

Issue 010
January 24, 1997

Montrose Area PRIDE™

And
THE MAP™
is Inside

Published for the Houston Gay and Lesbian Community by AD Enterprises

Coronation XIII crowns new Emperor and Empress



Empress XIII, Anita Mann and Emperor XIII, Jerel McNeil

By Sean Carter
Special to the Montrose Area Pride

After a long but exciting weekend, The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc. (RSICSS) held Coronation XIII at the Renaissance Hotel. The four day festivities were highlighted by a Gala Celebration Saturday night. Many members of the Houston community were joined by numerous people from around the country and Canada to applaud Emperor XII Jim Halbert and Empress XII Ruby Stone, for their contribution to our community during Reign XII.

Beginning Thursday night, the In-Town-Show at Chances featured members of the Houston Court. Hosted by the Fifth Anniversary Monarchs, Emperor VIII Frank Pierce and Empress VIII Pittypat Magnolia Sugarbaker, the Houston members did a wonderful job of entertaining the out of town guests. Ruby and Jim continued a tradition that began at Coronation XII, by handing out awards that went from somewhat serious to somewhat funny. It was a great beginning to a spectacular weekend.

Friday began early at the hotel in the hospitality suite, hosted by Emperor and Empress XI. Members reunited friendships and fostered new ones as the Colt 45's, NLA Houston and Soiree Aubergine assisted with bartending duties.

The evening approached and Monarchs from visiting courts entertained at the Out-of-Town Show, held at the hotel. Ending promptly at 10:00 p.m., over 100 people loaded two buses for the annual bar run. Beginning at the Ripcord, coronation guests were treated to this Houston bar for the

first time in the history of the Houston Court. From there, the buses headed to the Emperor's home bar, Venture-N. Keeping on schedule, they traveled to Gentry, EJ's, Mary's and finally the home bar of the Court and Empress XII's home bar, Chances. Marlene Beago and the staff of Chances hosted the Court with a huge breakfast spread. After a lot of laughs and a few tears, they loaded up and headed back to the hotel where most of the members stayed up in hospitality until the early hours of the morning.

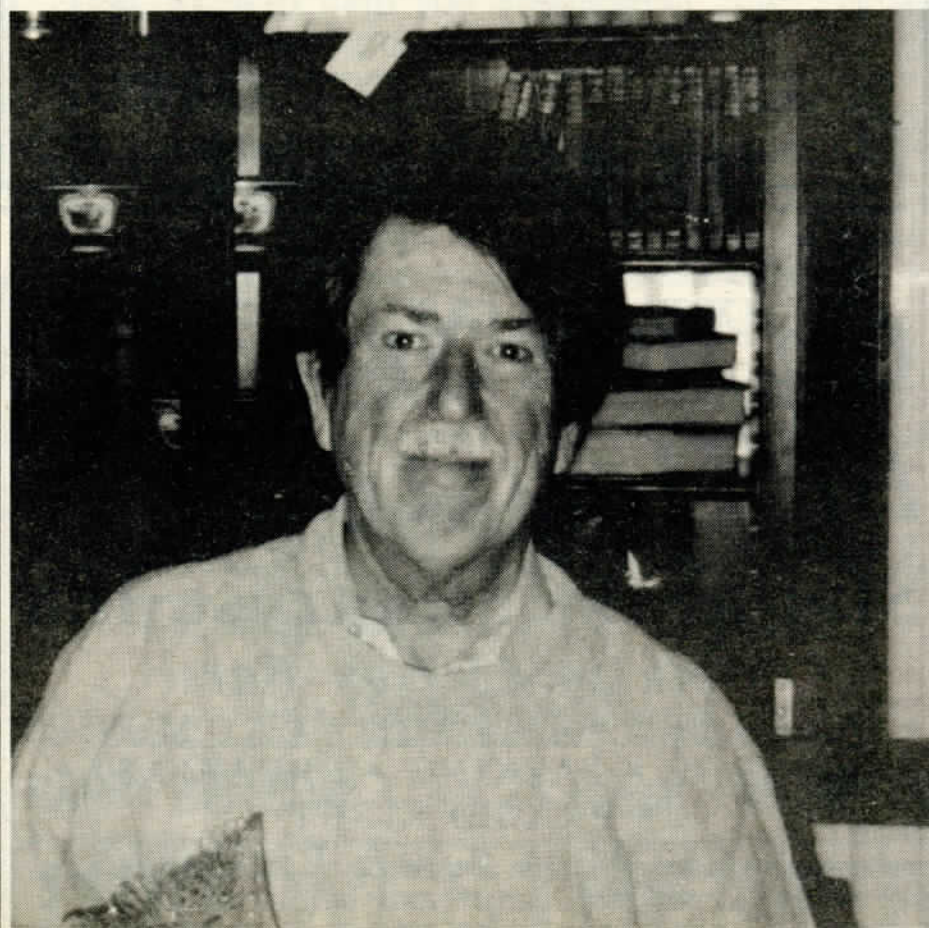
Saturday saw many members running around preparing for the highlight of the weekend, Coronation XIII, "A Winter Fantasy Ball." In their best evening wear, court members and guests filled the ballroom. As the lights dimmed, Ruby and Jim entered in a colorful sleigh drawn by six beefy men in leather. Decked in white, the Monarchs began their final evening as the reigning Emperor and Empress of Houston.

