INSIDE THE VOICE

They Have High Hopes Candidates Will Show

GPC Set to Begin Endorsements Screenings

By Connie Woods
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

The Houston Gay Political Caucus will begin its screening of political candidates in mid-March as the first step in its endorsement procedures for the May 3 primary election. According to Ray Hill, the sub-committee chairperson in charge of screening, there are approximately 40 contested races on the Harris County ballot. "We will probably screen in 28 to 30 races and make endorsements up to that amount," Hill said.

‘Liberty Is in Our Grasp’

Gay Pride Week Committee Selects Theme for 1986

By Connie Woods
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

Kicking off its plans for the 1986 Houston Gay Pride Week, committee members adopted “Liberty Is in Our Grasp” for this year’s theme at the first public planning meeting held Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Dignity Center.

Federal AIDS Funding Cuts Will Hit Houston

By Pete Diamond
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

When the Federal government is faced with a large spending deficit, as it is now, it looks for ways to reduce spending and thus save money. Deciding what programs will be cut and how to be more efficient without sacrificing the needs of any government agency often it’s a no-win situation. This year, the Reagan Administration is facing a record deficit of $202 billion, which makes the program trimming process all the more difficult. One area that is particularly threatened is funding for AIDS research, testing and education.
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Ray Hill said that the starting time for the parade would be delayed from 1:00 p.m. to later in the afternoon based on Houston's summer weather. Co-chair Cathy Lenahan pointed out that boardmember Debbie Holmes was trying to attract bands from other cities to participate in the parade.

"To delay the parade would virtually discourage bands from San Francisco, Boston or other cities because of the difficult to get return flights and be ready for work on Monday morning," Lenahan explained.

Dale Beverly also supported changing the time of the parade. "If you want a successful Spots Park Rally then have a later parade. If not, have a later parade anyway," he commented.

When the time change came to a vote, a 5:30 p.m. starting time was passed. During this discussion, parade entrance fees were established at $100 for businesses and $100 for non-profit organizations.

In other business Carolyn Hollin told the group that the collection of the grand marshal for the parade would be held at the last public meeting before Gay Pride Week.

"To be eligible to vote, one must attend at least three public meetings including March 23, April 27 and June 1," she explained to the members. All of the meetings will begin a 4:00 p.m. at the Dignity Center.

In addition to the tentative schedule of events printed in the February newsletter, Lenahan asked the members if there were other events to be proposed.

Phyllis Frye, president of the Greater Montrose Business Guild, said that her organization planned a business building workshop and trade fair tentatively scheduled to be held at the Allen Park Inn.

The workshop would be held Saturday, June 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a choice of morning and afternoon workshops. The cost of business workshops would be $10 for non-members of the guild. The trade fair, featuring area businesses displaying their wares, would be free to the public. The cost to the participating businesses would be $25 each.

Lenahan said that the guild also planned to hold a luncheon in conjunction with the workshop and trade fair featuring a keynote speaker from the city government.

The cost would be $25 for members and $30 for non-members.

The Montrose Art Alliance would offer an art exhibit on Monday, June 23 from 7:30 to 11:00 p.m.

Joe Watts with the Group Theatre Workshop proposed a live theater presentation for Tuesday, June 24.

Annie Parker, president of the Houston Gay Political Caucus, announced plans for a community awards dinner to be held Friday, June 27. It was pointed out that the Gay and Lesbian Hispanics Unidas had already scheduled an event for the same night.

The Bering Memorial Methodist Church will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, June 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A pet show will follow at 4:00 p.m. sponsored by Couples.

Other tentative events include commemoration of the Raid of Mary's, Friday, June 20; Sports Day/Dinner, Saturday, June 21; Walk for Unity and D.J. Spinoff, Sunday, June 22; Day of Remembrance, Thursday, June 26; Band Concert, Saturday, June 28, and the parade and rally, Sunday, June 29.
GPC Set to Begin Endorsements Screening

By Connie Woods
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

The Houston Gay Political Caucus will begin its screening of political candidates in mid-March as the first step in its endorsement procedures for the May 3 primary election.

According to Ray Hill, the subcommittee chairperson in charge of screening, there are approximately 40 contested races on the Harris County ballot. "We will probably screen in 28 to 30 races and make endorsements up to that amount," Hill said.

He pointed out that the endorsements are the reason the caucus exists. "It's about telling the people who they can best invest their votes in," he explained.

This year's elections include governor, state justices, judges at the county level as well as precinct judges.

All members of the caucus are invited to participate in the screening process, according to Hill. He said, "The best screeners are those with no previous political experiences in any kind."

To participate in the screening, interested people must join the caucus now. Hill also pointed out that people who wish to vote in the April 2 general caucus endorsements must join the GPC by March 3.

The current screening process has been used by the GPC for the past six years. Hill said that three to five members screen each candidate in an hour-long meeting.

KS/AIDS Foundation Acting President Dies

By Pete Diamond
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

Shock, sorrow, a deep sense of loss. That was how many people throughout the community reacted following the death of James F. Beecher, 36, on Monday, Feb. 24.

Memorial services for Beecher were held yesterday (Thursday) at St. Stephens Episcopal Church. According to Michael Wilson, immediate past president of the KS/AIDS Foundation of Houston, Beecher became ill about a month ago, apparently with the flu. Sources close to Beecher said he slipped into a coma due to cardiac arrest and never regained consciousness.

"He was a health-conscious person," Wilson said, someone who watched his health and exercised regularly. "It's a total shock. ... None of us knew or suspected he was ill."

Beecher had been acting as president of the KS/AIDS Foundation since September, when Wilson resigned from the position. Prior to this, Beecher had served as vice president for the Foundation and as a board member for two years.

After graduating magna cum laude from Boston University with a bachelor of arts degree, Beecher helped co-found and manage the Boston Concert Opera. Following a move to Houston, he served as director of marketing for the Houston Grand Opera from 1978 to 1982.

In May 1984, Beecher received a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Houston. He became the first full-time therapist at the Montrose Counseling Center, and remained on staff until the time of his death.

In addition to his work at the Counseling Center, Beecher was a psychotherapist in private practice at William A. Scott and Associates. "It's going to be a big gap here," Bill Scott said. "He honestly was the best therapist we had here."

Until the week he went in the hospital, he had never ever missed a day of work."

Beecher served on the United Way allocation panel and was the state chair of the task force on gay and lesbian issues for the National Association of Social Workers. He also served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Houston's School of Social Work.

Beecher is survived by his parents and a brother. Contributions may be made to the James Beecher Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 66973, Suite 1155, Houston, Texas 77003.

Gay and Lesbian Alcoholism Professionals Have a New Meeting Place

From a Press Release

The National Association of Lesbian and Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NALGAP), Texas chapter, recently announced that its regular monthly meetings will now be held at the Montrose Counseling Center.

The meetings will be held the second Saturday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will be held in the MORE Program group room, Suite 201.

NALGAP is a non-profit organization dedicated to forming a network of communication and support for gay and lesbian alcoholism professionals; improving treatment for lesbian and gay alcoholic clients; assisting alcoholism agencies, and helping professionals to better serve their gay and lesbian clients.

The March meeting will be held on Saturday, March 8. The featured speaker will be Robert H. Hedge, director of the MORE Program at the Montrose Counseling Center. The MORE Program is the only gay/lesbian alcoholism outpatient program in the state of Texas.

For further information on NALGAP, contact Ron C. Covin in Houston at (713) 921-3132 or (409) 761-4463; in Dallas, Holly Holloway at (214) 391-3236.

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Federal AIDS Funding Cuts Will Hit Houston

By Pete Diamond
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

When the Federal government is faced with a large spending deficit, as it is now, it looks for ways to reduce spending and thus save money. Deciding what programs will be cut and how to be more efficient with the same amount of money is a task peculiar to any government agency. Often it’s a no-win situation.

This year, the Reagan Administration is facing a record deficit of $320 billion, which makes the program trimming process all the more difficult. One area that is particularly threatened is funding for AIDS research, testing and education.

While President Reagan has said “one of our highest public health priorities is going to continue to be funding for AIDS,” the 1987 budget he has submitted to Congress proposes cutbacks in total AIDS-related funding of $51 million for the current (1986) fiscal year and $91 million for the 1987 fiscal year.

