

Brutal Murder in Heart of Montrose Club District, Arrest Made

by Deborah Moncrief Bell



Lydell Grant, (below) is charged with murder in the 351st State District Court. He is accused in the killing of Aaron Michael Scheerhoorn, 28, of Houston, who was pronounced dead at Ben Taub General Hospital, Scheerhoorn died at the scene of the attack however.



Aaron Scheerhoorn was stabbed to death Friday in front of witnesses, including security personnel, in the parking lot of Blur Bar at 710 Pacific Street.

The Police Report

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal stabbing of a man at 710 Pacific about 11:30 p.m. last Friday (Dec. 10).

HPD Homicide Division Sergeants E. Cisneros and W. Meeler reported:

The victim was seen running southbound in the 2500 block of Crocker with an unknown black male chasing him. The victim ran up to the entrance door of Club Blur located at 710 Pacific. There, he pleaded for help and said he had been stabbed. At that time, he fell to the ground in the parking lot and was stabbed multiple times by the male chasing him. The incident occurred in the presence of security personnel from the nightclub and several club patrons. The suspect then fled on foot eastbound on Pacific. The victim was transported to the hospital. The suspect was described only as a black male wearing an orange turtleneck sweater and black pants.

Acting on a Crime Stoppers tip, investigators determined the identity of the suspect and he was arrested without incident during a traffic stop in the 3200 block of the South Loop West about 1 a.m. on Dec. 15.

~ ***The rest of the story***
continued on Page 5



"This is going to be about what's in the best interest of the city of Houston, not any one community, said Mayor Annise Parker at a press conference held on December 9th about the redistricting in 2011.

A Gay City Council District in Houston – Not Likely!

by Christine Doby

Rumors have been flying that Mayor Annise Parker plans to establish a predominantly GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) City Council District in Houston in the redistricting procedure that is in its initial stages and is expected to be completed in 2011. The possibility of accomplishing this is extremely unlikely.

On December 9, Parker, Police Chief McClelland, the Houston Police Department Mental Health Unit/Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and others were recognized for excellence by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. At the end of the CIT ceremony, a reporter, Mary Benton of KPRC, called out a question to the Mayor asking whether she had plans to create a combined Heights and Montrose City Council district.

As the police on the stage behind the Mayor shifted from foot to foot and looked about, wondering whether they were still supposed to be there or should leave, Benton asked Parker if she would support a district that would consolidate

the Heights and Montrose districts, which are presumed to be the two districts with the greatest numbers of GLBT residents. The Mayor responded that she "had never expressed publicly or privately in the last year, as mayor of this city, any preference for any of the districts."

She added, "I have met individually with all of the Council members and told them how the redistricting process is going to go. It is going to be driven by staff consultants, by the academic teams from the University of Houston and TSU and will be based strictly on the demographics."

~ See ***Redistricting*** on Page 5



I Love You Phillip Morris will be in wide release Christmas Day. The story of a former police officer turned conman (and who realizes he is gay) has strong Houston connections. See review on Page 9

Houston's Botts LGBT Collection is becoming a major archive

by Christine Doby

A visit to the Botts LGBT Collection is a mind-boggling experience. The importance and size of the collection is formidable. It contains a knockout history of Houston's gay community housed in a truly unusual setting – the old shower room of a church gymnasium high above Houston's hurricane flood level. "Oh no, no, no," you say. Well, you have to tour the facility at the Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church to believe it.

Under the guidance of Curator and Head Archivist Larry Criscione and Assistant Archivists Leif Hatlen and Mike Kelley, "the library is attracting major collections of LGBT books, magazines, newspapers, personal papers and photographs of special community interest, and that includes signed first editions of important gay books and complete collections of local gay newspapers, as well as museum quality historical items," said Criscione.

~ ***Botts*** continued on Page 8



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908.232.2021**BEELINES**

by Deborah Moncrief Bell



A friend of Aaron Scheerhoorn stated that, "His heart was in Montrose". So it is an additional tragedy, that the young man's heart stopped beating while in the heart of the Montrose club scene on Pacific Street.

Scheerhoorn was a vibrant individual according to friends, the kind of guy that lit up a room with his presence. He was well liked and thought of by the people that knew him.

