



HOUSTON

VOICE

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Almodovar rides again page 18

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♥ VOICE VALENTINE SPECIAL ♥

Lesbian couple celebrates 27 years of "oneness"

by J.C. MICHELAK

What makes a successful relationship? Does anyone really know? Books are written about it, movies are made about it and millions of people attend seminars on the subject. Some people wish for it, some people dream of it, and then there are others, like

Jeanette and Dot, who live it.

Jeanette Vaughn had no idea that her life partner, Dot Thompson, was going to be at the Twilight Lounge on Madison Avenue in Memphis when she strolled in to the popular lesbian nightclub in 1964. Six years later, April 17, 1970, Jeanette and Dot made a commitment, moved in to an apartment and began their life as a couple. They will be celebrating their 28th Anniversary this year.

During the '60s, gays and lesbians did not have a fraction of the acceptance that exists today. In fact, the bar that Jeanette



Then and Now: Jeanette Vaughn (above, left) and partner Dot Thompson



See VALENTINES page 15

Right-wing buries mayor's office with anti-gay calls

Activists plead for pro-gay response

by TERRY MURPHY

Gay advocates are urging community members to counter a impressive right-wing grass-roots campaign pressuring Mayor Lee Brown to abandon a pro-gay initiative he has promised to sign.

In a *Houston Voice* exclusive the first week he took office, Brown reiterated his campaign pledge to issue an executive order banning employment discrimination against gays and lesbians who work for the city. At that time (*Houston Voice*, Jan. 16), Brown said he had directed the legal department to draft the order and he would sign it when it was completed.

Meanwhile, three weeks after the *Voice* article, a similar story made the front page of the *Houston Chronicle* (Feb. 11), which included severe criticism of the order from some city council members.

In a follow-up article in Thursday's *Chronicle*, right-wing council members Robb Todd, Orlando Sanchez and Joe Roach demanded that Brown seek council approval before he signs such an order, or put the matter to a public referendum.

The same day the follow-up article appeared in the *Chronicle*, anti-gay activists launched an impressive grass roots pressure campaign against the executive order. In the first 45 minutes of business Thursday morning (Feb. 12), the mayor's office had received 135 phone calls opposed to him signing such an executive order.



Mayor Lee Brown

The prospective order was also a prime topic on right-wing talk radio shows Wednesday and Thursday.

Openly gay city council member Annise Parker and activists in the gay community immediately issued calls for an equally massive pro-order response from members of Houston's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Mayor Lee Brown's Citizen's Assistance Office
(713) 247-1888
e-mail: mayor@ci.houston.tx.us

City Council Public Session
2 p.m., Tues., Feb. 17
City Council Chambers

* Anyone who wishes to speak at that meeting, must reserve a spot in advance by calling the City Secretary's office at (713) 247-1840 no later than one hour before the meeting.

See BROWN/ page 16

Maine voters repeal pro-gay state law

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—Maine Gov. Angus King said the decision by Maine voters to repeal a state gay rights law before it ever took effect was disappointing, but that the push for passage would go on.

"I think it's unfortunate," said King, the political independent who was chief media spokesman for the anti-repeal campaign. "But we'll move forward, I think this is an evolutionary process."

Opponents of the law were exultant. "We feel great, great," said Paul Volle of the Christian Coalition of Maine, a leading force in the repeal effort. "We'll just have to see where we go from here, see what the other side does. We're in this battle for the long haul."

Joe Cooper of the Maine Won't Discriminate organization said supporters of the law believed they had found discrepancies in some returns, but not enough to change the outcome.

"We concede," said Cooper late Tuesday night.

Rebecca Isaacs, political director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, called the vote "a tremendous loss," especially coming on the heels of Washington state's rejection last November of an initiative to give job protection to gays.

"Certainly, the right will feel emboldened by this, but again, I think it will definitely be a wakeup call across the country for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community," Isaacs said.

Maine became the first state to repeal a gay rights law. Ten states have such measures.

With 620 of 663 precincts or 94 percent reporting, 135,278 voters or 52 percent favored repeal, while 127,043 or 48 percent endorsed retaining the gay-rights law.

The measure drew 31 percent of Maine's registered voters, significantly more than the 25 percent state officials had predicted for a midwinter election weeks after portions of the

See MAINE/ page 17



Justin Poland, left, comforts a friend at the Maine Won't Discriminate rally after seeing the latest poll results on television, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1998, in Portland, Maine. Voters Tuesday narrowly approved a referendum proposal making the state the first to repeal its gay rights law. (AP Photo/David McLain)

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Charter Member



Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce

LOCAL

HRC slates Houston fund-raiser Feb. 14.

AIDS activist Mary Fisher and HRC National Field Director Donna Red Wing headline the Human Rights Campaign's second annual VIP Cocktail reception prior to its Feb. 14 Winter Gala fund-raiser.

All proceeds from the cocktail reception and gala go to HRC, of Washington, D.C., the nation's largest lesbian and gay political organization.

Approximately 300 people are expected to attend the event, Sat., Feb. 14 at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main Street. The VIP cocktail reception begins at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Gala raises \$158,000 for AIDS Foundation Houston

"Absolutely Fabulous & Off the Wall" was the theme of AIDS Foundation Houston's annual fund-raising gala Jan. 31 at JAGS Decorative Center. About 600 well-



At the Absolutely Fabulous fund-raiser for AIDS Foundation Houston were (l to r) Steven Fenberg of the Houston Endowment, event co-chair Cheri Carbonara, Harold Wolpert, AFH's board chair and event co-chair Ed Smith.

turned-out folks helped generate about \$158,000 for the foundation. That's about \$8,000 more than last year, and counting. The event proceeds contribute a welcome portion of the Foundation's annual budget of about \$3.5 million.

Nominations due for Pride Grand Marshals

On Feb. 17, the Pride Committee of Houston will accept final nominations and will elect grand marshals for Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride 1998.

Three Grand Marshal titles will be awarded. Honorary grand marshal will be an out gay man or lesbian who has shown outstanding support for lesbian and gay causes. The remaining two titles will be awarded, one each to a gay man and a lesbian. Both must be residents of Harris County or its surrounding counties and should be seen as a community role model.

Potential grand marshals must be aware of their nomination and on hand to accept the title in person or have submitted a written acceptance letter to the Pride Committee. Nominations, which must be written, should include a summary of the nominee's qualifications, which might address a wide variety of contributions, including: social, political, health-related, child welfare, education, business, generosity, leadership or civil pride.

Nominations should be presented and voting will take place at the next PCOH general meeting, 7-9 p.m., Tues., Feb. 17 at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. For more information, call (713) 529-6979.

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Houston HIV Forum scheduled for Feb. 18

A Houston HIV Forum will be held on Feb. 18 to give everyone who is infected with HIV or affected by the pandemic an opportunity to speak with representatives of the Ryan White Planning Council, the HIV Care Consortia and other AIDS service funding groups in the greater Houston area. The Forum is being held to help assure that the best possible services are provided to those who are HIV-positive or who have developed AIDS. The Forum is designed to promote constructive dialogue, unify diverse efforts and to strive to see that culturally sensitive services are available to general and specific populations.

The Forum will be held at 2 p.m. at AVES, Inc., 4126 Southwest Freeway, Suite 1310. Call (281) 646-1242 for more information.

Log Cabin Republicans elect Van Ooteghem

Log Cabin Republicans—Houston elected Gary Van Ooteghem as its new president.

At its most recent meeting, the group also elected Marion E. Coleman as vice president, Ed Inderwish as treasurer,



Gary Van Ooteghem

and Gibson Bush as secretary.

Van Ooteghem, who was the group's president from 1995 to 1997, is a longtime Houston activist. He currently has a seat on the Ryan White Planning Council, which distributes more than \$12 million in federal money to AIDS service organizations. He also is a board member at Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH), where he chairs the newly formed scholarship committee.

Coleman has been a founder member or board member of virtually every gay group in Houston during three decades of activism. She currently sits on the boards of Body Positive, Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Songfest and The Diana Foundation.

Milam House receives grant from Hollyfield Foundation

Milam House, a project of AIDS Housing Houston, Inc., recently received a \$2,000 grant from The

Hollyfield Foundation to partially fund a unique new nutrition program.

The Lewis 'Eating Well' Nutrition Education Program will provide hands-on nutrition education for HIV-positive people and their caregivers.

Conceived and spearheaded by the late Robert Lewis, a pharmacist and Milam House board member, it grew out of a survey Lewis made of Houston-area AIDS service providers that established the need for such a program.

Milam House is a non-profit agency providing housing and access to services for HIV-positive homeless people.

Bering Foundation open house Feb. 19

The Bering Community Service Foundation will hold its annual Open House and Donor Appreciation Reception from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19 at 1440 Harold. At that time, the Foundation will debut a new booklet, "Conversations with Edward Albee." The award-winning, Houston-based playwright donated his time to interviewing founders, volunteers and staff and his work makes up the text of the booklet.

Also at that reception, the Foundation will present its annual Don Sinclair Leadership Award, which recognizes visionary leadership skills.

Lesbian author Judy Nelson to speak Feb. 20

Judy Nelson, former Texas beauty queen, author and Martina ex will be LIB's special guest speaker at its Feb. 20 meeting.

In "Love Match: Nelson v. Navratilova," Nelson wrote frankly of her long romance with tennis legend Martina Navratilova, and a subsequent paternity suit that garnered international media attention. More recently, she released her autobiography, "Choices." Nelson is also a columnist for Lesbian News.

Informal networking precedes the meeting at 6:30 p.m., Fri., Feb. 20 in the Fellowship Hall of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. Admission is \$4 for members, \$8 for non members (or free with payment of \$20 annual membership).

Albee Workshop auditions slated

Auditions for cast members for the upcoming season of the Edward Albee New Play Workshop will be held from 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17 at Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway.

Albee, a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner and recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor and a Presidential Medal, will direct a company of graduate students in six original works, selected by him. Actors should prepare two one-minute contemporary monologues of contrasting style. Call (713) 726-8633 for more information.

BRIEFLY

QuAC: The Queer Artists Collective will hold a post-Valentine's Day spoken word event, entitled "Swoon," on Feb. 16. All writers and poets are encouraged to participate in the open mike celebration of the complexities of modern queer relationships, exploring love, sex, romance, heartbreak and obsession. 8 p.m., Mon., Feb. 16 at Toopee's Coffee Co., 1830 West Alabama. For more information, visit www.neosoft.com/~travism/quac.htm.

AssistHers will present another in

its series of lesbian health issues programs on Feb. 14 entitled "If you planned for the Comets: The Dynamics of Being a Team Player—Part II." Call (713) 521-4628 for more info.

A new church orchestra is forming at The Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. Under the director of Andy Mills, former director of the Montrose Symphony Band, the band's first meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tues., Feb. 17 at the sanctuary, 1919 Decatur St.

Midtowne Spa will hold a dance to benefit Montrose Clinic at 10 p.m.



Songfest delivers big time: Jerry Atwood (above left), founder of "A Christmas Songfest," one of Houston's biggest fund-raising events of the year, handed off an oversized check representing \$25,731 to Mary Walbert (center) and John Gonzalez of Bering Community Service Foundation. Representatives of Montrose Clinic were on hand at Riva's Restaurant Feb. 8 to receive a similar check, representing more than \$51,000 in total generated by this year's event.

Southern Baptists may boot pro-gay Austin church

AUSTIN (AP) — A Southern Baptist church that welcomes practicing homosexuals may be ousted by the Baptist General Convention of Texas when it meets in Dallas later this month.

The convention's administrative committee voted unanimously last week to recommend the expulsion of Austin's University Baptist Church. The convention's executive board has set a Feb. 24 vote on the matter.

The administrative committee contends that any church accepting the homosexual lifestyle is defying biblical teaching and cannot be accepted in fellowship with other Southern Baptist churches.

The confrontation resulted when the

church's site on the World Wide Web caught the eye of the convention committee, said Charles Davenport of Fort Worth, administrative committee chairman. On its site, the church mentions its Texas Baptist affiliation and promotes its own Open Circle ministry.

The ministry is made up of "gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight and transgendered people working toward unity and inclusion in our denomination and communities," according to the Web site.

If the board upholds the administrative committee, the convention's name would be removed from the church's literature and Web site. The board also will decide whether to discontinue accepting money from the church for mission programs.

Davenport denied that the convention is trying to expel the church. The convention aims to distance itself from the church, he said.

Nevertheless, the Rev. Larry Bethune, the church's pastor, said the move to expel the congregation seems to say that God discriminates against gays and lesbians.

"Gays and lesbians and their families are damaged once again by hearing that God hates them," he told the Austin American-Statesman in a story published Feb. 10. "They hear that the way an African American would hear, 'Love the soul and hate the color,' or a woman would hear, 'Love the woman but hate the gender.'"

Relations between the congregation and the convention have been turbulent for years. In 1948, the church stopped segregating people in its pews by race, "withstanding the criticism of many other Texas Baptist churches at

See AUSTIN/ page 17

OBITUARIES

James Mauldin

Services were held Feb. 5 in Baker, La., for James Timothy Mauldin, of Houston, who died Feb. 1.

A graduate of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La.,

Mauldin moved to Houston in 1993 and worked as a probation officer for the state of Texas.

He is survived by Ron, Jim, James, Vince,

and many other friends, as well as his parents, Tim and Betty; a sister, Amy; and many other relatives.

"We will always remember his smile and laughter and the joy of being surrounded by his family and friends. So, fly high my friend, with wind beneath your wings. You will be missed so greatly."

Richard Pinson

A memorial celebration will be held Feb. 21 for Richard P. Pinson, affectionately known as "Little Dick," who died Feb. 1.

Short in stature but big of heart, he struggled with his lifestyle but he made a family of his friends at work and play. Friends knew when Dick

was around because of his laughter.

He was willing to lend a helping hand because it made him feel a part of—not apart from.

Little Dick considered Houston his home; especially the Montrose area. He worked hard and

he played hard. Pay day was Play day. He will be missed by his many friends that he touched in this life. They will gather to celebrate his life from 2 to 4 p.m., Sat., Feb. 21 at EJ's, 2517 Ralph.



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Gay man sues Maryland to overturn oral sex ban

BALTIMORE (AP)—Larry Jacobs is one of seven plaintiffs in a lawsuit that seeks to overturn a Maryland law banning oral sex between homosexuals.

While he's never been prosecuted under the law, the openly gay Rockville attorney said Feb. 5 he fears grave repercussions if anyone makes an issue of his sexual orientation. "If I were convicted of a crime like that, I could lose my license," he said.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the suit, which aims to overturn the law that makes oral sex between people of the same gender a felony



Larry Jacobs

punishable by 10 years in prison and a \$1,000 fine. The suit claims the 1916 law is unconstitutional because it doesn't apply to straight couples. "That kind of open season on gays and lesbians has got to stop," said Susan Goering, executive director of the ACLU state chapter.

While only a few people have been arrested under the statute, it has been used to discriminate against gays and lesbians in other ways, the ACLU said. Critics of the law say it gives prejudiced people another reason to intensify their hatred of homosexuals. "We're talking about a 10-year felony. It's serious," said Susan Silber, a Takoma Park attorney who belongs to Free State Justice Campaign, which seeks equal rights for homosexuals and transsexuals.

Lawmakers in the past have introduced bills to change the law, but the bills have never made it out of the House Judiciary Committee.

Cinn. activists lose court bid on gay rights law

CINCINNATI (AP)—A federal appeals court last week left intact a ruling that upholds Cincinnati's 1993 charter amendment that forbids the city to enact or enforce any pro-gay laws.

Gay rights activists say they intend to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Voters approved Cincinnati's charter amendment by a nearly 2-to-1 ratio. But opponents argue that it cannot stand because it is identical to a statewide referendum in Colorado that the U.S. Supreme Court rejected by a 6-3 vote in 1996.

Appeals Judge Danny Boggs, supporting the 6th Circuit's decision not to rehear the case, wrote that the Colorado case is not applicable to the Cincinnati issue. But the dissenting judges, including Chief Judge Boyce Martin Jr., said they think the Supreme Court's Colorado ruling should apply. They said the majority's decision "draws distinctions without a difference."

Cincinnati's amendment has never been implemented because it was immediately challenged and has been on hold during the court battle.

Ala. clinic reopens, gay bars on alert

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—The Justice Department is warning women's clinics and gay bars to be on the alert following the nation's first fatal bombing of an abortion clinic.

A bomb packed with flat-headed, round nails exploded beside the walkway to the New Woman clinic on Jan. 29, killing Robert Sanderson, an off-duty police officer working as a security guard, and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons as she arrived for work. The clinic reopened last week.

Wary of what happened in Atlanta, where the bar blast followed the clinic bombing by about a month, Birmingham police have cautioned gay bars and gay-related service agencies against being an easy target. "They've told them to clean up around their buildings, to make sure things aren't just lying around," said David White, Birmingham coordinator of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama. "The main thing is, since Birmingham is more of a close-knit community, to be more aware of people they don't know."

Gainesville, Fla., passes pro-gay ordinance

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—The Gainesville City Commission has taken the first step to make it illegal to discriminate against individuals based on their sexual orientation in public accommodations, employment and housing.

The amended anti-discrimination ordinance passed city council 3-2 last week. Before the change is approved, the ordinance now must go through two public hearings, which will likely occur in April.

The city's anti-discrimination ordinance already protects individuals from discrimination because of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, age and marital status.

More than 20 of the 60 citizens who attended the council meeting spoke in support of the gay rights issue.

