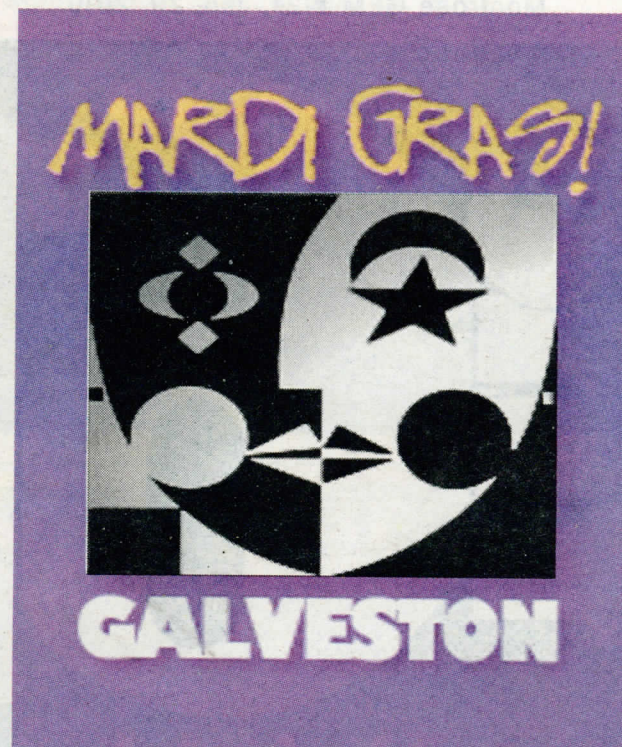


Montrose GEM

Issue #124 Jan. 29, 2010

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Police Seek Help in Investigation of Death

*Compiled from PRESS RELEASES of
Houston GLBT Political Caucus and
Equality Texas*

Myra Chanel Ical's body was found Jan. 18, in Montrose. Evidence indicates she was murdered, and died fighting her attackers.

Houston Police say they are investigating the crime. They say they have investigated for a hate crime, but have not yet found evidence.

Kristopher Banks, President of the GLBT Political Caucus, wrote "Adding more insult has been the media coverage. Though Myra lived life as a woman, the Houston Chronicle's online headline was 'Houston police seek clues in death of man left in field' and referred to Myra as 'he,' despite Associated Press style saying that transgender people should be

referred to as the gender with which they identify."

"The Houston Press's online story has a URL that included the word 'cross dresser.'"

"We hope her killer is brought to justice, but the record is not good. Myra now makes the seventh transgender person in Houston murdered in the last decade for which there is currently no one in custody."

A memorial service was planned to be at the spot where Myra was murdered, at 4300 Garrott. It was to be a candlelight vigil supported by the Transgender Foundation of America.

"Myra's tragic death, and the disrespect with which she was treated afterward, must be countered by our community. We cannot let members

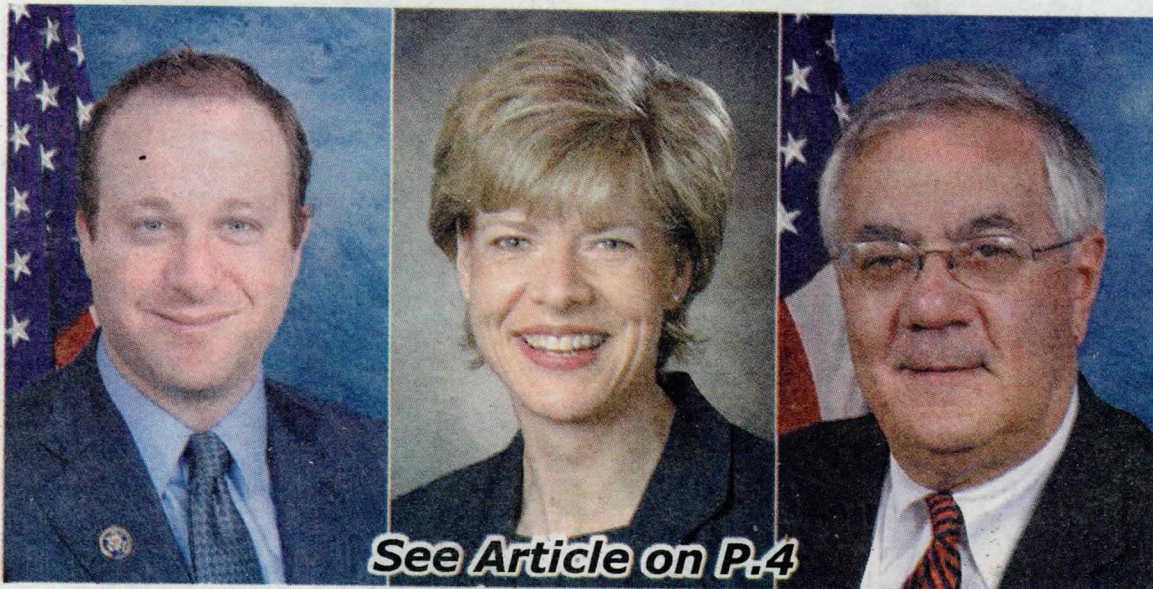
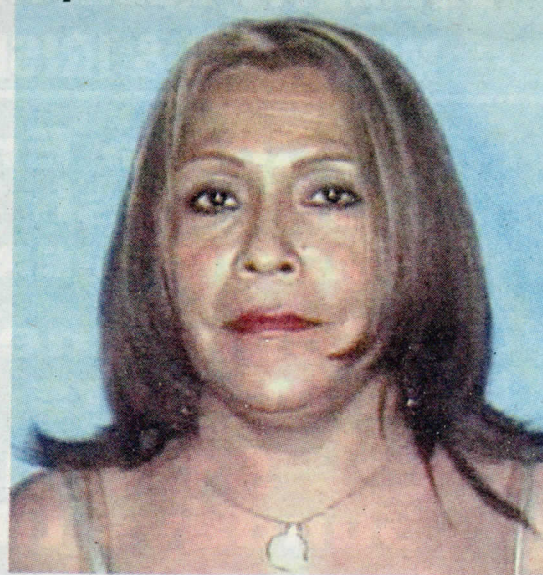
of our community die in the shadows," wrote Banks.