During their first set, the Houston Court was introduced and the Monarchs awarded the outstanding Male and Female Line Members. Outstanding male line member went to Lloyd Wassenich and outstanding female line member went to Jennifer Ellsworth. The tenth anniversary Monarch, Janee Johnson Empress IV, was crowned and presentations were made by local bars, businesses, clubs and organizations. Each of the aspirants to the throne did a production number, entertaining the many people assembled.

The second set began with the entrance of the Monarchs. Her Majesty,

Please see **Coronation** on page 3

Antique dealer disappears; LVL estate recovers some assets



Steven G. Buie's picture that was taken during the Montrose Area Pride's interview with him during late December, 1996. Have you seen this man? Please notify THE MAP at (713) 660-6808 of his whereabouts and we will notify the proper authorities.

By Jim Cheek
Co-Publisher

Steven G. Buie, owner of Southern Expressions, has disappeared with undisclosed amounts of cash receipts from the sale of Marvin (L.V.L.) Davis' estate along with receipts from the sale of his clients' consignment items.

The January 3, 1997, issue of THE MAP disclosed that most of Marvin

Davis' estate had been consigned to Mr. Buie to sell. Steven stated at the time that he was doing all of this without commission and that "L.V.L. gave her all to her community, so the least I can do is assist in her endeavors, and assist in my little way."

The Montrose Area Pride (THE MAP) and the L.V.L. P.W.A. Holiday Fund are requesting anyone with information concerning the where-

Please see **Antique** on page 3

Dixon and Bell in runoff for City Council

By Jim Cheek
Co-Publisher

Proposition A and minimum wage rejected

From a field of 16 candidates, Houston voters chose Rev. James W.E. Dixon II and Chris Bell as candidates in a runoff election to be held at a date selected by City Council when votes in this election are canvassed.

Dixon received 25% of the vote while Bell polled 23%. Third place finisher Dave Wilson received 11% and Ray Hill got 9% for the fourth spot.

Only 17% of the registered voters in the City bothered to go to the polls. Montrose area voters

totaled only slightly better at 17 1/2%.

The \$6.50 minimum wage proposal failed 77% to 23% citywide, while in Montrose it lost by a 74% to 26% margin.

The tax reform was voted down 61% to 39% and in Montrose it was 59% to 41%.

Tax reform supporter Bruce Holtz went on television late Saturday night claiming he would be back. Houston needs tax-limiting laws he said.

Mayor Bob Lanier stated he would like to see city charter amendments voted on during November elections citing that he thought it inappropriate to consider major changes during low turnout elections.

