

GEM



YOUR FAVORITE GAY NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

Issue #**42** June 30, 2006 713-529-2325 MontroseGEM @ Yahoo.com

**Mac of the
George bar**



GAY PRIDE SOUVENIR PHOTO EDITION

**MAPS TO ALL
HOUSTON/GALVESTON
GAY BARS!**



ISSUE # **42**
JUNE 30, 2006

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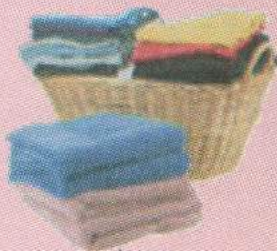
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Gay News & Bar Talk

By Henry

Welcome to the 42nd edition of the GEM. It's a red, white and blue issue. And this is a souvenir edition of the 2006 Gay Pride Festival and Parade. Save a copy for your children.

Last issue we said that Southern Country at the BRB was a band. They're not unless you count playing the kazoo. They teach C&W dance lessons. That's what they do. You don't need a partner. Just show up on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. for one of the more popular nights at the Brazos to strut on the dance floor, country-style.

Kitty Cats

There's a gray pussy that hangs around The 611. Occasionally she will slip inside and they catch her and throw her out, kind of like some customers who have been 86'd. The other day, Ms. Gray Pussy was sitting by the door as I came up the stairs. I looked at her and said "Hello."

She responded with "Meow."

Then I got to thinking. What did she mean? Was she saying "Hello" back to me? Was she saying "Go

away!" Was she saying "Buy me a drink?"

The favorite cat of all was Mr. Balls at Mary's. He started out as a kitten in a tree at the bar. They adopted him and he soon learned to sit on a barstool just like the customers.

Sometimes, while sitting there, he would decide to take a stroll across the laps of the other sitting customers until he found one that felt just right. He would then lay down for a nap.

As I write this paragraph, Mr. Balls' picture remains the only remnant of the painting on the side of Mary's that once featured Rita Charles, Gaye Yancy and girlfriend, Cliff Owens, Fanny Farmer as a ghost, Wilma Jean the bartending machine, the legendary Cassandra, and others.

Galveston Quickies

As we told you last week, Mama Mel is at Undercurrent 2:00-8:00 p.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. But we didn't tell you that "Betty Paige," really known as Kat, works that shift on Wed. and Sun.

Legal Texas Hold'em is on Wednesdays at 3rd Coast, Thursdays at Pink Dolphin and Cocktails and Friday nights at Undercurrent. This way, you can learn the strategy of the game without losing your pants. Unless maybe you want to lose your pants. Plus, you can win

prizes.

The beach across from the Pink Dolphin is the only privately-owned beach in Texas, I've been told. It dates back to a Spanish or Mexican land grant to Stephen F. Austin (I've been told). As such, in Galveston, it's the only beach where you can open a can of beer (I've been told). The State of Texas sued to take possession some years back but the heirs fought, counter-sued, and won (I've been told). And, there's more. Supposedly the heirs have now sold the beach and new owners (not the State of Texas) will take over (I've been told).

Alright, you ask, *who* told you this? Why it was a bartender at the Pink Dolphin, one of my many favorite watering holes in the Free Republic of Galveston Island. No passport required to enter. Always believe your bartenders.

Misty Valdez's big event (the last stop on her 19th annual AIDS benefit tour) is this Saturday, July 1, at the Kon Tiki. Food at 9:30 p.m., Show at 10:30 p.m. There will be various other entertainers and this show will be dedicated to the late Jesse Garza.

Canned Veggies

I just remembered seeing this about a year ago. A White House chef was being interviewed and was asked if the Prez (that's Prez W) eats

his vegetables. He said something like, "Most of the time. For just the First Family, we usually serve canned vegetables."

Reporter: "But canned vegetables do not have the nutrition that fresh vegetables have."

"Oh, with today's cans they add vitamins so they are just as healthy as fresh," he said with great confidence.

This chef doesn't know his nutrition. Is he another political appointee? "You're doing a heck of a job, Chef Brownie. Love these beans."

Go to Kroger or Fiesta or Arlan's in Galveston. Read the nutrition labels on the canned beans, corn, black-eye peas, greens. Most have a single-digit percentage number next to only about three vitamins they list as having *any* presence in the can.

I love Arlan's. They are just the right amount of messy. They have everything you need (beer, snacks, lubricant) for an overnighter on The Island.

You can stock up, rent a cheap motel room, then go across the street to Robert's Lafitte and sit on a barstool until one of two things happens: 1. Mr. Right walks in. 2. You've had enough that you think Mr. Right just walked in.

Arlan's reminds me a little of Schwegmans in New Orleans when I

lived there over thirty years ago. Their stores were always a complete disaster.

They were most famous for their twice-a-year 10-cent sale. Hundreds of items were 10 cents each. Every kind of canned vegetable, soup, every kind of fruit, every kind of paper product like plates and towels. Ten cents all over the place. And it was a zoo. It was virtually impossible to push a cart down the aisles as they were full of junk and more junk. Oh god, it was great.

And this brings us to our local Montrose Kroger. I read in the New York Times (my daily intelligence briefing) that Kroger, in a corporate decision at their Cincinnati headquarters, has decided to fight Wal-Mart head on in prices in all their stores even if there is no Wal-Mart near. So if you thought things were looking a little cheaper there recently, you weren't in a drunken stupor. Or maybe you were.