He had a good sense of humor, saying on Facebook that his political views, were political. His thoughts on religion were "Whatever works for a person", and he liked the book *Liber AL vel Legis*, which you just have to know about to know that tells you something significant about him in itself.

Unfortunately, I never met Aaron, except he was a friend of the Montrose GEM on Facebook, so I am assuming he was one also of our readers. And strangely, via Facebook, I connected with family and friends of his and learned about his life, as much as I did about his death. It is his life that is the important story after-all.

He did not like the cold weather in his native Massachusetts, so settled in the warmer climes of Texas. He hoped to open a catering business.

Although he identified as gay, he had dated several women during his life. He also seemed to have the knack of staying friends with the folks he had dated.

Aaron had somewhat of a troubled life. When his parents divorced his mother was given custody. He spent part of his life with her in Texas. When he was six, his father was awarded custody. Aaron, at the age of 17 was living on the streets in Houston. He did a year in a Texas penitentiary for breaking a store front window.

He went back to live with his Dad for three years, but returned to Houston in 2002. He was known to have had issues with drugs, but according to his friends, that was something that was behind him. Although some feared he had relapsed and may have met his assailant in a drug deal gone bad.

"Everything seemed fine," reported his father from their last conversation on Sunday, December 12th.

~ *Beelines* continued on Page 5**The Mayor of Montrose***

by Henry McClurg

***Predators in Montrose***

I've been seeing them on the streets for years. I've been here for years. I have even got used to them, thinking they were part of the natural atmosphere.

But they shouldn't be.

These are the people who don't live here. They're not in the 'hood to go to the clubs and restaurants. They're on many street corners. And they're just there.

Well, I've had enough.

These are the predators in our neighborhood. I want them out.

Many of them even have a common uniform, when the weather's right, of a white T-shirt and dark pants.

They're not here to shop and contribute. They are here to prey on you and me.

Why are they here? To perform a service that's in demand? To provide stimulates that some of us buy? Then those that buy are equal partners in the predatory scheme.

But most of us don't buy. Most of us just walk by, trying to not catch their attention. Most of us want to be left alone and don't want them around.

Then, sometimes, their predatory nature goes beyond the aspect of merchant and buyer. No sale tonight? I've got to do something. Oh, here comes a person, by himself, let me intimidate him.

Or they are cruising, often preying on the street kids that are trying to survive. They are trying to sell or buy drugs or sex. Others are haters and they are out to find some Queers to bash.

Get these damn predators out of here.

Yes, others will show up on the corners and replace all those that get locked up.

Well, lock up the replacements too. And keep locking them up. It will, of course, never end. But, still...

Well, Now to Other Subjects

Antenna TV is coming to a TV signal near you. Channel 39.2 is replacing Universal Sports with oldies (also known as "classic TV") starting Jan. 3. Antenna TV offerings will include "Three's Company," "Good Times," "All in the Family," "Sanford and Son," "Benny Hill," "Maude," "The Nanny," "Too Close for Comfort," "The Monkees," "Married with Children," "NewsRadio," "Dennis the Menace," "The Donna Reed Show", and Three Stooges shorts.

Money, Money, Money

Why do we still have \$100 bills? You get looked at funny if you try to spend one.

Timothy Noah writing on Slate.com said that the majority of American C-notes are overseas. Oppressed people save them for security. They can hide them from their authorities.

The New York Times wrote a few years back that North Korea is the main maker of fake \$100 bills. At first US authorities could not tell the difference between the Korean fakes and the real American bills!

Finally, they figured out that the Korean version was flawless while our own version has many detectable flaws. Find a perfect \$100 bill? It's most likely a fake from North Korea.

But who in the world wants \$100 notes? Noah writes, "Most of the foreign Benjamins, it seems safe to assume, are in the possession of kleptocrats, drug lords, warlords, oligarchs, terrorists and assorted other varieties of extremely nasty and powerful people."

And a Quote

JP Gill: Any plan I had today of being a productive member of society, I am officially throwing out the window.

Quickies

Bartender/Pizza Chef Chris Contello turned 25. Got a hangover. He's almost ready now for Social Security.

Gosh, 25? I think I remember when I was 25. I'm not sure.

The Other Mayor

Is it election time yet? No, but ... it's time to start thinking about it.

