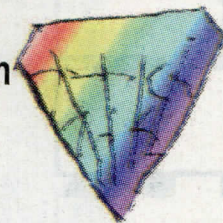


Montrose GEM

c. Gulf Features Issue # **87**, August 8, 2008 281-650-3489 Montrose GEM @ Yahoo.com

WE HAVE MAPS TO HOUSTON & GALVESTON GAY BARS



Poll: Gay Men, Lesbians Are Trendsetters

Article furnished by National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Finally, there is empirical evidence of something the LGBT community has presumed for years: gay and lesbian adults are trendsetters.

The news comes from Harris Interactive, the global market research and consulting firm. Its recent poll found that 48 percent of gay and lesbian adults like to keep up with new trends and styles. That's compared to 38 percent of heterosexual adults.

If you snickered at the poll results, you're forgiven. Finding out that gays and lesbians are trend watchers is like finding out that Bill Gates and Steve Jobs are techies. Once again, the obviously true turns out to be statistically true.

And hold the laughter here: Gays and lesbians, as a group, are trendier than their mainstream counterparts. No news there either. Who did they think was buying all those pink shirts at Brooks Brothers?

Marketing executives at the nation's Fortune 500 companies have known all this for years, of course. Whether actively courting the LGBT community with exotic vodkas, for

example, or just hoping lightning will strike with a new product like the iPhone, corporate America has come to count on influential gay and lesbian consumers when looking at the bottom line.

It's also a good take-home message for smaller LGBT businesses hoping to surge ahead with new products or services. Tapping into the LGBT community may prove to be a gold mine, and, more importantly, could start an infectious

trend that spreads to mainstream consumers.

Looking solely at gay men, the 2008 survey found that 53 percent of them like to keep up with the latest trends. While that seems low for gay men, especially when you look around the table at an HRC dinner, consider what the number was for heterosexual men. A dismal 30 percent.

Yet in a strange twist, Harris's poll of the same subject matter in January 2007 showed that 39

percent of gay men and 32 percent of straight men kept up with trends. The astonishingly narrow 6-point margin between gay and straight men might point to the need for survey calls to gay men to come later in the day, say, after the fourth cup of coffee or Red Bull has kicked in.

Gay men, who are noted for breaking new ground in fashion and home decor, also forge ahead in some key economic ways. The mainstream community relies on gay men to be the urban pioneers who reclaim blighted neighborhoods even before police patrol them at night.

And lesbians don't always lag behind their male counterparts on trendiness. Gay men and lesbians may all be homosexual but they're not homogenous, which accounts for why lesbian trends (cruises, automobiles and hiking boots) aren't always reflected in the male community. Plus, the placement of Martina Navratilova's name on a product makes it trendy enough for half the lesbians in America to buy it, whether it's a credit card or a car. Rev up those Subaru Foresters, the lesbians are coming!

No surprises

either with the news that gay and lesbian adults are also more likely to upgrade to the latest model (45 percent) compared to their heterosexual counterparts (33 percent). The figure is 49 percent for gay men alone. The ranks of first adopters must be loaded with gay men. You know there are utility drawers in gay male households across America littered with outdated iPods.

Like most first adopters, LGBT individuals tend to be frequent shoppers, motivated to spend a little extra on new products and upgrades to stay ahead of the pack. The combined factors of being exceptionally media savvy and having a larger disposable income than straight consumers likely play a role as well.

Perhaps the poll's really shocking revelation was that the number of trend-conscious LGBT people only hovered around 50 percent. Dinner-party guesstimates most likely would have put that number higher. Maybe the ultimate message from the poll isn't that gay men and lesbians are excessively trendy or extraordinarily stylish. Maybe, say it ain't so, Dorothy, we're not as trendy as we thought.





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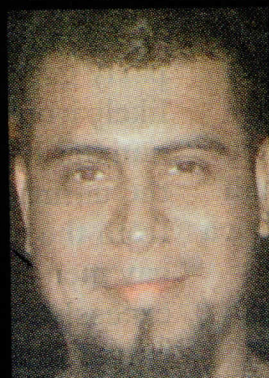
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ISSUE # **87**

AUGUST 8, 2008

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Temp. Address:

714 Hyde Park #D
Houston, TX 77006-2848

281-650-3489

7 Days a Week

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Yahoo.Com

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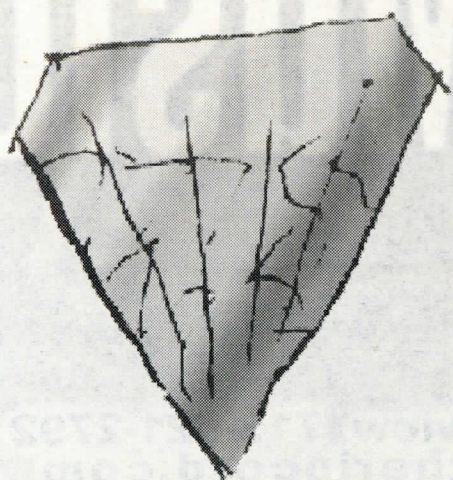
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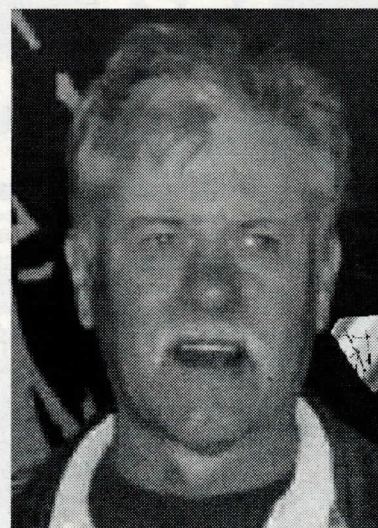




Scenes from Denim Party at Brazos River Bottom



Photos
by
Brian
Keever



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The Houston/Galveston
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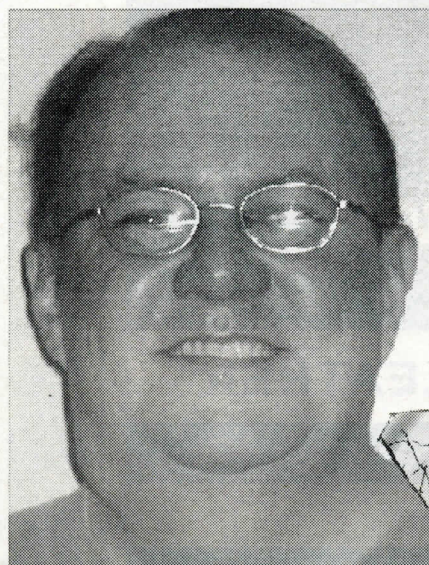
Henry McClurg

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The Houston/Galveston
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Brian Keever

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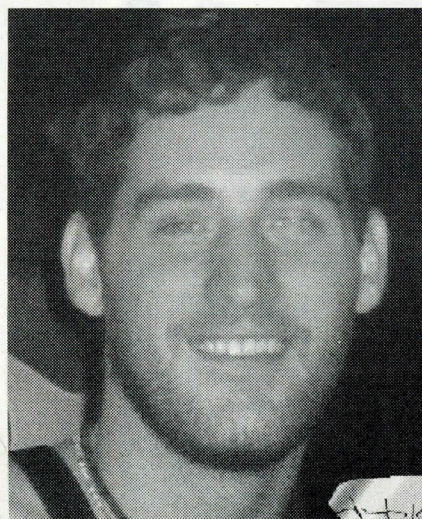
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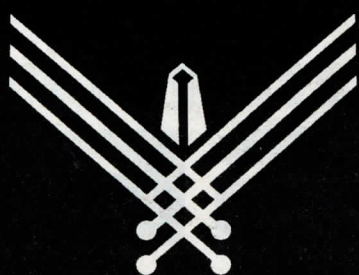
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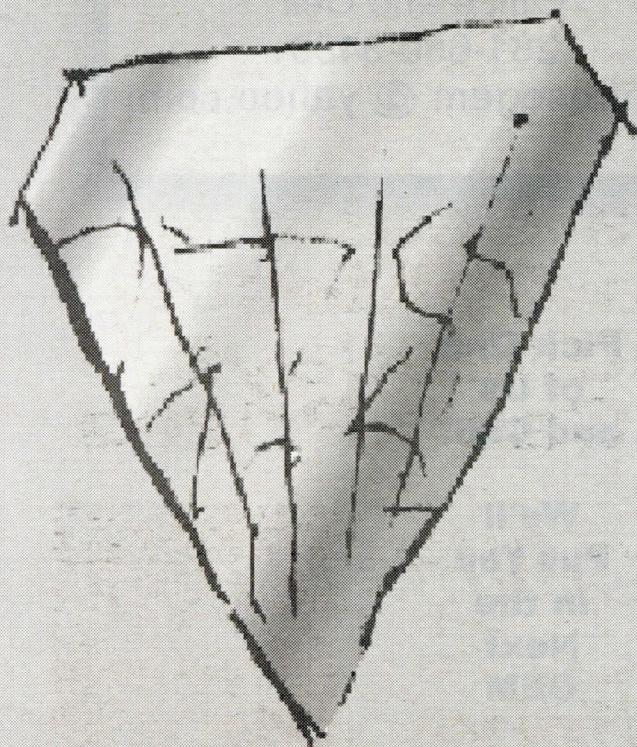
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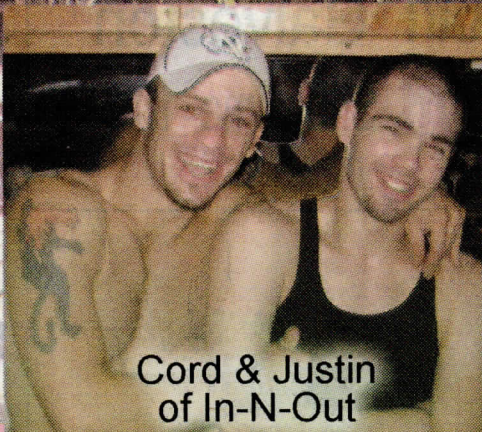
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2517 Ralph, 713-527-9071

