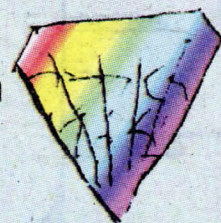


Montrose GEM

c. Gulf Features Issue # **79**, May 2, 2008 281-650-3489 Montrose GEM @ Yahoo.com

WE HAVE MAPS TO HOUSTON & GALVESTON GAY BARS



INSIDE:

**Henry Talks
Navy**

**Montrose
Counseling
Center
Talks Events**

**PLUS
Bonus Feature**

**Sex
Sex
Sex**

NOT REALLY

AND

**More Houston/
Galveston
Gay Bars
Than Anyone
Else**

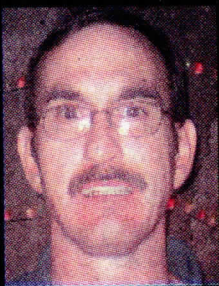
611

Your Neighborhood Bar

NEW!
Premium Vodka
at Well Prices
All the Time
**611 HYDE PARK
at STANFORD**
713-526-7070

The Breakfast Club

MONDAY-SATURDAY 7AM-1PM



\$1.50



with BARRY

and AL

**DOMESTIC BEER, WELL DRINKS,
MIMOSAS! & IRISH COFFEE!**

Munchies! Afternoons Tuesday-Friday

**Nachos, Tacos,
Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes,
Or a Surprise!**



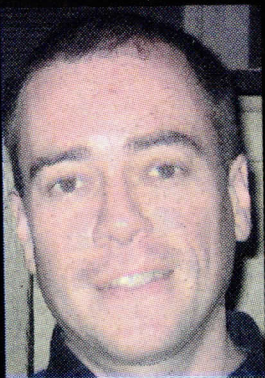
**HOME OF
The Nomads
AND
Houston Leather Boys**

**It's Back!
Sunday \$1 Vodka**

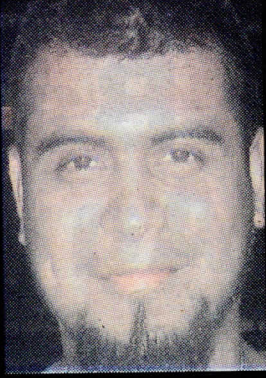
Till 10pm
Watch the Games with Hamburgers on the Patio

Friendly Staff!

(And They Are Pretty Too)



BRIAN



CARLOS



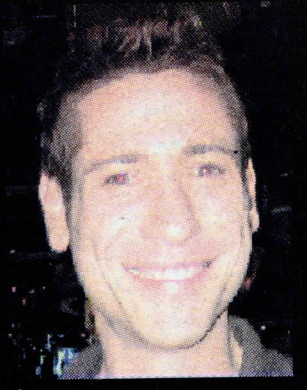
LARRY



JAKE



GILBERT



SEAN

vitamins



sports nutrition



herbs



BUYERS Club
HOUSTON

source

Houston Buyers Club

3224 Yoakum Blvd. houstonbuyersclub.com 713.520.5288

Presenting a Beary, Beary Happy Birthhday

Hosted by
Imperial Princess XXIV Lillian Devereaux

All Proceeds benefiting



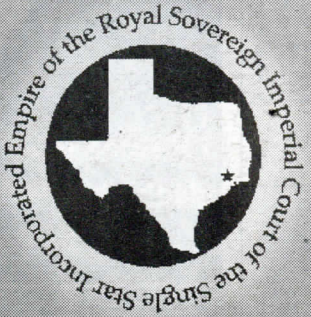
Bear / Bear Auction

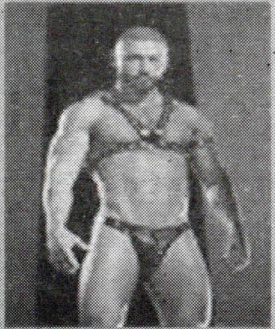
Benefiting Hatch and Reign 24 Charities

Location:
Tony's Corner Pocket
7:00pm On May 3rd

ERSICSS is a 501(c) charity
and gladly accepts the
following credit cards









**Official Kick-off
Event for
Mr. & Miss
Mint Julep
2008**



Hosted by the current and former Mr. and Miss Mint Juleps

Don your hats at EJ's on Saturday, May 3...

It's Kentucky Derby Day!

Sat., May 3 at 2 pm
Televised Race at 5 pm

Only at EJ's
2517 Ralph St. Houston

**\$25 Bottomless Mint Juleps,
50/50 Raffle, Big Hat Contest or
Make one at the Party**

**Limited Number of
\$150 Tables Available**

Benefitting Legacy

Community Health Services
www.legacycommunityhealth.org

For more info, contact Ms. Sonna Alton • 713-830-3015

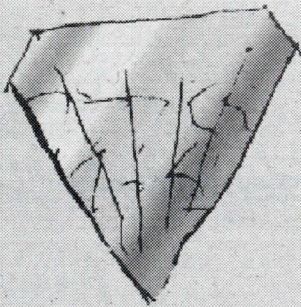
Staging a Benefit?

Send The GEM your
flyer (mail or E-mail)
and we'll publish
your flyer as a display ad
FREE as a quarter page
(in color if available) **IF**
benefit location is a GEM
advertiser or if location
is non-commercial.

Special Rates Available for
Bigger Ads in GEM-Bars or for
Benefits at Other Locations.

If E-mailing as a JPEG, send a
copy that is condensed as "high,"
(7-10) quality, or better yet,
send a PDF or TIFF file, made from
the original art work (not from an
already-compressed JPEG file).
TIFF file may be compressed
using LZW protocol.

***We Want You to
Look Your Best!***



**Coming Soon,
Montrose GEM
on the Web.**

**Meanwhile,
Read Henry's
Blog at**

www.montrose.blog.com

**montrose
GEM
80**

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MAY 2, 2008
OUR 4TH YEAR
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RATE CARD #5
(ADJUSTED) IS IN EFFECT

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Imperial Prince XXIV
Falcon
presents
"Dragging Out the Leather"
CAN OPPOSITES ATTRACT?

May 24, 9pm at
The Ripcord
715 Fairview, Houston



ERSICSS is a 501(c)3 charity and
gladly accepts the following cards
for donations



Benefiting
Legacy
Community Health Services
through Coronation XXV



Texas Approves New Domestic Partner Medical Coverage Insurance

Press Release from EQUALITY TEXAS

Until recently, health insurance providers operating in Texas only offered domestic partner medical insurance coverage to large companies, those with 51 or more employees.