Dear Mayor Annise: My birthday party is Friday night, Dec. 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Brazos River Bottom. I'll endorse you if you'll endorse me. (I'm the other mayor, ya know).

Dear everyone else: Come by 2400 Brazos Friday night and meet the mayors. We're both running for re-election. Sometime. Well, she is. I'm mayor for life by proclamation.

Now go out on the town, celebrate the season, and shine like a gem.

Henry McClurg is a resident of Montrose. He writes about the folks he encounters and things he thinks about.

*He's not really the Mayor.

CORRECTION

The Day of Remembrance article in our November 19 issue was credited to Lou Weaver. Credit should properly go to Malcolm Williams.

A Candlelight Vigil in honor of Aaron Michael Scheerhoorn

Friday, Dec. 17th at 9:00pm
The corner of Taft and Fairview
(Montrose) Houston, Texas

His friend Nancy McGinnis-Roberts says, "Please come and lift a candle, your hearts and your sentiments to honor the life of Aaron Scheerhorn, who died from a brutal attack in Montrose on December 10, 2010. Aaron was an amazing soul with a zeal for life, a tremendous heart and a love for all - come and show your support in his honor and to lift the close-nit and grieving community of Montrose. Let the first steps of healing begin at the corner of Taft and Fairview and let us continue to carry Aaron and his precious memory with us each step forward."

COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

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

AssistHers: www.assisthers.org

The Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)
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

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)

My Gay Houston
www.visithoustontexas.com/mygay-houston/

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

www.queermusicheritage.com

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

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

Houston GLBT Community Center News

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 Gallery at River Oaks (2019 West Gray). 6:30-10pm.

Monday, December 20. The Coming Out Group meets at the Center. 7pm.

Tuesday, December 21. The Center Seniors & Friends Potluck convenes in the Bethel Church UCC Fellowship Hall (1107 Shepherd). 6:30pm.

Thursday, December 23. The Energy exercise class meets at 1pm.

Thursday, December 23. - HIV Support Group meets 6-8pm.

Saturday, December 25. The Center hosts Christmas potluck. 1-5pm.

Thursday, December 30. The Energy exercise class meets at 1pm.

Thursday, December 30. - HIV Support Group meets at the Center. 6-8pm.

The Center joins 1st **Annual Unity Toy Drive** On Friday, December 17, the Center will participate in the 1st Annual Unity & Christmas Soiree Toy Drive hosted by the local Negris Lebrum Clothing Company. The event will be held at the Art Gallery at River Oaks (2019 West Gray), 6:30-10 p.m. Guests are asked to bring new unwrapped toys for children. The toys will be divided between the Center and the Houston Habitat for

Humanity for donation to organizations of their choice. The toy drive is part of the Unity & Friendship campaign established by the created by Negris Lebrum in January 2009.

Don't have plans for Christmas Day? Join us for a Potluck Dinner

The Center will host a potluck meal on December 25, 1-5pm. Bring a dish or beverage item and spend the holiday with your GLBT family. More information: Chris at 713.965.4483 or chris77038@yahoo.com or contact the Center.

Stop by the Historic Dow School lobby to see the GLBT-themed Christmas tree decorated by the Center---one of several special trees representing the communities that are part of the MECA (Multicultural Education and Counseling) for the Arts family.

All events are held at the Houston GLBT Center unless otherwise noted.

The Center is located at the Historic Dow School, 1900 Kane St., in the Old Sixth Ward Historic District. The main Center entrance is the Silver Street door at the corner of Silver and Lubbock. The phone number is 713.524.3818.

Check out the recently revamped website at:

www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

Please Note: First Saturday Queer Bingo, usually scheduled for the first Saturday of each month will be held on the second Saturday (January 8) for this month only.

Adele Starr dies at 90; unflagging gay-rights activist

When her son Phillip came out in 1974, homosexuality was seen 'as a mental illness ... and parenting was often blamed.', Adele Starr helped launch a support group for families that pushes for civil rights and marriage equality.

Starr died in her sleep Friday, Dec. 10 at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, where she had been convalescing after surgery.

In 1976, Starr founded the Los Angeles chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, known then as Parent FLAG, now as PFLAG.