Two Quickies

Do you know anyone who is a therapist? You can break that up into two words and it becomes "the rapist." Isn't that funny?

Ed of E/J's has his new bar, the In and Out I think it is called, now open in the Heights.

There is more Gay News and Bar Talk

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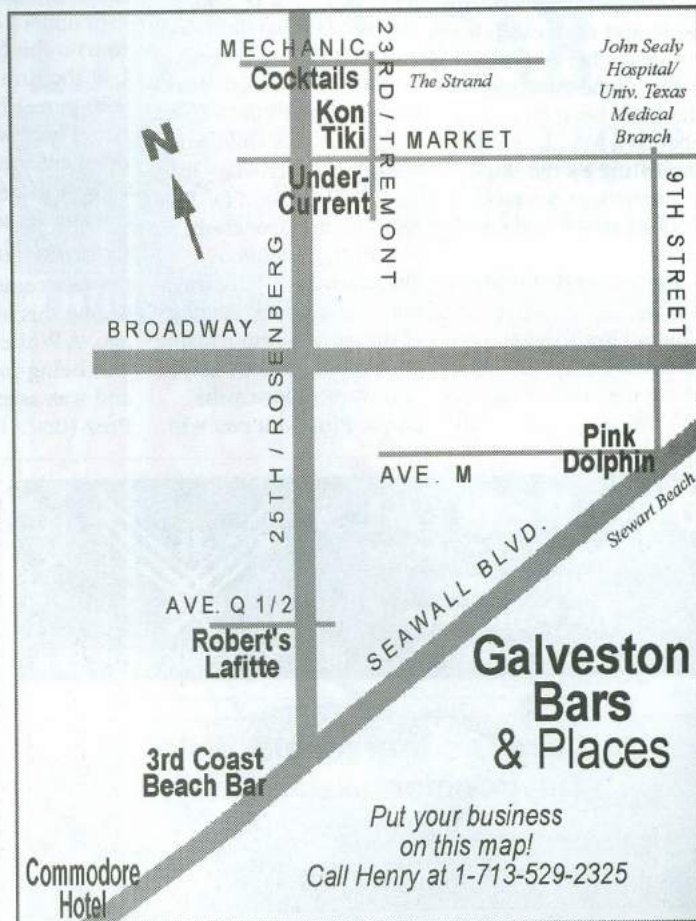
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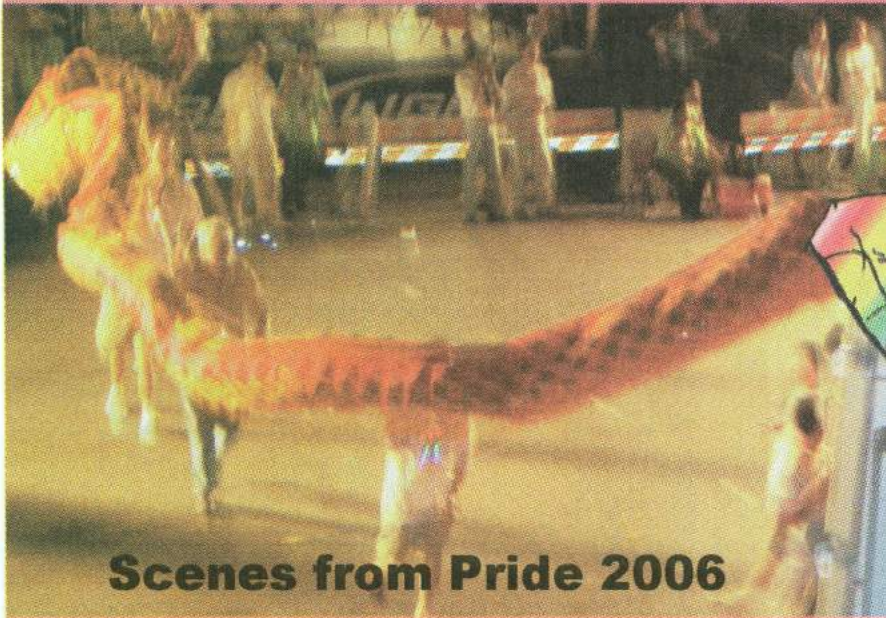
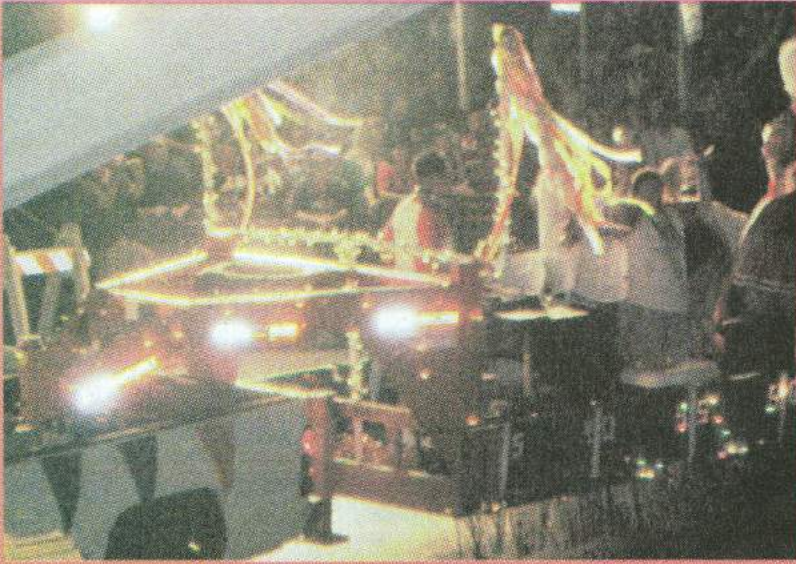
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Scenes from Pride 2006



