

GEM 28

INSIDE: EVERY GAY BAR IN HOUSTON, GALVESTON



The original site of the Montrose Christmas Tree caused a controversy and a few arrests. Story inside.

*Season's Greetings
from
Your Favorite
Gay Magazine*

**The NLA's annual
Toy Drive is underway
at a club near you.**



Nobody does it Better!

Mondays **\$1 VODKA** After 9PM

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays **\$2 Frozen Margaritas**

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

BIG MONEY AMATEUR DANCE CONTEST

Thursdays & Saturdays **THE HOT, HOT MEN OF MANWATCH**

6 Nights Every Week, Monday thru Saturday

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE to the Driving Sounds of DJ PAPI

New On Tuesdays

Featured Dancer
Johnny

Latin Toys
and **\$1 Frozen Margaritas**

EJ's

2517 Ralph Street (Just off Westheimer) Houston, Texas, 77006

713.527 9071



ISSUE # **28**
DECEMBER 1, 2005

Published every other week
c. 2005 by Gulf Features
408 Avondale, Houston, TX 77006 713-529-2325
OFFICE HOURS: 9am-6pm (noon-5pm Sun.)
But call first, we may be out.
Email: MontroseGem @ Yahoo.Com
Henry McClurg, publisher
Brian Keever, Gregory Misakyan, local advertising

We're Your Favorite Gay Magazine!

Be a Part of the Next Montrose GEM

Deadline Saturday, Dec. 10

To Be Released Thursday, Dec. 15

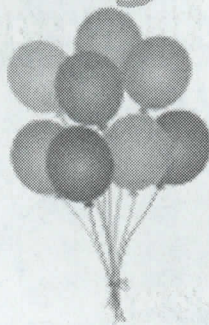
Call Henry or Bryan at 713-529-2325

COUSINS

20th ANNIVERSARY!

Wednesday, Dec. 14

Food Show
8:00 pm 9:30pm



Come Join the Show! Anyone Who Has
EVER Performed Over the Years at Cousins
817 FAIRVIEW 713-528-9204

*Pride
and
Joy
Antiques*

1727 Westheimer 713-522-8345

Thank You for Reading The GEM!

Be a Part of the Next Montrose GEM

Deadline Saturday, Dec. 10

To Be Released Thursday, Dec. 15

Call Henry or Bryan at 713-529-2325

Keys West

www.keyswest.com

'TIS THE SEASON - FOR SHOWS

Saturday, December 3rd - 7:00 PM

3rd Coast Family

Presents

A Kinky Christmas

Benefitting

Bering Omega Dental Clinic

Sunday, December 4th - 7:00 PM

Keith Vyvial

Presents

Maintaining The Magic

Benefitting

IOCH - Gulf Coast Archive & Museum

Saturday, December 10th - 7:00 PM

COPA PRODUCTIONS

Presents

**The December
FACES Contest**

Sign Up at Keys West by 6:00 PM

Friday, December 16th - 7:00 PM

Lillian Devereaux

Presents

**Merry Christmas
From The Family**

Benefitting

ERSICSS Coronation XXII

Sunday, December 18th - 6:00 PM

**Keys West
Christmas Party**

Sunday, January 22nd - 7:00 PM

**Miss Keys West
2006 Pageant**

Entry Forms Available
From Your Favorite
Bartender

Sunday, December 18th - 7:00 PM

COPA PRODUCTIONS

Presents

**The 2005
FACE of the Year
Contest**

**Sundays
Well Vodka**

\$2.00

817 W. Dallas St. @ Arthur - Next to Best Western 713-571-7870

GALVESTON'S THREE SISTERS BEACH BARS

Robert's Lafitte

2501 Avenue Q at 25th/Rosenberg
409-765-9092

Galveston's Original
Show Bar



**MEL'S KIDS
SHOW**
9PM FRI., DEC. 9

Shows
Saturdays
10:30pm
Sundays
9:30pm

Mongloid
Mondays

Open 7am Daily,
10am Sundays,
with Brunch!

Swimming Pool
Open Every Day



Mondays
\$2 Wells
Tuesdays
\$3 You Call
It Call Drinks
Thursdays
\$1.50
Longnecks
Free Pool
& Hot Dogs

Thursdays: Karaoke with
CC 9pm + \$3 Pitchers

Fridays: CC's Seaside
Cabaret with CC Ryder,
Marsha Mellow, 11pm

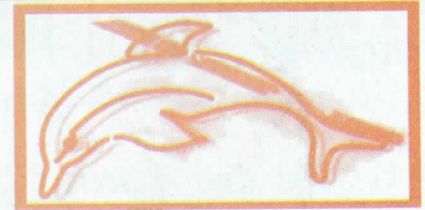
Saturdays: Dancers
of Manwatch
& DJ Joe Rios 10pm

MEL'S KIDS
GRAND FINALE
FRI., DEC. 16
SHOW & CAKE WALK

Sundays 4pm
T-Dance, DJ, Food,
\$2 Well, \$1 Draft,
Manwatch Dancers

OPEN 2PM-2AM MON.-FRI.
NOON-2AM SAT. & SUN.

OVERLOOKING THE GULF



The Pink Dolphin
9th & Seawall
(409) 621-1808

GALVESTON'S NEWEST BEACH BAR!

FRIDAY
Amateur Drag 9pm

SATURDAY
The Big Show 10pm

SUNDAY
\$2 WELL & DOMESTICS
7PM-CLOSING

TUESDAY
\$2 Domestics Noon-6pm
And then Lee's Tacos

THURSDAY
Bring Your Own Meat
Cookout 6-9pm

Open Noon-2am M-F
10am-2am Sat-Sun

SUNDAY BRUNCH



Buffet
11am-1pm
Showtime
11:30am

Miss Pink Dolphin
Carmen Can-Too

All-You-Can-Eat \$5

GEM NEWS & BAR TALK

By Henry

Here We Are Again

This is issue no. 28 of your favorite gay publication and it's the first of two Christmas issues.

We have all kinds of fat and jolly things advertised. As you might guess, in this column I'm going to blatantly promote those fat and jolly things.

And I'm going to make fun of the self-righteous people.

New Miss Montrose

The winner was Craven Moorehead, selected Nov. 27 at a festive contest on Mary's patio.

Hill's Award

Our own Ray Hill has received a lifetime achievement award from the American Civil Liberties Union's Houston chapter.

Ray, 65 now, has been a longtime gay rights activist and also an advocate for inmates and their rights.

In a report in the Houston Chronicle he joked that he would accept the award with caution.

