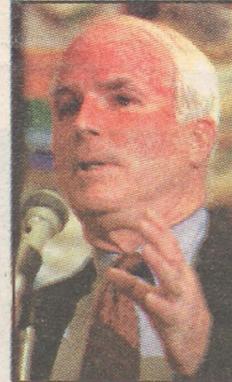
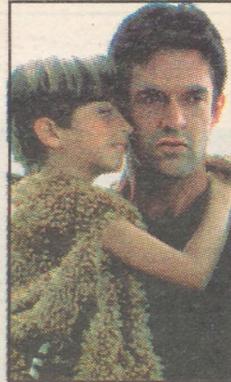


# houston VOICE

As the Texas primary nears, John McCain leads opponents George W. Bush and Alan Keyes in gay support. But some say the candidates don't offer gay GOP voters much choice. **Page 5**



America's gay sweetheart Rupert Everett plays best friends with Madonna and they share an unexpected night of passion, turning him into a gay dad. **Page 19**



ISSUE 1009

ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR LIFE. AND YOUR STYLE.

FEBRUARY 25, 2000

## Taking a stand on the death penalty



The death penalty has collided with gay and lesbian issues recently as four gay men—Glen Alan McGinnis (left), Larry Keith Robison, Calvin Burdine and Michael O'Rourke—either await execution or have recently been put to death. A fifth man, James Walter Moreland (right), was executed last month after a trial in which he used a 'gay panic' defense.

Texas has executed two gay men recently while a third sits on death row, bringing gays face-to-face with capital punishment

by GIP PLASTER

When Curtis Lee Johnson was executed in 1992 for killing Dale Sweat, Houston resident Ray Hill was just outside the walls of Texas death row, protesting against capital punishment.

Sweat was Hill's former lover.

For Hill, who has spent much of his life working for gay rights and trying to bring about reforms in the Texas criminal justice system, his two causes converged on Texas death row. His opposition to the death penalty moved from being a human rights stance to a very personal issue.

It took more than six years after that execution for the death penalty to collide with gay men and lesbians in the national spotlight, this time during the trial of one of the men

accused of killing gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard.

That killer, Russell Henderson, pleaded guilty to felony murder and kidnapping in the Shepard case, in part because the jury pool may have favored the death penalty and because of public opposition to it, including a dozen gay and lesbian groups that went on the record against capital punishment.

Less than a year later, the issue has emerged again—this time in Texas, which has recently executed two gay men. At least one other gay man sits on death row.

Gay men and lesbians are also involved in other death penalty cases around the country. Gay men are awaiting execution for their roles in high-profile killings in Arkansas and

A Houston man on death row awaits judge's ruling **Page 15**

A look at recent gay-related death penalty cases **Page 14**

Oregon, bringing to the forefront the question of whether gays should favor or oppose capital punishment.

### Gays on death row

On Jan. 21, Larry Keith Robison, a gay 42-year old Air Force veteran, was executed for the death of his partner Ricky Lee Bryant and four other people in Lake Worth, a suburb of Fort Worth.

Robison decapitated and sexually mutilated Bryant, perhaps ingesting some of his tissue, leaving his genitalia in the kitchen sink, then going to the cabin next door and killed four other people.

"I don't believe anybody who is not legally responsible for their actions ought to die," Robison told the Associated Press from death row. "Of course, I'm not including myself. It's a difficult situation. I don't want to avoid my responsibility."

On Jan. 25, four days after Robison was put to death, Glen Alan McGinnis, a 27-year-old gay African-American man who was 17 when he killed a Montgomery County mother of

> Continued on Page 14

## 'Frasier' producer slams Paramount on 'Dr. Laura'

GLAAD stays mum while gays inside and outside the studio protest plans to put anti-gay talk show host in living rooms nationwide

by PAIGE PARVIN

Few things are certain when it comes to Dr. Laura Schlessinger's upcoming TV show.

What is sure: Paramount Television Group is developing and syndicating the show, set to air this fall.

No-nonsense advice dispenser "Dr. Laura" is well known for the anti-gay message she preaches on her radio talk show, broadcast on more than 400 stations to 18 million listeners weekly.

(See sidebar, page 11)

The format of the hour-long TV program remains unclear, but that hasn't stopped TV stations in 90 percent of the

country's markets from snapping it up, sight unseen, including Houston's KPRC Channel 2 beginning Sept. 11.

That has gays who work at Paramount, including the co-creator one of the studio's most popular TV shows, hopping mad.

"I am outraged," fumed David Lee, openly gay executive producer and co-creator of the highly successful sitcom "Frasier."

"I have created, written or produced material for Paramount in excess of a billion dollars," he said, "and I'm not the only gay person at Paramount who has contributed greatly."

"I think it's outrageous that Paramount chooses to air a woman who is, I think, literally dangerous to the gay community. She may not go out there with a club in her hand, but she is providing a petri dish where hatred can grow."

### GLAAD, Paramount hold mystery meeting

Dr. Laura's move to TV has gay activists around the country worried, including the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, a national media watchdog group.

> Continued on Page 11



Staffers for Dr. Laura say she retains full control over her TV show, set to air this fall, despite closed-door meetings between Paramount and a gay media watchdog group.

# 2000

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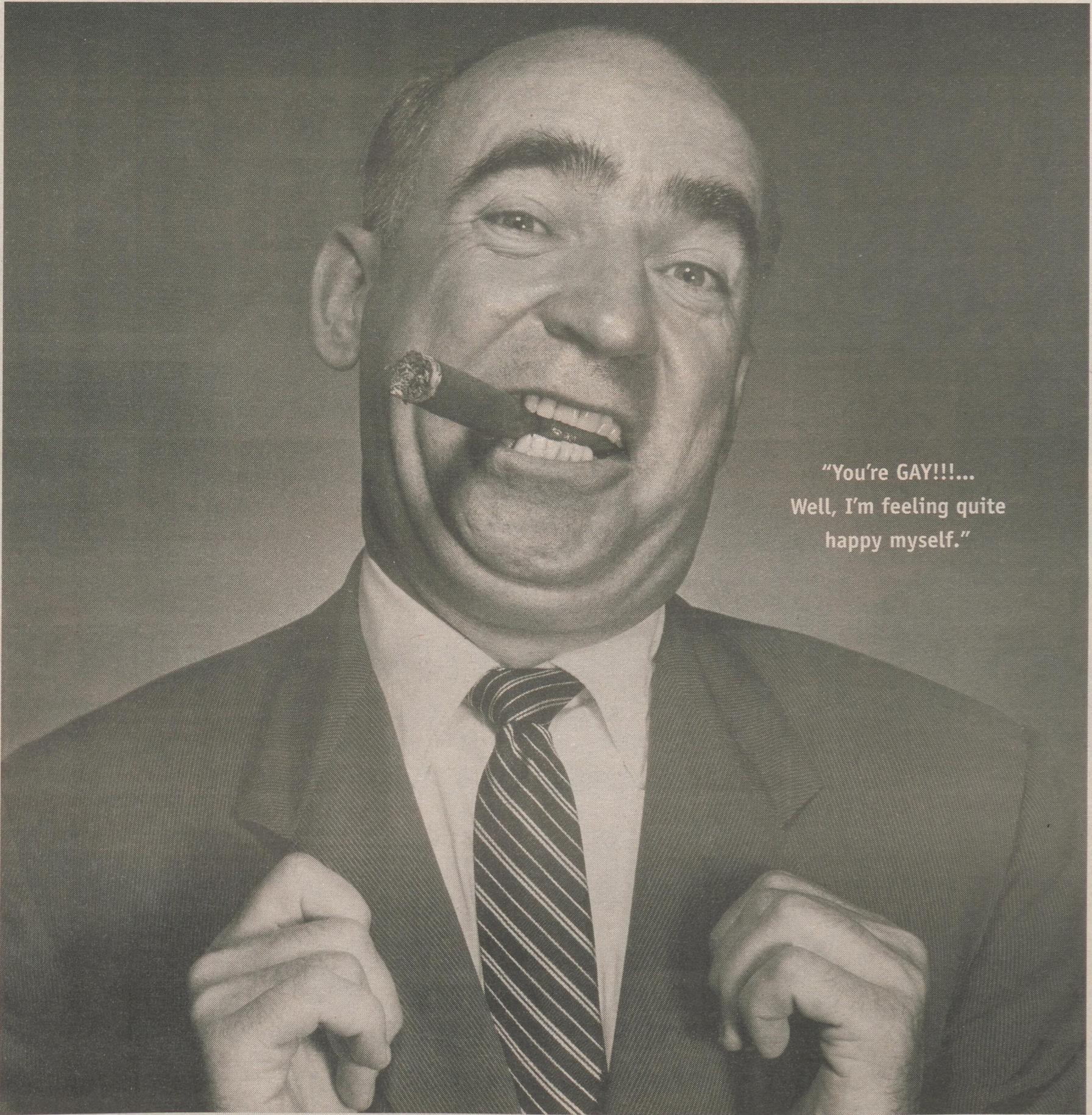
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INSIDE