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2400 Brazos, 713-528-9192

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817 Fairview, 713-528-9204

Friday

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2517 Ralph, 713-527-9071

Mary's, Naturally

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1022 Westheimer, 713-527-9669

Midtowne Spa

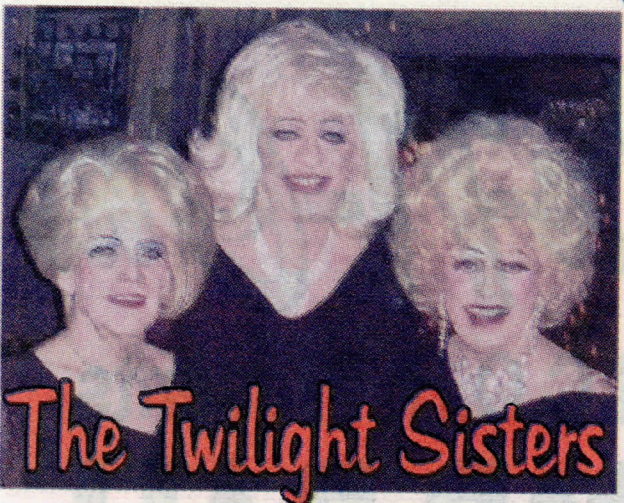
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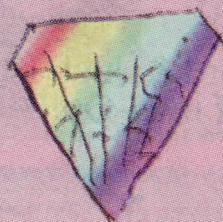
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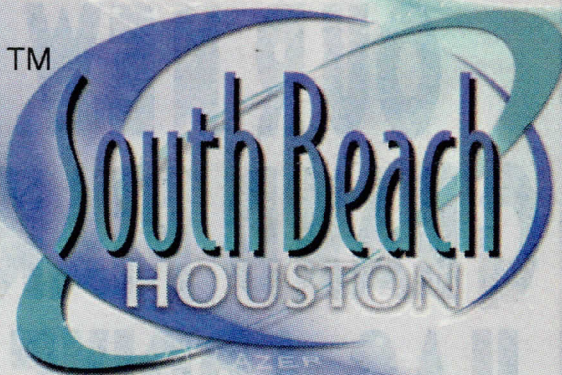
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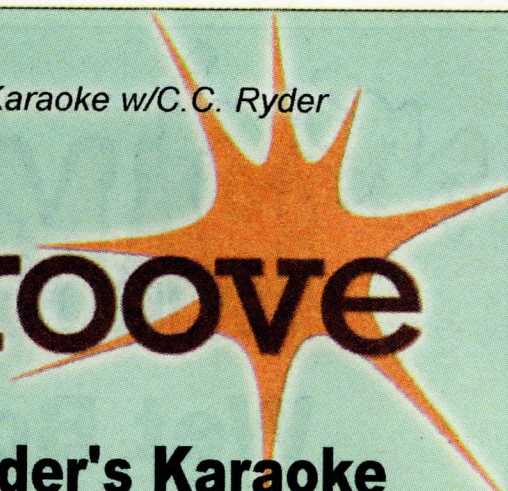
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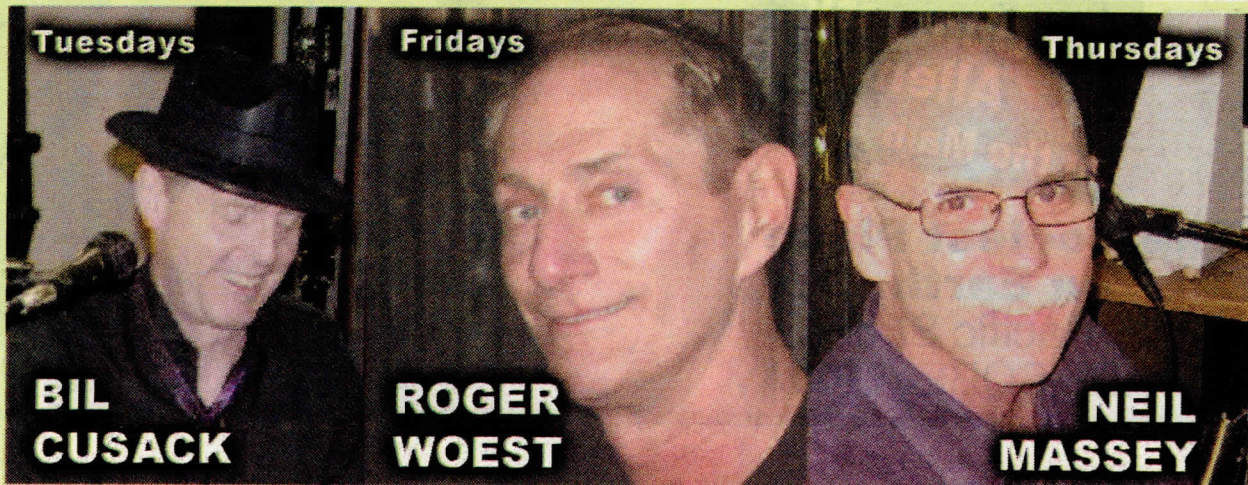
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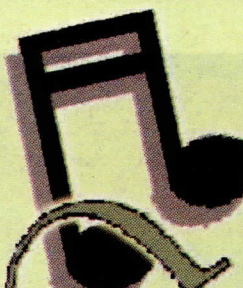
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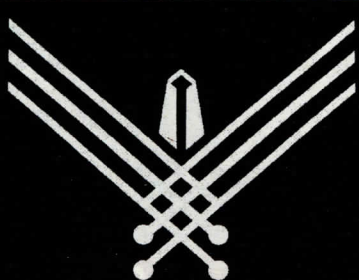
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87 is the number of this issue of the Montrose GEM. I can't count that high.

