



HOUSTON

VOICE

One Community! One Voice!®

'Rent'
due in
Houston
page 18

FEBRUARY 27, 1998 • www.houstonvoice.com • ISSUE 905

Mayor vows to fight court challenge to city job protection for gays

by TERRY MURPHY

HOUSTON—Mayor Lee Brown said last week that the city will fight a court challenge to his authority to issue an executive order adding sexual orientation to the anti-discrimination policy covering city employees.

"We feel we are on sound legal ground," said Brown, who signed the order Feb. 16.

At a well-attended Feb. 25 press conference on the steps of City Hall, Republican Councilmember Robb Todd and radical right political activist Richard K. Hotze announced that they were filing suit in state district court charging that Brown exceeded his authority in issuing the order.

At a March 17 hearing, the plaintiffs will ask for an injunction stalling Brown's action until a trial decides the issue. The lawsuit claims that only the Civil Service Commission is legally entitled to set the terms of employment for city workers.

"Our legal department will defend the lawsuit," Brown told the *Voice*. "They do not see any legal problem with what we have done. The City of Houston's mayors have issued executive orders for 65 years almost. It's in the charter that the mayor has that

authority. ... That's just what I did ... and it's the right thing to do."

"This is an issue of checks and balances of our city government and whether the Mayor has the power to override the will of the people of Houston," said Todd at the press conference, referring to the 1985 referendum in which Houston voters overwhelmingly rejected protection for gay city employees.

Badgered by mainstream reporters at the press conference to address the substance of the executive order—employment discrimination against gays and lesbians—Todd and Hotze refused, and both insisted their lawsuit was prompted solely by what Hotze called "this challenge to democracy."

The lawsuit alleges that the mayor's executive order "denied [Councilmember Todd] his right to vote against the proposal." In addition, Todd complained in the lawsuit that, as a city employer himself, having to treat gay employees fairly would interfere with his ability to perform his duties as a councilmember. "Todd's obligation under this ordinance would seriously interfere with the running of his office," the complaint states.



Photo credit: Dalton De Hart

Anti-gay activist Richard K. Hotze joined Republican City Councilmember Robb Todd in a press conference announcing their lawsuit.

That's nonsense, according to supporters of the mayor.

"Without question, this is a political lawsuit," said Clarence Bagby, president of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. "Once again, the religious extremists are using the gay community to whip up support for their agenda of discrimination."

"I think it is apparent the lawsuit was brought to achieve a political result at the courthouse that these folks were not able to pull off in

November," said City Attorney Gene Locke, referring to Brown's well-publicized position on the issue during last fall's mayoral election. "This lawsuit lacks credibility."

"Mr. Todd states that this [lawsuit] really has to do only with the relative powers of the council and the mayor, and that it doesn't have anything to do with the content of the executive order," said Councilmember Annise Parker. "Since he has chosen to ally

See LAWSUIT/ page 12

Second coming-out leads gay conductor to life as rabbi

Stephen Stein leaves classical music career to find love and fulfillment in a spiritual calling

by TERRY MURPHY

Before he turned 40 this past December, Stephen Stein had won an Academy Award, guest conducted with some of America's greatest

orchestras, served as musical director of the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra and come to Texas for a job the Houston Symphony Orchestra created just for him—conductor-in-residence.

And he reached these rarefied heights as a proudly out gay man.

That's a lifetime of achievement for most men, but not for Stephen Stein, who two weeks ago resigned his position, and walked away from a celebrated career in classical music to immerse himself in a new-found Jewish spirituality and a second career as a rabbi.

In an exclusive interview with *Houston Voice*, Stein talked about the origins of this remark-

able change and his hopes and dreams for the future.

As he sat recently in the comfortable, sunny confines of his apartment overlooking a particularly picturesque portion of the Buffalo Bayou, Stein marveled that in pursuing such a dramatic life change, he not only found his true calling, the search for that vocation also brought him true love.

In a formal Jewish ceremony on Memorial Day weekend, Stein will marry his lover, Stephen Miller, a deeply religious Jew who quietly provided Stein with confidential support in the early days of his return to the faith. That friendship eventually blossomed into love, and the couple now contemplate a long, happy Jewish family life together—a life of service to their faith and the Reform Jewish community.

First though, shortly after their wedding, they will be apart for a while. Accepted into the five-year rabbinical study program of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Stein will spend the first year of his studies in Jerusalem. Miller will remain in Houston.

See STEIN/ page 21

Ryan White grant shrouded in conflict

County official defends \$580,000 grant to new agency headed by Ryan White chair, vice-chair

by TERRY MURPHY

Houston's AIDS service community has been abuzz since it was revealed that the chair and vice chair of the Harris County Ryan White Planning Council are the recipients of more than \$500,000 in federal AIDS funds for a service agency they run that has yet to open an office, hire staff or see a client.

Yet the county administrator who oversees the program says that what seems like an obvious conflict of interest really isn't.

Controversy swirls around a \$580,000 grant to Houston Area Community Services, Inc., an AIDS service agency that is run by Joe Fuentes, who recently was re-appointed to the Ryan White Planning Council and re-elected chair of that board by his fellow members.

The council's vice chair, Barbara Joseph, also holds an executive position with HACS.

"Yes, there is the appearance of conflict of interest, but if you understand the way Ryan White works, a semblance of conflict of

See RYAN WHITE/ page 14



Welcome
Let Us
Entertain You

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

MTW Productions presents
the 1998 Miss Gay Southwest
USofA Pageant
A direct preliminary to Miss Gay USofA



**A Tribute to
Gianni
Versace**

Doors open at 7pm

starring
Miss Gay Southwest USofA
1997 Lana Blake

Miss Gay USofA
Jacquelyn Devaroe

Miss Gay Texas USofA At
Large Chevelle Brooks

Miss Gay Houston USofA At
Large Nicole Perria

and emcee
Kourtney Van Wales

Special Appearance by
Naomi Warwick

\$100 Prize given to Best
Runway Model during
presentation category.

For more information, contact
Tony Williams at 281-999-4934

RCHS
HOUSTON

2401 San Jacinto
713-759-9606
www.richs-houston.com

AUSTRALIA INVADES HOUSTON!

Thunder From Down Under In A High-Flying SpectAPular



Come Meet The Seven **HOT** Australian
Tap Dancing Brothers in the **NEW** Musical

Conceived and Directed by Australian Dance Superstar **DAVID ATKINS**

On Stage at the Music Hall
March 4 - 22, 1998

SPECIAL LOW-PRICED PREVIEW ★ Wed, March 4, 8 PM
ALL SEATS: \$7.50

HOT SHOE SHUFFLE
Book by **DAVID W. HAHN** Music by **MEGAN CAVALLARI** Lyrics by **DAVID GOLDSMITH**
Originally Co-Choreographed by **DEIN PERRY**
Directed and Choreographed by **DAVID ATKINS**

On Sale Now ★ Charge by Phone
800-678-5440

(Regular ticket service charges apply)
Also available from the TUTH Box Office,
2600 Southwest Freeway at Kirby
and Admission Network Outlets

cc Thurs, March 19, 8 PM
Closed Captioned Performance

Audio Sun, March 22, 2 PM
Audio Described Performance

Continental
Airlines

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS

**THINK OF IT AS A
PORTABLE
ANSWERING
MACHINE.**



INTRODUCING POCKETALK™

Now you can hear, store and retrieve messages in the
caller's own voice. Right in the palm of your hand.

Call
Today

Premier
PAGING & WIRELESS
12220 Murphy Rd. Ste. E
281-575-8500

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY
PRICE

Special price only
\$19.95 month

Pocketalk has everyone talking.

"Joe, this is Charlie.
Could you get some
prices together for me
on the Simpson job?"

"Mom, I need you to
bring my dance shoes
when you pick me up."

"I had something come
up and can't make
our meeting. I'll call
later to reschedule."



"This is Frank at the
shop. I need your
OK to start ordering
the materials."

Now you can hear your messages right where you are,
right when they come in. With Pocketalk, you're in
control, because you get the whole message in your
caller's voice. So you can decide your next move without
slowing down! Call us or come by today!

- Works just like an answering machine - play, reverse, fast forward, pause and delete.
- No need to use an operator - complete privacy.
- Stores messages so you can listen at your convenience.
- Assured message delivery means you'll never miss a message.
- Up to three minutes of message memory.

1997, CONXUS Communications. All rights reserved. Pocketalk is a trademark of CONXUS Communications. Motorola is a registered trademark of Motorola, Inc.

In This Issue

Community News
pages 3

Regional News
pages 7

National News
pages 8

Voices & Echos
pages 10-11

Church Calendar
pages 16

Arts & Entertainment
pages 18-19

Classifieds
pages 26-27

**Community Calendar/
Horoscope**
page 30

Out in Houston
page 25

Scene & Heard
page 28

Community Directory
page 32

Charter Member



LOCAL

Legendary LUEY Weekend to Draw Record Crowd

Post-Mardi Gras Party Celebrates 25 Years

by BILL BARRON

When the legendary Gypsy Rose Lee made "Let Me Entertain You" her theme song, she helped set the stage for a legendary Houston party celebrating its 25th anniversary this weekend at clubs all around the city.

As many as 750 people from all over the country will be in Houston for the long-running "Let Us Entertain You" — or LUEY — Weekend from Feb. 28 through March 1.



Lloyd Pwell (L) and LUEY chair Bob Bouton

"We have turned this event into a reason for people to come to Houston to have fun," said Bob Bouton, who is heading up this year's event as he ends his fifth year as chair of the Houston Council of Clubs, which has been instrumental in planning the LUEY Weekends.

Bouton, a legal assistant for a downtown law firm, said the event was started after Mardi Gras to give New Orleans revelers a place to go after that city's big party was over. Partygoers began stopping in Houston on their way back to the West Coast.

In those days, Bouton said, the event involved only a small group of leather clubs and bars getting people together for parties and dinners. Originally a solely leather event, the weekend now draws from a cross-section of leather and Levi groups, as well as bears, lesbian clubs and a variety of others.

"Now it's one big party — Texas' biggest party — and it means a lot to a lot of people," Bouton said.

For Stan La Fleur, an officer with the Houston Area Bears, the LUEY party weekend is about coming together. "This is the best opportunity the gay community has all year to open its arms," he said, "and welcome community members from different parts of the United States."

Last year, 566 people from 28 states and three foreign countries officially registered for the LUEY Weekend, said Bouton. This year, a record 750 people are expected for the weekend, which will include 17 cocktail parties and five meals, at locations all over town.

"It's really amazing how the number of participants has increased so tremendously," said Chris Patterson, HCC secretary-treasurer. "People from as far away as England and Alaska are coming this year."

For Tiffany Swanger, new president of FIST — Females In Search of Trouble — LUEY was a coming-out of sorts. "For me, my first LUEY three years ago sort of put me on the map socially," she said. For this year's FIST-sponsored cocktail party, Swanger will revive her French maid costume. "It was very well received last year," she said proudly.

Besides Venture-N/Nighthawks, LUEY sites include Mary's, Gentry, Brazos River Bottom, Pacific Street, Ripcord, and Rich's.

The 1988 "Let Us Entertain You" show, which features acts and skits from participating clubs, begins at 1 p.m. this Sunday at Rich's, and is open to the public.

Registration for LUEY is scheduled for 9 p.m. until midnight Friday at Venture-N, newly incarnated as Nighthawks, 2923 Main Street.

Gay and lesbian community center finds a home

by J.C. MICHELAK

HOUSTON - After two years of sometimes tumultuous groundwork, Houston's first Gay and Lesbian Community Center will become a real-

ity in mid-April. The organization will officially sign the lease today for occupancy at its new location, 803 Hawthorne.

The idea of opening a gay and lesbian community center is not a novel



By mid-April, 803 Hawthorne will house Houston's Gay & Lesbian Community Center.

one, but it has been a difficult one for the Houston community to bring to

See LOCAL page 4

RELATIONSHIP LAW

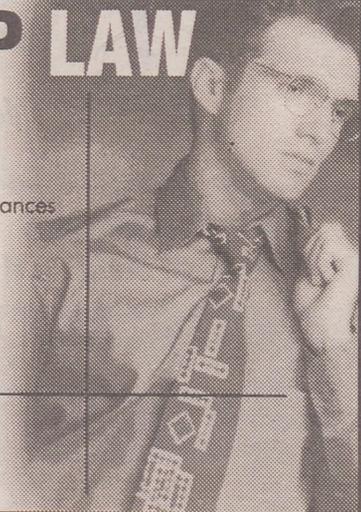
- Life Partner Agreements
- Living Together/Roommate Agreements
- Wills
- Power of Attorney for Health Care & Finances
- Divorce/Custody
- Litigation Consultation

713. 916. 4589.

Shawn A. Harden
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Fully licensed to practice before the Texas Supreme Court,
all Texas Trial Courts, U.S. Court for Northern District.

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization



FITNESS EXCHANGE

Annual Membership from
\$248.00
No Monthly Dues!

4040 MILAM #100

HOUSTON • 713.524.9932

Mon - Fri 5am - 10pm • Sat & Sun 8am - 8pm

NAUTILUS • CYBEX VR-2 • HAMMER STRENGTH • PRECOR EFX
LIFE CYCLES • RECUMBANT CYCLES • ROWING MACHINES
TREADMILLS • NORDIC TRACKS • CARDIO GLIDES
AEROBICS • NIA • BODY SCULPTING • YOGA • BODY
FAT ANALYSIS • PURETAN TANNING • MEMBER 2700 CLUBS

MESA

GRILL

LUNCH 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
DINNER 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM
(WE DO CATERING, TOO!)

1971 WEST GRAY - 713.520.8900

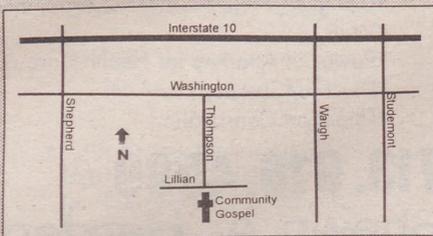
Community Gospel

A Church Built on Love

Pastor Chris Chiles
**The Pentecostal
Family of Montrose**

Sun 11am Praise & Worship
7pm Evening Service
Thur 7:30pm Midweek Services

See Church Calendar for
Weekly Events



4305 Lillian, Houston, TX 77007
713-880-9235

www.communitygospel.org

We Work for Your Image!



**VILVEN
DESIGN
GROUP**

807 Hawthorne
Houston, Tx. 77006
713.526.3212
FAX 713.526.6886

LOCAL/ from page 3

fruition. In fact, the organization obtained its 501(c)(3) status back in January 1996 but was unable to generate serious interest until recently.

Houston is the only major metropolitan city of any size in the country that does not have a gay and lesbian community center, organizers say. In most cities, a community center serves as a focal point for the gay and lesbian community.

According to former Center board president Brian Tognotti, it took the organization a long time to lay the groundwork because of the magnitude of the project. The group met with dozens of organizations and others in the community in an effort to build excitement and to educate about the impact such a center could have for the community. Not an easy feat, says Tognotti, mainly because the community is so "widely dispersed."

"It's been tried a couple of times before, and it hasn't worked," Tognotti said. "People needed to see that [the community center] was something that was going to be professionally put forward and that it was thought through and there was a plan to put it in place."

In November 1996, the Center's prospects got a significant boost when the topic was raised at several Community Partnership meetings sponsored by the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GHGLCC). The quarterly confabs are conducted to assemble at one forum leaders from the gay community's diverse organizations for discussion on their respective projects.

At the November Partnership Meeting, a number of key Chamber officials involved in the discussion became excited about the Center's prospects and decided to get the Chamber involved to help make it happen.

One of those Chamber members, Stewart L. Zuckerbrod, M.D., a local ophthalmologist, took a decidedly hands-on involvement to make sure the project did not go by the wayside. Zuckerbrod, who recently joined the GHGLCC Board, convinced the Chamber to adopt the Center as a pet project. In January, the Chamber decided to spearhead the effort at its annual board retreat. Zuckerbrod was subsequently elected to the board of directors of the Community Center to serve as its vice-president.

"The Community Center approached the Chamber about help, and the Chamber came to its aid in terms of expertise and personnel," says Zuckerbrod. "The Chamber is looking at this as a means of providing information about the businesses of the members of the Chamber. It really wanted to support the formation of the Community Center."

The Chamber's primary role will be in the development process. The organization's annual Empower exposition plans to use this year's event to raise money for the fledgling Community Center. The Empower '98 committee has been working on a fund-raising concept to tie in with the Expo that will be unveiled at a later date.

The Community Center will serve several purposes. First and foremost, it will become a one-stop information source for the community. The intent is to provide a site where all organizations can make available flyers, news-

papers, newsletters, meeting notices and the like.

Additionally, the Center plans to lease office space for organizations on the second floor and provide a setting for community organizations and groups to hold forums and regularly scheduled meetings. The facility will house the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, and plans are under way to hire a full-time executive director to take the reigns and ensure the Center's viability and growth.

The Center is tentatively slated to open in mid-April and board president Carl Riedl and other organizers said they are elated to see the project finally come to fruition. The facility is looking for organizations to lease office space on the second floor. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Kevin Davidson, Coordinator of Programming for the Center, at (713) 661-2195 for information.

"The Center will provide common ground for the community," said Riedl. "A community center serves as a resource. ... It will provide a neutral space, where new organizations that might be starting in the community will be able to interact with more established organizations, gain from their expertise and resources and not have to recreate a lot of unique infrastructure."

Montrose Counseling Center kicks off 20th anniversary celebration

by MELISSA VALENZUELA

In 1978, just one tumultuous year after Anita Bryant launched her public campaign against equal rights for gays and lesbians, Dr. Bill Scott and four co-founders opened the Montrose Counseling Center in the heart of Houston's gay community.

Optimistic about the prospects for the gay rights movement, the founders didn't expect Counseling Center, a mental health facility for gays and lesbians at 701 Richmond, to be needed after another 10 years of activism. The thought was that once the community got past Bryant's public gay-bashing and the psychological impact of a collective coming-out as a political movement, the Houston gay community wouldn't have need of the services of a counseling center dedicated to its particular needs.

"Given the tenor and the direction the gay rights movement was going, we just didn't think we'd be around," said co-founder Dr. John O'Donnell. "The gay rights movement was so visible that at the time, we hoped we'd be obsolete in a 10 years time."

Twenty years later, the center is more essential to Houston's community than ever, not the least because of the psychological ravages of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Celebration Planned

This month begins the celebration of the center's 20th anniversary. The Counseling Center is hosting three events during the year to mark two decades of service, beginning with "Bringing in the Green Cabaret" on March 13. The cabaret will be a larger and more festive rendition of the center's annual St. Patrick's Day fund-raiser. It is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 13 at 1402 Harvard.

The cabaret will feature live entertainment and a silent auction of items, including airline tickets to

Paris, art pieces and complimentary dinners at local restaurants. Food and drinks will be provided. A \$20 per person donation is required at the door.

"We've held a St. Patrick's Day Cabaret every year for the past 10 years, but this one will reflect the 20th anniversary, and we anticipate it to be much bigger," said Brian Tognotti, Development and Marketing Manager for the Counseling Center. "We expect to raise about \$20,000 with all proceeds benefiting the center."

Tognotti said the center's 20th anniversary shows how important it is for the gay community to have such agencies to provide a source of healing and education.

"[The center] has managed to not only survive, but to thrive. The community should be really proud that there has been a resource for them," he said.

Other celebration events include a workshop on domestic partner benefits in June and a chili cook-off in October. Time and place for both events will be announced later in the year.

Healing mission

The Montrose Counseling Center, the only gay-oriented member of the United Way in Texas, offers support and counseling to the gay and lesbian community. The center provides individual and group counseling, HIV/AIDS management services and chemical dependency programs.

"Our goal was simply to provide a service to gays and lesbians, and to get them therapy for issues they needed to deal with," said O'Donnell. "It was something that just needed to be done. In doing it, we certainly recognized that we

were taking a lot of risks professionally."

"My colleagues, both straight and gay, recommended that I not do it, that I was basically committing professional suicide, but it just had to be done," he said.

O'Donnell credits Scott as the driving force behind the planning and development of MCC. Scott, who died of AIDS in 1995, envisioned a mental health facility that catered to gays because mental health services were not readily available. Scott wanted to provide a "safe haven" for patients who needed to freely discuss sexuality issues. Public response to the center was mild, and has remained relatively non-controversial.

Humble beginning

The Counseling Center began with little funding and operated on a volunteer basis. Now, the center employs approximately 45 people and receives contributions from federal and state agencies, local foundations and private donors. The center served nearly 10,000 clients in 1997, 47 percent of which received free services.

"We started as an unknown entity, and we have now grown progressively into a comprehensive and large mental health facility for the community. This demonstrates that a few committed people can make a difference," said O'Donnell.

When the AIDS epidemic peaked in the 1980s, the Counseling Center responded to the crisis by providing support groups, free HIV testing and intensive case management services for people living with the disease.

"We have evolved into something

much more (than a counseling center). We didn't know that there was going to be this illness that would affect (the gay community) so much," said Executive Director Ann J. Robison.

Robison said the center hopes to accomplish more in the future as the community evolves by providing services that are not available in Houston. The center is developing innovative programs for lesbians, recreational activities for gay senior citizens and educational services in schools for gay youth, she said.

"There is definitely a need for the center in the future. We are certainly needed if we want to put an end to discrimination, make illnesses more manageable and address things such as women's issues," said O'Donnell, who uses his experience to challenge others. "When I speak of the center, I try to challenge people by saying we were able to do this, and there was nothing special about what we did," he said. "We were just competent and willing to do it, so do something and put yourself on the line."

For more information about the Montrose Counseling Center's celebration activities, call (713) 529-0037.

Houston police seek info in gay man's death

Houston Police investigators are seeking help from the gay community as they piece together the circumstances surrounding the death of Dan Jacobs, a gay resident of the Heights. Jacobs' body was found Tuesday in

White Oak Bayou between the Houston Street bridge and I-45.

A police spokesman said no cause of death has been determined, pending the outcome of an autopsy and toxicology report.

Jacobs, 32, was an employee of GTE. No other details were available at press time.

Anyone with relevant information can call the Houston Police homicide division at (713) 308-3600, or contact the *Houston Voice*.

Montrose TV hits prime time March 2

The city's first-ever prime-time, locally produced gay television show will premiere Monday, March 2 at 8 p.m. on Warner Cable Channel 54. "Montrose TV," presented by the gay-



The cast and crew of Montrose TV.

owned TriAngle Video Productions, will air a weekly, 30-minute news and feature program "for all people in the area, whether gay, straight, black, white, brown or any possible combination," according to a news release.

