



See Pictures from Pride 2010 Pages 6 & 7



The final three in the Pride Idol 2010 Contest were (l-r) Laz Estrada, Nina Lombardo, and Brittini Jackson

## PRIDE IDOL

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

Pride Idol 2010 winner Brittini Jackson says her musical influences include Katy Perry and Lady Gaga. The 21 year old was described by judge Joey Guerra as ‘... a polished pop singer with a flirty edge.’

As winner of Pride Idol, Jackson receives recording time at La Mafia’s Grammy-winning Urbana Studios, an entry in the Pride Parade and performances at Minute Maid Park and singing the National Anthem in performance at Sam Houston Race Park Other prizes included \$500 cash and a platinum VIP card courtesy of Charles Armstrong Investments, a Cruise provided by gayislander.com, and a Cash prize provided by Pride Idol

“Pride Idol has been such an amazing adventure. I’ve never had so much fun,” Jackson says.

She told Guerra, “Singing is my passion, and to meet so many people that feel the same as I do is such a rush. It’s absolutely crazy in the best possible way.”

The win however was not without controversy. Of the final three, Brittini was

the only one who does not identify as LGBT. She can be considered an ally however. While some people were bothered that a ‘straight girl’ won, they can be reminded that the theme of pride this year is “Pride not Prejudice” and that works more than one way. One has to consider as well, that a number of winners of American Idol, the popular television program on which Pride Idol is based, who are GLBT.

Still it was a shocker for some that the seemingly crowd popular choice, Nina Lombardo, placed third in the group.

Guerra stated that her “... mix of quirky style and piercing vocals made her an early favorite”. A humorous statement in light of the colorful appearance of the multi-pierced and tattooed Lombardo

Many in the final night crowd was sure Lombardo had nailed it with her final number in the contest, one that included

-- See Pride Idol Page 11

## Texas GOP calls for recriminalizing ‘Sodomy’ laws

The 2010 State Republican Party Platform of Texas calls for recriminalizing sodomy, amending the U.S. Constitution to forbid marriage among same-sex couples and making it a felony to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

‘Sodomy’ in Texas was a class C misdemeanor, until 2003 when it was

-- See GOP on Page 4

## Community activist attacked on HCC Central Campus, Arrest made

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

Lance Reyna, a well known leader in the Houston Transgender community, a student at Houston Community College Central Campus (HCC) was attacked and robbed at knife point. The attacker yelled “Hey Queer!” before putting Reyna in a headlock and holding a knife to his throat, then beating him and taking his wallet. Reyna suffered a concussion and multiple bruises as a result of the attack.



Lance Reyna was brutally attacked in a restroom on HCC Central Campus

An arrest was made on Tuesday, June 29. According to HCC police the yet unnamed suspect made a full confession.

“I feel some slight closure knowing that the police have arrested a suspect”, said Reyna “but until he is convicted and sentenced with the hate crime enhancements attached I won’t know that justice has been served.”

According to Randal Terrel, Policy Director for Equality Texas, over 1,800 potential hate crimes have been reported to the Department of Public Safety since the Texas hate crimes statute went into effect in 2001. Only 12 have been prosecuted as hate crimes.

The Houston Transgender community has rallied around Mr. Reyna. “We are relieved that the Houston Police Department has made an arrest in this matter” said Cristan Williams Executive Director for the Transgender Foundation of America (TFA), which is based in Houston. “I have every confidence that the Harris County District Attorney office will prosecute this crime to the full extent of the law, including prosecuting it as a crime motivated by sexual orientation.”

--See HCC Attack on Page 10



## Happy Independence Day!

Celebrate your freedoms and work for equality so that all have theirs!

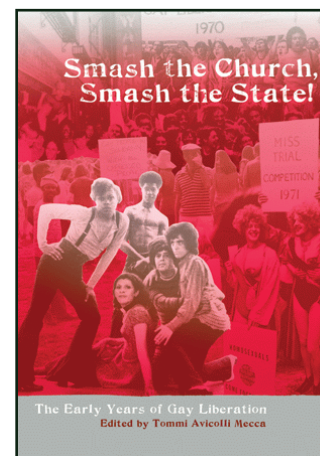


Pride in the Park July 10th at Minute Maid Park, benefitting LGBT organizations -- see page 5



## Sweet Savage Chocolate

See Page 8



Jone Devlin’s Review on Page 11



**First Saturday Queer BINGO**

**Saturday, July 3, 2010**

**4:00pm - 6:30pm**

**One's A Meal**

**Second Floor Ballroom**

**812 Westheimer Road**

**Fun, community and Prizes!**

Our 50/50 raffle partner for July is the second annual Texas Transgender Non-Discrimination Summit, which takes place July 20-21 on the Rice University campus (the Center is a partner in this event). Tickets are \$9 for a set of three with three games on each ticket. A dabber costs \$1. Prizes range from \$40 a win to \$75 and the fun is priceless.

Other events and activities of The Houston GLBT Community Center .

Monday, July 5. The Center Coming Out Group meets at the Center. 7 pm.

Thursday, July 8. The HIV Support Group meets at the Center. 6 pm.

Saturday, July 10. The Volunteer League meets at the Center. 1 pm.

Saturday, July 10. The Community Leaders Networking Group holds its quarterly meeting at the Center. 1-5 pm.

The Center is located at 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. The phone number is 713.524.3818.

**University of Houston New LGBT Resource Center**

The University of Houston has opened a resource center and lending library for the LGBT community,

A Grand opening was held June 30. with special Guest: Council Member Sue Lovell.

Lorraine Schroeder is the director of the center located on UH Main Campus, in the University Center, Room 279A

[www.uh.edu/lgbtrc](http://www.uh.edu/lgbtrc)

**COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES**



**PFLAG Houston to award Scholarships**

PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation will present the awards at the next PFLAG general meeting on Sunday July 11, 2010, 2: - 4:30pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 S. Main, in the Jones Building. Parking is available east of the church. Enter from Binz St. between Fannin and San Jacinto.

The PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation offers a scholarship program to assist worthy gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth in the Houston area in pursuing a college education. The scholarship program is for students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement while in high school or college. 100% of the donations received by PHYFSF are given in scholarships to our GLBT youth. This program is very special. Last year more than \$100,000.00 in awards were awarded.

Small groups after the program provide an opportunity to discuss issues, concerns, and celebrations in a safe, confidential environment.

After the meeting all are invited to gather at Cafe Express in the Museum of Fine Arts Beck Building, 5601 Main, 1/2 block south of the church.

**NOTE:** This meeting is taking place on the second Sunday of the month due to the Fourth of July holiday. Meetings are regularly scheduled for the first Sunday of the month.

A mid-month sharing group, "Third Thursday," meets on the third Thursday of every month 7:30 - 9pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 Alabama at Woodhead, in the Chatham Room. Parking is behind the church off Woodhead. Look for the door with the rainbow.

Monthly Meetings are held in Clear Lake at the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church (17503 El Camino Real) on the fourth Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM.

**Community Online**

GLBT Community Center

[www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org)

[www.montrosecounselingcenter.org](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org)

[www.legacycommunityhealth.org](http://www.legacycommunityhealth.org)

Houston GLBT Political Caucus  
[www.thecaucus.org](http://www.thecaucus.org)

Fort Bend LGBT Political Caucus:  
[FBLGBT\\_Political\\_caucus@yahoo.com](mailto:FBLGBT_Political_caucus@yahoo.com)

Out In Houston  
[www.outinhouston.com](http://www.outinhouston.com)

[www.PFLAGHouston.org](http://www.PFLAGHouston.org)  
HelpLine  
713-46PFLAG 713-467-3524  
[HelpLine@pflaghouston.org](mailto:HelpLine@pflaghouston.org)

[www.assisthers.org](http://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](http://www.nwcorner.org)

[www.socialnotesHouston.org](http://www.socialnotesHouston.org)

[www.queermusicheritage.com](http://www.queermusicheritage.com)

[www.centerforAIDS.org](http://www.centerforAIDS.org)

AIDS Foundation Hosuton  
[www.AFHouston.org](http://www.AFHouston.org)

Imperial Court of Houston  
[www.spacecityempire.org](http://www.spacecityempire.org)

Empire of the Royal Sovereign  
Imperial Court of the Single Star  
[www.ersicss.org](http://www.ersicss.org)

TG Center  
[www.tgctr.org](http://www.tgctr.org)

UH LGBT Resource Center  
[www.uh.edu/lgbtrc](http://www.uh.edu/lgbtrc)

Give a Damn Campaign  
[www.giveadamn.org](http://www.giveadamn.org)

Do you know of a group that should be featured here? Let us know at: [montrosegem@yahoo.com](mailto:montrosegem@yahoo.com)

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**Pacifica - community radio**  
**HOUSTON, TX**  
[www.kpft.org](http://www.kpft.org)

ONLINE: [www.kpft.org](http://www.kpft.org)

**Group forms Fort Bend LGBT Political Caucus**

LBGT Residents of Fort Bend County, many active in greater Houston politics have taken steps to bring activities a little closer to home. They are rallying under the Gandhi quote: "Be the change you want to see in the world"

Hoping to have influence on local county politics and elections, the group has started, has its own page on Facebook and has a Twitter account.

Facebook:  
Fort Bend LGBT Political Caucus

Twitter: [www.Twitter.com/FBLGBTcaucus](http://www.Twitter.com/FBLGBTcaucus)

They may be contacted via Email at:

[FBLGBT\\_Political\\_caucus@yahoo.com](mailto:FBLGBT_Political_caucus@yahoo.com)

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? Contact us at: [montrosegem@yahoo.com](mailto:montrosegem@yahoo.com)

**Believing in a Gay Spirit**

Burton Bagby-Grose will preach on the Parable of Good Samaritan on Sunday, July 11, 2010, 10:30am - 12:00pm at Grace United Church of Christ, 8515 Brookwulf Drive, Houston, TX

Rev. Bagby-Grose says, "Come join us at this wonderful open and affirming congregation that is truly seeking the Spirit of God as well as how to spread the love of Christ!"

Starting in the next issue of the GEM Rev. Bagby-Grose will have a new column called, "Believing in a Gay Spirit" which will cover the religious and spiritual aspects of our community from various traditions.

# MONTROSE GEM

WWW.MONTROSEGEM.COM

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## BEELINES

by Deborah Moncrief Bell



*What a week it was*

They came out and from all over the month of June which contains a full calendar of activities that culminates with the annual Pride festival and Parade. The last week of Pride month was a very full one, starting with an joyous and irrelevant concert by the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston with special guest Emcee, Kate Clinton. They lived up to their hype about not leaving any scared cow 'untuned'. GMCH along with the Bayou City Women's chorus played to a packed Jones Hall were friends reconnected and shared in the fun.

The next day at Michael's Outpost the Father's Day tradition of 'crowning' the Daddy of Montrose took place, with another full house of folks enjoying the show.

Thursday, June 24 saw the scholarship award given by the Houston GLBT community Center in honor of the plaintiffs in the Lawrence v. Texas case, John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner. This is the first year for the scholarship to be given. It went to Melanie Pang.

No rest for the weary, it was on to the Pride Idol Finale. Another full house, this time at Meteor where the red carpet was rolled out. The three finalists in the competition all gave it their best and via judges scoring and text message voting, Brittini Jackson was named the Pride Idol.

While some people had the energy to attend the "Rock the Runway" event on Friday, this writer had to take time to actually work on this little newspaper.

