



## Senate Republicans Block Defense Bill; "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Repeal Stalled

By Ty Cobb and other news sources

Today (Sept. 24, 2010), our military readiness and national security were set back as Senator John McCain successfully led a Republican filibuster of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), to which the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is attached. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has committed to bringing the bill back up following the election.

"This filibuster was election year politics at its worst," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "It's a shame that during a time of war, senators wouldn't even allow debate on the bill that provides a pay raise for our troops."

In its continuing efforts to end the ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual service members, HRC today released a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder calling on him not to appeal a recent court decision ruling DADT unconstitutional. Additionally, HRC is calling on its members and supporters to petition Holder to decline to appeal the case.

"We still have a fighting chance to repeal DADT through congressional action but in the meantime, the best interests of our men and women in uniform – as well as the country – are served by doing everything we can do to get rid of this discriminatory law," added Solmonese. "We expect the Justice Department to recognize the overwhelming evidence that proves DADT is unconstitutional."

Democratic Sens. Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor of Arkansas sided with Republicans to block the bill. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., also voted against the measure as a procedural tactic. Under Senate rules, casting his vote with the majority of the Senate enables him to revive the bill at a later date if he wants.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine

had been seen as the crucial 60th vote because she supports overturning the military ban. But Collins agreed with her GOP colleagues that Republicans weren't given sufficient chance to offer amendments.

Senate Republicans voted unanimously to block debate on the bill — the huge, annual authorization of military programs — after the majority leader, Harry Reid, Democrat of Nevada, said he would attach a number of the Democrats' election-year priorities to it while also moving to limit the amendments offered by Republicans.



Despite efforts to end the outdated policy, including lobbying by performer Lady Gaga, the Senate failed to do the right thing.

The vote was 56 to 43, with Democrats falling short of the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster and take up the bill. The Arkansas Democrats, Senators Blanche L. Lincoln and Mark Pryor, sided with all 40 Republicans present in opposing debate. Mr. Reid switched his vote to no at the last minute, a procedural maneuver that allows him to call for a revote.

~ DADT continued on Page 5



## Westheimer Club is looking for a new tenant.

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

The operator of the 32-year-old iconic music venue, **Numbers**, says it's not closing. And the property owner says Numbers isn't being kicked out., but the Montrose club building is for lease. The owner of the lower Westheimer building that houses the Numbers night club is looking for a new tenant.

~ See *Numbers* on Page 5



Council Member Sue Lovell addresses the audience at the meeting on the draft of the historic preservation ordinance.

## Councilmember Sue Lovell Fined by Texas Ethics Committee

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

Sue Lovell, City Council Pos. 2 Councilmember and Vice Mayor Pro Tem was fined \$2,000 by the Texas Ethics Commission for failing to properly fill out several of her campaign finance disclosures in recent years.

The Texas Ethics commission faulted her for leaving out some information dealing with small donors and any loans outstanding in 2007, 2008 and 2009, using an incomplete name for a political action committee and failing to detail the use of some campaign expenses.

~ See *Lovell* on Page 5

## Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus Contributes \$6,000 To State House Candidates

by Daniel Graney

The Executive Board of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus (TSDC) voted unanimously on September 12 to contribute \$500 each to 12 Democratic candidates running for the Texas House and the State Board of Education. After much discussion, the TSDC Board adopted the position that the \$6,000 it had budgeted for campaign contributions would have greater impact in helping Democrats take control of the State House of Representatives and the Board of Education.

~ See *Donations* on Page 4



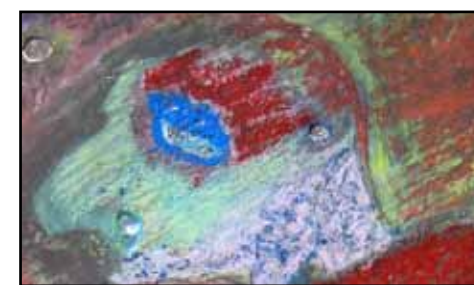
Cassidy Haley will headline Galveston Pride 2010, see details on Page 8. Photo Credit Montana USA



Have you wondered whatever happened to the little girl who played the mean Nellie Oelsen on *Little House on the Prairie*? See Book Review on Page 10



Sally Edmundson in *Auntie Mame*, a role "she was born to play", critics have proclaimed. See review on Page 10



Montrose has a mystery artist. See Page 6 to find out more.



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[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

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

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

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

[www.Do713.com](http://www.Do713.com) (Community Calendar)

[www.visithoustontexas.com/my-gayhouston/](http://www.visithoustontexas.com/my-gayhouston/)

The Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI) <http://www.lhihouston.org/>

Know a group that should featured here? Let us know at:

[montrosegem@yahoo.com](mailto:montrosegem@yahoo.com)  
[www.montrosegem.com](http://www.montrosegem.com)

## COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

### Get Life Saving Screenings at the LHI Rainbow Health Fair

November 6, 2010

**Legacy Community Health Services, 215 Westheimer, 9am-3pm**

The Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI) November Rainbow Health Fair, serving LGBT women with no insurance or who are under-insured, is just around the corner. This is a great opportunity to get the health exams and information you need. The Health Fair will provide well-woman exams, mammograms, pap and comprehensive blood testing. New this Fair, we will offer flu shots and bone density screening.

Sign up for screenings now. Even though it is not until November, the appointment times fill up quickly.

To schedule mammogram, blood or pap testing, email [info@lhihouston.org](mailto:info@lhihouston.org) or call (713) 426-3356. Leave your name, phone number and email address (if calling, speak slowly and say your phone number twice). Contact us right away because available slots are going fast.

Vendors and Volunteers welcome.

Promote your health-related business-be a vendor at the Health Fair.



### My Gay Houston

Another resource online for the Houston GLBT community (or scene as they call it).

As the fourth-largest city in the nation, Houston's GLBT scene remains as diverse and vibrant as its more than 5 million residents. Its blend of world-class culture and an anything-goes attitude make this city on the bayou a great getaway for the discerning gay traveler.

From the pedestrian-friendly Montrose neighborhood to downtown and the historic Heights, Houston has something for everyone, all seven days of the week. Check the site for their picks on where to be and what to see (and be seen).

My Gay Houston - Brought to you by The Greater Houston Convention ...

[www.visithoustontexas.com/my-gayhouston/](http://www.visithoustontexas.com/my-gayhouston/)

## ON THE RADIO

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"QUEER VOICES"

SUNDAY MORNINGS  
12 - 4am  
"AFTER HOURS"

ON KPFT 90.1FM  
Pacifica - community radio  
HOUSTON, TX  
[www.kpft.org](http://www.kpft.org)

Tune in!

**Krewe of Olympus- Texas, Inc. Announces Annual Fais Do Do Dinner!**

**Saturday, October 2 from 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM**  
**Sycamore Heights Guest House**  
**245 W. 18th Street Houston, TX 77008**

Come join the Crazy Cajuns of the Krewe of Olympus- Texas, Inc. as we host our annual Fais Do Do supper featuring gumbo, jambalaya, etouffee, and many more cajun favorites, as well as our famous "open bar"! There's also a silent auction and art sale to benefit Ball 41 and our worthy beneficiaries: Lesbian Health Initiative, Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund, and Art League Houston's Healing Arts Program!