Shhh!

What I'm about to tell you is confidential. You must promise not to tell anyone else. Promise?

"What do you mean not tell anyone else? You've putting in The GEM. It's public. Other people can read it."

Oh no, my fine fellow bi-pedaled homo sapien. This is a one of a kind issue of The GEM printed separately from all the

others. This is just for your eyes only.

"Aw, come on. I don't believe it. You're lyyyyying to me."

Very well, if that's your attitude I won't tell you the secret. Never mind.

"Wait. I promise not to tell anyone. Go ahead of tell me the secret."

Nope. You've proved you cannot be trusted. I will just keep the secret to myself. So there!

Gov. Changes Wording

John Avarios of Daily Kos writes:

"Sucks to be a knuckle-dragger these days. Seems the state changed the wording of the description of the amendment so that now people know what it really does. It doesn't define marriage as between a man and a woman, it repeals the marriages of thousands of couples.

"If the fundy-right is so hell-bent on destroying gay people's lives, they could at least have the cojones to admit what they want to do and then let the people vote."

Happy Hour

The website CareerBuilder has some advice for those that go out drinking with your fellow employees. Among them: Avoid matching co-workers drink for drink and don't pass along gossip.

And they say that the term "happy hour" may have been created by the U.S. Navy to describe a designated period of time for entertainment and refreshment.

The correct spelling for one of the DJs at the Ripcord is Phealan. The Rip's other DJ, Mike, now also plays Sundays at La Strada for brunch. ... The Brazos River Bottom has a new sound system that will knock your boots off. ... Jody at the Ripcord is pretty much over his injury. It seems

he sprained his ankle in an encounter with a ceiling fan.

Bush's Library

John Hubert

passed along to me an email when tells us of some of the special rooms planned for W.'s presidential library.

The Guantanamo Bay Room, where they don't let you out.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Room, which no one has been able to find.

The National Debt room which is huge and has no ceiling.

The Tax Cut Room with entry only to the wealthy.

The Iraq War Room. After you complete your first tour, they make you to go back for a second, third, fourth, and sometimes fifth tour.

The Dick Cheney Room, in the famous undisclosed location, complete with shotgun gallery.