NEWS

Around the South ..... 6  
 Students suspended over club ..... 6  
 N.C. teacher charged with soliciting sex ..... 6  
 Lesbian can't visit partner's adopted son ..... 6  
 Graffiti may be protest over conference ..... 6  
 Lesbian set to run for N.C. post ..... 6  
 Around the Nation ..... 7  
 Clinton signs tough GHB law ..... 7  
 Bill extends immigration rights to gay ..... 7  
 Jury okay's no gays in parade ..... 7  
 Ohio jury can't decide on flag trial ..... 7  
 Gay youth who fled Siberia seeking asylum ..... 7  
 VOICES & ECHOES  
 Editorial: Who wants to trivialize marriage? ..... 12  
 Vanasco: A celebrity crush ..... 13  
 Letters ..... 13  
 OUT ON THE BAYOU  
 Rupert plays gay poppa ..... 19  
 Mardi Gras nightlife ..... 19  
 On Stage: Sleeping in the eye of beauty ..... 20  
 Eating Out: An island style vibe ..... 25  
 Out in Print: 'Lesbians, Levis and Lipstick' ..... 26  
 Bestsellers ..... 26  
 COMMUNITY  
 'What Lesbians Do' ..... 27  
 Community Calendar ..... 28  
 Past Out: The Lavender House ..... 29  
 Occasions ..... 30  
 My Stars! ..... 35  
 UNIDENTIFIED ..... 32  
 DIRECTORY ..... 34

Issue 1009



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# Upcoming forums bring AIDS experts to Houston

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

In an effort to unravel the treatment tangle that often surrounds medical treatment for an increasingly complex HIV/AIDS virus, two public seminars are scheduled in the next week.

On Feb. 29, the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation hosts a community update on the recent retrovirus conference in San Francisco. The panel for this presentation includes Dr. Shannon Schrader and Dr. Joseph Gathe, two of Houston's prominent HIV treatment specialists.

In addition to the conference recap, one of the nation's leading treatment advocates, Martin Delaney, presents "HIV In the 21st Century" on March 2. Hosted by the Center for AIDS, the event marks Delaney's return to Houston.

Delaney founded Project Inform and has been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS since 1985.

At the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, Delaney was instrumental in forcing the Food and Drug Administration to streamline its approval process. Project Inform spearheaded a grassroots movement that slashed the amount of time required to bring HIV drugs from the test-tube to the consumer.

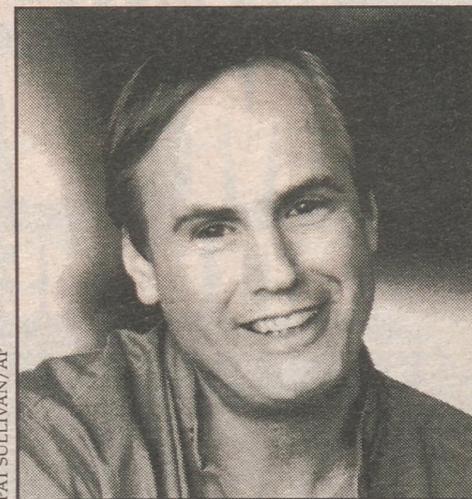
Even after 15 years of being one of the chief AIDS-related critics of the federal

government, research entities and pharmaceutical companies, Delaney still remains true to Project Inform's original tenants.

"People are starting to question some aspects of treatment that have held true for years," Delaney said in an interview this week. "Currently, studies show that some widely prescribed protease inhibitors are becoming less and less effective. While this may aggravate the drug companies that manufacture them, I don't really care how they feel. We will share that information with whomever needs to hear it."

During his Houston visit, Delaney plans a broad-based presentation on hot topics of concern to patients, doctors and service providers. Not surprisingly, some of his ideas are a bit radical and out of sync with current medical views.

"Much of this discussion will revolve around the basic fundamental strategies that we have used over the last three or four years regarding the treatment of HIV. As we have had more treatment experience, it has become clear that many people have been put on [drug] treatment too soon and too early in the disease process. The whole practice of 'hitting hard and early' [to suppress HIV infection] may have to be reexamined, particularly in light of the fact that viral eradication may



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

Martin Delaney, a nationally-known HIV/AIDS treatment advocate will discuss his sometimes controversial views on treatment during a March 2 workshop.

not be possible," Delaney said.

A current treatment debates centers on the use of "pulse therapy"—interrupting treatment for periods of time to decrease toxicity or side effects. Many leading HIV doctors oppose it, though Delaney will offer some suggestions on its use.

"The reason many doctors are against this technique is that they are unfamiliar with it. Along with this we will discuss

> Continued on Page 16

# Gay GOP support leans to McCain

## But will the Republican primary offer more than a 'lesser of evils' choice for gay voters?

by LAURA BROWN

With less than two weeks left before the Texas primary, GOP challenger John McCain leads opponents George W. Bush and Alan Keyes in gay support. But some say the candidates don't offer gay GOP voters much choice.

Members of the Log Cabin Republicans, the national group for gay GOP supporters, have pumped tens of thousands of dollars into McCain's campaign, said spokesman Kevin Ivers.

Log Cabin operates a "bundling" PAC, where members send their contributions to the group, which forwards them on to the candidate—enabling Log Cabin to monitor donations and ensuring the candidates know the money comes from gay voters.

So far, Log Cabin members have donated \$40,000 to McCain through the PAC, and no money at all to any of the other Republican candidates, Ivers said. McCain also handily won a "straw poll" at Log Cabin's national convention in August.

Still, while gay Democrats face a difficult decision between Vice President Al Gore and former Sen. Bill Bradley—two candidates with excellent records on gay rights—some say the decision for gay Republicans may come down to the lesser of two evils.

"As the group representing gay Republicans, we understand your organiza-

tion's obvious disappointment and frustration with this year's crop of GOP presidential candidates," Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch wrote last week in an open letter to Log Cabin Executive Director Rich Tafel, after the group blasted HRC's endorsement of Gore.

"It has left you with the dubious options of supporting either Pat Robertson-backed George W. Bush or Gary Bauer-backed John McCain," Birch wrote.

Log Cabin disputes that interpretation,



instead viewing itself on the front lines in a struggle to wrest control of the Republican party away from the far right. Passing future gay rights measures will require bipartisan support, so educating members of both parties remains important, the group believes.

"This is the way we look at it: People don't join Log Cabin because they want to be loved, because they want to get a great big hug from every political candidate, or because you think the Republican party is 10 times better on gay rights than any other party," Ivers said. "You join Log Cabin to make a difference in a very serious political struggle."

Where the Republicans stand on issues  
 Page 17

## Log Cabin: no endorsement?

Because the group's primary mission is education, Log Cabin will not make an official endorsement in the Republican primaries, Ivers said, although many Log Cabin members support McCain.

Instead, the group will focus on educating both candidates, wait until after the GOP nominee is chosen, then vote whether to endorse or not endorse the nominee, he explained.

Yet even though there will be no official endorsement, some Log Cabin members who support Bush feel the group's national office has already gone too far in supporting McCain.

"I think the national office made a mistake in tying themselves too closely to John McCain too early in the process—they all but issued an endorsement of McCain on the national web-site, and they've been using a press release strategy to constantly criticize Gov. Bush," said Tyllmann Wald, a member and former vice president of Log Cabin's Georgia chapter.

> Continued on Page 16

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## Around the South

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### Students suspended after anti-gay club protest in Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Thirty-six McKinley High School students were suspended for three days Tuesday because they disrupted the school day with a protest against a proposed club encouraging tolerance of homosexuals. The protests occurred Friday. According to school board officials, many of the protesters failed to return to class on time or didn't go at all. They were suspended for disrupting school. The suspensions came a day after a group of local ministers met with McKinley principal Almenia Freeman Warren and urged her not to approve formation of a proposed Gay-Straight Alliance. The club's application for a charter at McKinley is pending, but Warren has said that a chapter of the Gay Straight Alliance can open at the school if it follows the law and new school system rules for extracurricular clubs. The pastors came out of their meeting with Warren on Monday saying their next step will be to meet with Superintendent Gary Mathews.



Baton Rouge high school student Marty Pfeiffer has pushed for months to start a Gay-Straight Alliance at his school.

### N.C. teacher charged with soliciting sex from minor via Internet

LUMBERTON, N.C. (AP)—A former Pembroke middle school teacher has been charged with trying to have sex with a 16-year-old California girl she met on the Internet. FBI agents and police arrested Miriam Oxendine on Feb. 10 at a Los Angeles airport. She was charged with attempted oral copulation and attempted penetration with a foreign object. Federal law considers anyone under 17 a minor, and it's against the law for anyone four years or older to have sex with them, said FBI regional supervisor Larry Bonney. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children tipped FBI agents and police after the teenager described a planned meeting with Oxendine. FBI spokesperson Cheryl Mimura said Oxendine started conversing with the girl via the Internet last September.

### Lesbian can't visit former partner's adopted son, judge rules

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP)—A Family Court judge has denied the appeal of a Piedmont woman who is seeking visitation with her former partner's adopted three-year-old son. Family Court Judge Robert N. Jenkins denied Heather Price's appeal of his earlier ruling that she has no legal right to visitation, since her former partner, also a woman, was the legal adoptive parent and Price doesn't fit the definition of a parent under state law. South Carolina law doesn't allow gay couples to adopt children together. Price's lawyer, Lynn Barrett, argued in court last week that her client was a parent to the three-year-old, who came to live with her and her partner in 1996. The other woman was not identified to protect the child's privacy. Jenkins questioned whether granting the motion would undermine the state's policy against same-sex marriage.