After open auditions Jan. 26, Suzanne Anderson and Kim Sevier were

See LOCAL/ page 6

Be One Of The First
To Own It!

unified diversified electrified
HOUSTON LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE 1998

The Official T-Shirt
for
Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride
1998

Now Available at
the
New LOBO Cafe

LOBO Bookshop and Cafe

Now Open 9am - Midnight Monday thru Friday
And Open 7am - Midnight Saturday & Sunday

3939-S Montrose 713-522-5156

WHAT IT
SOUNDS
LIKE WHEN
YOU DRIVE
AWAY IN
YOUR
BRAND NEW
SATURN!



SATURN OF HOUSTON
NORTH FREEWAY

A Member of Paramount Saturn Auto Group

Craig Pearson

8355 North Freeway • Houston, Texas 77037

T 281.847.8700 • F 281.847.8777

NEW, USED, & LEASING • OPEN SUNDAYS

LOCAL/from page 5

selected as co-hosts for the broadcasts, which will be scheduled for every Monday at 8 p.m., and then repeat every Tuesday and Wednesday at the same time. Anderson owns her own real estate firm and has some television and radio background, while Sevier, who owns the graphic design firm Severe Concepts, is a newcomer to the studio.

"Kim is relatively unknown for on-camera work, but she has a spunky personality and a wit that will complement Suzanne very well," said TriAngle owner Steve Baker, in a press release announcing the March 2 broadcast.

Among the stories scheduled for the inaugural broadcast are an interview with City Councilwoman Annise Parker, a ride in a police car with an officer from the Montrose storefront station, coverage of the HRC Winter Gala Black Tie Dinner, the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting, and Saturday afternoon at antique row on lower Westheimer.

Early voting opens

Early voting for the Republican and Democratic primary elections continues until Friday, March 6. Polls are located at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, and downtown at 1319 Texas (at Austin) and at 24 other sites in Harris County. Any voter may vote early, even if the voter will be in town and able to vote on election day.

Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27; from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28; and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 1. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily from March 2 to March 6.

During early voting, any voter registered in Harris County may vote at any early voting location in Harris County. On election day March 10, voters must vote at the polling place for their precinct. A voter may vote in either primary, but not both, and may not vote in the other party's run-off election.

Psychics and scientists at Lesbian Health Fair

Conventional and unconventional scientific methods join forces to protect women at the Lesbian Health Fair Saturday, March 7 at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center. The day-long event features \$10 mammograms, \$15 pap smears, a psychic, and a variety of lectures, information booths and shopping. Admission is free.

"This will be a great day to see friends and get information" says Susan Scott of Lesbian Health Initiatives, the group that produces the event. "This is our third fair, and they're always fun," she said. The event is designed for lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered women, but anyone who is interested may attend.

The fun will begin with a rousing game of Breast Cancer Bingo at 10 a.m., and continue with music from Liz Mendez and Gloria Silva. The festivities wrap-up with a dance class conducted by Southern Country. Reflexology and chair massages will be offered.

The Harris County Hospital District will staff a booth to explain eligibility requirements for free services. "Uninsured women are afraid to get health screening because they can't pay for treatment, so we're glad the District is coming," said Scott. "If someone can't pay the reduced fee for

a pap smear or a mammogram, she can get one here."

Planned Parenthood, the American Heart Association, Montrose Clinic and other groups will also provide information about health issues. Vision screening, HIV tests and other health screening will be available.

The fair begins at 9 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, located at 1475 West Gray. For more information, call (713) 603-0023.

HIV Workshops to Explore Machismo, Racism, Sex

Project CAESAR of AIDS Foundation Houston is presenting Proyecto Hermano, a five-week series of workshops geared toward gay and bisexual Latino. The workshops will explore machismo, racism, homophobia, drug and alcohol abuse, family and friend relations and sexual relationships, all toward a goal of reducing the

risk of HIV transmission.

"By exploring a wide array of issues and how they relate to each other, Latino men will be empowered to overcome the emotional and cultural barriers to safe sex," said Randall Ellis, program coordinator for Proyecto Hermano.

The workshops begin March 3, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.. For more information, contact Project CAESAR at (713) 623-6796 or email education@aidshelp.org



Obituary

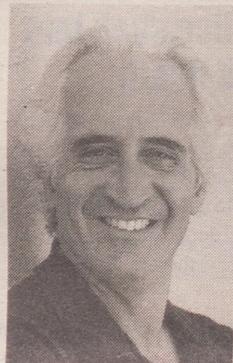
Steve Stickley (Edith Head O'Hare), 1955-1998

Entertainer, artist and antique dealer Steve Stickley, known to many as Edith Head O'Hare, died Feb. 18 of a massive cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 43.

As Edith Head, the pianist and comedian was the reigning Miss Briar Patch, where he was well known and loved by patrons and staff alike.

"A bright incandescent candle has been blown out in all of our lives," said a friend. "We mourn our loss in darkness as she brings her special glow to the heavens."

Stickley is survived by Jim, his one true love; his mother Marta; brothers Don and Tim; sisters Claire and Dynah; adopted sons Tom "Katy Freeway," Jerry and Mark; his many loving friends; the twins Harla and Darla; and his beloved Emily, who according to friends "thought AKC registry was pure snobbery."



More than 70% of
Viramune[®]-treated
patients
achieved
undetectable
viral loads
with triple-
combination
therapy¹



Baptists Expel Austin Church Over Gay Ministry

By C. BRYSON HULL

DALLAS (AP) — The Baptist General Convention of Texas on Tuesday expelled an Austin church that actively supports gays and has a gay deacon.

The convention's 180-member executive board supported a motion to disassociate itself from the University Baptist Church.

Last month, convention officials learned that the church's web-site mentions its affiliation with the convention.

"We cannot approve of churches endorsing homosexual practice as biblically legitimate," said Ft. Worth pastor Charles Davenport, head of the committee that drafted the motion.

The church has had a tenuous relationship with the convention since it ordained an openly gay deacon, Hans Venable, in 1994. The church sponsors and invites members of the local gay community to participate in Open Circle, a ministry for gays and les-

bians.

Executive board members insisted their vote was not a condemnation of the church's acceptance of homosexuals into its ministry and congregation.

"We commend the church for their ministry, and we feel that churches should minister (to gays)," Davenport said. "But ministering to is different than an affirmation of, and we interpret (the church's activities) to be an affirmation of."

University Baptist Pastor Larry Bethune said he doesn't understand the distinction.

"I don't feel very commended as a church for our ministry to gays and lesbians today," Bethune said after the vote. "The convention has an odd way of showing it."

The moderate-controlled Texas convention and more conservative Southern Baptist Convention have long butted heads. Russell Dilday, president of the Texas group, denied that the vote was designed to placate conservative members threatening to break away.

The Austin church has a long history of feuds with Baptist organizations.

In 1948, it was disavowed by the Austin Baptist Convention when it allowed blacks to sit in the same pews with whites. In the early '70s, the church was criticized for ordaining women as deacons.

Bethune said he believes the congregation will likely respect the wishes of the Texas convention in removing any reference to the group from their web-site and literature.

Eleventh Annual Silk Stocking Ball Raises \$8,000

GALVESTON — The Silk Stocking Ball, a private corporation that raises funds for Galveston County AIDS organizations during Mardi Gras Galveston, announced that \$8,000 was raised during its 11th annual celebration, "The Roaring '20s," held Fri. Feb. 20 at the West Arena at Moody Gardens in Galveston.

The organization awarded checks of \$5,000 to the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, \$1,800 to the AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area, and \$1,200 to Hospice of Galveston.

More than 660 revelers decked in tuxedos and outrageous Mardi Gras fare danced to the big band sounds of Vince Vance and the Valiants.

The organization presented its annual Founder's Award to Misty Valdez, a local drag queen who performs at the Kon Tiki bar in Galveston. Special recognition was given by Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough to Dr. Richard Pollard, former director of the UTMB HIV Research Program, for his involvement in the HIV community.

The party raised \$4,000 less than last year's 10th annual celebration, but organizers attribute the drop to increased expenses for this year's event.

Okla. AIDS Patients Denied Experimental Drugs

TULSA, Okla. — Sand Springs AIDS patient Robert Cowan has lost another round in his court battle to gain access to an unapproved drug his doctor says will extend his life.

U.S. Senior District Judge Thomas R. Brett has concurred with an earlier ruling by U.S. Magistrate Sam Joyner that Cowan should not be allowed to get a temporary restraining order to prevent the U.S. Food and Drug Administration from interfering in his treatment. Such action would have allowed Cowan to try a goat serum antibody that Tulsa Dr. Gary Davis believes could help keep Cowan alive.

The serum has not been approved by the FDA. In his ruling, Brett said that Cowan's claim that the serum is not subject to FDA regulation is not supported.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Bernhardt said Feb. 20 that because two of Brett's supplemental findings were not part of Joyner's January ruling, Cowan's case is still alive.

R. Scott Scroggs, one of Cowan's attorneys, said Feb. 20 that Davis is expected to file a new emergency application with the FDA in the next few days.

Cowan, 42, has said his body won't tolerate standard drug therapies that can help other people sick with the fatal disease.

AIDS Deaths Down by 42 Percent in Fla.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — AIDS deaths continued declining in Florida for a second straight year, though the decline was slower among blacks, health officials reported Feb. 24.

The state Department of Health counted 1,438 AIDS deaths for the first nine months of 1997, down 42 percent from the same period in 1996 when there were 2,487 deaths, Health Secretary James Howell said.

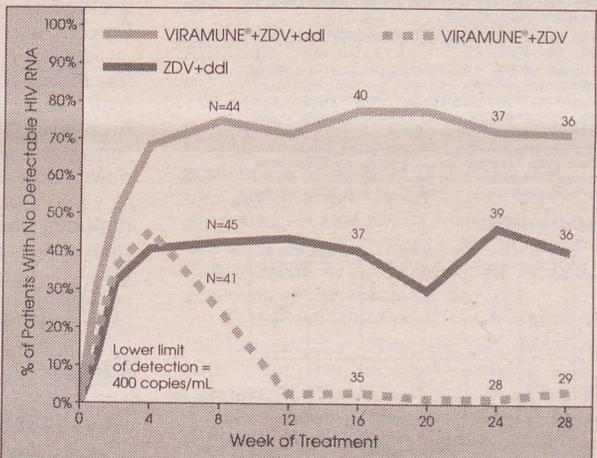
AIDS deaths in Florida peaked at 4,336 for the entire year of 1995, Howell said. "I am hopeful we can keep extending life for many years through the continued use of antiretroviral drugs and preventive therapy."

The AIDS deaths for January through September of 1997 were down 52 percent among white men and 49 percent among white women.

But the decline was only 37 percent among black men and 27 percent among black women, according to the department's figures.

■ VIRAMUNE® plus two nucleosides (ZDV+ddl) significantly increased the number of treatment-naive patients achieving undetectable viral loads, compared to dual therapy (P=0.017).

% OF PATIENTS ACHIEVING UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOADS



Randomized, double-blind study comparing VIRAMUNE®+ZDV+ddl, VIRAMUNE®+ZDV, and ZDV+ddl. The study enrolled 151 HIV+ treatment-naive patients with CD4+ cell counts of 200-600 cells/mm³ (mean 376 cells/mm³) and a mean baseline plasma HIV RNA concentration of 4.41 log₁₀ copies/mL (25,704 copies/mL). At 20-28 weeks, more than 70% of VIRAMUNE® triple therapy patients had HIV RNA levels below the limit of detection. The clinical significance of these findings is unknown.

■ 96% of VIRAMUNE® triple therapy patients (based on a subset of 27 patients) who complied with their therapy (ie, did not interrupt any of their assigned drugs for 28 or more days during the course of the trial) achieved viral levels below the limit of detection at 28 weeks.

- Convenient one-tablet, twice-daily dosing.*
- VIRAMUNE® is widely distributed to all tissues; it readily crosses the blood-brain barrier (n=6) and placenta.
- VIRAMUNE® is indicated for use in combination with nucleoside analogues for the treatment of HIV-1 infected adults who have experienced clinical and/or immunologic deterioration.
- Generally well tolerated — most commonly reported adverse events were rash, fever, nausea, and headache. **Associated with severe rash, which in some cases has been life-threatening. Discontinue when severe rash occurs.**

* Recommended dose: one 200 mg tablet q.d. for first 14 days; then one 200 mg tablet b.i.d. This lead-in period should be used because it has been found to lessen the frequency of rash.

START STRONG
Viramune[®]
 (nevirapine)

Medical Information 1-800-542-6257 • Reimbursement/Patient Assistance 1-800-274-8651 • Customer Service 1-800-520-1631

Web site: <http://www.Roxane.com>
 See Brief Summary of Prescribing Information on adjacent page.
 RX-1841BW (8/97)

'Ellen' is history, DeGeneres says show too controversial

LOS ANGELES — Stand-up comedian Ellen DeGeneres said she believes her television comedy "Ellen" is being canceled by ABC.

"I'm gay, the character's gay," DeGeneres said Feb. 23. "It's just too controversial, nobody wants to deal with it. It's pretty safe to say this is it for the 'Ellen' show," the actress told "Entertainment Tonight" in an interview.

"I'm getting every indication that they're not picking the show up," she told the syndicated TV show, adding, "It's sad. I'm very sad."

ABC denied Monday that the show has been canceled.

"We haven't made any decision yet. An announcement about the (1998-99) schedule will be made in May," said network spokeswoman Eileen Kurtz.

"Ellen" is temporarily off the air while the network tries out new series, but it will return in April to finish out the season, Kurtz said. DeGeneres' show was launched in 1994 with the actress playing a heterosexual. But since the actress and her character came out as lesbian last season, the



Ellen DeGeneres

show has openly explored gay themes.

Although the comedy initially enjoyed a ratings bounce after the coming-out episode, "Ellen's" ratings now are down 22 percent over last year.

DeGeneres and the network have squabbled over the show's content, including the show's mature rating and whether a kiss between her and a woman could be aired.

More gays harassed under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' group says

WASHINGTON — Four years after the Clinton administration introduced its "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays in the military, harassment of lesbians and gay men is again on the rise in the armed services, says a group that advocates gay rights.

"Commanders asked, commanders pursued, commanders harassed," said C. Dixon Osburn, an executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

In its annual report, the group said service members reported 563 "command violations" to it last year, including instances where service members said they were asked about their sexual orientation or harassed in direct violation of the administration's policy, which sets limits on such investigations.

The number was up from 443 violations reported in 1996, the Washington-based group said.

The report attributed the upsurge to a lack of commitment to the policy by top military and civilian authorities. Commanders in the field never received specific instructions on the

limits on investigations, and service members were left with no recourse when their rights were violated, it said.

"Lack of leadership, lack of training, lack of accountability. All are to blame for the military's persistent failure to abide by its own laws," said Michelle Benecke, a former Army captain and co-director of the legal aid group. "A pervasive, hostile atmosphere has been allowed to flourish."

The group also criticized the Pentagon for not releasing this year's tally of gays dismissed from the military, saying the number was likely to be significantly higher than last year, when 850 people were kicked out for alleged homosexuality.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon declined to comment on the report, saying he had not had a chance to study it. He said the Department of Defense is preparing its own report about implementation of the policy.

The compromise, adopted soon after President Clinton entered office, is supposed to allow gays to serve if they keep their sexual orientation private, and punish those who engage in homosexual acts or take actions that call attention to their orientation. Commanders are not to ask about sexual orientation or launch investigations without credible evidence.

The gay rights group report said that even service members with no record of homosexual conduct could be discharged if a complaint was lodged against them. It cited the case of Sonya Harden, a former senior airman, who was falsely accused by a roommate of being a lesbian.

Although the woman later retracted the allegations and witnesses testified about Harden's heterosexual relationships, the discharge board still decided to end her career in the Air Force, the report said.

"Once a command has made up its mind that such allegations are true, your days in the military are numbered," said Harden, a native of Baton Rouge, La., who attended the news conference.

The group's recommendations included placing strict limits on investigations, disciplining commanders who disobey them, and providing recourse to personnel involved in improper investigations.

Penn. transgender activists seek statewide protection

PITTSBURGH — The city of Pittsburgh leads the state in prohibiting gender discrimination, but activists say broadening that protection statewide needs planning and strategy.

Pittsburgh's city code protects transvestites and transsexuals from discrimination because they cross-dress or surgically switch genders.

It is the only city in Pennsylvania where transvestites and transsexuals receive the same protection against discrimination as women, minorities gays and lesbians within the city limits.

The provision in Pittsburgh's city code "is the most progressive legislation in the state," said Stephen Glassman, president of the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition in Harrisburg.

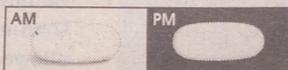
"We thought Pittsburgh was a wonderful model," said Rita Addessa, executive director of the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force.

The task force is trying to persuade the state legislature to insert the same language in the state's Human Relations Act and the Fair Educational Opportunities Act.

Addessa said she hopes legislation will be introduced sometime this year. Unless prohibited by law, employers, landlords and others may believe they are allowed to discriminate, Addessa said.

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 DETERIORATION. THIS INDICATION IS BASED ON ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN SURROGATE ENDPOINTS 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 THERAPIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IF DISEASE PROGRESSION OCCURS WHILE PATIENTS ARE RECEIVING VIRAMUNE. RESISTANT VIRUS EMERGES RAPIDLY AND UNIFORMLY 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). VIRAMUNE must be discontinued in 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 reported with VIRAMUNE, some in 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.

Rifampin/Rifabutin: There are insufficient data to assess whether dose adjustments are necessary when nevirapine and rifampin or rifabutin 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 dosing 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/HGPRT), 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 5.8 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 288 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 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^a

	ACTG 241 ^b		BI 1037		BI 1011		COMBINED DATA	
	NVP+ZDV+ddi	ZDV+ddi	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP	CONTROL
n	197	201	30	30	25	24	252	255
Rash events of all Grades and all causality	39.6%	23.9%	26.7%	6.7%	32.0%	4.2%	37.3%	20.0%
Grade 3 or 4 rash events, all causality	8.1%	1.5%	3.3%	0%	8.0%	0%	7.6%	1.2%

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

^b 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		Trial BI 1037 and BI 1011	
	Grade 3/4 events		All severities	
	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	3	3	11	3
Nausea	5	4	9	3
Headache	3	3	11	0
Diarrhea	2	2	0	0
Abdominal pain	1	2	2	0
Ulcerative stomatitis	0	0	4	0
Peripheral Neuropathy	0	2	0	0
Paraesthesia	1	0	2	0
Myalgia	1	0	2	7
Hepatitis	1	0	4	0

Laboratory Abnormalities: Table 3 summarizes marked laboratory abnormalities occurring in three controlled studies.

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=255
Hematology		
Decreased Hg (<8.0 g/dL)	1.2%	2.0%
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 AST (>250 U/L)	2.0	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.

OVERDOSAGE: 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.

Roxane
Laboratories, Inc.

RX-18418W (8/97)

© 1997 Roxane Laboratories, Inc.

Glassman said amending the state's definition of sex as Pittsburgh did will take time.

"We can advocate for the ideal, but we need to be strategic and realistic," Glassman said. "The pragmatism of getting it out of committee and actually passing legislation means we need to educate. It's an incremental political process."

The amendment to the city code defines "sex" as "the gender of a person as perceived, presumed, or assumed by others, including those who are changing or have changed their gender identification."

Charles Morrison, director of the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations, said the gender identification amendment was made along with several other amendments regarding housing in January 1997.

The issue came up when a small group of people two years ago asked the commission to consider the change. The city code already prohibited discrimination based on race, sex or sexual orientation.

The change gave "sex" a definition broader than male and female, and Pittsburgh's City Council approved it without debate.

Only Councilman Dan Onorato dissented. He said he hasn't seen any evidence that transsexuals or transvestites, as a group, have been financially hurt or held back because of discrimination, while such proof exists for blacks.

"You can water down what the protection means if you give it away too easily," Onorato said.

Morrison said no complaints have been filed based on the amendment.

"The whole thing is that people should be able to work and live to their highest potential," Morrison said.

Gay tourists get mixed signals from travel industry

NEW YORK — American Airlines has five sales representatives specifically marketing to gay travelers, but the carrier won't extend health benefits to gay employees' domestic partners.

St. Maarten is trying to attract gay visitors to its sandy beaches, while its Caribbean neighbor, Grand Cayman, refused to allow a cruise ship carrying gay passengers to dock for the day.

Sought after for their tourist dollars, gay and lesbian travelers find that in some circles they are still shunned for their sexual orientation.

For instance, Sandals, which runs 10 couples-only resorts in Jamaica and other Caribbean islands, only allows heterosexual couples as a matter of policy.

"I constantly remind myself where we've come and how fast we've come as a community," said John d'Alessandro, president of the



International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association. "We are no longer illegal. The question of us being 'sick' has gone away completely. But the fact is people grew up in an environment where we're not an accepted crowd. Today we are, but it's going to take people some time."

The Cayman Islands in January refused to allow a cruise ship chartered for about 850 gay men to make

a one-day stop in port, saying "careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on the group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior."

In contrast, the island of St.



Maarten in the Netherlands Antilles welcomes gay travelers and will be advertising this year in *Out* magazine.

"We're looking at various niche markets and one of those niche markets would be the homosexual market," said Regina LaBega, director of marketing for St. Maarten. "They do have the discretionary income, and they spend, and we haven't had any problems with homosexuals — or any other group — coming to the island."

The IGLTA estimates that gay and lesbians account for nearly 10 percent of the \$200 billion that Americans spend annually on business and leisure travel.

With that sort of spending power, the travel industry has increasingly put out the welcome mat for gay travelers. One result is that the IGLTA, founded in 1983 with 25 tour operators and travel agent members, reached about 600 members by 1992 and today boasts nearly 1,400 members, including the Avis and National car rental chains, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Australia tourism council, and most of the major U.S. airlines, with the exception of Delta and TWA.

"In the last five years, major tourism organizations and countries have come to realize the dollar value of the gay market," said David Alport, publisher of the gay travel newsletter *Out and About*. "There's no question that tourism is an economically driven segment of the business world."

But even while courting the niche market, some companies still wrestle with their own issues involving gay employees.

American Airlines added five employees to its 100-person marketing department to focus solely on the gay community. The airline is an active member of the IGLTA, has added sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy, allows group discounts for people traveling to gay and lesbian conventions and donates money to organizations important in the gay community.

Despite the marketing effort that brings in about \$150 million in new revenue annually, the airline still doesn't extend spousal travel privileges and pension programs to partners of gay employees. In fact, no U.S.-based airline does.

"There's some measure of hypocrisy, but in reality, all progress is made one step at a time," Alport said.

Five years ago, none of the airlines allowed a gay person to sign up their partner for a lounge club program or transfer a frequent flier award to a significant other. Many of the airlines have since changed those policies.

