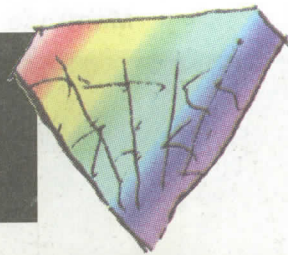


GEM



GAY ENTERTAINMENT AND NEWS FOR HOUSTON, GALVESTON

Issue #37 April 21, 2006 713-529-2325 MontroseGEM @ Yahoo.com



Ann Marie Gill, Don Gill, Lisa Foronda of KHOU and Bob Bouton

Bartenders at Guava Lamp



BRB Door Staff



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for
Bunnies
on the
Bayou**

*Photos
By Brian
Keever*



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"HER PERFORMANCE WAS SEARING AND RIVETING...SHE IS DAZZLING TO WATCH" -AUSTIN CHRONICLE

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ISSUE # **37**
 APRIL 21, 2006

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Email: MontroseGem @ Yahoo.Com

Henry McClurg, publisher

Brian Kever, advertising director

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MONDAY-SATURDAY

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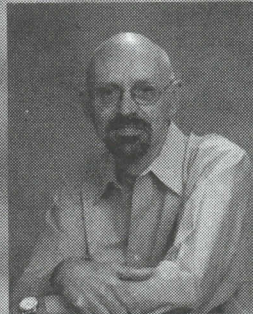
Empress XXII

D.D. DeMarco

Presents

About Face

Benefitting ERSICCS



**Friday April 28th
Saturday, April 29th**

10:00

Guest Musician

Gary Poe

At The Piano

Friday, May 5th - 7:00

Miss Gay Pride 2005

Shy Anne

presents

It's All About You

Benefitting PWA Holdiay Charities

Saturday, May 6th - 7:00

Daddy Jim Crawford

Presents

May Flowers ...

A Garden Party

Benefitting Camp Hope



Sunday, May 7th 7:00

Keys West

Turnabout Show

Benefitting

PWA Holiday Charities

See Robert (M-F 3-9)

For Booking

Benefit Shows

and

Events

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

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

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

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 roof-top 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 Baren 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

PRESS RELEASE Kentucky Governor: 'Simply Ludicrous'

From National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force denounces Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher's decision to celebrate "Diversity Day" by rescinding the state's three-year-old executive order barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment.

Fletcher said he did so because the nondiscrimination policy did not fit with the state's affirmative action efforts to recruit based on race, ethnicity and gender.

"Governor Fletcher's action reflects a lack of political and moral leadership rarely reached. For the governor to eliminate employment protections for an oft-discriminated-against minority, and to do so on Diversity Day no less, is surely a kind of gratuitous brutality. And then to say it was done because the protections did not fit with affirmative action initiatives is so absurdly nonsensical and blatantly political as to be simply ludicrous," said Eleanor (Eldie) D. Acheson, director of Task Force Public Policy & Government Affairs.

She added, "We trust that Kentuckians will reject both this act and the meanness behind it. And we hope that this sorry episode and all that it says about the politics of division over the politics of unity serves as a wake-up call for all Americans of goodwill in every community and state in the country."

"Governor Fletcher's deliberate removal of employment protections for gays and lesbians signals just how low he has sunk in the polls," said Christina Gilgor, executive director of Kentucky Fairness Alliance, a Task Force capacity building partner.

"(The) announcement rescinding a 2003 executive order protecting Kentuckians from discrimination based on sexual orientation is a political move designed to rally the right-wing base. It is unfortunate our governor seeks political gain at the expense of any minority. Kentucky's 'unbridled spirit' should expand opportunity, not restrict it."

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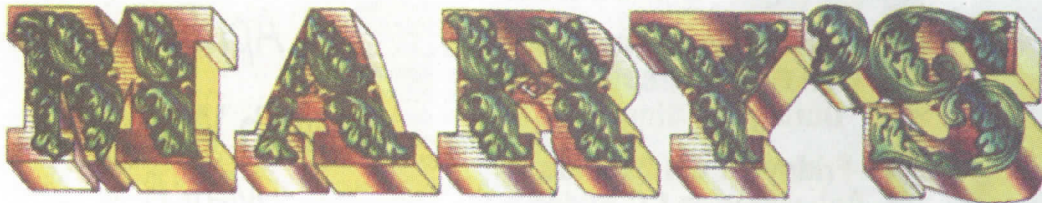
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All Star News & Video Emporium

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Thursday 4-8pm
Jack

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-1am
Carlos

Club Houston

2205 Fannin
Tuesday, 8pm-Midn. Wednesday 10pm-1am
Dennis *Juan*

Club Big Yo

9347 1/2 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-1am
Carlos



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Leo to Invite Self to Party

HOROSCOPES by HELGA

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It will be a time of great learning in the days ahead so get out of usual routines, lighten up your workloads, and expand. And throw in some romance. Say yes to such an enjoyable possibility.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Speak well as others are paying close attention. Maintain that calm and easy feeling. And don't let the timid slow your march to a practical and well organized future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): At every turn it seems someone is waiting for an answer. But pay attention to the way the questions are asked. Things are never as simple as they first appear. A little quarrel may pop up, but it is not all that important.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Figure out the details that are surrounding the big subject at hand. One would think that you're a Leo rather than a Cancer. Right? Some of your friends will be notorious in the next few days. You will smile and tolerate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't wait around for an invitation. Bust the party! You will just go right in as though you were throwing it. And you will get pleasure from giving.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Are you famous for being able to play off various emotions against one another. Helga thinks you are. A oneness that you feel will help guide you to getting more than you planned.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Give ... and get. Charm is one of the most important things in your world and when you've got it, flaunt it, enjoy it, use it to your best advantage. Problems! What problems?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Exciting changes will be happening this spring. You will face a bout with the unknown and unbelievable. And a nearly, forgotten relative might pop into mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love is in the air. Chase after it. Don't be shy. Where is it? you ask. It's right here, over there and around the corner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Together, you and another can move mountains. A creative reward will come from your effort. Your heart says it's spring and time to go out and play.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some problems are best disposed of by just walking away. And on another subject, your power increases as your ego decreases. The final result of this could be wonderful and you may feel dazed for a while.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): When someone comes knocking at the door, open the door! Bring them in along with some fresh air. Engage in a time of wonderment. Where will it lead? You will see.

