

Issue 030
June 13, 1997

Montrose Area **PRIDE**TM

And
THE MAPTM
is Inside

The Guide to Gay Houston ★ Published for the Men and Women of the Houston Gay Community

Mr. Montrose 1996 Byron Norton



Byron Norton, Mr. Montrose Emeritus, will be giving up his title Sunday night, June 15, 1997, at the second annual Mr. Montrose contest being held at the Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Byron is also the current reigning Mr. Gay Southeast Texas All-American and a member of The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star. This contest is benefiting the PWA Holiday Charities (LVL). All tips and entry fees raised will go to this charity. The contest is titled "Broadway" and will be a night of dazzling Broadway performances. Emcees for the evening are Shelby St. John, Miss Gentry 1997, and Day-Leigh Edwards, Miss BRB 1996. Please see related story (Mr. Montrose) on page 3.



Chances (713) 523-7217

HOME BAR OF THE ROYAL, SOVEREIGN & IMPERIAL COURT OF THE SINGLE STAR
HOME BAR OF WASSIE EMPRESS XII RUBY STONE



* Friday, June 13 * 9 PM *

"Brides of Effingstein"

R.S.I.C.S.S. Benefit for Q-Patrol

Every Wednesday 9 PM * *Shiela Lennon* * Every Wednesday 9 PM

* Friday, June 20 * 8 PM * Registration *

"Summer Sweat Fest"

R.S.I.C.S.S. Run benefits PR Ball IV

* Saturday, June 21 * 9 p.m. * Chances & Glen Barnes present

"Spotlight on Hope"

benefiting PWA Coalition

Good Luck to WILEY & VANNA at the
Finlandia Bartender Contest Friday Night at Gentry!!!

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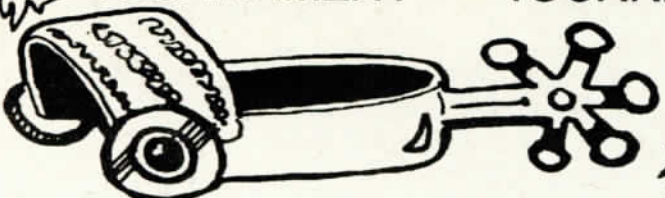


Mondays...7:00 pm

SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT

Tuesdays...8:00 pm

DART TOURNAMENT



Last weekend's totals

The weekend's total from last week's benefits was \$2145.00.

Ms. Gay Pride Houston

Last Friday night at Chances, the first Ms. Gay Pride Houston Contest raised \$361.00 for the Montrose Clinic Women's Program.

There were two contestants competing for the title, and like at the Miss Gay Houston Contest, there was a tie.

The two Ms. Gay Pride Houston(s) are Barbara Walker and Nikki. Congratulations to both of them on there scores of 420 points each and be sure and look for them in the Gay Pride Parade.

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

Once again the Imperial Court was hard at work raising money for the community this past weekend. Starting Friday night at the Venture-N, Tiffany Swanger hosted a show benefiting the Montrose Clinic Hard of Hearing Program. The show raised

\$416.00. You can read more about this show and the Hard of Hearing Program in Up-Front with the Community on page two.

On Saturday night the court was at Chances raising money for PR Ball IV, which will benefit Soiree Aubergine. Hosted by Imperial Prince Royale XIII Sean Carter and Imperial Princess XIII Lexy Bowen, the show raised \$168.00.

Sunday saw the Court back at the Venture-N bartending and performing for Coronation XIV. Totals for the evening came to \$200.00.

President Awards Show & Wild-Wild West

Last Sunday night at the Brazos River Bottom, T.G.R.A. presented checks for over \$40,000.00 to nine charities in the Houston community at the 3rd annual Presidents show entitled Wild-Wild West.

The show, hosted by Armand Posas, raised a total of \$1000.00 for T.G.R.A. Houston.



Upfront With The Community

by
SEAN CARTER

Mr. Space-City Texas All-American 1997

This past weekend throughout all the benefits and fundraisers that went on, there was one in particular that stands out for me personally. Friday night, Tiffany Swanger — Ms. Gulf Coast Leather — Ms. Texas Leather Pride — and Reina XIII of the Imperial Court, hosted a show at the Venture-N benefiting the Montrose Clinic Community Services Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. Like I have written in many issues, Houston has so many groups that help our community in so many different ways. This was one group with which I was not that familiar.

The show itself was very entertaining. If you have never seen Tiffany perform one of her very interesting comedy numbers, you have to come out and experience it for yourself. She knows how to make people laugh which is exactly what we need in this serious job that we do. Throughout the evening, there were many numbers that made us laugh. Another one that stands out was the number "You're the Reason Our Kids Are Ugly," performed by Ms. Alotta Miles and Rhode Kill. These two are members of the Main Street Maniacs, a new camp group forming here in Houston. Emperor XII, Jim Halbert, Imperial Princess Royale XIII Lexy Bowen, and Miss Mary's Thumper Nightly were all on hand to perform. This is the first time I've seen Thumper do drama, but it was well worth the wait. There were even performers from the Clinic, which really makes a difference because not only is the beneficiary of the night there to support the group raising money, they are also throwing their hat in and raising the money along with us. Patrick Martin and Kris Albert both from the Clinic did a fabulous job. Hopefully you'll have the chance to hear Patrick

perform again at the next all live show. He has a beautiful voice. Throughout the show, the performers were interpreted for the hard of hearing by Kenny Nimmits and Jim Lawrence.

Under their current grant, case managers Kris Albert and Patrick Martin help their HIV+ clients find interpreters for services such as doctor's visits. The program provides case management for HIV+ individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The program provides hearing screening for men and women regardless of their HIV status. It is a collection of over 16 types of equipment including TTY's, phone signalers, FM Loops and amplifying phones. All equipment is available on loan for Deaf and Hard of Hearing to assist clients in maintaining autonomy. They have an Assistive Device Program which helps those who may not be able to afford flashers or TTY's. In July, Kris and Patrick will travel to Austin to represent Houston's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at a Texas Department of Health Conference.