This year, the four AIDS programs that would be cut include:

- $15 million for Demonstration Health Projects in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami. These health care programs, for persons with AIDS, are designed to determine ways of treating patients more efficiently and more cost effectively.
- $14 million for National Institutes of Health research. Included in this are “drug evaluation units,” which are set up in various locations around the country allowing persons with AIDS access to experimental treatments.
- $2 million to support alternative sites for antibody blood testing.
- $2 million for the National AIDS Hotline.

On top of these proposed cuts is an $11.7 billion across-the-board reduction in federal spending. This amount, which represents 4.3% of the total federal budget, is a result of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced budget law. This law, designed to take effect today (March 1), is designed to control the growing federal deficit.

Mike Richards, who has the Dallas Gay Alliance and the board of directors for the Washington-based AIDS Action Council (AAC), says, “We have not seen very much funding in Texas to begin with (and) it is likely we will continue not to see any funding in Texas.

Nevertheless, Richards said any AIDS-related funding cut would directly affect Texans and Houstonians. By redirecting the money available to alternative testing sites, the burden of operating the 25 alternate sites in Texas would fall on the state and the various cities in which they are located.

With the exception of the privately run Montrose Clinic, Houston’s alternative testing site, the 25 other alternate test programs are either city or county-operated. This means that test sites may be forced to close down or begin charging rates some individuals could not afford.

If this occurs, Richards said more people will likely go to blood banks under the guise of obtaining blood to receive HTLV-III antibody testing. This increases the possibility of a donor testing false negative and AIDS-infected blood entering the nation’s blood supply. Richards says this “very dangerous” situation would move those individuals who require blood or blood products into a high risk classification.

The idea of alternate testing sites was originally conceived as a way of keeping people who wanted to take the HTLV-III test from going to a blood center, says Tom Audette, director of the Montrose Clinic.

In addition to testing Houstonians, the clinic also tests referrals from blood centers, the military and other cities. Because of their important role in testing individuals for AIDS antibodies, a cut in funding for alternate testing sites would have a large impact on the Montrose Clinic.

According to the AAC’s February newsletter, a $2 million cut directed to the National AIDS Hotline, and only government-supported hotline in the country. The hotline is operated by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Public Health Service.

If the hotline does close, Richards said people who live away from metropolitan areas will lose a valuable resource. As a result, this will place a greater burden on local hotline resources.

Although funding for the Demonstration Health Program does not come to Texas, Richards said a reduction in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) would primarily affect research funds such as the AIDS Research and Human Tumor Institute. The AAC maintains that with reduced NIH staffs and equipment, “it will delay the discovery of effective treatments at least 18 to 24 months longer than if projects are funded now.”

If the proposed cuts for fiscal 1986 are approved, overall AIDS funding would drop from the $244 million Congress appropriated last year to $135 million. The Reagan Administration proposes $213 million for 1987, an “increase” of $30 million.

But this “increase” has drawn a great deal of criticism from such individuals as Peter H. Proctor, MD, PhD, who says, “They talk about it as an increase, but the increase (from fiscal 1986 to fiscal 1987) won’t even meet the level of $244 million.”

“I can’t understand how the president can propose this kind of budget when he talks as if he believes that AIDS is a national emergency,” Waxman says. He adds the funding cuts will retard research efforts that could lead to a vaccine and cure for the disease.

Last week, federal budget director John H. Sununu further complicated the AIDS funding issue by stating, “We believe the treatment for AIDS and caring for AIDS victims is a local government responsibility and the federal government should concentrate on searching for a cure for AIDS.”

Richards contends this would be reasonable if Texas had previously been helping fund the AIDS programs slated for cutbacks. But the state doesn’t provide funding, he says, and Texas ranks 47th nationwide in providing health care for its citizens.

State Senator, executive director of the KS/AIDS Foundation of Houston, says Miller’s claim seems fair for states like California where such programs currently exist, but not for Texas. “Texas is not a social services state,” he says, but one which is dependent on federal support.

Houston City Councilwoman Eleanor Tinsley, who also sits on the three member Council Committee on Communicable/ Infectious Disease Control, says, “If the federal government is pulling back on its financial support for AIDS, it means state and local governments are going to have to put the money in.”

Often, when community centers are funded with federal grants and the funding runs out, Tinsley said the federal government will pull back on some of the funding,” she says. Therefore community efforts to raise money for AIDS research and education will become more important.

In addition to the AIDS-directed contribution of $30 million for the Visiting Nurses Association and the KS/AIDS Foundation as “a step in the right direction,” Tinsley said representatives from the National Gay Task Force, the AAC and Montrose Right’s Campaign Fund (HRCF) are working in Washington to restore AIDS funding cuts. Eric Rosenthal, assistant for programs and development for the HRCF, says “he is optimistic that program funding will be restored. But he cautions, “we don’t mean we are home free. . . . The pressures (for future funding) will be even greater. It will be an ongoing fight.”

Rosenthal explains that with the number of AIDS cases doubling roughly every year, the need for funding must become even greater. But does pressure from other departments and groups trying to get funding for programs to maintain the existence of their programs.

While political action committees such as the AAC and HRCF are pushing for restoration of AIDS funding, Rosenthal and Richards agree the effort is a “shared responsibility” that everyone must take part in.

“Each individual has the power to stop the spread of AIDS,” Richards stresses. “If legislation is not enacted to come out of their constituencies not to cut the budget, but increase it, we will indeed see the cut come out of some of those programs that are very important that gay men and lesbians today write their legislators protesting the cuts. . . . Letters work and they do have an impact.”

Human Rights Campaign Fund Urges Letter Writing

Campaign on AIDS Cuts

From a Press Release

In an appeal to its 15,000 contributors and the lesbian and gay community, the Human Rights Campaign Fund has asked people to write letters to their representatives urging restoration of the $51 million in AIDS program cuts proposed by the Reagan Administration for the fiscal year 1987 budget.

“We are joining with the rest of the organized gay and lesbian community in doing everything possible to get the appropriations back up where they belong,” said Vic Basile, executive director of the national lesbian and gay political action committee.

The Campaign Fund, which recently assumed the lobbying duties which were once the responsibility of the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) plans to hire a full-time lobbyist within the next few weeks to help make the community’s case on Capitol Hill.

“This was the rationale for consolidating with GRNL in the first place,” said Basile. “Lobbying is the natural follow-through for the relationships we establish with candidates and incumbents through our PAC activities. The fight for AIDS appropriations is a perfect example of why his approach is necessary.”

“We can prevent the Administration from making these cuts if we reach our representatives,” said Basile. “People in Washington do not represent thousands and thousands of people across the nation that this is a matter of life and death for us.”

Basile urged people to write to their Senators at United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 and their House Members at United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. All Members of Congress can be reached through the Capitol switchboard, (202) 224-3121.

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FEBRUARY 28, 1986 / MONTROSE VOICE 7
Westheimer Was Once Named Hathaway
Lifelong Resident Recalls the 'Old' Montrose

By Connie Woods
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

Many changes have occurred in the Montrose area since Marie Crider was born on Helena Street in 1906.

The streetscars which once provided transportation to the neighborhood are gone. Many of the old houses which once lined the streets of Helena and Hyde Park (which was once Anita Street) have been replaced by modern townhomes, apartment complexes and businesses.

"I was born and raised in the house next door to where I live now," she said as she pointed to the old wooden house with the traditional front porch. "My father bought the house in 1892 and later bought the one where I live now."

One thing that has not changed is Ms. Crider's interest and pride in her neighborhood. As a member of the Avondale Association, a neighborhood citizens group, she joined other members Saturday morning, Feb. 22, to plant trees in the Avondale area.

Now in her mid-seventies, she also enjoys her trips to her other home in Johnson City where she met her husband Thomas in 1936. The two were married in 1932 and lived in Johnson City where her husband farmed.

Isabel Bruner, her nurse and companion, related another facet of Ms. Crider's life. "When I first met her, she was 80 years old and had lived out on Longhorn ranch days. 'They married during the Depression, and he was the only one who owned the ranch. Marie said they almost starved to death,' she explained.