Helga's lottery results from last issue: Nothing for Mega Ball but we messed up on Lotto Texas and predicted number 23 twice. Ooops. Cumulative: Down \$53. Here are Helga's picks for April 21 & 22, 2006. Mega Millions Friday: 25, 30, 5, 18, 35. Mega Ball: 31. Megaplier? Yes. And for Lotto Texas Saturday: 36, 1, 15, 18, 8. Bonus Ball: 19.

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PRESS RELEASE

HRC: Police Response 'Troubling'

From Human Rights Campaign

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese has sent the following letter to the Dutch ambassador about an incident on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten.

The letter was prompted by recent news reports of a vicious and brutal hate crime committed against two American tourists. Those same reports also highlighted a hesitance by Saint Maarten authorities to launch a full and complete investigation.

"His Excellency Boudewijn Johannes Van Eenennaam, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

"Saint Maarten gained the dubious distinction last week of becoming one of the latest places where an anti-gay hate crime has occurred. Two American tourists from New York, Dick Jefferson and Ryan Smith, became the victims of a particularly vicious and brutal attack.

"Unfortunately, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community has had to deal

with such hate-filled violence terrorizing our community for years. However, even more troubling in this particular case is the apparent lack of attention local authorities paid to the immediate needs of the case.

"In an Associated Press story today, Mr. Jefferson faulted Saint Maarten authorities for not being vigilant in pursuing witnesses that could have led to a possible quick arrest.

"When someone is beaten by three men with tire irons we expect authorities to put their full resources to apprehending the perpetrators.

"Saint Maarten has been a popular tourist destination for many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans for years. This recent news will most certainly give pause to members of our community who are planning any future travels to the area.

"Hate crimes are a devastating reality that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people face all too often. These acts are most certainly used to instill terror throughout an entire community of people.

"A failure to conduct a full and complete investigation to apprehend a hate crime perpetrator not only allows prejudice to fester but keeps citizens and tourists at risk. I certainly hope that the government of the Netherlands understands the seriousness of this crime and will take immediate steps to ensure a full and complete investigation."

PRESS RELEASE

Retired General to Keynote SLDN National Dinner

From Servicemembers Legal Defense Network

Lieutenant General Claudia J. Kennedy, USA (Ret.), the highest ranking female officer in Army history, will keynote a May 13 fundraiser for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), the organization announced.

General Kennedy, who spoke out against the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel in an interview in the Detroit News, joins a growing list of senior retired military officers who are calling for an end to the law.

"General Kennedy is an inspiring advocate on behalf of the men and women who serve in the shadows of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said SLDN executive director C. Dixon Osburn.

"One of the most well-respected voices inside the Pentagon, she brings great credibility to the effort to repeal the ban. We are honored that she will be joining us for our national dinner."

PRESS RELEASE

Pentagon Releases Documents Acknowledging Surveillance of Gay Groups

From Servicemembers Legal Defense Network

The Department of Defense (DoD) has released documentation confirming government surveillance of groups opposed to the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law

banning openly lesbian, gay and bisexual service members.

The government's TALON reports were released in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request filed by Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) in January. The release of the documents follows media reports indicating government surveillance of civilian groups at several universities across the country. TALON is an acronym for Threat and Local Observation Notice.

The Department of Defense acknowledged that it had "inappropriately" collected information on protesters in a letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee, according to a news item in February.

"The Department of Defense has now confirmed the existence of a surveillance program monitoring LGBT groups," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of SLDN.

"Pentagon leaders have also

acknowledged inappropriately collecting some of the information in the TALON database. That information should be destroyed and no similar surveillance should be authorized in the future. Free expression is not a threat to our national security."

Although the recently released TALON reports may not be a complete list of groups monitored, it does confirm domestic surveillance of protests at New York University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of California at Santa Cruz.

DoD has indicated that it continues to search for other documents related to SLDN's FOIA request. In February, SLDN filed a lawsuit as part of its efforts to obtain information related to the government's domestic spy program. The TALON documents, complete information on the lawsuit and the domestic surveillance program are available online at www.sldn.org.

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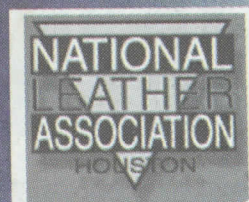
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'Moon Over Buffalo' is a Fun, Frantic Farce

Theater Review by Paul Hager

In 1995, Ken Ludwig's farce "Moon Over Buffalo" opened in New York heralded as comic legend Carol Burnett's return to Broadway after a 30 year absence. Whether this resulted in a hit or a miss depends on who you talk to. The New York Times gave it a positive if lukewarm review.

It ran for less than a year, yet it recouped its \$2.6 million production cost and garnered Burnett a Tony nomination.

Either way, Moon has become a staple of non-professional theaters across the nation where Burnett's name is almost invariably used in descriptions of the show. This can make it difficult for audiences to view it without her ghostly specter hovering, if not over the stage itself, at least in the back of their minds.

Fortunately, Theatre Southwest's production does not fall into this trap and gives us a lively and delightfully "Carol-free" rendering.

Playwright Ludwig ("Lend Me a Tenor," "Crazy for You") takes us backstage at the Erlanger Theater in 1953 Buffalo, N.Y., where fading repertory theater stars George and Charlotte Hay (Carl Masterson, Jeanette Sebesta) are living hand to mouth, trying to keep their second-rate company afloat by touring with productions of "Private Lives" and a five-character "one-nostril" version of Cyrano de Bergerac as the coming new age of television threatens their demise.

Their future brightens, however, when they receive word that Hollywood director Frank Capra is flying into town to catch their matinee; he may want George to replace Ronald Colman in "The Twilight of the Scarlet Pimpernel."