*Photos by Brian
Keever, Henry
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**Pool Tournaments
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July 1st
MOSTLY VALDEZ
**19th Annual Benefit
for A.C.C.T.
in honor of
Jesse Garza**

July 7th
**Miss Diva Texas
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**TUESDAYS Island & Tourist
Appreciation Day, \$1.25 Well**

**WEDNESDAYS Hump Day,
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Well, Texas Hold'em 7 & 10pm**

**THURSDAYS (starting July 13)
Stand Up Comedy & Open
Mic with Lyssa Graham, 10pm**

FRIDAYS \$3 Frozen Drinks

SAT. Happy Hour to 8pm

**SUNDAYS T-Dance 4-8pm,
DJ Joe Rios, Hot Male Dancer**

Fri. & Sat.

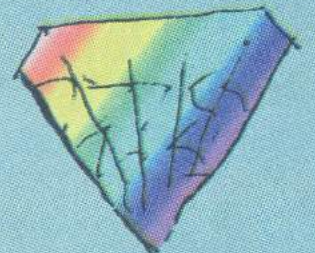
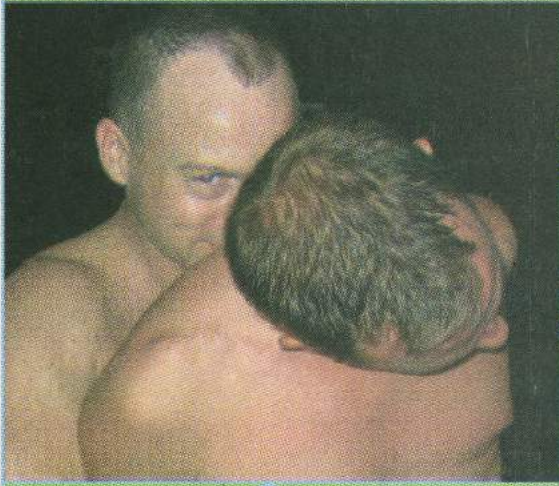
**THE MELLOW
DRAMA SHOW**
**11pm with Marsha Mellow
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CASTAWAY PARTY
4th of July Weekend



3rdcoastbar.com

Scenes from Pride 2006

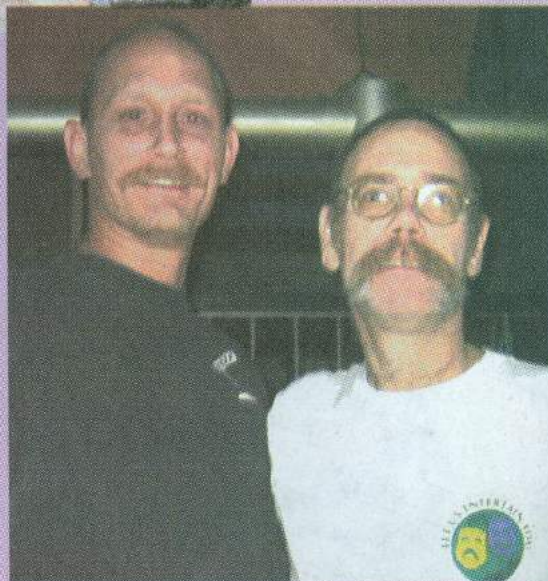
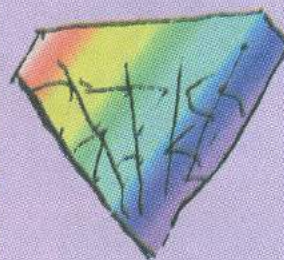


Photos by Brian
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Scenes from Pride 2006



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DVD RENTALS
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Sunday, July 16, 2006 / Show Time 3:00 p.m.

Shy Anne



Contest is based on who can raise the
 most money between mid May to the end
 of the final walk through of all contestants.

See your favorite bartender/staff or
 Community Organization Representative
 from around Houston play "dress-up"
 and compete to help those in our LGBT

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Event Underwriter: Matt Soileau

For Information contact

Sonna Alton: 713-830-3015

NO COVER

Austin Baptist Women



Kaye Sedilla

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Imperial Prince XXII - Christopher Prado

