

Montrose GEM

www.montrosegem.com



c. Gulf Features Issue # **98**, January 23, 2009 281-650-3489 **WE HAVE MAPS!**

From
"HOPE"
and
"CHANGE"
to
"HOPE
OVER
FEAR"

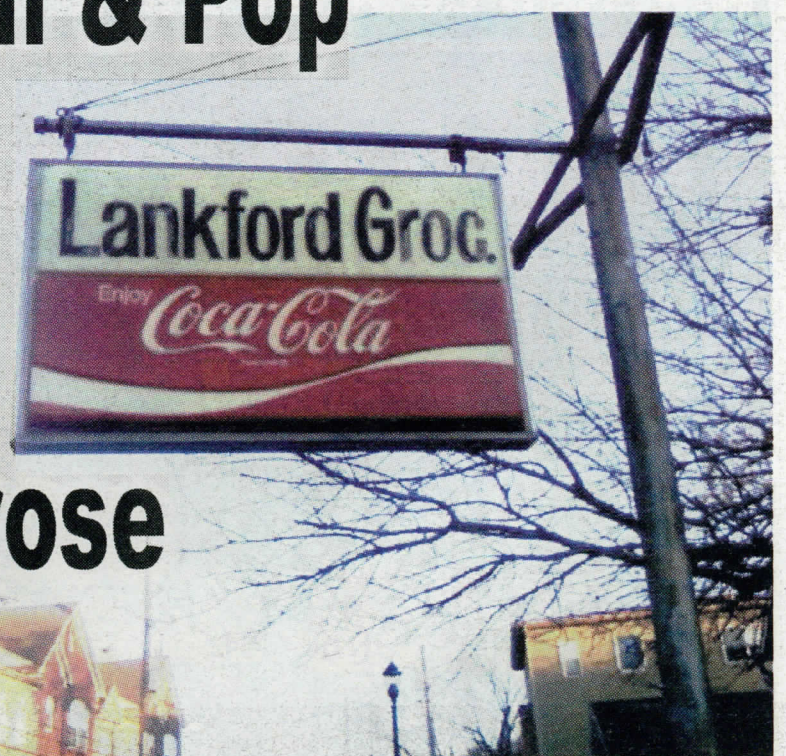


Shop, Dine, Party in Montrose



**We're
4 Years
Old**

**A Mom & Pop
Cafe
Deep
in
Montrose**





Premium Vodka
at Well Prices
All the Time

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at STANFORD**

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www.montrosegem.com (Click 611)

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The Breakfast Club

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with VICTOR and AL



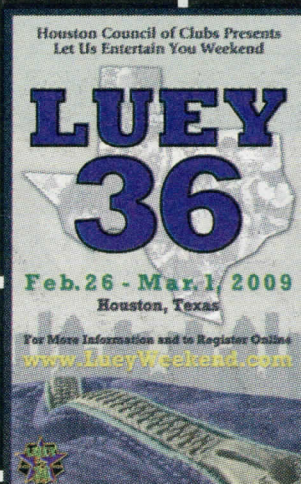
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AND
Houston Leather Boys



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on Your 4th Anniversary

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COMPLIMENTARY
HAMBURGERS**
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Feb. 1*

*The New
Krewe of the
Moons of
Uranus Hosts
Sunday,
Feb. 8*

Sunday \$1 Vodka
TIL 10PM

Friendly Staff!



LARRY



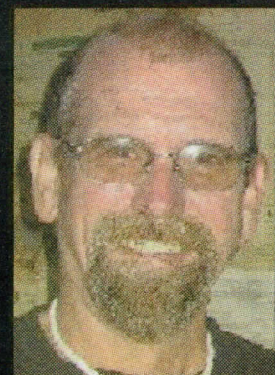
JAKE



GILBERT



ALVIE



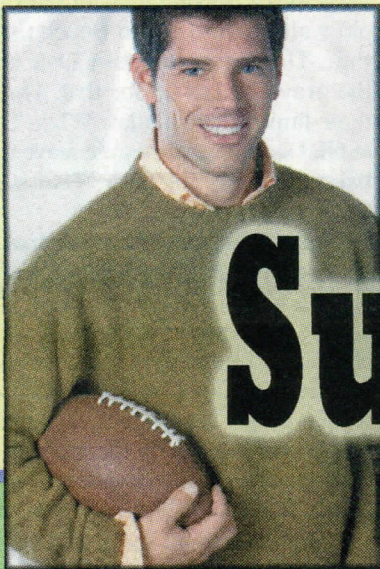
DAN

EJ'S

2517 Ralph Street in Gay Montrose
(Just Off Westheimer)
Houston, TX 77006
713-527-9071

www.montrosegem.com >advertisers >ejs

Tuesday Casino Night



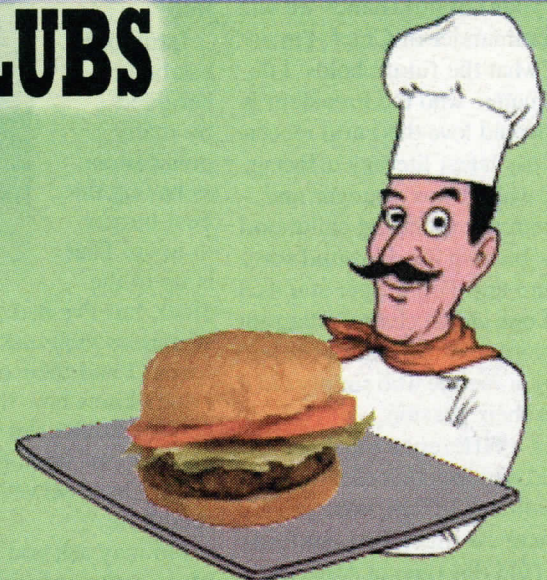
Super Bowl Parties

AT BOTH CLUBS

In-N-Out

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Between 15th & 16th Streets)
Houston, Texas 77008
713-589-9780

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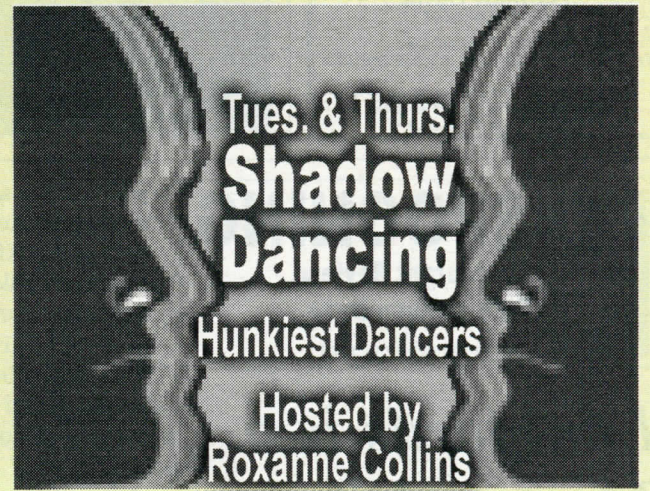
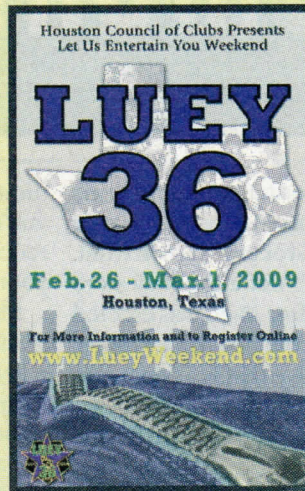
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GEM**
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ISSUE # **98**
JANUARY 23, 2009
OUR 5TH YEAR
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SPOONING

**Restaurant Review
With Damien Dane**
damiendane@gmail.com

Lankfords is a Mom and Pop Restaurant

Friends, Montrosians, and Countrymen, I am here to tell you that I am overjoyed that this was the last time I wrote under the Bush Monarchy. By the moment this issue hits your hot little hands we will have a new Commander-in-Chief. I'm so excited to see what the future holds. I do know that no matter who the President is that he or she would love this rural mecca; the subject of my latest literary offering.