"American may not offer every sort of benefit for its gay employees, but they are doing so much more than the vast majority of companies out there," Alport said. "Sometimes, recognizing the value of your employees is the last step a company will take."

Out and About, which has 10,000 subscribers, recently rated several airlines on their gay-friendliness. Only the Britain-based British Airways and Virgin Atlantic scored an 'A,' and even they don't offer health and insurance benefits to gay employees.

a THEATER LaB HOUSTON production



BANG THE DRUM SLOWLY

by Mark Harris adapted for the stage by Eric Simonson

A new stage adaptation of what has been called the greatest baseball movie of all time.

The story of two teammates whose journey to the World Series becomes a test of human dignity.

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS THRU MARCH 28th @ 8 PM
SUNDAYS, MARCH 15th, 22nd & 29th @ 6 PM

Directed by ED MUTH Featuring LYNN MILLER, JR. HAL CORE, DAVID BORN, PABLO BRACHO, BRUCE COUNTRYMAN, KIT FORDYCE, ESTEBAN GAGO, HENRY GALLIP, MICHAEL HARREN, J. D. HAWKINS, DARRELL MURPHY, MARC SHELLUM, ELVA EVANS, DEB KRUPA

THEATER LaB HOUSTON IS LOCATED @ 1706 ALAMO (OFF 2100 HOUSTON AVE.)

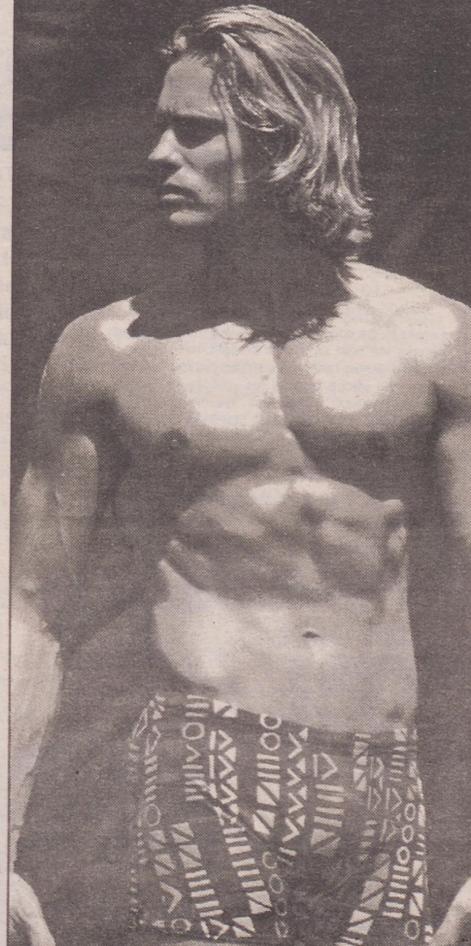
FOR TICKETS CALL (713) 868-7516

YOUR OUT & PROUD CLOTHING STORE!



BROTHERS

HOT Spring Fashions Now Arriving!
SWIMWEAR
CLUBWEAR
WORKOUT
UNDERGEAR



shop online at our website: www.basicbrothers.com

1232 WESTHEIMER • HOUSTON • 713.522.1626

MON - SAT 10AM - 9PM • SUN 12 - 6

GLCC

HOUSTON
VOICE
One Community! One Voice!
ISSUE 905
FEBRUARY 27, 1998

EDITORIAL

March on Washington is for the marchers, not the politicians

by CHRIS CRAIN

Established 1974 as the Montrose Star, reestablished 1980 as the Houston Montrose Star, Changed name to The Houston Voice in 1991 incorporating the New Orleans Crescent City Star, Reestablished as the Houston Voice by Thomas Nelson in 1993
811 Westheimer, Suite 105
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 529-8490
(800) 729-8490
Fax: (713) 529-9531
Email: editor@houstonvoice.com
feedback@houstonvoice.com
Contents copyright 1998
Office hours: 9:00am-5:30pm weekdays

Associate Publisher

J.C. Michelak

Interim Editor

Terry Murphy

Editorial

Carolyn Roberts - **Society Editor**

Stephen R. Underwood - **Entertainment Editor**

Steve Labinski - **Austin Bureau**

Writers

Rich Arenschioldt,
Larry Lingle, Carolyn Roberts,
Vickie Shaw, Ella Tyler,
Patricia Nell Warren

Photographers

Steven David, Dalton DeHart

Production

Connie Marmolejo - **Production Manager**
Vilven Design Group

Advertising Sales

J.C. Michelak
Carolyn Roberts

Administrative Assistant

Marshall Rainwater

Classifieds and Personals

Marshall Rainwater

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Marketing,
P.O. Box 518, Westfield, NJ 908-232-2021

Publishers

Chris Crain
Rick Ellsasser

A WindowMedia Publication

To submit a letter

Letters to the editor should be fewer than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for content and length. We will withhold names upon request, but you must include your name and phone number for verification. Please send mail to Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston TX 77006; fax (713) 529-9531 or e-mail to editor@houstonvoice.com. Opinions expressed therein do not reflect those of the Houston Voice.

Notice to Advertisers

Advertising rate schedule fifteen was effective Sept. 1997

- Partial or complete reproduction of any advertisement, news article or feature, copy or photograph from the Houston Voice is specifically prohibited by federal statute.
- Opinions expressed by columnists or cartoonists are not necessarily those of the Houston Voice or its staff and we assume no liability for the content expressed or implied of said articles or likeness of persons living or dead, real or fictional in the cartoons.
- Publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Houston Voice is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of said person or organization.
- The appearance of advertisements or opinions expressed therein do not constitute an endorsement or guarantee by the Houston voice or its staff.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006.
Subscription rate in US (by carrier or US mail): \$1.75 per week (\$45.50 per 6 months or \$91.00 per year).
Display advertising deadline: 12:00 noon CST, Monday to reserve space, 5:00pm CST Monday to furnish ad copy for Friday publication.
Classified advertising deadline: 12:00 noon CST Monday for Friday publication.
Responsibility: We do not assume financial responsibility for claims by the advertisers but readers are asked to advise the newspaper of any fraudulent or deceptive advertising.
Charter Member: Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, National Gay Newspaper Guild-member, Gay and Lesbian Press Association-member, Associate member, Associated Press-associate member.



Our national gay rights leaders are squabbling over whether to have a March on Washington in the year 2000 or separate marches on the 50 state capitals in 1999.

The advocates for a D.C. march, most of whom head up civil rights organizations that lobby the federal government, point out that a single grand event with more than one million participants in our nation's capital has the potential to capture the imagination of the American people.

Proponents of the 50 state marches, led by a federation of state and local gay rights groups, would redirect our focus to the grassroots of American politics, right in our backyards. After all, marches in 1987 and 1993 were well attended and majestic in scope, but they failed to yield civil rights legislation from Congress. To the contrary, the 1993 march was followed within months by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Both sides are right, of course. If

friends—besides, it would kill my parents if they knew.

Then several hundred thousand gays—some might say more like a million—came to town. My new roommate was gay and had packed our home to the gills with gay men from every part of the country.

Out of curiosity more than nascent political activism, I joined him for the subway ride into town on April 25, 1993. Even in our quiet northern Virginia suburb, the subway cars were queer as all get out. For the first time in any of our lives, we became the majority.

At the last stop before we crossed the Potomac, a chatty young straight couple hopped into our car, holding hands. With nothing but openly gay folk in every direction, the two of them at first looked around awkwardly, then dropped their hands to their sides. For the first time in their lives, they were the minority.

The march itself was a study in diversity, but not necessarily in extremes.

The flamboyance and color were very much in evidence—a thousand gay pride parades all rolled into one. But most of all, the marchers seemed

reassuringly normal; even if for that weekend, we broadened the definition of "normal" to include a lot more folks than it normally does.

As we rounded the corner onto Pennsylvania Avenue, headed toward the U.S. Capitol, I saw that my law firm's building lay directly in the path of the marchers. Inspired by the moment, photo ID and pass-

key in hand, I escorted my friends passed a bemused lobby security guard, and we took to the elevators.

Once we reached the roof, we planted our rainbow flags on the rooftop edge facing Pennsylvania Avenue, and we claimed the building for our people.

Every time we waved a rainbow flag or shouted down to the never-ending line of marchers, a loud whoop came from below. One guy with a megaphone even yelled, "We've taken the buildings!" We felt like terrorists taking the ultimate in subversive action. For a closeted young Republican working at a huge, conservative law firm, maybe it was.

I returned to work the next week a changed man. My sunburn was a dead giveaway, and I answered honestly—for the first time in my life—every question about how I got it.

Several months later, I worked up the nerve to drive to my parents' home and have "the conversation." It didn't kill them after all, although I can't say that they've joined PFLAG, either.

The 1993 March on Washington was far more important for the changes it brought to the lives of the marchers, and those gays back home watching it all on C-SPAN, than for any blip we might have registered on the national political scene.



The 1993 March on Washington as viewed from the occupied roof of 1201 Pennsylvanna Avenue.

the Human Rights Campaign follows through on its plan to rally one million of us on the National Mall in the spring of 2000, stretching us out from the Lincoln Memorial to the U.S. Capitol, the images will be absolutely arresting. Barring another White House sex scandal or overseas war-mongering, the nation and its politicians will pay us heed.

And several days later, the media and the Beltway insiders will move on.

But for the rest of us, the Millennium March on Washington would mean so much more.

In 1987, when lesbians and gay men from all across America first gathered in Washington, the rules of national politics may not have been changed, but thousands of individual lives were irrevocably altered. Emboldened by the experience, those marchers returned to their communities, where they vowed to live more openly and work for change at the grassroots level.

By 1993, when gays again marched on the nation's capital, I was just out of law school, working for the largest law firm in Washington. I had come to terms with being gay only months before, and was still buried in the closet. I had decided that my sexuality was private; that I could lead a public life as a single, white-collar professional. There would be no need to tell co-workers, family and

Letters to the editor

Too much information

Having recently heard on the news that Robb Todd has filed a lawsuit against the City as a result of Mayor Brown's executive order to ban discrimination against gays and lesbians, I called Todd's office to express my opinion that he should withdraw his lawsuit.

I was transferred to a lady who, after I expressed my opinion, asked me if I was married, which was inappropriate. Then, when I said I used to be and I have a son, she proceeded to ask what I would tell my children and that things have gone too far in society. When I told her that I tell my children that there is nothing wrong with being gay, she started with "Well you know it says in the Bible" At which point I reiterated that discrimination is wrong.

This is not appropriate and We should be heard.

I'd like to suggest that Voice readers call Mr Todd's office at (713)247-2008 and tell them you feel he should withdraw his lawsuit. If they try to convince you that being gay is a problem, let everyone know that Mr Todd's office is spreading propaganda that is in effect discrimination by a city office.

We don't have to be belligerent, just heard!

Kevin White
Houston

Gay cause and effect

Although your recent small article about my research was accurate enough, the title to the article was off the point. ("UH professor seeks volunteers for study of causes of homosexuality" Feb. 20 Houston Voice.)

To say that my research is into "the cause of homosexuality," as your title did, provocatively raises the specter of an ideological debate about nature versus nurture that I find unfruitful to better understanding and overly simplistic in regard to understanding human sexuality. Like many contemporary sexologists, my position is that there are highly complex interrelations of biological, physiological and sociocultural phenomenon involved in all human sexuality.

Sexuality of all kinds are too varied in how it is expressed to expect either simple or universal answers. My research aims at trying to expand our understanding of homosexual behavior among male in all its varieties. And for the effort, I need the help of as many men into same-gender sex as possibly, men of different backgrounds, and men who are willing to candidly share their experiences in the effort to expand our common knowledge.

I am primarily concerned with documenting and understanding the breadth and depth of the highly personal thoughts and feelings of gay men in relation to their sexual desire for other men.

I would also like to take this opportunity to point out that my research is assisted by a fellowship from the Sexuality Research Fellowship Program of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), with funds provided by the Ford Foundation.

David Knapp Whittier, Ph.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor
University of Houston

I need a nap...

by VICKIE SHAW



Well good folks, I just got back from being on the road and one of the places I was in was the Northwest. Now, as you may or may not know, the Lesbians in the Northwest are some serious Lesbians. All the women in the Northwest look like Lesbians, but not all of them are.

I'm not saying this with prejudice in my heart. I happen to like Lesbians. They are some of my favorite people...in many ways...however, we won't go into all the ways Lesbians please me...that is fodder for a book...and adult book...perhaps...

Sorry, I had a moment of fantasy there, which by the way, I rather enjoyed.

Anyway, these friends of mine wanted to take me to the "cabin" for the weekend. They are just so damn proud of those trees and snow. They promised me that it had all the modern conveniences and that I would enjoy it. They know me well enough to know that my idea of camping is having it catered.

At the Hilton.

So I accepted their invitation and we proceeded to the spend the weekend at the "cabin."

It also seems that I failed to remem-

ber that these women love their dogs.

Now y'all know that I am not an animal person. That is correct, I wouldn't kick one or be mean, however, I'll look at your dog and say it's cute just like people do with me when I show them pictures of my children. But I don't want to touch your animal any more than you want to touch my kids!

So we load up a the 4-wheel-drive Butchmobile and head off to the mountains with the car packed with Lesbians, their dogs and all the necessities of a successful camping trip: dog food, dog bowls, and beer!

I'm in hell!

We arrive at the "cabin," the snow is three feet high (which is not great if all you have on is loafers) and proceed to move in for the duration. The Lesbians find the snow very handy because you can put the beer in it so it stays cold.

There was so much beer in the now it looked like Titanic corpses floating around. I'm sorry, not the best visual, but you get the idea.

Seeing how we had just arrived, I, of course, need to go to the bathroom. However, the toilet doesn't work unless the shower is on, but the shower doesn't come on without first going under the cabin and turning the water

on.

Oh my god! There isn't a door on the bathroom, just a blanket. OK, I'm going to just enjoy this and grow from the experience—bonding with my fellow Lesbians, learning from each other.

Well, when it was time to sleep we throw the mattresses on the floor, wall-to-wall in this one-room "cabin." Well, at least I have mattress.

As all the Lesbians fall instantly to sleep (beer does that to you) I, of course, can't sleep because I can hear all the sounds that go with this kind of experience. Across the room one of the dogs is throwing up as the other large dogs are clearing out their sinuses around the area of my head.

By morning, I had not only found the beer out in the snow, I had made a big dent in the beer stash.

The beer continued to flow so that the rest of the weekend fortunately was a blu. I have learned that here are some things I should never try to change...this would be one, don't mix Lesbians. We are *not* all the same. I can get ugly.

Well, I need a nap...just thinking about that hurling dog makes me tired.

The special right to be terrorized: Memories of Maine

by WAYNE R. BESEN



Last week, gay rights opponents in Maine voted down a new state law that would have protected gays and lesbians from job discrimination. One of their most effective tactics was convincing voters that if this law were enacted, homosexuals would receive "special rights." The following is a story about the "special rights" I received while living in Maine and working as a television news reporter.

Terror is the only way to describe the feeling that gripped me when I saw several co-workers from a major Bangor television station enter the town's only gay bar. In a state of panic, my eyes darted back and forth searching for the nearest exit in the cigar box-sized dive. Cornered like a rat by boa constrictors, it was too late to scurry away and abscond into the empty downtown streets. All I could do was accept that my future in Maine television news was left to the discretion of my drunken colleagues who had staggered into the bar to see their heterosexual friend guest DJ for the evening.

For the rest of the weekend, I prayed that my outing would not get back to the station's notoriously conservative news director; for I valued my job, worked diligently at becoming a better news reporter, and certainly needed the money to pay my bills. Of course, deep down I knew that my secret would be public information by Monday morning. The haunting fear of having to face my colleagues and boss when the weekend ended was excruciating.

The silence that greeted me when I arrived Monday morning was deafening, and there was a palpable awkwardness that permeated the news room. It seemed as though all eyes were fixed on me, yet no one dared look directly at me. Averted gazes and clumsy platitudes were the only forms of acknowledgment I received from my usually gregarious coworkers. Uncharacteristically, no one asked whether or not I enjoyed my weekend. What was the point? Everyone already knew the answer.

Still, I hoped a tacit policy of "don't ask, don't tell" would emerge and I could keep performing my job relatively uninhibited. At this precarious juncture in my life, I would have gladly padlocked the closet door for the opportunity to report and advance my budding career. Unfortunately, keeping my private life shrouded in

the secrecy of my bedroom was not enough, and the much dreaded potential conflict with my news director became a reality. When I returned to the station with my story late Monday afternoon, he didn't allow it to air under the pretense that it was factually incorrect.

For the next several weeks this humiliating scenario repeated itself several times. Meticulously searching for errors, the news director would try to keep my stories off the nightly newscasts, while documenting each supposed reporting transgression. Funny how I mysteriously lost my reporting skills following my "outing."

When I finally got the nerve to confront my boss about why my stories were suddenly not good enough, all he would say to me was that I needed to "improve my public relations skills." When I asked him what he meant by this, he couldn't offer me an explanation. Presumably he meant that if I became straight I would improve my public image, and all my problems would disappear. Within two months I was drummed out of the station and the reason given for my dismissal was that I "wasn't right for Maine."

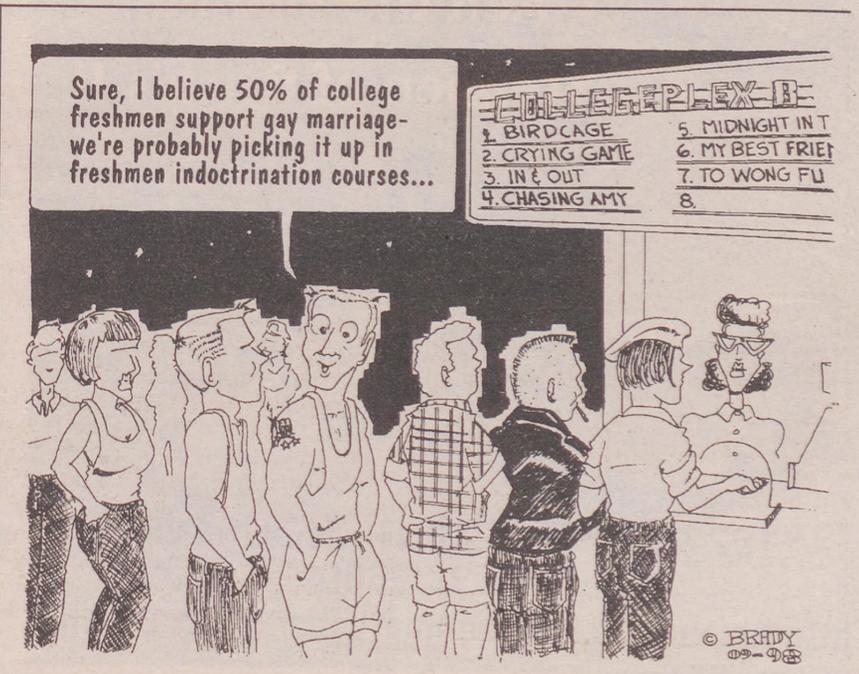
In the solid, barren yard caked with raven colored ice, my boyfriend Keith and I shivered in below zero weather and pawned nearly all of our

possessions. My new television set was sold for half price. Keith's winter coat was practically given away. Our memories and dreams forfeited to the highest bidder. There is little room for sentimental value when basic survival is at stake. Having moved to Bangor from Florida specifically for my reporting job, six months later I found myself unemployed, broke, and weeks away from homelessness.

I sought legal restitution for this dehumanizing, degrading, and demoralizing experience. But much to my surprise, the state and civil rights attorneys told me that I did not have a legal leg to stand on. In Maine, they said, discrimination was legal. And it still is legal today thanks to the recent referendum that repealed the state's nascent anti-discrimination law.

There is nothing special or right about the way I was treated in Maine. Nevertheless, despite my regrettable experience, I have faith that the citizens of Maine will eventually return to the polls and vote for justice.

Through my work on Sean Faircloth's U.S. Senate campaign I met thousands of good people who believe in fairness, respect, and dignity for all. This referendum is only the beginning of the battle for equality, and the next time around the independent voice of Maine's fair and tolerant majority will be heard.



LAWSUIT/from page 1

himself with some of the most notorious homophobes in Houston, I find that hard to believe."

Beginning late last month, Todd and two other councilmembers, Joë Roach and Orlando Sanchez, were publicly critical of Brown after he announced, in a *Voice* exclusive later reported on in the *Houston Chronicle*, that he intended to issue and sign the order.

A spokesman for Roach's office said he had not been consulted in advance by Todd about the lawsuit, and that Roach was not available for comment.

Councilmember Sanchez did not respond to requests for interviews.

"The Caucus was thrilled to see that there was only one lone city coun-

cilmember who joined Mr. Hotze in this pro-hate press conference," noted Bagby.

"I find it very interesting that ... they were very careful to say [the suit] didn't have anything to do with the executive order pertaining to the gay community, that this was just about the mayor's authority to do it," said Councilmember Parker. "It's a sign of the times. Here you have some serious homophobes, yet they felt constrained not to give into it."

"The fact that there was so little public outcry is a good sign," she said.

Mayor Brown also suggested that, despite the lawsuit, public opinion remains on his side on the issue of protecting gay and lesbian city employees from employment discrimi-

nation.

"As I read the citizens of Houston, we are inclusive," the mayor said. "I don't know anyone who's told me they want to discriminate. The executive order was the right thing to do. I feel the citizens of Houston feel, in general, that we should not be discriminating against anyone."

"This issue was raised by a very small group of people represented by the two people who filed the lawsuit. The letters I received [on the issue] were in favor of the executive order. The phone calls to my office in support greatly outnumbered those who opposed, the speakers in front of [a Feb. 17 open session of] city council were almost 30 to 1 in favor."

"[Councilmember] Todd is a minor player," said Gary Van Ooteghem, president of Log Cabin Republicans - Houston.

Joining Todd in the anti-gay lawsuit is Richard Hotze, a salesman unaffiliated with any particular political organization, and two of his brothers, who have become famous in Houston for their single-minded determination to publicly fight any civil rights advancement for gays.

One of the Hotze brothers, Dr. Steven Hotze, led the successful 1985 referendum initiative to overturn an anti-discrimination ordinance passed by city council in a special election that suffered from very low voter turnout.

"There must be something wrong with that family—they're dysfunctional," Van Ooteghem said. "Each one takes turns taking potshots at us."

Something must have happened in their background to cause this recurring hatred. ... I think they're nuts, and they truly represent the ridiculousness of the religious right.

"We're very disappointed in [Todd and Hotze] as Republicans, because [the suit] does not represent the open philosophy of welcoming everyone into politics. ... Robb Todd is going have to be targeted by us the next time we have an opportunity—anywhere he shows up."

