, DEADLINE FOR COPY IS
APRIL 5TH. BUT PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL
TO LET US KNOW YOU WANT AN AD SO WE
CAN RESERVE THE SPACE FOR YOU

SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OOF 2010

ISSUE #	Release Date	Deadline 3pm Mondays
129	April 9	April 5
130	April 23	
April 19		
131	May 7	May 3
132	May 21	May 17
133	June 4	May 31
134	June 18*	Jun 14
135	July 2	Jun 28
136	July 16	July 12
137	July 30	July 26
138	Aug 13	Aug 9
139	Aug 27	Aug 23
140	Sept 10	Sept 6
141	Sept 24	Sept 20
142	Oct 8	Oct 4
143	Oct 22	Oct 18
144	Nov 5	Nov 1
145	Nov 19	Nov 15
146	Dec 3	Nov 30
147	Dec 17*	Dec 13
148	Dec 31	Dec 27

Call 713.523.2828 or email us at:

montrosegem@yahoo.com

6,000 Distributed through 60+ Clubs,
Restaurants, Shops & Stores reaching
an estimated 12,000 Readers every issue

* Denotes a sepcial issue" June 18 for
GLBT Pride and December 17th for Holi-
day shopping.



Join us on the island and have a lot of fun. There's always something to do and it is home to five gay clubs as well as other activities uncluding the beach!

HIV Rate in Gay Men 44 Times Higher Than Other Men

by Eric Roland for the Montrose GEM

Gay men were the first people in the U.S. to be diagnosed with AIDS. Most of the deaths due to HIV/AIDS in the first decade of the epidemic were among gay and bisexual men. And, according to a recent data analysis released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there continues to be a severe disparity in rates of HIV and syphilis among gay and bisexual men relative to the rest of the U.S. population.

The data analysis, announced at the recent 2010 National STD Prevention Conference in Atlanta GA, shows the rate of HIV diagnoses among gay and bisexual men is more than 44 times that of other men and more than 40 times that of women. Syphilis infection rates among gay and bisexual men are high as well: 46 times that of other men and more than 71 times that of women.

In Houston, a large portion of the HIV cases continue to be among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). According to the Houston Department of Health and Human Services, 54% of people diagnosed with HIV since 1999 in Houston were among this population. Syphilis has also disproportionately impacted Houston's gay and bisexual men. Since 2002, over 50% of the cases syphilis in Houston each year have been among gay and bisexual men.

"We continue to diagnose a large number of gay and bisexual men with HIV and syphilis through our testing and counseling programs," says Amy Leonard, Director of Health Promotions at Legacy Community Health Services. "Clearly, there needs to be greater prevention efforts targeted to the gay community, especially for younger gay and bisexual men."

While CDC data have shown for several years that gay and bisexual men make up the majority of new HIV and new syphilis infections, CDC has never been able to show us the rate of infection per 100,000 people. Using population data from the U.S. Census, disease rates account for differences in the size of populations being compared. These rates provide a reliable method for assessing health disparities between populations.

"The U.S. Census does not ask about sexual orientation, so there is no way for any of us to know how many gay and bisexual men there are in the U.S.," says Eric Roland, Sr. Director of Marketing and Communications for Legacy Community Health Services. "CDC researchers used an analysis of nationally representative surveys to estimate the size of the gay and bisexual male population in the U.S. CDC estimated that gay, bisexual and other MSM comprise

2.0 percent of the overall U.S. population aged 13 and older, or 4 percent of the U.S. male population. Disease rates per 100,000 population were then calculated using 2007 surveillance data on HIV and syphilis diagnoses and U.S. Census data for the total U.S. population.

**"We continue to
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We continue to diagnose a large number of gay and bisexual men with HIV and syphilis

"Unfortunately, these disparate rates of HIV and syphilis infection are not surprising," says Katy Caldwell, Executive Director of Legacy Community Health Services. "The existing social and cultural stigmas around sexuality – and homosexuality in particular – have only helped to fuel this increase in HIV and syphilis."

Research shows that a range of complex factors contribute to the high rates of HIV and syphilis in this population. These factors include complacency about HIV risk, particularly among young gay and bisexual men; difficulty with consistently maintaining safe behaviors with every sexual encounter over the course of a lifetime; and lack of awareness of syphilis symptoms and how it can be transmitted. Additionally, factors such as homophobia and stigma can prevent gay and bisexual men from seeking prevention, testing, and treatment services.

According to a statement from CDC, preventing HIV and STDs among gay and bisexual men is a top priority. CDC currently provides funding to health departments and community-based organizations throughout the nation to implement HIV/STD prevention programs for gay and bisexual men. Additionally, CDC is implementing an updated National Syphilis Elimination Plan in cities where gay and bisexual men have been hardest hit by the disease, and will release an updated HIV prevention strategic plan within the next year

Legacy Community Health Services receives funds from CDC, the City of Houston and the Texas Department of State Health Services for HIV and STD prevention programs, many of which are targeted to gay and bisexual men. Legacy's HIV testing and counseling program continues to reach out to gay and bisexual men through their community outreach and testing at local bars, retail establishments, and other venues where gay and bisexual men congregate. Legacy also has a variety of education programs and media campaigns to raise awareness about HIV and STDs.

www.legacycommunityhealth.org



Testing at Clinic, 215 Westheimer
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11:00am
- 6:30pm, Friday 11:00am - 4:30pm
No appointment necessary.

Monday:

LCHS-Lyons 9am - 1pm &
5602 Lyons Ave. 2pm - 5pm
713.671.3041

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

George Sport Bar
617 Fairview
713.528.8102 6pm - 10pm

Tuesday:

The 611 4pm - 8pm
611 Hyde Park
713.526.7070

Club Houston 8pm - 12am
2205 Fannin
713.659.4998

Wednesday:

Midtowne Spa 4pm - 8pm
3100 Fannin
713.522.2379

LCHS-Lyons 9am - 1pm &
5602 Lyons Ave. 2pm - 5pm
723.671.3041

Club Houston 8pm - 12am
2205 Fannin
713.659.4998

EJ's 10pm - 1am
2517 Ralph
713.527.9071

Thursday:

Ripcord 8pm - 11pm
715 Fairview
713.521.2792

Guava Lamp 6pm - 10pm
570 Waugh Drive
713.894.5427

Brazos River Bottom 8pm - 11pm
2400 Brazos
713.528.9192

Friday:

LCHS-Lyons 9am - 1pm &
5602 Lyons Ave. 2pm - 5pm
723.671.3041

EJ's 10pm - 1am
2517 Ralph
713.527.9071

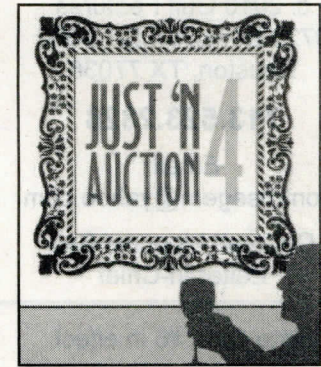
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The Bayou City Performing Arts
presents:

4th Annual Just 'N Auction
at The Alley Theater

April 1, 2010



BCPA's annual event will serve up their annual live and silent auction featuring a collection of art work by well-known local artists, jewelry, restaurants, entertainment and vacation packages, as well as various donated goodies from local businesses and donors. Featured performance by BCPA's Bayou City Women's Chorus.