See NAT'L page 9



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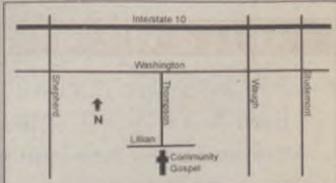
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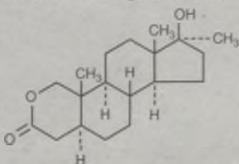
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Anabolic steroids are synthetic derivatives of testosterone. Certain clinical effects and adverse reactions demonstrate the androgenic properties of this class of drugs. Complete dissociation of anabolic and androgenic effects has not been achieved. The actions of anabolic steroids are therefore similar to those of male sex hormones with the possibility of causing serious disturbances of growth and sexual development if given to young children. Anabolic steroids suppress the gonadotropic functions of the pituitary and may exert a direct effect upon the testes.

During exogenous administration of anabolic androgens, endogenous testosterone release is inhibited through inhibition of pituitary luteinizing hormone (LH). At large doses, spermatogenesis may be suppressed through feedback inhibition of pituitary follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH).

Anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins and decrease high-density lipoproteins. These levels revert to normal on discontinuation of treatment.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Oxandrin is indicated as adjunctive therapy to promote weight gain after weight loss following extensive surgery, chronic infections, or severe trauma, and in some patients who without definite pathophysiologic reasons fail to gain or to maintain normal weight, to offset the protein catabolism associated with prolonged administration of corticosteroids, and for the relief of the bone pain frequently accompanying osteoporosis (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Oxandrolone is classified as a controlled substance under the Anabolic Steroids Control Act of 1990 and has been assigned to Schedule III (non-narcotic).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast.
2. Carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption).
3. Pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose.
4. Nephrosis, the nephrotic phase of nephritis.
5. Hypercalcemia.

WARNINGS

PELIOUS HEPATIS, A CONDITION IN WHICH LIVER AND SOMETIMES SPLENIC TISSUE IS REPLACED WITH BLOOD-FILLED CYSTS, HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PATIENTS RECEIVING ANDROGENIC ANABOLIC STEROID THERAPY. THESE CYSTS ARE SOMETIMES PRESENT WITH MINIMAL HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION, BUT AT OTHER TIMES THEY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH LIVER FAILURE. THEY ARE OFTEN NOT RECOGNIZED UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING LIVER FAILURE OR INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG USUALLY RESULTS IN COMPLETE DISAPPEARANCE OF LESIONS.

LIVER CELL TUMORS ARE ALSO REPORTED. MOST OFTEN THESE TUMORS ARE BENIGN AND ANDROGEN-DEPENDENT, BUT FATAL MALIGNANT TUMORS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG OFTEN RESULTS IN REGRESSION OR CESSATION OF PROGRESSION OF THE TUMOR. HOWEVER, HEPATIC TUMORS ASSOCIATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS ARE MUCH MORE VASCULAR THAN OTHER HEPATIC TUMORS AND MAY BE SILENT UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. BLOOD LIPID CHANGES THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS ARE SEEN IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE DECREASED HIGH-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS AND SOMETIMES INCREASED LOW-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS. THE CHANGES MAY BE VERY MARKED AND COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS AND CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE.

Cholestatic hepatitis and jaundice may occur with 17 α -alkylated androgens at a relatively low dose. If cholestatic hepatitis with jaundice appears or if liver function tests become abnormal, oxandrolone should be discontinued and the etiology should be determined. Drug-induced jaundice is reversible when the medication is discontinued.

In patients with breast cancer, anabolic steroid therapy may cause hypercalcemia by stimulating osteolysis. Oxandrolone therapy should be discontinued if hypercalcemia occurs.

Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with preexisting cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. Concomitant administration of adrenal cortical steroid or ACTH may increase the edema.

In children, androgen therapy may accelerate bone maturation without producing compensatory gain in linear growth. This adverse effect results in compromised adult height. The younger the child, the greater the risk of compromising final mature height. The effect on bone maturation should be monitored by assessing bone age of the left wrist and hand every 6 months (See PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests).

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN TO ENHANCE ATHLETIC ABILITY.

PRECAUTIONS

General: Women should be observed for signs of virilization (deepening of the voice, hirsutism, acne, clitoromegaly). Discontinuation of drug therapy at the time of evidence of mild virilism is necessary to prevent irreversible virilization. Some virilizing changes in women are irreversible even after prompt discontinuance of therapy and are not prevented by concomitant use of estrogens. Menstrual irregularities may also occur.

Anabolic steroids may cause suppression of clotting factors II, V, VII, and X, and an increase in prothrombin time.

Information for patients: The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following side effects of androgens:

- Males:** Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis, appearance or aggravation of acne.
- Females:** Hirsuteness, acne, changes in menstrual periods, or more facial hair.
- All patients:** Nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.

Laboratory tests: Women with disseminated breast carcinoma should have frequent determination of urine and serum calcium levels during the course of therapy (See WARNINGS).

Because of the hepatotoxicity associated with the use of 17 α -alkylated androgens, liver function tests should be obtained periodically.

Periodic (every 6 months) x-ray examinations of bone age should be made during treatment of children to determine the rate of bone maturation and the effects of androgen therapy on the epiphyseal centers.

Serum lipids and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol determinations should be done periodically as androgenic anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins. Serum cholesterol levels may increase during therapy. Therefore, caution is required when administering these agents to patients with a history of myocardial infarction or coronary artery disease. Serial determinations of serum cholesterol should be made and therapy adjusted accordingly.

Hemoglobin and hematocrit should be checked periodically for polycythemia in patients who are receiving high doses of anabolic steroids.

Drug interactions

Anticoagulants: Anabolic steroids may increase sensitivity to oral anticoagulants. Dosage of the anticoagulant may have to be decreased in order to maintain desired prothrombin time. Patients receiving oral anticoagulant therapy require close monitoring, especially when anabolic steroids are started or stopped.

Oral hypoglycemic agents: Oxandrolone may inhibit the metabolism of oral hypoglycemic agents.

Adrenal steroids or ACTH: In patients with edema, concomitant administration with adrenal cortical steroids or ACTH may increase the edema.

Drug/Laboratory test interactions: Anabolic steroids may decrease levels of thyroxine-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T₄ serum levels and increased resin uptake of T₄ and T₃. Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged. In addition, a decrease in PBI and radioactive iodine uptake may occur.

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility

Animal data: Oxandrolone has not been tested in laboratory animals for carcinogenic or mutagenic effects. In 2-year chronic oral rat studies, a dose-related reduction of spermatogenesis and decreased organ weights (testes, prostate, seminal vesicles, ovaries, uterus, adrenals, and pituitary) were shown.

Human data: Liver cell tumors have been reported in patients receiving long-term therapy with androgenic anabolic steroids in high doses (See WARNINGS). Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases.

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

Pregnancy: Teratogenic effects — Pregnancy Category X (See CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Nursing mothers: It is not known whether anabolic steroids are excreted in human milk. Because of the potential of serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from oxandrolone, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric use: Anabolic agents may accelerate epiphyseal maturation more rapidly than linear growth in children and the effect may continue for 6 months after the drug has been stopped. Therefore, therapy should be monitored by x-ray studies at 6-month intervals in order to avoid the risk of compromising adult height. Androgenic anabolic steroid therapy should be used very cautiously in children and only by specialists who are aware of the effects on bone maturation (See WARNINGS).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions have been associated with use of anabolic steroids:

Hepatic: Cholestatic jaundice with, rarely, hepatic necrosis and death. Hepatocellular neoplasms and peliosis hepatis with long-term therapy (See WARNINGS). Reversible changes in liver function tests also occur including increased bromsulphthalein (BSP) retention, and increases in serum bilirubin, aspartate aminotransferase (AST, SGOT) and alkaline phosphatase.

In males: Prepubertal: Phallic enlargement and increased frequency or persistence of erections.

Postpubertal: Inhibition of testicular function, testicular atrophy and oligospermia, impotence, chronic priapism, epididymitis, and bladder incontinence.

Clitoral enlargement, menstrual irregularities.

CNS: Habituation, excitation, insomnia, depression, and changes in libido.

Hematologic: Bleeding in patients on concomitant anticoagulant therapy.

Breast: Gynecomastia.

Larynx: Deepening of the voice in females.

Hair: Hirsutism and male pattern baldness in females.

Skin: Acne (especially in females and prepubertal males).

Skeletal: Premature closure of epiphyses in children (See PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric use).

Fluid and electrolytes: Edema, retention of serum electrolytes (sodium chloride, potassium, phosphate, calcium).

Metabolic/Endocrine: Decreased glucose tolerance (See PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests), increased creatinine secretion, increased serum levels of creatinine phosphokinase (CPK).

Masculinization of the fetus. Inhibition of gonadotropin secretion.

OVERDOSAGE

No symptoms or signs associated with overdosage have been reported. It is possible that sodium and water retention may occur.

The oral LD₅₀ of oxandrolone in mice and dogs is greater than 5,000 mg/kg. No specific antidote is known, but gastric lavage may be used.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Therapy with anabolic steroids is adjunctive to and not a replacement for conventional therapy. The duration of therapy with Oxandrin (oxandrolone) will depend on the response of the patient and the possible appearance of adverse reactions. Therapy should be intermittent.

Adults: The usual adult dosage of Oxandrin is one 2.5-mg tablet 2 to 4 times daily. However, the response of individuals to anabolic steroids varies, and a daily dosage of as little as 2.5 mg or as much as 20 mg may be required to achieve the desired response. A course of therapy of 2 to 4 weeks is usually adequate. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

Children: For children the total daily dosage of Oxandrin is 50.1 mg per kilogram body weight or 0.045 mg per pound of body weight. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

HOW SUPPLIED

Oxandrin 2.5-mg tablets are oval, white, and scored with BTG on one side and "111" on each side of the scoreline on the other side; bottles of 100 (NDC 54396-111-11).

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NAT'L from page 6

Opponents of the issue were upset that the city would consider changing the anti-discrimination ordinance less than four years after county voters overturned a similar ordinance to protect homosexuals.

Three arrested for attacking gay Ore. teen

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP)—Police have arrested three teen-age boys suspected of beating a gay student two weeks ago.

Last week, police arrested Robert P. Huffaker, 16, of Corvallis; Cyle A. Schroeder, 15, of Albany; and Michael B. Nash, 16, of Corvallis. All were charged with intimidation and assault in the incident.

Paul Miller, 17, reported a group of four boys followed him, taunting him with slurs like "queer" and "faggot," police said. Miller said when he responded to one of the boys making the taunts, the boy slugged him in the mouth, knocking out two teeth.

Miller, a senior at Corvallis High School who leads a support group for gay students, said two adults walked by as the name-calling was taking place, but did nothing.

The attack prompted support from residents of the community. Connie Onstad, Miller's grandmother, said a woman stopped by with money to pay for Miller's dentist bill. Onstad said others had called or dropped off supportive messages. "Paul, I was so sorry to see your face on the front page today," Onstad read from one note. "It sickens me to think that a town with a generally higher level than average of educated folk could harbor such idiots as those who attacked you."

Some residents had organized rallies against hate crimes at the Benton County Courthouse and at Corvallis High.

Miller said he doesn't want the suspects to go to jail, and that he isn't seeking revenge. "It just all seems so pointless," Miller said of the incident. "There was so much anger, as if I'd done something horrible to these people and I haven't. I think it's really sad. I hope these people get whatever help they need. If it ends up being mental health or therapy or whatever, I hope they get it."

Gay church founder confronts Myrtle Beach opposition

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—The founder of the world's largest predominantly gay Protestant denomination says fear is behind Myrtle Beach opposition to this spring's gay-rights festival.

"We don't have horns growing out of the top of our heads. We're patriotic. We're part of the community. Ever since this community's been here, we've been a part of it," said Rev. Troy Perry, moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

He traveled to Myrtle Beach to speak at a fund-raiser for an expansion project at MCC headquarters in Los Angeles.

"We're only four years old here," local MCC Pastor Barbara Garrison said. "For him to come to a church this small says a lot about what's happening here—not only to our congregation, but to our community."

Perry said he heard about local developer Burroughs & Chapin's opposition to the upcoming gay pride festival. "I'm very disappointed, but that's not our problem," he said. "It's time for us to be seen. To know us is

to love us, and the way to be known is to be seen."

Perry founded the first MCC congregation in 1968. Now the church has about 52,000 members and welcomes a quarter-million visitors each year to congregations in 15 countries.

Myrtle Beach is just another place where fear and ignorance need to be overcome, Perry said. "People respond out of fear," he said. "People fear what they don't know. So we need to get known."

Chicago cuts ties with Boy Scouts over gay ban

CHICAGO (AP)—The city of Chicago has agreed to sever ties to Boy Scouts of America programs until the group accepts gays and stops requiring a religious oath.

The agreement last week settles a federal lawsuit filed against Chicago by the American Civil Liberties Union. In agreeing to settle, the city avoided accepting blame.

The ACLU sued last April seeking to end the city's sponsorship of 28 Scout programs. The lawsuit alleged the city's involvement violated the separation of church and state principle and that the Scouts' ban on admitting gays is discriminatory.

The ACLU called the settlement a victory and urged other cities to "take a cue from Chicago's action and end their sponsorship of these discriminatory programs."

The city agreed to pay \$ 20,000 in court costs, said ACLU attorney Roger Leishman.

Rebecca Fields, an executive with the Scouts' Chicago area council, did not say whether the Scouts are considering changing their policies. She said private sponsors have helped fill the void left by Chicago's disassociation with the group.

S.D. high school squashes gay play

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP)—The show won't go on for a group of high school students who wanted to perform a pro-gay play, and South Dakota activists are claiming censorship.

The Spearfish High School drama team planned to present the one-act play called "Removing the Glove," which is about discrimination against homosexuals, at a state competition last week in Vermillion.

Because a group of parents was upset about the play, which was written by a college student, some school officials had changed parts of it to make it about discrimination against left-handedness. But the play's publisher hadn't authorized the editing and said the students couldn't perform it that way. That knocked the school from the state contest.

Although the publisher gave permission for Spearfish to put on the play in its original form, the Spearfish Board of Education only would allow the edited version.

The situation smacks of censorship, according to Free Americans Creating Equal Status (FACES) of South Dakota, a gay and lesbian activists group. Barry Wick, the group's executive director and board president, said not allowing students to perform the play the way it was written violates their right to free speech. "The mere suggestion of homosexuality sends chills down the yellow spines of minister-bigots and legislator-loonies in the state of South Dakota," Wick said in a press release.

Others agreed. Suzanne Alger, whose son was a cast member, said she felt her authority as a parent was being questioned by the school board because she already signed a permission slip allowing her son to be in the play.



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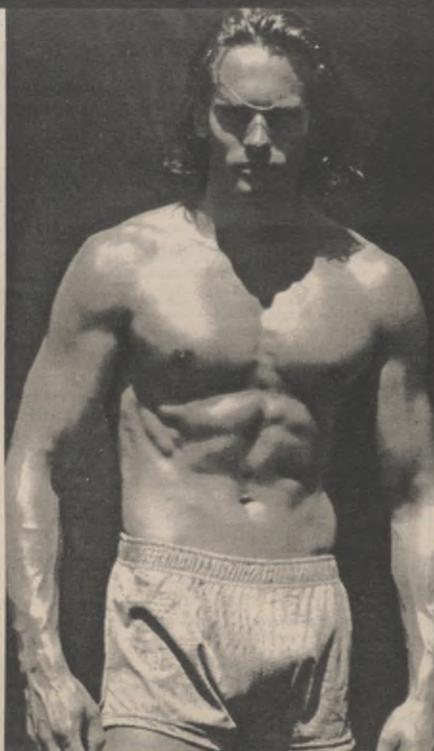
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EDITORIAL

Talking about community values

A queer form of political correctness tries to silence discussion of moral choices.

by CHRIS CRAIN

For all our talk about breaking down societal taboos and giving voice to unpopular points of view, we homosexuals have a verboten topic all our own. We have an awfully difficult time talking about moral values.

It's easy enough to understand why. All our lives, lesbians and gay men have been hammered into submission by "family values" rhetoric and the social and legal condemnation that has come along with it. Understandably, we are wary of the coercive power of public morality and the relative ease with which media-hungry politicians and religious leaders use talk about "values" as a wedge to divide folks into convenient camps: American vs. un-American, the saved vs. the damned, us vs. them.

Our collective take on the historical role of public "values" in this country is not an attractive one. Judeo-Christian moral values have been used, many would say warped, to subdue ethnic minorities (particularly blacks) and women into second-class citizenship, while reserving full participation in American society for the proverbial "straight white male," especially those of the WASP variety.

One by one, each of these oppressed groups has thrown off the yoke of value-laden discrimination, and has won civil rights, cultural acceptance, and greater involvement in the life of the nation.

Now that it looks to be our turn (finally) to live our lives without moral condemnation from the outside, we gays seem loath to open up Pandora's box and allow a free-flowing dialogue of our own about the "lifestyle choices" we make as gay men and lesbians.

And woe to those who dare try to broach that forbidden subject matter. We eat these heretics for lunch—pasting them with vicious personal attacks, impugning their motives, overstating their positions and, most discouraging of all, tarring them as "self-righteous" and accusing them of acting like the Queer Moral Majority.

The ones on the cultural right take the most heat. Gabriel Rotello, Michelangelo

Signorile, Andrew Sullivan, Camille Paglia, even Larry Kramer—all caricatured as hypocritical, bitchy, moralizing airbags in something of a hysterical (panicked!?) over-reaction to their very passionate arguments about the kind of world we homosexuals should be working toward.

Drug use, unsafe sex, public sex, religion, sexism—each of us makes choices in these areas that engage our lives and the culture and society we share. Why shouldn't these issues be open to vigorous, respectful and civil debate? To be sure, none of these cultural critics is beyond personal criticism. And some sling mud at their intellectual rivals with at least as much rigor as do their critics.