Beatrice Dorhn, legal director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, in New York City, said she was happy to respond to a request from the Caucus to assist the city attorney's office in defending the suit.

"The right wing is really putting on a campaign here," she said. "Every place where we win a small extension of benefits—from a tiny county in

Arizona on up to Alaska—the right wing goes in and sues and says you don't have the power to do this."

"I was surprised by this one," Dorhn said. "At least viscerally, they've chosen a battle that should be easy for us to win. If the mayor doesn't have the power to issue an executive order concerning city employment, what does the mayor have the power to do?"

Dorhn and lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union have been invited to share with Houston's city attorney their experiences fighting similar challenges in municipalities around the country.



Mayor Lee Brown has vowed to defend his executive order in court.



L.U.E.Y. 25



Mary's, naturally



has supported

"Let Us Entertain

You" for 25 years.



Saturday • Open 7am



Sunday • Open 10am

Guest Bartenders

PWA Holiday

Charities

2pm til...

featuring

Ken the Fireman

Stephen of Brick's II



1022 WESTHEIMER - HOUSTON
713.527.9669

<http://members.aol.com/marysbarMARYS.html>

Chances

*An All Peoples Bar
Dedicated to Community Unity*

Sundays - Budweiser Beer Bust • 4-8pm
\$3 Buy-in 25¢ refills

Wednesdays - Shiela Lennon's
Karaoke night 9pm

Fridays - The Blues Broad
Susan Masar

L.U.E.Y. Guests

We hope you have a FANTASTIC 25th Anniversary
Weekend! Come by and have a shot or two with us
and enjoy our giant dance floor!

THE NEW
BARN

Swing down after the Rodeo for
2 bars and a restaurant

Fridays 9pm
Brigett, The Best damn DJ Chick in Town

Saturdays at 9pm
Peggy and the Dreamers
Play for your dancing pleasures

Trophies &
Prizes

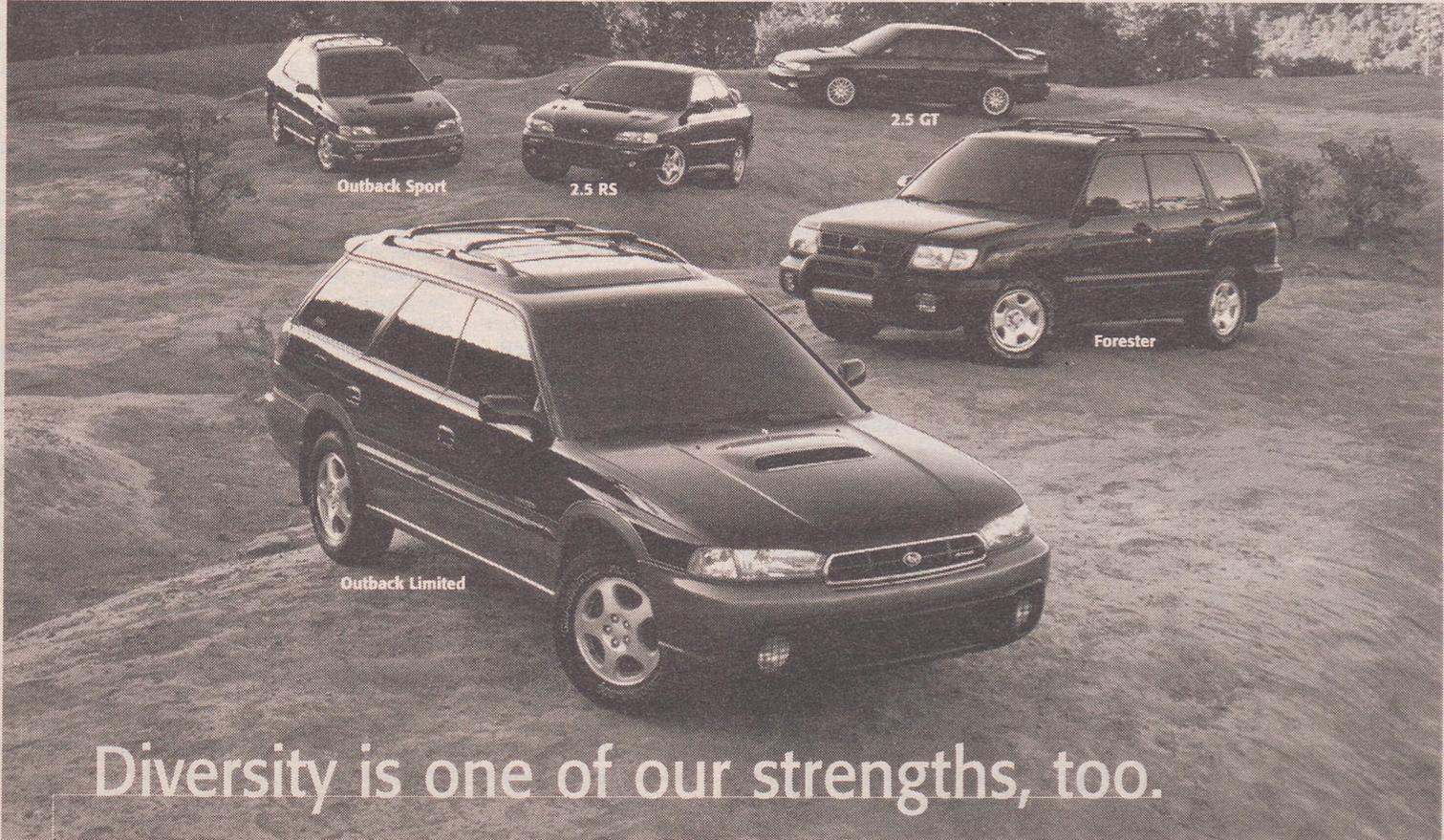
Coming March 10 • 8pm...
SPORTS NIGHT

\$3 Munchie
Buffett

Shuffleboard • Darts • Pool • \$10 for All

1100 Westheimer • Houston • 523-7217

The ABC's of Safety: Air bags. Buckle up. Children in back.



Diversity is one of our strengths, too.

Subaru cars and sport utility vehicles come in all shapes and sizes. But one thing doesn't change. Each one features our popular full-time All-Wheel Drive for maximum traction and performance. From the comfort and versatility of the new Forester, to the ruggedness of the Outback, to the get-up-and-go of the 2.5 GT, we think you'll find the right match for your lifestyle.

To test drive one of our family of cars, stop by your nearest Subaru dealer, call 1-800-WANT-AWD or visit our website at www.subaru.com.

Subaru supports the community as the proud founding sponsor of the Rainbow Endowment. The **Rainbow** card benefits community health, civil rights and cultural interests. For more information or to apply, call 1-800-99-RAINBOW.

SUBARU 

The Beauty of All-Wheel Drive.

Nasar Maraghi at Gillman Subaru 7609 Bellaire Boulevard Houston (713) 776-6310 / James Rutledge at Gay Subaru 3033 Gulf Freeway Dickinson (281) 337-2521 / Milton Burts at Mac Haik Subaru 11711 Katy Freeway Houston (281) 497-6600

RYAN WHITE / from page 1

interest is almost legislated in to the whole process," says Charles Henley, manager of HIV Services for Harris County Health Dept. "The truth is that, in the end, it all falls back on personal integrity. There are slime balls everywhere, and there are people of good intentions with good ideas."

"While people are unhappy in what [Fuentes] said in his proposal, it really rang true," Henley said. HACS was "the only agency that talked about how things were different, with all the new drugs and new treatments."

"Their proposal was ambitious, you can't deny that," says Henley. "It's like resume writing; people do pump it up."

Nevertheless, Henley said it is his office's job to monitor HACS' progress. The agency will open its office the first week in March, he said, and the organization will deliver all the services it promises in its grant proposal or his office will yank funding. "They have a reasonable, but finite window of time — 30 to 60 (days) — to show progress," said Henley.

Until the grant funds are released March 1 and HACS signs a lease, the agency has been based out of Fuentes' home, has no paid staff and has no records of having provided case management services to any HIV-positive residents of Harris County, according to Joseph.

The organization's successful grant proposal claims HACS was founded in 1995, has 23 staff members, has provided services or referrals to 700 clients and is equipped to deliver such services around the clock.

Critics howl

Angela Morra, executive director of AVES, is among the HACS loudest

critics. "The whole application from being to end is based on lies, nothing is factual there," she says.

AVES, which provides services to a current caseload of 400 HIV-positive Hispanics, lost its Ryan White funding this year after seven years of successful grant proposals.

Fuentes and Joseph are both HIV-positive activists who were appointed to the Planning Council after long agitating that the Council was unresponsive to the real needs of the HIV-positive resident of Houston. While the *Houston Voice* could not locate Fuentes before press time, Joseph defended the organization, which she says has existed as an informal network of HIV-positive people who proved adept at navigating the AIDS service bureaucracy.

"Last year in October, we decided to get a name and incorporate so we could do business as an agency. I guess that was our first mistake," says Joseph. "Once we were funded, that was when all the fun started — accusations and all that. [The grant] had nothing to do with us being on Ryan White Council at all."

"I think this whole thing has been blown out of proportion," says Joseph. "We've done nothing illegal, we have been very upset by this. Both of us are PWAs, and the very people who are out there who are supposed to helping people like us are attacking. ... We have no intention of fraudulently doing anything, but what the contract calls for, and following every rule and regulation they want us to follow."

As to the claim that HACS was founded in 1995, Joseph says that she, Fuentes and other HIV-positive activists have been "informally" working together since before that time.

"I'm sure personally I have spoken

to thousands of people, but we only said 700 in the application," she said.

"It was very very informal," she said. "People would come to me or Joe because we were visible. They just didn't know where to go or who to ask. If I didn't know, I'd go research and get back them. ... I never kept records on any of these people — they were just people with HIV that we helped."

Complicated process

Henley's office administers the \$12.2 million in federal AIDS money that Harris County will receive this year.

The 32-member Ryan White Planning Council, which Fuentes runs with Joseph as vice chair, is an appointed board of volunteers, comprised of professionals from social work and medicine, as well as average citizens. A large percentage of its membership is HIV-positive.

This board determines the broad parameters within which the \$12.2 million will be spent, allocating certain amounts for case management, food banks, aid to women with children, and other AIDS services.

Each fall, AIDS service organizations throughout Harris County submit detailed proposals for grants from the budgets for one or more of the service areas determined by the council.

However, the Planning Council does not evaluate those proposals, nor does it approve which AIDS service organizations get grants. "Planning councils are prohibited by law from picking reviewers or choosing which agencies get funded, so there is no conflict of interest, but there is a semblance of it," Henley said.

The job of evaluating grant proposals falls to a separate group of volunteers who serve on Review Panels. The panels are ad hoc groups of knowl-

edgeable citizens recruited over the years by Henley's office. In two day-long sessions, each competing group of grant proposals is read and evaluated by two different Review Panels and each is given a numerical grade based on the average of scores granted by all reviewers. The grants are issued solely on the basis of those scores, says Henley. The members of these Review Panels sign affidavits that they have no relationship with any agency, and thus no conflict of interest, he added.

Byzantine rules

Henley also pointed out that by its very nature, the Planning Council is set up for charges of conflict of interest based upon the federal legislation that established it.

"Of the 32 current council members, 15 are affiliated with agencies that either have been funded or will be funded in March," he says. "And when Joe [Fuentes] turned in his proposal in mid-November, he didn't even know if he was going to be re-appointed [to the council] until December, nor would he have known that he would be re-elected [as council chair]."

Two other brand new AIDS service agencies also received Ryan White grants this year, Henley points out, and there are no charges of conflict of interest regarding those agencies.

"I keep telling them, it all comes down to the scores on the proposals," Henley says of the annual advice given to the leaders of Harris County AIDS service agencies. "It's obvious when you read some of them that they were just kept in the word processor all year, and they took them out, dusted them off and submitted them. Well, the disease is changing. What was a great proposal three or four years ago, sounds a little out of date now."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28*Welcome L.U.E.Y. 25
Weekend Guests***Special Matinee Edition of The
BOY TOY DANCERS 2pm-6pm
Cocktail Parties & Munchies 2:30pm****HOUSTON'S
HOTTEST
MALE STRIP
CONTESTS
SUNDAYS
with Black Velvet
WEDNESDAYS
with Dyan Michaels****Gentry
HOUSTON****NO COVER, EVER****BOY TOY
DANCERS
EVERY
NIGHT****SATURDAY, MARCH 7
SOIREE AUBERGINE
SILENT AUCTION***Opens at 9pm and Continues
Through Friday, March 13***2303 RICHMOND • (713)520-1861****730-CREDIT****Need a car?
Got a little credit problem?
A big credit problem?****Car Loan
Pre-approval by
phone!****No hassles!
No embarrassment!
24 hours a day;
7 days a week!**

713

730-CREDIT**Accepting Most
Major Medical Insurance***For the HIV+
Community***Exercise Programs w/
Personal Trainers****Nutritional Intervention****BIA Testing****Massage Therapy****Neuropathy Therapy****Steroid Education****CALL (713) 349-9750**

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION, INC.*
PRESENTS
AN EVENING OF COMEDY
WITH
VIC HENLEY

Using his Southern "good ol' boy" persona to first charm his audience, Vic Henley wins them over entirely with his home spun humor. Often using his improvisational ability, his quick wit and high energy has earned him the reputation as one of the country's fastest rising comedians. Mr. Henley became a two-time winner on "Star Search" and has had numerous appearances on "Comic Strip Live", A&E's "Evening at the Improv", "Caroline's Comedy Hour", and "Stand-up Spotlight".

Author of:
"Things You'd
Never Expect
A Southerner
To Say"



Co-author of:
"Games
Rednecks
Play"
with comedian
Jeff Foxworthy

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 1998
AT THE LAFF STOP 1952 West Gray Houston, TX

Donations: \$ 20.00 per person

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT M.C.C.R.-713-861-9149
AND THE LAFF STOP- 713-524-2333

Doors open at 7:30 pm, Showtime is at 8:30 pm

*OUR MISSION.....TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP, DIRECTION, AND FUNDING TO
PROGRAMS THAT CREATE OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION, CULTURAL
AWARENESS, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

MEMBER OF THE FOUNDER'S CLUB FOR THE HOUSTON LESBIAN & GAY
COMMUNITY CENTER.

MADONNA

The debut and exclusive
release of her latest CD from
Warner Brothers Music/Maverick

ray of light

Be the FIRST to hear &
the FIRST to own

Monday, March 2
Register to win Full
Length CD's and Posters
Drawing Hourly at
9,10, 11,12, & 1am

At 12:01 am... Your chance
to purchase the Madonna
CD at the Soundwaves
booth located inside JR's
before it hits record stores
on Tuesday



at 11pm...
"PUMP!"

a Hot Hard Bodied Dance
Contest with Kourtney Van
Wales recreating one of her
most spectacular
impersonations...MADONNA



HOUSTON
with the
Santa Fe Bar & Patio
804 & 808 Pacific · 521-2519



MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER
Bringin' in the Green Cabaret

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Friday, March 13, 1998 · 5:30 - 8:30 PM
1402 Harvard Street

Donations at the Door · \$20 per person

SILENT AUCTION · CELEBRITY BARTENDERS

SHAMROCK CORPORATE SPONSOR

EMERALD SPONSORS

The Houston Voice · Roxane Laboratories · Steve Tarry

Entertainment by Atwood & Montgomery
Graphic design donated by Preferred Graphics
Buffet courtesy of Re/Max of Texas

MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER

Education
MCC provides education, training, and consultation on issues specific to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people. Venues include schools, businesses, community groups, health care professionals, and many others. HEI Program serves persons in recovery and living with HIV disease, offering education, testing, outreach and case management.

HIV/AIDS Program
Provides individual, couples, family, and group counseling to persons living with HIV, their families and caregivers. Support groups help participants deal with health and wellness, loss, grief, and long term survivor issues.

Case Management
Offers intensive case management for persons living with HIV disease, including assistance with primary and specialized care, alternative treatment, medications, emotional support, substance abuse treatment, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and more. Specialized services are available for people in recovery from chemical dependency.

LIFE Program
Includes individual, couples, family, and group counseling on issues of relationships, coming out, depression, anxiety, sexual abuse, and personal growth. Specialized services are provided to survivors of same sex intimate partner violence and hate crimes.

Chemical Dependency Program
Offers state-licensed outpatient drug and alcohol treatment, primarily to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and HIV-affected communities. Includes an 8-week intensive course, individual counseling and aftercare services.

For More Information Call (713) 529-0037



KOLBE PROJECT

Monday, March 2 • 7:30pm
Eucharist

Thursday, March 5 • 7pm
Potluck with Annise Parker

Friday, March 6
Communion Service 10am
Movie Night 7pm

offering peace and reconciliation to
those alienated from Church/or family

PH.(713)861-1800 FX.(713) 861-7212
1030 Heights Blvd. • Houston, TX 77008



*God Loves YOU, so come
share the
LOVING EXPERIENCE*

*Serving the Gay, Lesbian,
Bi-Sexual Community of Catholics
and Friends.*

Become a part of Dignity U.S.A.

Services

Saturdays 7:30pm

Traditional Mass

Inclusive Liturgy celebrated

Call and press 4 for our Social Events Schedules.

Todos bienvenidos!

(Full details in '95-'96 Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages)

*In the Heights at 1307 Yale
Suite H • 713-880-2872*

CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday-February 27

• Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel done to Christian music for body, soul, and spirit. 6:30 pm, \$2. 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 28

• 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-March 1

• 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 Exodus.) 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 Black Heritage Concert @ 6 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-March 2

• Low impact aerobics done to Christian Music for body, soul, and spirit at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

• Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm at the Kolbe Project. 861-1800

Tuesday-March 3

• MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm. Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm Orchestra rehearsal at 7:30 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-March 4

• 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-March 5

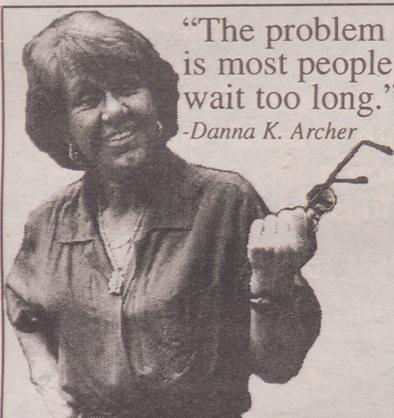
• Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.

• 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.



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

Danna K. Archer

1641 Westheimer • Houston
(713) 524-1273

Bankruptcy

Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy
Law by Texas Board of Legal Specialization
American Bankruptcy Institute

HOUSTON AUTO-BAKE, INC.

BAKE. O. NAML

**Proudly
Serving the
Community**

**Complete Line Auto
Body/Repair**

(713) 524-2809

1502 Alabama at LaBranch

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection

*"Share The
Miracle"*

MCCR

www.mccr-hou.com

Ash Wednesday Service Wed Feb 25 at 6:45 pm

Guest Speaker Annise Parker Tues Mar 3 at 6:30 pm

Bible Study: The Book of Proverbs Wednesdays 7:30 pm

Worship Services Sundays 9 am & 11 am

Receive and Enjoy God's
Unconditional Love at MCCR

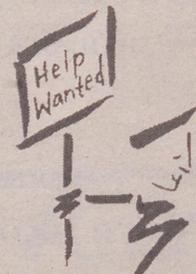
713.861.9149 • 1919 Decatur, Houston, Texas 77077
Washington @ White (between Studemont and Houston Ave.)

ADVERTISING SALES OPPORTUNITY

Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages, Inc., a fast-paced, community oriented company, is seeking professional sales executives in our Houston office.

Qualified candidate must have 2+ years sales experience. College degree and advertising/marketing experience a plus. Must be motivated, ambitious & possess excellent communication skills and professional appearance. Great earning potential, advancement opportunities and a starting salary of

**\$24,000
PER YEAR
PLUS COMMISSIONS**
Benefits: Med/Life/Retirement



For Immediate consideration mail or fax resume to:
**GLYP, Inc. • 4200 Montrose, Ste. 480
Houston 77006 • Fax: 713 942-0085**

Anemia Awareness Week

March 2 - 6 ■ Houston



SEMILAR FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS

The Facts About HIV-Related Fatigue

date: Wednesday
March 4, 1998

place: The Westin Oaks Hotel

5011 Westheimer
Houston
(parking will be validated)

time: 7:00 - 8:30pm
Refreshments will be served

rsvp: 1.888.357.0531
All are welcome at the door—
but RSVP if possible!

QUESTIONS? SPECIAL NEEDS? INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT ANEMIA AWARENESS WEEK ACTIVITIES IN HOUSTON?
CALL 1.888.357.0531

Sponsored by:

■ NATIONAL MINORITY
AIDS COUNCIL

TITLE II COMMUNITY AIDS NATIONAL NETWORK

BODY POSITIVE
MONTROSE CLINIC
THOMAS STREET CLINIC

Supported by:

◆
ORTHO BIOTECH

SIGNS

OF HIV-RELATED ANEMIA:



fatigue

**HEADACHES
DIZZINESS**

inability to
concentrate
shortness of breath

Loss of
**appetite
and sex
DRIVE**



Award-winning 'RENT' opens March 4 in Houston

Young gay, transgender characters star in updated "La Boheme" by tragically dead young playwright

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

"Rent" producer Kevin McCollum tarried in the Presidential Suite of Houston's Lancaster Hotel on a bitter-cold December morning last year, preparing for a day full of interviews about what many critics have described as "the greatest Broadway show on earth." "I thought it would be warmer in the south," he said as he pours himself some fresh java from a sterling silver coffeepot. "Now I feel as if I had not even left New York."

That "Rent" is immensely popular in New York certainly makes it that much easier to sell on the road, but McCollum seems more passionate than Saint Paul about bearing the torch for the gospel of deceased playwright Jonathan Larson. "I take it very seriously to make sure that as many people as possible see his work," McCollum told the *Voice*. "Yes, it's a success; yes, it's a business, but it's also Jonathan's legacy."

When McCollum met Larson in 1994, he told the aspiring littérateur, "You're the new voice." Larson responded confidently — yet unpretentiously, "Yeah, I know." Larson worked as a waiter at the Moonance Café in Soho while he drafted the final cuts of the hit musical. "Here was a guy who could barely pay the rent," recalls McCollum, "yet, he had enough sense of self to say that."

Larson, struggling to keep up with a demanding schedule, fell ill just before "Rent" premiered at the New York Theater Workshop. Tired, stressed, and exhausted, Larson complained of chest pains after eating a turkey sandwich; almost immediately, he collapsed. Rushed to a nearby hospital, doctors pumped his stomach, suspecting food poisoning. A second incident occurred a few days later, and doctors at another hospital sent Larson home after diagnosing the ailment as the flu.