More on R.S.I.C.S.S. Reign XIII in
Upfront With the Community on page 2

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Upfront With The Community

by

SEAN CARTER

Mr. Gay Houston All-American 1997

The theme of Reign XIII, chosen by Jerel and Anita, is 'The Unified Reign of Spirit and Hope.'

Jerel explained their idea, "We chose this because we feel that everyone has the spirit, the drive and the dedication to make our community a better place for everyone. They have the hope toward finding a cure for the plague that is on us, and for those who are living with this plague."

"We all pray and hope for a cure for AIDS and until that is achieved, our mission is to continue a unified effort, through benefits and fundraisers with all groups and organizations, to help those afflicted."

The beneficiary for the reign will be announced at the first meeting, February 9, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. at Chances. Anyone interested can attend.

When asked how it feels to be the new monarchs of Houston, Anita replied, "I still can't believe it really happened. My head is still bouncing off the walls. It was a lot of fun and now we get to hit the starting gate and really work."

Jerel answered that it is "challenging, exciting and scary as hell! However, with the support of the community and numerous phone calls in just the two days since coronation,

I've got my second wind and we're on the go. I've already had an appearance as Emperor, by attending the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Inc. Their goal is to establish a sense of community by providing for their social, emotional, cultural and physical well being. And we're ready to help!"

Anita explained some goals for Reign XIII, "Our goal is to unite the community and continue raising money."

Jerel continued by saying that, "uniting all clubs and organizations in our community is beneficial because we all have the same purpose and goal in mind; to help all people who are HIV-positive and all people living with AIDS. We all do it separately, and now we're going to do it as a team."

Lastly, Jerel wanted to say, "thank you to the community for their support and for electing me to this position. With their help and the help of all court members, we will succeed in raising the money needed to help our brothers and sisters."

As they start their reign, we look forward to the new year and new horizons for our community. Best of luck to Jerel and Anita.

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Welcome to the World of Gay Travel

By Christopher Roth

First off, thank you Jim and Barry, for allowing me to contribute to what is to be the best source of information by and for our community. This column specifically addresses the gay and lesbian traveler. Hopefully, we'll have some fun along the way. So here we go!

So many doors are opening to the Gay and Lesbian traveler. As little as five years ago, planning an enjoyable vacation for a same sex couple could be quite a challenge. Today, however, more of the world is accepting and welcoming us.

Mainstream companies such as National Car Rental, American Airlines and Norwegian Cruise Lines are creating distinctive programs especially for our community. This is just the beginning! I'll keep you informed on what's new and what's happening.

When planning your trip, I strongly suggest you use a travel agent, especially a member of the International Gay Travel Association. These agents have access to the latest information as it's made available. Research your destination. Have an idea of what you are looking for and what you want out of your vacation.

The perfect trip is like a puzzle, each piece a different aspect of the trip. The more information you have, the better you can plan. Gay travel guides, such as Ferrari's Guide, offer both general additions and additions specifically for the Gay or Lesbian individual. And as for you net junkies, the internet is also becoming an avenue of information. Check out <http://www.rainbow-mall.com/igta> or <http://www.q-net.com> for a sample.

That's it for this week. Look for the next entry to the "World of Gay Travel" coming soon! I welcome your input, thoughts and questions. Address them to the Montrose Area Pride or e-mail me at sc.ultimate@uniglobe.com and let me hear from you!

Christopher Roth is a Community Travel Specialist at UNIGLOBE Ultimate Travel and has been in the travel industry for the past 13 years. He is a member of the International Gay Travel Association and a certified "Gay Travel Specialist." UNIGLOBE Ultimate Travel is a progressive agency that cares about the community. They are located in the Meyerland area and can be reached at (713) 669-1171.

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Antique

Continued from page 1

abouts of Steven G. Buie to call the offices of THE MAP at (713) 660-6808. We will notify the proper authorities of his location.

On Wednesday, January 8, 1997, Barry Larson and I (Publishers of THE MAP) went to Southern Expressions to return a picture of Marvin Davis' grandfather that we had borrowed for the story. Mr. Buie requested that we return it to him so that he could insure it was returned to the estate.

The shop was locked up and there were no signs stating why the store was closed. We left a note for Steve telling him we had been there.

The next day (January 9, 1997) we returned only to find the store still locked. There were several cars and trucks in the parking lot. There were at least two people in the area.

A man approached our vehicle asking, "Do you all have consignment goods in the shop, too?" We explained our purpose and he noticed several copies of THE MAP in the back seat and asked if we worked with the newspaper that did that story. We again explained our position.

This man's conversation continued with questions and statements concerning Steven's owing money to several of his clients and his landlord. He stated that Mr. Buie has scheduled a meeting with them to give them their consignment checks and hadn't shown up. We left him telling him that we would contact Marvin's estate and their lawyers.

We contacted Don Gill, the chairman of the L.V.L. P.W.A. Holiday Fund (the eventual beneficiary of L.V.L.'s estate.) We explained what

we had seen and heard. He stated he would look into it.

On Friday, January 10, 1997, we again went to the store and found a note from a relative of Steven's landlord looking for Steven.

Several days later a couple of Steven's friends verified to the estate's attorney that his whereabouts were unknown to anyone they knew and that his apartment was locked up and contained some of the antiques from the estate.

Last Thursday, January 16th, the estate's attorney contacted a lady (we'll call her Bonnie as she has requested privacy) who stated that she had given Steven cash and received no receipt for several pieces of furniture and a china dinnerware set.

Bonnie felt that there must be something wrong. She told the attorney that she wanted the estate to pick up all of the pieces. She said she didn't want the property under these circumstances.

She also stated that Mr. Buie had lived with her for several months and that he had access to her home and vehicle. She said Steven owed her at least \$10,000.00 in addition to the money she had given him for the antiques.

Bonnie continued that Steven Buie had recently been elected as head of worship at the Westbury United Methodist Church. He disappeared the very next day. She said, "He was well liked and trusted by all he met."

Don Gill rented a storeroom and a truck and on the evening of January 16th, he and I loaded all of the estate's property from Bonnie's home and took it to the storeroom.

The attorneys for the estate and the other clients have filed suit to recover the rest of the property. A hearing on that suit will be held Friday morning.

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& Empress XIII Anita Mann

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Coronation

Continued from page 1

Ruby Stone, made a grand entrance with a fabulous red evening gown followed by a 125 foot train. The out of town courts were then presented and the Fifth Anniversary Monarchs, Frank and Pittypat Emperor and Empress VIII, were crowned.

Finally, at 12 midnight, the third and final set began. Proclamations were made by their Majesties. Jim Halbert proclaimed that the Houston court, during each reign, would hold a monthly benefit with a central theme benefiting one group other than the reign beneficiary. Ruby Stone proclaimed that a Hall of Fame be set up, and each year one member be inducted for raising the most money over \$5,000.

After her proclamation, Ruby inducted the first member into the Hall of Fame, Marlene Beago. The Founders Award was presented by Founder and President of the Board of Directors, Laura Lee Love. This year the recipient was King Father for Life, Dot Thompson. Then, through many tears, Jim and Ruby did their final walks and were inducted into the College of Monarchs.

Finally, the moment had come to find out whom the community had elected to be the new Monarchs. The aspirants to the throne were asked to

leave the ballroom and the tally was brought before the Board and the College of Monarchs.


Imperial Prince Royale XII, Rick Carter calmly walked out of the ballroom to escort in the new Emperor. The silence was broken with cheers and applause as Jerel McNeil entered the room. Once again, the task was repeated by Imperial Princess Royale XII, Vanna White Lee Love as she left the ballroom to bring in the new Empress. Again, the cheers were repeated as Anita Mann walked through the door. The two were sworn in and presented as Emperor and Empress XIII, the newest crowned Monarchs in the Imperial Court System.

Sunday morning groups gathered for the Victory Brunch. Jim and Ruby gave out final awards for the previous night's presentations. Jerel McNeil was awarded Best Candidates Presentation; BRB won Best Bar Presentation, TGRA received Best Organization Presentation and Corpus Christi won Best In-State Presentation.

The spotlight was then turned to Jerel and Anita as they announced Reign XIII. To finally close the weekend, Jim and Ruby hosted the Victory Show at Chances, in honor of the new Monarchs.

After a lot of fun, many tears and much pomp and circumstance, Coronation XIII was a great success.

THE MAP'S BAR GUIDE		ECLIPSE 988-9990 7647 Clarewood	15 MARY'S 527-9669 1022 Westheimer	24 RICH'S 759-9606 2401 San Jacinto
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2 BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM 528-9192 2400 Brazos	9 GENTRY 520-1861 2303 Richmond	17 THE NEW BARN 521-9355 1100 Westheimer	27 STEAM 521-1450 402 Lovett	28 VENTURE-N 522-0000 2923 Main
3 BRIAR PATCH 665-9678 2294 W. Holcombe	10 HEAVEN 521-9123 812 Pacific	18 OUTPOST 520-8446 1419 Richmond	Please report any corrections, deletions or additions to: THE MAP (713) 660-6808	
4 BRICK'S 528-8102 617 Fairview @ Stanford	INERGY 666-7310 5750 Chimney Rock	19 PACIFIC STREET 523-0213 710 Pacific		
5 CHANCES 523-7217 1100 Westheimer	INCOGNITO 237-9431 2524 McKinney	21 QT's 529-8813 534 Westheimer		
6 COUSIN'S 528-9204 817 Fairview	13 JR's 521-2519 808 Pacific	RANCH, XTC, Ms. B's 666-3462 9200 Buffalo Speedway		
	14 LAZY J 528-9343 312 Tuam	23 RASCAL'S 942-2582 1318 Westheimer		



