

## HPD defies City Ordinance in arrest of library patron

by Lou Weaver

A young male-to-female transgender library patron named Tyjnae Moore was arrested and taken to jail on November 17 because she, in accordance with the Houston City Ordinance, used the female bathroom at the Jesse H. Jones Library in downtown Houston. A Houston Library security guard initiated the incident by informing an HPD officer that, "a man [sic] is in the restroom." The arresting officer took the patron to jail for the alleged offence of violating a State of Texas law which states, "It is unlawful for any person to use a restroom of the opposite sex unless given permission..."

City of Houston Executive Order 1 – 8 and 1 – 20 ensures that all individuals regardless of race, gender identity, nationality or sexuality can have equal access to City restroom facilities. "The arrest should have never happened," said Cristan Williams, Executive Director of the Transgender Foundation of America. "The City of Houston has given this victim explicit permission to use a restroom consistent with their gender. This means that the library patron was acting in a manner consistent with both state and local law. Since she broke no law, this is a case of unlawful arrest and imprisonment."

The victim, a native of Minnesota, states that she will be leaving Texas as soon as she can. She states that this is the second time she has been harassed by Houston police.

The Transgender Foundation of America is a 501c3 nonprofit that runs the Houston Transgender Center, Archive and Library. In addition to social services, the Transgender Center offers an array of support group meetings, lectures and events designed to improve the quality of life for transgender people

The TG Center has obtained an attorney to work with Ms. Moore to have her arrest expunged. The charged offense at best would be one that would warrant a citation, and not be an offense where one would be arrested.

Ms. Moore reportedly was advised by guards that a guilty plea would result in her release.

~ See *Arrest* continued on Page 8

### Which Restroom Makes Sense?



Transgender man: Born female and transitioned to male. Should lawmakers force him to hang out in the women's restroom?



Transgender woman: Born male and transitioned to female. Should lawmakers force her into rooms where men are in a state of undress?

### Stipeche Wins!

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

Early returns did not look promising in the Dist. VIII Houston ISD Board run-off between Juliet Stipeche and Judith Cruz, at least not for Stipeche and her supporters. Unofficial results however show Stipeche won the race by 44 votes.

Stipeche, will fill the seat that was vacated by Diana Dávila in July. Stipeche was backed by the Houston Federation of Teachers, the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce political action committee, the Mexican American Sheriff's Organization, and the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC, among others.

Stipeche, an attorney, beat Judith Cruz, a former HISD teacher, with 51 percent of the vote. The total number of votes cast was 2,032, compared with nearly 15,000 cast in the general election.

District VIII includes parts of Rice Military, Montrose, Midtown, the Heights and the East End.

## Pentagon's 'don't ask, don't tell' report released

by Barbara Morrill  
The Daily Kos

The Pentagon has released their long-awaited study on the impact of repealing the military's discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy, and as expected, the report reveals that our military is not filled with raging homophobes and bigots:

When asked about how having a Service member in their immediate unit who said he or she is gay would affect the unit's ability to "work together to get the job done," 70% of Service members predicted it would have a positive, mixed, or no effect.

When asked "in your career, have you ever worked in a unit with a co-worker that you believed to be homosexual," 69% of Service members reported that they had.

When asked about the actual experience of serving in a unit with a co-worker who they believed was gay or lesbian, 92% stated that the unit's "ability to work together" was "very good," "good," or "neither good nor poor." [...]

When spouses were asked about whether repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell would affect their preference for their Service member's future plans to stay in the military, 74% said repeal would have no effect, while only 12% said "I would want my spouse to leave earlier."

The Senate Armed Services Committee will hold hearings on the report on Thursday and Friday, with Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen, and top members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines all testifying. Leading the charge against repeal will be John McCain (R-AZ), the ranking Republican on the committee.

~ See *DADT* on Page 8



Todd Waite plays "Crumpet" the elf, in *The Santaland Diaries* by David Sedaris, now playing at The Alley Theatre. See the review on Page 10



Do you remember the day that the Ku Klux Klan marched in Montrose? Craig Farrell takes a look back in *History at a Glance* on Page 4



Douglas Waiter captured these shots at the Uptown Lighting ceremonies in the Galleria area. Isn't it nice how folks put up rainbow colored lights to show their support of GLBT rights? If only that were the case. Happy Holidays Yall!

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It may be hard to believe but do you realize you can do all your holiday shopping by utilizing information right here in the Montrose GEM? Just look at our Marketplace ads.

Think about giving a gift certificate for a massage. Always an appreciated gift and while you are at it, book one for yourself. What a great way to de-stress from all the frantic holiday activities.