In 1979, she spoke on the steps of the U.S. Capitol at the first national march for gay rights — a seminal event often credited with uniting a then-nascent movement.

Two years later, she became PFLAG's first national president; she served in that capacity until 1986 and remained a forceful advocate for civil rights and, in later years, for the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Over time, Adele Starr's activism eclipsed that of her son; he recalled with a chuckle that she often had to remind him to pay his PFLAG dues.

PFLAG is now a Washington-based nonprofit group with 200,000 members and supporters and 500 affiliates around the world. The group has since added transgender people to its mission, and its acronym now stands for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

She is survived by husband, Larry; sons William, Philip, Robert and Andrew; daughter Margo Scoble; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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

Tune in!



www.gayswitchboardhouston.org
Community Resource Directory

Nose in a Book

Review by Jone Devlin

Sexual Intimacy for Women: A Guide for Same-Sex Couples

– by Dr. Glenda Corwin

Lesbian bed death or LBD: that oft quoted curse which states that women who have been in relationships for a long time will eventually stop having sex is so pervasive in our culture that even straight couples believe in it.

Dr. Glenda Corwin, a therapist who had long heard of the myth of LBD, decided to do a study and see for herself if it really existed. The results of her study, which extended over several years and many couples, were mixed. Yes, there was a significant portion of women in long term same sex relationships that were no longer sexual, but there was also a compelling amount of women in long term same sex relationships who were still enjoying active sex lives.

Over time it became clear to Dr. Corwin that women who planned for intimacy, rather than just expecting it to happen, ended up with healthier and far more long lasting sex lives. But, of course, it wasn't (and isn't) just a matter of schedule. There are, it seems, all kinds of cultural, environmental, social, and societal barriers that keep women from not only asking for but also from getting what they want from an intimate relationship.

For instance, many women have been trained to be passive participants in sex. They have also been taught it is not something you enjoy, but something you put up with. Then there are all the negative stereotypes and body image issues women have to endure (though to be fair Dr. Corwin found that lesbians are far less "fat phobic" than other groups). These negatives (i.e. anyone that isn't a size two isn't attractive clothed, much less naked) make women far less likely to pursue intimacy.

Last but certainly not least, there are just the daily stresses and concerns of every day life. Twelve hour days at work, budgetary crises, and rebellious or young children are not the perfect set up for thoughts of sexual trysts.

Dr. Corwin's book addresses all these issues and more as she painstakingly works through everything, both external and internal, that can keep female same sex couples from maintaining an intimate physical relationship with their life partner.

The book flows very smoothly, and is written in a conversational way, so readers don't feel like they're reviewing a dry science text. The chapters are also written so that they can stand alone, which means that skipping ahead to the topics that are the most near and dear to your heart (or relationship) won't ruin the continuity of the book.

At the end of each chapter Dr. Corwin has included a "your turn" section which includes questions readers can work through either on their own or with their partner.

Because the tone of the book is conversational it also makes it much easier to discuss with your partner or others. Dr. Corwin did this purposely stating, in an interview with Houston's KPFT radio *Queer Voices*, that, though the book is most definitely for women, she wanted the advice and knowledge presented within to be shared throughout the GLBTIQ community.

~ *Beelines* continued

A candlelight vigil took place at the scene of the murder last Saturday night. About 100 people took part. Some were personal friends and others were people from the community who wanted to show their respect. An impromptu memorial was erected that included flowers and balloons. Another vigil is planned for this Friday (Dec. 17 -- see details on page 3)

Regardless of the circumstances, it is clear that no one deserves to have their life taken so cruelly. We have lost one of our own. The way Aaron died speaks of the worst of us (the people that watched the drama unfold as if it was happening for their personal entertainment and those that might could have helped but did nothing). And it speaks to the best of us, that being the good samaritan that took action in an attempt to save him.

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

~ *Redistricting* continued from Page 1

"And if there are those in my own community who are upset at that answer, I want to be very clear. This is about what is going to be in the best interests of the City of Houston and not any one community of the City of Houston."

After a moment of serious thought, the Mayor said, "I wouldn't be opposed to that, but it's about putting together a compact, contiguous district where you have similar demographics and similar infrastructure needs – not about who might live in any particular district. And that's all I'm going to say about that issue. So . . . that's it. That is not what this press conference is about. Thank you."