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Sunday, January 26th

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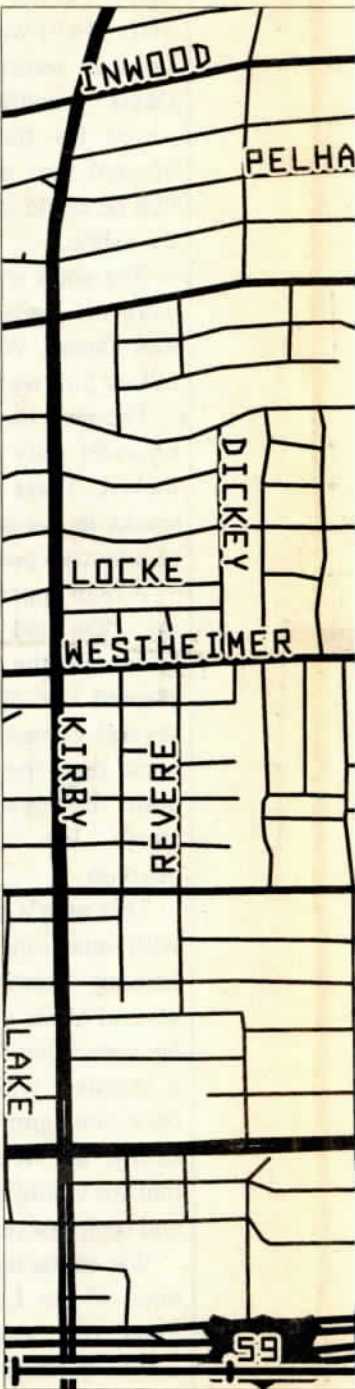
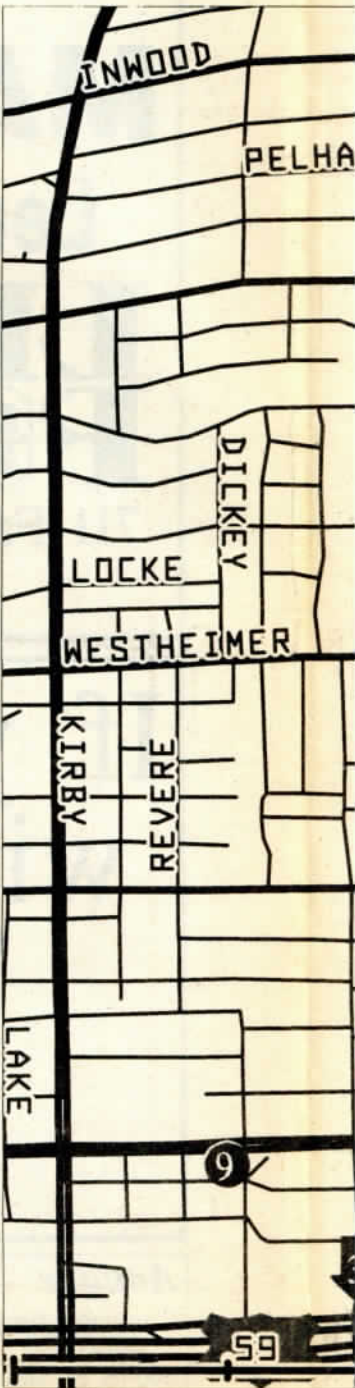
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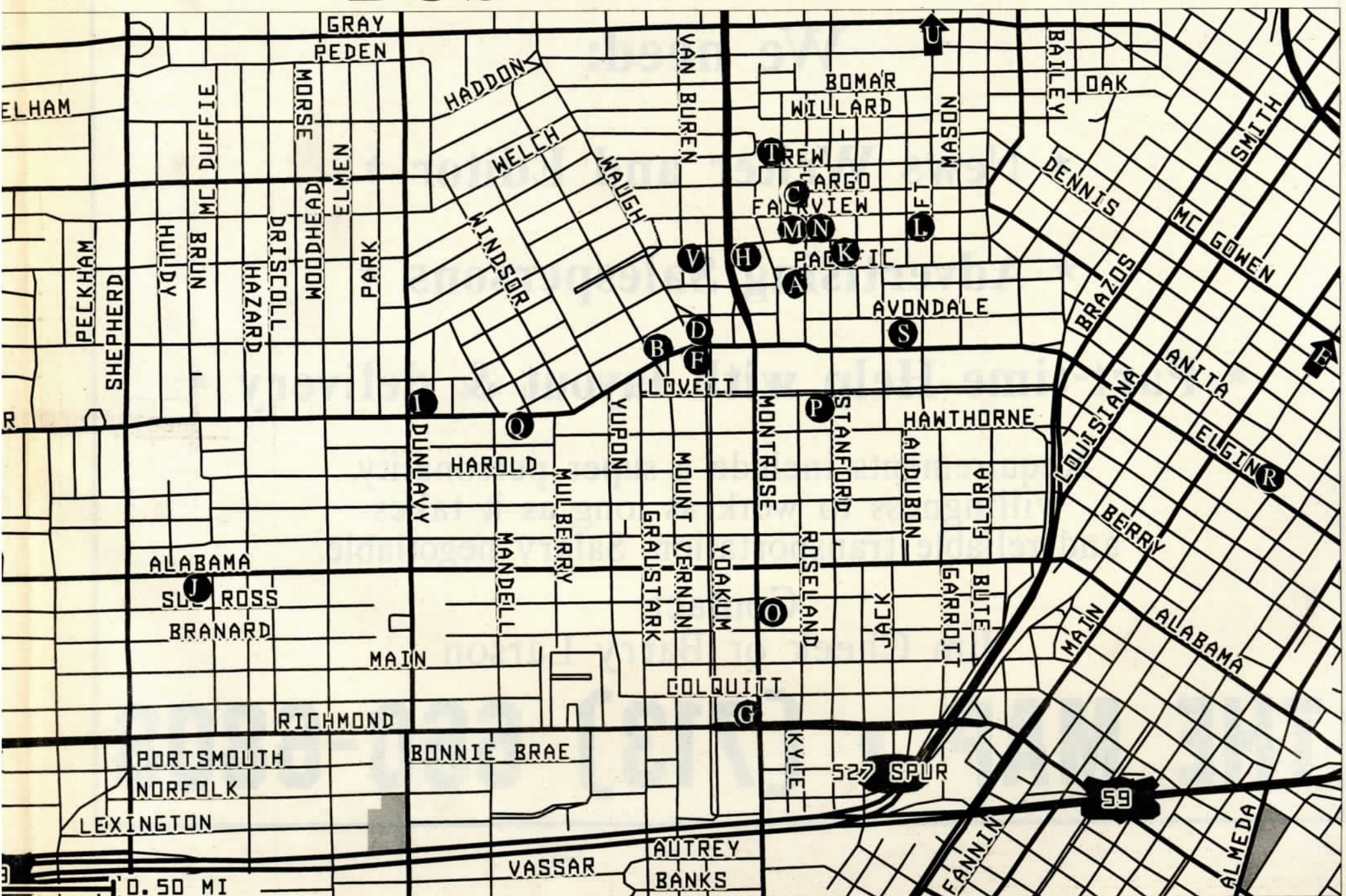
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		U TAFT STREET AUTO 526-3723 1411 Taft
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Brick's II joins the gay club scene