### Graffiti, fliers may be protest of Fla. conference on gay teens

TAMPA—An advertising campaign featuring the phrase "Tired of being gay?" for a conference directed at teens has generated protests, the *St. Petersburg Times* reported Feb. 17. Graffiti was spray-painted on the side of the Seminole Heights Baptist Church, saying "Tired of being a Baptist?" Fliers were also passed out with that phrase. "Then, try to coexist with diversity in this secular & free country," the flyers argued. "Try to love! Try being GAY! Love wins!" A caller to a local TV said he was with the Coalition to Convert Baptists and that the group had "struck" the Seminole Heights church. Conference organizers in Colorado Springs condemned the graffiti. "This vicious display of intolerance should be denounced by every segment of the gay political movement and anyone who claims to believe in free speech," conference speaker Mike Haley said in a statement. Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida, said she also criticized the graffiti. "I'm glad they've put down their spray cans. I would always recommend satire over vandalism," she said. The protest is over a conference sponsored by Focus on the Family for Feb. 26 at Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla.

### Lesbian set to run for North Carolina county commission seat

WILMINGTON, N.C.—Julia Boseman, a gay community activist and Democrat, has announced her plans to run for a seat on the New Hanover County Commission. Boseman, 33 and a life-long resident of Wilmington, is the co-founder of the Harbor Foundation, which helps low-income families and people with disabilities purchase homes. She has also worked with Community Living-Wilmington, an organization that helps local people with developmental disabilities, and has also been active in local gay activities, as well as working with children affected by HIV and AIDS. "I believe I can bring a fresh, honest approach to serving the families of New Hanover County," said Boseman. "This is where I grew up, where my family roots run deep." The County Commission has five seats, all held by Republicans. Three of the five commissioners face re-election this year.

—From staff and wire reports

# Around the Nation

For more extensive coverage: [www.houstonvoice.com](http://www.houstonvoice.com)

## Clinton signs law toughening punishment for GHB use and sale

WASHINGTON—President Clinton signed a bill Feb. 18 that toughens federal laws for possession and distribution of GHB, or "G," a drug popular among some gay men. The drug, gamma hydroxybutyrate, has been linked to at least 58 deaths since 1990 and more than 5,700 recorded overdoses, the Drug Enforcement Administration said. Under the legislation, GHB would be placed in a category of drugs that are the most strictly regulated by the federal Controlled Substances Act. Anyone who possesses, manufactures or distributes GHB could face a prison term of up to 20 years. The measure would give the drug agency the authority for the first time to seek federal criminal prosecutions against those possessing and distributing the drug, officials said. GHB has been blamed for dozens of overdoses at gay nightclubs and circuit parties, especially when mixed with alcohol. It has also been tagged a "date rape" drug. A few drops of the colorless, odorless drug are usually slipped into a drink. A victim who drinks it can lose consciousness within 20 minutes and often have no memory of what happened.



After thousands of reported overdoses, GHB has now been added to the most strictly regulated category of controlled substances.

## Effort to end Utah ban on gay adoption fails on Senate floor

SALT LAKE CITY—A compromise that would have allowed gays, cohabiting couples and polygamists to adopt children under certain circumstances fell apart, leaving the Utah ban on gay adoptions intact, the *Deseret News* reported Feb. 19. The compromise collapsed when Senate leaders reinstated the pre-compromise version, which passed 25-4. "Adopting a child is not a right," said Republican Rep. Nora Stephens. "The state has compelling interest and responsibilities to protect children. The issue is not what adults want." During the debate, Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt said children thrive best in "traditional" families but seemed to agree that gay couples should be able to adopt children that share family or biological ties. "There are parts of this [debate] where the logic seems to be stretched," Leavitt said.

## Jury says gay Irish can be kept out of St. Patrick's Day parade

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City did not violate the First Amendment rights of a gay Irish group that has tried for a decade to march in the St. Patrick's Day parade, a jury decided Feb. 17. The verdict thwarted efforts by the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization to prove that the city unconstitutionally blocked ILGO from marching on Fifth Avenue. If the jury had ruled the other way, the trial could have led to an order requiring parade organizers to permit the group to march. U.S. District Judge John G. Koeltl urged both sides after the verdict in Manhattan to negotiate the issues before another federal judge, but the city and the Ancient Order of Hibernians said there was little chance of that.

## Ohio jury can't decide if burning gay flag is 'ethnic intimidation'

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A jury couldn't reach a unanimous verdict Feb. 16 on a charge of ethnic intimidation against a preacher who pulled a gay-rights flag from a Statehouse pole. Afterward, Charles Spingola, 44, of Newark said he would climb the pole again to pull down the rainbow flag if he saw it flying there. On a guilty finding of criminal damaging—a second-degree misdemeanor—Judge W. Dwayne Maynard sentenced Spingola to five days in jail and suspended an additional 85 days, and one year of probation. Spingola was also fined \$100 and charged for court costs. Spingola said he'll appeal the conviction and continue his confrontational style of preaching. In closing arguments, Prosecutor Steve McIntosh argued that Spingola had committed ethnic intimidation when he cut the flag from the flagpole. Spingola's attorney, Tom Condit of Cincinnati, told the jurors that the case was about political correctness. The state's ethnic intimidation law says nothing specific about protection for gays, but the city's law provides for their protection. Ethnic intimidation is a misdemeanor offense with a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

## Gay youth who fled Siberia seeking asylum gets help in Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A gay Siberian youth who entered the U.S. illegally to seek asylum in Canada is getting his chance, thanks to help from new friends. Denis Dementiev hoped to join his sister, an applicant for refugee status in Canada. When Dementiev failed to qualify for a Canadian visa, he entered the United States from Mexico in December in hope of making it to Canada to apply for asylum in person. Instead, he was caught and was held in an Arizona detention center pending a deportation hearing set for next month. During the past week, gay and Jewish groups in Tucson rallied to his defense and raised enough money to pay Dementiev's \$1,500 bond and get him to the Canadian border. In his U.S. asylum application, Dementiev said that "about 20 different students at the school would beat me, usually in gangs of four or five, almost every day for a period of about three months."

—From staff and wire reports

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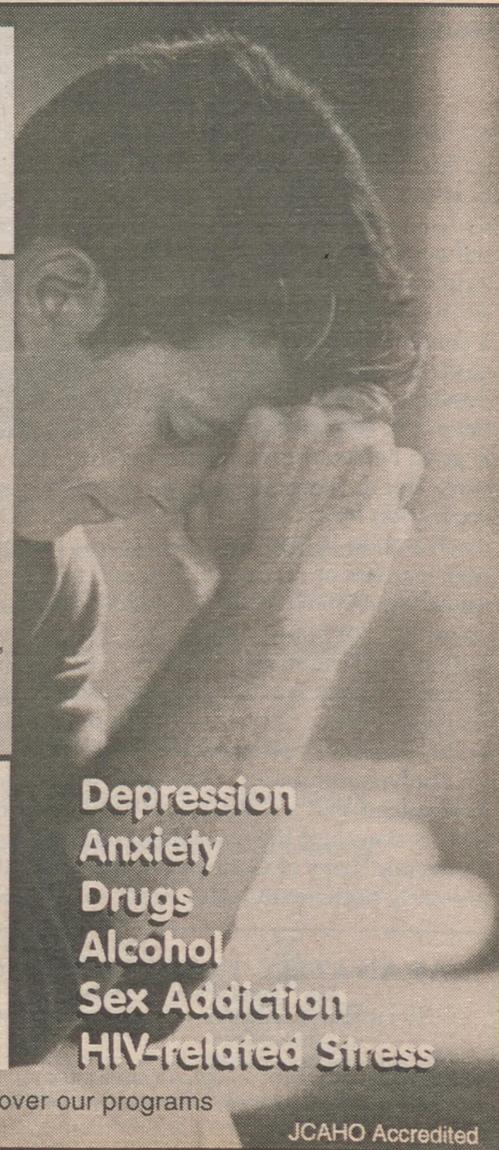
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# New bill extends immigration rights to gay couples

by SHILPA MEHTA

Sharon, a South African, met Kelly, her American girlfriend, over the Internet and the two have been together since last February.

Sharon came to the U.S. on a tourist visa to meet Kelly and has never left. Her tourist visa extension was denied, and she leaves soon for South Africa.

"We are both scared to death," said Sharon. "This is the first time since we met that we will be apart."

If the two were heterosexual, they could marry and Sharon would obtain full U.S. citizenship. Instead, just to stay together, Kelly is giving up her family and her established career in the financial industry to be with Sharon in South Africa.

"I don't want to be illegal, and I am not in a profession that is considered needed for a visa," said Sharon, who asked her last name not be used.

"We have put our lives on hold. ... I want to stay, I would prefer to stay."

New legislation that would extend to Sharon and Kelly, and other same-sex couples, many of the immigration rights available to heterosexual couples was introduced on Valentine's Day by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.).

Under current law, a couple of mixed nationality can stay in the U.S. if they get married, but many mixed gay couples face deportation of the non-American partner.

Nadler called the bill "simply a matter of common sense and fairness."

"Why do we allow the government to tear apart committed and loving couples just because of who they love?" Nadler said.