And so it was back to her old neighborhood where she has been educated school and lived through the present day. She still maintains fond memories of those early years when her neighbors raised chickens, shared community pride and rode the streetcar to downtown for only five cents.

"My father worked at a shoe store at 803 Main," she said. "I would catch the streetcar and go see him."

Many of the businesses which served the small community within the city have long since disappeared. "The Heineke Pharmacy was on the corner of Taun and Albany. There was also a grocery store along there, but I don't remember the name. And the Old Faith Home right along there is now a lounge," she said with a chuckle.

She also spoke of some of the older residences in her neighborhood. She said the Autry House across the street is the oldest in the neighborhood, built in 1870. She recalls the construction of the Cullen area where several mansions were constructed. The area maintained its quiet neighborhood by building a permanent fence to prevent the street from being used for through traffic. "The place still looks the same as it did then," she added.

"We really didn't travel around the area much when I was growing up. The streets were dirt roads and the main travel was by horse and buggy," she recalled. "We certainly didn't go all over the place like they do now." And "all over the place" even meant short rides to the street now called Montrose, or to Hathaway which is now Westheimer.

Like many couples in the 1930s and 1940s, it was not unusual to live with parents. While both of them worked at Hughes Tools, they lived for a time with her parents in the house where she was born.

The lot where her present house is located once belonged to her father but he "lost" it. The new owners built the house, but she and her husband finally bought it and moved next door. Crider died in 1978 but his widow remained in her home.

Several months ago Bruner, a longtime resident of Dallas, came to the house on Helena Street to work as Ms. Crider's nurse and companion. "It has worked out very nicely," she said. "We can come and go as we want. And we are getting pretty itchyn to take our trip to Johnson City especially with the weather being so nice." Ms. Crider maintains pride in her heritage and her neighborhood. "It may have looked like it was in the country, but it was no farther from downtown than it is now," she said with a smile. Obviously, she means the "real" downtown.

Thrift Shop Serves Multi-Purpose Functions

By Connie Woods
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

Soon to celebrate its first anniversary, the Houston Area Women's Center Thrift Shop continues to provide funds, services and goods to women in Houston.

According to Shop Manager Phyllis Senger, the Thrift Shop has several purposes. In addition to providing funds for the programs of the Houston Area Women's Center, it is also a place for the clients of the center to shop while in the programs or upon leaving the programs.

"While women are staying at the center (primarily for battered wives), they can come here without charge to shop for clothing items they may need for themselves or their children," she explained.

They have a choice here and it's like shopping and selecting their own things, she added. "Some women have never really had the opportunity to shop. They have said that either their husbands never would allow them to go shopping or the husband did all the shopping for the family," she said.

Once the women have left the center they can select household items they may need to get started on their own. "They can come here to shop for glassware, dishes, even some furniture like a baby's bed or other items necessary to start all over," she explained.

She pointed out once again that although the women do not have to pay for the items, the prices are on the goods in the shop for other people who purchase things from the Thrift Shop. "They still have the feeling of shopping and seeing the price tags on the items," she reiterated.

The Thrift Shop receives all of its goods from the community, according to Senger. "We have people bringing things all the time. Each week we fill a one-car garage in

in this building with donated items. Volunteers help to separate and price the donated good," she explained.

She also related another facet of the Thrift Shop. She said that women will bring their children on Saturdays to help separate and price the items. "It's good for the women and their children to work together on a project outside the home. They can feel like an equal here. The children really seem to enjoy the project, especially pricing the toys," she continued.

Senger started as a volunteer for the Women's Center. She also helped with the decision-making process of whether or not the Thrift Center would be a feasible project.

Bringing her retail background into the project, Senger was hired on March 1 to put the project in motion. The shop opened its doors May 18, 1985 at 416 McGowen. As the shop grows so does its fundraising projects. The Thrift Shop will sponsor its first spring clearance sale with a yard sale Saturday, March 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Women's Center parking lot at 4 Chelsea.

Senger said that the spring clearance sale will be an annual fundraising project.

Clothing will be sold in a unique way. "People can purchase one of three brown bags for $1. Then they can fill it with the clothing as they please," she explained. The yard sale will offer all styles and sizes of blue jeans for $1 a pair and coats for $1 each.

Other items to be sold at the yard sale include toys and books.

Proceeds from the yard sale will be used to further the Houston Area Women's Center. In addition to the shelter for battered women and their children, the Women's Center also provides the Supportive Outreach Services Program for women after they leave the shelter.

Other programs include the Family Violence Outreach, the Rape Crisis Program, and Community Education. For more information about the Thrift Shop or Yard Sale, call 528-1062 or the Women's Center at 528-6788. The Thrift Shop is located at 416 McGowen at Bagby and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Latino America Struggles to Find Single Political Voice
The Hispanic Caucus

By Kevin J. Kelley
Pacific News Service
Special to the Montrose Voice

The U.S. Congress's Hispanic Caucus is not unlike its 17 million-strong constituency—many cultures under one heading, with lots of potential political clout but not much agreement on how to wield it.

Latinos, who make up 8% of the population, speak with many political voices rather than one. So do their congressmen.

"The key thing about the caucus, as well as the larger community, is its diversity," says Rep. Mathew Martinez, a suburban Los Angeles Democrat who currently chairs the 14-member body.

"There are differences between younger and older members, urban and rural districts, liberals and conservatives, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans. Still, we do strive for unity.

It is no easy task. Three of the caucus' participants—from Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands—are not permitted to vote on the House floor. (There are no Hispanic senators.) With the exception of Albuquerque Republican Manuel Lujan, the remaining members are all Democrats, though not all liberals.

A few members—like Tony Coelho, a Californian of Portuguese origin; Bill Richardson, a half-Anglo, half-Mexican moderate from Santa Fe, and E. "Kika" de la Garza, a half-Puerto Rican, half-Texan who chairs the agricultural committee—have achieved prominence on Capitol Hill. Others, however, are barely known outside their own districts. Such a mix does not always bode well.

Take, for example, the division within the caucus over one issue of special significance to Latinos—immigration reform.

The sticking point in Congress' version is a plan to expand a "guest worker" program which now brings about 20,000 Mexicans a year across the border to work legally in the fields of the southwest. The Senate has already approved a substantial expansion of the program, which is favored by growers who say that sufficient numbers of U.S. residents are unwilling to labor as harvest hands.

Caucus member Henry Gonzales (D.-Tex.) has branded the expanded program a "rent a slave" scheme, and most caucus members will join him in opposing it. But three members may add their signatures to the program, even though it had initially passed both the House and the Senate during the Reagan administration—"an indication of

how potent the caucus can be when in

synchrony.

Surprisingly to some, the caucus readily agrees that tighter enforcement and an overhaul of the immigration laws are in fact needed. The pressure on some members comes from Latinos who resent competition posed by more recent arrivals.

The caucus is firmly united, too, in backing bilingual education, and in rejecting proposals for making English the country's "official language.

Even some aides to Latino Congressmen acknowledge that the caucus seems at times to be a largely symbolic, ceremonial body, not an effective force in the legislative process.

But rifts on certain foreign policy questions are so deep that the caucus does not attempt to develop a consensus on them.

Last year, for example, five members voted for U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contras while six voted against it. This year the balance could tip in the other direction.

Martinez, for one, says he is "leaning heavily" toward reversing his position against contra funding since "right now I don't see much difference between (Nicaraguan President Daniel) Ortega and (former dictator Anastasio) Somoza.

These schisms on key issues make the Latino grouping function more like the Congressional Women's Caucus, with its wide range on most matters, than the Black Caucus, which often develops a united front. As a result, the Hispanic Caucus is judged by many Capitol Hill observers to be much less influential than the larger black bloc. Even some aides to Latino Congressmen acknowledge that the caucus seems at times to be a largely symbolic, ceremonial body, not an effective force in the legislative process.

Some Latino activists also charge that the caucus is unresponsive to the economic needs of its constituents. They point to recent Census Bureau data showing that 25.2% of Latino-American families are living in poverty, as compared to 11.6% of families nationwide. "The caucus doesn't do nearly enough for poor and working-class Hispanics," says Angelo Falcon, head of the Institute for Puerto Rican Studies.