I remember when I was younger and trudging through my sheltered childhood in the country, that we lived around some of the best Mom-and-Pop burger stands. I recall how not one single chain restaurant could come close to the love that can go into a meal made by someone who simply did it because it was their passion.

It just makes a difference when the corporate world is not in control of the grill. If you agree with me on that, then you are going to fall head over feet for Lankfords. It is so rare to find this type of Americana so close to any metropolitan area. So in the spirit of a new America, here we go.

As you're travelling east down Welch St. if you take a slight right after Genesee,

you will see a white structure that some might mistake for an old house if it wasn't for the "Lankford Grocery" sign in front. Don't be misled. It's not a grocery store anymore. The building itself was erected in 1936 by a grocer, but now, lucky for us, it's a rickety little dive that is a Montrose staple. A few more forewarnings, this is not the type of place you go to after the opera, by far.

Upon walking in you may be greeted by an older lady resembling Flo from "Alice" who may deliver their mantra. "We don't do anything small, we don't do anything healthy, and we don't bring you a bill, but that doesn't mean it's free."

Lankfords has been heralded by many publications as having the best burger in town. That is up to the diner, but I've had trouble find one that surpasses their masterpiece. The first time I went I had their original cheeseburger. I don't know how the heck anyone could go for a double, let alone a triple. This is a ginourmous hand-formed patty made of quality beef served on a toasted sesame seed bun.

Flo may ask you if you want them to "drag it through the garden." It's the only way in this writer's opinion. That means it will be loaded with fresh tomato, shredded lettuce, a thick slice of red onion, and dill pickle. It's a really good thing there are

limitless napkins on the table because you're going to need to have your manicures redone after this beauty drips all down your fingers.

Most recently I had the Fire-Burger. It is the same except the patty is made with a healthy amount of cayenne pepper. Jalapenos are added and the sauce is a habanero mustard. Most of you know of my affinity for spicy food, but I gotta tell you that many of you may not want to order this because I was in fiery lust with it. I think it would be way too spicy for most, but if you're brave enough, just keep in mind that peppers increase your metabolism. That will help when it comes to sides.

Many people rave about the fries but I will go down as saying that they have the best onion rings I've ever been so fortuitously indulgent to imbibe. The tater tots are another greasy slice of Heaven.

Another signature sandwich that I haven't masticated is the Soldier Burger. It's one that Miss Valerie would love. It has a huevo on it. It seriously has a fried egg on the burger itself. Everything is better with a huevo on it.

Beyond those blissfully brilliant beefy brainchildren are their daily specials. On Monday and Tuesday it is chef's choice. I've heard of some excellent meatloaf, chicken and dumplings and beef stew being served

to start the week out right. Wednesday is Chicken Fried Steak which I've had as take out. Get there early because they are voraciously devoured faster than an 18 year old walking into South Beach for his first time. They're sometimes a little chewy but the gravy makes up for that. Thursday is their famous enchiladas. When I worked at 611, I saw several people leave their A.M. barstools early for them. That is saying something.

Friday is the taco plate. Jim had this one. It's two lipid-dripping ground beef taco's topped with tomato, lettuce, and shredded cheese. Sometimes it's served with a cheese and bean chalupa but this day it was accompanied by homemade tamales. It's definitely Tex-Mex in it's simplicity. I really was thrown by the amount of food that wasn't ingested because we're both big eaters. It was totally delicious all the same.

I can't wait to go for breakfast. I looked at the menu and it is so inexpensive. I could only imagine how good a plate full of biscuits and gravy from this hole-in-the-wall could shoot a diet straight to hell first thing in the morning.

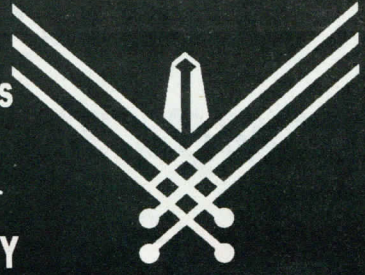
The building is small. Too small actually for the lunch crowd who, if arriving too far after 12 noon, will find themselves scoping out a table like our former vice president eyeing a human target. The service is questionable at best. The topography of the floor makes Dolly Parton's bosom look more like that of Grace Adlers. The parking is absolutely atrocious. This has been covered in many reviews before mine. But the prices are phenomenal, the food is spectacular, and the experience is priceless.

As soon as you visit, I'm sure you'll agree.

88 Dennis, 713-522-9555

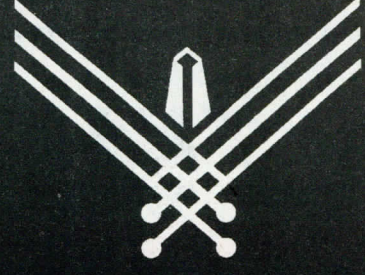


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713-LEATHER

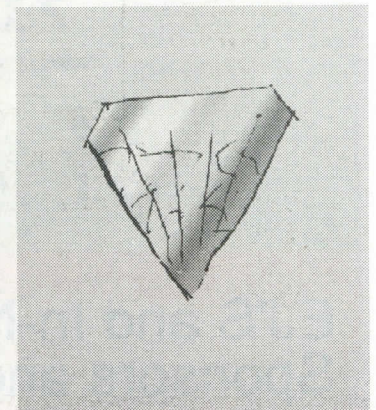


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20% OFF**
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Montrose

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. 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, some rough. Drag shows Thurs.-Sun. Open 11am (noon Sun.)

Crocker 2312 Crocker, 713-523-0026. Wii game, newest neighborhood watering hole. Open 11am-2am

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.). Constant crowd morning, afternoon, night

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.). Occasional shows and community events

Meteor 2306 Genesee at Fairview. Upscale crowd, open 1pm

Michael's Outpost 1419 Richmond Ave., 713-520-8446. Piano players some nights. 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 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. Frequent shows & benefits

Other Inner Loop In-N-Out 1537 N. Shepherd, 713-589-9780. "MetroSocial" open daily

11am with lunch

Galveston

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

Pink Dolphin 904 Ave. M at Stewart Beach, (409) 621-1808. Patio overlooks the Gulf. Open 10am to 2am. Frequent drag shows

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

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. Drag shows Wed. & Thurs., dancing Fri. & Sat. Latin

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

Ranch Hill Saloon 247041-45N #103, 281-298-9035

Northeast Houston

Viviana's 4624 Dacoma, 713-681-4104. Frequent impersonation shows

Whispers 226 First St. E., Humble, 281-359-2900. DJ on Fri. & Sat., Burgers Sun.