Mayor Parker left the stage abruptly at that point giving her opponents the delighted opportunity to edit and misquote her. Fox News ignored the context of the exchange and stated only that the Mayor walked out of her own news conference, a bit that was picked up by many on-line postings, and America's News Today, for which no background information can be found, went so far as to post a video to YouTube entitled, "Houston's Mentally-Ill Lesbian Mayor Annise Parker Abruptly Walks Out Of Her Own Press Conference."

In the face of this barrage of misleading reporting, it should be reiterated that the Mayor assured the reporters that there will be a demographic study by teams from the University of Houston and Texas Southern University, and the entire City Council and the public through town hall meetings and public hearings will be involved in the decision making.

In researching the actual possibility of a district that is predominantly GLBT, the Montrose GEM found that the chances are very unlikely. While Houston has a large GLBT population which is generally considered to be centered in the Montrose area and secondarily in the Heights neighborhood, the majority of GLBT people in Houston are spread across the entire City and are more likely to be instrumental in electing an "at large" City Council member than a representative from a single district.

Political strategist Mustafa Tameez was quoted by KPRC-TV as saying that he does not think it is possible to create a majority gay district City Council seat in the City of Houston.

Indeed, "a demographic study done by the Houston GLBT Political Caucus (HGLBTPC) more than a year ago produced the same conclusion," according to former Houston HGLBTPC President Jenifer Pool, who is running for City Council at Large, Position 2. The GLBT community in Houston is distributed across the city.

"It is true that when the Heights and Montrose areas were separated some years ago, a great many GLBT people believed they had been disenfranchised. When the numbers were all in, this did not prove to be the case. Neither the Heights nor Montrose, nor a combination of the two produces a majority of GLBT people in those areas," said Jack Valinski, a knowledgeable Houston political activist.

Mayor Parker will be a guest on *Queer Voices*, on radio station KPFT, 90.1fm.. The program airs 9 to 11pm.

The rest of the story

continued from Page 1

The shocking news of the murder of Aaron Scheerhoorn has rocked the Montrose community. Some media reports, including those issued by the Houston Police Department, a well as statements made by witnesses seem to conflict one another. They hardly tell the story of exactly what happened, and at times contradict one another.

One report stated that it was believed the incident started as a case of "road rage", another said the two men had been seen "together". Some think that Aaron knew his assailant, others, that Grant was a stranger. "He was wearing a burgandy sweater", "He had on an orange turtleneck and dress shoes." How do you confuse those colors?

While eye witness accounts can be surprisingly unreliable, the sheer number of witnesses in this case, and what they reported leaves us all to wonder what actually happened, Some matters are not in dispute.

That a tall black man, described as "clean-cut" wearing a orange or burgundy sweater with dark pants and dress shoes at the time of the slaying, had pursued Scheerhoorn after stabbing him once and then proceeded to stab the young man several more times, including wounds to the chest, abdomen, forearm, left side and hand, authorities said.

Police determined that the attack wasn't a robbery or hate crime, but the motive is not yet clear. Further investigation and a trial will reveal those facts.

~ *Murder* continued on Page 9

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Friday, December 31st

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January 2011

New Year's Resolutions

- 1) Quit smoking
- 2) Quit drinking
- 3) Lose weight
- 4) Join gym
- 5) Go back to school
- 6) Pay off debts
- 7) Find new job

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legacycommunityhealth.org

United Way
United Way of Greater Houston



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CHRISTMAS PUPPETS HOLIDAY SHOW

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19
10:30 PM

ROBERT'S LAFITTE

BARTENDED TURNABOUT ENTERTAINER APPRECIATION SHOW

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21
FREE SEVEN TUESDAY SHOW SEVEN

Fey. Mary! Merry Christmas!

NEW TOYS & FINANCIAL DONATIONS ACCEPTED



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF GREATER HOUSTON/GALVESTON, INC. FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17
9:30 PM
ALL PERFORMERS WELCOME!

Drag Shows Sat. & Sun. 10:30pm
Celebrating 44 Years Patio Open Daily
\$2 Vodka Sundays Open-Close
\$2 Well & Domestic Beer Mondays Open-Close

2501 Ave. Q @ 25th St. 409-765-9092



Michael's OUTPOST

You're Invited!