### Montrose Counseling Center's The Secret's Out dinner,

You are invited to learn more about MCC and how their programs improve quality of life for Houston's GLBT communities.

Join them on Thursday, October 7. The one-hour program will begin promptly at 7pm. and will include a light dinner and inspirational program of client and volunteer testimonials. The event is free to attend, although we do hope to inspire you to make a donation in support of our programs.

The evening kicks off at 6pm. with an Open House of the GLBT Cultural Center on the 1st floor (includes rentable event/meeting community space, lease-able offices) and the homes of Delta Phi Upsilon, Dignity Houston Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, Lesbian Health Initiative, PFLAG Houston, Pride Houston, and MCC's youth group HATCH and seniors group SPRY. Space is limited so RSVP. Contact Meleah Jones at 713.800.0872 or [communitydev@montrosecounselingcenter.org](mailto:communitydev@montrosecounselingcenter.org).

Join us for conversation with  
**David R. Weiss, author of**  
*To the Tune of a Welcoming God*  
Lyrical reflections on sexuality, spirituality,  
and the wideness of God's Welcome

"theological clarity meets poetic grace" -Rev. Rebecca Voekel,  
Institute for Welcoming Resources, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

"Beautifully composed and filled with healing strength—a powerful, positive force, for the soul!"  
- Jeff Luttrell, Executive Director, Soulforce

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BECOMES  
A QUEER THING—  
THE POWER OF CLAIMING IDENTITIES  
MADE FOR EACH OTHER.**

**Monday, September 27, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**Large Chapel - A.D. Bruce Religion Center**  
**University of Houston**

Informal conversation over dinner afterwards at 6 p.m. Contact the LGBT Resource Center for more info: 713.743.5463 / [lschroeder@uh.edu](mailto:lschroeder@uh.edu).

*Autographed copies of David's book will be for sale.*

Co-sponsored by: the UH LGBT Resource Center and Cougar Allies  
<http://tothetune.wordpress.com>

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## BEELINES

by Deborah Moncrief Bell



The LGBT Resource Center at the University of Houston is the recent recipient of several boxes of my books. Giving up my books is very difficult for me but there was no reason for me to keep them. I have been wanting to clear out my library for some time but was reluctant to pass these books on just anywhere. I wanted them to go somewhere that would matter and luckily the Resource Center was looking for just such donations. You see they were books by and for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community.

Some of them were classics, some were political, some were fiction and there were even some lesbian erotic fiction in the batch. There were dear friends who helped me understand and formulate my world view as a Queer. Most of them were clearly lesbian focused with a few on bisexuality (I consider myself a bisexual lesbian and if you read some of these books you would understand what that means). Also I had quite a few books about Transgender identities, ones I consider must reads, *Stone Butch Blues* by Leslie Feinberg, *Gender Outlaw* by Kate Bornstein. Bornstein never felt comfortable with the belief of the day: that all trans women are "women trapped in men's bodies". Bornstein knew that she was not a man, but the only other option of the day was to be a woman, a reflection of the gender binary, which required people to identify according to only two available genders. Another block in Bornstein's path was the fact that Bornstein was attracted to women. Bornstein had sex reassignment surgery in 1986.

To paraphrase Annise Parker (yes Mayor Parker), we "Gays" are all transgendered as we defy the societal stereotype of who we are supposed to love.

I don't think I included *Apartheid of Sex* by Martine Rothblatt in my gift. Martine is a personal friend so I am not ready to give up that book. I also did not include a major book in my collection, *Lesbian/Woman* by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, founders of the Daughters of Bilitis and ground-breaking feminist activists. I have an autographed copy and some day will pass it on, but not yet.

I wonder if I put my autographed copy of *Rubyfruit Jungle* in the box? I remember ordering Rita Mae Brown's book from a book-of-the-month type club. It had some kind of innocuous blurb about a young woman 'finding herself'. Little did I know just what that meant. It definitely was my 'coming out' book even

though it was years after reading it that I actually came out.

I just found out today that *Lesbian Nation* author Jill Johnston died (see page 8). That book may not be included in the donation box as I don't recall seeing it. It definitely was an important book in my life as a Lesbian and as a Feminist.

There was an almost complete collection of Armistead Maupin's '*Tales of the City*' series. I love those. I think I put them in the box but if I didn't I will be passing them on. Maupin has a new book in the series coming out this fall appropriately enough, *Mary Ann in Autumn*, I can hardly wait.

I even gave away my Alison Bechdel '*Dykes to watch out for*' collection. Anyone who wants insight into lesbian life needs to read these laugh out loud comic strips. The strip, which began in 1983, was one of the earliest ongoing representations of lesbians in popular culture and has been called "as important to new generations of lesbians as landmark novels like Brown's *Rubyfruit Jungle* and Lisa Alther's *Kinflicks* were to an earlier one." I haven't read *Kinflicks* myself so maybe I will have to hunt up a copy.

DTWOF chronicles the lives, loves, and politics of a fairly diverse group of characters (most of them lesbians) living in a medium-sized city in the United States, featuring both humorous soap opera storylines and biting topical commentary.

According to Bechdel, her strip is "half op-ed column and half endless, serialized Victorian novel". Characters react to the contemporary events including going to the Michigan Womyn's Festival, Gay Pride parades and protest marches and having heated discussions about day-to-day events, political issues and the changing lesbian culture.

Each of these books is like an old friend to me and it was fun to think upon their contents as I boxed them. That is what makes giving away books so difficult. I am fairly sure there are some more boxes of books for me to pass on to the others. I hope the books will be used, enjoyed, and treasured by whoever's hands they fall into. I sincerely hope they help develop the next generation of community activists or contribute to nurture and inspire them personally as they did me. That is what books do for me. I have heard people say they don't have time to read. To me that would be like saying I don't have time to breathe.

Packed into the box was my copy of *The Joy of Lesbian Sex*, I am confident that I don't need it anymore. If I haven't gotten it right by now . . .

*That's the buzz from me for now!*

## THE COMMUNITY PAPER FOR MONTROSE AND BEYOND

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**The Wyatt Rant**

by Carol Wyatt

I don't know how closely you follow upcoming races around the nation, but I am just a wonk for that stuff. After watching a series of wackaloon teabaggers knock off establishment Republicans in a variety of races, I have to wonder: is there anything a Tea Party candidate can say or do that would be considered disqualifying for major office?

