



Appeals court extends stay on 'Don't Ask' injunction

~ from The Washington Blade

A U.S. appellate court is allowing for the continued enforcement of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as judges consider a legal challenge against the law.

On Monday, the U.S Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision to extend a stay on an injunction that would have blocked enforcement of the military's gay ban. The injunction, issued last month by a lower court, temporarily stopped the enforcement "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

But in a 2-1 split decision, the majority on the three-judge panel write that the continued enforcement of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is necessary because the U.S. government has convincing arguments that an injunction will result in "immediate harm and precipitous injury."

"We also conclude that the public interest in ensuring orderly change of this magnitude in the military — if that is what is to happen — strongly militates in favor of a stay," the judges write.

The majority decision, written by U.S. Appellate Judges Diarmuid O'Scannlain and Stephen Trott, means that discharges can continue under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and military recruiters can turn away openly gay Americans seeking to join the armed forces.

In his dissent, U.S. Appellate Judge William Fletcher says he favors a partial stay, but the part of the injunction blocking the discharges of gay service members should remain in place.

~ see DADT continued on Page 5



The Antiques Warehouse and The Agora Cafe on Westheimer were severely damaged by a massive fire in the early morning hours of Halloween.

Montrose business destroyed in Halloween fire

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

The Antiques Warehouse located in the 1700 block of Westheimer was severely damaged in a three alarm fire in the early hours of Halloween. Owner Gordon Greeleaf opened the business in 1990 but similar businesses have been housed at the same location since 1947.

The alarm was raised by a patrolling HPD officer who made the call that was responded to by over a 100 firefighters. Two Houston firefighters suffered heat inhalation and were hospitalized.

Costumed Halloween celebrants, many who were taking part in the Montrose Costume Crawl, had to be evicted from The Agora Cafe whose wall was but a few inches from the antique shop. Described as "heavily involved", destroyed the antique shop. It is expected that the damage to the Agora can be repaired.

An arson investigation is being conducted and will be ruled on later this week according to Houston Fire Department Assistant Chief Omero Longoria.

Robbery Suspects Arrested

A recent rash of robberies in the Montrose area has residents on alert. HPD even involved itself in a special effort to help raise citizen awareness. Earlier in the month central patrol officers conducted a door-to-door home burglary prevention initiative and visited more than 700 residences, to share crime prevention information and distribute brochures assisting citizens in how to lessen their chances of having their homes burglarized.

~ See **Robberies** on Page 5



A star is born! Activist Fiona Dawson had big news to announce on Wednesday, November 3rd. Find out how an audition for Oprah became the start of something bigger. See Page 8

Gay and Lesbians Candidates win but locally we didn't do well

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund announced Wednesday that more openly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) candidates won election to public office in the U.S. in 2010 than in any year in America's history. At least 106 of the group's record-breaking 164 endorsed candidates were winners as of Wednesday morning, including Providence, R.I., Mayor David Cicilline, who will become the fourth openly gay Member of Congress when the House convenes in January.

Victory Fund President and CEO Chuck Wolfe issued the following statement about the group's success: "There is no sugar-coating the loss of so many of our straight allies in Congress, but we can be proud that our community continues to expand its voice at all levels of government in America. Out public officials are having a sizable impact on the local, state and national debates about LGBT equality."

~ **Elections** continued on Page 8



A Montrose Landmark - Then and now is featured in this issue's "History at a Glance" column. The art deco designed building that was the Tower Theater has gone through many changes since it opened on Valentine's Day in 1936 ~ see Page 4.



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2am on Sunday, Nov. 7th. Set your clocks back one hour at that time or before bed. At 2am it becomes 1am (again) and we get an extra hour to party or to sleep.



"Head Lesbian" and women's music pioneer, Alix Dobkin will be in Houston to perform in a House Concert and to promote her autobiography, **My Red Blood** ~ See Page 5

Community Online

www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org

www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

www.legacycommunityhealth.org

Houston GLBT Political Caucus
www.thecaucus.org

Fort Bend LGBT Political Caucus:
FBLGBT_Political_caucus@yahoo.com

Out In Houston

www.outinhouston.com

www.PFLAGHouston.org

HelpLine Telephone
713-46PFLAG 713-467-3524
HelpLine@pflaghouston.org

www.assisthers.org

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

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

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

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

Northwest Corner

www.nwcorner.org

www.socialnotesHouston.com

AIDS Foundation Houston
www.AFHouston.org

Imperial Court of Houston
www.spacecityempire.org

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

TG Center
www.tgctr.org

UH LGBT Resource Center
www.uh.edu/lgbtrc

www.Do713.com (Community Calendar)

www.visithoustontexas.com/my-gayhouston/

Houston ARCH : Area Rainbow Collective History
<http://houstonarch.pbworks.com/>
www.queermusicheritage.com

Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History, Inc.
www.gcam.org

If you know of another group that should be added, please let us know at montrosegem@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

Dining with Divas Successful Event for TGRA

Steven Havard aka Stacey McBride O'Neil reports that the 'Dining with Divas' event at Cafe Adobe turned out to be a very successful fund raiser for the Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA). There will be another dinner on Monday, November 15th and then start up again in February or March of 2011. Space is limited so make your reservations early. See ad on Page 6.

Community Center Activities

Sunday, November 7. The Center HIV Support Group hosts a potluck barbecue lunch for the entire Center family and friends on the Historic Dow School grounds. 1:30 p.m.

Monday, November 8. Project Empower meets at the Center. 7:30-9 p.m.

Tuesday, November 9. The Center hosts the monthly Center Dinner at One's A Meal (812 Westheimer). 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 11. The Center HIV Support Group meets at the Center. 6-8 p.m.

Saturday, November 13. The Center Volunteer League meets at the Center. 1-3 p.m.

Sunday, November 14. Team Houston meets at the Center. 4 p.m.

Monday, November 15. Project Empower meets at the Center. 7:30-9 p.m.

Tuesday, November 16. The Center Seniors & Friends Potluck convenes at Bethel Church UCC (1107 Shepherd). 6:30-8 p.m.

