

# Cleaning Up from the Winds & Rain

By Billie Duncan

Photos by Billie Duncan and Lyt Harris  
Alicia was a flirtatious lady and on Thursday, August 18, she battered her eyelash right over Montrose. She was also a rather angry lady. As this very southern belle headed north, she flicked her skirt and sent objects flying every which way, including loose.

Even Montrose fell for her in a big way. Bits and pieces of Montrosean ambience littered, covered and blocked the streets after Alicia's very unladylike temper tantrum.

The major damage in Montrose from Hurricane Alicia was from falling trees. Although many Montrose residents will be without power perhaps even through this weekend, the area came through the storm remarkably well, city officials said.

They pointed out that there was no major flooding, no reports of looting and very little roof damage.

A spokesperson for the office of Councilperson George Greenias explained that a dollar figure had not been assessed for Montrose area specifically. "But the latest estimate for the city of Houston is \$1.5 billion. They still have not pinned that down."

She went on to say that City Council was awarding bids to contractors for the emergency clean up. The first allocation was to be \$2 million.

The major priorities in the aftermath of the storm, according to Greenias' office, are restoring power, removing debris and expediting trash pick-up.

Immediately after the storm, the city was basically concerned with getting the power to hospitals, police stations and the water pumping stations. Individuals in life-threatening situations were also given high priority.

Now that the recovery from the storm is in its second week, most Houston residents have had their power restored. Houston Lighting and Power is estimating that power will be restored to 99% of the city by the end of this weekend.

A spokesperson for HL&P said that full power should be restored in Montrose by Saturday, "except in an isolated one or two instances."

"The last people to get their power back will be those individuals whose drop lines (the lines leading from the street cables to the individual houses) have been broken. But even in that case, they should have service by Saturday," he said.

"One thing that people don't seem to realize," he said, "is that if their breaker box or meter is broken, HL&P can't do anything about it until the box is fixed. The homeowner has to get an electrician to fix that before we can connect their lines back."

The main reason for the power outages, he said, was trees falling on the transformers and knocking them out. "And Montrose certainly has its share of trees."



Damage in Montrose was mostly downed trees, power lines and signs, but little structural damage. Shown here: light pole at Holman and Travis and downed sign at Houston Sign Company, 1300 Westheimer.

## MONTROSE V O I C E

The Newspaper of Montrose Aug. 26, 1983 Issue #448 Published Every Friday



This past week clean-up crews raked the area



Also, some transformers were knocked out by power surges. "Because of winds, the lines would snap together and short out, and the surge would knock the transformer out."

However, he pointed out that because there was so little flooding with Alicia, "the underground service fared pretty well."

The last item on HL&P's fix-it list, he said, was reconnecting traffic signals. "They're not as important as houses."

Next on the overall list for the city is the removal of debris.

Greenias' office said that the main thoroughfares were being cleared first, then the workers were moving to side streets, particularly those with esplanades. "People are piling debris on the esplanades," said a spokesperson for Greenias, "and then the people driving down the streets cannot see around the corners."

In order to clear as much as possible in the next 30 days, the city is hiring contrac-

tors who will work on a systematic removal of debris. The city will be divided into ten sectors with three crews in each sector going from street to street in the clean-up.

The major problem for the city workers in clearing the debris has been a shortage of equipment, according to Greenias' office. However, that was not a problem for HL&P according to Steve Gonzalez. "I think we had all the equipment we needed, but the damage was so massive that it couldn't be done all at once."

Trash removal is a separate problem from the removal of debris, but it is being complicated by the fact that people are putting debris in with their garbage.

Garbage has swollen in Montrose (as well as in other areas), in any case, because so many people had to throw out a large quantity of food that spoiled as a result of the power outages.

To further complicate the problem, the Beechmont Station for garbage service

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# Some Slept Threw it but Most were Awake

continued from page 1

maintenance, which services Montrose, has been without power since the storm. Power had not been restored as of Wednesday, August 24. As a result, garbage pick-up in Montrose is quite a bit behind schedule.

All agencies concerned with the chore of getting the city back on its feet after the fury of Alicia stressed that this was not a job that could be accomplished overnight.

The city government, HL&P, the Houston Police Dept. and the U.S. Weather Service, all urged that the citizens should be aware of the problems and how they could help.

The following is a compilation of their suggestions as to what people in Montrose could do to expedite the recovery of the neighborhood and to keep any more problems from occurring.

1. Unless it is a life-threatening situation, do not keep calling HL&P or various city services. Be patient.

2. If you have power, leave a porch light or front room light on so that the night crews of HL&P can more easily determine who has power and who does not.

3. Do not use candles unless you are absolutely forced into it. Use battery lamps or flashlights.

4. If there are large trees or limbs down near you and you have the equipment, cut the branches into six foot lengths for removal by the street crews. The more that private citizens pitch in for the clean-up, the less of their tax dollars that will be spent on private contractors working overtime.

5. If you cannot remove the debris from your own yard, move it as far from your house as possible. Rotting debris is a fire hazard.

6. If at all possible, remove the debris from your property and take it to one of the emergency dumps that have been set up. One dump is in Montrose in the 1400 block of W. Gray and another is in the 100 block of Harvard in the Heights.

7. If the attendant is not at an emergency dump site when you go to deposit your debris, move your debris in as far as possible so that it is not blocking the access of other people who wish to use the dump.

8. Remember that many traffic signals

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"Lake Southwest Freeway" on the evening of Alicia's departure



Is this Roger's Supermarket? No, Kroger, without the "K."

## Montrose Mouth

### That Storm

This is your Hurricane Alicia photo souvenir issue. Save it.

Some strange things happen in a storm. After Alicia left town, the Southwest Freeway between Mandell and Woodhead was flooded. Apparently someone used some of those motorized skis and took a joy ride. Assistant Police Chief John Bates told reporter Billie Duncan (while she was gathering information about the aftermath of the storm) that the story was circulated around the department.

"That's not one of those things that you write a police report up on," he laughed. "It's just one of those things where an officer comes in to the station and says, 'You're not gonna believe what I saw today.'"

Among the things that Hurricane Alicia did last week was putting the phones at the Gay Switchboard out of operation. But they're all back in full working order now... and that number is, in case you need the Gay Switchboard some day, 529-2211.

While Dirty Sally's softball team is off to Chicago next week for the Gay World Series, other Houston teams are planning on making a few regional tournaments.

The BRB team will be heading to Tulsa for an invitational while the Montrose Voice team is going to Kansas City.

The Brazos team will be guest bartenders this Wednesday, Aug. 31, during steak night, at the club, to raise a few dollars for their Tulsa trip.

That hurricane-delayed softball awards banquet has been reset for Sept. 16.

Adrian (alias "Maria Fingermore"), bartender at Mary's, is a contestant in Miller Beer's "Ugliest Bartender Contest" being co-sponsored by Eastern Airlines. The Mouth has no idea how one goes about voting in this contest, but if you find out, Adrian would appreciate your vote. Speaking of Mary's, they have to get the award for the best hurricane preparedness. They rented a portable generator before the storm hit and was able to stay in business continuously, despite the fact they didn't have electric power from HL&P for a week.

The University of St. Thomas presents Edgar E. Martin, pianist, in a series of three historic recitals to benefit the Music Scholarship Fund. The first program will be this Sunday, Aug. 28, in Cullen Hall at Mt. Vernon and W. Alabama. It will include baroque and classical works of Bach, Copin, Haydn, Loelleit, Mozart and Soler.

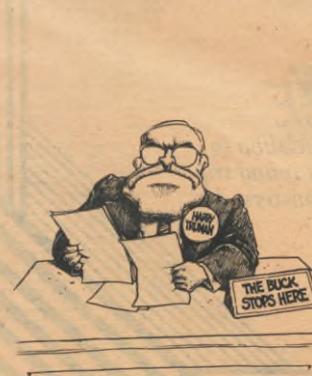
As the show ended recently and the lights went down at Risky Business, the phone rang and an unidentified voice told Jay and Andrea that "7070," the stuffed star of their new show, had been dog-napped.

A ransom note was found with a clipping of the dog's hair with instructions. The ransom money was paid and Toto was found Tuesday in good condition at the Total Animal Care Center where he had been abandoned.

Gay International, a San Francisco-based company incorporated in Utah, has purchased a 26-room hotel in Salt Lake City that is hoped to be the forerunner of a chain of bed-and-breakfast establishments.

Robert L. Hunnicutt, a lawyer and director of the company, said that Gay International has raised more than \$2 million since it began selling its stock at 35 cents a share three months ago. Gay International has paid \$400,000 for the Wishing Well Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City. The company also owns three condominiums in Honolulu and 300 acres on the big island of Hawaii, where it hopes to build a gay resort. Hunnicutt hopes to establish two dozen bed-and-breakfast hotels across the United States, and others in London, Paris and Munich.

**BEN SARGENT**  
writes the Andy Anderson column



David Fisher-Synalke

# Tuesday

August 30th at 10pm

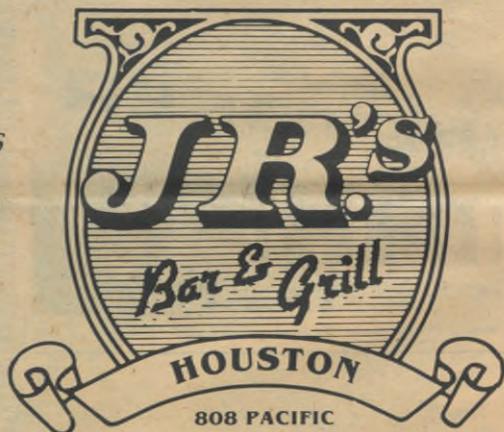
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# Trees Came Tumbling Down all over the Place

continued

are still not functioning. Treat all major intersections without signals as four-way stops. The city is printing and putting up stop signs as quickly as possible.