Grand Duke XXII - J.P. Gill
Present

The Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum
A Night of Disney

Friday July 21, 2006

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Showtime 7-9pm

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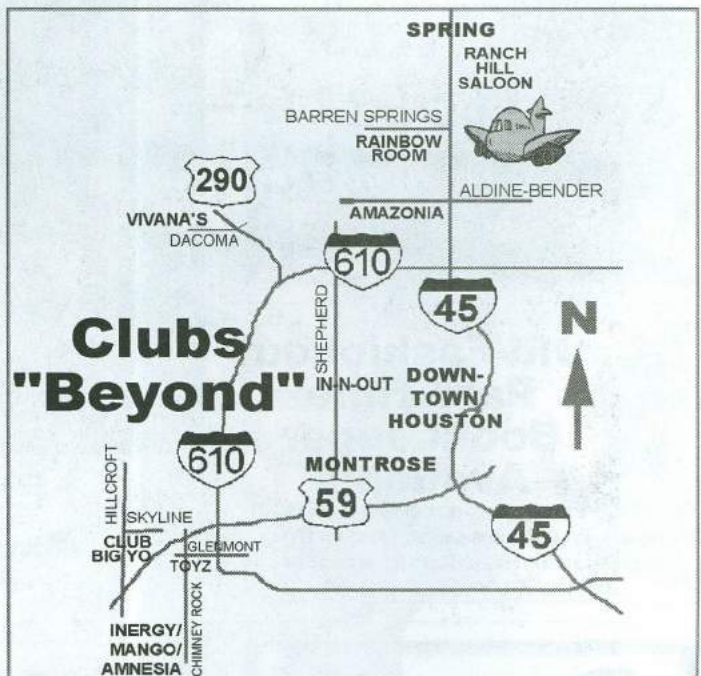
Saturday, July 1
6:30pm
Mary's...Naturally

Featuring performers that you know and love, as well as
some new faces that are sure to wow you. Come and help
us have a fabulous birthday celebration.

All community performers are invited to participate.



Fundraiser for LCOH Region IV net proceeds
benefiting Lazarus House (5% of proceeds
to the Loxlowen Community Fund)



DVD RENTALS

MONDAY-SATURDAY

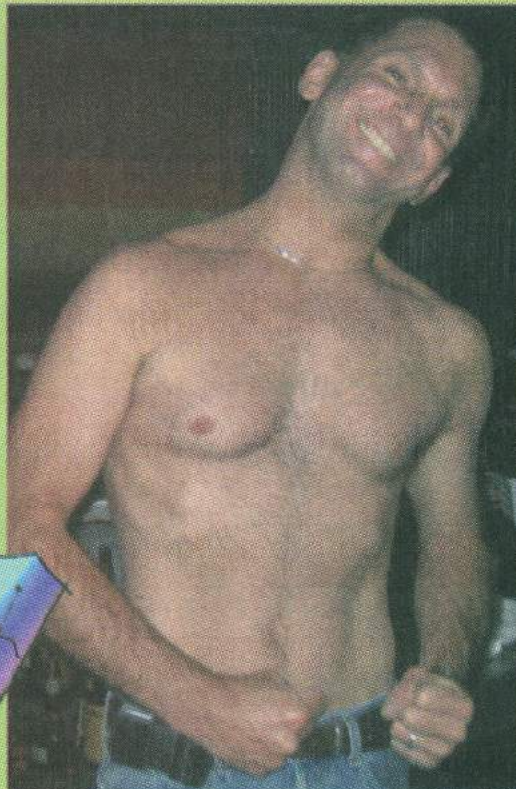
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Scenes from Pride 2006

*Photos by Brian
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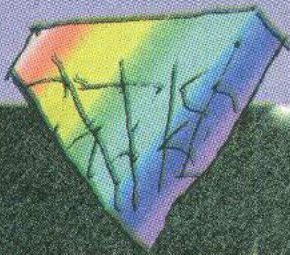
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18-20



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Scenes from Pride 2006



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Queen George the First King George the Third

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Independence
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Sunday Noon-2am**

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617 Fairview

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Montrose Clubs

611 Hyde Park Pub 611 Hyde Park, 713-526-7070. Customers are a wide mix of all types. Open 7am (noon Sun.). One of the more popular bars for happy hour and into the night

Bartini 1318 Westheimer, 713-526-2271. Lots of soul. Shows on Thursdays & Sundays. Dancing nightly. Open 10pm

Brazos River Bottom 2400 Brazos, 713-528-9192. Cowboys are here. Open every day noon-2am. Dancing at night. Various Sunday shows. \$2.50 drinks all day, all night Fridays

Bocados 1312 W. Alabama, 713-523-3230. Ladies nights on Wednesdays

Carter & Cooley 375 W. 19th Ave. at Ashland in The Heights, 713-864-3354. Open 9am-3:30pm Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm Sat. Deli with soups, salads, sandwiches, desserts

Chances/G-Spot/New Barn 1100 Westheimer, 713-523-7217. This is the women's mega-complex. Three big clubs, interconnected. Chances opens 2pm. Women's band Sat. nights. Open mid night Thursdays
Club 1415 1415 California, 713-522-7066. Open for theme parties some nights. Male strippers Thursdays. "The Dyke Show" Saturdays with Nancy Ford

Club Eve 2209 Richmond, 713-545-4574. Women's bar Thurs.-Sat. above Azteca restaurant
Cousins 817 Fairview, 713-528-9204. All types of customers, from the retired people to young men. Drag shows Thurs.-Sun. Open 11am (noon Sun.)