La Raza 3869 Mangum Rd., 713-680-8911 Open 5pm-5am Wed.-Sun. Shows & strippers

Beaumont

Copa 304 Orleans, (409) 832-4206. Dancing and shows

Bryan/College Station

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

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

Webster

Club Eve & Club Adam

522 NASA Rd. One, 281-554-EDEN or 281-557-0434. Two clubs in one, one for women, one for men

Private

Houston Clubs

Club Houston 2200

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

Midtowne Spa 3100

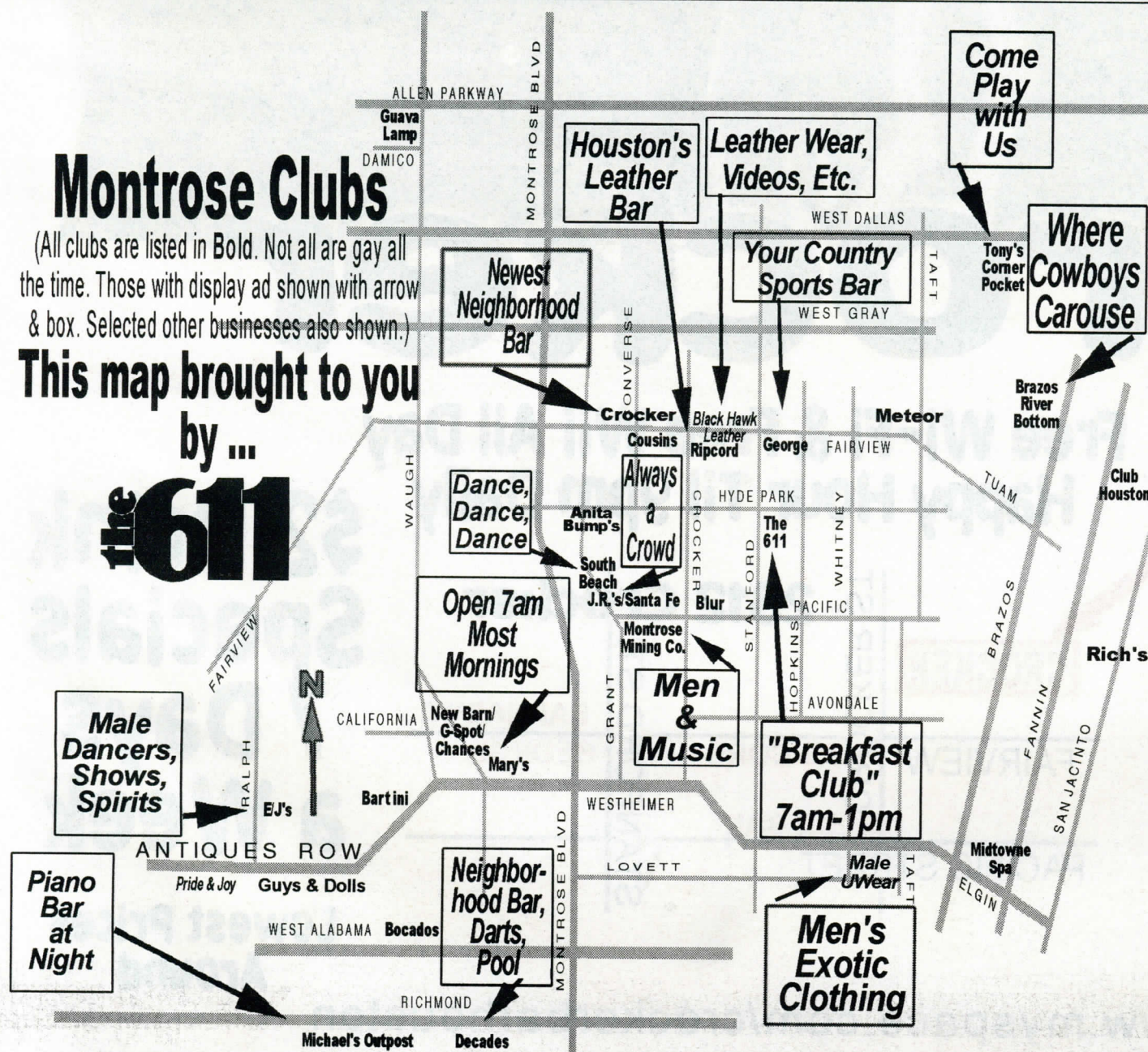
Fannin, 713-522-2379. Open 24 hours. Gym, pool, whirlpool, sauna. Private rooms and lockers

Montrose Clubs

(All clubs are listed in Bold. Not all are gay all the time. Those with display ad shown with arrow & box. Selected other businesses also shown.)

This map brought to you by ...

the 611



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Dine,
Party
in
Montrose

The New Montrose Hangout!



Crocker

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Free Wi-Fi & Free Wii All Day
Happy Hour Til 9pm Daily



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Lowest Prices
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www.myspace.com/crockerbarhouston



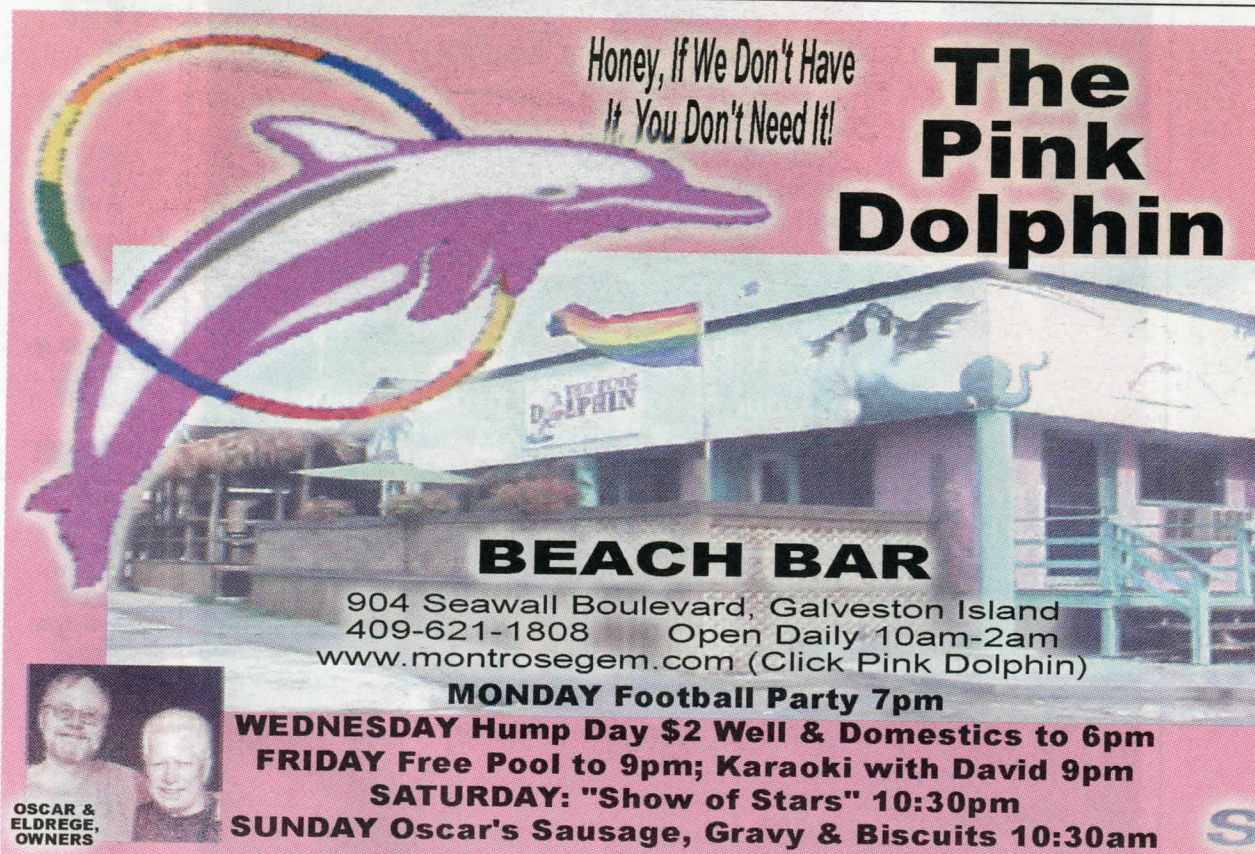
Michael's OUTPOST

1419 Richmond Ave. * 713-520-8446

www.montrosegem.com > Advertisers > Michael's Outpost

NOW OPENING Friday & Saturday at 11:00 AM

Join Our "MUSIC MEN"
for a
Doe, Rae, Me, Martini Time!