8. Drive carefully. Visibility on many streets is hampered because of piles of debris.

10. If you are a senior citizen or know a senior citizen without power, there are cooling centers for relief from the heat. For information, call 757-7822.

11. Help your neighbors, especially those without power or with major damage.

12. Remember that it will be a month or longer before everything is cleared and fixed. You are in a major disaster area.

## □ Mary Wentrek and Her Not So Jolly Green Giant

The major damage caused by Hurricane Alicia in Montrose was from falling trees. The story of Mary Wentrek, who lives at the corner of Castle Court and Mandell, is similar to those of many Montrosians.

Like residents throughout the area, Mary was up early on Thursday, August 18, because of the storm. Right around 6:30 a.m., things started to happen rather quickly for Mary. For one thing, the power went out.

"My clock stopped at 6:15, but I don't

remember if that was just before or just after the tree fell."

The tree was a shady green giant that graced the back yard of the building in which Mary resides. As the gusty winds of Alicia bore down on Montrose, they tore the tree with its massive root structure out of the ground.

When the tree was wrenched from the earth, it crashed on top of Mary's building, bending a metal staircase, knocking off part of the roof and shattering the electric meters.

"I thought the whole back half of the

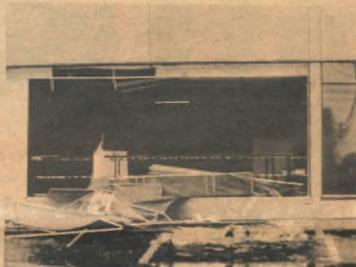
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Mary Wentrek next to the fallen tree in her back yard, Castle Court at Mandell



The trunk of the tree in Mary Wentrek's yard



Broken window at Savings of America, 1099 Westheimer

## MONTROSE VOICE

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United Feature Syndicate

BEN SARGENT  
©1983 by Ben Sargent

# The Story of Alicia in Montrose

from page 5

house was being ripped off," Mary said. But the tree was not through causing problems. The most spectacular part was yet to come. When the power came back on in that section of Montrose Friday morning, Mary's tree was lying amid a tangle of broken power lines and smashed meters.

"The whole thing just lit up," explained Mary. "The tenant next door, behind us there, was looking out her window. She said it looked like a Christmas tree, sparkling like that."

Like most people hit by the storm in one way or another, Mary had her blessings to count. "We're lucky the house didn't catch fire."

As of Wednesday, August 24, Mary's building was still without electricity. Houston Lighting and Power cannot connect her power back up until the owner of the building clears the tree and fixes the meters.

## □ Billy Staggs Woke to Some Surprises

Billy Staggs had just moved to 4202 Stanford on Wednesday, August 17. He was exhausted from a 26-hour bus ride and slept until late afternoon on Thursday. When he woke up, he had a few surprises.

There were a couple of things he expected to have that he did not have—like power and water. There were also a couple of things that he had that he did not want—like a strange new look to the landscape in front of his apartment and a small swimming pool where the sidewalk used to be.

A massive tree in front of his apartment had been ripped out of the ground by Hurricane Alicia early on Thursday. As the roots of the tree were wrenched from the ground, they had torn out the water pipes that led into the apartment building.

Staggs shook his head as he surveyed the damage. "This tree just took our water lines right out."

He explained that his roommate usually parks his car in front of the apartment "right there where the tree is now." The roommate, Staggs explained, moved the car in fear of flooding. "It's a good thing he did, or it'd be squashed right now under that tree."

Asked if he had heard the tree fall, he replied, "No, I was so tired from the trip, I just went to sleep and missed the whole thing."

Staggs had never been in a hurricane before.

"And I still don't know what it's like."

## □ Some Houston Hurricane History

The last time a hurricane scored a direct hit on the city of Houston was back in 1941. That was before hurricanes were named.

The 1941 storm had winds up to 83 MPH, and it came in at Texas City.

As far as how it compares to Hurricane Alicia, which whipped through Houston August 18, with the eye passing over Montrose, Ron Stagno, preparedness meteorologist for the Houston-Galveston area, said, "They do comparisons in dollar figures, and the dollar damage in 1941 compared to 1983 well, there's no comparison."

As far as the winds are concerned, Alicia was a bit bigger than that storm. Alicia was classified as a major storm with top winds prior to landfall of about 115 MPH.

The top winds recorded at the Galveston weather station (which was not located at the point of highest estimated winds) were 103 MPH. At Alvin, winds were at 73 MPH, and at Intercontinental Airport, they were clocked at 78 MPH. However, there was an unofficial reading of 99 MPH at Hobby Airport.

"The reason it's unofficial," said Stagno, "is that they were without power. They could see the needle on the wind



Two views of Billy Staggs amid the torn roots of his fallen tree, 4200 Stanford, which ripped up water lines

gauge, but they couldn't get a readout from it."

Because of the tall buildings in downtown Houston, Stagno said that the wind gusts there could have exceeded 100 MPH.

Another storm that followed the basic path that Alicia took this year was the killer storm of 1900 that hit Galveston and left well over 5000 dead. That storm had official winds of 130 MPH, but according to the book, *A Weekend In September*, the weather equipment was blown away by the storm before the full fury of it hit, so there is no way to know how strong the storm was.

In terms of loss of life, however, the 1900 storm stands as the worst natural disaster to hit the continental United States.

Stagno believes that the most powerful hurricane to hit the Texas coast in this century was Carla in 1961. Carla made landfall at Matagorda with official winds of 145 MPH and unofficial gusts of up to 200 MPH.

Houston recorded wind gusts of almost 100 MPH during Carla; however, the wind damage from Alicia was much greater. Carla was a huge storm in terms of rain and wind, dumping enough water on Houston to flood most of the city for several days.

Many people feel that if a storm the size of Carla had taken the path of Alicia, Houston would have been devastated. Stagno says that it could happen.

"In any given year, the likelihood is 20% that a hurricane will hit the upper Texas coast. And on the average of every ten years we get a major hurricane."

Problems arise, Stagno said, because people forget how destructive a hurricane can be.

"Apathy sets in after so many years without a storm."

But he warned that people should not put down their guard this year just because a storm has already hit. "You have got to be prepared all during hurricane season. Every person, every family, every household should plan what they should do if a hurricane should hit this area."

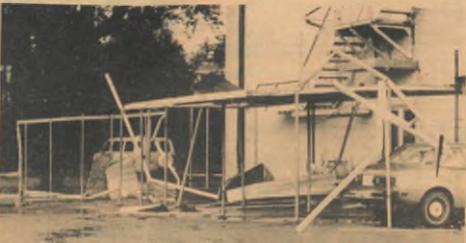
He explained that hurricane preparedness pamphlets are available from many locations, including most local TV sta-



Wade Williams stands next to large tree that went down in vacant lot at W. Alabama and the S.W. Freeway

tions. "There is no way of knowing when another hurricane could hit us. Alicia was

early in the season for a hurricane to hit the upper Texas coast," he explained. "The worst month is still ahead of us."



Awnings at the 3317 Montrose Building were ripped apart like Popsicle sticks

# NUMBERS

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# Living with AIDS

By David Muenier

The news media has created the idea of AIDS as an automatic death sentence, causing us to assume all AIDS patients are confined to hospitals. The truth of the matter is that many AIDS patients continue to live at home, go to work, and carry on the everyday affairs of life.

Coping with a life-threatening illness on a daily basis presents challenges that most of us have never contemplated. The adjustments in one's lifestyle are extensive and require a great deal of courage, determination and flexibility. A person finds inner strength that he may not have been aware he possessed. Appreciation of things that have always been taken for granted becomes more intense—time more precious.

Three very different men, linked by the common bond of the illness they share, have each taken a different approach to living with AIDS. They have taken the time to share their experiences, so that we all might have a clearer insight into what living with AIDS is like.

For obvious reasons, the stories are factual, but the names have been changed. Tony: "I think I'm realistic, not negative."

Looking at Tony sitting on the sofa in his living room, it's hard to imagine that he is sick. He runs his hand through his curly black hair, smooths his well-groomed beard and smiles. "I never know how I'm going to feel from day to day. AIDS rules my life." He doesn't like it, but has learned to accept it.

Tony, a Midwestern native who moved to Houston eleven years ago, to pursue the good life took full advantage of the sunbelt weather. He was active in outdoor sports—jogging, swimming, going to the gym. But his good life also included the baths, bookstores and heavy weekend partying. As Tony approached his mid-30s, he began to slow down and pay more attention to his lifestyle.

Late last summer he became concerned about his perpetual fatigue. In October, he developed a fever that would not respond to any antibiotics. By November he was in the hospital for ten days. This would be the first of many times. It was in AIDS he was diagnosed as having AIDS.

He tried working half-days for awhile, but his company wanted someone who could work an eight-hour shift. He tried it in January, but only lasted three days. He hasn't worked since. Fortunately, he has been with his company many years and has a good disability plan.

His whole lifestyle changed. He can no longer do the things he loves. No more jogging or work-outs at the gym. "I have no more social life," he said. This is not to say that Tony's friends have abandoned him. He is usually too tired to do anything or go anywhere. My friends hesitate to call now. They're afraid I'll be sleeping and they will disturb me."

If Tony does go out, it's in the afternoons to a movie or to a restaurant. Part of this

curtailed lifestyle is due to fear. "I'm afraid of crowds," he said. Avoiding places where there are likely to be a lot of people has become a challenge. Tony worries about being exposed to germs that his non-functioning immune system simply can't handle. So he stays home to read, watch TV, and occasionally entertain friends early in the evening.

Tony, like many AIDS patients, takes experimental medicines, usually on a four week trial basis. He must sign a statement that the doctors or hospital are released of all responsibility in the event of unknown side effects. He also goes in every other week for skin tests to determine if his immunity has improved. Right now he is worried because his white blood cell count is at its lowest point since he was diagnosed.