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How about photography? Yes, it is a great time to get some updated portraits to give as gifts or to give photo sessions to the one you love. How about giving yourself a photo of your pets?

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## BEELINES

by Deborah Moncrief Bell



There's this young man on Facebook that came up with a great idea. You can watch the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmgTUtOpvPo>

He thinks it would be wonderful for all people to show their support of the LGBT community by placing rainbow colored lights everywhere during the holiday season. OK, it is a rather tongue in cheek thing, but what a funny idea. If only all those colored lights did in fact mean that. You would think we should at least include in those displays (guess who decorates most of the department stores?).

The best news, just in time for World AIDS Day is the that we now have discovered a significant new HIV prevention tool against the HIV pandemic. See more in the Healthy Living column on Page 9.

Other things are happening and none too soon. The latest news is that today (Dec. 1) the Illinois Senate passed The Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Unions Act by a vote of 32 to 24 following a 62 to 51 vote of the Illinois House. The bill now moves to Gov. Pat Quinn, who has promised to sign it into law.

Of course the news that is all over the place is that the Pentagon finally released its study regarding the end of 'don't ask, don't tell', and guess what? The overwhelming results are that the policy could be called "don't care, don't care". Most troops are not concerned about the sexual orientation of who they serve with in their units. They, like their gay comrades are there to do a job and let's all hope they are all first and foremost, professional about doing it.

US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Michael Mullen released DADT study Tuesday (Nov.30). The study, which included a comprehensive survey of military service personnel and their spouses on their views of gays and lesbians openly serving in the military, found that the repeal of DADT would pose low risk to military effectiveness. Nevertheless, Republicans have announced plans to block DADT and the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM) until the Senate votes on bills to extend the Bush tax cuts.

Interesting the support of GLBT service members being able to serve openly is not strong in two areas, one is within active combat groups, with 40% reporting a negative response. At least that is the

way you read it in all the reports, instead of the more positive, "60% of combat troops support the repeal of DADT".

Another group that has shown to be against the overturn of the policy has been military chaplains. They cite moral reasons as the basis of their stance.

Oh come on! What is moral about going to a foreign country and killing, maiming, and destroying people and property, including antiquities? What is moral about sending young men and women to do that kind of work? You teach someone to act in a way that is inhuman, and you breed inhumanity. How can we keep telling them to go and kill and risk their own lives in the process?

Is it any wonder that so many of our returning veterans are so messed up, either with physical injuries and/or mental ones? Do you know the statistics concerning the number of homeless vets? One-third of the adult homeless population! Many of them from the Vietnam era (which was never declared a war).

We do this to generation after generation. How do we expect a healthy society when we continue this behavior?

Like my friend Ann-Marie, I don't wish anyone to go without employment but I also agree with her when she says, "I think that GLBT folks should not risk their lives to protect a country and citizens who would not protect them and in many places/municipalities would seek to do a GLBT person harm."


Oh, and spare me the verbiage about those serving to "keep us safe"? That is not what the current battles are about. We are not being protected. Remember "W" Bush started these actions and messed them up so badly that we have yet to find a way to get out of them. The President that we elected because he promised to bring the troops home, has not done so.

I do respect and honor those that serve, as did my father, my brother, and my first boyfriend, who died at the age of 17 when he threw himself on a grenade to save the rest of his troop. It will come as no surprise to anyone to learn that I am a long time peace activist.

I am concerned about the young people who have entered the service because their opportunities for education and employment are so limited. We need a better system. I don't like to talk about a problem without offering meaningful solutions, but I am at a loss here, other than to say we must find peaceful means to solve disputes, between people and between nations. That the message of this season after-all, You know:

Peace on earth, good will to all.

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




# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

**Let's all come together for the  
Houston Premiere of "Bullied"  
and then stay for a  
Community Organizing discussion.**

## We need your input!

**Tuesday, December 7  
GLBT Cultural Center  
401 Branard St., 1st Floor**

**Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Documentary Screening at 7:00 p.m.  
Community Organizing at 7:45 p.m.**



Southern Poverty Law Center • Anti-Defamation League • PFLAG Houston • GLSEN • Equality Texas  
Montrose Counseling Center/NATCH

## COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

### Community Online

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)  
[www.lhihouston.org/](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/FEM-NET>

Northwest Corner  
[www.nwcorner.org](http://www.nwcorner.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[www.visithoustontexas.com/mygay-houston/](http://www.visithoustontexas.com/mygay-houston/)

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

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

Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History, Inc.: [www.gcam.org](http://www.gcam.org)

If you know of another group that should be added, please let us know at [montrosegem@yahoo.com](mailto:montrosegem@yahoo.com)

### Houston GLBT Community Center News

#### Play bingo on Saturday, Dec. 4!

The Center hosts the monthly First Saturday Queer Bingo on Saturday, December 5, in the One's A Meal private room (812 Westheimer). The 50/50 raffle will benefit one of our community organizations that supports persons living with HIV/AIDS. Doors open at 4 p.m., and games begin at 4:30.