To a Christmas Party

December 22
8:00PM
1419 Richmond Ave.
713.520.8446

Where the drinks are cold and the music is hot!

Piano music by Mr. Neal Massey on Wednesday nights.

Open 11am daily
Sundays at 12 Noon

Don We Now Our Gay Apparel

~ *Botts* continued from Front Page

As of a year ago, the collection extended to over 10,000 books, 700 linear feet of periodicals, 215 linear feet of personal papers, 20,000 photographs, and 60 linear feet of ephemera or items that are paper and require extra care for they are easily damaged or destroyed.

The Archive also includes pornographic materials of special gay interest. This comes in all forms, some are sleazy and some are of extraordinary quality, such as photographic collections by major photographers, contributing an important component to the history of gay life.

The Botts LGBT Collection is becoming a major player in the LGBT archive world. It was started by Charles Botts and, until his death in 1994, he was regularly seen visiting used and rare book stores, library sales, yard sales, as well as being called to people's homes. He was always searching for books, magazines and other items by and about LGBT people unknown, famous and infamous – items he was determined to preserve. "Charles was a very savvy treasure hunter and saved many books and papers for the community's history," says Criscione.

Since then, his successor archivists have spent years adding to the collection and cataloging it. The amount of computer cataloging work has been staggering, totaling about 15,000 hours now, with no end in sight.

The data base will soon be added to an over-arching linking system called the Houston Area Rainbow Collective History (Houston ARCH), which currently exists under the auspices of Rice University's Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality. This data base will be a central hub that links the catalogs of all of Houston's major LGBT libraries and museums and makes the materials accessible to researchers worldwide.

Money is important. In an endeavor where museum quality preservation materials are needed for archival items, acid-free boxes and acetate sleeves alone run to thousands of dollars. The Archive has miraculously survived on very little funds until now, depending originally on funds in Charles Botts' Will, then on the physical support of the Church, and cash from a few loyal supporters including Criscione, Steve Brown and Gregory Shelton. So financial support for the archive is a key concern.

When it was found that the Botts LGBT Collection contained extensive early materials such as scripts and promotional materials from the early days of the Diana Foundation, the President of the Foundation, John Heinzerling, presented a proposal to his Board for a \$1,000 supportive donation from the Diana Foundation in 2010. They are following with a further gift in 2011. Heinzerling stated that he, "...found the preservation of the Diana materials invaluable in documenting the early

fifty exhibits at places such as the River Oaks Theater (in 2009 when "Milk" played there), Grace Lutheran Church, Houston Public Library, the Printing Museum, the Pride tent, and even the Ripcord Bar.

The next big project for the Botts LGBT Archives, and Houston's other museum-quality collections, is to find an appropriate building to use as a real museum for the various collections -- probably sharing some facilities and working together -- and the funding for acquiring, remodeling and outfitting it. That is the dream of the future.

In the meantime, Criscione reiterates, "Don't throw your LGBT materials away! We want them. If you cannot bring them in, we will go almost anywhere they are, pack them up, and take them back to the museum for future generations to value. We treasure every LGBT article you give us, from cocktail napkins to gay books. We want your photographs, awards, posters and flyers.

There is another option for those who do not want to part with their materials now, they can be left to the Botts archive via your will. It is important to make sure friends, family, executors and heirs know that journals, party calendars, collections of Pride Parade photos, books . . . just everything that sheds light on LGBT life . . . is desired for the collection.

Criscione requests that, even if you have no materials to donate, you can be part of this important collection by making a donation to support the archive or leave by making a financial bequest as part of your estate planning.

To contact the collection:

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Houston ARCH (Botts Collection Page): <http://houstonarch.pbworks.com/w/page/19526111/Botts-Collection>



The guardians of the Botts Collection.(L-R:) Larry Criscione, Mike Kelley and Leif Hatlen.
Photo: Christine Doby

HISTORY AT A GLANCE

by Craig Farrell

The Place: The Montrose
The Event: Westheimer Street Festival
The Date: 1971 through 2004

Whatever happened to the Westheimer Street Festival? Originally called the Westheimer Colony Art festival, this arts and crafts festival occurred twice a year. Once in mid-April and again in mid-October. The "Westheimer Art Festival" as it was then known, became a paid-admission event held in the parking lots of the stores at the intersection of Westheimer and Montrose Blvd. The event became so popular that well over a hundred art, craft, food vendors and beer booths, as well as several outdoor stages showcasing local bands and musicians expanded down Westheimer Street. This part was known at the Westheimer Street Festival. Throughout the eighties and nineties the "Westheimer Art Festival" and the Westheimer Street Festival continued to diverge.