If a cure for AIDS was found tomorrow, would Tony return to his former lifestyle? "I think I would have enough sense to cut back," he said. He's become more content with his quiet lifestyle and doesn't miss the use of recreational drugs or alcohol. He's remained celibate for eight months, and is afraid of having sex with anyone until he's sure he is cured. The thought of passing on a disease that has so greatly changed his own life, repulses him. "Being healthy is more important than sex," he stated.

Tony hopes to return to work full-time, take up jogging and once again belong to a gym. He doesn't give a lot of thought to dying, but has considered the possibility realistically. Sometimes when he drives by a crowded bar or bookstore he said he thinks "You just feel you want to go in and tell people, look, I have AIDS—be careful."

Jerry: "I wish they'd close the baths." Jerry, blond, slight and intense, looks around nervously in the restaurant where we met, then leans forward to tell his story. A year and a half ago, while studying art in Los Angeles, he noticed unusual fatigue and swollen lymph nodes. He, like most AIDS patients, knew something was wrong before he received his diagnosis.

Since he had begun to slow down from life in the fast lane earlier, he hoped it wouldn't be AIDS. Overnight his life changed. He had to give up his studies. His friends and especially his roommate were "wonderful," and since his family already knew he was gay, they were supportive when informed of his condition.

Jerry and his lover decided to stay together. Then they made an even more difficult decision, there would be no more sex between them. Jerry is afraid of giving AIDS to his lover. Jerry had returned to Houston to be near his lover, but in doing so, left the supportive circle of friends in Los Angeles who knew he had AIDS. He hasn't told anyone in Texas. As he said, "You just don't walk up to someone and say, 'Hi, I'm Jerry and by the way I have AIDS.'"

Jerry has been mostly an out-patient going to the hospital weekly to receive his medication. First by I.V., but now orally.

Physically he remains strong enough to continue working about 20 hours a week.

Jerry said that his lifestyle helped to contribute to his getting AIDS. "I used to think it was alright to fulfill all your fantasies." Now he views it differently—"It's a breeding ground for disease." Amazingly, he does not seem bitter when he makes this statement. Instead, he conveys concern that many others will contract AIDS unless they figure to examine their lifestyles.

In the future, Jerry hopes to be able to return to school and lead a normal life. "I'm real tired of being sick," he said. Yet Jerry manages to keep a good sense of humor, and as we talk further, relaxes enough to joke around. You begin to get a glimmer of Jerry's outgoing personality when he is at ease. Jerry spent a lot of time in self-examination learning a great deal about himself. Perhaps most of us will never be forced to know ourselves quite as well.

*"I used to think it was alright to fulfill all your fantasies ..."*

One observation he made as I was getting ready to leave stuck in my mind. In references to the many years he made having a good time the focus of his life, in reflection he discovered, "Sex was not necessarily what I was looking for."

Jerry, like most of us, was looking for warmth, human contact, acceptance. Now realizing that he is able to view people and the world differently, there is a positive side to AIDS. Despite everything, Jerry continues to plan for the future, while living a day at a time.

Scott: "I'm healing myself." Scott, with his short hair, clean-shaven goatee, is the type of man that you would notice in a crowd. Even more noticeable is the positive energy that radiates from him. 1982 was not a good year for Scott, a Houston native. From February to August he fought with diarrhea, fever, night sweats and fatigue, the whole range of AIDS symptoms except for swollen glands.

Scott said he "was always sickly" so he was not overly alarmed at first. As the symptoms dragged on, and he could no longer pass them off as the flu or cold, he decided to seek medical attention. In December, he was formally diagnosed as

having AIDS. Looking back, Scott said he feels he brought some of his illness on himself—(I lived in the bookstores) and he practiced poor diet.

There have been major changes in his life in the area of attitude and lifestyle. He has been forced to take "a closer look at my health and pay more attention to nutrition to continue working full time and be active in social and community functions. Since his family does not know he's gay, he hasn't told them anything about his illness.

He too has taken experimental drugs, and at one point went every week for tests. He attributes this to his recent interest in spiritual matters. Although never religious, he has begun to attend church. He feels spiritually he's being healed, and now thinks "I could beat this thing." At one point, Scott said "I though about death a lot," but now is making arrangements to buy a house and "have no intention of being sick."

Once Scott felt the need to be in the middle of the action and the focus. Now he feels "I'm more interested in people than sex." Being a part of the AIDS support group has also brought positive changes. "The support group is wonderful...I need it," he said. "I would never go back to my old lifestyle," he stated.

There is no question that Scott has found a new direction in his life. He has gained fresh insights about himself, but at a high price. One cannot talk to Scott without feeling that he will beat this thing.

Although Tony, Jerry and Scott have different attitudes about some of the issues involved, there is a common message that our lifestyle is somehow tied to the syndrome known as AIDS. If they are right, then many of us could be walking timebombs, ready to explode. That in itself is a frightening idea.

AIDS is not going away tomorrow or the next day. It may be years before we fully understand it and learn how to combat it. In the meantime, we all need to examine how we live our lives, and how we conduct ourselves.

We can only hope that should we, too, become AIDS victims, we will have the remarkable inner strength and courage these men have found. Living with AIDS is not easy or pleasant, but we can take heart from the fact these few are doing it. In the meantime, we all need to examine the negative side, perhaps making us all a little paranoid.

We need to understand that not everyone that contracts AIDS is necessarily going to die. Some will get better. We in the gay community need to take the lead in being supportive and in stressing the positive. The news media has taken up the love. If we can do this it will show the public in general, that we are willing to care for our own.

Presenting a solid and unified front will do much in calming the mounting AIDS hysteria. The question of the gay community's survival may very well rest on how we respond to those living with AIDS.

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## Damage at St. Thomas University

A tree landed on the Art Dept. of the University of St. Thomas. The Modern Language building was also damaged by a falling tree.

A temporary building situated next to 1117 W. Main had half of its roof blown off. Crooker Center suffered water damage and was still without power Wednesday, Aug. 24.

The new Jerebeck Athletic Center had a portion of its roof torn off.

Rev. William J. Young, president of the university, said that the maintenance department was still working on a solid estimate of the damage, but added that the casual estimate was between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

"That's not much," said Rev. Young, "but it's more than we wanted."



Several top floor windows of the 3400 Montrose Bldg. were knocked out, causing damage to offices of the Private Industry Council



Couple passes clipped-off tree on Lovett



As the rain fell, so did the trees, hundreds of them in Montrose. This is another scene on Lovett Blvd.



When this tree fell on W. Alabama near Audubon, the traffic sign below it took on new meaning



Alicia kindly provided a traffic signal for UFO's at the corner of S. Main and Elgin



Alicia attempted to improve the looks of Payton Place, 1225 Westheimer

## GPC Meets on Eve of the Hurricane

As Hurricane Alicia continued her ominous approach, about 40 hardy souls braved the threatening skies to attend the August 17 Gay Political Caucus meeting. After President Larry Bagnier greeted the new members and explained the GPC's new committee structure, he opened the floor for further nominations to the vacant GPC board position. With only one candidate, Jack Valinski was unanimously elected to the Media Committee board seat. Bagnier reminded those present of Valinski's previous media work for the community in preparing GPC's "get out and vote" commercial last fall and a commercial and press package for this year's Gay Pride Week.

Following a brief Screening Committee report and a short discussion about gay participation in the upcoming March on Washington to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Civil Rights March, Bagnier informed the Caucus of how Texas Eastern Corporation was courting the gay community to win gay support for the Houston Convention Project. The fact that Texas Eastern was seeking gay support for the upcoming bond election was cited as the business community's recognition of both the economic clout and bloc vote of the gay community.

Newly elected Board Chair Anise Parker announced that S18 GPC members would be eligible to vote in the Endorsement meeting August 31. The upcoming reception honoring state lobbyist Bettie Taylor of Lesbian and Gay Rights Advocates was announced for August 30, 5:00-7:00 p.m., at the Meridian Hotel.

When the Caucus moved into new business, board member Ray Hill made a motion to censure Cauena maverick Gregg Russell for violating screening committee rules.

Specifically, Hill charged that Russell had violated "Rule 13" that prohibited members from bringing any written material into the screening session. Furthermore, Hill charged that Russell was rude in his questioning of Eleanor Tynaley. But Hill's interpretation of the event was challenged by another member who, having attended the same screening, said he did not think Russell was rude.

Russell admitted he brought a short written question to the session, but claimed he sought and received Hill's approval before asking the question. When Russell tried to read the question and explain why he brought it, he was ruled out of order since the issue was not the merit of the question but his violation of the rules in bringing written material into the screening session. Russell claimed that the censure motion was a deliberate attempt to discredit and intimidate him. With only a handful of abstentions and one or two no votes, the Caucus voted to censure Russell.

Immediately thereafter, Hill made a motion to bar Russell from any further screening sessions of which he was chair. Although irritated by the censure debate, Gregg had remained calm. However, after Ray made his second motion, an agitated Russell denounced his membership, picked up his renewal check and walked out. Some members accused Hill of making a personal, vindictive motion. As debate continued, several other people left. After several amendments, the Caucus voted to amend the screening committee rules to allow the co-chairs to "temporarily" exclude a member from further screenings until the full Screening Committee met, August 29th, after screening was over.

Claiming that the GPC was "making a mountain out of a molehill," member Neil Isbin made a motion to rescind rule 13. His motion was soundly defeated.

Claiming that the last city election endorsement meeting was disrupted by several drunk members, Isbin made a motion to ban alcohol from the endorsement meeting. But, citing profits from the sale of alcohol, the Caucus voted an amended motion to serve soft drinks and all alcohol except Coors Beer.