Others contend, however, that the contradictory voting of the caucus begins to make sense when "Hispanics" are recognized as being many constituencies in one. Mexican Americans, by far the largest single Latino group on the U.S. mainland, have a median income significantly higher than Puerto Ricans, for example, while a million Cubans in the country have managed to attain a degree of relative prosperity. Each group's history, even the way it speaks Spanish, is distinctly different. "Hispanics in this country don't really have a common culture," says Raúl Yzaguirre of the National Council of La Raza, a Latino research and advocacy organization. "There is no Hispanic ideology per se," adds Harry Pachon, spokesman for the National Association of Elected Latino Officials. Rep. Martinez is quick to concur with these assessments, noting that he himself did not know how to speak Spanish as a child.

Among all the diversity, however, one consistent trend does emerge: Latino-Americans are now participating in the political process as never before. In Texas alone, voter turnout among Chicanos doubled during the past decade, making them one of the most important components of the state's electorate. At the same time, the Hispanic vote appears to be less monolithic than in the past, with close to 40% of it having gone to Ronald Reagan in 1984.

The basic message, says Pachon of the Latino officials group, is that "people shouldn't make too many assumptions about this community. It's growing, it's in flux and it's only beginning to sense its power.

That power may not translate into a coherent agenda in Congress, however, until members of the Hispanic Caucus find firmer footing on common ground.

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Officers Judged Guilty in '83 Montrose Shooting

By Pete Diamond
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

Two former Houston police officers, charged in the October 1983 shooting of a Montrose Boulevard motorist, were recently convicted of civil rights violations.

Following testimony heard during the two-week trial, a federal court jury deliberated nearly eight hours before finding former officer Kendall R. Patterson, 24, guilty of shooting the motorist without justification, and then attempting to cover up the incident with the help of William Brasher, 35, his sergeant at the time.

The shooting, which occurred on Oct. 14, 1983, took place at the site of an unrelated accident at the intersection of Montrose and Hyde Park. Testimony showed that William Henry Pressey, the motorist, may have gotten into an argument with Patterson while attempting to pass through the intersection. In the midst of this, Pressey was shot in the forehead at near-point blank range. He remains permanently disabled today.

Patterson maintained during the trial that he fired at Pressey because he thought the man was attempting to run Brasher over. He also denied that he and Brasher tried to cover up the shooting.

Several witnesses, among them police brass investigators, claimed they did not see Brasher or anyone else in front of Pressey’s vehicle before he was shot.

Patterson charged that Patterson “lost his temper” and then tried to cover up details of the incident with Brasher’s help.

The two officers, who were fired from the Houston Police Department, are scheduled to be sentenced March 21. Patterson faces up to 11 years in prison and fines totaling $11,000. Brasher, now on probation for a state perjury conviction in connection with the shooting, could receive 10 years in prison and more than $10,000 in fines.

Patterson had earlier been acquitted of attempted murder by a state court jury. The Pressey incident was the third time Patterson had shot someone in the line of duty during his two years as a Houston police officer. However, he was not charged in the two previous shootings.

Officer Lounge Being Added to Police Center

By Pete Diamond
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

It’s only been about three months since the Lower Westheimer Police Community Center opened, but already the center is expanding. With the help of Montrose business developer J.R. McCorkle, a new officer lounge is in the process of being built behind the Community Center.

Houston Police Sgt. Don Williams said the lounge will include a work area for officers stationed at the center as well as a small kitchen, weight room area and separate showers and lockers for male and female officers.

The lounge will serve a number of purposes, Williams said. For example, officers who work late night shifts and must appear in court the next morning will have a nearby place “to clean up and relax before they have to go to court.”

Construction of the officer lounge is being contracted by Montrose-based HSK Contractors. Owner H.S. Khalsa says he is hoping to complete the building, which will measure approximately 27’ x 31’, by mid to late March.

Khalsa says he sees his work on the new building as a kind of community service project. “We’re really into Montrose, the area and the community spirit. So we’re trying to participate in the community to make it as prosperous and shining as we can.”
A workman surveys the damage while furnishings are removed from Bacchus, following a fire that damaged the patio, attic and roof (Connie Woods photo).

Early Morning Blaze Damages Area Nightclub

By Connie Woods Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

A fire swept through the patio and attic of Bacchus, a nightclub located at 525 Lovett, early Monday morning causing extensive damage to the deck, storeroom and roof. The fire is believed to have started in the alley immediately behind the club about 3:00 a.m. Monday.

According to club manager Shirley Neely, a neighbor saw flames rising from the back patio area and called the Houston Fire Department. He then called her.

"The firemen had just arrived when I got here," she said. "They had tried to enter the front door by breaking theplexiglass window. I unlocked the door, but the flames and smoke from the patio door forced them to enter through the outside fence in front of the club," she explained.

Although the fire caused extensive damage to the attic and rear patio, the club itself received only smoke damage. However, the second floor of the building suffered smoke as well as some water damage.

The second floor houses the club’s offices, liquor storeroom and a beer cooler.

After city inspectors completed their report Tuesday, Neely began contractor bids to begin reconstruction of the damaged areas.

Neely said that she hoped the club could be ready for reopening within a week or two weeks. "What we want to do is get back as soon as possible. As long as we’re down, the club is making no money," she explained.

How much damage was done was not immediately determined. However, Neely said she felt that the necessary could be done well enough to get the doors open again.

"We may just rope off the back portion of the patio until we decide what we want to do with it. We may not replace the deck but put gravel or something in that part of the patio," she explained.

"We were really lucky that the fire did not reach the club itself. I could have been worse," Neely said. She did point out that neither the club’s stereo equipment nor furnishings were damaged except for smoke and soot.

The front portion of the patio had no evidence of damage by smoke, fire or fire. She also pointed out that there was minimal damage to the electrical and plumbing systems in the club.

Neely said the fire department inspectors thought the fire was started in the alley by a small open flame. "There are people around here who hang around in that alley and might even build a fire back there," she explained.

She also said that people dump all sorts of trash and garbage in the alley as well as a chopped tree dumped there recently. She also pointed out that a building on the opposite side of the alley caught fire earlier this month.

It appears that damage to the attic and roof resulted from the intense heat and not the actual flames. "I really believe that the outside brick wall kept the fire from going through the downstairs part of the club," Neely explained.

She said that with the help of her employees all valuable items was removed from the club Monday. After notifying the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission, the club’s staff removed the beer and liquor to store it in a safe place.

The club manager applauded the firemen for the fast response and the care they took to cause as little water and other damage as possible while fighting to extinguish the blaze.

Neely has been club manager for more than two years. The club has actually been there for about four years. Previous to becoming a club, the building housed several different restaurants.

Montrose Kroger Plans Expansion

By Pete Diamond Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

At a time when much of Montrose seems to be buzzing with construction, the Kroger grocery store at 3300 Montrose Blvd. has joined the building activities.

Construction has begun on a 16,000 square-foot addition, which has tentatively been scheduled for completion Aug. 14, according to Kroger store manager Marty Payne. When finished, the 40,000 square-foot store will, Kroger officials say, be a prototype for future Kroger stores.

The larger, totally remodeled store, which will feature a number of "specialty shops," is designed to offer customers a greater variety of products and services under one roof, Payne says. In addition to a 40-seat restaurant, there will be a butcher shop, seafood shop, nutrition and health food department, an expanded bakery section and a full-line floral shop.

The frozen foods area will be expanded and the produce department will be doubled in size to offer a greater variety of fruits and vegetables, Payne says. The store will also become more diversified in the non-food products that are carried, by expanding the automotive and hardware sections and adding a "lobby shop" where customers can rent such items as video cassette recorders and video tapes.

Payne said Kroger officials have met with several area business groups and civic organizations concerning landscape and design plans so the store and the new addition will blend in with future development plans for Montrose Boulevard.

The addition, which is being built onto the south side of the existing building, extends about 70 feet south and as far west toward Yoakum Street as the main building.

The vacant house located on the corner of Yoakum and Hawthorne streets will remain standing, however. Because most of the construction work is being done at night, Payne said he expects there will be little inconvenience to shoppers.

In Montrose, Nearly Everyone Reads the Voice

AIDS for AIDS

Reports of Finances

Aid for AIDS recently reported its financial position for the seven-month period from June 1985 to January 1986. Expenses were divided into four major categories: food, medical expenses, rent subsidies and spending money.