The Center is located at 1900 Kane St. (entrance on Lubbock St. side)

Monday, December 6. - Coming Out Group meets at the Center. 7pm.

Thursday, December 9. The Energy exercise class meets at the Center. 1pm.

Thursday, December 9. HIV Support Group meets at the Center. 6-8pm.

Saturday, December 11. The Center Volunteer League meets at the Center. 1pm.

Sunday, December 12. Team Houston meets at the Center. 4 p.m.

Tuesday, December 14. The Center hosts Center Dinner at One's A Meal (812 Westheimer). 6:30pm.

Wednesday, December 15. Dia de la Mujer Latina holds its Christmas party for Community Health Workers/Promotores de Salud at the Center. 6pm.

Thursday, December 16 -The Energy exercise class meets at the Center. 1pm.  
Thursday, December 16:HIV Support Group meets at the Center. 6-8pm.

Friday, December 17. The Center participates in the 1st Annual Unity & Christmas Soiree Toy Drive hosted by the Negris Lebrum Clothing Company at the Art Museum at River Oaks (2019 West Gray). 6:30-10pm.

### ON THE RADIO

MONDAYS, 9 - 11pm  
"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!

### HISTORY AT A GLANCE

by Craig Farrell

The place: The Montrose, Houston, TX  
The date: June 1984

If you lived in Montrose (or anywhere in Houston for that matter) in the 1980's you will easily remember the march by the Ku Klux Klan down Westheimer. The Klansmen were escorted by 800 members of the Houston Police Department. Most of the gay community purposely boycotted the demonstration.

Then police Chief Lee Brown estimated the crowd in attendance that day to be approximately 2000. The gay community was asked to stay away and avoid any confrontation. It was estimated that at least half of the crowd was mostly heterosexuals and neighborhood families, many with small children. A reporter for the TWT News observed a father telling his five year old son, "See those men in the white robes? They're the bad people full of hate. We're the good people"

Many people were outraged because sources said the Houston Police department was providing buses to transport the Klan to and from their location in Channelview. The following were printed in the June 15th issue of the magazine *This Week in Texas* (TWT), the first letter is from the President of what was then named the Houston Gay Political Caucus (GPC).

Dear TWT:

*The Ku Klux Klan march scheduled for 3:00-4:00pm on Saturday, June 9 in Montrose should be totally ignored by the gay community. Having met with numerous officials at Houston City Hall, and police officers including Police Chief Lee Brown, I am confident that the march will be well supervised, and in fact the official onlooker group will be made up of clergy from all over the city. The Houston Gay Political Caucus is strongly requesting that all persons stay away from the march, that businesses on the Westheimer strip between Mason and Waugh close temporarily while the march proceeds, and that no other comments be forthcoming. Hopefully, with a ghost-town effect during this march, the Klan will not return to Montrose.*

Norman R. Guttman,  
GPC President, Houston, Texas

And this one addressed to then Mayor, Kathy Whitmire:

Dear Mayor Whitmire,

*As a taxpayer of the City of Houston, I protest the use of city funds to trans-*

*port KKK members to and from their planned march on Saturday, June 9, 1984. The use of Houston Police Department manpower to guard both the KKK and the gay community from each other and any outside disruptive forces is justified, but to provide free "taxi" service (for their "protection") is not. While I respect the right of any organization to hold a peaceful demonstration, I do not feel the City (meaning myself and other taxpayers) should have to pay for it.*

----Name withheld by request

When all was said and done, the Klansmen cost the City of Houston \$60,000.00, but the authorities were successful at preventing any violence.

The history of the Ku Klux Klan in Texas extends from the Reconstruction era to the present. The original organization was founded in Pulaski, Tennessee, probably in May or early June 1866, by six young Confederate veterans. Its name reportedly derived from the Greek word kuklos, meaning circle or band; "Klan," though redundant, was appended to the name for alliteration. The Klan's founders devised a series of elaborate secret rituals for the organization, closely patterned after the Kuklos Adelphon, a college fraternity widespread throughout the South in the antebellum period. Officers consisted of a "grand cyclops" or president, a "grand magi" or vice president, a "grand Turk" or marshal, and a "grand exchequer" or treasurer. Most of us have heard of the term "Grand Wizard". The KKK once was headquartered on Strawberry Dr. in nearby Pasadena, TX. Local chapters were called dens. The Klan's regalia include a white mask with holes for the eyes, a high, conical, cardboard hat, and long flowing robes.

