

Published for the Houston Gay and Lesbian Community by AD Enterprises

R.S.I.C.S.S. Emperor and Empress election Saturday

On Saturday, January 11, 1997, elections for The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston's new Monarchs will take place at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105

from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. All residents of Harris and surrounding counties are eligible to vote with proper identification.

This is a very important election for the community so we asked each candidate to write something about themselves for our paper. This way, you, our readers, can get to know more

about them and hopefully decide to go out and vote. Following is their personal submissions:

The Candidates

Anita Mann

The Emerald Eye, Black Panther Candidate for Empress XIII



To the community, I would like to take the time to introduce myself as a candidate for Reign XIII, The Emerald Eye, Black Panther. You met me last year when I attempted to run for Reign XII. That was a bad year for me as my companion Frank Talbott was so ill with AIDS. This year, on Easter Sunday, he passed away in my arms at home. It was our dream that I would be crowned while he was still around. In my mind, he is and I hope to make my dream, and his, come true. The whole idea is to serve the community from the heart and not from the crown.

My background is a B.A. from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago in 1982. I attended Loyola University, Chicago for a degree "Business Computer Science" in 1985. During that time, I worked for First Chicago Bank, a total of 9 1/2 years.

In 1981, during my schooling, I was visiting Houston, Texas. I would visit for a couple of weeks during "Let Us Entertain You" weekend, after spending a week at Mardi Gras. I fell in love with the City of Houston and the gay/lesbian community. Most of my connection was with the Leather/Levi community.

In 1991, I decided to move to Houston; I couldn't figure out why I was visiting and never moved. At that point, I decided to give my two weeks notice and move! I never regret moving since I had a good network of friends. I will never leave Houston; I love the weather and the

Please see *Anita* on page 2

Jennifer Ellsworth

Caring, Committed and Candidate for Empress XIII



Jennifer Marie Ellsworth was born on a bitterly cold November morning in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in the year 1960. Her parents, not yet realizing her destiny, named him Clayton Emanuel Sather. She was born very sickly and not expected to live, but managed to hang onto life and survive against some very grim odds. Her childhood was spent growing up in a small Wisconsin town called Beloit (which was settled by the French, hence her middle name of Marie). It was not until she turned 18 that she decided to venture out into the world and discover who she really was. She has lived in several hot spots in the country, starting off with Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Realizing that Fort Lauderdale wasn't for her, she migrated south to Miami, where she met the first of her three husbands. Her first marriage burned hot, furious and fast! It was over in six months (really three, but who's counting.) She soon discovered that Miami was much too small for her and her now new ex-husband and her to live in, once again she migrated south, this time to the gay hot spot of Key West, Florida. Here Jennifer flourished, and it was here she planted her roots in drag! After three years of living and loving every man that stepped off the ship, Jennifer decided it was time to head north. So one day she decided to visit some friends she met in Key West and traveled off to Baltimore, Maryland.

Once she hit Baltimore, she decided that this was where home was to be. It was a large city with a very small town feel to it, and this was where she met husband number two. In Baltimore, Jennifer had made a life

Please see *Jennifer* on page 3

Jerel McNeil



Born in Arizona, Jerel McNeil became a Houstonian in 1975. At 43 years old, Jerel has been very active in the Houston Gay Community since 1992. The past four years have been "non-stop."

Jerel plays softball with the Gentry GAPS and this past year served as Assistant Commissioner for the Montrose Softball League. This is his second year as a Host Committee Member of Soiree Aubergine. Jerel is a member of TGRA, and was awarded the Houston Chapter Lone Star Member of the Month this past October.

All of these groups have kept Jerel busy, but over the past four years, he has devoted the majority of his time to The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston and their fundraising efforts. Jerel joined the Court in its seventh reign and since that time was awarded the Outstanding Male Line Member of Reign IX and again in Reign X.

Jerel has moved up through the ranks in the line of succession as Don VIII to Imperial Prince Royal X, the highest position under that of Emperor. As Imperial Prince Royal X, he and his counterpart hosted the first PR Ball which raised \$3,600 for the Loving Arms Foundation. Jerel is currently the Managing Editor for the Imperial Times, the Court's newsletter.