It's easy for these candidates to take over a primary - not many people vote primaries, especially during non-Presidential election years. But how much harder will it be for them to win the general elections with beliefs/statements like these (and believe me, this is only a small sampling of the wacky quotes these candidates have produced!):

Sharon Angle, running against Harry Reid for Senate in Nevada:

- If conservatives don't get the results they want from the ballot box, they may have to resort to "second amendment remedies" (this is a thinly veiled hint at violence)
- She opposed a local high school wearing black jerseys because black is the devil's color
- "We needed to have the press be our friend ... We wanted them to ask the questions we want to answer so that they report the news the way we want it to be reported." (apparently not understanding the role of an adversarial press in democracy)
- If young girls get raped, even by their fathers, Sharon advises that they "make lemons out of lemonade" and have the baby.
- The gulf oil spill was proof that we need to de-regulate the oil industry

Jan Brewer is running for Governor of Arizona:

- In her one TV debate, she totally froze in her opening statement and produced about 15 seconds of embarrassed silence and chuckles, finally asserting that she "has did the best anyone could for our state". (a thousand grammarians are now rolling over in their graves). After her disastrous performance in this debate, she announced that she would not be participating in any further debates
- She claims that illegal aliens are leaving headless corpses throughout Arizona deserts. A quick survey of all Arizona sheriffs proved that exactly ZERO headless corpses have been found in Arizona. She continued to repeat the lie for weeks, and walked away from reporters who questioned her on it. Finally, she said "If I said that, I misspoke"

Joe Miller, running for Senate in Alaska:

- claims that unemployment benefits and

other forms of governmental aid are unconstitutional.

I'm not sure how this is going to go over in Alaska, which receives more federal funding per capita than almost any other state. Christine O'Donnell, a Sarah Palin wannabe running for Senate in Delaware:

- Told Bill Maher that she has "dabbled in witchcraft" in the past
- Has no visible means of support, other than living off old campaign funds (which is illegal), and has been repeatedly sued for debts
- Wants to stop everyone from having sex outside of marriage, and has famously railed against masturbation. How many non-masturbating voters do you suppose will rally to this part of her platform?
- Said that the concept of "separation of church and state" was invented by Hitler

Rand Paul, Senatorial candidate from Kentucky:

- Wouldn't vote today for the Civil Rights Act
- Wants to eliminate Social Security
- Said nobody would miss a few mountains (in response to the awful mountain top removal mining process which is a hot topic in his state) and I can be working on the changes while you finish up?

Rick Perry, running for re-election as governor of Texas:

- Believes that Texas should secede from the Union if we don't like what is going on in Washington. So much for being a patriot!

There are many more quotes, and many more equally wacky, unqualified and downright dangerous candidates out there. Normally, you would count on the press to expose these nuts, but the press has apparently decided that it is no longer their job to ask hard questions, ask hard follow up questions, or investigate claims for veracity.

Following the successful example of Caribou Barbie, all these wacky teabagging candidates are mastering the art of flying below the radar to keep their most extreme views from the masses. Their websites are full of red meat for the teabaggers during the primaries, but once they win, those websites are scrubbed and sanitized. They generally refuse to debate. They don't do press conferences. They only agree to interviews on Fox News, where they can count on softball questions and a warm welcome. They're hoping that the average middle of the road voter, who isn't paying much attention, will vote for them just because they've got an R by their names.

How 'bout this idea: the press should refuse to cover any campaigns in which the candidate will not conduct interviews, debates or press conferences.

Yeah, like that's ever going to happen. Look at how they treat Sarah Palin - every ridiculous Tweet or Facebook posting is given publicity as if it were God handing down wisdom from on high.

It is really really scary to think that people this far outside the mainstream of American political thought have a chance to win these races. I think this situation is going to get much worse before it gets better. And right now, it's hard to see how it EVER gets better. On that gloomy note, I wish you all a good week.

Carol Wyatt rants on [www.socialnoteshouston.com](http://www.socialnoteshouston.com) while also providing information about events of interest to the lesbian community.

### Donations continued from Page 1

Notwithstanding its decision in allocating its financial resources, all Executive Board members expressed commitment toward helping elect statewide Democratic candidates through local chapter activities. Seven (7) of the contributions are being made to the following Democratic State House members who are facing stiff challenges from Republicans:

Diana Maldonado (District 52-Round Rock); Kristi Thibaut (District 133-Houston); Valinda Bolton (District 47-Austin); Paula Pierson (District 93-Arlington); Robert Miklos (District 101- Mesquite); Carol Kent (District 102-Dallas) and Ellen Cohen (District 132-Houston).

Three (3) contributions were sent to the following Democrats who have an excellent chance of unseating Republican incumbents: Loretta Haldenwang (District 105- Irving); Kendra Yarbrough Camarena (District 138-Houston) and Pati Jacobs (District 17-Bastrop).

The final two (2) contributions were made to two Democrats who are strong challengers to Republican incumbents in State Board of Education races: Rebecca Bell-Metereau (District 5) and Judy Jennings (District 10).

If Bell-Metereau and Jennings win their races, Democrats will control the State Board of Education, which has been dominated by far-right religious extremists the past four years.

TSDC is the officially recognized lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (lgbt) caucus of the Texas Democratic Party and is a general-purpose political committee, or PAC, registered with the Texas Ethics Commission. One of the purposes of the TSDC is to help elect pro-equality Democratic candidates in order to promote the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in Texas.

## McCann Resigns as Executive Director of AIDS Foundation Houston

Kelly McCann has resigned as Chief Executive Officer for AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH), effective September 21, 2010. She has accepted a position with a pharmaceutical company that specializes in HIV treatment. She will be heading up a new Houston-based initiative that is aligned with the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, especially the goals of making HIV testing a routine part of medical care and healthy living. The new position will allow her to return to prevention work, which she says, "... has always been my passion, and I'm very excited about that."

McCann expresses that it is definitely a bittersweet career change for her because of her love for, and belief in AFH, saying, "This organization does vitally important work and employs amazingly talented and committed people. Over the last few years, we have crafted a solid management team with the skills and expertise needed to implement a new strategic vision that supports and reflects our unique culture and organizational evolution. The first phase is complete, and we have strong leaders in place who are capable of carrying forth with our plans, so my departure is well-timed."

McCann said that AFH has a supportive Board of Directors leading the transition and they are well-prepared to engage new leadership and provide guidance to the organization throughout the transition period. They have chosen wisely in picking current Chief Operating Officer, Angiela Zielinski, to serve as interim CEO according to McCann who she describes as an experienced, thoughtful, and dedicated leader who is an expert in non-profit administration and managing organizational change.

AFH is financially stable and fiscally responsible, having earned another clean audit for 2009 and they recently received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. In addition to financial health, AFH has a well-earned reputation for excellence with regard to innovative services, outstanding events and collaborative spirit.

"I'm extremely proud of the accomplishments AFH has achieved under my leadership, and I am certain we have served our community well by preventing new infections and easing the suffering of men, women and children living with, and affected by, HIV/AIDS", McCann states.

Acknowledging that change is hard, McCann assures that AFH will continue to provide superb programs for their clients and will remain focused on the promise of new opportunities for the organization and a better quality of life for those it serves.

## DADT continued from front page

Congress has approved the annual Pentagon authorization bill for 48 consecutive years, and it seems likely that the measure will be brought up again after the election in the relatively calmer — if somewhat unpredictable — atmosphere of a lame-duck session.

The House has already approved legislation allowing the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” and the provision will likely be easier to pass in the Senate after Dec. 1 when a Pentagon study on the effects of ending the policy is due.

As it stands, the Senate measure would not allow repeal of the policy until after the study is completed and President Obama and top military commanders certify that ending “don’t ask, don’t tell” would not harm morale or impede battle readiness of the armed forces.