Schmeltzer said the Permanent Partner Immigration Act of 2000 will replace the word "spouse" where it appears in current immigration law with "permanent partner." A definition of permanent partner based on four qualifications is outlined in the legislation (see sidebar).

The bill has nine other co-sponsors, including openly gay Reps. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.). But even supporters admit it stands little chance of passing in the current Republican-led Congress.

"Family reunification is the guiding principle of U.S. immigration law, yet routinely gay couples are ignored," said Jennifer Higgins, program coordinator for the Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, a New York-based organization that worked with Nadler on the legislation.

President Clinton said he supported changing the law at a gay rights fund-raiser last October, and Higgins said Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley also supports the legislation.

Thirteen other countries currently provide immigration rights to same-sex partners, including England, France, Canada and South Africa.

Approximately 75 percent of the people who contact LGIRTF are mixed nationality couples, and the organization receives about 100 calls and e-mails every day on this issue.

One such caller was "Jana," a Canadian artist who met her girlfriend "Shadow," an American engineer, three years ago over the Internet and moved to the United States with her son in 1997.

Jana has tried for 18 months to obtain visa rights, but to no avail. If the couple were heterosexual, a marriage would win Jana full U.S. citizenship. The couple spoke on condition of anonymity.

Instead, she said, "working here is impossible for me." After months of trying for a job, the story has been the same.

"Once I explained my situation," she said, "no one called me back."

Worse yet, she could be deported at any time.

"I felt so alone. I felt paranoid," said Jana. "I live with the fear every day that the INS will knock on my door and take me away. You are always on your guard, very careful. You only reveal your situation to people you are very close to."

To be a permanent partner entitled to immigration rights, the foreign national must:

- be at least 18 years old;
- be in an intimate relationship intended to be life-long, with financial interdependence, like sharing a bank account or mortgage;
- not be involved or married or in a relationship with any other person; and
- be unable to marry legally in the U.S.



"Why do we allow the government to tear apart committed and loving couples just because of who they love?"—Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.)

## Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force

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INFO

## ASK THE PASTOR

Q: "What happens to a child when they die? Do all children go to heaven?"

A: The eternal destiny of every one of us is determined by our relationship with God in Christ Jesus, according to the Christian faith. One who has faith in Jesus Christ and believes in Him is said to be a child of God, with heaven as an eternal destiny. God gives children to parents to raise them in the knowledge of God and to set an example for them to believe. Scripture tells us that God knew us in our mother's womb before we were even born. This tells me that we have a connection with God before we are ever conscious of what it means to "know" God. Until you and I grow up from children to adults, where we have the intellectual, willful, emotional, and spiritual ability to say "yes" to God, we belong to God. Most children at a young age learn right from wrong and what is good behavior and what is not. A child can comprehend love, nurture and care. But it is very difficult for a child to understand the concept of "sin" and separation from God and the need for a Savior. The best thing you and I can teach a child is that God loves them. Hopefully this love is modeled through their parents or caregiver. You will find in most cultures that there is a determined age when a child is considered an adult, or capable of understanding as an adult. For many cultures it is around the age of puberty. In the Christian faith many denominations have a set age in which a child is determined, because of their maturity, to understand, appreciate and comprehend the spiritual significance of the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, or Holy Communion. It is at this time, and with specific training that a child is invited to celebrate their first holy communion. The age of accountability is the time in which it is determined that a child is able to comprehend and accept responsibility for their actions and the consequences thereof. Until this time, a child is in the hands and arms of God, and in the event of death will find themselves in their heavenly home with Jesus!

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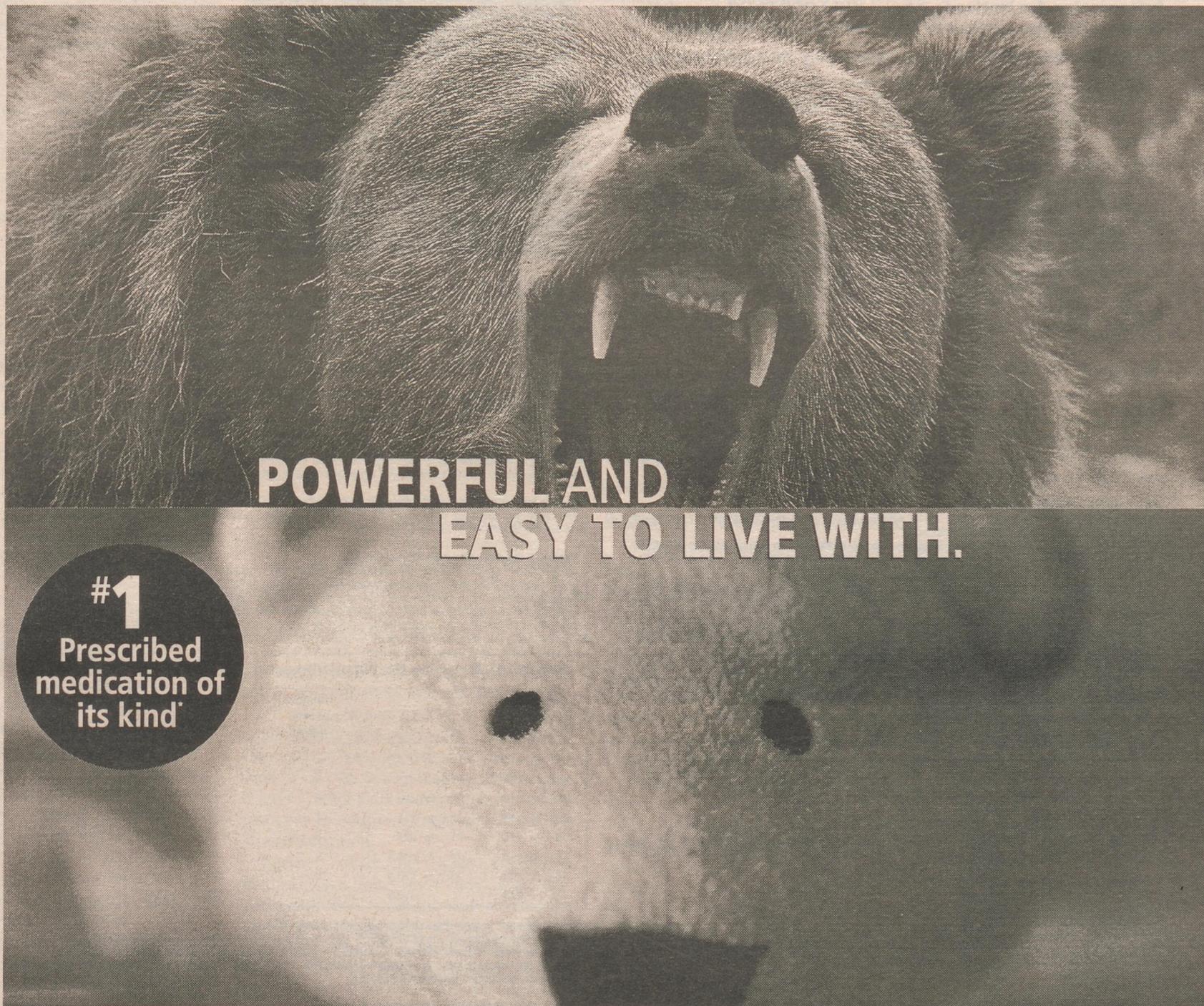


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**VIRACEPT**  
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tablets and oral powder

for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit [www.agouron.com](http://www.agouron.com).  
 (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

\*IMS NPA Prescription Data 8/98 – 5/99



# 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 their CD4 cell count.

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

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

#### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

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

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

#### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

#### Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
- This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

#### Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

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

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

- Phenobarbital
  - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

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

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

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

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

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

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

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

#### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

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

#### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

#### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

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

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

#### Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to < 18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to < 10.5	18.5 to < 23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to < 12	23 to < 26.5	6	1½	-
12 to < 14	26.5 to < 31	7	1¾	-
14 to < 16	31 to < 35	8	2	-
16 to < 18	35 to < 39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to < 23	39.5 to < 50.5	10	2½	2
≥ 23	≥ 50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder.** Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

# Anti-gay talk show host hits Houston television in September

> Continued from Page 1

But rather than go after Dr. Laura publicly and directly—a tactic that's yielded mixed results on her radio show—GLAAD has focused their efforts behind-the-scenes at Paramount.

Months of maneuvering earned GLAAD a meeting with Paramount leaders Feb. 14, say activists with the organization.

But despite considerable speculation and interest from those following the controversy, including in the media, the meeting took place behind closed doors, and only after those who attended agreed not to reveal what was said or who was there.

After a reported three-hour session, "key representatives" of GLAAD and Paramount released a joint two-paragraph statement claiming the meeting "created a positive exchange of differing perspectives."

Paramount executives "discussed the format of the television show, which will vary from Dr. Laura's successful radio show, in that there will be many points of view, derived from a variety of sources, guests and a studio audience," according to the statement.

"Part of our agreement was that no one would discuss who was in the meeting, and we would not discuss the specifics of what happened in the meeting," Stephen Spurgeon, GLAAD's deputy director for communications, said in an interview. "These meetings are going to be going on over a period of time, and we want to be able to speak as frankly as we can."