Roommate Brian Carmody came home and discovered Jonathan Larson enshrouded in his coat on the kitchen floor of his small New York apartment with a teakettle steaming on the stove. There lay the vox populi of neo millenium theater silent, lifeless, and at peace. The autopsy revealed a catastrophic aortic aneurysm; Larson was 35 years young.

Larson's sudden death and the instant popularity of "Rent" immortalized his creative genius — a genius recognized as the vanguard for Generation Xers disenchanted with the fluff and pomp of the Great White Way. "Rent" excited the MTV generation as never before, and the hip-punter street gang of a cast became the young person's guide to the theater.

"We have the highest percentage of 14-26 year olds in the history of Broadway," McCollum says. "And we have the highest amount of repeat business. 'Rentheads' are really people who want to incorporate the themes of 'Rent' into their lives: it's becoming a part of our culture."

Inspired in large part by Puccini's "La Boheme," Larson incubated his vision for "Rent" amongst the trendy, self-actualizing non-conformists of New York's East Side. That nook within the towered megalopolis reeks with diverse interlocutors grappling persistently, perhaps at times defiantly, with the consequences of sociopolitical disengagement — chiefly, economic hardship and alienation from the mainstream.

Larson incorporate those consequences into the fabric of "Rent." For him, any human experience begged for assimilation. Many of Larson's friends died from HIV and some of the characters of "Rent" manage to survive it: Roger Davis, Tom Collins, and a transvestite named Angel are HIV positive, while Mimi Marquez — an S&M dancer with a drug problem — lives with AIDS.

"I think the HIV element in ['Rent'] is not diminishing as a trait of some of the characters," McCollum says philosophically. "Jonathan wanted to write a rock opera for the '90s about people living with disease, not dying from it. I think he has."

Even so, it seems improbable that Puccini would be offended with Larson's adaptation. For one, the desire to survive and overcome life's limitations is universal, and the evolution of medical technology since Puccini's era offers optimism once quite distant.

In "La Boheme," Puccini's Parisians are plagued with tuberculosis and Mimi dies. In "Rent," Larson's street-wise punters are plagued with AIDS and Mimi lives. Vis-a-vi, Both plagues generated fatalism and finality once they became pandemic. But Larson knew that, unlike "La Boheme," hope would make "Rent" transcendent.

Remarks McCollum, "Some 'La Boheme' purists say, 'That's terrible! [Mimi should die in 'Rent'] But it's not terrible. Jonathan was prophetic in that people are living longer with HIV than we ever thought possible in 1995. 'Rent' probably wouldn't have been as powerful a decade ago because Jonathan wouldn't have had the information that HIV could be contained."

Larson accompanied an HIV positive friend to an AIDS support group meeting. The profound experience crystallized Larson's intuition about the disease.

"A friend of Jonathan's had HIV and Jonathan asked to go to a Friends In Deed meeting with him," recounts McCollum.

"Someone at the meeting stood up and said, 'I'm not afraid of dying, of not feeling whatever life is. But what I am afraid of and what I have to ask is, 'Will I lose my dignity before I die?' Jonathan could understand the power of that statement [even though he was not gay.]"

"Rent" on tour seems destined for success as long as McCollum remains firmly at the helm. He won the Tony Award for producing for "Rent" and over the last seven years, McCollum produced numerous Broadway mega-hits like "Victor/Victoria," "Evita," and "West Side Story." McCollum was executive producer of the feature film "Jeffrey," but his first love will always be the theater.

"I feel very blessed to be a part of 'Rent' because the theme [is] show up for each other, take care of each other. People like to put this into a political context at times, but this is really a musical about overcoming obstacles — economic, medical, emotional, whatever. And at the same time, ['Rent' asks] what is the tonic for that? How about love? How about really being kind and taking care of each other? I didn't get that in the film business."

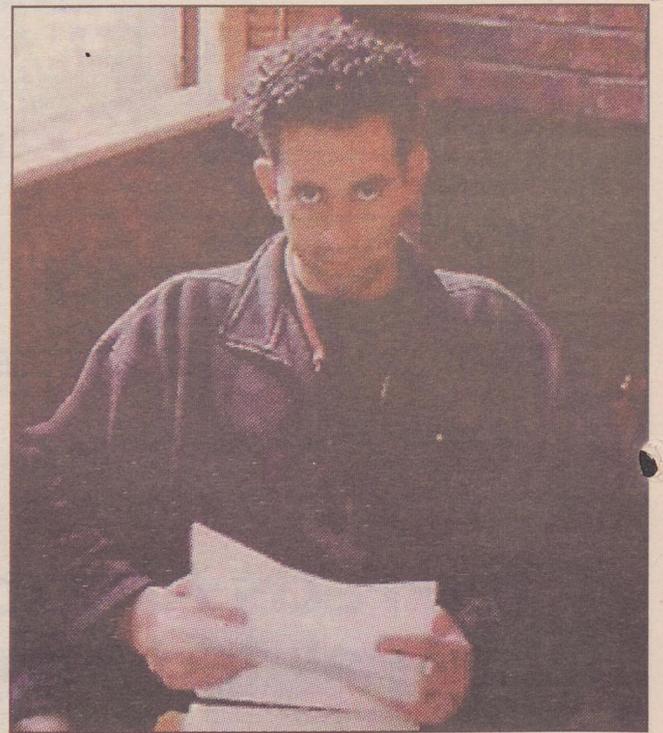
When the cast of "Rent" arrives at Jones Hall next Wednesday, expect, well, the unexpected. Young, multiracial, and hip to a fault, the motley crew looks like a gang of teenage misfits loitering outside a tattoo parlor on a hot summer night in Montrose. The mix-matched wardrobe — or lack thereof — screams me! me! me! and the collective count of body piercing eclipses those of the entire populace of Wyoming.

But that's the miracle of "Rent" and the secret of its success. Its characters seem so believable because the actors are not really acting — they're just being themselves. Or so thinks openly gay "Rent" actor Brent Daven Vance, a member of the company who plays a variety of characters including Paul (an AIDS counselor), a gay waiter, and a homeless drug addict.

"I am having such a ball, cause this show is so loose," Vance told the *Voice* from his hotel room in Dallas. "We can get away with being ourselves on many instances. Some people tell us, 'You guys were so touching and moving. You must work really, really hard.' And I'm say, 'Umm, no.' We feel so guilty sometimes, cause we are really having fun."

A self-proclaimed gypsy who has a "place" in Las Vegas, New York, and L.A., Vance took the easy road to become, "a member of the West Coast cast. I went to L.A. to visit my twin and I auditioned for 'Rent' and got hired the same day," he recalls. "I had a weird audition: most people have to wait three years and five hours in line — I didn't do any of that."

Vance's professional trek to the West



Playwright Jonathan Larson died just before "Rent" premiered.

Coast cast was unconventional to say the least.

"I was a Las Vegas show boy," he says, chuckling at the memory. "I wore g-strings and go-go boots for years and worked theme parks and cruise ships. My first Broadway tour was 'Smokey Joe's Café.' Most artists, I think, are willing to work on their art — and willing to go anywhere. I'm an old tour whore, and I'm used to the traveling, but most of the cast is just getting used to it."

Sparked by childhood fantasies, Vance had acting in his blood as a kid. "I got the theater bug when I was about five years old," he recalls. "I remember standing in front of a mirror, singing along to the Carpenters or the Jackson Five, dreaming about the day I could go out on stage and do it myself."

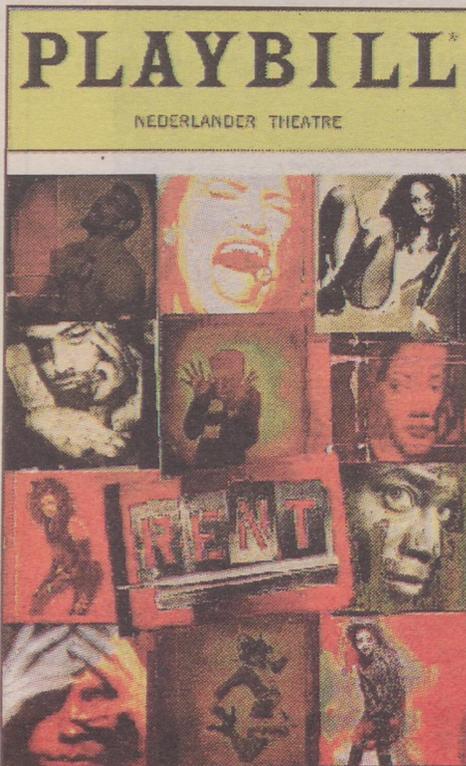
Vance has his own hypothesis about the residual benefits of being a member of the "Rent" cast. "Well the thing is, I don't have to pay for therapy anymore," he says. "The people on this cast are by far some of the most emotional and talented people. Sometimes, because of the way the show is set up, you may never ever know that. But the great thing is, this wonderful story is being told."

But for him, there's a serious side to the show as well. "Doing the show every night is a way for me to remember and honor my friends who have died of AIDS. I don't think any life is less precious than the next. The fact that we may lose someone doesn't mean they're gone forever. 'Rent' helps me keep those people with me every night."

Vance finds that Larson's vision for the world — one in which a person's worth is measured by their ability to love, not their pocketbook — is what the world really hungers for — not "types," social class, or economic standing.

"We are living in a world of gays, straights, bisexuals, trisexuals and we are showing [through 'Rent'] that some people don't have opportunity because society can be so close minded," he says. "'Rent' is saying, 'This is what I am. I'm a human being and I have feelings just like you do.' I think the important question we have to ask is, 'Where is your heart?' People

See RENT page 23



FILM REVIEW

Woody Harrelson smoulders in tropical noir thriller "Palmetto"

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Midland, Texas never had a finer son than "Palmetto" protagonist Woody Harrelson. That Harrelson is so irresistibly delicious plays well for his characterization of Harry Barber, a framed newspaper reporter impris-

mounting simulation is extremely stimulating, to say the least.

Harry agrees hesitantly to the scam and he set ups another rendezvous, but this time with Odette. Rhea warns him that Odette is more epicurean than she is — and how! Arriving in skin-tight mini pants and breasts scantily shielded, Odette confirms the machination while Harry overheats in an effort to resist her salacious aggression. Harry wants to bed Odette, but he points out unconvincingly that he doesn't want more jail time for screw-



oned two years on trumped-up charges for exposing political corruption on the Palmetto, Fla. City Council. The film noir activates perhaps the most sensual performance by Harrelson to date with its twisting, turning plot structure and steamy sex-crime hyperbole.

The mind can only ponder what Harry's two years in prison were like. Certainly, some could only hope to be imprisoned alongside the disgruntled reporter, whose tiny 8 x 10 double-bunked prison cell leaves little chance for solitude or privacy. Nonetheless, Harry's sentence is commuted. Once released, he is picked up on the highway by his ex-domestic partner Nina (Gina Gershon) who purrs and meows at his unannounced return.

Thereafter, Harry's genital barometer overrides his sensibilities once more when Rhea Malroux (Elisabeth Shue) slinks into a sleazy bar with breast-busting fashions and purposefully leaves a purse stuffed with cash in an old-fashioned phone booth. Tempted, the ethically challenged Harry gets caught red-handed by Rhea lifting the cash. Nonetheless, the portent serves Rhea's purpose: she needs a corruptible like Harry for a very "risky" job.

Appointing a late-evening rendezvous at a seaside bungalow, Harry and Rhea meet to discuss the heart of her enterprise. Harry is needed to fictitiously kidnap Odette Malroux (Chloe Sevigny), the super-spoiled daughter of super-rich and cancer-ridden Felix Malroux (Rolf Hoppe). The 17-year-old Odette is infuriated that her father threatens her carefree globetrotting with "minimalist" survival (poor little rich girl) and Catholic Swiss boarding school.

Rhea reveals her co-conspiracy with Odette to rid Felix of \$500,000 in a bogus kidnapping scheme for which Harry gets 10 percent. But entrapping Harry into the dangerous design is concomitant to her lusty, breathless meandering. At this point, Harry and Rhea's intertwining dynamism border on Almodovarian license. Unfortunately, the license ends before the clothes come off, but Harry's pre-

Gina Gushon is but one of several women entangled with sexy Woody Harrelson in "Palmetto"

ing a minor. That seems odd, given the possible penalties for kidnapping.

At this point, the episodic development gets delightfully mangled. Harry initiates the scam, which gets secretly reported to the police, who hire Harry to manage an anticipated media blitz for a kidnapping that he set up. The complications escalate further after Harry discovers that Rhea is actually the wife of Donnelly (Michael Rapaport), Felix's body guard and confidant, and not an authentic Malroux. Donnelly happens to be the disgraced ex-cop whose testimony exonerated Harry's erroneous conviction.

While "Palmetto" ends where it began, Harrelson delivers a performance bordering on the competencies of Nicholson and Bogart. True, the genre seems out-of-step with Harrelson's catalogue of characterizations, but his extrinsic delivery eclipses any imagined limitations. Refreshingly, Harrelson's breathtaking sensuality and physical perfection compliment the equally provocative Shue, whose unbridled animalism and irresistible beauty escalate this latest venture into the noir genre to near classic status.

HOUSTON VOICE RATING: ★★★★★

Rated: R
Run Time: 112 minutes
Genre: Film Noir
Director: Volker Schlöndorff
Screenplay: E. Max Frye, based on the novel "Just Another Sucker" by James Hadley Chase
Cast: Woody Harrelson, Elisabeth Shue, Gina Gershon, Rolf Hoppe, Michael Rapaport, & Chloe Sevigny
Theaters: multiple venues throughout the city

We Want To Share With You
One Of The Greatest Movie Experiences
That You Will Have In Houston

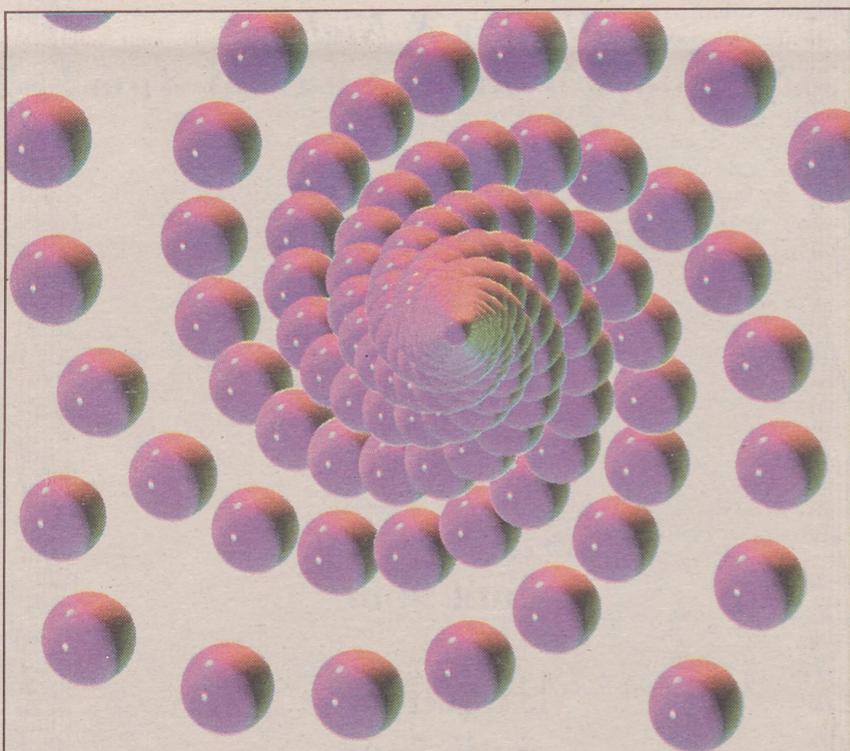
ANGELIKA FILM CENTER & CAFE
BAYOU PLACE ★ 510 TEXAS AVENUE ★ PHONE: CALL-AFC

- ★ STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATRE ★ LIVING-ROOM LIKE ATMOSPHERE ★
- ★ DIGITAL & DOLBY SOUND IN ALL EIGHT AUDITORIUMS ★
- ★ STADIUM EURO-CHAIRS AND LOVESEATS ★ CONCESSION DISCOUNTS ★
- ★ COURTEOUS AND KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF ★ CAFE AND BAR ★
- ★ FREE PARKING WITH VALIDATION AT THE THEATRE BOX OFFICE ★

PRESENT THIS AD
TO BE ADMITTED MONDAY-THURSDAY
TO ANY SHOW FOR \$4.25.

NO PHOTOCOPIES

THIS DISCOUNT IS GOOD THROUGH MARCH 31ST, 1998 FOR A SINGLE ADMISSION.



"Dot by dot
building up
the image..."



Your Community Image Inker!



House of Coleman Fine Printing & Graphics

901 WEST ALABAMA • HOUSTON, TX 77006-4693
713.523.2521 • FAX 713.524.2643



The Way We Were
 Welcomes
Let Us Entertain You Weekend

Come join the fun
 Hot times all weekend ending
 Sunday night with a Dismount and
 Wind Down party

Daily Drink Specials

Monday
 Special Drink Prices
All Day & Night

Tuesday
 Extra Special Prices
All Day & Night
 Nevada's Madness Show at 8pm

Wednesday
 Special Drink Prices
All Day & Night

Friday
 until 11pm

Saturday
 until 9pm

Sunday
 until 7pm



COMMERCIAL MEMBER



2400 Brazos . Houston, TX
 713-528-9192



A New Dance Cruise Bar

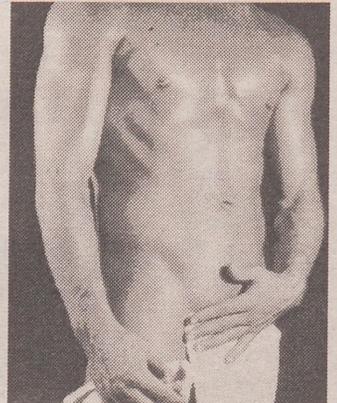
AMATEUR STRIP CONTEST

G STRING OPTIONAL
 WEDNESDAY

MARCH 4 · 3AM

CASH PRIZES

NEW HOURS
 OPEN DAILY
 6PM - 6AM



At Last! A Cock-tail as strong as YOU want it! M.Y.O. (Make Your Own). Bring in your own bottle of booze or beer. Set-ups, ice and Liqueur Lockers are available. It is simple. Your cock-tail will cost you under \$1.

Daily Specials

Mon: Free Set-ups
 Tues: 75¢ Set-ups
 Wed: No Cover until 11pm
 Thurs: \$3 Cover
 Fri: No Cover till Midnight

1205 Richmond

522-0881

OPENING

**FRIDAY
 FEBRUARY 27th**

2923 Main St.
 Houston, TX 77002
 713-520-6224
 (inside NightHawks)



LEATHER

STEIN/ from page 1

Into the professional closet
Oddly enough, this remarkable



Stephen Miller (left) and Stephen Stein plan to marry Memorial Day.

story of how a gay musical star became a rabbi involved, Stein says, a second coming out of sorts.

Born to a secular Jewish family in St. Louis, Mo. (he had to ask to become bar mitzvah), Stein's early love of symphonic music was nurtured and nourished at home, and later by his professional "family" and colleagues as well. According to Stein, it was every bit as difficult to "come out" as a rabbi-to-be after 20 years of success as a musician as it ever was to overcome the heterosexist presumption of his youth and come out as a gay man.

"I had never been in the closet as much as a gay man as I had been as a prospective rabbinical student," Stein

says with a bit of a chuckle. "I was in the midst of a career change. I didn't know if it was going to happen, or should happen. I certainly did not know when it could happen. With all

of those possibilities not being realities, I could not talk about leaving what was still my profession, which I still cared very deeply about and in which I still had important responsibilities — particularly in regard to...caring for the orchestras' education programs.

"I see close to 50,000 children every year in the concert hall. ... I could in no way — in the midst of this potential life change — end that for any accidental or miscalculated reason. I still didn't know. I thought, I wondered, 'Could this work for me? Would this be right for me?' I didn't yet know, so I had to absolutely go into the closet."

Recovering creativity

That journey into the professional closet started with a vague sense of disenchantment, Stein said, not with symphonic music, but with the profession of being a conductor.

"There are times when everyone has said, 'I've had it; I'm out of here,'" Stein says. "But this was something I had never had experienced before. It was subtle, but deeply profound and unique. It was almost as if the air was slowly being let out of the balloon, which was the love and the drive to be a conductor, which I had had since I was 15 years old."

By chance, he says, he came across a book — "The Artist's Way: Recovering and Discovering Your Creative Self," by Julia Cameron — that he credits with helping him to change his life.

"I will never forget the first thing I read in this book was 'Leap and the net will appear,'" he recalls. "I thought, well, this is just exactly what I need to do, because something in my life isn't ... right. I didn't know what. So, okay, I decided to start doing this book."

"This is not a book that you just read. It's a book that you read and a book that you do." The first exercise was a dedicated effort to write out three pages of thoughts the first thing every morning. Exercise number two was a commitment to a weekly Artist's Date, during which he was to take himself off, completely alone, to do something meant solely to please what the author calls "the Artist-Child within."

Soon Stein's morning pages started to contain musings about potential artist's dates. "All of a sudden, I would write: 'I think I feel like going skating,'" he recalls. "And I hadn't had a

pair of skates on in 15 or 20 years. But I wrote it. It was me."

So he went skating. But that artist's date earned him a broken leg and a new-found appreciation for the genius of Olympic figure skating champions. (He's a huge fan of the sport and both Stephens were dedicated viewers of the recent Nagano Games.)

A later morning note about a possible artist's date proved more prophetic.

"One day, I was writing my morning pages and I wrote, 'I feel like going to Sabbath services.' I was blown away that I would write that," he remembers. "There was nothing that I could say caused me to write that, nothing in the outside world. But I wrote that, and I thought, okay, there's something important here, so on Friday night, I think I'm going to go do this."

A search for God yields love

It was the summer of 1996 and Stein was bound for Temple Emanu El near Rice University after many years of attending services only during the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (spanning 10 days in the fall).

"I found myself in an environment where I didn't feel alone, I didn't feel lonely, I didn't feel awkward, I only felt warmth, love, and the unique feeling of being amidst Jews, which for a Jew, I think, is an unique feeling," Stein says. "I walked away from that experience as though something very special had happened and I had a good enough time that I certainly would go back next Friday night... and I did."

"And I did again, and again, and again."

"The more I went to these services, the more I was having the experience

See STEIN/ page 24

Madonna's

exclusive release of her latest CD

ray of light



Featuring: Frozen · Ray Of Light
The Power Of Good-Bye

Available at
Soundwaves
713-520-WAVE
March 3
or
come join us at



for an Early Release Party
on March 2 at midnight.