Local celebrity, Ernie Manouse, will host as auctioneer for the Live Auction.

Buy Your Auction Tickets Online Today - \$35 pre-sale and \$50 at the door.

Golden Tickets

One of the big highlights of the event is the Golden Ticket. The Golden Ticket is your passport to fine art... this is your chance to choose one of three pieces of art donated from the Bering & James Gallery collection, featuring art by Blakely Bering, Austin James and Ann McCall

Only 100 of these special Golden Tickets will be sold at \$50 each. Golden Tickets are available online at www.bcpahouston.org or the night of the event. Three drawings will take place just prior to the live auction.

Remember, only 100 Golden Tickets will be sold - great odds for winning!

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2010

TIME: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
LOCATION: Alley Theater,
615 Texas Avenue,
Houston, 77002

TICKETS: \$35 pre-sale, \$50 at the door

For tickets contact 713-521-7464. or at
www.bcpahouston.org

All proceeds benefit Bayou City Performing Arts. KEEP THEM SINGING!



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We go beyond the slogans and tell you what's really in the bill.

PolitiFact has checked hundreds of claims about health care reform and read the plans under consideration by Congress. As the Democrats move toward a final vote, we've selected 10 facts about the actual health care legislation that every voter should know. Agree with the measure or not, here's what it intends to do and where the big unknowns are. We've linked to our previous reporting on each issue throughout the story; click through for even more sources.

1. The plan is not a government takeover of health care like in Canada or Britain. The government will not take over hospitals or other privately run health care businesses. Doctors will not become government employees, like in Britain. And the U.S. government intends to help people buy insurance from private insurance companies, not pay all the bills like the single-payer system in Canada. The key parts of the current U.S. system -- employer-provided insurance, Medicare for the elderly, Medicaid for the poor -- would stay in place. The government would create health insurance exchanges for people who have to buy insurance on their own, so they could more easily compare plans and prices.

2. Insurance companies will be regulated more heavily. They will be told the minimum services they must cover, including preventive care. They will have to pay out a certain percentage of premiums for patient care. By 2014, when the exchanges open, insurers won't be able to deny customers for pre-existing conditions.

3. Everyone will have to have health insurance or pay a fine, a requirement known as the individual mandate. The government intends to cap premiums for people who make below a certain income. For people who buy insurance on the exchanges, a family of four making \$88,000 would

making \$88,000 would have a cap of 9.5 percent of their income. Lower incomes would have lower caps. The fine for not having insurance would be a minimum of \$695 per person per year, with exemptions for financial hardship and other special cases.

4. Employers will not be required to buy insurance for their employees, but large employers may be subject to fines if they don't provide insurance. But Congress wanted to encourage employers, especially large employers, to offer insurance. So they created a fine for employers with more than 50 workers: If those employees buy insurance on the exchanges and qualify for a low-income credit from the government, then the employer would have to pay a fine. Fines are calculated based on number of employees; for large firms, the fines could be significant.

5. The vast majority of people will not see significant declines in premiums. When President Obama talks about premiums going down, he usually means they won't go up as much as they would otherwise. For the 4-out-of-5 who get their insurance through their employer, the savings would land in the 0 to 3 percent range by 2016, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, or CBO. People who buy insurance on their own, but who don't qualify for government subsidies, could actually see their premiums rise by as much as 10 to 13 percent, but that's largely because they'll be getting beefed-up policies that would pay for more basic services, especially preventive care. Low-income people who qualify for new credits to buy insurance would see the biggest drops.

6. The plan might or might not bend the curve on health spending. Critics say there aren't enough provisions to reduce waste or fraud, but Democrats say they're not being given enough credit for new cost-saving pilot programs that could be rapidly expanded. The most recent estimate of the plan, released Thursday by the CBO, said that it would spend \$940 billion over 10 years. But new taxes, penalties and cost savings would offset that spending, according to the CBO, so that overall the plan pay for itself, dropping the deficit by slightly \$138 billion over 10 years. Obama has said the plan will save more than \$1 trillion in the second 10 years, but that estimate, according to the CBO, is highly speculative.

7. The government-run Medicare program will keep paying medical bills for seniors, but it will begin implementing cost controls on health care providers, mostly through penalties and incentives. The legislation would reduce payments for hospital-acquired infections or preventable hospital admissions. For Medicare Advantage, the federal government intends to reduce extra payments, taking away subsidies to private insurance companies. Insurers will likely cut benefits in order to not lose profits. The bill does not address the "doctor's fix," an expected proposal that Congress usually passes to prevent

doctor's Medicare payments from severe cuts

8. Medicaid, a joint federal-state program for the poor, will cover all of the poor, instead of just a few groups the way it currently does. Right now, to qualify for Medicaid, a person has to be poor and also disabled, elderly, pregnant or a child. Under the new plan, all poor adults would qualify.

9. The government won't pay for elective abortions. But under the Senate plan, people will be able to buy insurance that covers abortion on the new health insurance exchanges, as long as the insurance company pays for the services with patient premiums, not taxpayer subsidies. Medicaid has an exemption for cases of rape, incest, or the life of the mother.

10. No one is proposing new benefits for illegal immigrants. Some House members had hoped that illegal immigrants would be able to buy insurance with their own money through the new exchanges, but that now appears unlikely.

Next issue: More of the truth on Healthcare reform

GAYS LEFT OUT IN "HEALTHCARE REFORM BILL"

Thanks to the U.S. House of Representatives, some 32 million people currently without health care can now get coverage. This is certainly good news, especially if you are among that number. However, the legislation still leaves many people out in the cold, including gay and lesbian people who take advantage of partnership benefits through their work.

Unlike heterosexually-married couples, gay and lesbian people—and unmarried straight people—who use domestic partner benefits to obtain health insurance for their significant other are taxed on those benefits. The result can be that a gay or lesbian person, according to the Human Rights Campaign, can pay "upwards of 50% more in federal taxes," than their heterosexually-married counterparts. In the original bill passed by the House last year, there was a provision in the bill doing away with this unfair taxation. It disappeared somewhere between the House and Senate version, never to be heard from again. That prompted even Jimmy LaSalvia, head of the gay Republican group GOProud to complain:

Instead of making domestic-partner benefits more available, this legislation will make them less available. Instead of empowering gay families to have more control over their health care decisions, this legislation will put more power in the hands of a federal government that denies any recognition for gay couples. Instead of supporting tax equity for domestic partners, they supported tax increases on gay families.

Unfair taxation of gay and lesbian couples was not the only casualty of the process. The HRC points out that measures "permitting states to offer early HIV treatment

under Medicaid, collecting critical health data on LGBT people, and addressing discrimination in health care," were also axed from the bill.

While saddened by the omissions, the HRC applauded the bill for "reforms like eliminating pre-existing condition limitations and expanding Medicaid [that will] significantly impact people living with HIV and AIDS." The HRC also acknowledged that many LGBT people will benefit from the bill as passed, just not as much as they could or should have.

As cheers and jeers are being aired over this legislation, it's important to remember who is left behind and who is harmed by this legislation like gay and lesbian people, those suffering from HIV and AIDS, and the right of a woman to get her health care insurance to pay for a perfectly legal medical procedure called abortion.