But is that the point? Should personal attacks pass muster as social criticism? Is it all about engaging in a contest for whose private life best reflects her moral philosophy? We need to find a language with which we can talk about values without difference of opinion being confused for condemnation. Otherwise, we have managed to take live-and-let-live moral relativism to an all new level: Not only is your morality your own business, but when someone else shares her ideas about values and life choices, she's somehow violating your "moral space."

Why be offended when someone else questions your ethical choices? Because it might make you second-guess your own value system? Because you're sick and tired of having to defend your life to someone else, thank you very much? To bow out of that conversation is to check out of life, or at least a thoughtful, examined life.

We'll never win the hearts and minds of Judeo-Christian middle Americans if they adopt the same head-in-the-sand intransigence to our view of how the world should be.

Let's set an example, as a community, of how folks can thoughtfully and respectfully examine their individual value systems without condemnation, recrimination or invoking governmental coercion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Ho Silver screen

Just wanted to take an opportunity to thank the Houston Voice and reviewer Stephen Underwood for the excellent reception that you gave the film "American Cowboy."

As a result of the review and other coverage in the Houston area, the film played to a sold-out crowd at MFA's Brown Auditorium. The audience was a wonderful mix of people many of whom indicated that they had come because of Mr. Underwood's review.

As the executive producer of the film, I just wanted to let you know that we appreciate the work of your fine publication and that I turn to it myself every week to be in the know about Houston's events, happenings and special film offerings.

Keep up the good work.

Calvin Preece
Houston

Fan mail

I wanted to take this time to commend you on a excellent paper. These past weeks I have noticed the layout of the paper has been superb! As always the articles are very informing and true to the picture, but the layout has made the text to be a delight to read and very enjoyable. I know that it takes super team work to publish a newspaper on a weekly basis. But the editor should be congratulated on working with a group of individuals who can grab a readers attention with the layout of the paper. I hope as the editor of the Houston Voice you will pass this information on the the various departments. And each and everyone of you should pat yourself on the back.

Sincerely,
A devote reader
via the internet

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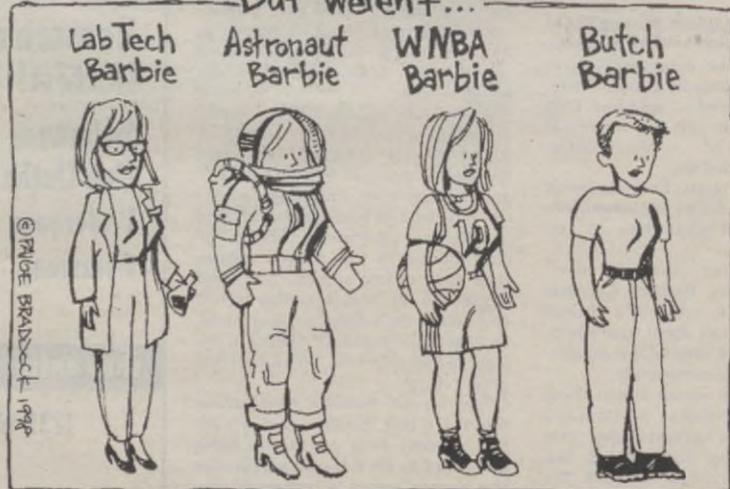
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ESSAY CONTEST
WINNERS

In celebration of the Houston run of a new, wonderfully warm and sensitive coming out film—"Ma Vie en Rose" (My Life in Pink)—Houston Voice and Landmark Theatre Corp. sponsored an essay contest. We invited Voice readers to send in their own stories of coming out. Intending to pick two winners, we were impressed with the volume of submissions and ultimately could not narrow our choices to just two. So, below we present the three winning essays.

Houston Voice and the Landmark Theatres would like to thank every one who took the time to participate in the contest. Everyone who wrote an essay did a wonderful job. We were touched and moved by each one; we only wish we could have reprinted them all.

Meanwhile, we invite you to enjoy these three stories, and to stop by and see "Ma Vie en Rose," winner of the Golden Globe award for Best Foreign Language Film. It opens for an exclusive Houston run Feb. 20 at Landmark's Greenway Theatre. (Our winners, who received tickets to the advance screening and passes for future Landmark films, were notified by telephone how to pick up their prizes.)

Joy at "Wedding
Banquet"

by KHOI NGUYEN

My love for the cinema has helped me to cope with my sexuality and my coming out to my family and friends. I (along with other numerous closeted homosexuals) would always envision the perfect day when I would reveal my sexuality without any complications (like rejection or outcast) just like in those classic hetero movies. Coming from a religious-oriented family, my parents and friends would never even discuss the topic.

During the college years, I made one resolution to myself. That resolution would be to find one or two movies that could be a catalyst to discuss homosexuality and my "coming out". Then the new Queer Cinema arrived in the late 1980s. I was excited that the entertainment industry would set the tone to my coming out.

However, movies like "Longtime

Companion," "Living End" and "Philadelphia" were AIDS-related movies that I did not understand and were seemingly inappropriate.

I revised my resolution to look for "relationship movies" with gay lovers. The following year, two superb movies were released, "Sum of Us" and "Wedding Banquet." Since I am in a steady relationship with a Caucasian lover, I was prejudiced toward "Wedding Banquet."

I had to wait a whole year until the following Thanksgiving to plan my coming out. I invited my family members and friends to have a nice holiday meal. During the evening, I requested them to view a wonderful "new" video. Some of my friends had heard of the movie, and my family members had not.

My lover and I told them after the

movie finished. I was stunned that my mother (who is a devout Buddhist) did not have strong objections. She smiled and reached out to hug me. Mothers do always know. Later, she would tell me that she would support me wholeheartedly.

Even though I did not plan this, my parents invited me to see a new movie—"Home for the Holidays".

I am blessed to live in a decade—the 1990s—wherein some courageous movie makers would envision my dreams and would support the gay community. Without independent movies and the independent movie venues, I would be among the deadly statistics.

My gay community, my gay social environments (like Asian and Friends of Houston), and my gay lover are my entire life.

"I've never"

by HOLLY WHILLOCK

Two years after my first kiss with another girl, I told my best friends from high school that I was gay. This simple statement, though, does not even begin to tell the story!

There were five of us that hung out together, all very different and yet so similar. I was the ultra-jock, Casey belonged to the drill team, Amy belonged to everything, Jessica was plagued with boy troubles, and Brenda was just boy-crazy.

Suffering from major senior-itis and needing a break from the real world, we decided to have a girls-only get-together; my mother was out of town, so it was easy deciding where to party. After a food, cigarette, and alcohol run (not necessarily in that order), we got down to gossiping and consuming our bought goods.

After a slight amount of alcohol consumption and a semi skinny-dip in the apartment pool (in the middle of February), we settled in for some seri-

ous drinking. We decided to play a game.

For those of you who understand the game of "I've Never", you will immediately know how the first statement in this story happened. For those fortunate to have never been introduced to the game, I will explain. Everybody has something to drink, preferably alcoholic in nature. Someone then starts the game off by making a statement of something that they have never done. For instance, "I've never been snow-skiing." If you have been snow-skiing, you have to take a drink.

The only point of this game is to find out interesting/embarrassing things about your friends. Little did they know just what they would find out about me!

Our game was beginning to hit a slow point, and quite a bit of alcohol had been consumed. We'd already covered all the bases in a lot of differ-

ent areas (yes, I used that word for a reason!) and were running low on topics. Well, Amy, who was, how shall I say, the least experienced of us, suddenly got excited and said she had the perfect "I've never" to use. Even though it was my turn, ironically, I couldn't think of anything to say, so I let her go.

"I've never kissed a girl," said Amy.

I drank.

Casey, who was next, volunteered, "I've never French-kissed a girl."

I drank.

A couple of more "I've never" statements later, just to clarify things, pretty much everyone had sobered up. At the beginning of the game, we had declared no questions/explanations necessary. We threw that rule out the window, as well as the game, and I've been outrageously out ever since.

Those four friends are still great friends. And, as far as I know, none of us has played the game since!

"Born 'Out'... of
Pearls and Swine

by M.C. JENYFER

Clutching my strand of June Cleaver Pearls, I stared at a black computer screen, trying to recall "coming out." I was comfortable being gay before I knew what "gay" meant. Before I turned four, I knew I was different because I wanted to grow up, marry a nice man some day and become a housewife. I never mentioned this to any grownups because I felt secure in my self-knowledge. There was no one to discourage me. My mother reinforced my beliefs by giving me a strand of pearls to play with. She said it kept me quiet.

I learned how the world viewed my aspirations when I was six. My new step-father took one look at me and knew. He was an alcoholic, who did his best over the next few years to take advantage of my being gay while never letting me forget that he hated me. I tried to tell my father what was happening, but he said I was making it up. Life in my mother's house was

none of his business.

This was 1962, and people did not talk about these things. Television talk shows did not find child abuse an attractive subject. Those years were horrible, but I learned a valuable lesson. It was easier to forgive my step-father for his actions than it was to keep carrying all that resentment-filled luggage. The experience did not make me ashamed of being gay. I knew it was my step-father who was sick, not me.

At the age of 12, sanity entered my life in the person of George E. He not only understood me, but also was the first person to call us "gay." With George E. around, I learned we were not alone. There was a whole world out there waiting for us. No matter what we learn about homosexuality, I'm grateful that I learned this early in life. It reinforced my belief that I was OK. George E. and I learned to put being gay into perspective. By the time

we were 14, I understood that being gay was part of who we were, but did not define us itself. Many people take years coming to terms with being gay. George E. and I entered adulthood with health self-esteem.

Over the years, I survived leukemia, depression, the death of friends, widowhood from AIDS and the last of childhood nightmares. I believe that coming to terms with my own homosexuality early on helped make the experiences that followed less frightening.

Today I am a gay male housewife. My dream came true. My spouse says I should write about my experiences. He thinks I have a unique perspective on life. Most cancer survivors do.

I could write a book about my life; I'll call it "The Housewife from Hell." A simple strand of pearls led me to become who I am today; a child with a keen self-awareness became a strong gay man who loves his life.



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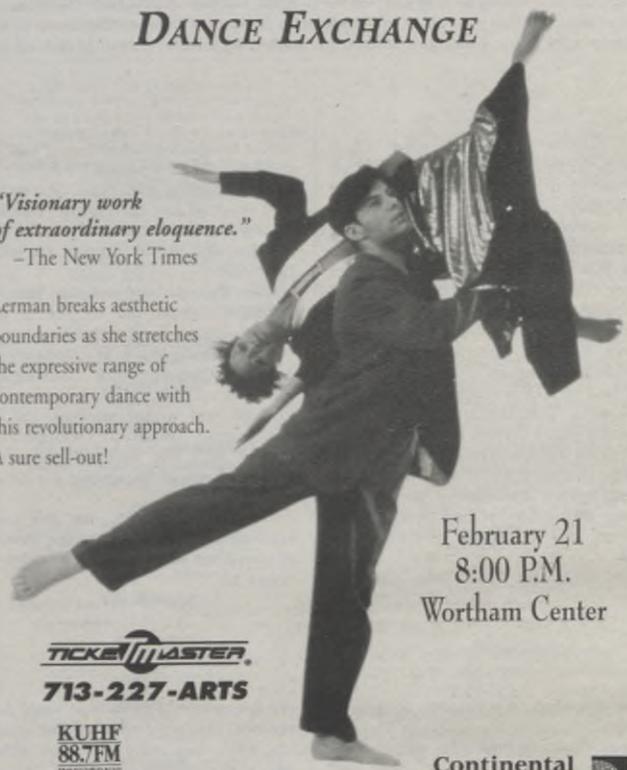
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Study confirms HIV-positive lovers often hid status

CHICAGO (AP)—Four out of every 10 HIV-infected people surveyed at two New England hospitals failed to inform sex partners about their condition, and nearly two-thirds of those didn't always use a condom, researchers said.

Researchers reporting in the latest issue of *Archives of Internal Medicine* believe withholding HIV information is widespread. "The public health message ... is that if you don't know the HIV status of your partner, you should be having safe sex" by using a condom, said the lead researcher, Dr. Michael Stein, director of HIV medical activities at Brown University Medical School in Providence, R.I.

Stein wasn't the only one worried about the lack of disclosure. "There's a need for greater attention to individual personal responsibility," said Daniel Zingale, executive director of the Washington-based activist group, AIDS Action. "One of the things we've been concerned about this past year or so is complacency."

Researchers questioned 203 HIV-positive patients getting treatment at Boston City Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital between 1994 and 1996, and 129 reported sexual activity during the previous six months.

Subjects with only one sexual partner were three times more likely to have told their partners than subjects with multiple partners. Also, subjects who said they had a lot of support from their spouse were almost three times as likely to tell.

Whites and Hispanics were three times as likely to tell partners as blacks.

Among the sexually active patients, 46 percent were black, 23 percent were Hispanic and 27 percent were white. In the group, 69 percent were men.

Forty-one percent were infected through injection drug use, 20 per-

cent were men who contracted the virus via homosexual contact, and 39 percent got HIV from heterosexual contact, researchers said.

Stein noted that previous surveys of gay men reached similar findings, especially the high likelihood of disclosure to a single partner and reduced likelihood among those with multiple partners. "This is not a problem of knowledge," Stein said. "People understand their HIV risk of transmission. It's been shown again and again. People are not ignorant of these subjects. This is a matter of personal responsibility."

AIDS czar warns against complacency

DENVER (AP)—Fewer people are dying of AIDS, but it is infecting more women, more minorities and more young, gay men and the battle against the virus must continue, said President Clinton's chief advisor on AIDS policy. "It ain't over 'til it's over, and I'm here to tell you, it ain't over," said Sandra Thurman, director of the Office of National AIDS policy.

AIDS deaths nationwide have dropped by 44 percent in the first half of this year, but about 40,000 people a year are newly infected with the HIV virus, Thurman said last week during the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference on HIV Disease.

Many people with AIDS are living longer thanks to new drugs, but the drugs are expensive and can be hard to get, Thurman said.

"Many Americans yearn to believe that the worst is behind us," she said. "Yet the sobering truth is the epidemic is far from over."

In Colorado the number of AIDS deaths has been declining for the past two years. In 1996, 270 people died from AIDS. Last year, that number dropped to 150, said Dr. Ken Gershman, who tracks the disease for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

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who contract the HIV virus and who die from AIDS are men who have sex with men. But an increasing number of new AIDS cases are women, blacks, Latinos and intravenous drug users, said Gershman and Dr. Ellen Mangione, the director of the department's disease control division.

Thurman said the Clinton budget unveiled last week includes \$100 million to help buy the new treatment drugs for people who can't afford them, and \$21 million to help provide housing for people living with AIDS.

Calif. firm tests new CMV treatment

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A California pharmaceutical company has tested a new drug that delays the progression of blindness in AIDS patients and produces no side effects.

Isis Pharmaceuticals presented the results on the drug last week in Chicago at the Fifth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, a meeting of the world's top AIDS investigators.

The drug, called fomivirsen, is under evaluation as a treatment for cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis, which eventually leads to blindness in AIDS patients. The disease is an infection that progressively destroys the retina.

To test the drug, the company treated patients with newly-diagnosed CMV retinitis, and those whose disease was in advanced stages, but had not responded to other treatments. The drug was administered by injection once a week for three weeks, and once every other week for maintenance.

The trials found progressive blindness in patients who had not responded to other drugs was delayed, sometimes up to almost two years. Those who were newly-diagnosed with the complication did not suffer symptoms for more than a year, and the progression was slow after that time.

About 20,000 of the 250,000 patients with full-blown AIDS in the United States suffer CMV retinitis and potential blindness, according to Isis spokeswoman Jane Green.

The reason fomivirsen is more effective than other drugs is because it works at the genetic level to interrupt the process by which proteins involved in human disease are produced, she said. Traditional drugs are designed to interact with protein molecules that support or cause diseases throughout the body.

Antisense drugs are designed to inhibit the production of disease-related proteins. Fomivirsen inhibits the virus that causes CMV retinitis in AIDS patients.

The next step for the company is asking the federal Food and Drug Administration to approve the drug as a marketable, medical treatment.

Idaho governor axes AIDS drug money

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Gov. Phil Batt is not recommending \$700,000 in funding for the federal AIDS Drug Assistance Program because of what he says are adequate contributions from drug companies and federal dollars.

Batt said his decision was based on the state Department of Health and Welfare's belief that it can fund the program, which helps uninsured AIDS patients buy medication, by combining state and federal resources with the drug companies' donations.

An expected drop in federal money and cutbacks in charitable donations from drug companies forced the department to ask lawmakers for \$700,000 to maintain the program. Batt excluded the request from his budget.

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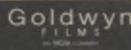
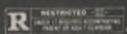
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LOS ANGELES TIMES, Kevin Thomas

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LA MAGAZINE, James Greenberg

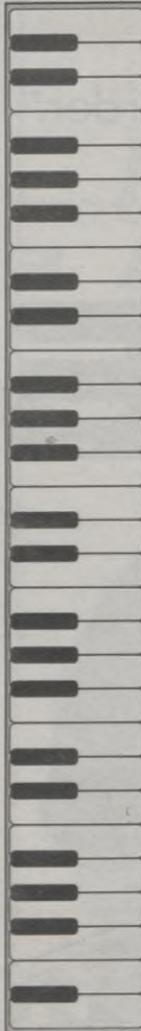


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VALENTINES/ from page 1

and Dot met at was the first gay bar in Memphis. It was a period of time where homosexuality was deeply rooted in the closet.

"That was a period when a woman best not be caught in a bar after dark. I don't care who you were or why," says Vaughn, a well-known fund-raiser and personality in the Houston community. "A woman just wasn't there. And they didn't wear slacks. You just couldn't. When they decided that every woman going in had to wear dresses and they lost all of their business, then they made the bar a gay bar."