804 & 808 Pacific · 521-2519



**FREE! NO CHARGE!
GRATIS!
ON THE HOUSE!**



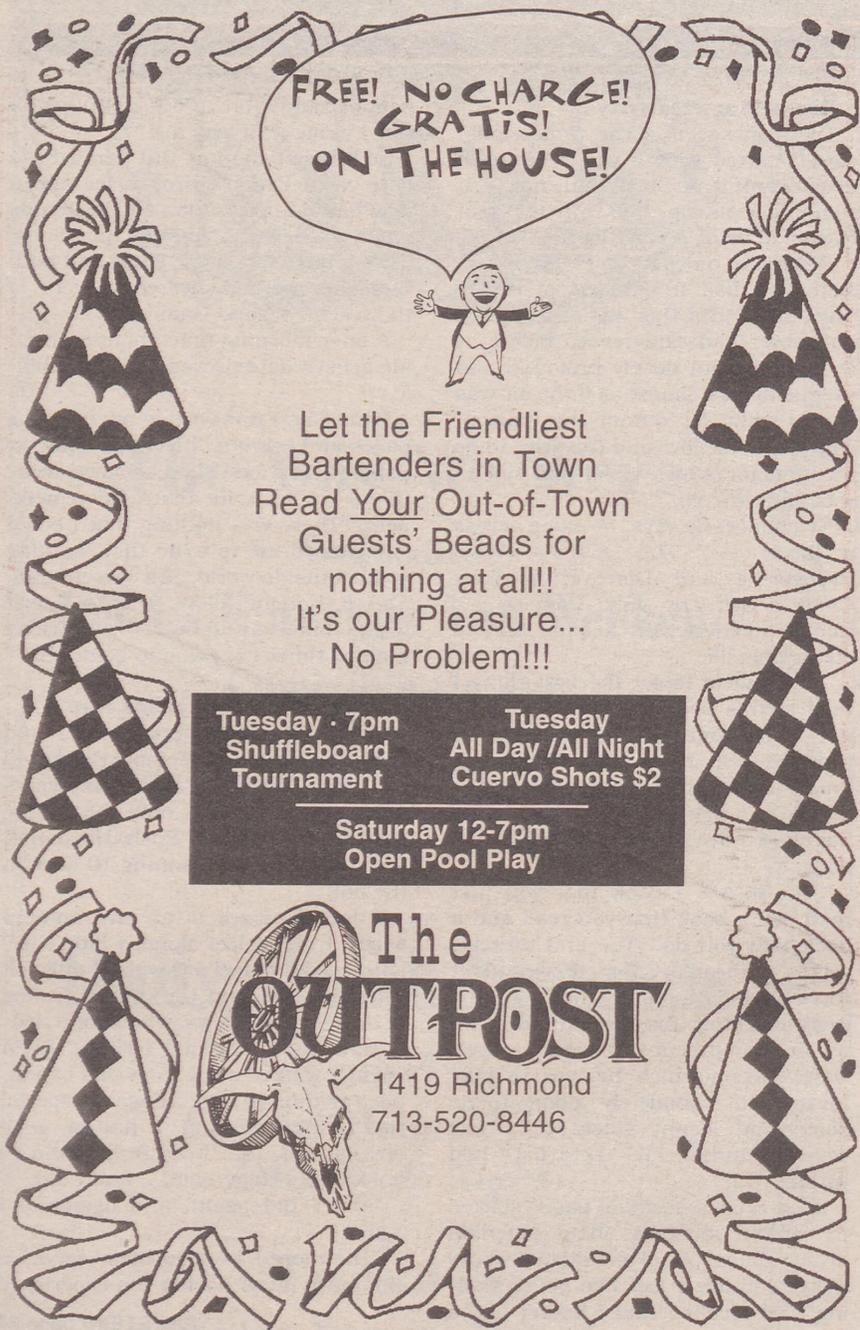
Let the Friendliest Bartenders in Town Read Your Out-of-Town Guests' Beads for nothing at all!! It's our Pleasure... No Problem!!!

Tuesday · 7pm
Shuffleboard
Tournament

Tuesday
All Day /All Night
Cuervo Shots \$2

Saturday 12-7pm
Open Pool Play

The OUTPOST
1419 Richmond
713-520-8446




Community Dance Outreach



Steven's of Hollywood
2143 Westheimer
Fridays Feb 20-June 19
7-9 PM
Day of Dance Saturday
June 20 1-4 PM
Contact Rainbow Rangers at
(713) 880-0670
For further information

A FREE 18 week C&W dance course for the gay community. This project is supported in part by grants from the City of Houston and Harris County through the Cultural Arts Council



**Throw Away the Razor
This is Better than Laser!**

EpiLight™

EpiLight is a state-of-the-art semi-permanent hair removal system that is light years beyond Laser. This FDA approved, non-invasive, pain-free procedure removes facial, bikini line, under-arm, leg, back and all other unwanted hair in seconds.

Call today for a very private consultation
713-77-IMAGE

Also Featuring Photoderm VL Light Treatment for Removal of:
• Tattoos • Age Spots
• Sun Spots • Facial, Neck, Chest & Arm Veins

Now You Can Choose Where To Have Body Hair

Center for Image Enhancement
Dr. Gayle Rothenberg, MD
5373 W. Alabama, Suite 120 Houston, Tx
(713) 77-IMAGE

Talent Night
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Week #6 Preliminary
Winners of the Tuesday & Thursday will return on March 8 for finals.
\$500 Cash - Winner Take All

EJ's is currently recruiting individuals interested in playing in the C or B Division in The Montrose Softball League. Contact Mark Daniels at 713-869-0987

Super Saturday Night Fever



Roxanne Lee Love



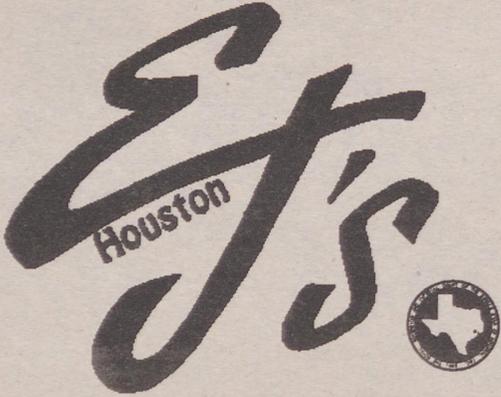
Lana Blake



Paivi Lee Love



Dyan Michaels



2517 Ralph St. at Westheimer.
(713) 527-9071

Happy Hour 7am - 9pm Weekdays
\$1.50 Well 4-7 Saturday
\$1.50 Vodka 7am - 6pm
Mug Club 7am - 10pm
\$3.75 Pitchers & \$1.75 Mugs

Saturday, Feb. 27
Steven Baker

FRI	2/27	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
SAT	2/28	SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER at 11 pm
SUN	3/1	\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day and All Night
MON	3/2	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
TUE	3/3	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Dyan Michaels
WED	3/4	Granny's Burgers!
THUR	3/5	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos

RENT/from page 18

shouldn't worry about who other people want to love."

But Vance has taken some heat from the gay community for being too much of himself in his characters. "A lot of people from the community have been upset with me," he says pointedly. "They ask me, 'Aren't you tired of playing their stereotypes?' In this instance, getting away from the stereotype wouldn't have been as much fun, and it wouldn't have served the roles as well. And in my characters as in real life, I'm on fire!"



Nonetheless, 'Rent' producer Kevin McCollum says "Rent" and its universal themes have shaped the young actor's life. "I think the biggest part of ignorance is not accepting people as they are," says Vance. "[Ignorance turns] people turn into people they don't want to be. By doing that, we rob the human race of the ability to be the best people and society we can be because of that type of prejudice."

McCollum agrees. "Some people who have prejudices and judgments say, 'Those people should be this!' But they do it from their pulpits or their houses rather than going out and really experiencing what the world really is. Little things about our play that you may not notice are very purposeful to create the tapestry that everybody matters."

"Rent" will be celebrating two years

of sold-out Broadway performances on April 29. Capacity at the Nederlander Theater in New York averages 103 percent per show and weekly revenues gross more than \$500,000. And in the spirit of Larson's

desire for everyone to have access to "Rent," good seats at the Jones Hall performances will go on sale for \$20 at the box office an hour and a half before show time.

For McCollum, the characters of "Rent" are not on the fringe — they're the new mainstream. An innately curious Larson questioned everything about them, especially the problem of measuring the value of their

lives. That question, though it sounds cliché, empowers the heart of "Rent."

"Jonathan wasn't afraid of his own internal voice," McCollum says. "Rent" is successful because "people are ready for ideas again — the set is not enough. If you can talk about issues while entertaining them, you can make some change in the culture. But in 'Rent' we have fun doing it — and we don't try to preach."

"Rent" opens at Jones Hall Wed., March 4 and runs through Sun., March 15. Tickets prices range from \$35-\$55 and can be purchased at Ticketmaster. Discount seats go on sale for \$20 an hour and a half before show time at the box office on the day of the performance.

THE CLUB HOUSTON

- Full Gym
- Free Weights
- Steam Room
- Shower Area
- Heated Pool
- Dry Sauna
- Jacuzzi
- Weekly Specials
- Dressing Rooms
- Lockers
- Friendly Staff
- Open 24 Hours

2205 Fannin Houston, Texas 77002 (713) 659-4998
Private Club Membership Required

JUST MINUTES FROM MONTROSE

**Wednesday Night 10pm
Male Strip
Contest**

**\$50 1st Place
\$25 2nd Place**

**Monday - Wednesday
Open at 4pm**

No Cover **Dress Casual**

**In Shepherd Square
2165 Portsmouth • 520-5000**

"Your Neighborhood Country Bar"

Brick's II Cordially Welcomes All
Out-of-Town Guest for
"L.U.E.Y. Weekend"

Join us Saturday for
Extended Special Drink Prices
All Day & All Night

Brick's II is proud to be a sponsor of Mr. Prime
Choice Candidate 1998...Dennis Cooney

*Doors Open at 7am
Monday thru Saturday
Noon on Sundays*

Brick's II
HOUSTON • TEXAS

617 Fairview at Stanford • 713-528-8102

STEIN from page 21

that I experienced many, many years ago — 25, maybe even 30 years ago. These were the same sorts of feelings I felt as a young boy in Powell Symphony Hall in St. Louis when I sat in the audience, and I listened to the St. Louis Symphony and I watched the conductors and I just had this gut emotional response of 'I want to do that.'"

To his own surprise, he said, he had a similar experience in temple. "I felt myself wanting to do that which the rabbi was doing — blessing the congregation, leading worship, blessing people as they approached an anniversary, helping to join couples as they approach a wedding, helping people come to grips with the darker aspects of life. This was something that inspired me, stimulated me and certainly it moved me very deeply."

Stein took his concerns to the congregation's senior rabbi, who knew

about Stein's prominent musical career and his sexuality. The rabbi suggested Stein join a regular Saturday morning Torah study class.

Stephen Miller, a member of the Temple's board of directors and a long-time participant in the Saturday morning studies, well remembers Stein's first class.

"When I first laid eyes on him, I was sitting next to a friend of mine in Torah study, bible study, class," Miller says. "I remember I leaned over to her and I said, 'He's straight, married, has three kids and lives in suburbia.' This guy is just too much. My luck would not have it that he would be gay and available. It's just not going to happen. I was wrong." Pausing to smile warmly at his partner, he adds, "I was wrong."

Of course, they didn't meet right away. After all, Stein was there to find his soul, not a husband.

"I went and I was amazed when I realized that ... this process [of] biblical interpretations is something that I

had been doing, more or less, all of my professional life," Stein says. "I lived by these great books of writings — not writings of letters [as in the Torah] — but writings of circles and dots and dashes [in musical scores], and I was constantly reinterpreting them, helping to create a connection for us in the latter part of the 20th century with to great humanistic responses from 50, 100, 200, even 300 years ago. All of a sudden, I saw that this process. ... It's the same."

What was different, he says, was that however deep and unending might be the process of interpreting a Beethoven symphony, a life spent interpreting the Torah offered the promise of bringing infinitely greater wisdom into people's lives.

"This moved me and excited me deeply," he says. "And I went back to our senior rabbi and I said, 'Okay, this is now really something. ... I'm very, very moved by this. What do I do next?'"

That's when the rabbi told Stein

about another congregant at Emanu El, an out gay man who was at the moment in his first year of study for the rabbinate. It just so happened that one of this man's best friends also regularly attended Torah class on Saturday morning, so Stein was told to find Stephen Miller, who, Stein remembers being told, had "dark hair and wire rim glasses."

"Well, I told the rabbi, I can't just walk up to him and say, 'Hi, I'm Stephen Stein and I need to talk to your best friend in Israel because I think I might be interested in becoming a rabbi,'" Stein says. "I'm the resident conductor of the Houston Symphony, I can't walk up to someone I don't even know and say that."

But the rabbi told Stein he could trust Miller and so, Stein says, "I went the next Saturday, and found 'the guy with dark hair and wire rim glasses.'"

Miller, of course, put Stein in touch with his friend and reassured him that his secret rabbinical aspirations were safe with him.

As weeks turned to months, Miller's role as confidante nurtured a friendship between the two deeply religious men. This spring, the relationship grew into intimacy, and the couple was able to joyously celebrate together two weeks ago when Stein's acceptance letter arrived from Hebrew Union College.

Miller, a trained nurse who works as legal researcher on complex medial litigation, spends his weekends pursuing a bachelor's degree in liberal studies, with an emphasis on religion, at Our Lady of the Lake University. He hopes to pursue a master's degree in the same area, and possibly a Ph.D.

An 18-year resident of Houston, he will stay here during Stein's 10 months in Israel, then move to Cincinnati with his husband for the remainder of Stein's course of study.

"It's going to be hard to leave" when that time eventually comes, Miller says. "I've developed my family base here — my friends, the congregation, my work — those environs are where my family is, so hopefully it won't be good-bye forever. It will be difficult."

Stein is more accustomed to such upheaval. His musical career has included stints in Detroit, Indianapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Anchorage and, of course, Houston.

He's focused more on the joy these changes and moves are bringing into both men's lives: "I never thought, starting 'The Artist's Way,' that I was going to end up with my life partner. For many years, I felt the right person was out there, and that I just hadn't met him yet. This isn't the first long-term relationship I've been in, but it is a relationship that is based on the deepest aspects of who we both are."

"We are not connected by the size of our biceps or our ability to drink voluminous quantities of beer or necessarily because of our love for Barbra Streisand—though I must say, we both love Barbra Streisand and are proud to admit that. But what does join us more than anything else is our spiritual commitment to leading a Jewish life and having a Jewish family life. I don't know that I would ever have found that unless I had become more involved in a Jewish community that ultimately provided me the tool to see where I could lead myself."

In keeping with his more reserved character, Miller sees things quite succinctly: "I believe God never gives you more than you can handle, and when the time is right, the right person will show up."



Project CAESAR presents

Proyecto Hermano

Geared toward gay/bisexual Latino males, the Forum Series is free of charge and now accepting enrollment

The first of 5 sessions meets at

7pm Tuesday, the 3rd of March.

Come meet other guys working on some of the same issues as you.

**Sex
Racism
Coming Out
Family and Friends**

Machismo in the Latino Community

If you would like to sign up for this 5-week Forum Series, or for more information, get in touch with Project CAESAR.

713.623.6796

education@aidshelp.org

Project CAESAR-*Begin It Now*



Friday, February 28

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Buffet 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: Doors open at 6 pm and close at 6 am. No cover until midnight. 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 8 pm. \$2.25 well \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis \$8 & \$4.50 doubles, \$3.75 Stoli and Skyy. 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; LUEY registration starts at 9 pm! \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Saturday, February 29

- 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 6 pm and close at 6 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.
- Nighthawks: Grand Opening!
- 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.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Sunday, March 1

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm;
- 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 6 pm and close at 6 am. BYOB.
- Cousin's: Smful 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 Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock; 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.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine. \$2.50 Cuervo! 1st Annual Mr. Nighthawks contest @ 8 pm.
- 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.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.

Monday, March 2

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all night 7am-2pm.
- 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 6 pm and close at 6 am. Free Set ups! 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 4 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.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- 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.

Tuesday, March 3

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. 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 6 pm and close at 6 am. 75¢ set ups!. 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(x)list Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, wine, and frozen margaritas. Male strip at 11:00 pm
- 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.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 4 pm. \$2 well drinks and domestic longnecks. Music by Alex C.
- 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.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- 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.

Wednesday, March 4

- 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 6 pm and close at 6 am. Strip contest at 3 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, \$2.75 premium frozen drinks, \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night 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: Amatuer Talent Night.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 4 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; Amatuer 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.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo
- 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 \$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.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

Thursday, March 5

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm.
- BriarPatch: Doors open at 2 pm.
- 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 6 pm and close at 6 am. \$3 cover! 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; Amatuer 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 \$3.75 all top shelf liquor. \$2.25 Imports and Micro Brews. 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
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo
- 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 (Tanqueray 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.
- Vintage Bar nightly wine tasting. 355-3093

To advertise in the Classifieds call (713)529-8490 or (800)729-8490 if not in Houston. Our office hours are 9:00 am-5:30 pm Monday through Friday. Classified deadline is Monday at noon for the following Friday publication. All major credit cards and personal checks accepted. **Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.**

Advanced Planning

WHY ADVANCED PLANNING

FREES FAMILY AND FRIENDS FROM MAKING EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL DECISIONS ON THE MOST DIFFICULT DAY OF THEIR LIFE. VARIOUS PLANS AVAILABLE DESIGNED TO FIT YOUR BUDGET.

CALL ME FOR INFORMATION
KIMBERLY D. SHORT
 Family Service Counselor
 281-460-2265
EARTHMAN
 Funeral Directors

Auto Repairs

THE TIRE PLACE, inc.

- Alignment
- Brakes



1307 Fairview
 (3 blocks west of Montrose)
713-529-1414

Taft Street Auto Repair & Service

526-3723

Electrical Repair
 Complete Brakes
 Tune-Up
 Major or Minor Repair

Carburetor and Fuel Injection

1411 Taft Houston, Texas 77019

TAFT STREET

Auto Repair & Service

526-3723
 1411 Taft Houston, Texas 77019

Business Opportunities

PROVINCETOWN Business For Sale

Established Provincetown crafts gallery representing 150 American craft artists: Raku pottery, artglass, gold, silver & glass jewelry, large selection of kaleidoscopes and handsomely framed celebrity autographs. 900 sq. ft. retail space, 700 sq. ft. shipping and storage area, office with kitchen & bath. A Harborside Exclusive. Call for details...
1.800.838.4005

Counseling

Deborah L. McLeod, M.A., L.P.C.
 Individual, Group, Family and Relationship Psychotherapy.
 713.621.8855

Compassionate Listening Spiritual Healing

Fr. Allan Hatch, MS

Especially for those Hurt by the Mainline Churches • Supporting All Lifestyles • Counseling by Appointment.

Holy Communion & Healing Services
 Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

For additional assistance or information, please call 713.691.4389

Entertainment

VIDEO ACE

FREE MEMBERSHIPS • NO DEPOSITS
 Your S. Houston, Pasadena, Hobby area full service video rental/sales destination. We carry all ratings, G through X.

10% Off
 Rentals with this ad.
Buy 1 Adult film get 1 FREE!
 For Limited Time

Exit Gulf Freeway @ Airport/College then East 2 miles. 11:00 am - 11:00 pm Daily
 1418G Spencer @ Allen Genoa.
713-910-0220

Help Wanted

BASIC BROTHERS is now accepting applications for retail sales (full or part-time) and management position. Applicants should possess computer skills, an enthusiastic personality and a drive to succeed in retail sales. Come join our team and enjoy one of the best benefit packages around! Apply between 10am - 4pm, Mon.-Fri. Ask for Ken Claude. No phone calls please.

Interviewing for Nude waiters & dancers. Club Triangle, 1205 Richmond Ave. Apply 11:00am - 1:00pm, Monday - Friday.

Manuscripts Sought

Engaging fiction and non-fiction essays wanted for new Gay/Lesbian monthly magazine. Authors chosen for publication will be paid. Send manuscripts to: Mark Golden, 245 W. 74th Street, Ste. 10-B, New York, NY 10023 or email to cstreetmag@aol.com

Accounting Assistant

Work directly with Accounting Manager to handle all facets of accounting - A/P, A/R, costing and Payroll, and other general office clerical duties including filing & etc. Must be able to use 10-key adder by touch and typing should be 45-55wpm. Experience in Lotus or Excel and Word or WordPerfect needed. Night student seeking education in business/accounting would be an ideal candidate for this M-F, 8-5 job located in the Summit/Greenway Plaza area. Fax resume to Lynton at Marion Graphics 713.623.0310.

Help Wanted! Houston-Start the New Year Right! Join the friendly staff at Montrose's favorite men's dance bar: Pacific Street! Applications now being accepted for Bartenders, Door & Floor positions. Recent photo required. Apply Mondays & Fridays, Noon - 4pm. No Phone Inquires, Please.

Local Agency with major insurance company seeking FT/PT, in/out-side commission sales/telemarketing people. Flexible hours. Learn while you earn. Bi-lingual a plus. Kirby/Richmond area. Call Edward Garcia at 713.526.5553, Mon. & Tues., Noon - 4pm ONLY.

General Labor: 713.942.8600

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for management trainees, bartenders, door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group insurance, JR's BAR & GRILL and THE MONTROSE MINING COMPANY are looking for honest, self-motivated and customer service oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. To join our family of clubs, apply Monday through Friday between 1pm and 5pm at HEAVEN, 810 Pacific. A recent photo is required. No phone calls please.

Mary's, naturally is accepting applications for Bartenders, Barbacks & clean-up. Apply with photo Tues. - Thurs. 9am - 2pm.

Midtowne Spa - Houston

NOW HIRING

Call 713.522.2379 for more details.

Venture-N is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time is Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

The **CLUB HOUSTON** is now accepting applications for all positions. **Apply in person.** Mon.-Thurs., 10am-2pm, 2205 Fannin.

The **BRB** is accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person with recent photo. No Phone Calls Please. 2400 Brazos.

Insurance

DALE ENGELFIELD
 AGENT

Farmers Insurance Group of Companies
 Workers Comp
 Homeowners
 Automobiles
 Restaurant
 Computers
 Mortgage
 Disability
 Renters
 Flood
 Life

Charter Member Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
 In Houston: 713.439.1700
 Statewide: 1.888.439.1700

Items For Sale

HUGE GARAGE SALE-OVER 100 FAMILIES
 St. Johns School Gym, 3300 block of Westheimer, near Buffalo Speedway, Saturday, February 28th. 9:00am - 5:00pm & Sunday, March 1, 1:00pm - 5:00pm. CASH ONLY.