Today, a large majority of sources consider the Klan to be a "subversive or terrorist organization". The present-day KKK is not one organization; rather it is composed of small independent chapters across the US. Estimates are that about two-thirds of KKK members are concentrated in the southern United States, with another third situated primarily in the lower midwest. KKK members have stepped up recruitment in recent years, but the organization grows slowly, with membership estimated at 5,000-8,000 across 179 chapters. Recent membership campaigns have been based on issues such as people's anxieties about illegal immigration, urban crime and same-sex marriage.

## *The Woman I Was Not Born To Be*

by Aleshia Brevard

For those of us who became acquainted with the transgender experience only recently, this wonderful book is an eye-opener. In the 1950s and 1960s, most of us had never heard of a transsexual. Then there was Christine Jorgenson and the lurid press around her gender-related surgery.

*The Woman I was Not Born to Be* is Aleshia Brevard's memoir as she travelled from a rural Tennessee "sissy boy" through her female impersonator days to her career as a highly regarded stage, screen, and TV actress and beyond. Honestly written with self-deprecation as well as appreciation and humor, this book shines a bright light on the early years of transsexual surgery and its aftermath.

How many of you realize that a 1950s solution to excessively feminine boys was super-doses of testosterone? Did you know that in the early 1960s a male-bodied individual had to be castrated prior to SRS -- else the testicles would be placed inside the body? Do you recall that policy, if not law, required female impersonators/ cross dressers to wear at least three articles of gender-appropriate clothing or face imprisonment? No wonder so many transsexuals hid their reality and went stealth in their lives!

*The Woman I was Not Born to Be* shows how Aleshia's low self-esteem in her youth was reinforced by her father and almost every male father or husband figure for many years, leaving her self-consciously striving to reflect the subservient female role required by the mid-1900s society. While quite successful in her theatrical life, her interpersonal relationships with many males -- from boyfriends, neighbors, and husbands to various Hollywood agents and actors - also reinforced her lack of self-confidence as a woman.

It was largely with the support of her mother, Mozelle, and her close friend Stormy Lee (a fellow transsexual/ drag queen) that she eventually realized that she did not need to define herself as a woman based on the misogynistic social customs of the mid-twentieth century.

This book is highly recommended!

Reviewed by Dave Parker.

*The Woman I Was Not Born To Be* by Aleshia Brevard. Published by Temple University Press, Philadelphia, PA. Available through Amazon.com. Access Amazon.com through the PFLAG Store ([www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) -- look to the left side for the words SHOP PFLAG, on the next screen scroll down so you can link to Amazon) for all your purchases -- PFLAG receives a percentage of your purchase.

### *Senator Whitmire files anti-bullying legislation* from news release

November 15 -- Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston) announced today he filed Senate Bill 205 to address the continuing problems with bullying in our schools including the growing concerns with cyberbullying.

Senator Whitmire stated, "All students have the right to participate fully in the educational process free from harassment and bullying."

He added, "Anti-bullying policies must be in place before these incidents occur."

Having been advised by prosecutors that they have sufficient tools to deal with incidents that reach the level of penal code violations, the focus of the legislation will be on school districts policies to prevent these events. Some school districts may have policies, but parents and student may not be aware they exist, they may not be consistently enforced, or may not include cyberbullying processes.

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## **Healthcare Update**

I hope you were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday with your friends and family. As we get back to work, here's your weekly healthcare update from the Texas Capitol.

Civil Rights and Health Care Law - What do they have in common? A: The State of Texas has opposed them

Last Tuesday, the Texas State Senate Committee on State Affairs and State Senate Committee on Health & Human Services held a joint hearing in Austin to hear public testimony on the new federal health law. Vocal members of the public voiced their displeasure to sympathetic Republican lawmakers regarding the law. The overriding theme from those testifying was that Texas legislators should vote to nullify the law. Nullification, according to its proponents, is the spurious idea that a state can find a federal law so abhorrent and unconstitutional that it can vote to "say no" to the law and not follow it. Former Tea Party gubernatorial candidate Debra Medina was among the many who voiced their support for nullification. The arguments for nullification are based the idea of "states' rights," as purportedly represented by the 10th Amendment. Governor Perry's campaign was successful in large part because of his promotion of "state's rights" and the 10th Amendment.

The idea of nullification is not a new one; we've been here before. After the landmark Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* determined that states could not segregate school children into white and black schools, Texas and many Southern states sought nullification in hopes they would not have to adhere to the law of the land. They argued that it was their states' rights to perpetuate racial discrimination within their states' borders, but the Supreme Court understandably held against them.