"It's eight months before she goes to air," he added. "In terms of the logistics of how they put the show together, it's early."

Before the meeting, GLAAD activists said they planned to ask that Schlessinger stop using defamatory vocabulary; that she expand references to include organizations and experts other than the Family Research Council, which is not a medical or psychological organization; and that she include and acknowledge other points of view.

Still, some activists are concerned about the threat Dr. Laura could pose when she gains access to a TV audience even larger than her radio following.

"Giving Dr. Laura a TV show troubles many people in the [gay] community, myself included," said John Aravosis, an Internet activist who tracks and publicizes gay issues on his web-site ([www.wired-strategies.com](http://www.wired-strategies.com)).

"She has a long record of saying derogatory things, and comparing being gay to incest and pedophilia," he said.

Aravosis said he is not particularly reassured by the statement released after last week's meeting between GLAAD leaders and Paramount.

"It's not clear to me why she would change her tune on TV," he said. "Is she going to say she likes gay people when the subject comes up? Or steer clear of seven dirty words she's not allowed to use? It's not about words. Overall, people find her deeply offensive."

Many concerned about the show have wondered if Paramount would be as willing to provide a platform to a TV host with openly anti-Semitic or racist views.

"If you bash blacks, you're racist; if you



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

**The openly gay man behind 'Frasier,' one of Paramount's most popular shows, said the studio should 'walk away' from plans to bring 'Dr. Laura's' anti-gay message to the air this fall.**

bash gays, that's freedom of speech," Aravosis said. "I don't want special treatment, but I think there's a double standard going on there."

In an interview on the GAYBC Radio Network, Ernestine Bradley, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley, likened Schlessinger's anti-gay speech to "a kind of hatred mongering."

She agreed with a caller that "of course we should not allow" anti-gay speech on television, adding that she was "totally incensed and totally outraged."

Paramount had no comment about the meeting beyond the joint statement, according to spokeswoman Michelle Hunt.

"We respect and believe in Dr. Laura's right to have and express her own point of view, just as we respect the individual opinions of all our talent, employees and producers," Hunt said in a statement faxed in response to additional questions about the studio's position.

Further obscuring what happened behind closed doors was a claim by an anti-gay group that Dr. Laura's staff insisted the meeting would have no effect on the show.

Americans for Truth about Homosexuality, which advocates "reparative therapy" to turn gays straight, released a statement urging Dr. Laura not to buckle under pressure to change her tune about gays.

The statement also claimed Schlessinger's staff said she's made no concessions and retains full control of her show. That was confirmed in mainstream press accounts as well.

"It's not true that Dr. Laura capitulated to anyone or anything ... that's totally wrong," Kevin Bellows, a spokesman for the show, said in a voice-mail message quoted in the *Washington Post*.

Bellows did not return calls for comment.

## Gay producer to Paramount: 'Walk away'

Leaders outside the company aren't the only ones putting pressure on Paramount.

Lee said he has met with top officials at Paramount to discuss plans for the show, and a head of the studio acknowledged the decision to air "Dr. Laura" has proved more problematic than expected.

"He said he did not know she was such a hot-button issue with the gay community,

and agreed that Paramount has a moral responsibility to keep the harm she does to a minimum," Lee reported.

Still, Lee said, "I think Paramount should walk away from it, no matter how much money is involved."

Asked whether the creative content of TV shows should remain separate from company policy, "I am not for censoring Schlessinger," Lee said.

"I think she should be able to say whatever she wants. My issue is, there is no reason why a company where gay people have contributed so much has to be a platform for that," he said.

Lee couldn't say how many gay men and lesbians work for Paramount, but he guessed the number to be "in the thousands."

After 15 years with the studio, including writing and producing hits like "Wings" and "Cheers," Lee said he's uncertain what he'll do if the "Dr. Laura" show proceeds with content similar to that in her radio show.

"I'll deal with it when it happens," he said.

With the exception of Hunt, Paramount executives did not return calls for comment.

## Attacks grow more hostile

Schlessinger's anti-gay message has long drawn fire from gay rights groups. She frequently refers to being gay as "deviant sexual behavior" and a "biological error."

Sources Schlessinger relies on include the conservative groups like Family Research Council and other groups that advocate conversion to heterosexuality. She has been criticized by GLAAD and others for presenting research by these groups as scientific fact on her show.

Schlessinger has also attacked the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association for being "pro-gay" because they oppose reparative therapy and haven't considered homosexuality a mental disorder for almost 30 years.

Formerly a supporter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, Schlessinger has acknowledged that her approach to sexual orientation issues has changed in recent months. She attributes the shift in part to her conversion to Orthodox Judaism.

But a growing frustration and hostility toward the gay rights movement has also surfaced in her rhetoric. During her radio show in December 1998, Schlessinger railed against Barnard College because a group of lesbians there objected to the college's assertion that graduates of women's colleges were more likely to get married and have children than those of co-ed colleges.

Barnard tempered the message in response to the lesbians' protest, further angering Schlessinger.

"I am enraged that Barnard crumbled under this crap. A slap in the face to lesbians? ... Damn. I am so mad. I don't support the activist gays and lesbians anymore."

"At the time that I did, I was supportive of the reality of gay and lesbianism and supportive of families embracing their family members and being kind and compassionate. I was warned about this, and I ignored it. See what the activists do? They

'Dr. Laura' speaks her mind  
[www.houstonvoice.com](http://www.houstonvoice.com)

take it to the point where they want to bury heterosexuality as heterosexist now."

Still, Schlessinger has maintained that she is not bigoted, and has accused gay activists of using her comments out of context.

Responding to an item in the entertainment paper *Variety*, Schlessinger last week on her show claimed the paper "lied" about her assertion that gays are "deviants" and "predators," the *New York Post* reported.

"*Variety* says I call them deviants. No. I call homosexual practices deviant," she retorted.

Recently, Schlessinger claimed she has received death threats for her views on gays, according to *Conservative News*, an on-line news service.

"Does my opposition to homosexual marriage and my advocacy of reparative therapy make me a bigot? No. But, because of my millions of radio listeners, my beliefs make me a threat to the radical goals of homosexual activists, who send me hate mail and death threats."

"To my way of thinking, their well-organized campaign against my freedom of speech is rhetorical thuggery at best and religious persecution at worst," Schlessinger wrote in a recent column.

"Dr. Laura" is slated to air locally on KPRC Channel 2, officials for the station said Thursday. When the one-hour show will air hasn't been decided, a station official said. Questions about the controversy concerning the show were referred to KPRC's general manager, who could not be reached for comment by press time Thursday.

## Paramount Television

5555 Melrose Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90038

323-956-5000

[www.paramount.com](http://www.paramount.com)

(click "email" then "television questions/comments")

## Dr. Laura Schlessinger

c/o Premiere Radio Networks

15260 Ventura Blvd. Ste. 500

Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

1-800-DRLAURA (between noon-3 p.m. Pacific time)

fax: 818-461-5140

[www.drLaura.com](http://www.drLaura.com)

Dr. Laura does not have email, although you can post messages in "forums" on her website.

## Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

call: 800-GAY-MEDIA

[www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org)

## KPRC Channel 2

P.O. Box 2222

Houston, Texas 77252

713-222-2222

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# houston voice

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## EDITORIAL

# Who wants to trivialize marriage?

The mystery groom sits in the shadows. The prospective brides stand on a stage in wedding gowns, waiting for a proposal. Every moment, the suspense builds—and so do the ratings.

More than 20 million Americans sat glued to their sets the day after Valentine's Day, watching that cultural phenomenon known as "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?"

Fifty would-be wives, culled from the thousands who applied, competed for the honor of marrying a man about whom they knew nothing except that his net worth exceeded \$2 million.

The farce was only enhanced when the country learned, while the happy couple was on its honeymoon, that Rick Rockwell, the groom, had a restraining order issued against him 10 years ago for physically threatening his fiancée.

Even Rockwell's financial credentials have been cast in doubt, when intrepid journalists discovered the supposed real estate magnate was instead a comedian with a penchant for stunts, including an entry in the "Guinness Book of World Records" for a 30-hour stand-up routine.

The show's creator, Fox Studio's Mike Darnell, known for cultural gems like "When Good Pets Go Bad" and "When Animals Attack," last year suggested the network produce a live show crashing a 747 into the desert.

Fox executives publicly disavowed that idea, but not his concept for awarding a two-week vacation, an Isuzu Trooper and a \$35,000 diamond ring to the woman who successfully seduced a man she has never met into lifelong marital vows.

"If you looked at these people at the end of the show, you could tell it was less about the money than it was about the relationship," insisted Darnell, despite the show's premise.

"It'll either go on, or it won't. If they don't get along, it won't work no matter

how much money is involved."

That sort of casual approach to marriage as a commodity is galling enough, but it's even more outrageous when you consider that Rockwell and his gameshow bride, Darva Conger, successfully tied the knot when that same freedom is denied every gay couple on the planet, whatever their history or strength of their commitment.

In Vermont and California, where recognition of gay marriage faces important challenges in the coming weeks, conservatives are wailing that allowing two loving people of the same gender to legally wed threatens the very nature of the marriage institution, trivializing its meaning.

As usual, the right-wing is missing the real threat, judging from the thousands of heterosexual women who eagerly sought to join in the fun on "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?" Not to mention the hundreds of male multimillionaires who applied to participate, or the 20 million who tuned in to watch the spectacle.