During the nineties the "Westheimer Street Festival" grew so large the event hosted 300,00+ attendees over a two day period. This required street closure on Westheimer for several blocks with the central focus being the intersection of Westheimer and Montrose Blvd. It was a great mix of local residents, artists, gays, lesbians, drag queens, families with children, pets of all kinds (notably, a number of snakes and iguanas), transgender and heterosexual individuals.

What had started out as a friendly neighborhood event held by and for the community of Montrose had become a crowding of thousands into a neighborhood increasingly dominated by upscale condominiums and the increasingly conservative inhabitants. Large traffic jams resulted. Frictions between the street fair and local residents were rising. The biggest complaint from the homeowners was a lack of portable toilets and little to no attention to post event clean-up. By the late nineties, city council members introduced a city ordinance requiring public hearings as a precondition for the issuance of a street closure permit. The ordinance became law on June 16th 1999. The last "true" WestFest was held on October 16 & 17, 1999. Shortly thereafter the event was moved to Eleanor Tinsley Park and called "The Westheimer Street Festival in Exile". The similarities of the original community event were pretty well gone and by 2002 the festival had largely run out of steam.

October 15, 2005 saw the return, of sorts, of the Westheimer Street Festival., initially called 'West-Fest Compressed' and now known as 'The Westheimer Block Party'. While it bears extremely little resemblance to the oversized and unmanageable street festival of the 80's and 90's, it has considerable similarity to the community street festival and art show as it existed in the early days. The event occurs without street closure on series of properties around the intersection of Westheimer Road and Taft Street. Changes the area has experienced over the last twenty years most likely rule out the possibility that the 'Block Party' will ever grow to match the original festival.

~ *Murder* (continued from Page 5)

Mark Scheerhoorn, Aaron's father, states, "It seems, after talking to Aaron's friends that he didn't know this guy or if he did it was just an acquaintance because Aaron's friends don't know him. There were some people at the club who did (knew the guy) but they don't seem to be directly connected to Aaron."

One report said that Grant "calmly walked away" but several witnesses have stated that he ran from the scene. Congested street parking made it difficult for the ambulance to enter the area, but Scheerhoorn had already died by the time EMS arrived.

A club patron visiting from Michigan (who asked to be identified only by her first name, Debra), was on the top floor patio that overlooks the front of the bar when she witnessed what was taking place. Her cousin, who is from Houston, ran into the bar saying someone needed help and asking for towels from a bartender. She then ran downstairs, giving the towels to Debra who attempted CPR.

Even though the police made a statement that the man has only been identified in a certain way -- a very brief description at that - this good Samaritan talked with HPD for seven hours.

She made this statement: "*Being a visitor to the Houston area I was gravely disappointed in the public response to the tragedy. Having been one of the few by Aaron's side after his attack, I only wish I could have done more. It has brought me some fulfillment and peace, amidst the horror, to be able to let Aaron's friends and family know that contrary to what the media previously published, efforts WERE in fact made (though only by less than a handful of people) and there WAS someone at his side as he passed.*"

Another patron who wishes not to be identified told the GEM that "... the man pleaded for help at the door. They closed the doors on him and denied him. After knowing about the incident occurred, the club kept on going, serving drinks, continued the party... Did absolutely NOTHING to prevent this when they could have."

Blur Bar posted on Saturday their Facebook page: "Our hearts and prayers go out to friends and family of the gentleman that died last night. All we saw was two men running from Fairview and Crocker when then victim ran to Blur telling the bouncers he'd been stabbed and needed help. The suspect was running after him and attacked him again before running away. The victim tried to stay alert and fell onto the pavement before the police and ambulance arrived."

As of press time the management of the club has failed to make any other statement except to comment that an arrest was made.