United Church of Christ pastor Chuck Currie calls the passage of the bill a "moral victory that brings our nation closer to being the Beloved Community we want it to be." Yes, I'll agree we're probably a bit closer, but it's interesting that with each new reform it's always the same kinds of people who are left outside the doors of the latest and greatest version of the "beloved community."

Read all of Candace Chellew-Hodge's posts here
<<http://www.religiondispatches.org/bloggers/candacechellew-hodge/>> and sign up for her RSS feed here
<<http://www.religiondispatches.org/rss/bloggers/candacechellew-hodge/>>.

Candace Chellew-Hodge is the founder/editor of <http://whosoever.org/>: An Online Magazine for GLBT Christians and currently serves as associate pastor at Garden of Grace United Church of Christ in Columbia, S.C.

Her new book is "Bulletproof Faith: A Spiritual Survival Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians"

Study on religion and well-being in the GLBT population

My name is Rebecca Hamblin and I am a graduate student in the Clinical Psychology department of the University of Mississippi. I am conducting a study on religion and well-being in the GLBT population along with my research advisor, Dr. Alan Gross.

You are invited to participate in this endeavor to advance knowledge and understanding by sharing your experiences as a member of the GLBT community. Participation involves completing a 5-15 minute online survey. Participants should GLBT, 18 years or older. The survey is anonymous and the study has been approved by the University of Mississippi's Institutional Review Board.

To participate in this study, go to:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/relglbt. You are welcome to forward this announcement on any email list you may have, as well as inform others who may want to participate.

voices breaking boundaries presents

Patti Smith: Just Kids

7 pm, Monday, April 19, 2010 (doors open at 6 pm)

E. Cullen Performance Hall, University of Houston, TX

\$5 general admission at the door (no one will be turned away while seats last)

\$35 with preferred seating + signed copy of JUST KID
(pre-purchase online through Brazos Bookstore)

Houston, TX (March 11, 2010) – Voices Breaking Boundaries (VBB) is honored to bring to Houston writer, performer and visual artist, Patti Smith, for a reading from her exciting new memoir JUST KIDS, at a night filled with literature, memory and rich conversation at the University of Houston's E. Cullen Performance Hall. She will be also be performing a few songs. Smith gained recognition in the 1970's for her revolutionary mergence of poetry and rock. Her seminal album, Horses, bearing Robert Mapplethorpe's renowned photograph, has been hailed as one of the top 100 albums of all time. Smith has now written an honest and moving coming-of-age story of her extraordinary relationship with Mapplethorpe. JUST KIDS (Publication Date: January 19, 2010; \$27.00) is a chronicle of friendship in its truest sense, a portrait of two innocents who, in a chance meeting in 1967, become lovers and then friends, and went on to fulfill their mutual dream of becoming great artists. In addition to her Monday night performance, Patti will be appearing live on KPFT Pacifica Radio 90.1 FM that morning at noon.

"I met Patti in 2003 at New York's LGA airport," says VBB Founding Director, Sehba Sarwar. "We'd been at the same anti-Iraq invasion rally on Washington Square the evening before. In Houston, later that week, I had the wonderful opportunity to co-interview her on KPFT's Pacifica Radio 90.1 FM. I've stayed in touch with her ever since then, and am thrilled that she can make time in her schedule to visit Houston to read from her new memoir—which I love. Every college student should read it, and VBB is hosting the reading at the University of Houston just so the next generation can learn about her work and be inspired."

Patti Smith's visit is supported in part by UH's Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, and Nina + Michael Zilkha. The show is cosponsored by UH-Creative Writing Program, English Department, Women's Studies Program, and History Department; Brazos Bookstore; Free Press Houston; Houston Independent Media Center; Houston Institute for Culture; Inprint Inc.; KPFT Pacifica Radio 90.1 FM; and Students for a Democratic Society. Books will be available for sale + signing after the event. Paid parking at UH Visitor Center (Entrance 1 off Calhoun). See VBB Website (www.vbbarts.org) for more details.

JUST KIDS begins as a love story and ends as an elegy. It serves as a salute to New York City during the late sixties and seventies, and to its rich and poor, its hustlers and helions. A true fable, it is a portrayal of two young artists' ascent, a prelude to fame. It was the summer Coltrane died, the summer of love and riots, and the summer when a chance encounter in Brooklyn led two young people on a path of art, devotion and initiation. Patti Smith would evolve as a poet, and performer, and Robert Mapplethorpe would direct his highly provocative style toward photography. Bound in innocence and enthusiasm, they traversed the city from Coney Island to forty-second Street, and eventually to the celebrated round table of Max's Kansas City, where the Andy Warhol contingent held court. In 1969, the pair set up camp at the Hotel Chelsea and soon entered a community of the famous and infamous – the influential artists of the day and the colorful fringe. It was a time of heightened awareness, when the worlds of poetry, rock and roll, art, and sexual politics were colliding and exploding. In this milieu, two kids made a pact to take care of each other. Scrappy, romantic, committed to create, and fueled by their mutual dreams and drives, they would prod and provide for one another during the hungry years.

Patti Smith is a writer, artist and performer. Her seminal album Horses was followed by nine releases including Radio Ethiopia, Easter, Dream of Life, Gone Again and Trampin'. Her art work was first exhibited at Gotham Book Mart in 1973, and she has been associated with the Robert Miller Gallery since 1978. Strange Messenger, a retrospective of three hundred works, made its debut at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and has been exhibited world-wide, most notably at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Haus der Kunst, Munich and the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam. Her books include Witt, Babel, Woolgathering, The Coral Sea, and Patti Smith Complete 1975 - 2006. On July 10, 2005, she received the Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, the highest grade awarded by the French Republic to eminent artists and writers who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts throughout the world. Smith resides in New York City and is the mother of two, Jackson and Jesse.



JUST KIDS is writer, performer, visual artist, Patti Smith's memoir. It chronicles hers relationship with photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

"Smith's intimate memoir is a tender elegy for the man with whom she had a two-decade-long relationship..." Just Kids is astonishing on many levels, most notably for Smith's lapidary prose...As a primer on self-discovery and the artist's journey, "Just Kids" is as inspiring as Rilke's "Letters to a Young Poet." It reminds us that becoming an artist is a worthwhile and brave endeavor....There's no need to ghettoize this book by praising it as an impressive memoir by a famous musician. It is simply one of the best memoirs to be published in recent years: inspiring, sad, wise and beautifully written."

— San Francisco Chronicle

BEELINES

By Deborah Moncrief Bell

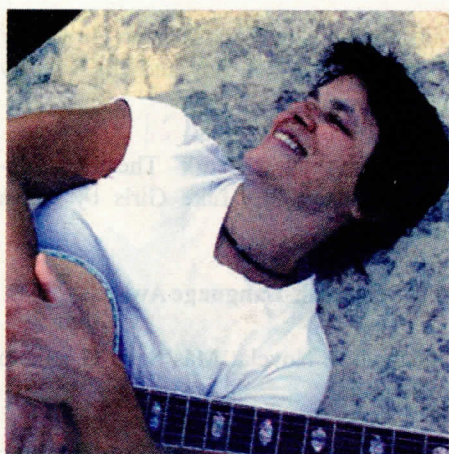
The last issue of the Montrose GEM was my first as editor. I would like to claim those nasty journalism creatures called gremlins are responsible for the many errors that were part of that issue. But, I have to say "My Bad!". I am a big believer in taking personal responsibility. There are several good reasons considering the problems I faced, not least among them, that I was operating under tremendous pressure, trying to use a computer design program foreign to me being but one of them. I actually pulled an "all-nighter" to get the paper done so it would meet the deadline and publishing schedule.