"They normally give these awards to people they think are about to die or they're encouraging you to go off in a corner to be quiet," he told the reporter.

One of Ray's claims to fame was a 1987 Supreme Court case, "Houston v. Hill," where Ray had told a Houston police officer who appeared to be bullying someone, "Why don't you pick on somebody your own size?"

Ray was arrested for making that statement, sued the city, and eventually won.

Thanks to Ray Hill, it's not a crime to make statements to a police officer, whether it's "Merry Christmas" or "Why don't you pick on somebody your own size."

Heights Holiday

Our sister neighborhood to the north of Montrose will stage Holiday on 19th Street Friday, Dec. 2, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. That little enclave of shops and stores is quite eclectic.

That's up there where Carter & Cooley have their fine deli.

Quickies

The BRB, as its tradition dictates, will have a cash balloon drop at midnight, New Year's Eve, with a champagne toast.

Then at 2:00 a.m. they will present an all-you-can-eat country breakfast to sober you up and get you home. All this (with cowboys dancing and hot men in tight jeans) for \$10.

Keys West, this Saturday, Dec. 3, hosts A Kinky Christmas. It will be presented by 3rd Coast Family.

Tis the Season for Frolic & Fun is the title of an ICOH event at E/J's on Saturday, Dec. 9.

The 61's Christmas Party is Monday, Dec. 19. They're decorating the bar as you read this right now. The whole place is turned into the North Pole, it seems.

The Ripcord's annual customer appreciation party is Monday, Dec. 5,



Craven Moorehead was crowned the Miss Montrose for 2006

from 9:00 p.m. So dress in your leather and come and eat shrimp, crawfish and more.

Mary, formerly of Mary's, is freezing in South Dakota under a million feet of snow, working at a Payless shoe store. Brrrrr.

NLA Toy Drive

The National Leather Association, Houston chapter, has boxes for toys in many of the gay clubs here. They do this every year, so bring in your unused toys for the kids.

This Just In!

The Japanese have attacked Pearl Harbor!

Get out your World War II uniforms, we have to go to battle. Hosts Grand Duke Craig Farrell and Grand Duchess Judy Reeves will stage Jukebox Wednesday at Mary's on Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7. Your seven magic words: Hawaii, Navy, Ships, War, World War II,



The lovely judges at the Miss Montrose Contest at Mary's

Japanese, Attack, Harbor, Pearl. (You counted more than seven? Some are really the same.)

Pick your theme and dress for the occasion.

This is a direct benefit for Lazarus House. DJ Steven Bunch will spin.

Author David Westheimer

He's the guy who wrote "My Sweet Charlie" and others. He was born in Houston 88 years ago and died in November in Los Angeles. Does that mean Westheimer Road was named after him? No. But it probably was named after his family.

Mr. Westheimer graduated from Rice University and once worked for the Houston Post. He was captured in World War II by Italy, and from that got the background for "Von Ryan's Express," another of his books which was made into a movie and got an Academy Award ... for sound effects. Frank Sinatra's acting was a little weak.

You want more? Okay

XXV TWENTY-FIVE

A Black Leather Affair

Join Us in Celebration of Our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

RIPCORD

**Monday
December 5th
9 pm to 2 am**

**715 FAIRVIEW www.theripcord.com 713-521-2792
Open Daily 1pm (Noon Sun. for Football) After-Hours Fri. & Sat.**

Change Our Name?

This column is called News & Bar Talk. That is kind of bland, don't you think? Hit me in the bars with a new name. Or send a suggested new name to MontroseGEM @ Yahoo.com. Or mail to the address on page 3.

Henry's Happenings? No.

Houston Hormones? No.

Montrose Meanderings? No.

Montrose Musings? Sounds like a bodily function.

Enunciations & Contemplations? Sounds religious.

Bullshit on the Bayou? We can't use that word in this publication.

Craig at the BRB came up with Gemformation, Gemboree and The Real Gem. Uh, no.

Jewish Leader Blasts Wingnuts

And it happened right here in Houston Nov. 19.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the largest of the three major American Jewish groups, termed right-wing religious

activists "zealots" who "claim a monopoly on God."

The AP reported that he used strong language in condemning conservatives for their attitudes toward gay people.

"We cannot forget that when Hitler came to power in 1933, one of the first things that he did was ban gay organizations," he told the enthusiastic crowd attending the group's convention.

"There is no excuse for hateful rhetoric that fuels the hellfires of anti-gay bigotry."

He chastised conservatives for making an embryo in a fertility clinic more important than working against poverty and social ills.

Jerry of Lynchburg

Liberty Counsel is the name of a right-wing group that wants to sue you if you don't have the right attitude about Christmas. Well, actually, they say they will sue you if you spread false information about how Christmas can be celebrated in government-owned spaces.

The immoral minority leader, Mr.

Falwell, is right in there supporting this effort. But what is it *really* about? Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State says it's *really* just all about money. He says all it is is a sales pitch to the unenlightened masses of America to send them money so they can defend (?) Christmas.

"There is no jihad against Christians. There is nothing going on around Christmas except these groups' incessant fundraising," he told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Now let's check up on this Liberty Counsel thing. Here's their website. (Without looking them up, you and I knew they would be homophobic. But here they are and yes they are.)

Click here for the book "Same-Sex Marriage: Putting Every Household at Risk."

Click here to read about the "Dangers of Hate Crimes Laws."

Sick, sick sick. Pandering to people's prejudices in order to get their money. Sick, sick, sick.

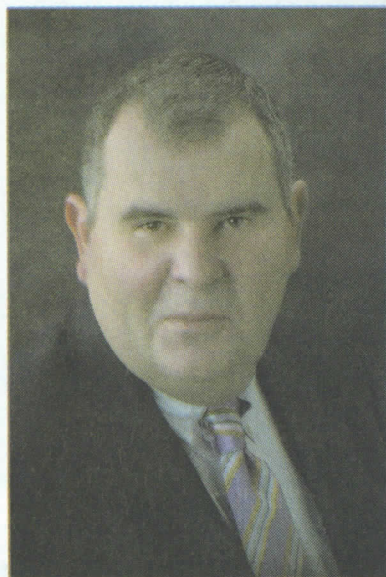
Have you ever thought about becoming rich and famous?



Steve Lovett

832-689-4867 slovett @ kw.com

Realtor®



Top 5 Reasons for Owning Your Home

1. No more pet deposits.
2. Great excuse for trips to Home Depot.
3. The city needs a new great neighborhood.
4. You may have as many pink flamingos on your lawn as you want.
5. Home ownership is easier and more affordable than you may think.