A new country western, leather, levi club opened its doors Wednesday, January 15, 1997. Brick's II is located at 617 Fairview at Stanford (#4 on the Map) in the building that once housed the Past Time.

Amid the freshly painted green surfaces, new carpet and new bar-top was a specially prepared hors d'oeuvres buffet and a huge crowd of celebrating friends and customers. Tuna Melt and the Casseroles performed the first show, benefiting the LVL PWA Holiday Fund (soon to be known as PWA Holiday Charities.)

Brick's II will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily. On Sunday the bar will open at 12:00 noon. Daily happy hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. and 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. Happy hour prices are \$1.75 for both well drinks and domestic long neck beer. Shots are priced at \$1.50 and draft beer is \$1.00 all the time.

(Sonic) Bill is your morning bartender Monday through Friday. David opens Saturday mornings.

Jeff handles the afternoon bar Tuesday through Friday, with David on Monday, Tom (Chinchilla) on



Robert Harwood (l) and Richard Bang enjoying the festivities at the Brick's II grand opening.

Saturday and Byron on Sunday afternoon.

Tom handles the evening shift on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday with Byron completing the week.

In the planning stages are pool leagues three nights weekly with occasional shows. There are two pool tables, dart board, video games and a juke box. Afternoon snacks will be served daily. The bar is a Commercial Member of TGRA- Houston.

The entire crew of Brick's II invites you to their club's new atmosphere and attitude.



The Board of Directors of The Grey Party, represented by Richard Cortez, Jimmy Arispe and Walter Pollpeter made a \$1,200.00 donation to Casa de Esperanza. Receiving the donation is Theresa Berg. In October 1997 look for a big celebration, The Grey Party's 15th anniversary. Anyone not on the mailing list or who has moved please write: G.P., P.O. Box 130773, Houston, TX 77219-0773.

Montrose Clinic Outreach Program offers HIV testing and Counseling

The Montrose Clinic Outreach Program offers free HIV testing and counseling at the following locations and times:

—THURSDAY, Jan. 23
Venture-N — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Rich's — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

—MONDAY, Jan. 27
BRB — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
—TUESDAY, Jan. 28
Club Houston — 8 p.m. to 12 m.n.
—WEDNESDAY, Jan. 29
Mary's — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
—THURSDAY, Jan. 30
Venture-N — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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Coronation XIII



Miss BRB 1997 Pageant