In a third motion that was also heavily defeated, Isbin called for a two thirds plurality vote rule for the endorsement of a candidate. Claiming there could be a serious community division over the endorsement in position 4 for City Council, which features feminist Nikki Van Hightower and black activist, councilman Anthony Hall, Isbin stated that if two thirds of the active gay political community could not agree, that division over race should not be allowed to destroy community support for the GPC slate by forcing a narrow majority decision. Countering Terry Harris said that dual endorsements was a ridiculous and assinine idea.

Isbin then challenged Ray Hill and Terry Harris to prove their public assertions that there existed an executive order, signed by the mayor, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in hiring and promotion. Isbin said that his research (National Gay Task Force, City Secretary's office, Asst. Personnel Director and Director of Affirmative Action) indicated no such executive order, and that he had challenged Hill and Harris one week previously to prove their assertions.

Hill admitted his error, but said he had researched such an executive order existed. Furthermore, Hill said that he had "invoked" that order at least four times in as many years in order to prevent the firing of a gay employee.

On that note the meeting adjourned.

## Motorist Slain in Montrose

Houston police were searching for two men who shot and killed another man early Aug. 20 after they pulled alongside the man's car at a stop sign in Montrose, reported the *Houston Post*.

The news report quoted police as saying that Emerson Ashby, 27, of the 12800 block of Zavalla, was shot in the face and neck about 3:00 a.m. in the 1200 block of Dunlavy and that he died at the scene.

Ashby was said to be driving west on Fairview taking a friend home when he stopped at an intersection and a vehicle with two men pulled alongside. One of the men pointed a gun at Ashby and told him not to move, police said.

When Ashby began to accelerate, he was shot and his car continued west on Fairview through an intersection at Dunlavy and then veered through a chain link fence, the report said.

## Who is the Average Gay Texan?

MONTROSE VOICE columnist Joe Baker would like to know. Is the average gay Texan a transplanted Yankee from up North? Is he or she a conservative Dallas business person or a Houston activist?

Is the average gay Texan a rancher, a farmer, a redneck, a cowboy or a preppie? Does the average gay Texan work, or care about his or her future? Does he or she spend all their time in bars?

Was the average gay Texan born here? Is he or she young, old or in between? Does the average gay Texan wish he or she was somewhere else? What does he or she like about living in Texas?

If you think you are the average gay Texan, write and tell Joe about yourself. You don't have to include your name if you don't want to. Comments will be printed in one of Joe's future columns.

Write him in care of the MONTROSE VOICE, 277 Montrose, Suite 306, Houston, TX 77006.



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## Thanks for the Kind Words

From a community member  
To the Gay Switchboard

I am writing this note to thank your organization in general, and one unknown counselor in particular, for speaking with my mother when she called your group recently.

I am 32 years old, and have been "out" to everyone (except my parents) since I was 22. I have been obsessed with coming out to my parents for years, but especially in the past two or three years, but for many reasons (cowardice being the biggest) was never able to do it. I finally decided it was time, and wrote a long and heartfelt letter about four weeks ago, not being able to do it in person, or even by telephone.

Over the past few years, I have felt myself becoming much closed to my father, and far less so to my mother. My expectations were that my father would be as supportive as he could be and that my mother (a Catholic fanatic) would freak out.

A week after I mailed the letter, my mother called me, and cried for a full two minutes before she could even say "hello." She attempted to be really supportive, but the closest she could get was, "It could be worse—you could have been a murderer." At any rate, it was a devastating conversation, made especially so by the fact that my father absolutely refused to talk about it, neither to my mother nor me. I gave up, and decided to let my parents make the next move, whatever that might be.

Last week, my mother wrote me a beautiful, lovely letter. After speaking with me, she talked to her priest, who referred her to Parents of Gays and Houston Gay Switchboard. Whoever she spoke with in your group really helped her out immensely. She mentioned in her letter that the man she spoke with is 25, and has been out to his parents since he was 18, and she said that the staffer really educated her and, more importantly, he was loving and honest.

I was a staffer at the Washington, D.C., Gay, Lesbian Switchboard for two years and I know how important and rewarding it is to be helping people learn to embrace their gayness and/or gayness of their loved ones. To whomsoever it was that spoke to my mother, I thank you for your sensitivity and lovingness. To Houston Gay Switchboard, I thank you for your existence.

I have been in Houston twice to visit my parents, but I have yet to see what I'd consider to be the "real" Houston. (All I've seen so far has been Gilley's, Ninfa's, Galveston and two malls).

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for making my mother feel good about who I really am!

## Problems with the 'One-Man Crusade'

From Leslie Larson

Recently a close friend of mine brought me a letter he had received from a member of the Gay Political Caucus asking him to join the caucus. He had several questions about the letter and the person sending it. After reading the letter, I decided to seek a public forum to air problems that I have with this one-man membership crusade.

The letter in question appears to attack the leadership of the GPC, of which I am a member. The letter's writer accuses the "leadership," which I assume to mean the board of directors and its officers, of being "a small group (having) great control of an extremely powerful political machine and (having) effectively driven off many good, dignified, and talented members of our community." He also writes that "those who have had control of the GPC for so long will continue to determine who will get the GPC endorsement and, consequently, the many thousands of votes that blindly follow that endorsement." He states this will happen unless people like

himself join the caucus to pursue an "effective program" in order to make the endorsements "reflective of the community."

I have not taken this person's words out of context. The letter lends people to believe that our endorsements are sold to the highest bidder, that our leaders move solely in their own selfish, personal interests, and that the women and men of our community are stupid when following GPC's recommendation in electing candidates to public office.

I have never worked with a group of more talented, dedicated and selfless people than the board and officers of the GPC. They spend unlimited time and energy to further only one goal and one cause: gay rights and acceptance of the gay community. They are elected by the caucus as a whole, not by some small group of elite political animals. By mandate, their interests and those of the caucus are one. If you don't like the way they operate, vote them out.

Our endorsements aren't sold. They are not auctioned off to anyone for a pat on the head or a vague promise. They are based on a candidate's past record and their solid commitment. The caucus, as a body votes for the endorsement. Not one, not two, not a dozen people, decide who we endorse. We certainly have individuals in the caucus who would love to be that powerful, but they are not the ones currently in office.

The letter's author also requests that the GPC membership application included in the letter, along with a check for the proper amount, be sent to him directly so he can "ensure that your memberships are registered in time for the screening and endorsements." This comment directly attacks the honesty and personal integrity of both the GPC membership co-chair, who is also chair of the board, and the GPC treasurer. Never has there been a case where someone had their membership application stolen, lost or "misplaced."

## Letters

These two people take their responsibilities very seriously, and if there is a question of a date on the membership received there is a process set up to take care of the problem. I do NOT appreciate this bitchy remark.

Finally, as long as someone outside the designated membership routine receives communications meant for the caucus, there is absolutely no way that the "confidentiality" of our mailing list can be kept secret. If you send an application to this person instead of its proper place, the caucus cannot be responsible for your name showing up in a dozen other group lists. Many groups are not as discreet as the GPC in the newsletters they mail. Think about it.

Anybody who tries to recruit new members for the GPC has my support if it is done through proper procedure. Change

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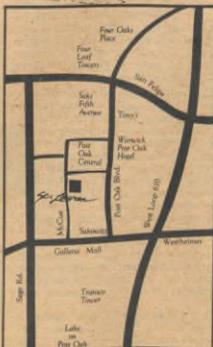
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in the caucus is fine; but personal attacks, singly and collectively, on the leadership of the caucus will not serve anyone's best interests.

These interests are best served when the gay community operates in a harmonious, unified manner.

## Support for Russell

From Neil Iahin

With the recent censure of Gregg Russell, the GPC confirmed its childish propensity to wallow in the muck of personal petty politics.

Although Gregg did violate "Rule 13" by bringing a short typed question into the screening session, it was a minor infraction of the rules. The caucus ignoring Gregg's statement that Ray (as chair of the session) gave his approval before Gregg asked the question. Furthermore, President Bagneris ruled Gregg out of order when he tried to read the question or explain why he brought the question that wasn't germane to the issue of whether he "violated Rule 13."

From the debate, I thought that I was in a fundamentalist meeting where every word in the Bible is taken literally, rather than in a meeting of intelligent rational people. Intelligent people regard rules as guideposts, not barriers. That doesn't mean they encourage the violation of rules, but it does mean they take into consideration mitigating circumstances and revise rules as necessary.

Since only core panel members are allowed to ask questions of the candidates, other members are asked to funnel questions to core members. The question Gregg asked was given to him by another member, who because of illness, couldn't attend. Gregg wrote out the question to be concise, save time and make sure he got it right. For that he was censured.

The action, I should say overreaction, taken by the caucus in censuring Gregg was a product of the same manipulative and secretive mentality that has been poisoning the GPC leadership and causing them to be obsessed with their desire to control the gay community.

The motion to censure was such an overreaction that I can only speculate that the real issue was not the minor rule violation, but that the minor violation provided an excuse for Ray Hill (and others who dislike Gregg) to try to intimidate and discredit Gregg.

You would think the caucus would have learned from past mistakes, but they haven't. Last fall they tried to sidestep Gregg's criticism of the Mark White endorsement by attacking Gregg's character. Although the ACLU and CHE have endorsed Gregg's proposed city ordinance, to date the GPC has refused to act upon it. Was the censure an attempt to sidestep the ordinance proposal by attempting to embarrass and discredit its author?

Gregg isn't the easiest person to get along with. Even though I regard myself as an ally of Gregg, I don't always agree or approve of his actions or tactics. However, I do recognize that he is one of the more aggressive, intelligent, creative and tireless hard workers that I have ever known. It is too bad that a complacent, elitist GPC leadership, obsessed with controlling the gay community, doesn't know how to respond to people like Gregg (or myself) who have been pushing for action.