Myra's body showed signs of a defensive struggle, according to police reports.

The Houston Police Department is seeking help on the case. Anyone with information is asked to call Houston Crime Stoppers at 713-222-8477 or the Homicide Division at 713-308-3600. Callers may remain anonymous. The incident number is 8280510-F.

The Texas James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, passed in 2001, provides enhanced penalties for hate crimes motivated by race, religion, color, sex, disability, sexual preference, age, or national origin. The Byrd Hate Crimes Act does not currently include gender identity/expression, said EqualityTexas.

Myra Chanel Ical

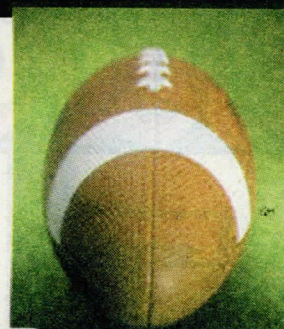


See Article on P.4

**Gay
Members of
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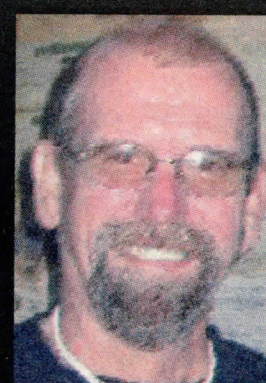
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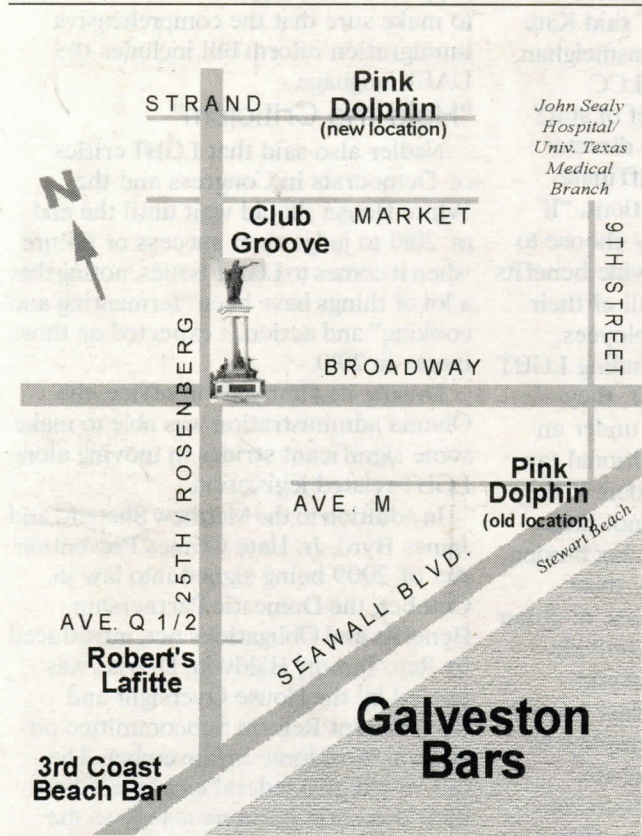
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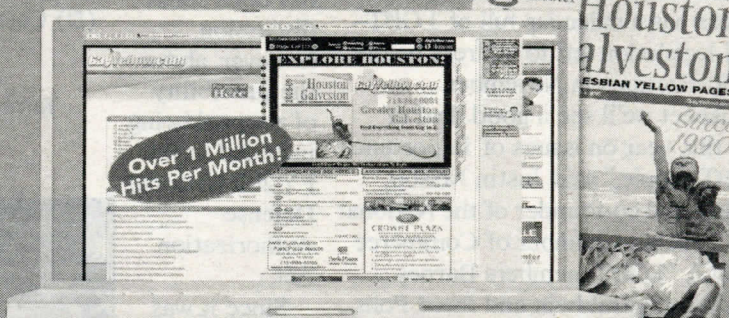
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Deep Inside Hollywood

By Romeo San Vicente

Q Syndicate

Kerry and Kristin Sittin' in a Tree

In the ongoing development saga of the slow-to-boil Dusty Springfield movie, the original question seems to have been definitively answered ... and after a protracted period of "she is" and then "oh wait, no she isn't," the starring role has gone (finally!) to Romeo's favorite "Pushing Daisies" alum, Kristin Chenoweth. That's the good news, since we can't think of anyone who doesn't love her.

And the hopefully even-better news is the possible addition of Kerry Washington, who's now circling the role of Springfield's love interest. It's all negotiations and talks right now, but the "Ray" co-star has already appeared in the lesbian-themed "She Hate Me" and played a lesbian in the indie film "The

Dead Girl," opposite the late Brittany Murphy.

Furthermore, she's beautiful, she's talented, she'd be great in the role and, frankly, four out of five lesbians surveyed agree that it would be really hot to see her making out with Chenoweth.

