



JEZEBELLE 2000

The Glam Lit Tour brings its lesbian manifesto to Austin Monday.

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INSIDE



Lesbian couple fleeing Gonzales visit Houston on the way to Wisconsin as they escape discrimination and harassment against their daughter.

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Community activist Ray Hill, left, and Clarence Bagby, right, of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will be panelists at a public forum on hate crimes Monday.

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'Naked Boys Singing!' offers lively local production but little else.

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Statistically significant?

Numbers on gays with alcohol and drug addiction vary, but most researchers and experts agree the problem is prevalent

by MARIA MINICUCCI and ELLA TYLER

In the midst of the pre-parade preparations for Pride 2000, a group of "cowboys" representing a local popular gay bar were spotted carrying a case of Evian bottled water. Is this a sign of the times? Has temperance hit the gay community? Does it need to?

By now, most of us have bounced back from celebrating Gay Pride 2000 and have jumped back into our daily routines. Among gays and lesbians throughout Houston, how much of our daily routine consists of a dangerously high consumption of alcohol or drugs?

Locally, the Montrose Counseling Center runs the only drug and alcohol treatment program for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered clients.

"We have seen about 100 more clients in the alcohol programs in the past two years, which is an increase of 30 percent," said Ann Robison, executive director of the center.

• Are you or someone you know addicted? Know the signs. Page 10

The increase, according to Robison, "is because more people are seeking treatment, not because we have expanded services—we have always served all comers."

Tom Strain, a counselor in the program, notes that the numbers of lesbian women seeking treatment has decreased by about 20 percent.

"We used to see about 50 percent men and 50 percent women—while there was a whole recovery movement, but—movie stars in treatment and Betty Ford has faded out." Strain predicts that "recovery will be trendy

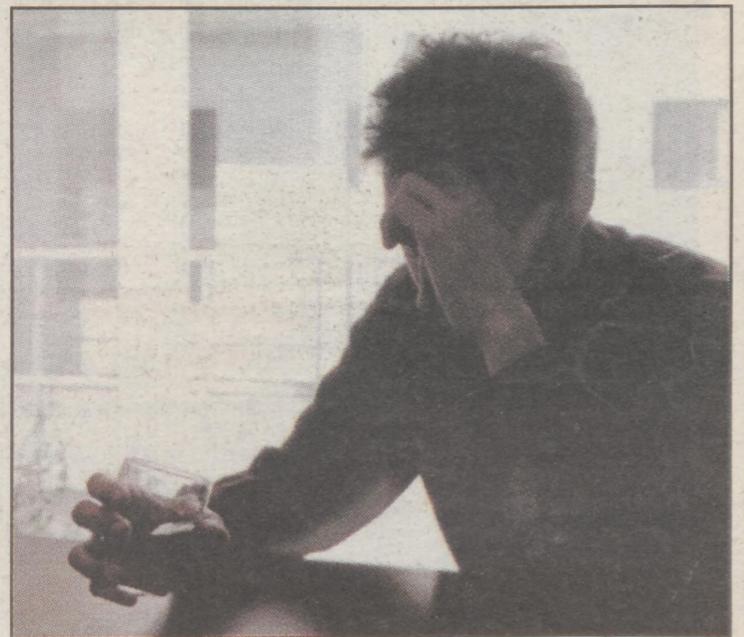


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DALTON DEHART

again and we will see more people (seeking treatment)."

Neither Strain nor Robison knows what percentage of the gay population is alcoholic. "I've heard a one in three figure for years," Strain said, "but that seems high to me."

"I don't think you can tell from the number of people seeking help how many people need help," he said.

"In the general population, the figure is about 1 in 10, and it may be higher in the gay population," Robison said, "but no one really knows." She

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Controversy surrounds homosexual conduct law ruling

County GOP officials accused of trying to coerce judge to reverse decision

by GIP PLASTER

Houston area Republican party officials may have committed coercion and used improper influence by drafting a letter to an appeals court justice whose ruling effectively overturned the state's homosexual conduct law, according to a Corpus Christi district judge.

But the chairman of the Harris County Republican Party said the accusations are "absurd" because they are based on a draft of a letter that was leaked to the media a week after the decision was made not to send it.

Judge Jack Hunter of the 94th District Court in Corpus Christi sent a letter July 6 to the chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court and to the governor, the attorney general and others. In it, he called for an investigation into possible coercion of a public servant, exertion of improper influence and obstruction or retaliation by Houston area Republican Party county chairs.

Hunter, a Democrat, said in the letter that he believes the officials "have committed possible violations of the law as well as ethical violations."

He called for an investigation of the matter by the Texas Ranger and the attorney general's office. He also sent copies of the letter to the Texas Ethics Commission and the state legislature's judicial affairs committee.

The accusations stem from an unsent letter urging 14th Court of Appeals Justice John Anderson to either resign or to change his ruling that the state's homosexual conduct statute—often called the sodomy law—violates the Equal Rights Amendment to the Texas Constitution.

The letter, drafted by Harris County Republican Party treasurer Paul Simpson, was circulated among 13 Republican Party chairs in the counties surrounding Houston.

But the letter was never sent to Anderson.

Harris County Republican chairman Gary Pollard and chairmen of at least two other counties said they would have never signed the letter.

The draft was leaked to the Houston Chronicle a week after the letter had been abandoned, Pollard said. The Chronicle ran an article

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SUSTIVA isn't just effective in combination treatment of HIV-1 infection; it's effective long-term. In clinical studies, combination therapies containing SUSTIVA were proven superior to protease inhibitor-containing regimens in lowering the HIV virus to levels that were undetectable.¹ In one study, SUSTIVA kept it at those levels for more than two years.²

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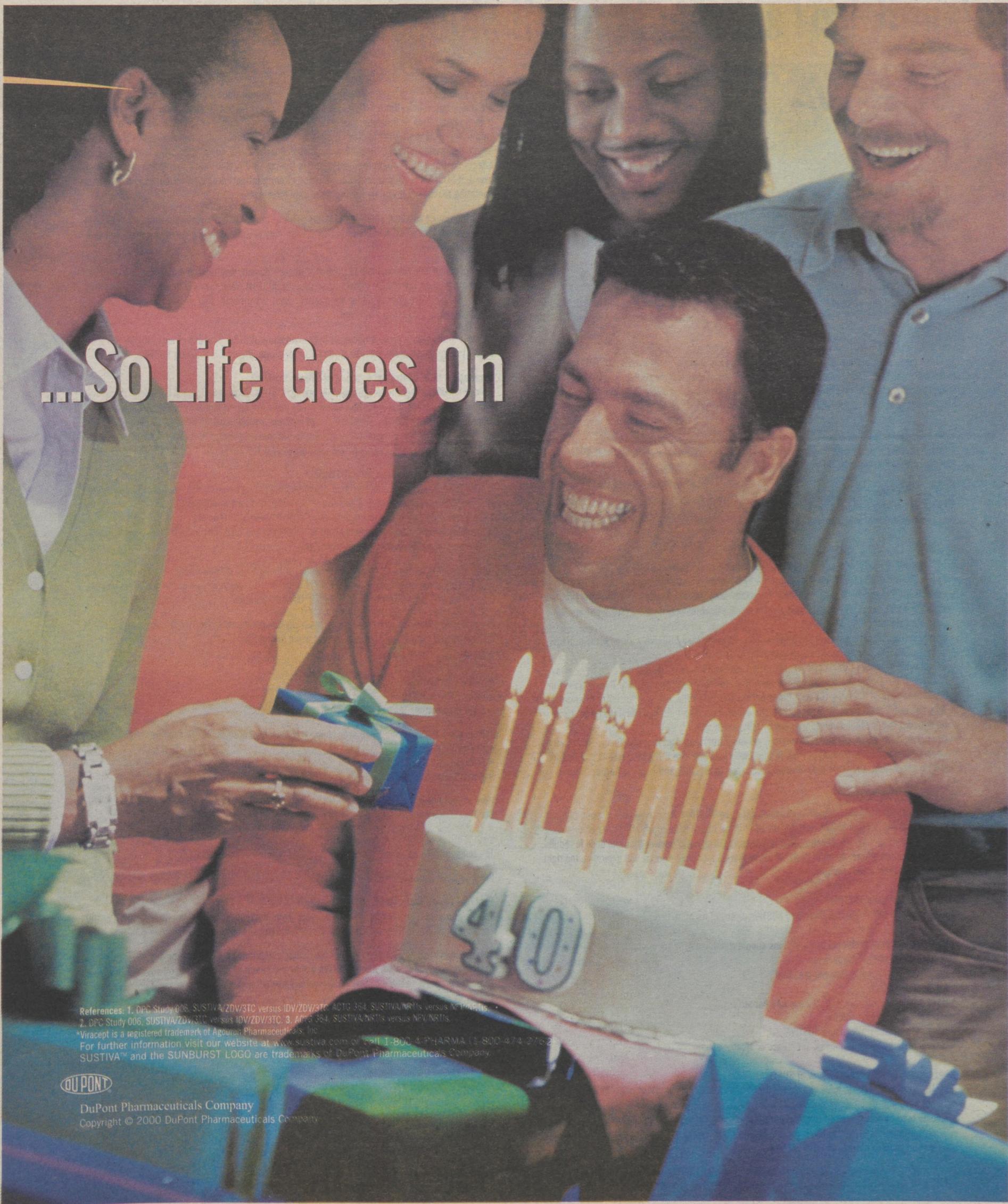
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Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in cynomolgus monkeys given SUSTIVA. See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.



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References: 1. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC. ACTG 354, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus MZM/NRTIs.
2. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC. 3. ACTG 364, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus NRTI/NRTIs.
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Patient Information about SUSTIVA* (sus-TEE-vah)
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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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Lesbian couple fleeing Gonzales visit Houston

Pair moving to Wisconsin with daughter to escape discrimination, harassment

by GIP PLASTER

Last week, Wanda "Sonny" McDaniel, her daughter and her partner, Sandy McGill, moved from their home in tiny Gonzales, Texas into a home in an undisclosed location in because of media attention around their move from the town due to discrimination against their daughter threatened the family's safety.

This week, the town's newspaper, The Gonzales Inquirer, said in one article that the family challenged the reputation of Gonzales and the paper's publisher called the women "scam artists" and attacked McDaniel's job history in another.

McDaniel, in Houston this week to speak to the River Oaks Area Democratic Women about hate crimes, said the attack makes her all the more ready to move her family to Wisconsin.

She said they cannot stay in Texas because there are no state laws here to protect their daughter from discrimination in school. But she vowed to come back during the next legislative session and help try to pass legislation protecting the children of gays and lesbians.

"Don't you think it will be easier for us to work on safe schools in Texas if we have a safe place to go home to?" McDaniel said from her Houston hotel room.

Back in Gonzales, the family made



PHOTO: DALTON DEHART

Sandy McGill, left, Sonny McDaniel, right, and their daughter visited Houston this week to speak to the River Oaks Area Democratic Women about hate crimes. The trio are moving from Gonzales, Texas because of discrimination against their daughter, but will be back to speak before the Texas legislature about anti-discrimination laws.

front-page news in the Gonzales Inquirer this week for the second time in a month. The first article, on June 20, detailed McDaniel's attempts to get a sexual orientation policy passed by the school board.

The second article, on July 18, was entitled "Gonzales' reputation challenged by same-sex couple's allegations."

The story, which included quotes from the police chief, the sheriff, the mayor and a local minister saying there have been no

incidents of violent acts against gays and lesbians in the town, detailed the family's plans to move to Wisconsin and the plan by Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) to help them.

"I wasn't even aware of the fact that these people were having a problem," Gonzales Mayor Bobby O'Neal is quoted saying in the article. "Overall, I think Gonzales is a loving community."

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Forum on hate crimes

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center event marks 9th anniversary of Broussard's murder

by ROBERT B. HENDERSON

The Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center at 803 Hawthorne, two blocks east of Montrose Blvd., will be the site of a forum on hate crimes. The forum will be Monday, July 24 at 7 p.m.

"It is the ninth anniversary [of the murder of Paul Broussard]. Ray Hill came to us with this idea. The Community Center and Q-Patrol thought it was a great idea to both commemorate that event with a community forum and also to look at where we are now, the status of hate crimes and how the community deals with hate crimes and how

we can protect ourselves and one another," said Tim Brookover, Community Center board member.

"Obviously, we're going to 'look back' It was a dreadful incident, but it was also quite a rallying point for the community.

We're also going to look at where we are now and to the future."

Ray Hill, longtime Houston gay activist, is organizing a panel discussion. Each member of the panel will begin with a presentation. Following the presentations of the panelists the discussion will be opened to the participants. The panel moderator will be Phyllis Randolf Frye, Houston attorney



Paul Broussard

and transgender activist.

Hill has arranged for John Aston to be a part of the panel. Aston is a doctoral candidate in education at Texas A&M University. His doctoral dissertation deals with the environment surrounding the Broussard assailants' permission to attack gay people.

"John's thesis, I think, is an important one, that is, in places like McCullough High School in The Woodlands (Conroe Independent School District) and Santa Fe High School (Galveston County), it's very easy for the social atmosphere to give permission for hate-motivated crime and criminal behavior," Hill said.

Hill also said he hopes to have Det. Gene Kennedy from the Houston Police Department hate crimes squad as a panelist. Kennedy has not yet received departmental authorization to appear. Hill said Kennedy "agonizes" over how to classify a crime

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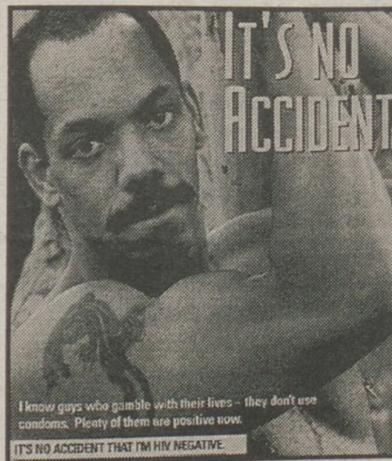
Around the South

AIDS Action honors Van Ooteghem with national leadership award

WASHINGTON—AIDS Action announced it will posthumously bestow its National Leadership Award on Gary Van Ooteghem, a Houston civil rights activist and leader who died July 6. The award, to be formally presented at AIDS Action's Houston Dinner Sept. 21, recognizes Van Ooteghem's more than 25 years of service to the gay and lesbian community, and to those living with HIV and AIDS in the Houston area. Van Ooteghem served as the chairman of the local Ryan White Planning Council, a body tasked with administering the federal funds granted to community-based organizations who serve people living with HIV and AIDS. He was a past president of the Houston chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay Republican group, and active in the American Civil Liberties Union, and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Van Ooteghem also was a founder of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

AIDS educators in Florida struggle over message of safe-sex ads

MIAMI—As more reports are issued about increasing HIV-infection rates among urban gay men, AIDS educators are looking for ways to warn about unsafe sex without appearing to be anti-sex, according to the *Miami Herald*. Dr. Stephen J. Fallon, education director at CenterOne, Broward County's largest AIDS organization, had a public discussion over the Internet with San Francisco AIDS activist Eric Rofes, who has accused health officials and the media of deepening "the already growing rift between regular gay men in San Francisco and our AIDS leadership." Fallon agreed with some of Rofes' criticisms. "I do agree that the tone of these media warnings is distracting and dismissive." But Fallon added that the content of the safe-sex message "is very important. We don't want the tone to be inflammatory, but we don't want to sabotage valid messages of warning." Fallon also placed some of the blame on money for HIV education being shifted from the gay community, as AIDS infections decreased, to the black community, where infections continue to rise. That means young gay men are getting less safe-sex education today than their counterparts got 10 years ago, he said.



As HIV rates among gay men in Florida begin to increase, AIDS educators in Broward County are looking for ways to do prevention without appearing to be anti-sex.

Texas appliance company pays \$2 million to settle lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An appliance rental company will pay \$2 million in damages to job applicants who were asked questions about their sex lives and religious viewpoints. Rent-A-Center Inc. will distribute the money to more than 1,200 of its employees and applicants as part of a lawsuit settlement approved July 7 by a San Francisco federal judge. The Dallas-based company required some employees to answer 502 true-or-false questions as part of a test for new hires and promotions that included questions pertaining to their bodily functions, religious views and sexual habits. Examples: "I have never indulged in any unusual sex practices" and "I am very strongly attracted by members of my own sex." "Generally, anyone who scored more than 12 deviations failed the test and was ineligible for hire and promotions," attorney Jeffrey Ross said. An attorney for Rent-A-Center said the tests were merely used to identify potential management candidates and results were not used against employees.

Grant to open HIV centers in Ky.; La. to close three testing labs

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—A federal agency is providing \$900,000 to open four HIV-prevention centers in Kentucky. The grant from the CDC will be used by the Lincoln Foundation to open centers in Louisville, Lexington, Hopkinsville and Bowling Green by late next month. The goal is to reduce the spread of the deadly virus among blacks, but the centers will be free and open to everyone, providing AIDS education and referrals for HIV testing. Meanwhile, in an unrelated move, three of Louisiana's seven medical testing laboratories are being closed Sept. 1. The labs test drinking water for potentially harmful organisms, and conduct testing for HIV, rabies and sexually transmitted diseases. The state Office of Public Health said the move would save about \$600,000. State Democratic Sen. Don Hines called the move a disaster.

Operating deficits lead to closure of Tampa Bay gay center

TAMPA—The Center of Tampa Bay—a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community center—closed its doors in early June, despite \$124,000 in contributions in their capital fund, *Watermark* reported. The center, which had operated for three years out of a temporary location, had run deficits in operational funds for the last three months, and the money that had already been contributed to its capital fund was earmarked for the purchase or construction of a permanent home. "Unfortunately, due to the severe financial instability of the Center, the decision was a necessary one," said Jimmy Nixon, board chairman.



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—From staff and wire reports

Around the Nation

N.Y. judge blocks visitation order granted to lesbian co-parent

NEW YORK (AP)—An appeals judge has blocked a temporary visitation order issued last week that would have allowed a lesbian to see the two children she raised with an ex-lover. A July 10 ruling, a lesbian identified only as Janis was granted temporary visitation over the objection of her ex-lover, the biological mother. The ruling by Westchester Family Court Judge Joan Cooney was apparently the first of its kind in the state. But Appellate Judge Sandra Feuerstein ruled July 12 that the children might be harmed if they see the woman now and she ultimately loses her battle for permanent visitation rights, and stayed the order. Janis and her partner, identified as Christine, had a 1993 commitment ceremony and two children shortly afterward by artificial insemination. The couple had joint wills, baptized the children together and gave them both of their last names. The couple split last November and Christine refused any visitation. A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 14.

Navy's drug sting in D.C. gay bars won't involve sexual orientation

WASHINGTON—Navy investigators announced June 21 that sailors who were found by undercover Navy investigators to be using or dealing drugs in five gay nightclubs will only be prosecuted on drug charges, according to the *Washington Blade*. David L. Brant, Washington field director for Navy investigations, told representatives of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network that the information gathered on the sale and use of the drug "ecstasy" would only be used for drug prosecutions and that they had no desire to prosecute the soldiers on the issue of their sexual orientation. Military officials also reported that other D.C. establishments that cater to heterosexuals have been added to the surveillance list, but they declined to list the names of those bars or clubs. SLDN criticized the string for targeting only gay bars.

Clinton asked to dump Scouts as Connecticut debate continues

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP)—A federal judge has ruled that Connecticut's charity payroll deduction program must include the Boy Scouts of America, even though the agency found that the Scouts violate the state's discrimination laws. The Boys Scouts were dropped from the payroll program in May after the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities found the Scouts' hiring policies to be discriminatory. The Scouts appealed the ruling and also filed a lawsuit against the state. In response to the lawsuit, U.S. District Court Judge Warren Eginton said he will sign an order directing the Connecticut State Employee Campaign Committee to return the Boy Scouts to the list for the rest of this year.

Meanwhile, 11 members of Congress have asked President Bill Clinton to resign as honorary head of the Boy Scouts because of its anti-gay policies, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Every American president since William Howard Taft in 1910 has served as honorary head of the Scouts. "I'm generally against discrimination against gays," Clinton said about the Scouts in a recent press conference. But he added that the Scouts are "a great group, they do a lot of good."



In the aftermath of a Supreme Court decision allowing the Boy Scouts to bar gay members, members of Congress have asked President Bill Clinton to give up his honorary role as head of the organization.

'No promo homo' ballot measure gaining steam in Oregon

PORTLAND—An initiative that would restrict schools from sanctioning homosexuality is slowly working its way through the process needed to get on the November ballot, according to the *Oregonian*. The measure has not yet been approved to go before voters, but both sides of the debate are gearing up for an intense fight that could cost more than \$1 million on each side. It would be the first time a state-wide initiative had focused on school issues, which are usually dealt with on a local level, said Peter LaBarbera, spokesperson for the conservative Family Research Council. "If it's successful, it'll energize people who believe things have gotten out of control," he said. Whether enough signatures were collected to certify the ballot measure will be announced later this month.

No rush to tie the gay civil union knot despite new Vermont law

TUNBRIDGE, Vt. (AP)—The town of Tunbridge has elected a new town clerk who is willing to comply with the state's civil unions law. About 70 residents unanimously voted in Wendy McCullough as town clerk on July 10. She replaces Helen O'Donnell, who resigned the day the state's law granting same sex-couples the rights and benefits of marriage went into effect. O'Donnell said that her religious beliefs would not allow her to comply. "It will not be a problem for me to do that," McCullough said. Another town clerk attempted to appoint Gov. Howard Dean and state Sen. Mark Mac Donald to be assistant clerks in her town. "It's an attempt to find the right person to do the work," said Susan Fortunati of Corinth. Both refused the appointment.

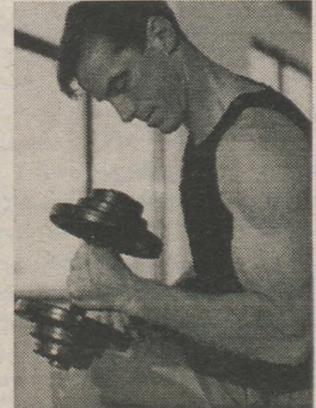
Some 15 civil unions were performed in Vermont in July. Couples who received licenses have 60 days in which to perform their ceremonies.

—From staff and wire reports

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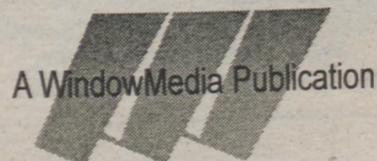
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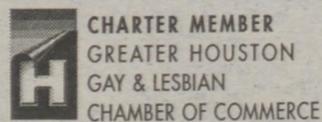
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To submit a letter

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EDITORIAL

HIV: Chronic, but certainly not manageable

by RICH ARENSCHIELDT

What a profoundly sad-
dening week this has been.
Having worked in HIV/AIDS for the
last eleven years I am accustomed to
people leaving this life to continue their
adventures in a different place, where-
ever that may be. During a two-day period
following July 4th I was struck by a dou-
ble set of "rogue waves" that have left
me a adrift and without anchor.

Bayou City Medical Center was the
locale of this emotional hurricane, my
friend Jack and my colleague, Gary Van
Ooteghem, were deckhands in what was
to be my "Perfect Storm."

Jack and I had known each other for
seven years; he volunteered for me
when I worked at Body Positive. Jack's
health history was as complex as he was.
He had AIDS, hepatitis, and had recent-
ly been diagnosed with lymphatic can-
cer. My other shipmate in this drama,
Gary, and I became acquainted with one
another through his work on the Ryan
White Planning Council.

When my shy friend Jack began
chemotherapy in December, both of us
knew it would be a rough voyage, but
we kept faith that things would turn out
okay. However, in spite of his doc's best
efforts Jack was hospitalized in June and
never returned home.

One day during my daily visit to the
seventh floor, I noticed an instantly rec-
ognizable name on a passing med cart—
"Van Ooteghem." Gary and I had joked
that we had the two most difficult last
names in Houston. I told him once,
"Arenschielt, in German translates to
'The crops are failing.'" Gary was in a
hospital room two doors down from Jack.

Prepared for anything, I entered the
room to visit Gary. Much to my surprise
his despair was palpable—so much so
that my innate ability to handle any
healthcare situation vanished. We talked
a bit and then he said "I'm just fighting
so much." I wished him luck and made
a quick departure.

Thirty hours later my friend Jack
died as the result of combined kidney
and liver failure secondary to HIV dis-
ease. Twelve hours after that Gary died
as the result pneumonia and cardiac
arrest.

Flashback to another far more
innocuous gathering some months earli-
er. The scene is the Medical Center's
"Doctors Club," oddly enough, a place
where Gary had been chief financial offi-
cer. The Harris County Hospital District
had put on a spectacularly successful
event gathering some of Houston's most
prominent citizens for an update on the
"State of Emergency" in the African-
American Community regarding
HIV/AIDS.

I was heartened to see so many peo-

ple from outside the normal "realm" of
HIV. The room was full of educators,
parents, grandparents and business peo-
ple, each with an earnest desire to know
more about HIV and how they could
halt the swath of destruction the disease
was causing in their community.

The scheduled presenter, a compas-

According to an article published in the
August 1999 issue of *The Archives of*
Internal Medicine, in a highly controlled
study, a select group of people on com-
bination therapy who were highly moti-
vated in their treatment experienced a
failure rate of almost 50 percent. Studies
in the July 2000 issue of the *Journal of*

Then the physician spoke the phrase I cannot abide "...this
is a chronic, but manageable disease." I resisted the urge to
interrupt the doctor and shout "WHAT do you MEAN?
Everyone here is just beginning to learn about HIV. How
can you tell them that?"

sionate and well respected HIV physi-
cian, began the presentation. Then the
physician spoke the phrase I cannot
abide "...this is a chronic, but manage-
able disease." I resisted the urge to inter-
rupt the doctor and shout "WHAT do
you MEAN? Everyone here is just begin-
ning to learn about HIV. How can you
tell them that?"

A few months later, an article
appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*
titled "Outreach targets HIV awareness
among blacks." The echo returned when
I read "better medications have turned
HIV into a chronic disease." I reach a
boiling point. Motivated, I contact Joel L.
Martinez, founding director of the
Center for AIDS, the preeminent treat-
ment advocacy organization in the
southwest United States. I am curious to
hear his view. As the HIV-positive per-
son that drug companies fear most,
Joel's opinion, which is unclouded by
political bias or pharmaceutical compa-
ny influence, is invaluable to me.

"A few years ago we thought we
could eradicate this disease," he says.
"However, it is clear that even when uti-
lizing the most virally suppressive drug
therapies, HIV is still present and repli-
cating in the body."

Part of the lingo of HIV disease is the
phrase "undetectable viral load." Con-
trary to popular belief this means
that current tests cannot detect active
virus that occurs below certain levels in
the bloodstream, not that HIV is not
present. In a revelation to me Joel stated,
"In speaking to people, we never use the
phrase 'undetectable.' You can always
find virus in the body of an HIV-positive
person. People constantly underestimate
the amount of virus present in the body.
HIV present in blood represents only 2
percent of the total virus a person has in
their body, many other systems besides
peripheral blood contain active virus."

The presence of 'undetectable' but
replicating virus has serious treatment
implications for those with HIV.

the American Medical Association reach
the same conclusion stating, "As many
as half of the patients who begin treat-
ment with combination antiretroviral
therapy in the clinic setting tend to expe-
rience virologic failure."

This failure is due to several factors
according to Martinez. "It is well known
that the side effects with these meds are
vicious. Because of the complicated
treatment regimens required and the
number of pills involved, adherence lev-
els are low and this promotes viral
resistance (when newly created genetic
strains of HIV replicate unaffected by
current drug therapy).

"While there has been clinical
improvement with the advent of combi-
nation therapy, we need to be careful of
this 'phantom vision' of manageability
of this disease. These drugs work in the
short term, but we see many clients who
are on regimens that are clearly ineffec-
tive. This is the result of many of their
doctors not knowing the most current
treatment information."

In spite the hype put forth by drug
companies and the media, HIV disease
cannot be compared to diabetes, high
blood pressure or heart disease. It is a
serious illness that requires constant
attention and diligence by patients and
their medical advisors.

The only thing chronic about HIV is
the current level of complacency that
promises to mutiny all the work that
Gary Van Ooteghem and others like him
have accomplished.

INFO

THE CENTER FOR AIDS HOPE AND REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

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EDITORIAL

With addiction problems, numbers don't matter, solutions do

by MARIA MINICUCCI and ELLA TYLER

Speculation and ambiguity seem to be the common denominator in the search for the rate of addiction among the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered communities. But we take a slightly different position; one that most of you will probably agree with.

We do not believe that debating statistics is the most important area to focus on. Addictions exist. Addictions exist within our communities.

The debate over numbers is secondary to the real tragedy—addictions are dangerous. They assault every facet of a person's life. This assault also spills over and into society's well being.

Perhaps a more logical approach to the problem of addictions is to look at some of

the assumptions that are formed about homosexuality and addictions. There is an underlining assumption that homosexuality is an indication of pathology. In spite of this theory being written out of the medical and psychiatric literature, it remains, however covert, intact as a universal mind set.

An outgrowth of this rationale is that people who are innately pathological also have a greater propensity for any form of taboo behavior, which of course, includes addiction.

A double whammy for the modern queer—deviant based on sexual identity and tendency towards "anti social" habits and behaviors!

Yes, unfortunately, too many of us take this up as a serious personal flaw, overlooking the reality that there has been and contin-

ues to be no hard-core proof that such pathology exists.

• See addiction story, page 1

Let us encourage you to question the seemingly erroneous "nature" argument in favor of a more accurate, reality-based theory of homosexuality and self-destructive tendencies. Environment flexes considerable muscle in shaping one's character, attitudes and behaviors.

There is no ambiguity about the prevalence of hostility in our environment directed against people who do not practice heterosexuality and who do not conform to sanctioned gender roles. Attempting to cope with such a hostile environment is more likely the basis for developing self destructive behaviors.

Yes, homophobia, external and internal, discrimination, stigmatization, alienation and isolation are very real, and very common experiences for all "sexual outlaws." These experiences, in turn, tend to increase a person's susceptibility to unhealthy coping mechanisms.

This, however, does not excuse any degree of addiction among us. It is incumbent upon us to thoroughly comprehend, and then, deliberately side step, all of the insidious ways in which we are likely to collide with the oppressive tactics thrown in our midst.

Our "tragic flaw" is not being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered; it is believing that we are tragically flawed.

Alcohol and drug abuse is a useless weapon against such a formidable enemy.

LETTER

Columnist should be ashamed

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my profound disapproval, disgust and outrage at the "editorial" by gay writer Michael Alvear appeared in the gay publications the *Southern Voice* and in its derivative the *Houston Voice*, July 7.

It is, insulting and frankly I am shocked that in this day the gay community would print anything even remotely offensive to such a range of racial and religious groups. As the modern day "prophets" of tolerance,

inclusiveness, sensitivity, etc., the printing of this tasteless attempt at humor or whatever it is meant to be, strikes me as strangely hypocritical.

As an African American and a Christian, I find the comments in extremely poor taste and downright uneducated. The stereotypical comments and slur-filled innuendoes

Alvear lassoes Blacks (African-Americans believe Jesus was black: He called everybody brother, had no permanent address and his mother didn't know who his father was), Latinos (Hispanics believe Christ was Latino. And they have convincing proof: His first name was Jesus, He was always in trouble with the law, and nobody would hire him.) rises to the same level of comments made by Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker to a Sports Illustrated writer just a while ago.

In addition the mocking tone he incorporates to describe Jesus' sinless and sacrificial life are disturbing and equally offensive to believers who are increasingly the brunt of vitriolic messages by the extremist elements (and most publicized) in the gay community.

I am, in the spirit of fairness, equality and justice, call you delete the story and ask the writer to apologize.

Further we request that they not print future articles of this nature by this writer. I am also sending a copy of this to my political representatives. I hope that you will respond as I have asked.

D.L. Foster
Atlanta, Georgia

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Studies: 1 in 3 gays is addicted

➤ Continued from Page 1

explains, "you can't go into a random group of people and say 'everyone who is gay and lesbian stand up.'"

"We did survey 616 lesbians in 1995 in cooperation with Lesbian Health Initiative, and 72.4 percent of the respondents drink and

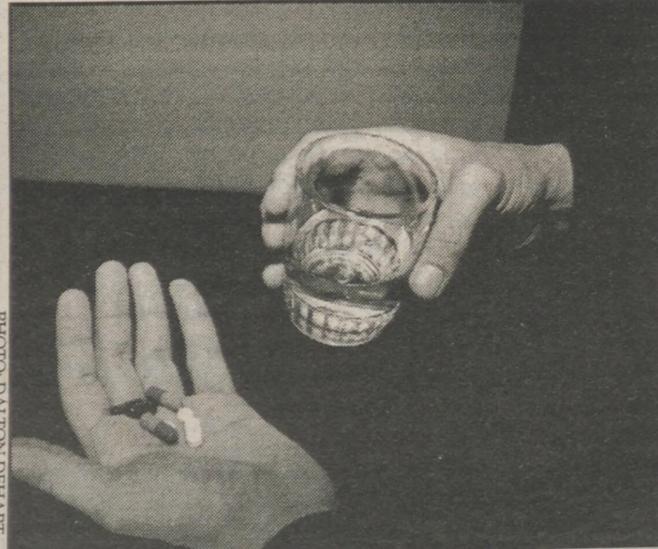


PHOTO: DALTON DEHART

Most researchers rely on the statistic estimating that 1 in 3 homosexuals has a drug or alcohol addiction, but finding an accurate estimate is virtually impossible since not everyone identifies as being gay.

12.3 percent use drugs to get high (as opposed to medicinally). Of the women who drink, 16 percent of these drink at least one drink per day, and 54 percent drink at least three times per week," Robison said.

Nationally, research conducted about the rate of addictions among gays varies. During the past 20 years, the 1 in 3 statistic has been circulated throughout the media.

The Pride Institute, a chain of treatment centers for gays and lesbians, relies on the 1 in 3 figure. The company's Web site and printed advertising reads, "It has been estimated that as many as one out of every three gay and lesbian person—that's eight million of us—struggle with the issue of chemical dependency every day."

Dr. Ron Knobbe, director of clinical services for Pride Institute claims that the number is actually higher than one in three. He says "eight years of studies show that nearly 40 percent of the gay and lesbian population is addicted to a combination of drugs and alcohol. It is second only to American Indians..."

Dr. Tonda Hughes, who is directing the first federally funded project to study alcoholism in lesbians, takes a different position. She says, "the one in three figure, which persists in the literature, comes from studies done in the '70s and recruited respondents in gay bars, which was the only way back then to locate large numbers of gay people."

"Although those researchers say they corrected the data to account for bar going, I'm not sure they could."

"In addition," Hughes said, "they talked to very few lesbians."

The "gay" bar culture has been a steadfast gathering place for meeting other "same sex" lust and love interests. Is that a factor which may contribute to the seemingly high numbers quoted among some of the experts in this field?

In Houston in the '80s, Marion Coleman ran a bar called

Kindred Spirits. Coleman said she is still awestruck by the abuse of alcohol and drugs her patrons indulged in.

"I did not realize what I was actually getting into when I opened Kindred Spirits. I had this ideal that it would be a place to get together, a 'community-like atmosphere' where people could socialize, meet, play volleyball."

The reality of running the bar was quite different, Coleman said.

"Shortly after I opened the business and observed the excessive drinking, which also, at times led into fighting, I implemented a cut-off policy. I met with my staff weekly and tried to discuss and inform them of these problems and to make sure that they did not serve alcohol to anyone who was obviously inebriated. This was not an easy thing to enforce—it certainly made me unpopular among my patrons and even some of my 'friends.'"

Having had this experience, does she believe that gays and lesbians are more prone to addictions than the general population?

"No, I do not believe that. I do think it is probably the same as the rest of the population. And even though I would not open another bar today, I am so pleased to see all of the information and education that has come out in the past 20 or so years—information that was not available during the nine years that I had Kindred Spirits."

Keith Kohl, vice president of clinical services for Los Angeles, California-based Alternatives, Inc. which is branching out its business to the Houston area, says the rate of addictions, "depends on where you look."

"If you look at the party boy/circuit party scene, there might be as many as one in three. But if you look at the community as a whole, all the people who have jobs, raise kids, it's erroneous in several ways."

"I think the people who spread that figure are not friendly to us."

What, in fact, is the rate of addiction in the so called general population? The Texas Commission of Drugs and Alcohol estimates that 17 percent of adult Texans (about 1 in 6) has a problem with

alcohol use and 4 percent have a problem with drug abuse, with some respondents reporting problems with both. This survey, conducted in 1996, did not ask about sexual preference.

William "Mel" Taylor, executive director of the Houston Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, said, "In Houston, and nationally, one in four people is directly affected by substance abuse. This means that 1 in 4 has a problem him or herself or has a family member, spouse, partner or significant other with a problem. It is a serious problem, and I can't think of any reason why the gay and lesbian community would be less affected."

He notes that quantity of consumption is not an accurate gauge of chemical dependence.

"You can't really measure alcoholism by the amount someone drinks," Taylor cautioned. "Alcoholism is when the act of using alcohol is done at the expense of the health, welfare, self interest or safety of oneself or others. It's drinking that continues in spite of the consequences."

While the gay and lesbian community in general may have the same problems with addictions as the non-gay community, certain segments of the community may have more problems.

Most of the studies in the gay community target white, middle class men. There is a paucity of data about substance abuse among bi-sexuals, older gays, gay people of color or transgendered people.

Tom Ranier, a licensed drug and alcohol counselor who is familiar with the transgendered community says, "I estimate that as many as 70 percent of transgenders have had problems with alcohol and/or drugs at some point in their lives."

Obviously, numbers do not tell the whole story. But ironically, "to get funding, you have to have the numbers," Robison points out. She adds, "even if gays and lesbians have no more problems with drugs and alcohol than the general population, that does not mean that there is no problem."

Next week: The recovery process and ways to socialize without drugs and alcohol are explored in the second half of this series.

How can I tell if I have a problem with drugs or alcohol?

Drug and alcohol problem affect everyone regardless of age, sex, race, marital status, income or lifestyle. You may have a problem if:

- You drink more than you intended
- You believe that you need to drink or use drugs in order to have fun
- You do not know how to meet gay people unless it is at a bar
- You turn to alcohol or drugs to relieve any uncomfortable feelings
- Your tolerance for alcohol or drugs increases
- You drink by yourself
- You have lapses of short term memory
- You have problems coping with relationships
- You make promises to stop and constantly break them
- You feel alone
- You compare your drinking to other people
- You worry about how much you drink

You may be denying a problem if you think:

- Everyone else is unreasonable because they think I have a problem
- I did not intend to get drunk, so it doesn't count.
- People are not fun unless they drink or do drugs
- I drink by myself because he/she/they nag too much
- I don't remember last night because what happened was not important

I have so many humorous anecdotes to share after an episode of drinking/drugging
I can quit anytime—I keep telling everyone that

How to tell if a friend or loved one has a problem with alcohol or drugs?

Sometimes it is tough to tell. Most people won't walk up to someone and ask for help. In fact, they will probably hide or deny the problem. Warning signs to look for include:

- Using substances on a regular basis
- Lying about the amount of use
- Avoiding you and others in order to use
- Giving up activities they used to enjoy and participate in
- Giving up friends who do not drink or drug
- Frequently talking and joking about drinking/drugging
- Pressuring others to drink/drug
- Encounters with the law
- Frequently feeling unwell—run down, depressed, fatigued
- Suspension from school or work
- Refusing to take responsibility
- Blaming everyone else for their predicament

Source: Straight Facts About Drugs and Alcohol, a publication of National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information.

RESOURCES:

- Montrose Counseling 713-529-0037
- Lambda Center 713-521-1243
- Houston Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse 713-942-4100
- AA Intergroup 713-686-6300
- Pride Institute 800 54PRIDE or www.pride-institute.com
- Alternatives 1 800 DIAL GAY or www.Alternativesinc.com

GOP defends accusation of coercion regarding sodomy ruling



Gary Polland, Harris County Republican Party chairman, says accusations that his party tried to coerce 14th Court of Appeals Justice John Anderson to either resign or to change his ruling on the state's homosexual conduct statute are "absurd" because they are based on a draft of a letter that was leaked to the media a week after the decision was made not to send it.

➤ Continued from Page 1

about the draft and its failure on July 4.

In that story, the Chronicle said the letter told Anderson that his ruling was without legal basis. It called Anderson's decision "the worst kind of legal activism" and said it contradicts "the will of the people."

"My question is what were the motives of those who gave it to the media after it was recalled?" Polland said in an interview with the Houston Voice.

While Polland admitted that he knew about the letter and that the Harris County party treasurer drafted it, he said it did not circulate through official channels within the county party headquarters.

"It just happened. It wasn't circulated out of my office," he said. "I never would have signed it."

Brazoria County chairman Mike Golden told the Houston Chronicle that he would not sign the letter because he is not a lawyer. The banker said he did not want second guess the opinions of legal experts.

Washington County chairman Richard Stadelmann of Brenham, a philosophy professor, told the Chronicle that he would not have signed the letter because he thinks the sodomy law discriminates against same-sex couples even though he believes homosexuality is wrong.

Polland told the Houston Voice immediately after the homosexual conduct ruling that he did not agree with the ruling.

The decision, whether it was good or not,

should have been based on the constitutionally-guaranteed right to privacy rather than on the Equal Rights Amendment, said Polland, who is a private practice lawyer in Houston.

"I'm disappointed with the ruling," he said.

Polland said his disagreement with the ruling is not political and does not concern his stance on gay and lesbian rights. He has repeated supported the right of the gay and lesbian Log Cabin Republicans group to have a booth at the state party convention despite a ban by state party leaders.

"As a lawyer, I don't think it can stand up to appeal. And I don't think that's what the Equal Rights Amendment was designed to do," he said.

But he said this week that the investigation Judge Hunter is requesting amounts to policing thought since the letter was never sent.

"Do you think people should go to jail for what they think?" Polland said.

Polland said Hunter's call for an investigation could have been politically motivated since Hunter is a Democrat.

Hunter denied that.

"This is not a Democratic or Republican or Libertarian or vegetarian issue," Hunter told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. "This is a judicial issue involving integrity and independence."

Justice Anderson was part of a three-judge panel of the 14th Court of Appeals that threw out the case of two Houston men who were arrested inside one of the men's home for having sex.

Two of the three justices, Anderson and Chief Justice Paul Murphy, voted to overturn the conviction because the law discriminates based on sex.

Texas decriminalized sodomy between people of opposite sexes in 1974.

Legal observers predicted that the ruling would be appealed to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, but the Harris County district attorney's office's instead asked that all nine justices of the 14th Court reconsider the decision.

The full court has not yet decided whether it will hear the case.

Jim Evans, a lawyer for Anderson, said the justice would not comment on the matter.

"The rules of judicial conduct prevent him from saying anything," Evans said.

Evans defended the six-year record of Anderson, who is a Republican.

"Justice Anderson is a conservative judge," Evans said. "He's a strict constructionist in the classic sense of the word. He reads the law and tries to apply it without expanding it or contracting it."

Polland said he doubts that any action will be taken based on Hunter's letter, but he said he would cooperate with any investigation.

"I'd be surprised if there are any hearings in the legislature, and if the Texas Rangers want to talk to me about what I think, they're welcome to," he said.

"But they better have a lot of time, because I think a lot about a lot of things."

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August 13	"Jesus Led so That Others Could be Followers"
August 20	"What Style of Greatness do You Seek?"

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 23	Fellowship Sunday-Guests/Visitors are invited to attend our church service. A reception will immediately follow the evening service to welcome & honor our guests
July 29	Couples-Holy Union Counseling
August 5	Church Retreat

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Police Beat

Three men executed in Saudi Arabia for 'homosexual acts'

DUBAI—Saudi Arabia executed three Saudi men convicted of homosexual acts and raping children on July 11, Reuters reported. In a statement carried by state media, the Interior Ministry said an Islamic court had found the three men guilty of "committing the extreme obscenity of homosexuality and imitating women" in violation of Islamic laws that ban homosexuality. The three men, who were put to death in the nation's southern city of Abha, were also convicted of raping children and photographing them naked with the intention of blackmailing them. The executions brought to at least 67 the number of people put to death in the conservative kingdom so far this year.

Masked slasher attacks four gay men in cruisy Brooklyn park

BROOKLYN—Police are searching for a masked prowler dressed in a black ninja-style costume who has slashed three gay men and clubbed another in attacks in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, *Newsday* reported. Detectives say the four attacks took place between June 28 and July 7 in a section of the park known as the "Vale of Cashmere," a heavily wooded area where men frequently cruise for sex. Deputy Inspector Barbara Sicilia, commanding officer of the Hate Crime Task Force, said the man has not made anti-gay remarks, but the attacks are being investigated as possible bias crimes because of where they took place. "It is probably the perception of the perpetrator that his victims are all gay, but I'm not going to comment on their sexual orientation," she said. "This guy is dangerous; we want to get him." On July 7, the man attacked his fourth victim while police officers combed the park and a helicopter flew overhead during a search for him.

Police raid S&M party in Boston, file charges for consensual acts

ATTLEBORO, Mass.—Police in this small Boston suburb broke up an S&M dungeon play party recently, seizing the sex toys and charging two people with assault and battery for consensual S&M play, the *Boston Globe* reported. Police officers stumbled upon the club, located across the street from their own headquarters, while investigating a report of stolen music equipment. They charged Stefany Reed, 38, with assault and battery, even though the activity she was engaging in was consensual. They also charged Benjamin Davis, 23, in whose name the room was rented, with assaulting a detective, exhibiting or lending articles for self-abuse, keeping a house of ill fame for lewdness, eight counts of carrying a dangerous weapon, and with being "accessory to assault and battery before the fact." Some legal specialists have questioned the filing of criminal charges. "Laws such as assault and battery should not be relied on as pro for enforcing moral judgments about private conduct," said Jennifer Levi, staff attorney for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for July 26.



Stefany Reed was one of a handful of people arrested in a Boston suburb recently after police stumbled across an S&M dungeon party that featured consensual sex acts.

Gay student alleges N.H. campus cop sexually assaulted him

DURHAM, N.H. (AP)—The former police chief for the University of New Hampshire has been accused of sexually assaulting a male student. The unidentified student, 23, claims that Roger Beaudoin groped and intimidated him last year. Authorities began investigating Beaudoin, 65, in May when the student filed a complaint with the state attorney general's office. The university conducted an internal investigation, but concluded no crimes had been committed and allowed Beaudoin to resign in April rather than be fired. In court documents released last week, university officials said Beaudoin admitted to having sexual contact with the student, but said it was consensual, and has pleaded innocent to four charges of sexual assault. Although the student is openly gay, he said he made it clear to Beaudoin that he was not interested in a sexual relationship. "He asked me if I liked older men," the student said. "I kept saying, 'No.' He kept saying, 'I think I'm gay.' ... I don't see how he can think that it is [consensual]. He's standing there with a gun on his side and I'm pulling away when he's trying to do something." Beaudoin's lawyer, Lincoln Soldati, called the student "a damn liar."

Army probes gay porn web-site over pictures of soldiers

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.—The Army is investigating a gay porn web-site where pictures of soldiers—some naked, some having sex with other men—have started to appear, the *Front Page* reported. Lt. Col. Jim Hinnant of Fort Bragg said the base "currently has an active investigation" of www.active-duty.com, but added that "further comment would be inappropriate." The web-site advertises that all of its models either are or were soldiers, and says that many of them are not gay. That admission gives the Army, according to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" rules, a justification for its investigation. In late May, the site abruptly closed its general public pages and became available only to subscribers.



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—From staff and wire reports

Casual for a cause

Fund-raiser for HLG community center is Sunday at Riva's

by ELLA TYLER

"Resort Casual" is the theme of a July 23 fund-raiser for the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

And Susan Guerrero, chair of the event, isn't talking Carole Little. "It's, girl, resort to any old casual thing you've got. It's the money we're after," she said.

Tickets are less than the price of a Carole Little outfit too, \$35, which includes a social hour, dinner, music and a silent auction. The party runs from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Riva's Italian Resort on Missouri.

"So many fund-raising events in the community are black-tie things, and while they are very nice, they're expensive. There's the ticket price, then there's something new to wear," she explained.

"I wanted a simple, low-keyed affair that people could attend without taking out a second mortgage on the house," Guerrero said.

"Besides, it's too hot to get dressed up," she added.

She noted that another attraction to the dinner is the opportunity to take home items from the silent auction.

"We have great stuff for the auction. So far, we have some antiques, wonderful art, dinners at Café Montrose and gifts from Corazon," Guerrero said. "The food will be wonderful—no rubber chicken—and the setting is perfect."

Chevron, Raymond West of Remax Metro and Guerrero are underwriting the event.

In line with Guerrero's plans to keep the event simple, only 120 tickets are available. Reservations may be made by calling the community center at 713-524-3818 or Guerrero at 713-754-2811.

Guerrero hasn't decided what she will

wear, but she isn't going to buy anything new.

"I look good in black and white sundresses, so I'll probably wear one of the three I have," she confided.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser will be used to support the community center's ongoing expenses.

The community center is home to eight gay and lesbian groups and presents a variety of programs.

"Our tenants are non-profit groups, and because we want rent to be affordable for them, it doesn't cover our rent and utilities," said Maria Minicucci, president of the center.

The two-story house at 803 Hawthorne rents for \$2,200 a month according to Minicucci.

Guerrero, development director for the Center, said the party may be an annual event.

"We never have had a structured fund-raising program, so we are trying several things," Guerrero said. "If the party is successful, we will do it every year. There's not a lot going on this time of the year."

The center's regular programming includes coming-out groups, a lesbian and a family movie night, a woman's writing group, and a monthly forum on lesbian sexuality. The center hosts events and discussions, such as an upcoming panel discussion about Paul Broussard's murder.

Individuals or groups may rent the building for parties or meetings.

"We've had several commitment ceremonies here," Minicucci said. "We like that. We want people to think of us as home."

INFO

'RESORT CASUAL' FUND-RAISER FOR COMMUNITY CENTER

July 23, 5:30 p.m.
 Riva's
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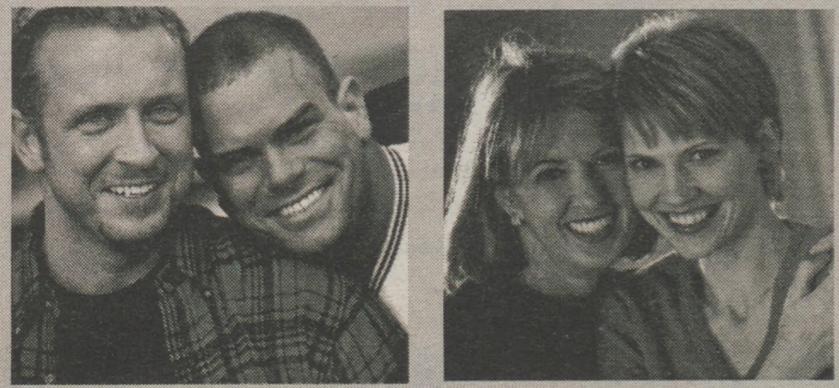
With the help of Channel 2 and Popcorn, Schlessinger will be broadcast her hatred to a nationwide TV audience beginning this fall. Her radio show is currently aired at KSEV-AM 1180.

We call on AOL, who receives loans by sale our protest to Stop Dr. Laura!

PHOTO BY DALTON DEHART

Protesters line up near JR's Friday, July 14, in preparation to demonstrate in front of KSEV radio station. The event was designed to "create an awareness among Houston listeners about Dr. Laura and ask for executives at the Channel 2 KPRC to terminate their plans to air a new TV show featuring popular radio talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger," said protest organizer Dan DiDonato. KSEV currently airs Schlessinger's radio program.

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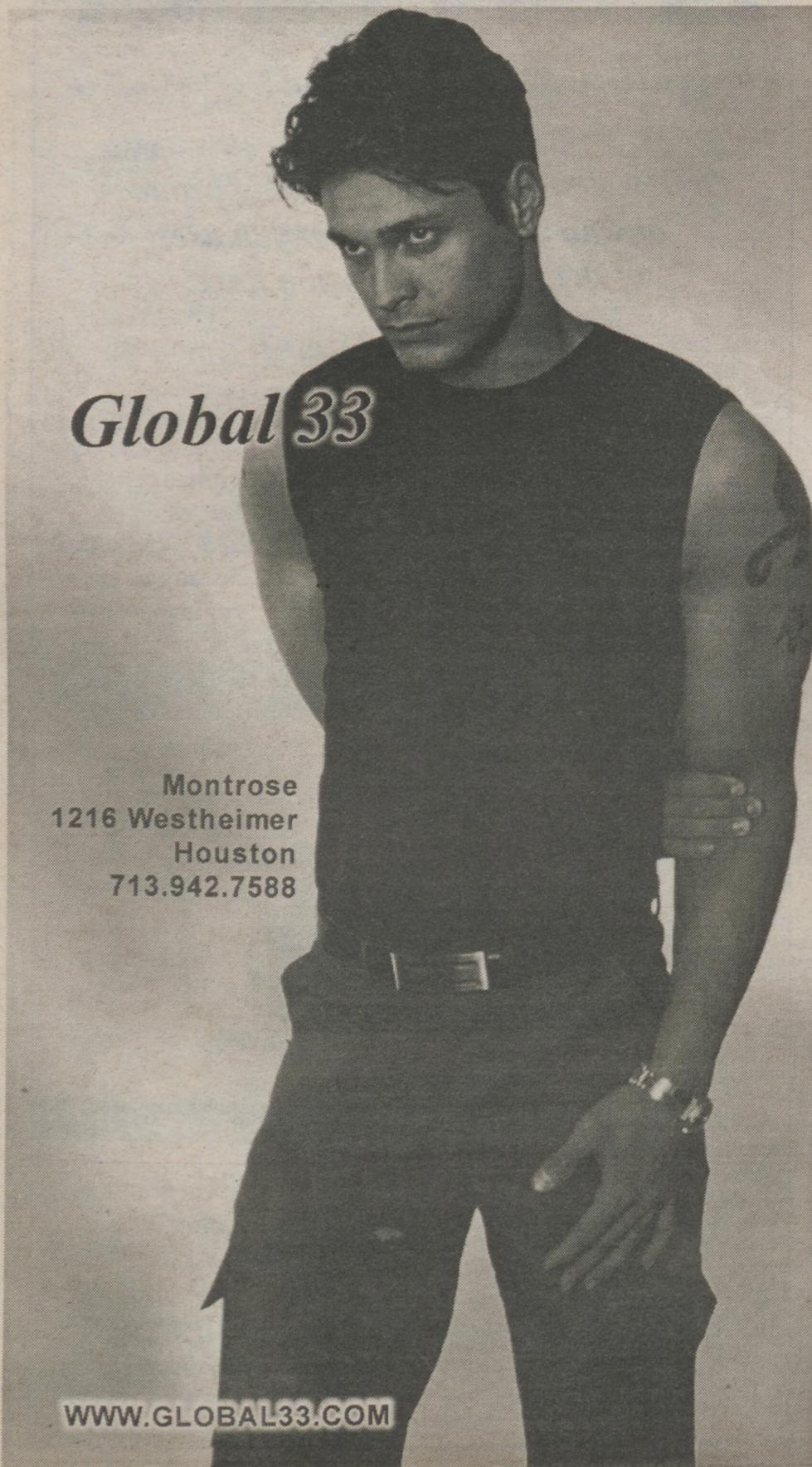
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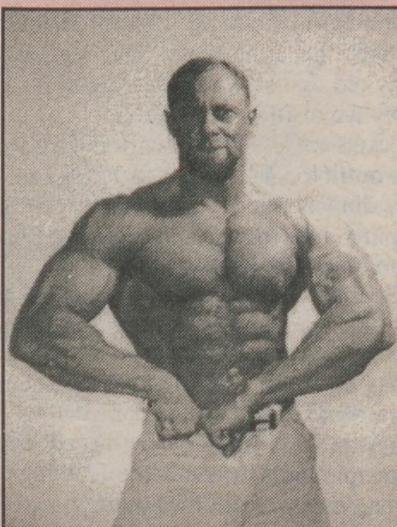
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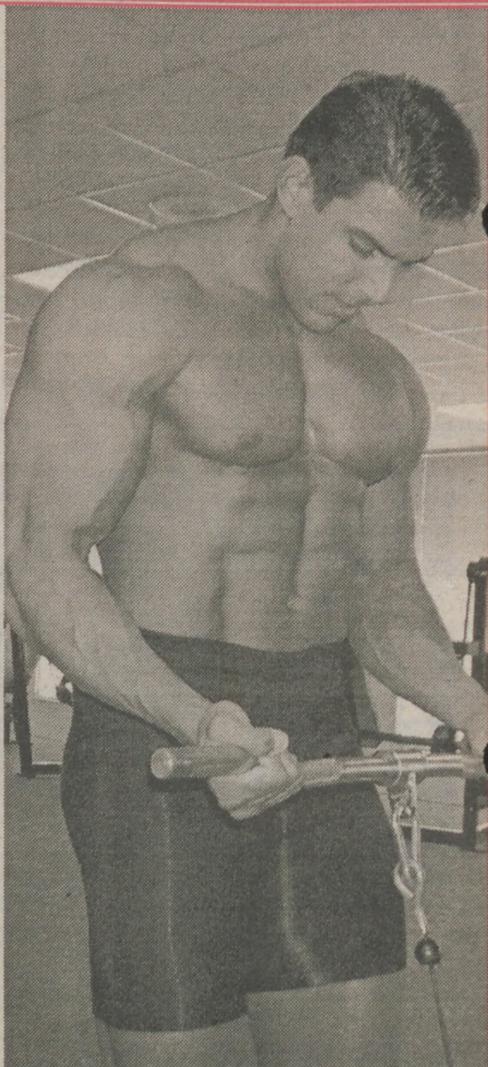


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Health News

Texas study on hearing supports nature over nurture for gays

AUSTIN—Two university of Texas professors have found evidence in the way people respond to sounds that suggest that homosexuality is an inherited trait, according to the *Austin American-Statesman*. Dennis McFadden and Craig Champlin's research used brain wave responses to show that heterosexual men and women process sound in different ways. Lesbians and bisexual women, they found, handle sound in a "masculinized" way, while gay and bisexual men respond in a "hypermasculinized" way, according to the newspaper. McFadden and Champlin believe these differences are caused by exposure in utero to higher than normal levels of androgens, a class of predominately male hormones, which they believe could also be a cause of homosexuality. "There's no shortage of evidence that this is not some social-political choice, anymore than being heterosexual is a social-political choice," McFadden said. But he emphasized that knowing the auditory characteristics of an individual would not necessarily predict sexual orientation.

Study results signal rise in risky sex behavior among gay men

DENVER—Gay men here are self-reporting more risky behavior, prompting experts to warn of a new tide of infections, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*. Denver was part of a six-city study last year to determine why gay men have become less careful about their sex lives. The study found that one in three were less concerned than previously about contracting HIV, with half of those saying the reason is because of better drug treatments for those with HIV. A study in last week's issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that among young gay men in seven American cities, 41 percent had unprotected, high-risk sex within the past six months, and with an average infection rate of seven percent. The infection rate varied from 12.1 percent in New York to 2.2 percent in Seattle. Denver is one city where the National Institutes of Health is studying a new counseling program for men on risky behavior. The sessions cover sex, drugs, drinking, acceptable risk limits, poor self-image and triggers for risky behavior. "It gets into thoughts and feelings," Project Explore coordinator Laurie Peter said. The study won't be published until 2003.

FDA approves new use for anti-breast cancer drug tamoxifen

WASHINGTON—The FDA has approved the anti-breast cancer drug tamoxifen for use against another form of breast cancer called intraductal cancer, according to the *New York Times*. Intraductal cancers are very small tumors in the cells that line the milk ducts. They are too small to feel, and are usually only discovered through mammography. The condition is not invasive the way other cancers are, but can spread throughout the milk ducts of the breast and are usually treated by mastectomy. About 40,000 cases are diagnosed annually in the U.S., versus about 180,000 cases of invasive breast cancer. Approval of tamoxifen was based on a study that appeared in *The Lancet* in June 1999 that showed after five years, women who had intraductal cancers and took the drug were 43 percent less likely to progress to invasive breast cancer.



Sometimes overlooked, intraductal breast cancer can lead to a mastectomy, though the FDA recently approved tamoxifen as a treatment to keep the small-tumored cancer from becoming invasive.

Intimate questions answered through health hotlines in N.C.

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. (AP)—Day and night, people with sex on their minds call the American Social Health Association. Without a blink or a blush, more than 100 workers give the often explicit answers to their most intimate questions. The American Social Health Association's three STD hotlines are among the world's largest in answering questions about sexually transmitted diseases, handling over 850,000 calls a year. The agency operates the National STD Hotline, the National AIDS Hotline, and the National Herpes Hotline, all for the CDC. "This time of year, we're going to get a lot of calls about mosquitoes, with people asking, 'Can I get HIV from mosquitoes?'" said Tracey Adams, community outreach and promotions manager for the association's AIDS hotline (1-800-342-2437). HIV cannot be transmitted by mosquitoes, but Adams said people don't necessarily believe her when she tells them. The hotlines started in New York City and moved to North Carolina 12 years ago when ASHA moved from Palo Alto, Calif. So much attention has been focused on AIDS that other sexually transmitted diseases often are viewed too lightly, Adams said. "Nationally, I don't think people realize syphilis is still a problem, or that chlamydia is at record proportions. Working here has really changed my perspective," Adams said. "Those HIV statistics are pretty scary. They're pretty bleak."

—From staff and wire reports

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Q & A

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Jeffrey Regina Rob

Family vows to fight for anti-discrimination laws in Texas

> Continued from Page 5

"Gonzales is renowned for its history, architecture and hospitality," the article begins. "According to one same-sex couple, the town's reputation should also include a tendency toward 'homophobia.'"

In the same newspaper, the publisher attacked McDaniel and the San Antonio Express-News writer who covered the family's plight. Publisher Jim Cunningham asked in an editorial presented as an e-mail sent to the Express-News why the writer had not attempted to get unbiased input for his story and why he had not spoken with anyone at the Gonzales Inquirer.

"Did you ask McDaniel how many jobs she had while in this quiet little city?" Cunningham also asked in the editorial.

McDaniel worked for Cunningham for a short time during her three years in Gonzales, but she was fired, she said.

"Ask yourself if you should have taken on faith what the two scam artists sold you. Ask yourself what they were trying to accomplish with this sensationalism," the editorial continued. "You may have noticed that very few people in Gonzales really care or even know about the nonsense the women are promoting."

McDaniel said she hopes to find better treatment in Wisconsin.

"It's a very different group of people there," she said. "The city of Madison particularly is very open-minded. It's going to

be a lot different there."

Legal advisors McDaniel contacted suggested she move to a state where children have legal protections in schools, she said.

"We were thinking about moving someplace in the state of Texas," she said. "But there are no laws to keep this from happening again."

McDaniel said she is also looking forward to the state's employment protection for gays and lesbians.

"I'm 45 years old and I need a job," she said.

But she said finding an accepting environment for their daughter is most important.

"The number one factor is when [our daughter] is enrolled in school in August, she will not be the only child of a same-sex couple."

McDaniel said the family will make a return trip to Texas when the state legislature is in session to speak out in favor of anti-discrimination laws. She said she hopes the publicity her family has gained over this incident will make a difference in the long run.

"We didn't mean for this to happen, but we're going to keep speaking on the issues," McDaniel said.

"It's going to take a lot more people than me to change the laws in the state of Texas. And until the laws are in place, no place is safe in the state of Texas."



PHOTO: DALTON D...

Sonny McDaniel's daughter, holding the family pet, looks out the Houston hotel room window where she, her mom and her mother's partner Sandy McGill stayed during a visit last week. The three are moving to Wisconsin this weekend to escape harassment and discrimination encountered in their former hometown of Gonzales.

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Panelists to discuss protection against hate crimes

> Continued from Page 5

against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. He tries to sort out "lovers' quarrels" and "disgruntled tricks" from hate crimes, according to Hill.

Hill has asked Judge Brian Rains, the judge in the Broussard trials, or Judge Michael Anderson, who was the prosecutor in the Broussard trials, to be on the panel at the Community Center.

"I thought it would be real interesting to have their perspective. These cases, in spite of what some people think, were very aggressively prosecuted. The sentences given were significant. Of the 10 assailants, nine have gone to prison. Only one of the 10 has managed to maintain his probation requirements and stay out," Hill said.

"I'm going to be on the panel because I'm the guy that worked closely in the investigation and through the prosecution. Initially the police said 'this is an anonymous killing. The chances of identifying the assailant are pretty remote.' It was my plan and work that increased the visibility of the crime. With the assistance of Act-Up and Queer Nation, demonstrations and all that, we moved it from the back pages of the newspaper to headline story on all the network television stations and the front page of the newspaper.

"And that shook the trees. Someone came forward to a gay professor at the

University of Houston and said, 'I think I know one of the assailants.' We tracked one down and got the names of the other nine."

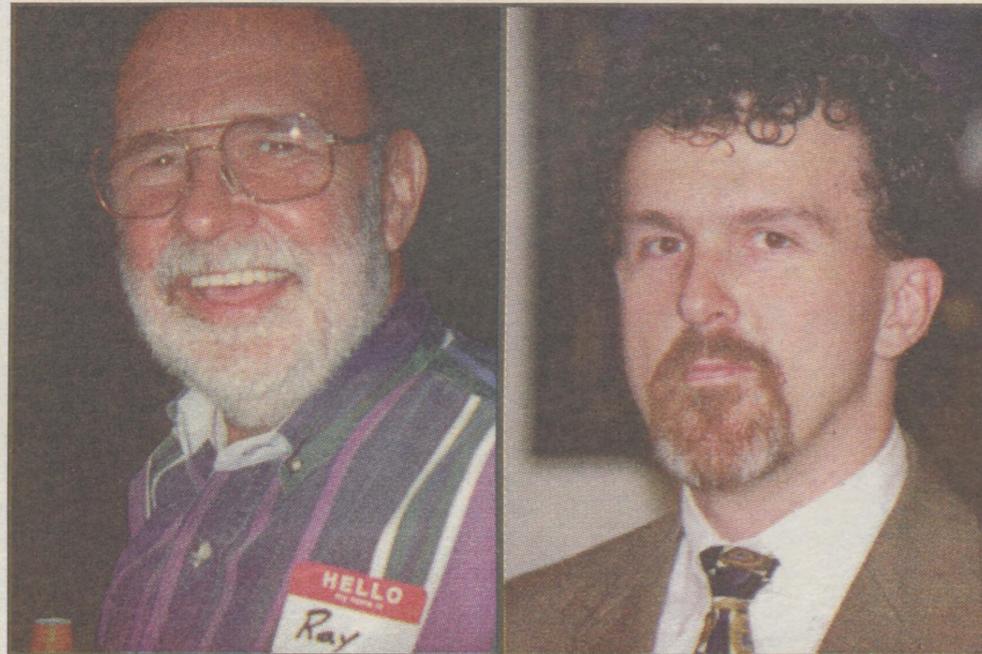
Hill said Clarence Bagby, representing the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will be on the panel. The NGLTF is a guardian of hate crime statistics, according to Hill.

There will also be a representative of Q-Patrol will be on the panel. Q-Patrol will be organizing a visual reminder of hate crimes for the evening. A United States flag will be displayed where participants will have the opportunity to place a record of a hate crime committed against them or someone they know.

Hill's hopes for the evening include getting some new ideas for Q-Patrol and their recruiting. He believes Q-Patrol's presence does more than any other civilian activity open to the average citizen without arrest powers.

He sees the primary goal of the evening as opening up thinking about hate crimes. Hill said this is a prime time of year for hate crimes to occur—after Gay Pride and school is still out for the summer. Hill believes, as the time after an incident increases there is an increasing lack of being alert for personal safety.

"At the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center we are very interested in working with other organizations in the community to collaborate on programs and



Community activist Ray Hill, left, and Clarence Bagby, of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will be panelists at a public forum on hate crimes Monday at 7 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne.

events impacting people in Houston. When Ray Hill and Q-Patrol approached us we thought it was an ideal partnership," Brookover said,

"At the community center we try to serve as a central resource for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community including making our space available at the Center for meetings and events, provid-

ing information and sponsoring or producing educational and informative programs."

INFO

HATE CRIMES FORUM

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Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • JULY 21, 2000

JEZEBELLE 2000 TOUR HITS TEXAS

New York-based lesbian writers scheduled to appear in Austin

by MARK J. HUISMAN

Literary readings don't normally involve gift packs. And for anyone who has ever been bored silly by a dry recitation or an aloof author, that's precisely the problem.

But what if authors gave away freebies like body glitter, disposable cameras and mousepads? What if readings showcased local singers and celebs? What if the authors sang a track from their very own CD? Would anybody come to such an event? Would it still be a reading? And would the writers actually sell some books?

Enter the Jezebelle.

Jezebelle 2000: The Glam Lit Tour was designed by three New York-based lesbian writers to answer those very questions. The Jezebelle, as they call themselves after the Biblical sin kitten, are poet Elena Georgiou, novelist Lauren Sanders and spoken word performer Cheryl B. Armed with a literary manifesto for queer art in the new millennium, these dykes are sexualizing the summer—on and off the page.

As you read this, Jezebelle 2000 is on its way to a bookstore, bar or back room near you. The tour will hit Austin's Book People, 603 N. Lamar, July 24 at 7 p.m. Miss it and be damned to literary boredom forever.

"Look out America!" Sanders shouts, perhaps a little too loudly for the half-dozen patrons gathered very early one morning at Little Poland diner in Manhattan's East Village. The nosh spot has been a ritual gathering place for the Jezebelle since last September, when the tour took root.

"Elena and I were both being published by independent publishers," Sanders recalls. "We were never going to get any marketing support from them. But we wanted our own tour."

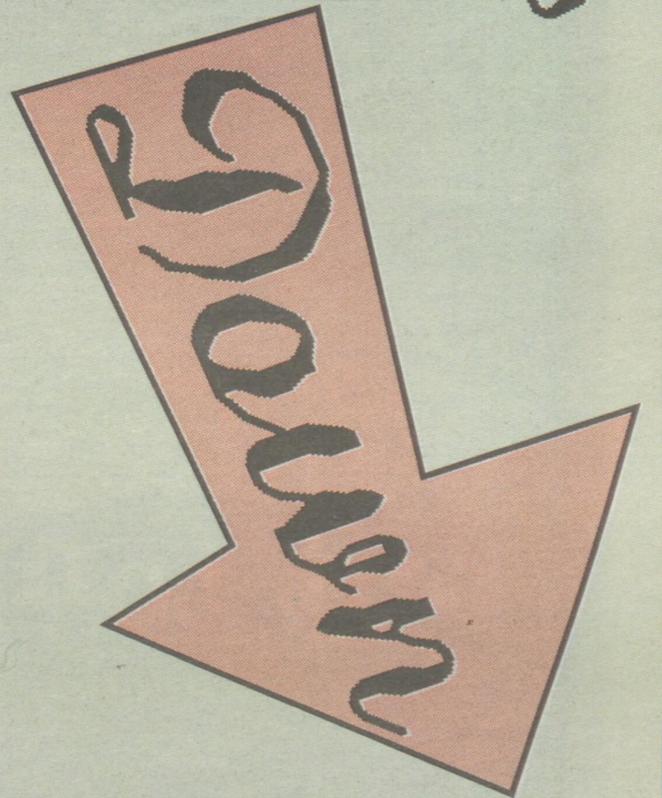
"It was a really sophisticated process," sighs Georgiou. "I mentioned it to Cheryl."

"And I said, 'I want to go, too!'" adds B.

They incorporated, assigned "jobs"—"Cheryl is president, Lauren is the cashier and I'm the janitor," Georgiou quips—trademarked the name Glam Lit and recorded a CD, "Sinful

> Continued on Page 24

Going



Broadway score not enough to keep 'Titanic' afloat

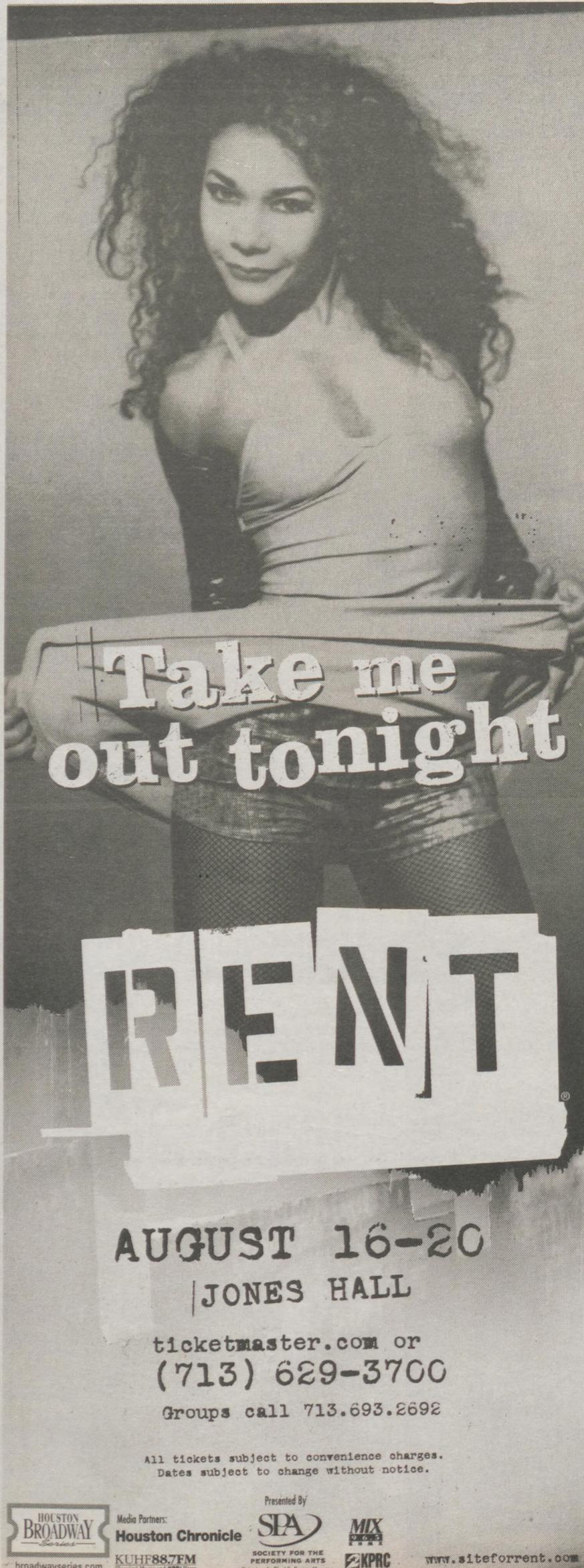
by D.L. GROOVER

After a three-year run on Broadway, TITANIC the Tony-award winning Best Musical of 1997, chugs into the Jones Theater and promptly sinks.

Taking more time than the actual "eighth wonder of the world" did to submerge, this dinghy of a musical can't possibly tote its heavy cargo of five Tonys with any semblance of shipboard sleekness or Art Nouveau charm. There are no brisk Atlantic breezes to clear the eyes, no wafting hot toddies to fire the

> Continued on Page 25





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On Stage

You gotta get a gimmick

Novelty is all 'Naked Boys Singing!' reveals

By D.L. GROOVER

In that grande dame musical, "Gypsy," the three old pro ecdyasts offer wise advice to the burlesque novice Miss Lee.

If you want to be successful, they sing while bumping and grinding, create your own identity, something memorable, catchy, and instantly recognizable.

Apparently, the creative team of Los Angeles's Celebration Theatre took the girls' counsel to heart. Needing a boost in ticket sales, they combined the two most profitable gay theatrical themes, musicals and nudity, into a surefire moneymaking gimmick. The result of their labor, as if you didn't know, is NAKED BOYS SINGING! and the requisite eye candy is now on display at Bienvenue Theatre.

Ultimately, what saves this show is the graceful and witty production. Christian DeVries has smoothly directed his naked boys in their disparate numbers, while choreographer Chad-Alan Carr, who does double duty as one of the cast, gives a polished Vegas look to the proceedings.

The title says it all. Unfortunately, there's not much else to this musical, for the novelty of eight naked guys prancing about wears thin quickly. Once the revelatory shock of being up close and personal to the bodies fades, our gaze starts to wander from the obvious spots. We immediately notice that, literally, there's nothing behind this show to warrant the attention.

This is a musical revue written by committee. Twelve writers have had their 24 hands in this mix. Invariably, there are too many cooks, and no chef. Without a unifying central theme (except the obvious: hey, they're not wearing any clothes) this gay musical meanders around for 15 odd numbers without much thought in its head. It's well-scrubbed and sex-free, non-prurient and G-rated. You wonder why they bothered removing their clothes.

We're treated to the obligatory high school gym class shower ritual ("Fight the Urge"); the cutting-edge Jewish rite of passage ("Bliss of a Bris"); a c/w bar scene ("Everything Is Bigger in Texas"); a voyeur's ballad ("Window to Window"); a porn star's rendition of the good life ("Perky Little Porn Star"); a cleaning man's paean to scrubbing in the nude ("The Naked Maid"); a Gilbert & Sullivan parody to the penis ("Members Only") and a tribute to the men of yesterday with their less than perfect bodies ("Robert Mitchum").

Cast members of 'Naked Boys Singing' include (front, from left) Agustin Paz, Mikel Reper, Sean Carter, (back row, from left) Thom Knight, Todd Greenfield, David Brett, Ricky O'Neill, Chad-Alan Carr, Craig Willoughby and Tony Parsons.



There's clever verbal and visual spoofing in "Jack's Song," an ode to masturbation; and a touching love ballad sung to a departed lover, "Kris, Look What You Missed," but, throughout, the songs and lyrics are pretty standard and awfully limp.

For a musical that parades its gimmick in our face, it's ironic that the best number, the most erotically charged, is the love song when Augustin Paz slowly dons his clothes, until by song's end he's fully dressed. If only the rest of the show would be so charged. This is a sex musical without a rise.

The bodies in question—admit it, that's what you've come for—range from ordinary to beef, and, except for a few decorously shaved patches, are smooth. For you bear trappers out there, forget it. As for their other attributes, we'll draw a veil over those, but if the sight of flaccid flapping members is what you crave, these eight should certainly satisfy.

While the cast has shed their clothing inhibitions with professional verve, there are too many who have become shy and tentative in the vocal department. Even from the third row, it was often impossible to hear some of the lyrics. Even though the Bienvenue is an intimate theater, it's quite acceptable to belt. Sing out, Louise, as Momma Rose commands in "Gypsy."

Ultimately, what saves this show is the graceful and witty production. Christian DeVries has smoothly directed his naked boys in their disparate numbers, while choreographer Chad-Alan Carr, who does double duty as one of the cast, gives a polished Vegas look to the proceedings. The sight of a tap dancing duo of cutout Robert Mitchums is truly clever, and the toque-wearing, mallet-wielding cooks "beating their meat" into scaloppini is worthy of the best of Monty Python.

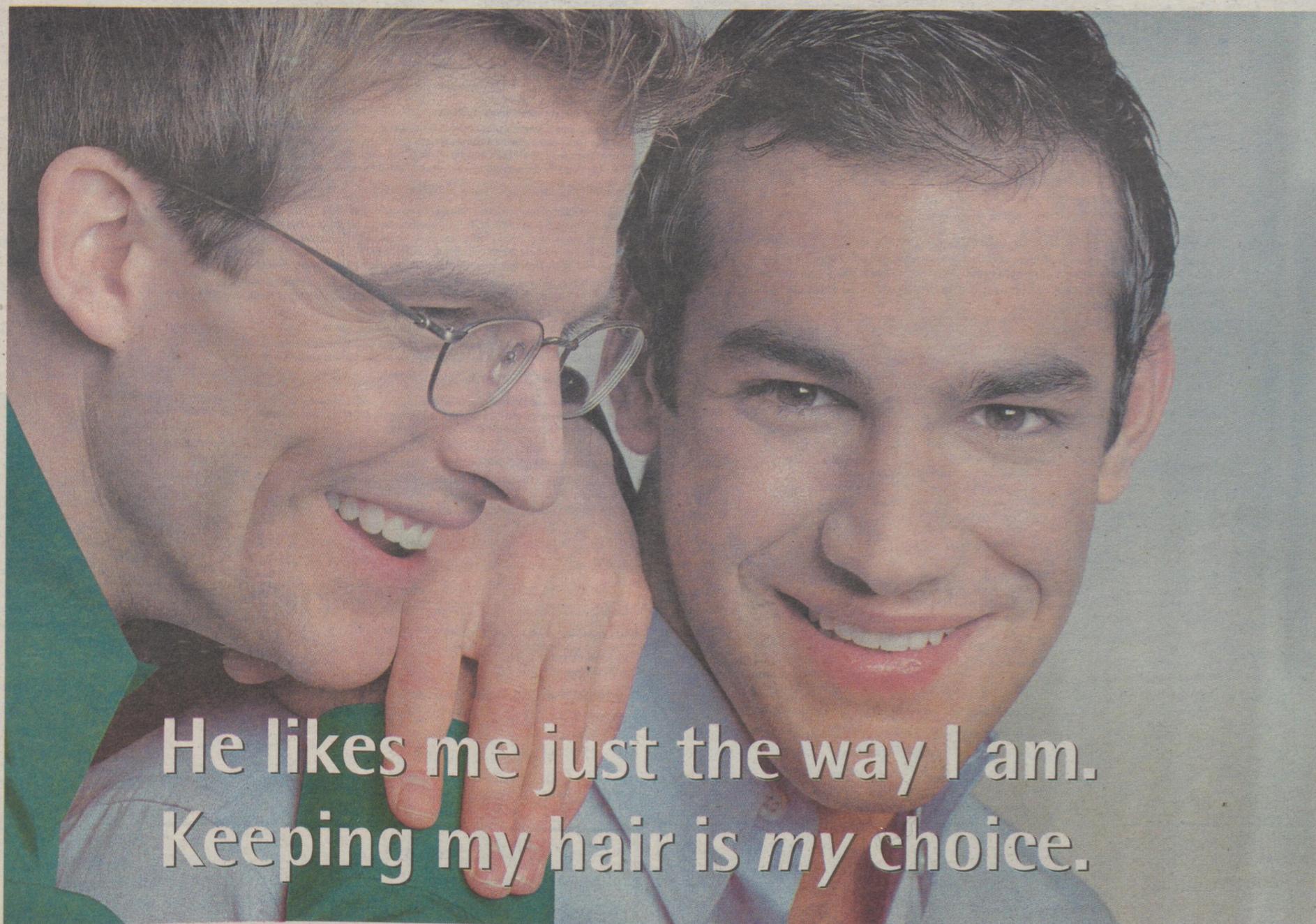
This show gives each of the eight naked boys ample opportunity to strut their stuff, but Mikel Reper's comic timing does wonders for his "Perky Little Porn Star" turn, while Sean Carter's rich, full voice fills out his numbers with a pleasing natural stage presence.

Although the authors attempt to give the tepid, juvenile revue some sort of significance, their idea that "nakedness is a window to the soul" never catches fire unless what we're finally peering into is adolescence. And who wants to look through that window again?

INFO

Naked Boys Singing

Bienvenue Theatre
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No closing date



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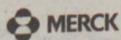
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Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area. PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel**** Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

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- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do **not** take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will **not** work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

Who should **NOT** take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- **Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:**
 - must not use PROPECIA
 - should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- **PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.**

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. **PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.**

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Classy classics

Dish makes standard fare fancy

by TRAYCE DISKIN

If the namesake of this new Montrose haunt, brought to you by the owners of "Benjys" in the Village, conjures up garish laughter and a ostentatious, gossipy scene, think again.

The subtitle "Updated American Classics" menu at DISH captures the concept perfectly as Chef Aaron Guest stylishly transforms old diner standbys without compromising simplicity. The minimalist decor emphasizes more subtle, ambient touches—for instance soft beige shavings of raw wood sealed into the military-gray table tops, or the deeply cut square windows spilling over with polygons of sunlight and shadow.

DISH

updated american classics

Think of it as the Menil without the art. While the atmosphere strives for hip and trendy, it also achieves an informality that would be perfect for those lunch or dinner dates which aren't quite ready for the candlelight and violins. In fact, we pegged most of the parties as frosty-haired girlfriends ("women who are just friends"), with an uneven sprinkling of boyfriends ("men who aren't just friends"). A little past 8 p.m. however, the narrow barroom area began to fill with a more diverse crowd, as diners cradled their martinis and waited for their reserved seats.

Thankfully, the menu doesn't take itself too seriously. Take for instance the Macaroni and Cheese (\$9.50) whose description reads "with caramelized onions and expensive mushrooms," (porcini, shiitake and portabella, we found out), or the Caesar Salad (\$5.99), "eggless and anchovieless."

For appetizers tried the small order of Calimari (\$8.50) which was more than enough for our party of two. The batter was hard and crispy instead of lightly dusted, and the plate featured more tentacles than meaty rings of squid. The rings we did manage to salvage from the chaos of shredded parmesan cheese and pico de gallo were thin and flimsy. I have to admit a bias when it comes to dipping sauce, since there's nothing I like better with calimari than a perfectly seasoned, spicy marinara. With a wink to the good 'ole South, the sauce at Dish is a peppery garlic ranch.

The Yellow Tomato Gazpacho (\$5.99) is delicious and fresh, although I could do without the shiny traces of oil floating on the top. The puree of tomatoes, peppers,

onion and zesty cilantro was flavorful and rich, and makes a perfect summer choice.

Although I wouldn't deem the menu itself minimalist, it's wise to listen carefully to the specials for some more diverse entree options. My Three Way Trout (\$21.95) was a gorgeous platter that served the fish grilled, fried and for number three, in the form of a "trout cake," with a little crab meat to help it out. The taste was almost as impressive as the presentation—jazzy stripes of balsamic and Worcestershire sauce alternating with ever-so-light sprinklings of grated parmesan. The fish was succulent and, as a perfect contrast, the cucumber relish that held up this three-sided tower was freshly pickled and tart.

My companion enjoyed her Buffalo Meatloaf (\$12.99) with plum-sized tater tots, creamed corn, and a port wine and sundried tomato ketchup that looked and tasted more like my absentee marinara than anything else. The meat was lean and filling and the side of french fries, seasoned with sea salt, chili powder and a pinch of cumin, were addictive.

Other promising items were the Striped Bass Almondine (\$16.99) with a caper-dill sauce, the Grilled Baby Back Ribs (\$17.99) with citrus relish and frizzled (love the adjective) onions, or the Crispy Chicken (\$12.99), almond-crusting and garlic-mashed. Dish offers a mouth-watering dessert tray, including cheesecake, chocolate mousse, and three types of fruit pies.

Service was a little schizophrenic—although our server failed, for 20 minutes, to "be right back" to take our appetizer orders, he seemed neurotically observant as we dined on entrees, often interrupting us with, "You seemed to be looking up a lot—is everything all right?" or "Okay, I notice eating, then talking, and now you're eating again—so are you still finishing up?" Although one might chalk this up to idiosyncrasy more than anything else, we envied the diners who received more efficient, and less meta-service service.

FOOD FILE	
DISH	2300 Westheimer 713.528.2050
Food:	☺☺☺☺
Service:	☺☺☺
Value:	☺☺☺
Scene:	☺☺☺☺
☺	Opt for bread, water at home
☺☺	OK, if you really must
☺☺☺	Fine for most
☺☺☺☺	Worth the drive, so live a little
☺☺☺☺☺	As good as it gets

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'Glam Lit Manifesto' comes to Texas

> Continued from Page 19

Idoltrous Rituals." In five weeks, they will perform at 30 venues, driving between 15 cities coast-to-coast, border-to-border, in a very glam rented silver mini-bus. Their sponsor, www.chicklick.com, features promotions on its Web site. Their own Web site, www.jezabelle2000.com, contains updates and photos.

Everywhere they park, the Jezebels will push the Glam Lit Manifesto, which includes planks like no performance without good writing; discrimination about the color of someone's nail polish (or lack thereof) will not be tolerated; anyone who would like to see "a bit more glamour" in the traditionally staid literary world is welcome to join, or just watch.

"Putting glamour into the work doesn't just mean we put on glitter and makeup, although we love doing that," Sanders explains.

"We LOVE doing that," B. says, grinning widely.

"Sometimes readings are just so boring," Sanders continues. "The writer just opens up the book and flips through it. It's just a disservice to their work, a betrayal of the fact that people have come to a performance. Our readings are actually fun to watch."

The Jezebels do put on a right good show. Drag kings, local authors, singers, sexologists and, now and then, even a man or

two are part of the mix. Their books and CD are available for purchase, and every single audience member will get a gift pack full of postcards, temporary tattoos and body glitter.

A Long Island native, Sanders worked in journalism before realizing her true calling: "I liked making things up better." Her debut novel, "Kamikaze Lust" (Akashic Books, \$14.95), follows a Manhattan journalist whose tightly constructed heterosexual world erupts into a messy tangle of porn stars, sibling rivalry and obsessive lesbian love.

A native Briton of Cypriot descent, Georgiou trained as a dancer before embarking on a teaching and performing career in London. Hoping to obtain "a marketable skill," she emigrated to New York and enrolled at Hunter College, where she fell in love with poetry and now teaches tomorrow's bards. She co-edited the anthology "The World in Us" and her first book of poems, "mercy, mercy me" (Painted Leaf Press, \$12.95) astonishes with its observant simplicity and elegant eroticism.

"A Tri-State area girl" who grew up on Staten Island and in New Jersey, B. studied play writing and had several plays produced before devoting her professional energies to spoken word performing in which she had previously dabbled. She has toured extensively and amassed a devoted following for irreverently-written chapbooks like Motor Oil Queen. B.'s current



Elena Georgiou, Lauren Sanders and Cheryl B. comprise the Jezebelle 2000 Glam Lit Tour, which stops in Austin Monday.

"New York Girl" (Vanishing Point Press, \$5), features personal narratives, sometimes slimy but always uproarious, about sex, men, women and sex.

Are they leaving behind girlfriends for the sake of art, or just vibrators?

"I do have a vibrator," B. says without hesitation.

"Girlfriend? Vibrator?" Georgiou gasps.

"I'm a priestess. I'm celibate."

"We've been planning this tour seven days a week since September and that's a very little time," replies Sanders, also unwilling to dig deeply for her public.

"We share a vibrator," says B., coming to their aid, albeit briefly.

"But I'd like to meet some girls on tour. That's a priority."

"Do you want to know about sex?" Georgiou asks. "Well, I haven't had sex in two years."

Sanders points at the tape recorder, tape still spinning between now-empty plates. Georgiou covers her mouth in horror. Sanders and B. burst into a chorus of laughter at their sister's completely unintentional candor.

"We've all slept with Sinead O'Connor," says Georgiou, recovering with the elegance only a poet could muster. "She walked up to us and said, 'Hi, I'm Sinead. Would you like to sleep with me?'"

"We slept with Sinead together," says Sanders. "The three of us."

"We're dykes with a manifesto who have slept with Sinead," says B. "Here we come."

INFO

Jezebelle 2000

Book People
603 N. Lamar
July 24, 7p.m.
1-800-853-9757

"PRAISEWORTHY! Mr. Drake can be rivetingly angry, intense, frenetic, frank and touching... preserving not just a performance but the spirit of a time."

- Laurence Van Gelder, The New York Times

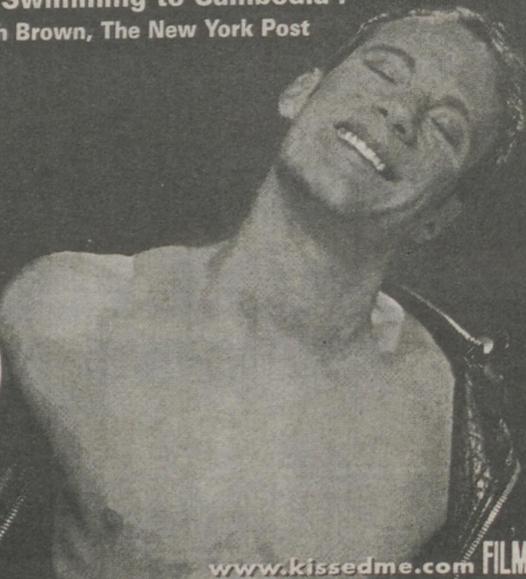
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- Maitland McDonagh, TimeOut New York

"A Gay-themed 'Night' to Remember! Hysterically funny...buoyed by Drake's superb acting and phenomenal energy...Kramer invites comparisons to the best filmed monologues such as Demme's 'Swimming to Cambodia'."

- Hannah Brown, The New York Post

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Broadway production meets fate of namesake

Continued from Page 19

cheeks, not even a comfortable deck chair in which to take refuge. All about is the odor of mustiness, of something brought up from the deep, something that's not very fresh.

This traveling production has all the visual allure of a scuttled tugboat. The one-time only "floating palace" of the White Star Line is here stripped of details, composed of wrinkled drops, and flatly lighted from the footlights.

This traveling production has all the visual allure of a scuttled tugboat. The one-time only "floating palace" of the White Star Line is here stripped of details, composed of wrinkled drops, and flatly lighted from the footlights. It does, however, look

like 1912—Broadway in 1912.

Touring necessitates changes in a production, and a show's original built pieces must be rendered in a simpler mode, easy to lug around and hang quickly during the bus-and-truck weekly grind. But simple doesn't mean ordinary. The only sense of the ill-fated leviathan's true grandeur and luxury is the schematic drawing on the show curtain, measured against an oddly supine Statue of Liberty. There, in cut-away, we see the ship's colossal proportions, her jaw-dropping complexity. The musical gives us minimalism: a gangplank, some interior doors, a promenade deck, a wheel, a Marconi machine. It's not nearly titanic enough.

However, there is one beautiful scenic effect that hints at how ground-breaking this production might have been. As the calamity worsens, the three Kates in steerage are seen from below in dizzying perspective as they watch the water rise. Above them, the interior stairwells rush up toward the first class decks like an M.C. Escher maze. It's such a striking visual, and so

unlike the bland look and staging of everything else, that we're nearly blown out of the water.

This "ship of dreams" flounders for want of any characters to care about. Condensing a passenger list of 2,224 requires



mighty fancy writing, yet that old Broadway veteran Peter Stone skims through the manifest on auto pilot. Everyone's a type: rich snob, nouveau riche matron, poor angry stoker, pregnant unmarried immigrant, insensitive businessman, sweet caring lover. But not one of them is a person. We learn no more about them than what they dream during their boarding anthem.

Say what you will about James Cameron's overheated Victorian melodra-

matics in his cinematic version, he had the good sense to involve us in the tragedy through the love story of Rose and Jack.

Maury Yeston's score is so undistinguished I hardly remember it, although "Godspeed, Titanic" has the power of a good hymn. The merely serviceable music isn't helped by the ear-shattering amplification of the performers, who sound like 50 singers trapped inside a very large oil tanker.

The Titanic's disaster, only eighty-eight years ago, has permeated the world's consciousness and sailed into myth. Ironically, the great boat truly has become unsinkable. Her story has everything: human error, hubris, shattering grief, unbearable sorrow, terror, courage, cowardice, class privilege.

Sadly, this musical doesn't come close to any of these.

INFO

"Titanic"

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Out In Print

BOOK REVIEWS

An entertaining 'Tongue in Cheek'

Southern author takes stab at turning his humorous columns into a collection

by J.S. HALL

These days, gay columnists almost seem a dime a dozen, each carving out their particular niche from which to make commentary.

Michael Thomas Ford has his acerbic, award winning take on life, while Mubarik Dahir's often-angry writings force us to question many things. Paul Varnell offers an older gay man's perspective, and Jennifer Vanasco contributes a young lesbian's point of view.

But Atlanta native Kevin Isom is one of the few who sets out to entertain more so than inform. A true product of the South (urbane, genteel, witty), he has amused readers for several years with his column "Tongue in Cheek (and Other Places)," which also serves as the title for this collection of humorous essays.

But don't think of him as demure.

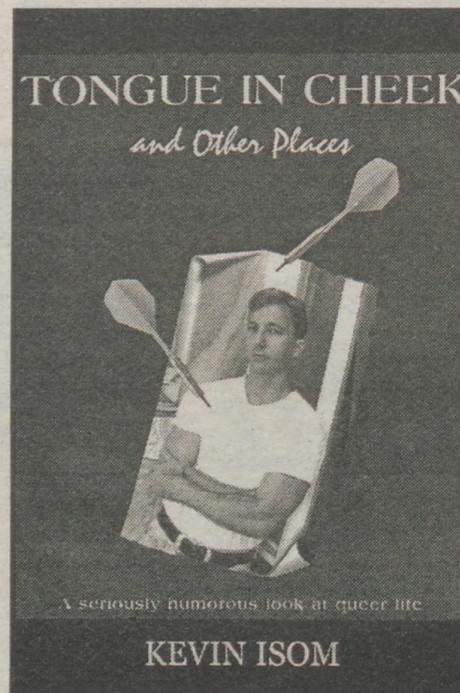
In his opening essay, "Wicked," he takes pains to explain his definition of the term. "Wickedness is badness with a humorous

twist. Style joined with substance. I'm proud to be wicked. ... Being wicked is about living life in an interesting way. About aspiring to be the best person you can be, but permitting yourself to be imperfect along the way."

For the most part, though, Isom remains genial throughout his observations on straight and queer life. He's all for gay marriage—"Do it for the gifts!" he insists—and seems genuinely amazed that "under [Bill Clinton's] definition of sex, gay and lesbian folks never, ever have sexual relations. ... I think my boyfriend might be rather surprised."

But every now and again, his writing takes on a harder edge, as in "A Letter to God," which concerns his thoughts on Matthew Shepard's murder and his killers. And occasionally he'll get poignant, as in one of his last essays, "Parting Gifts," which concerns a late "green-eyed charmer" named Martin (who's alluded to in an earlier part of the book), who died far too soon of AIDS, but kept his quirky sense of humor throughout his battle.

Isom also flouts the notion of gay men being uninterested in having anything to do with children in several essays concerning his sister's son, Reagen. Born premature



and seriously ill, he almost died, but has become a source of joy to his single mother, gay uncle and grandmother.

"I realized that I would do anything, lie, cheat, steal, or kill to protect that child. I was startled by the thought, surprised at the primitive, basic nature of it. I would willingly place his well-being before my own."

Like other gay humorists, Isom riffs on the sillier trends within the community (like the shaving of chest hair), and sends up his inability to live up to certain gay stereotypes, and his less-than-sparkling dating record.

Warming up to the subject of cooking, he observes, "To my astonishment, I discovered after talking with a number of informed sources that straight folks, for whatever reason, generally conceive of gay men as flaming gourmet chefs. Like Julia Child, with extra plumbing." What follows is some of the book's funniest moments, as he takes us on a tour of his kitchen—immaculate and spotless through disuse.

One of the few drawbacks to "Tongue in Cheek" is the length of its essays. Most barely last three pages—once they get off to a great start, they end abruptly with an unpleasant mental jolt. A freer reign on the material at hand would've been better.

Also missing from this collection is a favorite piece of mine, which explores how Matt Damon and Ben Affleck would make a fantastic gay couple—and why so many people already perceive them as such.

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INFO

Tongue in Cheek and Other Places: A Seriously Humorous Look at Queer Life

by Kevin Isom

Writes Club Press, 188 pages, \$11.95

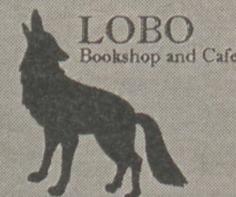
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Things you should know about VIRACEPT VIRACEPT is generally well tolerated. People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea. Diarrhea of moderate or severe

intensity occurred in about one out of five people in clinical trials.

Some common medications and some HIV-related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. Protease inhibitors, including VIRACEPT, may interact with cholesterol-lowering drugs. Talk to your doctor about any prescription or non-prescription drugs you are

taking. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in the distribution or accumulation of body fat, and increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

*IMS Health National Prescription Audit™ data for PIs and NNRTIs, 01/00-03/00.

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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

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 the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (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.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

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:

- 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 (Cafegot® 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.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zorcor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

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)
- Efavir® (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.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

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. 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 14-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two 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. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack.

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 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 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	Kg	Lb	Number of		
			Level Scoops*	Number of Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5		4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23		5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5		6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31		7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35		8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5		9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5		10	2 1/2	2
≥ 23	≥50.5		15	3 3/4	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 foods 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 stored 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.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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“Quote/unquote”

compiled by REX WOCKNER and from staff reports

“I was brought up in a culture where it wasn't a good thing to be gay and so I was quite uncomfortable with it for a long time. And I didn't really want people to know about it and a lot of my friends don't know about it, you know. And I wasn't necessarily comfortable about the whole world knowing about it because I hadn't come to terms with it myself. Or understood myself. But actually there's fucking nothing wrong with it and in fact it's a beautiful thing. ... I'm much more at peace and much happier being myself.”



—Singer Sinead O'Connor (right) to *Curve* magazine, August issue

“I believe it was overcompensating of me to declare myself a lesbian. It was not a publicity stunt. I was trying to make someone else feel better. And have subsequently caused pain for myself.”

—Sinead O'Connor to the *London Sunday Independent*, June 25

“Many gay activists had written off glossies like the *Advocate* and *Out* years ago, well before they were consolidated into one company—bemoaning the soft-focus feature stories on gay vacation spots and diet and fitness trends, the proliferation of ads hawking the latest high-end fashions and luxury goods, the obsession with celebrities and the aversion to anything that could possibly be deemed perverse, kinky or too political.”

—Richard Kim writing in *The Nation*, July 10

“I never understood why we didn't have gay terrorists. Every other movement did, and it works. ... I am not against gay riots. I think all of it works. It worked for the Black Panthers, for all minorities it has worked. Gay militants should stay angry and use humor like the yuppies did to humiliate their enemies. That's the best kind of demonstration, and God knows we have a lot of bitchy queens out there who certainly should be able to come up with some very, very funny political actions that humiliate their enemies.”



—Film director John Waters (left) to the Michigan gay newspaper, *Between The Lines*, June 15

“We're not interested in having kids at all. They're not in my blood. Some people really have a natural inclination to be maternal, but Leisha [Hailey] and I just don't have it, for some reason.”

—Singer k.d. lang to London's *Pink Paper*, June 16

“I find them attractive, definitely. I don't go looking to flirt, I don't go cruising, but I acknowledge my attraction to men. It's energy I go for. A combination of energy and style. I'm not bisexual, but I think men are attractive. I'd like to be bisexual, but I just don't have it this lifetime I'm afraid. I think bi is greedy, but I think it is also innately natural.”

—Singer k.d. lang to London's *Pink Paper*, June 16

“I'm the Frank Sinatra of gay people. You either love Frank or you hate him and there's no in-between. It's the same way with me. I think Scott Thompson has the same problem. I think Sandra Bernhard has the same problem. If you view it as a problem. We're constantly recognized and lauded by the mainstream, but gay people hate us for some bizarre reason, and it's kind of odd because we've been out longer than anybody.”

—Comic Lea DeLaria (right) to the *San Francisco Bay Times*, June 22



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community calendar

saturday, july 22

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama.
713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.
Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m.
Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. 713-528-3818.
Houston Outdoor Group. Social. 713-426-4869.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
FrontRunners. Running Club. 9 a.m. 713-522-8021.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction. Riva's. 1117 Montrose. 713-524-3818.

monday, july 24

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017 Ext. 208.
gayDAR. Wellness community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017 Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m.
Black Lesbian & Gay Coalition weekly meeting. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. • Hate Crimes Forum. 7 p.m. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard monthly meeting. 7 p.m. 713-524-3818. • Free HIV/AIDS testing. Northwoods AIDS Coalition. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 936-441-1614.

sunday, july 23

New Hope Christian Center Worship Service. 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.
Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Baptist Church. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

tuesday, july 25

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 281-495-8009.

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Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
 Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
 Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. 713-410-7215.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Lesbians Co mina Out Group. 7 p.m. • Community Center Board Meeting. 7 p.m., 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.
 Houston Outdoor Group. Monthly meeting & newsletter mailout. 713-522-7809.
 Houston Area Bears. Dine Out. 713-867-9123.

wednesday, july 26

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Ripcord & Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. www.houstonprideband.org.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • "The Erotic self." Workshop for Women. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Grace Lutheran Church. Vacation Bible School. Supper 5:30 p.m. Classes at 6:30 and 8 p.m. Adult & children. 713-528-3269.

thursday, july 27

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017 Ext. 211.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer 713-526-1118.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston. (GLOBAL) Meeting. 4 p.m. 713-743-7539.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

friday, july 28

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Mishpachah Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Lesbian Film Night. "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls In Love." Preceded by Pot Luck. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.

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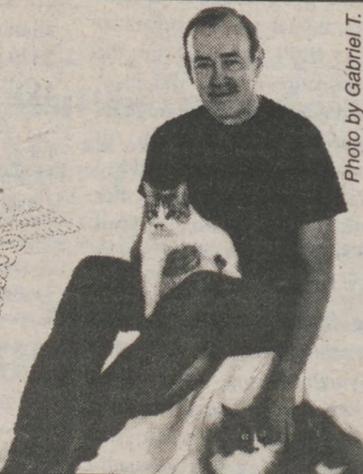


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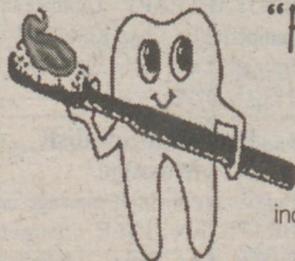
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SEAG&LS

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• Sunday, July 23 @ 2:00 p.m. • Blessed Sacrament Liberal Catholic Church • 4606 Mangum • Call 281.398.9646 for information.

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PWA Coalition

Desperately needs the following items: Dishes, silverware, pots/pans, sheets, towels, dressers, dinettes, coffee tables, sofas, chairs and small appliances. Pick-up available, call 713.522.5428.

Project L.E.A.P.

Are you interested in advocating for funding and services for people living with HIV and AIDS? The PWA Coalition-Houston announces start of Project L.E.A.P., an intensive training program for HIV positive individuals and others who want to become advocates for HIV/AIDS related services and funding. Classes for Project L.E.A.P. will begin in May. Participants must complete an application and a limited number of spaces are available. To receive an application or to obtain more information please call Rich Arenschiold, Project Coordinator at 713.522.5428, ext. 28 or 800.999.0325.

Body Positive Wellness Center

is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower those with HIV infection, through nutrition chiropractic services, yoga, and peer counseling. If you are interested in participation or volunteering, we want to speak with you! Visit our website at www.bodypositive.org or call 713.524.2374.

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Seeking experienced grooming professional for a growing River Oaks Pet Salon • Great opportunity with growth potential for the right person. • Call Tuesday thru Friday • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to schedule an interview • 713.963.9595.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

to give four (4) hours per month for in-home care visits to people living with HIV/AIDS • For more information on Bering's Sentry Program call Craig Overstreet at 713.523.7110 EXT 119.

Houston Lesbian &

Gay Community Center is seeking volunteers to staff the facility in more extended hours. If organizations and individuals are interested, please contact Eva Luchak at 713.524.3818 to discuss how you can help.

RYAN WHITE

PLANNING COUNCIL is looking for volunteers to serve on the council. The primary responsibility of the council is to determine what services are most needed. Last year's Council received over \$17 million from the federal government for use in the greater Houston area. Your participation DOES make a difference. Contact Tori Williams at 713.572.3724 or email www.rwpc.org.

Occasions

Birthdays

Belated birthday hugs to the one and only "Bitchy Craig," who celebrated his birthday on July 10.

Belated birthday hugs to sexy, smart and sassy Alexis of Club Rainbow. You Glow Girl!

Jim Griffith of the Steven's House toasts in his birthday on July 21.

Singing in his birthday suit, Sean Carter hits a high note on his July 21 birthday.

Jim Everret of AVES celebrates his birthday on July 22.

Houston Voice's own D.L. Groover adds another birthday in his book of life on July 23.

Greg W. of the CCCC shines his birthday chrome on July 26.

Handsome and sexy Ken Claude celebrates his birthday on July 27.



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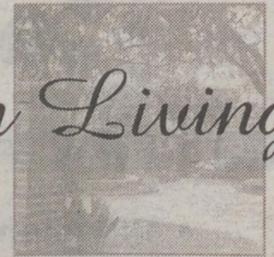
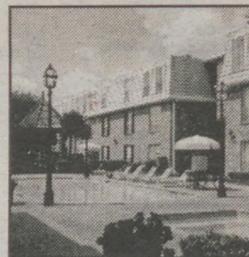
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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

July 21 - 27

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Venus is sending you creative power, babe, so harness like a good piece of... something good... and watch as a dream becomes reality. It doesn't have to be just work-gym-work-gym all the time, you know! A Cancer is sick of the rut, too. Cut loose together.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

The emphasis in late July is on home issues, honey. Aim for calm in your surroundings, and you'll feel a ripple effect in your life. The key to lifting your mood is spending quality time with the one or two people in your life who you trust implicitly and who bring you joy. The beach is extra lucky for you, and so is a Gemini.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Your ruler Mercury is lighting up the money sector of your chart, which means checking in with old colleagues will garner excellent results. The more you work, the more you make it work for you. There's no need to keep acting like a tired old drudge. A Pisces is particularly aware of your sexy, witty ways.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

The moon in your sign over the weekend of the 28th should make you feel "in your element." Stop doing what you're supposed to do and follow your own instincts. Take that trip you've been dreaming of. Fix up your dream pad. Enjoy simple, earthly pleasures. They're even more fun with a homey Taurus.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

A lot of attention comes your way as July closes down. What are you going to do with it? Rather than just preen, come up with a plan. You have survived a difficult part of your life, and the rest of the year will feel like eating cake out in the rain, compared to the late '90s. You are free at last! Celebrate life with a Libra.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

An old lover could send you disturbing psychic vibes or call you to rehash the same old stuff, as Venus transits your endings/new beginnings sector. Don't take the bait, baby! The universe is guiding you toward a more serene, productive (and sexy!) time in your life. When you arrive, an Aries will meet you at the gate—naked.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Mix it up a little and don't be afraid to date somebody that you've only recently started calling a friend. You need to try something new, Libra. You're beginning to bore yourself and others! Study a subject that has always frightened but intrigued you. Sink your teeth into it, and latch onto a Capricorn as well.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

This is definitely a "No guts, no glory" time for you, Scorp. If you've been whining about how no one recognizes you for the genius you are, it's time to put up or shut up. You can actually achieve greater success by following your passions, not your practical sense. A Sag finds your power to be a great aphrodisiac.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Pluto is still wreaking havoc on your psyche, but not for much longer. As an experiment, try this: instead of blaming someone who's wronged you for your misery, let this person off the hook. Traveling always inspires you, so for God's sake, book a flight to somewhere! You could meet a Pisces.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

A lot is going on under the surface in your most important relationship, dear. Stop ignoring the subtle signals a Libra is sending you. Be on the lookout for good investment opportunities. The more your financial situation improves, the more your sexual stamina does, too.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Love is all around you and may overwhelm you as July comes to an end. It's a passionate time for you, so please stop watering down your emotional breakthroughs with tedious rationalizing rants. Save them for the next poetry slam. A Scorpio wants to make your heart beat a little bit faster.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

It may be time to give your body the treat it deserves. Psychic epiphanies come when paying homage to your own flesh. Instead of just talking about talking, why not put your ideas on paper and hone them till they mean something? A Leo likes it when you follow through on your talent.

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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