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

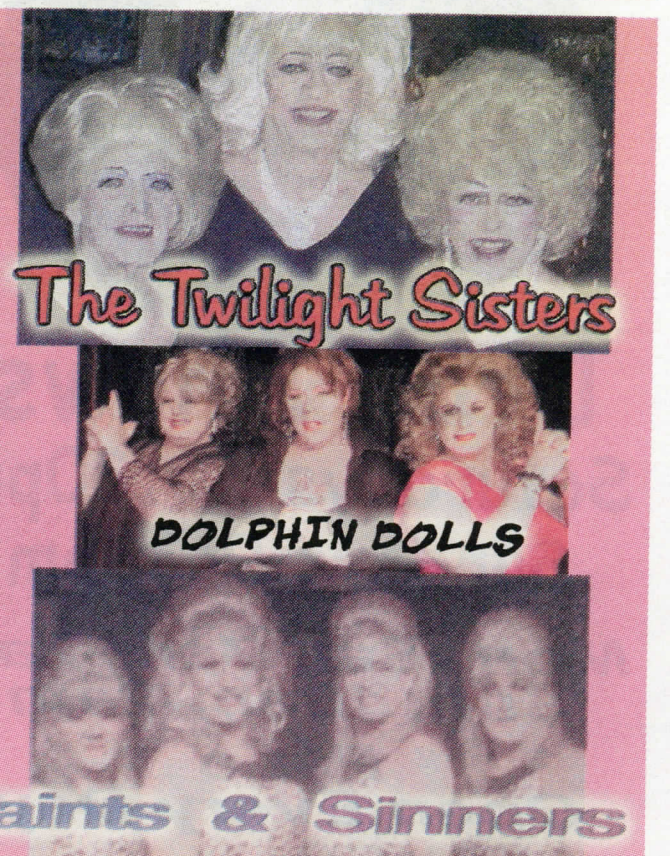
The Pink Dolphin

BEACH BAR

904 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston Island
409-621-1808 Open Daily 10am-2am
www.montrosegem.com (Click Pink Dolphin)

MONDAY Football Party 7pm
WEDNESDAY Hump Day \$2 Well & Domestics to 6pm
FRIDAY Free Pool to 9pm; Karaoki with David 9pm
SATURDAY: "Show of Stars" 10:30pm
SUNDAY Oscar's Sausage, Gravy & Biscuits 10:30am

OSCAR & ELDREGE, OWNERS



The Twilight Sisters

DOLPHIN DOLLS

Saints & Sinners

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Leather Tank Tops
50% Off
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713-LEATHER

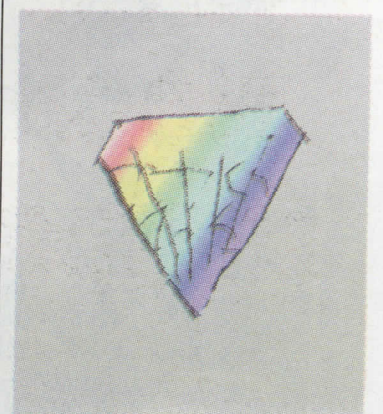


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www.tonyscornerpocketbar.com

Sunday Men of Manwatch 7-11

Monday \$2.50 Well Vodka

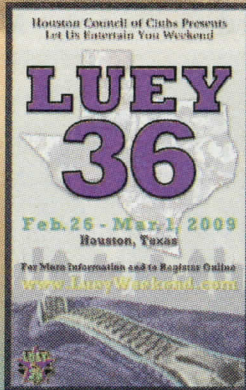
Tuesday \$1 Well Vodka

Wednesday \$2.50 Domestic Longnecks
PLUS Divas and the Boys

Thursday \$2.75 Domestic Longnecks
PLUS Amateur Strip Show

Friday Amateur Strip

Saturday Amateur Strip
PLUS Men of Manwatch 11pm



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

TONY'S
CORNER
POCKET
BAR

Super
Bowl
Party
Feb. 1

ROBERT'S LAFITTE
2501 AVE Q @ 25TH STREET
GALVESTON 409-765-9092

www.montrosegem.com > Robert's Lafitte

CELEBRATING 43 YEARS!



Drag Shows
Saturdays 10:30pm
Sundays 9:30pm

Mon.-Sat. 7am-2am
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**PATIO
OPEN
DAILY**

Mardi Gras Bus Trip To Galveston

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Krewe Of The New Moons Of Uranus
www.kreweofthenewmoonsofuranus.com

Ticket Price: \$50.00

Available from your favorite Ripcord Bartender
Ripcord opens at 10:00 AM

Bus leaves at 11:00 AM returns back to Ripcord after parade.
For \$50 bucks you get a continental breakfast, refreshments,
prizes and merriment on the bus and lunch at the Pink Dolphin.

Corporate Sponsors

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The
Pink
Dolphin

Robert's Laffite

the
RIPCORD

HOLLYWOOD CENTER

Shop, Dine, Party in Montrose

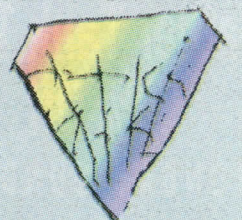
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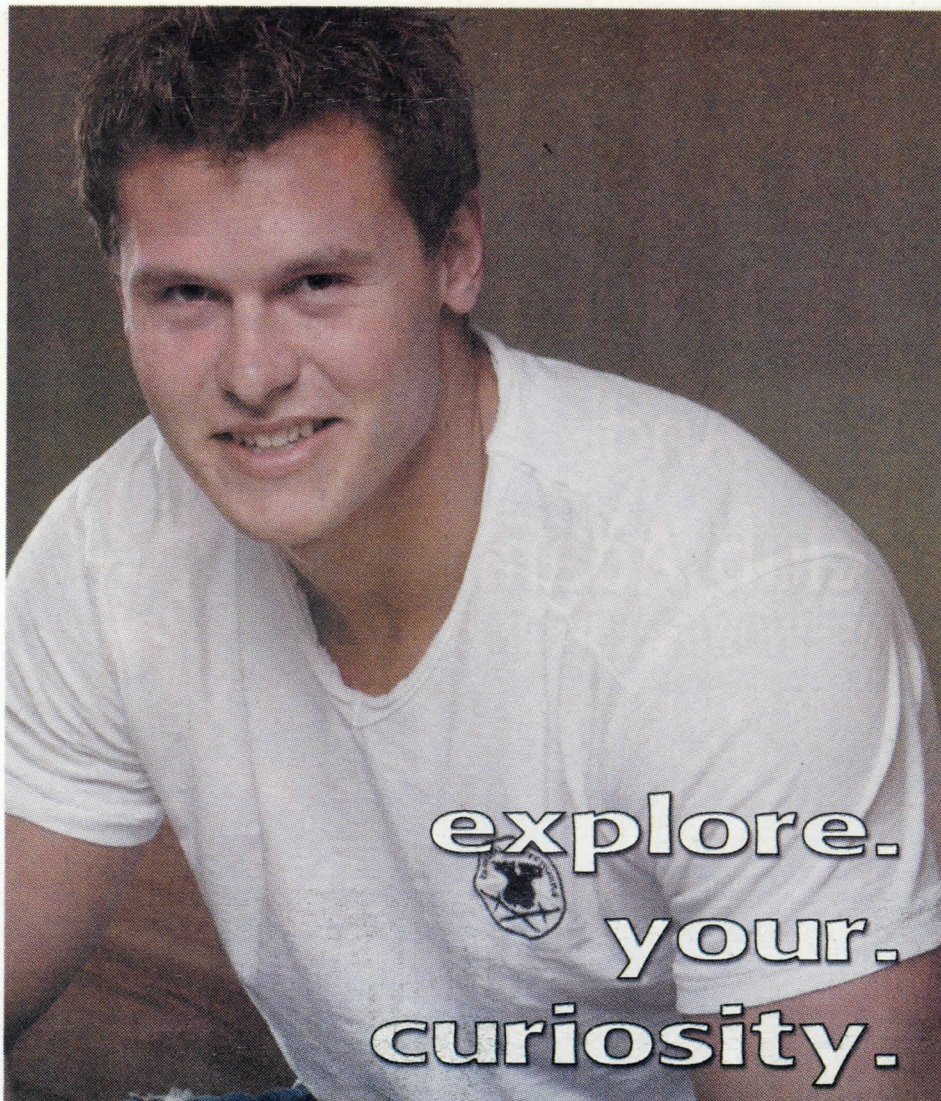
The Houston/Galveston
Gay Newspaper