During the reported period, revenues were listed at $151,31, obtained mostly from private donations and a fundraiser. Expenses were listed at $274,56.

Aid for AIDS policy is that over 90% of all funds raised go directly to people with AIDS or ARC to help them meet the costs of everyday living.

Outside of financial assistance, Aid for AIDS serves to disseminate information on numerous "alternative" therapies that can be used in conjunction with conventional medical treatment. Information on vitamin therapy, visualization techniques, macrobiotic diets and holistic techniques can be obtained by calling the Aid for AIDS office.

Aid for AIDS

The group said it needs more money to help continue the work. Donations may be mailed to Aid for AIDS, Inc., P.O. Box 66953-257, Houston, TX 77006. The office phone number is 526-4977.

Period Ending January 1986

Revenues:

Danny Villa Fund $ 298.37
Cash Contributions 4828.59
Interest Income 36.37
Total $5151.33

Expenses (PWA Related):

Medical $ 501.00
Food and Vitamins 569.26
Therapy 175.00
Rent Subsidies 500.00
Living Expenses 450.00
Video Presentation 136.24
Flowers 15.00

Expenses (Administrative):

Telephone 214.90
Postal Box 117.00
Bank Charges 65.16
Total $727.43

Balance Available:

as of Jan. 31, 1985 $2407.77

KS/AIDS Foundation

Moves Offices

By Pete Diamond Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

The KS/AIDS Foundation of Houston has a new home.

With the help of volunteers from the KS/AIDS Helper program and other individuals, the foundation moved their offices to 3600 Montrose Blvd. on Saturday, Feb. 22, according to executive director Nate Sebastian.

The move was prompted by a need for larger office space, Sebastian said. Since the KS/AIDS Foundation of Houston, Inc., was founded four years ago, it has experienced a tremendous amount of growth. For example, the amount of money the foundation has dealt with increased from approximately $47,000 in 1984 to more than $300,000 this year.

For the past year and a half, the organization was sharing part of a Montrose house which had a confidential address. This prevented volunteers from visiting to ask questions or pick up AIDS-related educational literature.

The Boulevard, located in Suite 700, will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The KS/AIDS hotline number will remain the same (924-AIDS) and will continue to operate Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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Softball League Readies to Host Lone Star Classic

By Pete Diamond
Montrose Voice Staff Reporter

Softball players and their teams have only one week left to register for participation in the Montrose Softball League's Lone Star Classic set for March 28-30.

The double elimination tournament will be limited to 20 teams. As of Feb. 18, eight teams had either entered or made verbal commitments to play in the Easter weekend event, including the "Los Angeles One," the "New York Rowdies" and the "Atlanta Rays" teams.

Action Prevails at All Levels in Houtex Play

The Houtex Tennis Club continues to report activity on all levels of the challenge ladders.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, Eugene Brown continued his winning ways over Steve Bearden 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Donny Kelley defended his position over David Garza 6-4, 6-2.

Thomas Cortez makes his first appearance on the Top Ten with a win over Eddie Chavez 7-6, 7-6. Randy Miller moved up again this week by defeating Bill Santaili 7-5, 6-4. Mr. Bill defended against Rick Knapp 7-5, 6-4. Gabe Herpin maintained his position over Rick Martin 6-3, 6-2. Henry Eckhardt needed three sets to defend his position over Dawid Hendrickson 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Beginning March 5, Houtex will return to Wednesday night doubles play at McGregor Park's Homer Ford Tennis Center from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

In conjunction with the Classic, housing will be provided at the Vincent Hotel, 2828 Southwest Freeway, for a special tournament rate. Transportation to and from both Hobby and Intercontinental airports will also be provided.

According to tournament officials, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department has issued the Classic a permit for Memorial playing fields number four and five. Games are scheduled to begin about noon on Thursday, March 28, and continue through Saturday afternoon March 30, when the championship games will be played. Sunday morning is being reserved as a makeup day in case of rain.

Further information about the tournament can be obtained by contacting the Montrose Softball League office at 524-3144.

The Barn, Four 611 Still Lead in MSA Pool

The Barn and Four 611 continue to lead their respective divisions after the twelfth week of play in MSA Billiards League action. The Barn, Division B leader, downed The 611 to stay in the top spot, while The Galleon defeated 611 III to move into second place in Division B. Lipstick moved up to third behind The Barn and The Galleon.

In Division A, Four 611 remained on top by defeating the Streetcats, while Bacchus moved into second place with a win over Mary's Naturally. The Ranch Hands, dropping a match to giant-killers RR B Bullets, fell to third place in Division A.

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Wednesday: Chef's Day
Salad—The Chef's Way

Thursday: Captain's Day
Stuffed Tomatoes
w/ Chicken & Tuna Salad

Friday: Goulash Splash
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"Thank You All" & Welcome
A Month Devoted to the Photograph

Picture This!

By Bill O'Rourke
Montrose Voice Theater Critic

Tomorrow is the beginning of the Houston Foto Fest, 1986—60 exhibitions and 27 lectures and slide shows are slated for this month-long festival. No other American city has a month devoted to the photograph. Inspiration for this effort came from Paris. There, the Mois de la Photo has been going strong once every two years since 1980. It is estimated that 400,000 visitors attended the 1984 edition.

Because of its location, central to many of the museums and galleries, the Warwick Hotel is serving as unofficial headquarters for the Houston festivities. Aspiring photographers can make appointments there within the next two weeks to have their portfolios reviewed by the professionals.

There are only two galleries in town that specialize in photography. Several others represent photographers along with other artists. But for many of the rest, this will be the first time they ever featured photography.

In fact, the city is so gung-ho over this that the following list is limited to those museums and galleries in the Montrose area.

The Firehouse Gallery (1413 Westheimer)—Annie Liebovitz, Ruth Morgan, Wendy Watnee, Susan Mesias. Houston Center for Photography (1441 W. Alabama)—works from Houston residents.


Jack Meir Gallery (2310 Bissonnet)—Meridel Rabenstein (open 3/8).

Phillips/Cowan Gallery (1720 Bissonnet)—Tomiyasu Shiraawa, Katinka Mann (3/8).

Dubose-Rein Galleries (1700 Bissonnet)—Robert Capa (3/8).

Toni Jones Gallery (1131 Bertha)—Russell Lee.

Museum of Fine Art (1001 Bissonnet)—Robert Frank

Contemporary Arts Museum (5216 Montrose)—Krausenberg

Glassell School of Art (5101 Montrose)—Post-1945 Americans.

Plaza Gallery (5020 Montrose)—Valentin Gertman.

The Drawing Room (3209 Montrose)—Bach, Blindeau, Haber, Farber.

Art League of Houston (1953 Montrose)—statewide photographic competition, juried by George Krusne.

Midtown Art Center (1419 Holman at LaBranch)—Eight national artists who have painted on photographs. (3/7).

Houston Public Library (500 McKinney)—They have made prints of some 275 pictures in a rare book (one of only two copies they know of) which show small towns in Texas (which included Houston back then) weathering the winter of 1985-96.

Diverse Works (214 Travis)—L.A. and Houston photographers.

If you want a map, call Metro. The Foto Fest office, 522-8228, will also have more information. While you're out, grab a copy of Art Happenings magazine, a very helpful freestyle which doesn't limit itself to the fest. All events are free and open to the public.

[] Notes

Keep an eye on the Montrose Voice. While we've never been one to take a back seat to anyone, we're really on the march now. For instance, be one of the first 40 to buy a Personal ad in the classified section next week and receive a free ticket for two to the Comedy Workshop! (Tickets are good for Sunday through Thursday.)

Dorothy Arner, 5, Pier Paolo Pasolini, who turned naked young street-toughs into cinematic art. Michelangelo Buonarroti, who turned naked young street-toughs into fine art good enough for the Pope.

"From thy fair face I learn, O my loved lord! That which no mortal tongue can rightly say: The soul, imprisoned in her house of clay, / Holpen by thee to God hath often soared,"—Michelangelo was also a poet. (Translation by J.A. Romsynde.

Enjoy!

[] Celebrate!

"I have gathered a posie of other men's flowers, and nothing but the thread that binds them is mine own." That is the only quotation from Michel de Montaigne (born 2/28) in my Bartlett's, and it faces the title page, making it the quotation closest to the binding.

Other b'days: 28, film director, husband and father Vincente Minnelli, 4, the only female film director of the thirties.

Montrose Live

And Miss Beardon Drinks a Little (Theater Suburbia, 28)—the dark comedy that was a hit for this theater some 10 years ago with the same director, Jim See-dow, and several of the same cast members.

Breakfast in Bed (Theater Southwest)—English comedy about relatives grabbing for a rich uncle's inheritance.

Chrysalis Repertory Dance Company (Heinen, 28)—with their guests, the Sharir Dance Company from Austin.

Doctor Who Festival and Exhibit Tour (Shanrock Hilton, 28, 5 p.m. 2 a.m.)—Freebie, ONO.

he & she (Stages, 28)—revival starring Ruth Hastings, Craig Jessup and Doug Trentham.

Montrose Art Alliance (Missouri Street Gallery, 29)—Larry Johnson (inks) and Claud Pollard (oils).

Pigeons and Tattered Dreams (Community Music Center, 28)—two one-acts produced by IMPACT.

Petr Fankl, pianist (Jones, 1)—Lawrence Foster conducts the HSO in Mozart and Prokofiev.

Shakespeare, the Globe and the World (Doherty Library, University of St. Thomas, 1)—art, rare books, folios and a scale model of the Globe.

Sweet Saturday Night (Galveston's Grand, 1)—American black street and social dance from the last 300 years.

Della Stewart Dance Company (Heinen, 2, 8 p.m.)

Romeo and Juliet (U. of St. Thomas Jones, 3900 Toakum, 6).

Lyn Lavner—now appearing at Rascals

And, the Montrose Voice will be co-sponsoring a revival of Stage's magnum opus, Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You. This time the run is open-ended! No closing date has been set. They'll keep running the play as long as you keep buying those tickets. It opens March 21...

When Lenora Nemetz understudied Liza Minnelli in The Rink, just before Liza went into the hospital, the audiences usually saw Lenora. Now you can see her shine in TUTS' Guys and Dolls (closing this weekend). . .

These are the last two nights to see Lyn Lavner at Rascals. The Chicago Sun-Times called her "a leather-clad, lesbian Tom Lehrer." The Gay Engagement Calendar called her, "Up-beat, uprouriouus and up-front. This is her very first trip to Texas. Let's make her feel like coming back, often... .

This weekend the Heritage Society's Gallery of Texas History opens. It's in Sam Houston Park next to the Long Room.

Auditions: Theater Suburbia for But She Won't Lie Down (comedy thriller), March 2, at 2, and at 3, at 7:30. Need five men (25-50) and two women (25-45), 682-3625.

...
Dr. Didato’s Personality Quiz
If You’re a Procrastinator, Don’t Delay Taking This Test

By Salvatore V. Didato, Ph.D.
Neus America Syndicate
Special to the Montrose Voice

If you’ve ever had the urge to drop what you’re doing and take a holiday, you’re not alone. There’s a little bit of the procrastinator in each of us.

Dr. Jane B. Burka of the Counseling Center at the University of California (Berkeley), an authority on the subject, says that procrastination is a way of expressing internal conflict about doing something and, at the same time, protecting a vulnerable sense of self-esteem.

Studies on procrastinators show that they have certain traits in common, which the quiz below reveals. To find out how much of a procrastinator you might be, check each item true or false, then read on for answers.

1. I tend to work harder than my friends do.
2. I tend to be a perfectionist (e.g., I have a need to go over things I do to iron out any flaws).
3. When given a deadline by someone, I sometimes feel a surge of resistance within me.
4. I have sometimes become a bit awed by the prospect of holding down a job (or getting involved in a project) which is a challenge.
5. I often overestimate the time it would take me to complete a job.
6. I often get into trouble because I forget to do things which I would do.
7. I have had moments of doubt about my competence in my job skills.
8. To do something badly would bother me a great deal.

Other examples of a leading task are rolling a piece of paper into your typewriter to lead you to writing that letter, or buying a paint brush to lead you to signing up for that art course.

A leading task is often just enough momentum for overcoming resistance and sustaining your motivation to complete a job which has been kept too long on the shelf.

□ Answers

Although there is surprisingly little research on procrastinators, most scholars dispute the notion that procrastinators are lazy (item 1). “It’s just the opposite,” says Dr. Lenora Yuen, a collaborator with Burka on a new book on the subject. “They get a lot done. If you scratch a procrastinator, you’ll find a workaholic.”

Many procrastinators are perfectionists who set overly high aspirations for themselves. They have strong fears about failure and receiving disapproval from others.

□ Score

For procrastinators, all answers are true. The items correlate highly with the tendency to procrastinate. Give yourself one point for each true answer.

If you scored between 3 and 5, you’re about average in the art of putting things off until tomorrow. Scores above 5 indicate a stronger tendency to procrastinate.

Tip: One technique which may help conquer procrastination is called chaining. Suppose you’ve delayed washing the car. Get the process going with a “leading task.” This is a very simple step toward the goal and it should be done quickly and easily. It might mean simply taking the car out of the garage, or connecting the hose, or fetching the soap and bucket.

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The Montrose Voice announces a new Public Affairs Column

"Ask City Hall"
By Houston City Councilman George Greanias

Ever had a problem with City Hall? Any city service? Perhaps you're just curious about some aspect of our city government or the services it is required to perform for its citizens (streets, police, garbage, health, utility regulation, or even the zoo). Councilman Greanias will answer your questions, address your concerns, or help you get around City Hall "red tape."

Write "Ask City Hall," c/o Montrose Voice, 408 Avondale, Houston, TX 77006

(Your question will be answered in the Montrose Voice. Confidentiality can be maintained if desired. On personal issues, Councilman Greanias will provide a personal answer.)

Starting in March in the Newspaper of Montrose
Something to Be Proud Of

By Linda Wyche
Montrose Voice Managing Editor

Last Sunday, Feb. 26, the first public planning meeting for the 1986 Gay Pride Week was held at the Dignity Center. Individual representatives from several organizations met to chart the course for Houston’s annual celebration of pride and unity in the gay community.

Unfortunately, during the process of planning the week to 10 days of activities, we often forget just what it is we’re trying to celebrate.

During the next three months our “leaders” will tear each other’s hair out, scratch each other’s eyes out, slander, maim and defame each other, all in the name of “pride.” By the time June 29 rolls around, they’ll become “pride and unified” but they won’t be speaking to each other.

At that time, the community in general will join in the fray. The parade was too short. The parade was too long. There were too many speeches at the rally. There weren’t enough. Even Mother Nature will be blamed if the weather is any less than perfect. Everyone will be mad as hell, but whether you like it or not, you will be celebrating “pride” and “unity” in Houston.

In Memoriam

James F. Beecher
Acting KS/AIDS Foundation President
James, 40, died Monday, Feb. 24, 1986. Memorial services were held Feb. 27 at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church. (See story elsewhere in this issue.)

Beecher had been active in several organizations since September. Prior to his death he had served as vice-president for the Foundation and as a board member for two years.

After graduating magna cum laude from Boston University with a bachelor of arts degree, Beecher helped co-found and manage the Boston Concert Opera. Following a move to Houston, he served as director of marketing for the Houston Grand Opera from 1978 to 1982.

In May 1984, Beecher received a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Houston. He became the first full-time social worker at the Montrose Counseling Center and remained on staff until the time of his death.

In addition to his work at the Counseling Center, Beecher was a psychotherapist in private practice.

Beecher served on the United Way allocation panel and was the state chair of the task force on gay and lesbian issues for the National Association of Social Workers. He also served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Houston’s School of Social Work.

Beecher is survived by his parents and a brother.

Contributions may be made to the James Beecher Memorial Fund, KS/AIDS Foundation, 3420 Montrose, P.O. Box 66973, Suite 700, Houston, TX 77006

OUR POLICY: The Montrose Voice will commemorate the passing of Montrose residents and Houston gay community members with an announcement. Friends or relatives of the deceased may provide us with facts about the person. The names of the closest survivors, and burial arrangements, Price or verse can be included. Pictures are appreciated and will be returned. Name of the deceased should be attached to the photo. Information should be provided to the Montrose Voice at the earliest possible date and will be published in the next available edition. There is no charge for this service.

In Montrose, Nearly Everyone Reads the Voice

Editorial

Questions About Health Matters?

Beginning April 4, the Medicine Chest debuts in the Montrose Voice. A service of the Montrose Clinic, the Medicine Chest will answer readers’ questions about health, health care and maintenance. Anonymous questions can be mailed to:

The Medicine Chest
KS/AIDS Foundation
408 Irondale
Houston, Texas 77006

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Our Sunday Brunch

1834 Westheimer 522-7020

Kim Yvette, Richard Askins, Mahli McGee and Liz Mendez

Then after we celebrate our “pride” and “unity,” let’s make a $500 donation to a worthwhile charity—something like the Houston 100 Club. We are so proud that we can give money to an organization that has long been known as racist and homophobic. Anyone who has lived in Houston more than five minutes knows that the 100 Club is the closest thing to a bribe next to handing a police officer your wallet when he asks for your driver’s license. Maybe following the parade when the post-celebration Patrol hits the streets, we can tell them that we are members of the 100 Club and should be spared the trip downtown.

I’m certain Bruce Felger, the parade chair, feels that such a gesture serves as a symbol to Houston’s general population. It’s time we stop dealing with symbols and start dealing with substance. Such a move on the part of the Gay Pride Week Committee is a flagrant misappropriation of funds generated by members of the gay community and should serve as cause for each and every one of us to become involved in the planning process for future Gay Pride Weeks.

I would hate to see a $500 donation made to the Ku Klux Klan as a symbol of “pride and unity.”

There are three remaining planning meetings before Gay Pride Week. That’s three more meetings for our “leaders” to show some pride and unity instead of ego and stubbornness. That’s three more meetings for those who “just can’t wait for the Gay pride parade” to get involved. That’s three more meetings for each and every member of the Houston gay community to become a part of something we can honestly say we are “proud” of.
By Scott Cutelinger
MONTROSE VOICE Film Critic

This week we have one highly original film and two rip-offs of other movies. The big surprise is Brazil, the futuristic satire by British film star Jonathan Pryce. Featuring a thought-provoking script and stunning sets (both nominated for Oscars this week), it is an unusual effort that deserves praise and a big audience.

The Hitcher is a scary movie, but it’s too much of a road movie with a serial killer on the loose. This film and House, steaming shamelessly from other thrillers and horror films, and you’ll recognize them immediately.

Brazil

If the future scares you, the new film Brazil will assure you that you have every right to be. The film takes us into a world similar to Orwell’s 1984, a bleak existence where people no longer have control over their own lives. No one appears to be in charge, but everyone is being watched by someone.

Confusing and disorienting feeling described by some as “retrofuture”—looking at the future through the past. Everything seems to be twisted around until it makes little sense. The government is now in charge of fixing things like heating and appliances—but they don’t know what they are doing. Private contractors are considered scabs and arrested, even though they know what they are doing. Isn’t that always the way it is?

I could go on and on about the very impressive and talented cast (including Robert DeNiro, Katherine Helmond, Ian Holm, Bob Hoskins, and Michael Palais), but it would take forever. The most stunning aspect of Brazil is the production design (an Oscar nominee), the marvelous models, and the special effects. The bleak world of this film is a brilliantly conceived image that will stay in your mind for a long time.

I’m cautious about highly recommending Brazil because it will bore some and be over the heads of others. The film is really a work of art, but the entertainment value is not there.]

What saves Brazil from depression is the genius of director Terry Gilliam of Monty Python fame. This film is far from Python movies like Holy Grail or Meaning of Life, but much in the grove with Gilliam’s hit Time Bandits. This is a serious “black comedy” where we laugh and then realize that the world we talk about isn’t so bad.

Right off, one should realize that Gilliam is lampooning the future with perspective, nightmarish ideas. Everything from terrorist bombings to stupid, time-saving kitchen devices are looked upon non-chalantly. People are walked out of their homes for questioning, tied up in heavy bags, and interrogated until they die. Yet people still manage to hope and have their dreams.

This dreamer is Sam Lowry (Jonathan Pryce), a clerk in the Ministry of Information records department. In his elaborate dreams, he is a courageous knight saving his fair-haired maiden in distress. In real life, he is baffling difficult because he is a computer blunder caused Mr. Buttle to be interrogated instead of Mr. Tuttle. This blunder by information retrieval manages to engulf Sam in an escapade adventure from which he may never return (but he may still get the girl).

This is the basic premise of Brazil, a film that is hard to categorize as it will be for some to understand. This vision of the future threatens our very ideas about reality and hope, and it’s often hard to swallow. Everything we see is vaguely familiar (clothes are thirties and forties, architecture is modern eighties, and interiors are sixties and seventies), but it’s a

where to frighten (or kill) the boy.
I must admit that Ritter Hauer (Blade- runner) is scary as hell as the evil hitcher. Whether he’s leaving a chopped finger in some French fries or threatening to throw a match in some gasoline where the boy is lying, we know this man is some- one we don’t want to know. He is evil incarnate, and when he ties a girl between two semis and threatens to pull her apart, we know he is too sick to be real.

The problem with The Hitcher is believability. Too many things happen just to provide excitement, and they really don’t make any sense. This man could not possibly be everywhere that he turns up, and soon we turn off common sense and expect him any time. Just like Halloween, we almost await that moment when he pops out.

Robert Harman directs the daylights out of this film, and at all times, there are moments of pure terror and originality. Still, the film seems lifted from too many other movies, and this keeps it from standing on its own merits. The Hitcher is a good matte film and really very scary, but it just isn’t plausible enough to be memorable.

House

I caught the new horror film House at a sneak preview, and the crowd was unanimous—this is a very stupid movie. Throwing in everything from Poltergeist to monsters to bits from every haunted house movie ever made, this film is an embar- rassing rip-off.

This is one of those movies where some- one rents an old house just to “get away from everything.” William Katt plays a

young man trying to write some memoirs about Viet Nam. Of course, he doesn’t get much writing done.

Katt (of “Greatest American Hero” fame) spends most of the film chasing after the monsters that lurk in the house. A direct Poltergeist steal comes from a monster who hides in—you guessed it—the closet! Katt sets up elaborate camera equipment (how original) but has trouble “capturing the moment.”

George Wendt (“Cheers”) plays a nice comic touch as a nosy neighbor. His attempts to help Katt capture the monster are the highlight of the movie. Kay Lenz is also on hand briefly as the ex-wife, but she gets killed off rather fast.

The film begins with a halfway feasible story, but towards the halfway point it starts to get rather murky and delirious. Katt seems mentally disturbed about his Viet Nam experiences and also the loss of a daughter who just vanished at this very house years ago. We get dream sequences that slide in and out of reality so much, we really aren’t sure what exactly is going on.

The whole thing turns out to be a bunch of malarky, and we feel foolish for sitting through this silliness. I have to admit, there are several jumpy, scary scenes that had me half on the edge of my chair. Unfortunately, the rest of the film is so dumb that it’s not worth it just for the cheap thrills.

I was really ready for a good horror film in the mode of last year’s Fright Night, but no such luck. House writer Ethan Wiley obviously feels fine about stealing ideas from other movies, but we don’t have to sit through this rehash. Stay at home and avoid this House.

rs. Lowry (Katherine Helmond) and her son Sam (Jonathan Pryce) arrive at a restaurant for lunch in “Brazil”
**Films**

**Monty Python Animator Proud of New Film**

By Scott Cutsinger

Montrose Voice Film Critic

Terry Gilliam is probably best known as the odd animator for the zany Monty Python bunch. Visiting Houston on a publicity tour, Gilliam says that he’s become bored with animation and the Python bunch. His new film Brazil is definitely something in a new vein. He describes this effort as something a little different—a cut-out animation movie with live actors.

“I think that moviemakers underestimate the public,” says Gilliam. “They need substance—not just entertainment without thinking.” He added, “Movies like Commando are just A to B to C with no character development or intelligence.”

The idea of making a futuristic film intrigued Gilliam because he had such a backlog of odd ideas and thought that he was able to bring to life on the screen. “I wanted to make art that includes everyone in the process and leaves shards in their brains,” he commented. “Movies today just don’t do that.”