Just in case you're thinking the show was a fluke, and not a true marker of the commoditization of marriage, consider the following:

Just one day before "Marry a Multimillionaire" aired, more than 50,000 heterosexual couples became legally wed in a mass ceremony overseen by the Unification Church in Seoul, Korea.

The participants, many of whom had never met, included many Americans who now enjoy a bundle of legal rights and responsibilities that are denied our relationships.

How ironic, then, that the church leader who sanctioned that display of cheapened marriage is the same Rev. Moon who publishes the Washington Times, one of the nation's strongest opponents of gay marriage.

And no doubt fueled by the ratings sweep of "Marry a Multimillionaire," a company called Infinity Productions has announced plans for a weekly syndicated program called "Wed at First Sight."



CARIN BEAR/FOX/AP

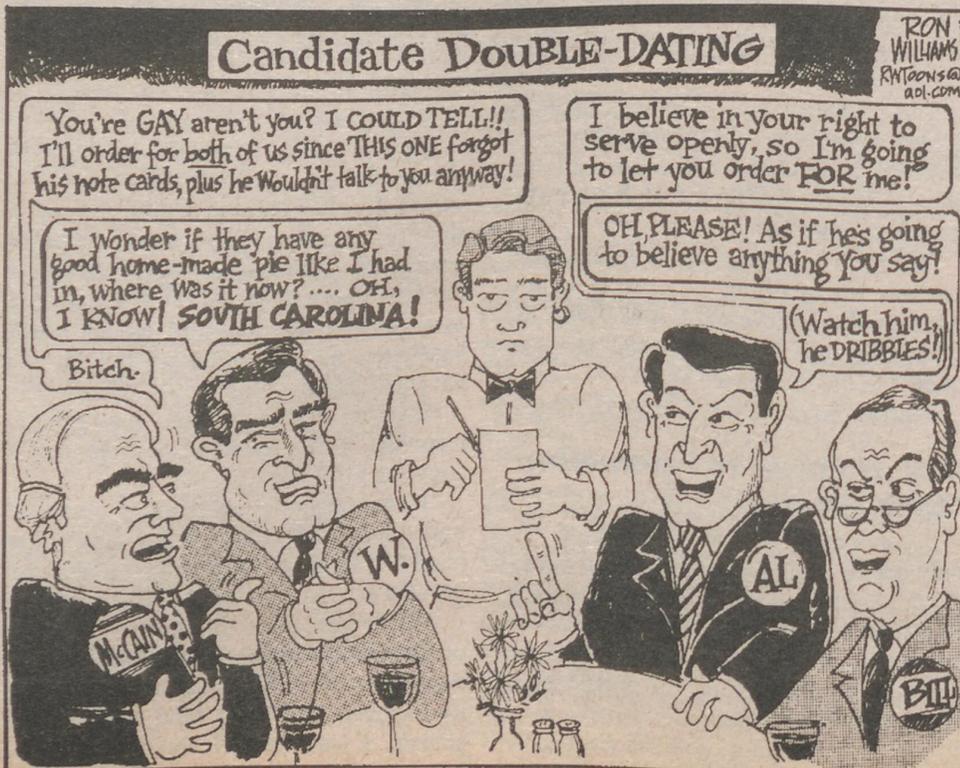
More than 20 million watched as Rick Rockwell and Darva Conger, complete strangers until they met on the gameshow 'Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?' gained legal recognition for their 'relationship' that is denied every gay couple on the planet.

It'll be like the "Dating Game," except the heterosexual couple, who will be strangers at the start of the show, will get married at the end.

With that cultural backdrop, the charge that everyday gay couples will trivialize the institution of marriage has it exactly backward.

To afford us with anything less than the full freedom to marry trivializes our relationships, suggesting that our love for our partners is less worthy of legal recognition than that shown by gameshow contestants.

Even to offer us some "separate but less than equal" compromise like domestic partnership sends a clear message that our commitments are viewed as less substantial than even the heterosexual strangers who tie the knot thinking, "it'll either go on, or it won't," as the producer of "Marry a Multimillionaire" put it so well.



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## VIEWPOINT

## From a celebrity crush, feeling closer to fine

by JENNIFER VANASCO

There's something sweet and powerful about crushes, especially unobtainable ones.

We've all had crushes on professors, friends, the mailman, whoever. Crushes can sneak up on us suddenly: Someone tilts their head a certain way, laughs like a sunburst, smiles just so—and boom, instant crush.

Or crushes can come upon us slow, like warm oil, sliding through our consciousness and our hearts until every time we see the object of our affections, we feel a melting puddle in our stomachs.

There's something different about celebrity crushes, though. When we have crushes on those we know, our crushes are at least, in theory, obtainable.

We might get drunk together one night and happen to fall into bed. We might pass each other at the bus stop one day and then, suddenly, something draws us together and we kiss.

But we'd have to be living in a fairy tale—or be very rich, or celebrities ourselves, or Hugh Grant in "Notting Hill"—to have a relationship with a celebrity crush.

In fact, the whole point of a celebrity crush might be that we can never obtain them. They're safely distant, encased in glass within our televisions, or far away on a stage.

I have never been the type to have celebrity crushes. There were no Tiger Beat covers on my locker in junior high. My room was layered with astronomical charts

I don't really know much about Amy Ray as a person and honestly, I don't want to. For me, she is a symbol, and I'd like to keep her that way.

and photos of the space shuttle, not rock stars and movie heroes.

Sure, there was that crazy, breathless crush on George Clooney a few years back, but that took two seasons of "ER" and an Esquire cover to develop, and it dissolved as soon as he stopped appearing weekly on my TV screen.

Then, without warning, Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls strolled into my zone of awareness. And boy, do I have a crush on her.

I haven't met Amy, though she's danced on the periphery of my life for a few months. My girlfriend interviewed her for an article and I heard the tape of their conversation. I saw an Indigo Girls concert in December.

And a few weeks ago, the university where I work announced that the Girls would be playing just a block away from where I live.

As a result, I helped a student prepare for a phone interview with yes, Amy Ray. (When the student asked what I would



ask her, I almost said, "Do you have a girlfriend? Do you want one?" but I held my tongue.)

I know a lot of people at my university, and I've lazily asked a couple if it would be possible to meet my crush. But I don't really want to meet her. It would destroy everything.

You see, I don't really know very much about Amy as a person and honestly, I don't want to. For me, she is a symbol, and I'd like to keep her that way.

To know why, you should know how my crush came about. In August, I fled to Alaska for a week to think about my dying relationship with my life partner. My college roommate and I drove with two others from Fairbanks to Anchorage and back in about three days.

Most of the way, I insisted we play the Indigo Girl's song "Closer to Fine" over and over and over again. At first, it was because that was the song my roommate and I played all the time in college. Then it

became my anthem.

You know the words of the chorus: "There's more than one answer to these questions, pointing me in a crooked line. And the less I seek my soul for some definitive, the closer I am to fine."

For me, it became a song of liberation and possibility. And, eventually, as I listened to Amy's husky voice, she became the embodiment of all my dreams for myself: strength, independence and success.

And this, I think, is one of the reasons why celebrity crushes are so powerful, especially when they're same-sex crushes. Yes, we have crushes on celebrities because they're a safe way of exploring attraction to a type of person who might never give us the time of day.

But we also have crushes on them because we idealize them—and there is something about this idealization that we want to embody within ourselves.

We are inspired by our crushes; we admire them. And by trying to be more like them, we can transform ourselves into being like the people we have crushes on.

So am I like Amy Ray? Not yet. I feel a little stronger and a little more independent, though.

And if I can just manage to master enough of the guitar to learn to strum "Closer to Fine"—well, then I'll feel a little bit successful, too.

Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based freelance writer and can be reached at [j-vanasco@uchicago.edu](mailto:j-vanasco@uchicago.edu).

## LETTERS

## Clinique poster-boy goes too far

To the Editor:

The article from Michael Alvear ("Timely tips for avoiding the predatory lip-lockers," Feb. 18) was a poor choice for your newspaper. The mention of "predatory lip-lockers" in social settings seemed innocent enough, as I wholeheartedly agree the trend of kissing an acquaintance on the lips is a major social faux-pas and good way to catch cold. But when I read Alvear's opinion that it is merely a ploy for "fat losers" to "cop a feel," I was a bit taken aback.

It seems to be human nature to decide what is beautiful and then go about excluding everyone that doesn't fit that profile. I personally buy into a certain amount of this pressure, as I've worked out at a gym for 10 years. Although a cruise, an ass-grab, or an exclamation of "woof" does pad one's ego, it seems to me that the feeling, the act, let alone the printed declaration of superiority over a "fat loser" is over the top.

I can only assume Alvear is following the sick, sad trend of the gay body fascists. This means that being as toned, plucked and processed as a Backstreet Boy is the only recourse to acceptance into their ideal fraternity. There is enough shallowness in our

society-gay or straight—without giving the floor to a Clinique poster child like Alvear.