Skyler Wyatt

MARKETING DIRECTOR
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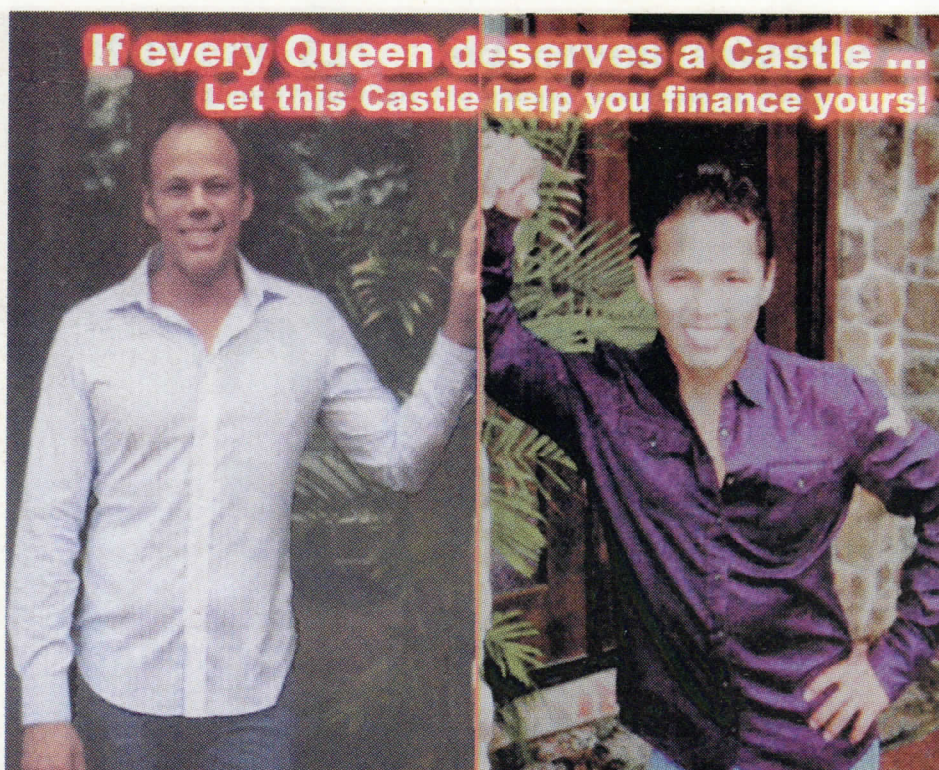


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www.montrosegem.com >George

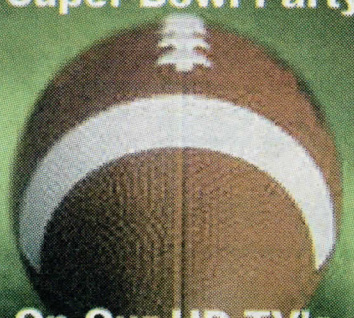
**VODKA
DOLLAR
SUNDAYS**



GEORGE
**Your Country
Sports Bar**

**Always a Crowd,
Open Daily 7am
(10am Sun.)
to 2am**

Super Bowl Party



**On Our HD TV's
Sun., Feb. 1**

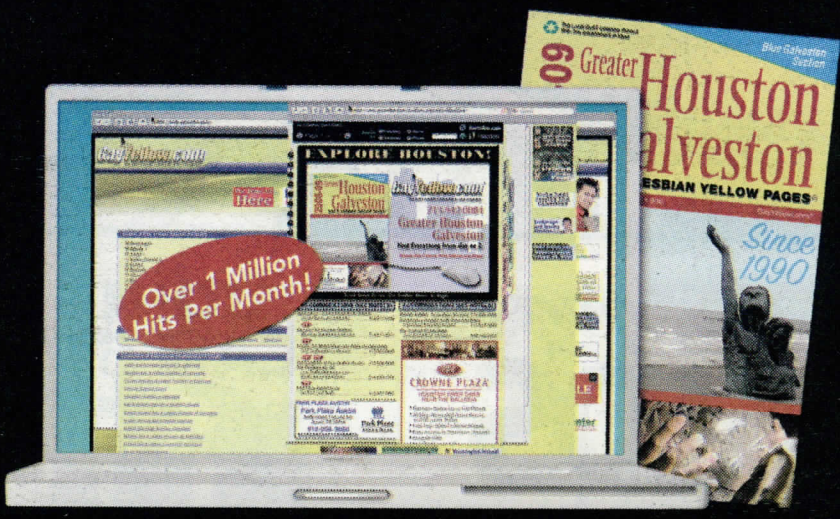
Houston Council of Clubs Presents
Let Us Entertain You Weekend

**LUEY
36**

Feb. 26 - Mar. 1, 2009
Houston, Texas

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www.LueyWeekend.com

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between Sawyer & Houston

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Spoke**
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Sat., Sun. 9am-9pm
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522 NASA RD.1 WEBSTER, TEXAS 77598

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OUR CLUB BIGGER AND BETTER FOR YOU

Club Eden

And

Club Adam

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\$1.50 WELLS

AND

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TILL 11 PM.

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4:00PM. - 2:00AM.