All I can ask a bit of forgiveness and a lot of patience as I continue this endeavor. Hopefully I will have your support as a community as we work to bring to Houston the kind of quality community paper it deserves.



You may notice that this issue lacks a considerable amount of advertising. There are several reasons for that. The fewer ads meant the more space to fill, and I have attempted to provide items of interest to our community and to anyone who picks up this paper. The Gem seeks to keep its focus on the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgendered population of our fair city and our island neighbor to the south, but we seek to expand as well. We have to have the ad revenue to do that. If this is the kind of paper you want, as I have heard from many in the community they do, then show your support. If you have business, please advertise with us. And let the advertisers that place their ads with us, know that you are patronizing them because you saw it in the Montrose GEM.

Thanks, that's the buzz from me this week.



TRET FURE

Winner of the 2009 favorite Lesbian musician from Pride in the Arts

Friday, April 23 - Houston, TX -

A House Concert, pre-show 7pm Show starts 8pm Tickets are \$15 adv, \$20 door. email: RhoCoJo@aol.com

Learn more about Tret and her music on www.queermusicheritage.com

ROSIE TO RETURN TO DAYTIME

by Deborah Moncreif Bell

The buzz is that Rosie O'Donnell is positioning to take on daytime television again, possibly targeting the audience that has followed Oprah Winfrey who is ending her long-running and popular show. O'Donnell's recent appearance on the Winfrey show fueled speculation.

O'Donnell won six Daytime Emmys in six years as host of an entertainment-oriented talk show that ended in 2002. Often referred to as "The Queen of nice", O'Donnell left her show only to become part of the Barbara Walters produced "The View". There O'Donnell held the anchor seat on the panel, a post now held by Whoopi Goldberg. Clashed with other program panelists and on some controversial issues.

For this new show she is planning "uplifting" strategy with a single-topic aspirational show, much as Winfrey does now.

"I would like this show to make a difference in people's lives, to be real, uplifting, authentic and focus on life, love and laughter," O'Donnell, 48, said.

O'Donnell was approached by Scott Carlin and Dick Robertson, two former Warner Bros. syndication executives who helped launch her first show. Their timing was ripe due to Winfrey's announcement regarding the end of her program. The three of them are setting up their own company to produce and distribute the show.

O'Donnell expressed that she wanted to "build on what Oprah began and excelled at for 25 years, in my own style and with new adaptations and ideas."

To describe the program, the executives said one idea would be to invite Sandra Bullock on at the time of "The Blind Side" movie release and use it as a starting point to talk about the foster care system.

O'Donnell told "Entertainment Tonight" that, as a mother of teenagers, she could do a show about how to care for them.

Ironically, O'Donnell's return to daytime TV places her in competition with another Lesbian, Ellen DeGeneres.

The wildly popular "Ellen Show" is lighter and more entertainment-oriented show, while still being out and dealing with serious issues, including those concerning the LGBT population. DeGeneres has been considered the most likely beneficiary of Winfrey's absence.

It seems O'Donnell is looking to distinguish herself from

Robertson claims was hired by "The View" to be outspoken, Robertson said.

"This is not a woman shouting from mountaintops," Carlin said. "She's among the people."

O'Donnell herself states, "In many ways I am more equipped and prepared to do this show than my last one, having evolved and grown and learned a lot about myself over the last eight years."

The comedian and former TV talk show host – who in mid-November revealed that her longtime partner Kelli Carpenter moved out of their home two years ago – is now dating Tracy Kachtick-Anders, a Texas-based artist. O'Donnell. She revealed to Oprah that she and Kachtick-Anders will soon be moving in together, along with Rosie's four children and her partner's six,

Like O'Donnell, Kachtick-Anders is active in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parenting and adoption issues. She launched Open Arms Campaign, a non-profit organization to recruit and foster adoptive families that targets the LGBT community.

"I have become an activist and work to educate everyone, not only about the plight of foster children," she wrote on TheRainbowBabies.com, "but also the inequality that faces LGBT people in their quest to create families."

O'Donnell is slated to do a benefit for Children with AIDS at the Pink Dolphin in Galveston later this year.



Rosie O'Donnell and partner, Tracy Kachtick-Anders (a Texan) stroll together in Miami last year. Will Rosie be able to beat out Ellen with her new daytime TV show? Rosie is slated to do a benefit later this year (maybe late May) for Children with AIDS at the Pink Dolphin in Galveston.

ALL STAR TEXAS COMEDY TOUR

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 7:00 PM

HOUSTON NATIVE AND STAND-UP COMEDIAN VICKIE SHAW IS TEAMING UP WITH FELLOW COMIC JENNIE MCNULTY FOR A FANTASTIC NIGHT OF STAND-UP COMEDY AND IMPROVISATION. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THESE FUNNY WOMEN, BOTH RECENTLY VOTED TO THE "TOP 10 FUNNIEST LESBIANS IN AMERICA."

\$25 GENERAL ADMISSION **\$50 VIP SEATING & POST-SHOW RECEPTION AND HORS D'OEUVRES WITH COMEDIANS**

Resurrection
Metropolitan Community Church

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM
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WWW.RESURRECTIONMCC.ORG | 713-861-9149
WWW.JENNIEMCNULTY.COM | WWW.VICKIESHAW.COM



The Bitch is Back!! Sunday, April 25th!!

Bitch returns to Houston for an encore performance Sunday, April 25th at Rudyard's located at 2010 Waugh Drive in the Houston, TX Montrose district.

It's an early 6:30 PM show so join us for dinner and the show. Rudyard's has a full menu and bar with plenty of good choices.

Equal parts poet and rock star, Bitch continues to push the envelope with her wild-spirited avant-garde sound and powerhouse performance that delivers strong vocals and a penchant for idiosyncratic musical instruments. Performing with her band, this promises to be a crazy, fun ride.

Christine Havrilla is the quintessential pop-rock Goddess and a perennial "Best of Philadelphia" award winner. Her energetic and infectious stage show is the perfect compliment to round out the show.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

6:30 PM

Rudyard's @ 2010 Waugh Drive - Houston, TX

\$12 at the door

For more information: www.myspace.com/houstonwomensfest

This will be a powerful show by two dynamic performers.

Presented by The Athena Art project team, producers of the Houston Women's Music Festival and other special events like this one.

National Peer Advocacy Training for HIV+ Women

A national peer advocacy training for HIV+ women is being offered April 12-16, 2010 in Austin Texas. The goal of the training is to train HIV+ women to provide outreach, education, and support in health and social service settings to assist other HIV+ women to get into and/or continue care and treatment. This training opportunity is offered through a cooperative agreement by the Women Rising Project, AIDS Services of Austin, The Center for Health Training and Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Disease (WORLD).

April 12-16, 2010 - Austin, Texas
April 12, 2010 (10:00 am - 2:00 pm)
April 13 - 16, 2010 (9:30 am-4:45 pm)

Free - Registration Required

Travel & Lodging Assistance Available for non-Travis County residents. Transportation assistance is available for Travis County residents.

Space is limited!

For more information and to register, e-mail the Women Rising Project or call 512.406.6150.