However, the Texas Department of Insurance has approved a product offered by Aetna Health and Life Insurance Company that expands the availability of domestic partner medical insurance coverage to small companies, those with two to 50 employees.

The domestic partner health insurance coverage applies to opposite-sex and same-sex domestic partners. Currently, Aetna is the only health insurance provider approved by the Texas Department of Insurance to provide DP health insurance to small companies. It is hoped that market demand for the product will encourage other health insurance providers operating in Texas to seek approval.

Still, Aetna's entry into the small-company DP health market is a positive sign of health insurance providers attempting to meet the needs of a diverse Texas workforce, including employees with domestic partners.

*It's Fiesta Time
Celebrating Cinco De Mayo*

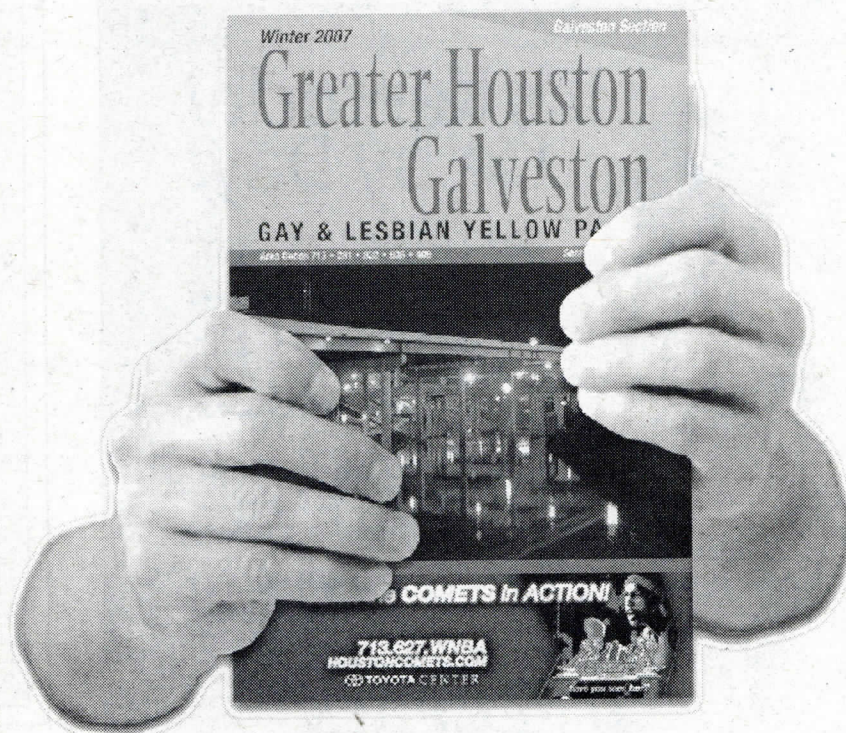
Hosted by:
Mr. Tony's Corner Pocket 2008
Cubby Christopher Prado

Sunday May 4, 2008
Tony's Corner Pocket Bar
817 W. Dallas
7pm
Benefiting:
ICOH Reign VI Charities & PWA Holiday Charities
Open to all performers

**TONY'S
CORNER
POCKET**

For more Information, make a donation or perform
Contact Christopher
By email: mrgaypridehou2005@sbcglobal.net

Get a GLYP!



www.GayYellow.com

Montrose Counseling Center News

Press Release

Consent is Hot

Yeah it is. Consent is Hot! April was Sexual Assault Awareness month, and Montrose Counseling Center continues to raise awareness about consent, and why it's important for you and your sex partner.

We recommend before you engage in **any** sexual activity that you get consent from your partner. Sex without consent is sexual assault. That doesn't mean you have to have a checklist and sign off on everything ahead of time. Most people who actively give and get consent report that their partner(s) not only appreciate it when they talk first, they also find it arousing.

As things heat up in the bedroom, you could whisper in your partner's ear, "I really want to Is that okay?" Don't worry about ruining the mood. Forcing someone to do something he or she doesn't want to do will ruin the mood. By getting and giving consent, you and your partner are not only building a healthy relationship, but communicating respect for one another.

In the state of Texas, a person under the age of 17 is not able to give consent to have sex with an adult. Drugs and alcohol can impair your judgment to give or get consent. Having sex with someone who is under the age of 17, or with someone who is not sober may have profound legal consequences.

If you feel that someone performed a sex act with you without your consent or if you have been or are sexually assaulted, Montrose Counseling Center is here for you. If you need someone to accompany you to the hospital for treatment after an assault, we can send a GLBT advocate to be with you, any time. The advocate can help you if you want to report the assault to the police. Call Gay & Lesbian Switchboard at 713-529-3211 to get in touch with the advocate, 24 hours a day. Services are available regardless of immigration status.

Even if it happened a long time ago, Montrose Counseling Center has two support groups for Sexual Assault Survivors. Individual and couples counseling also is available.

If you would like to order a T-shirt with our Consent is HOT! logo (available in two colors), check out Cafe Press. Proceeds benefit Montrose Counseling Center.

Happy Anniversary EPAH!

We couldn't be happier about the company we keep. Thirty years ago, the same year that MCC was founded, a group of business men and women came together to create an organization that would provide a non-political forum for discussion of business and community affairs, to encourage and foster social and business relationships among the membership, and to support such educational and/or charitable causes. That organization is the Executive and Professional Association of Houston (EPAH). Recently they celebrated their 30th Anniversary at Meteor.

Switchboard Training Coming Up

We are accepting applications for the next Gay & Lesbian Switchboard training coming up in May. Because the training encompasses three consecutive weekends, we are only able to hold the trainings a couple times a year. The next training will be held on May 3-4, May 10, and May 17-18. Volunteers must go through the entire training, and we strongly recommend that it be done in person. However if you have a conflict for some of the sessions, some of it may be made up by watching videotapes and reading the manual.

The trainings held on May 17-18 are mandatory, as they include crisis intervention and role playing. Being a Switchboard Volunteer is a challenging and rewarding experience. You'll receive gratification that comes from helping callers in need, as well as giving back to your community. Contact us now to join the ranks of our amazing volunteers.

Volunteers assist callers requesting help or information on: Referrals to GLBT Organizations & GLBT Friendly Businesses, Coming Out Issues, Suicide Prevention, Sexual Assault Domestic Partner Abuse/Violence Hate Crimes, HIV Counseling/Case Management Chemical Dependency Treatment General Therapy Referrals.