Among the amendments that Mr. Reid had pledged to attach to the bill was an immigration measure that would create a path to citizenship for certain illegal aliens who arrived in the United States as children.

That effort was viewed by Republicans as a naked political ploy to mobilize Hispanic voters in races across the country, including Mr. Reid’s own re-election campaign in Nevada.

While Democrats immediately sought to blame Republicans for obstructing both the immigration measure, known as the Dream Act, and the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” it is unclear how the measures, and the military bill itself, would have fared under less intense political circumstances.

The language allowing the Pentagon to end the provision, for instance, was approved last spring by the Senate Armed Services Committee, and at the time even won the support of one Republican, Senator Susan Collins of Maine. Top military leaders including Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have called for the repeal.

Since the repeal provision is now part of the base military bill, opponents of a repeal would need the support of 60 senators to remove it — an unlikely prospect.

In addition, at least one Democrat who opposed the repeal language, Senator Jim Webb of Virginia, had said he would not vote against the overall bill simply to maintain the “don’t ask don’t tell” policy.

Today’s vote isn’t about arcane Senate procedures,” Manley said. “It’s about a GOP’s pattern of obstructing debate on policies important to the American people.”

An estimated 13,000 people have been discharged under the law since its inception in 1993. Although most dismissals have resulted from gay service members outing themselves, gay rights’ groups say it has been used by vindictive co-workers to drum out troops who never made their sexuality an issue.

### Numbers from Page 1

**Numbers or #'s** as the sign reads, in the 300 block of Westheimer has been a popular spot in the Montrose for Gays and non-Gays alike.

Mark Davis of Davis Commercial, the broker hired to market the space, says the owner would like to “retain” the building if he can find the right operator.

The asking price is \$13,500 per month for the 9,000 sq.ft. building which sits on 23,000 square feet and includes parking. Additional cost would be involved in bringing the building to code.

This is one of the latest developments in the ever growing and evolving Montrose where venues often change owners and new businesses spring up seemingly overnight.

Recently Scott Gertner’s Skybar, at 3400 Montrose Blvd. closed. The closing could effect the GLBT Community Center located in the same building as the Sky Bar was the main tenant. The building has been considered one ripe for demolition with redevelopment into a newer office/storefront building or a residential high rise.

### Lovell from Page 1

There was insufficient evidence found in a citizen complaint alleging that she took illegal contributions and converted campaign cash for personal use.

No comment from Lovell’s office at the time we go to press but this is mainly sloppy record-keeping at worst. However, there was a comment to the Houston Chronicle story regarding the fine. The writer questioned the purchase of properties by Lovell along Metro’s proposed light rail lines.

In her second term, Lovell serves on for the city is Ethics committee as well as Transportation, Infrastructure & Aviation and Quality of Life She chairs the Historic Preservation Subcommittee and serves on Development & Neighborhood Protection, among others.



The intersection of Westheimer and Montrose Blvd. is the heart of the Montrose community. ‘The Montrose’ is home to many bars, restaurants, museums, and service organizations. Some folks, like Mayor Annise Parker are lucky enough to live in “The Montrose” as it is fondly called.

### History at a Glance

by Craig Farrel

The Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History is often asked about our very own backyard, The Montrose. How did The Montrose get its name? Has it always been Gay? Did anyone famous live there? So: The place, Montrose Texas. The time 1910 – 2010. The event, Life.

HOW DID MONTROSE GET ITS NAME? The Heritage Society News reveals some interesting facts. First, where are the boundaries? Montrose is West Gray north, east to Louisiana, Main street to Richmond, to South Shepherd, back to West Gray. You might have heard that The Montrose got its name because there was a street named Mount, covered by rose gardens, giving the name Mount-rose to the area. “Nah!”. The area most likely got the name from a successful lumberman from Orange, Texas. John Wiley Link acquired 250 acres of land in the area in 1910. In 1911 he began to develop the first subdivision in Houston. He called it Montrose Place after a historic town in Scotland. In the early 1900s, Montrose had paved roads and sidewalks and four beautiful tree-lined boulevards: Montrose, Lovett, Yoakum and Audubon. Lovett Blvd. was considered a grand thoroughfare and the official entrance into the Montrose.

HAS ANYONE FAMOUS EVER LIVED IN THE MONTROSE? Clark Gable, Lyndon Johnson and Howard Hughes are three of the famous names that all had addresses in The Montrose. Don’t you wonder if Clark Gable could have been found in the back patio of Mary’s Naturally? Or would Lyndon Johnson have been willing to walk down Westheimer in our Pride Parade? Although famous names might be the focus, it is important to remember that residents and activists are what help give an area like The Montrose its flavor. Taking part in demonstrations, parades and daily life

all define what a neighborhood looks like. Current well known residents are Mayor Annise Parker and author Daniel Quinn. (*Ishmael, The Story of B, and My Ishmael.*)

HAS THE MONTROSE ALWAYS BEEN GAY? The Montrose was not always the “gay” neighborhood. Houston gay activists credit the arrival of gays and lesbians in the neighborhood during the 1960’s. During that time Montrose Blvd. ended at Westheimer. Bars began to open just past Montrose Blvd. The Encore, Mary’s, May Britz and Numbers to name a few. It was not always the area where same-sex couples could hold hands and walk down the street or where you could shop for your favorite leather “fetish” piece. Now it is the place for you, your partner, even your mother, to shop and find anything from new curtains to sex toys.

REMEMBER, The Montrose is the place where we can go have a drink and talk about our daughters’ upcoming wedding, or a place where we can find that “third” person for our evening. We live at a very unique time in history.

The man behind the The Montrose

LINK, JOHN WILEY (1866–1933). John Wiley Link, was born near Gallatin, Texas, on December 1, 1866. He studied law at Baylor University and was admitted to the bar in 1888. In 1891 he joined the law firm of Holland and Holland in Amarillo. He married Ilna Imola Holland in 1891. He moved with the firm in 1895 to Orange, where he became mayor in 1900. Link moved with his family to Houston in 1910 and developed the Montrose area under the title Houston Land Corporation. In 1912 he formed and became president of Link Oil Corporation and in 1921 became vice president and general manager of the Kirby Lumber Company (In 1926 he became first chairman of the board of the American General Insurance Company. He became president of the Dr Pepper parent company in 1929. He died in Houston on March 18, 1933,

See more on Montrose on Page 11

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**Alert the Queens....there's a mystery artist amongst us!**

by Eugene De los Reyes

This Houston native, or as he likes to refer to himself "Texas Bred", is right here in our community.

Within the loop we have an artist who wows us with his work while remaining anonymous. Because he prefers we not use his name I'll just refer to him as, **O**.

It seems appropriate to refer to him as **O**, seeing as my first impression when viewing his artwork was, Oh. **O** expresses himself by working with a wide variety of mediums in order to fully convey his visions. He works with mediums such as inks, charcoal, watercolors, oils, pastels, and even nail polish; basically anything he can get his hands on.

