



Brazos River Bottom Club
2400 BRAZOS 713-528-9192



TEXAS CONFERENCE
OF CLUBS

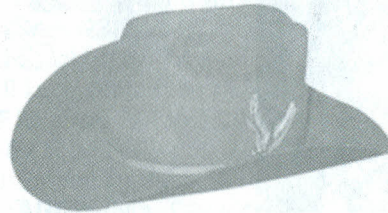


COMMERCIAL
MEMBER



*Open Every Day Noon-2am
with Daily Drink Specials*

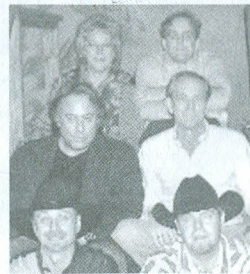
The Home of Hot Cowboys and C&W Dancing



*Join us Thursday
Nights for free
dance lessons
given by
Southern Country*

**Join us every
FRIDAY NIGHT**

**Live
Band
Bayou
City
Magic**



www.jodyblankenbaker.com

MONTROSE G M Gay Entertainment Magazine

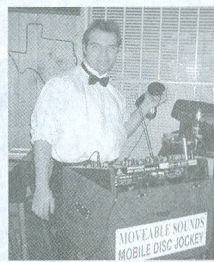
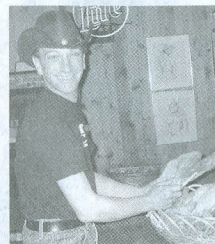
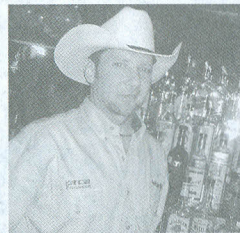
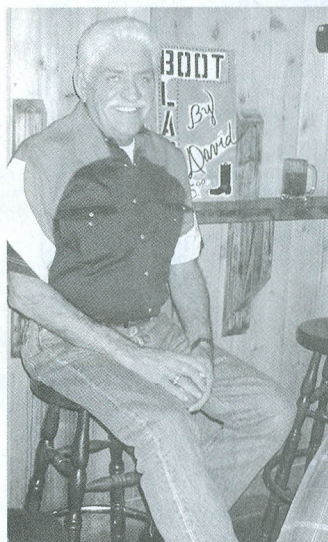
Issue #1, Jan. 21, 2005 713-529-2325



Brick's II

617 Fairview 713-528-8102
"Your Neighborhood Country Bar"

**WE THANK
YOU FOR
8 GREAT YEARS!**



From far left, clockwise,
David Parker, owner;
bartender Steve;
Gregory making
lettuce;
bartender
Tony;
Moveable
Sounds
DJ

Every day is special at Brick's II

**Wednesday Afternoon:
Pool Tournament 12:30pm**

**Mon.-Sat.:
Super Happy Hour 7am-3pm
Happy Hour 3pm-9pm**

GEM NEWS & BAR TALK

L.U.E.Y. is the Big One

The Mardi Gras and post-Mardi Gras party season is starting. One of the biggest events of the year (right up there with Halloween, Gay Pride Parade and New Year's Eve) is Let Us Entertain You hosted by the Houston Council of Clubs.

How did L.U.E.Y. start?

It seems that many years back, right after Mardi Gras in New Orleans, a bunch of German tourists came to Houston before their flight back to Europe. We were so happy to see them (Houston, back then, NOT a tourist destination) that we wine and dined them (and did some serious flirting) all on our dime.

The word got around. Come to Houston the weekend after Mardi Gras, show your out-of-the-world ID, and we'll get you feeling good and feeling full, for practically free.

We locals can join the runs too, for a small fee.

Brick's II Turned Eight

It sure doesn't seem that long ago, but your little neighborhood country bar has been here awhile.

Owner David Parker came here from Denver, the home of the first Brick's, bought Past Time from old Carlos, remodeled, and, viola!, Brick's II was born.

Last week, they had their big party. Friday was the buffet, Saturday was the appreciation show, helped along by the vivacious Don Gill (hair burner and fundraiser). Photos are elsewhere in our little magazine.

Galveston, Oh, Galveston!

Before L.U.E.Y., the big event is the 23rd (or thereabouts) annual Gay Bus Trip to Galveston's Krewe of Momus Sat. night parade.