Vagina Monologues

Theatre New West takes great pride in presenting Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues at Montrose Counseling Center, 401 Branard St., 1st Floor, May 9-31. In a unique twist and in celebration of the 10th anniversary of this theatrical phenomenon, the production will be performed by members of Houston's transgender community. Tickets

are \$20 and may be reserved by calling 713-522-2204.

The Vagina Monologues is a poignant and hilarious tour of the last frontier, the ultimate forbidden zone, it is a celebration of female sexuality in all its complexity and mystery. Hailed as the bible for a new generation of women, it has been performed in cities all across the world and at hundreds of college campuses, and has inspired a dynamic grassroots movement (V Day) to stop violence against women.

Witty and irreverent, compassionate and wise, Eve Ensler's Obie Award-winning masterpiece gives voice to real women's deepest fantasies and fears, guaranteeing that no one who sees it will ever look at a woman's body, or think of sex, in quite the same way again.

Director Joe Watts watched a documentary of a Los Angeles production of the show with an entire male-to-female transgender cast and decided he'd like to do something similar; however he decided the Houston cast for The Vagina Monologues would not be as limited, opening the auditions up to both female-to-male and male-to-female transgender performers, as well as drag queens.

"My intent is in no way meant to sensationalize the transgender community, but to give them a voice, one of better understanding, acceptance, dignity, clarity and beauty."

A preview performance will be held on Thursday, May 8 as a fundraiser for Montrose Counseling Center. Curtain time is 8:00 p.m., and tickets will be \$35 for the benefit performance. Reserve and pay online through the Network for Good website and designate your donation for The Vagina Monologues.

ActOUT at the Alley Theatre

On May 8, Montrose Counseling Center's SPRY program is thrilled to be chosen as a community partner for the ActOUT performance of the "The Gershwins' An American in Paris" world premiere at the Alley Theatre.

The wild and hilarious new musical comedy "The Gershwins' An American in Paris" takes us on a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the legendary movie-musical.

Reuniting Ken Ludwig, George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin, the team behind the Broadway smash "Crazy For You," this new American musical tells the story of Michel Gerard, the greatest music hall singer in Paris. When Michel fails to turn up at Monumental Pictures' Paris studio for the filming of a new musical, studio head Louis Goldman sends his practical, no-nonsense secretary, Rebecca Klemm, to find the missing star. And when the legendary Parisian crosses swords with the indomitable American, nothing short of fireworks ensue.

SPRY Socials

Ever since Montrose Counseling Center launched the SPRY (Seniors Preparing for Rainbow Years) program, we've heard that many would like to participate in organized events for GLBT seniors. The first social will be the May 8 ActOUT performance of "The Gershwins' An American in Paris." Later this month, the SPRY Social Group will attend the Bayou City Women's Chorus presentation of ECHOES of WOMEN at Bering United Methodist Church. If you would like to join us, or would like more information, please contact Ben Morgan at 713-529-0037 x350 or Delma Cummings at 713-529-0037 x363.

Upcoming events: Excursion to the Museum of Fine Arts; Gay Men's Chorus performance at Jones Hall; Small, Tall & Everything In Between Show.

Come be with us on Friday, May 9, at George. Montrose Counseling Center's SPRY Program has been selected as the beneficiary of this ERSICSS show.

Can Ya Dig It?

Hustle Down to Funky Town, the 16th Annual HATCH Alternative Prom will be held on Friday, June 13. According to HATCH Youth Services Specialist, Deb Murphy, this is going to be a groovy year for the prom. "We've been very lucky to partner with wonderful venues in the past, like the Historic Magnolia Ballroom and the Lovett Inn, but we are looking forward to turning the first floor at Montrose Counseling Center into our very own disco for the night."

The youth already are busy getting the decorations together. Some are figuring out what they're going to wear since almost anything goes at an alternative prom. Murphy expects to see a lot of people in 70s attire this year to go along with the theme, which was inspired by Pride Houston's theme, "We are Family."

Prom is a great event in that it is fun for everyone, and it supports the HATCH program as well. The prom is free for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth, and their allies,

ages 13-20. Many don't attend their own school dances because they are afraid of being teased or even physically abused by their peers.

A special invitation is extended to GLBT adults who may not have had the opportunity to attend their own high school prom dressed as they wished or with a same-sex date. The dress code includes everything from tuxedos and formal gowns to costume and drag.

Anyone over the age of 21 who wasn't able to attend his or her own prom, or anyone who would like a chance to do it over again is welcome to come for a \$25 donation. You may register at the Network for Good website and designate the donation for the Prom. If you would like more information about the prom, or if you are interested in sponsoring, please contact Deb Murphy at 713-529-3590.

Community Outreach Prevention Services

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

611 Hyde Park Pub

Tuesday 4-8pm (La' Quoiya)
611 Hyde Park, 713-526-7070

All Star News and Video Emporium

Monday 4-8pm (Oscar)
3415 Katy Freeway & Studewood

Brazos River Bottom

Thursday 8pm-Midnight (Tony)
2400 Brazos, 713-528-9192

Club Houston

Tuesday 8pm-Midnight (Jorge "Chely" & Oscar)
2205 Fannin, 713-659-4998

Cousin's

Thursday 8pm-Midnight (Jack & Jorge "Chely")
817 Fairview, 713-528-9204

E/J's

Wednesday 10pm-1am (Tony)
Friday 10pm-1am (Tony & La' Quoiya)
2517 Ralph, 713-527-9071

EROS 1207 Boutique

Tuesday 3-7pm (Juan)
7330 Southwest Fwy., 713-271-4999

George Sports Bar

Monday 6-10pm (Jorge "Chely")
617 Fairview, 713-528-8102

Mary's, Naturally

Fridays 4-8pm (Jack & Gilbert)
1022 Westheimer, 713-527-9669

Midtowne Spa

Tuesday 4-8pm (Tony)
Friday 10pm-1am (Carlos)
3100 Fannin, 713-522-2379

Guava Lamp

Thursday 6-10pm (Oscar)
570 Waugh Dr., 713-894-5417

Legacy

Community Health Services
formerly Montrose Clinic & TAF

215 Westheimer
713-830-3000

www.montroseclinic.org
www.legacycommunityhealth.org

4.3.9. DVD Rentals

MONDAY-SUNDAY

711 FAIRVIEW

713-LEATHER



BLACK HAWK

LEATHER



4.3.9. DVD Rentals

MONDAY-SUNDAY

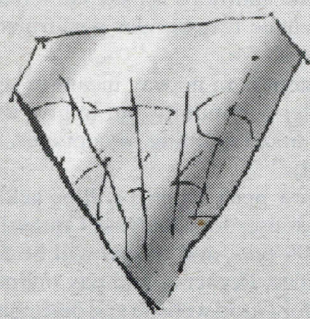
711 FAIRVIEW

713-LEATHER



BLACK HAWK

LEATHER



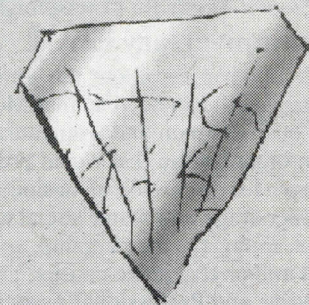
Staging a Benefit?