Then Saturday, the big day came! Up early and the car is loaded with a few thousand copies of the Montrose GEM. The Pride volunteers helped me get into the festival area and I unloaded. The Festival was suppose to start at 1pm but people started showing up around 11:30am. The rest of the day is a bit of a blur as I hawked free copies of the GEM, giving out about 1,500 copies over the course of the day. Later in the afternoon, writer Daryl Banner joined me at the table to sell and sign copies of his book *Psychology of Want* that

was reviewed in the last issue of the Montrose GEM.

Again greetings of friends plus the making of new ones, enjoying those attending and taking part, including the stage performances of Pride Idol finalists, the Gay Men's Chorus, the Pride Band, and others.

It seemed a lot of folks came out to see and many to be seen. Some of them showing 'too much', "Hey nobody wants to see that!". There were Goth chicks, faeries, drag queens, leathermen, infants, dogs, family and friends in every shape and color. A mass of rainbow bedecked individuals and groups. All kinds of queer folk out to celebrate "Our Day".

Festival booths offered freebies and merchandise. Attendees were treated to the GLBT history pavilion, a poignant reminder of where we have been as a community. It was hot of course and it while there were threatening clouds part of the day, it once again did not rain on our parade.

Of course the *pes de resistance* was the Pride Parade. Delegations ran the gambit. Old Lesbians, PFLAG families, and firefighters with their family and friends. There was the added excitement of having Mayor Annise Parker as special community Grand Marshal and Andy Cohen of the Bravo Network as the celebrity Grand Marshal. A number of religious groups participated including Grace Lutheran, A New Light Presbyterians, and the Unitarain Universalists and Buddhists, as well as Resurrection MCC. Candidate for Texas Governor and former Mayor Bill White was but one of the politicians taking part along with political organizations, mostly of the democratic persuasion, although there was a Republican group at the festival.

My observation is that this was one of the most diverse crowds ever in a Houston Pride parade. There were lots of young people, who hopefully become the new generation of activists, not just attend a parade once a year. I ended the day exhausted but satisfied. I can't say everyone was on their best behavior but the sense of community, the fun and of course the pride was certainly present.

*That's the buzz from me this week.*

Special thanks to the Pride Volunteers who made it all possible and to Angela Hon for her wonderful photography (see center spread).

## THE COMMUNITY PAPER FOR MONTROSE AND BEYOND

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
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

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***GOP Continued from Page 1***

overturned as being unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in June of 2003 in the Lawrence v. Texas case.

**Section 21.06 of Texas Penal Code****HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT.**

**(a) A person commits an offense if he engages in deviate sexual intercourse with another individual of the same sex.**

This 'deviate' homosexual conduct was primarily defined as the mouth and/or genitals of one person touching the genitals of another person of the same sex, not strictly anal intercourse as is the usual definition of sodomy.

Joe Solmonese from the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRC) reports the following:

1. The 2010 Texas Republican Party Platform says gay people shouldn't have custody of children.
2. It says issuing a marriage license or performing a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple should be punishable by jail time.
3. It wants to restore 19th-century Texas statutes outlawing sex between same-sex couples..

Solmonese stated that, "It's one thing for extremist groups to spout this type of bigotry. But one of the nation's two main political parties? That's taking it WAY too far."

"The Republican National Committee is trying to avoid the issue, but a huge public outcry can force them to take sides. Is this really what they want voters to think the GOP stands for as the 2010 elections approach?," he asks.

You are urged to go online at [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org) to sign the HRC petition to RNC Chairman Michael Steele: "*Chairman Steele, I urge you to publicly reject the anti-LGBT language in the Texas GOP Platform.*"

At a time when Americans are looking for real solutions to the challenges we face, the Texas GOP decided to focus on propaganda, not policy: Portions of the platform state that:

"Homosexuality tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit, and leads to the spread of dangerous, communicable diseases."

"Homosexuality must not be presented as an acceptable 'alternative' lifestyle in our public education and policy, nor should 'family' be redefined to include homosexual 'couples.'"

"We oppose the recognition of and granting of benefits to people who represent themselves as domestic partners without being legally married."

HRC tells us that reflects that the Texas GOP is not just against marriage equality; they're against basic equal rights. They think it should be 100% legal to fire someone for being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). Even their word choice shows a possible anti-transgender bias, using the phrases "natural man" and "natural woman." The list goes on – far beyond the usual Republican talking points on "traditional family values" and even the GOP platforms in other conservative states.

And they don't stop with attacking LGBT citizens. They also call for evicting the United Nations from the U.S., requiring drivers' licenses to indicate citizenship, opposing legislation to allow stem cell research, rescinding no-fault divorce laws, reversing Roe v. Wade, and shutting down the U.S. Department of Education.

I want to be clear: HRC is a bipartisan organization. We've endorsed Republican candidates for election. So this isn't about party politics – it's about deep intolerance that deserves to be rejected.

Sign our petition to RNC Chairman Michael Steele – tell him to repudiate this outrageous platform. After you've signed, please spread the word to your friends – LGBT and straight, Republican and Democrat – and help us get the word out.



### Fiona Dawson Auditions for Oprah!

Community leader Fiona Dawson, Humans Campaign Activist, a 2009 Pride Marshal, and recent founding member of the Fort Bend LGBT Political Caucus has submitted a video to an Oprah competition and it is excellent. She could end up hosting her own talk show, if she wins.

To see the video and vote enter online: <http://bit.ly/FionaDawsonOprahContest>

Votes are unlimited and may be made through 11:59 PM PST July 3, 2010.

Oprah's Search for the Next TV Star" is a competition series that will premier on OWN, Oprah Winfrey's new network, in 2011. The winner of the series will host their own talk show produced for OWN.