In conclusion, the overreaction by the GPC was vindictive and petty. By engaging in such petty, personal politics, the GPC only succeeds in making a martyr of Gregg while simultaneously discrediting themselves.

## 'It's Time for the Real Thing'

From Greg Russell

"Masturbation can be fun, but it cannot take the place of the real thing. It's about time the gay community stops playing time with itself and gets down to the real thing. There are those who settle for crumbs because they feel that is all they can get, when in fact, if they seek for more they will

find that they, indeed, can get it."—Harvey Milk

It is appropriate that I quote Harvey Milk since his efforts to pursue a progressive agenda were also opposed by the established gay organization of San Francisco during his life. I suppose I should not be surprised that the Houston GPC, an organization which claims to represent gay people, attempts to discredit my efforts to pursue a concrete proposal which they have been talking about, in general, for years, an ordinance endorsed by ACLU and CHE, two major progressive rights organizations of Houston.

In an effort to move the gay agenda in a positive direction away from masturbation, I have drafted the DOMESTIC PRIVACY IN EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE over nine months ago. Since introduction, I have faced an ever increasing degree of intimidation and coercion by GPC officials. When earlier attempts to intimidate me failed, I was "summoned" to appear before the board of the GPC, with very short notice, and without notice of the agenda to be discussed. Due to a conflict in my schedule, I wrote the chair of the board to inform her that I would not be able to attend, but that if notice would be given concerning the nature of the inquisition, I would be happy to attend at a future date.

Apparently shocked that I would dare not attend to their whims, at a poorly attended meeting on the eve of the hurricane, Ray Hill made a motion to censure me on trumped-up charges involving a minor infraction of a screening committee rule (I made the formidable error of writing a question down for organizational purposes before asking a candidate the question). I realize Hill is currently seeking the office of president of GPC, but I think he could find a more constructive platform to run on than his degenerate abilities in the field of character assassination.

Once again we find mother was right: masturbation is, indeed, a difficult habit to break (especially for those who have been doing it for so long).

Since GPC cannot take an open position against the ordinance, a stand shared by politicians who depend on a placated gay community for funds and votes, they have instead attempted to discredit me, its author. Despite their attempt to "waffle" this ordinance, I will continue to pursue my course, with or without their support.

Let us hear from you.

Letters to the Editor  
Montrose Voice  
3317 Montrose #306  
Houston, TX 77006

## Happy to See Coverage

From Sam Cannonieri

I was happy to see the recent coverage published by the MONTROSE VOICE concerning the proposed public employment ordinance. This ordinance constitutes the very essence of what the gay political movement is about. It should be supported by every gay who has ever lost employment because of their sexual orientation.

The ordinance is a positive agenda for the gay community to begin working towards, something we have been without since 21.06 was ruled unconstitutional. Unlike previous efforts to establish our rights, the "Domestic Privacy in Employment Ordinance" goes beyond efforts to eliminate laws which discriminate against us. The ordinance goes to the next step, that is, to legally institute protections for our community which are already extended to other groups.

To go one step further, the ordinance gives us an opportunity to reach out to other segments of our city, since in its conditional form, the ordinance also provides protection to single straight adults who are discriminated against in employment and promotion because they choose not to be married, and also to married women, who are quite frequently paid less because they are viewed by employers as secondary income sources.

I am disturbed by reports that some gay leaders are hesitant to pursue such an agenda. Their reasons range from concern that it might become an election issue, to an opinion that protection in employment can be instituted through more secretive and less public political methods. To me, these objections demonstrate the fact that some of our leaders need to stand apart from their friends at City Hall and become more assertive with the gay political agendas of our community.



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## Commentary

### A Few Words on Chemistry

By Sharon McDonald

Everyone's always talking about love. We already know it's a rose, a many splendored thing, and better the second time around. What nobody talks about, and what is often much more to the point, is chemistry.

A man I know once wistfully remarked that he'd give a lot for a lifetime with Mr. Right, but he'd give his right arm for just five minutes with Mr. Wrong. Now we're getting somewhere.

For the benefit of anyone who's ever felt that inexplicable feeling that explains everything, I offer my attempt at defining that quicksilver angel, chemistry.

What a sadly misused thing is chemistry! More powerful than a 20 year marriage, for chemistry people have left families, jobs, religions and countries. Often referred to with the denigrating term "just sex," as in, "I don't know what she sees in her, it must be just sex," chemistry is that blistering rush of 100 proof happiness that defies such petty definitions. Chemistry is God's way of saying, "Have a nice day."

Chemistry is everyone's reward for making it through puberty. And don't forget, chemistry is the reason everyone of us came out. Chemistry is what got you into the best and the worst relationships of your life, but that's not chemistry's fault. Chemistry is that whole volume of conversation that goes on in a silent instant, it's that decision made without a choice, it's sometimes hard to find but it's even harder to hide.

Chemistry is being grown up and feeling two-and-a-half. Chemistry won't explain itself, won't make sense, and won't listen to reason. Chemistry is not a mistake. Chemistry will make the night fly, the day drag, and the air sing. Chem-

istry will make your lover suspicious. Chemistry is always faithful, it's your mind that betrays you. Chemistry is giggling in church, it's your soul on a rollercoaster, it's a surprise party for the personality.

Chemistry is what all those cells were made for. Chemistry is sunshine at midnight, and you're the sun. Chemistry is feeling like you're hyperventilating when you've really stopped breathing. Chemistry is yes. Chemistry allows no substitutions. Chemistry doesn't think about security, plan for the future, or have a savings account. Chemistry is involuntary, and it's every part of you volupteering. Chemistry is what you didn't know you wanted. Chemistry is no questions asked. Chemistry is doing, not thinking. Chemistry is a volcano abruptly sprouting in a potato patch. Chemistry is against all odds. Chemistry is spontaneous combustion. Chemistry has no past. Chemistry is not a criteria to use for deciding how to spend your lifetime. Chemistry is not something to write home about.

McDonald, who lives in Los Angeles, is co-winner of the 1983 Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Work in Feature Writing from the Gay Press Association.

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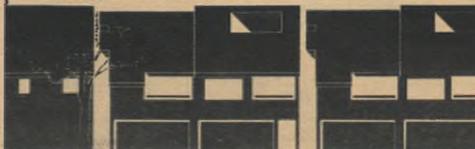
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## The Law

### Blackmail

By Henry Walter Weiss

"A much younger woman has been living with me for some time," explained Josephine, the frightened voice on the other end of the telephone. "Our relationship has come to an end; I want her out, but she threatens to expose me as a lesbian if I don't give her \$10,000. What should I do?"

The shadow of blackmail looms less large than it once did in our community. Still, it remains a real threat to anyone with a valid or imagined fear of exposure. For Josephine the fear was based on her sense that a professional career where she had traded on good looks and the ability to be seductive with men in power would be undercut or lost. The fear was real and valid.

The lawyer whose client reports a blackmail threat must deal with two issues. He must advise on a substantive response to the threat and he must consider and advise on the criminal elements of the transaction.

The proper substantive response to blackmail is simple, as a matter of logic, though often painful to appreciate as a matter of fact. The potential blackmailer believes he or she has an asset of value (i.e., information). The motive is usually greed. The blackmailer is unlikely to reveal the information without being paid for it, since then there would no longer be anything to sell.

On the other hand, as soon as the victim has made any payment at all, the blackmailer is all the more assured of the value of the information and the less likely to relent in demands for future payments.

In short, the victim's choice is difficult but clear: to call the blackmailer's bluff.

This risks exposure; but the blackmailer gains nothing by exposing the information and loses what it perceived as a valuable asset. Thus, the likelihood of actual exposure is minimal.

To agree to the blackmailer's demands buys nothing since the blackmailer still has the information and will either expose it or else demand more.

Blackmail and extortion are crimes. The lawyer must also advise the client-victim on reporting the matter to the authorities and gathering evidence under the supervision of the proper authorities. Obviously a client such as Josephine would not relish the idea of taking the matter to the police. Still, a citizen who is aware of criminal activity has a responsibility to report it.

Each case must be judged on its own. What the lay person perceives as blackmail may not rise to the level of the criminal. Frequently threats are veiled, expressed in innuendo or ambiguity. The client-victim need not treat every veiled threat as a police matter. However, if threats are on-going or unambiguous, they may well form a basis for police action. Surprisingly, police are frequently sympathetic to these cases and will vigorously follow them. It is often the client who wants to forget the whole thing.

Being threatened by blackmail is a frightening experience, one where the victim must call on all of his or her emotional resources to meet the threat. He or she needs all the help there is: lawyers and friends must be part of the support system.

©1983 Henry Walter Weiss, a New York City attorney. His column appears here periodically and in other gay publications. Letters and questions from readers are welcome. Write 4519 Lincoln Bldg., 60 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10165.

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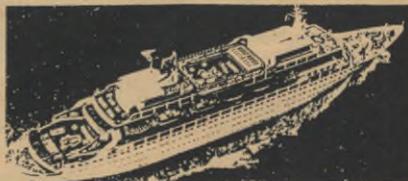
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# Dear John, Wherever You Are, This Column Is For You

By Joe Baker

He said his name was John. We met a few Friday nights back.

I don't mean to make this sound like a Harlequin Romance pocket novel, but our eyes instantly met. It was mutual attraction from the start.

We played the usual "stand-and-stare-at-see-who-will-act-first" game. Then, of course, we played the "who-will-walk-towards-who-first" game and "who-will-talk-first" game.

Once all that was out of the way, we got a good conversation going. I liked everything about him. He was a hot man, intelligent, fun and a great personality. Physically, he was exactly my type.

"Wow," I thought. "I'm not feeling to let this guy get away."

To my delight, he was feeling the same way.

We left the bar, and headed back to my apartment. What followed was probably the most terrific 14 hours in the past few years. Heck, no probably about it!

We didn't sleep much. In between the superb love-making, we talked and talked and talked.