Fast-forward to 2010, and many of the very same states, including Texas, that last sought nullification of federal civil rights laws are once

again outraged over what they claim is an overreaching federal government. So what is it that the federal government has done this time that is as infuriating to these states as laws enforcing desegregation and the Civil Rights Act? Apparently it is President Obama's health care law, which will result in over 30 million new Americans obtaining access to health insurance by 2014.

While it is clear what the arguments are, what is less clear is why they are being made. Being that Texas has the highest rate of uninsured Americans in the country (25%), some of the most stringent standards for qualifying for assistance such as Medicaid, and a looming \$25 billion shortfall, you might think that Governor Perry and state lawmakers would be doing everything they can to increase coverage and address our state's failures. Instead of being outraged over our 6.4 million uninsured fellow Texans, they are apparently angry at President Obama's attempt to improve that number. Indeed, the impetus for the health care law in the first place is our nation's high uninsured rate, a result largely due to the persistent inability of states like Texas to take care of our own. Along with states' rights should come state responsibility. Southern states have frankly had a downright atrocious record of providing services and care for the most vulnerable, so it is curious that they are the ones leading the charge in asking for more power.

Finally, for all the talk of the "unconstitutionality" of the health care law, nullification has no constitutional basis whatsoever. Article VI of the U. S. Constitution states that laws of the United States "shall be the Supreme Law of the Land," despite any State law made to the contrary. If the supporters of nullification respected the Constitution as much as they claimed, then we would not even be having this conversation. But we are, yet again.

*Garnet F. Coleman is a member of the Texas House of Representatives for District 147.*



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# 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

In celebration of 28 years of being Houston's Most Popular Gay Bar, JR's is excited to announce we're bringing **Morgan McMichaels** to appear **LIVE** with a midnight show. Morgan appeared as a contestant on Season 2 of RuPaul's Drag Race, is part of the touring Dream Girls Revue and has appeared in RuPaul's new LOGO show- RuPaul's Drag U.

Party starts at 8:00pm with \$2 well drinks from 8pm- 10pm. Morgan takes center stage at 12am midnight with an amazing live performance.

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~ *DADT* from Page One

McCain, who has apparently decided to make his lasting legacy be that of the last man standing against the civil rights issue of the twenty-first century, will presumably continue to argue that violating Americans' 14th Amendment rights isn't a problem.

But the bottom line here is, the findings in this report removes any excuse for opposing the repeal by moderate Republican Senators who have said their vote on the issue would be based on its findings.

But bear in mind that this is just a recommendation on gradually implementing the repeal. It's a victory, but the war isn't won.

Senate Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) has promised a vote on the repeal before the end of the year.

~ *Arrest* continued Page One

Moore was anxious to be out of jail, as she was being held with male prisoners, so she did in fact enter a guilty plea. Guards are not suppose to offer any legal advise, as they are not qualified to do so, and it is illegal for them to do so.

Transgender activists are considering a meeting with the director of the downtown library system to discuss this matter. There have also been discussions of possible direct action.

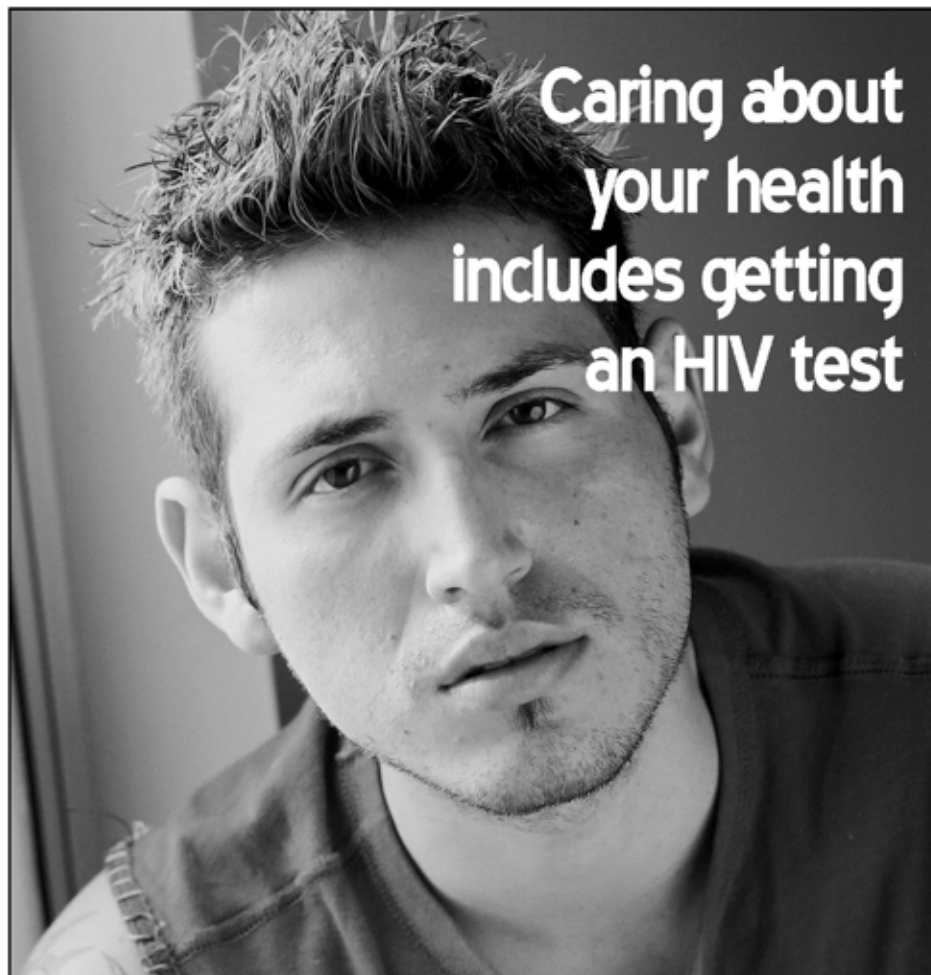
The Houston City Municipal Code:

*Sec. 28-20. - Entering restrooms of opposite sex.*

*It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly and intentionally enter any public restroom designated for the exclusive use of the sex opposite to such person's sex without the permission of the owner, tenant, manager, lessee or other person in charge of the premises, in a manner calculated to cause a disturbance.*

Not only did Ms. Moore have permission per the directive of the Mayor of the city but the code clearly states that the individual must have the intent to enter "... in a manner calculated to cause a disturbance ." Ms. Moore clearly was there to use the facility for the purpose it is intended and appropriate to her gender identification.

It is 2010, isn't it time to put the restroom issue to rest?



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## NO COMMENT

### Man arrested after ejaculating during TSA pat-down

by DeadSeriousNews.com

A 47 year old gay man was arrested at San Francisco International Airport after ejaculating while being patted down by a male TSA agent. Percy Cummings, an interior designer from San Francisco, is being held without bail after the alleged incident, charged with sexually assaulting a Federal agent.

According to Cummings' partner, Sergio Armani, Cummings has "multiple piercings on his manhood" which were detected during a full body scan. As a result, Cummings was pulled aside for a pat-down. Armani stated that the unidentified TSA agent spent "an inordinate amount of time groping" Cummings, who had apparently become sexually aroused. Cummings, who has a history of sexual dysfunction, ejaculated while the TSA agent's hand was feeling the piercings. The TSA agent, according to several witnesses, promptly called for back up. Cummings was thrown to the ground and handcuffed.

A TSA spokesperson declined to comment on this specific case, but said that anyone ejaculating during a pat-down would be subject to arrest.





## THE MAYOR OF MONTROSE\*

by Henry McClurg



### Goodness, I'm Here

#### Here in Montrose

This is great weather. It's cold, then warm, then cold. Will we get a real hard freeze this year? Probably. Are we talking about the weather in this column? Sure. Everyone talks about the weather. But on to other topics, dear citizens of Montrose.

Gregory Misakyan, known throughout Montrose as Chef Grego, is recovering with broken bones from an encounter with a car. He's still in the hospital. You know Chef Grego. He's a former Mr. Prime Choice and has in the past prepared buffets at Crocker, George, Ripcord and The 611. And probably several other Montrose clubs.

The 611 will be staging a benefit for Grego Saturday afternoon, Dec. 4. Come by for some fun.

Over at George, I personally witnessed Valerie giving barhost Jerry Jones a ring. It appears they are engaged. Be sure to wish the happy couple your best.

"Continental Jerry" (long-time employee at Continental Airlines) simply does not want his name changed to "United Jerry," in spite of the merger. Jerry informs me that, technically, his name is currently "United-Continental Holdings Jerry."

JP Gill writes on Facebook, "I forgot a thought that I thought I had forgot but the thought that I had forgot wasn't the thought I thought I forgot."