Although this subject would seem to be enough fodder for a three-act comedy, remember: this is a farce, so Ludwig also includes sub-plots involving the dalliances of George and Charlotte, he with the company's ingenue Eileen (Laura Romero), she with their lawyer Richard



(Jay Menchaca) and a love triangle between daughter Rosalind (Malinda Dunlap), her forgetful weatherman fiance Howard (Aaron Thompson) and ex-beau company member Paul (Adan Gonzalez).

Oh, and let's not forget the hard-of-hearing stage manager Ethel (Sally Ellis) who also happens to be Charlotte's mother, a case of mistaken identity with Charlotte thinking Howard is Frank Capra and a frantic slam-doors-and-run-around search for a drunken George five minutes before the aforementioned matinee where, due to a particularly inexplicable mix-up, the curtain rises on the rest of the company performing Private Lives only to have George enter playing Cyrano de Bergerac.

Farce this broad with its requisite highly improbable situations and drop-your-pants slapstick elements is easily and often pushed over the top with laugh-for-laugh's-sake acting and staging, but Sheryl Stanley's deft direction does not let this production sink to that level.

Each one of the talented ensemble cast is to be commended for hitting their marks in their characterizations and pulling off the quite taxing physical comedy with energy and aplomb.

Top honors go to Carl Masterson as the hammy, bombastic George; his extended drunk scene is one of the funniest (and most believable) I've ever seen. It's also refreshing to see actors having as much fun doing a show as the opening night audience

did watching it, something that can't always be said for a community theater production.

Kudos must also go to designer Don Williams for his realistic backstage set which cleverly spilled off the thrust stage to surround the audience, then transformed almost seamlessly to the ornate Parisian balconies of Private Lives, and back!

Carol and Company may not have had a bona-fide Broadway hit with Moon Over Buffalo, but Theatre Southwest has one that's sure to please Houston audiences.

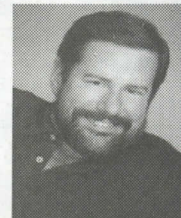
WHAT: Moon Over Buffalo by Ken Ludwig

WHERE: Theatre Southwest 8944-A Clarkcrest, off Fondren between Westheimer & Richmond

WHEN: Now playing through May 6, Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m.; matinee April 23, Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

TICKETS: Adults \$14, students and seniors \$12.

RESERVATIONS: 713-661-9505 or email tickets @ theatresouthwest.org



Paul Hager is a native Houstonian who has been involved in local and regional theater for over 30 years as an actor, director and playwright. He is currently the associate

producer for Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater.

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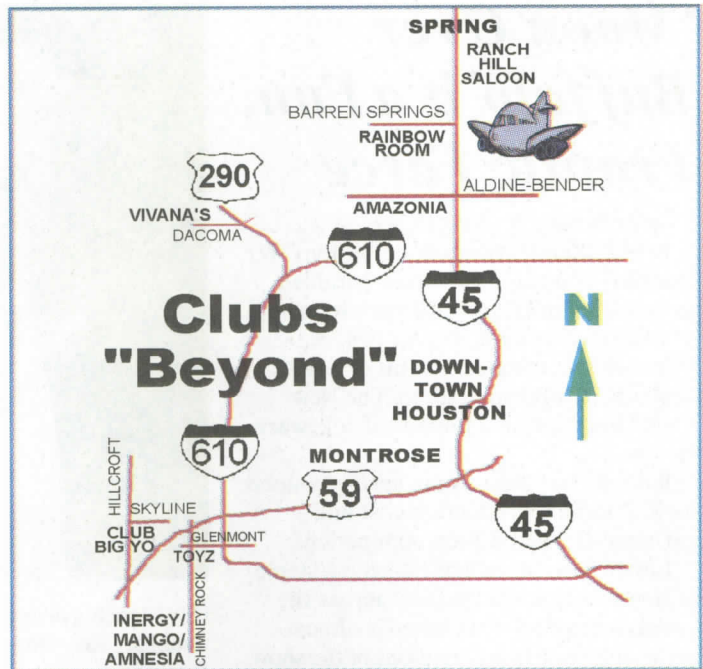
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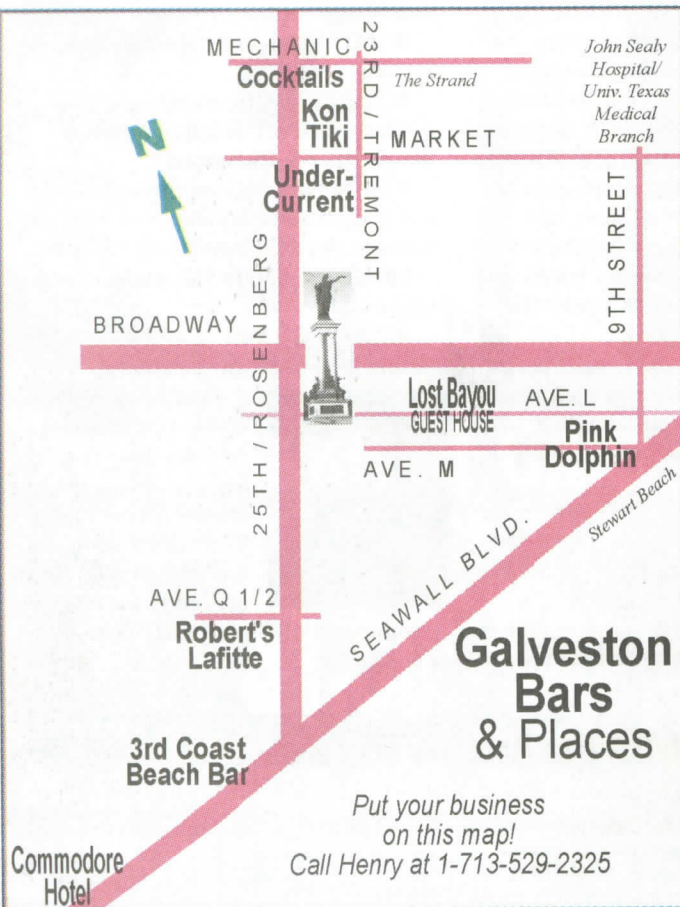
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PRESS RELEASE

Harvard Adds Transgender Protections*From Human Rights Campaign*

Harvard University, the oldest institution of higher learning in the nation, announced April 11 that it would be adding gender identity to its non-discrimination policy, safeguarding transgender students and faculty.

