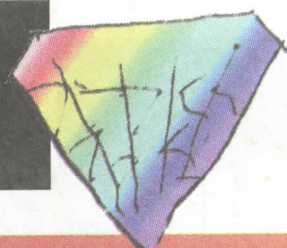


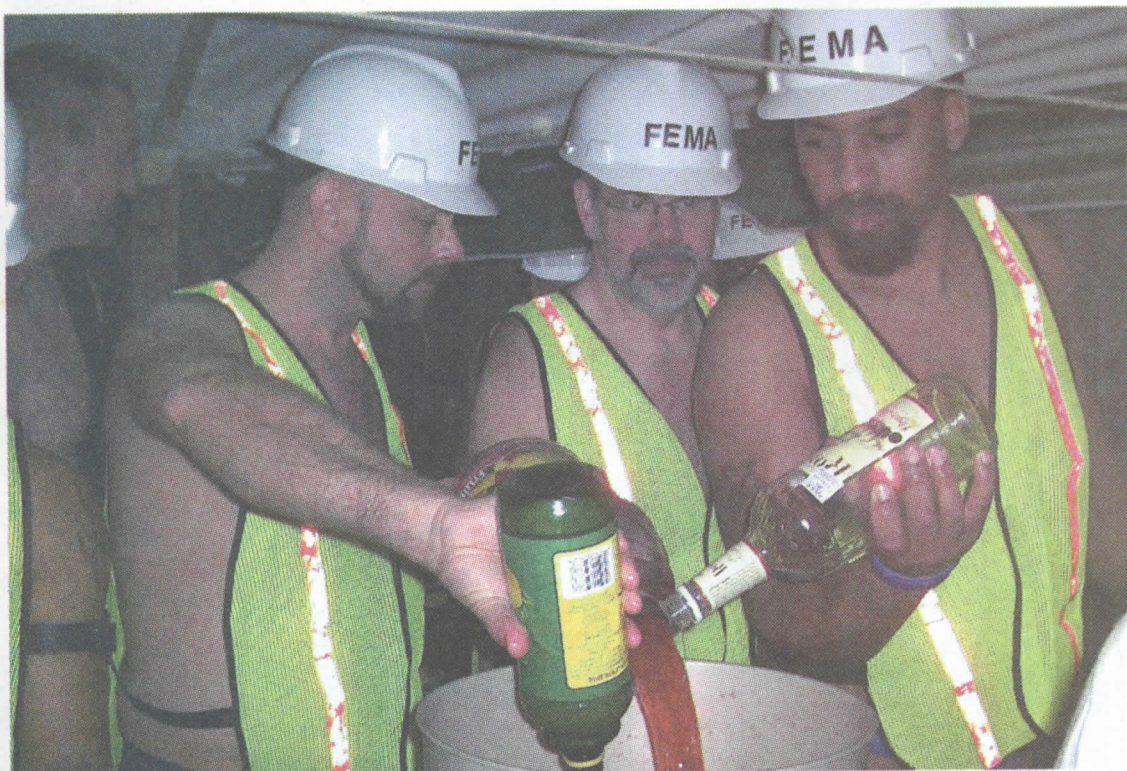
GEM



INSIDE: EVERY GAY BAR IN HOUSTON, GALVESTON

Gay Entertainment Magazine #34 March 10, 2006 713-529-2325 MontroseGEM @ Yahoo.com

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Thursdays - 9:30 ... Steve Wheaton at the piano

Fridays - 10:00 ... Croon with Roger

**Saturdays - 10:00 ... Show Tunes
With Wayne Gray**

**Louie's 85
Card Tournament
Monday, March 13th
6:00**

**Friday, March 24th - 7:00
King Father - Bob
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Present**

**Melvina Shirley's Baby Shower
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**Saturday, March 11th - 7:00 PM
COPA PRODUCTIONS
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Sign Up at Keys West by 6:00 PM**

**See Robert (M-F 3-9)
For Booking
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and
Events**

'Senior Follies' Is an Oldie-But- Goodie Comedy

Theater Review by Paul Hager for
Montrose GEM

Ever wonder where Dorothy, Blanche and Rose, those sassy, brassy Golden Girls, are today? Well, if you put them in the Pleasant Valley Retirement Home and gave them an equally delightful-extended family, you'd find them (or characters very similar) in the Houston premiere of the comedy "Senior Follies" currently playing at Theatre Suburbia.

Billy St. John's cleverly crafted sitcom-style script is rife with jokes, one-liners and sight gags about being and/or growing older; the men wax nostalgic remembering "when somebody asked you if you got any last night, they weren't talking about sleep" and the women hail Viagra as "the best thing to come along since Ben Gay or Tylenol Three!"

None of the ageism comedy is cruel or mean-spirited, however; we find ourselves laughing with these spry seniors, not at them as they refer to incontinence, blood pressure and sex-after-sixty. One particularly uproarious sequence results when a married couple is caught skinny-dipping in the hot tub while they are "bobbing for apples."

The story unfolds as Pleasant Valley matriarch Mrs. Rivers (Joecile Harlow) and its current residents welcome newcomers Sybil Thackery (Pam Lindsey) and Lowell Thackery (Bill Symington), a well-to-do brother and sister, into their community.

We quickly learn, however, that the Thackerays are not who they purport to be; rather they are a team of con artists intent on fleecing whichever residents they can out of whatever money they've got by persuading them to buy shares in a phony investment firm.



Our villains delight in discovering two perfect marks, the demurely gullible widow Iris (Marylynn Coryell) and the lecherous widower Howard (Arnold Richie), and begin seducing them. It doesn't take long for two of the sharper residents, Mildred (Marylin Faulkner) and Sara Jane (Carolyn Montgomery), to become suspicious of the Thackerays.

"After all," queries Mildred, "why would a couple of swells like them want to hang around a bunch of slobs like us?"

The sleuths label themselves Miss Marple and Jessica Fletcher, vowing to expose the impostors' skulduggery with the aid of fellow residents Bernice (Sandra Farquhar) and Douglas (Gene Griesbach). As the plot is more of a Columbo-esque how-done-it than a who-done-it, revealing more of it would be a disservice, but here's a clue: all's well that ends well due to "Miss Marple" getting a makeover at Merle Norman and "Jessica" thinking Jackie Cahn is a "hottie."