Your bus will be hosted by members of the Krewe of the Moons of Uranus and will depart 11am Feb. 5 from The Ripcord.

And that's where you buy your advance \$40 tickets from any bartender. Cash, check or credit card.

It's a party down and a party back. The bus will be parked right on the parade route at Robert's Lafitte. Ten minutes after the last float goes by, we zip it back to Houston ahead of the traffic.

The Montrose Diner!

They will be open shortly at 1111 Westheimer, across from Chances and Mary's.

These are nice people putting this together and it's something we've been needing here since Charlie's closed years ago.

Mr. Prime Choice

It's a few months away (Apr. 9 or 16, we're waiting for confirmation) but if you want to win it, you gotta start competing sooon!. Email them at mpctx@houston.rr.com.

The contest is open to all over 40 and will be held at The Ripcord.

Playing and Singing

We certainly have a collection of piano bars in the neighborhood now. Michael's Outpost is the latest arrival. Briar Patch is the original. Keys West is holding court on West Dallas. And Guava Lamp will be making melodies at Waugh and Allen Parkway shortly.

Be a GEM Supporter

Yea, that's kind of like an athletic supporter. Drop off your press releases at our office, 408 Avondale (the old Montrose Inn house).

And come by and place an ad with us. An itty bitty message or a great big "balls of fire," get-their-attention, whopper. Put GEM to work for you.

And where did that handsome drawing of a diamond come from in our logo? A certain Craig of the Brazos River Bottom doesn't want to talk about it. But he did it! Yes he did.

Miss Keys West

The pageant will be this Sunday, 7pm, at that singing & playing place on West Dallas.

IBL Thurs. Standings

After last week's play, the Killer B's are first; Ebony, Ivory & Jaded are second; and the Ripcord Rebels are third.

Then, in 4th, tied, are E/J's Hard Sticks and Deep Space Nine.

The league is on the web at iblhouston.com. Look them up.

Bering Omega's Wish List

Each week, we'll spotlight a few items they need. You can drop them off here at the Montrose GEM, 408 Avondale, and we'll transport them to the proper place. Or call Fiona Dawson at 713-524-9304 ext. 101.

Of course, they're always in need of toiletries, standard household supplies and non-perishable food.

This first week, we're asking for table games, some new playing cards, microwave popcorn, coffee creamer in individual packets, and a case or two of Coke and Pepsi.

This stuff doesn't go bad but if we do get too much of one thing, there are other needy places in the neighborhood that we'll donate to. I'll give you a report every week in this column of what we received and where it went.

The Latest W. News

George has just gotten himself mixed up with the wrong people. The Rumsfelds and Chaney's.

By the time you read this, he will have been sworn in again. And I thought he gave up swearing.

In a Washington Post interview published last Sunday, the Prez seemed to say that the effort to get a constitutional amendment that bans you and me from marrying each other wasn't going to happen because of the votes needed in the U.S. Senate. So let us spend our time instead seeing how we can get the banks and the stock brokers hands on everyone's Social Security benefits.

But now the White House (not the Prez personally) is reassuring the right-wingers that he didn't really mean what he said about the marriage thing. I think he did.

Famous Cheese

The New York Times has a section called Metropolitan Diary on Mondays. People

write in with little true stories about life in the Big Apple.

We should do that here. We'll call it Montrose Diary.

The items (no more than a few paragraphs) should be true, humorous but not *real* news.

Got something like that. Write it down and send it in.

Here's one I remember from the NYT. During Macy's Thanksgiving parade last year, a French tourist was caught in the crowd.

When the giant balloon of Spongebob Squarepants came by, everyone went crazy, cheering.

Said the Frenchman, "Who is this famous American cheese?"

Did you get it?

—Henry

Plan Your Parties

Jan. 25, Full Moon

Feb. 4-6, Mardi Gras Weekend

Feb. 6, Super Bowl

Feb. 11-13, Houston Council of Clubs
L.U.E.Y. Weekend

Feb. 12, Lincoln's Birthday

Feb. 14, Valentines Day

Feb. 21, Presidents' Day

Feb. 22, Washington's Birthday

Feb. 24, Full Moon

Feb. 27, Academy Awards

Mar. 12, AIDS Walk

Mar. 17, St. Patrick's Day

Mar. 20, First Day of Spring

Mar. 25, Full Moon & Good Friday

Mar. 25-27, Long Star Volleyball
Tournament

Mar. 27, Easter

Mar. 27, Jungle Party & Bunnies on
the Bayou

Apr. 3, Daylight Savings Time Begins
(lose an hour)

Apr. 8-9 OR 15-16, Mr. Prime Choice
Weekend

Apr. 24, Full Moon

Apr. 30-31, Splash Weekend in Galveston

Montrose GEM welcomes Montrose Diner to the neighborhood

OPENING SOON AT 1111 WESTHEIMER

Montrose Gay Entertainment Magazine

ISSUE #1, JAN. 21, 2005

Published weekly by
Gulf Features

408 Avondale, Houston, TX 77006

713-529-2325

OFFICE HOURS

9am-6pm Mon.-Sat., Noon-5pm Sun.

(But call first. We may be out.)

EMAIL: montrosegem@yahoo.com

Henry McClurg, publisher

Tom Fagan, advertising director

Lee Davis, sports writer

Dr. Dave, Le Island Laison

copyright 2005

Greetings

*Welcome to the first issue
our our little magazine. We're
not much yet, but watch us
grow.*

*Why are we here?
Because there was a need.
This was the first time in 32
years that gay Houston had
not been served by a gay
guide. Well, here we are to
take care of that.*

*Please feel free to use
us. We're are to be cheap and
easy.*

Thank you.

Mardi Gras Galveston

Join us
for our
23rd
annual
gay bus
trip,
Sat.,
Feb. 5

Tickets on
sale now,
\$40 while
they last,
at the
Ripcord



THE KREWE OF THE MOONS OF URANUS



Want to be a part
of our little magazine?

PAYING POSITIONS
Account Representatives
Movie Reviewer
Art Critic
Feature Writer
Cartoonist
Call Henry at
713-529-2325

Don Gill's Studio911

hair

911 Welch
713-521-0911
by appointment only

GEM ADS BY THE WORD

JUST WORDS (no logos, no pictures). Up to 3 words in bold. Just 40 cents per word, minimum \$5.00. Drop off at 408 Avondale, or call 713-529-2325. We take cash, checks and credit cards. Run same ad 4 or more times, deduct 10%. Run same ad 13 times or more, deduct 20%. Payment due when placing ad.

Hello there. For a good time, call ...
We don't have any "Ads by the Word" yet. After all, we're just starting. But come by our offices this weekend or Monday. Bring a \$5 bill (or more) and you can advertise your greeting, or

whatever.
So you want a picture and a logo in your ad? For that, we offer display ads as small as 2.375 inches wide by 0.875 deep for (introductory rate) \$16.10 to \$23.00 a week.

RIPCORD EVENTS!

Sat., Feb. 5, 23rd Annual
**GALVESTON MARDI GRAS
GAY BUS TRIP**

BUY YOUR TICKETS FROM YOUR BARTENDER

Feb. 10, 11, 12, 13
**L.U.E.Y
WEEKEND**

Coming in April
MR. PRIME CHOICE TEXAS

Categories: Q&A,
Fantasy Video, Fundraiser
FOR MORE INFO: mpctx@houston.rr.com

RIPCORD

**715 FAIRVIEW
HOUSTON
713-521-2792**

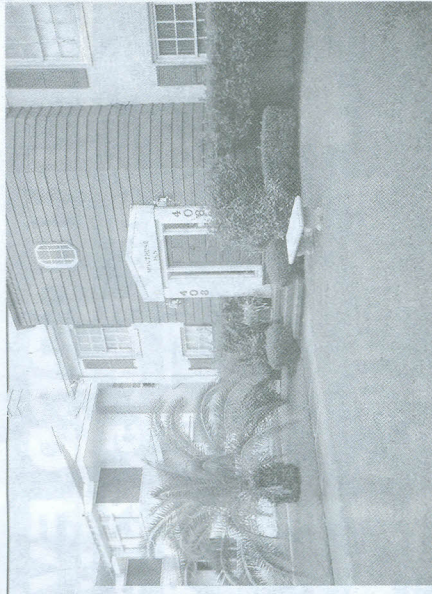
OPEN
DAILY
1PM

AFTER-
HOURS
WEEKENDS

www.theripcord.com

**SUN.: STEAK NIGHT MON.: POOL TOURNEY
WED.: HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY, ALL NIGHT**

Rooms Available in the Neighborhood



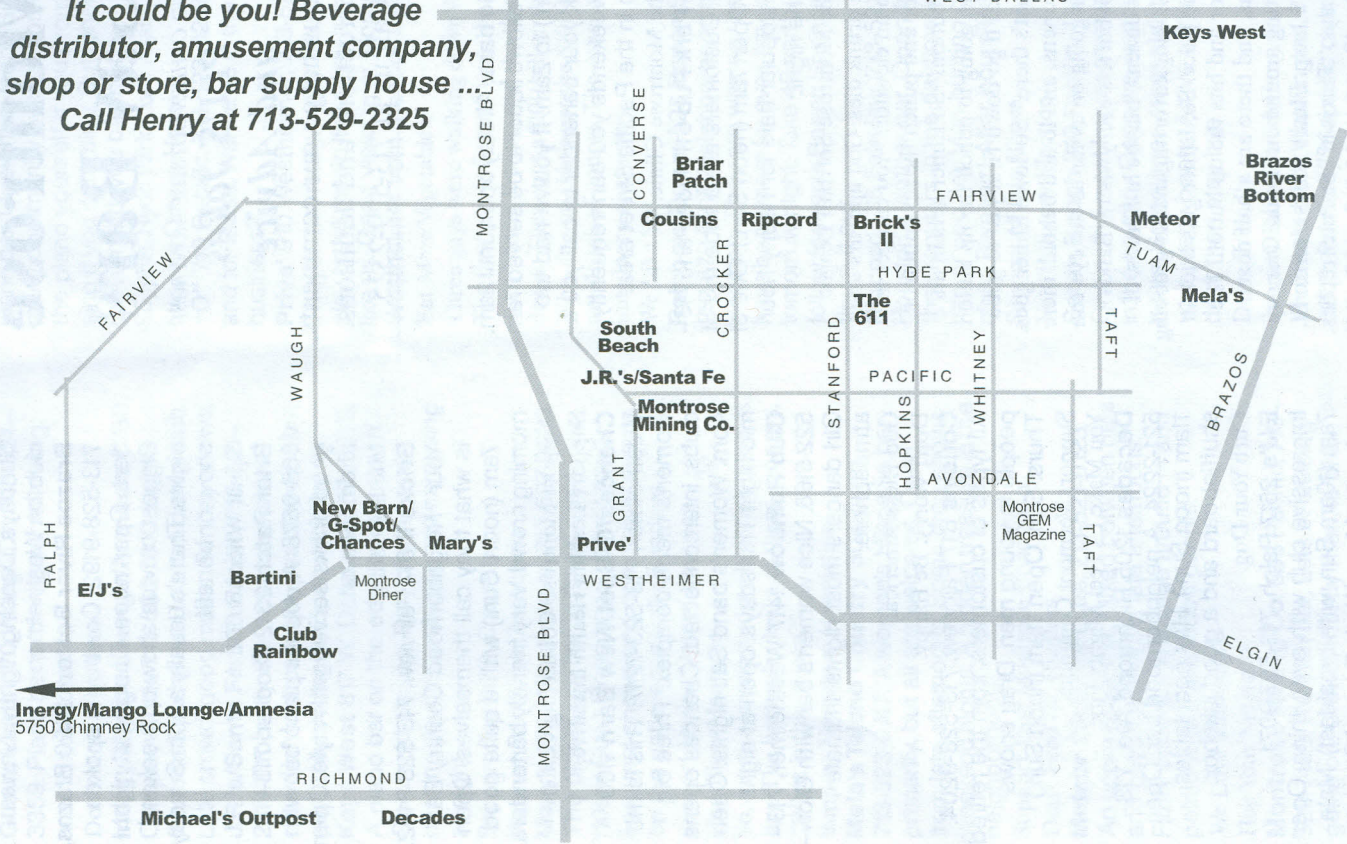
By the month. From \$600. Queen bed, cable TV, all bills paid, no deposit, kitchen and laundry access. For quiet single or couple. Formerly the Montrose Inn 408 Avondale, 713-520-0206

LEATHER FOREVER WELCOMES GEM MONTROSE GEM 604 Westheimer 713-526-6940

Montrose Gay Bars and Selected Other Places

This map brought to you by ... **It could be you! Beverage distributor, amusement company, shop or store, bar supply house ... Call Henry at 713-529-2325**

Rainbow Room 527 Barren Springs Viviana's 5219 Washington Guava Lamp 570 Waugh at Allen Parkway



Montrose Gay Bars

AND OTHERS OUTSIDE MONTROSE

PLUS Jokes and Advice

Let us have your comments,
corrections and additions.
Call us at 713-529-2325.