Tiffany organized a wonderful show, again for a wonderful cause. This evening made me realize once again that our community is very diverse yet at the same time very different. Our brothers and sisters in this family are separated in different ways, but evenings like Friday night bring us all together in the spirit that should always unite us.

Thanks Tiffany. You are one of a kind, a huge heart in a small (but cute) package. I hope that just a little bit of your constant energy rubs off on everyone you come in contact with. Till next week...have fun Houston.

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THE MAP'S BAR GUIDE

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873-8810 - 12726 North Freeway

2 BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM

528-9192 - 2400 Brazos

3 BRIAR PATCH

665-9678 - 2294 W. Holcombe

4 BRICK'S II

528-8102 - 617 Fairview

5 CHANCES

523-7217 - 1100 Westheimer

6 COUSIN'S

528-9204 - 817 Fairview

ECLIPSE

988-9990 - 7647 Clarewood

8 E/J's

527-9071 - 2517 Ralph

9 GENTRY

520-1861 - 2303 Richmond

10 HEAVEN

521-9123 - 812 Pacific

INERGY

666-7310 - 5750 Chimney Rock

INCOGNITO

237-9431 - 2524 McKinney

13 JR's

521-2519 - 808 Pacific

14 LAZY J

528-9343 - 312 Tuam

15 MARY'S

527-9669 - 1022 Westheimer

20 MELA'S TEJANO CNTRY

523-0747 - 302 Tuam

16 MONTROSE MINING CO.

529-7488 - 805 Pacific

17 THE NEW BARN

521-9533 - 1100 Westheimer

18 OUTPOST

520-8446 - 1419 Richmond

19 PACIFIC STREET

523-0213 - 710 Pacific

21 QT's

529-8813 - 534 Westheimer

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666-3462 - 9200 Buffalo Speedway

24 RICH'S

759-9606 - 2401 San Jacinto

25 RIPCORN

521-2792 - 715 Fairview

26 611 HYDE PARK PUB

526-7070 - 611 Hyde Park

28 VENTURE-N

522-0000 - 2923 Main

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THE MAP (713) 660-6808

Montrose Area PRIDE and THE MAP

A Guide to Gay Houston

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of the Houston Gay Community
by

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D CHARLIE'S COFFEE SHOP

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E CLUB HOUSTON

659-4998 - 2205 Fannin

F CROSSROADS MARKET

942-0147 - 1111 Westheimer

G GAY & LESBIAN YELLOW PAGES

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H HOLLYWOOD FOOD STORE

2501 Montrose

I HOLLYWOOD FOOD STORE

1660 Westheimer

J HOLLYWOOD FOOD STORE

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K HYDE PARK GALLERY

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R MIDTOWNE SPA

522-2379 - 3100 Fannin

S MONTROSE INN

520-0206 - 408 Avondale

NUVO BY MICHAEL

522-8502 - 2508 Sunset

T OSCAR'S CREAMERY

521-1808 - 1201-C Westheimer

U PREFERRED GRAPHICS

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W STUDIO 911

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X SUZANNE ANDERSON PROPERTIES