Licensed Massage

MONSIEUR MASSAGE



RMT
 Premium European Touch
Roland Nicolaides
 • 713/942-2399 •
 Weekdays, Weekends & Evenings
 River Oaks & Montrose

TREAT YOUR BODY
 MASSAGE • TANNING
 WAXING • BODYCUTS
 RMT# MT013532
 Call Male 713.406.1023

Moving Service

When Quality Counts
Chuck French's Moving Service
 20 Years Master Craftsman • Insured
713.942.8600

American Movers
 Celebrating our 14th Year
 Experienced • Trusted • Insured
Call Frank
713.522.1717
1.800.522.2670

Personal Trainer

A-1 FITNESS
Baylor Sport Medicine Institute
 Certified Personal Fitness Trainer
 AFFA Member & Insured
Call Now 281.685.8746

Pets

BALL PYTHON
 12 inch, tame Ball Python with complete housing including heat pad for \$50.00. Needs good home. True reptilian lovers please call 713.529.8490.

Rotweiler Rescue has rotties for adoption. Foster parents also urgently needed. You can make a difference! Call Mary 713.645.2773.

Professional Services

T&Y Flooring and Restoration

Your Complete Ceramic Tile Service Company

- Tile Installation
- Grout Restoration
(Make Old Grout Look Like New)
- Saittilo Installation or Restoration
(Stripping, staining & rescaling)
- Terazzo or Marble Restoration
- Vinyl Stripping & Waxing
- Tile replacement
- Floor Waxing
- Brick
- Shower Tile Replacement

locally Owned & Operated

No Job Too Small!
10% OFF ANY SERVICE
 with this coupon
 limit one coupon per household
281-893-1768

RAINBOW MAID COMPANY
 Home/Office Cleaning • Organizing
 Moving/Pet Care Assistance
 Insuranc • Bonded
 Michael pgr. 713.642.4858
 713.721.5563

MAC FIRST AID

COMPUTER SERVICES

Specializing in Apple Computers

- Onsite Service
- Repairs
- Peripherals
- Hardware Upgrades
- Software Installation
- Very Reasonable Rates



Proudly Serving the Community
(281)537-2842

ACCOUNTING & INCOME TAX
SMALL BUSINESS & INDIVIDUALS
 Michael H. Carney CPA
 1915 Commonwealth # 203
 713.529.2011
Reasonable Rates
 Evening & Weekend Appts.

Real Estate For Rent

Heights Duplex - Fabulous Renovation - 2 Units: 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath each. New wood laminate flooring, new carpet, granite countertops, built-in appliances including microwave, W/D connections, Central A/H, large yard, water paid. A must see!!! \$895 month + Deposit. 713.802.0671.

CLASSIFIEDS

"FREE customized search. Call Jason at HomeWorks Apartment Locators. 713.521.REAL (7325).

HISTORIC HEIGHTS \$425 & Up

Heights Blvd: gates, covered parking, jogging trail; 1 Bedroom \$425, 2 Bedroom \$595, 1 Bedroom with study in Victorian 4-plex with hardwoods \$625. Call 713.863.9496.

ALL BILLS PAID! Hyde Park West Apartments MONTROSE AREA 1419 Hyde Park

**\$100 OFF MOVE-IN
With This Ad**

**Efficiencies • \$375
Cable Available
Close To Bus Line
(713) 524-9660**

Shepard Plaza Area: 610 sq ft garage apartment - share W/D, pool, hardwoods, central A/H, \$550.00 month. 713.526.1481.

Woodcreek of N.W. Crossing
5800 Hollister, Houston, TX 77040
713.462.8860

2 BR - 2 1/2 Bath Townhouse, 1258 sq ft for only \$665 month; 3 BR - 2 1/2 Bath Townhouse, 1520 sq ft for only \$755 month; 3 BR - 3 Bath Townhouse, 1554 sq ft for only \$775 month. Beautiful mature trees and lush landscaping.

SHARON PARK VILLAGE - Galleria Area
Offering 1 & 2 Bedroom apartments with 8 sparkling pools, fitness center, on-site store and dry cleaners. A gated community set in lush courtyards will compliment your lifestyle. Prices start at \$405. Open daily 9am-6pm. Call 713.667.5620 or stop by 5600 Chimney Rock just south of 59. **No application fees for Houston Voice readers.**

AIDS Emergency Housing - Montrose
Bed Space available at TLC House for HIV infected males. Weekly rental, no deposit, bill paid, free laundry/phone. No drugs/alcohol - Social Service vouchers welcome! AIDS Housing Coalition Houston. 713.521.1613.

Real Estate For Sale

Spacious Westbury Gardens 2 Bedroom-2 1/2 Bath Condo/Townhouse. Being refurbished with new GE stove, dishwasher, side-by-side refrigerator, full-size washer/dryer, French doors to patio, brass light fixtures & accessories, and Berber carpet. In a quiet courtyard with European ambiance. Only 15 minutes from Montrose. \$33,500 Call 713.729.9316 for appointment. Agent.

**GREAT HOUSES
IN MONTROSE & THE HEIGHTS**
Call Bill Baldwin - Agent
281.731.8314

15 Acres with beautiful view, fenced, utilities available, trees and open space, no restrictions, and a small creek. \$3500 per acre. 33+- miles from Austin. Owner carry possible. 512.273.2278.

Roommate

GW Roommate wanted in S.W. Houston. Close to the Galleria area. No Pets. \$50 per week, no deposit. 713.777.7176

GWM, 42, looking for roommate for 4 BR/2 bath house in Beechnut/Beltway 8 area. You take 2 BR & bath. Must like dogs. \$400.00 mo. + 1/2 utilities. 281.988.7424 leave message.

WebSites

KWhite-www.HoustonGay

http://www.dupontmerck.co

www.basicbrothers.com

www.communitygospel.org

http://ticketmaster.com

www.agouron.com

www.the/clubs.com

http://www.Roxane.com

www.pacificstreet.com

http://www.midtowne.spa.com/spa

www.dudejack.com

www.confidentialconnection.com

www.movo.com

Personals

Versatile red hankie expert recruiting trim playmates. 5'9", 140#, GWM, 48yrs. Mike 713.355.4022.

FREE LIVE HOT GAY CHAT

PowerCruise, Personals, More!

1-212-796-3365

1-704-319-2065

1-473-441-1065

1-268-404-7440

1-767-446-9398

18+ Only

LD Rates Apply • INT LD Rates Apply

MEETING GAY & BI LOCALS

FREE to Browse & Respond to

Voice Ads!

713.225.5500

PUB #625 (18+)

LIVE 24 HOURS

Indulge in your deepest, darkest, fantasies with our young, willing girls. 18+ \$3.99 per minute. 1.800.889.8918. All major credit cards accepted, phone cards and check cards also.

Curious? Meet someone new. Record & Listen to ads FREE. Use code 7070. Must be 18+ years. 713.526.9393.

Single White GM looking for play buddies. Blue & Red hankie, versatile, enjoys fantasies, long sessions. Masculine, party favors O.K. 50's, 5'11", 160#. Paul 713.721.0091, leave message.

Houston's Newest, Hottest Gay Dateline. Meet local men & women NOW. 1.900.285.0074 ext. 8850. Must be 18+ \$2.99 per minute.

MEET MARRIED MEN!

Discreetly on The Confidential Connection@. Record, Listen & Respond to ads FREE! 18+ Call 713.892.5757 free code: 7126.

ALL GAY PARTY!!

On Club Voice-MALE™! 18+ Call 713.850.7900 use code: 7900 TRY IT FREE!

Experiment Orally!

Gay Group Fun on Club Voice-MALE™! Try it FREE! 713.850.7900 18+ code: 2313.

Models/Escorts

Hot! Healthy Hands.
Convientant Mid-Town Location
713.659.5266

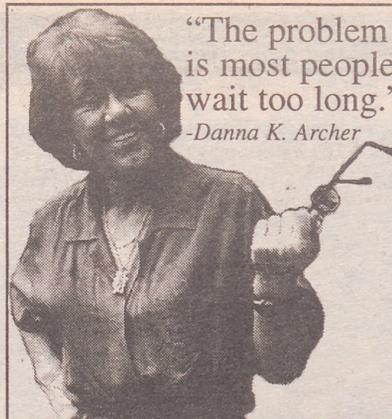
RYAN

Young, Cute & Charming
281.546.1952

Mark

24 Hours
713.697.2178

Houston Voice Policy. Prostitution is illegal in Texas. State law prohibits the placement in this category of any such ads which might suggest sollicitaion. The Houston Voice will not knowingly accept any ads of this type.



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

Danna K. Archer

1641 Westheimer • Houston
(713) 524-1273

Bankruptcy

Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy
Law by Texas Board of Legal Specialization
American Bankruptcy Institute

One Community! One Voice!

You've finally paid off your car. Now what are you going to do with it?

Discover the advantages of leasing.
Find out why you may have no down payment.
Learn why your monthly lease payments could be far less than with conventional financing.
And do the whole thing over the phone.

LEASESource 11777
Katy
Freeway
Suite 500
Houston

Incorporated

(281) **293-0200**

Finally, you have a friend in the car business.

Welcome L.U.E.Y Weekend

Paradise
Cyber.Spirits :)

Texas's First Gay Cyber Bar

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Drink Specials !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Fri-Sun All Night!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

\$1.75 Well & Domestic Longnecks
\$3.00 Call
\$5 per hour to surf the Net
Chat Worldwide or just kick back on one of our two patios.

!!!Paradise is Houston's Gay Playground!!!

**T.V. Montrose
viewing March 4
7:30pm**

2312 Crocker • 713-522-7366

Crad Duren, M.D.

**1213 Hermann Dr., Suite 430
(713) 520-0653**

**Internal medical practice
offering discreet confidential
care to the community,
including HIV/AIDS
diagnostics & therapeutics**

**Healthcare
from the Heart**

Anonymous Testing and
Counseling
Major Credit Cards &
Personal checks Accepted
Insurance with Qualification
Medicare

Photo by Gabriel T.

Important Stuff

LUEY! LUEY! The long awaited "Let Us Entertain You" weekend is here! Registration starts at the Venture-N on Friday, Feb. 27 @ 9 pm. If there are any run packets left, you can also register on Saturday @ 10 am at Mary's, naturally! Let the games begin!

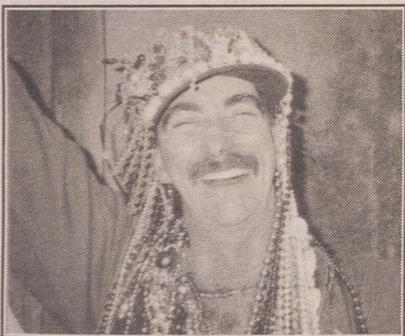


The Black Hawk Leather Men...and Boys

Nighthawks' grand opening is Saturday, Feb. 28. Formerly the Venture-N, Nighthawks serves up a leather, Levis, cruise atmosphere. You can do a little shopping, too. Black Hawks Leather opens their doors on Saturday night, too. Owners Bob & Kim, with Barry (the boy) welcome you with "lubed" arms. On Sunday, the first annual Mr. Nighthawks contest will be at 8 pm.

The 1998 Deb-U-Not Ball, "Anything Goes with Pumps" is on March 8 @ 4 pm at City Streets. Two dozen dazzling Debs with big hair and high heels will provide entertainment. For more info, call 713/940-STAR.

Club Triangle has chanced their hours. They now open at 6 pm and stay open until dawn. You can rent your own Liqueur Locker to stash your bottle. On Wednesday at 3 am (yes, am) there will be an amateur strip contest. This is the place to be after the bars close to continue the party!



One of the Mardi Gras Brick's II Bus party animals

You can be one of the first to get Madonna's new CD "Ray of Light" at the CD release party at JR's on Monday, March 2. Just after midnight, you purchase a copy at the Soundwaves booth set up inside JR's!

E/J's is looking for softball players. If you would like to play, call Mark Daniels at 713-869-0987.

The Outpost has \$2 Cuervo on Tuesdays! Guess where I'm gonna be!

The Sunday Budweiser beer bust at Chances costs only \$3 to buy-in and you get refills for a measly quarter! The tap pours from 4-8 pm.

Saturday night, Peggy and the Dreamers play on the stage of the New Barn. The New Barn has the largest dance floor to boot, scoot and boogie.

The Misfits are having their 5th anniversary run on March 28 & 29. For more info, call 713/863-1330.

The Soiree Aubergine silent auction opens on Saturday, March 7 at Gentry. The auction runs thru March 13.

Ken the Fireman and Stephen (of Brick's II) will be guest bartending at Mary's, naturally on Sunday starting at 2 pm benefiting the PWA Holiday Charities.

"Dismount and Wind Down" after



Only at the Brair Patch

LUEY at the BRB. This should be quite a party!

You can watch "Montrose TV" at Paradise on March 4 @ 7:30 pm.

Metroplex has chanced their hours. They now open at 4 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays!

The Ms. Gulf Coast Leather Contest is next weekend. For more info, call 713/229-8970.

The annual "Diamonds and Studs" ball is at Pacific Street on Saturday, February 28! Clothes check will be available!

Milestones

Get well hugs to Ralph of Paradise.

Get well hugs to Ben (BRB). Hurry back to work, Vera and Mario miss you!

Happy healing to the Good Fairy.

Happy birthdays to Patty O'Kane, Jerel McNeil, Animal of the BRB, Jim Cheek, Barry Petree, Andrew Flores, Dr. Bruce Smith, and Rodney Little.



Marilla at Ms. B's

Special Message

Richard Silva (formerly of OutSmart) and Rob Stafford will be in Houston this weekend. They will be staying at the Lovett Inn.

Announcement

Sundance Cattle Company has asked me to inform all LUEY participants that Joe De Rosa is no longer a member of their club. If you have any questions about this announcement, please see a Sundance Cattle Company member.



Partying at Club Triangle

Rodent Droppings

Sorry, no real cute ferret story this week. But, I did catch both the dog and the cat spying (and drooling) on the little furry angles while they were sleeping in their cages.

Lies, this is all lies! Mixed in with a little dirt, a touch of gossip, and

topped with trash! If you want real news, please turn back to page one and read real news written by real writers! My usual disclaimer is in force!

Reno (JR's): Left in St. Louis. Left at the bowling alley. Left at the Astrodome. See the pattern?

Leon (611): Does love bite?



Lewis at Brick's II

Niblett: How much is a one way ticket? And I quote: "I'm so sore from abs class that I can't even lift my legs!"

Jade (hangs at Gentry): What is big and white on Welch St.? A house?

Tim (Fitness Exchange): What did you have to hang out of the window on your way back from San Antonio.

Dennis C. (Brick's II): And I quote: "I don't trust outliners!"

Kathy and Hope (Chances/New Barn): Fighting over Susan Masar, again?



At Club Houston

Wesley (Paradise): Why did you get the "Fire Wimen's" award?

Kenny (hangs at Gentry): And I quote: "I just have been drinking entirely too much!" (What, like this is "stop the presses" news?)

Thom (hangs at Gentry-sweats at Inergy): Were you really crawling on your belly like a reptile on the dance floor?

Bob, Kim and Barry (Black Hawks Leather): I can't wait to see the kinky inventory I sure you three "perverts" will stock! Don't forget the Saran Wrap!

Bear (hangs on any barstool): So, you have to have your "Old Crow?"

Miss Alabama (BRB): Is it true that you used to sing "Rub It In, Rub It In" when Vera used to rub Ben Gay on your private parts?

Divine (Rich's): I heard your field hand plowed your back forty for \$40.



Friendly Bartenders at Rich's

Fancy Pants (RSICSS): Congrats on your starring role in "MacBeth" at the Harbour Playhouse in Dickinson!

Skip (Rich's): How was your trip to New Orleans? Did you do a little sight seeing?

Mario (BRB): Why are you buying a bike? Trying to peddle to Vera or away from her?

Chip (Club Houston): Do snakes make you scream like a girl?

Jerry (Rich's): Why do they call "Bird?"

Mike (Club Triangle): I saw the "cast-

ing" couch you have in your office!

Jerry B. (hangs at Gentry): And I quote: "For the price of 2 twelve packs, I'll show you the best in town!"



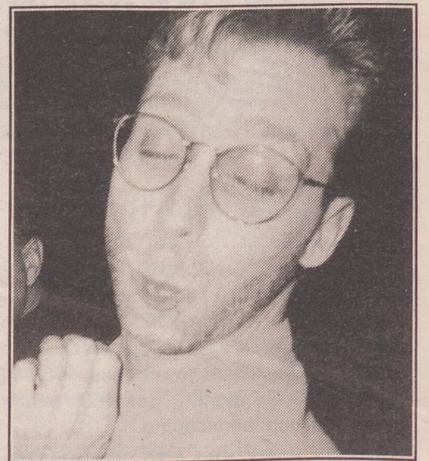
At Midtowne

Lexy Bowen (RSICSS): On your knees, again! But why under a urinal?

Buddy (RSICSS): What is this new "Imperial" salute you are getting these days?

Pearl (BRB): Why do you do it with a cowboy in the back of a horse trailer?

Vera (BRB): Is it true you don't even have the tree your cherry came from?



Chad's Cuervo face

Woody (Gentry): What is your favorite street to own while playing Monopoly?

Twister (BRB): Why are you trying to learn the words to "I'm just a Prisoner of Love?"

Miguel (hangs on any lamp post): What did you do with the "no label" t-shirt you took off last Saturday at the BRB?

Pasty (from Mobile): Chad and Felix hope you had a wonderful visit to Houston!

Kip (Gentry): What happened to your left eye? Run into a door knob?

Dell (hangs at Chances): I hear you love morning phone sex!

Ron S.(the contractor): Just some advice: If you need business...advertise in the Houston Voice or on TV. But, really driving your truck through a building is not the best way to get business! And you sure did look "cute" on the 10 pm news!



Dutchess - The Imperial attack puppy. Owner Jackie Thorne

Happy LUEY!
Cuervolyn

GRAND OPENING PARTY

Saturday, February 28 at 9:00p.m.



2923 Main St., Houston

713-522-0000

Leather ★ Levi ★ Cruise

Friday, Feb. 27 · 8pm

Houston Council of Clubs
presents the

Kick Off Party for
"Let Us Entertain You"
Weekend

Friday, Feb. 27

**Grand Opening
of
Black Hawks
Leather**

Sunday, Mar. 1 · 8pm

PWA Holiday Charities
presents the
1st Annual
Mr. **NIGHTHAWKS**
Contest

Friday, February 27

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at E/J's 6-10 pm and at the Midtowne Spa 10 pm to 1 am.
- 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 Toopee'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.
- Houston Outdoor Group camps. 713/KAM-POUT.

Saturday, February 28

- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at Brick's II 4 to 8 pm and the 611 Hyde Park Pub 8 pm to midnight.
- 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.
- Empowering Women Seminar at 9 am. 281/350-5157.
- Progressive Works: A Teen Mentoring Workshop at Blaffer Gallery. 713/743-9528

Sunday, March 1

- 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.
- Parents Families, and Friends of Lesbian and Gays meet at 2 pm. 713/867-9020.
- Foto Fest 98 at 4pm. 713/526-7662.

Monday, March 2

- 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; Mary's 9 am to 1 pm; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12a and Cousin's 8:30 pm to midnight.
- 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.
- Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce meets. 713/944-2306.

Tuesday, March 3

- 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; Career Recovery/Resources Center 4 to 8 pm and Club Body Center 8pm to Midnight.
- 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 Projects' 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.
- AIDS Equity League meets at noon. 713/910-2900.
- HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer at 7 pm. 713/527-8219.
- Love, Lust, and Intimacy discussion group meets at 7 pm. 713/524-2374.
- Houston Gay/Lesbian Pride Week meets at 7 pm. 713/529-6979.
- Lesbian Health Initiative meets at 7 pm. 713/681-1309.
- Annise Parker speaks at MCCR at 6:30 pm. 713/861-9149.

Wednesday, March 4

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Chances 6 to 10 pm, Nighthawks/Venture-N 8 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to 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 Toopees 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 Ranglers 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.
- Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus meets at 7:30 pm. 713/521-1000.

Thursday, March 5

- 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.

GALAXY GAYZER A Houston Voice Exclusive
Your Horoscope for the week of March 1 thru 7

ARIES: (March 21-April 20) Tact and foresight will further your career goals. Hard work will pay off sooner than you think. Your family life is changing, a bit more rapidly than you are comfortable with, but the change will be for the good. Express your ideas.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21) If you've been feeling depressed, ride it out and the feeling will be replaced with the urgency to accomplish tasks you've been putting off for some time. You are full of energy, even aggression, don't overdue it though.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21) Try to stay centered, because all those around you are in quite a funk. Co-workers are grumpy and your mate wants to squabble. This tension will continue to drain your energy until you take time out for you - pamper yourself and buy something special.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23) It's a pretty uneventful week, don't expect much from those close to you. Resolve financial questions for long and short term investments, easing a loved one's mind. You will accomplish more than expected, despite opposition from a foe.

LEO: (July 24- August 23) You are on top of the world both emotionally and physically. Take advantage of the high energy to convince those around you about an idea you've been toying with for sometime. You are surrounded by love, so show you appreciate it. The pace at work is hectic.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23) Many demands will be made on your time. Watch out just where you spend your energies and with who. Share any dreams with your mate - you are able to read each other's mind. Your evenings are made for romance. Expect a battle of wills in the workplace.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23) A few authoritarian types may get in your way, so pursue independent projects. Your financial outlook is on the upswing. Pressures at work will probably ease up, and your cheerful mood contagious. Share the passion and romance with your lover.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22) Be sure to think before you speak, or you may come off sounding like an opinionated pain in the

neck. Take it easy if you're feeling washed out, the flu may be coming on. There's nothing happening at work that can't wait until tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21) This may not be the best time to interact with others. You and your sweetheart experience a clash of egos, so play it cool. If confused about your motives, wait until you are seeing things more clearly to sort out the situation. A vacation is a great idea.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20) The people around you need your help just when you want to hide out and get your own act together, try to at least listen to their problems. Play it cool with colleagues who may demand a confrontation. Any tensions from earlier in the week seem to be gone for good.

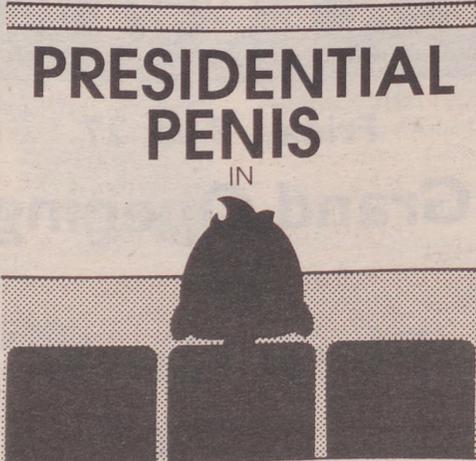
AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19) A friend with problems may need to talk. Laughter in this situation will be the best medicine. A co-worker is looking for a fight, so try to keep a low profile and don't be a target. Make sure to think before you speak, your bluntness may land you in trouble.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20) This week promises to be full of fun, laughter and friendship. All you need to do is be yourself. You may be feeling that everything is against you at work - the obstacles are only temporary. If you accept a new challenge, you can increase your income.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: You prosper in your home life while cementing your closest bonds. You learn from the past and have great hopes for the future, even though you tend to be indecisive and somewhat insecure at times. You have very real dreams which help you understand what is presently happening.

such is LIFE!