About the bars: All stay open until 2am. State law allows liquor to be served 7am (10am Sun.) to 2am. If you've had too much, ask your bartender to call you a cab. On weekends you can frequently hail a cab in the Pacific Street area. Support the Montrose Clinic.

611 Hyde Park Pub 611 Hyde Park, 713-526-7070. Customers are a wide mix of all types. Open 7am (noon Sun.). One of the more popular bars for happy hour and into the night.

Support the Montrose Softball League. Elmer the drunk dies. God appears and shows him an elevator. "You can get in the elevator and punch the up button or the down button." So Elmer gets in and thinks, "I'm going to punch the up button but I think I'll go down first just to get a peek at what's there." So down Elmer goes. The door opens, and lo and behold, there are parties going on as far as the eye can see. Lavish buffets everywhere. Bands playing on dozens, maybe hundreds, of stages. Frolicking, cavorting and ass-grabbing all over the place. So, Elmer gets back in the elevator and hits the up button. The door opens, and there are a half dozen people sitting around on clouds. One guy is playing a harp. Elmer walks over to St. Peter and says, "This is it?" St. Peter replies, "You didn't expect me to hire a band for just six people?"

Dine Out Tonight in Montrose.

Bartini 1318 Westheimer, 713-526-2271. Shows on Thursdays & Sundays. Dancing nightly. Newest club on Westheimer.

Brazos River Bottom 2400 Brazos, 713-528-9192. Cowboy is spoken here. Open noon. Dancing at night. Biggest crowds show up weekend nights. There's usually a 4pm Sunday show or benefit.

Signal When You Turn.

Briar Patch 2312 Crocker, 713-665-9678. A popular piano bar with good drinks served with style. Open afternoons on.

Life Is Good.

Bricks II 617 Fairview, 713-528-8102. Your "Neighborhood Country Bar" is what they call themselves. Open 7am (noon, Sun.) with a quite good

morning crowd. Very friendly bartenders.

Support Montrose Counseling Center.

Support Lesbian Health Initiative.

Chances/G-Spot/New Barn 1100 Westheimer, 713-523-7217. This is the women's mega-complex. Three big clubs, interconnected. Chances opens 4pm. Women's band Sat. nights. Open mic night Thursdays. open at night.

Club Rainbow 1417 Westheimer, 713-522-5166. Nice women's bar with Glow-Girl dancers most nights. Intimate atmosphere.

God Bless America.

Don't Worry, Be Happy.

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

Support Vermont Commons.

You Make Us Feel Mighty Fine.

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

Curb Your Dog.

EJ's 2517 Ralph, 713-527-9071. Impressive club with everything. Open 7am (10am Sun. with breakfast). Male strippers Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat. late night. Sports fans meet around the patio bar.

Are John Waters and Joan Rivers the same person?

Guava Lamp 570 Waugh Dr., 713-524-3359. Piano bar with regular following, now in new location.

Don't Mess with Texas.

Inergy/Mango Lounge/Amnesia 5750 Chimney Rock, 713-660-7310. Latin-flavored Southwest Houston dance club. Late crowd, good music. Sunday shows.

J.R.'s/Santa Fe 808 Pacific, 713-521-2519. Probably the most consistent crowd in Montrose. All types of people but generally younger. Open mid-day on.

Keys West 817 W. Dallas, 713-571-7870. A piano bar on the edge of downtown. Open mid-day on. Dart-playing and drinking daytimes, singing and carousing at night.

Support Gay Pride Committee.

Support Park Civic Association.

Mary's 1022 Westheimer, 713-527-9669. The oldest gay bar in Texas, open 7am (10am Sun.) Good happy hour crowd. Frequent shows and community events on the patio, especially Sundays.

