

GEM 32

INSIDE: EVERY GAY BAR IN HOUSTON, GALVESTON

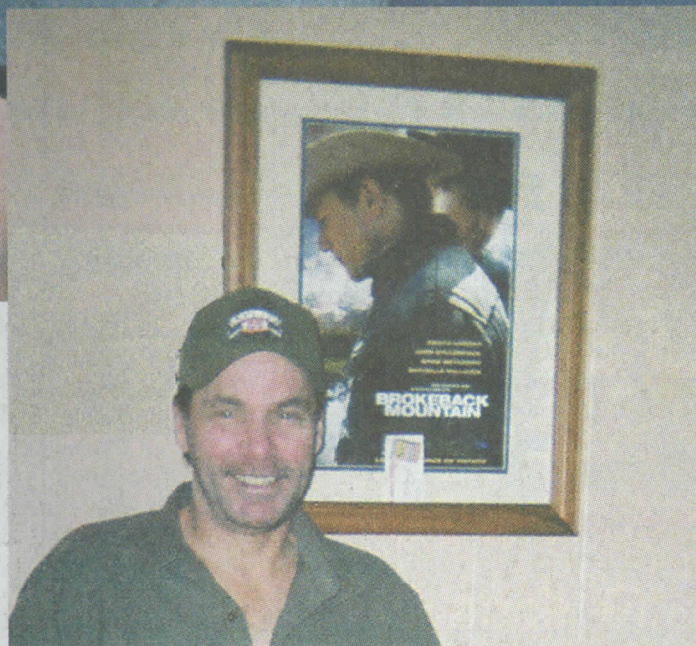
Gay Entertainment Magazine February 10, 2006 713-529-2325 MontroseGEM @ Yahoo.com



To the left,
Party Boys
at Mary's.

Dennis at
Decades in
front of
"Brokeback
Mountain"

Below,
Buddy at
Brick's II



This is Butch, shown here as Busty Billie Dee. He's on the front cover of this magazine because he won this honor as part the auction for Mel's Kids in Galveston





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But call first, we may be out.

Email: MontroseGem @ Yahoo.Com

Henry McClurg, publisher

Brian Keever, local advertising

Music With a Twist

Press Release from Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

Sony Music has launched its first major music label dedicated to developing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) artists.

Music with a Twist is a joint venture with Wilderness Media & Entertainment, a company led by Matt Farber, a founder of MTV Network's LGBT channel Logo.

The label plans to start rolling out compilations of favorite queer artists in June to coincide with National Gay Pride Month.

"It's an idea whose time has come," Farber said. "We have a music landscape that is constantly changing, and for Sony Music to reach out and cultivate a new market by and for LGBT people is not only smart business, it's also the right thing to do," said GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Damon Romine.

10 Things to Know About the New House Majority Leader

Press Release from Human Rights Campaign

(1) Writing Discrimination into the Constitution.

Representative John A. Boehner (R-OH) wants to write discrimination into the United States Constitution.

He was an original cosponsor of the Federal Marriage Amendment and voted for it in the 108th Congress.

(2) Failing to Address Hate Crimes.

Unlike a majority of Americans and the Congress, Rep. Boehner does not support federal legislation that would give law enforcement the tools they need to prosecute hate crimes, including bias crimes against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

He has repeatedly voted against the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, including in 2005, when it passed with broad bipartisan support in the House of Representatives.

(3) Failing to Address Workplace Discrimination.

Rep. Boehner's record on employment non-discrimination protections for GLBT Americans is out of the mainstream.

As the powerful chair of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Rep. Boehner had ample opportunity to move employment non-discrimination legislation.

He has never cosponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

He has also refused to adopt a written policy prohibiting such discrimination in his congressional office

(4) Restricting Free Speech.

Rep. Boehner has supported actions threatening free speech. In 2005, he endorsed a bill that would have allowed the federal government to strip school libraries of books with positive portrayals of GLBT people.

(5) Making Families Less Secure.

Rep. Boehner voted for the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996.

He continues to attack marriage equality through his support of the Federal Marriage Amendment.

(6) Denying Access to Justice.

Rep. Boehner voted to strip federal courts of their jurisdiction over questions relating to the Defense of Marriage Act.

He moved to close the courtroom doors to a group of Americans when he voted yes on the Marriage Protection Act of 2004 (H.R. 3313).

(7) Overturning Non-Discrimination Protections for Federal Workers.

In 1998, Rep. Boehner voted to overturn President Clinton's executive order banning workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation in the federal

civilian workforce. Fortunately, this amendment was defeated.

(8) Rolling back civil rights protections.

In 2005, Rep. Boehner tried to roll back civil rights protections when he introduced an amendment to the School Readiness Act.

His amendment would have added language that reversed the non-discrimination provisions of the Head Start Program.

These provisions could allow religious organizations to fire GLBT social service providers.

(9) Limiting Adoption Options for Children.

Rep. Boehner attempted to bar same-sex couples in the District of Columbia from adopting children when he voted for the Largent Amendment in 1998. Fortunately, this amendment failed.

(10) Voting consistently against equality.

Rep. Boehner has consistently received a 0 rating from the Human Rights Campaign, a score based on dozens of votes and proposed legislative measure to protect the GLBT community.

His only vote in favor of HRC's legislative issues was to support a small funding increasing in the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS program.

He has had numerous opportunities to support mainstream legislative measures to protect GLBT Americans and people with HIV/AIDS.

Surely You Can Solve The Montrose Puzzle?

Be a Part of the Next Montrose GEM

Deadline Saturday, Feb. 18

To Be Released Thursday, Feb. 23

Call Henry or Brian at 713-529-2325

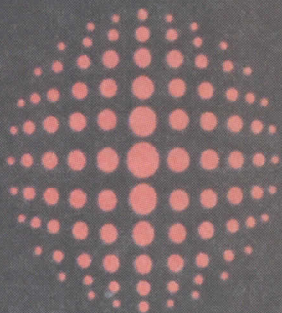
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PARTY**

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RAUHOFFER**
spins from 10p to 5a

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at richshouston.com*



presented by **RICH'S &**
18+ welcome . 21 to drink
doors @ 9pm . 2401 San Jacinto . 713.759.9606



The Montrose Puzzle

Black Hawk's clothing

2 DOWN, 7 LETTERS

By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

1 missing letters:
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5 the Astros or the Comets

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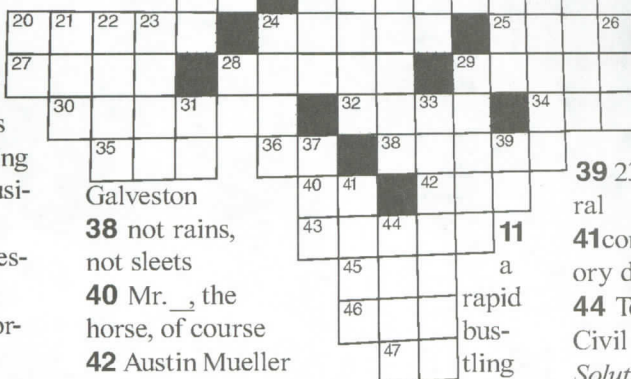
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anagram of SAID
24 room for males
at the Ripcord
26 trouble
28 milligram
29 talk in a de-
clamatory
manner

31 HI in a mir-

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33 Cham-

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seat

37 snake-

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39 23rd letter plural

41 computer mem-

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44 Texas in the

Civil War

Solution next is-

sue

#32, c.2006,

Gulf Features



Previous Solution

Initialed Names:

Yul Brynner,

Howard Stern

MMDC

BAEZ

RBBA

ADORN

YIN WHEELER

EGAD SABINE

TRILL SOSO

POPULAR EDEEN SPS

DROVES SNRYB SW

WREN MADAM ARTS

TAT EL MACRO

ELATES

METAL

OID

NCO

SR

America's Dance Hits

Recent Playlist

XM Satellite Radio

Mark D, Live from Houston



Bananarama is on top

Artist
Title

1. Bananarama
Look on the Floor

2. Ferry Corsten
featuring Simon Le Bon
Fire

3. Global DeeJays
The Sound of San Francisco

4. Jenny Bliss
See You Again

5. Stunt
Raindrops

6. Cast of RENT
Seasons of Love

7. Benassi Bros.
Every Single Day

8. Peter Presta featuring Bonse
Totally Hooked

9. Aaron Smith featuring Luvli
Dancin'

10. Dirty Gringos
Cowbell (2003)

We're Biodegradable. We're Environmentally Friendly.

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To Be Released Thursday, Feb. 23

Call Henry or Brian at 713-529-2325

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 noon. Dancing at night. Various Sunday shows. \$2.50 drinks all day, all night Fridays

Bocados 1312 W. Alabama, 713-523-5230. Ladies nights on Wednesdays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hellos Formerly the Mausoleum, 411 Westheimer, 713-526-4648. Eclectic customers, slightly gay.

House was the home of Howard Hughes as a toddler. Open nightly, every night has a different crowd and atmosphere

J.R.'s/Santa Fe 808 Pacific, 713-521-2519. Always a crowd. All types of people but generally younger. Open mid-day on

Jeffries 710 Pacific. Houston's first 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 (10am Sun.) Good happy hour crowd. Frequent shows and community events on the patio, especially Sundays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Galveston Clubs

3rd Coast Beach Bar 3102

Seawall Blvd., (409) 765-6911. Overlooking the Gulf. Frequent shows. Nightly dancing. Always a crowd.

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

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

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

Robert's Laffitte 2501 Ave. Q, (409) 765-9092. A down-to-earth bar open 7am (10am Sun.). All ages of people. Drag shows Sat. & Sun. nights

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

Outlying Clubs

within 100 miles

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

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

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

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

House of Finesse 2912 Wentworth, near T.S.U. campus, 713-522-6074. Only open for special events

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

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

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

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

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

Private Clubs

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

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

Group Calls for Repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Press Release from Servicemembers Legal Defense Network

In a new report titled *Restoring American Military Power*, the Center for American Progress (CAP) calls on Congress to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the military's ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel.

Calling the law "counterproductive," the report goes on to say that, "While the issue of gays in the military was certainly very divisive 12 years ago, the opinions of many military personnel have evolved since then."

The report advises "Opinions within the armed forces have changed since 1993 and the American people overwhelming support placing qualification ahead of discrimination."

"The time has come to revisit, and repeal, the military's ban."

"Congress should pass the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1059)," a bill introduced in March 2005 by Congressman Marty Meehan (D-MA) to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law.

The report was authored in part by Lawrence J. Korb, an Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan and an honorary board member of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

"The Center for American Progress has established itself as a forward-thinking institute dealing with issues of military readiness," said C. Dixon Osburn, Executive Director of SLDN.

"We welcome their call for repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' As today's report points out, there is ample evidence to support lifting the military's ban."

Restoring American Military Power also notes that "Public opinion has also decidedly turned against 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' with 79 percent of Americans today supporting a policy that allows gays to serve openly."

Other polls have found that a clear majority of conservatives, regular churchgoers and junior enlisted personnel all support repealing the military's ban.

A recent survey also noted in the Center for American Progress report also found that, "Even more importantly, 76 percent of potential recruits reported that repealing the ban would have 'no effect' on their decision to enlist."

The military's ban, the report concludes, "is counterproductive to military readiness," costing the armed forces potential recruits and a large financial cost as well.

GEM NEWS & BAR TALK

By Henry

Welcome to the 32nd edition of your favorite gay rag. Here we go.

Quickies

IBL Houston has received an honorable mention (that's 7th place) from Outsports.com. I thought the Rolling Stones were going

to bust a gut during the Superbowl Halftime Show. They're old, you know.

Nevertheless, were you aware that the concert was subject to a five second delay. And twice, ABC cut out a word. One was about a woman's sexual sway and the other

was about a rooster. Sounds innocent enough to me. I could hardly understand the lyrics anyway, except for "Satisfaction," which we all know by heart.

Bravo, the network that brought you Queer Eye, is launching a gay online



Kip, Mel and Brent at 3rd Coast guarding the club's new jukebox

channel. It will be called OutZonetv.

Vote March 7

The primaries are Tuesday, March 7. Here are the HGLBTPC endorsements.

Governor: Bob Gammage.

Legislature Dist. 140: Kevin Bailey.

Legislature Dist. 146: Al Bennett.

Legislature Dist. 147: Garnet Coleman.

U.S. Representative Dist. 7: David Murff.

U.S. Representative Dist. 10: Ted Ankrum.

Justice of the Peace Precinct 2, Place 2:

Zinetta Burney.

Win a Pool Table

Really! Sunday, Feb. 12, Decades is have a double elimination 8-ball tournament, starting 2:00 p.m.

If you win first place, you'll receive a 7-foot Valley Pool Table. And accessories. The catch? You have to carry it home on your bicycle. No you don't.

There are other prizes and a fee to enter. Check at the bar.

Here's Brad Pitt

The handsome actor is said to be shopping for a role where he plays a gay character, reports the website Dark Horizons. That is the trend these days, you know. Brad has seen "Brokeback Mountain" and he "wants a piece of it," says the online magazine.

There's more News & Bar Talk

■ Opening March 1st on the Island ■



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

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

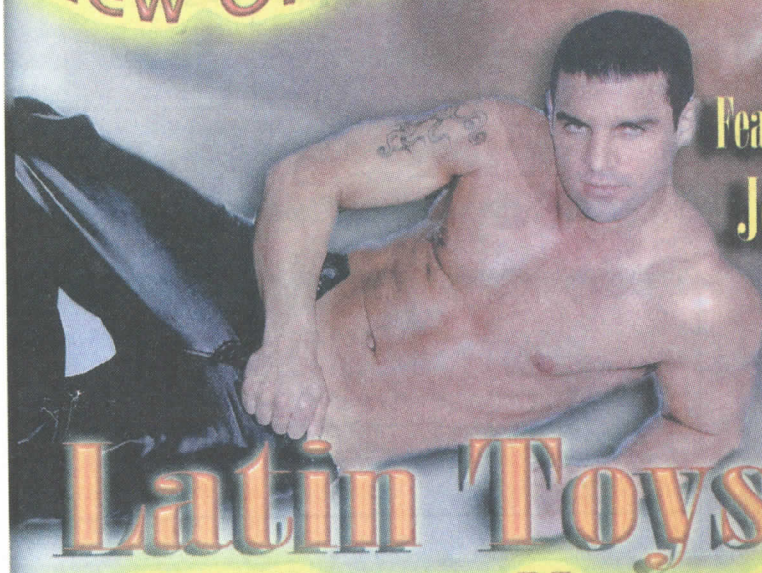
BIG MONEY AMATEUR DANCE CONTEST

Thursdays & Saturdays THE HOT, HOT MEN OF MANWATCH

6 Nights Every Week, Monday thru Saturday

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

New On Tuesdays



**Featured Dancer
Johnny**



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

EJ's

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

713.527 9071

“Sleep Tight Fund” for Mel’s Kids Raised \$8,552 this year!

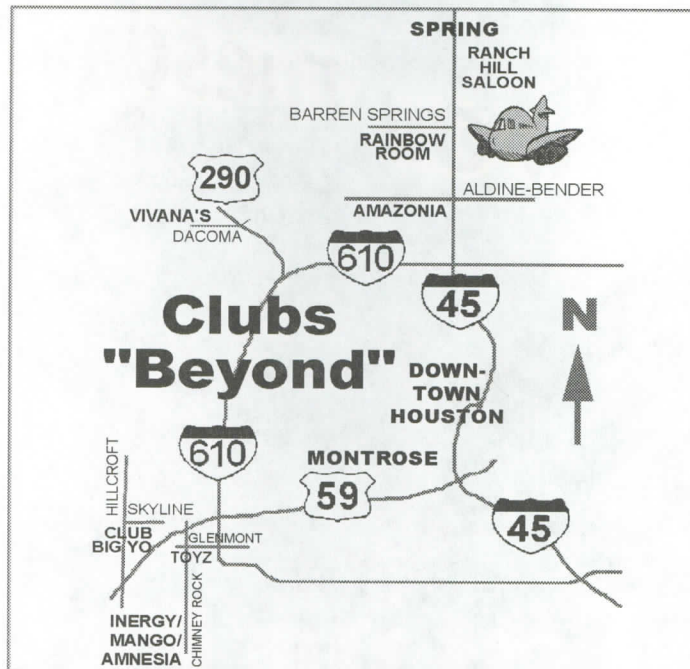
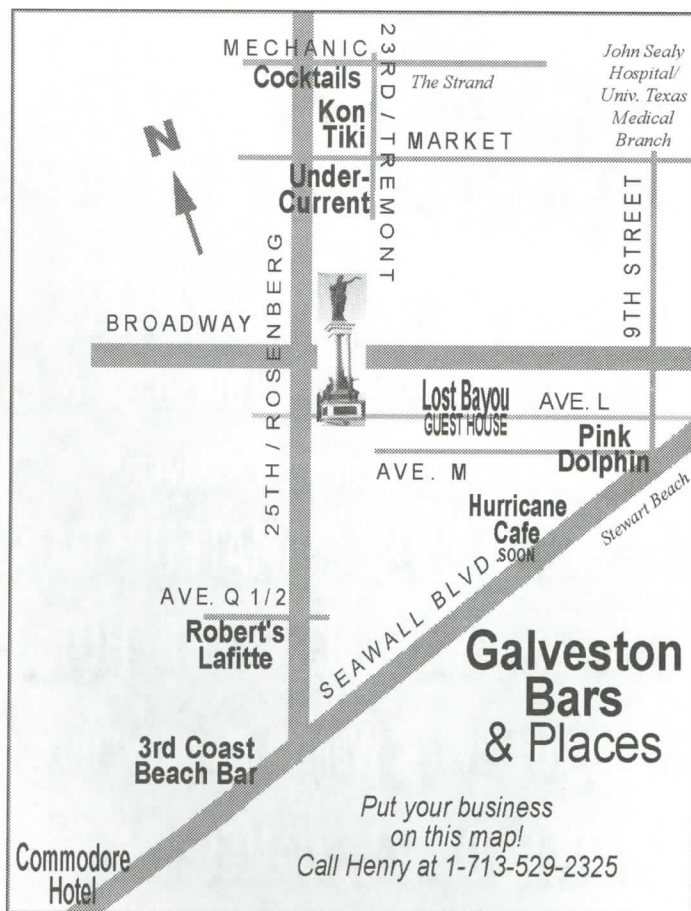
With your help we were able to provide pajamas to 43 A.C.C.T. Youths, pajamas and house shoes to 23 W.R.C.C. clients, and pajamas, house shoes, toys, CD players, stockings, socks, underwear, wish gift items, clothing, groom products and more to 68 kids at the Children’s Center Inc. of Galveston.

This was our best year ever! We could not have done it without the love and support from the Galveston Island and Houston communities! This is a partial list of those that we know came to the forefront with their hearts, talents and checkbooks.

The Pink Dolphin, Robert’s Lafitte, 3rd Coast Beach Bar, Cocktails, Press Box, Shelly’s, Holiday Inn on the Beach, Brian Linko, Minuteman Printing, Moody Gardens, San Luis Resort, Dr. David Cummins, Dr. Gaylyn Holstein, Magnolia, Montrose Guest House, Nuevo Salon, Holiday Inn Medical Center, GEM Magazine, Lips, Twisted Parrot, And the wonderful talents of C.C. Ryder, Misty Valdez, Busty Billie Dee, Myra Sanchez, Sapphire, Miss Saigon, Marleena, Stephanie, Jamie Michaels, D.D. Delight, Ginger Vixion, Rachel, Pink Poinsettia Coral, Lawrence King, Tanya Weldon, James Lutz, I.C.O.H. Inc. And the karaoke singers, bartenders, owners, and the anonymous donations from many, many others!

Special thanks to my committee members who worked so hard to make this all happen: Scott Butler, Susan Fewell, Mary Sue Osborne, Butch Shuttleworth, James Lutz, Kipp Milliron, Sky Hoff, Paul Boudreaux, Pete Estrada, Grace Kizer, Carrie Benefield, Dr. David Cummins and many more that were there when time allowed. Without your support none of this would have been possible.

THANK YOU!



Thank You for Reading The GEM!

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Pisces to Sample the Wacky

HOROSCOPES by HELGA

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An unlikely domestic situation will present itself at a most inopportune time but you will make the right choice. Also, stock up on your necessities for February events.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Turn everyone off and then turn everyone back on. The meaning of this will become clear later as you become the center of attention. But don't take it all too seriously.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Preparation helps insure happiness. Part of that good feeling will involve singing and dancing. Maybe not literally, just in your mind, but this will keep the blues away. And please remember to take a souvenir.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Embrace the strange one and the wild one that you will chance upon in the next week or two. You will all three become delirious. Helga also sees some changes in your job. Brace yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Those dark and stormy nights will be the best time to curl up with a good book. How about "Casino Royale?" No, instead try "Leo's Big Adventure," soon to be made into a movie, starring you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider all the alternatives but don't allow yourself to be slowed down by them. Go on your initial hunch which will be confirmed from an unexpected but important source.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Don't fight the tide. It will always come in and then go out. Your channels of communication will stay open. You will be contacted soon in regard to that recent incident.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): The looks all around you are a clue to an event on the way. It will feel right but look for deeper meaning. And fine tune for deeper colors. You will understand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Changing your mind at the last minute may just mean that you are paying more attention to the details. One wearing purple and green will catch your attention this February. A relationship could happen.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The space is saved for you, Capricorn. Occupy it and do some cheering. The comments that come back will contain information about a social affair, either just recently or yet to come.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Business and pleasure are to be mixed in the coming days. You will see it in the clouds, as a matter of fact. Then, stand up on principles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need it. Now what? Embrace the strange, the weird and the wacky. Mother Nature, it will seem, will provide the atmosphere that will be needed. The operating word: Carnival.

Helga's lottery results from last issue: One number right in each lottery but not in the money. Cumulative: Down \$39. Here are Helga's picks for Feb. 10 & 11, 2006. Mega Millions Friday: 34, 12, 33, 14, 35. Mega Ball: 17. Megaplier? Yes. And for Lotto Texas Saturday: 35, 42, 34, 13, 3. Bonus Ball: 7.

Coretta Scott King Leaves Behind Legacy

Press Release from Human Rights Campaign

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese made the following statement on the passing of civil rights leader Coretta Scott King:

Once in a lifetime God grants us with the ability to witness an extraordinary life dedicated to justice.

With Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., God smiled on us and fortunately granted us two.

When her husband was killed, Mrs. King assumed her husband's role as the guiding light that led the way toward a more equal nation.

She performed that role with enormous grace and strength, never relenting in the movement for civil rights.

She saw justice as a birthright and lent her voice as a relentless advocate for all fair-minded Americans, gay or straight, black or white.

We join the nation in mourning the loss of a great hero and give enormous gratitude for all that she's left behind.

Often speaking of the importance of civil rights for gay and lesbian people, Coretta Scott King said in 1998, "I still hear people say that I should not be talking about the rights of lesbian and gay people and I should stick to the issue of racial justice. ...

"But I hasten to remind them that Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'"

Coretta Scott King also supported a federal bill prohibiting anti-gay discrimination.

Coretta Was a Champion

Press Releases from Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

Civil Rights Champion Coretta Scott King was a great champion of non-violent social change.

King was a woman of great faith and conviction, who rose from modest beginnings to a prominent position, which she used to speak out against the discrimination and inequality she knew all too well as a child.

Following her husband's assassination in 1968, she carried on his legacy, fighting for non-violent social change and the equality for all people.

Despite opposition, she spoke out against many forms of injustice, including discrimination against gays and lesbians.

She supported a federal bill prohibiting anti-gay discrimination, and fought against a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

*Pride
and
Joy
Antiques*

1727 Westheimer 713-522-8345



Cliff and Sisters of the late Lee Davis at Decades

Pardon Me, Rev. Ken

Rev. Ken Hutcherson of the Antioch Bible Church, located near Microsoft's Washington state headquarters, has launched a foolish plan urging everyone to buy a share of Microsoft stock and then have everyone sell it together, on the same day. He thinks that will drive down the price, resulting in a zillion dollar loss for Bill Gates.

He's upset with one of the world's richest

people and his company because they support non-discrimination laws for you and me.

This just shows the brilliance of the Rev. Ken. His people buy the stock at its current going rate. Then they all sell, making it look like there's something wrong with Microsoft, driving the price down. If

this actually happened, most of those in his group will end up selling their stock for less than they paid for it. It's his people who are going to lose their collective and unattractive asses.

There are three reasons why this will never come to pass.

One, not enough of his people will put their money where their mouth is.

Two, even if they did, it still wouldn't amount to much and the price would bounce

back the next day.

And three, it is illegal to play with stocks in this way.

Canned Fruits

That headline was to get your attention. And here you are.

The Resurrection MCC Food Pantry now has donation boxes at Decades, Keys West, BRB and Brick's II. Roland Schmidt, the coordinator for all of this, asks that you bring non-perishables such as canned veggies and fruits and boxes of rice, pasta and cereal to help some of the needy in our community.

L.U.E.Y. in Galveston

The Undercurrent in Galveston will be doing a leather-type fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 11, on behalf of the Houston Council of Clubs. This is a benefit to help with L.U.E.Y. (Let Us Entertain You, for those of you unaware of one of the biggest gay weekends in Houston.)

HERA Official

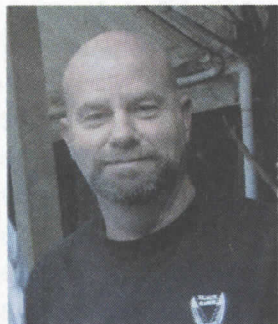
The Houston Equal Rights Alliance (HERA) has announced that Emily Langdon is their field director to manage voter identification efforts. She will oversee day-to-day operations.

Ms. Langdon previously served as the Houston Area Field Coordinator for the No Nonsense in November campaign that fought Proposition 2 last November.

There's more News & Bar Talk

Thank You RIPCORD

I am still around, living on the Island and making food. We will be open for Mardi Gras -- hope to see some of you on the bus trip. If not, come see me the next time you are in Galveston. Always, Jim



Thank you for all the support and friendship you have given me. It was a great five years at the Ripcord.



**Opening March 1st
1328 Seawall, Galveston
409-770-WING**

Comparing Marriage Fairness & Dirty Politicians Off the Mark

Press Release from Human Rights Campaign

President Bush delivered his fifth State of the Union address outlining many challenges facing our country but not forgetting the need to appease extremist groups.

"The president outlined many challenges facing this country that are of concern to the American people but unfortunately felt the need to throw his base an unnecessary and divisive crumb,"

said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

"Trying to draw comparisons between the reprehensible acts of unethical politicians with fair and independent judges is both ridiculous and wrong."

The president also spent a portion of his speech speaking about the domestic HIV/AIDS pandemic saying, "More than a million Americans live with HIV, and half of all AIDS cases occur among African Americans."

"I ask Congress to reform and reauthorize the Ryan White Act and provide new funding to states, so we end the waiting lists for AIDS medicine in America," he said.

"It is a positive sign the president acknowledged the crisis; however, we continue to be troubled by this administration's policies that continually leave our nation's health programs underfunded and allow ideology, and not science, to determine HIV/AIDS policy,"

continued Solmonese.

Additionally, President Bush spoke a lot about cutting taxes for Americans and providing health care insurance alternatives to working families.

"If the president is truly interested in cutting taxes and providing health care coverage for working families then he would support an end to the tax inequity on health care benefits for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans," said Solmonese.

"Our community is being taxed at a much higher rate than our neighbors and the president and Congress should act on this disparity."

Before Congress is a bipartisan piece of legislation, the Domestic Partners Health Benefits Equity Act, which would stop the federal government's taxation of health benefits provided by employers to any beneficiary covered under an employee's benefits plan, including domestic partners.

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He's Not Gay?

I've been informed that Karl Rove is married. That still doesn't mean that old Turd Blossom (that's W's nickname for him) doesn't have the desire. He looks like he does.

More Quickies

Your Mardi Gras Galveston gay bus tickets are selling faster this year than last year. So buy yours today at the Ripcord.

Jim Gray's new Hurricane Cafe is about to open on the Seawall in Galveston.

In Houston, Cinnamon, the reigning Miss Gay Islander and Face of the Year will perform at Keys West Sunday, Feb. 12, as a benefit of PWA Holiday Charities.

There will be snacks and a show starting around 6:30.

The Red Party is Saturday, Feb. 11, at Rich's.

Their next big event after that is Carnival Morabito with DJ Susan Morabito on Feb. 25.

L.U.E.Y. Is Next

The weekend of March 3, 4 and 5 is Let Us Entertain You Weekend. And our next issue of your favorite gay publication will guide you to all the events.

Banner Entertainers

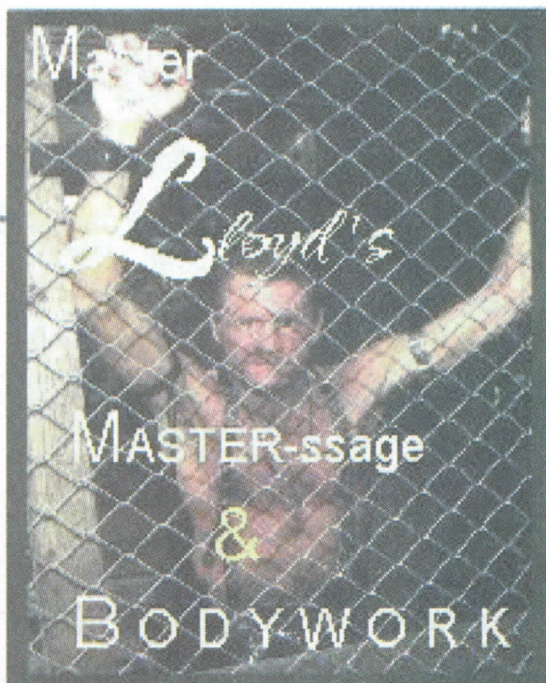
The Krewe of the Banners big party on Feb. 17 will include the Symphony Oz with their big band sound, plus entertainers Miss Gay Island 2006, C.C. Ryder and Allen the Puppet Master.

This takes place at the world world-famous Balinese Room on the Galveston Seawall.

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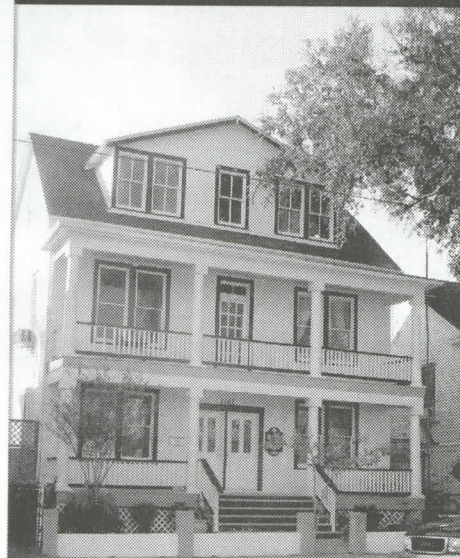
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Friday 10pm-lam
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Thursday 4-8pm
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Carlos

Mary's, Naturally

1022 Westheimer
Wednesday 4-8pm
Jack

Brazos River Bottom

2400 Brazos
Thursday
8pm-Midn.
Lourdes

Midtowne Spa

3100 Fannin
Tuesday 10pm-lam
Carlos

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Tuesday, 8pm-Midn. Friday 10pm-lam
Dennis Quincy

Club Big Yo

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Saturday 11pm-2am
Carlos

Ripcord

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Jack

Cousins

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Jack

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Mardi Gras

Fri., Feb. 17

Jose Classic Disco Party 8pm-2am

Sat., Feb. 18

Ladies of Lafitte Show
Hosted by Island Diva Misty Valdez

Sun., Feb. 19

\$2 Vodka 10am-2pm

Lafitte's Girls Show 9:30pm

Mongoloid Mon., Feb. 20

\$1.50 Well & Beer 7am-6pm

\$2 Well & Beer 6pm-2am

Fri., Feb. 24

Jerome's Disco Party 8pm-2am

Sat., Feb. 25

Patio Bar Open 10am-6pm

\$1 Sausage on a Bun

Show at Noon & 10:30pm

Watch the Parade from Your Barstool

Sun., Feb. 26

\$2 Vodka 10am-2pm

Lafitte's Girls Show 9:30pm

Mongoloid Mon., Feb. 27

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\$2 Well & Beer 6pm-2am

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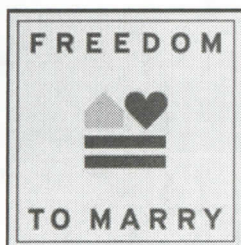
This is your guide and invitation to a week full of exciting events

Web: www.FamilyEquality.org

Email: info@FamilyEquality.org

Mail: Foundation for Family and Marriage Equality, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207, Houston, Texas 77006

Call: 713-227-1717 Fax: 713-522-2610



Houston's 4th Annual Celebration of National Freedom to Marry Week

February 12-18, 2006

Name: _____

Name: _____

of years together: _____ # of Children/Grandchildren: _____ / _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Phone 2 _____

Email: _____ Email 2 _____

Contact us by phone, mail, fax, or email to Participate in the Wedding as a Couple

Sun., Feb. 12, 7pm-10pm

National Freedom to Marry Week Kick-Off Party.

Location: Modern B&B, 4003 Hazard, Houston, TX 77006. Appetizers and refreshments provided by the Foundation for Family and Marriage Equality.

Mon., Feb. 13, 7pm-9pm: "Love Won! We're Out! Mind, Body, and Soul"

Discussion Series, Part I: The Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Speaker: Dr. Jeff Vannice, Ph.D.

Location: Rice University Humanities Building, Room 117. Parking is in the Founder's Lot (\$1 for each 20 minutes)

Tue., Feb. 14, 6pm-8pm: GLBT Night Out & Cupid Karaoke with the Houston GLBT Community Center

Location: Hollywood Cafe, 2409 Grant St, Houston, TX 77006.

Wed., Feb. 15, 7pm-9pm: Discussion Series Part II-The Law and Same-Sex Marriage.

Discussion will examine the Texas Marriage Amendment and the current and emerging laws in the U.S. and around the world on same-sex marriage, including issues concerning defining gender for the purpose of marriage among transgender and intersexed persons.

Speaker: Jerry Simoneaux, partner in the law firm of Nechman, Simoneaux, and Frye, Adjunct Professor of Law at South Texas College of Law, and President of the Foundation for Family and Marriage Equality.

Location: Greater Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207, Houston, TX 77006.

Thu., Feb. 16, 7pm-9pm: Discussion Series Part III, Faith Traditions and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

Speakers: Author Tom Allen, Rev. Todd Williams and others yet to be confirmed.

Location: Community Gospel Church: 4305 Lillian, Houston, TX 77007

Fri., Feb 17, 2pm-4pm: Marriage Equality Protest.

Fri., Feb. 17, 7pm-10pm: Mixer at Jeffries, a new non-smoking club in the heart of Montrose.

Appetizers provided by the Foundation for Family and Marriage Equality. Location: 710 Pacific Street

Sat., Feb 18, 2pm-3:30pm: Texas's Largest Same-Sex Wedding Celebration and Demonstration for the Right to Marry.

All are welcome and invited, whether you are a couple participating, a guest, or a supporter of Marriage Equality

Location: Community Gospel Church, 4305 Lillian, Houston, TX 77007

Sat. Feb., 18, 3:30pm-5pm: Reception for wedding participants and guests.

Community Gospel Church Fellowship Hall, 4305 Lillian, Houston, TX 77007

Sun. Feb. 19, 2:00 pm-5:00pm: Family Day in the Park.

After a long week of fighting for your rights, enjoy a relaxing picnic with other families in the park.

Location: Spotts Park, 401 S Heights Blvd., Houston, TX 77007.

Sponsors

The Community Gospel Church Modern B&B

Nechman, Simoneaux, and Frye Law Firm Houston Equal Right Alliance (HERA)

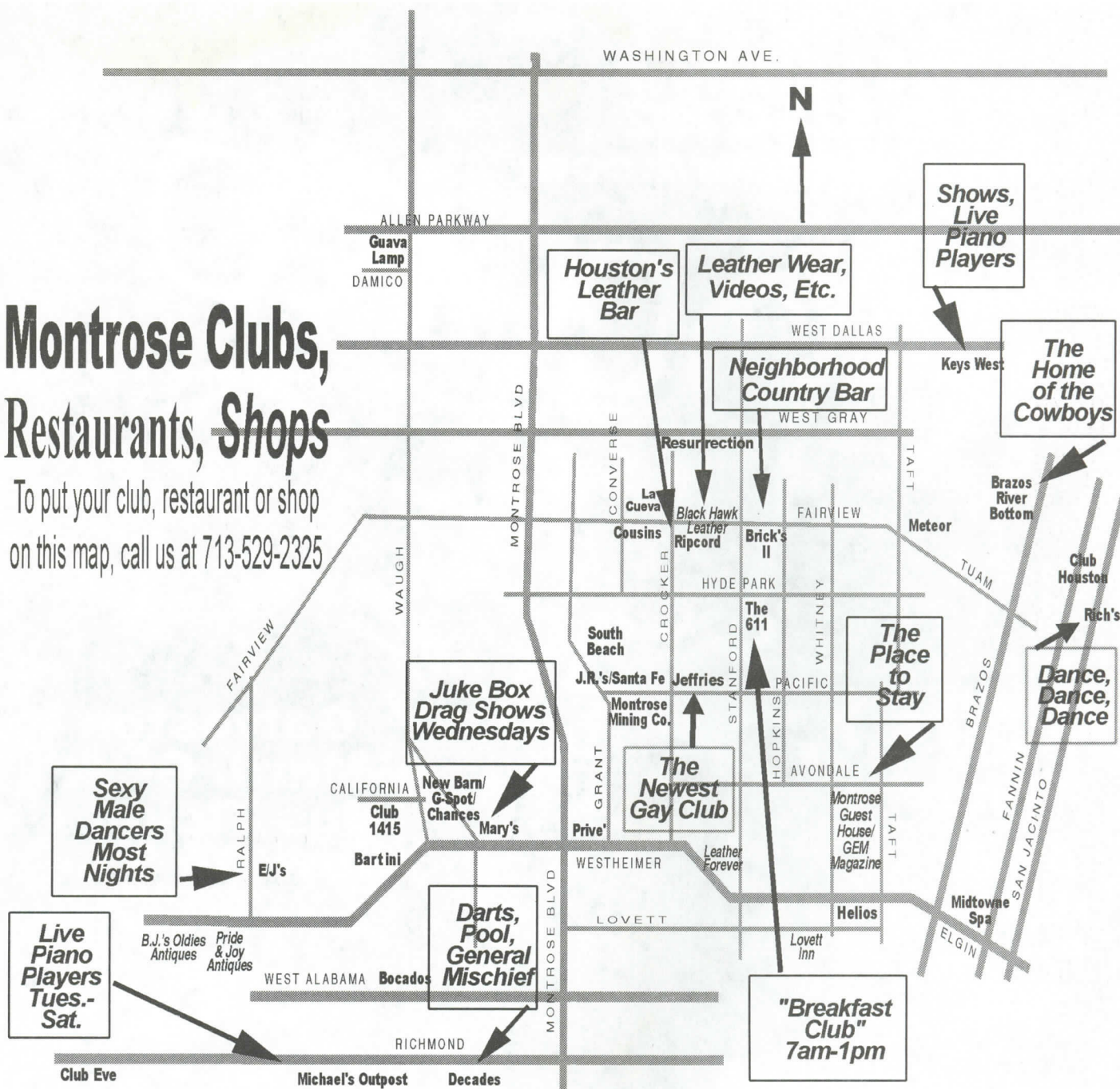
The Houston GLBT Community Center The national Freedom to Marry organization

Rice Pride Montrose GEM



Montrose Clubs, Restaurants, Shops

To put your club, restaurant or shop
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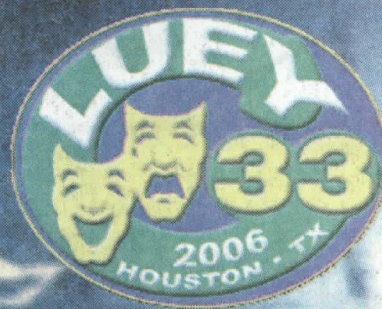
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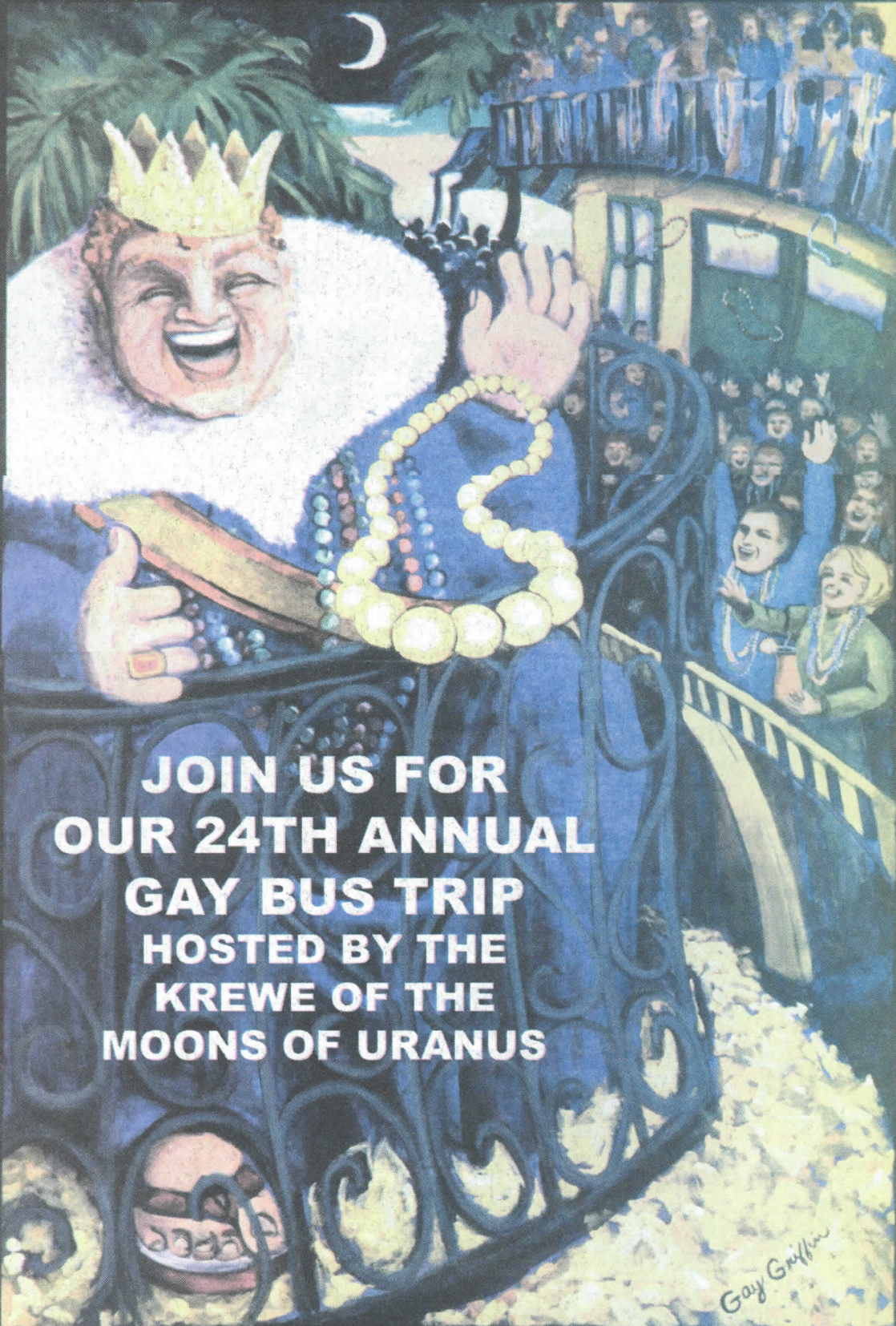
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8-Ball Tourney 8pm Mondays
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'Match Point' Another Score for Woody Allen

*Reviewed by Keith Vyvial for
Montrose GEM*

Woody Allen tends to be a very hit or miss film director for me. "Match Point" would be one of the hits for me, being the most intriguing Allen film in years.

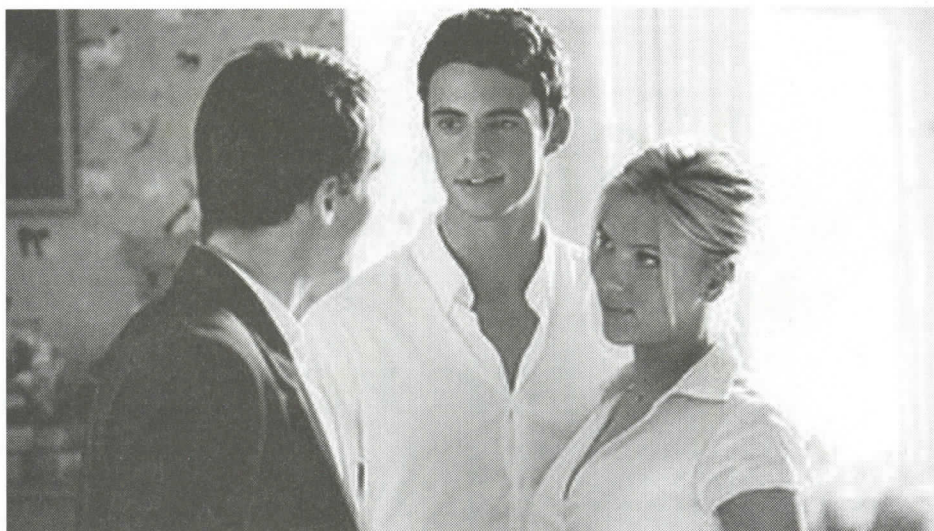
The movie stars Jonathan Rhys-Myers as Chris Harris, a poor boy from Ireland who comes to London and gets a job as a tennis instructor at an exclusive club. He befriends the wealthy Tom and Tom's sister, Chloe, when giving tennis lessons.

A relationship eventually starts up between Chris and Chloe, and Chris soon becomes an executive at the company owned by Chloe's father. Everything is seemingly ideal with Chris' new life.

The problems start when Chris meets Tom's fiance, Nola Rice, a struggling actress. Played by Scarlett Johansson, Nola exudes sexuality and is fully aware of the power she has on men. After a disastrous audition, the two meet for drinks, and a dangerous flirting game begins between.

Despite Nola's insistence that nothing can happen between them, the flirting soon leads to a series of sexual encounters.

Chris and Chloe soon wed. The



Tom Hewett (played by Matthew Goode) introduces Chris Wilton (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) to Nola Rice (Scarlett Johansson)

spiral situation becomes even more complicated when Tom breaks off his engagements with Nola after a woman with whom he is having an affair becomes pregnant.

As the affair between Chris and Nola continues, Nola's obsession with Chris takes a frightening turn, but Chris will not leave the life of privilege that he has with Chloe.

The situation finally reaches a head when it is discovered that Nola has become pregnant. Chris wants her to have an abortion, but she refuses, and insists that she is going to tell Chloe about the affair if Chris does not.

It is here that Chris realizes that things have gone too far out of control and must take desperate action. At this point the movie takes a remarkable road of progressing through a series of coincidences that reminded me of

one of my all-time favorite movies, the Coen brothers' "Blood Simple."

It is fitting that very early on, Chris is seen reading Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment."

As Chris is a tennis instructor, the film uses a tennis match as a metaphor for life and the lack of control one really has.

The acting by everyone, especially the two leads, is remarkable as the tension builds to levels that leave you wondering what will happen next. I was not sure how well Allen would be able to handle the love scenes, but they were incredibly sensual without showing any nudity.

As is typical with Woody Allen, the movie takes a considerable amount of time building the story, and the first half is extremely slow. The final payoff, however, leaves you with a sense of awe after watching this Match.

Holidays, Benefits & Other Occasions

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

Fri., Feb. 10 Black Jack Night 9pm Keys West

Sun., Feb. 12 Lincoln's birthday

Mon., Feb. 13 Full Moon

Tues., Feb. 14 Valentine's Day

Feb. 17-28 Mardi Gras Galveston

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

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

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

Mon., Feb. 20 Presidents' Day

Wed., Feb. 22 Washington's birthday

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

Sat., Feb. 25 NLA monthly membership meeting,

7:30pm, then members bartend 9:30pm-1:30am, Ripcord patio

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

Tues., Feb. 28 Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday

Feb. 28-March 19 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

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

March 10-12 72nd annual River Oaks Garden Club's Azalea Trail

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

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

March 14 Full Moon

March 17 St. Patrick's Day

March 20 First Day of Spring

March 24-26 Bayou City Art Festival, Memorial Park

April 2 Daylight Savings Time Begins (lose an hour)

April 9 Palm Sunday

April 9 Greater Houston Preservation Alliance walking tour of Avondale area

April Montrose Softball League season begins

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

April 13 Full Moon, Passover

April 14 Good Friday

April 15 Houston Transgender Unity Banquet, Westchase Hilton

April 16 Easter Sunday

April NLA Spring Iniquity

April 22-30 Houston International Festival

April 28 National Arbor Day

May 5 Cinco de Mayo

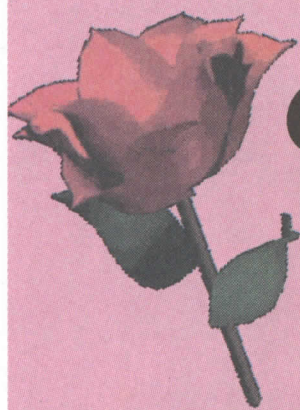
May Galveston Historic Homes Tour

May 13 Art Car Parade

May 14 Mother's Day

May 29 Memorial Day

June 24 Houston Gay Pride Festival & Parade



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Rhetoric of Religious Right Fuels Violence

Press Release from National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

A man went on a rampage at a gay bar in New Bedford, Mass., wounding three patrons in what police said appeared to be a hate crime.

Matt Foreman, Executive Director of NGLTF, said, "The hatred and loathing fueling this morning's vicious attack on gay men in New Bedford is not innate, it is learned.

"And who is teaching it? Leaders of the so-called Christian right, that's who.

"Individuals like James Dobson of Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council's Tony Perkins, the Rev. Pat Robertson and their ilk are obsessed with homosexuality. They use their vast resources, media networks and affiliated pulpits to blame lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people for all the ills of society.

"They disguise their hatred as 'deeply held religious beliefs.'

"The blood spilled this morning is on their hands."

Media Should Cover With Sensitivity

Press Release from Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

Puzzles Lounge in New Bedford, Mass., was thrown into turmoil in the early morning hours of Feb. 2, when a young man violently attacked three patrons with a hatchet and gun.

In news reports a bartender recounted the horrific ordeal.

18-year old Jacob D. Robida entered the bar, ordered a drink and then asked if

the establishment was in fact a gay bar.

When he was told that it was, he finished his drink and walked back to where two men were playing pool.

Unprovoked, he pushed one of the men to the ground, pulled out a hatchet and began swinging at the man's head, cutting him.

Other patrons attempted to stop the man, tackling him and sending the hatchet skidding across the floor.

The attacker then pulled out a gun and fired several shots, hitting two other men.

He then ran out of the bar.

The hatchet that was used in the attacks as well as a knife, were recovered outside the bar.

(Robida later died in a Missouri hospital after a shootout with police.)

The severity and viciousness of this hate crime has sent shock waves throughout New Bedford and the entire region, and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is calling on the nation's media to carefully report this story.

"We are outraged by this vicious hate crime and call for all to stand up against the efforts of those who seek to divide us with their bigotry toward gay Americans," said GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano.

"This act of defamation highlights the need for all of us to do what we can to combat the hatred and bigotry our community still faces."

"It is important that as media from around the country cover this story, they do so accurately and with sensitivity."

This Is an Enraging Reminder

Press Release from Joe Solmonese, President Human Rights Campaign

When a man walks into a bar, asks if it's a gay bar, and starts shooting, there couldn't be any more glaringly

obvious and enraging example that we need uniform hate crimes law and that Congress is stubbornly failing to act.

The Senate can change this today. Whether the hate crime occurs in New Bedford, Massachusetts, or Roanoke, Virginia, local law enforcement deserve access to the same tools.

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act would do this.

I am infuriated and deeply saddened. Our hearts are with the families and friends of those wounded in this tragic hate crime.

This harrowing crime is a sobering and shocking reminder of the way anti-gay prejudice manifests to violence and that we need to deal with this as a country.

We are thankful that the local authorities are investigating this as a hate crime.

We stand by congressional allies who have been working for years to pass a measure giving critical tools to police officers and district attorneys working for justice in the wake of horrifying hate crimes.

The Senate should do what the House has already done and pass the hate crimes law.

The man walked into a lounge in New Bedford, Mass., asking if it was a gay bar.

He then brandished a hatchet, swinging it at victims, and later drew a gun, opening fire and wounding several people.

In the course of prosecuting the killers in the anti-gay hate crime in Laramie, Wyo., in which Matthew Shepard was murdered, local law enforcement was forced to furlough several officers due to scarcity of resources.

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, already passed by the House in the fall and by the Senate in years past, would give grants to local law enforcement to fully prosecute these crimes.

Senate leadership is stalling a vote on the bill.



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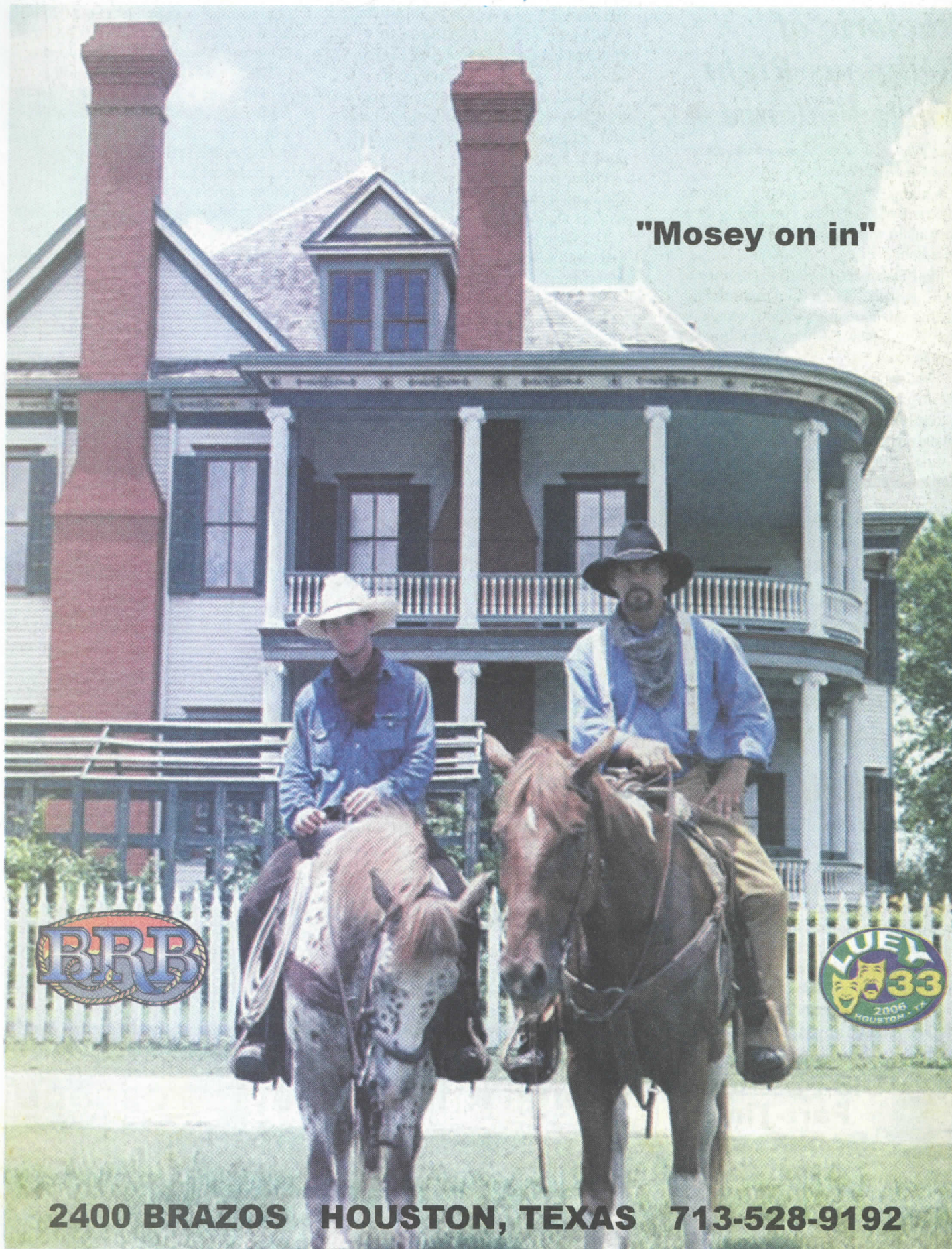
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"Mosey on in"

A photograph of two men on horseback in front of a large, two-story house with a curved porch and two tall red brick chimneys. The man on the left is wearing a light-colored cowboy hat and a blue shirt, riding a light-colored horse. The man on the right is wearing a dark cowboy hat, a blue shirt, and a patterned scarf, riding a dark horse. The house has white siding, dark shutters, and a white picket fence is in the foreground.

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