George 617 Fairview, 713-528-8102. Your "Neighborhood Country Bar." Open 7am (noon Sun.) with large morning crowd

La Cueva Tequila Lounge 2312 Crocker. Hispanic club specializing in tequila, of course
Decades 1205 Richmond Ave., 713-521-2224. A neighborhood bar. Open 11am (noon Sun.). Has pool tables, darts, a good jukebox

E/J's 2517 Ralph, 713-527-9071. Open 7am (10am Sun. with breakfast). Male strippers most nights. Frequent shows and benefits

Griff's 3417 Roseland, 713-528-9912. Not a gay bar. Irish bar and a neighborhood institution
Guava Lamp 570 Waugh Dr., 713-524-3359. Open daily 4pm. Happy hour 4-8pm, piano playing sometimes, DJ other times

Helios Formerly the Mausoleum, 411 Westheimer, 713-526-4648. Eclectic customers. Slightly gay. House was the home of Howard Hughes as a toddler. Open nightly, every night has a different crowd and atmosphere

J.R.'s/Santa Fe 808 Pacific, 713-521-2519. Always a crowd. All types of people but generally younger. Open mid-day on
Blur 710 Pacific, 713-713-529-3447. Dance bar, open nightly.
Keys West 817 W. Dallas, 713-571-7870. A piano bar on the edge of downtown. Open 3pm. Darts, card games, drinking, singing and carousing with frequent shows. Live piano Wed.-Sat. nights

Lola's 2327 Grant, 713-528-8342. Not a gay bar but a Montrose neighborhood institution

Mary's 1022 Westheimer, 713-527-9669. The oldest gay bar in Texas, open 7am (noon Sun.) Good happy hour crowd. Frequent shows and community events on the patio, especially Sundays

Meteor 2306 Genesee, 713-521-0123. An upper-scale bar. Mixed between gals and guys. Open from late afternoons. Fluffy couches to lounge around in and politic with like-minded people

Michael's Outpost 1419 Richmond Ave., 713-520-8446. Piano players nightly Tues.-Sat. plus Friday happy hour. Open 3pm (11am Sat., noon Sun.) Host of many community events

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

Numbers 300 Westheimer, 713-526-6551. (Not a gay bar.) Hosts occasional gay events

Prive' 910 Westheimer, 713-522-2542. Slightly gay sometimes. Great music, good viewing of Montrose & Westheimer from the rooftop patio

Resurrection 711 West Gray, 832-816-6315. Slightly gay sometimes. Open only for after-hours.

Rich's 2401 San Jacinto, 713-759-9606. Dance club gay on Fri. & Sat., sometimes other times. After-hours Fri. & Sat.

Ripcord 715 Fairview, 713-521-2792. Houston's leather bar, open 1pm daily. Man-hunting crowds at night. After hours Fri. and Sat.

Slider's 1424-B Westheimer, 713-528-2788. Not a gay bar. Great daiquiris

South Beach 810 Pacific, 713-521-9123. Major dance club. Open Wed.-Sun. with after-hours weekends

Galveston Clubs

3rd Coast Beach Bar 3102 Seawall Blvd., (409) 765-6911. Overlooking the Gulf. Frequent shows. Nightly dancing. Always a crowd.

Cocktails 2411 Mechanic, (409) 762-7900. Two clubs: piano &

karaoke. New management
Garza's KonTiki 315 Tremont, (409) 765-5805. Open mid-day to 2am. Dance club. Frequent shows

Pink Dolphin 904 Ave. M at Stewart Beach, (409) 621-1808. Patio overlooks the Gulf. Brunch and drag show Sundays 11am. Other shows Sat. nights.

Robert's Lafitte 2501 Ave. Q, (409) 765-9092. A down-to-earth bar open 7am (10am Sun.). All ages of people. Drag shows Sat. & Sun. nights

Undercurrent 2409 Market, (409) 750-8571. Open 4pm. Two dance floors, a million pool tables, shows and strippers weekends. This place is big

Outlying Clubs

within 100 miles

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

Club Big Yo 6305 Skyline, S.W. Houston, 713-953-0268. Women's club open Thurs.-Sun.
Copa 304 Orleans, Beaumont, (409) 832-4206. Dancing and shows

Chris' Crockett St. Pub 407 Crockett at Park, Beaumont, (409) 835-4243. Beaumont's general neighborhood, city-wide gay watering hole

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

House of Finesse 2912 Wentworth, near T.S.U. campus, 713-522-6074. Only open for special events

In-N-Out 1537 N. Shepherd, 713-589-9780. "MetroSocial"

Inergy/Mango Lounge/Amnesia 5750 Chimney Rock, S.W. Houston, 713-660-7310. Latin-flavored dance club just outside The Loop. Big late crowd, good music. Sunday shows

Ranch Hill Saloon 24704 I-45 N., #103, Spring, (936) 441-6426. Open 4pm Mon.-Thurs., 6pm Fri.-Sat., closed Sun.

Rainbow Room 527 Barren Springs, N. Houston, 281-872-0215. Neighborhood bar opens daily at noon, up past Bush airport

Toyz 5322 Glenmont, 713-632-2544, 281-451-2094. Open Tuesdays (shows and dancing) and Fridays ("girls night")

Viviana's 4624 Dacoma, 713-681-4104. New location, primarily Hispanic. Female impersonators

Private Clubs

Club Houston 2200 Fannin, 713-659-4998. Open 24 hours. Gym, pool, whirlpool, sauna. Private rooms and lockers

Midtowne Spa 3100 Fannin, 713-522-2379. Open 24 hours. Gym, pool, whirlpool, sauna. Private rooms and lockers

Holidays, Benefits & Other Occasions

Some dates are tentative. Email MontroseGem@yahoo.com with additions and corrections.