Thursday, November 18. The Center HIV Support Group hosts a Thanksgiving potluck for the entire Center family and friends. 6-8 p.m.

Thursday, November 18. The Center board of directors meets at the Center. 7 p.m.

NEW! Friday, November 19. The Lesbian Discussion Hour holds its inaugural meeting at the Center (the group will meet regularly on the fourth Friday of the month). 7 p.m.

Monday, November 22. The Center Coming Out Group meets at the Center. 7-8:30 p.m.

Personal Boundaries and Effective Confrontation

Denise O'Doherty will present "Personal Boundaries and Effective Communication" on Saturday morning, November 6th, from 10am to 12 noon at the Leisure Learning Annex, 2900 Richmond Street. (between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway). The class is \$42. To register- 713-529-4414.

The workshop is particularly good for codependents in general, codependents in addicted relationships, those dealing with relationship conflicts want to be heard, and those who have no boundaries! Lots of practical and useful information.

BINGO				
12	18	41	47	61
7	26	39	54	70
4	27	FREE SPACE	49	63
5	23	35	58	73
3	30	32	52	75

First Saturday Queer Bingo

Saturday, November 6. The Center hosts at the One's A Meal private room (812 Westheimer), with Pet Patrol as the raffle partner organization. 4 p.m.

LGBT Veterans Day Rally: Remember Those Who Serve in Silence

Thursday, November 11 •
5:30pm - 7:00pm
MEPS Building
701 San Jacinto
Houston, TX

Sponsored by Equality Across America Houston

This rally is a Veterans Day celebration in honor of all Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders, (LGBT) and other sexual minorities that have served their country honorably and have never throughout the history of the United States of America been treated equally.

We seek to remember our proud tradition across America, in small towns and big cities alike. Now more than ever it is important that each of us take a stand to end the horrific discrimination that has been on-going, and in fact encouraged by the very existence of the prejudiced legislation that governs our Armed Forces.

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

Tune in!

ONLINE: www.kpft.org

3rd annual Judy Garland Christmas Show & Sing-Along!

Grab a couch and enjoy this ultra-campy, black-and-white television special from 1963 starring Judy, Liza, dancing Santas, and more!

Emcee Nancy Ford and Special Guests:
• Houston Pride Band's SaxWorx
• Charles Armstrong Investments' Randall Jobe
• The Usual Pub's Jennifer Williams and Paige Lewis
• DJ Tadd Dvorak
...and other surprise guests.

• Holiday Buffet • Silent Auction
• 46" SONY Bravia LCD TV Raffle

Sunday, Dec. 5, 5pm; show starts at 6pm
Meteor Lounge, 2306 Genesee St.

Donation: \$20 in advance and online; \$25 at the door. Limited reserved couch seating available for \$50.

Benefits Kindred Spirits Foundation's women's charities.

www.kindredspiritsHouston.org,

World AIDS Day Worship Service

Wednesday, December 1, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Plymouth United Church, UCC
5927 Louetta Road
Spring, TX 77373
281-251-8147
www.plymouthunited.org

You are invited to worship with us as a light of hope for those who live with HIV and AIDS. Let us come together as God's community on this World AIDS day!

There will be a time in the service when you will be invited to speak the names of your loved ones who have died from AIDS. To be officiated by Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel

For more information, please call 281-251-8147.

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BEE LINES

by Deborah Moncrief Bell



It is much later than I would like for it to be for me to be writing this column. I was going at a fairly good clip yesterday until the election results started coming in. The news of Rick Perry gaining a third term was just too much. It was too hard to write anything. And what was I going to write about anyway?

I may wallow around for a while in my grief, but basically, I'm angry. Oh yeah, that is suppose to be what motivated all of those folks who voted Republican and the "Teabaggers". My belief is that they were not as angry as much as they were ignorant. I heard people being in-terviewed who cited their reasons for voting Republican based on their "be-lief" about something, not what was the real facts of the issue.

I also tend to have an optimistic nature so I don't like to dwell in negativity. What I tend to do is to start thinking on what needs to be done to change thins. Anyone who sat out this election or worse yet, voted Republicans, shame on you. Double shame on you if you or a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender citizen.

Why do I say that? In June of this year, as I reported, the state's Republican party voted on a platform [by which their candidates will stand], and it includes the reinstatement of laws banning sod-omy: otherwise known as oral and anal sex (on Texas this only applied to same-sex couples)..

The party's platform also seeks to make gay marriage a felony offense! Given that the state does not sanction or recog-nize same sex marriages, meaning any such ceremony conducted does not bear the weight of law. Whether this means the GOP wants gay couples married in other states to be pursued through Texas as dangerous criminals, the party did not specify.

"We oppose the legalization of sodomy," the platform states. "We demand that Congress exercise its authority granted by the U.S. Constitution to withhold ju-risdiction from the federal courts from cases involving sodomy."

Texas first passed an anti-sodomy law in 1860, setting the penalty at 5-15 years in jail. The ban was finally overturned in 2003 by the landmark Supreme Court decision Lawrence et al. v. Texas. The court found that two men arrested in their own home by Houston police, who

charged them with engaging in sodomy, were not committing a crime. Indeed, the court said the men were "free as adults to engage in private conduct in the exercise of their liberty..."

To the contrary, the Texas GOP platform goes even further in attacking homosex-uals, adding:

"We believe that the practice of homo-sexuality tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit, and leads to the spread of dangerous, communicable diseases. Homosexual behavior is contrary to the fundamental, unchanging truths that have been ordained by God, rec-ognized by our country's founders, and shared by the majority of Texans. Ho-mosexuality 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 are opposed to any granting of special legal entitle-ments, refuse to recognize, or grant spe-cial privileges including, but not limited to: marriage between persons of the same sex (regardless of state of origin), custody of children by homosexuals, homosexual partner insurance or retire-ment benefits. We oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who op-pose homosexuality out of faith, convic-tion, or belief in traditional values.