The cast is a solid ensemble of veteran Houston actors with nary a weak link in the chain. Each is spot-on in their portrayals, most notably Carolyn Montgomery as Sara Jane (always a delight on stage), Gene Griesbach as Douglas (his facial expressions hilarious) and

Marylynn Coryell as Iris (whose wide-eyed naivety could give Betty White a run for her money).

One minor complaint: I felt Arnold Ritchie could have been more lascivious in his interpretation of the randy Howard. Doris Merten's direction, although a bit stagnant in a couple of spots, kept the action moving at a quick, crisp pace on Elvin Moriarity's perfectly comfy-cozy set.

Theatre Suburbia has long enjoyed a well-deserved reputation for quality productions and Senior Follies, a highly amusing evening of entertainment, is no exception.

WHAT: Senior Follies by Billy St. John.
WHERE: Theatre Suburbia 1410 W 43rd St near Ella Blvd.
WHEN: Now playing through March 25. Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m. Matinees March 12 and 19. Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm
TICKETS: Adults \$10.00. Students and Seniors \$9.00. Matinees \$8.00 (all seats). For reservations: 713-682-3525. theatresuburbia.com.

Paul Hager is a native Houstonian who has been involved in local and regional theater for over thirty years as an actor, director and playwright. He is currently the associate producer for Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater.

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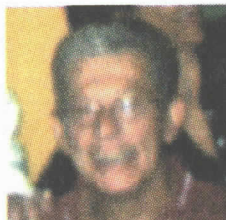
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GEM NEWS & BAR TALK

By Henry

Here's the 34th edition of your favorite gay publication. As usual, in this column, we will blatantly promote our advertisers, tell a joke or two, and make fun of the rightwingers who take "truthiness" seriously.

Tom Delay, the melting congressman from Sugar Land, now refers to all the trouble he's in as simply "D.C. gossip." Now that's truthiness.

Tom went to Washington and thought his purpose was to enrich his political party, whose name I will not utter. Most elected officials in Washington know their job is to look after the interest of their district, their state and their country.

Dancing!

DJ Tracy Young will spin at Rich's Saturday, March 11. So come join the Texas Circuit Boyz.

The 611

Anniversary

The 611 Hyde Park Pub turns 22 on Wednesday, March 15. They will celebrate from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Get it? Six to 11 at The 611). There will be drink specials and other surprises (Papa Dell and Gilbert will announce their nuptials? The juke box will play nothing but circus music? The train will fall off the tracks again?). And, of course, there will be a sumptuous buffet.

BRB

Anniversary

The "Burb" turns 29 over St. Patrick's Day weekend and there will be three days of cowboy frolicking with food and entertainment. On Friday the 17th, Saint Paddy's day, they will actually have green beer and green Jello shots for \$1.

On Saturday, the BRB will have well drinks and domestic bottle beer for \$2.50 noon to 2:00 a.m.

On Sunday, come for the buffet at 5:00 p.m. and the entertainer's appreciation show at 8:00 p.m. This is *not* a benefit. The performers get to keep their own tips!

There's more News & BarTalk

SLDN Announces 2006 Lobby Days

PRESS RELEASE from Servicemembers Legal Defense Network

WHAT: Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's (SLDN) 4th Annual Lobby Days and 14th Annual National Dinner in Washington, D.C.

WHO: Veterans, activists and SLDN supporters from across the country will gather in Washington, D.C. to lobby Members of Congress for support of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1059), a Congressional bill to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law banning lesbian, gay and bisexual service members.

SLDN's Lobby Days coincide with the organization's 14th Annual National Dinner, featuring Lieutenant General Claudia Kennedy, USA (Ret.), the highest-ranking female officer in Army history and author of *Generally Speaking*.

SLDN will also honor Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) with its Randy Shilts Visibility Award for her work to bring attention to the plight of lesbian, gay and bisexual service members and her outspoken support of the movement to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

WHEN: 14th Annual National Dinner: Saturday, May 13.

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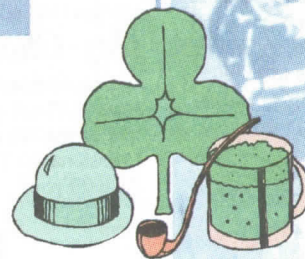
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Here's Your Spam

Actually I see where Hormal's Spam is now sold in individual slices. This span is good. On white bread with mayonnaise.

But on to the other spam.

"Chairman Contract Award Committee," "Attention Make Claims for Your Winning!!!," "Swift Message from Shirley George," etc., etc.

In the old days you would get a message saying you won thousands or millions but they needed you to send money for taxes first, or something like that. That doesn't work anymore.

Here's the new scam.

They simply send you a check for (say) \$24,000. It's an out-of-country check of course. You deposit it but your bank tells you they'll need seven days or ten days or two weeks while they wait for it to clear before releasing the money.

Meanwhile, you get a phone call telling you that the lottery made a big mistake and you actually won (say) \$800,000! That check will be on the way to you but they need the \$24,000 returned.

So you write a check for \$24,000 and send it to them.

Then (thud!) your bank tells you the original \$24,000 check was bogus and you won't get that money. But the check you wrote to the scammer is honored because you had your savings account serving as a backup to the your checking account for any overdrafts.

That's how it works. You lose.

The moral of the story: If you didn't enter the lottery there is no way you are going to win the lottery.

Playing Cards

Louie's 85 Card Tournament continues on Monday, March 13, 6:00 p.m., at Keys West. The game is a kind of progressive gin rummy. (Gin rummy? Sounds like a drunken Secretary of Defense.)

Anyway, they'll teach you how to play if necessary and group you with others at a table. Winners progress to other rounds until finally someone wins a date with Donald Rumsfeld.

Cruise Tiresome

Actor Tom "He's Not Gay"

Cruise and his fiance Katie Holmes have been voted "most tiresome" by The Razzles. This is a group that parodies Hollywood award shows.

Cruise has, however, personally created a new slang expression, "Jump the couch." This means someone has gone off the deep end, as Tom did on Oprah.

Golf With Friends

The Friends of Pride have announced that they will hold their first ever golf tournament Saturday, April 1, at Herman Park Golf Course.

It will be a scramble with shotgun teeoff at 1:00 p.m.