Jeanette and Dot started dating soon after they met and continued to do so off and on for nearly seven years, when they decided that they were destined to be with one another. Neither one of them knew exactly what they were getting into, but they knew they cared for one another and were going to spend eternity together.

"There were other people in and out of both of our lives during that period of time. Dot and I never did stay totally out of contact with each other during that period," Vaughn said. "And then, we were out together one night and we just said 'Why are we doing all this other with other people? Why? Let's go look for an apartment; let's do it.' And we did. We started building our lives together. We went to go talk to my father ... he already knew I was a lesbian."

Their relationship has endured and it is clearly evident that the two of them are still in love with each other to this day. Twenty-seven years of couplehood continues to grow. They have, and continue to, live it. So, what is the formula for a great relationship?

"I think with everyone—straight, gay, old, young—the first attraction is, whether we want to say it out loud or not, the sexual attraction," says Vaughn. "Beyond that, what makes it last once you realize 'This is good and I want to hold on to it,' is the mutual building of trust in each other. The dependability. The knowing that the other individual is there for you no matter what."

"There is a support mechanism. There is a oneness," she says. "I would have never understood this when I was young. I don't believe that the very young, even the ones getting married by their priests when they say that you actually become one, understand the meaning of what that is. At that time, there was no way that I could have. Not even when I made a commitment with Dot. I had no idea that I would ever feel that and know what it means, but I do know what it means now. You really do become one."

"You don't realize one day that 'Yes I'm a lesbian,' and the next day, there is somebody that I think that I want to live with. It's not that way at all," she said. "It's the building, the confidence and many things that go with. If anybody feels they can't comprehend living with someone else for the rest of their life, then they have not met the right person. Because when they do meet that right person, they are going to know and everybody else becomes non-existent as far as looking at them in a sexual aspect."

Relationships require a lot of work and "patience," says Vaughn. "During times of crises, not with each other, but individual crises with family, jobs, finances, etc., we worked through those issues together. It brought us closer, simply because it brought a deeper understanding. We both grew up in the same generation. We took each step together. Everything happened to both of us at

the same time in the process of being openly out, so we experienced it together."

Vaughn maintains that it was difficult at times because they could not be openly gay during their early years together. The couple also raised Dot's son and managed to keep their relationship hidden from him until he was older. She also believes that the tumultuous periods in their relationship brought them closer together as a couple.

Thompson, who is the quiet one in the couple, spoke with the *Voice* briefly about their relationship. She maintained that she enjoyed raising her son with Jeanette even though her son did not know about his mother's relationship with Dot for a long time.

"We didn't do anything in front of him," Thompson said. "As he got old enough, he learned that we were gay and he asked 'Why we didn't tell him years ago.' I told him it wasn't time." Thompson says that her son is straight and accepts them as his parents.

Separation is a word that never entered their mind during the relationship. Jeanette and Dot made a commitment to each other and they intended to keep it. To be sure, there were periods of discontent, however, nothing that couldn't be ameliorated with some personal time for introspection.

"We have to get away from each other at times. One of us will go outside, or take a drive. Not always as a result of anger, but just when we get on each other's nerves. We're both retired. We are around each other 24 hours a day, so naturally there are times we get on each other's nerves, but separating never enters the mind" said Vaughn. "I cannot comprehend, I cannot imagine my life without Dot being a part of it."

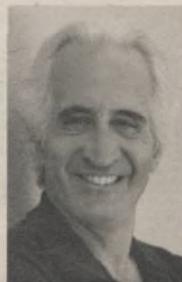
Thompson emphatically concurred with that sentiment. "I wouldn't trade my life with Jeanette for nothing," said Thompson.

Interestingly, they both have their own set of friends and do not do everything together. Dot enjoys fishing,

Jeanette does not. Jeanette enjoys going to bars (she's has been a major figure in the Imperial Court for years). Dot does not. Yet, they allow each other the latitude to enjoy their separate activities and seem content in the process, primarily because they are secure in their commitment to one another. And, on occasion, they will compromise and do something with the other regardless.

Many community activists argue that long-term relationships in the gay and lesbian community are rare because gays are not afforded the legal mechanism for sustaining a relationship—marriage. Would gay marriages encourage gay couples to make a commitment?

"We might see more marriages, because it would then be in vogue," says Vaughn. "But I think we would see just as many divorces as there are in the straight community. I want, trust me, all of the advantages of marriage—the insurance rights, the spousal benefits—but as far as having
See VALENTINES/ page 16



More than 70% of
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VALENTINES/ from p. 15

a legal piece of paper that Dot and I belong to each other, we don't need that. It wouldn't make it a bit different than what it is."

This weekend many gay couples will be celebrating their love for one another in honor of St. Valentine. Those who do not have a lover will not. So, what advice would Jeanette and Dot give to those young souls searching for Mr. or Ms. Right.

"I don't think there is advice you can give to people if they are unsure. Because as soon they know that this is right for them, then they are sure. So, nothing that anybody else is going to say is going to make a difference anyway."

BROWN/ from page 1

der community.

"If we're going to be complacent, we are going to get our butts kicked," said Gary Van Ooteghem, president of Log Cabin Republicans—Houston. "They are able to mount these responses quickly, and we [previously] have not. If we don't respond quickly this time, we're going to get screwed. These religious right people are nuts, absolutely nuts."

Clarence Bagby, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, was equally alarmed. "I think, of course we would like to see a strong outpouring of support for the position that the mayor has taken," he said. "The right-wing extremists have already activated their system, and are calling and berating the mayor's staff."

It was unknown at presstime what effect, if any, the anti-gay public opinion campaign had had.

Under Houston's city charter, which provides for what is known as a strong

mayor form of government, Brown does not need council approval, or any sort of public referendum, to issue such an order. (Houston voters overwhelmingly rejected a pro-gay ordinance in a 1985 referendum during a special election marked by unusually low voter turnout overall.)

Historic perspective

In fact, in 1979 Mayor "Silver Dollar" Jim McConn signed a similar executive order. Such executive orders expire when a mayor leaves office. Kathy Whitmire, who succeeded McConn, did not renew the order. "However," said long-time political activist Ray Hill. "That seemed academic, as in order for anyone to see Mayor Whitmire, they had to get past Kay Little, and she was a former head of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and was [Whitmire's] chief administrative aide."

Bagby, the current caucus president, said he wasn't expecting Brown to be intimidated by the pressure.

"The mayor has stood fast in all his communications with us," Bagby said. "Certainly there is always the possibility that anything could happen, but he has been unyielding in his support on this issue from our very first conversations on this a year ago when he started his campaign, until the present."

Call to action

As of Wednesday afternoon, Parker said, "I have not heard formal opposition from any of my fellow council members." Nonetheless, the grapevine in city hall was abuzz with the plans of anti-gay groups, she said.

"As we understand it, the more conservative elements in our community probably plan to fill council chambers Tuesday in public session against this," Parker said. She was urging supporters of the measure also to show up at that meeting (2 p.m., Tues., Feb. 17 at City Hall) to demonstrate to counteract the anti-gay effort.

"I would wager a lot that city council chamber will be filled [Tuesday] with people opposing this issue," Parker said. "That just makes sense and that's what we're preparing for." She urged supporters of the executive order to call the mayor's office, write letters to the editor of the Chronicle and show up at Tuesday's meeting.

"Just as we saw in the referendum 13 years ago, the right wing is bringing up old tricks; using misinformation—saying it affects all workers in Houston, when all it is just for city employees," she said. "And they're saying we have to prove there is discrimination." Consequently, Parker has asked anyone who has suffered anti-gay discrimination on a city job or in hiring for one to contact her office.

More importantly, she urged supporters of Brown's executive order to attend Tuesday afternoon's City Council public session. Those who want to speak at the meeting, she said, must call the City Secretary's office at least one hour ahead of time.

"They should call as soon as possible, though," Parker said. "It's sort of a first-come-first-served situation and it's possible that it would be cut off if people wait to call."

Awkward events

Meanwhile, the media frenzy over the executive order caused Parker some awkwardness in her relationship with Brown. The two frequently appeared together during the recent campaign that put both of them in office.

With broadcast media swarming on the story after it appeared on the front of the Chronicle, mainstream reporters were confusing the employment non-discrimination executive order with a heretofore non-issue of the city possibly granting benefits to same-sex domestic partners of city employees.

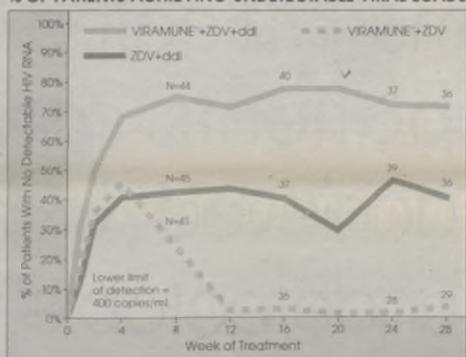
During Wednesday's news cycle, Parker responded to reporters questions about the second issue in a way that alarmed the mayor's office. "The follow-up question was about domestic partner benefits," Parker said. "I stated that I thought the mayor said that he supported domestic partner benefits, at least in principle. And that now the thing to do was to try and form consensus on how to deal with that issue."

"Apparently the mayor became unglued," she said. "So I'm sort of in the dog house."

By Thursday, Mayor Brown's office issued reporters a carefully worded written statement "clarifying" his position on non-discrimination policy

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and "clarifying" the fact that he had not taken a position on domestic partner benefits.

"When I read that [statement] and put it together with statements he made on the campaign trail," said Parker. "That translates to me that the mayor supports domestic partner benefits, but he doesn't want to state that publicly."

Speculation on motives

As to what effect the anti-gay public opinion effort might have, activist Hill expressed bemusement about the apparent goal of "the ring leaders of the effort to somehow get a referendum regarding this matter. I don't know what they are going to do unless they change the charter, which changes the existing structure of Houston City Government."

Since the City Charter grants the mayor the power to issue such an order without any input from the City Council or the general public, the only way to prevent him from doing so is to amend the City Charter in a public referendum. "And that's a

much broader issue than executive policy not to discriminate," Hill said.

He said he believes Brown and supporters of the executive order currently have a strong strategic advantage. "If we can fight this thing out on a structural level as opposed to dinging with the issue, it's a dead cinch win," he said. "It's not a well-thought out threat. Of course, [executive order opponents] are not the most politically sophisticated people."

Hill said he did not foresee Brown being persuaded by an onslaught of anti-gay public opinion to table the issue by not signing the order. "Brown has nothing to fear from city council," Hill said. "You remember what Clinton did when he first got into office with gays in the military. People were screaming and they pissed and moaned; for all intents and purposes, that thing blew up in his face. And what happened? He was re-elected four years later. So, the lesson is: The time for Mayor Brown to do this is now. Everyone has short political memories."

MAINE/ from page 1

state were devastated by ice storms that knocked out electrical power to large portions of the state.

Maine lawmakers enacted a bill last spring adding sexual orientation to the protected classifications in Maine's 25-year-old human rights act. The measure was designed to bar discrimination against gays and lesbians in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit.

But a successful people's veto drive, as provided for in the state constitution, blocked implementation of the new law. Repeal advocates led by conservative Christian groups collected more than 58,000 signatures to put the issue on state ballots.

"It took 20 years for this bill to get through the Legislature and I think the time will come when people will recognize that this is a fair and just way to proceed, but a majority of the people who voted today don't agree," King said.

King added, however, that he did not think the matter should be

brought back before the Legislature "anytime in the immediate future."

Said King: "I don't think a referendum closes the door forever, but I think the people of Maine have made their views known and that should be respected."

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, said the vote reflected the need for a federal law to protect homosexuals and lesbians against discrimination.

"I know that the people of Maine care about this issue, I know that they believe in basic fairness for their gay citizens, and we will never, ever give up," she said. "We will go back to the Legislature, we'll go back to the people."

The campaign leading up to Tuesday's vote was relatively low key, with limited media advertising and only scattered debates between representatives of the two sides.

January ice storms that disrupted utility service in most of the state also effectively muffled political activity for weeks.

Just over two years ago, Maine voters turned down a proposal by anti-gay-rights activists to freeze existing protections in the state human rights act. The proposal lost by 53 percent to 47 percent.

AUSTIN/ from page 5

the time," Bethune said. It also accepts female ministers, a controversial move in Baptist circles.

Four years ago, University Baptist made headlines when it ordained a gay deacon. The Austin Baptist Association responded by removing the church from its membership.

AUSTIN AREA UPDATE

by Steve Labinski

Gay rowers makes their mark in Dallas event

Two members of Row Team Austin (RTA) claimed victories at the Southwest Ergometer Amateur Tournament (S.W.E.A.T.) in Dallas Feb. 7.

In this dry land event, rowers showed their strength and endurance on indoor ergometers designed to simulate the power needed to row on water. More than 100 competitors, including UT Crew members, participated, representing age categories from collegiate on up. RTA's Paul Hemmer captured first place in the 40-49 age division for heavy-weights with a time of 6:30 for the 2000 meter power piece. RTA Coordinator Steve Onken, with a time of 6:57, not only took first place in the 40-49 age division for light-weight competitors, but also beat all lightweight times in the 30-39 age bracket as well.

More impressively, both men placed sixth among all ages in the event in their weight divisions. "I'm excited to see such great representation for our team at this event. It sets us off to a great start for our training season," said RTA Coach Matt Diefenbach.

Row Team Austin is a group of over forty rowers who will be heading to Amsterdam to represent Austin in Amsterdam for the Gay Games in August.

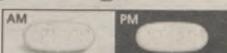
Other events:

Lesbian Gay/Right Lobby (LGR) will hold a fund-raiser from 6-8 p.m. Tues., Feb. 24 at The Speakeasy, 412 D Congress Ave. Proceeds benefit LGR and the CALKIN Fund. Tickets are \$15. Call (512) 474-5475.

AIDS Services of Austin will hold a fund-raiser at the Austin Music Hall on Sat., Feb. 15. Call Kirk Rice at

Viramune
(nevirapine)

Simple maintenance dose:
one 200 mg tablet twice daily



BRIEF SUMMARY

WARNING

VIRAMUNE® (NEVIRAPINE) IS INDICATED FOR USE IN COMBINATION WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV-1 INFECTED ADULTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CLINICAL AND/OR IMMUNOLOGIC STABILIZATION. THIS INDICATION IS BASED ON ANALYSES OF SURVIVAL AND PROGRESSIVE DISEASE IN STUDIES OF UP TO 48 WEEKS DURATION. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO RESULTS FROM CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIALS EVALUATING THE EFFECT OF VIRAMUNE® WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ON THE CLINICAL PROGRESSION OF HIV-1 INFECTION, SUCH AS THE INCIDENCE OF OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS OR SURVIVAL.

THE DURATION OF BENEFIT FROM ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY MAY BE LIMITED. ALTERATION OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IF DISEASE PROGRESSION OCCURS WHILE PATIENTS ARE RECEIVING VIRAMUNE®.

RESISTANT VIRUS EMERGES RAPIDLY AND UNUSUALLY WHEN VIRAMUNE® IS ADMINISTERED AS MONOTHERAPY. THEREFORE, VIRAMUNE® SHOULD ALWAYS BE ADMINISTERED IN COMBINATION WITH AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENT.

VIRAMUNE® HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERE RASH, WHICH IN SOME CASES HAS BEEN LIFE-THREATENING. WHEN SEVERE RASH OCCURS, VIRAMUNE® MUST BE DISCONTINUED.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: VIRAMUNE® IS CONTRAINDICATED IN PATIENTS WITH CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT HYPERSENSITIVITY TO ANY OF THE COMPONENTS CONTAINED IN THE TABLET.

WARNINGS: Severe and life-threatening skin reactions have occurred in patients treated with VIRAMUNE®, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN). Patients developing a severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise, (see PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients, ADVERSE REACTIONS).

VIRAMUNE® therapy must be initiated with a 14-day lead-in period of 200 mg/day, which has been shown to reduce the frequency of rash. Dose escalation should not occur if rash is observed during this lead-in period until the rash has resolved. (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

PRECAUTIONS: General: When administering VIRAMUNE® as part of an antiretroviral treatment regimen, the complete product information for each therapeutic component should be consulted before initiation of treatment.

While nevirapine is extensively metabolized by the liver and nevirapine metabolites are extensively eliminated by the kidney, the pharmacokinetics of nevirapine have not been evaluated in patients with either hepatic or renal dysfunction. Therefore, VIRAMUNE® should be used with caution in these patient populations.

Abnormal liver function tests have been associated with VIRAMUNE® in some of the first few weeks of therapy, including cases of hepatitis. VIRAMUNE® administration should be interrupted in patients experiencing moderate or severe liver function test abnormalities until liver function tests return to baseline values. VIRAMUNE® treatment should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities recur on re-administration.

Drug Interactions: Although clinical studies have not been conducted, induction of CYP3A by nevirapine may result in lower plasma concentrations of other concomitantly administered drugs that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A. (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY) Thus, if a patient has been stabilized on a dosage regimen for a drug metabolized by CYP3A, and begins treatment with VIRAMUNE®, dose adjustments may be necessary.

Ritavirine/Ribavirin: There are insufficient data to assess whether dose adjustments are necessary when nevirapine and ritavirine or ribavirin are coadministered. Therefore, these drugs should only be used in combination if clearly indicated and with careful monitoring.

Protease Inhibitors: Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of protease inhibitors. Therefore, until clinical data are available that evaluate the need for dose adjustments, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE®.

Oral Contraceptives: There are no clinical data on the effects of nevirapine on the pharmacokinetics of oral contraceptives. Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of oral contraceptives (also other hormonal contraceptives); therefore, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE®.

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that VIRAMUNE® is not a cure for HIV-1 infection, and that they may continue to experience illnesses associated with advanced HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. Treatment with VIRAMUNE® has not been shown to reduce the incidence or frequency of such illnesses, and patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using VIRAMUNE®.

Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIRAMUNE® are unknown at this time. They should also be informed that VIRAMUNE® therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be instructed that the major toxicity of VIRAMUNE® is rash and should be advised to promptly notify their physician of any rash. The majority of rashes associated with VIRAMUNE® occur within the first 6 weeks of initiation of therapy. Therefore, patients should be monitored carefully for the appearance of rash during this period. Patients should be instructed that dose escalation is not to occur if any rash occurs during the two-week lead-in therapy period, until the rash resolves. Any patient experiencing severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise should discontinue medication and consult a physician.

Patients should be informed to take VIRAMUNE® every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose without consulting their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

VIRAMUNE® may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications.

Patients should be instructed that oral contraceptives and other hormonal methods of birth control should not be used as a method of contraception in women taking VIRAMUNE®.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of nevirapine in animals are currently in progress. In genetic toxicology assays, nevirapine showed no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including microbial assays for gene mutation (Ames, Salmonella strains and *E. coli*), mammalian cell gene mutation assays (CHO-K1), cytogenetic assays using a Chinese hamster ovary cell line and a mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay following oral administration. In reproductive toxicology studies, evidence of impaired fertility was seen in female rats at doses providing systemic exposure, based on AUC, approximately equivalent to that provided with the recommended clinical dose of VIRAMUNE®.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. No observable teratogenicity was detected in reproductive studies performed in pregnant rats and rabbits. In rats, a significant decrease in fetal body weight occurred at doses providing systemic exposure approximately 50% higher, based on AUC, than that seen at the recommended human clinical dose. The maternal and developmental no-observable-effect level dosages in rats and rabbits produced systemic exposures approximately equivalent to or approximately 50% higher, respectively, than those seen at the recommended daily human dose, based on AUC. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. VIRAMUNE® should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers:

Preliminary results from an ongoing pharmacokinetic study (ACTG 250) of 10 HIV-1-infected pregnant women who were administered a single oral dose of 100 or 200 mg VIRAMUNE® at a median of 5.3 hours before delivery indicate that nevirapine readily crosses the placenta and is found in breast milk. Consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV, mothers should discontinue nursing if they are receiving VIRAMUNE®.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of VIRAMUNE® in pediatric patients have not been established. VIRAMUNE® has been studied in two open-label, uncontrolled trials (BI 882, BI 892) in 37 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients with a median age of 0.9 years (range, 0.1 to 15 years) who were treated for a median duration of 20.7 months. Seven patients developed rashes while receiving VIRAMUNE®. In an ongoing, controlled trial of VIRAMUNE® combination therapy in HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (ACTG 245), one of approximately 200 patients treated with VIRAMUNE® experienced Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

Because there are no data on multi-dose pharmacokinetics in children, no recommendation on dosing can be made. Based on single-dose pharmacokinetics in 9 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (age 9 mos. to 14 years) who were administered nevirapine in a suspension formulation, it appears that oral clearance is approximately 2-fold greater in children when compared to adults.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: The most frequently reported adverse events related to VIRAMUNE® therapy were rash, fever, nausea, headache, and abnormal liver function tests.

The major clinical toxicity of VIRAMUNE® is rash, with VIRAMUNE®-attributable rash occurring in 17% of patients in combination regimens in Phase III controlled studies. Thirty-seven percent of patients treated with VIRAMUNE® experienced rash compared with 20% of patients treated in control groups of either ZDV+ddI or ZDV alone (Table 1). Severe or life-threatening rash occurred in 7.6% of VIRAMUNE®-treated patients compared with 1.2% of patients treated in the control groups.

Rashes are usually mild to moderate, maculopapular or erythematous cutaneous eruptions, with or without pruritus, located on the trunk, face and extremities. The majority of severe rashes occurred within the first 28 days of treatment. 25% of the patients with severe rashes required hospitalization, and one patient required surgical intervention. All patients recovered. Overall, 7% of patients discontinued VIRAMUNE® due to rash.

Table 1: Percentage of patients with rashes in controlled trials*

* At recommended dose of one 200 mg tablet daily for the first 14 days followed by one 200 mg tablet twice daily

† Trial ACTG 241 was designed to report Grade 3/4 (severe or life-threatening) events, except for several pre-specified events including rash for which all grades are reported

‡ Table 2 lists treatment-related clinical adverse events that occurred in patients receiving VIRAMUNE® in ACTG 241 and in Trials BI 1037 and BI 1011

§ Table 2: Comparative Incidence of Selected Drug-Related Events in Controlled Trials

	ACTG 241†		Trials BI 1037 and BI 1011‡	
	NVP-ZDV+ddI	ZDV+ddI	NVP-ZDV	ZDV alone
Number of patients	197	201	55	30
Overall incidence of related adverse events	31%	23%	42%	33%
Rash	8	2	20	3
Fever	2	3	11	3
Nausea	5	4	9	3
Headache	3	3	11	0
Diarrhea	2	2	0	0
Abdominal pain	1	2	2	0
Oral thrush	0	0	4	0
Peripheral neuropathy	0	2	0	0
Fatigue	1	0	2	0
Myalgia	1	0	2	7
Hepatitis	1	0	4	0

Table 2: Comparative Incidence of Selected Drug-Related Events in Controlled Trials

Table 3: Percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities

	Data combined for controlled trials ACTG 241, BI 1037 & BI 1011	
	VIRAMUNE® n=252	Control n=252
Hematology		
Decreased Hg (<8.0 g/dL)	1.2%	1.0%
Decreased platelets (<50,000/mm ³)	0.8	0.8
Decreased neutrophils (<750/mm ³)	11.1	10.2
Blood Chemistry		
Increased ALT (>250 U/L)	3.4	3.5
Increased ACT (>450 U/L)	2.6	2.4
Increased GGT (>450 U/L)	2.4	1.2
Increased total bilirubin (>2.5 mg/dL)	0.4	1.2

Asymptomatic elevations in GGT levels are more frequent in VIRAMUNE® recipients than in controls. Because hepatitis has occasionally been reported in VIRAMUNE®-treated patients, monitoring of liver function tests should be considered.

OVERDOSEAGE: There is no known antidote for VIRAMUNE® overdose. No acute toxicities or sequelae were reported for one patient who ingested 800 mg of VIRAMUNE® for one day.

CAUTION FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

Reference: 1. Data on file, Roxane Laboratories, Inc.

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RX-18418W (8/97)

'Live Flesh' twitches with sex, suspense

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

I can't help but expect the best of the worst from Pedro Almodovar. The best meaning a twisted, comical, sensual screenplay hardly possible from Hollywood; and the worst meaning the loudest, gaudiest, and most outrageous clothing, sets and color schemas.

The flamboyant Spanish director's new film "Live Flesh" is more best than worst. That is a complaint, by the way.



Director Pedro Almodovar

But no Almodovar film would be an Almodovar film without some contrast between the social and economic classes of 20th century Spain. For one thing, most women in his films are middle-class and sexually frustrated. For another, his middle-class women usually fall for a low-class protagonist—usually a pretty boy who is sexually capable. I like to call it the "Pretty Woman" syndrome—only in reverse.

True to form, "Live Flesh" has a pretty boy protagonist who's low-class. Meet Victor Plaza (Leverto Rabal), the son of a hooker who is born on a Madrid city bus. The birth makes him famous for a while: the mayor proclaims Victor a First Citizen and he gets free bus fare for life from the transit authority director. That's a baby step up from being a bastard, but, hey, that's a sliver of hope, right? If it were not, it would have to be, for the birthing *ala* Magdalene is on the day Franco declared a State of Exception in January 1970. That decree suspended a broad array of Spanish civil liberties nationwide.

Victor grows up into a virile, young Spaniard who crosses paths with Elena (Francesca Neri), a drug hungry rich girl who has sex with him in a nightclub. It was his first time, and he's fallen in love with her. But there's a slight variation to Almodovar's norm here: Victor is not quite yet sexually capable. In fact, Elena notes that the dalliance was pretty quick—so quick, she didn't remember it. And Elena didn't remember agreeing to a subsequent date, either. She tells Victor to buzz off when he reminds her of the date over the phone. Besides, Elena has better things to do—she's waiting for her drug dealer. But Victor won't take no for an answer: he buzzes Elena's door, she mistakes him for the dealer and Victor comes right in. When a fight in the apartment gets reported to the police, two bickering cops, Sancho (Jose Sancho) a drunk, and David (Javier Bardem), a playboy, arrive on the scene and see Victor and Elena engaged in a struggle through a window. Sancho and David burst into the apartment and in a strange turn of events, Victor takes Elena hostage. When David talks him into letting her go, Sancho lunges for Victor when he lowers his gun. A round goes off during the struggle and David is hit and paralyzed for life. But it's unclear at first just who fired the round. Even so, Victor goes to prison for seven years, Elena marries David for saving her life, and Sancho goes back home to beat up his wife Clara (Angela Molina), whom he suspects is cheating on him. With all the machismo brewing in modern day Spain, Almodovar likes to turn the tables on sexual aggression. Why can't women, Almodovar might

See FILM/ page 20

Gay film festival seek logo designs

And just one more thing: Landmark Theaters is teaming up with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Diverse Works, Rice Media Center and Southwest Alternate Media Project (SAMP) to present the second annual 1998 Houston Gay And Lesbian Film Festival May 22 - June 14. The festival is in need of a logo and the community is invited to submit contest entries.

Interested persons should mail their designs to Southwest Alternate Media Project, attn: G&LFF, 1519 West Main, Houston, TX 77006 by Feb. 28. A design fee will be awarded, and you can get more information from SAMP at (713) 522-8592.

Almodovar Festival delivers zany director's classic films

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

If "Live Flesh" isn't enough Almodovar for you, Landmark Theaters is resurrecting four of Pedro's classic films that are sure to please fans old and new alike.

The Almodovar Film Festival will run at the Greenway 3, and Landmark plans some entertaining asides: get ready for chocolate hearts and licorice whips this weekend, a "nervous breakdown" contest Feb. 21, a zany Kika fashion show Feb. 28, and a high heel contest March 7.

You can get two-for-one entry for any midnight Almodovar film with your "Live Flesh" ticket stub. And interested persons can contact the Greenway 3 at (713)626-0402 for more information.

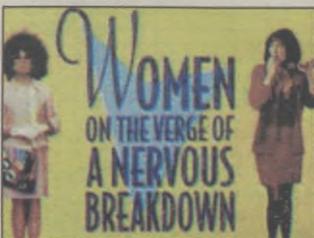
Here's a brief look at the Greenway's great lineup:



"Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!"

Ah, Antonio! This film perhaps more than any other launched the career of Antonio Banderas in the United States. Banderas is Ricky, a psycho released from a psychiatric ward who

escaped several times and managed to sleep once with Marina (Victoria Abril), a porn star goddess. Ricky dreams of a picket fence life with the sex queen, but she can't remember who he is. Determined to have her one way or another, Ricky kidnaps Marina and holds her hostage in a loving and affectionate manner. Maximo, Marina's director, and her sister Lola (Loles Leon) get suspicious and a wild goose chase leaves Marina wondering if she really wants to be untied at all. Sat., Feb. 14 and 21.



"Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown"

Ivan (Fernando Guillen) abruptly breaks up with his actress girlfriend Pepa (Carmen Maura) and the shocking news wrecks her. But Pepa has one up on him: she's pregnant. While she waits for Ivan to pick up his bags, Pepa gets close to neurosis when her apartment fills up with freaks: Candela (Maria Barranco) is a girlfriend (unsuspectingly) of a Shiite terrorist and Lucia (Julietta Seranno) is Ivan's mistress of twenty years and mother of their son, Carlos (Antonio Banderas). The police come looking for Candela, Lucia threatens to kill Pepa, and Carlos wants to rent the apart-

ment. All the while, Ivan jets into the sunset with his new mistress (Kiti Manver), a lawyer whom Pepa had consulted about Candela's problem. Sat., Feb. 21 and 28.



"Kika"

Kika (Veronica Forque) lives a lustless life with a photographer named Ramon (Alex Casanovas) who is haunted by his mother's suicide. Her best friend Amparo (Anabel Alonso) is a back stabber and she has a mortal enemy in Andrea Scarface (Victoria Abril), the host of a "tabloid reality show." Ramon's mother left half of the house to Nicholas Pierce (Peter Coyote), a drifter who shows up to claim half of the inheritance. Later, Nicholas initiates a sexual relationship with Kika, but Juana (Rosy de Palma), Kika's maid, also has the hots for her. The

complications escalate when Juana's brother Pablo (Santiago Lajusticia) visits fresh out of prison and later decides to steal Ramon's cameras. But Kika rises above all the trouble while others fall to the wayside. Sat., Feb. 28 and March 7.



"High Heels"

Manuel finds himself in the middle of a strange love triangle: he is married to Rebecca (Victoria Abril) whom he later finds out it is the daughter of one of his past mistresses, a has-been pop star named Becky Del Paramo (Marisa Paredes). Becky attempts to reconnect with Rebecca after neglecting her in order to advance her entertainment career. But like her mother's career, Rebecca's marriage is a failure—and her mother eventually gives in to her passions for Manuel. But Manuel is found murdered and three different women are suspect. When she is sent to cover the murder for the television station she works for, Rebecca confesses to the crime and is sent to prison. The murder means different things for Becky and Rebecca as each mourns Manuel's loss, but the tragedy reunites them in the end. Sat. March 7.

Rauschenberg exhibit takes over Houston museums

Internationally acclaimed artist returns home for massive retrospective show

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

In the largest showing of a single artist in the history of Houston, The Menil Collection, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Contemporary Arts Museum open today with almost 300 works which comprise the unprecedented exhibition "Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective."

A Texas native born in Port Arthur in 1925, Rauschenberg has achieved international fame and recognition for his works—his long list of awards including a Grammy and the Jerusalem Prize for Arts and Letters.



"Persimmon" (1964), above, by Robert Rauschenberg (right)

Each museum will present works reflecting different eras of artistic development of Rauschenberg, who has only ever obliquely acknowledged his homosexuality.

The Menil Collection features works from the 1940s through the 1980s, the most notable of which are two famous Rauschenberg pieces, "Bed" (1955) and "Odalisk" (1955/58). The Contemporary Arts Museum hosts Rauschenberg's experiments with interactive technology. "Oracle" (1962-65), for instance, allows spectators to manipulate radio signals on a five-part assemblage.

The largest single panoply, "The 1/4-Mile or 2 Furlong Piece," will be housed at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Since its inauguration in 1981, Rauschenberg has completed all but 320 feet of the one-quarter mile long piece. Comprised of more than 190 paintings and sculptures, "The 1/4-Mile or 2 Furlong Piece" snakes through the Upper Brown Pavilion, beginning with a panel from 1981 and ending with the latest addition in 1998.

Rauschenberg experimented with Abstract Expressionism in the 1950s while in New York, but the method in its purest sense limited his desire to express meaning. Rather, he created art which synthesized the genre with various aspects of pop culture in small and large collages and assemblages. In addition, Rauschenberg cryptically

exposed a gay disposition by creatively transcending homophobia and McCarthyism through his art.

Jonathan Katz, author of "The Art of Code: Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg," researched Rauschenberg's history and concluded that Rauschenberg involved himself in a homosexual relationship with Jasper Johns in the 1950s. After flirting with several art schools in the United States and France, Rauschenberg met Johns at Black Mountain College in North Carolina and their affection evolved into what could best be described as an early form of domestic partnership.

The paramours moved into an apartment together on Front Street in New York and Katz notes that "after meeting Johns, Rauschenberg turned away from painting as an Abstract Expressionist drama of selfhood and started bringing culture—history, politics, Judy Garland and Abraham Lincoln—back into art. In turn, Johns, after meeting Rauschenberg, finally became a painter."

For gay men of the Cold War era, Garlandian adoration became an implicit device for identifying one's sexual orientation—without explicitly confirming the identification. Rauschenberg, no doubt, was fully conscious that Garland was the epi-



center of 1950s gay urbanity.

She was also a focal point in several of his combines. One example is "Bantam" (1954), a work which, Katz wrote, "includes a team portrait of the New York Yankees spattered with Abstract Expressionist paint which is then juxtaposed with delicate fabric swatches, a nineteenth-century nude odalisque staring at herself in a mirror, and [another] autographed photo of Judy Garland." Katz posits that Garland was an enigmatic mechanism that publicly said everything Rauschenberg could not.

Throughout his life, Rauschenberg seems to have made only the most strategically dignified public comments regarding his sexuality. On the one hand, his experience with Johns is no secret within the artistic coterie. On the other, Rauschenberg affirmed his relationship with Johns in an interview with Katz in which Rauschenberg is quoted as saying "it was sort of new to the art world that the two most well-known, up and coming studs were affectionately involved."

Notice Rauschenberg did not say sexually involved. On the other hand, Rauschenberg's youthful ambiguity is

See ARTISTpage 24

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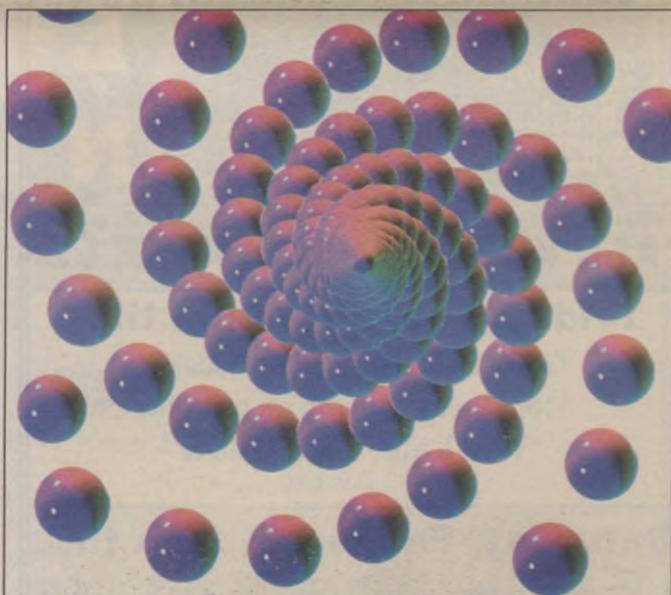
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FILM/ from page 18

exactly what happens. By a fluke of synchronicity, Elena is at a funeral in the same cemetery where Victor's mother is buried. Victor kisses her while paying his respects; Clara bumps into him when she gets lost finding her car.