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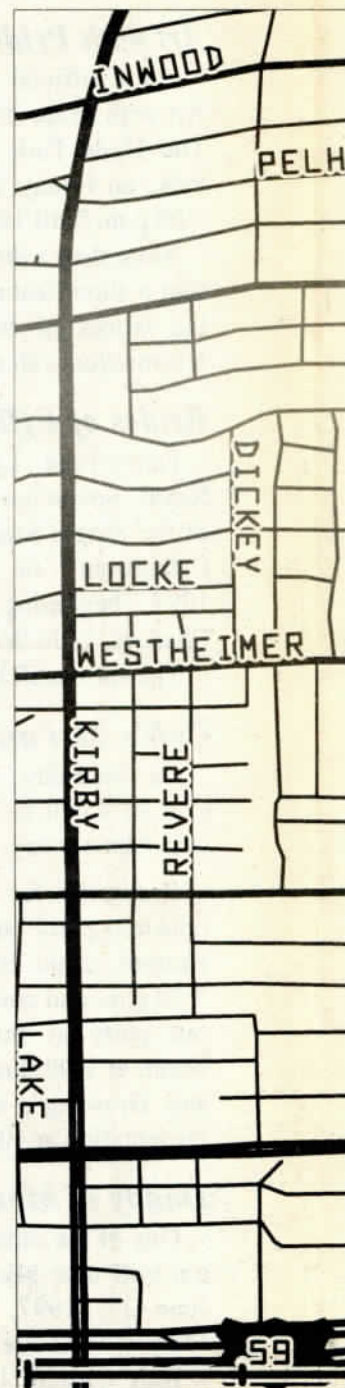
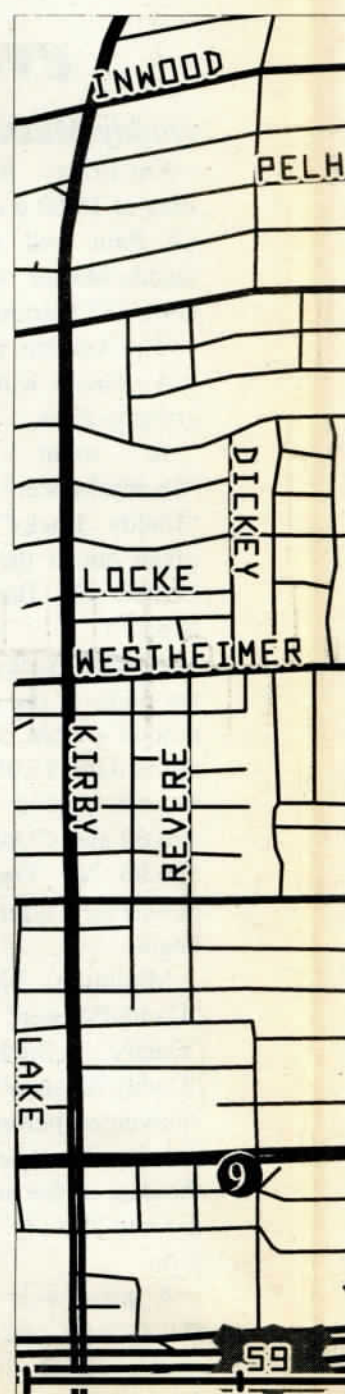
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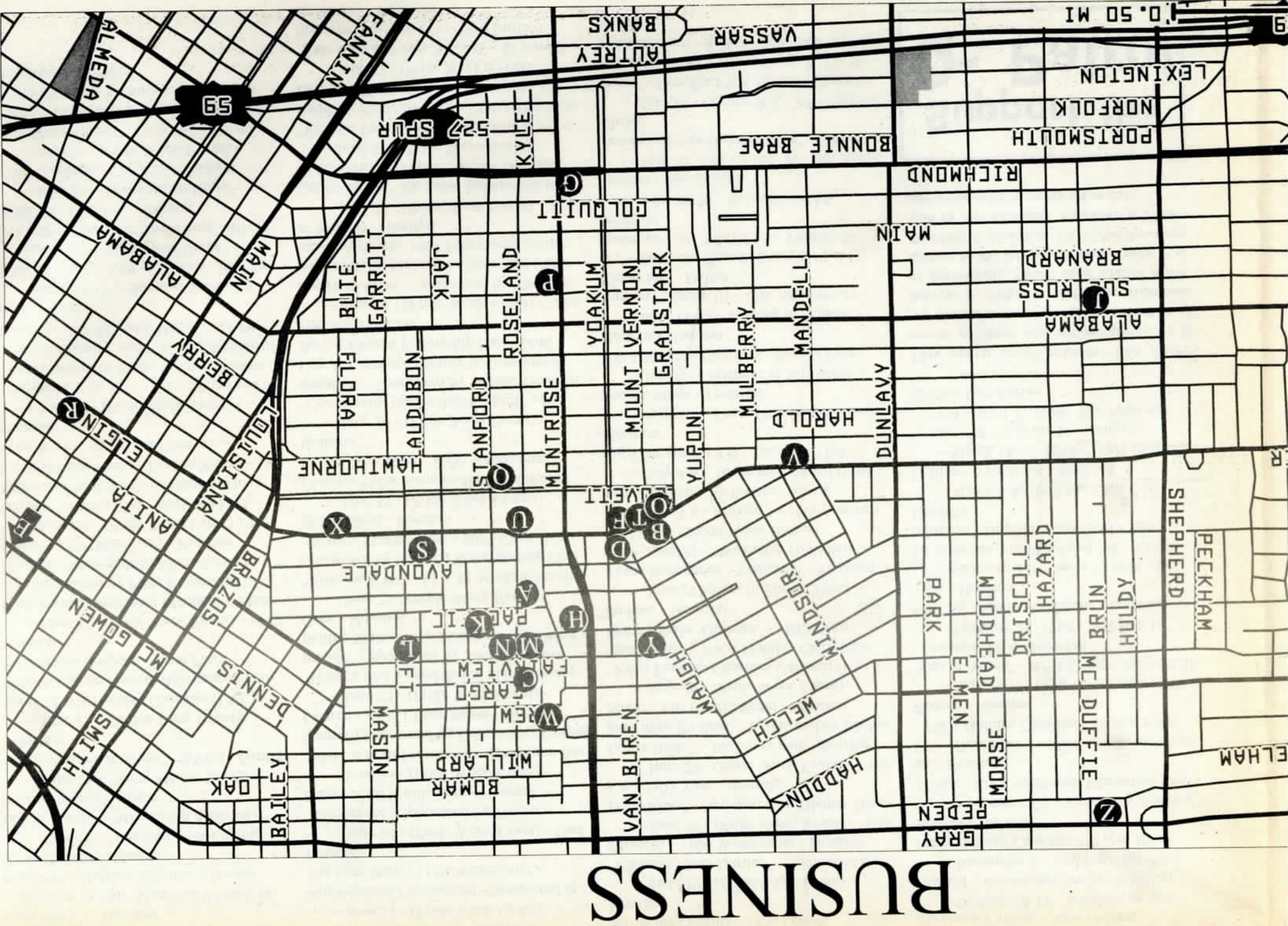
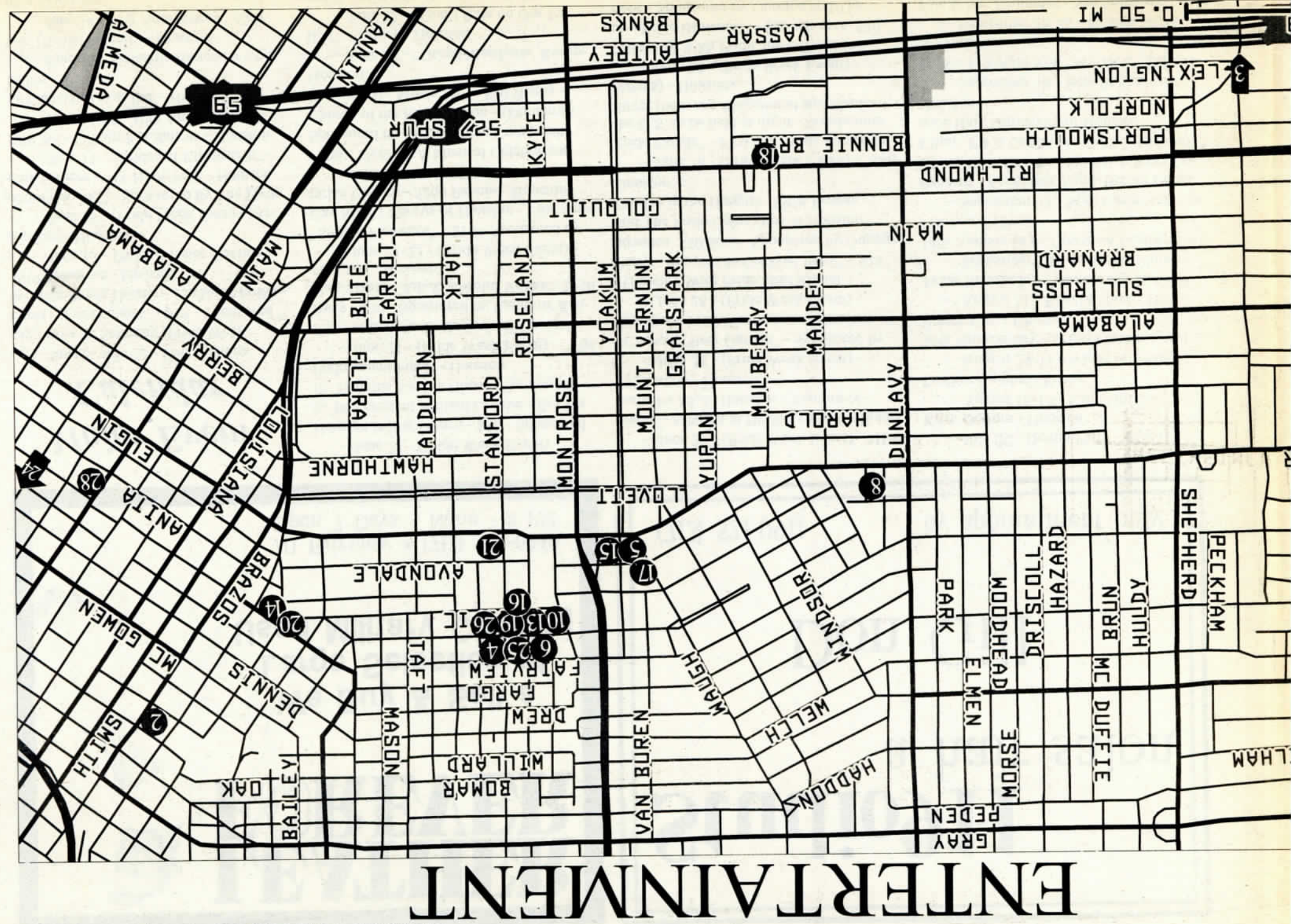
529-1414 - 1307 Fairview

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Major Event Calendar

—June 5- July 12 - Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday (Pride Week Event) "Falsettoland" - \$15 - Sponsored by Main Street Theater - Chelsea Market - 4617 Montrose - Houston

—June 13 - Daddy/Master Auction - Ripcord - Houston

—June 13 - (Pride Week Event) "Art with Pride '97" - Sponsored by The Hyde Park Gallery - 711 Hyde Park - Houston

—June 13 - "Brides of Effingstein" - RSICSS - Q-Patrol - Chances - Houston

—June 13-15 - 10th Anniversary - Firedancers-Texas Inc. - Hidden Door - Dallas

—June 13 - Finlandia Bartender Contest (finals) - Gentry - Houston

—June 14 - 21st Anniversary - Colt 45's - Houston

—June 15 - Daddy of Montrose Contest - Mary's - Houston

—June 15 - Mr. Montrose 97-98 Contest - PWA Holiday Charities - Brazos River Bottom - Houston

—June 15 - "Red Party—A Celebration of Daddy" - Miss Camp America - Pacific Street - Houston

—June 15 - "Show Me the Booty-Daddy Auction & Show" - AVES - Gentry - Houston

—June 15 - Garden Party Benefit Show - PWA Holiday Charities (LVL), Colt 45's Stone Soup & Assistance Fund Prescription Program - Briar Patch - Houston

—June 17 - (Pride Week Event) - 1997 Pride Parade Participant Mandatory Meeting - Sponsored by Pride Committee of Houston - Metropolitan Multi-Service Center - 1475 West Gray - Houston

—June 18 - (Pride Week Event) 1997 Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Kickoff - Sponsored by Pride Committee of Houston & DiverseWorks - DiverseWorks - 1117 East Freeway - Houston

—June 20 - (Pride Week Event) - "Pumped Up on Art" - \$30 - Sponsored by Texas Commerce Bank, Neiman Marcus Town & Country, and Pride Committee of Houston - The Majestic Metro - 911 Preston - Houston

—June 20-22 - "Summer Sweat Fest" - RSICSS - Reign XIII - Chances - Houston

—June 20 - "Newlywed Game" - (Kickoff to "Summer Sweat Fest" above) - RSICSS - Chances - Houston

—June 21 - "Spotlight on Hope" - PWA Coalition - Chances - Houston

—June 21 - (Pride Week Event) - "Caribbean Queen" - Gala '97 - \$30 advance, \$40 door, \$3 parking - Sponsored by AVES, Inc. - Shamrock - 2151 West Holcombe - Houston

—June 21 - (Pride Week Event) - Houston Billiard Open - \$10 - Sponsored by Independent Billiard League - Brick's II - Benefits Swehla House (Community Endowment Fund) - Houston

—June 21 - (Pride Week Event) - "The Absolut Rangler Pride Kickoff Cocktail Party" - \$10 - Sponsored by Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club & Absolut Vodka - 2930 Ferndale - Houston

—June 21-22 - (Pride Week Event) - "Simple Pleasures" - \$10 - Sponsored by Gay Men's Chorus of Houston - First Unitarian Church - 5200 Fannin - Houston

—June 22 - (Pride Week Event) - "Make Us One: A Musical Celebration" - Sponsored by Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection - (Donations Requested) - Music Hall - 810 Bagby - Houston

—June 22 - "Grand Marshalls' Reception" - Gentry - Houston

—June 22 - "Don't Rain on Our Parade" - RSICSS - Benefits Pride Committee of Houston - Gentry - Houston

—June 23 - (Pride Week Event) - Shuffleboard Tournament - Sponsored by The New Barn - 1100 Westheimer - Houston

—June 24 - (Pride Week Event) - Dart Tournament - Sponsored by The New Barn - 1100 Westheimer - Houston

—June 24 - (Pride Week Event) - "Make a Joyful Noise III" - (Donation Requested) Sponsored by Community Gospel Church - 4305 Lillian Street - Houston

—June 25 - (Pride Week Event) - "How to find a good dental plan and save money" - Sponsored by Sonrie - Metropolitan Multi-Service Center - 1475 West Gray - Houston

—June 25 - (Pride Week Event) - "Rollerball '97" - \$5 + \$1.50 skate rental - Sponsored by Lambda Rollerskating Club - Starlite Skating Rink - 8075 Cook Road @ Beechnut - Houston

—June 25 - (Pride Week Event) - Chances Show/Karaoke Bar - Sponsored by The New Barn - 1100 Westheimer - Houston

—June 26 - (Pride Week Event) - "Community Partnership Kickoff" - \$5 donation - Sponsored by Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce - Bering Church Fellowship Hall - 1440 Harold - Houston

—June 26 - (Pride Week Event) - "Sex and HIV/AIDS" - Sponsored by The Center for AIDS, Montrose Clinic, and Continental Airlines - 1407 Hawthorne (corner of Yupon) - Houston

—June 27 - (Pride Week Event) - "Friday Foreplay!" No cover before 9:00 p.m. - Sponsored by Pacific Street - Houston

—June 27 - (Pride Week Event) - "Rangler Roundup III" - Sponsored by Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club - The New Barn - 1100 Westheimer - Houston

—June 27 - (Pride Week Event) - "Pam Ross and Ten 'Til Six" - \$2 cover - Sponsored by Ms. B's - 9200 Buffalo Speedway - Houston

—June 27 - (Pride Week Event) - "Hot Night—A Night in Black Leather" - Sponsored by NLA: Houston - Venture-N - 2923 Main - Houston

—June 28 - (Pride Week Event) - "Chances' Beer Garden" - Sponsored by Chances - 1100 Westheimer - Houston

—June 28 - (Pride Week Event) - "Glowing With Pride, the Official Party—Pre-parade Cocktail Party" - \$25 advance, \$30 door - Sponsored by Outrage and The Pride Committee of Houston - Garden in the Heights - 3926 Feagan - Houston

—June 28 - (Pride Week Event) - "Gay Pride Parade" - First Gay Pride Parade in the U.S. to be held at night - Westheimer Street (between Ridgewood and Stanford Streets) - Houston

—June 28 - (Pride Week Event) - "Glowing With Pride, the Official Party—Pride Blowout!" - \$25 advance, \$30 door - Sponsored by Outrage and The Pride Week Committee of Houston - Garden in the Heights - 3926 Feagan - Houston

—June 29 - (Pride Week Event) - "Chances' Beer Garden" - Sponsored by Chances - 1100 Westheimer - Houston

—June 29 - (Pride Week Event) - "Gay Pride Mass" - Sponsored by Dignity Houston - 1307 Yale - Houston

—June 29 - (Pride Week Event) - "The Boxer Bash!" - No cover with 'glowing pass from PS float' - Sponsored by Pacific Street - 710 Pacific Street - Houston

—June 29 - (Pride Week Event) - "PWA Holiday Charities Carnival (LVL) - Sponsored by PWA Holiday Charities - Mary's Patio 'Outback' - 1022 Westheimer - Houston

—June 29 - Benefit Show (TBA) - Texas Renegades - Venture-N - Houston

—June 29 - "Welcome To Rydell" - A.V.E.S. - Brazos River Bottom

—July 3-6 - Mirage 7 - 10th Anniversary - Capital City Riders - Austin

—July 4-6 - Texas Invitational Bowling Tournament XII - Location TBA - Houston

—July 4-5 - Texas Drummer Contest - Pacific Street - Houston

—July 6 - Christmas in July Show - PWA Holiday Charities - Brazos River Bottom - Houston

—July 11-13 - Journey to Atlantis - Summer Sizzler III - 15th Anniversary - Texas MC - Dallas

—July 13 - Benefit Show for Let Us Entertain You '98 (HCC) - Venture-N - Houston

—July 19-20 - International Ms. Leather - San Diego

—July 19 - Sea Cruise '97 - 8th Anniversary - Silver Dolphins LLC - Corpus Christi

—July 27 - Garden Party 22 - "Pajama Party" - Benefits PWA Holiday Charities (LVL), Colt 45's, Stone Soup, & The Assistance Fund - Rich's - 2401 San Jacinto - Houston

—July 27 - Denim Party - Brazos River Bottom - Houston

—August 15-17 - Camelot IV - Leather Knights - Dallas

—August 29-31 - Winds of Change - 24th Anniversary - Trident International Windy City - Chicago

—August 31 - Benefit Show (TBA) - Texas Renegades - Venture-N - Houston

—September 12-14 - Moon Shiners - 14th Anniversary - Cowtown Leathermen - Buzzard's Peak

—September 13 - Miss Camp America Pageant - Assistance Fund, Bering Dental Clinic, Colt 45's Trouble Fund, Frost Eye Clinic, PWA Coalition - Cullen Performance Hall, University of Houston - Houston

—September 14 - Benefit Show for Let Us Entertain You '98 - HCC - Venture-N - Houston

—September 26-28 - Folsom Street Fair & Mr. Drummer - San Francisco

—October 3-5 - 23rd Anniversary - Knights d'Orleans - New Orleans

—October 18-19 - Westheimer Street Festival - Westheimer Street - Houston

—November 2 - Thanksgiving Show - PWA Holiday Charities - Brazos River Bottom - Houston

—November 6-9 - Texas Gay Rodeo - TGRA - Great Southwest Equestrian Center - Houston

—December 7 - PWA Christmas Show - PWA Holiday Charities - Brazos River Bottom - Houston

—January 17, 1998 - Coronation XIV "Out of Africa" - R.S.I.C.S.S. - Reign XIII - Location TBA - Houston

—February 21, 1998 - "PR Ball IV" - RSICSS - Soiree Aubergine - Location TBA - Houston

—February 27 - March 1, 1998 - Let Us Entertain You Weekend '98 - Various locations - Houston Council of Clubs - Houston

—March 6-8, 1998 Ms. Gulf Coast Leather - Venture-N - Houston

—March 14-15, 1998 - Night in Black Leather '98 - Venture-N - Houston

—August 1-8, 1998 - The 1998 Amsterdam Gay Games

This weekly event calendar lists future events of clubs and organizations. It is not limited to local events, but must be of interest to Houston clubs, organizations or individuals. Please send written information to the Montrose Area Pride, P.O. Box 66627, Houston, TX 77266 for inclusion in this calendar. Deadline is Friday one week prior to publication date.

Support the Q- Patrol

Weekend events

Daddy/Master Auction I

On Friday, June 13, 1997, beginning at 10:00 p.m., The Brotherhood Of Pain will be hosting its first Daddy/Master Auction at the Ripcord, 715 Fairview.

The auction is a benefit for Steven's House with 100% of all money going to them.

In order to bid on a "Daddy/Master" you must use "Daddy Bucks" which have been given out at the Ripcord and in the Leather By Boots shop inside the Ripcord.

"Daddy Bucks" may be purchased the night of the auction at the Brotherhood's table. 5000 "Daddy Bucks" are \$10.00, 15,000 "Daddy Bucks" are \$15.00, 25,000 "Daddy Bucks" are \$20.00 and 35,000 "Daddy Bucks" are \$30.00. No "Daddy Bucks" may be purchased after the auction has begun.

Minimum bid to purchase a "Daddy/Master" will be 30,000 "Daddy Bucks". Rules for "Daddy/Masters" and bidders will be announced before bidding starts. All "Daddys" will be interviewed prior to the date of the auction. Winning bidder and "Daddy" must sign a release form.

A prize will be awarded to the Daddy who gets the highest bid and to the highest bidder. Prizes will be furnished by the leather shop at the Ripcord, Leather By Boots.

It is recommended that you save your unused "Daddy Bucks" for future auctions.

Art with Pride '97

An official Pride Week Event, Art with Pride '97, will take place at The Hyde Park Gallery, 711 Hyde Park, on Friday, June 13, 1997, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

More than a dozen local artists present a show featuring their outstanding works of this year. For more information, call (713) 526-2744.

Brides of Effingstein

Fancy-Pace Lawrence and The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star present "Brides of Effingstein" on Friday, June 13, 1997, beginning at 9:00 p.m. at Chances, 1100 Westheimer.

The show will benefit the Q-Patrol.

Colt's 21st anniversary

On Saturday, June 14, 1997, the Colt 45's will be celebrating their 21 year Anniversary.

Festivities for the event include a cocktail party at the Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and continuing with a cocktail party at the Venture-N, 2923 Main, at 9:00 p.m., followed by "21 and Growing", a show and awards presentation at 10:00 p.m.

Daddy of Montrose

One of the oldest contests in Houston will take place on Father's Day, June 15, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at Mary's, 1022 Westheimer.

Ken Claude, Daddy of Montrose

1996, presents the Daddy of Montrose 1997 contest. The contest will benefit Omega House and The Texas Cowgurlz will be guest performers.

Categories include question and answer, a one minute speech on the topic of the contestants choice, and Ken's personal favorite, jock wear competition.

Mr. Montrose

The second annual Mr. Montrose contest will be on June 15, 1997, at 8:00 p.m. at the Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos.

Entitled "Broadway", the contest will be a night of dazzling Broadway performances benefiting PWA Holiday Charities (LVL).

Contestant registration begins at 6:00 p.m. There is a \$10:00 entry fee and categories include presentation, on stage question and answer, formal wear and talent.

Emcees for the evening will be Shelby St. John and Day-Leigh Edwards. Featured entertainers for the contest are Paivi Lee Love, Lana Blake, Kara Dion, Regina Dane, Shawna St. John, Tuna Melt, Oscar Parades and Crystal Rae Lee Love.

Mr. Montrose Emeritus, Byron Norton, is featured on our cover this week.

For more information or to obtain an application, please call (713) 880-5741. Donations may be sent to 2400 Hackett St. #195, Houston, TX 77008. Please make checks payable to PWA Holiday Charities (LVL).

Red Party

Miss Camp America will be hosting a benefit at Pacific Street, 710 Pacific, on Sunday, June 15, 1997, called "Red Party—A Celebration of Daddy".

For more information you can call (713) 523-0213.

Show Me the Booty

Val Rodela will be hosting a show on Sunday, June 15, 1997, at 9:00 p.m. at Gentry, 2303 Richmond "Show Me the Booty—Daddy Auction and Show" will benefit A.V.E.S.

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The World of Gay Travel

By Christopher Roth

For the next couple of weeks, we are going to the country "Downunder". The growth in understanding of gay and lesbian travel throughout Australia over the past two years has been phenomenal. A couple of years ago gay travel was barely a whisper among those "in the know", today there is a whole range of tour operators, airlines, resorts, and bed and breakfast properties which are exclusively gay and lesbian, or gay friendly.

Australia is a multi cultural country and its people are among the most tolerant in the world. In general the political and community acceptance of the need to change and move with the times is widespread.

Most gays and gay activities are focused in the two biggest cities, Sydney and Melbourne. However there are active gay communities in the smaller capital cities and in some of Australia's premier resort areas.

Nowadays, it is possible to travel around the country from Perth to Cairns staying in gay owned and gay friendly accommodations all the way. As is the case in the United States certain areas have become more popular with gays and lesbians than others; Cairns, Noosa and Surfers Paradise in Queensland; the Blue Mountains and the South Coast in New South Wales; and Daylesford, Hepburn Springs in Victoria.