After it's all over, there will be an awards ceremony and (of course) cocktails. Contact Brad Odem at 713-522-0730 or bodom@pridehouston.org.

Wear your best Rodney Dangerfield golfing outfit.

Gay Choir

GMCH (Gay Men's Choir of Houston?) will stage the greatest hits of the 70's at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana, on Tuesday, March 28, 8:00 p.m.

Henry

Legislation to Repeal 'Don't Ask' Has Support

PRESS RELEASE from Servicemembers Legal Defense Network

One year after its introduction, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1059), a Congressional bill to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," is now co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of 110 Members of Congress.

The legislation, introduced on March 2, 2005, by Congressman Marty Meehan (D-MA) would repeal the military's ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual service members and allow gay Americans to serve openly.

Four Republican lawmakers have joined 106 Democrats in supporting the bill.

"Congress is increasingly recognizing that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is a counter-productive law that hurts our national security and undermines our nation's commitment to equality," said SLDN Director of Law and Policy Sharra E. Greer.

More than 10,000 service members have been discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" since its implementation in 1993 and has cost the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

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Montrose Clubs

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

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

Brazos River Bottom 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

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

EJ'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

Hellos 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

Jeffries 710 Pacific. Non-smoking gay club (patio open for smoking). Open daily 4pm-2am.

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 (noon 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

Prive' 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 Clubs

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 features karaoke

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

Pink Dolphin 904 Ave. M at Stewart Beach, (409) 621-1808. Patio overlooks the Gulf. 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.). All ages of people. Drag shows Sat. & Sun. nights

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 Clubs

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

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. Only open for special events

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

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

Viviana's 4624 Dacoma, 713-681-4104. New location, primarily Hispanic. Female impersonators

Private Clubs

Club Houston 2200 Fannin, 713-659-4998. Open 24 hours. Gym, pool, whirlpool, sauna. Private rooms and lockers

Midtowne Spa 3100 Fannin, 713-522-2379. Open 24 hours. Gym, pool, whirlpool, sauna. Private rooms and lockers

Anti-Gay Amendment in Wisconsin

PRESS RELEASE from Human Rights Campaign

"The Legislature voted to discriminate but fair-minded Wisconsin voters will have the final say in November," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

Wisconsin moved a step closer to adding discrimination to their state constitution yesterday with the legislative passage of a constitutional amendment banning civil unions and marriage for same-sex couples.

"Wisconsinites do not want to see their friends and neighbors forever denied the ability to visit their loved one in the hospital or share health and retirement benefits, but that's exactly what this far-reaching constitutional amendment would do."

Group to Stage Class in Houston for Spanish Media

PRESS RELEASE from Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has announced the launch of a national campaign to train radio professionals. Trainings have begun with Univision Radio and Entravision Communications Corporation, two of the most influential Spanish-language radio companies in the United States.

The campaign will allow GLAAD to educate hundreds of media professionals on covering the GLBT community and will provide essential information on terminology, character development, GLBT issues and local contacts.

The media trainings, to be conducted in the top-ten Spanish-language media markets, are Austin, Miami, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Houston, Phoenix, San Antonio, and Chicago.

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Tunes of Travel for Taurus

HOROSCOPES by HELGA

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is not the time to share secrets. You'll want to, but hold off. Be patient and calm as you make it through these unusual days.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A little traveling music might be in order for you. As you listen, plan things to do. You will be honest about your needs and destinations in life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Trust is the word for Gemini. Put your faith in others and they will provide the guidance. You remember recent pleasures? They will repeat. Take a pause and wait.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Your presence provides others a respite from a storm. You are, in a sense, the one that will stand and hold the umbrella. You will be atop the big picture and then the weather will clear.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's not that difficult to comprehend your immediate needs. Take care of that today. Tomorrow a new set of options will present itself in regard to your third-closest friend. Your eyes will be wide open.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Something at work could push you too far to the dark side but you will recognize this and fight the temptation. Making a sudden move will not be in your best interest. You will relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): A scenario is developing between you and a Scorpio. Yes, it's a Scorpio scenario. You will provide each other with moral support on a financial issue. Then this will lead to another adventure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Let the powerful influence you over the next few days. Give in. They will help you make life more comfortable and natural. You will reap benefits in the future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Some of those around you are not who they seem to be. There are "aliens" in the neighborhood. You will be able to distinguish though by asking the right questions about all the usual subjects: love, money, satisfaction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A water sign (Scorpio or Pisces) will help you with your "studies" this coming week. There may be some after-hours "learning." Helga knows that you will be a good student.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Even though you're distracted by an enticing daydream, snap out of it for you have waiting for you a stud muffin. He will be delicious and lickable. But ... someone from the past may try to interfere.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You could use some rejuvenation after the activities of the past weeks. Helga advises you to be alert for a Scorpio may be just what you need. Security will be provided.

Helga's lottery results from last issue: Not a darn thing.

Cumulative: Down \$45. Here are Helga's picks for March 10 & 11, 2006. Mega Millions Friday: 24, 23, 49, 40, 15. Mega Ball: 17. Megaplier? Yes. And for Lotto Texas Saturday: 41, 5, 25, 4, 2. Bonus Ball: 2.