Britt Bishop  
Houston

## 'Gaydar' through McCain's eyes

To the Editor:

In Chris Crain's editorial regarding Arizona Senator John McCain's self-proclaimed ability to spot gay people by their behavior and attitudes ("Gaydar flap zeroes in on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" Jan. 28), he states I wasn't fooling anybody by saying: "He [Senator McCain] has one up on me because I can't tell just by behavior and attitudes"

The fact is I can't tell just based on behavior and attitudes. As the editorial points out, there is more to it.

For the most part, "gaydar" is intuitive and based on shared experience, "extended eye contact and subtle verbal and visual cues," as well as other intangible indicators.

Often times, I can tell, but that's based on 40 years of being gay and interacting with all sorts of gay people, both closeted and out. I never said I can't tell at all.

It is hardly a huge leap to think that

McCain was basing his assumptions on stereotypical behavior only, an approach that in my opinion is wrong.

I don't understand why expressing this viewpoint deserved the accusation that I "stopped short of blaming McCain's rhetoric for the murder of Matthew Shepard."

David M. Smith  
Communications Director  
Human Rights Campaign

## Taking action on HIV among blacks

To the Editor:

A recent article ("Mayor stumbles on HIV follow through," Jan. 21) states that the city of Houston and Mayor Lee Brown are lacking in their response to Brown's recent declaration of a state of emergency over rising HIV infections in the black community. Although it seems there is no action currently being taken by the mayor, there are entities that have taken the call seriously and are moving to address the issues.

Prior to the mayor's declaration on Dec. 1, a coalition of HIV providers, community leaders and corporate entities began to meet to look at ways of collectively addressing the rising epidemic in the black community. The

group forged the Houston HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee, which is now, after only a few months, aggressively addressing the challenge laid out by the mayor and County Judge Robert Eckels.

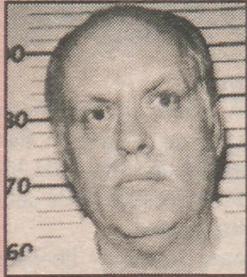
One of the most pressing initiatives presented during the December press conference was the call for a public information campaign designed to heighten awareness of HIV in the black community. HACC has worked with the major urban radio stations to promote awareness and encourage counseling and testing.

The goals of the coalition put an emphasis on destigmatizing issues surrounding HIV, a major challenge for the African-American community. HACC plans to focus its efforts on lifting the veil of silence that keeps the community from accessing services and learning the facts about HIV.

Declaring a state of emergency and adequately putting funds in place to support the call is not something Houston or Harris County must face alone. The community must collaborate in the fight against HIV. We must be creative and aggressive in searching out resources that will support efforts to eradicate this disease.

Dena Gray  
Houston HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee

## Recent death penalty cases



**Michael O'Rourke** was convicted of killing his parents in 1983 and is set to be executed in Arkansas on April 11. A year ago, the U.S. Supreme Court turned back an appeal by O'Rourke, who had been called a monster by his lawyer and compared to notorious killers from history. The decision let stand an appeals court ruling that comparisons between O'Rourke and Jack the Ripper, the Mad Hatter and Lizzie Borden did not unfairly influence O'Rourke's jury. O'Rourke's father, Francis O'Rourke, was shot twice in the back of the head outside his Lake Dardanelle home. The younger O'Rourke also was accused of ordering his gay lover to beat his mother, Beulah O'Rourke, with a hammer, and was accused of suffocating her with plastic wrap. The bodies were found in the trunk of their car near Sallisaw, Okla.



**Robert Acremant** was sentenced to death in October 1997 for the brutal slayings of Medford, Ore., property managers Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill, a lesbian couple, in a robbery gone wrong. The slayings sent a shudder through the gay community because the women had worked to defeat an anti-gay ballot measure. Acremant also faces an upcoming trial in Vasalia, Calif., in the 1995 slaying of Scott George, 23, the son of a friend of Acremant's mother. Acremant confessed to shooting Ellis and Abdill execution style while they were bound and gagged in the back of a pickup truck after trying to force them to write checks off their property management business so he could rekindle a romance with a Las Vegas lap-dancer.



**Calvin Burdine's** 1984 conviction for killing his former boyfriend in Houston was thrown out last year because his defense lawyer allegedly slept through long segments of his 1984 trial. U.S. District Judge David Hittner overturned the jury's decision and gave the state 120 days to give Burdine a new trial or free him. That time ran out in late January and the case is currently before Hittner, who is expected to rule on the matter next week. Burdine, 46, was convicted of the April 3, 1983, stabbing death of W.T. Wise, 50, of Houston, a former boyfriend. Burdine told police he argued with Wise and moved out because Wise wanted him to work as a prostitute. Evidence showed Burdine and an accomplice, Douglas McCreight, were involved in the burglary in which Wise was fatally stabbed. McCreight served eight years in prison for a lesser crime before he was paroled.



**James Walter Moreland**, condemned for a knife attack that left two East Texas men dead more than 17 years ago, was executed Jan. 27. The 39-year-old Indiana native never denied killing Clinton Corbet Abbott and John Royce Cravey. The two friends were stabbed repeatedly in the back, robbed and left to die in a Eustace trailer home after a day of beer drinking on Oct. 9, 1982. Instead, Moreland maintained he acted out of fear after Cravey, a 41-year-old iron worker, allegedly made homosexual advances toward him. Jurors rejected the idea, convicting Moreland of capital murder for Abbott's death on June 15, 1983. He was indicted but never tried for Cravey's killing.



**Glen Alan McGinnis**, 27, was convicted of killing a Montgomery County mother of two when he was 17, and executed in the Texas death chamber on Jan. 25. McGinnis gunned down laundromat clerk Leta Ann Wilkerson in 1990 and made off with \$140. At McGinnis' 1992 trial, Montgomery County district attorney Peter Speers told an all-white suburban Houston jury that McGinnis, who is black, was "bad to the bone." Defense attorney William Hall described McGinnis as a deeply troubled teen whose race and sexual orientation doomed him in the eyes of the jury. The Vatican, the European Union, the American Bar Association and a collection of anti-death penalty groups pleaded for the life of McGinnis because he was a juvenile when he killed Wilkerson.



**Larry Keith Robison** shot, stabbed and decapitated his boyfriend, then shot and stabbed four other people in 1982 in a case that death penalty opponents used as a test of Gov. George W. Bush's "compassionate conservatism." The 42-year-old Air Force veteran was executed in Texas on Jan. 21. Robison had been scheduled to die in July. Death penalty opponents lobbied Bush to grant him a one-time reprieve because of his mental illness, but a Texas appeals court spared Bush from making the decision by canceling the execution and ordering a competency exam. Robison was ruled competent and the execution was rescheduled.

Robison's lover, Rickey Lee Bryant, 31, was shot, decapitated, stabbed and mutilated in a Lake Worth cottage. Robison, in search of a getaway vehicle, went next door and killed Bruce Gardner, 33; Georgia Ann Reed, 34; Earline Barker, 55; and Ms. Reed's 11-year-old son, Scott. Robison, who was diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenic, pleaded innocent by reason of insanity but was convicted. The verdict was overturned, but the 1987 retrial also ended with a death sentence.

—The Associated Press

## Gays split on capital punishment

➤ Continued from Page 1

two, was executed on Texas death row.

While Robison made it clear that he did not want to avoid responsibility for his crime, McGinnis said the week before his execution that he wondered what might have happened to his life if he had not spent most of his youth on the streets.

"I mean, man, I'm young," he told the Associated Press. "I'm not crying, I'm not groping, but it's kinda sad that I got caught up so young."

McGinnis shot Leta Ann Wilkerson in the head, shoulders and back during the robbery of a laundromat.

His attorney said a number of societal factors worked against McGinnis, including the fact that McGinnis was gay.

"He was polite, respectful, legitimately sorry about what he'd done," defense attorney William Hall told the Associated Press last month. "But he was also a black man who killed a white woman. And he was very, very gay, and that didn't help."

But Hall softened those remarks in an interview this week, when he said that McGinnis being gay didn't play a major role in the case.

Hall said many factors can play a role in the fairness of a trial, like poor defendants who sometimes do not get the best quality defense.

"Sometimes the amount of money that can be spent on a defense can have an effect," Hall said. "To my knowledge, we did not ask for any funds in this case that were denied."

Hall, who said he has never defended another gay man in a case of such magnitude, said that juror prejudice can also lead to unfair verdicts.

During jury selection, Hall said he disqualified some jurors who were biased against gays. As an example of how far he went to disqualify biased jurors, Hall said one man whom he intuitively felt was biased repeatedly said during jury questioning that he was not, even when Hall stood near him and asked very specific questions.

But when Hall put out his hand to congratulate the man for being so unprejudiced, "he almost slid off the witness stand," Hall said. The juror was disqualified.

Another gay man sits on Texas death row, awaiting execution.

Several efforts by lawyers are underway to get Calvin Burdine, a gay man from Houston convicted of killing his roommate, off death row, including an appeal of the conviction and an attempt for a new trial because his court-appointed lawyer slept through portions of the original trial. (story, page 15)

And gays on death row are not just an issue in Texas.

In Arkansas, Michael O'Rourke is scheduled to be executed on April 11. The gay man shot his father twice in the back of the head, ordered his lover to beat O'Rourke's mother with a hammer, then finished killing the mother by suffocating her with a plastic bag.

His defense lawyer tried to show that O'Rourke was crazy by calling him "a monster" and comparing him to Jack the Ripper.