He believes in preserving the earth therefore goes

as far as reusing what some might think of as "trash" as his canvas for many of his pieces. I was lucky enough to meet with him in his studio and had the privilege of viewing not only what he's currently working on but also some of his first works of art. He explained to me that he draws his inspiration from his own personal experiences. **O** comes from a big family and is always working on the **O** family portrait series. At the same time he has begun the erotic series known as "Grannies erotic abstract". 2010 has really been **O**'s breakthrough. This year he has been able to finish a bulk of his unfinished art which he has worked on over the past ten years. With that being said we should expect to see more of this mystery artist's work unveil. There are rumors that his exposure may be right around the corner (as soon as this coming Winter)

With no formal art education, like lots of artists he has tested different techniques, experimented and discovered some kick ass mixed mediums to

create art. **O** really wants his work to bring people back in contact with one another in hopes that we can stop letting our emotions get in the way of world peace

This man of our community seems to be on a mission, with his art as only the beginning. Keep your eyes open and watch with me as **O** takes it to the next level. Don't worry we we will keep you informed.

Quoting **O**, "As long as my art helps to save our world I'll never stop".

There we have it, our first glimpse of this mystery artist's work.

"Thanks **O**", for your time and for sharing both your finished and unfinished masterpieces.

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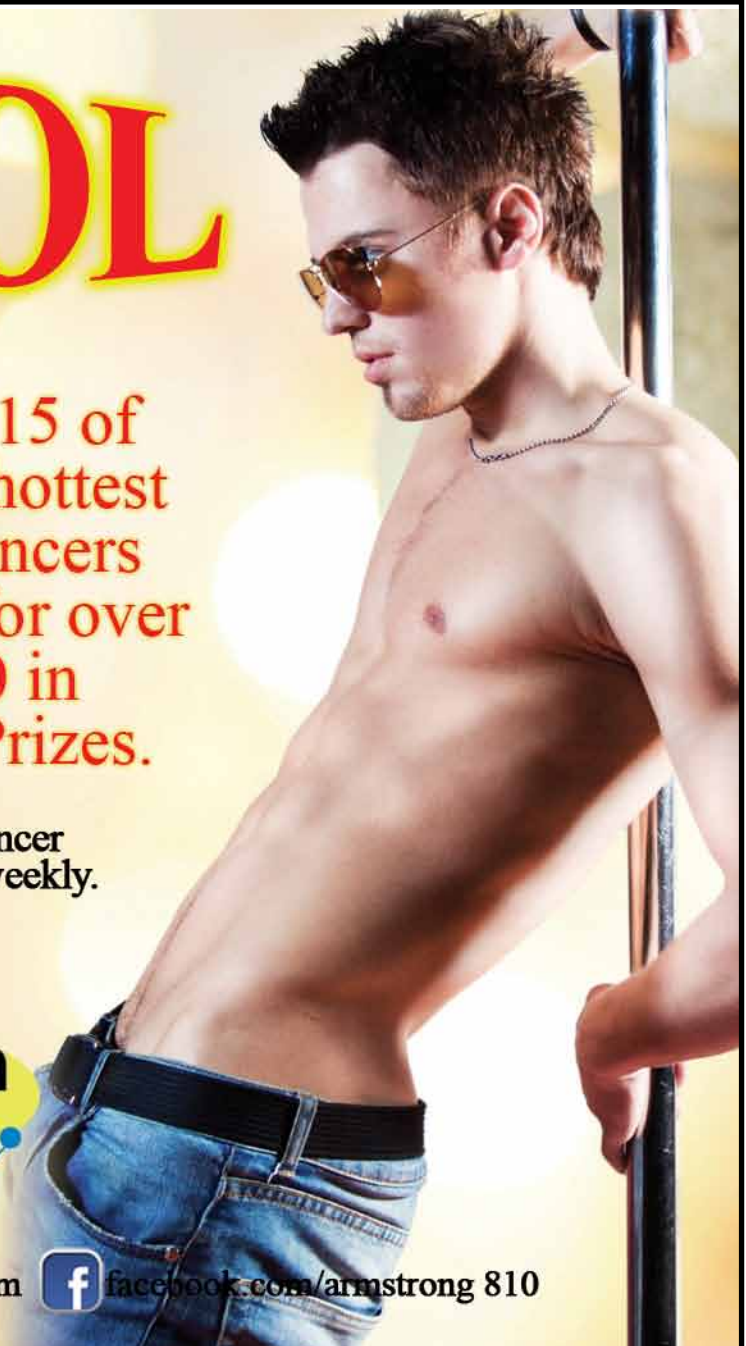
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## CMI 4th Annual LGBT Community Survey

The Community Marketing, Inc. (CMI) 4th Annual LGBT Community Survey yields historic 40,000 respondents from over 100 countries; provides marketing and communications insights, while tracking motivations and trends

The survey™ was released Sept. 21 with a record 40,000 participants from over 100 countries.

Following are some of the key findings from this year's survey among United States gay men and lesbians (n=26,000 respondents):

\* While more than half of respondents check Facebook daily, the difference between young and old was significant. 81% of younger gay men (age 18-29) check Facebook daily, compared with only 37% of older gay men (age 45-59).

\* Television and mainstream radio are used on a daily basis less by younger gay men than older gay men. 59% of younger gay men use television daily, compared with 79% of older gay men. 37% use mainstream radio daily, compared with 54% of older gay men.

\* For gay men and lesbians, when asked which major purchases they'd put off due to the economy but intend to make in the upcoming year, one-third of respondents (33%) said they plan to take a major vacation. Furniture and automobiles are next most popular major purchases intended for upcoming year.

\* When asked to rank the LGBT-friendliness of their employer on a 10-point scale, only half of respondents rated their employer LGBT-friendly. About 13% of men and 14% of women ranked their employer not at all LGBT-friendly, but continue to work for the company.

\* Young and old in the community are drinking different beverages, especially when they are out of the home. 24% of younger respondents consume energy drinks while out in a typical week; compared with only 7% of older. Consumption of vodka while out also much higher among younger than older; 43% and 24% consume in a typical week, respectively.

\* There has been much press about gays and lesbians leaving the big city or not seeking big cities as a safe haven as much as before. This study showed that 58% of gay men and 66% of lesbians report living in communities not classified as big cities.

\* Survey participants were presented with 12 social and political issues concerning Americans, with five more specific to LGBT concerns. Overall, of all issues presented, the gay men and lesbians in the survey ranked non-LGBT specific issues as being more important (with the exception of same-sex marriage).

## Cornyn defends decision to speak to gay Republican group

Texas Sen. John Cornyn is defending his decision to speak at an upcoming meeting of the Log Cabin Republicans, an organization of gay Republicans.

In a letter faxed to Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, a socially conservative group, Cornyn said he believes in "working together where possible" with other Republicans, even when he may disagree with them.

As chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, Cornyn is charged with electing as many Republicans as possible to the Senate. He has been under attack in recent weeks from some hardline conservatives who believe that he has recruited too many moderates in the 2010 primary season — including some, like Mike Castle of Delaware, who lost in primaries to insurgent conservatives.

Cornyn said he accepted the invitation because the Log Cabin Republicans are "committed to defeat Senate Democrats this November." He said they "stand for fiscal discipline, limited government and a strong national defense. We may not agree on several key issues, but we do agree that every committee in the United States Senate should be chaired by a Republican."