DVD RENTALS

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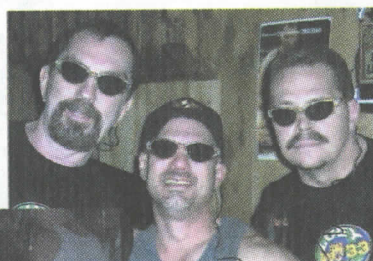
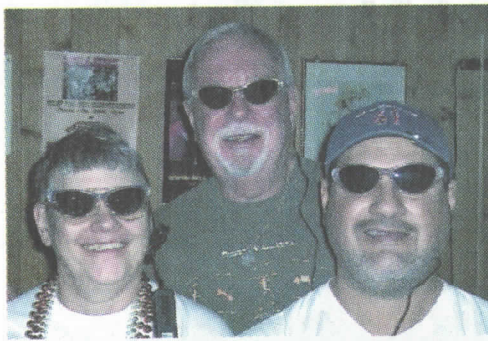
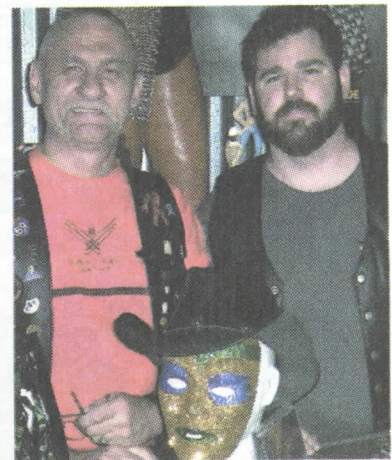
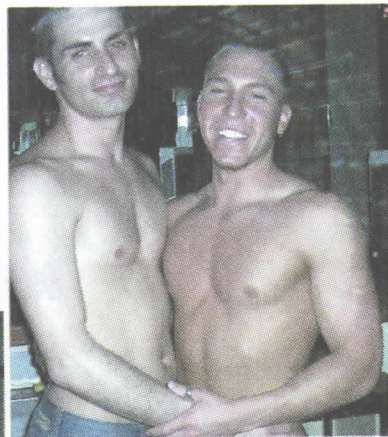
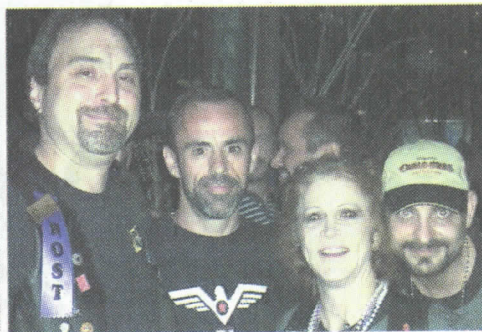
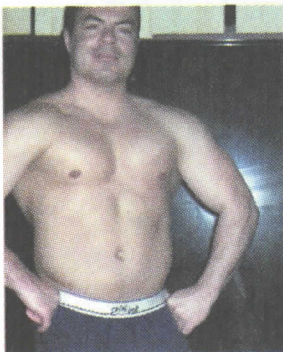
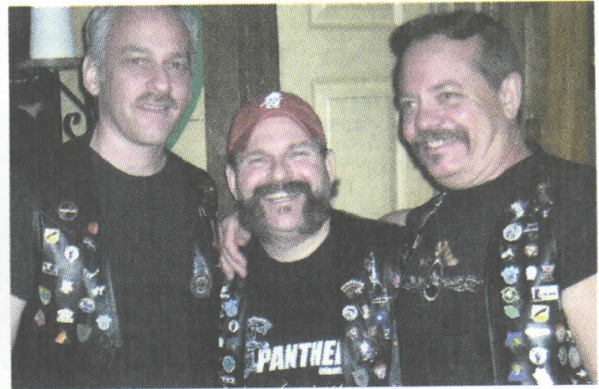
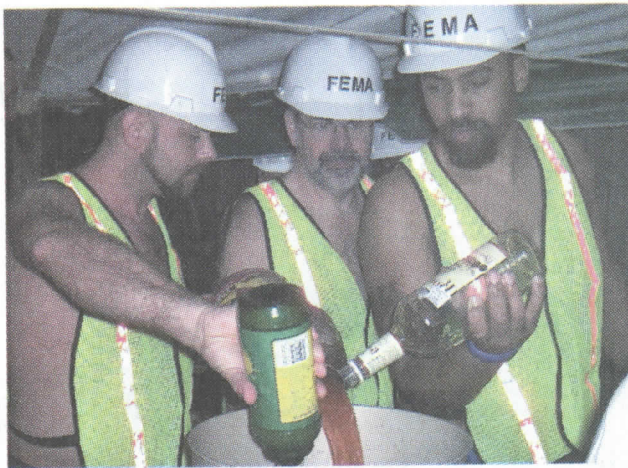
Open Pool Tables All Day Sundays,
8-Ball Tournament 3pm

8-Ball Tournament 8:30pm Mondays
GHPBL Wednesdays, HMBL Thursdays

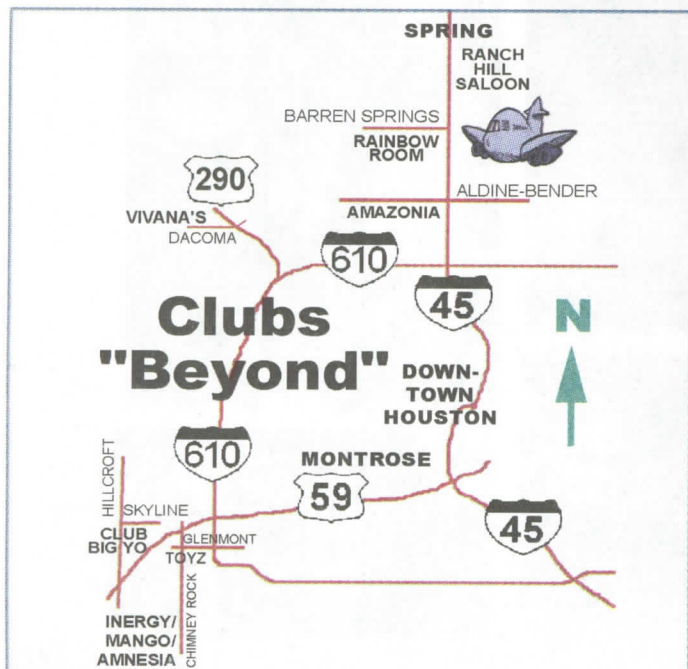
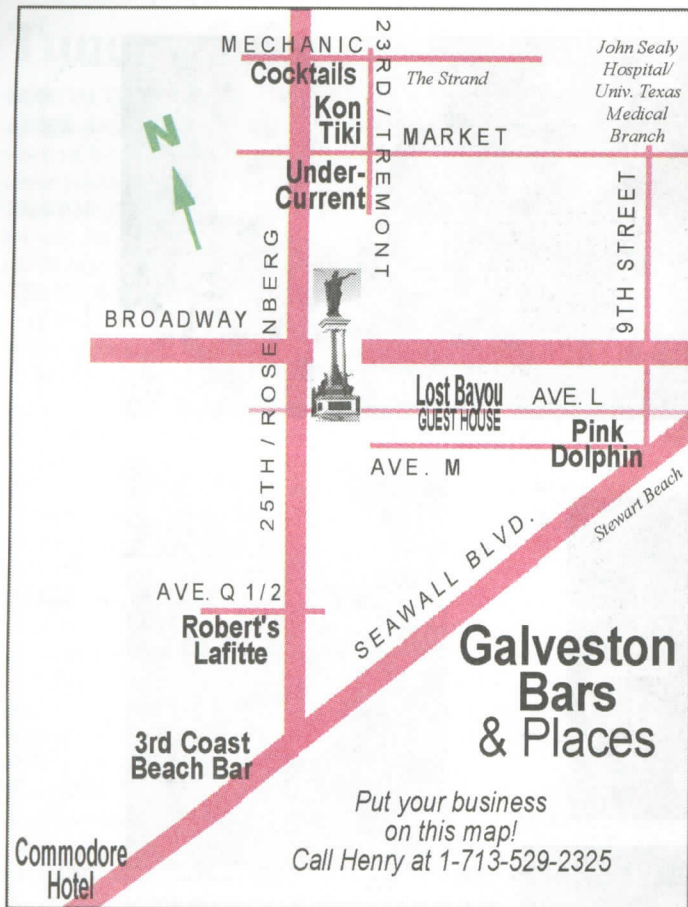


