

Farewell to 2010, A Brief Review

by Deborah Moncrief Bell



This year has been one filled with news concerning and affecting the Montrose area and the GLBT community, locally and on a national level. Not that there is much that is not part of our lives just as with anyone else in the world.

We started the year on a high note with the inauguration of Annise Parker as Mayor of Houston. It ended with the news of the long awaited repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell".

There was a lot in between. Some of it was hopeful news and a lot of it was very bad. Some of the stories are still developing so we will be following them into 2011.

Prop. 8



Houstonians rallied at City Hall on August 4, 2010 to celebrate after the ruling on the case pending in California. "...Proposition 8 is unconstitutional under both the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses", the judge ruled.

The case is being appealed in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. On Dec. 6, a three-judge panel appeared skeptical of the constitutionality of Proposition 8, the 2008 initiative that banned same-sex marriage in California.

The justices heard over two hours of oral argument in an appeal of a lower court decision voiding Prop. 8 as unconstitutional. Judge Vaughn Walker issued that ruling in August.

A ruling in this appeal is not expected for three months. The case is expected to ultimately reach the United States Supreme Court.



The Nikki Araguz story

Locally, in a story that has made national and international news, we followed the case of widow Nikki Araguz. Araguz, pictured above with her husband Thomas, faced a lawsuit brought by her former in-laws after Thomas died in the line of duty as a firefighter. Along with his former wife, Heather Delgado, they are trying to deny Araguz benefits she is due as a surviving spouse, using her status as a transwoman (Nikki was born inter-sexed). This case may well have state-wide if not national repercussions for both transgendered and same-sex couples.



Singer Ricky Martin

Who came out?

In a surprise to no one, actor Sean Hayes (formerly of *Will & Grace*), finally came out officially as a gay man. Singer Ricky Martin, also put the rumors to rest by proudly acknowledging his identity as a gay man,

Other outings included country singer Chely Wright, Rostam Batmanglij (of Vampire Weekend), and former RNC Chair Ken Mehlman. Actress Anna Paquin and fitness expert Jillian Michaels both have come out as bi-sexual, as did Ryan Buell of the A&E network's *Paranormal State*.

Rev. Jim Swilley, the pastor of a megachurch in Conyers, Ga., told his congregation in October that he's gay, saying that while he knows his announcement might ruin his career, the recent rash of suicides pushed him to speak out.

In the Media

Ellen DeGeneres continues to hold a top spot as a beloved TV talk show host. Never identified as a "lesbian comic" (she did not do openly gay material as a comic) DeGeneres talks freely about her marriage to actress Portia De Rossi and their lives together. Having once lost her television series after coming out, DeGeneres continues to make a difference with her show and her actions. She reminds viewers with her sign-off of "Be kind to one another" ever since the rash of bullying cost the lives of a number of young men due to suicide. She sometimes makes quips, joking about her "lifestyle" status. She is probably the most well-known and well-liked Lesbian in the world.

The GLBT community is being portrayed more on television than ever before. While, in most cases, the identity of Gay or Lesbian on a show is still crucial to the plot line, increasingly, it is at least being done in an accepting way. One show that notably features a gay character is GLEE. Chris Colfer is true to life as Kurt in the plot-line dealing with the very serious issue of bullying. Over on ABC, we have the gay dads on *Modern Family*. Eric Stonestreet's Cameron gets my award as the best non-gay in the role of a gay man. Whereas, the gay Jesse Tyler Ferguson's Mitchell, often finds himself playing the "straight-man" of the couple, in theatrical terms.

Archie Panjabi, as investigator Kalinda Sharma on *The Good Wife*, has given us a lesbian heart-throb. The Emmy award winner may actually be playing a bi-sexual, we don't know for sure yet. Panjabi is straight playing gay.

It really is getting confusing, too, as we finally have out entertainers playing out characters. Meanwhile, some of the most out actors are playing straight. Examples are GLEE's Jane Lynch, who plays straight (although not always nice) Coach Sue and Wanda Skyes. Skyes was out as herself on her much too short-lived Wanda Skyes Show on Fox, but played straight on The New Adventures of Old Christine (that show ended this year and is now in syndication).

We were in the movies as well but I will save that for an issue next year.

Those Suicides

The most tragic story of 2010 was what seemed to be an epidemic of young gay (or perceived to be gay) men taking their lives after being the victims of bullying. All teenagers, and all having endured taunts, threats, and sometimes physical attacks, they just could not take it anymore and could find no other way to deal with their pain unfortunately. They included Asher Brown of the Houston area, who was only 13 years old.

Talented musician and Rutgers University student, Tyler Clementi, 18, jumped off a bridge to his death after a sexual encounter with another man was broadcast online.

The community response and the impact their deaths have had on others, as referred to in this article, have proven a powerful catalyst for action and change.



"Do not fear evil here, fear the indifference of good men" reads a banner posted at a vigil for Aaron Scheerhoorn at the site where he died after being stabbed, while seeking help on the steps of a Montrose area bar. See BEELINES for more on this story.

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by Deborah Moncrief Bell



The murder of Aaron Michael Scheerhoorn is having a dynamic impact on the Montrose community. Scheerhoorn was stabbed to death on Dec. 10th. I reported on the murder and the arrest of a suspect in the case in the last issue of the Montrose GEM.

The part of the story that is yet to be told, which is still unfolding, has to do with how one life can impact so many people. Not only did I write about Aaron's passing, but I also have become one of the people who have been affected by his life.

I attended services for Aaron last week. I saw him laid out in a casket, joining with friends and family in mourning his loss. There were a number of other people there who, like me, did not know Aaron in life. But they, like me, feel like something profound has occurred. What Aaron wanted to do most in life was to bring community together; and he is still doing that.

Not less than five people have described Aaron as "...the love of my life". That in itself is rather remarkable.

Even his dearest friends will tell you that he was by no means a saint. His father told me that Aaron was bipolar. That may be part of what led him to use drugs. Without the proper medical care, without health insurance, or for many other reasons, people with this disorder often self-medicate. Maybe he just liked to get high. That is probably how he came to know Lydell Grant, the man accused of his murder. Grant is a known drug dealer. None of his close friends knew he had any connection to Grant, and those closest to him disclosed to me that they really believed he was keeping clean and off the drugs at the time of his death.

Aaron was about community. Brandon Wolf who, like me, did not know Aaron stated, "The senselessness of Aaron's death is so hard to deal with. A logical mind begs for some sort of answer. Unfortunately, I doubt that there is one. There was utterly no purpose in Aaron's death. But there is the possibility of bringing a purpose to it - by changing the world that allowed such a tragedy to happen. One such purpose could be to enact a 'duty to assist' law in Texas. But enacting legislation is a long and uphill battle. It took eleven years to enact the federal hate crimes bill named after James Byrd and Matthew Shepard. Attempts to pass such a law at the state level was vetoed by Gov. Bush before he became President. Such a task would take real focus and persistence. But if

such a law one day became reality, it could be named after Aaron."

Wolf's statement has provided an answer as to how we can take this most devastating of losses and use Aaron's spirit to build a lasting legacy, creating change, and taking action that will benefit our community... in fact build community. Even though it is hard to pass laws, sometimes things are changed in the process of trying to do so.

Additional inspiration has taken the form of proposing that a sculpture be erected in a Montrose area park, not only in honor of Aaron but also to give people a place to remember, to reflect, and perhaps to meditate.

Nancy McGinnis-Roberts agrees that, "We need some tangibility attached to Aaron's loss... something that can make an impact on the community and carry his memory."

There are questions regarding the actions of the personnel and management of Club Blur because Aaron was denied entrance when he went to the door pleading for help. That is one reason this idea of a "duty to assist" law has come about. Blur has changed its name to Montrose Entertainment. Some folks wonder if they fear liability issues stemming from the incident.

~ That's the buzz from me for now!

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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/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)

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

social club for HIV+ men
www.pozlife.net/Houston

www.equalitytexas.org

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

Houston GLBT Community Center News

On January 1, start the year at the Brenda Thomas New Year's Day Social, organized by Houston GLBT Community Center president Tim Brookover and the Houston Transgender Unity Committee. This annual event honors the yearly open house which was hosted by the late, great transgender and HIV activist, which was a tradition for many people in the community. The potluck social will be held on Saturday, January 1, 1-7 p.m., at the Transgender Foundation of America's Transgender Center (604 Pacific). Guests are invited to bring a food item or beverage to share. Donations will be accepted in support of Unity Committee programs.

First Saturday Queer Bingo is on the move

Due to the New Year's Day holiday, the Center will hold First Saturday Queer Bingo on the second Saturday in January only (Saturday, January 8). There is also a new First Saturday Queer Bingo location starting in January: the auditorium of the Historic Dow School (1900 Kane). There is ample parking on the streets that surround the Dow School campus. As usual, doors will open at 4 p.m., and games will begin at 4:30. In February, First Saturday Queer Bingo will return to the first Saturday of the month (February 5).

Looking ahead:

Friends,

With the support of our many friends, the Houston GLBT Community Center has made tremendous strides in 2010. We launched new service programs, established dynamic partnerships with other organizations (including the Houston Public Library), and moved into a wonderful new home. As the Center looks to the new year, we are thrilled about the prospects for 2011, which marks the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the Center as the home base for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies in the metropolitan area and southeast Texas.

As the new year begins, the Center family will announce an array of new programs, partnerships, and initiatives that will broaden our service to the community even more.

The Center needs your support to make that service possible. The Center board of directors is committed, as always, to providing most of our programs—and all of our peer-led support programs—at no charge to participants. These programs include the following:

- * Coming Out Group
- * Energy Exercise Classes
- * HIV Support Group
- * Reading Series
- * Seniors & Friends Potluck
- * Lesbian Discussion Hour

Your contribution will help us continue to provide these programs. At the same time, support from our community allows the Center to host social activities like the upcoming Christmas at the Center potluck and to offer meeting space at very low cost to other organizations. Over the past year, these groups have included Dia de la Mujer Latina, Houston ARCH, Team Houston, the Texas Transgender Non-Discrimination Summit, and Unhinged Productions.

This is an exciting moment for the Center—as we honor our record of service and look ahead to building upon that record to serve our community, our brothers and sisters, our friends and neighbors. I hope you will help us keep the momentum going with a generous year-end contribution. You can make a tax-deductible donation right now via PayPal at our newly upgraded website, www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org (click on the Membership tab) or mail a check to the Center/1900 Kane/Houston, Texas 77007.

Thank you for your support.



www.gayswitchboardhouston.org
Community Resource Directory

LHI's Celebration of Love Gala

The Lesbian Health Initiative's annual Valentine's Gala will be a festive evening at the beautiful Doubletree Hotel Downtown Houston.

Join us Saturday, February 12, 2011 as we toast 19 years of support and community. Enjoy our auction, reception and a delicious dinner followed by comedian Dana Goldberg, dance party with DJ Joy De La O, and more! Check Dana out at www.danagoldberg.com.

Give the perfect Valentine gift. Order gala tickets now at www.galalhihouston.org.

Be a gala sponsor. Sponsorship opportunities are available to brand and position your business as a supporter and leader of LGBT health issues. In return for your corporate or individual support, we are pleased to offer a very valuable promotional benefits package, of which a large portion is tax-deductible. Join the list of companies and individuals that support LHI.

More info: www.lhihouston.org.

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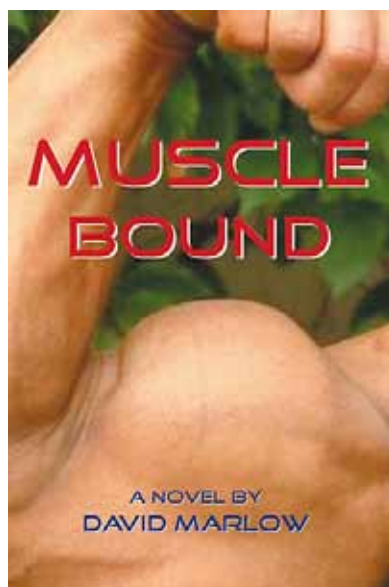
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Nose in a Book

Review by Jone Devlin



Muscle Bound by David Marlow

Chase Hyde is a self-proclaimed “roamosexual” that is, a gay man who has sworn off monogamy for good. Chase has a care free life, enjoying working out (both in and out of the gym), hooking up in cyberspace, checking out the hard bodies along the boulevards of his West Hollywood stomping grounds, and of course, fending off well meaning friends who want nothing more than to see him settle down.

During one of his internet trysts Chase meets Hunter Rowe, an up and coming advertising executive and fellow gym freak who wants nothing more than to get married and settle down with that one special man. Hunter is convinced that Chase Hyde is the muscle bound man of his dreams.

Naturally, being that Hunter’s fantasy of marrying and settling down is the polar opposite of every single thing that Chase claims to want, you’d think these two would be over before they start; right? Well you’d be wrong. Chase and Hunter have barely exchanged screen names before they come out of the chat room and embark on a powerful, passionate, love affair, one that is both marked and marred by their obsession with working out, hard bodies, and steroid abuse.

But before you think this is just another story of gay love and steroids, Marlow has added a whole new dimension to his novel by including a back story about Chase’s first and only long term relationship with

a man named Christian Falconer. Christian is a body builder who has major issues with both his sexuality and muscle obsession – especially as defined by his rigid religious beliefs.

Marlow is a life long body builder, stating in his bio that he has been in training since the age of 16, so he knows first hand about the dark side of working out and body obsession. He channels this knowledge easily into *Muscle Bound*, capturing the ups and downs of individuals whose self-esteem is all about how big they can get (muscle wise) and how many

(equally big) men they can pick up at any given time.

The author is also adept at making his characters three dimensional, easily articulating both the good and the bad sides of everyone featured in this book. While the body obsession and drug abuse of Chase, Hunter and Christian is not whitewashed in any way, Marlow also makes sure to let the readers know that these are real people with real feelings, ideas, and insecurities.

Another prominent feature of the novel is the sex and yes boys, there is lots of that, described in amazingly vivid detail. But this novel is no thinly disguised adult tome. There is a real story here, with actual characters and a developed plot. The sexual situations are part of and fit into this plot, not the other way around. That said, those of you who pick this novel up specifically to read about hot gym boy on gym boy action will not be disappointed.

Along with vivid descriptive prose, a good storyline, and a great cast of characters, Marlow has also injected a fair bit of humor into what is actually a very serious story. This humor tends to lighten the mood, and definitely helps the reader get through some of the darker parts of the novel.

Intense, entertaining, and the perfect thing to heat up those cold winter nights, *Muscle Bound* by David Marlow is published by iUniverse Inc. and is available online. Check out more about David Marlow at www.DavidMarlow.com.

Reviewer’s Grade: 5 out of 5 stars.

The Mayor of Montrose*

by Henry McClurg



Another Year

It was quite a year here in the Montrose mayor’s office. We moved Montrose “city hall” down the street a block and made it the world headquarters for a new newspaper. And now, lo and behold, it has become the Montrose sales office for the other newspaper, the Montrose GEM. That’s the one you’re holding in your hands right now. Yes, it’s been a year of musical newspapers.

Here in the GEM, Deborah has a recap of the big events that happened locally and nationally in our community.

In my little mind, here is a list of some events: Mayor Annise Parker was sworn in to head Houston. In case you’ve been in a cave all year, she is the openly-gay mayor of the fourth largest city in the country. And she lives here in Montrose. In fact, she’s in my “jurisdiction.” I need to send her a bill for her property taxes.

Other big news, at least in my little mind, I broke my leg. And that was just the start of it. After spending 12 days in the hospital, I came home and found my boyfriend had left me and took with him everything he could carry. The street people tell me he’s now a guest of the State of Texas.

Other big news, also in my little mind, our Krogers store on Montrose now stocks gluten-free bread. Now that, to me, is wonderful as I can’t handle gluten in my diet. I no longer have to order the stuff from Amazon. Krogers even carries five different versions of the bread. (Gluten-free bread is made from rice, almonds or tapioca.) You can make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich using a corn tortilla instead and it’s not bad. It’s just not as good as bread. In fact, I think I’m going to make one right now. A bread one.

Profound Thought

It just hit me. When one is down, you discover that there are two kinds of people out there. Those who want to kick you while you lay there; and those who want to pick you up.

Now, I’ve heard that before somewhere. Where?

January Events

Yes, there are big events coming in January. “It’s All Over But the Shouting” will be Friday, Jan. 7, at Tony’s Corner Pocket. This is an ERSICSS event. Mr. BRB 2010 and Miss BRB 2009 (Craig Stanford and Kimberly Anne O’Neil)

are staging “Disco Inferno” on Friday, Jan. 21, at the Brazos River Bottom.

And the biggest event in January doesn’t even happen until March. How can that be? It’s Let Us Entertain You Weekend. It’s big in January because that’s when all the planning by the Houston Council of Clubs gets going full steam.

Oh, here’s another big event for January and we’re going to celebrate it in the next issue of the best community newspaper in Houston. It’s the 6th anniversary of the Montrose GEM. We (actually, “I”) published that first issue on Jan. 21, 2005. In our next issue, I’ll tell you how it all came to happen and where the name came from.

We even produced a pre-first-issue prototype. It’s rare. It’s as rare as a ... Well, Deborah would edit that part out of my column. Let me just say that it’s rare. I just might pass out a few copies of it at various watering holes in our fine community in two weeks. I just might.

The Dems

Well, it took a lame duck session of Congress for the Democrats to find their spines, but they did. Along with a lot of you, I’m sure, I was having second thoughts about the Obama administration. We elected him to change the way Washington was run. Mainly we elected him to fix the problems caused by eight years of Bush, neo-cons and big, selfish corporations.

In our community, the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was a top priority. As many of you know, I served in the U.S. Navy prior to the enactment of that law (when there was an out right ban on homosexuals serving), and we had not a problem. I had a “husband” for a year and a half in Morocco. Everyone on the base knew we were hitched. They didn’t care.

Hell, we even had a gay bar on base. Well, it wasn’t officially a gay bar. It was owned by this Frenchman and he had a license to operate it within the base. He called it the Sportsman Lounge. And it was the most popular bar (out of three) that was on the base. But, it was a gay bar! We made it one and he was happy that we did. (Did I mention that he was French?)

That’s my article for this issue. You’ve been a real gem for the past year. Let’s do it again for another year.

* *He’s not really the Mayor.*

New Year's Eve

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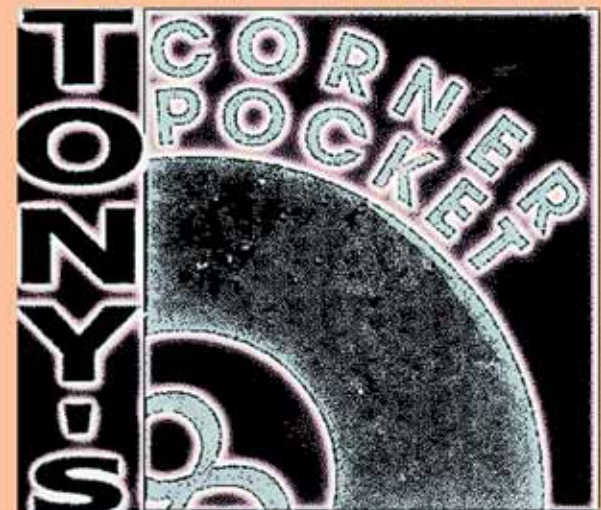
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January 2011

Happy New Year!

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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Speaking of Bullying

The Alley has made an interesting and timely choice with the selection of the first show of 2011 on the Hubbard Stage. *God of Carnage*, Yasmina Reza's Tony Award-winning play, directed by Wilson Milam. The four cast members include Hans Altwies as Michael Novak, Denis Arndt as Alan Raleigh, Bhama Roget as Annette Raleigh, and Amy Thone as Veronica Novak. Director Wilson Milam and all four cast members are making their Alley debuts. This production is produced in association with Seattle Repertory Theatre.

God of Carnage took Broadway by storm, taking home the Tony Award for Best Play and earning rave reviews. The New York Times called the play "First class! A four-way prize fight. Catnip for audiences." And the New York Post described it as "Gleefully nasty fun." *God of Carnage* is the story of two seemingly courteous and civilized couples who meet after their boys' fist-fight in a neighborhood schoolyard. Michael and Veronica, whose son's teeth were knocked out with a stick, invite Alan and Annette, whose son did the knocking, to their home to settle stuff. Civility crumbles. Grown-ups behave badly as these parents argue about who influenced their sons' misbehavior. Carnage erupts with finger-pointing, name-calling, stomping and carrying on. And then they break out the liquor.

Recommended for mature audiences due to profanity.

God of Carnage

By Yasmina Reza

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Wilson Milam

ACTOUT

Thursday, January 20, 6:00 – 7:15 PM

Houston's premiere theatre group for gay and lesbian theatre fans and their friends celebrates the Alley Theatre's production of *God of Carnage*. This pre-curtain event is complimentary with your ticket to the Thursday, January 20, 7:30 PM performance of *God of Carnage*. To buy a ticket, required for this event, use the promo code:

ACTOUT. Purchase online at www.alleytheatre.org or call the box office at 713.220.5700.

The Cowpoke Cookbook

from Jody Travis

I am sure most of you have already heard about the TGRA Royalty Candidates Cookbook that we are putting together (and those who are just hearing about I apologize for the short fuse here). Well we have been forced to move the cut off date to submit recipes, its now Jan 5th so PLEASE email me your favorite recipe when you get a chance: jtravis15@sbcglobal.net

Looks like we are close to our goal to fill this book up but we still need your help here. We have plenty of deserts and side dishes so we really need some main dishes.

We're still selling those ads for anyone that might want to place an ad. Its \$150 for full page ad and \$100 for half page ad. Just let me know if you want one and the cut off date is the same as for the recipes, we need it in by Jan 5th.

Panto Pinocchio An Outrageous Family Musical

WORLD PREMIERE!

Panto is back and wilder than ever! Stages continues to build a new holiday tradition with this magical modern-day spin on Carlo Collodi's classic tale. Computer mogul Gill Bates thinks his life is complete when he finally succeeds in building a robot son. But Pinocchio has a mind of his own and a taste for mischief! Will Pinocchio realize his dream of becoming a real boy? Will his geeky dad ever find love? Or will Miss Treats and Miss Demeanor lead everyone astray? Hurry, Houston — this is Panto and we need your outside voices! Come ready to laugh, cheer and boo at the high-tech hijinx, complete with local humor, improvisation, original music, audience participation, and spectacular fun for grownups and kids alike!

Directed by Kenn McLaughlin

Book & Lyrics Eric Coble

Music by Steven Jones

www.stagestheatre.com or call the box office at 713.527.0123

Pictured below: Ryan Schabach as Buttons ~ photo by Mark Lipczynski



The Marvelous Wonderettes

By Roger Bean

REGIONAL PREMIERE at Stages

Now with sing-along Fridays! No need to hum under your breath or muffle your voice - now you can sing loud and proud! Add your voice to the Wonderettes Prom Songfest, happening every Friday.

A cotton-candy-colored pop musical blast from the past! At the 1958 Springfield High School prom we meet the Wonderettes - Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy and Suzy - four girls with hopes and dreams as big as their crinoline skirts and voices to match! As we learn about their lives and loves and follow them from their eventful prom to their ten-year reunion, the girls perform classic '50s



Sex Please We're Sixty

Theatre Suburbia opens the third show of their 50th Season with *Sex Please We're Sixty*:

It runs Jan 7 - Feb 5

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 PM
Sundays, January 23 and 30 at 3:00 PM.

A Houston Premiere Farce by Michael and Susan Parker

Directed by Doris Merten

Starring:

James Barron, Carol Davis, Hollis Jordan Hunt-oon, Carolyn Montgomery, Jane Potts, and Kevin Hudson.

Three menopausal women, an uptight innkeeper and their adventures with two elderly men at a bed and breakfast.

Theatre Suburbia is located at 4106 Way Out West Drive, Houston, TX 77092.

Tickets \$14 adults; \$13 Students & Seniors; \$12 Sunday (Everyone). For reservations, call 713-682-3525. For more information, go to our NEW website: www.theatresuburbia.org



The Marvelous Wonderettes are played by Holland Vavra Peters, Rachael Drees Logue, Chelsea Ryan McCurdy, and Christina Michelle Stroup ~ photo by Bruce Bennett

and '60s hits like Lollipop, Dream Lover, Stupid Cupid, It's My Party, It's in His Kiss (The Shoop Shoop Song) and many more!

HELD OVER AGAIN! Now playing through March 13

Directed by Melissa Rain Anderson

In Memoriam



January - Elroy Forbes Jr.



March - Ed Moniger



March - Midge Constanza



April - Max O'Day



May - Patrick Vachon



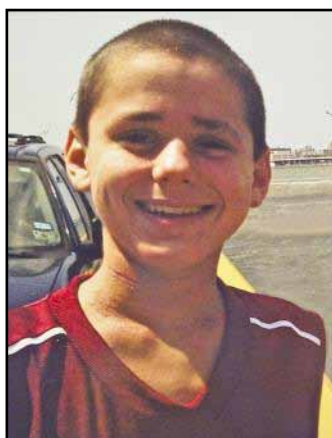
July - Thomas Araguz



September - Jill Johnston



September - Dan Meador



September - Asher Brown



November - Ed Barnes



December - Aaron Michael Scheerhoorn

GEORGE "Your Country Sports Bar"

~ **New Year's Day Pool & Dart Tournaments 2PM (1.1.11)** ~

(In memory of Dean Maxwell with Balloon Release)



"BLIND SCOTCH DOUBLES"!

8 Ball ☐ Montrose BCA rules apply - Blind draw for partners

Each player must utilize the bridge during the game at least once

Finger Food & George will be adding \$200.00 to the purse!

*Regular Saturday Night 8 Ball Tournament will follow at its normal time (8PM)

Herbert Ross Atwood Jr



Herbert Ross Atwood, Jr. (Rocky) passed away on December 3, 2010, in Houston, Texas, at age 54. He was born in Baytown, Texas to proud parents Betty and Herbert Atwood on May 3, 1956. He graduated from Cold-spring High School and Sam Houston State University, where he was active in the Bearkat Marching Band and Kappa Kappa Psi fraternity. Past employers include River Oaks Bank, Southwest Bank of Texas, and Amegy Bank, where he served as Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. Rocky's passion for music was matched only by his talent. An accomplished pianist, organist and percussionist, he performed at many churches, including Resurrection MCC, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, and Metropolitan Baptist Church, as well as with Houston Concert Band and various other groups. Accomplishments and activities include: Past President of the JHA Users Group, Board of Directors of the Cloverdale Foundation, Past President of EPAH (Executive Professional Association of Houston), Past President of the PWA Holiday Charities, Active Member of The Empire of the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star, and Member of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association.

A celebration of his life was held on December 11, 2010. Rocky's charismatic personality and infectious laugh will be remembered by all who knew him.



Elester Edward Stewart

After three days of vigil by family and friends, following a sudden fall to a stroke caused by a ruptured arteriovenous malformation, Elester Edward Stewart, 40 of Dallas, formerly of Houston and Beaumont, Texas left us on December 17, 2010, at 7PM, with his family at his bedside.

Elester embarked on a remarkable career in patient care, inspired by his own experience at his mother's side when she passed away at an early age. Starting with an Associate's Degree in Respiratory Therapy he earned from Lamar University in 1991, Elester entered the patient care profession and promptly decided to improve it. To do this, he returned to school, and earned a Master's of Science in Nursing from Prairie View A&M University, a second Master's of Science from Texas Women's University in Healthcare Administration, and was in the process of securing a Doctorate in Nursing.

His dramatic success at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston in improving not only the way patient care was administered at the hospital, but also in the work experience of the care providers themselves, led him to eventually become appointed as Administrative Fellow & Special Asst to the President at St. Luke's, reluctantly giving up working directly with patients and their patient care professionals. He then moved to Dallas in 2008 to accept the position of Vice President of Cardiovascular & Medicine Services at Baylor University Medical Center, where he currently served.

Elester was also known in Houston's Montrose community for his role as a performer and one of the original four founding members of the Flyboys of Flag Troupe Houston, a performance arts group that provides show productions to various major non-profit and charity events, including the Houston and San Antonio Pride Parades, and the Bunnies on the Bayou.

Elester was a remarkable man of many facets that cheerfully, dutifully, and without ever a complaint, illuminated and lifted many lives. A most beloved brother, uncle, counselor, teacher, rescuer and friend to many, his love and memories will remain in the hearts of his father, William Stewart, Sr.; sisters, Ella Bilton and Brittney McCall (Patrick); brothers, Greg Stewart and William Stewart, Jr., and all his family and friends.

A Mass of Christian burial was held in Beaumont, on Wednesday, December 22, 2010 at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church with interment at Live Oak Memorial Park. A reception celebrating the life of Elester is planned in Houston for his 41st birthday on February 4, 2011. For information please contact Marco Roberts at 832-782-7394.

MARKETPLACE

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*Recently updated with additional amenities

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Key Deposit: \$35.00 per card

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Where are you going to be New Year's Eve? Why not bring in the New Year at Houston's Gay Country & Western Dance Club, the BRB!

Cash Balloon Drop & Champagne Toast At Midnight!

Door Prizes Given Out At: 10:00pm - 11:00pm - 12:00am & 1:00am!! (Must be present to win)

\$5.00 Cover

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...prizes for the best dressed 70's disco costume!

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