Cornyn's commitment to appear at the event has been known publicly since July, but Perkins wrote him a letter on Monday raising questions about the Texan's plans.

In a polite response, Cornyn recites his social conservative bona fides and notes that "my record on social issues is well-established."

But, he added, "as social conservatives we affirm the basic dignity of every human life, including not only unborn children, but also adults with whom we may disagree."

"I believe the beauty and blessing of America is that people of different faiths and creeds can live together in peace, despite serious disagreements," he said.

The appearance is hardly an endorsement of support by the Texas Senator. He has repeatedly voted against anything that would advance the rights of the gblt community. Most recently, his vote on the Defense Authorization Bill, because "The bill includes language to repeal current military policy relating to Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

## Galveston Pride Headliner and Events Announced

by Joey Guerra

GALVESTON PRIDE returns with a sparkling, sexy dance party — led by avant-garde electro-pop artist Cassidy Haley. He'll headline a day of events at the new 3rd Coast in downtown Galveston

Haley has hitchhiked barefoot across the country, danced with Hari Krishnas in the mountains of Kentucky, stripped in San Francisco's seediest gay clubs and rallied at political gatherings in Washington, D.C.

All roads, however, have led to his true calling — music. His debut full-length, *The Fool*, was released this year. He's also featured on the Houston Hearts Haiti benefit CD (houstonheartshaiti.com).

Haley sprung from a Berkeley-bred lesbian midwife and a gay electric carmaker from San Francisco. (How's that for diversity?) That history informs every aspect of his performances, which combine elaborate costumes, post-modern dance and avant-garde theatrics.

Adam Lambert is a friend and a fan — his enthusiasm helped Haley's *Little Boys and Dinosaurs* EP climb to No. 3 on iTunes Electronic Albums chart — an impressive feat for a completely self-financed/self-realized project. Haley has made good use of his viral stardom via his YouTube page (youtube.com/cassidyhaley) and Twitter (twitter.com/cassidyhaley), where he regularly interacts with fans.

Also performing at Galveston Pride are PRIDE IDOL 2010 winner Britni Jackson and finalist Nina Lombardo. Both have been gigging throughout Houston and performed at the Houston Pride Festival and with the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.

Also added to the events is Pride Idol finalist Freddy Cauley and a Male U-Wear fashion show. More details will be announced soon. DJs will entertain crowds between sets, and there will also be giveaways and drinks specials.

Galveston Pride returned stronger than ever in 2009 after Hurricane Ike obliterated much of the island in 2008. Last year's lineup included teen idol Tiffany, Derrick Barry from America's Got Talent and American Idol's Kady Malloy.

The event is the brainchild of Laura Villagran and Angela Snell, publishers of the Gay Yellow Pages and gayislander.com. The pair recently launched a free GYP iPhone app.

**What:** Galveston Pride 2010, featuring Cassidy Haley, Pride Idol winner Britni Jackson and finalist Nina Lombardo (more details TBA)

**When:** 2-6 p.m. and 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Oct. 23

**Where:** 3rd Coast, 2416 Post Office St.



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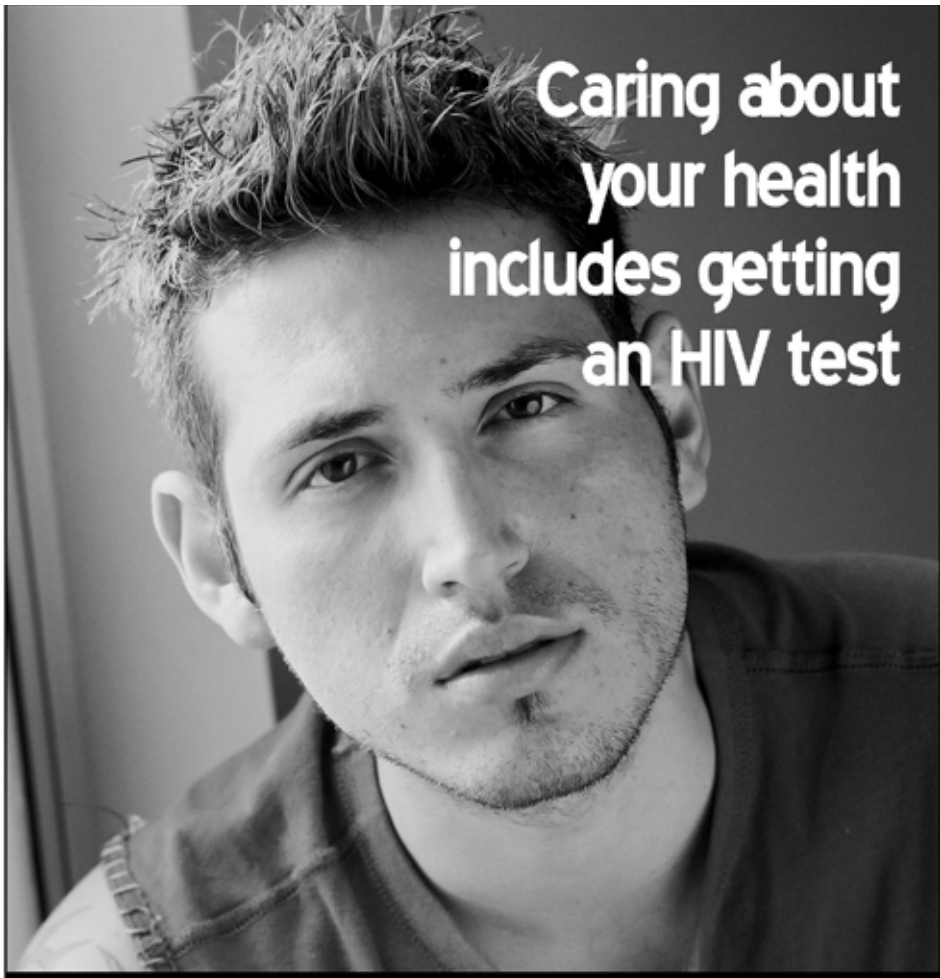
Join First Bash on Facebook for developments - find out how to become a sponsor, volunteer, and RSVP.



**Jill Johnston, *Lesbian Nation*, Author Dies at 81**

Jill Johnston, a longtime cultural critic for *The Village Voice* whose daring, experimental prose style mirrored the avant-garde art she covered and whose book *Lesbian Nation: The Feminist Solution* spearheaded the lesbian separatist movement of the early 1970s, died in Hartford on Saturday. She was 81 and lived in Sharon, CT. The cause was a stroke, her spouse, Ingrid Nyeboe, said.





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## TWO ON THE AISLE

REVIEW BY BILL O'ROURKE



*Auntie Mame* (at Stages) wins, 3 – 2. Or would, but any of the good points outweighs a bad one by about 2, so it's more like 6 – 2. It's still, most likely, the best production of this original non-musical play as you've seen in a hound's age. It is the first time it's been done professionally in 30 years!