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Photos by Brian Keever



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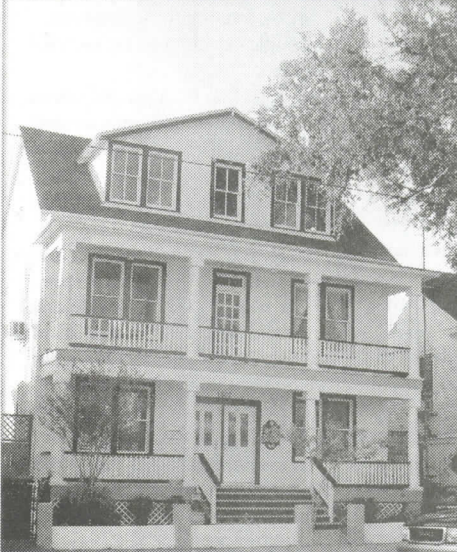


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Pride Parade Grand Marshals Announced

Press Release from Pride Houston

Pride Houston announced the Grand Marshals for the 2006 Pride Parade at a special event at Guava Lamp on March 2.

The Male, Female, Honorary and Honorary-Organization Grand Marshals will preside over the nighttime Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Parade on Saturday, June 24. They were each selected over several other nominees by a vote among the entire community. About 300 people participated in this year's vote during four polling dates in February.

The 2006 Houston Pride Parade Grand Marshals are Ray Ramirez, Male Grand Marshal; Phyllis Randolph Frye, Female Grand Marshal; Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams, Honorary Grand Marshal; and Bunnies on the Bayou, Honorary Grand Marshal-Organization.

"We're excited to announce this year's Grand Marshals," said Pride Houston President Nick Brines. "Being named Grand Marshal is one of our community's highest honors and the list of past Grand Marshals is a Who's Who of GLBT community leaders. This year's awardees definitely belong on that list."

Following are some of the accomplishments of each of this year's Pride Parade Grand Marshals.

Ray Ramirez

Ray Ramirez has volunteered for many civic, cultural, charitable and political organizations over the years. He has also been instrumental in raising funds for AIDS charities and other organizations.

He was the founder and first president of Lambda Roller Skating Club and represented Houston with Team Houston at the 1994 Gay Games, receiving the bronze medal in speed skating.

He was an active member of the Pride Committee of Houston for many years, co-chairing the committee for two years and co-chairing the Parade one year, among other positions.

Ray was also a board member of Bunnies on the Bayou for 17 years and coined the organization's name, among several other leadership positions in other organizations.

He has done fundraising for several political campaigns, including Annise Parker's and Sue Lovell's bids for office.

Ray is a professional hair stylist and has instructed other stylists.

Phyllis Randolph Frye

Phyllis Randolph Frye is a leading transgender lawyer and GLBT activist. For nearly 30 years Phyllis has worked to change discriminatory laws such as the clothing laws during the 1980's that prohibited the wearing of zippered pants by women and anything but pants by men, helped to establish the "Wick Marriage," which allows same-sex, transgender couples to marry, worked to convince high courts in Maryland that gender is much more than chromosomes and endeavored to change laws against same-sex marriage.

She was also a founding member or founder of the Transgender Law Conference and the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston.

In 2005, Phyllis worked as a leader of the Houston Futures Conference and edited and published the "Gay Agenda" document that resulted from the conference.

Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams

Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams feels passionately that GLBT persons should be treated fairly, lovingly and with respect. When her son came out to her, she asked specifically to serve the GLBT community and was appointed to Bering Memorial United Methodist Church in 1996.

At Bering, Marilyn began speaking the truth of the gospel as she understood it: that God wants justice for all people. She became active in the national Reconciling Movement of the United Methodist Church, crusaded to have GLBT persons

openly welcomed by the denomination's Houston district and spoke up for GLBT persons who did not have a voice in dialogues with such groups as fellow pastors, United Methodist Women and the Texas Annual Conference.

She marched year after year in the annual Pride Parade with members of Bering.

In 1999, Marilyn took a public stance on gay marriage by refusing to marry any couples in her church until same-sex couples could also be married there.

Standing with people whose relationships had been denied the church's blessing, this move attracted widespread media attention that focused on the church's injustice.

As Bering has matured under her leadership, Marilyn sees her role as standing aside and providing a place where all who have lived with discrimination can tell their stories and be seen for who they are: precious children of God. Her ministry is evolving to serve the growing population of homeless youth, among whom a disproportionate number are GLBT.

Bunnies on the Bayou

Bunnies on the Bayou has produced an annual Easter Sunday fundraiser for the past 26 years, raising and donating over \$500,000 to local non-profit organizations such as AIDS Foundation Houston, Bering Omega, HATCH, PFLAG and many others.

All event expenses are paid in advance by individuals and corporate sponsors so that all proceeds raised at the event are paid out to their beneficiaries.

Last year Bunnies on the Bayou was named Favorite Benefit of the Year and Top Philanthropic Organization by OutSmart magazine. The Bunnies event location at the Wortham Theatre provides a lovely environment for enjoying the award-winning theater district architecture, Houston's pre-Summer weather and the company of 2000 like-minded others, all helping raise money for Houston's GLBT community.