THURSDAY'S

\$1 DRAFTS

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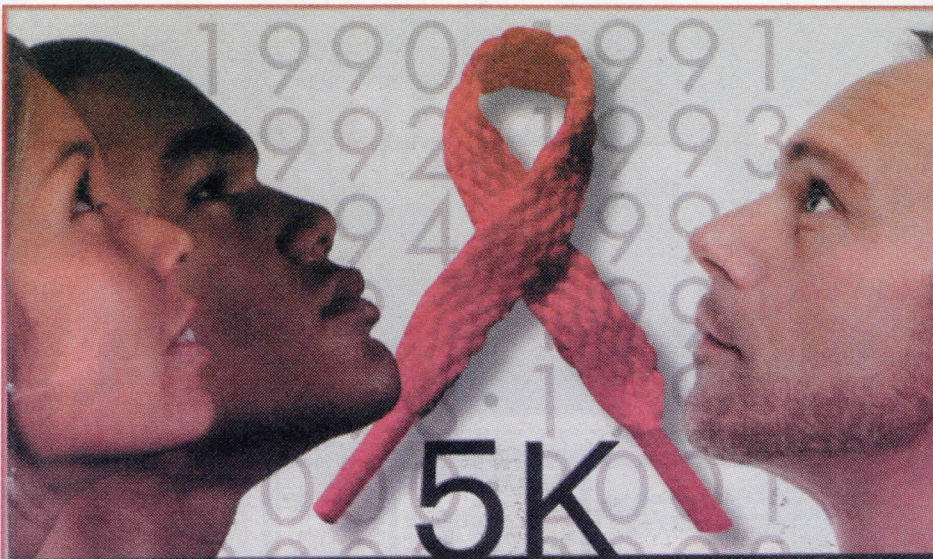
OR

281-557-0434

SUNDAY'S

\$1 VODKA \$2 LONGNECKS

\$2 CUERVO SHOTS



**20TH year
OF
AIDS
WALK
HOUSTON
1990 - 2009**

**JOIN
TEAM 611**

the 611

**Sign Up at
The 611,
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PRESENTED BY
Chevron



PRODUCED BY



MARY'S
Naturally

1022 Westheimer * 713-527-9689

Feb 1st - 6:00 PM -

"A Night Under the Stars"

**Baran "Montana" Young's
40th BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION**

Performances by ICOH Members * Benefiting Local Charities

Sunday's - \$1.00 Drinks - Vodka, Drafts & Mimosas

Ask Your Bartender for Details

Coming Soon:

"Game Show" Thursdays

Feb 14th
"Saint or Sinner?"
Party

"Were Still Here!"

A Welcome Back Celebration
Feb 28th thru Mar 1st

&

much
more!

**Monday thru Saturday - 7 AM to 2PM & Sunday - 10 AM to 2 PM
DAILY DRINK SPECIALS!**



THIS IS MONTROSE News, Nonsense, Rants By Henry McClurg

Here's #98 of your Montrose GEM.

Barack is the President

I took a break from my watching out my window at the goings-in and goings-out at The Ripcord and Crocker and watched Barack get sworn in. Ain't it great.

Now here's something to get used to: BHO. That's his initials. Gone is GWB.

Free Leather-Scented Candle

Just drop in at Black Hawk Leather next to the Ripcord on Fairview and present the ad that is elsewhere in this issue of your Montrose GEM. One per customer. Now you can make your boudoir smell like sexy leather.

Stuff Your Face

I've noticed that in the past year the commercials on TV for fast food restaurants (McDonald's, KFC, etc.) typically show some college-age kid with his mouth full of food gobbling down the latest menu item. His cheeks look like those of an extra large chipmunk. And then, while smacking and talking with his mouth full, he stuffs another leg-size gob of food in there.

Real people don't eat like that. They take a bite, chew it, savor it and swallow. Not this punk. He never swallows. He just constantly stuffs more food into his swollen cavity. Gross.

Who did they survey to come to the conclusion that real people eat this way? Yes, I know, college-age kids.

Super Bowl

The great American Super Bowl will be played as this issue of The GEM is in our clubs, shops and stores. And all of the GEM club advertisers will be featuring it on their TV's. So go out and party that Sunday. And root for the Texans. (In a few years, maybe.)

Our Anniversary Time

We're four years old with this issue. It seems like 100. The GEM started in January, 2005 as Montrose (G)ay (E)ntertainment (M)agazine. (That's where the acronym comes from, although it's no longer an acronym but our real name.)

This is the story I've told before and since we're having a birthday, I'll tell it again. Craig of the BRB and I were sitting on barstools at the old Brick's batting about names for a new publication that I wanted to start. We came up with several

names before we graduated to Gay Entertainment Magazine and it's initials, which happened to spell G.E.M. That was cool.

Then Craig sketched out on a bar napkin a rough-looking "diamond" or gem. It's that drawing that you see on our front cover every issue, since colorized. I think I still have the original napkin in a box here in the office. Things got all unorganized when we moved about a year ago from Avondale. Happy birthday to us.

Team 611 AIDS Walk

Your Montrose GEM is a sponsor of Team 611 (from The 611 club) marching in the 20th year of AIDS Walk Houston. To join Team 611, sign up at The 611, of course. Do so today, if you can. The event is Sunday, March 15, starting at Sam Houston Park downtown.

Other community groups are marching too, including Southern Country, based at the BRB.

Galveston Mardi Gras

The Big Gay Bus Trip is filling up fast with the New Krewe of the Moons of Uranus in charge. Buy your tickets from any bartender at the Ripcord. There will be a big sunset parade, as usual. Whether it will be right in front of Robert's Lafitte or two blocks up on the seawall, remains the question.

B.B. King has performed at the Galveston Mardi Gras festivities before. He's from Itta Bena, Miss., a town which I've driven through. I believe he recently bought a nightclub there. Nevertheless, I read where the only grocery store in the town, The Big Star, has folded. What does this have to do with the Big Gay Bus Trip? Nothing. I just thought it was interesting and filled up space.

\$1 Chronicle

Our lovely daily newspaper, the Houston Chronicle, is now one dollar weekdays and Saturdays. What are they trying to do? Price themselves out of the market?

Play Games with Pride

The Houston Pride Committee send us this.

"Just how good are you? So you think you are the king or queen of board games? Well if you think so why not join us for Pride Houston's first game night on Saturday, Jan. 31. 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Pride Office and prove it. (That's 1415 California.)

"We will provide some food and drinks, you provide the competition. We have a few classic games in stock but if you wanna bring your favorite, go ahead."

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Urban Zone, Sharpstown Mall, 7500 Bellaire Blvd., 4-7pm