John kept saying he felt like he had known me for years. He said he couldn't believe how comfortable he was with me. I said all the right things—all the things I wanted to hear.

My head was spinning by the time Saturday afternoon rolled around. This was certainly no "trick" affair. I don't usually get swept off my feet so easily, so I couldn't help thinking—and hoping—that maybe this was it. This was my "Mr. Right." I was waiting for...

I didn't want to rush him, but I wanted him to know exactly how I felt. I definitely wanted to see a lot more of him, but I was willing to take things one step at a time.

John said he felt the same way. He said he had lots of time to really get to know each other. He said he was looking forward to it.

"God, your wonderful," John whispered into my ear. "You wouldn't believe how I feel right now. I really want to be with you."

Over the hours, we talked, shared and made more love. We exchanged dreams, life stories and histories. He told me about a now-ending relationship of four years which had run its course. He was looking forward to beginning a new life, a new job, meeting new people and moving to a new apartment.

"I hope you will be a special person in my new life," John said to me. "I've never felt so relaxed and at ease with somebody so quickly and easily before."

Around 4:30 p.m., John said he had to get going. His father was waiting for him, as they had made plans to go car shopping.

He suggested dinner later the next week, which I quickly accepted.

"Maybe I'm rushing things a bit," I said gathering all the courage I could muster, "but I don't have any plans for tonight. If you don't either, I'd love to see you. How about dinner?"

John also quickly accepted. "Sounds great," he said. "I really would enjoy that."

He said he would return to my place about 7:30 p.m. I gave him my phone number, and directions in case he had forgotten from the night before.

"If I'm running late, I'll call," John told me.

We said our goodbyes. I was on top of the world.

Well, I probably don't have to finish this "script." If you are a go man in any American city and have ever worn a pair of Levi 501s, you know what happened. John—my "Mr. Right"—never showed up.

Not only did he never show up, he never even bothered to call. Not that night. Not the next day. Not the next week. Not even this past week.

Since he said he couldn't give me his telephone number as he hadn't moved out

of his ex-lover's house yet (that should have been a clue for me), I had no way of getting in contact with him. And still don't.

All I knew was that he lived just out of town. But I really didn't think I had to worry about anything—after all, I'm a good judge of character and John was "Mr. Right." I knew I was going to be seeing him again—a lot of him.

I judged and guessed wrong. I've been stood up before, as most gay men have, but this time it hurt really bad. This time it was different. I felt like I had the guts ripped out of my stomach.

Oh, I'm feeling better about the situation now. But I'll never understand how John could do that to me. I'll never understand how anybody—male or female, gay

or straight—can do that and be so inconsiderate.

There is no excuse for not calling to break a date. Even a poor explanation—even days afterwards—is better than no explanation at all. How can people be so thoughtless and uncaring?

Unfortunately, those are traits of a lot of gay people in our society today. They treat each other like pieces of meat, and have little respect for anybody else as human beings.

The bottom line in my situation with John, however, is more than him standing me up. He obviously didn't mean the things he said during our 14 hours together.

Or, he ment them—but only at that time.

Maybe it was just a game he was playing. Maybe a fantasy. Maybe he was just having a night out on the town without his lover.

I guess I'll never know. And that is what really hurts. Because when people act like John did, it makes us a lot harder and colder. It scares us to open ourselves to others again in fear of getting hurt again. Damn it—I don't mind being just a trick or a one-night stand when I know I'm just a trick or a one-night stand. But don't feed me a load of bull when you know damn well you don't mean it.

A little honesty can go a long way, and save a lot of hurt.

I guess that's the message I want to give to John. It's a message a lot of other gay people should get, too.

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## Films

## Rod Serling Fans Must See 'Twilight Zone'

By Jack Sturdy

Can you think of a film more surrounded by controversy than Steven Spielberg's *Twilight Zone*? TV's "Entertainment Tonight" seems to focus a few minutes each evening on John Landis, director of the ill-fated episode in which actor Vic Morrow and two children were killed. The coincidence of the opening of the film and Landis' court appearance is hot news and may well add to what looks to be a hot box office picture.

No, Landis does not show Morrow's death scene in any manner or form. In fact, producer Spielberg rearranged the episode so that the Landis segment is seen first, as opposed to its original fourth and final position. Out of sight, out of mind. That prevent ghoulish viewers from leaving the theater speculating on the actor's death.

"*Twilight Zone*" is fashioned from its television progenitor. There is a prolog, four episodes, and a quasi-epilog. Each episode is separate from the others, with different stars and a different director.

The prolog, directed by Landis, is a dandy that sets the tone for the film. Albert Brooks and Dan Aykroyd are driver and passenger travelling down a dark, deserted road. They are revelling in their good time, singing along to the song "Midnight Special." That develops into a game of "Name That Tune," using TV theme songs. The final song theme, *doo-doo-doo-doo, doo-doo-doo-doo*, is the setup for a C. Henry plot twist that gets your adrenalin going.

Episode one is the Landis segment that features Vic Morrow as a self-pitying man passed over for promotion because of his flagrant bigotry. Commiserating with friends in a small local bar, Bill's (Morrow's) vocalized hatred manages to offend anyone in hearing. In a snit, he walks out to find himself in World War II Germany, marked as a Jew.

Time warps move him constantly forward to be constantly victimized by the indignation of his own bigotry. The sensational original ending had Morrow (having "been in their shoes") saving the lives of two Vietnamese children; and the compromised present version isn't nearly as powerful.

The second segment is based on the 1962 TV episode "Kick the Can." Producer Spielberg directs this one with all the style and grace that have made him one of the world's most sought-after talents. Seatman Crothers is Mr. Bloom, the newest resident in a rest home inhabited by discouraged and forgotten men and women. He encourages them to think young, enabling them to rediscover happiness through a child's curiosity. Bloom's advice, "The day we stop playing is the day we start getting old," seems to be Spielberg's own philosophy. This is the

best episode of the four, perfectly recreating the nostalgia so prevalent in Rod Serling's television series.

Episode three is directed by Joe Dante. Even as the weakest of the four, it's still worthy of good chills and a few laughs. Kathleen Quinlan, Kevin McCarthy and Patricia Barry star in this story of a boy who can fulfill any wish he desires. Yet what he desires most—happiness—he cannot grant. Pay close attention to the set design in this one: house, windows and accessories are all parts of a child's "dream house," that exist in spite of their obvious reality/logistics problems.

The final segment is based on my favorite TV episode, "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet." The TV version starred William

Shatner (in his pre-Trekkiess days) as a recently-released mental patient who sees a gremlin tearing at the wing of a commercial jet on which he's traveling. For the update, Australian director George (Mad Max, Road Warrior) Miller chooses to show the main character, Valentine (John Lithgow), as a successful author with a claustrophobic fear of flying. The new version is every bit as good as the original, with a few new, excruciatingly wonderful twists.

"*Twilight Zone*" is a well-directed, competently acted, and true to the television series. A must see for all Serling fans.

Sturdy is the film reviewer for "The Weekly News," Miami. ©1983 StoneWall Features Syndicate.

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## 'Greater Tuna,' 'Virginia Woolf'

### □ Greater Tuna Revisited

By Joseph Lee

The population of the town hasn't changed since I last visited (Alley Theater's version last summer) but the production has aged well (there's a lot of beef and bull in this Tuna).

Direct from nine hit months in New York and a six-week sold-out run at the Kennedy Center in Washington comes Greater Tuna—a wacky and wonderful comedy about Texas' fictitious third smallest town where the Lions Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies (and our funny bones are all the better for it).

Greater Tuna is never canned laughter; indeed it's fresh and real, because it comes from very real, well drawn characters.

A cast of thousands (actually 20) created by the talents of three Co-authored by Ed Howard, Joe Sears and Jaston Williams, with direction by Howard and starring Sears and Williams as 20 mad-cap, sometimes bigoted and bizarre, yet human and sometimes poignant citizens of Tuna, Texas.

Built around radio station OKKK (yes, our assumption is correct, it does stand for that) we jump around from the broadcast room to the home of Bertha Bumiller and her crazy kids, to a visit with Aunt Pearl Burras (who gets her kicks poisoning dogs with her Strychnine-laced biscuits) or perhaps a commercial from Didi Snavelly, owner of Didi's Used Weapons. (And as Didi says, "If what we sell you doesn't kill, bring it back and we'll give you something that does.")

I have to go with Sear's Bertha Bumiller (you've never seen an Earth Mother like this one) and his Aunt Pearl (whose scene in the funeral home singing over a dead judge that she had an affair with years earlier is to die for). Drag acting at its most hilarious. The man surpasses camp and it simply is an actor's dream.

Williams shines brightly in many roles: outstanding as Didi Snavelly and Vera Carp (the most "Junior League" of all Tuna's women, who runs the meetings at the Coweta Baptist Church) and haunting as Stanley Bumiller, Bertha's teen-age delinquent weirdo.

Special mention must go to the neat set, country perfect for the feel of Tuna, and Aunt Pearl's award winning, country blue ribbon, chemise bath robe. It should be listed as the 21st character in this laugh a breath, sheer delight show.

Catch this hot Tuna at the Tower Theater thru Sept. 11.

### □ Stages War Games a Smash

By Joseph Lee

Michael (from "Boys in the Band") has a line referring to his parents that goes, "Killer whales, killer whales is what they are." If George and Martha from *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, currently warring on the stage of Stages, 709 Franklin through Sept. 11, had aired Michael, we could easily believe his statement.

Woolf is Edward Albee's Tony-winning 1962 Broadway drama about the searingly squabbling George and Martha, the young couple they invite over for drinks and the painful revelations that occur during a darkly drunken evening.

George and Martha are killer whales. I've always thought a good argument was good for the soul, but they bite and tear at each other like a cancer destroying it's victim. Yet, oddly enough, there is a strange support system underlying this destruction that holds them up and together.