Send The GEM your flyer (mail or E-mail) and we'll publish your flyer as a display ad **FREE** as a quarter page (in color if available) **IF** benefit location is a GEM advertiser or if location is non-commercial.

Special Rates Available for Bigger Ads in GEM-Bars or for Benefits at Other Locations.

If E-mailing as a JPEG, send a copy that is condensed as "high," (7-10) quality, or better yet, send a PDF or TIFF file, made from the original art work (not from an already-compressed JPEG file). TIFF file may be compressed using LZW protocol.

We Want You to Look Your Best!



Welcome to Montrose



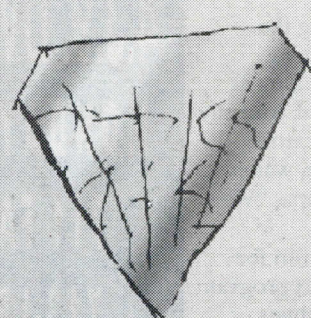
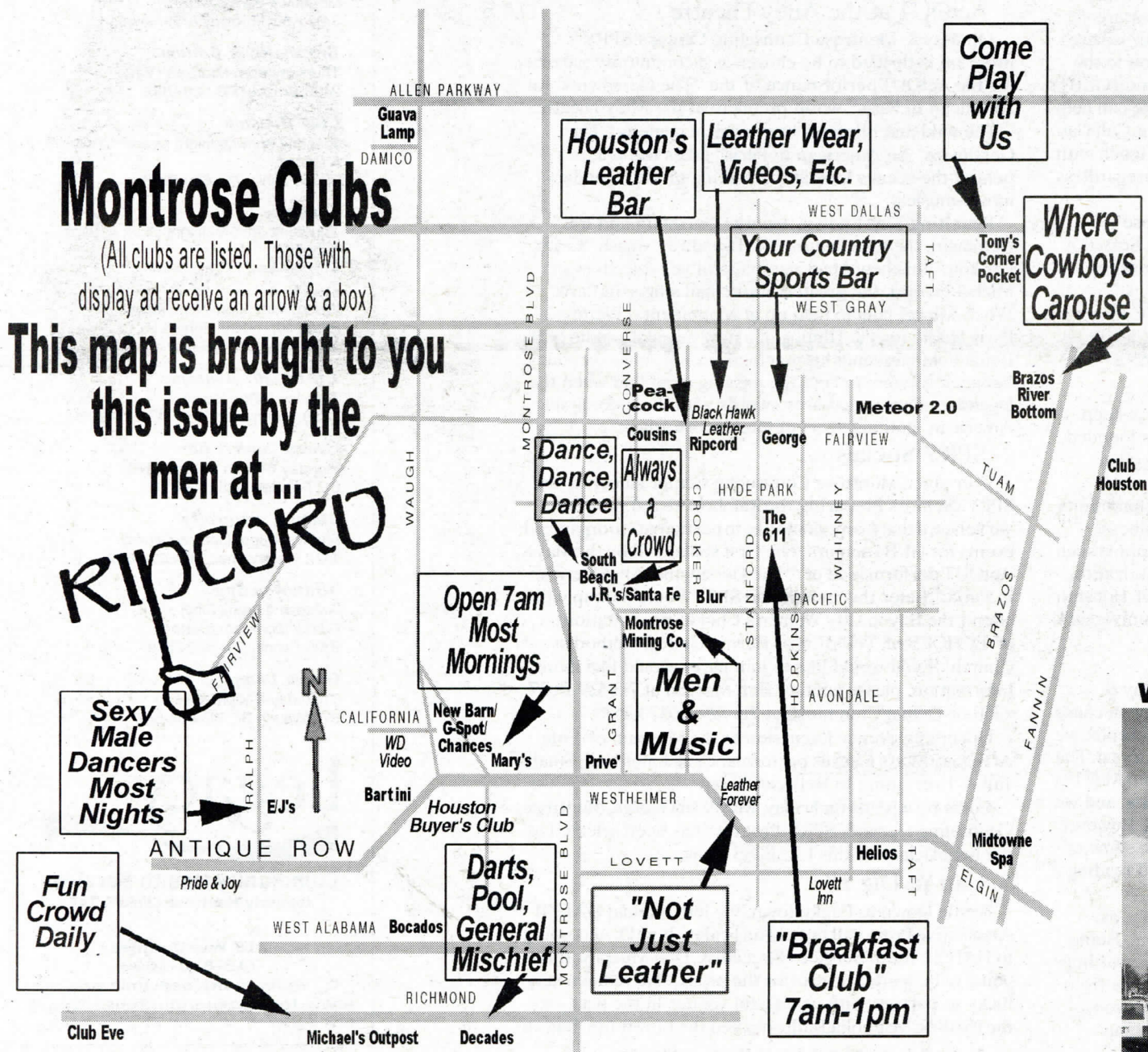
Home of The GEM

Montrose Clubs

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

This map is brought to you this issue by the men at ...

RIPCORDER



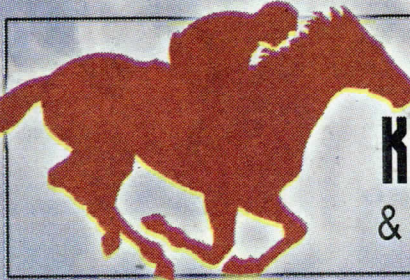
Houston's Best Amateur Strip Contests
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

CASH PRIZES

Brunch by Troy
Sat. & Sun. from 10am

Thursdays
Private Dancer Night
Open Stage 10pm
for those who want to try It
PLUS \$1.50 Dirty Apple
and Raz Kami Shots

STs



Saturday, May 3
Kentucky Derby Day
 & Start of Mr. & Miss Mint Julep

The Houston Original

2517 Ralph Street
 (Just Off Westheimer)
 Houston, TX 77006
 in Gay Montrose

713-527-9071



The Best Patio in Texas

Saturdays
Primo
Male
Dancers
 WITH
ROXANNE COLLINS



IMAGE BY ALEX OF SPLASH PHOTOGRAPHY

And, In the Heights,
 a Metro-Social
 Atmosphere!