Montrose Bars & Restaurants

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

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

Brazos River Bottom 2400 Brazos, 713-528-9192. Cowboys are here. Open noon. 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

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

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

Chances/G-Spot/New Barn 1100 Westheimer, 713-523-7217. This is the women's mega-complex. Three big clubs, interconnected. Chances opens 2pm. Women's band Sat. nights. Open mic night Thursdays

Club 1415 1415 California, 713-522-7066. Open for theme parties some nights. Male strippers Thursdays. "The Dyke Show" Saturdays with Nancy Ford

Club Eve 2209 Richmond, 713-545-4574. Women's bar Thurs.-Sat. above Azteca restaurant

Cousins 817 Fairview, 713-528-9204. All types of customers, from the retired people to young men. Drag shows Thurs.-Sun. Open 11am (noon Sun.)

La Cueva Tequila Lounge 2312 Crocker. Hispanic club specializing in tequila, of course

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

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

Griff's 3417 Roseland, 713-528-9912. Not a gay bar. Irish bar and a neighborhood institution

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

Helios Formerly the Mausoleum, 411 Westheimer, 713-526-4648. Eclectic customers. Slightly gay. House was the home of Howard

Hughes as a toddler. Open nightly, every night has a different crowd and atmosphere

J.R.'s/Santa Fe 808 Pacific, 713-521-2519. Always a crowd. All types of people but generally younger. Open mid-day on Jeffrey's 710 Pacific. Opening very soon at the old O/Pacific Street location

Keys West 817 W. Dallas, 713-571-7870. A piano bar on the edge of downtown. Open 3pm. Darts, card games, drinking, singing and carousing with frequent shows. Live piano Wed.-Sat. nights

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

Mary's 1022 Westheimer, 713-527-9669. The oldest gay bar in Texas, open 7am (10am Sun.). Good happy hour crowd. Frequent shows and community events on the patio, especially Sundays

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rich's 2401 San Jacinto, 713-759-9606. Mega dance club open 9pm Thurs.-Sat. After-hours Fri. & Sat.

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

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

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

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

Cocktails 2411 Mechanic, (409) 762-7900. Not really gay. 2 clubs, one is a piano bar, other a small dance club

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

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

Robert's Lafitte 2501 Ave. Q, (409) 765-9092. A down-to-earth bar open 7am (10am Sun.). Early brunch and late drag shows on Sundays. All ages of people

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

Outlying Bars

within 100 miles

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

Chris' Crockett St. Pub 407 Crockett at Park, Beaumont, (409) 835-4243. Your general drinking and flirting kind of bar

Club Big Yo 6305 Skyline, S.W. Houston, 713-953-0268. Women's club open Thurs.-Sun.

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

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

House of Finesse 2912 Wentworth, near T.S.U. campus, 713-522-6074. "Casual elegance." Fridays are men's nights

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

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

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

Viviana's 4624 Dacoma, 713-681-4104. New location, primarily Hispanic show bar with female impersonators

Private Social 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

Community Outreach Prevention Services

Free HIV and Syphilis Testing

Results in 20 Minutes and Lots of Incentives!

713-830-3070

1415 Bar & Grill

1415 California
Thursday
8pm-Midn.
Carlos

Decades

1205 Richmond
Monday 6-10pm
Dennis

611 Hyde Park Pub

611 Hyde Park
Tuesday 4-8pm
Quincy

E/J's

2517 Ralph
Wednesday 10pm-lam
Friday 10pm-lam
Rhonda & Lourdes

Inergy/Mango Lounge

5750 Chimney Rock
Monday 10pm-2am
Carlos

Mary's, Naturally

1022 Westheimer
Wednesday 4-8pm
Jack

Brazos River Bottom

2400 Brazos
Thursday
8pm-Midn.
Lourdes

Midtowne Spa

3100 Fannin
Tuesday 10pm-lam
Carlos

Club Houston

2205 Fannin
Tuesday, 8pm-Midn.
Dennis

Wednesday 10pm-lam
Juan

Friday 10pm-lam
Quincy

Club Big Yo

9347 I/2 Richmond
Saturday 11pm-2am
Carlos

Ripcord

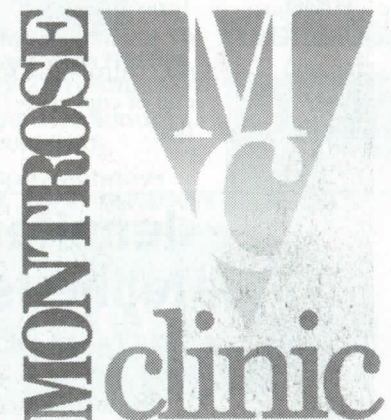
715 Fairview
Wednesday
9pm-Midn.
Jack

Cousins

817 Fairview
Thursday
8pm-Midn.
Jack

Viviana's

4624 Dacoma
Friday 10pm-lam
Carlos



The Montrose Puzzle

Towering presence to the east of Montrose

27 DOWN, 7 LETTERS

By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

- 1 Texas Chili Parlor or Texas Electric Cooperative or Texas Commission on Peckers ... take your pick
 4 laughing sounds
 6 missing letters: ne c (not upright in position or posture)
 7 a doomed one
 9 emits light
 10 you
 15 missing letters: t d su s (money Enron executives made in their collapse)
 16 Richmond Ave. on the other side of Main
 18 handle of a scythe (Scot.)
 20 variation of ole, as in Miss U.
 21 missing letters: Fr p rt (Brazoria Co. community)
 22 fund favored by the likes of Tom DeLay
 26 in the Texas Legislature, "the have it" sometimes
 28 missing letters: Co e n (lantern & camping accessories company)
 30 versus
 32 columnist, host-

ess Maxwell

33 thousands and

thousands of them live in Montrose

36 Texas locale for "Rocky Horror"

38 evergreen trees (anagram of SEWY)

39 missing letters: cr s dress r (many a Montrose street walker)

40 Southwest Airlines home field

41 missing letters: m l ca s (little ABC's)43 clear day, you can ...45 do re 46 missing letters: i ey oods (East Texas forest)

47 just a single time

49 chatroom short: end of conversation

DOWN

1 characteristics of a ruffian

2 late gossip columnist of the Houston Voice

3 remarka-

ble developments

5 cook slowly in liquid

8 missing letters: ick ha (Chinese passenger cart)

10 holler like a cow

11 poet cummings

12 pertaining to the ileum (whatever that is ... oh, it's part of the small intestine ... how nice); anagram of ALICE