Gregg Araki goes "Kaboom"

When your most recent film, a goofy stoner-comedy called "Happy Face," gets unjustly ignored and barely released, what's your next move as a director? Go back to your roots and make a hot, young teenage sci-fi comedy thriller about sexual awakenings, that's what.

Gregg Araki's latest film, "Kaboom," stars Kelly Lynch (The LWord) and Araki mainstay James Duval alongside sexy young stars Thomas Dekker ("Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles"), Juno Temple

("Atonement") and Haley Bennett ("The Haunting of Molly Hartley").

The plot involves a "Twin Peaks"-style small town mystery, some hallucinogenic cookies and a lot of boundary-blurring sexual connections. Translation: it's what you already know and presumably love about Araki's



Kristin Chenoweth to play Dusty Springfield

weirdly cool worldview. Be on the lookout later this year for an explosion of old-school New Queer Cinema in a theater that shows that sort of thing near you.

"Cummings Farm" hosts an orgy

After the low-key success of 2009's indie film "Humpday,"

the one about the two straight men playing a game of Gay Chicken by planning to make a video of themselves having sex, it's no surprise to see other scruffy, alt-comedies about nervous heterosexuals experimenting with naughty action coming down the pipeline. So welcome to "Cummings Farm" (pun almost certainly intended) about three straight couples deciding that it's time to try group sex for the first time.

And while it's almost a certainty that they will all come to some sobering realizations about themselves guiltless orgies are for canceled TV shows like Swingtown, really at least one glimmer of comedic hope rests with the presence of comic Laura Silverman (who co-stars as "herself" on her sister's sitcom The Sarah Silverman Program). With any luck it'll be more freewheeling than the average PSA for monogamy.

Logo Greenlights More RuPaul and Controversy

RuPaul's Drag Race was only the beginning. The "Supermodel of The World" is turning into quite the media mogul and, it seems, about to turn cable channel Logo into the Drag Network with his new series RuPaul's Drag U. Stepping into the void left behind by Queer Eye For The Straight Guy, the premise of RPDU involves drag queens showing up at the front door of unsuspecting citizens and giving life makeovers. What this sort of intrusion will entail is a mystery, but Romeo assumes it won't involve tucking lessons.

Meanwhile, Logo has also given the go-ahead to Kept, a reality show sure to anger a whole bunch of people hilariously so, by documenting the lives of pretty young kept boys in New York City, their rich, doting sugar daddies and those who aspire to that sort of lifestyle. In other words, it will be totally gross and Romeo is going to watch every minute. Coming soon!

Romeo San Vicente has never "kept" anything but a really adorable pug, several dozen pairs of really expensive shoes and a lot of insanely hot men clamoring for more of his attention. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood @ qsyndicate.com.

LGBT Issues Left on the Table Now Face Lawmakers

From PRESS RELEASE

While the first year of the Obama administration proved to be a substantial change of course in the White House on LGBT issues, there were few outright victories in Congress on key LGBT legislative initiatives, leaving much of the heavy lifting for 2010.

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act was signed into law last October as part of the bill authorizing defense spending, but Congress has a calendar full of LGBT-related legislation left to address before the 2010 elections in November.

"I suspect we'll see a good deal of action this year on issues of importance to LGBT people," said Justin Nelson, president and co-founder of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). "LGBT members Barney Frank, Tammy Baldwin and Jared Polis along with our many straight allies in Congress will lead the charge on vital issues from ENDA to immigration, and I think we'll see some successes because of their efforts."

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was introduced in the U.S. House last July, and was referred to the subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. Members of Congress are expected to pass the bill by the end of February, and it will then be sent to the Senate.

"We should bring it up in (the House Education and Labor Committee) and have the votes to pass it in January, and there shouldn't really be too much to keep

it off the floor at that point, so I would expect that we should be able to pass ENDA by the end of February barring something unforeseen," said Polis, D-Colo., in an interview with the Bilerico Project last month.

DADT

While President Obama has promised to repeal the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, there has been no formal legislation drawn up in Congress to do so. There has been some discussion, however, about the possibility of a repeal being included in the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act.

Since it was introduced in the House last May, the Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act of 2009 has been pending in the Committee on Ways

and Means. The bill amends current policy that taxes as income employer-provided health insurance benefits offered to an employee's same-sex partner. Because the value of domestic partner benefits is included in an

employee's wages when calculating an employer's payroll taxes, the tax obligations for the employee and the employer are increased, placing an additional tax burden on same-sex couples and their employers.

"The choices faced by business owners looking to do the right thing by all of their employees is no choice at all," said Kate Karasmeighan, NGLCC chief of staff and director of affiliate relations. "If they choose to provide benefits to all of their employees, including LGBT staff, they are under an additional tax burden. If they cannot face this tax burden, they must choose to either not provide domestic partner benefits to employees' same-sex partners, or in an effort to be completely equitable, not to offer spouse and dependent benefits to any employees."

Introduced to the House last February, the Uniting American Families Act (UAF) would amend current immigration policy to allow permanent

U.S. residents to "sponsor" same-sex partners, as they would spouses for immigration visas and for obtaining permanent residency status. The bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law in March.

U.S. Rep. Gerald Nadler, D-N.Y., told DC Agenda, Washington's LGBT newspaper, that he expects UAF to be included in the major immigration reform debate slated for this spring. He said that UAF supporters in Congress would work hard to make sure that the comprehensive immigration reform bill includes the UAF language.