Director Cynthia Potter has pulled together (to tear apart) a strong cast of brayers, as in actors. Braying is the art of the evening, and Albee's classic wit and way with the English language deserves praise and recognition as do the quartet of actors. Ms. Potter was truly able to "get to the meat" of the play; it's hard to fault such strong direction.

Martha tells George, "If you excited, I'd

divorce you." But Jean Proctor as Martha makes us feel that her ever leaving would be difficult, perhaps impossible. Charlie Trotter, as George, tells Nick in Act I that "Martha and I are merely exercising."

One wonders after 20-plus years how much more exercising can they handle, or can we for that matter.

Richard Hammer as Nick was a little too loud in some of his delivery but had some special moments, especially with Mr. Trotter.

Donna Whitmore as Honey (a dizzy broad, at best) maintained a delivery that was on target, and she had good staying power in her character. Her following Nick around the room, like an appendage, was both funny and sad.

There was more humor in this production than I remembered from others,

which was good for "cutting the slack" on the heavy weight of it all.

Martha says in the opening of Act III that she and George put their tears in the ice trays and the ice cubes in their drinks and then they drink them. The emotions that are tapped in this play are not as easy to swallow as ice cubes, but Stages productions has enough talent and depth to fill a sea full of ice trays.

### □ Suburbia Presents 'Meller Drammer'

Theatre Suburbia will be presenting their "summer meller drammer" through Aug. 27 at 1410 W. 43. Reservations by calling 682-3525.

Director Paul Hager is once again the director for this fun time show. He is a

## Montrose Live

regular member of the Montrose Symphonic Band and is a familiar face on stage as well as off. He currently resides in Heights.

Mary Lang who is featured is also a Montrose resident and currently doing two shows back to back, *Coming Attractions* at Carillon Corner and her appearance in the "meller drammer."

### □ Manhattan Transfer: A Harmony Happening

By Joseph Lee

Question of the week: what flew on stage at the Arena Theater Saturday night, August 20, dressed like white doves and sang like blue angels?

Sheryl Bentyne, Tim Hauser, Alan Paul and Janice Siegel, say who?, say the Man-

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**hattan Transfer.**

The smallest stage at the Arena was filled with musicians and musical equipment and left little room for the Transfer to work, but work they did, into a "Birdland" tail spin, playing the theater and the audience for all we were worth.

After top hit "Birdland" came "On the Boulevard," a shining, wonderful number. After opening the show, Janice (the short brunette) said that performing on the revolving stage at the Arena felt like being on the top of a birthday cake. If so, the rest of the evening turned out to be a fun and wonderful birthday party for all.

On to "Route 66" from Sharkey's Machine, then "Java," hot and flashy, with Tim Hauser doing a Louis Armstrong impersonation that was super. Then a "high and special" moment of the evening, Sherry Bentyne sang "Goodbye Love," a poignant, sad love song. She has a beautiful voice and performed it with great feeling.

Opening the second half with "Twilight Zone" proved to be one of the best numbers of all. Then the melodious quartet sang a fine and dandy full scale version of "How High the Moon," after performing a snappy version with Ella Fitzgerald on the Grammy Awards.

Next came Janice's turn with a solo of "Guess Who I Saw Today." Excellent. Mr. Cool, "El Dorado, Caddie" (Tim Hauser), did a great comedy routine. One of his real funnies was: "he was gonna put Vaseline on your gasoline and give you Power Glide." OK, fine.

The "Boys in the Band" (musicians) were all top notch and played extremely well. At times, it was difficult to hear all the lyrics, which should always be important, but alas.

Manhattan Transfer closed with "Operator"—which drove the house CRAZZZZZZZZ. A cozy, fine night of music.

#### Market Square Art Show Slated for Sept. 18

The 19th Annual Old Market Square Art

Show and Folk Festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 18, from noon to 6:00 p.m., around Old Market Square Park at Preston and Travis in downtown Houston.

Houston's first sidewalk arts and crafts show, the original Old Market Square event was a salute to the building of Jones Hall as a cultural center in Houston, later joined by the Alley Theater. This year, the show will salute the groundbreaking of the Wortham Theater Center at Preston and Smith and the completion of the Lyric Center Building on Prairie, highlighting the re-birth of Houston's old town area.

Let us hear from you.

Letters to the Editor  
Montrose Voice  
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## Sports

# Sally's Heads To Chicago

By Chuck Meredith

This has been a week of hard work and anticipation for the 18 members of Dirty Sally's—the M.S.A. Softball League Champions—as they prepare for next week's Gay World Series in Chicago. The team has been put through extensive drills by manager Jerry DeSale as they hope to erase memories of last year's performance, when Sally's finished with a disappointing 1-2 record and a tie for seventh place.

Since it's best not to dwell on the past, here is a position by position look at Houston's representative to Gay World Series VI.

**PITCHING:** Not considered a strength area for Sally's, DeSale upgraded it considerably by adding all-star Danny Webber of the Galleon to the roster. Webber is considered the best pitcher in the league and, by no coincidence, is the only pitcher to have beaten Sally's this year. Mike Olesnky and Bill Schmidt are the Sally's regulars, but if they should falter, Webber will be there to bail them out.

**CATCHING:** Herb Muenchow and Harry Goldberg have added a scoring punch for Sally's at this position (516 and 450 respectively) plus both field adequately. Muenchow will also be called upon to pinch-run since he is one of Sally's fastest runners.

**FIRST BASE:** Although many of Sally's players can play first, Ken Gray and the Galleon's Dannis Harmaker will see most of the action there. While both men are able defensively, it is their hitting that should be helpful. Gray hit .400 and Harmaker led the league in walks while batting .355.

**SECOND:** The rest of Sally's infield is loaded with experience and talent. Second baseman Jesse Young exemplifies this. Young's sure hands and strong bat should be a real advantage for the team.

**SHORTSTOP:** Last year's Most Valuable Player, Mike Morrison, mans this position as well as anyone. Although he is coming off an "average" year (compared with last year), he is still an important part of this team. Should either Young or Morrison stumble afield or hit poorly, the Briar Patch's Bill Sansom will be there to fill the void.

**THIRD:** Ken Bailey's nickname "Pearl" is no misnomer since this accurately describes his playing ability. Both afield and at the plate, Pearl is a real gem and should help Sally's performance considerably. Mike Linder adds good batting support, if needed.

**OUTFIELD:** Littered with flashy statistics, good gloves, and strong arms, Sally's outfield holds the key to their series performance. Regulars Richard Mendez, Mario Marchena, Jimmy Cates and Jerry DeSale are joined by Mike Harwell and the Galleon's Barry Pirkey. Since all games are played on unfenced fields, outfield play is of particular importance because if balls get past the fielders there is nothing to stop them or the base runners.

Overall, this is a team with considerable power, speed and strong defense. This has been true on past teams also, so it is up to the team to go to Chicago and play hard to represent Houston and simply play to the best of their capabilities.

### WORLD SERIES OPENING PAIRINGS

- Houston vs. Seattle
- Chicago vs. Pittsburgh
- Boston vs. Milwaukee
- Twin Cities vs. Southern New England
- Toronto vs. New York
- Birmingham vs. San Francisco
- Atlanta vs. Kansas City
- L.A. vs. Long Beach

### □ Volleyball's Final Week

The M.S.A. Volleyball League ends its sixth season this Tuesday with a "Friend-

ship Tourney." This year has been a learning experience for the entire league as organized league play was instituted for the first time and many new players were added. Most of these new players had never played under U.S.V.B.A. rules, and they are encouraged to return next year to continue their learning experience.

Many of the league players will be playing in "straight" U.S.V.B.A. tournaments this fall and the VOICE will keep tabs on their performances.

The league extends a special thanks to The Barn and Dirty Sally's for their help with their tournament, and Ruby Lyons and H.I.S.D. for their cooperation with the gym on Tuesday evenings.

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## Seven Day Calendar

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri | Sat |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-----|-----|
|      |      |      |      |       | 26  | 27  |
| AUG. | AUG. | AUG. | AUG. | SEPT. |     |     |
| 28   | 29   | 30   | 31   | 1     |     |     |

For additional information or phone numbers for events listed below, look for the sponsoring organization under "Organizations" in the Montrose Classified.

## Selected Events through 7 Days

- **SUNDAY:** Montrose Tennis Club plays 9am noon, MacGregor Park
- **SUNDAY:** Lambda Bicycle Club meets, then tours, from 12:30pm, unless raining, at 2212 Donley, apt. 20
- **IN 4 WEEKS:** Houston Area Gay & Lesbian Engineers & Scientists meet 7pm Sept. 28
- **MONDAY:** AIDS victim support group meets 6:30pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett Blvd., Suite 203
- **MONDAY:** MSA Summer Season Bowling, 9pm at Stadium Bowl, 8200 Braesmain
- **TUESDAY:** Gay World Series Softball Tournament opens in Chicago, lasting to Sept. 2
- **TUESDAY:** Montrose Symphonic Band meets at Bering Church, 1440 Harold, 7:30pm
- **WEDNESDAY:** Montrose Choral rehearsal at Bering Church, 1440 Harold, 7:30-10pm
- **THURSDAY:** Wild'n Stejn gay radio show 7:30-9pm on KPFT Radio, FM 90
- **THURSDAY:** MSA Mixed Bowling League, 9pm at Stadium Bowl, 8200 Braesmain