## Two on the Aisle

by Bill O'Rourke  
*Musing on Matthew*

*The Laramie Project* (Theater New West at Holocaust Museum Houston through July 24) is a portrait of a city. Everyone is reacting to Matt Shepard, and a cute little blond actor wanders through silently every once in a while being Matt, but the show really is about Laramie.

Most of us remember the news story of Matthew Shepard's brutal murder which was a Gay-bashing. His almost lifeless body left hanging on a barbed-wired fence. Remember it or not, go to this show, but not alone.

Director Joe Watts has gone back to the way this show was done Off-Broadway, with only eight actors. Each of them does at least four or five characters. This is without any costume changes and no props. Some characters stand out, but for the most part this is not a portrait of individuals but of the group as a whole. This is an interesting, very valid way to look at the story.

The script is evidently a bit long as Mr. Watts has everyone talking at quite a clip almost all of the time. As the first act comes to a close, as Matt is discovered on the fence and is taken to the hospital, you can feel the hand of the conductor as all the varied voices merge into one, the reverence is brought way up and the energy is brought slowly down till it goes through fast talking murmurs to merge with silence. It is symphonic. It is intended to be Brechtian, the "epic drama," a style that relies on the audience's reflective detachment rather than the production's atmosphere and action (Although I must admit that the lady in front of me did start quietly weeping).

The second act is briskly energetic. This, the better of the two acts, is more about the individuals. We catch fleeting glimpses of them as they react to the media blitz, the funeral and the trial. The effect, particularly after that first act, is galvanizing. It rouses one to action, to stronger emotions. (There isn't a lot of comic relief.) I think I teared up twice. The lady in front of me finished the act weeping, again. Others strode out into the night with firm resolve.

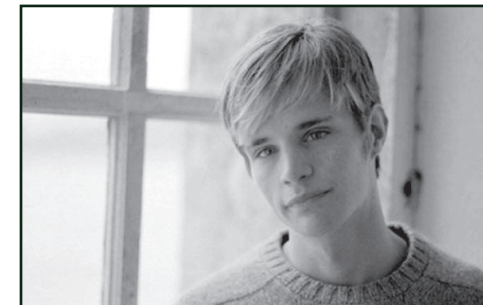
The ending lines bring home again that this show is really about the people of Laramie itself as much as Matthew Shepard, as they ponder that the last sight Matt may have been aware of was the twinkling of the night time lights of the city under the vast expanse of black Wyoming sky.

The cast is a good ensemble. I thought that Brian Chambers and Nora Hahn may have been the most consistently interesting but the rest of the cast scored high marks with at least one of their

characters – Alyssum Gynthon as the young lesbian whose angel costumes contain Fred Phelps ("God Hates Fags") and his hate-mongering family, Brian Jones as Matt's father at the trial, Derrick Brent II, Nina Garcia and Terry Smith. Tall, handsome Jordan Jaffe is really cut out to be a leading man, but he will get better as a character actor, too, given time. His sheriff was real and one of the moments of happy rest for the audience.

The lights, designed by Jim Wunrow, added quite a bit to the show. However, there was the blessing of a large screen behind the action and I think the company missed a beat by only using it for a shot of Matt as a toddler.

**Note:** The mayor will be at the show on July 10 to introduce Matthew's Mother Judy Shepard who will make a short speech before the show. That performance is already sold out, but Mr. Watts hopes to film it and show it before all of the performances following that date. Judy Shepherd has written a book *The Meaning of Matthew*.



### Theater Information

Theater New West, at Holocaust Museum Houston, 713-522-2204.

### Openings

*Wicked* (now through July 25) – Broadway Star at the Hobby Center.

*The Hollow* (July 2 – 31) – Company Onstage does Agatha Christie.

*All Shook Up* (July 7 - 17) – University of St. Thomas does Elvis.

*The Mousetrap* (July 8 – August 8) – The Alley does Christie, too.

*Leaving Iowa* (July 9 – August 29) – AD Players.

*5 Guys Named Moe* (now through July 25) - The Ensemble. Rollicking musical.

**Annual Festival of Originals** Theatre Southwest (July 16-August 7) [www.theatresouthwest.org](http://www.theatresouthwest.org) or call 713 661-9505.

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# "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](http://www.astros.com/pride)

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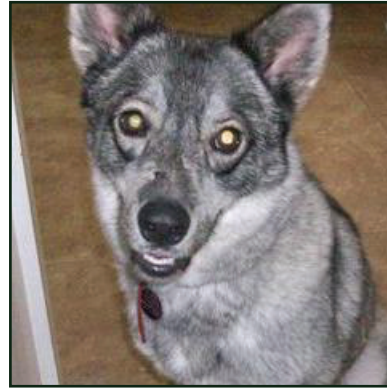
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Meeka was at a High Kill Shelter (BARC) and her time was up. We just had to save her. Meeka is a Husky/Shiba Inu mix. She is so cute and her foster mom just loves the way she tilts her head when she looks at you. Meeka is a happy girl and very playful. She also loves to be petted and gives you kisses. She is good on a leash. She gets along with other dogs. She is a darling girl. She is learning basic commands. She is about 1 year old and 38 pounds.

She is Heartworm negative, spayed, micro-chipped and current on her vaccination.

If interested please email HAPI at [Hapi4Pets@gmail.com](mailto:Hapi4Pets@gmail.com)



### THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT opening on Friday, July 16

The most talked-about movie at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival, and the winner of the Teddy Award for Best Feature Film at the 2010 Berlin International Film Festival, **The Kids Are All Right** is opening in Houston area theaters including theaters in The Woodlands and Sugar Land.

Two women, Nic and Jules are married and share a cozy suburban Southern California home with their teenage children, Joni and Laser. Nic and Jules – or, when referred to jointly by Joni, "Moms" – gave birth to and raised their children, and built a family life for the four of them. The two teenagers were conceived by artificial insemination.