Tues., July 4 Independence Day

Tues., July 4 Chevy's Freedom Over Texas, Eleanor Tinsley Park, 4pm-10pm

Wed., July 5 Houston GLBT Political Caucus meets 7pm

Sat., July 8 Houston GLBT Political Caucus community workday

Tues., July 11 Houston GLBT Community Center night, Hollywood, 2409 Grant

Tues., July 11 Full Moon

Fri., July 14 "Talk to the Animals" benefit for Pet Patrol 7-9pm BRB

Sat., July 15 Misfits bartend on Ripcord's patio
July 15-22 Gay Games VII, Chicago

Sun., July 16 NLA bartends Mary's patio, 3-7pm
Mon., July 17 GLBT Community Center Queer Bingo, Club 1415, 5:00 p.m.

July Christmas in July, BRB, a "Miss A" production
July 21 Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum ERSICSS show, Keys West 7-9pm

July 22 NLA monthly membership meeting, 7:30pm, then members bartend 9:30pm-1:30am, Ripcord patio

July 23 GLBT Community Center's movie & game night, 7pm 3400 Montrose #207

July 29-Aug. 5 First World Outgames, Montreal
July 30 23rd annual Denim Party, BRB, 5pm-midnight

August 1 possible date for 23rd annual National Night Out

August 4-6 16th annual Houston International Jazz Festival

August 9 Full Moon

August 18-20 SpankFest

August Lone-Star boys of Leather 6th anniversary run

August Sundance Cattle Co 26th anniversary

August Daddy Rose and Colt 45s 3rd annual Bare Bones Benefit for AIDS Troublefund

August Gay Softball World Series

August Don Gill's "Live"

Sept. 16 Fiestas Patrias

Sept. 4 Labor Day

DVD RENTALS
MONDAY-SATURDAY NOON-8PM
711 FAIRVIEW 713-LEATHER



BLACK HAWK LEATHER

Helga Knows
Your Horoscope

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 Deadline Saturday, July 8
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More Gay News & Bar Talk

By Henry
Fireworks

Where to watch the fireworks Tuesday? Mary's roof is always a good place. Keys West patio is even better because you are right in the line of fire. Duck! Incoming!

And if your kind of outdoor activity is indoors, the Ripcord will have the fireworks on one of their big digital screens in the back.

On The Island, the best view is from the deck at 3rd Coast Beach Bar as they shoot them off out into the Gulf from the Flagship Hotel.

Beware Boys

Brian and I now have our new cameras. We got identical matching ones except Kever wanted a red camera holster instead of the standard black. You know how he is.

Our cameras are identical so that I could learn how to operate it and then show Brian he's doing it all the wrong way. Except Brian was the first out of the shoot (get it, shoot) snapping away at everything that had hair, and then those that didn't have hair.

Anyway, we're both out in the bars now looking for photo

trouble.

The War of Independence

We Americans consider July 4, 1776, as the day the British surrendered and we were independent. The British don't look at it that way. It was just a temporary setback and they were to return for the War of 1812 to settle things for good. They did burn the White House but we won again.

Thank god we won. Otherwise, instead of eating bar-be-cue (BBQ, Bar-B-Que, etc.) Tuesday, we would be eating some type of English porridge. Ugh! And we would all have bad teeth.

I asked Papa Dell at The 6ll if they were going to serve something on July 4th. He said he didn't know but to put it in the magazine anyway. Therefore they will have to.

Our stylebook here at your favorite gay magazine instructs us (I wrote the stylebook, it's all in my head) to capitalize "The" for The Island (Galveston), and The 6ll. And we lowercase it for the Heights and the Ripcord. Why is that? I don't know.

Well I do know. It's literary license. "The" in The Island is capitalized because they consider themselves their own country. Just ask 'em.

And are we The Gem or the Gem? I haven't decided. I need a few more cocktails.

I think I'll travel over to the Richmond bars.

Those Richmond Bars

Sometimes we deep in The Hood forget about The Outpost and Decades. (The is uppercase for Hood and Outpost in my book.) You should remember them. Both do a pretty good business and you'll meet people that you don't see on the north side of Montrose.

At one time some people referred to Montrose as "the" Montrose. But like "the" Ukraine, most speakers have dropped the "the" from Montrose.

Oh, back to those Richmond bars. The Trailer Trash Party is Sat. afternoon, July 1, at Decades and Ms. Michael's, Sara Sjolander, will stage a spectacle Sunday, 5:30 p.m., July 2, at The Outpost. *Where's the TV*

I've noticed that when the season arrives for the Houston rodeo parade, our local newscasters, about five days out, will segue to the weatherman with some comment like, "And how does the long range forecast look for the rodeo parade?" Mario.

And it continues like this right up through parade day.

The same goes for the dueling Martin Luther King parades starting about three days out.

And what about our Gay

Pride Parade? Not a mention even though our parade rivals the rodeo parade in size and attendance.