After discussing his robust health and repressed libido, Clara agrees to become Victor's sex trainer. Victor wants as much practice as he can get because he planned to become the world's greatest lover once he got out of prison. But Victor warns her not to fall in love with him; eventually, Clara does. Clara, battered and abused, wants any excuse to skip out on Sancho.

Later, Victor intentionally reconnects with Elena when he volunteers at the children's shelter where she works at. She resists any type of contact with him and David, now a championship wheelchair basketball player, is furious to learn he's anywhere near her. David spies on Victor and Clara and he takes pictures of a training session visible through an open window.

To complicate matters even further, Elena gives in to her hidden desires for Victor and the pair make love in an office of the shelter. Only this time around, they ride each other till sunrise and it will be a night and morning that Elena will not forget. When David learns of the affair from Elena—David says she is "offensively honest"—he

takes the pictures to Sancho and the tragic climax is set into motion.

You should get the idea by now that Almodovar has set up this movie up with a complex galaxy of love triangles and passionate resentments. Tremendous energy is unleashed in the erotic sex scenes and the interpersonal conflicts that develop throughout. But Almodovar ends the film where it begins; he transcends the barriers of social and economic class through love and sex. Paradoxically, order and freedom emerge from the chaos—for the whole of Spain as well as for Victor and Elena.

I think Almodovar directed this film exquisitely and the toned down subliminals relinquished some precious

psychic energy needed to digest the plot. But even if I have to endure a little less of the worst, the best is as good as ever.

HOUSTON VOICE RATING: ★★★★★
 Rated: R; glorious male frontal nudity, female nudity, and tense, violent situations
 Run Time: 101 minutes
 Genre: Art Film
 Director: Pedro Almodovar
 Screenplay: Pedro Almodovar
 Cast: Javier Bardem, Francesca Neri, Liberto Rabal, Angela Molina, Jose Sancho
 Theaters: Opens tonight at the Greenway 3 and the Angelika Film Center.

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"Bears in Heat"

Guest Bartenders: NLA: Houston

Sunday, Feb. 15 • 6pm til...

Guest Bartenders: Houston Area Bears

9pm Anita Mann presents

"Grin" N Bear It"

A Bear Contest

Up Coming...

Mr Venture-N Contest

Sunday March 1

Ask your bartender for an application

Chances *An All Peoples Bar Dedicated to Community Unity*

Friday, February 13 • 9pm

Budweiser & Chances

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Susan Masar
 The Blues Broad

10:30 to 11:15

Soiree Aubergine's
 Annual Running Show



performs for your pleasure and donations

Saturday, February 14 • 9pm

"Dead Divas Have a Heart Too!"

presented by Barbara Walker and benefits
 The Lesbian Health Initiative.

Sundays 4-8pm

Budweiser Draft

\$3 Buy-in 25¢ refills

THE NEW BARN

Saturday, February 14 • 9pm

Peggy and the Dreamers

Swing your sweetheart around the
 giant dance floor all night long.

Sunday, February 15 • Noon

Southern Country gives C&W dance lessons
 for donations to AssistHers.

Coming April 26

1st Annual Tent Revival

1100 Westheimer, Houston
 523-7217

The Center For Aids

presents a

Community Forum

focusing on the latest HIV/AIDS
treatment and research issues

Friday, February 20, 1998

CAN HIV INFECTION BE CURED?

SPEAKER

MARTIN MARKOWITZ, M.D.

Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, New York City

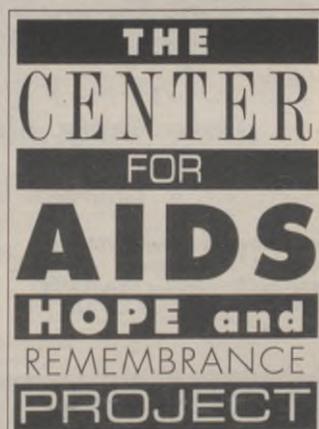
Reception - 3:30 PM

Presentation - 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Museum of Health & Medical Science • 1515 Hermann Drive

This program is funded by the HIV Pharmaceutical Consortium, a group of 15 Pharmaceutical companies working together with The Center for AIDS to bring leaders in the field of HIV/AIDS research and information to the Houston community.

Abbott Laboratories, Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Amgen, Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb
Chiron Therapeutics, Du Pont Pharma, Gilead Sciences, GlaxoWellcome
Merck & Co., Inc., Pfizer, Inc. (Roerig Division), Pharmacia & Upjohn, Roxanne Laboratories
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CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday-February 13

Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel done to Christian music for body, soul, and spirit. 6:30 pm, 82. Certified instructor. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Communion Service at 10:00 am; at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday-February 14

Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday-February 15

Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church: Holy Communion 10:30 am at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service at 11 am.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. (A Study in the Book of Genesis.) 4305 Lillian 880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Monday-February 16

Low impact aerobics done to Christian Music for body, soul, and spirit at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, 82. Certified instructor. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm at the Kolbe Project. 861-1800

Tuesday-February 17

MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm. Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm Orchestra rehearsal at 8:15 pm. 861-9149.
- PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- Maranatha Fellowship MCC has groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Wednesday-February 18

Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149.
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Thursday-February 19

Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Choir Practice at 6:30 pm. Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

If you want an event listed in this section, please call Carolyn Roberts at 529-8490 by 12 Noon Mondays.

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Bible Study: The Book of Proverbs Wednesdays 7:30 pm
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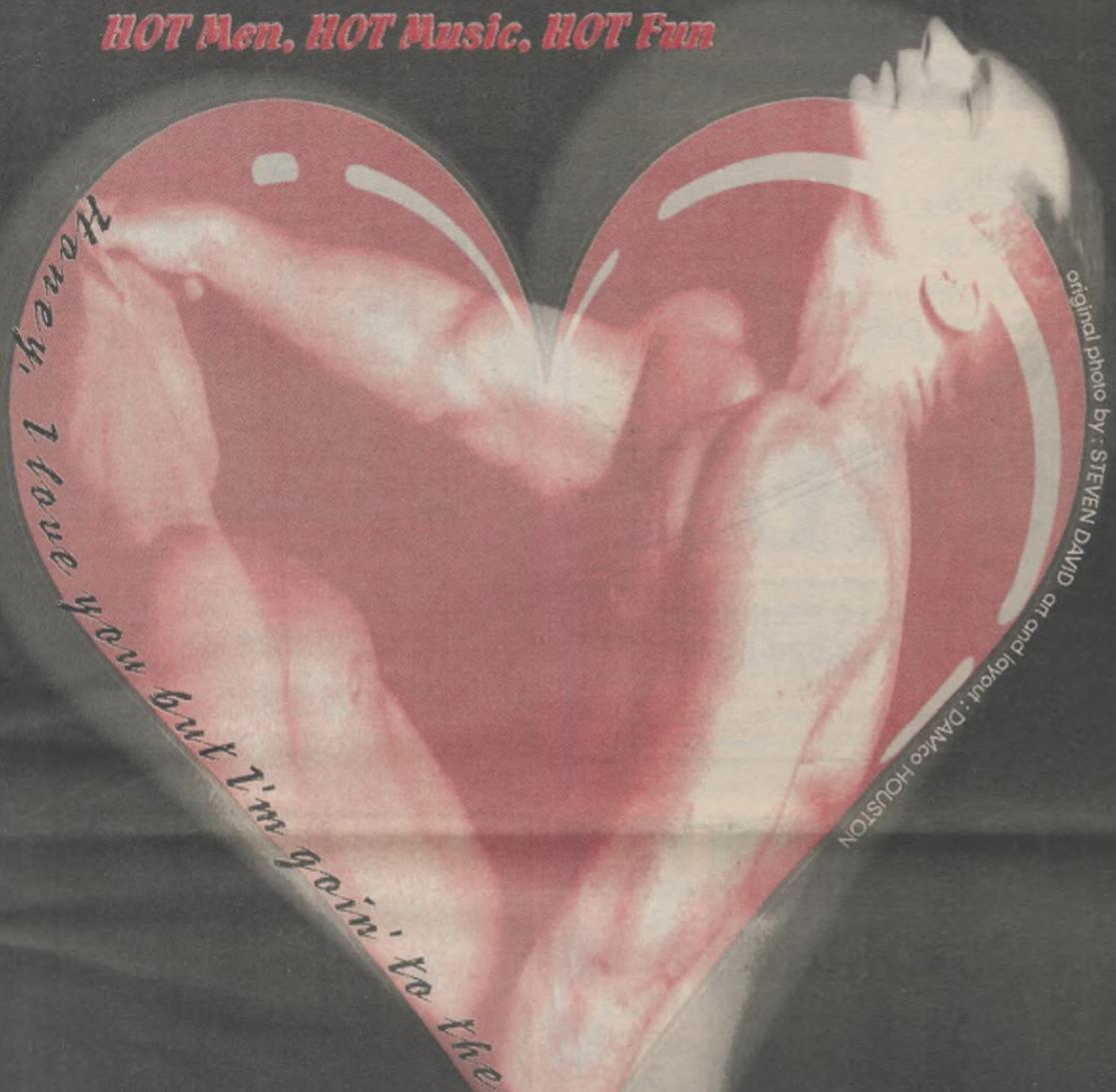
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ARTIST from page 19

completely understandable given America's paranoia with communism during the 50s and 60s and the ludicrous association of homosexuals with it. Fortunately, the relationship engendered the creative genius of both Johns and Rauschenberg—not their political or personal persecution.

Rauschenberg ended his personal involvement with Johns in 1961. The reserved and meticulous Johns found no medium to integrate a relationship

Is it possible that the best of Robert Rauschenberg is yet to come? Arguably, this seems to be the case. Rauschenberg eclipsed Abstract Expressionism and invited an uneasy world to interact with his genre, a genre which created meaning. Perhaps more so than for any other artist of or before his time, Rauschenberg stands as the principle supernumerary between an old millennium and a new. And through his art and creative genius, the world finds substance in its dreams.



Los Angeles, 1981

with a brassy and extroverted Rauschenberg. Moreover, the split abruptly terminated the expression of homosexual images by either artist. But Rauschenberg and Johns managed to achieve their respective measures of international greatness without defining their realities through each other.

"Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective" is organized in association with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, and its curators are Walter Hopps and Susan Davidson, both of The Menil Collection. The exhibition runs Feb. 13 through May 17. For more information, Call The Menil Collection at 713-525-9400.

Talent Night

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Week #3 Preliminary

Winners of the Tuesday & Thursday will return on March 8 for finals.

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Saturday February 21 · 2pm

Richard
Pinson

Celebration of Life

Super Saturday Night Fever



Super Saturday Show
The Miss EJ's
Sweetheart
Pageant

FRI 2/13
SAT 2/14
SUN 2/15
MON 2/16
TUE 2/17
WED 2/18
THUR 2/19

MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER at 11 pm

\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day and All Night

MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi

Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Dyan Michaels

Granny's Burgers!

Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos



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www.HoustonGayWeb.com

http://www.dupontmerck.com

www.basicbrothers.com

www.communitygospel.org

http://ticketmaster.com

www.agouron.com

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is most people
wait too long."
-Danna K. Archer

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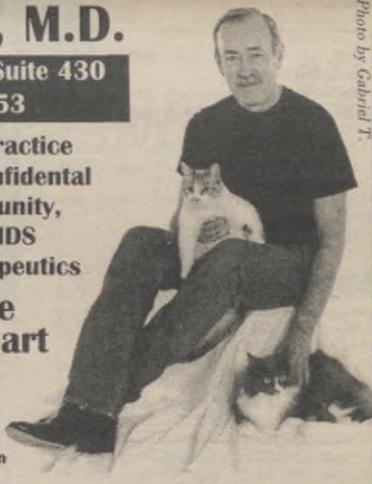


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Friday, February 13

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Black at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well; \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Blues Broad Susan Masar sings at 9 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Club Triangle: Grand Opening. Doors open at 11:00 am. Free Set-ups. BYOB
- Cousin's: Super Friday Night Drag show with fabulous performers at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm; \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Lazy J: Pool tournament
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles, \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli; hard body male dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am. \$ 1 well Vodka Juice Drinks.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: "Fuel" 19 and up. DJ Chris Sill and Fusion.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails, \$2 Cuervo, 9:00
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; Guest Bartenders 9:00 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting, 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Saturday, February 14

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 9pm. Joanne in the afternoons!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 11:00 am. BYOB.
- Cousin's: Super Saturday night Drag show with top Houston talent at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Super Show at 11pm.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm, 50¢ draft on the patio.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 6 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am. Happy

- House 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and domestic longnecks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am.; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$ 1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm. See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard., D.J. J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. Cuervo \$2.50!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting, 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Sunday, February 15

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; Steak night 5 to 9pm \$6 14oz t-bone & fixins.
- BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 11:00 am. BYOB. Pool Tournament at 2 pm.
- Cousin's: Sinful Sunday Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frezzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Brck; SRO Karaoke at 6pm; Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm, 50¢ draft on the patio starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks; \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tourney @ 1:30pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No cover 7-9 pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; Happy hours noon to 8 pm \$1.75 well drinks and domestic longnecks.; \$1.75 Bloody Mary all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Trash Disco T-Dance. Doors open at 7 pm. DJ Chris Sill. Super cheap drinks!
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo; guest bartenders 6pm till???
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting, 355-3093.

Monday, February 16

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all night 7am-2pm. Football on the big screen; snacks.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLOGIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 11:00 am. BYOB.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open to close; Free Pool Table.
- Incognito: Male Strip night!

- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 8 pm. \$2 well drinks and domestic longnecks. Music by Alex C.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am. All top shelf \$3.50 all day and all night!
- QT's: Killer Bee Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Boxer Shorts Night Boxer Shots \$1.25.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Tuesday, February 17

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. \$1 Burgers on the patio 5 to 9pm; Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 11:00 am. BYOB.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Night at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2 for Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, frozen Ritas & wine; Jockey strip contest at 11pm; grab for cash at midnight.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$ 1 off all call liquor.
- Mela's Tejano: Free Hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colors.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am; \$1.50 well and \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's : Open at 8 am. Colorado Bulldogs (Kamora) \$3.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo. Dart Tournament at 7 pm.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon to 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Wednesday, February 18

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 11:00 am. BYOB.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well

- 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea; Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & nite; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 7:30 pm; Male Strip contest at 10:00 pm. \$2 well and domestic beer all night long.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight; Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am; \$1 well vodka and all \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Rich's doors open at 9 pm. 18 and up.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting, 355-3093.
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

Thursday, February 19

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm.
- BriarPatch: Edith Head plays in a number of disguises.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 11:00 am. BYOB.
- Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Amateur Talent contest @ 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Skyy Vodka open to close.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold & Micro brewed beer; Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$3 all call vodka.
- Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm. Linda Lou with open mike 9-10:30 pm, 10:30 pm to 1 am Karokee
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueroy or Absolut) \$3.75
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm. Pool tournament.
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's Club Hedo.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar nightly wine tasting, 355-3093

Important Stuff

The Houston Voice and JR's invite you to attend an exclusive sneak preview on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30 pm at Landmark's Greenway III to see "Ma Vie En Rose." There are passes available at JR's starting Saturday, February 14. Hurry, they will go fast!

The Center for AIDS presents a Community Health Forum focusing on the latest HIV/AIDS treatment and research issues on Friday, February 20 starting at 3:30 pm. For more info, call 713/527-8219.



Behinde the bar at Toys

The grand opening of Club Triangle is Friday, February 13! Club Triangle's doors open daily at 11 am and has after hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until 5 am! BYOB and get ready to have a great time!

Let Us Entertain You! What can I say about this that you all don't know! The registration is filling up fast, so if you want to get your name on the guest list, you better do it now! Registration applications are available in the host bars and in the Houston Voice office! LUEY is February 27, 28, and March 1! This is the 25th anniversary of the run. It is going to be one hell of a party weekend!



Southern Country

Southern Country and Sweethearts in Texas takes great pleasure in announcing Houston's sixth annual Hoe-Down and Anniversary. They have a weekend-long schedule of fun and dancing. Registration in Friday night at the Ranch. They will be teaching dance lessons on Sunday at noon at the New Barn. If you would like more info, call 713-226-2220.

"Dead Divas Need Love Too!" Only Barbara Walker could pull this show off. This fundraiser for the Lesbian Health Initiative starts at 9:00 pm at Chances on Saturday, February 14.

The fundraiser for the Colt 45's burial fund honoring Giovanni held last weekend raised \$1,627.

Metropex has added a male strip contest to their wild Wednesday line up. The contest starts at 10:00 pm.

The Rainbow Room (located out on the north side off 45N and Airtex) has the coolest rock and roll juke box in the world. Be sure to check out "Crush" the huge Boa Constrictor they keep there!

Mary's naturally is having a Valentine's Day costume contest and Red Underwear Party. On Sunday, February 15, the "Umbrella of Love" benefiting Stone Soup starts at 3 pm. Chow down on \$3.50 BBQ plates and enjoy 50¢ draft beer on the patio!

The Outpost, formerly Jo's Outpost has a shuffleboard tournament on Tuesday night! The board gets sanded starting at 7 pm.