As Joni prepares to leave for college, Laser presses her to help him find their biological father.

Against her better judgment, Joni honors her brother's request and manages to make contact with "bio-dad" Paul, an easygoing restaurateur. The kids find themselves drawn to the confirmed bachelor's footloose style – especially in contrast to Nic, a principled doctor who has long established their house rules.

Jules, who has been looking to start a new career in landscaping, also strikes up a rapport with Paul. As Paul comes into the lives of the forthright four, an unexpected new chapter begins for them as family ties are defined.

**The Kids Are All Right** is from Focus Features and stars:

Annette Benning, Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Mia Wasikowska and Josh Hutcherson.

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GEM Community  
Online!



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Photos by Angela Hon



Bravo's Andy Cohen with GEM Editor Deborah Moncrief Bell



Ronnie Siebert is the new Daddy of Montrose, here with Jackie Daniels, Mother of Montrose 2010 and Boy of Montrose Mike Ferguson ~ Photo by Christopher Prado



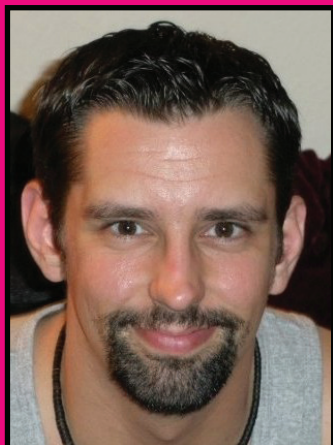
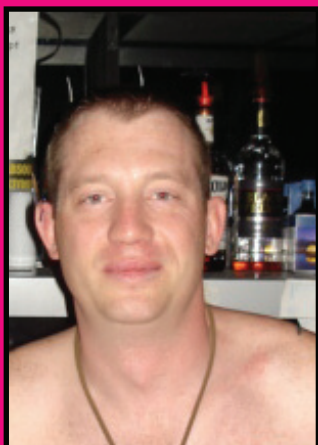
Photos from Daddy of Montrose contest held at Michael's Outpost June 20 ~ photos by Deborah Bell unless otherwise noted.



More Pictures of Pride below



Pride Idol and Pride Parade Photos by Angela Hon



Alvee, David, Joshua and shy Donny are some of the friendly faces waiting to serve you at

# MICHAEL'S OUTPOST



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## Cooking Capers with Dr. Dave



Hello ladies and gentlemen. It's been a while since I've written recipes for an appetizer, soup, and main dish, but today, I just couldn't pick two from among my three favorites, so I decided to include them all.

### GRAVLAX

For an appetizer, I had to share my recipe for gravlax. Gravlax is a Scandinavian dish of raw salmon cured with salt, sugar and spices. The marinating "cooks" the fish. The result, sliced paper-thin, is one of the best appetizers I serve. Ice-cold Vodka goes really well with it, and if by some remote chance, you don't love gravlax as much as I do, drink more vodka and it won't matter.

3 pounds center-cut salmon sliced lengthwise and thoroughly boned  
2 large bunches of fresh dill  
1/4th. cup coarse salt  
1/4th. cup granulated sugar  
2 Tablespoons crushed white peppercorns  
lemon wedges and black pepper corns for garnish

Place half of the fish, skin side down, in a deep glass dish. Spread dill over the fish. Sprinkle dry ingredients over dill. Top with the other half of fish skin side up. Cover with foil and weight with a board and a 5-pound weight. Refrigerate for 72 hours, turning the salmon and basting every 12 hours with accumulated juices. To serve, remove fish from marinade, scrape away dill and spices and pat dry. Slice salmon thinly on the diagonal and serve on small plates or squares of black bread. Garnish with lemon wedges and black pepper.

### SUMMER MELON AND TOMATO SOUP

3 cups peeled and seeded ripe tomatoes  
2 medium ripe cantaloupes, seeds and rind removed  
2 large cucumbers, peeled and seeded (reserve 1/2 cucumber and chop for garnish)  
grated zest of 1 small orange  
1/4th. cup finely chopped mint, plus additional mint as garnish  
1 cup dairy sour cream

Combine tomatoes, melons and cucumbers in a blender or food processor fitted with a steel blade. Process until smooth, and transfer mixture to a bowl. Stir in orange zest and 1/4th. cup chopped mint. Whisk in sour cream and chill the mixture. To serve, ladle into bowls and garnish with a bit of chopped cucumber and a sprig of mint. This recipe serves 6 people.

### RASPBERRY CHICKEN

What a gay boy's dream--fruit and chicken! I needn't say more, so let me just get started with sharing the recipe. I hope you like it.

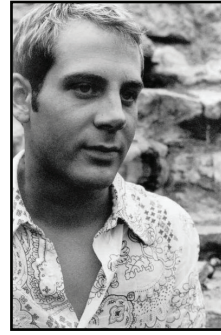
2 whole boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 2 pounds)  
2 Tablespoons sweet butter  
1/4th. cup finely chopped yellow onions  
4 Tablespoons raspberry vinegar  
1/4th. cup canned chicken broth  
1/4th. cup heavy cream  
1 Tablespoon crushed tomatoes  
2 dozen fresh, whole raspberries

Cut chicken breast into half lengthwise. Flatten each breast with the palm of your hand. Melt the butter in a large skillet; raise the heat, add the chicken and cook about 3 minutes per side or until they are lightly colored. Remove from the skillet and reserve. Add the onion to the butter and juices and cook, covered over low heat about 15 minutes or until tender. Add the vinegar, raise the heat and cook uncovered stirring occasionally until the vinegar is reduced to a syrupy spoonful. Whisk in the chicken stock, heavy cream and crushed tomatoes and simmer for one minute. Return the chicken to the skillet and simmer the breasts gently in the sauce, basting often, until they are just done and the sauce has been reduced and thickened slightly, about 5 minutes. Do not overcook. Remove the breasts and arrange on a heated serving platter. Add the raspberries to the sauce in the skillet and cook over low heat for 1 minute. Do not stir the berries with a spoon, merely swirl them in the sauce by shaking the skillet. Pour the sauce over the breasts and serve immediately.



## FASHION on a BUDGET?

by Jai Fain



The words 'fashion' and 'budget' are usually frowned upon when used in the same sentence in the gay community but let me tell you folks, it's truly a beautiful thing! Within the next 10 minutes let's explore some possibilities that I'm sure will change your mind about bargain shopping.

### SHOPPING HIGH END

Many of us get discouraged when we think of a designer boutique or retailer. We always think about the outrageously high price tag for a sometimes not so extraordinary piece. Try finding an outlet for your favorite designers. Yeah, the pieces that are being sold may be from last season, which in reality is sometimes only a 4-5 month difference. Why pay \$400 for a jacket that in all reality will do nothing more than sit on the hanger for 3 months in its 'prime location' before it moves to the outlet where you can get it for \$125? Only the fashionistas will be able to tell that it was from 3 months ago. But if you look closer you'll notice that they're wearing it too! Even if you can't find an outlet for your desired line, trot on back to the sale rack with your head held high. Those are the racks that get most of the attention anyway.

### FIND EXCITEMENT IN OTHERS' BOREDOM

Know your surroundings so you can have the local shops at your disposal. Now that you have your area memorized, let's talk. Who knows your own personal style better than yourself? Reach outside of your comfort zone and shop places you normally wouldn't or places that you haven't heard of. You'll be surprised at what you'll find. Style differs from location to location, obviously, so take advantage of it. Head out to the suburbs for an afternoon and hit up THEIR local favorites. You'll usually like what they don't... meaning... it's on sale! It's satisfying finds like these that really spice up your wardrobe!

### MOTHBALLS AREN'T THAT BAD!

You've guessed it... thrift shops! Don't be scared... hear me out. You know that black shirt you just paid \$300 for at Dolce & Gabbana? Do you realize how stressed out you are about finding that perfect pair of pants that will really make it POP? What if I told you that you could find THAT perfect pair for about \$3 at your neighborhood thrifty? Sure they may be wool or plaid, but that's really what's going to make your outfit unique and characteristic. That's what you want, right?

Thrift shops are also a breeding ground for fabulous accessories like vintage watches, great chains, and scarves that you won't be able to find anywhere else. You may have to dig to find the piece of your dreams and I won't lie, it's a process. But when you find those items and you walk out of that place, take a look in the mirror at your smile and realize how much fun you just had.

### GO FOR THE LOOK NOT THE LABEL

You know that guy? The annoying one who repeatedly tries to validate himself by what he's wearing? Right, the guy who's wearing the tight t-shirt with the tacky graffiti logo across the chest. He just goes on and on about how great he is and how great his clothes are. Well, little do people know he's quite the bargain shopper as well. It's usually the logo t-shirts that designers use as their 'entry level' pieces meaning that they're the cheapest in the whole place! Those kinds of pieces certainly don't scream high-fashion... More like "I want people to think I'm the cool kid". And don't just take something because it doesn't cost as much as the other pieces around it. Try it on and make sure that it looks good on you. If it happens to be on sale, even better!

### WARDROBE = FOOD

Think of wardrobe as a meal. How do we get a meal? Ingredients! The clothes in your closet are the ingredients to your wardrobe. It's all a huge recipe! As a lover of the kitchen and of cooking, this is where my creativity comes out. I'm positive any other budget conscious fashion lover will have an absolute blast when thinking of your closet in these terms. Think of that great pair of denim you bought last week as a tail of lobster and think of the cute v-neck tee (which has been worn several times) that's sitting in your dresser as the pepper in your pantry. You're not going to go out and buy fresh green peppercorns for your lobster are you? NO! You're going to use the pepper that's in your pantry! You most certainly don't have to start from scratch every time you cook a meal, so why would you when you get dressed? Like the lemon in the fridge that you're probably going to squeeze on your entrée, use those cute sneakers you got on clearance last week and begin evolving your own personal style.

How you feel in an outfit will gain that exact reaction from the people who are viewing you. If you're feeling confident in your sale shoes, others will notice and take pride in them with you. Who's going to know how much you paid for them anyway? And don't be afraid of pieces with 'dry clean only' care labels. There are some great \$1.49 cleaners around town as well as home dry cleaning kits such as Dryel. So turn that frown upside down because: Fashion + Budget = SEXY!

Jai Fain is a fashion guru and one of the proprietors of P-Jais Fashion for Modern Men

**P-Jai's**  
[www.pjaisfashion.com](http://www.pjaisfashion.com)

## **HCC Attack Continued from Page 1**

Reyna contacted the TFA shortly after the attack for assistance working with police and the press. TFA has worked with him to ensure that a police report was filed with the HPD and has assisted him in setting up interviews with local press. TFA board member Daniel Williams accompanied Reyna to the police line up.

From the time the incident took place to the time it took to transport Reyna to the Hospital, the attacker had already used Reyna's credit cards twice. Police have found the razor used in the attack and it has been identified by Reyna prior to the arrest as the one that was held to his throat.

Reyna was rushed to the emergency room. The day after the attack Reyna, was out of the hospital and being cared for by friends and family. The TG Center is taking up a collection to help offset the medical expenses associated with this attack. If you would like to donate, please come by the TG Center or all our helpline at 713-520-8586. Additionally, you can make a donation via Paypal.

Reyna was able to attend the Pride Festival and Parade on Saturday. The marks of his assault still visible, he is trying to move on, but is still quite shaken. Reyna attends classes at the HCC Northline campus as well. He has not been able to attend his classes and has not had assistance from HCC to accommodate his being able to finish his summer courses.