Support Bering Omega Services.

God Bless Montrose.

So, a nun, a lawyer and a rabbi walk into this bar. The bartender looks at them and says, "What is this, a joke?"

Support Neartown Association.

Mela's Tejano Country 302 Tuam, 713-523-0747. A women's Hispanic bar primarily, but all are welcome. Open from late afternoons. Some drag shows weekend nights. A hidden treasure in the neighborhood.

Support East Montrose Civic Assn..

Don't Feed the Hustlers.

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

We Love Montrose.

Hug Your Neighbor.

Montrose Mining Co. 805 Pacific, 713-529-7488. A butch bar. Lots of cruising going on. Crowd, mostly men, is of all ages. Draft beer on the patio. They are an established institution. (An institution? Yes they are.)

Michael's Outpost 1419 Richmond Ave., 713-520-8446. Now a neighborhood piano bar. Open 11am (noon Sun.) Host of many community events. You can play the piano yourself if you promise not to sing if you can't sing. But otherwise, yes. (Nevermind, you can sign.)

Support Hyde Park Civic Assn..

Support Omega House.

"O" 710 Pacific, 713-523-0213. Closed and for lease. Wanna go in the gay disco business?

Prive' 910 Westheimer, 713-522-2542.

They're not really a gay bar, but they play great music like a gay bar. And they like us. Good viewing of Montrose & Westheimer from the roof-top patio.

Eat More Vegetables.

Three guys were walking down Westheimer. The first guy is Santa Claus, the second one is an honest lawyer, and the third guy is a drunk. They spot a \$100 bill on the sidewalk. Who do you think got the \$100? Well, the drunk of course. The other two are imaginary characters.

We Like You.

Rainbow Room 527 Barren Springs, 281-872-0215. Neighborhood bar in north Houston. They are way up there and have been there for ever. I'm going to visit tomorrow night. Take 45 north, Airtex exit, follow feeder to Barren Springs. And then figure it out.

Ripcord 715 Fairview, 713-521-2792. Houston's leather bar. Open 1pm with their regulars in the daytime (a bunch of happy people). Man-hunting crowds at night. Rwaarr! After hours Fri. and Sat. Support Milam House.

Vote in Every Election.

South Beach 810 Pacific, 713-521-9123. One of the most impressive dance clubs in the country. Open weekends with after hours. Sometimes other nights. Dance your pretty booty. Arrive early for best deal, then stay late.

Drive Friendly.

Support Ralph Street Gang.

Viviana's 5219 Washington, 713-862-0203. Primarily Hispanic club between Montrose & the Heights. Show bar with female impersonators.

Shop in Montrose.

The Montrose Puzzle

Dept. store Houstonian Shelley Duval sold cosmetics before being discovered

20 ACROSS, 6 LETTERS

By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

1 missing letters: o e ul (filled with sadness)

4 covers Montrose

5 missing letters: crash (mud-bug)

6 put away

8 sounds like "oh! oh!"

9 Nigerian town; anagram of I JAKE

14 do re mi fa sol ti do

16 sports group of the Houston Texans

18 Spanish flor in English; good name for a drag queen

20 Houston store Shelley Duval worked before being discovered

22 abbr. for high-voltage

23 downtown Houston street; Texas hero

28 direction Montrose to Lake Houston

29 things of knowledge kept to a few

33 and dumb?

35 ex-gov. Richards, initials

37 more balanced, unlike Fox News

38 Fredericksburg is county

seat; jazzman Dizzy

41 Roman 2061

42 Coyote State

43 Badger State

44 teary

rection Montrose to the Piney Woods

48 sounds like "you be"

49 Arnold Schwarzenegger's kind of man

51 pollinating buzzer

52 exists

DOWN

1 Ted of TV's "Cheers"

2 NASA, we have

3 river of S. Texas flowing into the Nueces

7 Badger State

10 missing letters: sy-lu (4 ACROSS on a pretty day)

11 missing letters: bl bo (you'll find them at the

Driskill Hotel, Austin)

12 alt. sp. of Joseph

13 Texas saying: easy as pie

14 in the manner of a

rant Co. community; another good drag name

lover 15 some bars open at this time

17 actor Chaney

19 fleet blessed in Galveston every April

21 7 lords a

24 missing letters: dtt ba (used by sailors and soldiers)

25 Superman's girl

26 lang syne

27 missing

letters: o opo y (board game)

30 visited informally

31 nickname for a Montrose cowboy?