Party with
Brian & The Boys
Join Us for Picnic Sundays

1537 North Shepherd
 (South of 610, North of I-10
 Between 15th & 16th Streets)
 Houston, Texas 77008
713-589-9780

In-N-Out

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8pm-12am
 Texas Hold'em Poker
 Free Darts & Pool
 Karaoke w/C.C. Ryder

Friday, May 16
Bear Party
Memorial Weekend
PROM PARTY
 Crowning of
 Prom King & Queen

2416 Post Office Street
GALVESTON
 Mon.-Tue. & Sun. 4pm-close
 Fri. & Sat. 4pm-2am
 AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE EVENTS
 MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
 info @ groovegalveston.com
 (409) 766-7771

The Island's funkiest, edgy new dance club located on
 famed Post Office Street in historic downtown Galveston
 18+ Free Parking



groove

Coming Saturday, May 17
 LIVE IN CONCERT, ORIGINAL ARTIST

Whitney McCray

Groove features 2 full-service bars, state-of-the-art sound and
 lighting, oh so cool go-go dancers and comfortable seating throughout

VISIT GALVESTON

Map to Galveston
 Gay Bars Elsewhere
 This Issue

The Pink Dolphin
BEACH BAR

904 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston Island
 409-621-1808 Open Daily 10am-2am



Front Deck for Beach Viewing and Tropical
 Garden Patio for Sunning & Relaxing



Sat. 10:30:
 "Show of Stars"
 FEATURING THE
 DOLPHIN DOLLS,
 JACKIE JAY,
 COWBOY CHARLES

Tues. 8pm: Free Drag Bingo
 PRIZES & A NEW DRAG HOSTESS EACH WEEK

Wed.: \$1.50 Wells & Domestic Beers

Fri. 9pm: "Raising Hell at the Dolphin"
 A WILD KARAOKE NIGHT WITH DAVID

Sun.: Breakfast at the Pink
 BISCUITS & SAUSAGE, GRAVY 10:30am 'TIL

Honey, If We Don't Have It,
 You Don't Need It!



The Painted Ladies



Shelby
 &
 SoFonda



St John
 Sunday 8:00

Robert's Lafittes
 2501 Ave Q at 25th Street
 Galveston 409-765-9092

Memorial Day Weekend
The World Famous Puppet Show
 featuring Robert the Mouth



Galveston's Original Drag Bar
 Saturday & Sunday Shows

SHOWTIMES
 Saturday, May 24 @ 10:30 pm
 Sunday, May 25 @ 9:30 pm

Cinco de Mayo

Sunday May 4

Food
 6 pm

showtime
 9:30 pm



OPEN
 Sun 10 am - 2 am
 Mon-Sat 7 am - 2 am

COME SEE OUR PATIO!

715 Fairview 713-521-2792
www.theripcord.com

OPEN DAILY 1PM
HAPPY HOUR 1PM-8PM
EVERYDAY

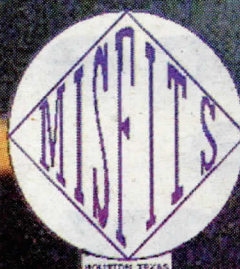
BOXERS NIGHT
EVERY MONDAY

\$2.50 BEER & WELL
EVERY WEDNESDAY
ALL NIGHT

CLASSIC ROCK
EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
SMOKING ON THE PATIO
WITH A FULL BAR OPEN
EVERY FRI. & SAT. NIGHT

"Dragging Out the Leather"
CAN OPPOSITES ATTRACT?
Sat., May 24, 9pm

RIPCORD





617 Fairview
Houston

713-528-8102
Open Daily 7am to 2am
(Sunday 10am to 2am)



Sunday Breakfast 10am with TGRA

7am TGRA 7am
Garage Sale!
Saturday, May 3
(Bring Donations to
George Prior to Sale)

NEW!
Sunday
Steak &
Shrimp
Night



*Cows are
Outstanding
in Their Field!
(And They Are
Delicious on the
Grill at George)*

3-7pm

WITH
Sundance
Cattle
Company

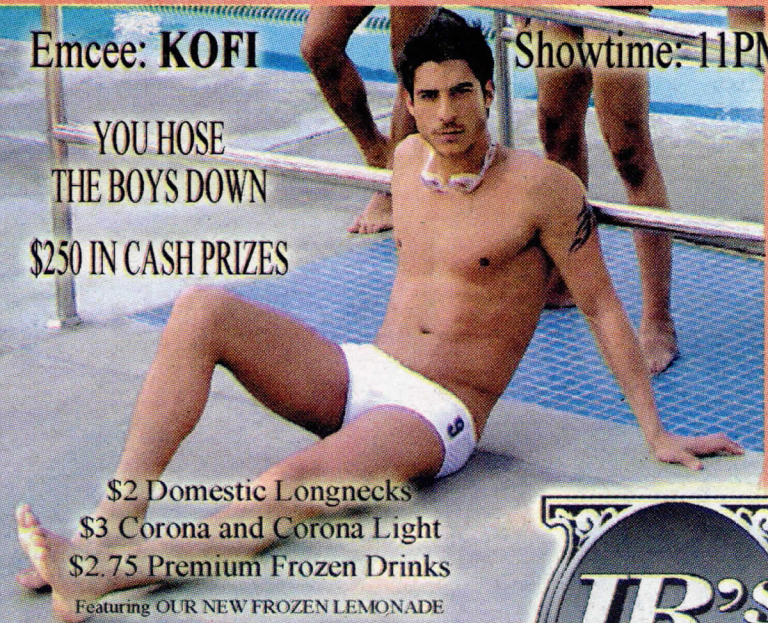
WEDNESDAYS ARE WET & WILD WET UNDERWEAR STRIP CONTEST