For more information about Pride 2006 or how to participate in Pride activities, go to the Pride website at pridehouston.org, call the PrideLine at 713-529-6979 or e-mail info @ pridehouston.org.

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MONDAY-SATURDAY NOON-8PM
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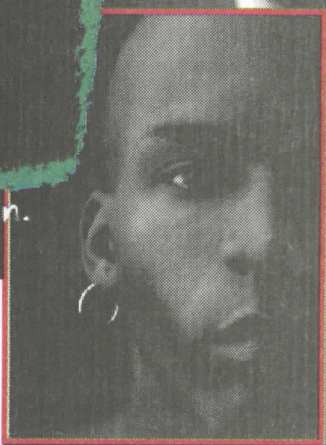
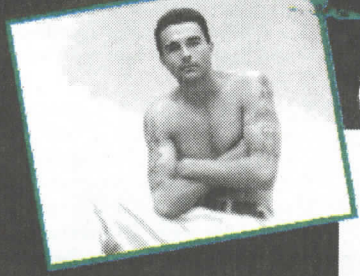
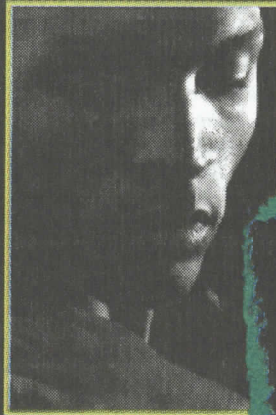
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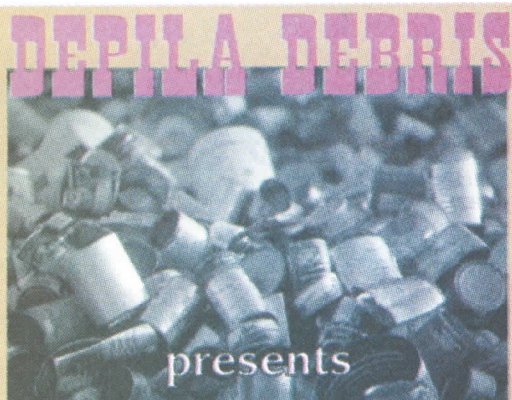
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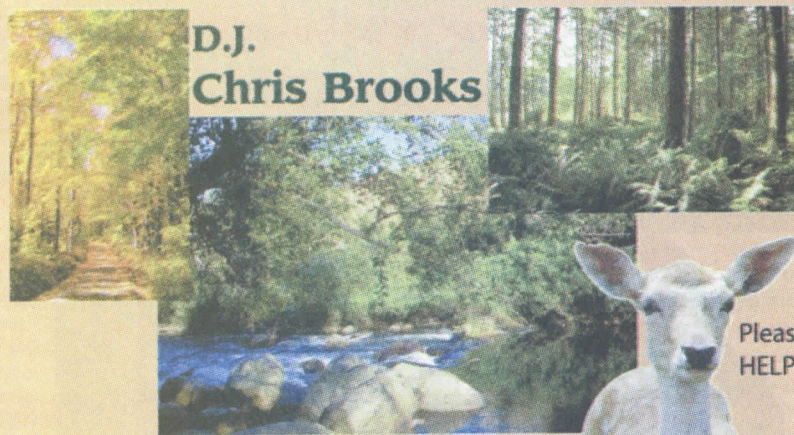
HI/STI Intervention and Prevention Studies (HIPS) Center Program in Human Sexuality Department of Family Practices and Community Health Medical School.

*Financial compensation offered to eligible participants: \$100 for attending the seminar plus an additional \$100 for completing three follow-up surveys.



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Wins for 'Brokeback,' 'Capote' Applauded

PRESS RELEASE from Gay
& Lesbian Alliance Against
Defamation

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the nation's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) media advocacy group, celebrated the success of GLBT-inclusive films at the 78th Annual Academy Awards.

"Brokeback Mountain" won three awards: Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best

Original Score.

"First of all, I want to thank two people who don't even exist—or I should say they do exist because of the imagination of Annie Proulx and the artistry of Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana," said Brokeback Mountain director Ang Lee during his acceptance.

"Their names are Ennis and Jack. And they taught all of us who made Brokeback Mountain so much about not just all the gay men and women whose love is denied by society, but just as important, the greatness of love itself."

Two other gay-inclusive films also picked up statuettes: "Capote" star Philip Seymour Hoffman won the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of Truman Capote, and Rachel Weisz won Best Supporting Actress for "The

Constant Gardener."

"Transamerica" was also nominated for two Academy Awards.

Brokeback Mountain, Capote and Transamerica are films that, in many ways, capture an important moment in history and the questions we face today," said GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano, who celebrated the occasion at an official Oscar Night America party benefiting the Miami Beach Cinematheque.

"Will we fight for a world where all people are able to live and love honestly? Or will we allow hatred and bigotry to force us to hide in the closet, deny our love and deny who we are? Tonight's ceremony was an important tribute to films that have invited audiences to open their hearts to our love and our relationships like never before."

Youth in the Crosshairs for Third Wave of Ex-Gay Activism

PRESS RELEASE from National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

A report released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute reveals the ex-gay movement's new tactic of targeting lesbian, gay and bisexual youth for "conversion-therapy" and "preventive" measures.

The report, Youth in the Crosshairs: The Third Wave of Ex-Gay Activism, reveals how groups such as Exodus International and Focus on the Family promote widely discredited theories on the root of homosexuality and now recommend "prevention" and conversion therapy treatments despite the growing body of research that shows these treatments to be ineffective and even harmful for many participants.

"It is morally repugnant and downright dangerous the way these extremists demonize young people and prey on the fears of parents through their so-called ex-gay programs," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"This report exposes the extent to which these zealots will go, including reformulating their ex-gay snake oil at the expense of vulnerable children and young adults."

He added, "These programs and conferences are often established in states that are fertile ground for right-wing organizing efforts, notably in states that are considering anti-same-sex marriage ballot measures. It is no wonder that their organizers are viewed as politically motivated."

Florida is among the states facing the threat of an anti-same-sex marriage constitutional amendment on the ballot in the next two years. It is also home to Exodus International, one of the nation's largest ex-gay organizations, and will be the site of Focus on the Family's ex-gay conference, Love Won Out, in Fort Lauderdale on May 6.

