



LETTERS

Lack of quality killed TV Montrose not the gay community

Editor:

While I am dismayed to read of the demise of TV Montrose (*Houston Voice*, April 23, front page) I was far more dismayed to read Steve Baker's passive-aggressive "Viewpoint" ('An open letter to community from TV Montrose,' April 23, page 9). I understand that his letter may be necessary for his process of grieving for a project that was undoubtedly very dear to him. Nevertheless, his blanket statements, dismissing all who did not watch his program as being insufficiently committed to the cause of lesbian equality, are offensive and must be addressed.

First of all, Baker needs a dictionary. He writes that "the word 'community' has an important subword, 'unity.'" But the etymology of "community" has nothing to do with the word "unity." The word is not "comm-unity," but "com-munity," rooted in the Latin "munus," meaning service or gift. The community is thus one of mutual service across the multiple and diverse layers of lesbian life.

Baker calls these layers "fractures," but they're natural in any group of people. There is nothing that Baker or anyone else can do about it. Through the call for unity, Baker apparently desires to quash the individuality and diversity of lesbian people in Houston just so that we'll give him the attention and authority he seems to desire so desperately. Sound familiar? It's a disturbing repetition of the very motions of the "closet" which heterosexuals in power have often forced upon us in order to cement their own over-valued opinions of themselves and their way of life. No call for "community unity" should occur at the expense of our freedom, and that includes our freedom not to watch television programs which we find ninteresting or lacking in quality. Apathy did not kill TV Montrose; Baker finally sees some light when he writes that "the failure of TV Montrose to survive rests on Russ and me."

TV Montrose was a medium-quality show, with decent reporting and horrible graphics, which never succeeded in taking advantage of the uniqueness of its medium. Its hosts

Broussard's killer must be sent right message

Editor:

('Jon Buice's mea culpa,' *Houston Voice*, April 23, front page)

I was both outraged and offended that Ray Hill, community activist, would even consider the early release of Jon Buice. My question to Hill is—what rationale are you possibly using to justify this early release? I only see this early release as an invitation for Buice to become more involved in hate crimes, thus putting more gay men at risk of being killed as was done

to Paul Broussard.

Secondly, it sends out a very negative message to others who are involved in hate crimes, the message being "it's all right to kill gay men, you'll get out early." I feel it is very important that we get the message out that hate crimes will not be tolerated and you will be punished to the maximum of the law, which does not include early release—Buice's mea culpa is falling on very outraged ears.

Walter S. Light

A thank you from someone recovering

Editor:

Thank you seems to be totally inadequate to express my heartfelt gratitude for the community's support of "Roast The Wilma" recently performed at Mary's. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I'm on the road to recovery and look forward to seeing each of you as I get back to work.

William L. Johnson

Sarah DePalma's viewpoint hits home

Editor:

Lord knows I profoundly disagree with Sarah DePalma about many things, especially the extent to which the gay civil rights movement should be diverted into addressing transgender issues. But her viewpoint column, ('Standing up for who you are,' *Houston Voice*, April 23, page 8) is among the finest pieces the paper has ever published. It captures in very few words the deep wound caused by social and familial isolation—whatever the cause.

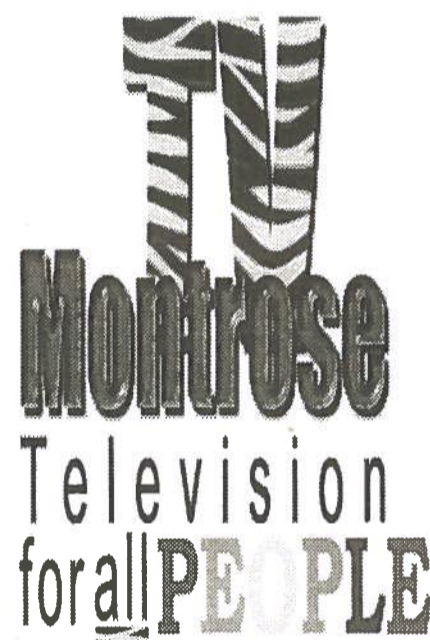


Sarah DePalma was misidentified as Sandra DePalma in last week's issue. The *Houston Voice* apologizes for this error.

It moved me especially because recently I had an experience similar to Sarah's. My great grandmother, who would have been 100 in September, died two weeks ago. While alive, she fully accepted my relationship with my partner of six years, PJ. He flew directly from an all-night shift in an emergency room to be by my side at her funeral and then flew straight back to work when it was over. Yet during the funeral, many members of the family refused even to look at us together. I was angry and hurt all at once. I have never been so ashamed of them. They didn't deserve to be in PJ's presence much less have the privilege of shaking his

hand. My great grandmother would have agreed. Sarah's right about one thing: we form the families that count in life based on love, not biology.

Dale Carpenter
via e-mail



were either cloying or wooden, and their pre-scripted banter was painful to watch. Moreover, there was a questionable decision to air the show on Monday evenings. By that time, lesbian people in Houston had already gotten their fill of community news through the *Houston Voice* and/or the *Texas Triangle*, which had appeared the previous Thursday or Friday.

TV Montrose's "news" was, in my opinion, already old and disposable, and therefore not worth watching. I am writing this letter before the April 26 episode airs, but I cannot imagine how TV Montrose could possibly shed new light on the story of a (thankfully) piddlingly small anti-gay demonstration in Galveston that has now occurred two or three news cycles ago. I hope that Baker will learn from his mistakes, and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Martin Kavka
via e-mail

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