LaQueisa Wilson, MS
HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch
Texas Department of State Health Services
PO Box 149347
Mail Code 1873
Austin, Texas 78714
Phone: (512) 533-3138

laqueisa.wilson@dshs.state.tx.us

Lesbian Candidate Leaves SF Race, Goes to Work for Houston Mayor Parker

Laura Spanjian has withdrawn from the race for a district supervisor position in San Francisco to accept a job in the administration of Houston mayor Annise Parker.

Laura Spanjian dropped out as a candidate, telling the Bay Area Reporter, "I'm leaving the race and leaving San Francisco."

Spanjian worked on Parker's campaign last year. Parker, whose election made Houston the nation's largest city with an openly gay mayor, announced that Spanjian will be the city's sustainability director.

Parker was quoted as saying, "Laura Spanjian brings years of municipal experience in crafting innovative environmental policies that green our cities and save people money."

Spanjian held the position of assistant manager for external affairs with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and from her seat on the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee.

Her withdrawal from the race leaves three major gay candidates seeking the district 8 seat, which is being vacated by gay supervisor Bevan Dufty, who plans to run for mayor of San Francisco in 2011.



Photo by Jim Parsons

Weingarten Realty plans Alabama Theater interior demolition

Weingarten Realty is taking bids for the interior demolition of the former Alabama Theater, 2922 S. Shepherd.

Plans prepared by HeightsVenture Architects show major alterations to the floor ceiling and walls, including removal of the medallions, murals and Art Deco detailing pictured here. The tenant will reportedly be Staples, the office supply retailer.

The Greater Houston Preservation Alliance (GHPA) is contacting Staples to ask the company to maintain the Alabama's distinctive interior design. Staples' statement of corporate responsibility includes a commitment to environmental excellence. GHPA will remind company officials that historic preservation reflects a commitment to the environment.

GHPA is encouraging Houstonians to express their support for preserving the Alabama by contacting Staples' community relations officer Joy Errico at joy.errico@staples.com or 508-253-7957 and corporate operations officer Owen Davis at owen.davis@staples.com or 508-253-8468. It is generally more effective to focus on businesses who are hoping to attract customers and generate community goodwill than the developer who has already found a tenant.

Although Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission has designated the Alabama Theater (1939) a City of Houston Historic Landmark, the designation only applies to the building's facade. If the proposed work on the Alabama goes forward, the result will be another version of the now-vacant Hollywood Video outlet in the former Tower Theater on Westheimer at Yoakum, a gutted big box store with a theater marquee on the facade.

The Alabama stopped showing movies in 1983 and the building reopened the following year as Bookstop after a restoration and adaptation designed by Judith Urrutia and Billy Lawrence of San Antonio.

Barnes & Noble, which owns Bookstop, plans to close the store and move to a new location built on the site of the River Oaks Shopping Center. Weingarten Realty Investors, the property owner, plans to demolish the building and redevelop the site.

Longtime residents of Montrose and Indie film buffs from around Houston can't help but wonder what is in store for the equally historic River Oaks Theater on W. Gray. The same developers may well destroy the last of Houston's great movie houses.

Award Recipients for the 21st Annual GLAAD Media Awards - New York

GLAAD Media Award presented by recipients were announced in 24 of this year's 32 media categories at the 21st Annual GLAAD Media Awards presented in New York by IBM and Prudential at the Marriott Marquis on Saturday night. Additional awards will be presented in Los Angeles on April 17 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, and in San Francisco on June 5 at the Westin St. Francis.

Awards Presented on Stage: Outstanding Drama Series Outstanding TV Movie or Mini-Series Outstanding TV Journalism Segment Outstanding Digital Journalism Article

Brothers and Sisters (ABC) Prayers for Bobby" (Lifetime) "Why Will Won't Pledge Allegiance"

American Morning(CNN) Two-Way Tie: "We Love You, This Won't Change a Thing" by John Buccigross (ESPN.com)

"Why Can't You Just Butch Up? Gay Men, Effeminacy, and Our War with Ourselves" by Brent Hartinger (AfterElton.com)

English-Language Awards Announced in New York

•Outstanding Film-Limited Release: Little Ashes (Regent Releasing)

•Outstanding Individual Episode: "Pawnee Zoo" Parks and Recreation (NBC)

•Outstanding Daily Drama: One Life to Live (ABC)

•Outstanding Talk Show Episode: "Ellen DeGeneres and Her Wife, Portia de Rossi" The Oprah Winfrey Show (syndicated)

•Outstanding TV Journalism - Newsmagazine: "Uganda Be Kidding Me" (series) The Rachel Maddow Show (MSNBC)

•Outstanding Newspaper Article: "Kept From a Dying Partner's Bedside" by Tara Parker-Pope (The New York Times)

•Outstanding Newspaper Columnist: Frank Rich (The New York Times)

•Outstanding Newspaper Overall Coverage: The New York Times

•Outstanding Magazine Article: "Coming Out in Middle School" by Benoit Denizet-Lewis (The New York Times Magazine)

•Outstanding Magazine Overall Coverage: "

Coming Out in Middle School" by Benoit Denizet-Lewis (The New York Times Magazine)

•Outstanding Magazine Overall Coverage: The Advocate

•Outstanding Comic Book: Detective Comics by Greg Rucka (DC Comics)

•Outstanding New York Theater: Broadway & Off-Broadway: A Boy and His Soul by Colman Domingo

•Outstanding New York Theater: Off-Off Broadway: She Like Girls by Chisa Hutchinson

Spanish-Language Awards

•Outstanding Novela: Más Sabe el Diablo (Telemundo)

•Outstanding Daytime Talk Show Episode: "Adopción gay: un tema muy controversial" Paparazzi TV Sensacional (MegaTV)

•Outstanding Talk Show Interview: "Realidades de ser gay en la tercera edad" El Show de Cristina (Univision)

•Outstanding TV Journalism - Newsmagazine: TIE: "En el cuerpo equivocado" Primer Impacto (Univision) & "Damas gracias: Entrevista con Eva Leivas-Andino" Al Rojo Vivo (Telemundo)

•Outstanding Newspaper Article: "Mas familias de dos papás o dos mamas" by Pilar Marrero (La Opinión)

•Outstanding Magazine Article: "Del odio a la justicia" by Lena Hansen (People en Español)

•Outstanding Digital Journalism Article: "Saliendo del clóset: Cómo enfrentarlo en familia" by Fernanda Martínez (Univision.com)

For more information on the 21st Annual GLAAD Media Awards
<http://www.glaad.org/mediaawards/21>

Rally for an Inclusive Employment Nondiscrimination Act!

Did you know that it is perfectly legal in Texas to fire someone because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression? Currently only 12 states and the District of Columbia protect LGBT employees from discrimination. The Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) would insure the rights of LGBT people to work without fearing discrimination.

A nationwide coordinated effort is being made to pressure lawmakers to pass ENDA, including the sit-in in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's offices on March 18. The hearing for these activists is April 6th in Washington D.C.

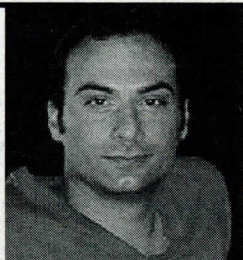
The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to pass ENDA, but it is not clear if the bill has enough support in the Senate to pass.