Justin Flippen is a survivor of an ex-gay program.

"Jesus tells us the truth is what sets us free," said Flippen. "The truth that we are made in God's image, male and female, gay and straight, must be given bold testimony, particularly when confronted by the falsehood of misguided theology."

"So-called Christian reparative therapy is repugnant to the intended purpose of God's creation. The psychological damage such misguided therapy inflicts upon others shamefully thwarts untold numbers of Christians from fully sharing in the community of faith we call the church."

In an effort to demonize and block lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from attaining basic rights, extremist groups have long promoted the notion that homosexuality is a disorder that can be cured through psychotherapy and/or religion.

Over the past few years, however, the ex-gay movement has taken a new approach targeting lesbian, gay and bisexual youth with both "preventive" measures and conversion. The report places this "third wave" of ex-gay activism in the historical context of the first and second waves of ex-gay activism, starting in 1973.

Chart-Topping Performers to Entertain at Pride

PRESS RELEASE from Pride Houston

Pride Houston is pleased to announce that it has signed Grammy nominee Taylor Dayne and three other chart-topping and award-winning artists for the 2006 Pride Festival.

The four performers will top a full day of entertainment for Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and friends. The Festival will rock Montrose beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, the day of the Pride Parade, with continuous entertainment until just before the nighttime Parade.

The Festival's here! TV Entrance Gate will be located on Commonwealth near the corner of Westheimer and Montrose. A limited number of advance tickets are now available on the official Pride Houston website for \$5. After June 1, tickets will cost just \$10.

"This lineup is a great example of how Pride Houston is working to make the Festival a destination event for the GLBT community in Texas and beyond," said Jack Valinski, Pride Houston Executive Director.

The Houston Pride Festival, now in its second year, is the GLBT community's opportunity to come together, relax with a snack or a beer, visit with community merchants and non-profit organizations and enjoy the best in national and local entertainment.

"We're very excited to be bringing such talented and diverse artists to this year's Festival," remarked Richard Proto, 2006 Festival Co-Chair. "Our Entertainment Coordinator, Reinel Solano, has found performers that will appeal to everyone in our community."

"All of these artists were chosen for their exciting, dynamic live performances," added Peter Chaivre, 2006 Festival Co-Chair. "We're expecting thousands to come out to see these amazing performers in action on the Festival Main stage."

The 2006 Pride Festival Main Stage artists include:

Taylor Dayne

With confidence, maturity and an indisputably amazing voice, Taylor Dayne stands out as one of music's most dynamic artists. Her versatile and powerful voice has gained recognition in multiple genres from pop, dance and rock to adult contemporary.

Taylor's unique vocal style has earned her three successful albums including the double platinum albums *Tell It To My Heart* and *Can't Fight Fate* as well as the gold *Soul Dancing*. She has sold out two world tours, been honored with three Grammy nominations and has gone on to successfully explore numerous film, TV and stage roles, as well as a high-profile stint on Broadway.

Taylor's numerous hits, including "Heart of Stone," "Prove Your Love," "Tell It To My Heart" and "I'll Always Love You," have made her a queen of the charts and earned her sixteen Top 40 singles, including ten Top 10 hits.



Taylor Dayne, Casey Stratton, KJ Delhert, Dylan Rice to play at Pride Festival

Casey Stratton

With influences ranging from classical to pop music, Casey Stratton's sound often draws comparisons to GLBT favorites Tori Amos and Sarah McLachlan. It is his soaringly high counter-tenor voice, touching lyrics and raw emotional power, however, that put Casey in a league of his own.

The 27-year-old singer/songwriter enjoyed critical acclaim with 2004's *Standing at the Edge*, his major label debut released on Sony's Odyssey imprint. In 2005 the Junior Vasquez remixes of the tracks "Blood" and "House of Jupiter" climbed the Billboard Dance Club Chart, with "House of Jupiter" reaching #1 and remaining on the chart for more than 20 weeks. Casey's newest CD, *Divide*, which he wrote, recorded, mixed and produced himself, was released in late 2005.

Casey is known for his energetic, emotional performances, and has shared the stage with numerous notable GLBT artists, including Junior Vasquez during NYC Pride 2004, and Eric Himan as part of a national tour in 2005.

KJ Denhart

"With a girl like me, you know you won't get bored," sings KJ Denhart on the title track of her latest studio release CD, *Girl Like Me*. Those who have experienced KJ live would certainly agree. Her sense of joy on stage is infectious, bringing honesty and charisma to her talents as a songwriter, singer and guitarist. Her smooth sound, described as urban folk and jazz, has received widespread critical acclaim; the song "Violet" from *Girl Like Me* secured KJ a 2003 Independent Music Award and a 2004 Outmusic Award nomination for singer/songwriter of the year. Her latest release, *Another Year Gone By*, Live was the winner of the 2006 Independent Music Award in the Album of The Year/Live Performance category.

Dylan Rice

After four years at Northwestern University studying dead poets, Utah native Dylan Rice relocated to Chicago to take in some big city grit and try his hand at being

a rock-n-roller. Since then, he has captivated audiences with his sultry vocals, driving guitar rhythms and bittersweet balladry, drawing comparisons to Chris Isaak and Morrissey.

Dylan's new CD, *Wandering Eyes*, received the 2005 Outmusic Award for Best Debut Recording and was voted as one of the Top 10 Indie CDs of 2005 by Advocate magazine.

Local performers wishing to perform at the 2006 Pride Festival can submit an application available on the Pride Houston website, www.pridehouston.org, or e-mail festival@pridehouston.org for more information.

For more information about the artists, check out their official websites at www.taylordayne.com, www.caseystratton.com, www.kjdenhart.com and www.dylanrice.com.

For more information about Pride 2006 or how to participate in Pride activities, go to the Pride website at pridehouston.org, call the PrideLine at 713-529-6979 or e-mail info@pridehouston.org.