Emcee: KOFI

Showtime: 11PM

YOU HOSE
THE BOYS DOWN

\$250 IN CASH PRIZES



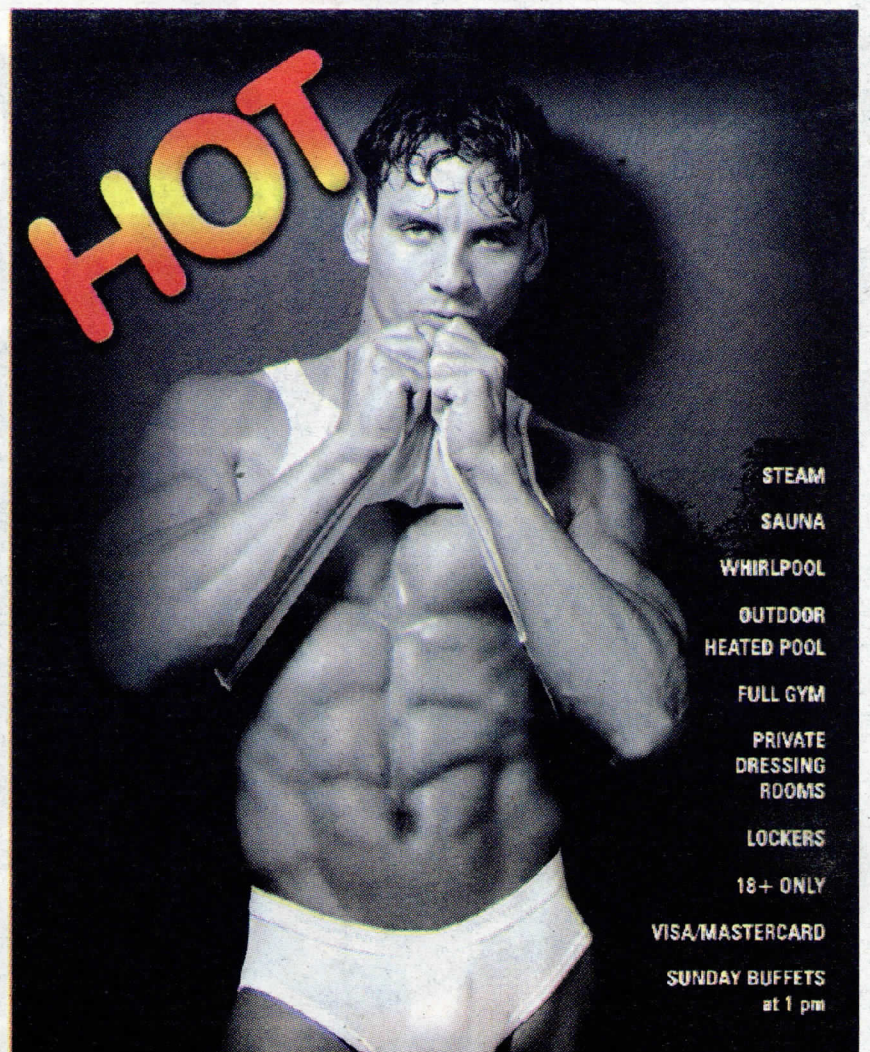
\$2 Domestic Longnecks
\$3 Corona and Corona Light
\$2.75 Premium Frozen Drinks
Featuring OUR NEW FROZEN LEMONADE



TUESDAYS
Amateur Strip Contest 11pm
\$250 IN CASH PRIZES

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MALE UWEAR™

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ROOMS

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best

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PASSOVER ON DRAG TIME

ONLY A MONTH LATE!

WHERE ON MARCIA'S BIRTHDAY WE ASK...
CAN SHE REALLY FIND JESUS?

COFFEE TALK W/
GOYEN SCHICK!

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH

50/50 RAFFLE!

E.J.'S
2517 RALPH ST.

- PARTY AT 7 PM -
- SHOW AT 830 PM -

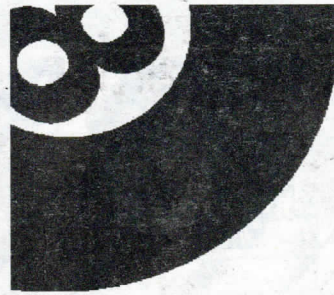
\$5 BURR'S BLUE PLATE
SPECIAL

\$1 LATKES
(POTATO PANCAKES)

FREE GUIDES TO
YIDDISH 101

JEWITOPIA GIVE AWAY!

A DIRECT BENEFIT FOR THE MONTROSE
COUNSELING CENTER BUILDING FUND THROUGH
E.R.S.I.C.S.S. - A 501C3 ORGANIZATION
GLADLY ACCEPTING



Thursday Nights
Mr. Spring Fling
Finals June 26

SATURDAY, May 3
Bear Car Wash 11am-till
Lillian's Birthday Show
Thursday Pool League
Banquet

Saturday, May 24
HGLPC Event

I SUPPORT THE DRAFT
Sunday
Beer Bust
starting 4pm



BUT ONLY IF I CAN DRINK IT

\$1⁰⁰ Draft
50¢ Hot Dogs

Open 12 Noon Daily
NO COVER
817 W. Dallas 713-571-7870

TOO
CORNERS
POCKET



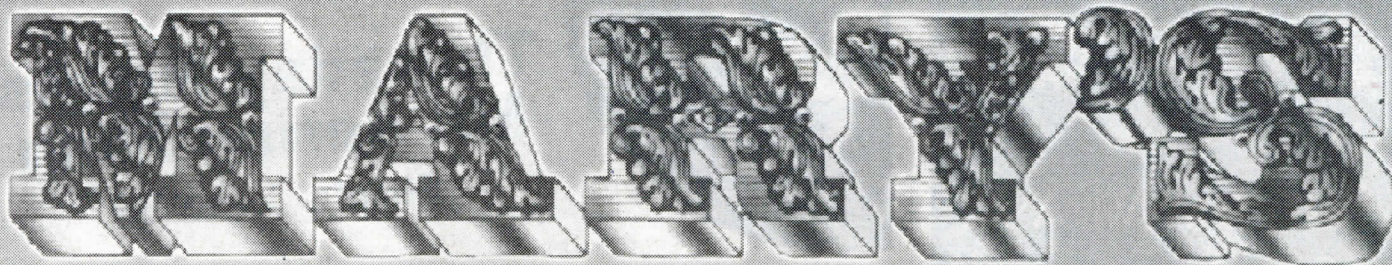
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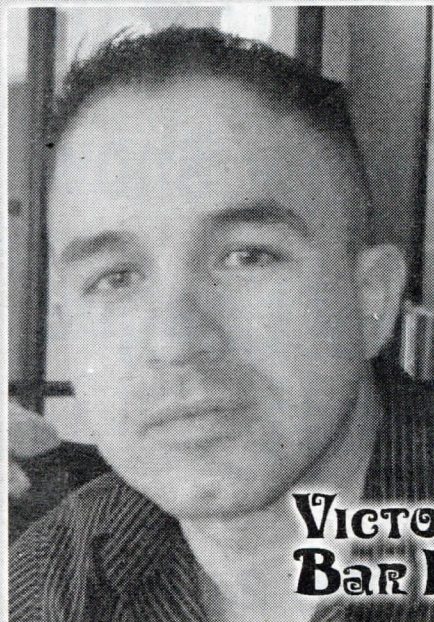