13 previously

14 orchards

17 slang for 39

ACROSS

50 Hindu unknown god
 51 "in" in Spanish

19 physician
 22 direction Amarillo to Montrose
 23 an honorary law degree
 24 clothing sold at Women's Thrift Center
 25 capital of Yemen
 27 towering presence to the east of Montrose

29 craftsman who works with stone
 31 direction Dallas to Galveston

33 short for company
 34 salesperson

35 missing letters: w rd Hughes (lived in Montrose at one time)

37 singer Lopez, initials, b. Dallas 1937

42 I love (Latin)

44 direction Montrose to Waco

46 Texas state tree

48 soft drink brand

Solution next issue
 #28 c.2005 Gulf Features 713-529-2325

Previous Solution

Initialed name: Annie Oakley. Montrose is a great vacation destination

SCAR
 HALE
 MMA
 OPAL
 HI-MESSAGES
 NH-INCLINE
 AGONY-EMIT
 OILLOBBY-ANA-RESE
 TRIO-UNABLE-WREN
 EL PASO-UI-POSSE
 TEN BUFFALO
 OF-LLUS
 BALLS
 LUI
 ONE
 GS

Free Ads

20 words or less, free, IF ad is Emailed to MontroseGem @ Yahoo.Com or mailed or dropped off at 408 Avondale, Houston 77006. One-inch display ads available at \$19 with first ad half price. Call 713-529-2325.

GALVESTON APARTMENT 43rd Street, 2/1, 1600 sq. ft., hardwoods, central HVAC, 2 car garage, appliances. \$850. Mark (409) 750-9916

MARY'S IN THE MORNINGS with Ms. Jones, 7am-2pm. \$1.25 draft

MEN'S AA GROUP meets 7pm Sundays, 2515 Waugh (rear parking lot entrance)

PLUMERIA and other exotic tropicals for sale in Galveston. 832-628-6722.

FREE SNACKS at The 611 Tues., Wed. & Thurs. with Gilbert, Nacho Man. And Fabulous drinks!!!

MOVING SERVICE Low cost, gay owned, homes/apts./offices. Rainbow Moving. Jack Sheeks 713-942-2507

ONE DOLLAR VODKA all day, all night Sundays at The 611. \$1 brunch noon-2pm

HOUSE CLEANER, personal assistant available in Montrose or surrounding area. Reasonable rates. Contact Tom at TJM719 @ SBCGlobal.Net or 281-813-2699

MASTER STEVEN LLOYD announces "He's back ..." with "Master Lloyd's Master-sagge & Bodywork." Studio warming soon. Stay tuned. 832-474-8845

BIKE FOR A BETTER CITY bicycle club rides Sunday mornings 8am. Aaron 713-861-3898 or Email BikeForABetterCity @ HotMail.Com

CC'S YARD SERVICE and house painting, inside and outside. 832-203-7614, leave message, will call back ASAP. L. Dean Cummings

DYNAMITE MORNINGS Fridays and Saturdays at The 611 with Little Mike's eye-popping openers, 7am-1pm

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

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES OFFERED Part-time/full-time. 30 years experience in restaurants, clubs. John Hubert, 713-523-6381

CAREGIVER available any hours, rates are negotiable. Call Brian 713-742-8823

MIDTOWNE SPA is looking for dependable floor staff. Contact Bam at 713-522-2379 Sat.-Tues. after 8pm

HANDYMAN No job too small. List 5 home projects you hate to even think about. Now call Ken & Obama 713-922-5626

Jennifer Parello's Dateline Is In The GEM

Be a Part of the Next Montrose GEM
 Deadline Saturday, Dec. 10
 To Be Released Thursday, Dec. 15
 Call Henry or Brian at 713-529-2325

Rick Hall

He was a generous member of our gay community. Nothing pleased him more than to join up for the latest fund-raiser and stage an event.

One of those groups was the Sambvca Sisters, of which he was named an Honorary Sister.

He had recently lost his partner, Manual "Munkey" Sabedra, and his best friend, T.R. "Mother" White.

Rick passed away Nov. 14, 2005.



vitamins



sports nutrition



herbs



source

Houston Buyers Club

3224 Yoakum Blvd. houstonbuyersclub.com 713.520.5288

POOL, DARTS, GENERAL MISCHIEF

HAPPY HOUR:
MONDAY-SATURDAY
11AM-8PM
\$2.25 WELL &
DOMESTIC BEER



301 Dart
Tournament
8pm
Wednesdays

8-Ball Open Tourney 9pm Fridays
9-Ball Open Tourney 2pm Saturdays

Open Pool Tables All Day Sundays,
8-Ball Tourney 3pm

8-Ball Tourney 8pm Mondays
GHPBL Wednesdays, HMBL Thursdays



1205 RICHMOND 713-521-2224



Two o'clock on a Sunday on Bourbon Street



... and 10:00 p.m. on a Saturday night

Cheap Motels

You've seen those cheap motels along the seawall in Galveston. I've stayed at many of them. During the winter (like right now) you can actually find one for \$20 a night. But beware: the sheets are thin, your bath towel is the size of a hand towel, and there's probably mildew in the bathroom.

Your best bet though is the old gay favorite, The Commodore. It's more than \$20 but well worth it.

The whole purpose of this little



days with near-Beano hair, sings "Galveston, Oh, Galveston"

spiel is so we can put a photo of Glen Campbell in here.

Sing it Glen!

Men in New Orleans

Several newspapers, including the Toronto Star, have reported stories recently that the French Quarter, all of the French Quarter, resembles a giant gay bar.

It is "a life noticeably bereft of women." Of course, most of these males are not gay. It's just strange to see the (decidedly smaller) crowds on Bourbon Street to be all men.

They are the construction workers, clean-up crews, police and government

officials. Come with me as we check the Bourbon Street cam right now, at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27. (You can too at www.nola.com.)

The camera is at Cat's Meow. If you were to continue about five blocks in the way the man is going in the first photo, you'd be at Lafitte's.



Elton and David, the couple

And here's an archived photo from 10:00 p.m. the night before.

Montrose Tree

The official lighting of the official Montrose Christmas Tree will be Sunday, Dec. 11, 5:00 p.m.

The original Montrose Christmas Tree was at that little park where the feeder road hits Elgin/Westheimer and goes on to become Brazos Street. It was put there without city permission.

The cops showed up and said you can't do this. We sang Christmas carols and lighted the tree anyway as the cops fussed. But that's all they initially did as there were about a hundred of us and we were determined.

After the crowd started to break of, several of us were arrested, including, I believe, Ray Hill.

