

I'M PROUD TO
CELEBRATE
PRIDE **NOT** PREJUDICE
ON JUNE 26

ARE YOU?

PRIDE
HOUSTON

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered

Pride 2010

Queer Things to be Proud of in Houston

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

These are not in any particular order because we would have to hold some kind of election but enough people contributed to ideas of what we have in our fair city that we can celebrate with pride. By the way, it is a given that having Annise Parker, a long-time GLBT community leader as the Mayor of Houston is something we are extremely proud of, this is a list of a few of the other things.

The Gayborhood

"Montrose is a pocket of eccentricity and diversity where fine restaurants, antique stores, art galleries, tattoo parlors, vintage clothing boutiques, and some of the city's top art museums can be found" - The New York Times

Many of us know that Montrose is a state of mind as well as a physical location. Long called "Bohemian" this early "suburb" of central Houston has always had a certain flair and character. Even though it is not the area of Houston where the most GLBT people live (*we are everywhere*), it is our playground and is

the location of our community services. It remains the heart of the community and where the parade continues to be held by popular demand.

The Celebration

For over 30 years, Pride Houston has worked at the heart of the local GLBT community to educate and celebrate the diversity within our city's large population. Every year, Pride Houston works hard with national sponsors and local volunteers to organize and produce a series of events that cater to and promote Houston's ever-growing LGBT community.

The parade and surrounding events for put together for a number of years by a loosely formed ad-hoc committee. Under the direction of Jack Valinski, the Houston Pride Committee became more structured, organized and cohesive. Now a new group of people have entered the picture to carry on the the tradition.

The Pride Festival and Pride Parade are at the center of the celebration and are attended by over 150,000 people every year from all over the world. That makes it the second largest parade in Houston, and the largest gathering of LGBT individuals in the southern United States. The

Houston Parade as of 1997, was the first Pride Parade in the United States to be held at night.

Pride Houston has been said to be "one of the Top 10 events to attend in Houston for 2010" by the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau. 2010 marks the 32nd anniversary of the Pride Houston LGBT Celebration.

The annual Pride Festival is a multi-block celebration of the GLBT community. Featuring a variety of performers on a number of different stages, the Pride Festival is a great way to experience the community, learn about it's history, and visit the many booths from local vendors and organizations.

See Pride Houston Calendar of Events on Page 4.

The Center

The Houston GLBT Community Center is home base for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies in the metropolitan area and southeast Texas. Founded by a group of dedicated activists in 1996, the Center is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that focuses on serving the community by concentrating on five broad areas:

- * Arts and culture
- * Collaborations with other organizations
- * Education and public policy
- * Support groups/leadership development
- * Information resources

The Center is located at 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. The phone number is 713.524.3818. The website is www.houstonglbtcommunity-center.org.

The Radio Station

KPFT, a Pacifica station that is community and listener sponsored, hosts two GLBT specific Programs. Queer Voices and After Hours, as well as being inclusive in their other programming. KPFT is at 90.1fm and at www.kpft.org. Shows are archived for 60 days after airing.

See "Queer Things" on Page 12



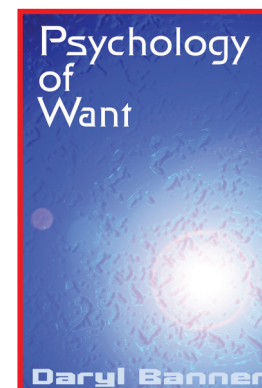
Calendar of Events for Pride 2010
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Pride Idol Update from Joey Guerra
on Page 2



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The Psychology of Want,
A young Houston writer publishes
his first novel -- Page 13



Mayor, Annise Parker, throws out the opening pitch at *Pride in the Park*, July 10 at Minute Maid Park -- Page 15



Exclusive to the Montrose GEM from Joey Guerra

Pride Idol update!

Show dates: 10 p.m. every Thursday through June 24 at Meteor, 2306-08 Genesee. (just off Fairview). The finale is 10pm on June 24.

The top six tackled Michael Jackson songs and were paired up for duets. It was our most dynamic night yet -- and probably our biggest crowd!

We said a very sad goodbye to Alfin Nadjib, who always brought grace, charm and amazing polish to the stage. And what a vocalist! I expect great things from him in the near future!

We also had a special performance from American Idol 7 finalist Kady Malloy, who is leaving next week to record in Nashville. We were honored to have her and blown away by her vocals. Kady has always been a big support of the GLBT community. She performed two weeks ago at the Pride Idol finale in Nebraska and headlined 2009 Pride in Houston and Galveston.

Our current host, Tye Blue, and former host, Toddicus, teamed up for a hilarious onstage duet as well!

The remaining singers are: Laz Estrada, Nina Lombardo, Freddy Cauley, Brittini Jackson and Aike Jamal.

Next week, each singer will perform two songs from a list of "icons," including Madonna, Cher, Bette Midler, Fleetwood Mac, Garth Brooks, Dolly Parton, the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Elton John and Queen.

We will eliminate two singers next week, leaving three to battle it out during our June 24 finale.

The Pride Idol winner will perform at 8pm on June 26th prior to the parade. This will be in front of the judges' review stand at Commonwealth and Westheimer

Queer BINGO!

What an extraordinary launch of *First Saturday Queer Bingo (FSQB)* and re-launch of the Queer Bingo tradition! The fun started before the first number was even called. The crowd was amazing (more than 60 people!). Even better, the energy and enthusiasm in the room were at a very high level.

Tim Brookover, President, Board of Directors of the Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered extends his thanks to all those who made it possible, "Especially to Burton, our bingo wrangler, my unofficial title for him, who prepared thoroughly for the event and made sure it ran smoothly."

"I also have to thank all our volunteers: John and Ron for working the money table, Lesa and Darrel for posting the bingo numbers on the big board and verifying winners, Kristian for keeping track of the called numbers for each game, Chris and Ramiro for running the credit-card machine and monitoring the room, and Albert for keeping track of the game winners and running cards to the front for verification.," Brookover expressed.

"Burton and I remarked after FSQB how well everyone worked together and pitched in to handle tasks," he points out, saying, "That is what makes it fun... that sort of community spirit."

Brookover extends special thanks to Trevor Eade and his crew from Pride Houston for joining us for the inaugural FSQB and selling raffle tickets so ably and giving away T-shirts. He states, "We were delighted to have Pride Houston on board for this Pride month event."

This is a wonderful new tradition for the Center. Houston GLBT Community Center First Saturday Queer Bingo is a Center program, and proceeds support Center programming.

**Saturday, July 3, 2010
4:00pm - 6:30pm
One's A Meal
Second Floor Ballroom
812 Westheimer Road**

Yes, Fourth of July weekend, good way to get out of the heat.



Photos by LeeRoy Holmes.

Pride Idol June 10

Top Left: Tye Blue and Toddicus duet onstage.

Top Right: Tye Blue with duet partners Nina Lombardo and Brittini Jackson

Bottom Right: American Idol 7's Kady Malloy



Burton Bagby-Grose is the BINGO Wrangler.



Pride Houston Volunteers helped out and were fund-raising partners for the inaugural First Saturday Queer Bingo



"Maybe I'll Bingo with one of these guys tonight."



Really? All this fun and they give prizes too?



Dabber at the ready!



"When she said she had something queer for us to do tonight, how was I suppose to know she was referring to BINGO?"



And the magic word is BINGO! We have a winner!

Right: Janice and Nancy had a good time sharing the games with friends.



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The GEM supports the community by offering a 20% discount to non-profits and to advertisers who include a fund-raising event in their advertisement.

The most current up-to-date information available with original articles, news, arts, reviews, commentary, community events and so much more. You will find the GEM is the paper of choice for our community. It is the one to choose.