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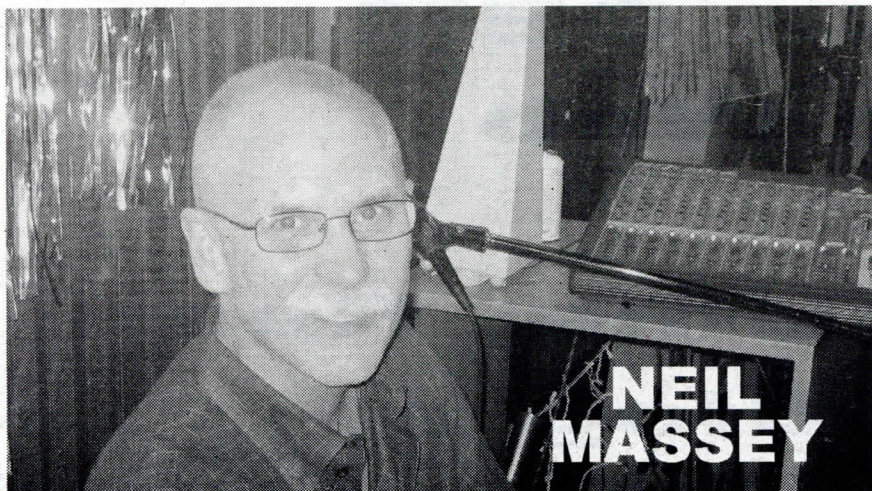
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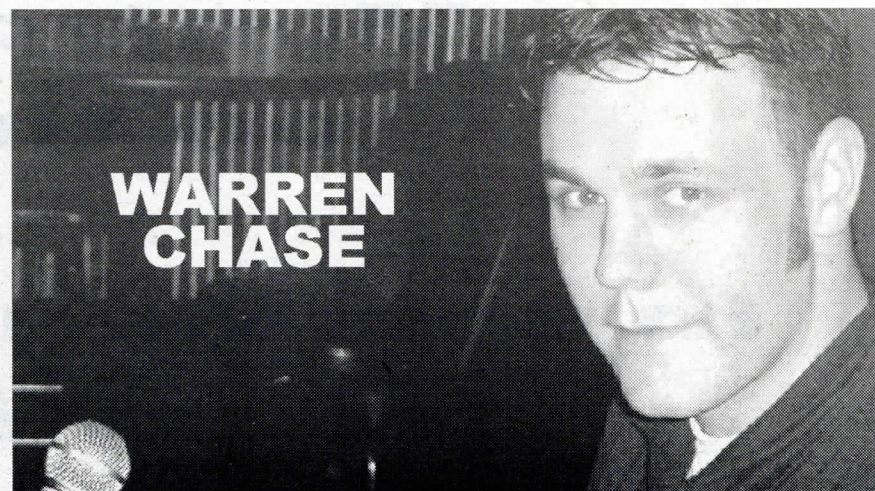
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We're 80 years old. Well, we're 80 issues old now.

Spying

Well, I've told you in the past that I was a spy. I'll remind you again right now. From 1967 to 1970 I was in the U.S. Navy but assigned to the National Security Agency. Yes, that's the same NSA that George W. has listening in on your private phone calls and e-mail messages.

I know you want to get back to sex and drinking but this is a good story that I've wanted to tell for a long time. And I am the editor.

I and my first lover Frank were sent to a listening post on the edge of the Sahara Desert in Morocco. We were the guests of the king. But we were electronic spies.

(Oh Frank, He was my love for two years. We worked together and traveled Morocco together. He was Italian. He was so handsome.)

(We were in Morocco, an Arab country, **not to be confused with** Monaco, a gambling resort for the rich in Europe.)

(I can talk about this now because when I was discharged and "debriefed" I was told I couldn't tell this story for 20 years. Actual survivors to what I am about to tell were sworn to 40 years. Well, for all of us, it's time.)

You know how we won the Cold War? Yes, Ronald Reagan forced the Soviets into bankruptcy but also a major factor was this: The United States never spied on a host country. We spied (electronically) on everyone else from our Moroccan base in Sidi Yaha but never would we ever spy on Morocco. (Sidi Yaha: population probably about 300 plus one camel. Oh, and about 100 American sailors who weren't really sailors.)

Not so, for the Ruskies. They'd get a treaty with someone and set up a Russian base and the first thing they'd do is spy on the host country. When the host country realized this, they would kick them out. The Russians had bad manners.

So, I pay my dues, study hard and get promoted to tech control there in Morocco. God, we had computers and cryptographic equipment out of your rosy bottom way back then. And we even had some left-over World War II "enigma"-type equipment still in use. This was 1967. No PC's had yet been invented. But our government had equipment 20 years ahead of the time. And still using some from 20 years earlier.

(I need to push this story along, don't you think? Otherwise I'll lose you.)

It was a quiet Sunday (I think) morning in the blue Mediterranean and the Israeli/Arab Six Day War was raging. Naturally, we had a spy ship placed off the Israeli/Palestinian coast in international waters listening to both

sides of all the electronic traffic.

And we had a direct line to the ship. Except that morning the weather interrupted our direct communications so we relied on other ships in the Med to relay.

Most the NSA spy traffic was routed from the spies, through us, to Washington. **The Fire Alarm!**

Let me explain what a "critic" is. It is a message from the intelligence community that goes directly to the President. Its mere existence is Top Secret. Or was. Some months earlier President Lyndon Johnson had announced during a White House press conference to all of America that he had "just received a critic" (something related to Vietnam) so it's mere existence was a cat out of the bag.

We had never had a critic in Morocco other than the monthly test critics they would sneak in on us.

But that morning, the fire alarm bell went off. Clang! Clang! Clang! The U.S.S. Springfield was sending. In tech control, I could see a red light above the Springfield's incoming circuit indicating a critic.