Join Equality Across America & Get Equal - Houston, a local and National grassroots activist organization in pressuring Texas Senator John Cornyn to support this important legislation. For more information on Equality Across America & Get Equal see:

<http://equalityacrossamerica.org/>
<http://getequal.org>

**Tuesday, April 6, 2010
6:30pm - 7:30pm**

**Sen. John Cornyn's Houston Office
5300 Memorial Drive**



Deep Inside Hollywood By Romeo San Vicente

Gaga for Glee

The all-Madonna-song episode is coming up soon (begging the question of who gets to keep Jane Lynch's cone bra), but this past weekend, Glee creator Ryan Murphy, at a Paley Center event in Los Angeles, revealed an even bigger piece of pop-culture news. According to producers, the show reached out to Lady Gaga and she will appear in some capacity before the season ends, with the cast singing at least one of her songs. The theme: the power of theatricality, of course. In what other context would you appropriately place a woman who, on live television, dives into fake pits of fire during a duet with Elton John? Meanwhile, the really important question now will be where the series will go in season two after getting all the biggest names on their "want" list right out of the box? And speaking of Elton John, when's his cameo?

Mo'Nique wants McDaniel's life on screen

When you've got instant Hollywood power thanks to an Oscar win, it seems like a no-brainer to go after your dream project. And that's just what Mo'Nique is planning by buying the rights to legendary actress Hattie McDaniel's life story. McDaniel, the first African-American to win an Academy Award (for playing "Mammy" in *Gone With The Wind*), was name checked in Mo'Nique's acceptance speech, and now Mo'Nique wants to play her in a film project to be directed by her fellow *Precious* colleague and Oscar nominee Lee Daniels. Daniels already has *Selma* and *Miss Saigon* on his plate, so this project could take a few years to make happen. But Mo'Nique radiates power-player/producer already (something maybe to do with that refusal to shave her legs?) so it seems likely she'll get what she wants eventually.



Mo'Nique's Oscar win for her role in the movie *Precious* may pay off with some Hollywood clout. The Comedian and dramatic actress wants to bring to film the life of the first Black actress, to win the Academy Award, Hattie McDaniels.

Pearce joins Pierce

As Romeo reported earlier, the five-hour HBO miniseries event, *Mildred Pierce*, to be directed by acclaimed queer filmmaker Todd Haynes, already has its Mildred in Kate Winslet. And now the rest of the cast has been announced for the remake of the dark, classic Joan Crawford film about a hard-working single mother and her never-satisfied daughter. Guy Pearce will play Mildred's mild-mannered suitor Monty and Evan Rachel Wood will take on the role of Mildred's mean, spoiled child. Good move, since Wood already gained plenty of experience playing a bad girl in *Thirteen*. Rounding out the cast are Academy Award-nominee Melissa Leo and indie-film vet James Le Gros. Cameras roll in April and (not to jinx the process or anything but) Emmy nominations come later.

Stephen Merritt has *Strange Powers*

Ask any indie rock fan and they'll tell you that the Magnetic Fields are one of the most important bands of this generation. Don't know them? Then you've never met one-man song-machine Stephen Merritt, the band's leader and creator of the chamber pop masterpiece "69 Love Songs". Filmmakers Kerthy Fix and Gail O'Hara would like to change that cult status with their recently completed documentary "*Strange Powers: Stephen Merritt and The Magnetic Fields*", which follows Merritt, a man who's been called "the Cole Porter of his generation," and the revolving cast of musicians who accompany him when the band performs. Appearing in the doc, alongside main MF collaborator Claudia Gonson, are Sleater-Kinney's Carrie Brownstein, Superchunk's Laura Ballance, writer Sasha Frere-Jones, Peter Gabriel, Kiki & Herb's Kenny Mellman and Lemmy Snicket author (and occasional MF accordionist) Daniel Handler – in other words, a feast for fans and soon-to-be fans. Find it soon at a film festival near you.

Romeo San Vicente has had at least 69 love songs written about him already. He can be reached at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com

Mo'Nique Photo Lion's Gate Films

**VIRGOS
ARE ADVISED
TO "LOOK WISE"**

Q Scopes By Jack Fertig



Venus in Taurus, Mars in Leo and Jupiter in Pisces are all strong and happy but in discordant aspects, suggesting way too much of many good things. Slow down to enjoy them longer and better!

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Think twice before acting on playful urges. You're in a stubborn mood, not likely to stop what you've started. Thoughtless advances are likely to offend others and can also leave you very open and vulnerable to embarrassment.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): You can stand out now in community politics, but whatever you get into you are likely to bite off more than you can chew. Keep your vision focused and clear. Offer ideas and suggestions freely, but commit time and energy very carefully.

GEMINI (May 21 – June 20): Whatever you say and how well you keep secrets will influence your reputation. Keeping secrets is the hard part, and yours are especially open to exposure. Try to look wise and spiritual with patient ears and a very discreet mouth.

CANCER (June 21 – July 22): Arguments are hard to avoid. Try to keep them on a loftier plane. It's too easy to squabble over money; better to debate about the economy. But about money... Any accounts that aren't clear and honest are likely to be troublesome.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Be skeptical of any encouragement to push your already strong stardom, especially as a sexual idol, warrior or shaman. Good as you are, there's a strong push to overreach. Remember Icarus, and beware of your own tendency to hubris.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): If you're looking for love, look wise and a little aloof. If you have love, address problems in a clean, factual way without arguing. It's usually quite all right to say "Can we discuss this later?" and bring it back up next week.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): You could look a little too sexy with friends egging you on to turn up the heat. Especially while working with others, whether on the job or in volunteer work, your erotic charge could make trouble.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): "Playing well with others" is good, but can be overdone. Creative efforts at morale building with colleagues can easily be seen as disruptive, painting you as an instigator. Advance your ideas a bit more carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Of course you have more important things to argue about than housework. For domestic tranquility – and really to save more energy in the long run – just be agreeable and go along with whatever your housemates ask. This can also be a learning experience!

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Usually the soul of discretion, you're being more open about your erotic games – or someone else's. You may want to slow down and think about what will get back to whom, or what rumors will fly.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Domestic arguments could prove very costly. Not dealing with problems can get even more expensive. Be creative (but not too creative!) and open-minded. Finding common ground and solutions is more important than being right.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): A recent run of good luck could make you cocky, especially in your work. Humility and attention to detail will serve you better than active self-promotion. Let your work speak for itself! It's a great time to start a plan to get fit and trim.