Mr. and Miss BRB (Byron Norton and Shawna St. John) invites ya'll to "The Gong Show" on Sunday, February 15 at 8 pm. Be afraid, be very afraid!

Fuel opens it's doors every Friday for a fashionably mixed/BI-Gay crowd and serves up major dance floor drama with Houston's ultimate party girl, M. Pussycat. DJs Chris Sill and Fusion spinning deep,

hard and funky progressive house on the main dance floor. Doors open at 9 pm at 2401 San Jacinto.

Only at Paradise can you surf the net, have a cocktail and listen to the state of the art digital sound! Surfs up!

Pacific Street is having a "StopLight" party on Friday, February 13. If you are looking for love, then keep your light on "Green!"

Sunday, February 15 at 9 pm, the Court presents "From Hollywood to Dollywood," a benefit for the Bering Care Center. I bet there is going to be lots of big boobs and big hair! See you at Gentry!

The BriarPatch gets livelier all the time! With Auntie Richard, Glory Hole, Medicine Women Michael, Clint and the busty Nicki Knockers behind the bar! The gin is always cold and the piano is hot at the BriarPatch!

Soiree Aubergine presents the "The Late, Late Show" on Friday, February 13 at 11 pm. NLA:H will be guest bartending starting at 9 pm. Where else but the (under renovation and is going to look great) Venture-N.



Birthdya gal at the Ranch

As part of his fundraising efforts to be the new Mr. Prime Choice, Dennis Cooney is hosting "Love is in the Air." This unique fundraiser is on Saturday, February 14. Locations are: Mary's, Chances, The New Barn, The Ripcord, Brick's II, The BRB, Paradise, Cousin's, and the Outpost. At 5 pm at each location, you can release a balloon with a love message on it! Each message costs \$2 that benefits Steven's House and the PWA Holiday Charities. This should be quite a site, balloons being released all over Montrose at the same time! For more info, call 521-9900.

The Miss E/J's Sweetheart pageant will be Saturday, February 14. Maybe you could be the new Miss E/J's Sweetheart!

Milestones

Happy birthday to the one, the only, the world famous Lulu of E/J's. And Lulu and Tamin celebrate their anniversary this week.

Happy belated birthday to Pat at Basic Brothers!

Get well hugs to Glen at QT's! Happy birthday to Keith E of CCCC, Sissy (French Quarter), My dear friend Emily, Mark of E/J's, Betty McGhee, Scott Lewis, Matt Pennington, and Darlene of the Outpost.

Happy anniversaries to Ralph & Dwyane and Michael & Bret!

Rodent Droppings

Feisty ferrets this week! They got lots of play time. Pepper (the wonder dog) still wants to get a tastier look at them, but not yet!

The usual disclaimer is in force! Lies, Gossip and Trash! If you want real news, please turn to page one!

Jean (Charlie's): Did you really have 10 shots of Hot! Damn on your birthday?

Rogers (Montrose Clinic): Be sure to call me with the name of your new baby!



Teje spins at XTC

Gus (formerly of Mary's, now at Club Houston and Rich's): Is it true that you are the "Love Coordinator?"

Miss Alabama (BRB): Why do you get such a big smile on your face when you go shopping for cucumbers?

Rabbitt (Rich's): Still singing the blues are you?

Bear (hangs on any barstool available): How many bars will I see you in this week-

end?

Twister (BRB): Why couldn't you get back across the border when you went to Mexico?

Albie (Lobo): Have you been keeping out of trouble? I think not!

Ben (BRB): What this about a loose house coat, a wart, and 3 hairs?

Sheila (hangs at the Ranch): What, no tequila for you?

Bob (formerly of JR's): How is Colorado?



Singing at the Brair Patch

Officer Nick (PS): Who loves ya, baby! Mario (BRB): What's wrong? You have nothing dangling this week or was it Vera's turn?

Richard (hangs at the New Club Triangle): And I quote: "I'm better than an ultimate cheeseburger with bacon!"

Mavis (BRB): Why are you always sitting on your balcony with your legs spread hollern' "Here Kitty-Kitty-Kitty?"

Vicci (XTC): Should we call you the "Burger King" of toys?

Amanda (Montrose Clinic): I hear you love to work with lesbians. And you do a great job, too!

Brian Keever (NLA:H): I hear if you want to get laid, you have to import someone. Does this mean that you have already had the entire population of Houston?

Michael Jones (RSICSS): Yes, we all know that the only thing crooked about you is your fingernails!

Damion (Club Houston): And I quote: "I have to pay for my bruises!"

Sandra (hangs at the Ranch): I have a message for you! "I love (real much) you!" Love, Sheila

Jim Roberts (Venture-N): Is it true you are growing a goatee to make your mouth look more like a pussy?

Thumper Knight Leigh: Tubs 'o fun!

Teje (DJ at XTC): And I quote: "How come I wasn't mentioned?" And dancing to your music is like ecstasy. It is magic, baby!

Walter (formerly of the Outpost) is fine and dandy living in Florida!

Mark (Midtowne Spa): So, you moving away from Houston. We are going to miss you!

Amy (Metropex): I hear you were playing "Jane Hathaway" at E/J's!

Jeff R. (PS): Fine cigars and Grand Marnier?

Jim (Ripcord): I hear you are the newest RSICSS member. Female line at that!



Elvis...The three legged wonder dog. Died 12-30-97. Loved and missed by Thom McGehee

Don Gill (Mr. Wonderful): Did you really do "take-out" from the Ripcord?

The "Pet of the Week" photos are pouring in! Thanks! Keep them coming. Be sure to leave me your name and number so I can let you know when your "baby" will be in print!

Have a great week!

Cuervolyn

Open 11am - 2am Daily
Until 5am Fri - Sun

Grand Opening
Friday February 13

Free Set-ups
B.Y.O.B.

Sunday 2pm
Pool Tournament

1205 Richmond 522-0881

Friday, February 13

- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713/864-8468
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Tootsie's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Recovery and Beyond-relationship group meets at 8 pm. 713-333-9092.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- HIV Art Course Program: 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- Houston Chain Gang Cycling Club meets for dinner. 768-8793.
- SNAP (Spay and Neuter Assistance Program) 713/522-2337.

Saturday, February 14

- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- GANG (Gang Alumni Noon Group) meets at noon. 713/622-6918.
- AssistHers meet. 713/552-9445.

Sunday, February 15

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for

- women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 am. 713-864-8468.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Galveston PFLAG meets at 2:00 pm. 409/744-7558.
- AALGA meet. 713/864-2242.

Monday, February 16

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic, Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am.
- Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30 pm. 713-681-1309.

Tuesday, February 17

- Sex, Lies & Video Tapes workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm. 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 7pm. 495-8009.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm: 529-0037
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at

- 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Club Body Center 8pm to Midnite.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Project Ceaser at AFH. 713-623-6796.
- HIV + Support group for men over 50 meets at 7:30 pm. 713/527-9106.

Wednesday, February 18

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Bricks II 9 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713/864-8468.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4:30pm. 713/791-1412.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Tootsie's at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 713-861-1800.

- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Rainbow Ringers at 8 pm at the BRB.
- Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. 281-933-5818.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 623-6796.
- GLSTN- (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network meets at 7:30 pm. 713/529-4571.

Thursday, February 19

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Frontrunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program: 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Gulf Coast Transgender Community meets at 7:00 pm. 713/780-4282.

GALAXY GAYZER A Houston Voice Exclusive
Your Horoscope for the week of February 15 thru 21

ARIES (March 21-April 20) Your manner is quite pleasing and others see you as being accepting - don't let them down. This week will probably showcase your determined spirit, when you have something to fight for you win. A close friend needs advice without criticism.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) Follow your hunches regarding money matters, especially those situations you have no real experience with. Be candid in your relationships. It looks as if the lines of common cautions are a bit snagged. It's time to discuss your plans for the future.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) You tend to worry about money and would be better off being careful how you spend discretionary income. Think big this week. Your charming self will open new doors for you - everyone wants you around, because everyone likes to feel good. You'll accomplish a lot.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You need to get things done, but nobody else seems to want to go along with the program - looks like you're on your own. Pay attention to a close friend who gives you some truly constructive suggestions on how to handle your finances. Home is your refuge - you'll be spending more time there.

LEO (July 24-August 23) Your ability to be objective will help you to resolve a fairly sticky situation between two co-workers. Romance is in the air - your love life couldn't be any better. Guard against intense feelings of jealousy, there really is no cause for such strong reactions.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) Disappointments in your love life are painful, but you realize that you are not at fault for what happened. Don't drive yourself too hard at work week, because you won't receive the credit due. You are indecisive by nature, and tend to go along with plans already made.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) Keep yourself busy this week and don't think about depressing things. A change is coming in the near future. Concentrate on maintaining harmonious relations with those you love - try to spend more quality time with them.

Your sense of humor is infectious to others.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 23) However hard it may be, try to be charitable to those who give you a hard time. Your warm and understanding personality will shine through, and those around you will respond favorably. You have a flow of creative energy that needs to be channeled into a worthwhile project.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) Finish up old projects at home and in the workplace, before starting new ones - or everything will catch up with you. You'll accomplish a lot and people will be caught up in your enthusiasm. If you have been quarreling with family members, its time to set things straight!

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) There will be plenty of vanity, so there's little chance of being bored. Both friendship and group endeavors will dominate - your ability to cooperate comes in handy. Any goals you set will be achieved. Are your expectations in romance realistic?

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) Spend time working on routine matters, and you will be surprised how well the week will go. It's possible that you may be under pressure in the workplace, but that never slows you down, continue at your own pace. Ask a close friend for financial advice.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) Family issues are most on your mind. Older people depend on you for certain feedback. Your thinking maybe just a bit fuzzy, and you are inclined to go off on flights of fancy - it's okay to do so. Your jealousy of a mate is tacky, keep your cool.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: It seems as if you are working harder than ever lately. And that each task requires twice the time and effort it would normally take. There is a lot of pressure on you, both in the workplace and at home. Take the extra time to look after yourself.

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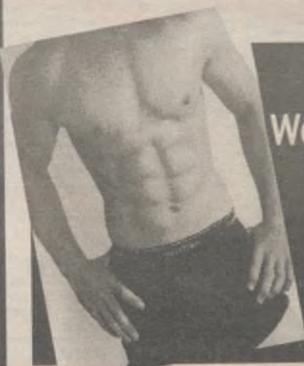
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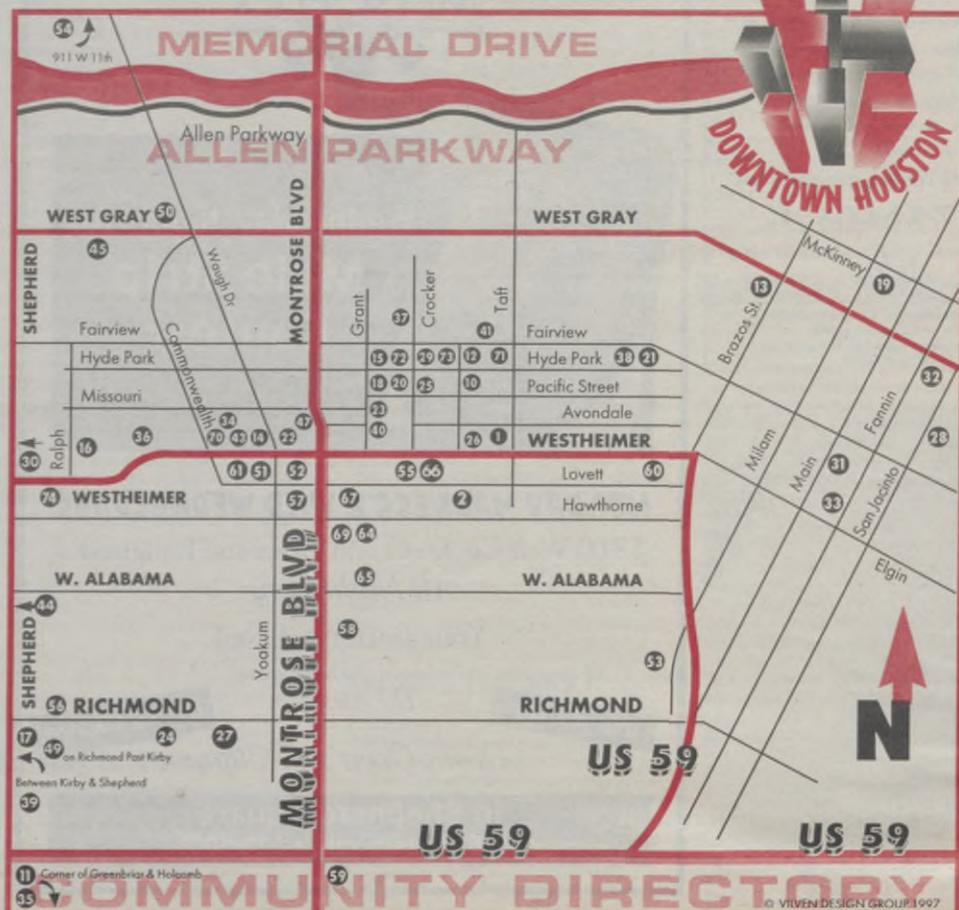


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ACCOMMODATIONS		
1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale 713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd 713/522-5224
BARS & CLUBS		
10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park 713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe 713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview 713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos 713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
15	Cosmos	817 Fairview 713/528-9204
16	EJ's	2517 Ralph 713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond 713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific 713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney 713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific 713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Tuam 713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer 713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific 713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond 713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific 713/523-0223
26	OT's	534 Westheimer 713/529-8813
27	Club Triangle	1205 Richmond 713/522-0881
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto 713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview 713/521-2792
30	Vintage Bar on Midlane	4356 Westheimer 713/355-3093
31	Venture N/Nighthawks	2923 Main 713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin 713/659-4998
33	Midtown Spa	3000 Fannin 713/522-2319
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer 713/521-9533
35	PLAZA 9200:	
	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy 713/666-3436
36	Racials	1318 Westheimer 713/942-CLUB
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker 713/522-7366
38	Melo's Tejana Country	302 Tuam 713/523-0747
39	Metropolis	2165 Portsmouth 713/520-5000
RESTAURANTS		
40	Bobo Yago	2607 Grant 713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview 713/522-0106
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer 713/522-3332
44	Cafe Edi	3102 S. Shepherd 713/520-5221
45	Mesa Grill	1971 W Gray 713/520-8900
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St. 713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES		
49	Allstate	3467 Kirby 713/526-5553
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray 713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer 713/942-0147
52	Eckard Drugs	1007 Westheimer 713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam 713/524-9932
54	Heights Above Florist	911 W 11th 713/862-2683
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer 713/529-4490
56	Inklings Bookstore	1846 Richmond 713/521-3369
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose 713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939 S Montrose 713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose 713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer 713/520-2000
61	Four Star Hair Productions	1201 Westheimer 713/524-7785
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne 713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama 713/523-2521
66	Synchronized Chiropractic	811 Westheimer 713/521-7411
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose 713/520-8000
69	STAR Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (AS) 713/522-7373
CLOTHING SHOPS		
70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer 713/528-4424
71	Jewel's Boutique	2404 Taft 713/523-3557
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview 713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview 713/526-4940
74	Timeless Tailor	1657 Westheimer 713/529-6299

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HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS

Women SEEKING Women

SF Black hair, hazel eyes, 5'1", 36, a little overweight. I like to go out, socialize, go to parties, camping, motorcycles, the beach and going out to quiet dinners. I'm looking for someone who is interested in the same thing for friendship or possible relationship. I am a Pisces and cute. Call Ext. 5546

SBF Attractive. Seeking someone to spend time with. This is my first time that I have gone within this area. If interested in meeting me, give me a call. Call Ext. 5682

SWF Attractive, professional. Seeking someone between 38-45, to explore a discreet relationship. Must be feminine. Call Ext. 5672



GWF 42, non-smoker. I'm sensitive, thoughtful & considerate. I like dining out, traveling, movies, learning how to dance Country Western. You should have similar interests, be fun-loving, spontaneous, enjoy trying new adventures & have a good sense of humor. Call Ext. 5654

GHF Medium build, attractive, short black hair. I work & live alone. Looking for somebody for a possible relationship. Friendship at first. Someone to talk to, listen to music with, going out & to the beaches. Call Ext. 5666

Men SEEKING Men

GBM HIV+, 150 lbs., healthy. I enjoy walks on the beach, watching basketball & listening to soft music. I would like to meet other Black guys for friendship & fun. Call soon. Call Ext. 5692

SWM 45, bi. In search of dominate & versatile cross dressers, transvestite or transsexuals. I'm not into pain. I'm willing to serve you in any intimate way. Call Ext. 5528

SM 18, 5'8", 165 lbs. Looking for a biracial person, who is mostly Black mixed with White or Black mixed with Hispanic or Black mixed with Asian. They have to be more masculine & versatile. I'm a very easy going person & fun loving. Looking for the same. Call soon. Call Ext. 5691

GHM 35, 150 lbs., dark eyes, dark hair. I have a 29 inch waist. I love working out. Looking for someone 25-40, who is a non-smoker, likes to go out to dinner & the movies. Call Ext. 5686

SM 6'1", 33, Anglo, big guy, 275 lbs., medium brown wavy hair, blue eyes, mustache, goatee, pretty smiles. Most people tell me that I'm pleasant to be around & that I'm cute. I'm masculine, down to earth, grounded & laid back. I would like to meet quality people in the Houston area. I prefer Hispanic or White between the ages of 25-35. Call Ext. 5690

SM 36, Latin/European, 6', 195 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, very attractive. I would like to meet someone for dating, friendship & possibly more. Someone to go out & have a good time with. I like anything that has to do with water, road trips, good bottles of wine & fine dining. Looking for someone who is single, height/weight proportionate & well hung. Call soon. Call Ext. 5689