As for the plot, how can you call yourself a reasonably cultured gay person and not know it already? The script by Lawrence and Lee based on Patrick Dennis' 1955 novel *Auntie Mame* imagines a series of outrageous escapades involving an orphaned boy and his wildly unconventional aunt. The extraordinary popularity of the book inspired the stage play as well as Broadway and Hollywood musicals and the iconic film starring Rosalind Russell. *Auntie Mame* inspired the tradition of throwing memorized lines at each other over brunch, for one thing. Great script, check!

An effort was made to streamline the play but the playwrights' estates, which were originally co-operating, balked. Still, Director Kenn McLaughlin has reimagined the show. He's going for the nitty gritty, bringing Mame nearly down to earth so that we can identify her as a real woman rather than a bouncy ideal that we'll never, unfortunately, match ourselves. A role model one way or another, she is Our Lady of the Gay/Liberal Hope. And, as Harvey Milk said, "You gotta give 'em hope."

Sally Edmundson, with her gorgeously deep voice – all her own, though reminiscent of Bacall's, is a legend around these parts. She's one of the best stage actresses in town and it is a delight to watch her star in this role.

Since there are still so many roles in the show, one gets to see the fourteen (way too many to mention all their names here) supporting talents do multiple roles each. And that is another delight. It's like getting to see a group of true chameleons lavishing a season's worth of distinctly done roles on one production. (Oh, the accents! So many, so well blended, it's like listening to a full orchestra!) Bravo, y'all. Great cast, check!

The costumes designed by Macy Perone – To Die For!! Costumes, check!

The set – Extremely minimal compared to what it might have been but still too much furniture and it gets in the way of telling the story. Set, ah well ...

Martin Saville, the Chicago street musician, deconstructs music quite interestingly which helps Kenn deconstruct the



Brett Cullum, Sergio Flores, David Barron and Amesti Reioux In *The Philadelphia Story*.

play. But here I think he's like a guest Mame dragged home but Vera has not been able to talk her into easing out the door of Beekman Place. Music, ah well

All in all – a winner. See it, especially if you don't know Mame Dennis yet. Now, if Kenn would just reintroduce us to *The Madwoma of Chailot* -- one of my favorites -- which might be better suited to this kind of production IMHO.

On my way over to **Theatre Suburbia** for *The Philadelphia Story*, I wondered if Mame might have found the Lords "babbitty". I don't think so. They are old money, not nouveau riche, and the only truly snobby member of the family, Tracy (Amesti Reioux) is being taught by her ex and most of the rest of her family how to be more real instead of an unapproachable goddess.

Good contrast though, as here the cast is working on constructing the play, rising to the unimaginable heights of the show that became the musical *High Society*. This might have led the cast to being a bit stiff at first, but they warmed to their roles. Half way through the first act they were having real conversations, not just making sure that nobody missed a single word of the script. Of course, imagine expecting a small crowd and having the lights come up on a house with standing room only filled to the brim. They had to turn people away opening night.

It is a funny show and there were some very nice performances, especially perhaps from David Barron and our own Brett Cullum. Good work, everyone!!

**Stages** – 3201 Allen Parkway, 713-527-0123, [www.stagestheatre.com](http://www.stagestheatre.com)

**Suburbia** – 4106 Way Out West, 77092, 713-682-3525, [www.theatresuburbia.org](http://www.theatresuburbia.org). It's the 50th season of this all volunteer organization does benefit performances for our community almost every production

### OPENINGS

*Sleuth* (TX Rep, 9/23) - Glorious two man prank/mystery.

*Peter Pan* (Alley, 10/1) – Rarely seen, original, non-musical.



## Nose in a Book

Review by Jone Devlin

***Confessions of a Prairie Bitch: How I Survived Nellie Oleson and Learned to Love Being Hated***  
by Alison Arnglim\*

Anyone who grew up watching *Little House on the Prairie* back in the 70s remembers Nellie Oleson, the snotty, spoiled, bratty little nemesis of the perfectly perfect half-pint Laura Ingalls.

Most of us who were into the show (or are as it has a great following from reruns) wanted nothing more than to hate Nellie Oleson. She was so stuck up and spoiled, with her blonde curls and cold blue eyes, we could hardly wait week after week to see her get her comeuppance at the hands of spunky little Laura.

But what of the actress that played Nellie? Who was this evil little creature and where did she come from? In this recent memoir Alison Arnglim talks candidly and with great humor about her role as the most hated child in America. Arnglim was only 11 when she went on a series of screen tests for a role on Michael Landon's then new project. It was to be a family oriented series based on Laura Ingalls Wilder's popular children's books. After testing (and failing) to score a role as Mary or Laura, Arnglim was called back to read for Nellie Oleson, and was an immediate hit.

While Nellie was spoiled, stuck up, nasty and girly, Arnglim was anything but. A shy tomboy, she quickly became best friends with her on-screen nemesis Melissa Gilbert. She also became a crew favorite, a perpetually happy, joking, but always professional young actress.

Off screen however, things weren't always so great. Her mother, an actress known for her voice characterizations, was hardly the model parent. Her openly gay father, meanwhile, was good at everything but holding down a job. In fact, Arnglim notes in the beginning of the book that she can tell what age she is at any given time based on where she was living, since her family was known for moving every 1-2 years.

And then there was her older brother, a former teenage star (Land of the Giants) who fought his personal demons with alcohol, drugs, and by

sexually and physically abusing his much younger sister.

As for life outside of home and work, well, Arnglim was complete anathema to fans of the *Little House* show. In fact, she only made one appearance in her Nellie Oleson garb; at a private girl's school. The end result was younger children bursting into tears of fear, and Arnglim getting her butt kicked (literally) by a couple of the older students.

Of course, being hated by fans wasn't new to Arnglim, who was greeted in class by screams of "BITCH" the day after her first appearance on *Little House* aired. In fact, it was then that Arnglim decided to embrace the bitch role, if only for her own self preservation. Over time however, this "inner Nellie" was what kept Arnglim strong, as she fought to escape the horror of her brother's abuse, her parents neglect, and the death of her best friend and *Little House* co-star, Steve Tracy, to AIDS.

Told with wit, humor and great amount of self-depreciation, Arnglim's memoir is as painfully honest as it is entertaining. Meanwhile, her memories of the *Little House* set and her behind the scenes insights into many of the cast and storylines will satisfy even the most obsessed fan.

While Arnglim has pretty much not been seen on the small screen since *Little House* ended, she still does public appearances, mostly for AIDS and GLBTIQ causes. She also still appears at the occasional *Little House* reunion.

***Confessions of a Prairie Bitch: How I Survived Nellie Oleson and Learned to Love Being Hated*** by Alison Arnglim is published by It Books and is available everywhere.

Reviewers Grade:

★★★★★ out of 5 stars.



## Cooking Capers with Dr. Dave



Hello ladies and gentlemen. Here it is at the beginning of so-called fall, and it's still hotter than ever! During hot weather, I find that entertaining with simple, cold, and quick dishes sure beats heating up the kitchen, so let's take a look at some I've served that seem to be enjoyed by all my guests. You know, speaking of "simple, cold and quick", those words describe my sex life with my former boyfriend! I think I'm destined to be an old maid! Oh well, on to the menu.