In fact, the new film was almost too strange for its distributor, Universal Pictures. They wanted to trim the movie and reedit the downbeat ending. Gilliam fought hard for a year, cut his own 10 minutes, and then decided to show the movie to critics himself when Universal ignored it.

Los Angeles critics fell all over themselves in praise (they gave it Best Film of the Year) and Universal decided to release his print. The praise was a surprise to Gilliam, who said that he “never expected anything like the reception Brazil received—nothing was better than that moment.”

Success is not new to Gilliam with hits like Jabberwocky and Time Bandits to his name, both of which he directed. He worked on all of the Monty Python films, and was second unit director on the recent Meaning of Life. He commented that he doesn’t see the group getting together anytime soon, but any future Python films will have to include all of the members.

His future projects include a film called The Adventures of Baron Munchausen. It deals with stories told by an 18th Century lawyer who is a notorious liar. Gilliam’s success with Time Bandits and hopefully Brazil makes him a “golden goose” right now, and he has the opportunity to film many of his strange concoctions. “It’s a very simple system in Hollywood until you flop,” he noted.

When asked about the title of Brazil and what connection it has to this film, Gilliam says that, “It’s the answer to everything. That thirties tune is an escapist answer to our naive dreams, and it conjures up images of romance and relief.” Gilliam’s film is truly relief for serious filmgoers, and we eagerly await the new projects that he might be thinking up—even if they are still caught up in his preciously unbalanced mind.

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**In loving memory of**

James F. Beecher

KSAIDS Foundation President

As our friend and co-worker, you and the contributions that you made will always be remembered by your community and the many others that you served.

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In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the James F. Beecher Memorial Fund in care of the KSAIDS Foundation of Houston

3400 Montrose

Suite 700

Houston, TX 77006
Fortunes

A Star is Born, It's a Libra
By Mark Orion
Far Friday, Feb. 28, 1986

ARIES—March comes in like a lion and you’re prepared for the blow. Things become hectic on all fronts but you remain calm and organized. Don’t be afraid to delegate tasks to others.

TAURUS—With the beginning of the new month, spring is right around the corner. A mild case of early spring fever makes concentration difficult. Relax and enjoy some limited daydreaming. It will aid in future creative endeavors.

GEMINI—Your usual calm nature will help settle a dispute. Use your level head to prevent someone close to you from making a mistake. Your rational approach to the situation wins you new friends and respect.

CANCER—You are struggling to get out of a late winter rut. Limited finances have you believing you’re just stuck. Not true. Try changing your routine a little. Begin a new home improvement project. You want to be ready for a great spring season.

LEO—A fantasy involving a new acquaintance is beginning to nag at you. Try ignoring your strong mental side and let your feelings have a fling. It could turn out to be a wonderful first time, but not a last time.

VIRGO—you’ve been so good at watching your pennies and taking care of your health. Now’s the time for a treat. How about a wardrobe addition? Or, a night out? Grab a partner and have a ball. You owe it to yourself.

LIBRA—A star is born. Look in the mirror. You’ve been a wallflower far too long. Don’t let shyness force you to miss the boat. Your talents are in demand and you are more popular than ever, both at home and at work.

SCORPIO—you have been a little concerned over a major purchase. Relax and enjoy the luxury. Friends gladly help you enjoy the treat. You will find it’s worth every penny.

SAGITTARIUS—it’s a give-and-take world. And now’s your time to take. Gifts of all kinds are coming your way. Be willing to graciously accept because it’s time you were repaid for past acts of generosity.

CAPRICORN—an unexpected blossomed into an expected relationship. Right now it’s all fireworks and star-filled nights. Enjoy. Don’t let a previous affair cloud your present happiness.

AQUARIUS—Stop blaming yourself for something that was bound not to work. You did your best but fate just wouldn’t cooperate. Don’t change a thing. Next time (and it won’t be long) things will work out.

PIZSCES—You avoided a possible disaster by stopping to think about the consequences. Let out a sigh of relief but don’t let close call make you overly cautious. You love to take chances and most of the time you come out on top.

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FEBRUARY 28

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SEE OUR DISPLAY AD IN THE MONTROSE VOICE

Photo Finishing

1 hour Quality Photo

We do it all! Printing and developing, enlargements, black and white, Kodak paper, 2615 Waugh Dr. 520-1010.

PLUMBING

Day Plumbing


Printing

Rinn's Speedy Printing

1617 W. Alabama, 527-0027

SEE OUR DISPLAY AD IN THE MONTROSE VOICE

South Texas

Dr. C.E. Fontanier

Diseases of the Colon & Rectum

• Colonoscopy

• Hemorrhoids

• Constipation

• Rectal Bleeding

Medical & Surgical management

872-7876

Answered 24 hours

210 West Greens Rd.

Houston, TX 77067

Travel

Bed and Breakfast


Travel Consultants

Complete travel arrangements. All services free. Open Monday through Friday 9am-5:30pm, 2029 Southwest Frey. Houston, TX 77098 (713) 529-6464.

Video

VideoScope

2016 Montrose, 529-0140

SEE OUR DISPLAY AD IN THE MONTROSE VOICE

Video Trend

1401 California, 527-9059

SEE OUR DISPLAY AD IN THE MONTROSE VOICE

Video

Your own video service. 1425 Westheimer 529-0482

Also see Adult Video category.
THE HEADLINES: Headline words in bold type, centered, are $1 each word (minimum $3 per line). (Centered bold headlines can also appear within the text or at the end of the ad, and are also $1 per word, with a minimum of $3 per line.)

THE TEXT: Each word in regular type is 40¢. (Additional regular words: “ALL CAPS” or “BOLD Words” not in all caps are 55¢ each. Additional “BOLD” Words in all caps are 70¢ each.)

EXAMPLES:

THESE HEADLINES $3.00
Then each additional word like this 40¢

THESE THREE LINES
HERE TOTAL $8.00
Then each additional word like this 40¢

THREE LINES
ALL CAPITAL LETTERS
CENTERED, BOLD $9.00
Then each additional word like this 40¢

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL WORDS LIKE...except
1s

TOTAL ENCLOSED

ANSWERING
newspaper

ces... except
1s

HEADLINES: Headline words in bold type, centered, are $1 each word (minimum $3 per line). (Centered bold headlines can also appear within the text or at the end of the ad, and are also $1 per word, with a minimum of $3 per line.)

ORDERING YOUR AD: You may order your ad in or on in. You can pay by check, money order, Mastercard, Visa, American Express, Diner’s Club, or Black Hawk. Or with our no minimum charge you can order on the phone.

DEADLINE: Classified ads received by 3p.m Wednesday will be placed in that week’s newspaper. Ads received later will be placed in the following week’s newspaper.

ANSWERING A BLIND AD: Address your envelope to the Blind Ad number, c/o Monroe Voice, 3045 W. Broad St., Richmond, 70006-3026. It will be forwarded, unopened, to the advertiser. Envelope no charge.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: A “word” is considered anything separated by “spaces,” except hyphens. Words considered 2 words when each segment is a recognized word if it stood on its own. A complete phone number, including area code, is 1 word. City, state and zip is 3 words.

bold line
bold line
bold line

TOTAL FOR WEEK:

Times

60% discount for 4 to 12 weeks or 25% discount for more equals COST OF ADS(1)

(1) Also, I wish to receive The Voice home delivered each week. I have enclosed (or will be billed or charged, as indicated below) an additional $1.15 for 6 weeks or $4.92 for 12 weeks.

TOTAL ENCLODED or to be billed or charged.

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Check enclosed enclosed Money order enclosed Cash & Visa charge MasterCard charge Diners Club charge Carte Blanche charge Ameriac Express charge Bill me if charge card expiration date

Credit card number

Signature

Name

Address

Phone(s) for verification of ad, if necessary

MAIL OR BRING TO
Monroe Voice, 408 Avondale, Hudson, VA, 70006-3028.
OR PHONE (713) 529-8490 weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
March 2
The Beat
All door proceeds benefits The K.S. AIDS Foundation
Grand Opening of Sundays
With special guest
Evelyn Thomas
Cover charge $10
March 2nd 8pm till
NRG
901 N. Shepherd Drive
Houston