My news to them is that is not an alter-native "lifestyle" for me. It is who I am. I stand for the rights of others and do not think anyone should trample on mine. That is why I dedicate myself to work-ing harder than ever to elect the people that will support my rights,

I had to share what GEM contributing writer Alice Melott posted on her Face-book page. I couldn't agree more.

That's the buzz from me for now!

You want to talk about rights?

Let's talk about rights. Here's what they say they've lost: The right to ride a bike without a hel-met and the right to drive a car without a seatbelt. Those are the only two they cite, and I've been asking for months.

Here's what I never had: The right to marry and live my life and raise a family in loving peace with the woman I love.

You want to talk about compro-mise and conciliation? The minute I see that marriage certificate, I'm all in. Until then, don't talk to me about rights.

THE COMMUNITY PAPER FOR MONTROSE AND BEYOND

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151*	02/04	01/28
152	02/18	02/11
153	03/10	03/04
154	03/24	03/18
155	04/08	04/01
156	04/22	04/15
157	05/13	05/06
158	05/27	05/20
159*	06/10	06/03
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Town Hall Meeting addresses the marriage rights of Transgendered persons

by Lou Weaver

Last month, the Transgender Foundation of America hosted a Town Hall Meeting at the TG Center. They did this to discuss the ongoing case against Nikki Araguz in Wharton, TX. As many of you know, Mrs Araguz is in court over the validity of her marriage. Her husband, Thomas Araguz was killed in the line of duty on July 4, 2010, he was a volunteer firefighter in Wharton.

Immediately following his funeral his ex-wife, Heather Delgado, filed suit against Nikki Araguz. Delgado claimed that Nikki's marriage to Thomas was illegal based on the fact Nikki was male at birth, and therefore unable to legally marry a same-sex partner. Actually, while identified at birth as biologically male, and named Justin, she was later diagnosed with a medical condition that places that gender identification in question. She has also undergone sexual reassignment surgery.

Phyllis Frye was joined by members of her law firm, including Darryl Steidley first chair in this case, Angela Oaks -- offering expertise in family law, and Jeremy Brown assisting with the leg work and research. Also sitting on the panel was Jenifer Rene Pool, who is currently running for city council. In the audience were leaders from several community groups, including past and current Presidents of the GLBT Political Caucus, Maria Gonzalez and Kris Banks.

Cristan Williams, Executive Director of the Transgender Foundation of America (TFA), opened the meeting with general remarks about the case, giving the audience a general overview. She then turned the floor over to Frye and the panel.

Frye explained that right now both sides are doing Discovery in an attempt to cover their side of the story. She also said that if the Araguz marriage is ruled to not be valid, it could affect all transgender marriages in the State of Texas. In reality, the outcome has implications for the entire GLBT community.

If the State of Texas decides through this case that trans-identified persons cannot legally change their gender marker, which is possible now through area courts, then a female to male trans-person would only be allowed to marry a biological male. This, in turn, would be validating a "same sex" marriage for both partners would be presenting as male. The same would be true for the

trans- women, they would only be allowed to marry their female partners, validating a lesbian marriage. Texas law allows for a "designation of " can be used for identification purposes in applying for a marriage license. The intent of that law is so that transgendered individuals can legally marry based on the gender they identify as, rather than the one they had at birth. Delgado's attorneys are arguing that this provision only means that the document can be used for identification in the process but one's sex is only what which is on the original birth certificate. Transgendered individuals can have their birth certificates revised, as Nikki Araguz has, which identifies her as female.

Steidley and Frye expect to be back in front of the judge around the end of the year, or the beginning of 2011. They don't have a clear idea of how long it will take but they are sure that, no matter the outcome, the other side will appeal.

This has the possibility of being a long drawn out case with current transgender marriages hanging in limbo for the duration. The lawsuit could end up in Corpus Christi and almost certainly will end up in front of the Supreme Court. People all over the country are watching this case and awaiting the outcome.

In the meantime, remember that the way to help fight this is to come out and stand up for all LGBTQI rights. The case will be tried by public opinion as much as it will be in the court room.

For more info and YouTube videos from the Town Hall Meeting, check out www.tgctr.org.

Lou Weaver is on the Board of Directors of the Transgender Foundation of America



Attorney Darryl Steidley (L) makes a point at the Town Hall Meeting while Nikki Araguz (center) and Phyllis Frye (R) look on.



TG Center Executive Director Cristan Williams facilitated the program. ~ photos by Angela Hon

History at a Glance

by Craig Farrell

The Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History (GCAM) takes us to a historical landmark in The Montrose.

The place: The Tower Theater located at 1201 Westheimer St Waugh Dr.

The Tower was designed by W. Scott Dunne. It opened at 7:30pm on February 14, 1936. The premier feature was *Barbary Coast* starring Miriam Hopkins, Edward G. Robinson, and Joel McCrea. Opening night festivities included a 30-piece symphony orchestra and Blackstone the Magician.

Just mentioning the Tower Theater can bring back a flood of great memories for folks who live and /or play in Montrose. Saturday morning movies started at 9am and usually featured at least three cartoons. Popcorn was 10 cents. Talk about how far a dollar used to go!

In the 1950s and 60s Houston's Tower Theater was the city's main road show venue. *Oklahoma!* in 1955, *Around the World in 80 Days* in 1956, *Gigi*, *Ben Hur*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Alamo*, *Exodus*, -- the list goes on and on. One of the most noted changes came in 1956 after the run of *Around the World in 80 Days*. Interstate Circuit Inc., who owned the Tower, put in a new standard flat movie screen. The width went from side wall to side wall. This meant there was no room for a side drawn curtain. There was not enough room at the top of the screen for a falling type curtain. The owners decided to have a curtain designed that would open and close from the floor... sort of an upside down curtain.

From January to August of 1978 the Tower was filled to capacity as *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* called the venue home. People left every night singing "Let's do the time warp again"! The 1970s also saw the Tower become a live theater venue. Houston's first production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* graced the stage. Peter Frampton's concert at the Tower was standing room only; the same for Cyndi Lauper and *Shear Madness*. Crowds loved the up-close style of the place.