A community is once again in grief. At least most of us. Others should be ashamed.

I Love You Phillip Morris

Reviewed by Kristian Salinas

Many years ago, I had a dream in which I met the great surrealist filmmaker Luis Buñuel (*Belle de Jour*, *Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*). The dream took place in Mexico during the 1950's, [delete comma] and was, rather appropriately, in black and white. Buñuel was in the middle of shooting his newest masterpiece but kindly agreed to take time out and share with me his philosophy of art and artists. The content of that conversation shall remain a secret but the best part happened next. Graciously concluding our conversation, Buñuel returned to the set. Before departing the dream, I took one last glance back at the master to find him in the midst of directing a dramatically charged scene between country-western singer Barbara Mandrell and blaxpoitation starlet Pam Grier in a new interpretation of *Black Mama, White Mama* (a re-interpretation to be shot almost 20 years before the original and still featuring Grier who would have been like 5! Now that's what I call SURREAL!). So when people talk about movies that made them laugh and cry, well, this dream was like that!

So how does this have anything to do with *I Love You Phillip Morris*, an inspired based-on-a-true story gay romantic prison comedy starring an unlikely Jim Carrey and a delectable Ewan McGregor? Well, first of all, *Phillip Morris* will make you laugh, cry, and laugh some more! Secondly, the casting of Carrey alone is certainly surreal. Carrey, whose "smallest" film to date may very well be *Man On The Moon* (A film about the life and career of the eccentric avant-garde comedian, Andy Kaufman), is still best known for doing time in dreck like *Ace Ventura*, *The Mask*, and *Dumb And Dumber*. And while the famous mug is ever present in *Phillip Morris*, it's not grating like it was in those other movies, instead having transformed into something touching and endearing, clearly revealing Carrey's fine acting chops. And did I mention Carrey plays gay? Yep, this is not your cousin Bubba's Jim Carrey movie!

Let me take a step back for a moment to brief those unfamiliar with the story upon which the movie's based. Jim Carrey portrays Steven Russell, an incomparable conman of unusual skill. Having led a mostly uninspired life married with children and serving on the local police force, Russell has an epiphany after a terrifying accident: He's gay. Gay! Gay! Gay! Gay! Gay! And so begins Russell's quest to live his new gay life to the fullest, relocating to Miami's South Beach where he racks up massive debt and eventually lots of trouble with the authorities, winding up in Texas and behind bars four different times. And it is during one of his sojourns behind bars he meets the enchanting boy-man of the film's title, winningly portrayed by the lovely and talented Ewan McGregor.

Based on the book by Houston journalist Steve McVickers, *I Love You Phillip Morris* relishes the details of Russell's cunning escapes from behind bars. Russell's sheer audacity is simply jaw dropping and, frankly, quite inspiring. This man is nothing but cajones and in the opinion of the book's author, Russell's most astonishing break-out would ultimately prove his last: Stephen was so in love with Phillip, he couldn't stand to be apart, and thus was busted when he attempted to contact Phillip who was still serving time in prison. Amour Fou! Which brings me back to Buñuel...

Buñuel's films seldom fail to shock, to amuse, and most importantly, to surprise. Consider the shock it might be for some audiences to see Ace Ventura himself imbibing on some hot man-on-man action straight (or is that STR8?) out of a Craigslist ad? And think also how amused audiences will be witnessing how one man repeatedly outsmarted the TDC not once, not twice, but three times to escape incarceration? And how surprising will it be to this same audience when they realize they're rooting (and even weeping) for this same man to end up in the arms of the man he loves? We love you Jim Carrey, and thank you Phillip Morris!

Written and Directed by John Requa and Glenn Ficarra

Starring Jim Carrey, Ewan McGregor, Rodrigo Santoro and Leslie Mann

(Roadside Attractions; USA; 98 mins; Rated R) Opened Friday, December 10th at the Edwards Grand Palace. In Wide Release Christmas Day.

Kristian Salinas is the Executive Director of Q-Fest, the Houston GLBT film festival and the new movie reviewer for the Montrose GEM.



I Love You Phillip Morris would be a great Christmas Day treat. It features good looking guys, a true life, but hard to believe plot line, is partially set in our fair city. The screenplay is based on a book by Houston journalist Steve McVicker.

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