"Harvard's step forward will ensure that its students and staff continue to represent some of the best this country has to offer," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

PRESS RELEASE

Rights Group to Honor Sen. Feingold with Award*From National Gay & Lesbian Task Force*

In a released statement, U.S. Sen. Russell Feingold (D-Wis.) announced that he supports giving same-sex couples the freedom to marry.

According to the statement, Feingold said that he strongly opposes the proposed civil unions and marriage ban

facing Wisconsin voters and supports the right of same-sex couples to marry.

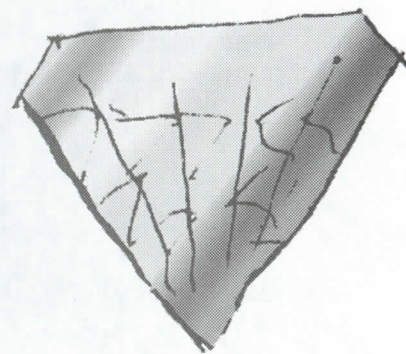
"As I said at the Kenosha County listening session, gay and lesbian couples should be able to marry and have access to the same rights, privileges and benefits that straight couples currently enjoy. Denying people this basic American right is the kind of discrimination that has no place in our laws, especially in a progressive state like Wisconsin. The time has come to end this discrimination and the politics of divisiveness that has become part of this issue."

As a result of this announcement, Feingold became the fourth U.S. senator to support marriage equality, joining Lincoln Chafee (R-R.I.), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

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**BLACK HAWK LEATHER**

In recognition of Feingold's announcement, the Task Force will present its 2006 National Leadership Award to the senator at its national dinner in Washington, D.C., on May 6.

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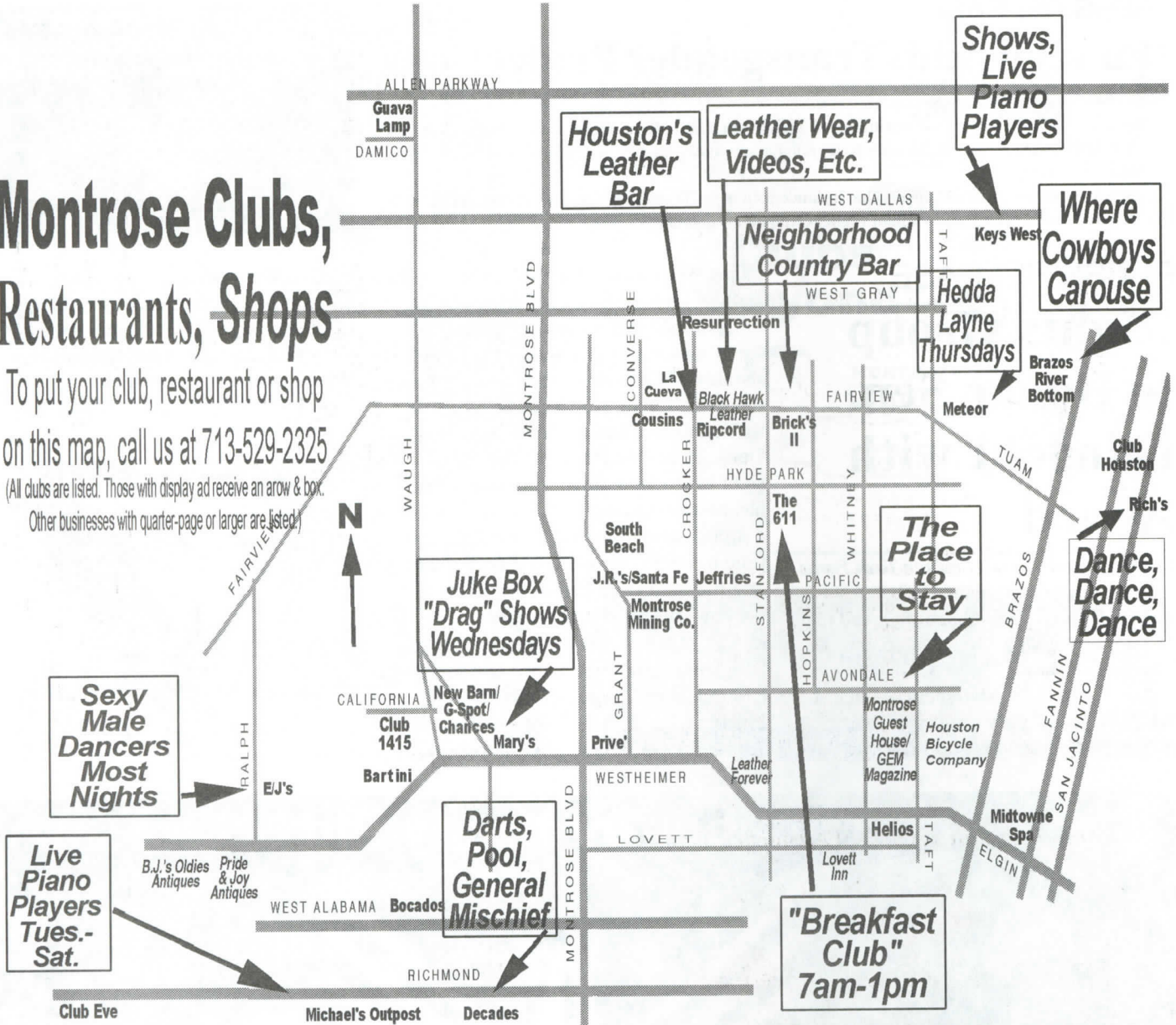
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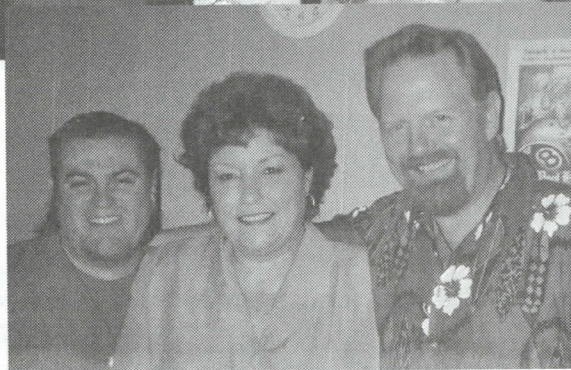
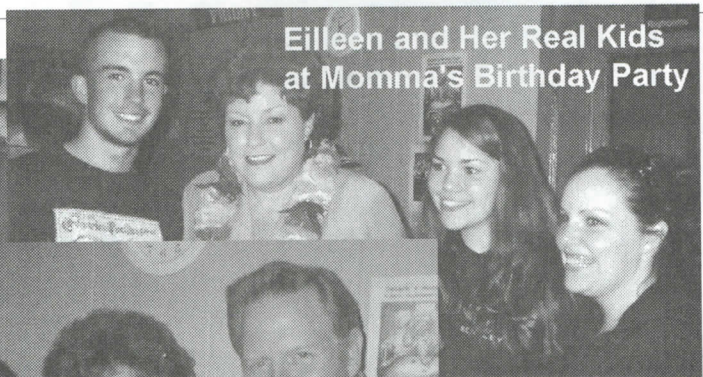
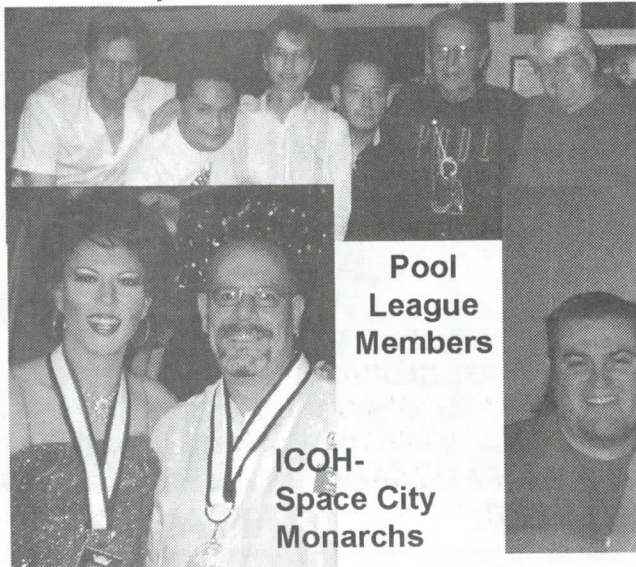
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(All clubs are listed. Those with display ad receive an arrow & box. Other businesses with quarter-page or larger are listed.)



Photos by Brian Keever



Scotty, Eileen and Craig of Decades and the BRB

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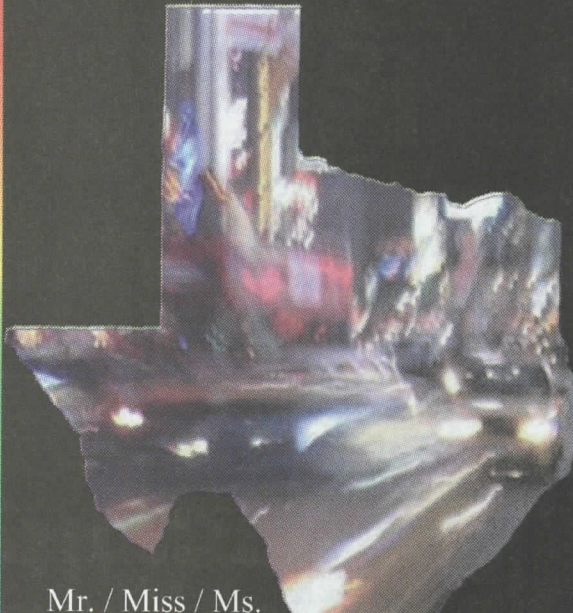
Show to Benefit Reign XXII Charities of
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Quickies

3rd Coast Beach Bar in Galveston's real anniversary party is Saturday, May 6. Be there for all the festivities.

On April 28 Tommy Sue will have been at the BRB 17th years. Yes, he started there during the Eisenhower administration.

The golden voice of Hedda Layne continues to entertain on Thursdays at Meteor.

The right reverend and rather obese Jerry Falwell has a web site falwell.com.

And gay guy Christopher Lamparello of New York City has a web site fallwell.com. Rev. Jerry this past week lost an appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court to have fallwell.com shut down.

The current Time magazine has an article about Jamaica, the island nation south of Cuba. It has been called the most homophobic place on earth.

Now let's talk about nice things. We, in the gay world, have it made with all of our country clubs. Oh,

we call them bars but they are in a sense our own chain of River Oaks. In any city, you can find a gay bar and you're at home. And the price of booze is so much cheaper in a gay bar. I don't understand how these straight people put up with \$7 beers.

Okay, here's a joke from Comedy Central. This blind man was walking down the street and smelled oranges. So he bought some fruit. Then he smelled some pastries so he bought a donut. Wait a minute. This is a sexist joke. You'll have to finish it.



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Palm Springs Story

DATELAND By Jennifer Parello

Every year in March, thousands of lesbians gather in Palm Springs to attend the Dinah Shore Golf Tournament. Most don't go to watch golf.

Rather, women flock to the desert for the weekend to swill cocktails, hang out at swimming pools crowded with half naked sistahs, and have anonymous sex with women that their friends back home would never approve of.

I've been invited to the event several times, but I've never been able to attend until this year. I always imagined that when I did finally make the trip I'd be accompanied by my funnest set of friends, the ones who give bad behavior a good name.

But, instead, I found myself in the midst of the hottest lesbian social occasion of the year with two people who give good behavior a bad name. My parents.

My parents are spending the winter in Palm Springs. They demanded that my

brother and I visit them, so I convinced my brother to meet me there on the Dinah Shore weekend.

From the moment I arrived, my mother put me on notice that she was not planning on letting me out of her raptor-like gaze all weekend.

After my parents collected me at the airport, we drove down the main drag of town.

Hundreds of women with promising haircuts were strolling down the sidewalks.

"Wow, look at all the lesbians," my dad said with a low whistle.

I immediately lurched for the door handle, but my mother flicked the child-safety lock before I could open the door and throw myself out of the car and into the lesbian throng.

"Don't even think about it," she said, as I struggled to unlock the door.

"You're coming back to our house and we're playing a board game."

"Oh, Christ, can we skip the game and just get drunk?" I said, looking sadly out the window as two impossibly beautiful women shoved their tongues down each other's throats. They were wearing little more than the silk scarves they had tied around their graceful necks.

"That's fine," said my mother, who

happily has generous views on alcohol.

"But you're going to spend the weekend drinking with your brother, father and me and *not* with a bunch of strangers."

At that moment, I thought there was nothing more pathetic than cruising Palm Canyon Boulevard with my parents, ogling women from the backseat of their Town Car. But as the weekend continued its downward spiral, plenty of new humiliations awaited me.

When we got to their house, my brother was waiting by the pool with a look reminiscent of an insect that was slowly dying after having its wings pinned to an entomologist's pegboard.

"They're driving me crazy," he said in a hurried whisper. "We've got to break out of here tonight."

"There's a big lesbian party at the Marriot," I said.

"I'll drop you off on my way to meet friends in L.A.," he said.

"Did I hear someone say 'party'?" my mother asked, sweeping up to us in her Lily Pulitzer cabana wear.

"You're not invited," I said. "It's an all-women party."

"Well, I'm a woman," my mother said, refusing to take the hint. "What time does it start? We'll need to leave early so we can pick up a hostess gift."



So God Did Make 'Adam & Steve'

Film Review by Keith Vyvial

It is so refreshing to be able to go to a movie theater and actually see a movie where being gay, although a major component of the movie, is not the taboo obstacle of the entire piece. The new film "Adam & Steve" from TLA Releasing views a gay relationship much as any relationship, and makes no apologies for its portrayal. What's more, the film will make you laugh out loud more than a little.

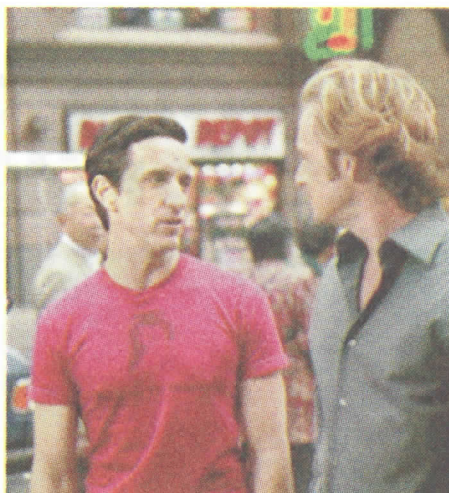
The storyline opens in 1987 at The Danceteria with a very out of place Adam and his morbidly obese best friend Rhonda dressed as Goths. Adam catches the eye of Steve, the star Dazzle Dancer at the club.

After a disgustingly disastrous one-night stand between Adam and Steve, which leaves Adam as a drug addict, we move forward to the present time, a post-9/11 New York City.

Adam is now in recovery and Steve is a psychiatrist who revels in anonymous sex at the gym. They meet up again by chance and, not recognizing each other, start a relationship.

We see a year of the two dating and falling in love, possibly leading to a walk down the altar, until the inevitable revelation of their previous encounter 15 years prior.

The two are helped along the way by their two best friends: a now slim Rhonda who's stand-up comedy act is composed of old self-degradating fat jokes, and Steve's straight ladies-man roommate Michael.



The cast is dead-on perfect. Craig Chester, who also wrote and directed the film, plays Adam. Malcolm Gets as Steve is very expressive. You genuinely root for the two of them.

Independent film actress Parker Posey and former Saturday Night Live cast member Chris Kattan round out the main cast as Rhonda and Michael, respectively. The film is full of fantastic and hilarious supporting cast members as well.

It was actually very interesting seeing the movie because, only a few months ago a good friend handed me the book, also written by Chester, to read.

I remember reading the first chapter (Adam and Steve's initial meeting) and asking him what the hell he gave me to read.

As the book went on the story and characters absolutely became so endearing it was hard to resist. The movie has just the same effect, with endless laughs thrown in.

Be sure to look out for the song performed by a female impersonator done up in full Grand Ole Opry drag.

PRESS RELEASE New Service Available for Abused Men

Gay and bisexual men can now avail themselves of services to address abusive or controlling behavior in their relationships. Victims of domestic abuse have had quality services readily available for years, but perpetrators of domestic violence have found it difficult to find treatment.

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), a non-profit domestic violence agency, is opening the first Battering Intervention and Prevention Program for gay and bisexual men in the Houston area. Group sessions

begin May 8 in Montrose, and they expect the program to take off quickly.

Sherri Kendall, Director of AVDA's BIPP program, stated "The problem of domestic violence in the Houston community is enormous. It's estimated by the Texas Council on Family Violence that as many as 25% of lesbian and gay relationships are abusive, and it's about time that we reached out to the GLBT community with a service that can transform and save lives. Without addressing the root of the problem, the abuser, we will continue to have to bandage and bury their victims."

A BIPP program is unlike typical counseling, with group sessions which hold the abuser accountable, address beliefs which promote abuse, explore oppression, and highlight issues of power and control.

For more information, contact Kendall at 713.224.9911, email at sherrik@avda-tx.org, or visit their website at www.avda-tx.org.