When the Springfield finished, the Clang! Clang! Clang! was supposed to stop. It didn't. I looked at the incoming circuits and saw that the U.S.S. America was sending a critic. And the Saratoga (I think the Saratoga was the one) was sending one.

They automatically seized our two circuits to Washington. But we still had a critic in the house and no way to send it direct. (Rule #1 for a critic: Never keep it. Send it somewhere!) So, in the brilliant stroke of genius on my part, I might say, I got on the squawk box and said, "Send Bank. Bust that outgoing message to London. Clear your circuit."

We sent the critic to London and set off their fire alarm. I can see the British sitting around drinking tea on a Sunday morning and then, Clang! Clang! Clang!

"My goodness old chap, why is Morocco sending us a critic?"

"My, my. I suppose we should forward it to Washington."

"By all means. More tea? Or is it time for gin?"

Well, to wrap this up, the critics were all about the Israeli's strafing the U.S.S. Liberty. (Our carriers were receiving the Liberty's distress call.) The Israelis were even shooting at sailors in the water who had abandoned ship. They didn't want us listening to them. And they killed 34 American sailors to make their point.

Why was this not something that made national news for months? This is because the Liberty was a spy ship, our NSA spy ship. It was kept hush-hush. And I don't agree with that.

For more on the U.S.S. Liberty, the attack, the sailors, the cover-up. go to ussliberty.org.

Continuing with Serious Stuff

We all remember when Sen. George McGovern ran as the Democrats' choice

for President. Yep, he got whupped badly.

What? You don't remember that? Oh, well then, you're young and perhaps pretty and I'd like to meet you.

Wait, back to the serious. Sex talk comes later.

Well, now we have Sen. John McCain set to run as the GOP's choice for President and he's touting himself as a military hero. Sen. McGovern thinks otherwise, as we found in this transcribed speech he made this April 19 in his native South Dakota.

Said McGovern, "I'm sometimes charged with being a softie about war and national security. Well, let me take one minute on that. When I was 19, Pearl Harbor was attacked. A few days later, I dropped out of college and volunteered to fly in the Army air corps and flew 35 missions over the most heavily defended targets in Europe. I've always been proud of that service in World War II; I've never had one day of regret that I participated in helping to smash Hitler's war machine.

"And let me just add this. There's never been a day in my adult life when I wouldn't have gladly sacrificed that life if America was faced with a genuine threat to our national security.

"Some years ago, I was on one of



the networks with former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, one of the chief architects of the war in Vietnam. But the reason I was on television that night is he had just come out with a new book saying that the war was not only ... a mistake, in his words it was a tragic mistake.

"Well, in the course of that three-way discussion, which included in addition to Secretary McNamara and myself, Sen. John McCain. And in McCain's first opening remarks, he said, 'Well we all know that George McGovern knows little about national defense.'

"Let me tell you what I would say to John McCain: neither of us is an expert on national defense. It's true that you went to one of the service academies but you were in the bottom of the class. It's true that you were a pilot in Vietnam, that you were shot down and spent most of the war in prison and we all sympathize with that and honor you for your courage.

"But you and I both had these battle experiences, you as a Navy fighter plane, I as an Army bomber. I am not going to criticize your war record and your knowledge of national security but I don't want you criticizing mine either.

"If I'd be allowed just one little dig at Senator McCain, since he gave me. I would say, 'John, you were shot down early in the war and spent most of the time in prison. I flew 35 combat missions with a 10-man crew and brought them home safely every time.'

Goodness, George. That puts John McCain's war record in perspective.

Gay Rights Quickie

The sponsors of a proposed constitutional amendment to outlaw same-sex marriage in California say they have gathered enough signatures to qualify the measure for the November ballot. A coalition of religious groups

called Protect Marriage collected more than 1.1 million signatures in support of the amendment, said Brian Brown, executive director of the California office of the National Organization for Marriage. The initiative needs 694,354 signatures, or 8 percent of the votes cast in the last governor's.

Reporter Is Kinky

The website BananaGuide reports:

Openly gay CNN anchor Richard Quest was arrested in the wee hours of Friday morning in Central Park. He was initially picked up by police for loitering and breaking the park's curfew, but later was charged when a small amount of methamphetamine was found in his pocket.

The New York Post, never known for embellishing a story, reported that Quest was caught with a "rope around his neck that was tied to his genitals, and a sex toy in his boot." This interesting bit of information was not corroborated in any other New York newspaper.

We do know that Quest was stopped at 3:40 a.m. and then volunteered to police he had a small bag of drugs in his pocket. When he appeared before a judge, Quest agreed to six months of counseling; if Quest is successful, the judge has promised to drop the charges of drug possession and loitering.

So what was he doing in an off limits park at 3:40 a.m.? Maybe he had a date with George Michael ...

Sex & Society

And again from BananaGuide: With just a flick of the wrist...

A lawyer in Travis County, Texas has been sentenced to 90 days in jail after simulating masturbation in front of a judge.

Adam Reposa was found in contempt of court by Judge Jan Breland who said Reposa motioned at her with his right hand, and not in a friendly "hi there" kinda way.

Reposa claimed the motion was directed at a prosecutor, and not at the judge. Breland immediately ordered him out of the court. "Under no circumstances should that ever happen in a courtroom. I have to speak for all judges; I can't let this type of thing happen. This was the only thing to do," she explained.

The contempt case was later heard by visiting State Judge Paul Davis who was happy to "uphold the integrity of the judicial process" by handing out a sentence of 90 days.

Reposa was quickly handcuffed and removed from court before he could make a similar gesture towards Davis.

On the Web

This column is now online at www.montrose.blog.com, along with additional content whenever I can think of any.

On Pacific Street

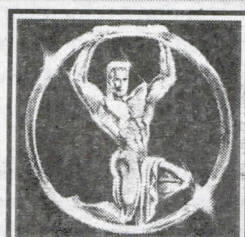
This Friday the place to start your weekend off right is South Beach. DJ Tucker is in the booth with doors opening at 9:00 p.m. and after-hours until 5:00 a.m.

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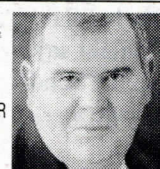
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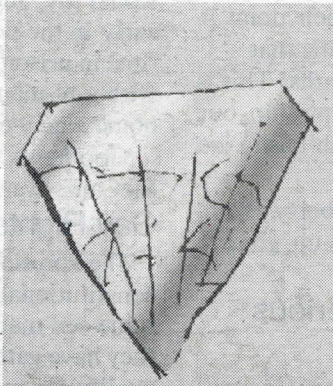
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