Then in the 1980s and 1990s, it served as the nightclubs "Clubland" and "Decadance at The Tower Theatre" with Dangerous Disco on Sunday nights.

The Tower closed. What happened? Time moved on and the economy changed. The standing room only crowds began to dwindle. Bigger theaters opened. 3-D became the rage. The glory days of the Tower were over.



Then

The Hollywood Video Store opened in the building with only minor changes made to the exterior such as the addition of aluminum store front windows under the marquee and along the west side of the theater, relocation of the entry to the west side of the structure and the name on the marquee was changed to read "Hollywood Video." Although efforts were made to retain the integrity of the original exterior the interior space was gutted. The floor was leveled to the street, concession areas and lobbies were removed and a cheap lay-in ceiling was installed in what was the main house of the theater. The stage and penthouse were also gutted, but have been converted into a unique, loft restaurant space. The Hollywood Video store closed for good in November 2009.

It was reported in the Houston Chronicle that the owners of Midtown's Reef restaurant, along with former Houston Press food critic Robb Walsh, plan to open a Tex-Mex spot in the Tower Theater Bill Floyd and chef Bryan Caswell will partner with Walsh. The permits are in the works. The well known Art Deco design with neon lights on the marquee will be kept intact. Property owners renovated the sign in April of this year in hopes of attracting a new tenant to the building. The old balcony will be rebuilt. The estimated opening will be in January of 2011 with dining area that will seat 300. They plan to be open seven days a week for both lunch and dinner.



A Tex-Mex restaurant is slated to open in the old Art Deco Building in January of next year. The marquee stands blank now but it has been made to read "Tex-Mex Coming Soon" for this photo.

~ **DADT** from Front Page

“Defendants would not be required during the pendency of the appeal to change their recruiting practices, to change their personnel manuals, or, subject only to the requirement that they not actually discharge anyone, otherwise to change their practices,” Fletcher writes.

R. Clarke Cooper, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, which filed the lawsuit in 2004, said he’s “disappointed” the court will allow the continued enforcement of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

“Despite this temporary setback, Log Cabin remains confident that we will ultimately prevail on behalf of service-members’ constitutional rights,” Cooper said.

Cooper urged Obama to use his stop-loss authority to prevent the further discharges of gay service members as the Ninth Circuit hears the case.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, also expressed disappointment with the Ninth Circuit’s decision.

“Every day that ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ is in force, Americans are losing out on the best and brightest service members defending our country,” Solmonese said. “For the good of our national security, the endless legal wrangling and political posturing has to stop.”

Solmonese called on President Obama and Congress to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” legislatively by the end of the year.

The Obama administration brought the case of Log Cabin v. United States to the Ninth Circuit after U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips last month issued an injunction against the enforcement of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

The U.S. government argued the court should place a stay on the injunction because, among other reasons, the U.S. military needs to devise training and guidance to those affected by ending “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

The Ninth Circuit’s decision on Monday affirms a temporary stay the appellate court had already issued as it heard arguments over whether to keep the injunction in place.

Alex Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United and sole named plaintiff in the lawsuit, called the Ninth Circuit’s decision “really unfortunate” and said the U.S. government “tricked” the judges into issuing a stay on the injunction.

Nicholson said none of the “enormous consequences” that Defense Secretary Robert Gates had previously expressed concern about with respect to ending “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” had to pass when the law was enjoined under the injunction.

“It is concerning that the government can so blatantly pull one over on an appeals court, and it is equally frustrating that such a distinguished court would allow itself to be fooled so obviously and so publicly in the name of ‘deference,’” Nicholson said. “Abdication is more like it.”

Legal experts are expecting the Ninth Circuit to make a decision in the case next year after the court hears oral arguments.

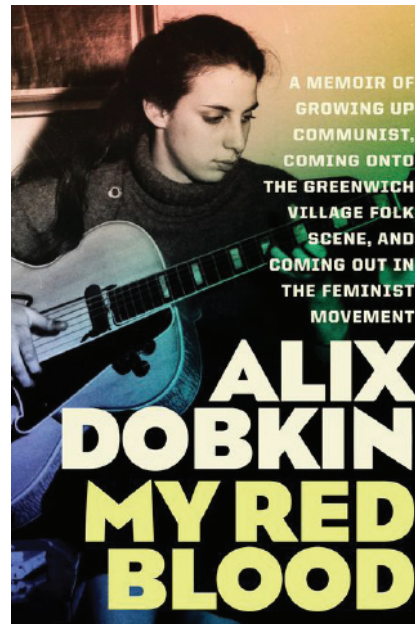
~ **Robberies** from Page 1

“Our focus when we go door-to-door and in our interactions year round is to educate the citizens we serve and protect that the police alone can not reduce burglaries,” said Sergeant R. V. Wilson of the Central Patrol Division. “We need to work together,” he added. “In suspect Henry’s arrest, we could not have made that arrest without the help of an alert citizen.” Houston police have two suspects in custody. The two men are believed to be responsible for up to 150 home burglaries in the city’s Montrose area during the past year.

Leonard Keith Campbell and Bobby Henry were charged with felony burglary. The two men are believed to be responsible for more than half of all home burglaries reported in the surrounding Montrose area since September 2009.

Efforts of police officers and area residents working together are cited as the key to solving the cases. This was particularly true in the Henry case according to Neartown Storefront Officer L. Laureano. On October 22, a resident spotted suspect Henry taking glass out of a window and his head inside a residence. When the resident yelled at Henry to see what he was doing, Henry ran. The resident then followed the suspect and called police, relaying his location. Laureano and other patrol officers arrived and took Henry into custody. Henry had a laptop on his person that was determined to be stolen from a home in the 400 block of Welch.

“Our focus when we go door-to-door and in our interactions year round is to educate the citizens we serve and protect that the police alone can not reduce burglaries,” said Sergeant R. V. Wilson of the Central Patrol Division.



“Alix Dobkin’s *My Red Blood* is a magnifying glass on a revolution in music, culture, and politics. Here’s the sixties from someone who remembers EVERYTHING!”

— John Sebastian

Lesbian Music Pioneer to have Houston Concert

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

In 1973, with Kay Gardner and Marilyn Ries, Alix Dobkin produced *Lavender Jane Loves Women*, the very first album by, for and about Lesbians in the history of the world. From then until now, she has focused on the lives, concerns and perspectives of women who love women. She has chronicled the lives of lesbians in her music. *The Woman in Your Life* talks about being your own best friend and her famous/funny *Amazon ABCs* sings, “A, you’re an Amazon...” And *Lesbian Code* in which she recites different code words we use

Most commonly defined as “music by, for, & about women,” the category of Women’s Music has been entertaining and enlightening a vast network of Lesbians, our friends and supporters at concerts, festivals, conferences, gatherings and parties, on vinyl, tape, disc, and songbook since the early 1970s.

When Alix Dobkin released *Lavender Jane*, never had there been such an out and proud lesbian musical recording. Since 1973, Alix Dobkin has sung to generations of lesbians about the power and beauty of living a lesbian life.

Dobkin’s activism started early. She was born August 16, 1940 and cut her activism teeth growing up a Jewish radical in the “red-baiting” McCarthy-era of the 1950s. Growing up she listened to the music of The Weavers, Ronnie Gilbert, Woody Guthrie, Elizabeth Cotton, Pete Seeger and Paul Robeson, all folk singers with a political edge. Their music was the first songs she learned to play. She joined the Communist Party as an adult.

for one another like, “Member of the Team,” “Family,” “Sings in the Choir.”

Lesbians coming out today probably cannot understand the impact that Alix Dobkin’s music had on the lesbian community of the time. There were no gays on TV, let alone a whole gay network. NEVER before had a lesbian recorded a whole album specifically by and for lesbians. To hear a lesbian sing of being out, proud and beautiful was a revolutionary act. To this day Alix Dobkin’s music has the ability to move women to tears, fire them up and most importantly get them to sing along.

Dobkin has released an autobiography *My Red Blood*. She begins in postwar-NYC where, growing up in a Communist family, she rubs elbows with radical Left celebrities like Paul Robeson and comes of age under FBI surveillance. It covers her arrival on the burgeoning Greenwich Village folk music scene achieving her first acclaim as a singer-songwriter, before her work and life take an overt feminist turn and she comes out as a lesbian.

My Red Blood, A Memoir of Growing Up Communist, Coming Onto the Greenwich Village Folk Scene, & Coming Out in the Feminist Movement, Alyson Books. It has been nominated for a 2010 Lambda Literary Award

Alix Dobkin in Concert

November 14, 2010
3pm, \$20

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Please note that this is a house concert in a private home. It is being sponsored by Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF). Proceeds go to the artist.

Alix Dobkin will be the speaker at The Women’s Group at 10:30am at First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore

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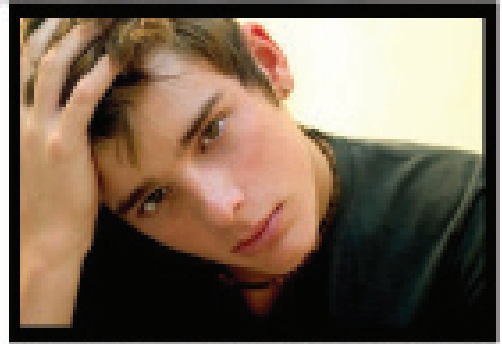


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Halloween 2010 parties and costume contests in the Montrose area. Photos by Douglas Waiter




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Fiona Dawson seeks to make the world better via TV

Earlier this year, popular activist Fiona Dawson quit her job with the intent of starting her own business. However, a friend's suggestion that she "follow her dream", and a chance to audition for a show on Oprah Winfrey's new network lead her in another direction. Dawson sees it as a chance to fulfill her childhood dream of "changing the world".

She wrote a script and produced herself in a 3 minute clip. She then went to Zen Studios where they not only helped her but refilmed her spot so that it would be better quality. She entered a demo in June of 2010-- you can see it at: <http://bit.ly/NOWwithFionaDawson>. There was an intense period of 2 weeks where hundreds of friends voted for her online. Results are not in..

There was another turn of events when Rashmi Saika talked with Dawson about taking part in the Direct TV Global Broadcasting Channel (GNC) which will launch in March of 2011.

A pilot for the show will be filmed in India and then shopped in New York and Los Angeles. Dawson announced to a gathering of friends and supporters on Nov. 3 at Mo Mong. Dawson will start work with GBC in January

Her vision is that *NOW with Fiona Dawson* will be a program that looks at ways people and organizations are working to end discrimination. The audience would be entertained but also moved, motivated and inspired to change their action and/or attitude. The episodes will demonstrate that people are doing positive things to make this world a better place so we can create a planet where everyone has equal rights, equal respect and equal responsibility. The series will share the stories of real life everyday heroes on how they are volunteering to make a difference in the lives of people who face discrimination due to some dimension of diversity. The segment concludes with how the audience can change their attitude or their action in order to help address the discrimination the show is covering.

Rather than highlighting high level, broad issues, the show will follow the stories of volunteers on the ground and people receiving support from the volunteers and charities. These will be grassroots stories that wouldn't normally make the light of day, but by whose example we can all learn.

Investors are needed and more information can be found at www.fionadawson.com. Who knows, Fiona may well become one of those single-named stars like Oprah and Ellen, and we all will have known her when.

~ Elections continued from front page

Increasing their numbers is a vital part of a long-term strategy to change America's politics and make our country freer and fairer for everyone. We will continue to focus on training committed, qualified candidates, and we will work hard to get them elected to public office." Important 2010 election results include:

–David Cicilline's election to Congress. The Providence, R.I. mayor will be the fourth openly gay member of the U.S. House of Representatives, joining Reps. Tammy Baldwin, Barney Frank and Jared Polis, who each won reelection.

–Jim Gray's election as mayor of Lexington, Kentucky's second-largest city.

–Nickie Antonio's election to the Ohio House. Antonio will be the first openly LGBT person to serve in the state legislature.

–Marcus Brandon's election to the North Carolina House. Brandon will be the state's only openly gay state legislator and one of just five out African Americans to serve as state lawmakers.

–Victoria Kolakowski's election as a Superior Court judge in Alameda County. Kolakowski becomes the first openly transgender judge in America.

–Kevin Lembo's election as Connecticut State Comptroller. Lembo joins just a handful of openly LGBT candidates to have been elected to statewide positions.

–Laurie Jinkins' election to the Washington State House. Jinkins is Washington's first openly lesbian state legislator, and could help her gay colleagues pass a marriage equality bill in the next legislative session.

–Maryland's and California's expanded LGBT state legislative caucuses. Each will include seven openly gay and lesbian lawmakers. In Maryland, the caucus is poised to help pass marriage equality legislation, which the reelected Gov. Martin has vowed to sign.

–Dan Hill's loss in his Nevada House race.

The Victory Fund's endorsed Republican candidates for state legislative seats were not successful, meaning no openly LGBT Republicans will be serving as state lawmakers next year.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund is the only national organization dedicated to increasing the number of openly LGBT elected officials at all levels of government in the U.S. It has grown that number from 49 to more than 500 since its founding in 1991. A full 2010 Election Scorecard will soon be available at www.victoryfund.org.

In Harris County the results were dismal as it was clear that there was an overwhelming number of straight party voting on the Republican side. In doing so, the Democrats suffered losses all the

Community Center made welcome in new home

Report by Tim Brookover

Houston GLBT Community Center President Time Brookover shared a photo of the altar that HGLBTCC created for the Dia de los Muertos—the Latin American holiday that honors and celebrates the lives of family and friends who have gone before us—at MECA.

The altar commemorates Harvey Milk and other departed heroes and loved ones. MECA (Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts) is the Center's neighbor at the Historic Dow School (1900 Kane in the Old Sixth Ward Historic District). Everyone was invited to will stop by MECA, view the altar during the celebration, and leave the name of someone they wished to honor

The night The Center moved into the building, MECA visual arts director, Diana Muniz, invited Brookover if The center would create an altar for Dia de los Muertos. "I thought that was a lovely and welcoming invitation, and I was happy to say yes," Brookover expressed.

His partner Albert helped to assemble the altar and others contributed to it.

Brookover reports that, "Adjacent to our simple altar was a large and elaborate altar made by a family to honor a loved one. As I tinkered with our humble altar, one of the women in that family---a person who I had never met before last night---gave me the rainbow-hued paper swag, because she thought it would look nice on our altar. And she was right! That is the kind of beautiful spirit we are encountering at MECA."

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

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

The Houston GLBT Community Center is located at the Historic Dow School (1900 Kane) in the Old Sixth Ward Historic District.. 713.524.3818



way down the ballot. Since most of the candidates that were endorsed by the Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Political Caucus (The Caucus) were Democrats. Democrats who were successfully re-elected were those who were mostly incumbents who were running unopposed. Good friend, State Rep. District 148, Jessica Farrar won her race despite opposition. Democrats Borris Miles and Garnet Coleman ran unopposed. United States Representative Sheila Jackson Lee retained her Dist. 18 seat. One of the biggest blows in Harris County was the lost of the State House Seat for District 134, where Ellen Cohen served one term. Though

not endorsed by The Caucus, long-time friends Garnet Colman, who ran unopposed was re-elected to represent House District 147 and Sefronia Thompson in District. 141.

Many political activists are feeling despair at this turn of events. Nationally the Republican who have an anti-gay position on their platform took the House while the Democrats retained the Senate. The Republican sweep while seen as an indictment of President Obama making his policies harder to pass, it is possible that this election will be a catalyst to action. Message: Get involved, now!

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TWO ON THE AISLE

REVIEW BY BILL O'ROURKE



A Rave Review

The last time I saw *Vanities* (now at Theatre Southwest) was in the '70s. It was funny and it made some good points, but I didn't rush to see it again. Now it is very funny and packs a lot more power. Was that due to the distance of so many years? Or was it the cast and the director, Lisa Schofield? Either way, the seemingly questionable decision to revive it was actually a pretty savvy call!

We first meet the three women (the whole cast) as pretty, shallow, funny cheerleaders... high school seniors. Little Joanne (Monica Lynn Passley) is the one who wants everything perfect, at least all the things that affect her directly. When she hears the announcement that the president has been shot, she's shocked. "The president of the student senate got shot? In Dallas? But that can't be. We just had a class together last period!"

In the next act, we see them as college seniors... sorority girls. Kathy (Kelly Walker) has always been the organizer. Everything she runs has a theme and is decorated, primarily with chicken wire stuffed with colored tissue paper. - Side note: It's a couple of days later and Loyal and I can still crack each other up just by choosing the right moment to say "chicken wire".

However of all the things they ever glossed over, the little social bombs brought about, by the three of them having or thinking they have, different life goals. They're showing through the seams. Kathy is hit hardest by it. You can see her getting wiped away on stage, though the others don't give any indication that they can see it., and she never quite bounces back from it.

The third act takes place five years later. It is a tea party reunion – except everyone's opting for the champagne instead.. Mary (Chelsea Curto), who was always fighting to be free, got free. Then she let her freedom turn into licentiousness. It may actually be freedom, but she got way too jaded for that.

One other character, Ted, is never seen. But I think by the end of the play he has become quite a part of each of their lives, even though Kathy claims he hasn't. He's not really a good influence. And yet, he's the only lasting male influence. What does this say about men in general? Well, maybe not quite as much as one might think since the play-

wright is a man, Jack Heifner.

These three actresses are all blockbuster talents. As those teenagers, they all talk a mile a minute, but not one single word is ever lost, even while it's obvious that they are thinking thoughts, not trying to make sure their words are right. And at least two of them show quite a flair for physical comedy. I won't say that they are each operating here at the peak of their talent, but only because I so strongly believe that each of them has got a lot more, higher, bigger things to show us before she's through.

In case you haven't noticed, this is a rave review!

Now, if some of you might want an excuse not to go, it might be that the period underwear we see two of the ladies wearing as each of them sits at her vanity. It was never meant to be seen that long or that publicly. Or you might say that the street outside the theater is way too dark and needs some street lights. Those were the only two things you might complain about in this entire show and, note, neither is actually in the show. You'd only be cheating yourself out of a really good time and some haunting tragedy. As I said:

This. *is*. a rave. review!

Theatre Southwest, 8944-A Clarkcrest, 77063, 713-661-9505.

OPENINGS

A Good Old Fashioned Red Neck Country Christmas (Theatre Suburbia, 11/5) – directed by Miss Judy.

'Night Mother (Midnight Theater Co., 11/5) – at Frenetic Core Theater.

9 to 5, the Musical! (TUTS, 11/9) – Miss Dolly's music.

Three Bags Full (Company Onstage, 11/12) – farce about three identical satchels.

Cinderella (The Ensemble, 11/13)

Madeline's Christmas (Main St. for Kids, 11/13).

The Little Dog Laughed (Theater Lab, 11/13) – Funny, with a definite gay angle.

Bill O'Roark is an actor and director. He works with Thunderbird Theater. He sees plays with his partner Loyal, and review them for the GEM.



Nose in a Book

Review by Jone Devlin

The Side Door

by Jan Donley

The year is 1988 and Melrose Bird and Frank Miller are about to start high school. Frank is a gifted artist whose hero is Superman, while Melrose (who prefers to be called Mel) is more into Lois Lane. Both are 15 years old and complete misfits in their small town of New Moon Falls. One day, while taking a walk, they notice a woman sitting on a bench. It turns out she is the mother of Alex Weber, a fellow student at New Moon High who killed himself 5 years earlier.

Mel and Frank are curious about Alex, but their questions are either brushed off or met with anger. Mel, who doesn't like secrets, decides to continue to try and find out what happened, but first she needs to deal with her own problems. Like parents who don't understand why she insists on shaving her head and wearing boys clothes, and students who do things like spray paint the word "Dyke" on her locker.

But Mel is no shrinking violet, choosing instead to confront her problems head on. This however, causes more trouble, as everyone from the principal to her homeroom teacher (whom Mel strongly suspects is a lesbian) warn her away from being too different. Unperturbed, Mel continues in her quest to be who she is, while trying to put together the pieces of Alex Weber's suicide.

One day, while helping Alex's mother clean out his closet, Mel helps herself to a pair of his cargo pants. When she tries them on at home, she finds a stack of index cards inside. Handwritten by Alex himself, the cards tell the whole story of who he was, and why he took his life. Mel shows the cards to several people, and is warned at every turn to just let sleeping dogs lie. But Mel isn't about to do that and, with Frank's help, she embarks on a course to pull not just herself, but everyone around her out of their personal closets.

Fast paced, entertaining and heart wrenching, *The Side Door* takes the reader on a roller coaster ride of laughter and tears. The characters

are all well drawn, but it is the irrepressible Mel who steals the show. Blunt, defiant, and loaded with teenage attitude, Mel takes on all comers, from principals to parents to small town heroes. Not even Frank, in fact, is safe from Mel's bull in a china shop approach to being out and proud. Yet, despite her rough edges, Mel's heart is in the right place and it quickly becomes apparent that her pursuit of the truth about Alex Weber has more to do with justice than shock value.

But Mel is not perfect. She makes mistakes, hurts feelings, and messes things up. She also tends to be a little bit impatient and insensitive with Frank, who does not embrace his otherness the same way Mel does.

There are a lot of subplots and twists to this novel, but Donley ties them together expertly. And, just as in life, there are no completely happy endings – even when it's all said and done, parents still don't understand, the homeroom teacher still stays in the closet, and Mel's personal Lois Lane simply isn't ready to admit to herself, or anyone else, that she's gay.

A delightful, true to life story with unforgettable characters, *The Side Door* is a wonderful way to re-live the ups and downs of being young, gay, and trapped in a small town.

The Side Door by Jan Donley is published by Spinsters Ink and is available everywhere. Reviewers Grade: ★★★★★ out of 5 stars.



Halloween 2010

Cooking Capers with Dr. Dave



Hi folks. I hope you're all doing well. I looked through my recipe box and found these. The chicken dish is one of the first dishes I cooked during my freshman year in college. Thank goodness at that time the chicken was young and tender, not an old bird like I am now. Nonetheless, enjoy the dishes.

APPETIZER

Egg and Spinach Pie

Store bought pastry for a one-crust eight-inch pie
1 pound spinach, cooked
4 eggs
1 cup sour cream
3/4 cup soft bread crumbs*
1 tablespoon butter, melted
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Roll the pastry with a floured rolling pin on a floured board to one-eighth inch thickness and place it into an eight inch pie pan. Prick the bottom and the sides well with a fork and bake on the lower shelf of the oven until set but not brown (about five minutes). Remove from the oven and lower the temperature to 350 degrees. Chop the spinach coarsely and drain well. Spread over the pastry. Break the eggs over the spinach, leaving the yolks whole, and cover with sour cream. Toss the crumbs in the butter and cheese; sprinkle over the top of the egg and spinach mixture. Return to the oven and bake until the eggs are set, or about fifteen minutes longer. * (To make fresh bread crumbs, trim crusts from slices of fresh white bread and tear the bread into cubes. Blend a few at a time in an electric blender.)

SOUP

Greek Egg and Lemon Soup

2 quarts strong, strained chicken broth
1/2 cup raw rice
4 eggs
juice of 2 lemons

Bring the broth to a boil and add the rice. Cover with a lid (do not lift the lid during cooking) and cook on low about twenty minutes until the rice is tender. Just before serving, beat the eggs with a rotary beater until they are light and frothy. Slowly beat in the lemon juice and dilute the mixture with two cups of

the hot soup, beating constantly until well mixed. Add the diluted egg-lemon mixture to the rest of the soup, beating constantly. Bring almost to the boiling point, but do not boil or the soup will curdle. Serve immediately.

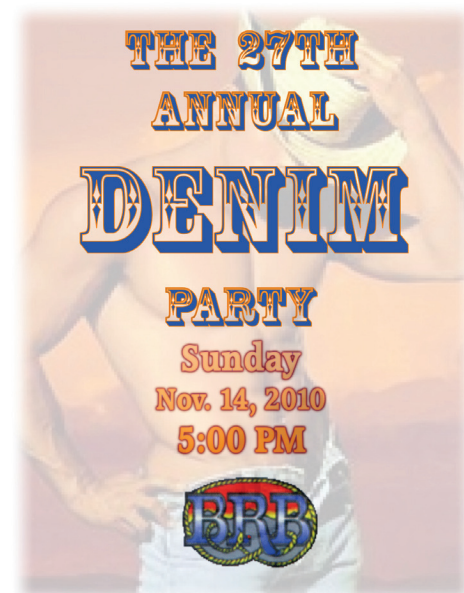
MAIN DISH

Dr. Dave's French-Style Chicken

1/2 cup flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 teaspoon dried tarragon
1 three-pound roasting chicken, cut into pieces
1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup butter
1 cup dry white wine
2 cups canned tomatoes
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
8 medium button mushrooms, sliced
chopped parsley

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix the flour, salt, pepper, and tarragon; dredge the chicken pieces with the seasoned flour. Reserve the remaining flour. In a large skillet heat the olive oil and butter, add the chicken and brown on all sides. Remove the chicken to a heavy casserole. Add the reserved flour to the fat remaining in the skillet, and using a wire whisk, gradually stir in the wine while stirring the flour and fat mixture. When the sauce is thickened and smooth, pour over the chicken and add the tomatoes, garlic and mushrooms. Cover the casserole with a heavy lid and bake until the chicken is tender, about forty-five minutes. Before serving, garnish with chopped parsley.

I hope you enjoy these old college recipes of mine. They may be old like me, but they are savory and wonderful.



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Obama on marriage: 'attitudes evolve, including mine'

~ from The Washington Blade

President Obama on Wednesday suggested that his position on same-sex marriage may "evolve" over time during a news conference with progressive bloggers.

"But I also think you're right that attitudes evolve, including mine," Obama said. "And I think that it is an issue that I wrestle with and think about because I have a whole host of friends who are in gay partnerships."

The president said he's a "strong supporter of civil unions" and has been "unwilling to sign on" to support for same-sex marriage because of his "understandings of the traditional definitions of marriage."

Obama, who opposes same-sex marriage, made the comments in response to a question from Joe Sudbay, deputy editor of AMERICABlog, was among the bloggers invited to the news conference. Read the complete transcript of Sudbay's question-and-answer session on LGBT issues with Obama here.

Discussion of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" also made up a significant portion of the conference. Obama sidestepped a question on whether he thinks "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is constitutional. The president said "it's not a simple yes or no question" because he's not sitting on the U.S. Supreme Court.

If the president deemed the law unconstitutional, he could discontinue enforcement of the statute, although the courts would have the final say in the matter.

"Here's what I can say," Obama added. "I think 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is wrong. I think it doesn't serve our national security, which is why I want it overturned. I think that the best way to overturn it is for Congress to act."

Emphasizing that his "hope and expectation" is that Congress can repeal the statute, Obama said he's been "as systematic and methodical" as he can in trying to move forward with mitigating the impact "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" given his legal constraints.

Earlier this month, Defense Secretary Robert Gates issued new guidance on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" that limits the authority on discharges to the civilian service secretary of the department concerned. Further, these secretaries can only make discharges "in coordination" with the undersecretary of defense for

personnel and readiness and the Pentagon's general counsel.

Obama said he would "be involved" in pushing the Senate to move forward with "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal legislation this year after Election Day, but declined to comment on whether support from Defense Secretary Robert Gates would be part of this process.

"I'm not going to tip my hand now," Obama said. "But there is a strategy."

Referencing the Log Cabin Republicans' litigation against "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," Obama said he doesn't "understand the logic" of the lawsuit and said he needs the organization to find Republican votes to move forward with legislative repeal in the Senate.

"You're financing a very successful, very effective legal strategy, and yet the only really thing you need to do is make sure that we get two to five Republican votes in the Senate," Obama said.

Obama also took a dig at those who don't think he's doing enough on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and other LGBT issues and said he doesn't "think that the disillusionment is justified."

"So I don't begrudge the LGBT community pushing, but the flip side of it is that this notion somehow that this administration has been a source of disappointment to the LGBT community, as opposed to a stalwart ally of the LGBT community, I think is wrong," Obama said.

The Avondale Association to Host Charity Fundraiser

The Avondale Association will be hosting a charity fundraiser on Sunday, November 7, 2010 at Saint Arnold Brewing Company located at 2000 Lyons Ave. Houston, TX 77020. The event will be held from 6:00pm- 8:00pm and the suggested donation is \$20.00 minimum.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for neighborhood improvement projects within the Avondale Civic Association Boundaries, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit local Montrose charities.

The Avondale Association is looking for strong community support of this event to help improve and beautify the Avondale neighborhood and support local non-profit organizations.

The mission of the Avondale Association (a non-profit organization) is to encourage the beautification of our neighborhood and to promote upon and improve the civic, historic, residential and social welfare of our community while allowing residents the freedom to enjoy their homes, yards and streets. For more information on the Avondale Association visit www.avondaleassociation.org

"Where the cowboys go"

BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM

2400 BRAZOS
HOUSTON, TX
713.528.9192

**YOUR MONTROSE
COUNTRY HOME**

Check out our full calendar at
www.brbhouston.com



THE 27TH ANNUAL

DENIM

PARTY

Sunday
Nov. 14, 2010
5:00 PM



BRB's
Biggest Party
Of The Year!