Holidays, Benefits & Other Occasions

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

Fri., April 21 About Faces 7pm, Black Jack Night 9pm, Keys West

Sat., April 22 NLA monthly membership meeting, 7:30pm, then members bartend 9:30pm-1:30am, Ripcord patio

Sat. & Sun., April 22-23 Legacy's "Positive Connections" seminar

April 22-30 Houston International Festival

Sun., April 23 Shy Anne benefit show 7pm, BRB

Sun., April 23 or 30 GLBT Community Center's movie & game night, 7pm 3400 Montrose #207

Fri., April 28 National Arbor Day

Fri., April 28 Black Jack Night 9pm Keys West

Sat., April 29 Garage Sale, HIV tests & hot dogs at Legacy (Montrose Clinic) 9am-1pm

May 3 Houston GLBT Political Caucus meets 7pm

Fri., May 5 Cinco de Mayo

Fri., May 5 Miss Gay Pride 2005 Shy Anne benefit 7pm, Key's West

Sat., May 6 Daddy Jim Crawford benefit, 7pm, Keys West

May 6-7 Cinco de Mayo celebration, Eleanor Tinsley Park, 10am-10pm

Sun., May 7 Keys West Turnabout Show benefit 7pm

Tues., May 9 Houston GLBT Community Center night, Hollywood, 2409 Grant

May Galveston Historic Homes Tour

Wed., May 10 Bob Bouton roasted at the BRB, 7pm

May 12 Gill's Get Goofy, 8pm Bricks

May 13 Houston GLBT Political Caucus community workday

May 13 Art Car Parade

May 13 Full Moon

May 14 Athena Vanderbilt Mother's Day Show 7pm Keys West

May 14 Mother's Day

May 20 Misfits bartend on Ripcord's patio

May 21 NLA bartends Mary's patio, 3-7pm

May 25-29 International Mr. Leather, Chicago

May 28 Houston Pride Royal Pageant 7pm, Keys West

May 29 Memorial Day

June 2 Mr. Gay Pride Houston Passing of the Torch, 8pm E/J's

June 3 10th annual Houston Billiards Open

June 6 Sixth day of the sixth month of the year 2006

June 11 Full Moon

June 14 Flag Day

June 18 Father's Day

June 19 Juneteenth Day. In 1865, a Union general stepped ashore in Galveston to tell the last slaves in the Confederacy that they were free

June 21 First Day of Summer

June 24 Houston Gay Pride Festival & Parade

July 4 Independence Day

July 4 Chevy's Freedom Over Texas, Eleanor Tinsley Park, 4pm-10pm

July 11 Full Moon

July 15-22 Gay Games VII, Chicago

July Christmas in July, BRB, a "Miss A" production

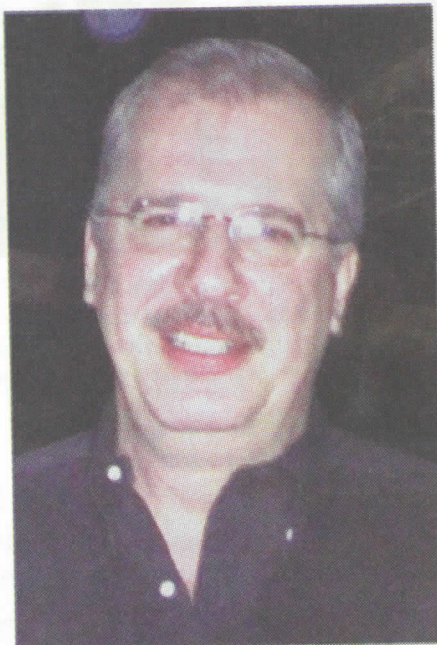
July 21 Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum ERSICSS show, Keys West 7-9pm

July 29-Aug. 5 First World Outgames, Montreal

July 30 23rd annual Denim Party, BRB, 5pm-midnight

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DePHILEA DEBRIS declares to Master Steve, "You Do Good Bar!" See what's "uniquely Steve" Mon.-Thurs. 7pm at Brick's II

CAMP OUT Have Fun, Serve Others. Seeking volunteer massage therapist (R.M.T.) for LVL-PWA Campout, May 19-21. Coordinator: Master Steve, 832-474-8845 or mstrstevenlloyd @ yahoo.com

RADICOMICS Cartooning and graphic design: logos, business cards, illustrations. Email darryllathan @ hotmail.com. 713-376-9193

4 STAR HAIR Productions is hiring stylist, 1201 Westheimer, suite D, 713-524-7785

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

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

PRESS RELEASE

False Promises: The Courtship of the African- American Vote

From National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute has released a report that exposes the dishonesty of attempts by leaders of the Republican Party to lure black voters based on "moral values," and spotlights the false promises inherent in Republican National Committee.

Chairman Ken Mehlman's has called for African-Americans to come "back home" to the GOP.

The report, "False Promises: How the Right Deploys Homophobia to Win Support from African-Americans," compares the voting records of key Republican policy makers in Congress to polling of African-Americans' top voting priorities and finds that Republican lawmakers have abysmal voting records on these issues.

False Promises, authored by Task Force Policy Analyst Nicolas Ray, shows that legislators with low ratings on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality also receive low ratings from organizations that promote the rights of people of color, including the NAACP and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

The report outlines the incongruity between historic Republican strategies, including Nixon's "Southern strategy," Reagan's "welfare queens" and George H.W. Bush's Willie Horton ads, all with disturbing racist undertones, and the Republican Party's current push for African-American voters to "come home."

The study suggests that the current moral values rhetoric espoused by many in the GOP is designed in part to generate support by stoking homophobia in the African-American community.

"The right wing of the Republican Party has a long-standing record of using fear and bigotry to set Americans against each other for its own gain," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"It is supremely ironic and profoundly sad that this is the party of Lincoln, a party that once sought to unify a nation. It was a party in which 'freedom' was a principle, not an empty platitude espoused purely

for political gain as is done so often by present-day Republican leaders."

"This report should be a wake-up call to all black advocates for racial justice and social equality. We can ill-afford having our voices dissipated by those who would exploit our differences over issues of sexual orientation for their own sinister political gain."

"Now that their thinly disguised attempts to render our votes meaningless has been revealed, it is up to us rebuild our coalition for change. Poll taxes, literacy tests and lynching didn't stop us and I am confident we will prevail against this new tactic," said H. Alexander Robinson, chief executive of the National Black Justice Coalition.

According to data compiled from polls of the African-American community by the conservative Black America's Political Action Committee and the progressive Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (JCPES), top priorities for black voters include economy and jobs; health care and prescription drugs; education; and Social Security.

"Moral values" was not a significant concern of the poll respondents. Despite the Republican Party's attempt to use GLBT equality as a wedge issue, according to the JCPES poll, 47 percent of African-Americans would support some form of legal recognition of same-sex relationships.

"I'd be excited to see the GOP finally making a serious push for black voters if the party was offering fresh ideas on police profiling, housing discrimination, unemployment and other issues of importance to black folks. But the focus (isn't) on any of that. Rather, it's on the gosh-darned 'homosexual agenda,'" said Leonard Pitts Jr., an African-American author quoted in the report.

The report outlines the voting records of members of Congress who received the highest ratings from conservative political organizations such as the American Conservative Union and the Family Research Council. All but one of these 125 representatives and 34 senators (a group which includes Sens. Trent Lott and Rick Santorum, and Rep. Tom DeLay) are Republican.

The most conservative members of Congress also received some of the lowest ratings from people of color rights organizations such as the NAACP and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. These legislators also received low ratings from other progressive organizations concerned with GLBT equality, including the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and

Americans for Democratic Action.

In addition to these GOP legislators' sometimes disturbing affiliations with racist organizations such as the Conservative Citizens Council (Lott) and opposition to reauthorization of parts of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (DeLay), people of color civil rights organizations were concerned with these legislators' lack of support for established priorities of the African-American community.

These legislators have consistently opposed affirmative action, raising the minimum wage, full funding for education initiatives, including No Child Left Behind, and funding for Medicaid initiatives that disproportionately affect African-Americans.

In addition, the report examines in detail the voting index scores of members of Congress from the six states with the highest proportion of African-American residents: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi and South Carolina.

Republicans from these states consistently scored high on conservative measures, low on indices addressing African-American concerns and near zero on HRC's measure score of support for GLBT equality. Conversely, while some Democrats managed moderately well with conservative groups, they simultaneously scored much higher on issues of significance to African-Americans, the poor and the GLBT community.

Finally, the report points to anti-LGBT rhetoric used by religious right figures, including James Dobson, the Rev. Lou Sheldon and Bishop Henry Jackson, as a part of the attempt to bring African-American voters into the Republican Party, and spotlights just how out of step these folks are with major figures of the African-American community, including the late Coretta Scott King, Rep. John Lewis and the NAACP's Julian Bond.

Rep. John Lewis: "It is time to say forthrightly that government's exclusion of our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters from civil marriage officially degrades them and their families ... this discrimination is wrong."

Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP: "There are no 'special rights' in America; we are all entitled to life, liberty and happiness' pursuit. ... I see this as a civil rights issue. That means I support gay civil marriage."

Coretta Scott King: "I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King's dream to make room at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people."



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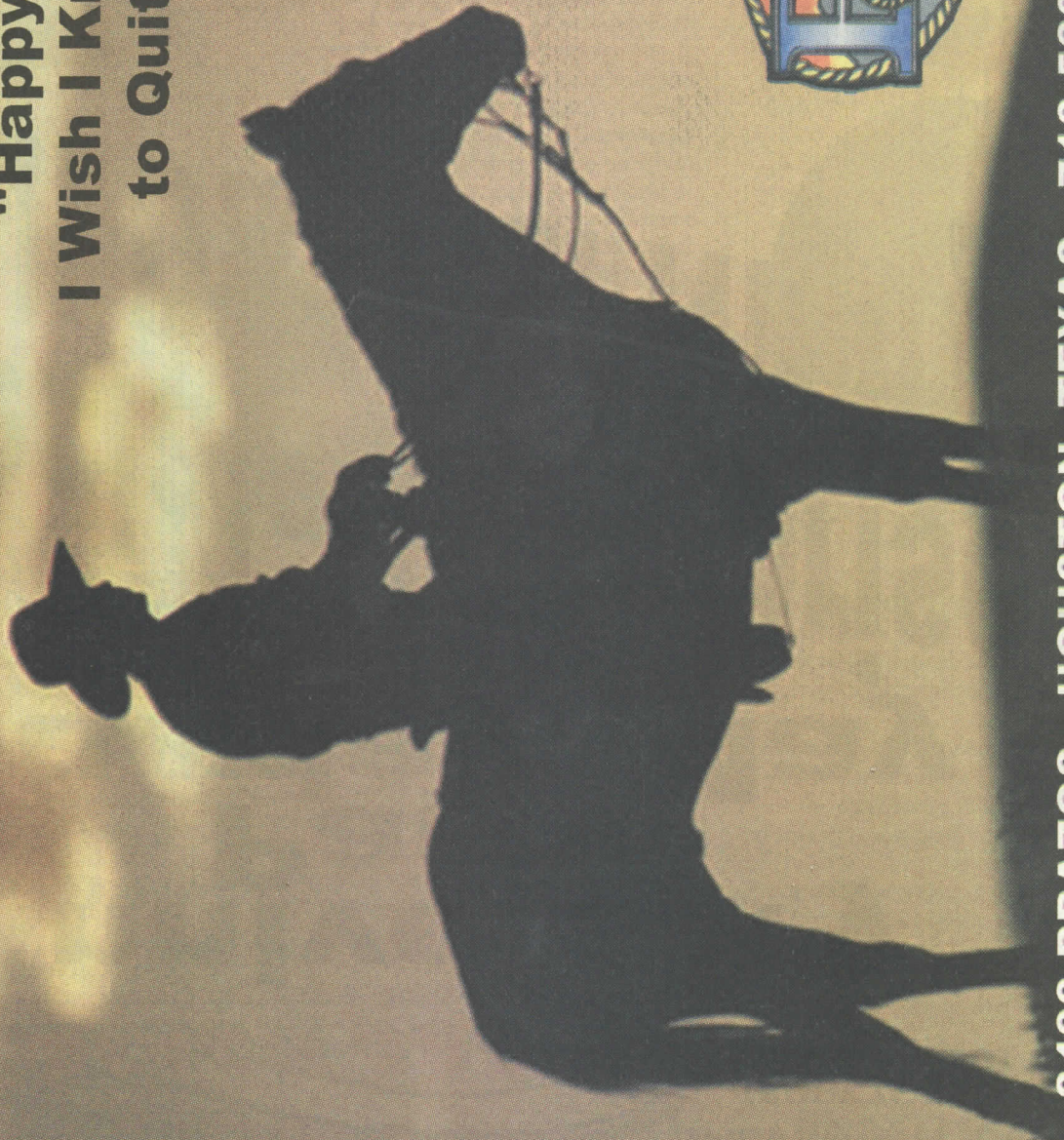


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