#### Our "Country" Clubs

Our gay clubs in Montrose don't compare to the River Oaks Country Club. They're much better. They're more fun. And here's what's going on at some of them as the holiday season continues in Houston's most eclectic neighborhood. ... Meteor is the place where sizzling dancers perform. It's also the place for great cocktails and just sitting and flirting. ... Ripcord's 30th anniversary party is Monday night, Dec. 6, 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. It's a "Black Leather Affair." Don't have leather? Two options: buy a vest from Blackhawk Leather next door or butch it up the best you can with jeans. ... The Brazos River Bottom always has cowboys from noon to 2:00 a.m. seven days. And usually some community event on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Someone you know is having a birthday party there on Friday, Dec. 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m. ... Tony's Corner Pocket has their Christmas tree up. Tony and his boys worked very hard on it. ... The Pink Dolphin in Galveston is open on Tremont. They also call that street 23rd. As you read this it's BYOB

but rest assured, LBTD (Liquor by the Drink) starts very soon.

#### Music and Math

After sitting on a bar stool for several hours I had an eureka moment. I concluded that music was mankind's first math. After all, music has a rhythm. Music has a beat. The beat and the rhythm crisscross creating another series of measurement. And that's basic math. (Now that I'm sober, does this make any sense?)

#### The Nuntius

Houston's real first gay newspaper was the Nuntius. Mel Plummer ran it for a while. It started before I could get to Houston. Whatever happened to Mel? I know he once also worked for channel 26 TV, which in those days had the call sign KDOG. I kid you not. (That's a Jack Parr expression).

#### From Our World Desk

**Haaretz**, an Israeli daily, reports that on Nov. 28, a gay pride parade in India drew thousands onto the streets of Delhi. It was first such Indian parade since gay sex was made legal there following a landmark Delhi High Court case in July 2009.

#### From Our Out of This World Desk

Mark Twain wrote a book to released 100 years after his earthly demise and that time has arrived. And the book is a best-seller.

A New York Times editorial said that Twain wanted his autobiography released now so that he could say just what he pleased.

"Mark Twain is terrific company, plain and simple. He knew everyone, went everywhere, seemed to be interested in everything and is capable of making the reader, in 2010, laugh on nearly every page. And this is not, strictly speaking, an autobiography. It's an autobiographical miscellany."

Samuel Clemmons is my hero!

#### I'm All Yours

Tell me what you want promoted here on the pages of the evolving, growing, Montrose GEM. I'm all ears at 713-529-5700. And I'm all eyes when you send it to [gem2henry@yahoo.com](mailto:gem2henry@yahoo.com). Shops, stores, clubs, restaurants, events. Contact me.

Now put on your holiday bells and go out and sparkle like the Montrose gem you are.

\*I'm not really the mayor.

## Healthy Living

GLBT Health News of Note

HealthyLivingNews.org

### HIV Drug Blocks HIV Infection in People

A new study has shown that a once a day pill can protect against contracting HIV. The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, is being hailed as a breakthrough proving that HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis or "PrEP," works. PrEP could now become a significant new HIV prevention tool against the HIV pandemic.

The study, called "iPrEx", enrolled 2500 gay men from 6 countries. The men were considered at high risk of becoming HIV infected. The study used a drug known as Truvada. Those assigned to take Truvada were 44% less likely to contract HIV than those on a placebo. More importantly, blood tests showed that those in the study subgroup that did diligently take Truvada 92% of the time were 73% less likely to become infected by HIV. Researchers believe that PrEP will also be effective in preventing heterosexual HIV transmission. Studies are ongoing to prove that.

Truvada is not an oral HIV vaccine. It is a one pill combination of two HIV antiviral medications (Emtricitabine, trade name Emtriva, and Tenofovir, trade name Viread). So Truvada only prevents HIV infection when it is in the body. Truvada has been available by prescription for over 5 years to treat HIV infection but it's not yet approved as a drug to prevent HIV infection. That may change as a result of the iPrEx results and other forthcoming studies. Doctors are already prescribing Truvada off label to prevent infection by HIV. Meanwhile, the CDC is working on new Truvada pre-exposure prophylaxis guidelines.

Truvada's cost may be an obstacle to its widespread use. In the U.S. it costs about \$800 a month or about \$27 per day. At some point health insurance may cover Truvada for PrEP the same way it covers birth control pills. In the meantime, the study results raise the spectre of a Truvada black market.

The drug is widely used and available from within the HIV-infected community. A generic, lower cost version of Truvada that is produced in India is also available to the developing world.

Taking Truvada once a day was a problem for many in the study. An alternative "disco dosing" PrEP study is ongoing to determine whether taking Truvada in anticipation of sex is effective. If that works the challenges of frequent dosing, drug costs, and drug side effects may be minimized.

The favorable results of the iPrEx study may also have been enhanced by safe sex practices. This was in contrast to concerns that PrEP will provide a false sense of security resulting in a reduced use of condoms. The opposite occurred in the study. This was possibly because study participants received regular counseling, many for their first time, on safe sex practices. The data also showed that those in that subgroup who did not skip dosing but consistently adhered to taking their Truvada were also more likely to use condoms. This is perhaps the most controversial finding of the study.