©EARL STORM



INTERNET: <http://www.gaywired.com/quack/suchlife.htm> E-MAIL: QUACKATEER@AOL.COM

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, motor-cycles, 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

SWF Attractive, professional. Seeking someone who is between the ages of 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

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

Men SEEKING Men

GHM 29, 5'8", 175 lbs., sexy brown eyes, sensuous luscious lips, very attractive. I like to do a variety of things such as movies, walks in the park, romantic dinners, quiet times at home & dancing. Seeking a gay, Hispanic or White male between ages 25-35, who is masculine, very attractive, romantic at heart, sincere, honest & fun to be with for friendship or more. Call Ext. 5705

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

SAM 37. Looking for a person who is searching for a monogamous relationship. You should be top, dominate & financially stable. Age is unlimited. Call Ext. 5701

SWM 45, 6'1", 150 lbs. I drink & smoke. My 26 year old White female friend wants to see more than I can just kiss & tell. If you are interested in a little bit of adventure, give us a call. Call Ext. 5355

SWM Tall, slim, 46, brown hair, blue eyes. In search of bi or gay dominate cross dressing men. Call Ext. 5647

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

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 37, 129 lbs., 5'6", slender. I love sex, but who doesn't. I'm also into music, movies, computers & especially hot, hairy hunks, booze & partying. Let me show you what I'm educated in. Call Ext. 5698

SWM Bi, nice looking, trim, tan. I'm interested in meeting men & even women who love lingerie, frilly things, cross dressing & great indoor fun. I'm looking for you. Call Ext. 5697

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

GWM 47, sandy blonde hair, 6', 205 lbs., hairy, non-smoker. Looking for that special, gay White male 35-50, who is a non-smoker, caring, sincere & likes garage sales, junking, auctions & having friends over for cookouts or just to visit. Someone who likes going to the show or the beach. I'm not into the bar scenes. Call Ext. 5695

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

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 25-35. Call Ext. 5690

SM 36, Latin/European, 6', 195 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, very attractive. I want 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 are 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

SWM 20, bisexual. I'm looking for a first time experience. Looking for 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

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 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

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



Hey Ladies! Don't be shy, call today with your FREE ad!



1-800-461-5930

Must be 18 or older. Touchtone phone required.

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

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 extracurricular 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

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

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 in moderation. Looking for a mature, masculine, romantic bottom with the same characteristics 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. 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 want to share with the right person. 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 fatties. 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 32-40 years old. I'm HIV+, so those that are, need to apply only to my ad. Call soon. Call Ext. 5669

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

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 or more. Call Ext. 5651

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. Call Ext. 5661

Place your free ad today and also get your ad on the internet for FREE.



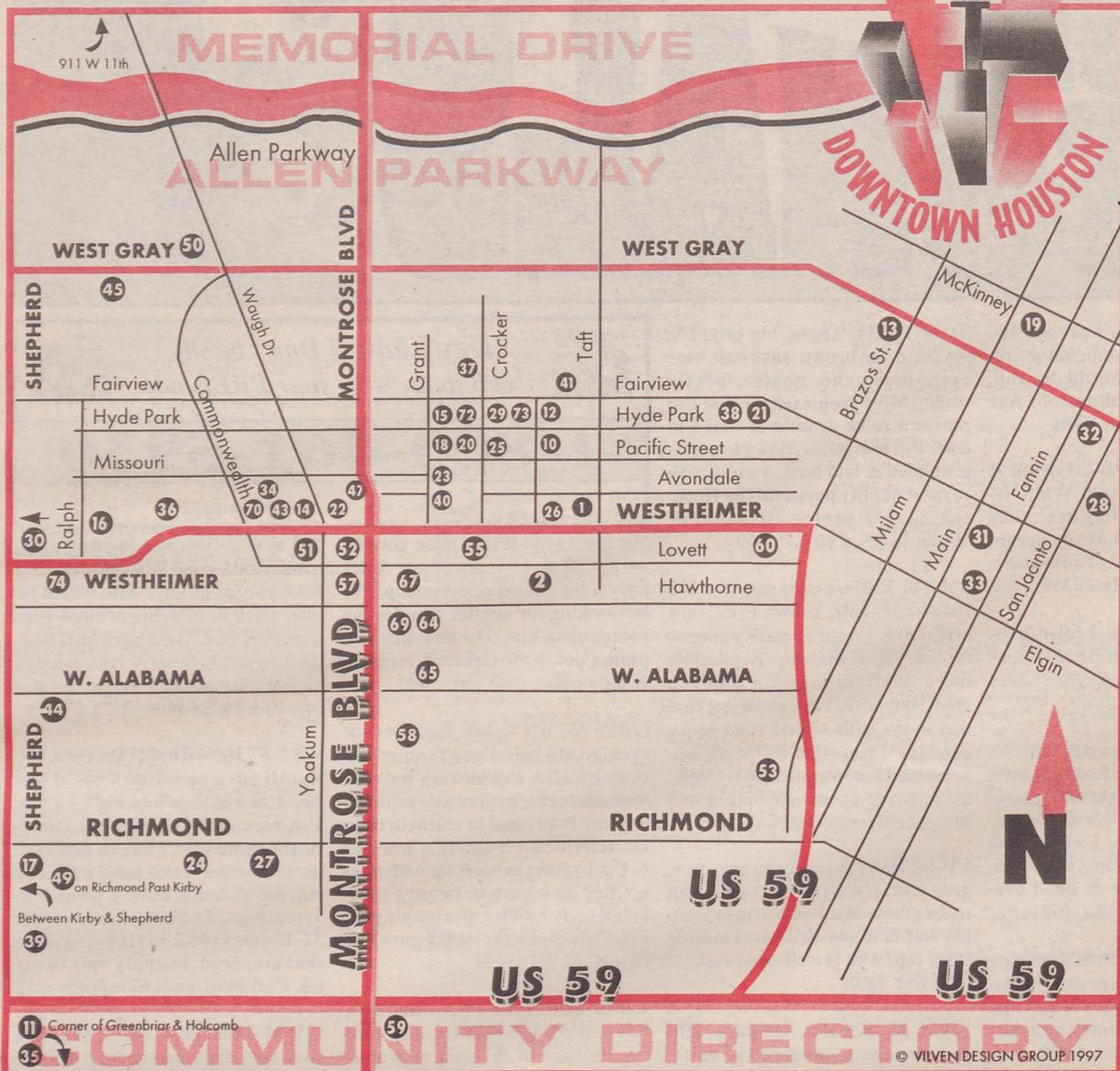
Call...

1-800-461-5930

To view ads on the WEB page, use this Internet address from your browser:

www.bureaucom.com/houstonv

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)



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 | Cousins | 817 Fairview | 713/528-9204 |
| 16 | EJs | 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 | 713/523-0213 |
| 26 | QT'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 | Midtowne Spa | 3100 Fannin | 713/522-2379 |
| 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 | Racals | 1318 Westheimer | 713/942-CLUB |
| 37 | Paradise | 2312 Crocker | 713/522-7366 |
| 38 | Mela's Tejano Country | 302 Tuam | 713/523-0747 |
| 39 | Metropolis | 2165 Portsmouth | 713/520-5000 |

RESTAURANTS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 40 | Baba Yega | 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 | Eckerd Drugs | 1007 Westheimer | 713/524-9229 |
| 53 | Fitness Exchange | 4040 Milam | 713/524-9932 |
| 55 | Houston Voice | 811 Westheimer | 713/529-8490 |
| 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 |
| 64 | Vilven Design Group | 807 Hawthorne | 713/526-3212 |
| 65 | House of Coleman | 901 W Alabama | 713/523-2521 |
| 67 | Walgreens | 3317 Montrose | 713/520-8000 |
| 69 | STAT Script Pharmacy | 3407 Montrose (A5) | 713/522-7373 |

CLOTHING SHOPS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 31 | Black Hawks | 2923 Main | 713/520-6224 |
| 70 | Basic Brothers | 1232 Westheimer | 713/522-1626 |
| 72 | Leather By Boots | 807 Fairview | 713/526-2668 |
| 73 | Leather Forever | 711 Fairview | 713/526-6940 |
| 74 | Timeless Taffeta | 1657 Westheimer | 713/529-6299 |

GAS LIGHT NEWS

3519 Bellaire • Houston

Between Buffalo Speedway and Stella Link

Monday - Saturday Open 24 hours, Sunday Open 3pm Till Midnight

Late Night Special

\$2.00 off Door Charge after 2am

Bellaire store only.

We have doubled our movie selections and private viewing rooms. Come see our new look.

VIDEOS SALES & RENTALS

\$1.99
Video Rental

Why Pay More...

\$1.99
Video Rental

After Dark News
1431 West 18th st. • Houston
North on Sheperd to West 18th across from Kmart

Big City News & Video
10105 Gulf Freeway • Houston
45-South Exit Edgebrook, U-Turn

We accept personal checks plus



looking for a
real man?

FREE!
30 Day
Trial

Tired of reading the same porn star profiles?
Gay.net lets you connect with real men. We've got thousands of members to chat with - or take it as far as you want. Join our community right now while gay.net is still absolutely free for 30 days. New friends are waiting for you right now at www.gay.net/man



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.

ALYSON ADVENTURES INC.

Active vacations for gay men and lesbians. Please call for free catalog.

1-800-825-9766 www.alysonadventures.com

DONT BE ALONE
PICK UP THE PHONE

Simple and direct. Find the man you need by listening to hot ads.

THE CONFIDENTIAL CONNECTION®

Make the right call!™

713-892-5566
use access code: 2331

record, listen & respond to ads **FREE!**

www.confidentialconnection.com

© 1997 Movo Media, Inc. Just \$2.49 per minute for certain optional features. 18+. Movo Media, Inc. does not prescreen callers and takes no responsibility for personal meetings. 800-825-1598

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

FRENCH QUARTER
713-527-0782 • 3201 Louisiana • Houston

Thursday Matinee \$4 All Day with Membership

All Male Cinema presents

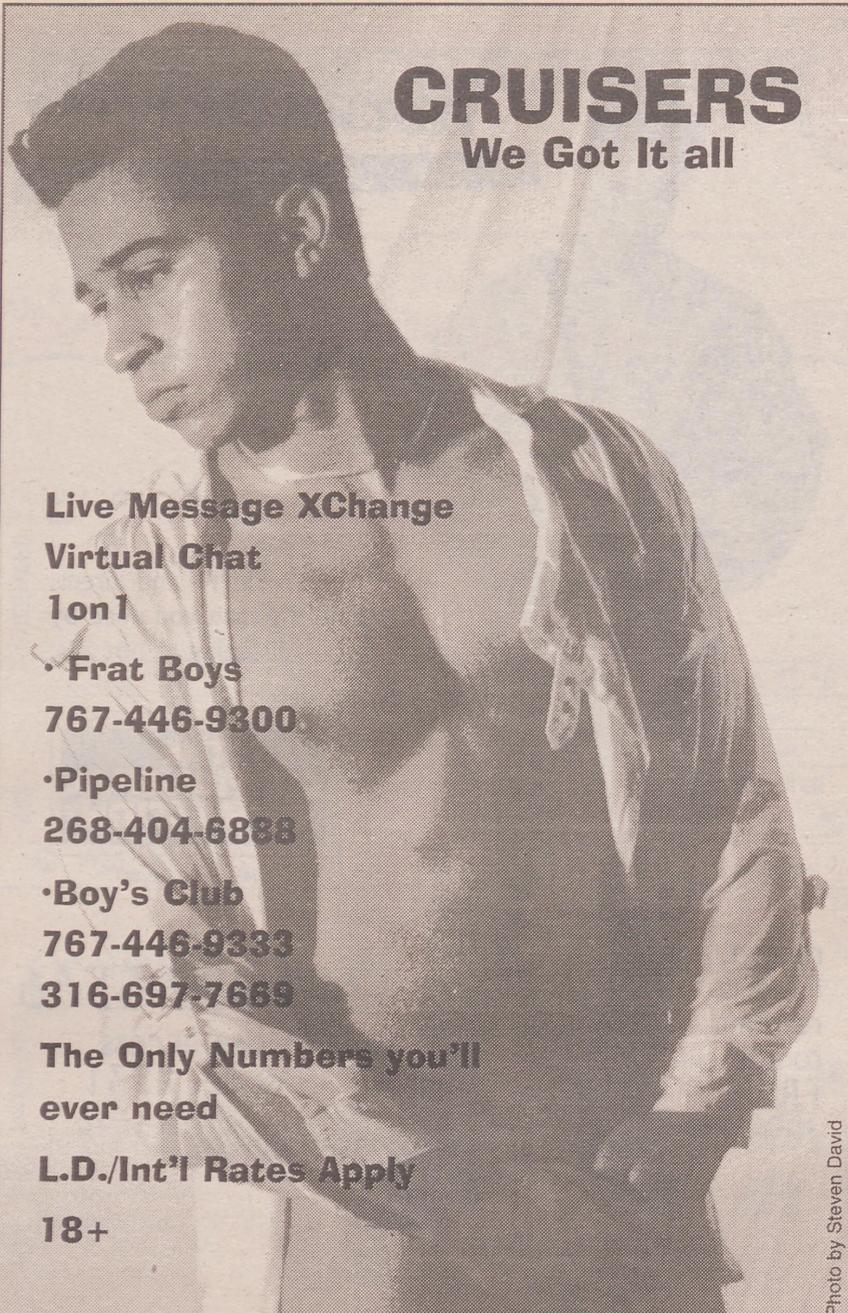
Tailspin

Friday & Saturday
11am-3am

Monday thru Thursday
11am-1am

Sunday
1pm-1am

Sharp Shooters



CRUISERS

We Got It all

Live Message XChange
Virtual Chat
1on1

- Frat Boys
767-446-9300
- Pipeline
268-404-6888
- Boy's Club
767-446-9333
316-697-7669

The Only Numbers 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

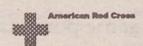
but you can get prevention.

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.

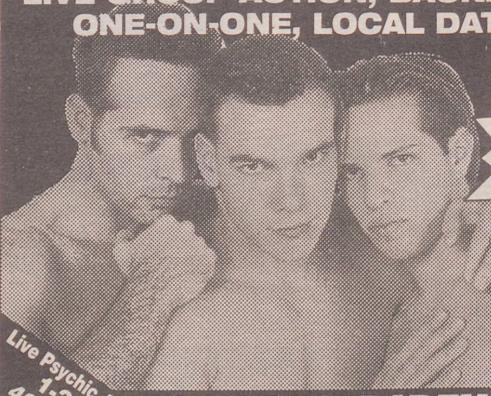


WORKPLACE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

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

Live Psychic Advisor
1-268-404-5020

WILD & DIRTY
011-592-591-526

GAY MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY
011-56900-2625

Live Gay Cruising
Cruise through 100 telephone lines for a live one-on-one chat.
1-268-404-6433

International LDD Rates. 18+



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.

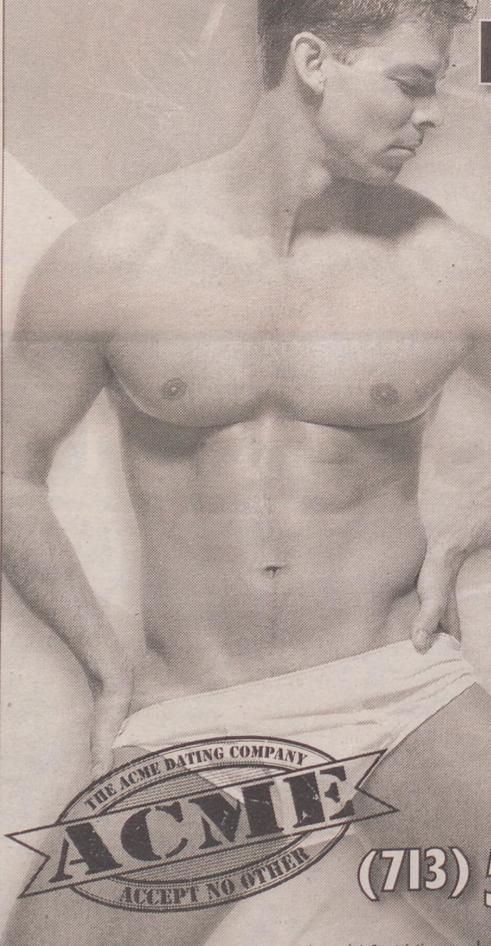
THE DUDE JACK™

1-ON-1 WITH SLEAZY-TALKIN' DUDES
WILD GROUP JACK • DUDE TALES
1-900-745-1970

PORN VIDEOS ON OUR WEBSITE!

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

men seeking men

Meet tonight!

record, listen and respond to personal ads

FREE!

code: 7111

THE ACME DATING COMPANY
ACME
ACCEPT NO OTHER

(713) 526.9393

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

I Need It Now!



MANFINDER

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

1.900.933.4256

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

VIRACEPT[®]

nelfinavir mesylate

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT[®] (VI-ra-cept) Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir[®] (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir[®] (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit[®] (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane[®] (terfenadine, for allergies)
 - Hismanal[®] (astemizole, for allergies)
 - Propulsid[®] (cisapride, for heartburn)
 - Cordarone[®] (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
 - Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute[®] Cardioquin[®] Quinidex[®] and others
 - Ergot derivatives (Cafergot[®] and others, for migraine headache)
 - Halcion[®] (triazolam)
 - Versed[®] (midazolam)
- Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.
- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane[®], Rifadin[®], Rifater[®], or Rifamate[®]
- This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin[®] (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin[®] and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol[®] and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx[®] (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

- When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
- Viramune[®] (nevirapine)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs
- VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan[®] (indinavir)
- The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir[™] (ritonavir)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase[®] (saquinavir)
- The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium[®] A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder.** Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

The following are registered trademarks of their respective manufacturers: Retrovir, EpiVir/Glaxo Wellcome Oncology/HIV; Zerit, Videx/Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology; Invirase, Versed/Roche Laboratories Inc; Seldane, Rifadin, Rifamate, Rifater/Hoechst Marion Roussel; Hismanal, Propulsid/Janssen Pharmaceutica Inc; Halcion, Mycobutin/Pharmacia & Upjohn Co; Rimactane, Tegretol/CibaGeneva Pharmaceuticals; Viramune/Roxane Laboratories, Inc; Dilantin/Parke-Davis; Crixivan/Merck & Co, Inc; Imodium A-D/McNeil Consumer Products Co; Cordarone/Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories; Quinaglute/Berlex Laboratories; Cardioquin/The Purdue Frederick Co; Quinidex/A.H. Robins Co, Inc; Cafergot/Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. Norvir is a trademark of Abbott Laboratories.

Issued 11/13/97

CALL 1.888.VIRACEPT

VIRACEPT is a registered trademark of Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Copyright © 1998 Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. All rights reserved.



Agouron
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

VIRACEPT IS POWERFUL It's tough on HIV. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy.

(The clinical significance of changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established.

The virus may still be present in other organ systems.) **VIRACEPT IS EASY TO LIVE WITH**

Take it three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks. **VIRACEPT IS**

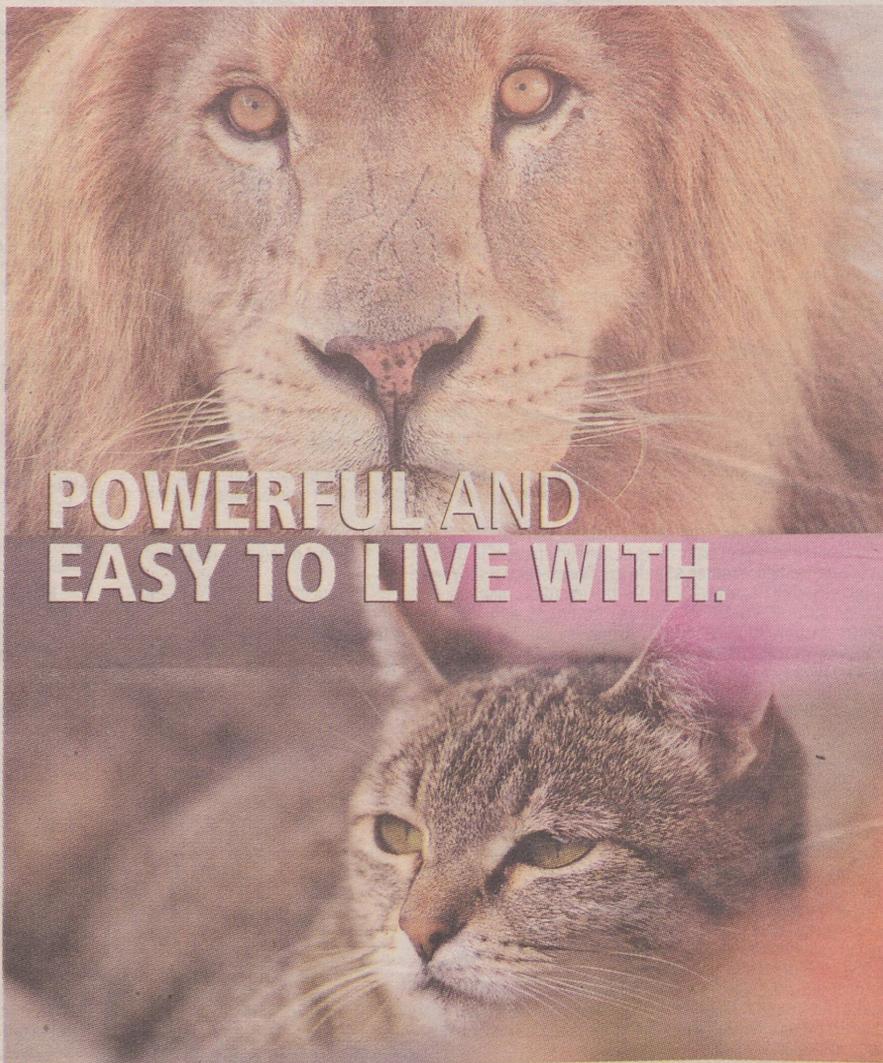
GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in clinical trials.

WHAT YOUR PROTEASE INHIBITOR CAN BE:

VIRACEPT WORKS It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common

medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit

www.agouron.com. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)



**POWERFUL AND
EASY TO LIVE WITH.**


Agouron
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate