

Midnite Sun
MATINEE

Sunday, April 2

Featuring

- ★**Eartha**
- ★**Cheree**
- ★**Adrian St. Clarie**
- ★**Darla Child**
- ★**Special Guest Burgundy Woods**

*Annual Bartender's Show - Wednesday,
April 12th*

Coming Attraction - April 19th
Special Two-Man Show Starring
Eartha Kitt and Donna Day

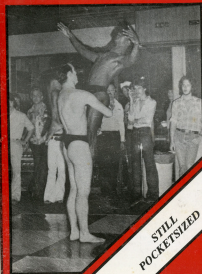


Free Parking 615 Westheimer

LXIX 

Volume 1 No. 9

April 1-7



**STILL
POCKET-SIZED**

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LXIX is published weekly in Houston, Texas by LXIX Publications. Mailing address: Box 2230, 3536 Timmons Lane, Houston, Texas 77007. Advertising rates available upon request by calling 713 521-0100. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for the claims of advertisers and has the right to reject any advertising. The inclusion of an individual's name, photograph, or likeness in this publication implies nothing whatsoever about that individual's sexual orientation.

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From the Editor

-Michael Kenna

An unusually uncharacteristic *Lynn Ashby* column appeared in the *Houston Post* Friday. The subject was the Houston Police Department and Mr. Ashby did not make a single attempt at humor in the column. A light weight, often humorous columnist playing any subject deadpan serious from start to finish is peculiar, but Ashby made his point very clear. What it revealed to me is that the community at large is realizing some of the things that the Gay community has known for along time.

Ashby, while not suggesting general incompetence on the part of the HPD, verbalized some of the fears that many people now have of the Department because of specific stories (that seem to be cropping up with insistant regularity now.) He states that there is "a very real and growing problem" in the HPD, one that is "becoming more and more obvious" to everyone in the city. It is up to Chief Harry Caldwell, he said, to see that things get back in order; he is the only one who can really do anything about it.

I don't think that I'm personally prejudiced against police officers *in general*, furthermore I do not believe that all police officers are prejudiced against Gays. I know of several recent incidents in which police officers have gone out of their way to be polite and helpful to Gay people. However, a group to which is entrusted the well-being of an entire city, a group whose function is to see that law, order, and peace are maintained within that city, is one case where "bad apples" can spoil the bunch. Until those causing the problems are rooted out, the trust and respect of the community cannot be restored. If the Chief continues to ignore blatant offenses of

individuals within his department, people will continue to be distrustful and afraid of the entire department. The simple fact, as Ashby implies, is that the problems *can* be kept to a minimum. To quote the columnist, "Our town is becoming noted for a violent, out-of-control law enforcement organization. This may be overstated, it may be unfair, but this is a reputation we have, and one we don't need."

Too many incidents like the Torres and Webster cases are drawing headlines that we can't ignore. Gays, other minorities, and the city's whole population are noticing, worrying, and now, making noise. Maybe if we all squawk loud enough, long enough, and sincerely and intelligently enough we'll bring it to the attention of those who can do something about it.





That's Entertainment!

(Critique)

Gay businesses in Houston are getting more and more sophisticated in terms of what they offer their patrons. Discos are bringing in top-name national performers; neighborhood bars are experimenting with variety. The image of the Gay bar as nothing but a place to drink, make very small talk and forget society is fading as even the small establishments that offer only a comfortable environment for meeting others are finding inventive, fun ways to make their service available. In this series we will critique various establishments, explore what is now available, plans that are in the works, and possibly things that you tell us you'd like to see happen in our city.



The **Midnite Sun** is the only disco on Westheimer St. proper, and their current intention is apparently to establish their bar as the No. 1 showbar in town. Their Sunday and Wednesday shows are fresh and involving, well-planned and rehearsed, and, most obviously, *different*.

Cheree and Company give performances with a theme, one number leading into the next. One show, in which guest star Modern Dance performers participated, featured a theme of approaching peace and understanding between people. If the idea was a bit schmaltzy and idealistic, it certainly had the desired effect on the audience. Can you imagine...crying at a drag show?!

(Next week: Live Musicians at a Gay bar?)



SPECIAL FEATURE: **Star-Gays Personality Analysis**

AQUARIUS: JAN. 21 - FEB. 19

You have an inventive mind. You lie a lot. On the other hand you are inclined to be careless and impractical causing you to make the same mistakes over and over again. People think you are stupid.

PISCES: FEB. 19 - MAR. 20

You have a vivid imagination and often think you are being followed by the CIA or FBI. You have little influence over your associates and people often resent you for flaunting your power. You lack confidence and you are generally a coward. Pisces people do terrible things to animals.

ARIES: MAR. 21 - APR. 19

You are the pioneer type and hold most people in contempt. You are quick-tempered, impatient and scornful of advice. You are not very nice.

TAURUS: APR. 20 - MAY 20

You are practical and persistent. You have a dogged determination and work like hell to get your way. Most people think you're a stubborn, bull-headed slob.

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

You are a quick and intelligent thinker. You call yourself bisexual but actually you're just a closet queen. You are inclined to expect too much for too little. This means you are cheap.

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

You are sympathetic and understanding of other people's problems. They think you are a sucker. You're always putting things off. That's why you'll never make anything of yourself. Your employment record is horrendous.

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG. 22

You consider yourself a born leader. Others think you're pushy. Most Leos are bullies. You are vain and dislike honest criticism. Your arrogance is disgusting. Leos are known thieves.

VIRGO: AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22

You are the logical type and hate disorder. This nit-picking is sickening to your friends. You are cold and unemotional and sometimes fall asleep while making love. Virgos make good taxi drivers.

LIBRA: SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22

Chances for monetary gain for Librans are excellent. Libra men make good hustlers. If you are a woman you are more than likely a fag-hag. Most Libras die of venereal disease.

SCORPIO: OCT. 23 - NOV. 21

You are shrewd in business and cannot be trusted. You shall achieve the pinnacle of success because of your total lack of ethics. Most Scorpions are murdered.

SAGGITARIUS: NOV. 22 - DEC. 21

You are optimistic and enthusiastic. However, you don't know how to do anything for yourself. You want a lover who'll support you completely. The majority of Saggitarians are chronic alcoholics.

CAPRICORN: DEC. 22 - JAN. 19

You are conservative and afraid of taking risks. You don't do much of anything because you're lazy. Capricorns should avoid standing still too long as they tend to take root and become trees.

(April Fool!)

Gay is OK in Norman, Ok.

The city council in **Norman Oklahoma** has adopted a resolution condemning descrimination on the basis of sexual preference after hearing the arguments of about 40 persons *against* the ordinance. The Commission chairman, James Kenderine, said that it was the anti-gay arguments that brought about the decision to pass the resolution.

"When you begin to deny rights to anyone in society, where do you draw the line?" Kenderine said; a complete reciprocation of a common argument given by those against homosexual rights. He said that the anti-Gay arguments convinced him that homosexuals are victims of discrimination in Norman and ought to be protected.

The opposing speakers, led by Rick Harvey, were fundamentalists who cited moral, physical, and psychological dangers from homosexuality. Harvey said that government must deal in "moral questions." He said an ordinance forbidding discrimination would "discourage the majority of Americans from making a moral decision."

The council did not recommend a city ordinance amendment prohibiting such discrimination.

Recently, a bill passed in the Oklahoma legislature that made it legal to fire teachers becaus they are homosexual.

Ron Waters and Mickey Leland will be special guests at a benefit dance sponsored by the **Houston Committee** this Saturday (April 1st.) The Houston Committee is an organization for Black Gays with a primarily social function. The benefit will be held at the *Club Supreme* on Dowling.

THE GAY READER

REVIEW

SIGNET-450 67172-\$2.50 ⑦

The Homosexual Matrix by C.A. Tripp, Ph.D.; Signet, 1975, paperback, \$2.50 (available at Wilde 'N' Stein, 819 Richmond, Houston, 713 529-7014)

In reviewing **The Homosexual Matrix** this makes the third time I've read this monumental work of Dr. C.A. Tripp's; by the time I head for that great Gay ghetto in the sky I fully expect to have read it front to back at least 10 more times and to have referred to it thousands of more times.

It is that good...and that valid.

When the **Matrix** first came out in 1975 I had just returned to Texas from an extended vacation exile in California where I lived (directly beneath the famed "Hollywood" sign) and nursed my wounds from a shattered 4½-year affair of the heart. The vacation exile cure was a success and the patient not only lived but went on to learn that shattered hearts are mendable and that being Gay...*really* Gay...is a fantastic and exhilarating trip of pure freedom of the homosexual spirit.

Back in Houston and deciding to commit myself wholeheartedly to the Gay Liberation Movement (but broke) I borrowed a copy of **The Matrix** from a long-time friend, an almost life-long Gay activist himself. What I read not only reinforced what I had learned in the L.A. and California "battleground" but opened up whole new dimensions of thought and areas for action in the cause for homosexual rights.

Continued on page 13

TEN YEARS IN THE MAKING,
THIS MONUMENTAL STUDY "BROADENS
OUR MINDS AND EXPLODES OUR
MISCONCEPTIONS SKY-HIGH"
—THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE HOMOSEXUAL MATRIX

"UNQUESTIONABLY
THE BEST BOOK I HAVE EVER
READ ON THE SUBJECT OF
HOMOSEXUALITY...A BOOK DESTINED
TO BECOME A CLASSIC."
—WARDELL POMEROY,
CO-AUTHOR, THE KINSEY REPORTS

C.A. TRIPP, Ph.D.

Radio Show to Shift Schedule

Wilde 'N' Stein, the Gay radio program on KPFT, is moving to Friday nights beginning this week. The new show will feature one and a half hours of music and entertainment and one and a half hours of talk show, and will air from 7-10 p.m. Friday. The program had been airing on Wednesday nights at 11:00 p.m.

COUNTRYSIDE



Mustang Band
Every Sunday
OPEN
8PM - 2AM

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

1322 WESTHEIMER
527-9071

Home of the Mustang

Tripp was 10 years in the writing of this book...and it shows it. It stands right alongside the late Dr. Alfred Kinsey's classic and pioneering work in sexuality and, especially, homosexuality. In fact, Wardell Pomeroy, co-author of **The Kinsey Reports**, gave the final accolade when he wrote: "...unquestionably the best book I have ever read on the subject of homosexuality...a book destined to become a classic." And that's exactly what it is...a classic.

The Homosexual Matrix is required reading for every Gay. In time it will become required reading in every public and private school course on sexuality...and when that time comes, our battle for human rights for Gay people will be well on the way to being won.

Provocative and sensible, it is rich in social observations along many different lines. The chapter on "The Politics of Homosexuality" alone is well worth 10 times the price of this paperback.

Importantly, Tripp has placed homosexuality in its proper context within the realm of sexuality in general, without which it cannot truly be understood. Invaluable, distinguished, stunning, and readable, it provokes the mind and illuminates the understanding, no matter what the reader's sexuality may be, in a rare and fresh way.

If you are serious in Gay activism, or merely curious, or just wanting to learn about actions and inter-actions of sexuality and homosexuality, then get **The Homosexual Matrix**. It is the bible and guide for Gays; it is their dictionary and their lexicon.

Peace, joy and good reading.

-Hank Bonney

Gay Fires: Topic of Discussion

(-Commentary)

Since the rash of fires that occurred on March 8th, there has been a great deal of speculation about the various possible motives behind those fires, the possibly related fire at the **Silver Bullet Saloon** two weeks before, and fires at Gay establishments and in Gay neighborhoods in general. Both of the Houston metropolitan daily newspapers have offered reports on opinions of both arson investigators and Gay community leaders. The more recent and most explicit report appeared in the *Houston Chronicle* March 26th. It read in part:

"Arson investigators are probing a series of unsolved fires that have hit a number of Houston bars catering to homosexuals. So far no one has been injured in the fires, mostly in the Montrose area, but damages have amounted to thousands of dollars. Opinions on the motives for the fires are varied.

'In that part of town,' said L.H. Mineska, chief arson investigator of the Houston Fire Department, 'there are so many motives - jealousy, competition, spite and revenge-type fires.'

Victims of the fires and Gay activists here say they believe the fires may be the work of persons opposed to the homosexual lifestyle.

Dan Roberts, co-owner of the **Silver Bullet** at 1005 California, which was destroyed by fire in February, blames hate campaigns. 'We're the last minority group to hate,' he said.

The night of March 8th was the latest spate of such fires. Set afire that night were two garage apartments in the Montrose area, as well as **Mary's Lounge** at 1200 Westheimer.

The fires, which occurred in an 83-minute span, involved either disabling a gas meter and setting it afire, or, in the case of the lounge, setting afire a container holding the gas meter. The fire at the lounge was also the first which occurred during business hours. About 30 persons escaped safely from the lounge, which had only damage to a patio.

Other unsolved fires include three at the **Second Sun**, 534 Westheimer, the scene of arson in 1975 and 1976, and the **Club Steam Bath of Houston** at 2205 Fannin on May 25, 1977.

Mineska said that arson aimed at Gay bars has been a problem since 1968, although 'there was a slack period from 1974-1977.' Currently, eight investigators are working on the fires, he added.

Pat Duckett, assistant chief investigator of the arson squad which has 34 inspectors and six supervisors, says that in several of the cases his staff has good leads.

While not ruling out some sort of anti-gay movement behind the fires, Duckett says there may be other motives.

'It does look like an organized effort to get rid of but you might have three fires in that area on night, set by someone else. There are many different motives. There is a hell of a lot of competition out there and a lot of money to be made.'

Continued on page 18

One possibility investigators have considered is that an organized crime group from outside the city may be setting the fires in order to get rid of some competition before making a move into the city.

Jim Flock, a former advertising executive and the other co-owner of the Silver Bullet club, agrees that it is profitable to cater to gays.

"There are probably 235,000 homosexuals in this city," he said. "They don't have anything to spend their money on except themselves. There's millions of dollars spent in bars.

But I don't think any of our competition would consider us enough competition to do something like this. I don't think any of them are willing to commit a crime."

Ray Hill, an activist in the Houston Gay Political caucus, said that unlike many other cities, bars here catering to homosexuals are not owned by any particular group.

"I have just a gut feeling that it's got more to do with radical bigot extremist rather than organized crime," he said of the fires."

A question is raised as to the validity of this speculation. Are these ideas really sound, in view of what has happened, in the eyes of those who should know best the nature of the Houston Gay community...that is to say, the community itself? A careful examination of the alternative motives reveals a few points not taken into consideration by the people who prepared these reports.

First of all, it is important to note that the February/ March fires occurred in very close proximity and for *that reason only* are usually thought of as related incidents. (The three fires on March 8th were also set in basically the same manner.) The speculation that incidents two, three, and five years ago can be readily connected with the recent ones is of course extravagant, to say the least. Most Gays can tell of at least one fire that has occurred in the community at some time involving each of the rumored motives; However, it seems that it would be as ridiculous to try to prove that every incident of arson that has ever taken place in the Gay community is in some way related to all the others as to imply the same of every fire that has ever occurred in any neighborhood in Houston.

As to the "private competition" theory, consider the type of bar that was involved in the recent fires. There is little or no direct competition between such bars because they tend to establish their own personal circle of patrons; when these circles overlap it is a matter of equal time. These bars have also been known to support each other in times of need.

What about organized crime? This seems more likely, especially since private, locally owned businesses are quite common in Houston. However, while it is easy to cry "organized crime" at everything that happens to a susceptible business-oriented community, no concrete proof has been found to back up the theory. (An article that appeared in the *Houston Post* suggested that another recent incident, in which the arsonist was apprehended, had some connection with the other fires. This was later proven not to be so.)

Last of all is the theory that many of the victims seem to have accepted; that of the "hate campaign." If this theory is true, it is certainly frightening. It reveals a very dangerous kind of homophobia on the loose in the area. If the anti-Gay force behind it all is as vicious as it would appear in this case, we have certainly not seen the last fire.

While every one of the theories seems to hold in one way or another, the disturbing truth is that *no one has been caught to validate any of them!!!* At this point, what is important is that the arsonist, whoever he (they) may be and whatever the motive involved, be apprehended before more damage is done. Lives as well as property, both Gay and straight, are in jeopardy if the destructive trend continues.

If you have any information that you think may lead to the apprehension of the person(s) responsible for the fires, report it to LXIX. We will see that the proper authorities are notified immediately.

NOON TO NINE - CLOSED MONDAYS

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CHARLES GILLIS, MGR

Ex-DA Files Appeal

Bill Green, the attorney who was recently disbarred because of a public lewdness conviction, Saturday says he has filed an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court.

Green said that his constitutional rights have been violated because he has been banned from practicing law while his appeal is pending. He said the request for a stay of the formal disbarment proceedings was sent to U.S. Justice Lewis Powell.



Too Dark in Darkroom?

Oops!... In the last issue we identified a photograph in our *Miss Gay Houston Pageant* feature as "Heather". The picture was actually of "Joey," another contestant in the pageant. (our apologies to both performers.)

Records by George!

Review

A while back, Mike suggested I review a recent record for this magazine. However, on reviewing my collection, I find that about the most recent record I have is *Utopia's Ra*, which isn't very, so with your permission, I'll talk about an oldie (but goodie): *Tom Cat* by the *L.A. Express*.

While I myself am not a frequent disco-goer, if I heard of a bar in town playing this kind of music, I'd bust my head to become a regular. To my mind, it has everything that makes disco fun - the danceable beat, the gut-stirring drive - while providing a fascinating, smoky-air feel as well as some first-rate musicianship. They used to play with Joni Mitchell on tour, but the music is very different here.

I guess you could technically call it jazz-rock. They have the standard rock instrumentation (guitar, bass, keyboards, drums) plus a mean saxophone - *Tom Scott* himself. Each musician is extremely imaginative and inventive, and the playing is flawless. For my money, this is about as much fun as you're likely to find on vinyl.

-George Jaxon

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TGTF Conference Scheduled

The leadership of the Texas Gay Task Force (TGTF) are planning to hold a conference at the *Faust Hotel in New Braunfels, Tx.* on April 8th and 9th. The purpose of the conference is to plan activities for the next session of the Texas legislature. Many Texas political figures and lobbyists will be present. The meeting was called by **Kathy Deitsch** of TGTF.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE



Piano Bar

1318 WESTHEIMER
527-9071



OPEN DAILY

5PM - 2AM

Ask Auntie

Dear Auntie,

Ever since I gave my young lover a car he's more interested in driving than sex. What am I to do?

-Lonely Lover

Dear Lonely,

Trade him in for a newer model.

Dear Auntie,

I plan to go to a costume party dressed as a policeman. How authentic can I get without getting into trouble for impersonating an officer?

-Party Time

Dear Partytime,

No shooting teenagers.

Dear Auntie,

What in the world is it taht you respect? Don't you care about anything?

-Serious

Happiness is a twelve incher.



Police Sex-Change

A police officer in Washington, D.C., who is seeking a sex-change operation has been placed on sick leave by the department after refusing to stop treatments and refusing to undergo psychotherapy.

The officer was placed on sick leave on January 27 and as of February 27 has been on leave without pay. The police department will now decide whether it wants to fire the officer, retire him or allow him to return to active duty.

The unnamed officer has been living full-time as a woman but had been going to work in a suit and tie. He said that he will return to work "dressed only as a woman."

"In his seven years with the D.C. police, the officer, who is 34, has received 18 commendations and worked as an undercover officer. A spokesperson for Chief Burtell Jefferson said the chief would not comment on the case until a decision is made on what action the department will take.

-reprinted from Boston's Gay Community News

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11pm to 12pm

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& GARY

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Roommate Wanted. Aged 18-35. Dependable, compatible. Dopers, W.S., S&M, Fats need not bother. Apt. is near 3 major bus routes. \$117. plus phone per month. Few of my hobbies are the Occult and Civil Rights.

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And
Screws****Gay Soliciting Legalized**

CINCINNATI (AP)— An Ohio appeals court overturned a state law prohibiting solicitation for sexual activity for homosexuals. The court ruled the law was unconstitutional because it resulted in "overly broad restriction of speech." Since homosexual acts between consenting adults have been decriminalized in Ohio, the court ruled, proposals to engage in such acts cannot be held to be criminal.

Houston Business and Service Guide**ADULT BOOK STORES:**

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Adult News	4358 Telephone Rd.	649-3122
Adultz	714 W. Alabama	
After Dark	3400 Trevis	528-9922
Bellaire News	5807 Bellaire	661-8840
Diner's	204 Westheimer	528-8950
Federal Road News	1640 Federal Rd.	453-6621
N. Houston Adult News	5102 Airline	692-5588
Studio News	1132 W. Alabama	

ADULT MOVIE THEATRES:

French Quarter	3201 Louisiana	527-0782
Mini - Park	2907 S. Main St.	528-6881

BARS AND DISCOS:

The Barn	710 Pacific	528-9427
Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	665-9678
Countryside	1322 Westheimer	527-9071
Cuddles	4714 S. Main St.	528-5054
The Cove	2912 S. Shepherd	524-0170
Dirty Sally's	220 Avondale	(To Open)
The Exile	1011 Bell	659-0453
The Galleon	2303 Richmond Ave.	522-7616
Hi-Line Ranch	6800 S. Main St.	528-8730
Inside/Outside	1318 Westheimer	527-9071
Just Marion & Lynn's	817 Fairview	528-9110
The Lampost	2417 Times Blvd.	528-8921
The Locker	1732 Westheimer	528-8844
Mary's	1022 Westheimer	528-8851
Midnite Sun	534 Westheimer	526-7519
Ms. Take It	2047 Marshall	528-3533
The Old Plantation	2020 Kipling	522-2353
The Old Surf	2909 Main St.	528-9164
Our Place	1419 Richmond Ave.	528-8903
The Pink Elephant	1218 Leland	659-0040
Silver Bullet Saloon	1005 California	528-9653
Uncle Charlie's	805 Pacific	528-7488
Venture - N	2923 S. Main St.	522-9018

BATHS:

Club Houston	2205 Fannin	659-4998
Midtown Spa	3100 Fannin	522-2379

CHURCHES:

Christ's Communion	908 B Winston	868-4590
MCCR	1414 Joe Anne	526-8233

CLOTHES AND JEWELRY:

All That Glitters	4315 Montrose	522-6976
Artisan Fashions	1731 Westheimer	523-0809
ETC	4714 Westheimer	
Hodge-Podge	1338A Westheimer	522-6485
Manhole	1983 W. Gray	522-1089
Union Jack	4026 Westheimer	622-3100

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Crisis Hotline		228-1505
Dignity	P.O. Box 65821/77006	526-7644
Episcopal Integrity		526-0555
Gay Resource Services	Box 441 U. C. U of H/77004749-3489	
Integrity/Houston	P.O. Box 2942/77001	529-7014
Lambda	5210 Fannin	433-8380
Lutherans Concerned	729 Manor	453-1143
Montrose Activities Center	815 Hawthorne	526-2668
Wilde & Stein Collective	KPFT, Wed 11-12 P.M.	526-4000

GYM:

The 2306	2306 Genessee	528-6235
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PET SHOPS:

Butler's Pets	1638 Westheimer	522-8832
Pet Shop, Bird Clinic	3118 Smith	529-7266

PLANTS AND FLOWERS:

Guenther Flowers	2030 W. Alabama	523-2828
House of Plants	1634 Westheimer	528-1901
Pampered Plant	1225 Campbell	932-7505

RESTAURANTS:

Don's Le Patois	428 Westheimer	523-5595
The Mug	515 W. Alabama	528-8744
Petite Europe	2048 Richmond	526-6020
Somewhere	1626 Westheimer	528-7173
Two Greek Brothers	3215 Main St.	
Chapultepec Mexican Restaurant	813 Richmond	

SERVICES:

A. Burton Phone Services	4506 Montrose	526-6711
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Single Services	1621 Westheimer	524-9660
Speels of Houston	4709 Richmond	626-1161
Standard Key Co.	1615 Shapard	862-2716
C. & C. Furniture	1613 Richmond	529-8469
Lights by Marsh		665-7400
Black Dragon Tattoo	1207 Westheimer	529-9059

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