Outside of his constant busy schedule with fundraising shows, car washes, barbecues and so-on, he still has managed to find time to spend with his new Grandson Jason Brent McNeil-Womack, and the youngest "Grandmother" he knows, his husband Sean.

Presently his current endeavor with the community and the Court is

Please see *Jerel* on page 6

Steve Chaisson



It is my aspiration to continue the legacy of cooperation and mutual respect that The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star has engendered amongst the multiple facets of the community. I wish to build on the foundation that has been established by previous Monarchs and the members of their Reigns, and foster new relationships and bridges through personal example and the expansion of existing interorganizational activities and liaisons.

My goals for Reign XIII include:

—To maintain, facilitate and develop the relationships between the diverse factions of our community;

—To participate in fundraising activities which provide revenues to services and organizations which serve varied needs of the members of our community;

—To represent R.S.I.C.S.S. at activities and functions not only within our Realm, but to other Realms, Baronies, and Ducal Courts within the International Court System as I am able, or as recommended by the Board of Directors and/or the membership of R.S.I.C.S.S.

—To foster development of the male line, resulting in a more visible public presence of that line and more active participation by them in fundraising and other Court sponsored activities and have fun doing it.

—To conquer Louisiana, rename Lake Charles after the Empress and demand tribute from King Rex of New Orleans.

VOTE
Saturday
January 11, 1997
R.S.I.C.S.S.

Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star, Inc.

**"WHAT WE ARE TO BE
WE ARE NOW BECOMING."**

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

MEMBER
HOUSTON AREA BEARS
BLACK TIE, HOUSTON
SOIREE AUBERGINE
HUMAN RIGHTS FUND
GLPC
NAMES PROJECT, CHICAGO



**VOTING TAKES
PLACE AT THE OFFICE OF
THE HOUSTON VOICE, ON
JANUARY 11, 1997; 10 AM
- 6PM, 811 WESTHEIMER,
SUITE 105**

ELECT
JOHN MATA A.K.A. ANITA MANN
CANDIDATE FOR EMPRESS XIII
THE EMERALD EYE, BLACK PANTHER

Anita

Continued from page 1
people.

Now lets get to my qualifications to be Empress XIII of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star. A heart, to care about what you are doing, and to believe that you are doing something for the community. You might say, "Well, I can do that without an organization." My response would be, "To work with a group of people shows team spirit." You cannot accomplish things alone; you need to have help in order to reach a goal. To get a large organization like R.S.I.C.S.S. to work together takes work. Each of us has our different personalities. It takes tact to deal diplomatically with each person.

My experience with the Court began five years ago during Reign VIII. I moved from Lady of the Court, to Countess and finally Imperial Princess Royal X. At the first PR Ball, we raised over \$3,600 for the Loving Arms Foundation. I've been involved with Soiree Aubergine, Houston Black Tie as Table Captain, and the

Houston Area Bears. This year I contributed to Miss Camp America, Krewe of Olympus, and the Bayou City Boys events.

With the help of many friends, I was able to serve Thanksgiving dinner at the Venture-N for the HIV/PWA's in our community. I feel this was one of my greatest accomplishments of the year. Many thanks to the Houston Area Bears and the Colt 45's for helping to make this dream a reality. The Colt 45's also bestowed its 'Female Entertainer of the Year' award to me this year.

I hope you will remember me with your vote on January 11, 1997, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the offices of the Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105. Anyone who lives in Houston, Harris County, or the surrounding counties can vote. Your vote counts and can make a difference in electing me as Empress of the Court and for the community. I hope all my friends and organizations that I've supported will come out and support me. It does make a difference.

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Jim Cheek or Barry Larson

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Vote Jennifer Ellsworth



Candidate for Empress XIII
The Diamond Rainbow Candidate



of The Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star

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R.S.I.C.S.S.