The tree stayed up until after Christmas was over and then the city

built the little garden thing that is there now to prevent us from doing it again. They even gave it a name: Westheimer Colony Plaza. (See photos on the front cover.)

So the tree the next year was placed atop Mary's at 1022 Westheimer. The ceremony has been repeated every year since. This year it will be at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 at Mary's.

Some of the facts above are a little fuzzy but I think that's the way it all happened. I was there.

Elton John's Wedding

In Britain, you know, things are happening. The bars can stay open 24 hours now and anyone can get married.

Bars first: Pubs in England as of just last month (November) had to close at 11:00 p.m.

Can you image that? They kick you out just as you are starting to feel pretty.

The British responded by getting as snookered as they could the closer to 11 it got. Then they would pile out onto the streets literally falling down.

Parliament decided it needed to join with the rest of Europe and do away with specified drinking hours. They reasoned that it could not be any worse than it is now.

But, just to be on the safe side, since the British already have a habit of drinking 'til they drop, they are opening up "hangover hospitals."

They will take you there if you appear to be not in control of yourself.

Now back to Elton.

He's marrying cutie David Furnish under their new civil union law. They have been together 12 years.

Imagine that. The right to get married (civil union equivalent) and 24-hour bars. This ain't Texas.

Henry

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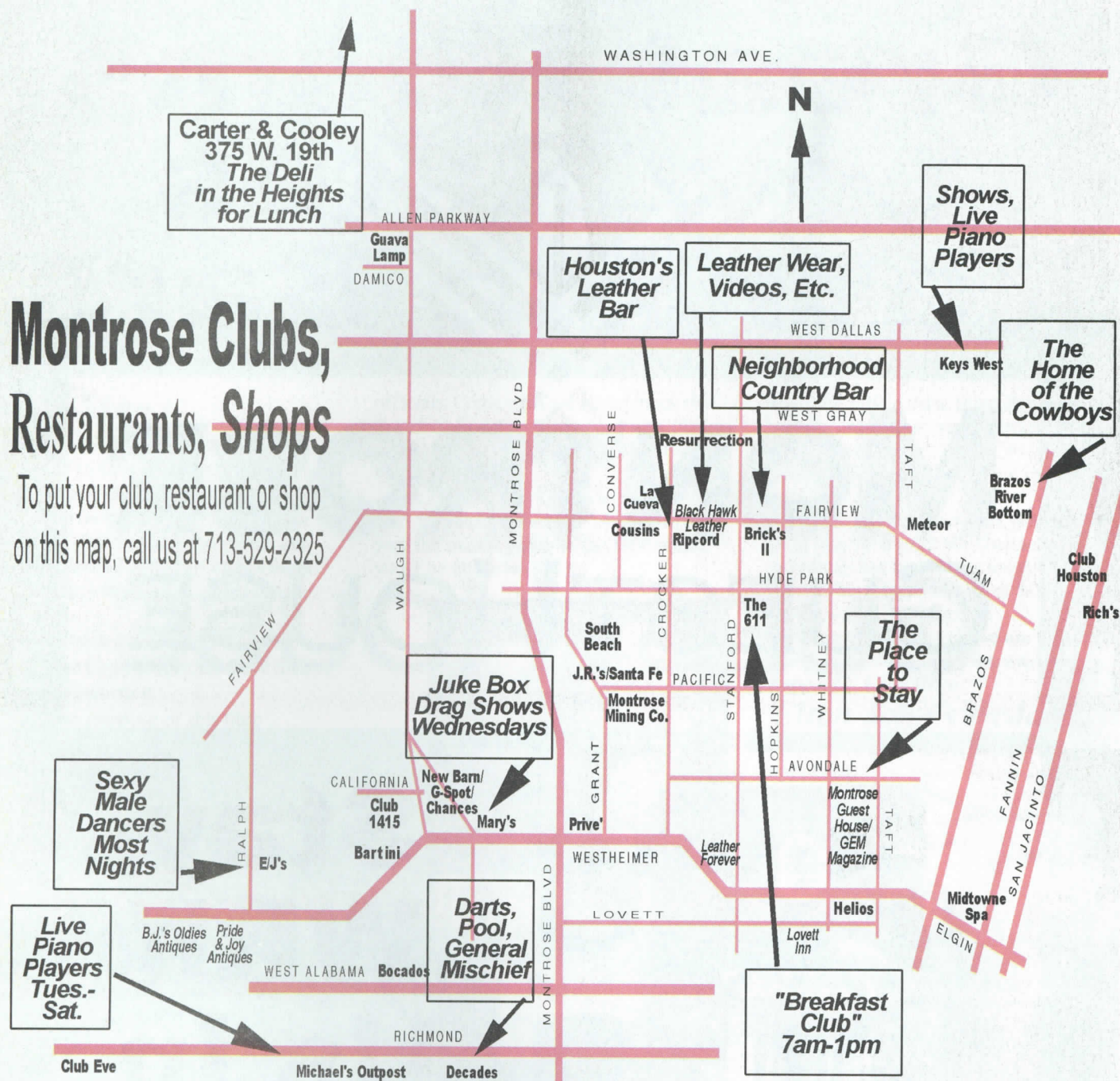
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1951-2005

Rick died at his home on November 14, 2005

There will be no formal memorial service
and his ashes will be scattered in
the Gulf of Mexico in the spring

There will be a Farewell Party at Decades

Saturday, December 3, 2005

3:00 p.m.

**Rick's favorite taco bar will be set up with
all the fixings, so stop by for a bite to each,
a drink and to see some good friends.**

Donations for Rick's final
expenses will be appreciated

Hope to see everyone there

To Say So Long

Scorpio to Meet a Jolly Person

HOROSCOPES by HELGA (The Exalted One)