611 Hyde Park Pub, 611 Hyde Park, 713-526-7070, 4-8pm

Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 713-522-2379, 4-8pm

Club Houston, 2205 Fannin, 713-659-4998, 8pm-Midnight

WEDNESDAY

Club Houston, 2205 Fannin, 713-659-4998, 8pm-Midnight

E/J's, 2517 Ralph, 713-527-9071, 10pm-1am

THURSDAY

Guava Lamp, 570 Waugh Dr., 713-524-3359, 6-10pm

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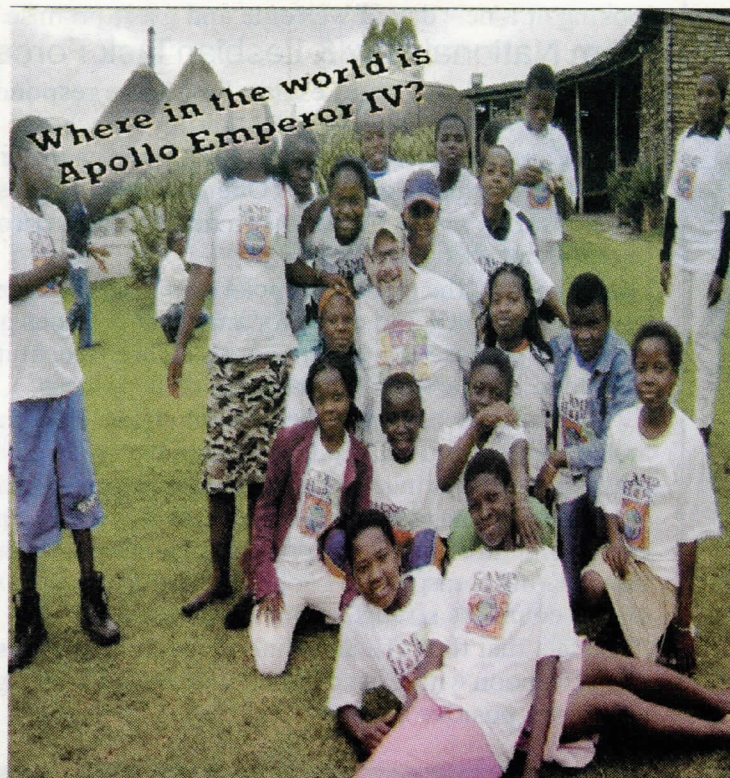
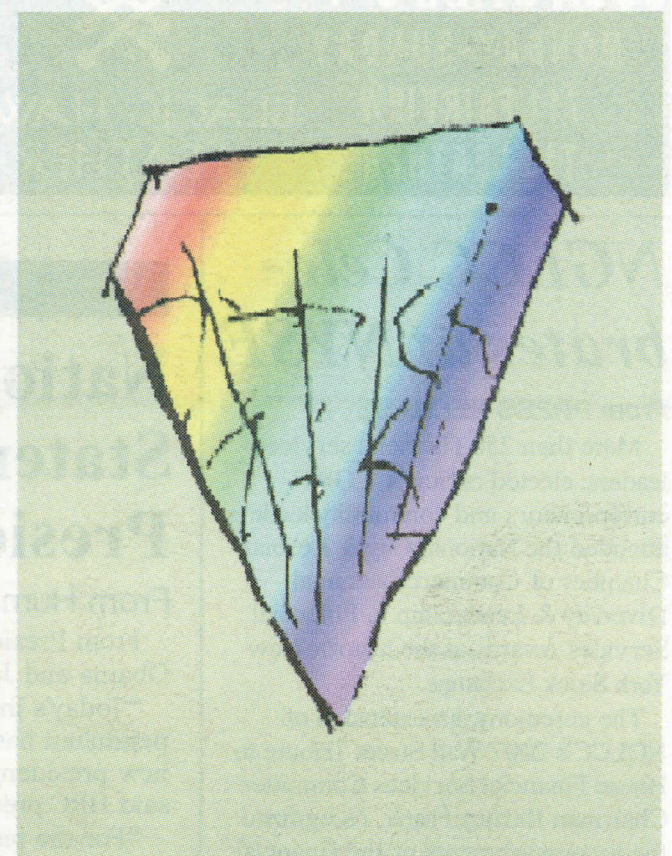
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Testing days and times subject to change. Contact the testing site.



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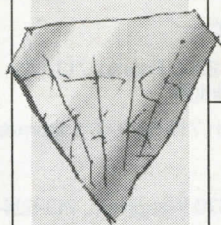
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Montrose GEM Serves the Community

NGLCC Celebrates at NYSE

From PRESS RELEASE

More than 250 financial services leaders, elected officials, LGBT entrepreneurs and community leaders attended the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's annual Diversity & Leadership in Financial Services Awards at the historic New York Stock Exchange.

The ceremony, an extension of NGLCC's 2007 Wall Street Tribute to House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank, recognized the accomplishments of the financial services industry and its leaders. Presenting Sponsors of the event included Bank of America, Citi and Goldman Sachs.

"In these challenging economic times, we are proud to have honored members of the financial services industry for their amazing work on behalf of the LGBT community," said Justin Nelson, NGLCC co-founder and president. "Now, more than ever, it is important that we stand by those companies that stand by us."

The evening began with a reception on the famous NYSE Trading Floor and was followed by the awards dinner in the NYSE Club. Chairman Frank, D-Mass., delivered the keynote address.

NGLCC co-founder and CEO Chance Mitchell said, "This event is important because it salutes those individuals and companies who understand that economic equality, despite sexual orientation or gender identity, is not only the right thing to do, but also makes good business sense."

National Groups Issue Statements on New President

From Human Rights Campaign

From President Joe Solmonese on the inauguration of Barack Obama and Joe Biden:

"Today's inauguration represents a paradigm shift. The pendulum has swung away from the anti-gay forces and toward a new president and vice president who acknowledge our equality," said HRC president Joe Solmonese.

"For the past eight years, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue was out of reach and out of touch. Our community and do many others are looking at a new day of welcome and great promise."

From National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force responded today to President Barack Obama's inauguration speech.

Rea Carey, executive director, said "America made history today with the swearing-in of Barack Obama as its 44th president. It is our hope this truly marks the dawn of a new political era of engagement in the life of this country.

"In his speech, the president spoke of our nation's need to reaffirm its enduring spirit and carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea (the) promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.

"Our country has made significant strides in advancing this 'noble idea' toward full-fledged reality, but we're not there yet. Too many people continue to face discrimination and hardship. As President Obama assumes the role of America's foremost leader, we call upon him to fulfill the promise of a nation where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are recognized and valued as part of this country's strength, spirit and solution.

"The fact that the official White House Web site was updated just this afternoon with a list of commitments to LGBT rights is already enormous positive change."

Texas Legislature Meeting

From PRESS RELEASE

The 81st Regular Session of the Texas Legislature convened January 13. For the next 140 days, the 31 members of the Texas Senate and the 150 members of the Texas House of Representatives were to consider legislation that has a direct impact on the lives of 23.5 million Texans.

At Equality Texas, we envision a state where all Texans are treated equally, with dignity and respect. During session, and as we do every single day, Equality Texas will aggressively advocate and lobby for the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. We must, however, be realistic in our expectations and strategic in our actions.

Rep. Joe Straus of San Antonio was expected to replace Rep. Tom Craddick as Speaker of the House. While it is not possible to predict what a Straus-led House will do, we are cautiously optimistic that the new leadership will move away from divisive, wedge-issue, "culture war" politics. We are hopeful that representatives will have to demonstrate support for their bills in order to get them through the committee process and on to the floor. With a 76-74 Republican-Democrat split, we expect that whip counts will be more important than in the past to show support for legislation.

Both conservative and progressive legislation may have more of an opportunity for consideration if the new speaker allows more delegation of authority to the committee process. The upcoming assignments of committee chairs and committee members will be critical to all the work that happens in the House. Generally, the Appropriations and Calendars committees are the most important as they affect legislation across the board. Committees with specific relevance to Equality Texas issues include Public Education, State Affairs, Government Reform, and Human Services.