Truvada was well suited for the study not just because it could be taken once a day. It is also less vulnerable to developing drug resistance than other HIV drugs. However, resistance was an issue for a few study participants. They were already HIV infected but were enrolled in the study because they had not yet converted from testing HIV negative to HIV positive. So there appears to be a risk of developing resistance when taking PrEP while unknowingly being HIV infected. This could especially be true for high risk behavior individuals.

Side effects for those taking Truvada included nausea, weight loss, some kidney dysfunction, and bone density loss. Had pill adherence for those on Truvada been higher drug side effects would have been even more pronounced. This raises concerns about the safety of regular long-term use of Truvada as a pre-exposure prophylaxis.



## HOLIDAY REVIEWS

Review by Bob Wallick

*A Queer Carol*, presented by Un-Hinged Productions at the Frenetic Theater building, is a different version of the classic *A Christmas Carol*. The modern tale revolves around Ben (Ebenezer) Scrooge, an interior designer, and his transformation into a caring, outgoing, happy person. The twist is that Ben and Jake Marley were lover and business partners. Bob Cratchit is lovers with Tim. The show follows the same path as Dicken's story of the ghosts melting Scrooge's heart of ice.

The show gets off to a slow start. Later scenes move better when multiple actors are on stage. The characters seem to fill out as they interact with others.

Ben, played by Rodney White, is at his best with the ghosts of Christmas. In his final form, he is an entertaining character. Sharod Choyce, as young Ben, is strong in his role which spans most of the show. As Tim he is an upbeat, optimistic character.

Three members of the cast are outstanding in their roles. Eva Laporte as Ghost of Christmas Past a la Marilyn Monroe, delivers a realistic and flamboyant performance even when she is sneaking the names of many of her movies into her statements. Todd Greenfield blazes his way through his scenes as the flashy, queenly Fezziwig. He grabs the stage and keeps control of it whenever he is speaking. Will Gough as the Ghost of Christmas Present flames as a guiding light for Scrooge, identifying himself as a Carman Miranda style lady of style and flash.

Brandon Kankel as Jake Marley, is a partying and sexually-adventurous man whose ways create problems with his lover Ben. His first appearance as the ghost of Marley grabbed the audience's attention and set the tone for the rest of the ghosts.

The rest of the cast delivers convincing performances with many playing multiple roles. They also serve as the crew for the show doing the numerous set changes quickly and efficiently.

Joe Angel Babb directs the show with, perhaps, a heavy-handed approach in the flashback scenes of Ben's early home and relationship with Jake. Most of the show is written and played as a comedy. These mentioned scenes are dramatic but, particularly, the scene between Ben and Jake in the bedroom is seemed unnecessarily heavy.

Kali Vlahos uses some effective sound techniques but could have used better lighting during set changes. Kenny Constant's sets were, at times, sparse but functional. The interior decorator's office and home both lacked the style that one would expect from such a firm.

### *Crumpit tells it like it is* by Deborah Moncrief Bell

Regular listeners of National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*, were delighted to hear David Sedaris recount his adventures working as an elf at Macy's (one Christmas season).

The essay eventually became a one man play. *The Santaland Diaries* currently at the Neuhaus stage at The Alley Theatre, brings this little fun bit to Houston. Company actor Todd Waite plays "Crumpit", the elf name Sedaris took for the duration of his elf gig.

As with most often the case with the Neuhaus stage productions, the staging is spare, with few props. Clever lighting and imagination fill what props are needed besides the large chair and side table that serve to furnish "Santa's House". Waite manages to use the space effectively, with his vivid descriptions of things not actually on stage to make them "magically" seem to be there.

Waite captures Sedaris' well known sardonic style, throwing in some great rubber-faced expressions and clever body language. He also makes it very interactive, often incorporating audience participation utilizing improvisational skills. Perhaps, most interesting is that he looks really good in candy-caned stripped stockings. Unlike the diminutive Sedaris, Waite at 6'4" hardly brings to mind an elf. Save Legolas from *The Lord of the Rings*, most of us think of elves as, well, small.

This version has been updated, including some local flavor, "The boys from Montrose" are given a nod, in a bit you have to see to fully appreciate.

Recognition goes to talented costume designer Blair Gullede for the exquisite green velvet elf costume.

Another community favorite, Paul Hope is understudy for the role and will take the stage on five dates.

*Santaland Diaries* is for mature audiences. If you want to give younger folks a theater treat, take them upstairs to the annual and always excellent *A Christmas Carol*.

## MARKETPLACE

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