Reyna reports, "I went to talk to a counselor about maybe getting extra time for my school assignments. She advised me to just withdraw from my classes as if she didn't care about my situation since it happened at the Central campus, even though it is still within the HCC system."

"I have not heard anything from HCC (officials) either not even as simple as a phone call, to see if I'm OK or to apologize for what happened on campus, but this incident has made me more determined to complete my studies and to get on with doing work that will help our community," Reyna said.

He then visited the booth for the new GLBT Student Resource Center at UH as he is now considering transferring there.

Cristan Williams contributed to this report.

## **Off the Couch Advice you can use**

by

Dr. Dan C. and

Lynda Leclair, MED, LPC-Intern

**There's the guy in one of my classes that I am attracted to, but I don't know if he likes girls or guys. If we were in a gay bar then I would feel OK in approaching him but in class... What do you do when you have the hots for someone and you're not sure they are gay or straight. Should you make the first move or not?**

**Lynda says:** It sounds like your gaydar is registering about a 30% on possible gay and 70% on doubt. I can understand the hesitation; on one hand you do not want to invite an angry homophobic person to 'get bent outta shape', and on the other you don't want to pass up an opportunity of meeting this Hot guy. This is a good question because queers don't live in bars, we are everywhere and each of us has to develop our own signature approach to meeting people.

### **Trust the Vibe**

Use what you already have in common: your course of study and homework. Strike up a conversation about homework and working in an invitation to meet. Something like, 'Hey, a friend and I meet at the coffee shop before class just to help each other out with some homework. I'd like to know if you would join us.' Saying "I" will put it out there that you have interest in him but gives him a quick exit if he picks up on your Gay vibe and is not interested.

When you meet don't forget to bring your homework. Take your time and get to know each other. Creating mutual respect in conversations heightens attraction. Trust your Vibe on whether or not to 'come out' to him. If you decide to out yourself, be upfront about it and confident. People who are apologetic about being gay are a real turn off for gay men, let alone your other queer supporters. Confidence in yourself speaks volumes about your character, and it will keep you safe. Not to mention that it will spill over into your romantic life. It's usually during this conversation that you will find out if you have a dedicated study partner for rest of the semester or a romantic interest. Hey, both are good options!

## **Dr. Dan cautions however**

Dear Student with the "hots",

There is a time and place for everything. You have to weigh the consequences of your behaviors and how they may impact not only you, but your handsome fellow student, and other students in the class, not to mention the professor. As a former Adjunct Professor in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Houston Baptist University, I would certainly not appreciate any discord in class where you are there to learn, not stimulate your loins.

What might happen if your fellow student was offended and not only isolated himself from you, but ended up taking the situation to an ombudsman, or worse, the Dean? How might either of those situations affect you and your future progress in school? How would you feel if your fellow classmates either wanted nothing to do with you, or spent time laughing at your dilemma? Have you thought your choice to come on to your buddy might just further the stereotype of gays as crotch hungry odd balls who are only interested in sex?

If I haven't made my response clear, let me sum it up by saying fantasize all you want, but don't go there.

**GEM Editor:** If you have a question for this column please submit to [montrosegem@yahoo.com](mailto:montrosegem@yahoo.com) with the words "Off The Couch" in the Subject area. Then look for a response in a future issue. The columnists are both mental health professionals with many years of experience.

## **Angelina Jolie not concerned about Shiloh's style**

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

Jolie says. "Shiloh, we feel has Montenegro style. It's how people dress there. She likes tracksuits, she likes [regular] suits. So it's a suit with a tie and a jacket and slacks, or a tracksuit. She likes to dress like a boy. She wants to be a boy. So we had to cut her hair. She likes to wear boys' everything. She thinks she's one of the brothers."

The above is from "E" online, regarding Angelina Jolie's interview in *Vanity Fair*.

If Angie and Brad Pitt are cool with it then why should anyone else be concerned? Maybe Shiloh is a baby Dyke or will identify as transgendered someday. Isn't it wonderful that she has loving, supportive parents who will let her be who she is regardless of stereotypes or societal judgments?



Shiloh Jolie-Pitt has her own sense of style and the good looks of her famous parents.

## **Rainbow Fishing Club News**

The Houston Chronicle reported on Sunday, June 20th, page C11, that the Federal Gulf of Mexico Fishery Mgmt Council may reopen the recreational fishing season for Red Snapper after its scheduled closure July 24 due to under fishing of the annual quota because of the BP oil spill and closure of fishing in much of the Gulf from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle. The possible reopening would likely occur in October & November.

Galveston Party Boats, the company that Rainbow Fishing Club uses

has told us that there is no contamination at all of fish that we would be catching from their boats. We'd be fishing for Red Snapper, Lane & Vermillion Snapper, Grouper, Triggerfish, Angelfish, King Mackerel, Ling, Amberjack, Shark and Dorado on the 12 Hour trips (7:30am to 7:30pm). Cost would be \$85.00 on Saturdays, with a \$40 deposit.

The club is considering a couple of trips for August to October.

If you have comments, please send to Lee Siriois, club President at: [dragolyn@swbell.net](mailto:dragolyn@swbell.net) or to this e-mail address; [jhubert05@hotmail.com](mailto:jhubert05@hotmail.com).

**Melanie Pang is first Recipient of HGLBTCC Scholarship**



Melanie Espinosa Pang, with Center president Tim Brookover and Center treasurer Burton Bagby-Grose, the scholarship committee chair.

Congratulations to Melanie Espinosa Pang, the recipient of the first John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner Scholarship of the Houston GLBT Community Center. The Center presented the scholarship to Melanie at the annual Lawrence v. Texas Commemoration on June 24.

Ms. Pang has also been the recipient of a PFLAG/HATCH scholarship. Originally a music education major she switched to journalism to hone her writing skills. She felt that would be useful for whatever she did in the future. Melanie will be a graduate student in the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work.

“The Center was pleased to receive other strong applicants for the scholarship, which bodes well for the future of our community”, said Board President Tim Brookover.

**Pride Idol from Page 1**

images and messages about Pride and epitomized the powerful symbolism of Stonewall and why we celebrate the tradition of Pride each year.

“I sincerely believe this competition has been a shining example of what community and Pride is all about,” Lombardo told Guerra

She concluded, “The fact that we’ve been able to bring so many different people together to appreciate something as simple as music has given me hope for equality and acceptance on a much larger scale.”

Guerra, who is the music critic for the Houston Chronicle quoted Ernie Manouse in his June 23rd column as saying, “We took the competition from a neighborhood bar happening and turned it into a citywide event,”

Manouse, who is a local PBS personality and vice-president of Pride Houston was a judge along with rapper/singer/producer Miss Money and Guerra.

Over the course of six weeks and the contestants went from 11 to three. Judges’ scores (75 %) are combined with audience text votes (25 %) to determine weekly eliminations.

“Ultimately, however, Pride Idol isn’t just about the glory for these singers. It’s afforded many of them a chance to truly show the world, their world - their friends and family - who they truly are. And in that sense, the experience epitomizes what Pride is all about,” Guerra reported.

The winner and rest of the top five entertained an estimated 200,000+ prior to the parade. They also performed as part of the Gay Men’s Chorus of Houston Pride concert on June 19th.

Laz Estrada, the second place winner was described as a Big-voiced heartwarmer. He placed first in the International Music Competition last summer in Llangollen, Wales, UK. Guerra said of Estrada, “He’s a belter with an innate ability to connect with almost any lyric.”

It is very likely that any one of these top three will go on to have careers doing what they love and where their talent takes them. Just as with American Idol and some of the second place winners were as successful as the winner. Good luck to them all.

The success of Pride Idol has now opened the doors for a new Pride contest coming in the fall, “Pride’s Got Talent”. If you are a Juggler, magician, mime, dancer, ventriloquist or whatever your talent, individual or group, you can anticipate the audition announcement in a future issue of the Montrose GEM.

**Smash the Church, Smash the State! The Early Years of Gay Liberation**

Edited by Tommi Avicolti Mecca

Reviewed by Jone Devlin

As we celebrate the 41st anniversary of Stonewall and enter into serious national political discussions about repealing ‘Don’t Ask Don’t Tell’ and the ‘Defense of Marriage Act’, it’s not a bad idea to revisit where we’ve come from.

*Smash the Church, Smash the State* is a collection of essays by and about those on the forefront of the GLBTTIQ movement both before and after the famous Stonewall riots of 1969.

The essays included herein are as diverse as our community; and talk openly and in great detail about the early days of “gay liberation.” The bad times as well as the good are looked at honestly, and mistakes made, both then and now, are reviewed through the lens of history and the wisdom that can only come with age.

Tommi Avicolti Mecca, meanwhile, along with organizing the book and selecting the contributors, provides insights of his own into some of the heroes of the movement that are no longer with us, like Sylvia Rivera and Sylvester.

While I don’t want to go into too much detail about any one essay (it’s far better for readers to look at the book as a whole) I will say that the one theme that was repeated through the majority of the essays was that the early “gay liberation” movement was very much a collective. It comprised both men and women, minorities and non-minorities, and was extremely trans inclusive. The goals of these collectives also stretched well beyond GLBTTIQ rights to include women’s liberation, workers rights, the anti-war movement, environmental concerns and civil rights (one of most compelling essays

in the book is a reprint of a letter from Huey Newton accepting “homosexuals” as fellow revolutionaries to work alongside the Black Panther Party. As time went on, of course, many of these concerns narrowed to cover only (certain parts of) the gay community. Making things more difficult was the internal fighting among some of the groups, much of which revolved around the sexism, racism, and classism directed by some members of the collective toward the others. The end result of all this of course was that the collective splintered into many separate groups, with their own specific goals and agendas.

Yet even with the collective splintered, many of the initially goals meshed. One of these, to have homosexuality removed for the APA’s list of mental disorders was achieved in 1973. Several others, such as job protections and equal rights and recognition of gay relationships, are still mostly out of reach.

But the main goal of the community post Stonewall (and the one that is the most fun to read about), was to bring queers out of the closets and into your face. Not as assimilated clones of straight people, but as free and proud individuals who had every right to be who they were, even if it made the straight world (and some other queer people) uncomfortable.

The length of the essays varies, but all of them are concise and easy to read. Meanwhile, the retelling of personal memories of gay “zaps”, protests, radical faerie altercations with the police and city hall and other distinctly 60s events will have readers laughing their heads off while simultaneously wondering where the “take it to the street spirit” of those times has gone.

An absolutely wonderful, personal and diverse look at the history of our lives and work, *Smash the Church, Smash the State* is published by City Lights and is available wherever fine GLBTTIQ books are sold.



A group poses for the cover art photograph of *Smash the Church, Smash the State* A collection of essays by queer activists

**BRB**

**THE BEST LITTLE  
"CHRISTMAS IN JULY"  
SHOW  
IN TEXAS**

**DIRECTED BY:  
DAVID  
SAWYER**

**SUNDAY  
JULY 11, 2010  
7:00 PM**

**EMGEES:  
DON GILL  
&  
AN' MARIE GILL**

**Featuring:  
Miss Mona  
& Her BRB  
Girls**

**SPECIAL GUESTS:  
AUSTIN  
BAPTIST  
WOMEN**

**A PWA HOLIDAY CHARITIES EVENT  
BENEFITING THE AIDS TROUBLE FUND CLIENTS**

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