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An upcoming Sunday will be your day to remember. A Pisces will play an important role while your recent frustrations will melt away as you go shopping for something red.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stay on your steady course and focus on the one you care about most. Unexpected conversations will happen and you will handle them with unexpected grace. Business and pleasure will also mix well this holiday season.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Life is good. You will be having a busy Christmas but will still have the time to go on a greeting spree. Yes. Busy, meeting and greeting, but remember it is a holiday. Look for wonderment with stability.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): You will be writing a letter soon. It will be a real letter, pen and paper, not an e-mail. Who will it be to? You already know. You will be gracious as you compose the words.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone this Christmas season has the hots for you. Yes, you are the object of someone's intense desire. As Martha would say, "This is a good thing." No matter how you handle it, the outcome will help you learn and grow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Questioning authority is a good trait. You will continue to do so as you seek dark and cozy places for Christmas encounters. Your future is arriving as you read this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): You will sight a lighted path soon and will be tempted to follow it. Go ahead. It will be a winding road that will take you on a remarkable, marvelous adventure. The uncertainties will entice you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Absolutely thrilling you are this time of the year. But you will seek out even more adventure during the next few weeks. A jolly person radiating strength and bravery will be encountered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You work hard for your money. So, work easy spending it. Right under your nose is a spirit waiting to help you spread the wealth. Your life is about to get much more interesting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Recently you were bothered by an old grinch. He's gone now so you can jump into the joy of the season. Helga sees that shortly you will spot a message in an unusual place. Read and follow in a gradual way. You will understand.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The facts of life for you: Work, save, play. But now that it is December, concentrate on the play. You won't have to search far, Helga sees, for a playmate. You will love to love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Expect new passions from an old flame. This person is still "the one" and you can fulfill your desire to have your way, if you know what Helga means. There will be one clue thrown out for your interception and interpretation. *Helga's lottery results from last issue: Zip, nada, none. Oh well. Cumulative: Down \$36. Here are Helga's picks for Dec. 2 & 3, 2005. Mega Millions Friday: 26, 7, 14, 3, 49. Mega Ball: 28. Megaplier? Yes. And for Lotto Texas Saturday: 44, 29, 39, 23, 36. Bonus Ball: 31.*

Holidays and benefits ... Plan Your Parties

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

Thurs., Dec. 1 World AIDS Day

Thurs., Dec. 1 IBL pool league end of season team tournament, 8pm Slick Willies

Fri., Dec. 2 ERSICSS Black Jack Night 9pm Keys West

Fri.-Sun., Dec. 2-4 Dickens on The Strand, Galveston

Sat., Dec. 3 3rd Coast Family "Kinky Christmas," 7pm, Keys West

Sun., Dec. 4 ERSICSS Christmas show, 7pm BRB, hosted by Bob Bouton & Renee Monroe

Sun., Dec. 4 ICOH "Maintaining the Magic," Keys West, 7pm

Tues., Dec. 6 ERSICSS Drag Bingo, Meteor, from 9pm

Wed., Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor Day

Fri., Dec. 9 ERSICSS Black Jack Night 9pm Keys West

Fri., Dec. 9 ICOH presents Tis the Season of Frolic & Fun, E/J's, 8pm

Fri., Dec. 9 DD DeMarco, ERSICSS candidate, presents "Just Because," 8pm, E/J's

Sat., Dec. 10 Faces of the Month, 7pm, Keys West

Sun., Dec. 11 Annual Montrose Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, 5pm, Mary's

Sun., Dec. 11 ERSICSS general membership meeting, Meteor, 2PM

Sun., Dec. 11 GaLLO's La Pachange de Lupe-Reyes, La Cueva Tequila Lounge

Sun., Dec. 11 IBL pool league Christmas tournament & toy drive, noon

Tues., Dec. 13 ERSICSS Drag Bingo, Meteor, from 9pm

Thurs., Dec. 15 GaLLO's Christmas Party

Thurs., Dec. 15 Full Moon

Fri., Dec. 16 ERSICSS's Lillian Devareavx's "Merry Christmas from the Family," Keys West

Sat., Dec. 17 ERSICSS BOB-sponsored candidate show, 10pm, Undercurrent

Sat., Dec. 17 Misfits bartend on Ripcord's patio

Sun., Dec. 18 NLA bartends Mary's patio, 3-7pm

Sun., Dec. 18 Key's West Christmas Party, 6pm, followed by Face of the Year Contest

Wed., Dec. 21 First Day of Winter

Dec. 24 NLA monthly membership meeting, 7:30pm, then

members bartend 9:30pm-1:30am, Ripcord patio

Dec. 25 Christmas

Dec. 25 ??GLBT Community Center's movie & game night, 7pm 3400 Montrose #207

Dec. 26 Hanukkah

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

2006

Jan. 1 New Year's Day

Jan. 7 ERSICSS BOD-sponsored show 7pm, Keys West

Jan. 7 Krewe of Olympus 12th Night Party, 427 Lovett, 7-11pm

Jan. 8 ERSICSS general membership meeting, Meteor, 2pm

Jan. 9 ERSICSS early/absentee voting, Meteor, 6-9pm

Jan. 13 ERSICSS pre-voting BOD-sponsored show, 7pm, Keys West

Jan. 14 Full Moon

Jan. 14 ERSICSS regular voting, Houston 1-6pm location TBA,

Galveston 8-10pm Undercurrent

Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 19 ERSICSS Coronation XXII Intown Show, 9pm, Meteor

Jan. 20 ERSICSS Coronation XXII Out of Town Show 7-9pm, Marriott West Loop, and bar bus tour 9pm-2am

Jan. 21 ERSICSS Coronation XXII "21st Century Leatherman Meets the Medieval Maidens, Marriott West Loop, 7pm-midnight

Jan. 22 ERSICSS Victory Show, 8pm BRB

Jan. 22 Miss Keys West Pageant

Feb. 5 Super Bowl XL

Feb. 12 Lincoln's birthday

Feb. 13 Full Moon

Feb. 14 Valentine's Day

Feb. 17-28 Mardi Gras Galveston

Feb. 20 Presidents' Day

Feb. 22 Washington's birthday

Feb. 25 Krewe of the Moons of Uranus Mardi Gras Galveston Gay Bus Trip

Feb. 28 Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday

March 2-5 Houston Council of Clubs 33rd annual Let Us Entertain You Weekend

March AIDS Walk

March Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

March 14 Full Moon

March 17 St. Patrick's Day

March 20 First Day of Spring

April 2 Daylight Savings Time Begins (lose an hour)

April 9 Palm Sunday

April Montrose Softball League season begins

April 13 Full Moon, Passover

April 14 Good Friday

April 16 Easter Sunday

April NLA Spring Iniquity

April 28 National Arbor Day

May 13 Full Moon



DATELINE

By Jennifer Parello

Endangered in the Outfield

We were standing outside the state capitol at a rally for an endangered insect when Greta turned to me and made a shocking announcement.

I'm signing us up for a softball team, she said poisonously, making every syllable sound like a threat.

As I sputtered helplessly in response, I was dealt another blow. The leader of the rally reluctantly stepped up to the podium and told us that he had just learned that the insect (a type of spotted beetle whose name I'd rather not mention because I'm so disgusted with it) is not really endangered. It's not even threatened. Rather, he said, coughing nervously, it's troubled.