Melaine Lawson of KTRK did say Thursday as she turned to their weather forecaster, "And what does it look like for the big weekend coming up?" But that's as close as it got. These people are afraid to say the word gay. Go ahead. Say it. Gay! Gay! Gay Pride Parade! Whoop-De-Doo!

Oh, this just in from one of the Jesus channels: "How's that weather forecast shaping up for the big spectacle of prancing faggots, PRE-verts, HO-MO-sexuals, Les-BE-ans, cross-dressers, and other sinners, Ashley? Do you think The Lord will make it rain so that all that makeup will run and discolor Westheimer?"

The news stations generally send a crew for a two-minute live segment from the parade during their Saturday evening newscasts, but that's not enough, considering that one of the stations will broadcast the whole rodeo parade live.

Suggestions were made that next year we could possibly get our PBS station to broadcast our parade live. KUHT of course is non-profit and operates on a limited amount of money. It is simply a matter of getting the funds. We have a year to work on it.

Thank you for reading The GEM.

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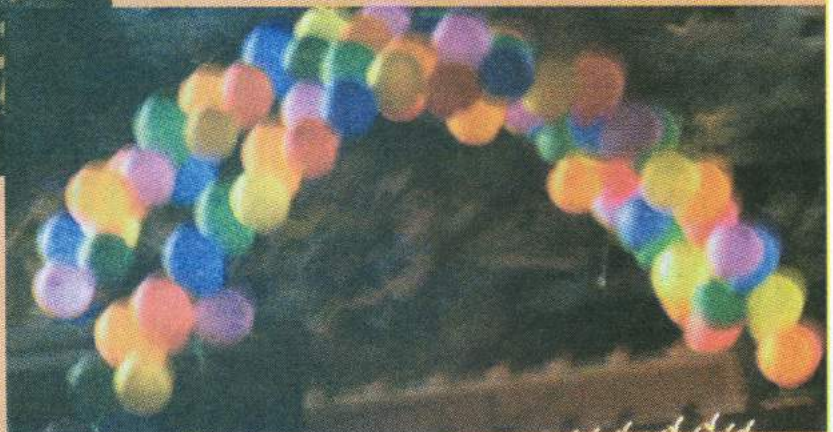
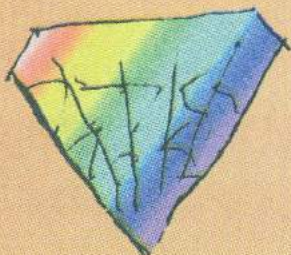
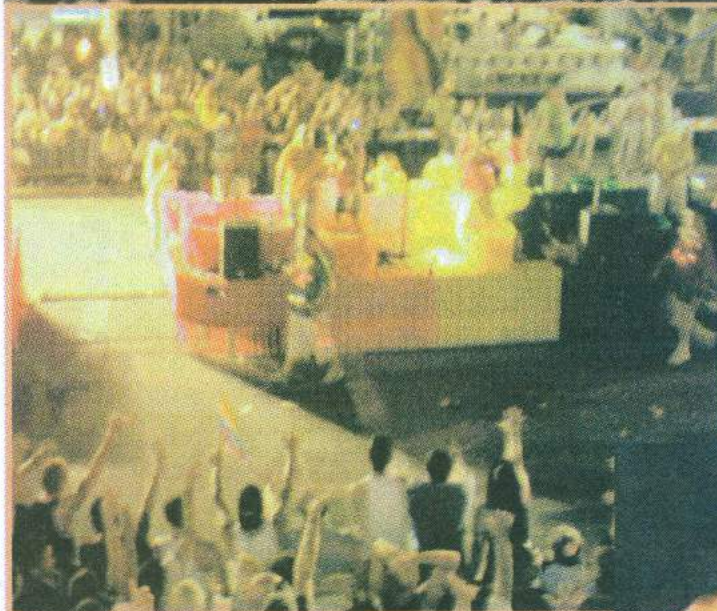
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Scenes from Pride 2006



*Photos by Brian
Keever, Henry
and B.B. Michael*



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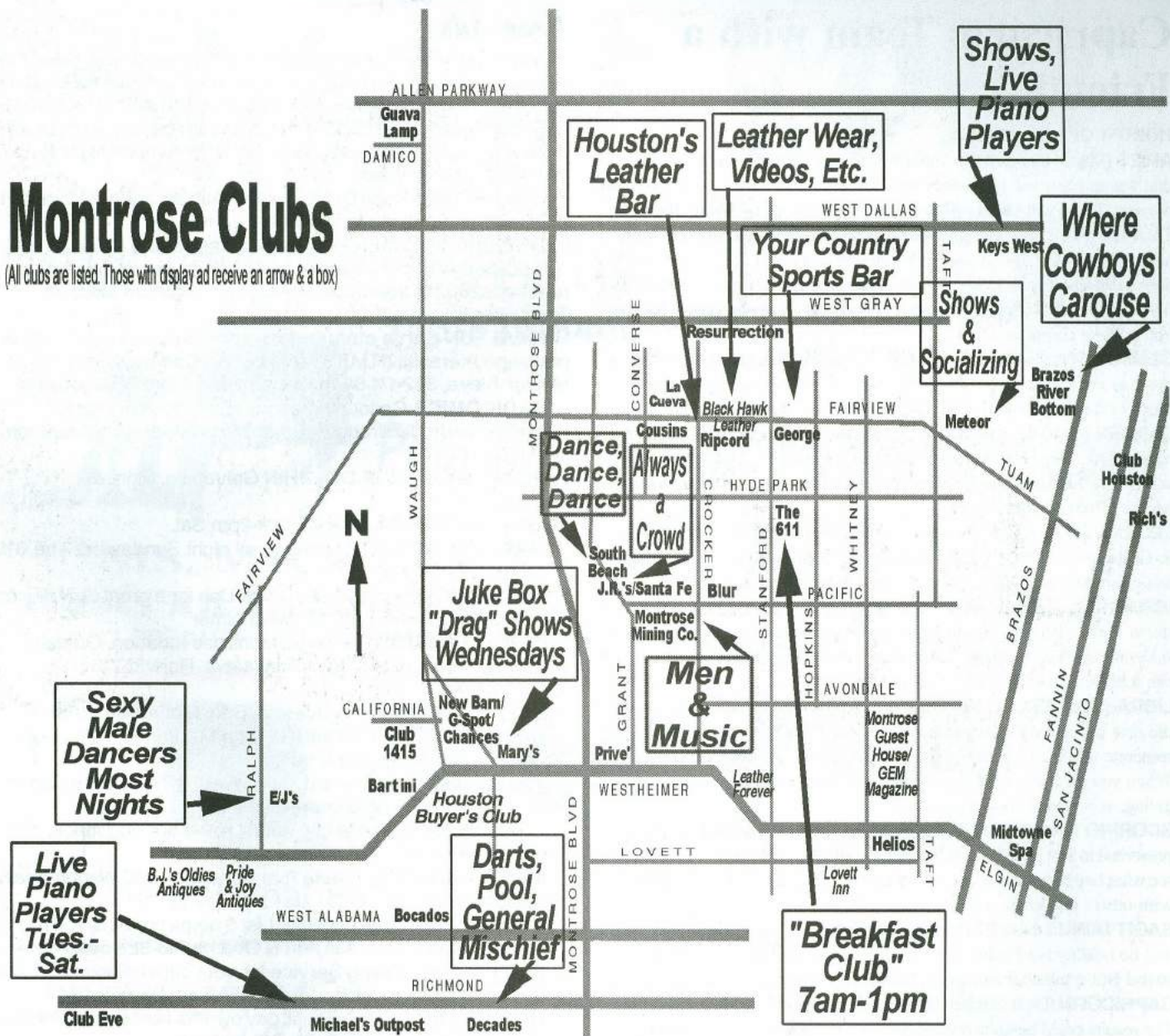
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Houston Buyers Club

3224 Yoakum Blvd. houstonbuyersclub.com 713.520.5288

Montrose Clubs

(All clubs are listed. Those with display ad receive an arrow & a box)



Helga Knows Your Horoscope

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Capricorn: Team with a Friend

HOROSCOPES by HELGA

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Valuable information will come from a source that was unexpected. Helga sees an effervescent romance possibly on the horizon. There will be limits but you will operate safely within them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your expectations will be changing over the next hot month of July. This will happen because you are going to start down a different path, Helga predicts. There will be curves and you will slip here and there but something quite wonderful could happen down the road. You will not complain.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Consider a possible glamorous offer that is about to come your way. Helga sees that the attached strings will be very short. Consider it all within a well-grounded sense of the needs of others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Is this the time to investigate aspects of a major move. Helga says perhaps. Don't be bothered by thinking too deeply at this time. Just consider the bigger pictures. Then, tune your ears to hear a whisper from a Scorpio.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There are certain uncertainties about all that there is, Helga tells you. Take your most pressing dilemma at this moment and work on that. Yes, go one day at a time. All will take care.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Enjoy this July but prepare for a windy storm. And Helga says stay organized. Then, you are going to meet a sweet someone, a Pisces perhaps. There will be some baggage involved but you can tolerate it in exchange for the pleasure involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): There is a real sweetie out there just around the next corner. Make sure you are noticed. Then be on the lookout for someone needing compassion just around the corner after that one. When you give, you shall receive, although that is not the purpose of giving, as you well know.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): A shameless offer of glamour will be presented to you in mid-July. Consider the attached obligations. Test one and see what happens. The decision to accept will be a difficult one. Talk it over with others you know well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Hot flashes are just ahead for you. These will be healthy hot flashes. One might seem like a lightning bolt. Let it strike! But remember a sense of balance is required.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider a joint effort with a close friend. The results could be quite rewarding if you pay attention to the little details. That's frequently the way it is. Big projects fall flat because of a small flaw. But you will be, as they say in ballerina class, on your toes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Overtime? You don't believe in overtime. Well, consider just a dab for it will help you comprehend your abilities for a project you are yet unaware. A Virgo and a fellow Aquarian will be involved.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Are you not about ready for a fling? Do it in a big way with style. Impose as much variety into the occasion as you can and a partner will please you to a great degree. It will happen in about a week, Helga sees.

Helga's lottery results from last issue: Zip! Cumulative: Down \$68 but ain't we having fun. Here are Helga's picks for June 30 & July 1, 2006. Mega Millions Friday: 2, 21, 38, 19, 15. Mega Ball: 29. Megaplier? Yes. And for Lotto Texas Saturday: 16, 29, 40, 21, 44, 42.

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