32 Lanka

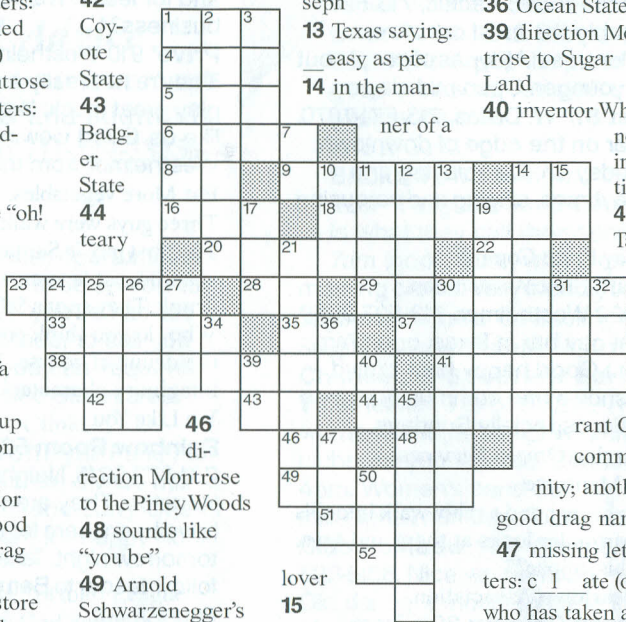
34 appliance company & more

36 Ocean State

39 direction Montrose to Sugar Land

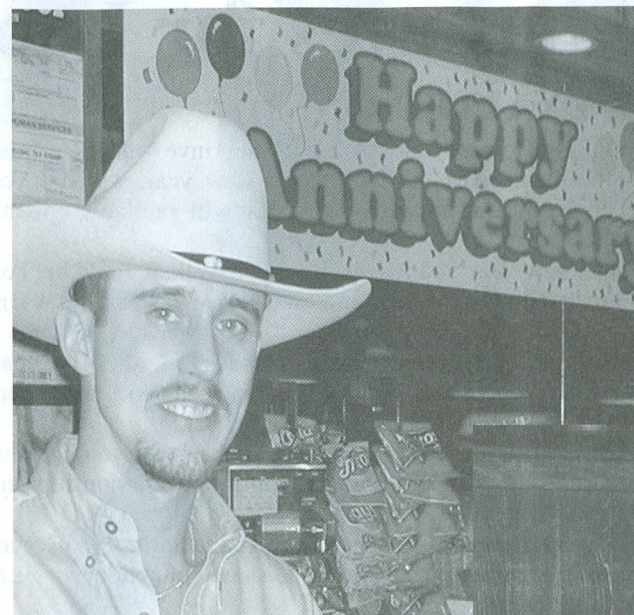
40 inventor Whitney, initials

45 Tar-



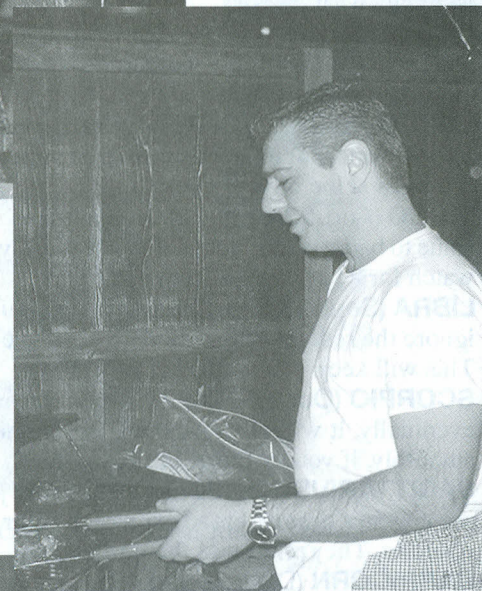
Solution will appear in next week's GEM

Well, if it ain't one thing, it's something else



That's Justin, of the dancing fame at E/J's, now tending at Brick's

These strange-looking people are the officers of the Krewe of the Moons of Uranus, standing at Robert's Lafitte in Galveston. You too can be there Sat., Feb. 5, on the gay party bus to Mardi Gras. Buy tickets from your Ripcord bartender.