The Environmental Conservation Room, still empty.

The Supreme Court's Gift Shop, where you can buy an election.

The Airport Men's Room, where you can meet some of your favorite Republican Senators.

The museum will also have an electron microscope to help you locate the President's accomplishments.

Quickies

The easiest way to get rid of a hustler is to let him know you're broke. ... Music of the 80's (my favorite) is returning on Sundays (soon) at the Ripcord ... The BRB's Denim Party packed them in. We have pictures elsewhere throughout this issue ... South Beach has college-style wet boxer night on Wednesdays with no cover if you prove you're a student or have a gym membership card. ... JR's still has it's wet underwear contest with Kofi also on Wednesdays. ... James of the Ripcord has a birthday on Aug. 10. He wants presents.

More Quickies

Mary's will host an official mini version of the Texas Renaissance Festival on its patio Friday, Sept. 12. There will be prizes and merry ole merry making. ... The George bar is cooooool (if you know what I mean). Plus, Sundance Cattle Co. is now serving BBQ sandwiches on Sundays, late afternoons. ... The newest neighborhood club Crocker has \$2 well drinks on Mondays and \$2 domestic longnecks on Tuesdays.

Still More Quickies

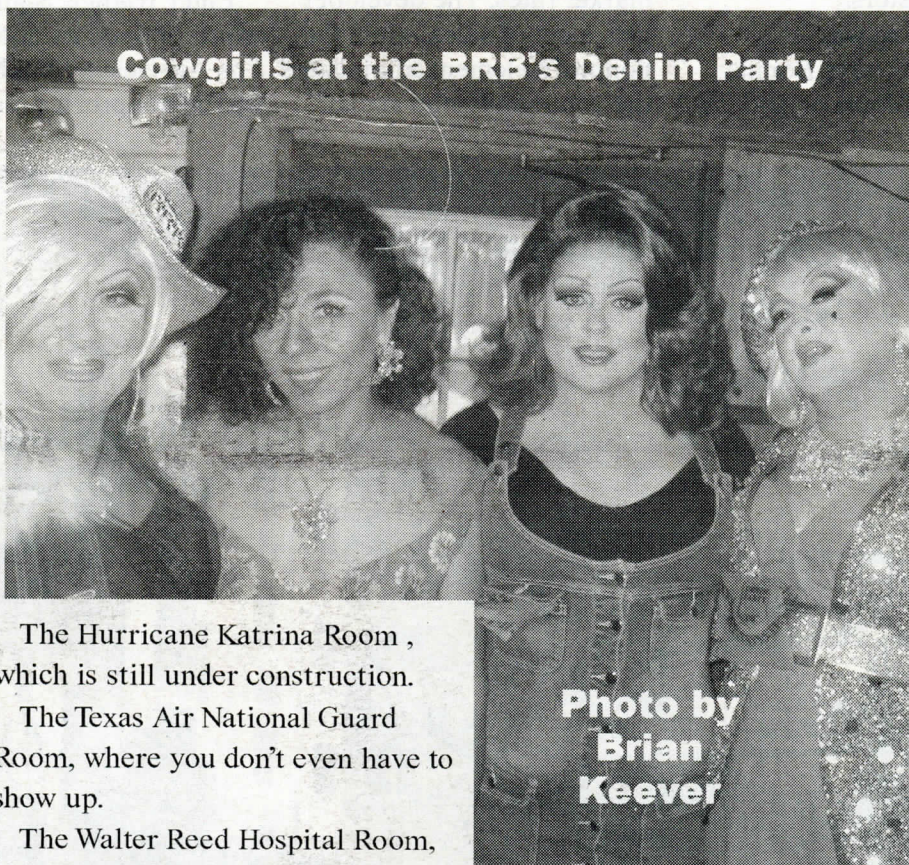
The Little Bitty Burger Barn up in northeast Houston has a Ribeye Steak Dinner 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. weeknights. ... I.C.O.H. presents the P&P Ball Sat., August 16, at the bar in the Heights. (You know the one: The In-N-Out.) ... Don Dowden and Robert Harwood's Dynamic Dog Days of Summer Extravaganza will be Sunday, August 17, at the Brazos River Bottom.

Galveston Quickies

They survived Tropical Storm Eddie. ... The Twilight Sisters will do a bodacious show at both Robert's Lafitte and the Pink Dolphin later this month. See the ad on page 10.