BEELINES

by Deborah Moncrief Bell



I wanted to write about the same-sex marriage issue, this being June, the month for brides and all. That and that the Prop. 8 trial in California will be having closing arguments on June 16th. But Frank Rich, Op-ed columnist for the New York Times did such a good job of writing about it in the NYT that there is little for me to say on the subject, being he said all that I would have and more. That article is available at: <<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/opinion/editorialsandoped/oped/columnists/frankrich/index.html?inline=nyt-per>>

I am turning my column space over to Cristan Williams. Here is her report

On Friday, June 11, 2010, a meeting was held at Covenant House to discuss their long-standing practice of refusing to house transgender youth. Those in attendance were Cristan Williams, Executive Director Transgender Foundation of America (TFA); Darin Quintero, Vice-President for Board of Directors of TFA, Jolanda Jones, City of Houston Councilwoman and her aide, Josephine; Houston Covenant House Director/CEO Rhonda Robinson and Josephine Tittsworth with the NASW-TX GLBT Equity Committee. The Director of Covenant House Houston, Rhonda Robinson stated that her position was that Covenant House does not refuse services to any child and that all children – even transgender children – are treated with dignity. She went on to state that their unwritten policy is that transgender children are placed according to their anatomical sex and not their gender identity. She went on to admit that Covenant House has no policy whatsoever concerning protecting GLBT youth and that equal treatment is, in fact, discretionary for staff. Council Member Jones took the Covenant House director to task and stated in no uncertain terms that transgender kids need to be housed in the gender they present, that they need to be referred to as the gender they present and that no child should ever be refused services due to their transgender status. Council Member Jones also stated that she knew transgender children were being turned away because the Harris County Juvenile Probation contacted her office after Covenant House told them that they do not house transgender kids.

While the Director of Covenant House believes that discriminatory actions by staff do not occur, TFA has received numerous reports in which transgender clients encountered discrimination.

On April 23, 2010, TFA received the following: "I received 'shelter' at covenant house for almost 1 week. I was told when I arrived that I could only be there if I stayed with the girls, because I was legally female. I agreed because I had no other option, it was there or the street. They roomed me with a female who said she felt uncomfortable being in the same room as me... the shelter's response was to pull me out of the room and insist that I sleep on the floor of the girls wing in front of the night staff. I was constantly

harassed by others in the shelter as well as the staff themselves. I was discovered to be physically intersexed by another shelter recipient who walked into the individual shower section I was in with the intent to start a fight. When I was later told that even though I agreed to be there as a female that I could not use the female restrooms or showers, I was instructed to use a single person bathroom and shower on the first floor of the building. I was happy about that because I was obviously not comfortable using the multi-person restrooms and showers anyway. When the girl who discovered I was intersexed told the staff, they made me get a 'physical' at the little medical place attached next door. When it was confirmed I was indeed intersexed, I was told I had to leave the shelter because they had no place for me. I was kicked out 2 days before my 16th birthday. It saddens me that shelters, especially ones aimed at youth, are allowed to be run this way."

On February 27, 2007, Cristan Williams received the following request for assistance from an HIV case manager:

"I'm hoping you may be of help with this. A young transgender, 18yrs old, is having a hard time finding someplace to stay. She mentioned trying Covenant House and not being well received, or even allowed to participate in their program due to transgender status. She mentioned encountering the same reception at shelters (Open Door Mission, Star of Hope)."

In response, Cristan Williams called Covenant House. Directly after speaking with a Covenant House representative, she preserved the conversation:

Cristan: (explains the situation)

Hay: Yes we do take transgenders, but he would have to program as a male.

Cristan: Ah, so you would have a certain set of gender stereotypes this youth would have to adhere to in order to access services.

CH: Well... um. Yah, I guess you could put it that way.

Cristan: So, if this youth looks like, sounds like and walks like a female and has breasts you would make her sleep with men?

CH: Well, yes. He would need to be housed with men.

Cristan: How would you go about ensuring her safety then?

CH: Well, the same way we go about providing safety for all the kids.

Cristan: I see. So would you force her to use the restroom with men, shower with men and... how would you protect her against rape?

CH: Hum... well. It is a matter of policy. All of the Covenant Houses are like this.

Cristan: Interesting. I know that the Covenant House in California accepts transgenders and houses them with the correct gender. In other words, a male-to-female transgender youth is housed with the females.

CH: Well, it isn't supposed to be that way... but each place makes... they might have their own programs that are a little bit different from other locations.

Continued on Page 11

THE COMMUNITY PAPER FOR MONTROSE AND BEYOND

9720 Beechnut #380, Houston, TX 77036 ~ 713.523.2828

Please email or call to let us know you want an ad so we can reserve the space for you.

Schedule for the rest of 2010

Deadline 3pm Mondays prior to print date

ISSUE #	Print DATE	DUE ON
135	7/ 2	6/28
136	7/16	7/12
137	7/30	7/26
138	8/13	8/9
139	8/27	8/23
140	9/10	9/6
141	9/24	9/20
142	10/8	10/4
143	10/22	10/18
144	11/ 5	11/1
146*	12/3	11/30
147*	12/17	12/13
148	12/31	12/27

6,000 Distributed through 60+ Clubs, Restaurants, Shops & Stores and community services reaching an estimated 12,000 Readers every issue
* Denotes a special issue - December 3rd & 17th for Holiday shopping.

Place your ad today for July 2 issue.

montrosegem@yahoo.com

Houston Pride Events Calendar

Houston's premiere singing competition Pride Idol, returns for a fourth year of amazing singers and fierce competition. This year brings big changes, including a larger venue, new judge, and a new host!

Dine with Pride is a fundraising event involving a partnership between Pride Houston and various volunteers, sponsors and local restaurants.

Dine with Pride: June 23 - 6pm to closing at Lorenzo's on Washington

Pride Idol: Week 7 - Finale on June 24, at Meteor

Rock the Runway fashion show on June 25, 2010 - 8pm at Guava Lamp: Waugh Dr. @ Allen Parkway inside and out.

Festival: June 26, located in the Montrose south of Westheimer, along Commonwealth and Yoakum. LGBT and straight supporting performers are highlighted as part of the 2010 Celebration. We are celebrating diversity in music and feature local, regional and national performers in genres including everything from alternative, country, R&B and reggae to blues, zydeco, rock, pop, Latin and others.

The Parade: This historic event will be held this year on Saturday, June 26, between Dunlavy and Crocker along Westheimer. There will be a Pre-Parade show that starting at 8pm at Waugh Drive. The show will feature entertainment to kick off the parade. The Pre-Parade Show is free to attend. The parade starts **promptly** at 8:45pm.

COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

THEATRE NEW WEST and the HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

are extremely proud to present

THE LARAMIE PROJECT

Theatre New West along with Holocaust Museum Houston will present a MAJOR EVENT production of **THE LARAMIE PROJECT**. The production will have a total of 8 performances from June 24 thru July 24. Theatre New West produced BENT at the Museum in 2004, the run was SOLD OUT and brought back the following year.

TNW also presented **THE TIMEKEEPERS** at the Museum in 2009. Director Joe Watts approached Susan Myers, Executive Director of the Museum, last fall and asked to present **THE LARAMIE PROJECT** there. Susan replied "Why have we not presented *Laramie* at the Museum before since it is such a "perfect fit?" So it was decided to open the production during Gay Pride 2010, and the rest as they say is history.

The production will open on June 24 during Pride 2010.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD FOUNDATION is very excited that Judy Shepard, Matthew's Mother, has been invited to be a part of this production. She will be in Houston from July 7 thru the 10.

She will speak at the "Max Kaplan Summer Institute" for Educators, held at the Holocaust Museum Houston on July 8. She will also speak before the Theatre New West/Holocaust Museum Houston production of **THE LARAMIE PROJECT** on Saturday, July 10. She will not see the play however, having only done so once. It is far too emotional for her.

There is also a book signing to be held in her honor for her book **THE MEANING OF MATTHEW: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed**.

SPECIAL NOTE: Houston Mayor Anise Parker has also been invited to attend the July 10th performance, she will introduce Judy and welcome her to Houston.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT - is based on interviews of the Laramie community after Matthew Shepard, a young, gay student at the University of Wyoming, was savagely beaten and left hanging on a fence to die. The interviews were conducted by the Tectonic Theater Company from NYC. When it first came out in 1998 it was the most produced play in America, both by regional theaters and at colleges and universities. It was also an international success, and made into a film, produced by HBO.

Laramie Continued on Page 6

Community Online

GLBT Community Center

www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org

www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

www.legacycommunityhealth.org

GLBT Political Caucus
www.thecaucus.org

Out In Houston
www.outinhouston.com

www.PFLAGHouston.org

www.assisthers.org

Houston Political Organizing Network - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HoP-ON>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LoneStarActivists/> (LSA)

FEMINIST ONLINE NETWORK
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FEMNET>

Northwest Corner
www.nwcorner.org

www.socialnotesHouston.org

www.queermusicheritage.com

www.centerforAIDS.org

AIDS Foundation Houston
www.AFHouston.org

Imperial Court of Houston
www.spacecityempire.org

Empire of the Royal Sovereign
Imperial Court of the Single Star
www.ersicss.org

TG CENTER
www.tgctr.org

Give a Damn Campaign
www.giveadamn.org

Do you have a comment on a news item or story in the GEM or elsewhere? What do you like, not like, want more of? Have a story idea or someone you think we should interview? Let us hear from you at: montrosegem@yahoo.com

ON THE RADIO

MONDAYS, 9 - 11PM
"QUEER VOICES"

SUNDAY MORNINGS
12AM - 3AM
"AFTER HOURS"

ON KPFT 90.1FM
Pacifica - community radio
HOUSTON, TX
www.kpft.org

ONLINE: www.kpft.org

OutRadio for June 2010

www.queermusicheritage.com/out-jun10.html

OutRadio for June starts off with an interview with Daniel J Cartier, about his new CD, "Redemption," and then goes for the remaining three hours into, oh, just all kinds of musical directions, with some brand new, some old, some rare, and some you just would not expect (like song #6 of Part 2).

You can stream or download the show anytime, at

<http://www.queermusicheritage.com/outjun10.html>

Thanks for listening,

JD Doyle

You could win by taking part in this Online Survey

We invite you to take a new survey about your opinions and preferences, from an LGBT perspective. Type the following into your browser:

<http://www.LGBTSurvey.com>

Everyone who completes the survey by June 30th will be entered into a drawing to win one of 20 Amazon \$25 gift credits, or the grand prize of a \$500 Visa gift card. Make sure you indicate the Montrose GEM as your source for the survey.

Participating in this study helps open minds and doors around the world, and influences positive changes for our community. You may have seen previous years' surveys quoted in the New York Times, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, etc. If you have friends who might be interested in this survey, please tell them about the survey. It is a chance to be heard and a chance to win some great prizes!

Hospitals to start adding Sexual Orientation to Patient's Rights and Policies

Human Rights Campaign's President Joe Solmonese Urges Action to motivate Texas Hospital Association

This is big. Sweeping new changes will soon dramatically transform healthcare in the U.S. for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

The Joint Commission – the largest organization that accredits hospitals nationwide – has announced that, in the future, all hospitals in America will need to have a non-discrimination policy for LGBT patients on their books. Once the new rules are in place, the horror stories we've all heard of loved ones being met with hostility at the worst of times, of already heart-wrenching decisions made even harder, of people being denied care, will be a thing of the past – in Texas and every state in the nation.

But it will be years before every hospital is on board. To ensure these new protections are implemented in Texas hospitals as soon as possible, we need your help. The Texas hospital association will play a crucial role in communicating the new rules, and we need to ensure that new policies are put in place as soon as possible.

Tell the hospital association in Texas: families shouldn't be at risk of discrimination a single day longer. We need to implement these new rules immediately!

You might not have known it, but as an HRC supporter you've played an important role in the Joint Commission's new accreditation standards. They credited HRC as one of the organizations whose work for healthcare equality helped expose why these new rules were so sorely needed.

And it comes not a minute too soon. Just today, HRC released a new report showing that among 200 of the nation's largest hospitals, 93 percent do NOT have fully-inclusive non-discrimination policies that protect all LGBT people, and almost half don't include sexual orientation in their "Patients' Bill of Rights" or non-discrimination policy. Read HRC's Healthcare Equality Index 2010.

Though the Joint Commission's announcement came just before an important memorandum from President Obama on hospital visitation, far too many same-sex couples are still paying

the price for healthcare inequality. From the unfair taxation of employer-provided domestic partner health benefits, to

the fact that most health insurance plans do not offer domestic partner benefits or healthcare benefits for transgender Americans – the need for further progress remains urgent.

We can start by making sure the Joint Commission's new protections are implemented in Texas as soon as possible, so that not one more family needlessly suffers. Write your letter to the hospital association in Texas today!

Dan Stultz, M.D., FACP, FACHE
President/CEO
Phone: 512/465-1012

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 679010
Austin, TX 78767-9010

Physical Address:
1108 Lavaca, Suite 700
Austin, TX 78701-2172

Sample Letter (Please personalize)

I have just heard about the Joint Commission's decision to require that all hospitals implement fully-inclusive non-discrimination policies as a condition of accreditation.

As a person who believes in equality, I am thrilled that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in my state will soon have protection against healthcare discrimination.

And because these protections are so urgently needed, I'm urging you to make sure that these policies are implemented and enforced as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope I can count on you to realize the promise of the Joint Commission's much-needed new protections for LGBT patients and families.

Center Coming Out Group expands by popular demand!

After only two monthly meetings, the Center Coming Out Group is expanding two a bimonthly schedule at the request of the participants. The facilitated group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people at all stages of the coming-out process will now meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. at the Center. The next meeting is Monday, June 21. For more information, call the Center at 713.524.3818 or contact the facilitator at burton.bagby-grose@sbcglobal.net.

This one is for the girls!



Professor Karen Schilt has a new book about Transmen who transition in the workplace coming out this winter

Kristen Schilt is a professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago. She received her PhD from UCLA in 2006 and then spent two years at Rice University. She has just finished a book, coming out this winter, about the workplace experiences of transgender men. She will be a special guest at a bar-b-que held at the TG Center, 604 Pacific Street ib Sunday, June 20, from 12noon to 5pm.

For this project, she interviewed transmen in Texas and California who were stealth at work and who had openly transitioned and stayed in the same jobs. As she believes it is very important to study non-trans people's attitudes towards transgender people, she also interviewed the co-workers of transmen when possible. Building on this research, she has been collecting data on how cisgender (non-trans) people understand the term "transgender."

For her next major project, she is interviewing transgender, including cross dressing, women about their transition experiences. In particular, she is interested in how making the physical transition into womanhood impacts daily interactions with friends, family, co-workers, and people on the street. As with her previous project, she is also interested in understanding how cisgender men and women understand transwomen. So, she is also asking transwomen who are interested in being interviewed to recommend two people who knew them "before and after" - whether a friend, a family member, or a co-worker - for interviews. For her, this addition is vital. As cisgender people, particularly men, are the main sources of violence and harassment toward transgender people, it is necessary to understand their beliefs and opinions on the transition process to get social change.

She will be conducting interviews with transwomen who are interested in Illinois and in Texas. She welcomes many questions about her research and hopes anyone interested (or just hungry) can make it to the bar-b-que on Sunday, June 20th.



A Community responds to the brutal Murder of a young gay man in *The Laramie Project*

Laramie from Page 4 --

Some of the reviews *THE LARAMIE PROJECT* has received include:

"Deeply moving...This play is *OUR TOWN* with a question mark, as in 'Could this be our town?' -The New York Times

"Astonishing. Not since *ANGELS IN AMERICA* has a play attempted so much; nothing less than an examination of the American psyche at the end of the millennium." -Associated Press

"*THE LARAMIE PROJECT* is a terrific piece of theater, history, and life... There emerges a mosaic as moving and important as any you will see on the walls of the churches of the world... Non important lesson profound to heart." -New York magazine.

SPECIAL NOTE: On Saturday night, October 10, 2009, in Washington D.C., there was a special dinner held by the Human Rights Campaign. It was the eve of the following Sunday's March on Washington for Gay Rights for: inclusion of sexual orientation in the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, to reverse the military policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", and for same sex marriage. President Obama spoke at the dinner and promised Matthew's parents, who were at the dinner, that he would make sure the bill, which bears their son's name, would pass, to include "sexual orientation". He also promised to push for an end to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. President Obama kept his promise, on October 28th he signed a bill that would make it a Federal hate crime to assault people based on sexual orientation.

Holocaust Museum Houston
5401 Caroline St.
Houston, Texas 77004

8 Performances- June 24 & 26 (Thursday & Saturday (Pride Performances) then running July 10, 11, 15, 17, 22 and 24 (there are no performances on the 4th of July weekend).

Curtain: Thursday evenings: 7:30PM,
Saturday evenings: 8:00PM,
Sunday Matinee: 6:00PM
Tickets: \$25, Seniors 62 & over and Students with ID \$20,

ONLY 8 PERFORMANCES, LIMITED SEATING, RESERVE EARLY!

Reservations and Information:
713-522-2204

Email: theatrenwest@att.net



On Saturday, June 26, Montrose Counseling Center and Executive Director Ann J. Robison, PhD, will open this year's Pride Parade, as Organization and Honorary Grand Marshals. We are honored to have received these distinctions after a vote by the members of Houston's GLBT communities. Thank you for your support!

"We are humbled by this honor and want to share it with the community as a whole. We wouldn't be a stable and thriving hub of Houston's GLBT communities without the generous support of countless individuals, businesses, and community groups," said Robison, "We have partnered with the community to serve their mental health and support needs for more than 31 years, and we pledge to continue to do our best to respond to the community's changing needs."

Montrose Counseling Center provides a Rainbow of Services to the members of Houston's GLBT communities, who will forever remain at the heart of our work. These services include: individual, couples, and group counseling, various support groups, substance abuse treatment, HIV

case management, services for survivors of hate crimes, sexual assault, and domestic violence, free HIV and TB testing, HIV and STI prevention and education, HATCH youth group, SPRY senior services, and 24-hour crisis intervention on the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard at 713. 529.3211. When you need us, we're here for you. For more information or to schedule an intake appointment, please call 713.529.0037.

We are out and proud 365 days a year! Please join us...

Take our community pledge at the Pride Festival!

In appreciation of the community's support, we are encouraging people to be more active members/allies of Houston's GLBT communities. Stop by Montrose Counseling Center's booth at the Pride Festival, where we will take your photo with your pledge, email you your picture, and include it on a link on our website, with your permission of course. Not only is the photo a great souvenir, but you'll also leave the booth with a rainbow sticker, which you can proudly wear at the Festival and Parade.

Hurricane season: Are you Prepared?

One of the rainbow of services MCC is offering is: *Are You Ready?*

June not only is Pride month but it marks the beginning of the hurricane season, and although most hurricanes that impact the Texas Gulf Coast occur later in the year, it's never too early to prepare in the event of a

hurricane or other disaster. Because Montrose Counseling Center has been a hub for members of the GLBT communities following hurricanes Katrina, Rita – and most recently Ike – we have put together a disaster preparedness guide.

The guide provides some basic information about putting together a plan should you need to evacuate or shelter in place.

It is not always easy for our target population to receive the same level of services when facing a disaster, so it's important to do some legwork ahead of time. For example, when people evacuated to Houston from Hurricane Katrina, nobody anticipated the levees would break and that people would be away from their homes for an extended period of time. Mass public shelters are a stressful environment for anyone, to be sure, but evacuees who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or HIV+ face some additional issues. Are you able to stay with your partner like other families that are kept together? Can you openly hold hands and hug? Cuddle one another? What would the reaction of the shelter workers be, especially if it's through a faith-based organization. What would the reaction of the other shelter residents be? What if you are transgender and need to shower? What if you're taking HIV medication and you left home with only what you would need for a couple days and didn't have your prescription with you? If you had to relocate to another state, would you be able to get those prescriptions filled readily? And what if you take medication that needs to be refrigerated and the electricity goes out and ice is scarce? What

if you need to take your medication with food and the stores are closed for days? Do you and your partner have all the legal documents you need to establish your relationship, such as wills, power of attorney, and advanced directives?

Even if you've been out for years, you may be faced with disclosing your sexual orientation or gender identity in ways that are not comfortable in order to get the assistance you need. These are concerns that aren't always discussed when preparing for a disaster, and situations that may make you feel vulnerable. The most critical part of preparing in advance is to have a plan. Know ahead of time that there may be circumstances in which you have to ask for help from others, which isn't easy.

Get a copy of all your prescriptions and write down what they are, what you take them for, what the dosage is, and what happens if you don't take the medication. Keep it in a water-tight container, along with important phone numbers for any doctors you are seeing, your therapist or psychiatrist, and the pharmacy where you get your prescriptions filled.

Put together a phone tree of contact information; including cell phone numbers, since it is sometimes easier to text message one another when the cell phone network is overwhelmed. Make sure you and your loved ones have some basic text messaging ability so that you can check in with one another.

See *Be Prepared* Page 10

The Houston Pride Band

has been serving Houston's gay, lesbian, and transgendered community for over 30 years.

The Band has several performance groups which appear at community events, concerts, and parades throughout the year. Whether your interest is in marching, swing, concert band, or chamber music, we have a group that would fit your tastes. We also provide a fun social and networking experience for musicians and volunteers alike.

Join us for rehearsal and a bite to eat afterwards, or maybe just a margarita!



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Houston LGBT Pride 2010

Pride Festival: June 26, 12pm to 7pm will be in Montrose, south of Westheimer along Commonwealth and Yoakum.

The Parade: between Dunlavy and Crocker along Westheimer. pre-parade entertainment at 8pm at Waugh Drive.

The Parade starts **promptly** at 8:45pm

To find out more or to volunteer:
www.pridehouston.org
713.529.6979

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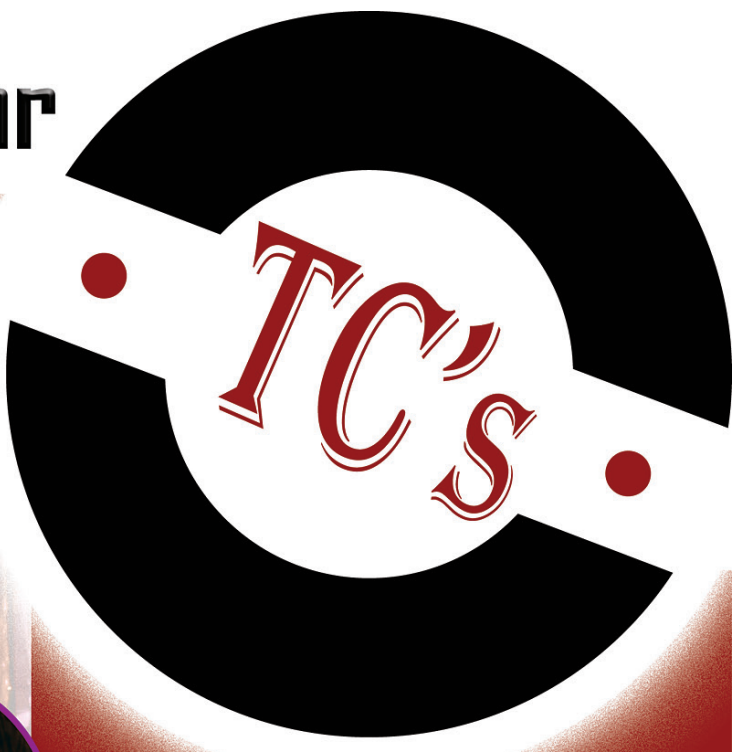


Tanya Hyde

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Wednesday 8P-11P	Hump Day Honeys Diane Jackson, Tanya Hyde special guests, & MC Jenny LaRue
Thur 11:00P-1:30A	Thursday Night Show Diane Jackson, Ebony State special guests, & MC Jenny LaRue
Friday 11:00P-1:30A	Friday's Fearsom Four Raven St. James, Jame Roberts, Keyona Cymone, Diane Jackson & MC Jenny LaRue
Saturday 11:00P-1:30A	Saturday's Sultry Sirens Ashleey Houston, Vivica Perry Diane Jackson, special guests, & MC Jenny LaRue
Sunday 11:00P-1:30A	Sunday Superwomen Tiffany Roberts, Jada Brooks Diane Jackson, special guests

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**Sunday
June 20, 2010
5:00 PM**




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Know Your HIV Status. Get Tested.



June 27 marks the 15th year for National HIV Testing Day. Begun in 1995 by the National Association of People with AIDS, organizations across the country, including Montrose Counseling Center, offer free HIV Testing to promote early diagnosis.

It is estimated that one quarter of a million people living in the United States are HIV positive and unaware of their status. That means that they are at risk for infecting others and are not receiving any form of treatment.

In observance of National HIV Testing Day, Montrose Counseling Center will offer free HIV testing on Monday, June 28th. Walk-ins are welcome to come between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to the first floor GLBT Cultural Center at 401 Branard, to get tested. MCC uses the OraQuick ADVANCE Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Test. You can expect us to take a swab of the inside of your cheek. Before you take the test and while you wait for the results, we will talk to you about behavior and reducing your risk for HIV infection. We can tell you your results in about 20 minutes.

If June 28th is not convenient for you, please call our outreach department at 713.529.0037 to schedule an appointment to get tested. Montrose Counseling Center offers additional services to those who test positive, including support groups, case management, and both individual as well as couples counseling.

Find out more about the Montrose Counseling Center at their website:

www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

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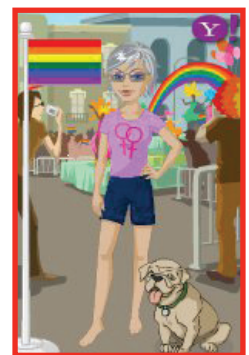
Be Prepared from Page 7

Finally, remember to take care of your emotional wellbeing. Consider the stress impact a disaster imposes on individuals, couples, families and extended relationships. Some people may never show any sign of stress. Some are able to handle it by talking about it with friends, while others may need the help of a professional therapist or clergy member. Some people turn to coping mechanisms such as drugs and alcohol, and that can lead to a whole host of issues, such as financial stress, fidelity problems, anger, resentment, aggression and even domestic abuse/violence. Stress may take days, weeks and even months to show up. If you do need to talk to someone who understands what you are going through, please give us a call and make an appointment. We are here for you. The brochure is available at the center or can be downloaded from as a PDF from the MCC website:

-- from the MCC Newsletter

I am not this thin, I won't be barefoot my dog won't be with me (she is a Boston terrier, not a bulldog but they don't give the choice of a Boston on the Avatar creating site). But I will be at the festival and the parade and I hope to see you there. Come by the Montrose GEM booth and say hello!

Deborah



Come by our booth at the GLBT Pride Festival to say 'Hello!'. Author Daryl Banner will be there signing copies of *The Psychology of Want* from 4 to 7pm. Then join us at Michael's Outpost after the parade for some downtime

Cooking Capers with Dr. Dave

Hello ladies and gentlemen,

I hope you enjoyed your Memorial Day celebrations as much as I did mine. There were some wonderful "sites" down here on the island. Summer is here, so if you don't live in Galveston, come and see us!

CHILLED CUCUMBER AND SHRIMP SOUP

Well ladies and guys, this soup has a "little" something in it for lesbians and gays; straight folks like it too! It has those long, slender, cukes that can be used quite imaginatively, and then eaten! It also has a little "fresh fish" for the girls, and what gay boy doesn't like putting succulent, sweet things in his mouth--even if they are called shrimp? Trust me and my Jewish grandmother, try it; you'll like it. This cool, beautiful soup requires almost no cooking, and it's ready in just minutes. Because it is so light but rich and filling, it is a perfect summer soup. Enjoy!

2 large cucumbers (about 2 pounds), peeled and coarsely chopped
1/4th. cup red wine vinegar
1 Tablespoon granulated sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 pound raw shrimp, the smallest you can find, peeled and deveined
2 Tablespoons sweet butter
1/4th. cup dry white vermouth
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 1/2 cups buttermilk, chilled
3/4ths. cup chopped fresh dill, plus additional dill for garnish

Toss the chopped cucumbers with the vinegar, sugar and 1 teaspoon salt and let stand for 30 minutes. Rinse the shrimp and pat them dry. Melt the butter in a small skillet. Add the shrimp, raise the heat, and toss until they turn pink which should be about 2 to 3 minutes. Remove them with a slotted spoon and reserve. Add the vermouth to the skillet and boil until it is reduced to a few spoonfuls. Pour over the shrimp and season them with the salt and pepper to taste. Drain the cucumbers and transfer them to the bowl of a food processor fitted with a steel blade. Process briefly, then add the buttermilk and continue to process until the mixture is smooth. Add the dill to taste and process for about one to two seconds. Pour the soup into a bowl, add the shrimp and their liquid and refrigerate, covered, until very cold. Garnish the soup with additional chopped dill and serve in chilled bowls.

DR. DAVE'S OSSO BUCO

Well folks, what lesbian or gay guy have you met who hasn't put her or his foot in their mouth on certain instances following too many cocktails? Well, this recipe is intended to be savored in the mouth! It's wonderful and "almost" better than anything I've ever had in my mouth!



1 cup all-purpose flour
salt and freshly ground pepper for seasoning
16 sections of veal shank (12 to 14 pounds), each piece 2 inches thick
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
4 ounces (1 stick) sweet butter
2 medium-size yellow onions, coarsely chopped
6 large garlic cloves, peeled and chopped
1/2 teaspoon dried basil
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
28 ounce canned Italian plum tomatoes, drained
2 cups dry white wine
2 cups beef broth (canned broth is fine)
3/4ths. cup chopped Italian parsley
grated zest of 2 lemons

Season the flour with salt and pepper and dredge the pieces of veal shank well. Heat the oil and butter together in a large casserole or Dutch oven and sear the veal, browning it well on all sides. Transfer the veal to paper towels to drain. Add onions, garlic, basil and oregano to the casserole and cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes. Skim off the excess fat. Add the wine and bring to a boil. reduce the heat and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Return the veal shanks to the casserole and add the beef stock just to the point the veal is covered. Place a lid on the casserole and bake for 1 1/2 hours. Remove the lid and bake uncovered for another 30 minutes until the veal is very tender. sprinkle with chopped parsley and grated lemon zest and serve immediately. This recipe will provide 6 to 8 portions.



WANTED

Your community news
and photos

Send to:
montrosegem@yahoo.com

Continued from Page 1

Cristan: Hum. In any event, so if I refer this person to you, you all will force them to live as a male? It has been my experience that doing that to trans youth is extremely psychologically damaging. How would you address that?

CH: Well, I don't... My boss and I have had discussions about this. This is our policy. I mean, can't you imagine... If we house him with the women... What if he... you know, one night decides that he.... You know.

Cristan: Wow. I can't recall ever hearing a case like that anywhere. Ever.

CH: Well, we have to prevent that...

Cristan: I understand, but at the same time it seems that your policy seems to be based more on fear than on rational facts. We are talking about someone who has been chemically castrated – their penis does not work.

CH: Uh, well. We are a Catholic organization... you have to understand. We are against abortion, we...

Cristan: So, if I am understanding you correctly, you are saying that your policy – a policy that results in child homelessness and/or psychological trauma – is based upon your organizations interpretation of the Bible.

CH: Well, I wouldn't put it that way.

Cristan: I mean, the principles your policy is based on are biblically inspired, right?

CH: Well, yes. The thing is, this policy comes from New York.

Cristan: I see.

CH: Things are changing, but it will take a few years.

Cristan: Okay. Well, can you refer me to another agency that will help this child?

CH: Hum. I don't know of any. Have you tried [names off a few providers who also refuse services to transgender people].

Cristan: Well, I appreciate your time. Actually... Would you be willing to advocate for this child. They need help maybe...

CH: Well, again... these things take time. Really, this policy is set by New York.

Cristan: I see. Okay. Well, thank you for your time.

CH: Well, okay.

Cristan: What was your name again? Could you spell it or me?

CH: Victor Hay... H-A-Y.

Cristan: Okay... Thank you. Bye.

On June 14, 2010 at 3:30 PM – 3 days after the meeting with Covenant House – a Transgender Center representative contacted the Covenant House intake and spoke with an intake specialist named Angela:

Acting as a secret shopper, the Center representative called Covenant House Houston and stated that they were a case manager and had an 18 year old transgender youth who needed housing. Angela stated, "He can come in but because there's no room in the men's dorm, he'll have to sleep on the floor in the intake area." The TG Center representative asked, "I wanted to be clear, my client is a female-to-male transgender." Angela became flustered and

stated that she thought that the client was a male-to-female transgender youth. She then went on to state, "They'll have a physical and be housed by what's down there." The TG Center representative asked, "By what name will you refer to when working with this client? I ask because the name everyone knows this female-to-male transgender youth is a boy name. Would you be willing to call this FTM client by the name they are known by, or will you refer to them by their birth name?" At this point, Angela relayed the question to another Covenant House staff and replied, "No. We only go by what's on their identification."

City of Houston Councilmember Jolanda Jones informed all of those present at the meeting that the Houston Covenant House is receiving federal funding through the City of Houston and stated that she will take this issue up with the national headquarters for the Covenant House located in New York.

Covenant House was unable to identify any written policies on how to work with transgender children in intake, assessment, placement, and other services. Currently, all treatment is all based on subjective interpretations of what is believed at the time by the staff. The Director of the Covenant House, Rhonda Robinson stated she sincerely wants to do what's best for transgender children and agreed to work with us, the transgender community to create policies to present to their Board of Directors, in September. The Transgender Foundation of America and the NASW-TX GLBT Equity Committee have taken on the task of helping draft policies to be added into the Covenant House policies. The next meeting is scheduled for July 6 at 11:00 AM at the Houston Covenant House in order to discuss possible policy implementation.

We are asking that those of you who are concerned about this issue take a moment and contact the following:

Council Member Jolanda Jones Please let her know that the community appreciates that she showed up to this meeting and that she fought hard for the rights of transgender youth. atlarge5@cityofhouston.net

Rhonda Robinson at rgrobinson@covenanthouse.org Please let her know that while the community is displeased with the track record of Covenant House, we are very pleased about her willingness to work with the community to institute explicit policy concerning GLBT youth.

Council Member Wanda Adams at: districtd@cityofhouston.net. While she was not able to be at the meeting, her aide was present for the last 5 minutes of the meeting. Wanda is responsible for negotiating the meeting between community members and Covenant House. Please thank her for her involvement!

Covenant House National: Please make inquiries about policies concerning the transgender population. Please voice your support for the end of discriminatory practices. <http://www.covenanthouse.org/about/contact>

Transgender Foundation of America-Helpline: 713-520-8586

TG CENTER
www.tgctr.org

Queer Things from Page 1

An Active Arts Community

Houston is blessed in having a ballet, a symphony, and an opera as well as a number of other venues where one can experience excellent theater. Some of these, including The Alley, Stages, and Diverseworks, have GLBT themes in their productions and certainly have gay actors and theater staff. But we are doubly blessed to have two theater companies that are GLBT specific. Joe Watts has been producing gay theater in Houston since the Seventies. *The Laramie Project* that will be staged at the Holocaust Museum as part of Pride Month promises to be one of the most important works ever staged in Houston. More recently Unhinged Productions has presented popular and critically acclaimed work.

Bayou City Performing Arts which started as the Gay's Men Chorus has become a multi-faceted performing arts company. It includes the Bayou City women's Chorus and the Bayou City Chorale. Their productions at Jones Hall drawn a diverse and appreciative crowd.

The Houston Pride Band has been presenting music for 32 years in Houston and around the country. They are part of every Pride parade, hold a number of concerts during the year. The recent *No Strings Attached* concert at Zilkha Hall at Hobby Center featured the Gay's Men Chorus as guest performers. This pairing is something the two groups might consider for a once a year joint event. They will join with other member bands of the Lesbian and Gay Bands Association at the Gay Games in Cologne, Germany this year.

Organizations

The HGLBTPC is the South's Oldest Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Civil Rights Organization. Founded in 1975, the Houston GLBT Political Caucus is dedicated to eliminating prejudice, violence, and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people through education, activism, and political advocacy. It is well known that Mayor Annise Parker and Council member Sue Lovell both served as President of this organization. The Caucus as it is most often referred to, has built a reputation for its endorsement process and the resulting endorsements have proven to have a visible effect on electoral politics. While the Caucus is non-partisan, Houston also boasts an active Stonewall Democrats club. Community members are active and welcome in a number of other organizations such as ROAD Women (River Oaks Area Democratic

Women) and 007 Democrats (no it is not a James Bond thing, it is for folks who live in the zipcode 77007).

Houston's branch of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRC) is one of the most active in the country and was recognized as The Steering committee of the Year by the national organization with particular acknowledgement of the committee's diversity.

We include the "T"

The Transgender Unity Committee has worked to bring together the diverse facets of the Transgender community and other organizations in the community. The results have been a cohesion not found in some other major cities. Members of the Trans-community are active in many other groups and have a true presence in Houston that means there is never a question as to their place as part of the queer community. Houston is home to one of the few Transgender Centers in the country.

The Women's Community

AssistHers, and the Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI) provide valuable services to other women. AssistHers helps women who face chronic or life threatening conditions in order to improve their quality of life. LHI, hosts health fairs and provides free mammograms to help glbt women be and stay healthy.

LOAF, is Lesbians Over Age Fifty. This is mainly a social group but also provides a support system for older Lesbians. There are meet and greets each month and other social gatherings. The group publishes a monthly newsletter.

The Women's Group, is a feminist group that is open to all women-identified women. It is a diverse group that includes Lesbians and non-lesbian women. It meets every Sunday morning at 10:15am at the First Unitarian Church (it is an independent group not affiliated with the church). The group has proved to be a valuable resource for women who are in the coming out process and for those that are interested in discussion and dialogue about women in society today. Social connections are made and other groups and activities have spun off from The Women's Group.

There are so many more queer things to be proud of in Houston that I can not list them all here so I will save that for another issue of the Montrose GEM.

NEXT TIME: The Court and the fund-raising in Houston, The Universities, and the Churches. Please let me know if you think of other queer things for us to be proud of in Houston that should be included.



Ron and Burton Bagby-Grose and their daughter Rosalee Marie, who is named after their mothers. Ron is Dad and Burton is Papa to her. They combined their last names legally before her adoption and were legally married in the state of Massachusetts.

The Dream of Fatherhood made real

Buton Bagby-Grose and his partner Ron became the proud parents of a little girl just over a year ago. Burton shared with the Montrose GEM his story of how they came to be Dads.

GEM: What made you decide to become fathers? Was it something you had always wanted?

BB: *As far as what made us decide to become fathers, God blessed Ron and I with such wonderful parents, so we have always wanted to pass along those marvelous gifts of love and care to children. That's one reason I worked in Vacation Bible School at South Main Baptist Church as an openly-gay teacher for so many summers.*

We also saw the joy that our siblings' children brought to their lives and vice versa.

GEM: You made a big career change, going into the ministry. How has that affected the decision to parent?

BB: *When I finally decided to answer God's call to pastoral ministry, we knew that life would be more complicated in many ways and we accepted that reality. Certainly the great gift of being a parent complicates our lives, but when God blessed us with the opportunity to become parents, we knew we had to say yes. We really believe that there are so many gay Christians like us here – people who want to follow the way of Jesus in a loving and inclusive church environment. We hope to help create that in a Baptist congregation or perhaps a United Church of Christ community.*

GEM: Why did you wait until your Forties to do this? Was it through a surrogate? Is Rosalee's birth Mother involved in her life at all?

BB: *I guess we waited because it was easy. Easy to just let the years pass and focus on our civil rights and church involvement. God just literally dropped this blessing into our laps – it was like God said, "Okay you've been talking about this for years, now it's time to put action where your mouths have been all this time. We adopted a young family member's child. The biological mother sees the baby regularly.*

GEM: Did you have a preference for the sex of the child?

BB: *We had no preference for the gender of the child; our only hope was that the baby would be healthy. We're really loving having a little girl to dress up – she loves wearing hats!*

GEM: What has been the hardest thing? The best. How has life changed in the Bagby-Grose household?

BB: *We keep waiting for the hard part and we're sure it will come. She has slept through the night since she was two months old. We have become much more homebound, but so many friends from church and others visit so often, we are all pretty heavily socialized. The best thing has been to see how this sweet little baby has brought out the best in our friends and family. It has been truly overwhelming how loving and supportive people have been.*

When we were returning from a family reunion last week, we stopped for dinner at a charming little pizza parlor on the town square in LaGrange. A woman walked up to us and told us that we must be wonderful parents since we had such a happy baby. When her two teenage daughters arrived, she brought them over to introduce them. Who would have thought we're run into such love and acceptance in that small Texas town?

Burton Bagby-Grose is an ordained minister, a BINGO wrangler and a contributor to the Montrose GEM as well as a Dad. Look for his upcoming regular column "*It's a Gay Spirit*".

Kitty's House of Horrors

by Carrie Vaughn

Reviewed by Jone Devlin

Kitty Norville is famous for two things; being an overnight radio talk show host who covers all things supernatural; and being a werewolf. So it comes as no surprise when she is tapped to participate in a reality show that is supposed to enlighten the general public about the paranormal.

At first Kitty is skeptical about doing the show, especially considering that some of the producer's past efforts have been less than stellar; but after they throw around a few other famous names from the paranormal world, including some whom Kitty knows and trusts, she decides to participate.

The area where the show is being filmed is very remote, but after a grueling day of private plane flights, adjusting to the cameras, meeting the other supernatural guests (some vampires, a fellow were, an empath, a psychic ghost hunter, a magician, and a bona fide skeptic) Kitty finally settles in for what is supposed to be a relaxing week in the wilderness.

The first two days are relatively uneventful, and Kitty actually begins to enjoy being out in the middle of nowhere with no cell phones or other distractions. But then on day 3 the group wakes up to find no power, no radio communication, and, most disturbing of all, one of their fellow guests dead in the woods.

Kitty and the others try to go for help, only to find that the camera crew has also been murdered. It is at this point that they figure out that they are not part of a TV program, but have been tricked by a right wing militia group that used the "reality show" story (and set up) to lure a bunch of "abominations" out into an area where they could easily be killed one by one.

As the group tries to work out how they might escape from people who know all their weaknesses and seem to always be one step ahead of their "prey", they find themselves facing down not only the prejudices of their would be killers, but their mistrust and misunderstanding of each other.

While not quite as adept as Charlaine Harris (*True Blood*) at tying the prejudice against supernatural beings and shape shifters into the arguments against the GLBT community, Vaughn still does a good job of painting the parallels. For instance, in one scene in the book, Kitty suggests that the resident skeptic is probably safe given that he has no supernatural powers and therefore is not considered "tainted" in the minds of the captors. His response is that, as an atheist, he's considered just as "unnatural" (and therefore in just as much danger) as the supes.

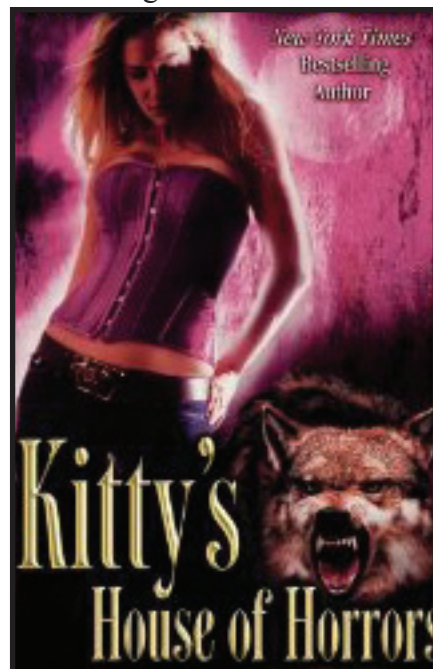
The characters here are vivid, with no disposable "red shirt" types, and Vaughn really knows how to build tension. There are scenes in this book where I literally found myself holding my breath, heart pounding, as I waited to see what would happen next. The author is also very good at tempering excitement with humor, which keeps the novel from becoming too dark.

Like *Dead until Dark* (renamed *True Blood* due to the success of the TV show) the Kitty Norville books are a series, but don't let that discourage you. The stories are written in such a way that readers can easily start with any of the books and not have a problem catching up with characters or "leftover" storylines.

Interesting, scary, exciting and loads of fun, *Kitty's House of Horrors* is a great addition to a great series, as well as a really fun summer read.

Kitty's House of Horrors is published by Grand Central Publishing and is available everywhere.

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars.



The Psychology of Want

by Daryl Banner



Author Daryl Banner Graduated from the University of Houston. A PFLAG/HATCH Scholarship helped him get through school.

Something is wrong with him. He just is not sure what it is. And neither will the reader be for sometime into this first novel by Houstonian Daryl Banner. It is not because he is gay.

Well, there is that matter of how much time he spends seeking time alone in his dorm room with his right hand. But is that really what is wrong with him? There's that seductive demon, and the story about the Lovers at the Lake and the tragic girl who cries every night in the dorm lounge, and the girl that stalks him but runs away when he spots her.

Soon you start thinking that there is much more than one thing wrong with him. You almost shout out loud "GET HELP!"

But, you see he has a big distrust of "the goblins", as he calls those in psychology. There is a horrific gay-bashing incident that makes you think there is something much more wrong with him than you would have ever suspected. This is when he is forced to see a school counselor, which eventually lead through some breakthroughs.

I must tell you that I liked this book very much because Banner is a really good storyteller. I would not use the word brilliant, but he is very clever in weaving his tale. I got the book on a Sunday and was finished reading it by Thursday evening, and it is a decent sized novel at about 360 pages.. That being said there were a few issues for me with the book. Part of it is with style which I think stems from a generation gap. I don't really know this style, which is one I think would appeal to a younger person. It is kind of a shorthand of talking. Whatever.

Another place where these seems to be a disconnect is that the main character is a theater major, yet seems to lack a true passion for involvement in it. Many assume that theater means acting, and while it is true that the character does take an acting class in the second semester of his sophomore year his interest is theater may well be in the other aspects

of theater, such as scenery, lighting, directing, costuming, or as in the case of the author, as a playwright. But we don't really know that. He does not convey that his major is a result of a 'want'.

Banner creates a protagonist who is at first, very hard to like but that you find yourself caring about. You want to know what happens to him and you want him to be OK. The young man definitely has problems. He is very self-absorbed and thinks himself to be very self-aware, but I think that is where he is woefully lacking. He thinks he doesn't feel, but maybe he feels too much and when that sort of repressed feeling finally surfaces 'it ain't pretty'.

You never learn the names of anyone in the book because the main character just refers to them as by their descriptions: "Big, ugly, fat guy", "the boyfriend", "my roommate", "Mom", "Dad", "Tragic Girl", "pimple face", "Elfy girl", and the "the guy with the pretty lips", etc. The only name given in the entire book is that of the sister he never knew he had.

As the story unfolds, you can understand where his problems stem from, what with a dysfunctional family of origin such as his. A pill addicted Mother who is seldom fully present and a father who is distant and busy indulging in an affair with a neighbor. There is more to the mystery than that though.

I think everyone can understand the concept of "want" and at times there is a certain psychology regarding why we want what we want. But is it healthy to want it, is it healthy to have it? Banner draws out the mystery well. Food for thought is provided also because it prompts one to think about their own wants and the why of them.

The book ends on an uplifting hopeful note. You are left feeling that "he" is going to be all right in the long run, with his demons behind him he is moving towards a future that looks a lot brighter.

At UH Banner did several productions as an actor and a writer (two plays and a musical, all produced in the Blackbox Theater) While there, he met friend and mentor, Pulitzer-prize winning playwright Lanford Wilson who encouraged him in his writing.

The book is available through Amazon.com. along with his collection of short stories, *Love and Other Bad Ideas*. He also has an author page on Amazon.

Reviewed by
Deborah Moncrief Bell

***Psychology of Want* - Book Signing at Houston Pride Festival on Saturday, June 26, 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Montrose Gem Booth.**

Pride in the Park

Special to the Montrose GEM

Earlier this year, members of the Houston Astros sales team became aware of the Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau's online MyGayHouston campaign. This was the original catalyst for a member of the sales team at the Astros to contact one of the profiled members of the CVB's campaign, Trevor Eade and set-up a group night event to celebrate Houston's LGBT community at Minute Maid Park.

"I was thrilled to hear that members of staff at the Astros were taking an interest in Houston's LGBT community" said Eade.

After a couple of planning meetings with the Astros sales team, it became clear to Eade that 'Pride in the Park' had the potential of becoming a mammoth event. "I needed expert help" Eade said, and called in the support of well known Houstonian and philanthropist, and fellow MyGayHouston profiled individual, Edward Sanchez.

"With Edward's expertise, I knew we would have the wherewithal to create an event Houston's LGBT community would be proud of; we both agreed from the get go, this was an opportunity not to be taken lightly – as the potential for giving back to the community was enormous."

Sanchez and Eade leveraged the world of Social Media to receive some initial feedback, and within 72 hours of launching an event page on Facebook more than 1,000 people had responded in a positive manner. To date, this number continues to grow, this is a perfect example of how, in today's digital world Social Media is a necessary vehicle – so long as it is done correctly, and it appears Sanchez and Eade have achieved this.

Cyd Zeilger from OutSports.com is quoted to have said in a recent article "The event's Facebook page shows 1,100 confirmed guests and another 1,500 "Maybes." It remains to be seen how many of those people will actually purchase tickets, but if just half of those do it will be one of the largest gay events ever at a Major League Baseball game."