The other Gregory just a cookin' at Brick's 8th birthday party



G M HOROSCOPE

Someone has eyes for Leo

By **HELGA, THE EXALTED ONE**

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't worry about emotional investments at this time. Wait and they will solve themselves. As we enter a new year, we find you are ready to become more domestic. An attractive stranger will suddenly appear, perhaps making a mess.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A new year and it's all about you. Well, it could be! Follow your hunch and go have lunch with your new friend. He will appear without warning in the next few days.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Simple pleasures are your treasures for the new year. You'll be able to appreciate what's good and beautiful in your life. Oh, and there is a man, what a man!

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Go get 'em cowboy. Get all of 'em that you can this week. Tie 'em up. Use lots of rope. One of 'em will develop into a relationship and all others will approve.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): While you are contemplating the new year, another has his eyes on you. Watch for his subtle effort to communicate and try to share your endeavors. Let the stars shine in your eyes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): January may be slow for others, but not you this year. Continue to battle minor bouts of trouble, and your busyness will pull you through. Oh, and watch for a secret sign from a stranger.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Splain yourself, Lucy, to those who need explanations. But ignore the rest of the busybodies. You have a genuine vision of your place in the world. This will keep you on the right course.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You and your closest one have some talking to do. But eventually, it will all work out. Now, on another matter, your days at work will pass smoothly, if you let them, in this new year.

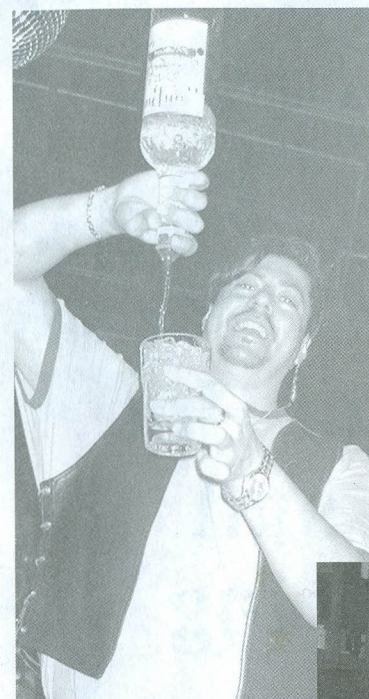
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're just over your birthday, from last year, so you are now in a time of broad expansion. Your mind and your heart are ready for new discoveries. They're around the corner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your responsibility to yourself is first. But others deserve your care and attention, which is what makes you, you. The burst of activity this new year will have great effect in the first months. Oh, and remember, two heads are better than one.

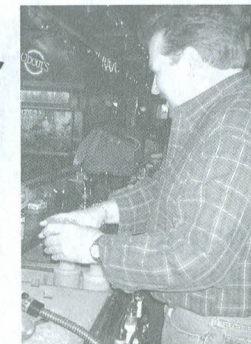
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The new year is no time to take time off. You have to prepare for surprises just down the road. There will be a bump, another bump, and then smooth driving.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do good things come to those who wait? In your case, always. But actively pull those good things toward you as they come into focus. Don't be afraid of a small misjudgment.

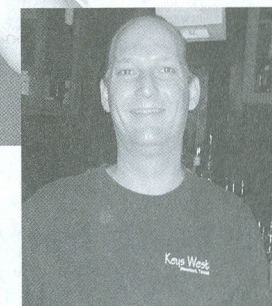
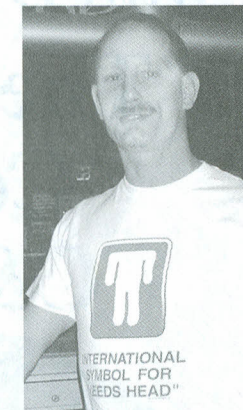
Sloshing Drinks and Selling Leather



Chi Chi is trying to carefully balance himself, not spill a drop, & smile for the camera at Mary's



(above) Larry of 611 fame and (below) James of The Ripcord



Twister at the Brazos River Bottom playing with the money
Gosh, it's Josh at Keys West and Bob of Blackhawk Leather