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Carlos

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Jack

Cousins

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Holidays, Benefits & Other Occasions

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

Through March 19 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

Fri., March 10 Black Jack Night 9pm Keys West
Fri.-Sun., March 10-12 72nd annual River Oaks Garden Club's Azalea Trail

Fri.-Tues., March 10-14 Pride Houston hosts regional conference for Pride coordinators

Sat., March 11 Bayou City Classic 10K Fun Run, 8am-Noon

Sat., March 11 Houston GLBT Political Caucus community workday

Sun., March 12 17th Annual AIDS Walk, 7am-2pm

Tues., March 14 Houston GLBT Community Center night, Hollywood, 2409 Grant

Tues., March 14 Full Moon

Fri., March 17 St. Patrick's Day

Fri., March 17 Black Jack Night 9pm Keys West

Sat., March 18 Misfits bartend on Ripcord's patio

Sun., March 19 NLA bartends Mary's patio, 3-7pm

Mon., March 20 First Day of Spring

Fri.-Sun., March 24-26 Bayou City Art Festival, Memorial Park

Sat., March 25 NLA monthly membership meeting, 7:30pm, then members bartend 9:30pm-1:30am, Ripcord patio

Sun., March 26 GLBT Community Center's movie & game night, 7pm 3400 Montrose #207

Tues., March 28 GMCH 70's concert, Jones Hall

April 1 You know what day this is!

April 1 Friends of Pride spring golf tournament

April 2 Daylight Savings Time Begins (lose an hour)

April 5 Houston GLBT Political Caucus meets 7pm

April 9 Palm Sunday

April 9 Greater Houston Preservation Alliance walking tour of Avondale area

April 21-30 39th Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival

April 13 Full Moon, Passover

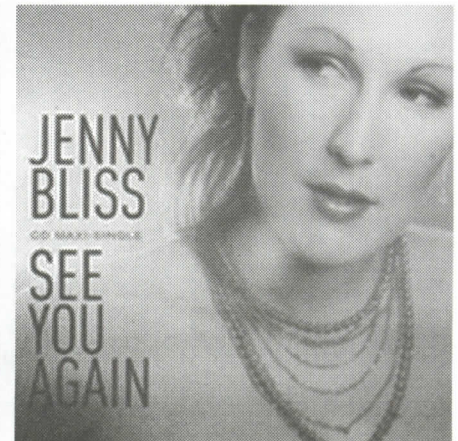
June 24 Houston Gay Pride Festival & Parade

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2. Bananarama

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Sorry

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Confessions of a Broken Heart

5. Ferry Corsten

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Fire

6. Stunt

Raindrops

7. Dancing DJ's vs. Roxette
Fading Like a Flower

8. Aaron Smith featuring Luvili
Dancin'

9. Black Fris

Moving Into Light

10. Cyndi Lauper & Sarah McLachlan
Time After Time

2nd Annual
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Sunday, April 2

Benefitting
PWA Holiday Charities
7pm
Keys West

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DCD Productions

NIBL 2006

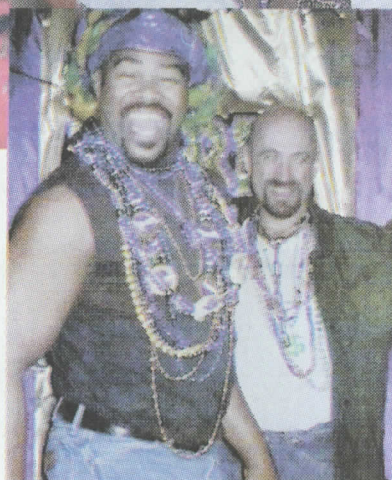
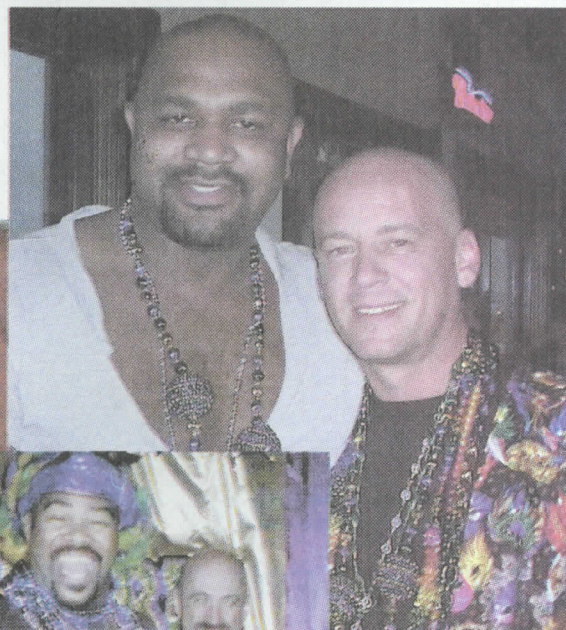
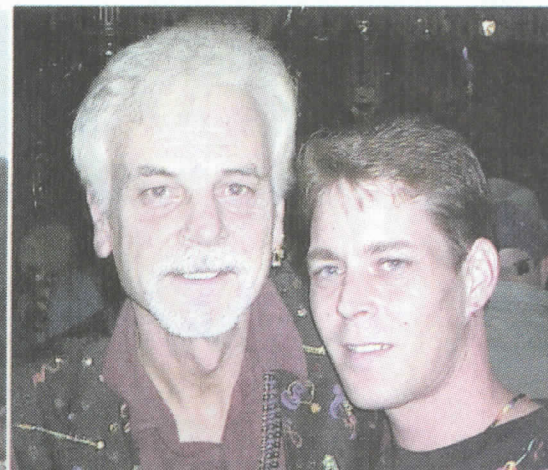
NIGHT IN BLACK LEATHER
BENEFITING
THE COLT 45'S
STONE SOUP FUND
SATURDAY, MARCH 18
9:00PM

COLT
45'S
HOUSTON

RIPCORN

SILENT
AUCTION
ASL PROVIDED

COME EARLY TO
VIEW SILENT
AUCTION ITEMS



**Scenes from the
24th Annual
Gay Bus Trip to
Mardi Gras
Galveston,
hosted by the Krewe
of the Moons of Uranus**
PHOTOS BY BRIAN KEEVER

THANK YOU HOUSTON FOR 28 WONDERFUL YEARS!



JOIN US SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH FOR
DANNY T'S WHITE TEE PARTY FROM
7PM TIL 10PM!

THEN FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY
WEEKEND FRIDAY MARCH 17TH THRU
SUNDAY MARCH 19TH FOR FOOD, FUN,
AND ENTERTAINMENT!

2400 BRAZOS 713-528-9192 www.brbhouston.com