The biggest gay and lesbian event in Australia is the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras held through the month of February. In 15 years this festival has grown from a 500 strong street march to mark International Gay Solidarity Day to a month long festival which culminates in a huge parade and dance party.

The second most popular dance party

in Australia is the Sleaze Ball held at the Sydney Showgrounds during the first weekend in October. It has a different theme each year and everyone turns up in fancy dress. People move from one hall to the other to dance, meet new friends and to watch the stylish, high tech shows which go on all through the night.

The main event in Melbourne is the Midsumma Festival held from mid January to early February. The three week Festival features about 80 events including live theatre, art, parties, debates, tours, film and video viewings, and a wide choice of sporting events. The festival opens with a free party and closes with a carnival which attracts about 15,000 people.

Melbourne is also renowned for its warehouse parties where high quality music, lighting and performances attract huge crowds. The Red Raw warehouse party, held on Australia Day weekend (late January) as part of the Midsumma Festival, is the largest. Winter Daze another well known warehouse party is held over the Queen's Birthday long weekend (mid June).

In my next column we will hit some of the highlights in the various Australian cities. So keep watching to see which is going to be your favorite city!

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 or EMAIL at sc.ultimate@uniglobe.com

Pride Week Kickoff

On Wednesday, June 18, 1997, the Pride Week Committee of Houston and DiverseWorks kickoff Pride Week with an evening of festivities designed to kick off Houston's Gay and Lesbian Pride Week 1997.

The event will take place from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at 1117 East Freeway. Entertainment to be an-

nounced and donations are encouraged.

For more information, call (713) 529-6979.

Garden Party

On Sunday, June 15, 1997, at 8:00 p.m., the Garden Party will be doing a benefit for their beneficiaries at the Briar Patch, 2294 W. Holcombe.

'Falsettoland' at Main Street Theater and 'The Pillow Book' at Landmark's Greenway**Falsettoland**

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week began last weekend with the opening of Falsettoland at the Main Street Theater, Chelsea Market, 4917 Montrose Boulevard in Houston.

1981 is the year that the story in Falsettoland occurs. It is from the book of the same name by William Finn and James Lapine. They wrote the music and lyrics. Falsettoland is performed in one act every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and every Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. through July 19, 1997.

Falsettoland is the third installment of "Marvin Trilogy" which began in 1978 with "In Trousers". Trousers tells the story of Marvin's sexual awakening and his search for self-discovery.

In "March of the Falsettos," Marvin leaves his wife and son for a gay lover named Wizzer. His wife marries Marvin's psychiatrist, Mendel.

In New York during the early age of a new mysterious disease, Marvin (Joel Sandel) is reunited with Wizzer (Jonathan McVay) just before Jason's (Matthew Johns) bar mitsvah. His ex-wife Trina (Karen Ross) and Mendel (Robert Kislin) argue over the nearing coming of age party. Marvin's new neighbors (the lesbians next door) are introduced as Dr. Charlotte (Julia Kay), an internist, and her lover, Cordelia (Robin Smith), a kosher cater. Dr. Charlotte sings out loudly about the disease spreading through the gay community. Wizzer eventually contracts the disease and goes through the stages of his demise.

Matthew Johns, portraying a 12 year old boy, does a particularly good job of keeping the rest of the cast on their toes

while his party plans change rapidly due to Wizzer's illness.

Twenty beautifully done songs highlight this play. "Unlikely Lovers" is one of the best. When you arrive at the theater, be sure to have a supply of tissue and an open mind. This one will tear up the heartiest of soles.

Tickets for the performances are \$15.00, with discounts for students, senior citizens and groups of ten or more. For advance tickets call (713) 524-6706 or visit the box office at 2540 Times Boulevard in the Village. Tickets are available at the Chelsea Market location one hour before performance time only.

The Pillow Book

Sex, flesh — text, literature — two simulations in life that can be, sooner or later, guaranteed to excite and please. This movie does all it can to bring both of these simulations to the viewer's vision — for a time, perhaps the length of your stay at the theater.

This picture is about a pillow book, the Japanese equivalent of a diary, written at the end of the Tenth Century. Writer/Director Peter Greenaway's "The Pillow Book" is set one thousand years later in Kyoto, Japan and Hong Kong.

Every year on her birthday, a young Japanese girl's face is painted with a traditional birthday greeting by her father (a calligrapher and writer) and her aunt reads to her from the ancient Japanese classic, "The Pillow Book." These two customs deeply impress the girl and follow her throughout the film. The aunt encourages her to keep her own pillow book.

As she enters adulthood, the girl discovers several of her father's activities with his

publisher and is required to marry the publisher's nephew which ends the face painting ritual. The marriage bears no love and her new husband does not share her interest in writing. She begins obsessive diary writing and identifies with Sei Shonagon, the writer of the original "Pillow Book" almost one thousand years ago.

Anxiety and fighting build between the two and her husband finally burns her books and writings which sets fire to their house. This fire is the first of two that set a new direction in the girl's life.

Vivian Wu plays the adult girl (Nagiko). Ken Ogata is the father. The publisher is Yoshi Oida. Writer/Director Peter Greenaway has made more than 30 films since 1966. He trained as a painter and began working as a film cutter before he began his own films. A feature, "The Draughtsman's Contract" established him internationally as one of the most original and important film makers of our times.