That makes two of us, I whispered to myself, as Greta took my measurements for a team jersey.

I had learned about the rally a week before from a cute member of an extremist entomology group who was passing out flyers about the bug. This little guy really needs your support, she said, staring soulfully into my eyes and caressing my palms as she gave me the leaflet.

I convinced Greta to attend the rally after promising her that it would be populated with lots of hot biologists.

And there are sure to be plenty of suburban gardener-types, who are lightly insane and passionate about things that live in dirt, I said.

Just my type! she said.

But when we got to the rally at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, we were greeted by a gaggle of anemic looking middle-aged men with straggly beards who looked in desperate need of mothering.

Where are the women?

Greta asked.

Women? said one of the men, as if he had never heard the word before.

This is the last straw! Greta exclaimed. I've had it with your cockamamie schemes to meet girls. And then she said the terrible thing about joining a softball team.

I belonged to a softball team very early in my career as a lesbian. On my first day of practice, the coach gave me the once over and asked me what I was made of. told her I was made of about 96 percent water and the other 4 percent was pure cowardice. So, she planted me in left field and told me to stay out of trouble.

I liked left field. It was peaceful and quiet. I would spend my time in the outfield singing Noel Coward songs to myself and trying to make friends with squirrels.

I was quite happy until one afternoon, as I was reciting

a haiku to some ants, I heard a strange whizzing noise. I looked up to see a white object screaming toward me.

Meteor! I yelled as I dropped my glove and ran off the field in a panic.

It took the centerfielder several minutes to run over and pick up the ball, which had landed with a thud at the exact spot where I had been standing moments before.

Following the game, there was a small, painful ceremony where I was drummed out of the lesbian softball community and told never to return.

Back at the rally, a disgruntled entomologist wadded up a picture of the troubled insect and tossed it to the ground. I picked it up and stared at the sad-eyed bug.

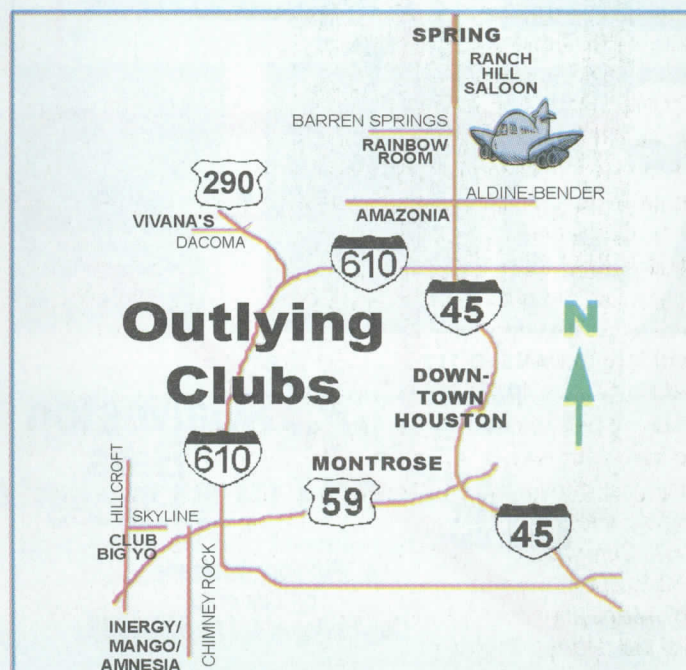
I wondered how long into the softball season it would be before my face appeared on a flyer with the word Endangered spelled out in hysterical bold print over my ball cap.

c.2005. Jennifer Farello is a syndicated columnist based in Chicago and can be contacted at JenniferFarello.com.

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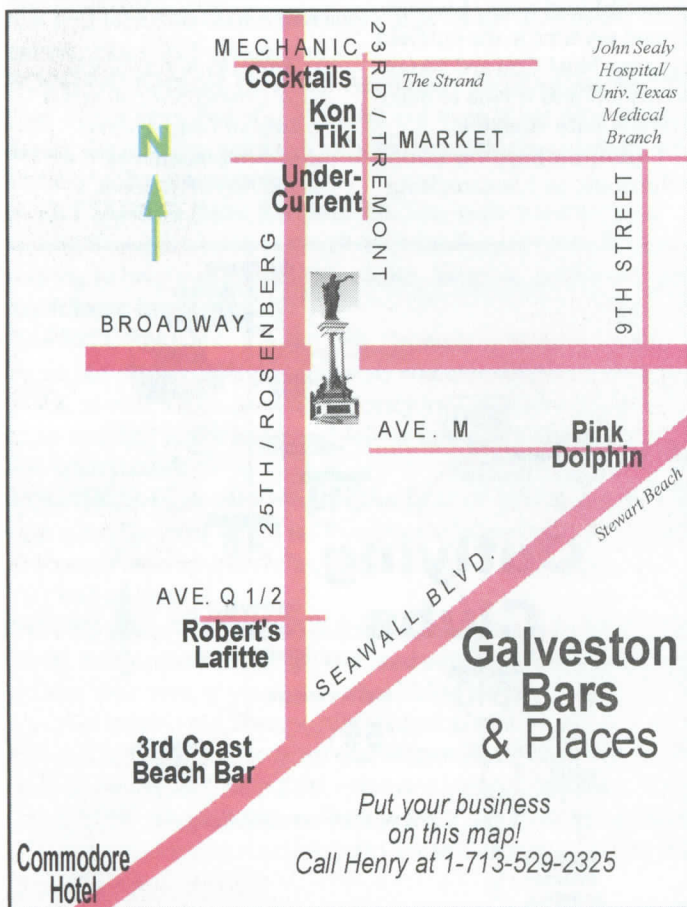
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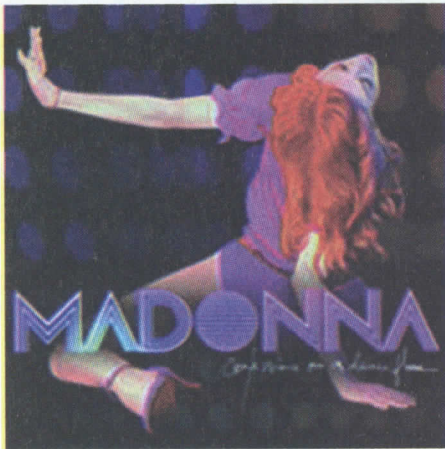
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Faith Evans/Mesmerized
Freemasons Club Mix BPM Slice/Capitol

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Radio Mix/Made

Paul Van Dyk/Wayne
Jackson/The Other Side
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Angel City Radio Mix/A&G (import)