THIS IS MONTROSE
News, Nonsense, Rants
By Henry McClurg



Cowgirls at the BRB's Denim Party

Photo by
Brian
Keever

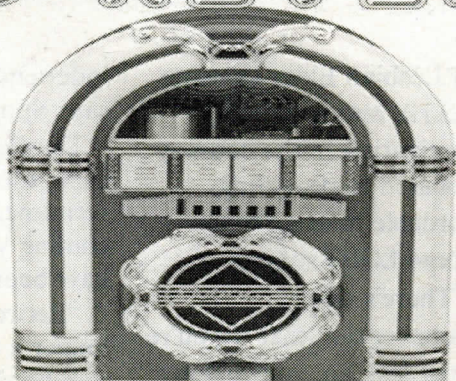
The Hurricane Katrina Room, which is still under construction.

The Texas Air National Guard Room, where you don't even have to show up.

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Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Amateur Strip Show

TONY'S
CORNER
POCKET

Retirement, The Gay Way

**Article furnished by
National Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce**

After breaking barriers all their lives, LGBT baby boomers are getting serious about retirement and looking for mature-living complexes that don't require them to go back into the closet.

These days, they don't have to look too far. From Delaware to California, LGBT business owners and nonprofits are building attractive condo complexes to woo savvy investors and retirees with everything from sumptuous facilities to hiking trails to live entertainment.

Joy Silver founded RainbowVision Properties in 1997. The company, first in the LGBT retirement industry, has one community in Santa Fe, N.M., and is opening one soon in Palm Springs, Calif. Additional properties are scheduled to open in the San Francisco Bay area and Vancouver, Canada.

"I think there comes a certain time in our history, a moment of empowerment," she says, "where we want to have our own businesses that provide us with 'orientation freedom,' where we can be in the majority."

It's that wish to finally be in the majority (especially for LGBT seniors who faced greater obstacles when they were younger) that Silver names as her motivation.

"Having community available when we choose to participate in it is a big thing. And not just a community because a bunch of houses are in the same area," she continued. "Our business plan is to make sure that the options of community exist where we have the opportunity to be in the majority."

That theme is echoed in one of the newer entrants into the LGBT retirement village marketplace, Open Circle Communities. Lifestyle, not location, will play a key role in Open Circle Communities, which will combine both the comforts of home with the realities of an aging population, says Susan Hester, one of its founding partners.

"We wanted to acknowledge the likely

growing health care needs of our community," says Hester, noting fitness and wellness programs are major components of the community that will serve residents 55 and older.

The first Open Circles Community is being built now in Milton, Del., a 20-minute drive from the LGBT East Coast hotspot of Rehoboth, Del., with easy access to nearby health care facilities. "We want our residents to feel like they can age in place, comfortably and securely," she says.

For LGBT entrepreneurs, launching what some might consider a "risky" new industry was difficult at first. LGBT retirement communities did not attract a lot of investors.

"Financing was impossible," says Bonnie McGowan, founder and CEO

investment banking, she was able to make the initial land purchase herself. Only after getting the green light from various levels of government for the project did financing become easier. "Once I got approval, the banks were knocking on my door," she says.

Other communities sprang to life with different arrangements. Stonewall Communities in Boston is a partnership between a nonprofit and a for-profit developer.

"Our investors were mostly family and friends," says David Aronstein, president of Stonewall Communities. The venture is building a 53-unit cooperative in the heart of Boston at market rates. The developer gets a cut of sales, while the nonprofit element administers the community and social

"It's a big country, and different people have different visions of how they want to live their lives," he adds. "I think there's room for them all."

Let's hope there's room. Entertainment and travel pioneer Olivia has just gotten into the retirement business as well. Its Arizona retirement property will feature the traditional health clubs and luxurious living space of some of its competitors, but it also will include a particularly Olivia touch: top-of-the-line entertainment and events.

Room For Everyone

Not everyone can afford to pay market rates for housing, especially if they're past working age and have a limited income.

Enter Triangle Square, which opened its doors in Los Angeles in March. It's run by the nonprofit group Gay

Supper. "But 60 percent of the people who applied for a spot in Triangle Square were making less than \$15,000 a year."

With funding mainly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, GLEH partnered with a company that specializes in building affordable housing. Eligibility for rooms is based on income, with \$31,000 per year being the upper limit. Triangle Square even has 35 "special needs" room set aside, 17 for the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless, and 18 for people with HIV/AIDS.

The group also offers a wide array of social services to residents, ranging from 12-step programs to cooking classes, both within the development and out in the community. "We want to create a healthy, nurturing,



**Triangle Square
Retirement
Facility in L.A.**

of Birds of a Feather, an LGBT-friendly retirement community in Pecos, N.M., founded in 1999. "Bankers and investors don't want to be pioneers. If I hadn't had the money to sustain myself at startup, this wouldn't have happened."