"Hold the Criticism"

Nadler also said that LGBT critics of Democrats in Congress and the White House should wait until the end of 2010 to judge their success or failure when it comes to LGBT issues, noting that a lot of things have been "fermenting and cooking" and action is expected on those issues in 2010.

During its first year in office, the Obama administration was able to make some significant strides in moving along LGBT-related legislation.

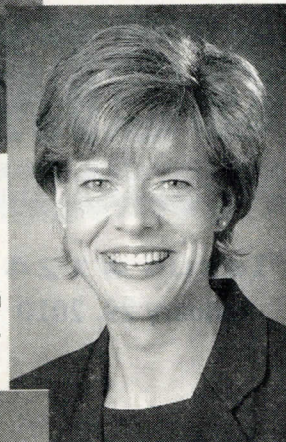
In addition to the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 being signed into law in October, the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, introduced by Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., was passed by the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Federal Workforce in November. The bill would give federal employees and their domestic partners access to the same benefits available to married federal employees and their spouses.

Last July, the U.S. Commerce Department announced that the U.S. Census Bureau would report married same-sex couples in the 2010 census for the first time, reversing a decision by the Bush administration to exclude same-sex couples in the census.

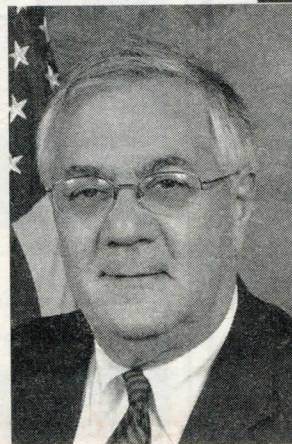
Our 3 Gay Members of Congress



Jared Polis
(D) Colo.



Tammy Baldwin
(D) Wis.



Barney Frank
(D) Mass.

"2010 Will Be Our Year"

Caucus to Hold Meeting

From PRESS RELEASE

The GLBT Political Committee will hold a special membership meeting on Saturday, Jan. 30, 10:00 a.m., to endorse candidates for judicial office in the March primary.

It will be at Pecore Hall at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama.

This is an important process for our community. Harris County judges make decisions regarding whether we can adopt, how we can inherit property from our loved ones and whether the laws that protect us from discrimination will be enforced. This is our chance to make sure we endorse candidates who will treat our community with dignity and respect.

We will be voting on all non-judicial endorsements at our regular February 3rd meeting.

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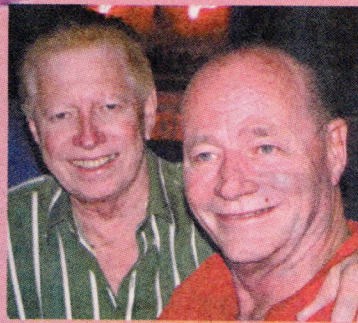
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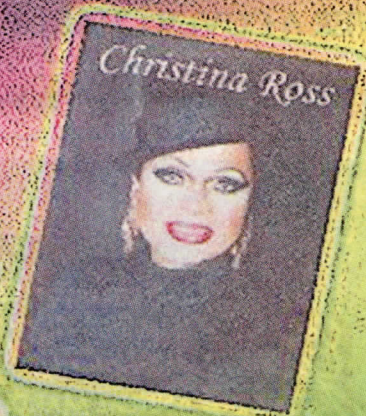
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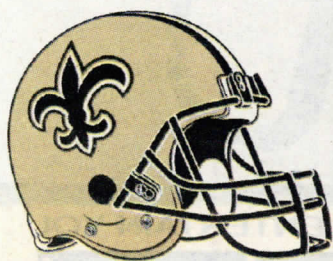
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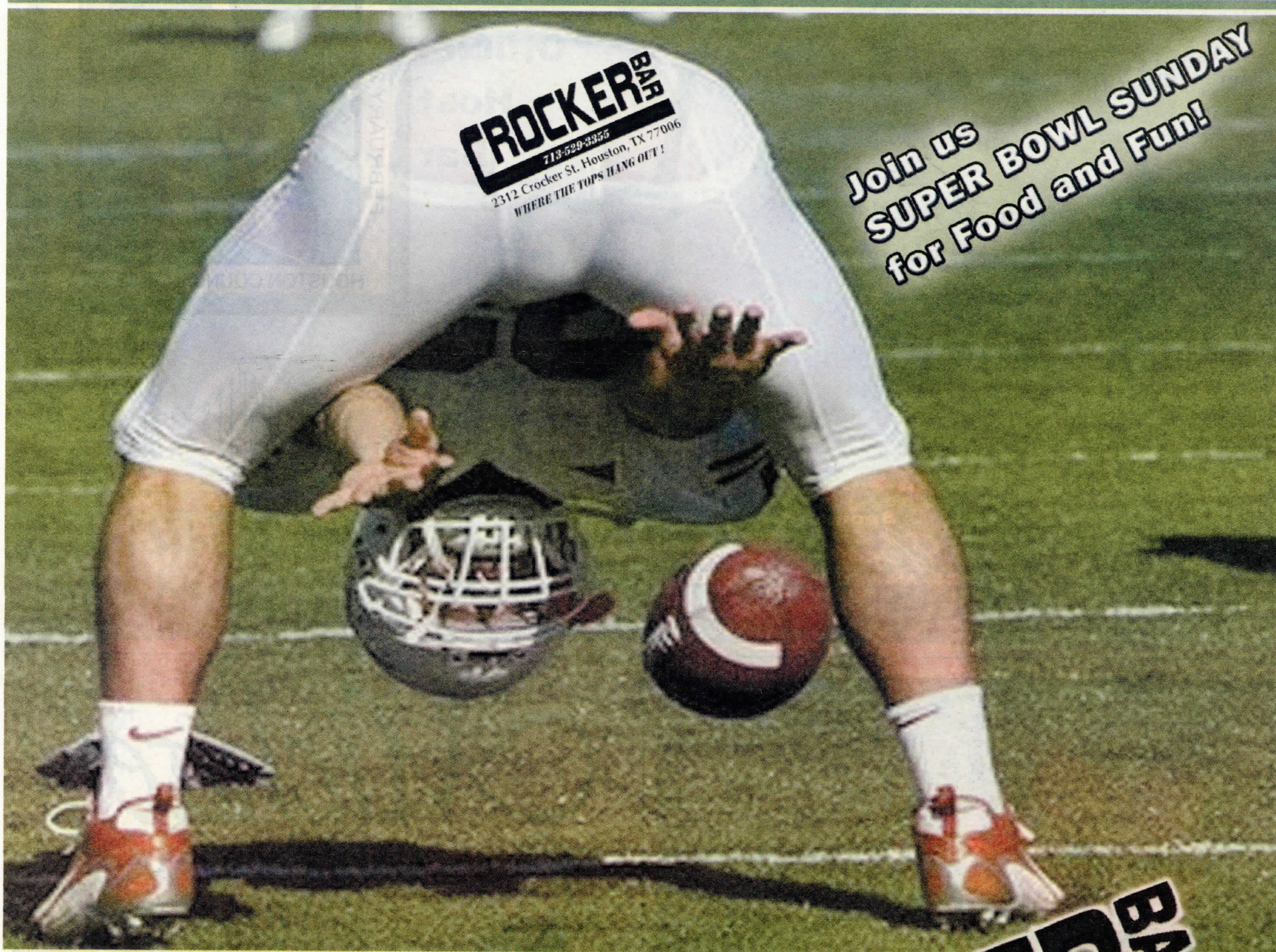
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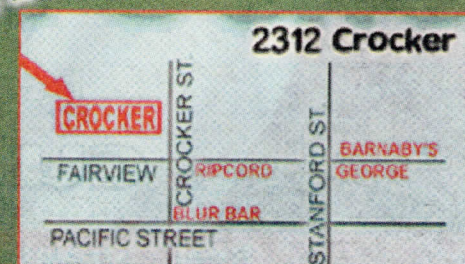
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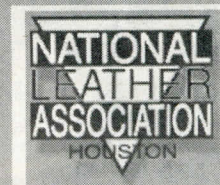


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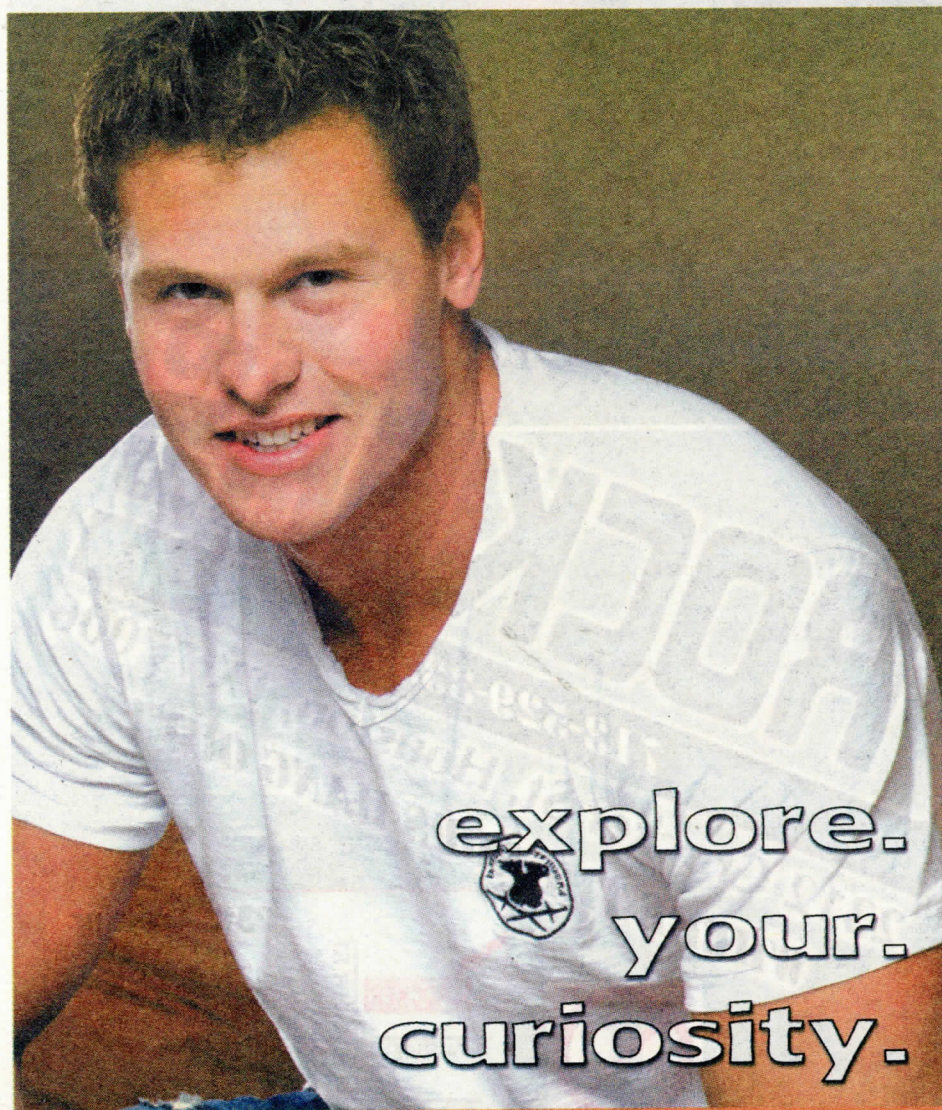
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THIS IS MONTROSE

News, Nonsense, Rants
By Henry McClurg

Ed's Home

Ed is back at EJ's, taking it easy.

Klown Talk

Rainbo de Klown recently participated in the Chevron-sponsored charity run. He sent me a press release on it but I lost it.

I remember he said he had trained for some time to get in shape so he could complete the race.

Falcon Models at Meteor

Absolutely gorgeous Falcon models Aden and Jordan Jaric will be at Meteor Valentine's weekend (Fri. & Sat., the 12th and 13th). You can have your photo taken with them, if you like. See the ad on page 5.

I Was Lost?

From the website lost-forum.com, I see that I'm a character, or something.

I cannot figure out whether this is an actual script from the TV series "Lost" or whether it's something else. Anyway, here's what the site reported from the text of a Lost episode:

"I'm looking for Henry McClurg. ..."

Meg told her shyly. "...oh..." The woman's face suddenly turned grim. "I'm so sorry miss, he no longer lives here." "Do you know where I can find him?" Meg asked with a hint of desperation. "...on James Street," the woman said with a gloomy voice. Then she slowly shut the door. and here ...

Meg parked her car next to a curb with a street sign hanging over it that read, JAMES ST. Meg slowly got out of her green rental car and slammed the door as she gazed forward with tears in her eyes. She slowly walked forward on the side of the street and wrapped her arms around her own trembling body. After a few steps, she approached the large, elaborately crafted, metal fence. Meg gently pushed it and the door creaked as it opened. She slowly stepped on the bright green grass and carefully glanced at the names engraved on the headstones. She inspected each one carefully. Concern and worry coming over her with each passing name. After she had walked half the cemetery, she froze in front of a headstone. All it had was a name and a date. The name read HENRY MCCLURG and the date was August 15th, 2004. Meg fell to her knees and whispered, "A month ago." She

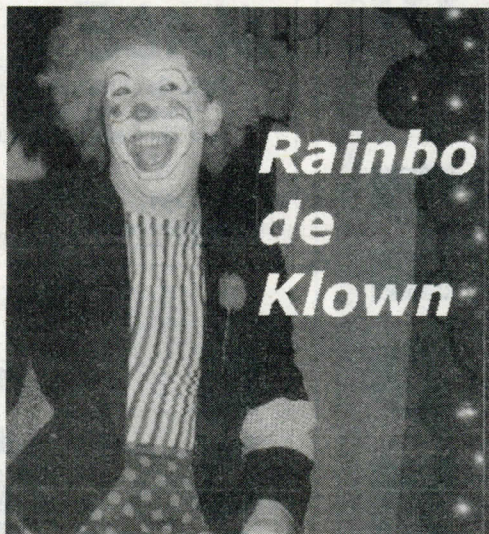
started to sob and buried her face in her hands. "He can't be dead!" Her tears kept falling as Meg slowly leaned down to the ground.

Obama Not Here

Rightwingers who claimed that Barack Obama was born in Kenya and not in the U.S., and thus is not eligible to be President, are call birthers. Now some of these are claiming that Obama was born out of wedlock. And, wait, this just in: Some are now claiming that Barack Obama does not really exist. Said our Governor Perry: "I've never actual seen him in person. Only on TV and that could have been an impostor ... or a cartoon. I don't think he really exists."

And now I've just heard that Glen Beck on the Faux News Channel said, "I think he's an alien. Not really of this world. And not really a 'he.' Why 'it' could be one of those HO-MO-Aliens from the moon Uranus."

(Well, this column does have a bit of sarcasm in it. The previous two paragraphs were made up.



But not totally.)

Drinking in the U.K.

Officials in London will ban drinking contests in commercial bars and force many pub owners to offer patrons tap water in a bid to curb Britain's drinking culture, the government said in January. This was reported by the A.P.

I've written before in this column about the Brit's love of booze and how they required certain bars not to let people stand and drink but instead they must sit in a chair.

The reasoning is that they will have less distance to travel when they fall down.

Hutchinson and Cheney

What hell is wrong with Kay Bailey Hutchinson? Her TV commercials show Dick Cheney in the background. He's the most unpopular politician in the country.

A Movie!

They were shooting a movie in mid-January at The 611. I just wandered in and ended up being an extra. It's called "Shades of Gray" about Montrose resident Jason Swarthout.



QScopes

Horoscopes
By Jack Fertig
Q Syndicate

Don't Take Anything For Granted, Gemini!

Prepared for February 1, 2010

An aspect between Venus in Aquarius and Mercury in Capricorn is supposed to promote charm and flirtation, but carries the risk of trying too hard and coming off as not authentic. To make it worse, Eris is aspecting both, offering bitchy, competitive undertones. Be careful where you pull out that Margo Channing attitude! Just be your own sweet self, darling.

ARIES March 20 to April 19: Your keen vision of future possibilities and your competitive spirit can help you talk out tough issues with your boss ... or as the boss. You may need to rein it in a little to keep your inspiring speeches realistic.

TAURUS April 20 to May 20: Knowing better than those around you is no challenge, but does that really matter? The real trick is to excel in serenity. To do that, you have to take time alone to cultivate your cool with meditation and inner exploration.

GEMINI May 21 to June 20: Speaking in a foreign language or exploring new ideas and possibilities could make you even sexier. Your friends will play along, up to a point. They have their own agenda. Don't take anything for granted!

CANCER June 21 to July 22: Being adept in dealing with authority is not the same as being a control queen! If you need help distinguishing the two, your partner's insights (or any advice you receive in bed) can prove very helpful.

LEO July 23 to Aug. 22: A little humility would help you develop those teamwork skills. Just remember: all your brilliance is really based on effectiveness! Making others look good will reflect better on you than selfish efforts.

VIRGO Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: A playful attitude at work can help boost morale and productivity, but keep that playfulness squeaky clean! Responses to naughty provocation will backfire! OK, a little double-entendre in the right places is good, but be very careful with that!

LIBRA Sept. 23 to Oct. 22: Family fun is supposed to be just that ... fun. Getting too competitive can spoil it for everyone. Bringing your clan together as a team can strengthen bonds, but remember: friendship first, competition second!

SCORPIO Oct. 23 to Nov. 21: Eager to learn new things, especially at work, you could unintentionally come off as snippy or provocative. Imagine you're hosting a party with your great aunts present (or your colleagues), and behave accordingly.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 to Dec. 20: Money's tight, but getting out to play is necessary for mental health. You can socialize on the cheap! What you really have to offer is your strong sense of values and playfulness. Remember that, and you'll be rich in the things that count.

CAPRICORN Dec. 21 to Jan. 19: Before you say what seems to matter, think about what really matters. Kindness and truth are high on that list. Work harder on kindness. Being kinder to family members could prove much to your advantage.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: Your efforts at imitating Dorothy Parker or Bette Davis could end up hurting friends' feelings. Those old clever bitch imitations have been done to death. You have it in you to be a charming original.

PISCES Feb. 19 to March 19: Charity is not a competitive sport. Give what you can, but remember the airplane drill about putting on your own air mask before helping others. Focus on your own needs and take care of yourself. Then you'll be in a better position to help others.

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for consultations online. He can be reached at 415-864-8302 or through his Web site at www.starjack.com

Community Outreach Preven- tion Services

We are where you need us, when you need us!
713-830-3070. FREE Rapid HIV Testing: Results in 20 minutes! FREE Syphilis Testing: Get the facts & protect yourself.

All Star News and Video
Emporium Monday, 4pm to 8pm
3415 Katy Freeway & Studewood
George Sports Bar Monday, 6pm to 10pm
617 Fairview
611 Hyde Park Pub Tuesday, 4pm -8pm
611 Hyde Park
Midtowne Spa Tuesday, 4pm to 8pm
3100 Fannin
Club Houston Tuesday, 8pm to 12am
2205 Fannin
Club Houston Wednesday, 8pm to 12am
2205 Fannin
EJ's Wednesday, 10pm to 1am
2517 Ralph
Crystal Night Club Wednesday, 10pm to 1am
6684 Southwest Fwy.
Guava Lamp Thursday, 6pm to 10pm
570 Waugh Drive
Brazos River Bottom Thursday, 8pm to 12am
2400 Brazos
Ripcord Thursday, 8pm to 11pm
715 Fairview
Midtowne Spa Friday, 5pm to 9pm
3100 Fannin
EJ's Friday, 10pm to 1am
2517 Ralph
Testing days and times subject to change. Contact the testing site.

Legacy

Community Health Services
formerly Montrose Clinic & TAF

215 Westheimer
713-830-3000
www.montroseclinic.org
www.legacycommunityhealth.org

Shop,
Dine,
Party
in
Montrose

Montrose Marketplace

Advertise your service or small business here for just \$29

Call 281-650-3489 or Email MontroseGem@yahoo.com

SOCIAL GROUPS



Meets 2nd
and 4th
Thursday
at
In and Out
(in The Heights)

FLOWERS



Guenther Floral

Serving the Community

Call us at 713-523-2828

HOMES FOR SALE



ANSUYA HESSE

Ph: (281) 723-4547

ansuya@cebridge.net

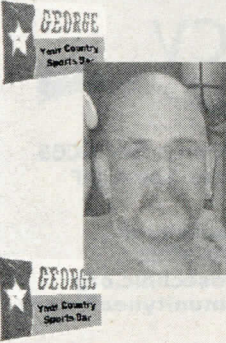
SPECIALIZING IN
NORTHEAST
HOUSTON AREA
(Kingwood, etc.)

ANTIQUES

*Pride
and
Joy
Antiques*

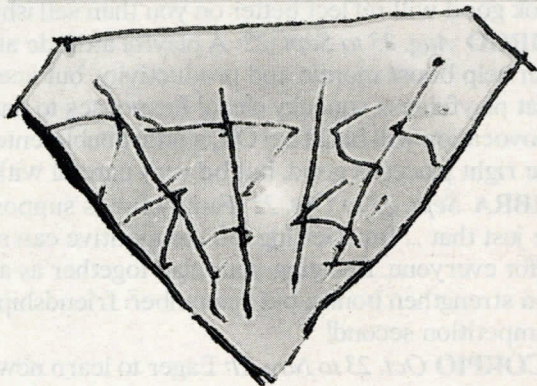
1727 Westheimer 713-522-8435

PARTY TIME



Join Leon
Afternoons
at George,
Of Course

YOUR COUNTRY
SPORTS BAR



HELP WANTED

S.O.S. Hospice Staffing

LVN'S needed.

Work one on one.

Paid weekly.

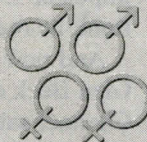
Full/Part time needed.

Please contact us at 281.772.6032

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By Appointment

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THE 2ND ANNUAL MARDI GRAS BUS TRIP

FEBRUARY 13TH 2010

MONTROSE MARKETPLACE

KREWE OF THE NEW MOONS OF URANUS

Get Your Heart On

THE 2ND ANNUAL MARDI GRAS BUS TRIP FEBRUARY 13TH 2010

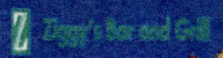
TICKET PRICE: \$45.00 AVAILABLE FROM YOUR FAVORITE
RIPCORN BARTENDER.

RIPCORN OPENS AT 10:00 AM & BUS LEAVES THE RIPCORN AT 11:00 AM.
COST INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, LUNCH AT THE PINK
DOLPHIN, BUS ACCESS ALL DAY, DOOR PRIZES, COCKTAILS TO AND FROM
GALVESTON ISLAND.
BUS RETURNS BACK TO THE RIPCORN AROUND 10:00 PM

CORPORATE SPONSORS:












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The Most Trusted Name in the GLBT Community

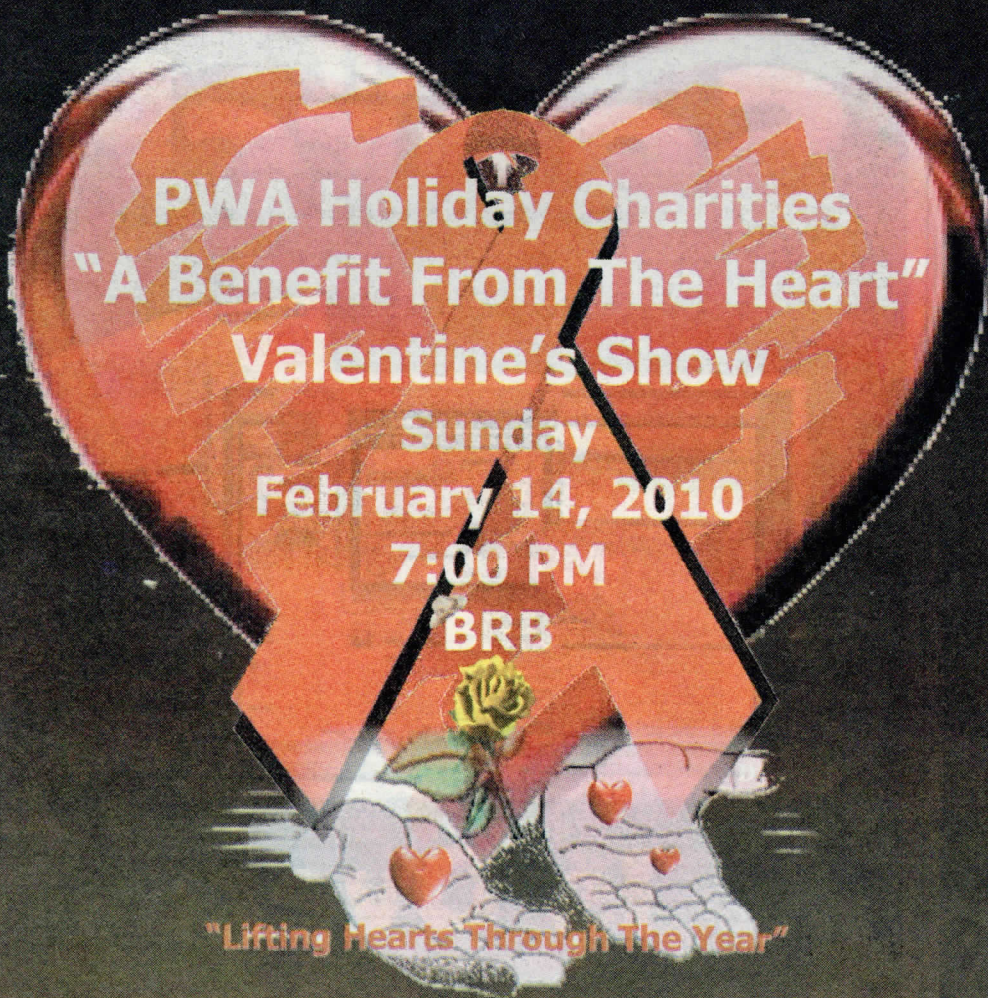
Montrose Clubs

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

This map brought to you by ...



Shop,
Dine,
Play
in
Montrose



PWA Holiday Charities
"A Benefit From The Heart"
Valentine's Show
 Sunday
 February 14, 2010
 7:00 PM
 BRB
"Lifting Hearts Through The Year"



**Super
Bowl
Party**

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

LUEY

FEBRUARY 2010

HOUSTON TEXAS

HOUSTON COUNCIL OF CLUBS

An Official Host Bar

Candidate for Mr. BRB 2010
Craig Sanford
presents

Signature Series
 Friday, February 5
 9 PM

Guest Emcee
Don Gill

A Direct Benefit for
PWA
 HOLIDAY CHARITIES

at the Brazos River Bottom

Come out and perform one of your Signature numbers

boy mikey
 presents:

"boy meets girl"

January 31, 2010
 8:00 PM @ **Brazos River Bottom**

Open To All Performers!

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www.boyofmontrose.org

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