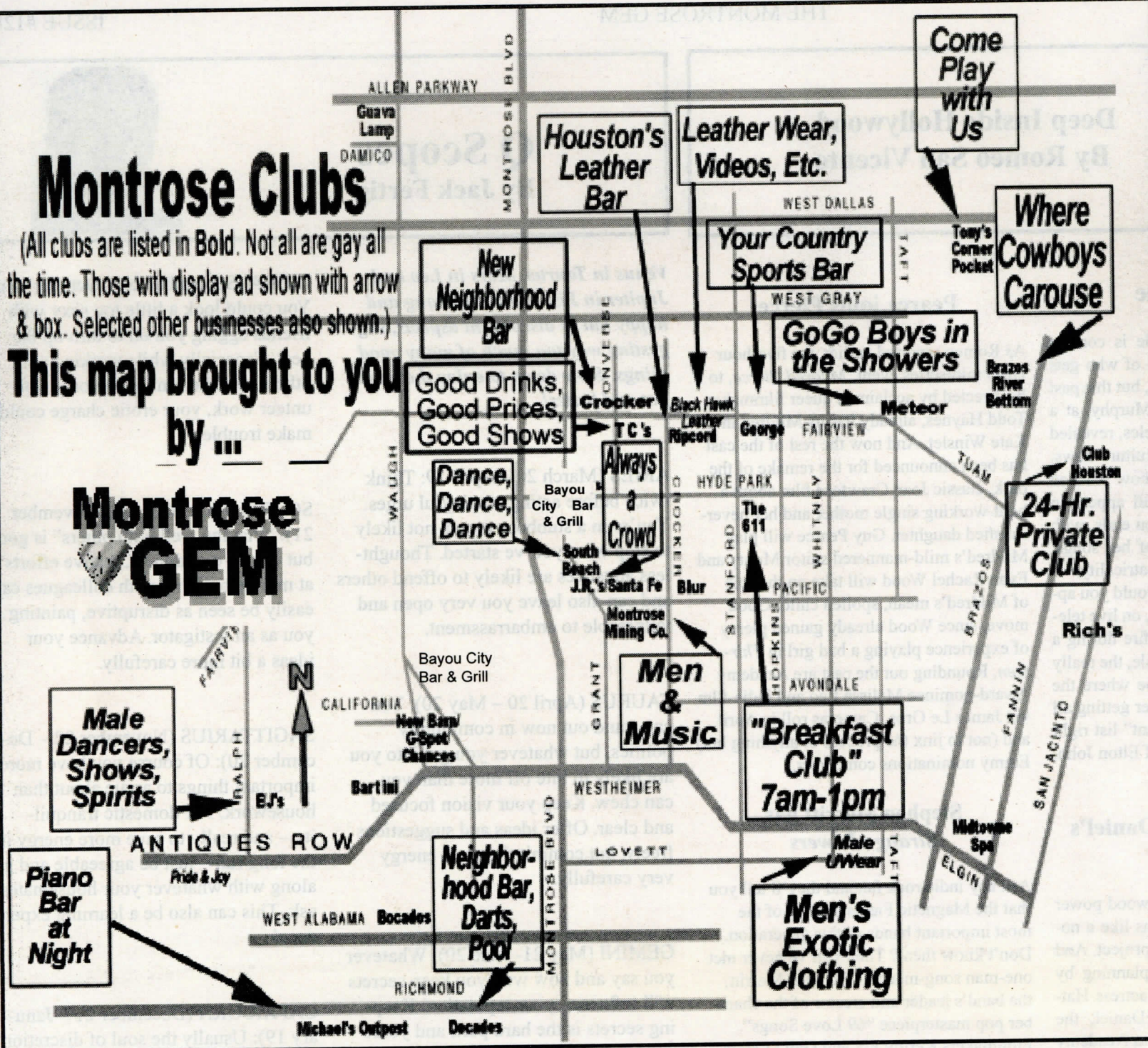
Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere.

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 ...

Montrose GEM



Place Your ad with us. Ask about special offers, such as free color on your first Ad or a discount when you renew your advertising with us for three months. Call today at 713.523.2828 or email:

montrosegem@yahoo.com

Lesbian Mayor Helps Turn Houston Into a Gay Hot Spot

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

According to Kenneth Harvey, writing for The Advocate, the election last year of Annise Parker as Houston's Mayor has helped the city's advertising campaign succeed.

The campaign features "My Gay Houston" ads that have helped transform the city into an LGBT hot spot. The campaign was reported to have been several years in the making. The ads feature gay Houstonians in print advertisements and on a web site.

Greg Ortale, CEO of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, said "We're proud of what our city offers in arts, sports with our food scene and retail. We can back up our destination against anybody else's," said Greg Ortale, CEO of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, "The gay community in Houston has always been a fairly significant population."

He further expressed that visitors who come here sometimes are surprised to

discover that fact. It only makes sense however that being the fourth largest city in the county, that Houston would have a LGBT population in proportion to its size.

John Tanzella, CEO of the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association, said any LGBT destination needs to make an effort to win over the community and added that political victories do play a publicity role.

"You don't have to have a million gay bars to be a gay destination," Tanzella said. "I think when [a destination] is in the media and grabs people's attention for political reasons, it brings home their point of being 'gay friendly' and people will think about it. And if that destination is actually doing marketing to gay travelers, it can very easily then become a destination they want to visit."

Houston's diversity in other areas as well as its large arts community and proximity to Galveston also play apart.

"We're proud of what our city offers in arts, sports with our food scene and retail. We can back up our destination against anybody else's," Ortale mentioned.

Galveston as well is being viewed as a vacation spot for the gay traveler, even if it is folks from Houston and the surrounding area

who are day-tripping. Special events like Mardi Gras and Dickens on the Strand draw people to the island during the off season. The beach and the five gay clubs in Galveston make it an attractive and affordable weekend destination in the warmer months (ok, hot, which is anytime but winter on the Gulf Coast as we know).

STATE OF THE STATE POLICY CONFERENCE

Equality Texas Foundation's biennial State of the State Public Policy Conference will be held on Saturday, April 17th at the Legislative Conference Center in the Texas Capitol.

Make plans now to attend this full day of panel discussions and plenary sessions on public policy in Texas. Go here to register and find out more information about the State of the State Public Policy Conference. The Conference is free of charge, but advanced registration is required.

Equality Texas Foundation and Anita Tschurr will also host a State of the State Pre-Conference Reception where attendees can meet and mingle with conference participants, speakers, and elected state officials. Tickets to the Reception are \$100 per person; proceeds help to underwrite the costs of the Policy Conference.

To register: http://eqfed.org/eqtx/events/state_of_the_state_2010/details.tcl



HOUSTON GLBT COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

Longtime Center supporter Joe Watts and his Theatre New West company are presenting the Paul Rudnick play, *"The New Century,"* through April 3 at Sirrom Studio. For information and reservations, call 713.522.2204 or 713.201.3961 or email theatrenewwest@att.net.

The Houston GLBT Community Center is a partner in the 2010 Census LGBT Outreach effort. The Center encourages everyone to complete and return their Census forms. Check out this video from the 2010 Census for more information on completing your form: <http://2010.census.gov/mediacenter/fill-out-your-form-its-easy-english-lgbt.php>. (see more this page).

Saturday, April 10. The Community Leaders Networking Group convenes for its quarterly meeting, 1-5 p.m., at the Center. Join us for all or part of the meeting.

Tuesday, April 13. The Community Center Dinner Night convenes at West Gray Cafe (414 West Gray), 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20. The monthly GLBT Seniors Potluck, organized by the Center, is served in the fellowship hall of Bethel Church UCC (1107 Shepherd), beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bethel Church UCC and Noche de Oracion, the Saturday-night bilingual service at Bethel, are our hosts. For more information, or you need transportation, call 713.524.3818 or email:

HoustonGLBTCenter@gmail.com

The Houston GLBT Community Center is home base for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies in the metropolitan area and southeast Texas. Founded by a group of dedicated activists in 1996, the Center provides programs that serve the community, partners with other organizations, and offers meeting and office space for events and activities. The Center is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.