McGowan was lucky. After a successful career in

services for its residents.

It's a distinctly different approach than the more bucolic communities of RainbowVision, Birds of a Feather, and some other LGBT developments in sunny climes.

"We're developing an urban model," says Aronstein, pointing out that some people prefer the city.

and Lesbian Elder Housing (GLEH), and is the only organization in the country dedicated to providing affordable housing to low-income LGBT seniors.

"There's this misconception that if you're gay or lesbian, you've got all this money," says GLEH Executive Director Mark

independent living concept," says Supper.

Developers say you can expect to see more LGBT retirement communities in the coming years because they have been desperately needed.

"Retirement is no longer a time in life," says RainbowVision's Silver. "It's becoming a choice that we never had before."



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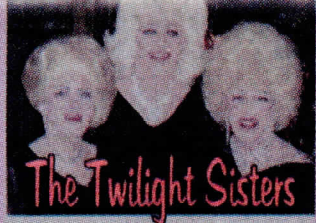
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In the Beginning

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SEE AD ON P.10

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Shows

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SEE AD ON P.10

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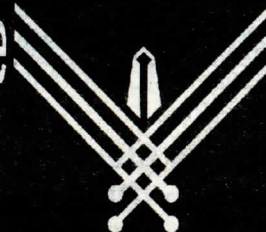


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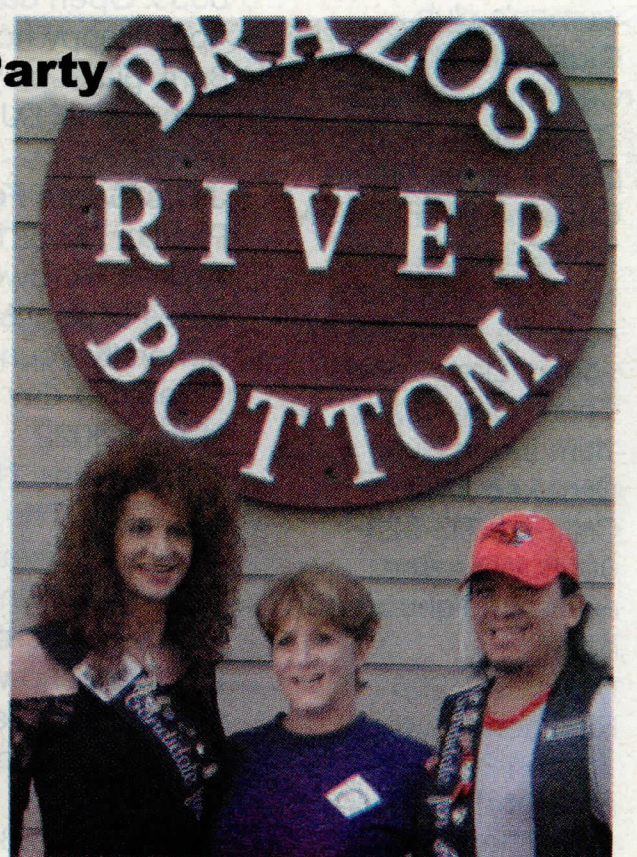
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Scenes from the BRB's Denim Party





Montrose

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

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

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. Mega women's club

Club 1415 1415

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

Cousins 817 Fairview,

713-528-9204. All types of customers, from the retired to the young. Drag shows Thurs.-Sun. Open 11am (noon Sun.)

Crocker 2312

Crocker, 713-523-0026. Wii game, newest neighborhood bar

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

George 617 Fairview, 713-528-8102. Your "Neighborhood Sports Bar." Open 7am (10am Sun. with

Genesee at Fairview. Upscale crowd, open 1pm

Michael's Outpost

1419 Richmond Ave., 713-520-8446. Piano players some nights plus during Friday happy hour. Open 3pm (11am Sat., noon Sun.)

Montrose Mining

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

Overlooking the Gulf. Frequent shows
Groove 2416 Post Office Blvd., (409) 766-7771. Karaoke and poker Tuesday & Thursday. Dancing nightly.

Pink Dolphin 904

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

Robert's Lafitte 2501 Ave. Q, (409) 765-

Thursdays

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

North Houston & Spring

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

Northeast Houston

Viviana's 4624

Dacoma, 713-681-4104. Frequent impersonation shows

Other Inner Loop

In-N-Out 1537 N. Shepherd, 713-589-9780. "MetroSocial" open daily 4pm

Beaumont

Copa 304 Orleans, (409) 832-4206.