### APPETIZER: Galveston Island Gourmet Cheese-Stuffed Shrimp

Shrimp is bountiful here in Galveston, so I use it often. I also happen to be a fan of blue cheese, so here is a dish that takes very little time to prepare; yet, it's always a big hit. I hope you'll give it a try.

2 quarts salted water  
24 jumbo shrimp  
3 ounces cream cheese  
1 ounce blue cheese  
1/2 teaspoon prepared mustard  
1 teaspoon very finely chopped scallion  
1 cup finely chopped parsley

Bring 2 quarts salted water to boil in a saucepan. Add the shrimp and, when the water returns to a boil, cook three to five minutes (do not cook longer, or the shrimp will turn to rubber). Drain the shrimp, shell and devein them. Split the shrimp down the spine about halfway through. Chill. Meanwhile blend the cream cheese and blue cheese (set outside the refrigerator softened) add and blend the mustard and scallion into the mixture. Using a small knife or spatula, stuff the cheese mixture into the split backs of the shrimp. Roll the cheese side of the shrimp in parsley and serve chilled. Don't forget to use "small plates that are slightly nelly".

### SOUP: Dr. Dave's Cold Tomato Soup

If you board the "ferry" here on the island, you can head over to Bolivar. Often dolphins ride along side, and it's a really pretty venture. Once docked in Bolivar, you'll find numerous road side vegetable stands. Tomatoes are inexpensive this time of year, and they form the base of this great soup. So gather up some of these beautiful red fruits and "swish" them into a great soup.

3 cups tomato juice made from tomatoes put through a blender  
2 tablespoons tomato paste

4 scallions, minced  
salt to taste  
pinch of powdered thyme  
1/2 teaspoon mild curry powder  
freshly ground pepper  
grated rind of 1/2 lemon (what all the chefs now call "lemon zest")  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
sugar  
1 cup sour cream  
chopped parsley

Bring 2 quarts of water to a boil. Place 4 to 5 medium-size tomatoes in the water and reduce the heat to a simmer. Simmer the tomatoes just long enough to loosen the skins (about 4 minutes). Immerse the tomatoes in ice water until cool to touch. Use your fingers to remove and discard the skins. Place the peeled tomatoes in a blender adding a teaspoon of water and blend until they become juice. Mix all of the ingredients except the sour cream and parsley, adding sugar to taste. Chill. Before serving blend in the sour cream and sprinkle each portion with parsley. Grandmother's dainty china cups would be wonderful to serve this in; the trouble is you'll be refilling them after about four bites!

### MAIN DISH: Galveston Gulf Coast Stuffed Flounder

1/4 cup butter  
2 tablespoons chopped green bell pepper  
1/4 cup finely chopped onion  
1 cup fresh or canned crabmeat picked over well  
1 teaspoon chopped parsley  
salt and fresh ground pepper to taste  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
Tabasco sauce to taste  
6 one-pound flounders, backbones removed

In a saucepan heat the butter, add the bell pepper and onion and cook until the onion is transparent. Add the crabmeat, parsley, salt, pepper, lemon juice and Tabasco sauce and mix well. Make a small slit down the center of the flounder being careful not to cut through the fish. Stuff the flounder loosely with the mixture in the slit and close with skewers and chef's string. Arrange the fish on a buttered baking pan and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Broil slowly on both sides in a preheated broiler, basting frequently with lemon juice and additional butter, until golden brown.

Now honey, this is a fish dish everyone can savor!

Well, as I said, these dishes are "quick and simple"; just be careful of any date you might entertain who falls into that category!

Finally, as my Jewish grandmother would say, "Try them; you'll like them!"



## ADAP Crisis Worsens, AIDS Activists Respond

by Healthy Living News

According to newly released figures, 3423 people with HIV in 11 states are now on waiting lists to receive life preserving medications through the federal government's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). The report, regularly updated and released by the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), attributes the crisis to the economic shortfalls the federal and state governments are facing. Most of the states with waiting lists are in the American South. Florida leads the country with 1,570 individuals on lists, followed by Georgia (512), Louisiana (360), Kentucky (230), and North Carolina (206). The report also notes that twelve states, plus Puerto Rico, will implement further ADAP cost cutting measures including enrollment and expenditure caps, cost-sharing, reduced drug formularies and lower financial eligibility thresholds, and cuts in lab tests. Ohio will "de-enroll" more than 800 people based on new eligibility criteria. The state of Washington intends to require all clients to enroll in insurance plans. Only Idaho and South Dakota have eliminated their ADAP waiting lists, thanks to emergency funding. NASTAD also warned that other cuts may be implemented before March of next year when ADAP's 2010 fiscal year ends.

Meanwhile, in a demonstration reminiscent of a 1990's ACT-UP action, AIDS activists protested the Obama administrations handling of the ADAP crisis by disrupting a speech Monday by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at the US Conference on AIDS in Orlando. About fifty protesters chanted "Secretary Sebelius, Don't let us down! Don't let us die!" as they gathered in front of the Secretary, holding up signs and placards which blocked her from view. Many in the conference hall cheered the protesters on.

"We needed to send a message to Washington with Secretary Sebelius, who gave basically a stump speech, that the administration must really step up to the plate and identify funds to redirect to cash-strapped ADAPs," stated demonstrator Whitney Engeran-Cordova of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. "The government should act like its citizens lives depend on it ... they do!"

For those in need of medications, pharmaceutical companies have drug access programs for low-income people with HIV. However, people with HIV may need many different drugs and eligibility requirements vary from company to company. Also, the paperwork involved can be extensive and require support services that have also been seriously cutback due the economy.

## Montrose Named one of the Great Places to Live" in America

From KIAH, Channel 39 News and on Councilmember Sue Lovell's Website

Sitting in the shadows of Houston's office towers is an enclave that has caught the eye of a national organization that celebrates excellence in living.

"The fact that it can accommodate families and hipsters so successfully is a testament to the kind of spirit and good planning here," said Jeff Taebel of the American Planning Association Texas Chapter.

He is talking about Montrose. The American Planning Association calls it one of the nation's great neighborhoods for 2009. City Council member Sue Lovell accepted the award.

"It's been an incredible place for me to raise my family simply because we have great museums. We have great park space. We have good schools. We have the best restaurants in the whole city of Houston," Lovell said.

We all know Montrose as that 24-7 funky little village near downtown. It's a haven for great restaurants, antique shops, eclectic businesses, and liberal political expression. Its architecture is as diverse as its residents.

"People move in from all walks of life. The gay and lesbian community moved in here in the early 1970s and started to build up the civic associations. They joined with the long time residents who decided not to move to suburbs, but to stay here in their community, Lovell said.

"It's a lovely place and the squirrels are very spontaneous and they join us in their meditation," said Dave Stephens who was teaching two students the art of meditation in a Montrose park.

Montrose, it's not just a part of Houston. It's now officially one of American's great places.

"Anything and everything is right around this area. It's a great place to live. You are five to ten minutes from downtown," said antique shop owner Becky Pieniadz.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Of course we all already knew what a great place Montrose is but it is nice to receive the recognition.



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