Rainbo the Clown celebrating St. Paddy's Day as only he can

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In 2010, the Houston GLBT Community Center is rebuilding and expanding. We are focused on serving the community by providing programs and activities in three broad areas: arts and culture, collaborations with other organizations, and education and information resources.

We seek volunteers to help us grow in 2010. Sign up with a message to HoustonGLBTCenter@gmail.com.

Thanks for your support of your Center and our community.

Tim Brookover
President, Board of Directors
Houston GLBT Community Center
713.524.3818
HoustonGLBTCenter@gmail.com
www.hglbtcc.org
Check us out on Facebook

**PRIDE NOT
PREJUDICE**
THE 2010 LGBT CELEBRATION
PRESENTED BY

GRAND MARSHAL VOTING

In the last issue we reported on the selection of the logo for this year's Pride Month Activities. It features the theme of *Pride not Prejudice*.

Also noted were the nominees for the various Grand Marshal positions. Left out was the Honorary Grand Marshal who will be Ann J. Robison, PhD., the Executive Director of the Montrose Counseling Center. There were not other candidates, so Dr. R is automatically recognized as the Honorary Grand Marshal for Pride 2010. This is a recognition for a non-GLBT individual who has done significant work benefitting the community.

The Montrose Counseling Center was nominated for Organizational Grand Marshal which is rather surprising as they held that same title just a few short years ago. A rules change made it possible for a previous entity to be nominated again. I don't understand that ruling myself. Supposedly, nominations are made from community members and a committee made up of previous Grand Marshals make the final selection, which are then voted on by the community. Myself, a former Grand Marshal, there have been more years than not that I was not even informed of the meeting, I heard only two people showed up for this meeting. And yes,

the Pride Committee definitely has my contact information. One has to wonder.

I think there are so many deserving organizations that should have their chance to be honored and that this rule change needs to be looked at carefully in the coming year.

I write this as a former GM not as Editor of this publication ~ db

25th Anniversary of Federal Court Ruling at A&M

On April 1st, Texas A&M University will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the federal courts directing the school to allow openly LGBT students to meet on campus. "The school has come a long way, what with the GLBT Resource Center now being in its third year as an official (and funded) part of student outreach," says Phyllis Frye, Class of 1970 graduate who will give the Opening Remarks at this event. For more information, go to:

www.itstime.tamu.edu

DAY OF DECISION RALLY

Equality Across America-Houston is planning a Day of Decision Rally in response to the Federal Court's ruling on the Proposition 8 lawsuit. Since there is not a clear date as to when the verdict will be made, we have advertised the event asking people to remember three simple points:

- 1) The day of the decision
- 2) Houston's City Hall
- 3) 6:00pm.

The rally will be in a "speak-out" form, inviting attendants to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes regarding the verdict. There will be moderators to lead chants, direct speakers and read statements from our co-sponsors. We are reaching out to other LGBT and progressive organizations asking them to co-sponsor the event with us in an attempt to spread the word to establish valuable grassroots connections. Co-sponsors are asked for a written statement that can be read at the rally and help promoting.

A current list of co-sponsors:

Equality Across America-Houston w/
endorsement of the National Organization
Impact Houston
Montrose Counseling Center
Queer Voices 90.1 KPFT
OUTSA Student Organization -
Houston Community College
GLBTA Student Organization
- Lone Star College-CyFair
International Socialist Organization
Student Feminist Organization
Students for a Democratic Society -
University of Houston
Harris County Green Party
The Montrose GEM

If you have any questions or would like to consider co-sponsoring the Day of Decision Rally-Houston, please contact me ~ Ronnie N. Maduziat: 713-625-8598 or

STICKS & STONES

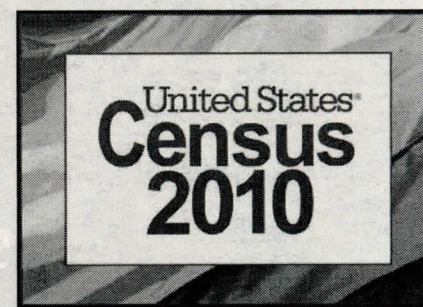
Saturday, March 27, 2:00 PM

Young playwright Avital Stolar's *Sticks & Stones* was developed here in Houston through the Alley Theatre HYPE program and will be directed by TUTS Associate Artistic Director Roy Hamlin. Alley Theatre Education Director Joe Angel Babb will moderate a post-show discussion between the audience, a student panel, and representatives from HATCH, a social and support group for GLBT youth in Houston. **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** Please RSVP to the Stages Box Office, 713.527.0123.

A brilliant, insightful, fiercely funny look at the awkward glory of adolescence. Kenn McLaughlin directs a fresh-faced cast (Michael McClure, Ashtyn Sonner, Garret Storms and Kim Tobin) drawn primarily from Stages' ongoing internship program with the Sam Houston State University Department of Theatre and Dance. The New York Times says "A plot description doesn't hint at how funny and cliché-free this...little show is... The play's real accomplishment is its picture of the borderland between late adolescence and adulthood, where grown-up ideas and ambition coexist with childish will and bravado..." and Variety says Speech & Debate is "bristling with vitality, wicked humor, terrific dialogue and a direct pipeline into the zeitgeist of contemporary youth."

Sticks and Stones plays through April 11

<http://www.stagestheatre.com>



OUR COMMUNITY COUNTS

The Caucus wants to make sure the GLBT community counts in this decade's Census. Having an accurate, thorough count is important to our community in so many ways. It's important to our area: census numbers determine our political representation and how much federal funding we receive. It's also important to GLBT community, specifically. Census numbers can shatter myths that prevail about us. For instance, current Census data disproves the idea that our community is entirely urban (1 in 6 same-sex couples live in rural areas), that we are all white (1 in 4 same-sex couples are non-white) or that we don't raise children (1 in 5 same-sex couples raise children, and nearly a quarter million children are being raised by more than 100,000 same-sex couples).

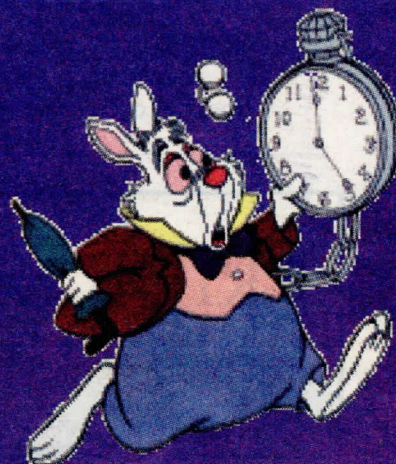
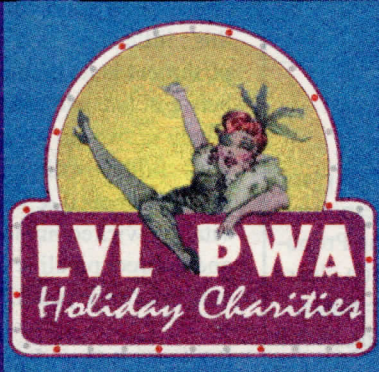
For the first time, the U.S. Census Bureau will be recognizing same-sex marriages - whether or not they are legally recognized. Make sure our community counts this decade..More at: mwww.thecaucus.org/

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AND BUNNY REJECT OF THE YEAR CONTEST 2010-2011

SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH AT 7PM

benefitting the LVL PWA Holiday Charities Campout