SM 55, HIV+, healthy, brown eyes, gray hair, 5'4", 165 lbs. I work out to improve my body. I'm a non-smoker & a non-drinker. Looking for a top, who is well endowed. Call Ext. 5688

SWM 37, 170 lbs., height/weight proportionate, moderately hairy, clean shaven. I'm interested in meeting other hairy, White males late 30's-50, from the woodlands area please. You must be height/weight proportionate as well. I'm easy going with average looks. I don't smoke, but if you do that is OK. Call Ext. 5687

SM I'm a top Greek man. I am a non-smoker, no drugs, HIV-. I'm 5'10", 175 lbs. Seeking a submissive bottom for dating and maybe more. Any age, any race. You must be a non-smoker, no drugs, HIV-, 5'10" or shorter preferred, no mustache. Call Ext. 5685

SM I would like to get in touch with guys preferably with blonde hair, blue eyes, or dark hair, blue eyes, any race is welcome. Call Ext. 5684

GWM 5'11", 150 lbs., grey hair, 50, HIV+, very healthy. Looking for a long term relationship with someone over 40. I'm sensitive, thoughtful & considerate. I enjoy the beach, movies, traveling, entertaining friends at home & quiet evenings at home. Call Ext. 5681

We are a gay, White male couple, we are 57 & 44 years of age & we have a long term relationship. We are looking for similar couples for companionship. We like movies, dining out, New Orleans, cooking & lot's more. Call Ext. 5680

SWM Bi, tall & slender. In search of a passive, feminine, White males 30-45, who are into cross-dressing, role playing & pleasing both men or women. Call Ext. 5366

GBM 35, 6'1", 240 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm a competitive body builder. I'm looking for very muscular men, gym rats or athletes, who are interested in extra-curricular activities. I do have a partner & I'm looking to hook up with guys for fun. You have to be very muscular, body builder or a major gym rat. I'm only interested in guys like that. Call Ext. 5679

SWM 39, 6'1", 170 lbs., HIV-, mustache, hairy body. I live in the country. I enjoy the simple things in life. I'm honest, trustworthy, considerate, understanding, loving & hardworking. I enjoy country dancing & can either lead or follow. I drink only in moderation. Looking for a mature, masculine, romantic bottom with the same characteristics that I have. Call Ext. 5677

SWM 40, masculine, 5'10", 185 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, nice looking. I'm seeking a girl 21-45, who is really a guy & healthy like myself. I want someone to share both nights out on the town & quiet times at home together. You should be a pre-op transsexual or a feminine looking transvestite or cross dresser. A transgender guy that looks like a girl. Call Ext. 5675

SHM 35, 5'7", 150 lbs. Looking for another Hispanic or White male between the ages of 23-33 years old, who is a top for friendship & possible dating. Someone masculine & straight acting. I have a lot of interests that I would like to share with the right person. Call soon. Call Ext. 5674

SHM 23, 5'10", 200 lbs., dark brown eyes, black hair, mustache, goatee, earrings, sideburns, hairy bottom. In search of tops, for friendship, dating, sex & possibly more. Age, race, looks are unimportant. Cowboy types & body hair are a plus. I've never had any complaints. Call Ext. 5673

SM 5'6", 170 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair, good looking. Looking for a couple of guys who would be interested in hanging around with a chubby guy. Must have buff bodies, be good looking & interested in giving pleasures as well as receiving. Call Ext. 5493

SM 5'8", brown hair, blue eyes, 155 lbs. Hi guys, please no fems or fat-ties. I'm a bottom looking for a top. I'm very oral & I wish for you to be the same way. I like to dine out, go to movies, take long walks or staying at home having good conversations. Looking for someone between the ages of 32-40 years old. I'm HIV+, so those that are, need to apply only to my ad. Call soon. Call Ext. 5669

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GWM Mid-40's, 5'9", 145 lbs., blue eyes, light brown hair, smooth skin, mustache, HIV+. I'm very good looking & athletic. I like fishing, mechanics, outdoors & manly work. I'm honest & lonely. Looking for someone 35-55, who has manly type actions, honest maybe for lifetime. No queens, hairy or overweight people. Call Ext. 5664

SWM 20, bisexual. I'm looking for a first time experience. Looking for other guys that maybe it's their first time or looking for their first time. Looking to get to know some people & let it go from there. Call Ext. 5670

GWM 43, 6', brown hair, blue eyes, hairy, HIV-. I like going to the theater, movies, dining out & good conversations over drinks. Looking for White men, who would like to go out & party. Should have a hairy chest, but not necessary. Call soon. Call Ext. 5665

GWM 5'10", 190 lbs., 34, dark hair, green eyes, professional. Looking for someone who is older & taller than I am. Should be mature, have a good personality, good disposition & comfortable with yourself. Interested in a good friendship & maybe more. Call Ext. 5651



SM 6', brown hair, blue eyes, hairy, uncut. I like to go to the movies, live theater, dancing & the outdoors. Looking for someone who is hairy & has the same interests as me. Should be fun-loving & versatile. Call Ext. 5663

SBM HIV+, 6'3", 180 lbs., masculine, athletic build, mustache, goatee. I enjoy sports, riding motorcycles, horse back riding & quiet, romantic evenings. I would like to meet masculine, physically active man 28-48, for friendship & possible long term relationship. Call Ext. 5662

GHM 33, 155 lbs., handsome, spiritual, honest, creative, friendly. In search of a Hispanic, masculine top, who is HIV+ or HIV- for quality friendship. I love the company of a younger guy, who is willing to be himself & let me be myself. Race is unimportant, but Hispanic is a plus. Don't wait another day to respond. Call Ext. 5661

GWM 38, HIV-, 5'11", 170 lbs., green eyes, hairy chest & masculine. I'm deeply spiritual, cherishing honor above all, loyalty, duty & civility. Seeking a petite, gentle, HIV-, bottom, for walks in the parks, conversations in coffee shop's, movies & trips to the museums. Let's court each other & take it slow. Asian, Eurasian, Pakistanis is a plus. Call Ext. 5660

Your ad could have been here. Call today!

GHM 28, brown eyes, hairy chest, 5'5", 170 lbs. Looking for a White gay male, between the ages of 30-45 years old, very to medium hairy & weight is not important. Should be versatile but, strictly tops would be considered, for a possible relationship if the guy is right. Call soon. Call Ext. 5659

GHC 27, top & 32, bottom. We are both in good shape. We would like to meet some Black men who are versatile, to have a threesome. Call Ext. 5656

SWM 38, 6'1", 190 lbs., HIV-, blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth body, 30" waist. In search of a long term relationship with someone who has dark hair, olive skin & a hairy chest is a plus. I enjoy cooking, movies, theaters, plays, walks on the beach, quiet evenings at home with a good man & a fine bottle of wine. Call Ext. 5655

GWM 38, 5'10", 165 lbs., mustache/goatee. I'm easygoing, straight acting & moderately hairy. Looking for other gay White males between the ages of 38-50, hairy is a big plus & should be height/weight proportionate. I'm not into the bar scenes or the gay lifestyles. Call Ext. 5653

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HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM - Dear Reader: Enjoy reading the ads in the category of your choice, highlighting the ones you'd like to respond to. Then call 1-900-772-3085 (\$1.69/min. *) and follow the instructions. Ads are kept 8 weeks, replies kept 7 days and then erased. If you need help using the system, call Customer Service at 1-360-636-9267 (Longview, WA). What you see here is only a small portion of the ads currently on our Voice Personals system, so you might wish to call and browse through the newest ads. To record your own FREE voice personal, call 1-800-461-5930. You'll automatically be assigned a voice box number. Remember, we screen our ads daily, but we are not responsible for the advertisers. We urge you to screen people yourself. Talk by phone, and meet first in a public place. Publisher reserves the right to review, revise or refuse any ads. Must be 18 or older to use this system. Touchtone phone required. *Average length of call is 3 minutes, total cost determined by caller. Have fun and good luck! (Houston Voice, Houston, TX)



CRUISERS

WE GOT IT ALL

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XCHANGE
VIRTUAL CHAT
1 ON 1**

- FRAT BOYS
767-446-9300
- PIPELINE
268-404-6888
- BOY'S CLUB
767-446-9333
- CLUB 69
268-404-6969

**THE ONLY NUMBER
YOU'LL EVER NEED**
L.D./ INT'L RATES APPLY
18+

Photo by Steven David

You can't get HIV from a telephone,



CALL YOUR GREATER HOUSTON AREA RED CROSS
(713) 526-8300

but you can get prevention.

Education is the first step to preventing the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. With just one phone call you can have the American Red Cross teach you and your fellow workers how to avoid infection.

No one has more experience teaching health and safety than the Red Cross. For decades, we've educated workers through CPR training and workplace health and safety courses.

So give us a call. Because without a cure, changing behavior is the only way we can stop the virus.

To schedule an HIV/AIDS education session for your workplace, or to obtain posters, brochures and other materials, call your Greater Houston Area Red Cross.
(713) 526-8300
Education that works, from a name you can trust.



WORKPLACE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM



men seeking men

Meet tonight!

record, listen and respond to personal ads
FREE!
code: 7111

ACME
ACCEPT NO OTHERS
(713) 526.9393

Adults Only! Restrictions apply. Optional features \$2.49 per minute. 888-337-ACME.

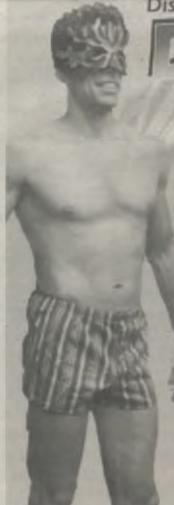


ROUGH TRADE™
1-ON-1 WITH KINKY S&M STUDS
NASTY ROUGH GROUP SEX
1-900-745-1095
MC/VISA OR AMEX: 1-800-575-4088
KINKY MILITARY TOPS: 1-900-745-4320
SLAVEBOY BOTTOMS: 1-900-745-3459
HAIRY BEAR STUDS: 1-900-745-4845
18+ Yrs. • \$2.00-3.99/Min.



THE DUDE JACK™
1-ON-1 WITH SLEAZY-TALKIN' DUDES
WILD GROUP JACK • DUDE TALES
1-900-745-1970
MC/VISA OR AMEX: 1-800-354-4688
HOT BODYBUILDERS: 1-900-745-3120
UNCUT LATIN TOPS: 1-900-745-1250
HORNY BLACK DUDES: 1-900-745-7273
LOG ON & GET OFF: www.dudejack.com
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Discover the magic
Down Under!



Next winter, enjoy two weeks of Australian sun. Bodysurf in the South Pacific. Snorkle with giant clams. Join new friends on a mountain hike. Hug a koala. And dance all night at the world's biggest gay party.



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Active vacations for gay men and lesbians.
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I Need It Now!



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Area Code Dateline
Create, browse or respond to other guys!

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18+ Only \$1.99/Min. Customer Service: 415-281-3183



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FREE ALL MONTH!
PROFILES THAT HELP YOU FIND MR. RIGHT

*Y*OU CAN FIND JUST WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR RIGHT NOW ON **GAY.NET**. The hottest guys, powerful matchmaking tools, chat, entertainment, news, community forums and much more. New friends are waiting right now at www.gay.net/match



The Original USA **Gay Party Line**
1-268-404-5462 **NEW!**
LIVE GROUP ACTION, BACKROOMS
ONE-ON-ONE, LOCAL DATING

CALLS FROM BED
Night Meetings-Live
1-664-410-2071

GAY MASSAGE IMMEDIATELY
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Live Gay Cruising
Cruise through 100 telephone lines for a live one-on-one chat.
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WILD & DIRTY
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Live Psychic Advisor
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Find the man you need by listening to hot ads.

THE CONFIDENTIAL CONNECTION®

Make the right call!™

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use access code: 2331

record, listen & respond to ads FREE!

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**MIDNIGHT
MATINEE
SPECIAL**

Sunday thru Thursday
Midnight til Closing
Admission \$4
with Membership

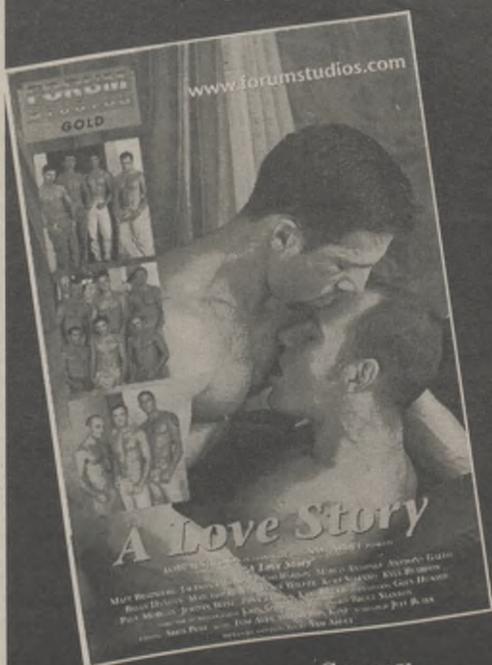
FRENCH QUARTER

713-527-0782 Y 3201 Louisiana Y Houston

All Male Cinema
presents

Thursday
Matinee

\$4 All Day
with
Membership



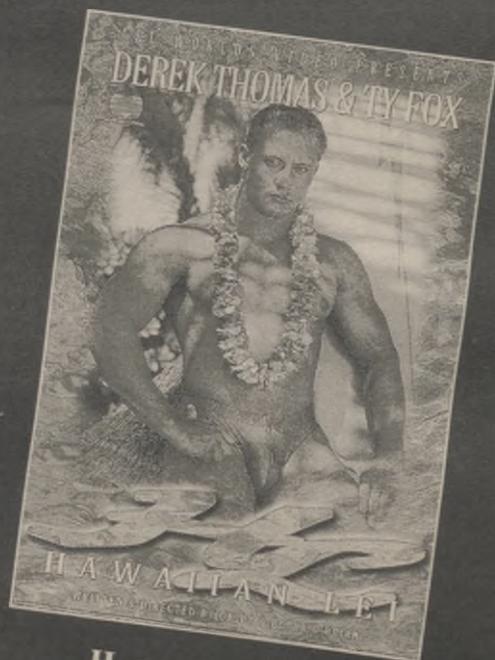
A Love Story



**Friday &
Saturday
11am-3am**

**Monday
thru Thursday
11am-1am**

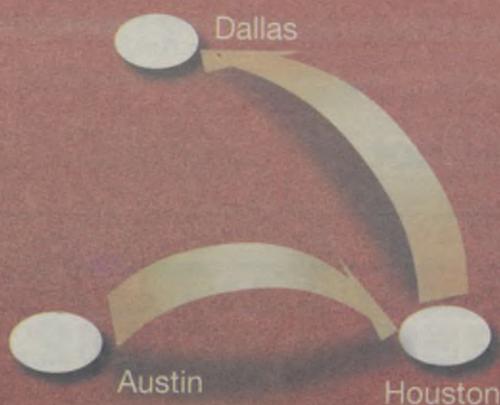
**Sunday
1pm-1am**



Hawaiian Lei

Crossing the state on a bicycle isn't for wimps or whiners.

Fortunately, they don't live in Texas.



What's this all about?

It's the first event of its kind ever undertaken here in Texas. An incredible seven-day bike ride from Austin through Houston to Dallas with nearly two thousand other Texans who've never done anything like this before in their lives. You'll see some of the most spectacular scenery in the nation and get to know our state up close and personal on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. The net proceeds of the event will assist Texans living with AIDS and help educate the state, especially young people, to prevent the further spread of this disease. In the last four years, thirteen AIDS Rides around the nation – and the 30,000+ people who've ridden in them – have sent over \$40 million to AIDS charities nationwide.

It's a ride, not a race...

You will go at your own pace, as quickly or as leisurely as you like. See, the Ride isn't just for athletes. People of all ages from all walks of life have done them. Grandmothers. People in their sixties, even seventies. Couples. Families. Partners. Teams of co-workers. And a lot of people just like you.

"Oh, I could never ride that far..."

Exactly. From where you stand today, you may not think you can do this. The truth is, that's how most people feel when they register. Many don't even own a bike! But think about it... maybe the fact that you don't think you can do it is the exact reason you should. When was the last time you learned anything about yourself – or inspired anyone else – by doing something easy? This is a chance to shatter

life's predictability. To get into the best shape you've ever been in. To show the world the enormous difference that one individual can make. Our in-depth training manual and organized rides throughout the year will help you develop strength and stamina... and let you meet others who'll be doing this extraordinary event along with you.

Where do I eat, sleep and shower?

In a spectacular mobile city that we literally move every day. The Ride is professionally produced and managed so you can concentrate on riding. Hot showers. Hot catered breakfast and dinner. Great bagged lunch. Full transport for your gear. Five daily water and snack stops. Nightly entertainment. Nightly volunteer chiropractic and massage. Rowing medical and tech support and more. You'll also be cheered along by hundreds of crew members who dedicate their week to assisting and supporting you. You will have the time of your life.

Where does the money go?

Net proceeds go to 40 AIDS service agencies working in the Lone Star State that help Texans who are dealing with the realities of

AIDS. From food and housing to AIDS prevention and education, from vocational needs to helping Texans with AIDS get the drugs they need to stay alive. This is truly about Texas taking care of our own.

How do I register?

Call now and we'll send you a free, full-color brochure right away. Space is limited. Call today. Call now.



Also sponsored by
AA Bicycling Magazine
Microcity

Created and produced by
Team Vixen
Bicycle Coaches
www.aidsride.org

Be part of an event that's as great as Texas itself.

1,800 Riders • 575 Miles • 7 Days • October 5-11, 1998 • Austin through Houston to Dallas

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888-780-RIDE