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Sound Of San Francisco
Progressive Mix/Superstar

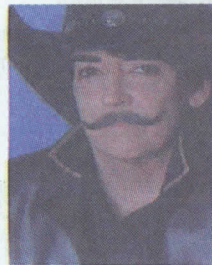
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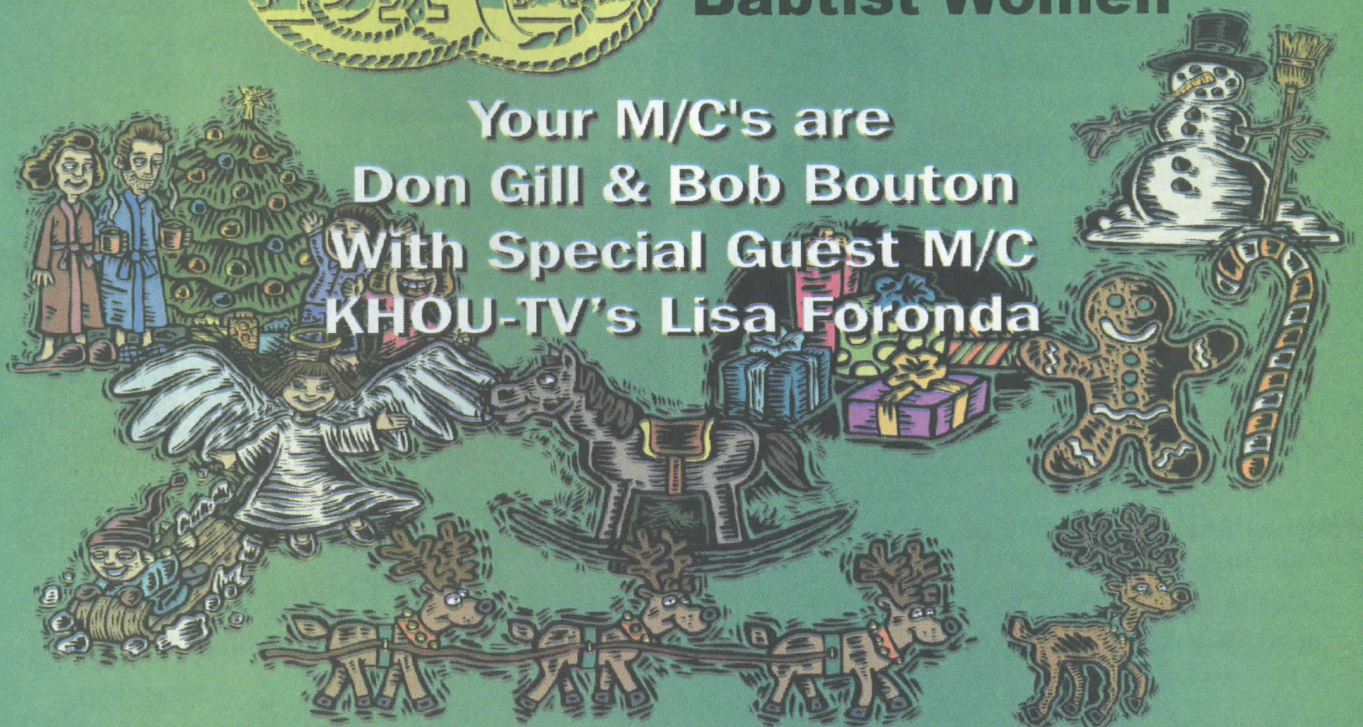
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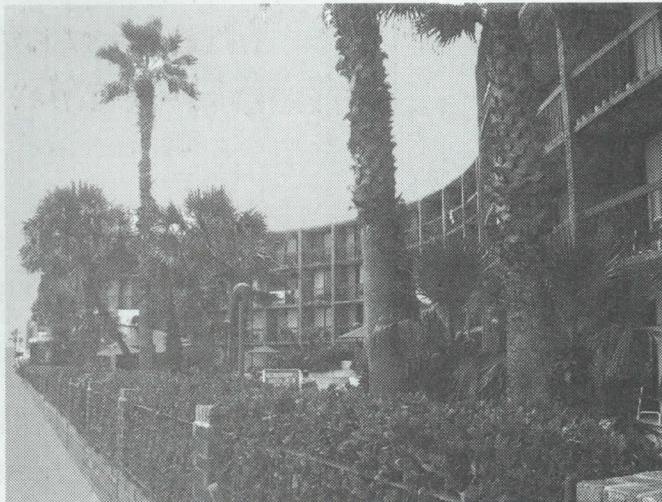
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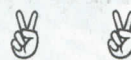
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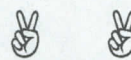
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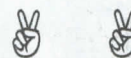
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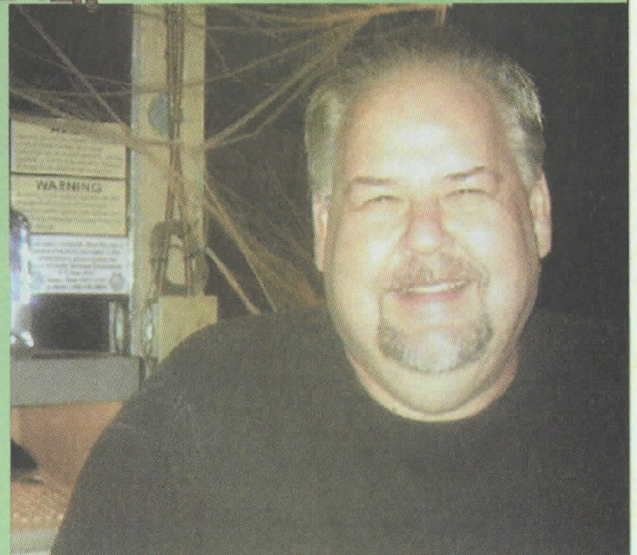
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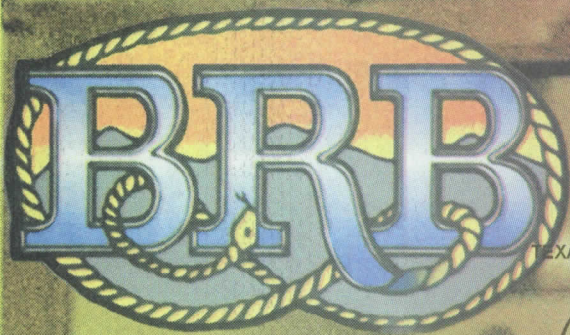
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