MONTROSE SOFTBALL LEAGUE
(BOARD MEMEBER)

SORIEE AUBERGINE
(HOST COMMITTEE MEMBER)

GARDEN PARTY



Community Unity in 97

Elect A Full-Time
Community
Leader
Vote and Make
A Difference

Vote Jennifer Ellsworth, Saturday, January 11, 1997

811 Westheimer, Suite 105 (Houston Voice Office) - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Jennifer

Continued from page 1

for herself with a new husband who was accepting of drag, and made her mark in the community, although there weren't a lot of gay bars that did drag, she managed to get into a couple of them and start making things happen, and before she knew it, found herself heavily involved in the local gay community. She was a volunteer for the AIDS Crisis Hotline, and also a volunteer at the clinic that had just opened up to serve the gay community. After almost eleven years of community service in Baltimore, her husband was transferred, and being the dutiful wife that she was followed along with him and wound up landing in Houston, Texas.

Well, it didn't take long after the move to realize there was something wrong with the relationship, and it dissolved just after six months of living in Houston. Jennifer realized that it was no good sitting around and feeling sorry for herself, so she decided to try out the gay bars in Houston to see what they had to offer. Well, her first stop was Gentry, and this was where she met a local community leader that lead to her involvement with Soiree Aubergine, a charity organization that

supports the Bering Care Center's Meals Program.

It was also this very same bar where she met then bartender Vanna White Lee Love, who brought her into the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star. Since then, Jennifer has become a recognized figure in the Houston community for her dedication to the community, supporting many charities and helping where needed. She has also been a board member of the Montrose Softball League and Host Committee Member of Soiree Aubergine.

And now she is asking for your vote and support in her bid to become Empress XIII of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc. With your help she hopes to continue making a difference in the lives of our community and in those who are afflicted with the dreaded disease HIV/AIDS. Jennifer has one dream: To see a cure for HIV/AIDS in the near future. So please remember to come out and vote January 11, 1997 at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105.

Vote for Jennifer Ellsworth, Vote and Make a Difference!

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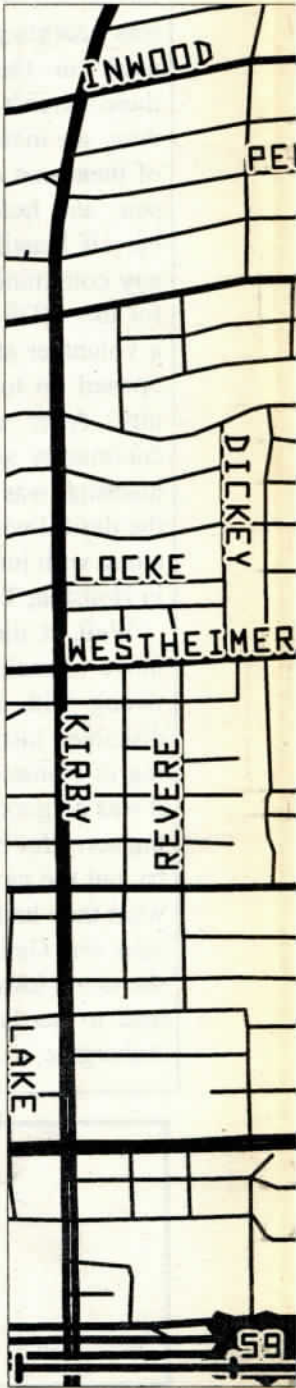
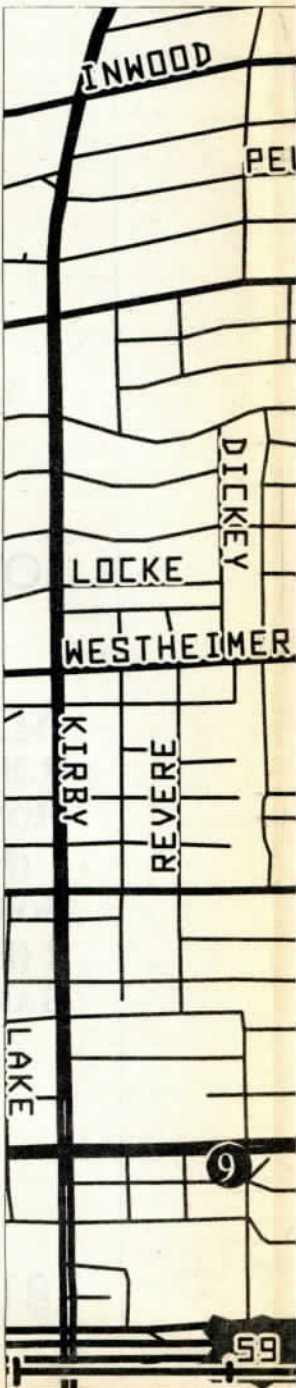
VOTE


Saturday, January 11, 1997

R.S.I.C.S.S.

811 Westheimer, Suite 105

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RSICSS Empress XI Crystal Rae Lee Love presents

Moon Over Miami: A Bare Buns Contest

Saturday, January 11th • Midnight



2303 Richmond

Prizes awarded for:
Fuzzy Buns • Baby Cakes
Bubble Butt • Papa's Choice
Mr. Hot Buns '97

All proceeds benefit Bering Care Center and Bering Dental Clinic
through Soiree Aubergine

THE MAP
A Guide to Gay Houston

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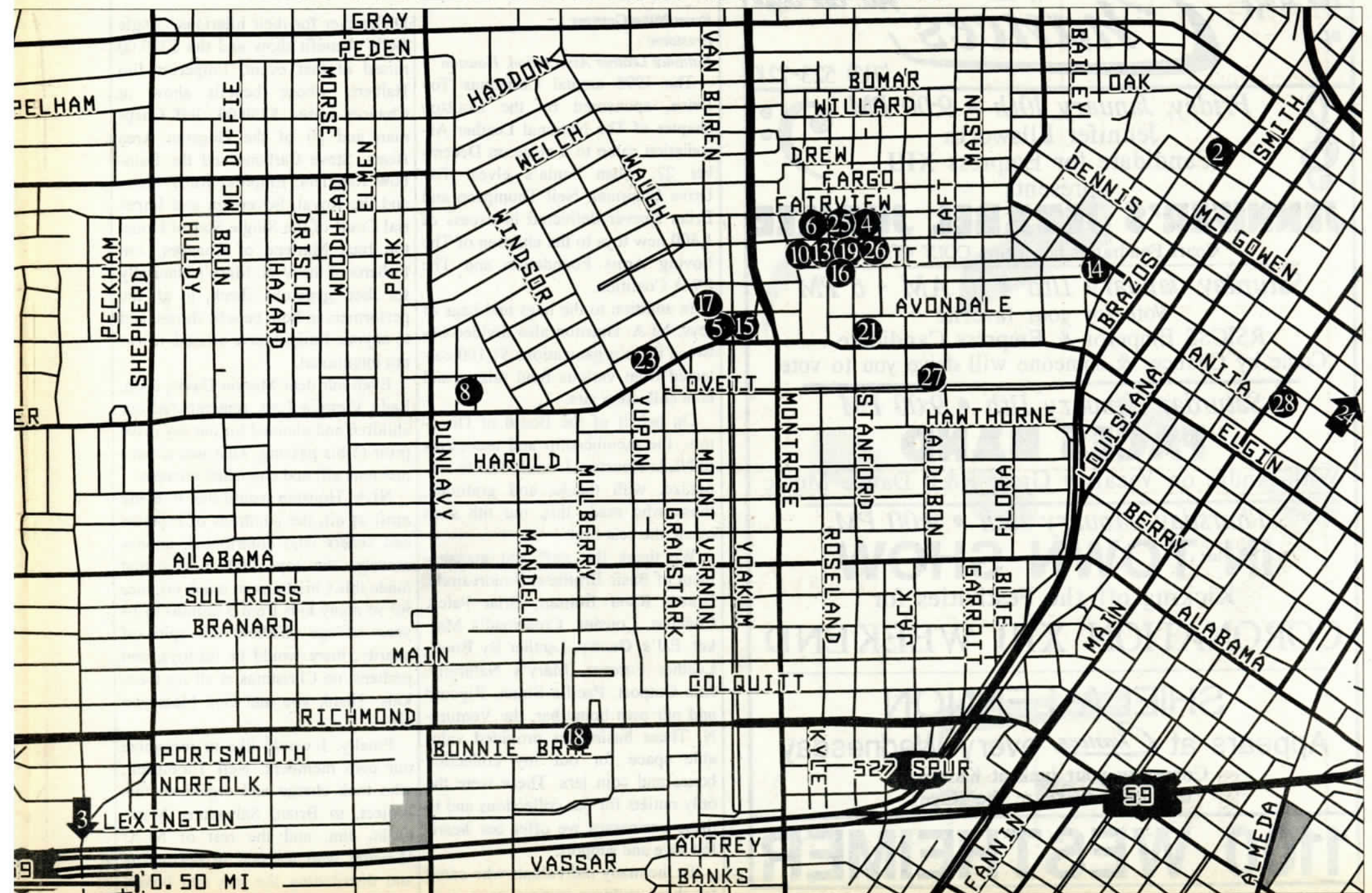
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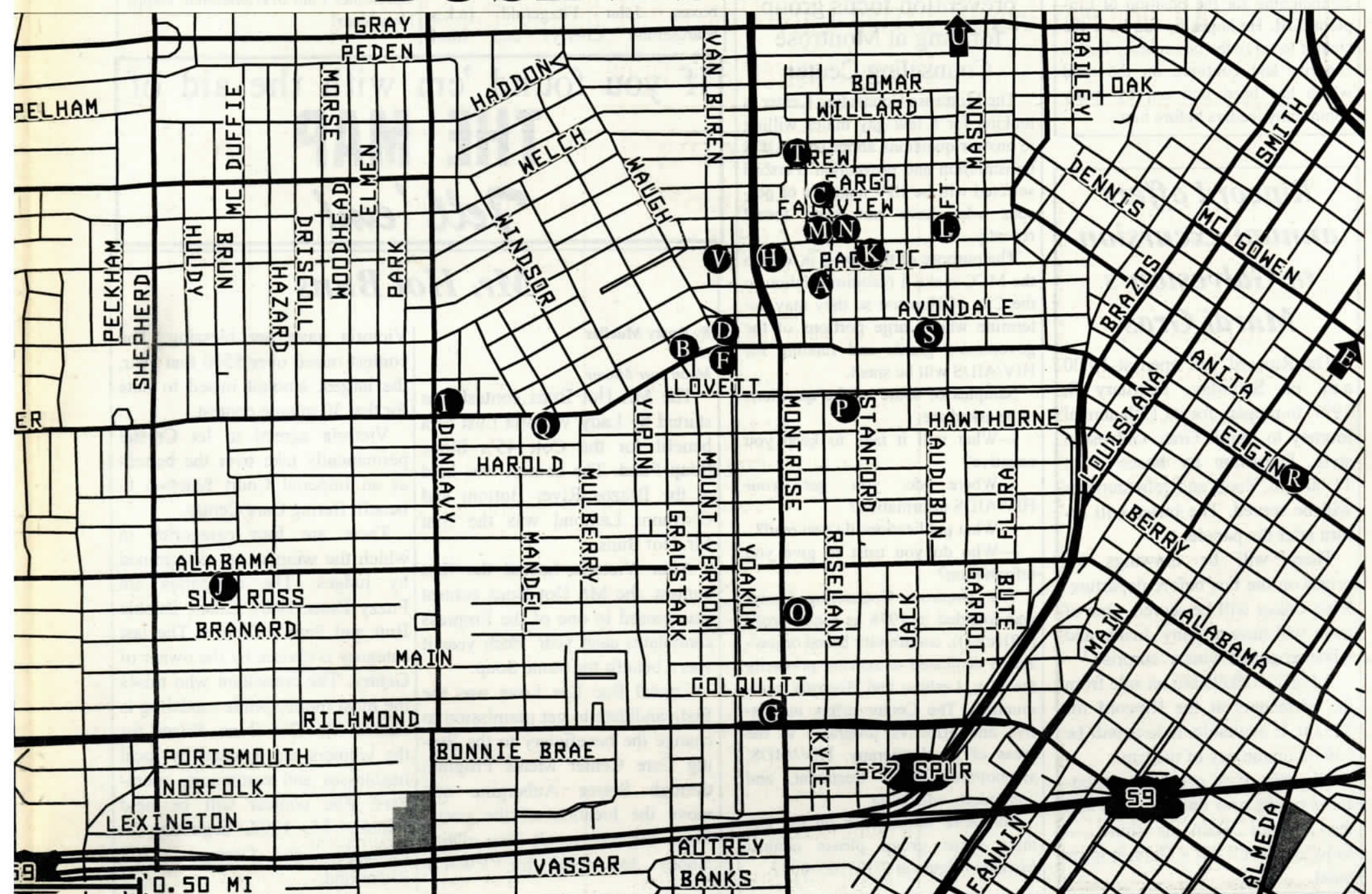
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ENTERTAINMENT



BUSINESS



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Friday, January 10th • 9:00 PM
Jennifer Ellsworth
Candidate for Empress XIII
presents
JENNIFER'S JEZABEL JUBILEE
Court Fundraiser benefiting COLT 45's

Saturday, January 11th • 10 AM - 6 PM
Vote for your favorite
RSICSS Emperor & Empress Candidate
Come by Chances & someone will drive you to vote!

Saturday, January 11th • 9:00 PM
FACES BAND
With Andre on Vocals • Great R&B Dance Music

Thursday, January 16th • 9:00 PM
IN-TOWN SHOW
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CORONATION XIII WEEKEND

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Appears at *Chances* every Wednesday
Come try your luck at Karaoke
She loves to share the stage

1100 WESTHEIMER

Jerel

Continued from page 1
campaigning for the position of Emperor XIII. He hopes he can have the chance to serve the community in this capacity and continue on the road which has been laid out by many community leaders before him.

Ripcord offers annual excursion to Galveston's Mardi Gras

The Ripcord will open at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 8, 1997, to prepare for its 12th annual journey to Mardi Gras, Galveston style. Departure by buses is at 11:00 a.m. Food and refreshments will be served. The buses will return after the parade.

There will be drawings for prizes on the bus before departure. King Cakes will be served. One of them will have a 'baby' inside and whoever gets it wins a 'surprise.'

Advance tickets are on sale from the bartenders at the Ripcord for \$25.00. If available, tickets will be \$30.00 on the day of the trip.

The trip was originally sponsored by the now defunct Barn and the Ripcord. Rain or shine — snow or sleet — it's Galveston or bust!

Gay male HIV/AIDS prevention focus group forming at Montrose Counseling Center

The Montrose Counseling Center is looking for a few gay males willing to answer questions about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention. Persons selected will be HIV negative or persons who have not been tested recently.

The purpose of the group is to help the MCC make a recommendation to the City of Houston so they may determine where large portions of the government grants and funding for HIV/AIDS will be spent.

Samples of some of the questions to be asked are:

- What will it take to keep you negative?
- Where do you get your HIV/AIDS information?
- What publications do you read?
- Who do you trust to give you information?

The Montrose Counseling Center was founded in 1978 as a non-profit (501(c)(3)), community based organization dedicated to serving primarily the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual communities. The Center offers innovative and effective programs in the areas of psychotherapy, HIV/AIDS, alcohol/drug abuse treatment, and community education.

For more information on the gay male focus group please contact Michael Migura at (713) 529-0037.

Letter to the Editor

From Mike Geinzer
President

National Leather Association: Houston

The 1996 annual Christmas Toy Drive, sponsored by the Houston chapter of The National Leather Association came to a close on December 22, when Santa's elves, Toy Drive Chairman Neil Thompson and Brian Keever delivered in excess of 1,400 new toys to the children of The Loving Arms Foundation and The PWA Coalition.

In addition to the bags and bags of toys, NLA: Houston also divided between these organizations \$1,100 collected from various fund raisers and coin collection jars.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the membership and associates of NLA: Houston, I would like to recognize, with thanks and gratitude, those who made this, our 6th such event, the best ever.

We thank the staff and management of Basic Brothers, Boudreaux's, Brazos River Bottom, Briar Patch, Chances, Cousins, Crossroad's Market, E/J's, Gentry, Leather By Boots, Leather Forever, Mary's Naturally, Jo's Outpost, Pacific Street, Ripcord and our own home-bar, the Venture-N. These businesses provided valuable space for our toy collection boxes and coin jars. These were the only outlets for our collections and to these businesses we offer our heartfelt love and support.

To the many individuals who cared for these children in time, toys, cash and support, we cannot ever express our gratitude; they include, but are not limited to: Jeffrey Bays for his kind contribution of the collection boxes, John Fitzgerald (a.k.a. Maraschino Cherry) and Mark

Dickmeyer for their hilarious "Jingle Balls" benefit show and the \$200.00 raised at that event, Emperor Jim Halbert, whose benefit show at Chances raised \$750.00, Jeff Chapman and all of the Houston Area Bears, Steve Carbone and the Rainbow Ranglers, Empress Ruby Stone and the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston Inc., Marlene of Chances, Jim Roberts of the V-N, Mary's Naturally for their generous check, to all the performers in both benefit shows, and to anyone I might have missed, it was not intentional.

Even our dear Marvin Davis, a.k.a. Lady Victoria Lust, remembered our children and planned for our toy drive prior to his passing. That was a most precious gift and cherished memory.

NLA: Houston would like to thank most of all, the hundreds of brothers and sisters who contributed, anonymously, the toys and money that made this Christmas so much brighter for so many kids from 3 months to 14 years of age. Without this spirit of charity, there would be no toys, and perhaps, no Christmas at all for these kids. Thank you and God bless you all.

Finally, I would like to recognize our own members: Neil Thompson, who took charge and organized this project, to Brian, Salvatore, Mark, Orlin, Jim, and the rest of NLA: Houston who assisted in decorating and distributing the jars and boxes, who cleaned them out when they were overflowing, who picked them up, and who helped sort and distribute the toys in so short a time before Christmas. I am overwhelmed. Happy New Year!

If you found 'em with the aid of
THE MAP
Tell 'em!

Mr. Hot Buns

By Rusty Mueller
Host
Moon over Miami

The Mr. Hot Buns contest was started by Lady Victoria Lust as a benefit for the Colt 45's Stone Soup Fund. The contest was held at the Brazos River Bottom and Giovanni Lamond was the first Mr. Hot Buns.

After Victoria hosted the first contest, the Mr. Hot Buns contest was passed to one of the Empress candidates each year. Each year it was a benefit for Stone Soup.

Crystal Rae Lee Love was the first candidate to get permission to change the beneficiary to the Bering Care Center Meals Program through Soiree Aubergine and move the location of the event. Since the end result was raising money for food for PWA's,

Victoria gave her blessing. The contest raised over \$500 that year, the largest amount raised to date for that 30 minute contest.

Victoria agreed to let Crystal permanently take over the benefit as an Imperial Court function to benefit Bering Care Center.

There are four categories in which the winners are determined by judges. The categories are Fuzzy Buns, Baby Cakes, Bubble Butt and Papa's Choice. The last category is chosen by the owner of Gentry. The contestant who raises the most money while modeling is named Mr. Hot Buns. Prizes for the winners are donated by local businesses and community members. The contest will be held January 11, 1997, beginning at midnight at Gentry, 2303 Richmond.

vote

JEREL mcneil
candidate for
emperor



**of the
Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star
of Houston Inc.**

Court Member Since 1992

***- Outstanding Male Line Member Reign IX & X
Former Asst. Commissioner of MSL***

Member TGRA

***- Lone Star Member of the Month
Member Soiree Aubergine***

**January 11, 1997 10am - 6pm
houston voice office - 811 westheimer, suite 105
elected by the community**



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