Dancing and shows

Chris' Crockett St.

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

Bryan/College Station

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

Revolution Cafe

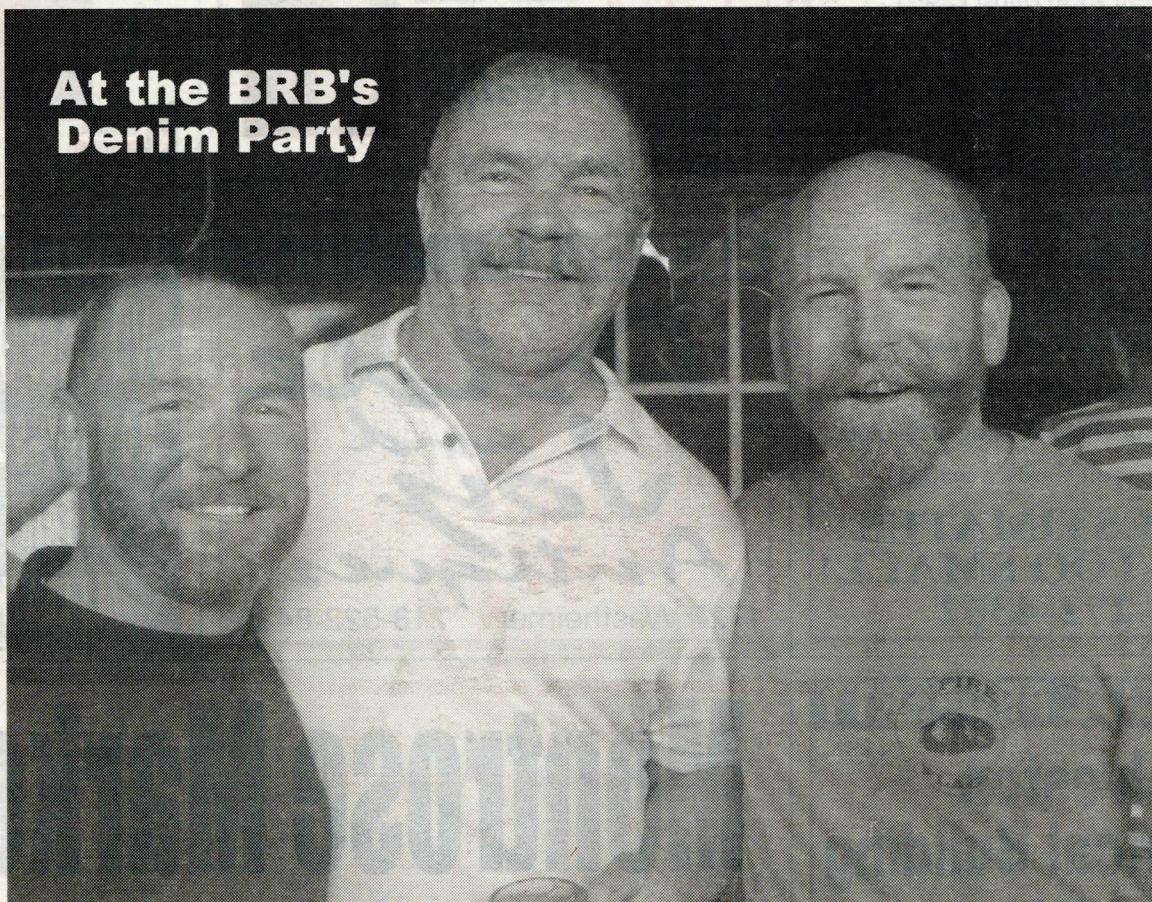
& Bar 211B. S. Main. Bryan, (979) 823-4044, "gay-friendly," live music nightly

Private Houston 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

At the BRB's Denim Party



breakfast) Large morning crowd
Guava Lamp 570 Waugh Dr., 713-524-3359. Open daily 4pm. Happy hour 4-8pm, piano playing sometimes, DJ other times

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
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

Meteor 2.0 2306

patio

Ripcord 715 Fairview, 713-521-2792.

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

South Beach 810

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

3rd Coast Beach Bar 3102 Seawall Blvd., (409) 765-6911.

9092. A down-to-earth bar open 7am (10am Sun.). All ages of people. Drag shows Sat. & Sun. nights. Swimming pool

Other Areas

Southwest Houston

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

Club 69 6121 Hillcroft, 832-891-2241, Latino.

Club Big Yo 6305

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

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

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Mona Lisa 6101

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