During the following weeks, further meetings were held at Minute Maid Park, and the programming became clearly defined, with ticketing options from the \$95 VIP level to a more modest \$10 View Deck ticket level. Eade pointed out, "Our goal was to ensure that everyone could come to Minute Maid Park for this inaugural event without breaking the bank, this ticketing model is slightly different than other groups have done at other MLB games". He continued, "The Astros Group Sales team have been great to work with – they set-up a vanity URL for us: www.astros.com/pride to purchase tickets online... but, it is important that the user type in the code PRIDE when promoted, so they get the discounted ticket, and a portion of their ticket goes to the beneficiaries.

Mayor Annise Parker will have a chance to recall her softball skills when she tosses out the first pitch at the "Pride in the Park" night at the Astros game on July 10th, benefitting community groups.

The Astros have also assigned an individual on staff to manage Group Ticket sales, for groups more than 20 people; they should call Joe Schiavi at 713.259.8314".

Eade and Sanchez also pointed out that Pride in the Park is a family friendly event.

Since the original planning meeting in January, Eade and Sanchez have been busy holding planning meetings with the seven beneficiaries for Pride in the Park.

Eade continued "Earlier this year, we received a lot of applications from various LGBT not-for-profits in Houston, and while we wanted to include everyone, this event is in uncharted waters, so we didn't want to dilute the proceeds, by adding too many beneficiaries" he continued "there was a very complex voting mechanism put in place to choose the top 7 beneficiaries, and I am delighted with the diverse outcome."

The Seven Beneficiaries are:

PFLAG, Out and Equal Houston, Bayou City Chorale, Pride Houston, Bering Omega, Legacy Community Health Services and Bunnies on the Bayou.

The group of beneficiaries are now assisting in the promotion and marketing of this inaugural event. At the recent record breaking (in attendance) Bunnies on the Bayou event, the Pride in the Park team had a tented area, and received more than 500 requests for more information about the event.

Up next is the Pride Festival and Parade. "The timing of this is no fluke – the choice of holding the game on July 10 was a strategic decision, as we wanted to make sure we had a presence at the Pride festivities. We have a booth where attendees will [hopefully] be able to purchase tickets on-site, which would be fantastic; in addition we will be in the Parade in the evening, we have some great giveaways, and some 'special guests' on our float" continued Eade.

On game day, some of the programming highlights include Mayor, Annise Parker, throwing out the opening pitch. And the 160 members of the Bayou City Chorale (Gay Men's Chorus and Bayou City Women's Chorus) will sing the National Anthem.

Both Eade and Sanchez are hopeful that this will become an annual event and a tradition for Houston's LGBT community. The planning duo has since been approached by the Houston Rockets to help produce a similar event later on this year, during the Basketball season at the Toyota Center.

Saturday July 10, 2010 – 6:05 PM
For more information and to purchase tickets, visit:
www.astros.com/pride

Groovelines

by DJ Chris Allen

Howdy disco citizens! It's time for your bi-weekly dose of Groovelines – your source for what's hot and hip in the land of electronic dance music and beyond.

Over at iTunes, and hot for digital download, are several offerings from the headlining acts from Austin's 4th Street Pride block party. American Idol semifinalist Frenchie Davis has 2 EPs available. F.D's cover album *Dance Hits* offers her cute takes on *Sweet Dreams & Be My Lover* by La Bouche, *Hot Stuff* by Donna Summer, and *Million Dollar Bill* by Whitney Houston. Frenchie's remix single for her collaboration with Tony Moran, *You Are*, features slammin' remixes of the floor filler from Joe Gauthreaux, Klubjumpers, Skotty K, and a few Tony Moran team-ups with Warren Rigg, Dave Saronson, and Giuseppe D. American Idol 2nd runner up Blake Lewis is also on the bill for this year's block party. Blake has 2 full-length albums available on iTunes – *Audio Day Dream* and *Heartbreak On Vinyl*. Lewis is also has several remix EPs posted for purchase, including *Sad Song* and *How Many Words*. Blake's most recent single, *Heartbreak On Vinyl*, was remixed by DJ/producer Chris Cox. Chris Cox will be spinning the block party after the parade. Well known for his Thunderpuss remixes, Cox has also done outstanding work for Christina Aguilera, Annie Lennox, Britney Spears, Donna Summer, Shannon, Janet Jackson, Kelly Osborne, Rihanna, and more. Check him out online at chriscoxonline.com. Learn more about Blake Lewis online at blakelewisofficial.com. Visit with Frenchie Davis on the web at frenchiedavis.org.

Really enjoying the new full-length album from Christina Aguilera - *Bionic*. We got a preview of what was to come in early May when Christina released the album's first single and sizzling hot music video, *Not Myself Tonight*. *Bionic* features songs co-written by Aguilera along with her much buzzed about collaborations including Sia, Tricky Stewart, Polow Da Don, Le Tigre, Hill & Switch, and Ladytron among others.

Aguilera notes, "Working on this album with so many talented artists and producers that I admire was really an amazing experience. The artists I chose to work with added so many unique sonic layers to *Bionic*. My intention was to step into their world and what they do combined with my own vision and sound. The results were magic."

The title *Bionic* reflects Aguilera's ability to take her range to new levels and use her voice in various ways never heard before.

Aguilera describes the album as a unique mix of many genres and styles of music, "I was able to explore and create a fresh, sexy feel using both electronic and organic elements with subject matter ranging from playful to introspective. I am so excited for my fans to hear the new sound. It is something I don't think anyone will expect."

Once again, the top 40 market is flooded with electronic dance music. Learn more about the diva Christina Aguilera, the new album and the steaming hot new video online at www.christinaaguilera.com.

Also diggin' the good vibes and kick ass grooves being offered up on iTunes from *Dynasty* by Kaskade the Kaskade Club Remix, *Not Going Home* from Faithless – the Rollo & Sister Bliss *Monster Acid Mix*, *Cry Cry* by Oceana – the DJ Fisun Extended Mix, *Spaceship* from Benni Benassi featuring Kelis, *Agyness Deyn* by Larry Tee featuring Jodie Harsh, the full length album *Rokstarr* from Taio Cruz featuring guests Ludicris & Ke\$ha, *Let The Bass Kick* by Chuckie featuring Lil Jon & Jermaine Dupri, *Monster* from Ne-yo, *Heartbeat* by Enrique Iglesias featuring Nicole Scherzinger, and the compilation *Just Dance 3* featuring hits from the likes of Rihanna, Mariah Carey, Taio Cruz, Tiesto, & more. Great stuff. You'll find those floor fillers and more online at iTunes.

You can hear me play these mentioned hits and more weekly at Meteor & JR's in Houston and at Halo in Bryan/College Station. Be sure to tune into Hypersonic Radio every Saturday night at 10 pm to catch *Groovelines Aloud* on 101X in Austin. Stream it live from the web at hypersonicradio.com or from your iPhone using the free 101X app. For info on all upcoming DJ C.A. events and happenings head over to djchrisallen.com. Stalk my every move at twitter.com/groovelines, MySpace.com/djchrisallen, and facebook.com/djchrisallenofficial. And finally, always feel free to e-mail me directly at djca.groovelines@yahoo.com.

Deep in the heart of Texas, that is the Groovelines for now. You know the golden rule boys and girls - play it loud and disturb the neighbors! The scene can only grow and thrive if we participate in it folks. It exists because we make it so. Be active, support your local talent. Buy, don't share.

Remember, life might not always be the party you had hoped for, but while you're here you might as well dance.

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game"



Celebrating Houston's LGBT Community!!
Join us for this inaugural baseball event at Minute Maid Park.

- "Pride in the Park will be one of the largest gay events ever at a Major League Baseball game..." - Cyd Zeigler, www.Outsports.com

Saturday July 10, 2010

Minute Maid Park
Houston Astros Vs. St. Louis Cardinals

National Anthem Performed by Bayou City Chorale.

Opening Pitch thrown by Mayor Annise Parker.

Discounted tickets available online:
www.astros.com/pride

Be sure to select discounted tickets and use the code PRIDE.

A portion of all tickets sold using the PRIDE code* benefit these great organizations



*For Group Ticket Sales (20 or more) Contact: 713 259 8314



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Craig Sanford & Aurora Briar**



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