The Pillow Book starts Friday, June 13 at Landmark's River Oaks Theatre, 2009 West Gray, Houston. For additional information and times call (713) 524-2175.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

The Gay and Lesbian Film Festival continues this week at Rice Media Center. On

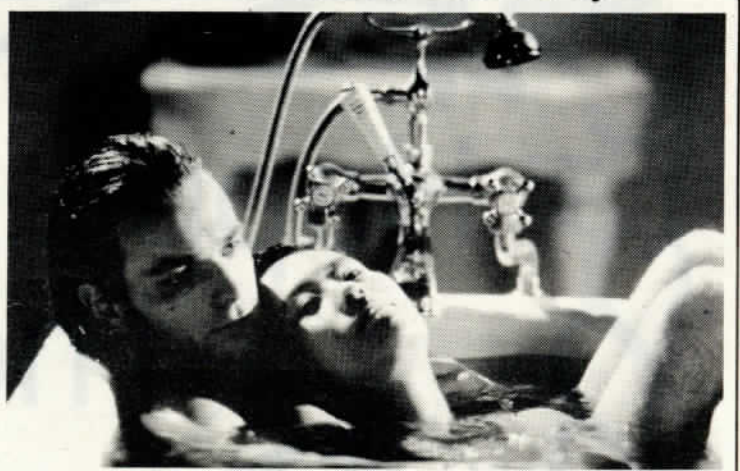


Photo by Mark Guillaumot ©1997 Cinepix Films
Ewan McGregor and Vivian Wu in *The Pillow Book*

Friday, June 13, "Boys Life 2" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at 7:30 p.m. is the film "Late Bloomers." Sunday evening there will be two shorts, "The Flight" and "Harlequin Exterminator" along with the feature "Gay Cuba." For more information for movies at Rice Media Center call (713) 527-4853 or look online at <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~media>.

On Friday June 13, at midnight there will be a screening of "Go Fish" at Landmark's River Oaks Theatre, 2009 West Gray. Call (713) 524-2175 or go online at <http://www.movienet.com> for more information. This is a refreshing film about urban lesbian life in the 90s. Set in Chicago, this romantic comedy follows a closely knit group of friends as they go on dates, endure fashion crisis, oversleep, and wish for and encounter love.

"Female Perversions" continues at Landmark's River Oaks Theater through at least Friday, June 20. Call the theater for more information.

First Summer Sweat Fest

Once again The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star will be out raising money next weekend. Only this time they have come up with a fun and popular way to do it.

As many people here in Houston, and throughout the state know, bar runs are a fun way to raise money and have a good time doing it. So, beginning Friday, June 20, 1997, the Court will be having its first bar run.

The first Summer Sweat Fest will be a fundraiser for PR Ball IV, with net proceeds to benefit Soiree Aubergine.

There are six bars involved on the

run and several other organizations are providing food and hosting cocktail parties. The run schedule and events will be provided in next week's event schedule, we don't want to give too much away this week, we just want you to have time to make arrangements so that you may attend.

Summer Sweat Fest is June 20, 1997, through June 22, 1997. Registration begins June 20, at 8:00 p.m. at Chances, 1100 Westheimer. The run fee is \$25.00 for non-court members, for more information contact Sean Carter at (713) 871-1619.

Montrose Clinic continues outreach in the community

The Montrose Clinic is a non-profit, community based agency founded in 1981 to serve people in the Houston area by providing low or no cost health, social, educational and research services. The Clinic provides extensive services to those living with HIV including access to experimental HIV therapies, case management, deaf and hard of hearing services, education and disease prevention. For more information about the Montrose Clinic, please call (713) 520-2000 or visit our web site at www.montrose-clinic.org.

The Montrose Clinic is scheduled to continue its HIV testing and counseling outreach program throughout the month of June. All persons will have access to **Free HIV Counseling**

and Testing in the following establishments:

THURSDAY, June 12

Venture-N — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, June 13

The New Barn — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, June 14

Rich's — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

MONDAY, June 16

BRB — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

QT's — 8 p.m. to 12 m.n.

TUESDAY, June 17

Club Houston — 8 p.m. to 12 m.n.

WEDNESDAY, June 18

Mary's — 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Midtowne Spa — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

THURSDAY, June 19

Venture-N — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Pumped Up On Art
features shoes of the stars**

Julie Andrews, Cher and Susan Sarandon top the list of celebrities who have donated shoes to the annual "Pumped Up On Art" fundraiser, the gala and celebrity auction benefiting the Pride Committee of Houston, which will be held Friday, June 20, at the Majestic Metro, 911 Preston, in downtown Houston.

"Pumped Up On Art" is a high-profile event held during Houston's Gay and Lesbian Pride Week. The event centers around the auction of autographed high-heeled shoes (or pumps) which have been donated by celebrities and created into pieces of art by local artists. Event sponsors include Walgreens, Texas Commerce Bank, Neiman Marcus Town and Country, Response Network and Richard Hill of Swilley-Hudson Realtors.

Nick Brines, fundraising coordinator of the event says, "The event is really starting to take off. The lists of both the celebrity donors and corporate sponsors have grown since the event's inception in 1994. It's a fun creative way to celebrate Pride Week and to support those in the community suffering from HIV and AIDS."

Tickets for "Pumped Up On Art" are \$25.00 per person and are available at Basic Brothers clothing store, 1232 Westheimer, or through the Pride Line at (713) 529-6979. Tickets also will be available at the Majestic Metro box office at 911 Preston the night of the event. Food, cocktails, music and dancing will round out the evening.

**On Your Next Visit
to Houston ...****Stay at the Montrose Inn****Walk to 13 Gay Bars**

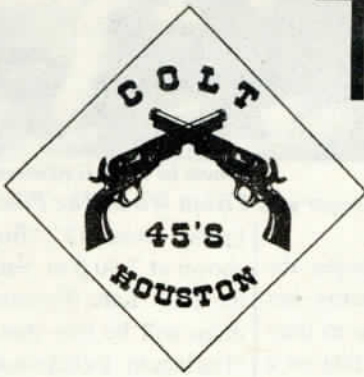
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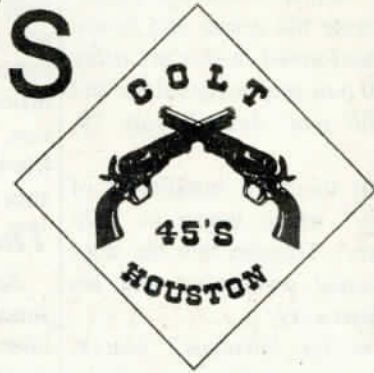
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The 2nd Annual
Mr. Montrose Contest

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