## Selected Events in Future Weeks

- **IN 1 WEEK:** Dallas Gay Alliance's Texas Freedom Festival Sept. 2-5, celebrating anniversary of repeal of section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Sixth Biennial International Convention of Dignity, Seattle, Sept. 2-5
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Tulsa gay softball league invitational tournament, Sept. 3-5
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Chico's Lesbian Mothers' Group meets 6:30pm, Sept. 3, 210 Fairview, apt. 1
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Lesbians & Gay People in Medicine meet 7:30pm Sept. 3
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Labor Day, Sept. 5
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Greater Montrose Business Guild meets 7:30pm, Sept. 6, Liberty Bank community room, 1001 Westheimer
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Rosh Hashannah, Jewish New Year, begins Sept. 7
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Gay Political Caucus meets 4600 Main #217, 7:30pm, Sept. 7
- **IN 1 WEEK:** National Lesbians of Color conference opens Sept. 8, Los Angeles, through Sept. 11
- **IN 1 WEEK:** "Come Out and Sing Together," 1st North American Gay Choral Festival, opens Sept. 8, lasting to Sept. 11, Lincoln Center, New York
- **IN 2 WEEKS:** Texas NOW Conference, "We Can Do It NOW!" Corpus Christi, Sept. 9-11, Emerald Beach Holiday Inn

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- Catch-1 Disco—4985 Martin Luther King—841-2561
- Chicken Coop—535 Westheimer—526-2240
- Copc—2831 Richmond—528-2259, disco with show
- Dirty Sally's—220 Avenida—529-7525
- Double R Saloon—5731 Kirby—521-1444
- E-C-T—1213 Richmond—527-6671
- E-Lite—1071 Bell—809-0453, country
- Galcon—2303 Richmond—522-7616
- Home—109 Tuam—529-9128
- J.P.S.—822 Pacific—527-2519
- Just Marice & Lynn's—517 Fairview—526-9110, cabaret
- Montrose Supers—5245 Buffalo Speedway—865-9750, predominantly lesbian

■ Lazy 3—312 Tuam—529-9343

■ Lola's Depot—2327 Grant—528-8342

■ Marlin—1021 Westheimer—528-8511

■ Memorial Park Mall Bar—505 Waugh Dr.—951-1311

■ Melrose Sun—534 Westheimer—526-7518, disco, shows

■ Miss Charlottes—911 W. Drew—529-8440, country

■ Montrose Mining Co.—805 Pacific—526-7448

■ Numbers 2—300 Westheimer—526-6551, disco

■ Officers Club—2700 Albany—523-4084

■ One on One—1018 W. Gray—529-8503

■ The Outlaws—1419 Richmond—528-9603

■ Pink Elephant—1218 Landan—459-5040, with shows

■ Ranch—8605 Main—529-8730

■ Rascals—2702 Kirby—524-6272, dining, live music

■ Rich—2401 San Jacinto

■ Ripcord—173 Fairview—521-2790

■ Risky Business—2700 Albany—528-3611

■ Texas Rangelands—1318 Westheimer—521-3475

■ Tropicana Swim Club—2114 Peacham

■ Twins—535 Westheimer—520-0444, lesbian disco

■ Venture—18—2923 Jackson—522-0300

■ West Playland—3012 Miles—528-6888

## TEXAS/RICE

■ Silly Sally's—924 Jackson—449-9184

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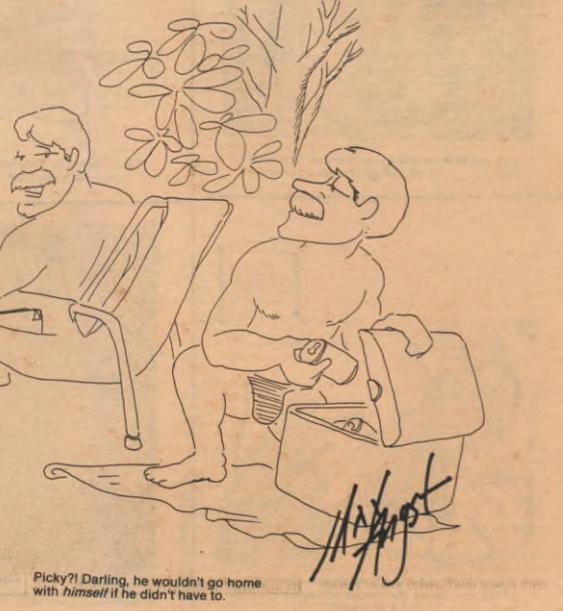
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## ORGANIZATIONS

SELECTED NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:  
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 Human Rights Campaign Fund—POB 1386, Washington, DC 20011—(202) 462-1846  
 Lambda Legal Defense—132 W. 43rd, New York, NY 10018—(212) 848-8488  
 Media Fund for Human Rights (Gay Press Association)—POB 3360, Washington, DC 20013—(202) 387-3400  
 National Association of Business Councils—Box 19145, San Francisco, CA 94119—(415) 865-8000  
 National Association of Gay & Lesbian Democratic Clubs—1142 Main, Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003—(202) 547-1104  
 National Gay Rights Advocates—240 Castro, San Francisco, CA 94144—(415) 865-3024  
 National Gay Task Force—80 5th Ave., New York, NY 10011—(212) 741-6600  
 NGLTF—Crisline—(800) 221-7044 (outside New York State)  
 New York Gay Lesbian Task Force—POB AK, Denver 70201—(317) 367-6216  
 A. Capella Chorus—(Montrose) Church of Christ—777-6286  
 A Place in the Sun—c/o Gracilyn Books, 704 Fairness—(202) 789-7899; subgroup of IPI Inc.; concerts 7pm Tues.  
 ACLU—1236 W. 19th—324-5925  
 AIDS Hotline—c/o Gay Switchboard—(202) 3211  
 American Gay Athletes—457-6960  
 American Leathermen (social club)—meets at Delaney Drum, 1732 Westland—529-8208; club night Wed.  
 Anti-Riotline Alliance—320-9451 (voice); 520-8552 (TTY)  
 Bayou B's; see Montrose Charale  
 Benay Memorial United Methodist Church—1440 Harold—625-1017; service 10:50am Sun.  
 Black & White Men Together (BWMAT)—c/o Gay Switchboard—529-3031  
 Choices—c/o Gay Switchboard or Carol at 529-8775; meets TWCF, 3013 W. 11th, 12:30pm/3rd Sun. also see Lesbian Month  
 Christian Church of the Good Shepherd—1707 Montrose; services 7pm & 10:30am Sun.  
 (Montrose) Church of Christ—1707 Montrose—777-8286; services 11am Sun.  
 Church of Christ—Fifth—211 Fairness—529-8005; services 10:45am Sun. A 7:15pm Wed. 300-6556; services 7:30pm Fri., 11am Sun.  
 Church of Pentecostal Unity (CPE)—609 Farnin #131—328-6656; board meeting 2nd Tuesdays  
 Cliff 45's (social club)—meets at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos—529-9182  
 Community Gospel Center—1707 Montrose—523-6018  
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 Conroe Area Lambda Society—Jan at 736-6254 or Ray at 736-4087  
 Crisis Hotline—228-1655  
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 Dine Foundation—2720 Mission—524-8793  
 Dignity—meets at Catholic Student Center, 1703 Solover—529-9299, 529-7644; meetings 7pm Saturdays  
 Families & Friends of Gays—464-6663; meets 2nd, 3rd, 5th Sundays at Presbyterian Center, 41 Oakdale, behind First Presbyterian Church, 5:30am  
 First Unitarian Church—5216 Farnin—526-1571; services 11:15am Sun.  
 Gay & Alvin Sharing Experience (GASE)—526-3111, 529-0893  
 Frontrunners—523-1288  
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 Gay and Lesbian Archives of Texas; affiliate of IPI Inc.  
 Gay Asian Club—2615 Waight #124 4706  
 Gay Hispanic Caucus—2722 Neaman, #112—521-0037; meets 3rd Thursdays  
 Gay Italian Group—525-8844  
 Gay Nurses Alliance—800-9466  
 Gay Political Caucus (GPC)—POB 6968, 7736—521-1000; meets 6:00am 2nd/3rd/5th Wednesdays  
 Gay Pride Week '83 Committee—c/o Marion Coleman, House of Coleman, 501 W. Alabama—523-2521  
 Gay Switchboard—POB 3624—539-3211; information, courtesing, referrals, TTY, AIDS Hotline  
 Greater Montrose Business Guild—contact through Montrose Voice; meets 7:30pm, 1st Tuesdays, community room, Liberty Bank, 1001 Westheimer  
 Greenpeace/FM190 Area Far-Away Friends—821-8641  
 Homophile Interfaith Alliance—729 Menor—526-6169  
 Houston Area Gay & Lesbian Engineers & Scientists—529-1316; meets 7pm, 1st Wednesdays  
 Houston Community Choirs—663-8314  
 Houston Data Professionals—meets in East Houston, Holiday Inn Central, 4640 S. Main—529-8022; meetings 7:30pm 2nd Tuesdays  
 Houston Motorcycle Club (social club)—c/o Mary's, 1022 Westheimer—529-5881  
 Houston North Professionals—POB 3840, Humble 77396—811 at 821-7128  
 IPI Inc.—POB 1601—77232-694-1732, 579-7014; affiliate groups are Interact, Employees Gateway & Place in the Sun  
 Montrose Art Alliance, Gay & Lesbian Archives of Texas, Gay Switchboard, Montrose Synchronic Band, Montrose Cloggers, board meetings 7:30pm, 1st Thursdays (varied locations), educational forum 7:30pm 3rd Thursdays  
 Integrity/Houston (Episcopalian)—POB 6908, 7736—529-5656; meets 7:30pm 2nd Tuesdays at Audry House, 8285 Main, & 4th Tuesdays at manufacturing  
 Interact; educational subgroup of IPI Inc.—POB 1601, 77232—529-7014, 694-1732  
 KBYT Radio, FM 104.1—Live! Loud! Show—526-4000; "Wide in Show" gay radio show Thursdays 7:30-8:30pm  
 KEAIDS Foundation—1001 Westheimer #183—524-8055  
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