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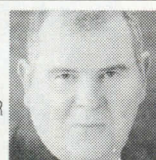
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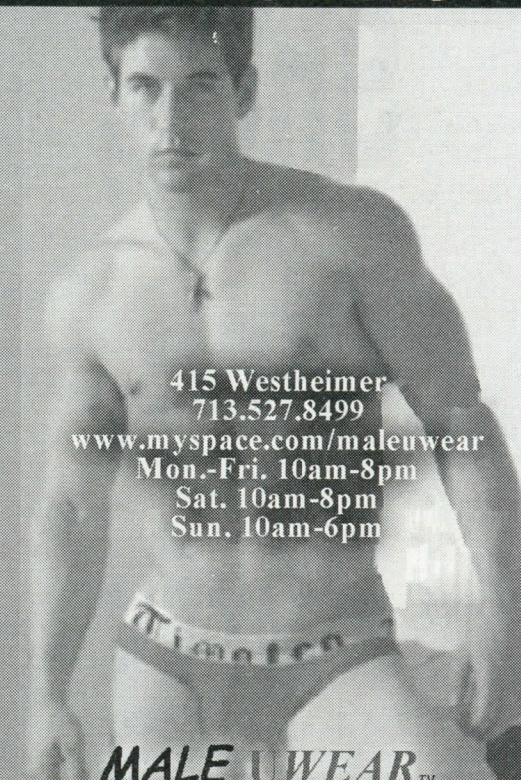
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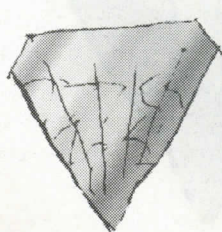
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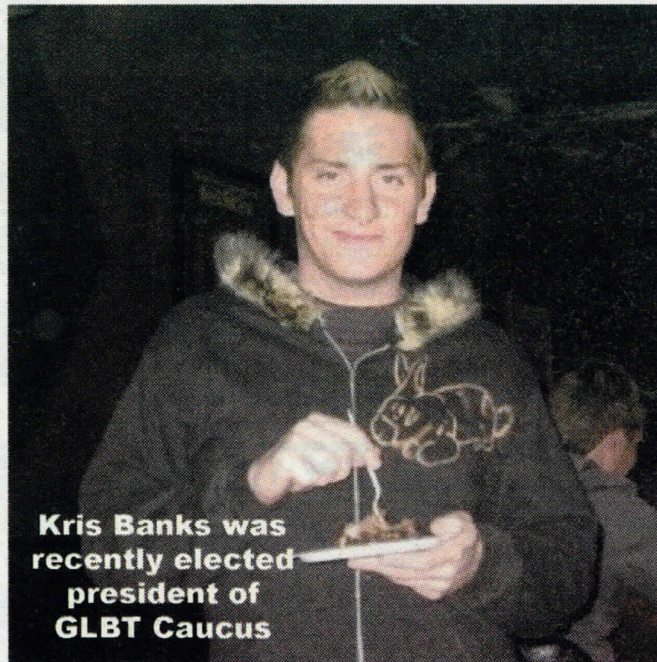
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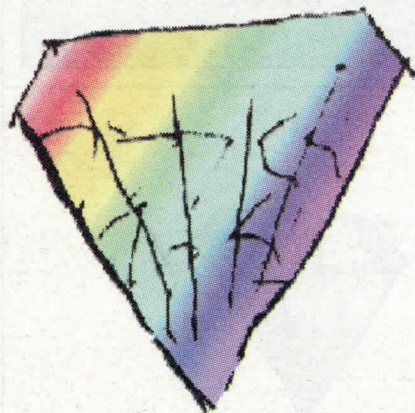
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Kris Banks was recently elected president of GLBT Caucus



Warren Issue Got Obama's Attention

By Billy Glover

Obama's handling of the Warren issue could be the same as Lincoln's handling of the slavery issue. He tried to dodge it, and worked up to the emancipation. History judges him by what he did, not by the journey he took on the way.

It is possible, not just because of all the fussing from the "gay" community and allies, but because the issue is "on the table" of homosexuals in the military, the denial of the right to marry, etc., so that Obama will have to make a choice on the legal and moral basic rights of homosexual citizens.

If he is truly the person a slight majority of voters believe and hope he is, including a majority of homosexual voters, but, sadly, a minority of black voters, he will sooner or later be forced, as other presidents have been on other civil rights issues, to support equal civil rights for all Americans, including homosexuals.

After adequate time, if he has not done what our Constitution and Bill of Rights direct him to do, then will be the time to find someone else who will do the right thing. (The first major step and evidence will be his appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court and to the Justice Department. **And**, it is also the responsibility of the House and Senate to do what they should do, with or without the president.)

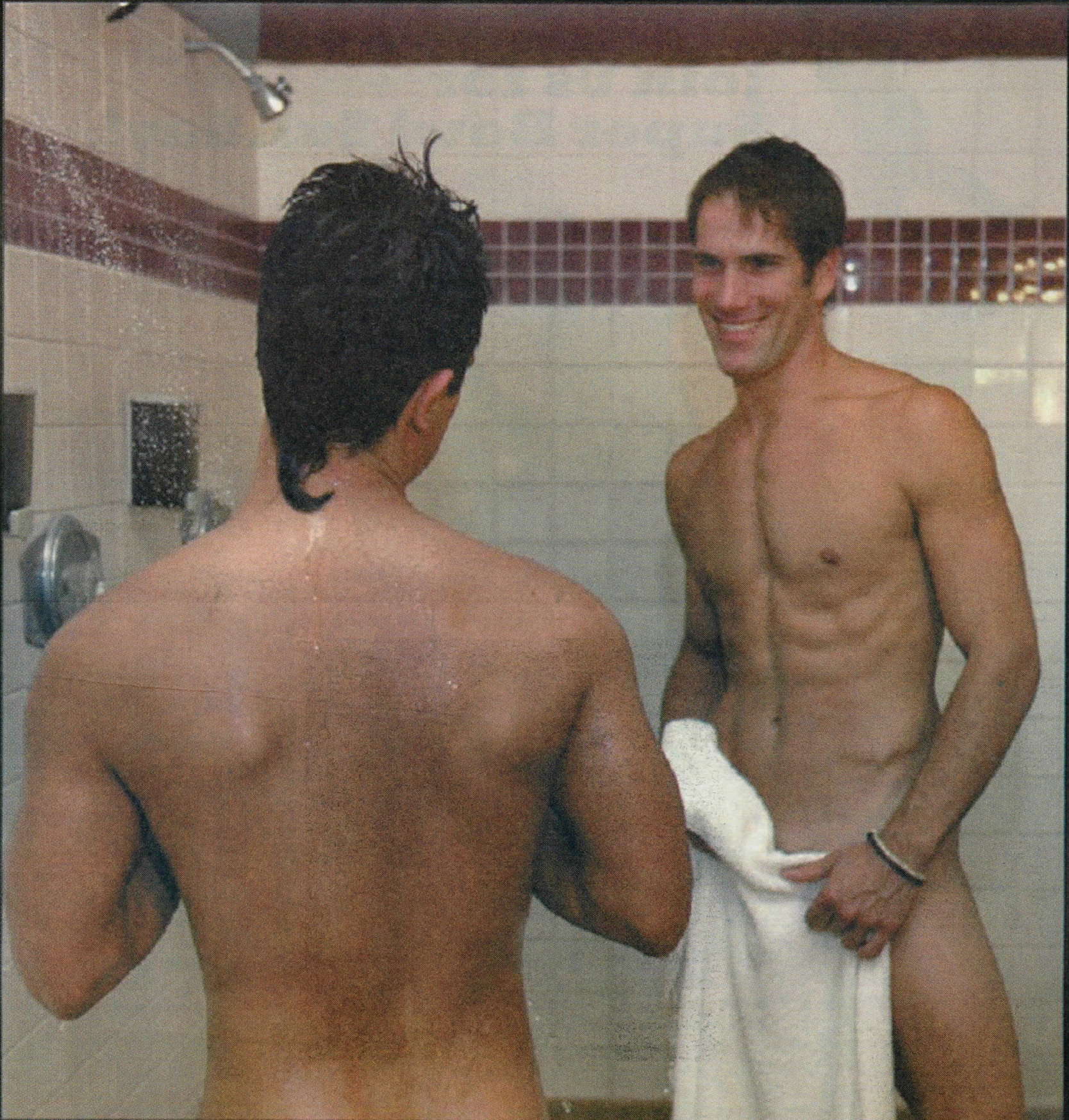
Glover is a long-time Los Angeles-based activist who was raised in Bossier City, La., and can be reached at billygloverhic @ hotmail.com.

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