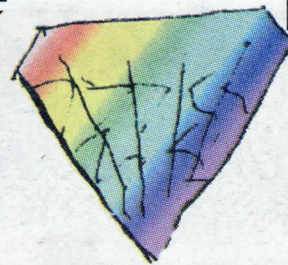


montrose GEM



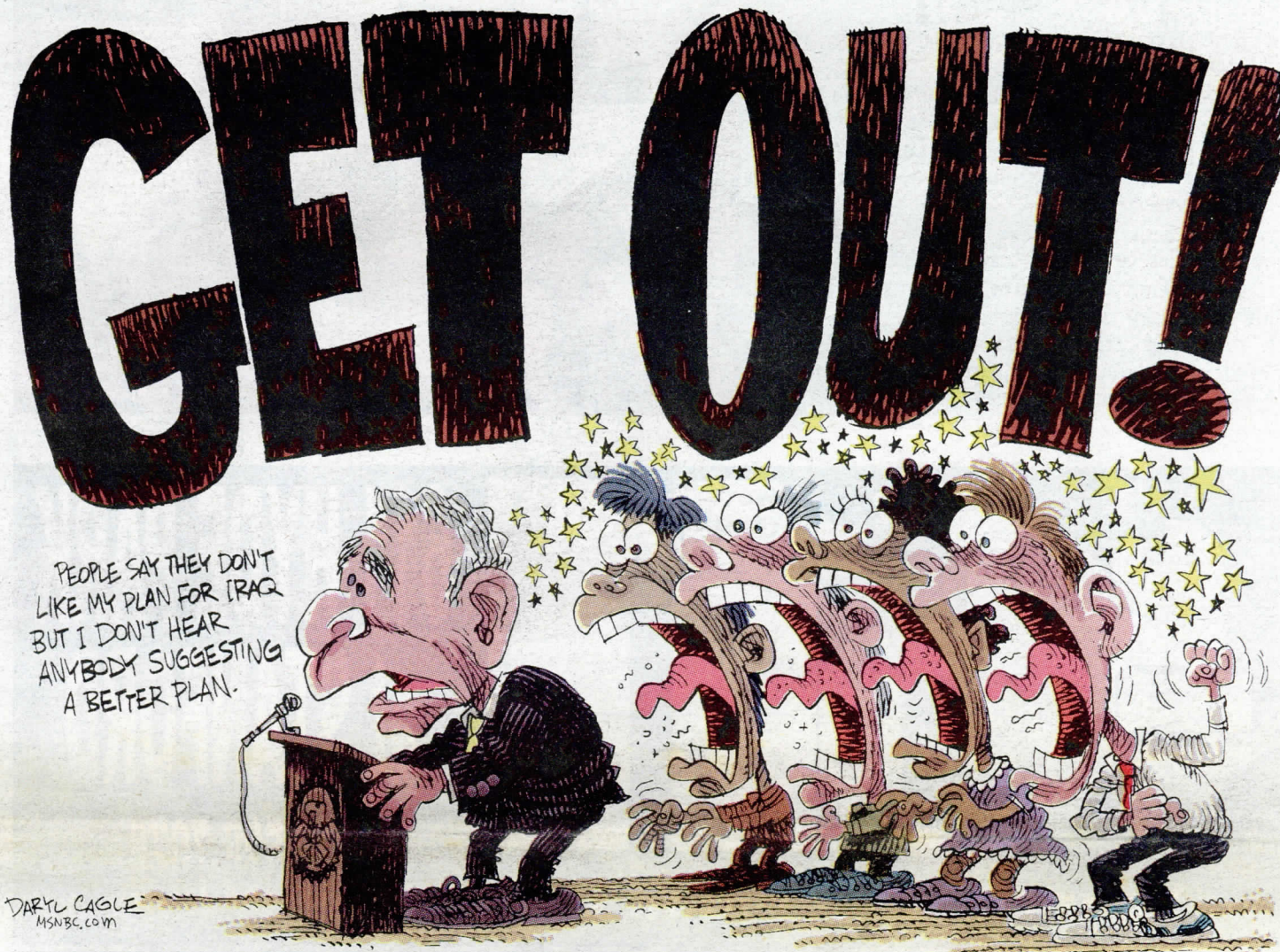
**MAPS TO ALL
HOUSTON &
GALVESTON
GAY BARS!**

Issue # **55**, January 24, 2007 713-529-2325 MontroseGEM @ Yahoo.com

INSIDE

**Issiah
Washington's
Apology**

**HERA's
Big
Agenda**



'Pam's Labyrinth'

A Fantastic Journey

Review by Keith Vyvial

Filling Up Fast!
**THE GEM/RIPCORD GALVESTON
MARDI GRAS PARTY BUS TRIP**
See Bartender or Call 281-650-3489



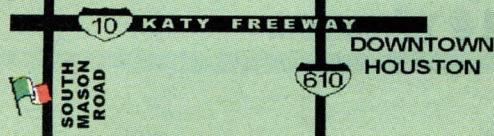
Amore's Italian Restaurant

MASON PLACE SHOPPING CENTER

430 S. Mason Rd., Katy • 281-392-2001

WWW.AMORESITALIAN.COM

CITY OF
KATY



Amore's is proud to present to you the recipes of the Macaluso and Giordano Family.

Nick Macaluso came to this country from Ribera Sicily in 1909 and settled in Galveston.

There he married Pauline Giordano and fathered 4 children: Anthony, Joseph, Jerome, and my mother Margaret.

Mama is the one that passed to me the family recipes that we now serve at Amore's.

It makes me very proud to present to you many of the specialties that I grew up with.

I think that grandpa Nick would be proud and, as all good Italian women, Grandma would be disappointed if anyone left the table hungry.



Capricorn Leaping Forward

HOROSCOPES by HELGA

ARIES (March 21-April 19): That's frequently the way it is. If so, then move on to the next person. Take him in hand in, arranging for a Taurus to encounter the both of you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You feel lighter and much more positive as January fades and February looms. Watch for someone with a moustache on barstool. You'll know the one when you see him. And your spiritual side is part of your being. It will demand your attention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): A Capricorn could use your help. Make mental notes then come to the rescue. The next few weekends could bring emotional highs and that Capricorn will be there. It will be pleasant most of the time, slightly choppy at other times.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Use your mating skills forcibly this week and next. Change is the name of the game for you, closely ahead of the Super Bowl. Are you klook for a bear. A whole tem full will be in Miami burt you must be happy with those here. You will, Helga senses. Plus, a Scorpio will be vying for your eye.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): While you were having fun in January, your co-workers were working behind the scenes for your benefit. A change of location is possible for you. Do not be confused, travelling as we are through all that is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The facts of February: Work, save, play. You will make it through another winter month. Then spring will be in the air. That will be your season. Meanwhile, settle for thoughts of remodeling.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): February, coming up, will involve a combination of business and pleasure. The results will be superb, Helga predicts. And think of highlighting your standing in the community. You will be glowing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Your mind says it's spring but Helga says it is still winter. A Leo is in your prediction and it will be one who will want to get personal. When you give, you shall receive, although that is not the purpose of giving, as you well know.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will make the right decision about a big event coming in February. Just remember, after this is over, you must turn the tables and be extra generous. Trust your intuition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In this great leap forward as you emerge from January, you're going to attempt that which you have thought of so much. But remember that landing can be rough. Mother Nature will provide you with the needed cushion. And security will be provided. henry

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Everything touches you. Try touching back at work and at home and when you're out on the town. Love is a good thing. Be vague about the issues in the forefront.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will take a dive into uncertainty in the next week because, well, you will see that you will have no choice. While there, You will do some serious thinking to solve a problem.

Helga's lottery results from last issue: 1 number. Cumulative: Down \$108. Here are Helga's picks for Jan 26 and 27, 2007. Mega Millions Friday: 24, 27, 53, 26, 5. Mega Ball: 43. Megaplier? Yes. And for Lotto Texas Saturday: 35, 20, 26, 28, 36, 11.

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Wednesday
Feb. 14
**Will You
Be My
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Official 2007 L.U.E.Y. Host Bar



February
22-25, 2007

4.3.9. DVD Rentals

MONDAY-SUNDAY

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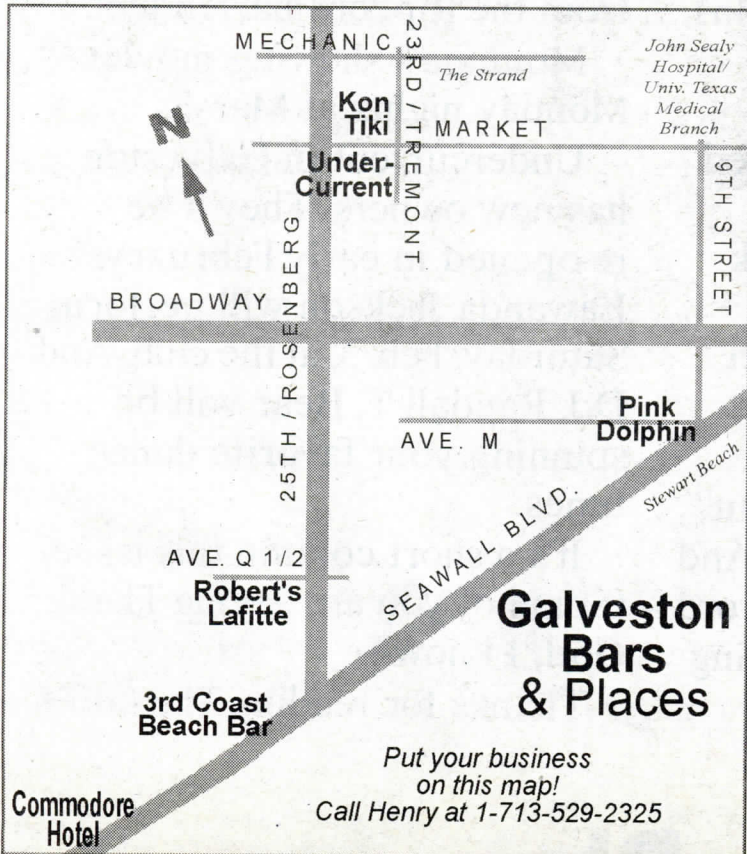
713-LEATHER

BLACK HAWK LEATHER

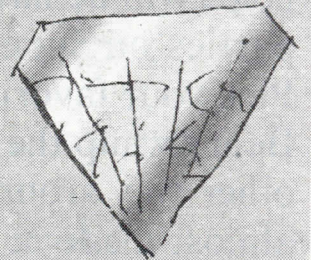
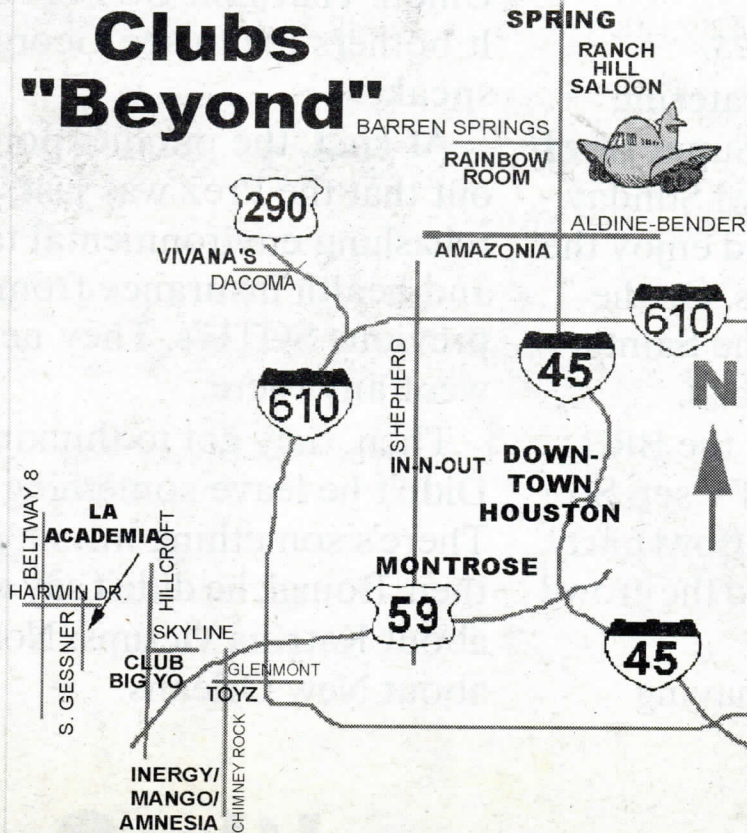


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Scott



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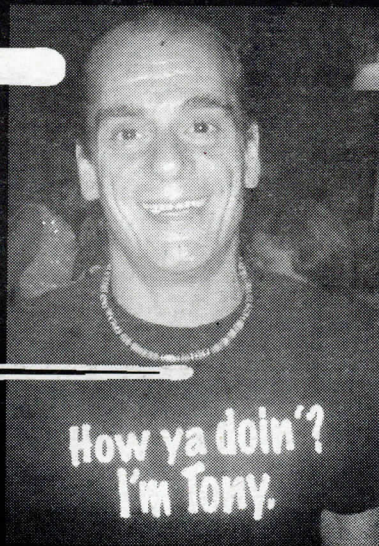
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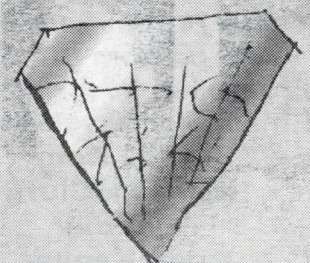
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Gay News & Bar Talk

By Henry

Welcome to issue #55 of The GEM, your favorite gay publication.

Super Bowl Parties

Each of our fine watering holes will be having Super Bowl parties on Super Bowl Sunday. Pick your favorite and enjoy the Bears whup the Colts. Or the other way around. The Saints almost made it. Too bad.

This time last year the BRB did not even have a TV set. So they had a non-Super Bowl party. But now they're joined the crowd and bought a TV.

Everyone will be having

snacks for the Big Game. But Michael's Outpost will be having their steak night. So there you will get a steak, fixins, a "Sock Hop" benefit for Bob and the game.

Our President

Did you watch the State of the Union. That's the SOTU. I didn't. It bothers me to see George speak.

At first, the pundits pointed out that the Prez was just rehashing environmental talk and health insurance from previous SOTU's. They never went anywhere.

Then, they got to thinking. Didn't he leave something out? There's something missing. And then, Boing!, he didn't say a word about Katrina victims. Nothing about New Orleans.

Quickies

Black Hawk Leather is open on Sundays now. And they're still renting their unique DVD's.

The Galveston Mardi Gras bus trip is filling up nicely. We're about 2/3rds there filling the 50-passenger bus. Get your tickets from the Ripcord bartenders.

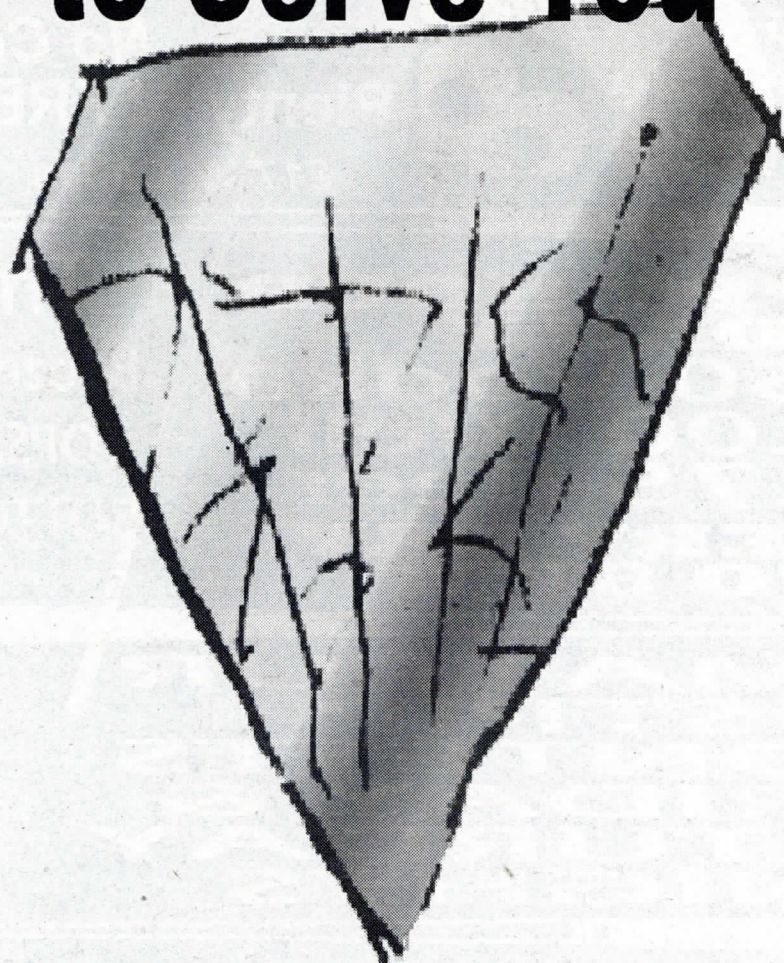
Montana's showing movies Monday nights at Mary's.

Undercurrent in Galveston has new owners. They'll be re-opened in early February. Lawanda Jackson will perform Saturday, Feb. 3, at the club. And D.J. Randall T. Bear will be spinning your favorite dance tunes.

It's a short column this issue. (Some of you are saying Thank God, I know.)

Thanks for reading The GEM.

It's Our Pleasure to Serve You




montrose
GEM

ISSUE # 55

JANUARY 26, 2007
ONLY OUR 3RD YEAR
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Gay Newspaper"

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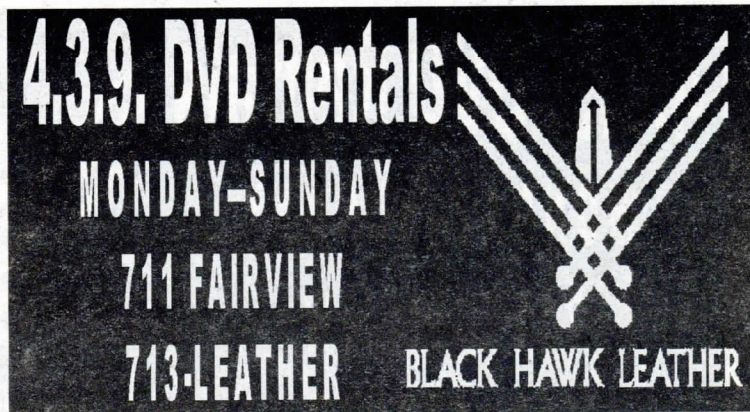
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Email: MontroseGem @
Yahoo.Com

Henry McClurg
Publisher

Brian Kever
Advertising Director
RATE CARD #5 IS
NOW IN EFFECT



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 (BRB) 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, 713-523-5230. Ladies nights on Wednesdays

Chances/G-Spot/New Barn 1100 Westheimer, 713-523-7217. The New Barn is open as this women's club repairs itself from the fire.

Club 1415 1415 California, 713-522-7066. Open for theme parties some nights.

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 to the young. Drag shows Thurs.-Sun. Open 11am (noon Sun.)

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

Decades 1205 Richmond Ave., 713-521-2224. A neighborhood bar. Open 11am (noon Sun.). Pool tables, darts, a great jukebox

E/J's 2517 Ralph, 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 to 2am

Blur 710 Pacific, 713-713-529-3447. Nightly dance bar, Sunday Tea Dance, closed Mon. & Tues.

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 (10am Sun.) Good happy hour crowd. Frequent shows and community events on the patio, especially Sundays

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 roof-top patio

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

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

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

South Beach 810 Pacific, 713-521-9123. Major dance club. Get there early to get ahead of the line. Open Wed.-Sun. with after-hours weekends

Tony's Corner Pocket 817 W. Dallas, 713-571-7870. Pool and other games, open noon daily. "How ya doin'?"

Galveston Clubs

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

Kon Tiki 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. Open 10am-2am.

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.

Swimming pool

Undercurrent 2409 Market, (409) 750-8571. Open 2pm. Two dance floors, shows and strippers weekends

Outlying Clubs

within 100 miles

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

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

Club 69 6121 Hillcroft, S.W. Houston, 832-891-2241, Latino.

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

Crystal U.S. 59 at Hillcroft, S.W. Houston, 713-278-2582. Drag shows Wed. & Thurs., dancing Fri. & Sat.

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" open daily 4pm

Inergy/Mango Lounge/Amnesia 5750 Chimney Rock, S.W. Houston, 713-660-7310. Latin-flavored dance club, Sunday impersonation shows

Mona Lisa 6101 Wilcrest at Harwin. Diamond Cut Sisters Thursdays

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. Frequent impersonation shows

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

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ONLY TRUST THYSELF, and another shall not betray thee ... William Penn, Quaker colonizer

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ONCE DURING PROHIBITION I was forced to live for days on nothing but food and water ... W C Fields, Ah yes, old W.C. the comedian

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HELP WANTED Tony's (formerly Keys West) now accepting applications. Apply in person afternoons 817 W. Dallas

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I'D RATHER GIVE my life than be afraid to give it ... Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th U.S. president, following Kennedy

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THE FUTURE OF this republic is in the hands of the American voter ... Dwight D Eisenhower, U.S. President before Kennedy

ALAN AT 611 Come see me Fri. & Sat. mornings 7am-1pm at The 611

ADVERTISING HELP NEEDED Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages seeking enthusiastic sales person. Good compensation for serious sales workers. Laura Villagran, 713-875-9088

PRIDE & JOY Stop and see Don & Dan for a great deal on cool bars & vintage furniture, 1727 Westheimer

EVERYTHING RUNS TO excess; every good quality is noxious if unmixed ... Ralph Waldo Emerson, 19th century American author

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUZY? Find her Thurs. 7am-1pm & Fri. 1pm-8pm at Mary's, Naturally. And at Michael's Outpost Sat. & Sun. afternoons

HOW LITTLE IT takes to make life unbearable: a pebble in the shoe, a cockroach in the spaghetti, a woman's laugh ... H L Mencken, 20th century American editor & critic

DECORATE! window treatments, shades, blinds, pillows, bedspreads. 50% off sale. Jimmy, JCPennneys, free in-home consultation, 281-974-1906

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I FIRMLY BELIEVE that if the whole materia medica could be sunk to the bottom of the sea, it would be all the better for mankind, and all the worse for the fishes ... Oliver Wendell Holmes, 19th-20th century American jurist

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I KEEP SIX honest serving-men/ [They taught me all I knew]/ Their names are What and Why and When/ And How and Where and Who ... Rudyard Kipling, English author & 1907 Nobel prize winner

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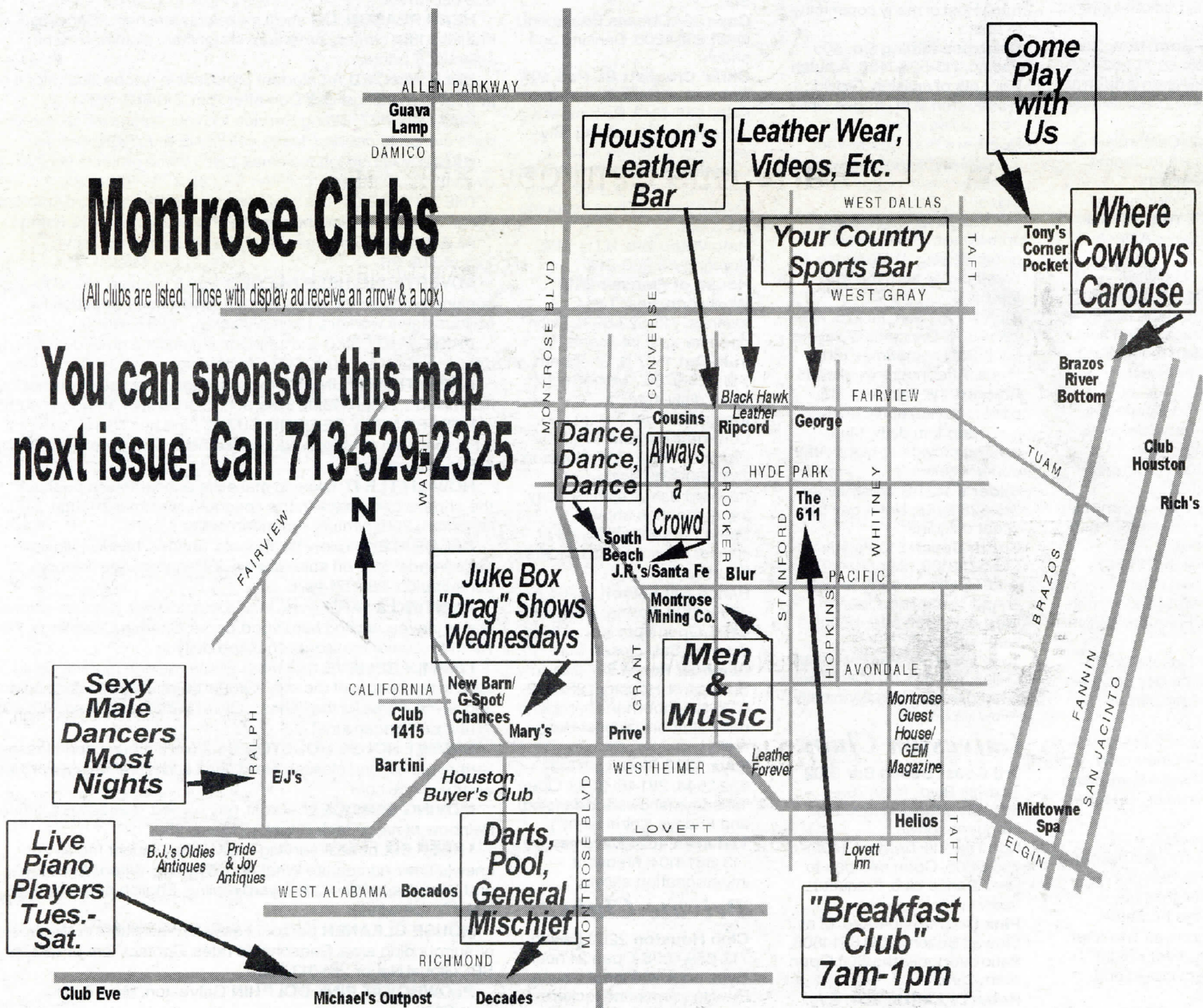
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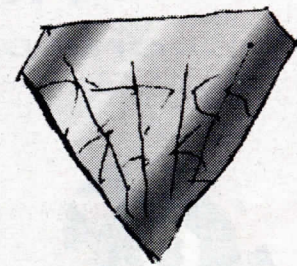
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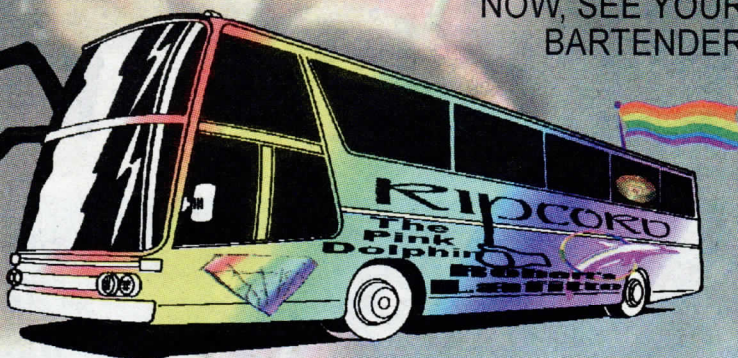
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Super Bowl Party
 Sunday, Feb. 4



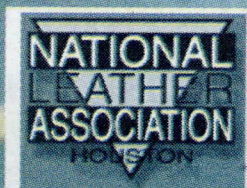
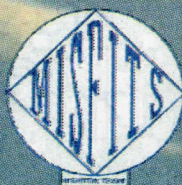
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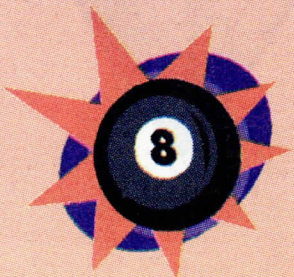
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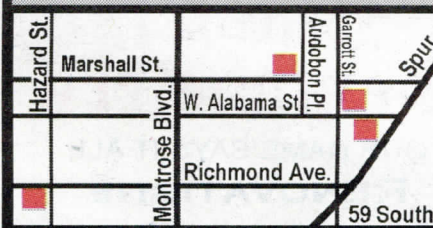
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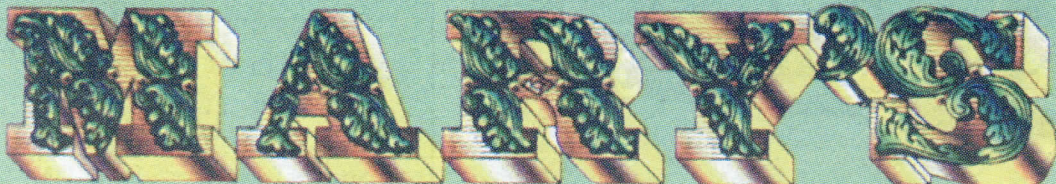
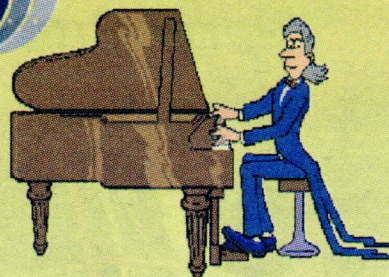
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1419 Richmond Ave.
Houston
713-520-8446**Also Feb. 4: SOCK HOP**
Benefit for Funeral Expenses
for Our Friend Bob

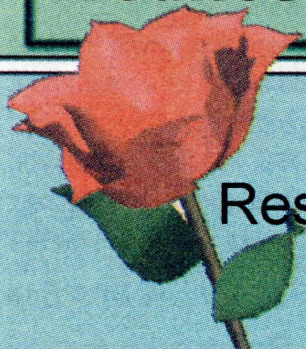
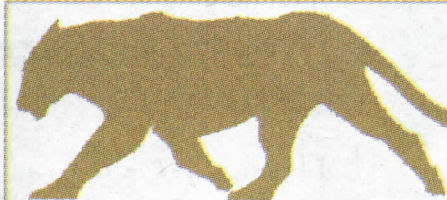
vs.

**OUTPOST****Super Bowl
Steak Night**

Sun., Feb. 4, 5-9pm



... Naturally

**Mondays, 8pm
Movie Night
with MONTANA****I.C.O.H.
Shows
Wednesdays****OFFICIAL
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713-227-1717
Facsimile
713-522-2610
Web
www.nsflaw.us

Holidays, Benefits & Other Occasions

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

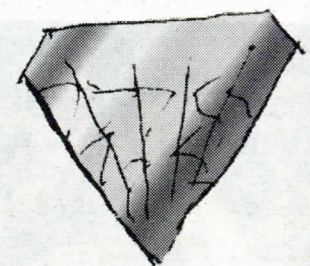
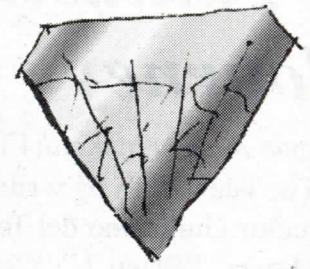
Sat., Jan. 27 NLA monthly membership meeting, 7:30pm, then members bartend 9:30pm-1:30am, Ripcord patio
Fri., Feb. 2 Groundhog Day
Sun., Feb. 4 Super Bowl XLI, Miami
Sun., Feb. 4 PFLAG meeting, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 2pm
Mon., Feb. 5 GALLO general assembly meeting, Resurrection MCC, 7pm
Feb. 7 Houston GLBT Political Caucus meets 7pm
Thurs., Feb. 8 Houston Leather Boys' membership meeting, 7:30pm, Ripcord
Feb. 9-20 Mardi Gras

Galveston
Sat., Feb. 10 Houston GLBT Political Caucus community workday
Mon., Feb. 12 Lincoln's birthday
Tues., Feb. 13 Houston GLBT Community Center night, Hollywood
Wed., Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
Feb. 17 Ripcord/GEM 25th annual Galveston gay bus trip for Mardi Gras
Feb. 17 Houston Leather Boys' bartend, Ripcord Beer Shack, 10pm
Feb. 17 Misfits bartend on Ripcord patio
Feb. 18 GLBT Community Center Queer Bingo, Club 1415, 5:00 p.m.
Feb. 19 Presidents' Day
Feb. 20 Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday
Feb. 22 Washington's birthday
Feb. 22-25 Houston Council of Clubs 34th annual Let Us Entertain You Weekend
Feb. 27-March 18

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo
March 2-4 73rd annual River Oaks Garden Club's Azalea Trail
March 1-4 International Gay & Lesbian Travel Assn. Spring Fam/Symposium Antwerp Belgium.
March 5 EqualityTexas 2007 Lobby Day at State Capitol
March 18th Annual Houston AIDS Walk
March FotoFest at 100 Houston sites
March Bayou City Art Festival, Memorial Park
March 17 St. Patrick's Day
March 20 First Day of Spring
April 1 April Fool's Day
April 2 Daylight Savings Time Begins (lose an hour)
April 2 Palm Sunday
April NLA's Spring Iniquity XVI
April 40th Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival

April 18th annual Lone Star Volleyball Classic
April Houston International Festival
April National Arbor Day
April 22 Earth Day
April 22 Easter Sunday; 28th annual Bunnies on the Bayou
May 5 Cinco de Mayo
May Galveston Historic Homes Tour
May Art Car Parade
May 14 Mother's Day
May 24-28 International Mr. Leather in Chicago
May 28 Memorial Day
c. June 11th annual Houston Billiards Open
c. June Colt 45s 31st Anniversary Run
June 6 D Day
June 17 Father's Day
June 14 Flag Day
June 19 Juneteenth Day. In 1865, a Union general stepped ashore in Galveston to tell the last slaves in the Confederacy that they were free
c. June 21 First Day of Summer
June 23 Houston

Gay Pride Festival & Parade
July 4 Independence Day
July 4 Concerts & Fireworks, Eleanor Tinsley Park, 4pm-10pm
July 7 Seventh day of the seventh month of year seven in 2000
July 14 Bastille Day
July Christmas in July, BRB, a "Miss A" production
July 24th annual Denim Party, BRB
August 1 possible date for 24th annual National Night Out
August? 17th annual Houston International Jazz Festival
August Gay Softball World Series
August Sundance Cattle Co 27th anniversary
August Don Gill's "Live"
Sept. 3 Labor Day
Sept. Grandparents' Day
Sept. 11 Patriot Day
Sept. 16? Fiestas Patrias
Sept. First day of Autumn



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'Pan's Labyrinth' a Fantastic Journey

Movie Review by Keith Vyvial

The latest film by writer-director Guillermo del Toro ("Mimic," "Blade 2," "Cronos," "The Devil's Backbone") has created his most fantastic and satisfying film to date.

In Spanish with English subtitles, the setting is Spain of 1944. The Spanish Civil War has just ended and remaining resistance fighters still linger in the forests of the northern hills.



We begin with the tale of the daughter of the King of the Underworld, who wandered to the surface one day and the sunlight washed away her memory of the world beneath.

The King has portals to the Underworld left open awaiting her eventual return. We then meet Ofelia, a young girl who, with her pregnant mother, is moved to the military base commanded by her new stepfather, the base's cruel, sadistic general.

A dragonfly leads young Ofelia into the center of a labyrinth in the forest, where she comes face to face with a faun. This faun tells Ofelia that she is, in fact the Princess of the Underworld ready to return.

Before she can return, however, Ofelia must complete three dangerous tasks to prove that she has not become too human. As dangerous and frightening as these magical tasks are, nothing is remotely as frightening as the trials Ofelia must endure in the real life.

Our reviewer Keith Vyvial. E-mail Keith at GEMmovies@Yahoo.com with any cinema question. Some will be answered in a future column.



PRESS RELEASE HERA'S Events

From HERA's Newsletter

HERA's Newest Alliance Partner, OutLaw, is an organization devoted to the issues of GLBT students at the University of Houston Law Center. Membership is open to all Law Center students, regardless of sexual orientation, who share the concerns of lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, and gay men.

Outlaw plans activities and meetings on and off campus in order to allow its members to participate in the group at whatever level they find most comfortable.

Thank you for your support in 2006. Last year was a very busy year for the Houston Equal Rights Alliance. Here are some of the things HERA accomplished in 2006:

- Knocked on over 4,300 doors in order to defeat anti-gay legislator Martha Wong.
- Worked to elect pro-equality candidates including Rep. Ellen Cohen, Rep. Garnet Coleman, Rep. Borris Miles and Rep. Hubert Vo.
- Identified thousands of new supportive voters.
- Registered hundreds of new voters leading up to the March primary and November elections.
- Organized our third Pride Action in June identifying over 3000 supporters.
- Co-sponsored the Outspoken Families Media Workshop with Equality Texas.
- Served as a local partner for the Victory Fund International Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference assisting locally and supplying over 50 volunteers.
- Created a new PAC

2007 is gearing up to be even busier. Read ahead about some exciting upcoming events and how you can get involved. We can do so much more in 2007 but only with your support.

Help us take HERA to the next level. We need your financial support to fund our work for 2007. Become a member today or renew online. Every dollar donated to HERA stays in Houston.

Tenth Annual National Freedom to Marry Week

HERA is proud to partner with The Foundation for Family and Marriage Equality to sponsor Houston's Freedom to Marry Week, Feb. 11 to 18. The Foundation for Family and Marriage Equality is a HERA Alliance Partner.

This year marks the tenth annual

Film 'Meth' Is Hard-Hitting

Movie Review by Keith Vyvial

Legacy Community Health Services recently provided a free screening of the film, "Meth," a documentary by openly gay director Todd Ahlberg.

The film consists of interviews with several men around the United States who have the commonality of being gay crystal meth addicts.

The documentary allows the men to tell their own story of their experiences of addiction to the drug also known as Nazi Crank, Speed and Tina; a drug that affects the central nervous system and boosts libido,



Sign-carrier from last year's Freedom to Marry Week. (HERA newsletter)

National Freedom to Marry Week, and the fifth year it will be celebrated in Houston.

The Freedom Week includes three large events. There will be a three-part discussion series on sexual orientation and gender identification covering the latest in the psychology and biology of sexual orientation, and religious views from various faith traditions.

The second event will be a demonstration for the right to marry at the Harris County Clerk's office. Same-sex couples will line up at the clerk's office to request a marriage license while demonstrators and supporters outside carry signs calling for marriage equality.

The third event is the 5th Annual Texas's Largest Same-Sex Wedding Celebration and Demonstration for the Right to Marry. As in years past, a panel of over twenty clergy from diverse faith traditions will preside over a holy union for couples who are making new commitments or renewing their commitments to one another. A huge reception will follow.

Adding a fun new twist to our events this year will be a bachelor and bachelorette party two days before the wedding celebration. Then the night before the wedding celebration, we will gather at a local restaurant for a rehearsal dinner.

These events receive state and national attention and show real people in real relationships that are honored by our friends, families, communities, and our many diverse faith traditions.

The Foundation for Family and

Marriage Equality can be reached at 713-227-1717.

Join HERA for Lobby Day

March 4 and 5 are the dates set for Lobby Day in Austin.

The Houston Equal Rights Alliance is proud to serve as a local alliance partner. HERA wants Houston to have the largest representation of any city across the state. As the largest city in the state, we can do it.

Equality Texas wants to ensure that each of the 150 Texas Representatives and the 31 Texas Senators receives a visit from a constituent who has a personal and immediate

stake in legislative policy affecting LGBT Texans. Let's make sure Houston is covered.

Lobby Day events will start the night before, March 4, with a reception at the host hotel, the Wyndham Garden.

Volunteers Wanted

Did you make a new year resolution to volunteer? To get more involved in the community? To meet new people? HERA can help.

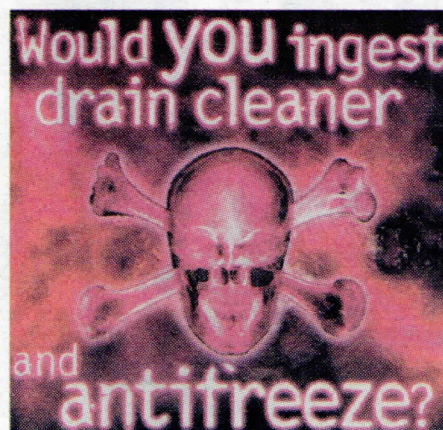
We have a variety of volunteer roles and projects. Here's a sampling:

- Organize new office.
- Light office help (filing, typing, etc.).
- Data entry.
- Prepare pledge cards for Lobby Day 2007.
- Work on volunteer team organizing upcoming fundraising events Writer/-Newsletter.
- Participate on the Freedom to Marry Volunteer Team.
- Various other short-term and long-term projects.

New Board Members

The HERA Board is proud to announce that Christina Gorczynski and Elizabeth McLane have joined the board.

Board President Tammi Wallace said, "We are excited that Christina and Elizabeth have joined the board. They each bring amazing talents and passion to the organization. They are both so willing to give of their personal time to work on GLBT civil rights and to make sure that HERA is successful. We are honored to have them as part of the HERA Team."



embracing the invincibility, care-free attitude and heightened sense of sexuality, wiping away the guilt sometimes associated with sex.

The men all tell their own stories of addiction, some with heartbreaking results. At times difficult to experience, the film gives us a graphic view of drug use. Consistent with the documentary's attempt

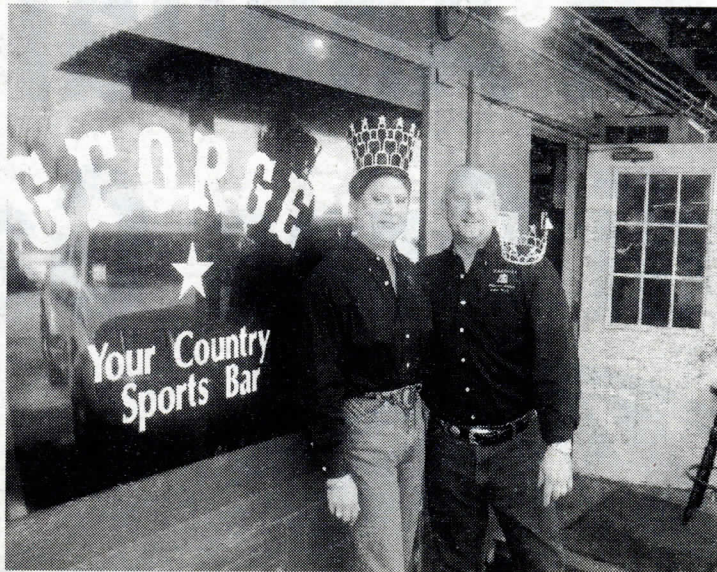
confidence and ego.

We are told that crystal meth was allowed to truly blossom in the circuit scene of the early 1990s in the atmosphere of togetherness and open sexuality. To them, it seemed to be simply a part of all we desire in gay culture to be young, fabulous, young and high.

In fact, the subjects of the interview all tell the same tale of

to frighten the audience of the dangers of the drug, we witness one of the subjects draw blood, mix the drug and inject it back into his system.

"Meth" takes a frightening, sobering look at the drug that is so prevalent in the gay community. As the film mentions, enough of gay culture is embedded in crystal meth that it is an issue that can no longer be swept under the rug.



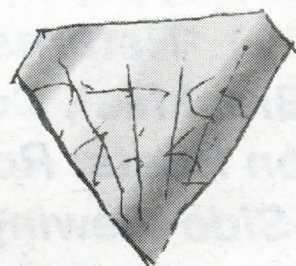
4.3.9. DVD Rentals

MONDAY-SUNDAY

711 FAIRVIEW

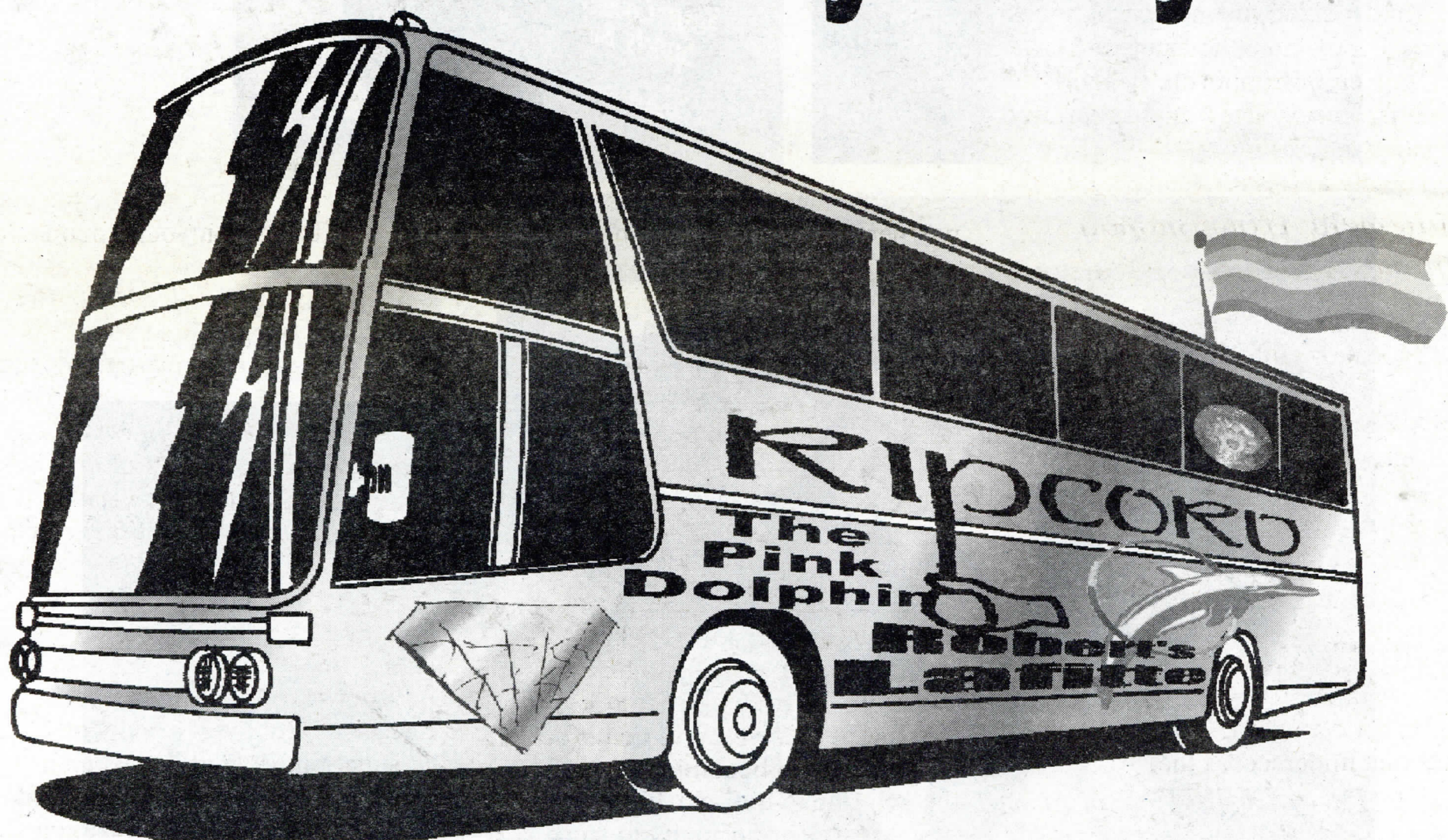
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GLAAD President's Statement

From Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

Neil G. Giuliano, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), has issued the following in response to a statement by Isaiah Washington and reports that the Grey's Anatomy co-star has entered a residential treatment facility: "We are pleased to see Isaiah seeking help to deal with the issues he alluded to in his public statements and in our meeting with him this past Monday."

Statement from Isaiah Washington

"With the support of my family and friends, I have begun counseling. I regard this as a necessary step toward understanding why I did what I did and making sure it never happens again. I appreciate the fact that I have been given this opportunity and I remain committed to transforming my negative actions into positive results, personally and professionally.;

Statement from Shonda Rhimes, Executive Producer of Grey's Anatomy

"I speak for all the executive producers here at Grey's Anatomy when I say that Isaiah Washington's use of such a disturbing word was a shocking and dismaying event that insulted not only gays and lesbians everywhere but anyone who has ever struggled for respect in a world that is not always accepting of difference. "We've been working within the Grey's family as well as with ABC and Touchstone to address the issue in a way that underscores the

GLAAD and GLSEN meet with Washington

Neil G. Giuliano, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and Kevin Jennings, founder and executive director of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has met with Grey's Anatomy co-star Isaiah Washington in Los Angeles.

The three discussed Washington's uses of an anti-gay slur and laid

Everyone's Got a Statement



the groundwork for an ongoing partnership to combat the prejudice and intolerance faced by the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

At the beginning of the meeting, which came on the first day of GLSEN's annual No Name-Calling Week, Washington candidly acknowledged the harm he had caused by his repeated use of the epithet.

Isaiah understands that he is going to be judged by more than just his apology, Giuliano said. He knows that his future actions, including the genuine first step that today's meeting represents, will demonstrate his sincerity in becoming part of the solution to anti-gay bigotry. We welcome the opportunity to work with him in the coming months to help improve the cultural climate faced by LGBT people across this country.

GLSEN is thankful to ABC for arranging the meeting and hopeful that Isaiah Washington has come to a deeper understanding of the power of words, especially as we launch No Name-Calling Week in schools across the country, Jennings said. As a parent himself, Isaiah Washington seemed

to particularly appreciate the impact these words have on young people in schools and expressed an interest in becoming an ally in GLSEN's effort to educate young people about the negative impact of name-calling and bullying.

GLSEN's research shows that name-calling is a significant barrier to learning, and this week is a particularly appropriate time for new allies to join the effort, Jennings added.

GLAAD and GLSEN expect to meet with Washington again in the coming weeks to begin discussing and implementing possible public education initiatives. gravity of the situation while giving us all a foundation for healing. We applaud and encourage Isaiah's realization that he needs help and his subsequent choice to seek immediate treatment for his behavioral issues.

"We appreciate the support the fans have always given our show, particularly during this stressful time. Creatively, we continue to strive to make the best television we can with the hope that our show reflects the talent, hard work and professionalism of our cast and crew."

Welcome to Montrose

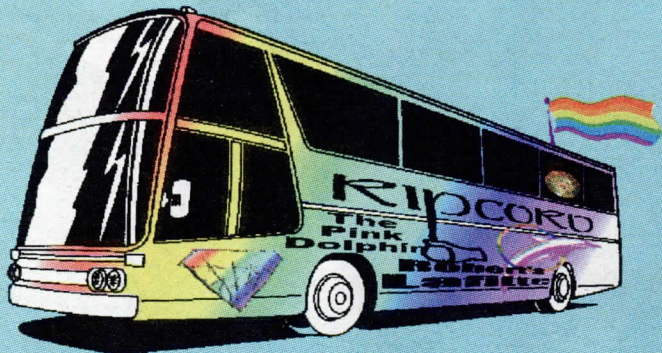


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Saturday, Jan. 27

After the Banner Party
Friday, Feb. 9

Galveston Royal Family Mardi Gras Show
Saturday, Feb. 10

Mardi Gras Costume Contest
followed by

Mardi Gras Nashville Style
Saturday, Feb. 17

Fat Tuesday Party
Feb. 20

Drag Shows Fridays 10:30pm

A Good Drag Show Saturdays 10:30pm

**Official
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Boys, Beads,
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Starting Noon
Sat., Feb. 17



Back Patio for Sunning or Relaxing



GALVESTON VISITORS

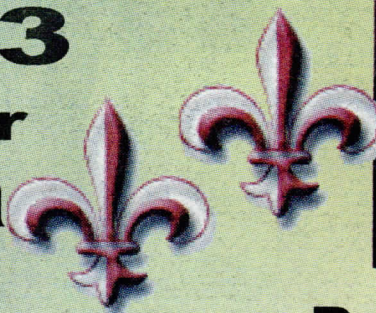
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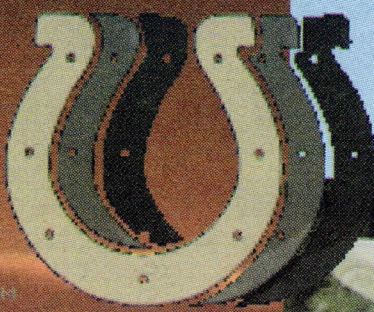
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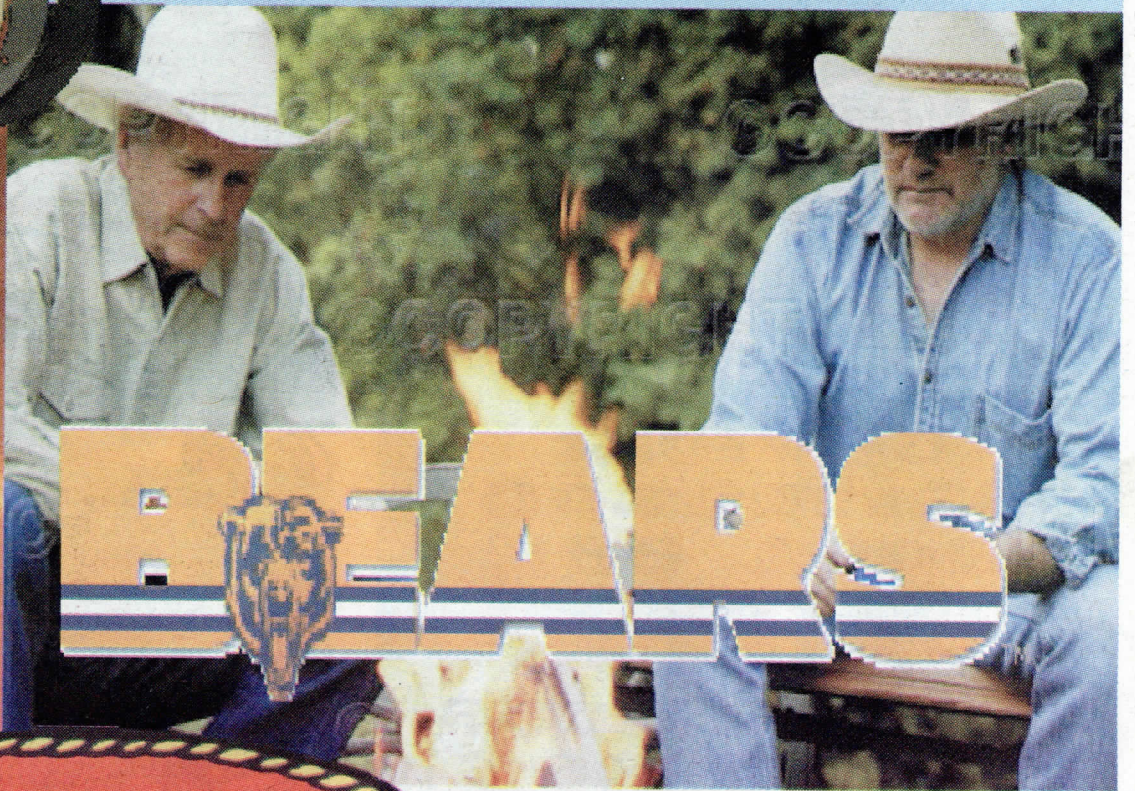
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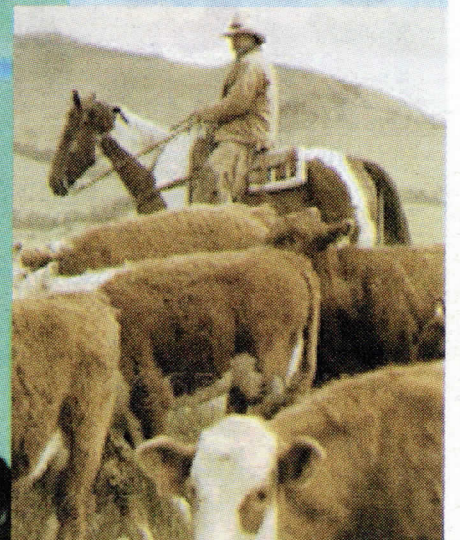
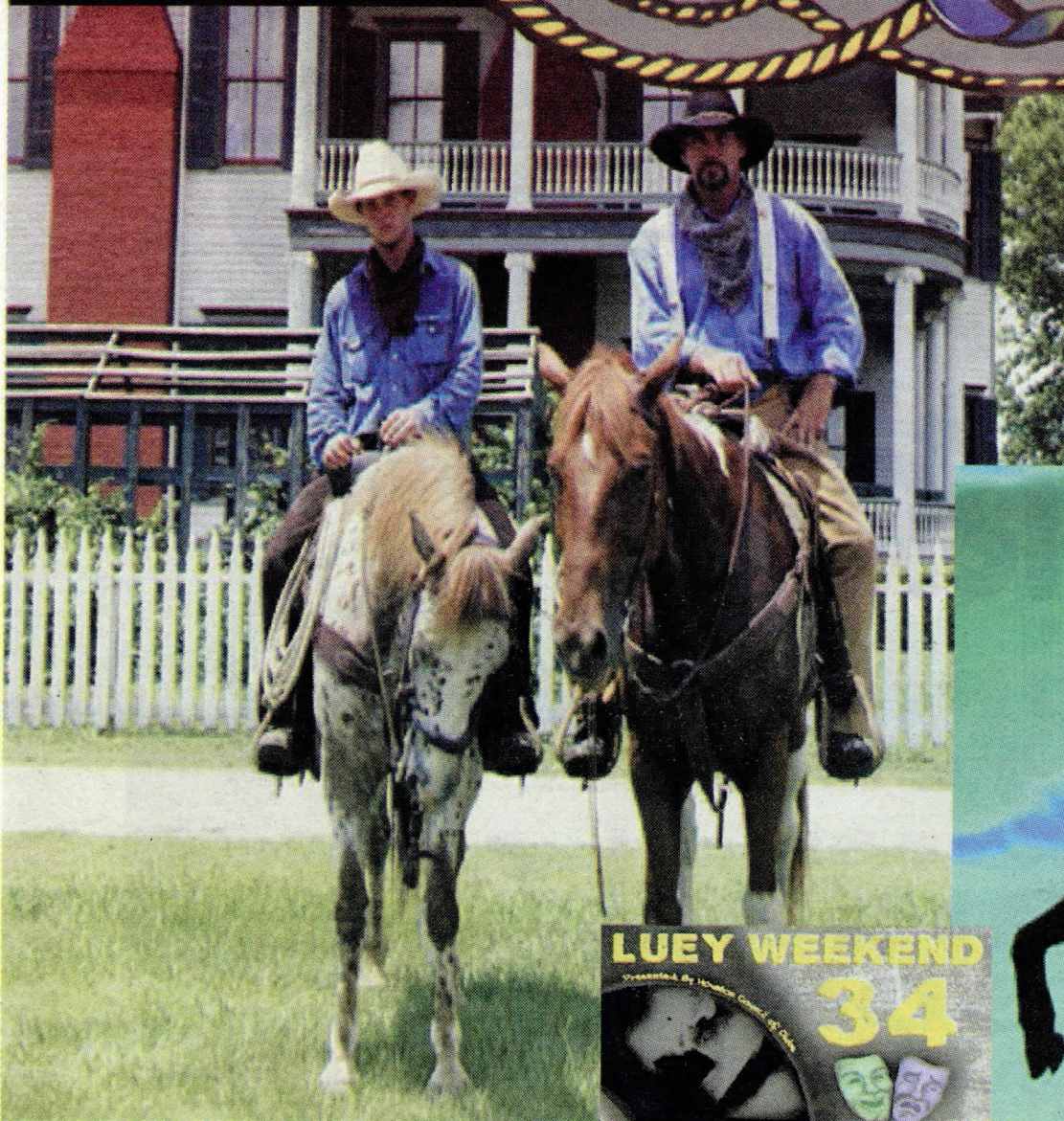


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