In addition, other men have been executed or are now on death row around the nation because of cases that involved gay men and lesbians in other ways.

James Walter Moreland, sentenced to death for a knife attack that left two East Texas men dead, was executed Jan. 27 in Texas. Moreland claimed "gay panic," saying he acted out of fear after one of his victims made gay advances and rubbed his leg.

In Oregon, Robert Acremant, a former trucking company efficiency expert, sits on death row for

killing a lesbian couple. He was sentenced to death in 1997 for killing lesbian couple Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill during a robbery.

### Speaking out: gay groups oppose death penalty

After the October 1998 killing of Matthew Shepard, gay and lesbian groups were forced to form a position on capital punishment or defend their choice not to have one. More than a dozen gay groups spoke out against the death penalty, while one took no position, and one favored the death penalty for Shepard's killers.

One of the loudest voices against capital punishment after the Shepard killing was Bill Dobbs, one of handful of gay activists who call themselves Queerwatch.

"I don't think capital punishment has been an issue in the gay community until recently," Dobbs said in an interview. "It is a gay issue. We GLBT folks have a big stake in justice. Don't we know our own history? Don't we know how many of us have been condemned to die?"

Capital punishment should be an important issue for gays and lesbians because of historical parallels to African Americans, he said.

Many death penalty opponents, including the American Civil Liberties Union, cite the disproportionate number of African Americans on death row as one of the reasons they oppose the death penalty.

Capital punishment is unfairly applied to minorities, they argue.

"I'm opposed to the death penalty because it's a violation of human rights. That's the overreaching issue," Dobbs said. "Below that, reasons are mistakes, cost and fairness, the application issue."

Dobbs said prejudice in the U.S. sometimes taints juries, which can affect gay men and lesbians on trial.

"Getting justice if you're a member of stigmatized group is a challenge," he said. "In judges chambers and jury rooms, the air comes from America, and that air is infused with prejudice."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) was the first major gay and lesbian group to pass a resolution opposing the death penalty after Shepard's killing.

NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel said in an interview that she is concerned about a system in which the death penalty is called for in the name of the gay and lesbian community, as it originally was during preparations for Russell Henderson's trial.

Lobel said race, ethnicity and economics issues make capital punishment an unfair practice that should be ended.

"Certainly for African American people and Latinos, it's a combination of race and economics, and if you look at the white people on death row, they all tend to be poor, too," she said. "Until the inequalities of the death penalty has been examined, we should be calling for a moratorium."

Ten other groups join the NGLTF in opposing the death penalty: Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, Gay Men of African Descent, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York, Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, the national gay and lesbian Latino organization LLEGO, National Center for Lesbian Rights, New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project and OutFront Minnesota.

"Gay groups are united in opposition to the death penalty, and I don't think most people even

## Fate of Houston gay man on death row in hands of judge

by GIP PLASTER

A sleeping lawyer, gay slurs and missed deadlines by the state are among the irregularities that might lead to the release of a gay death row inmate who killed his roommate inside a Houston trailer.

A number of things went wrong in the case of Calvin Burdine, 46, who was sentenced to the death penalty in Harris County, a place which sends more people to the nation's busiest death row in the U.S. than any other county in the state.

For now, Burdine waits with his immediate fate in the hands of U.S. District Judge David Hittner in Houston. Although Hittner is expected to issue his ruling next week in what has become a case of legal technicalities, Burdine's attorneys say their client could have a long wait until the issues are resolved.

Burdine was convicted in the April 1983 of stabbing his roommate, but Hittner threw out the jury verdict and sentence last September because of overwhelming evidence that Burdine's defense lawyer slept through much of the trial.

Attorney Joe Cannon, who died in 1998, has said he was not asleep, but was closing his eyes to concentrate.

"If the 5th Circuit [Court of Appeals] says it's okay to have your lawyer sleeping, then the judge would have to address the other claims," said Mandy Welch, one of Burdine's attorneys.

Burdine's 16 years on death row began after he was convicted of the April 1983 robbery and murder of W.T. Wise, a 50-year-old night supervisor for a security service.

Testimony showed that the pair had a gay relationship and had been living together for 3 1/2 months before a dispute caused Burdine to move out of their trailer. Burdine told police that Wise wanted him to work as a prostitute.

When Hittner threw out Burdine's conviction last year, he determined that another judge's 1995 inquiry into allegations that Cannon would sleep through parts of trials was proof that Burdine had not gotten adequate legal representation.

A jury foreman, two other jurors and a

court clerk all testified in that investigation that they had seen Cannon sleeping during a trial.

In his September ruling, Hittner gave the state 120 days to retry Burdine or set him free—a deadline that passed Jan. 27.

The state did not initiate a new trial, but instead filed an appeal with the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. But the lawyers who filed the appeal did not ask Hittner to suspend his order while the appeal was pending.

Because of that oversight, the original 120 days expired without the state taking either of the actions specified by the judge, so Hittner asked the state's lawyers to explain why they should not be held in contempt of court.

"When we [defense lawyers] make a procedural mistake of any sort, the consequence is that our client gets executed," Burdine attorney Robert McGlasson told the Associated Press. "What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander."

McGlasson could not be reached for comment this week at his Atlanta office.

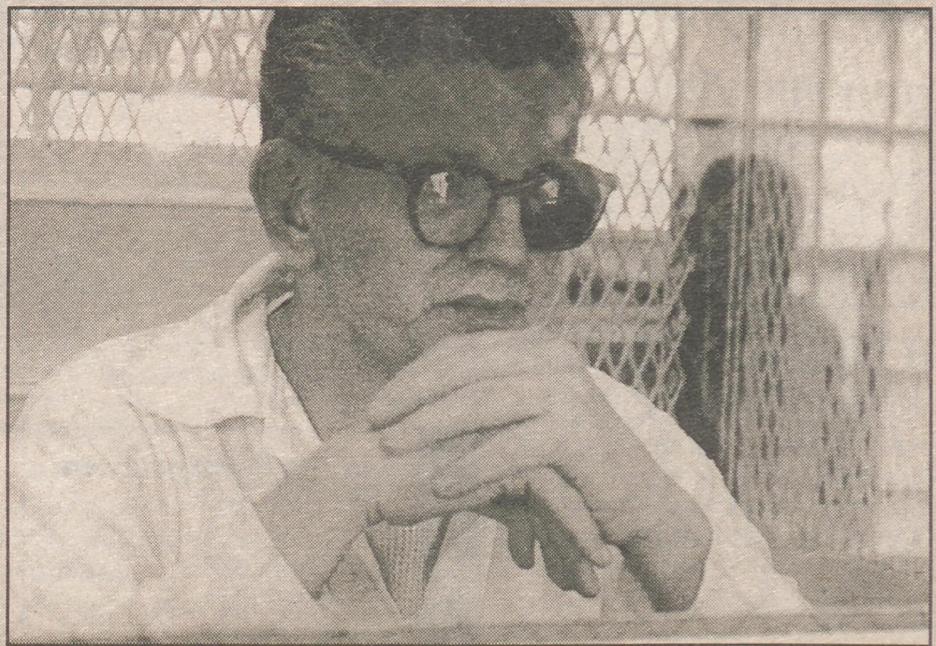
The attorney general's office has now asked Hittner to suspend enforcement of his original order, but Burdine's lawyers argued that the judge no longer has jurisdiction to modify the terms of the release order since the 120-day time period has already elapsed.

The judge is expected to rule within days on whether Burdine must be released, but Welch, one of Burdine's attorneys, said the chance of their client going free is small. Even if he is released, Welch said Harris County authorities would probably re-arrest him and hold him in custody.

If the state's motion to suspend the judgment were granted, it would not go into effect until after the appeal in the 5th Circuit. Also, if the state loses, the state would likely appeal, attorneys said.

Welch said she would like to see Burdine eventually get a sentence of less than life in prison.

But even if appeals based on inadequate legal counsel fail for Burdine, attorneys can press ahead with new challenges based on anti-gay slurs used by a prosecutor and Burdine's defense attorney during



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

A judge is expected to rule within days in the case of Calvin Burdine, a gay man on death row for killing his former boyfriend. Burdine could be freed or granted a new trial because of inadequate legal representation during his 1984 trial.

the 1984 trial, Welch said.

Cannon, already accused of sleeping through parts of the trial, also used an anti-gay slur against his own client, Welch said. That could be additional proof of inadequate legal representation, she said, adding that the anti-gay slur is important, but other issues in the appeals process have kept it from surfacing.

"It's a major factor in this case. The judge just didn't have to get to that issue," she said.

And in 1995, gay activists and the American Civil Liberties Union called Burdine's 1984 trial a "travesty of justice" because of anti-gay slurs by a prosecutor and Cannon.

The ACLU filed a brief in the case as a judge was preparing an execution order for Burdine. Hittner later granted a stay of execution on April 11, 1995, the day Burdine was to be executed.

At issue were comments made by prosecutor Ned Morris during closing arguments in the 1984 trial.

"Sending a homosexual to the penitentiary certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what (Cannon)

is asking you to do," Morris told the jury.

Morris was accused of playing on incorrect stereotypes and images of gays to prejudice jurors against the gay defendant.

Cannon was also accused of allowing three people onto the Burdine jury who admitted prejudice against gays and was criticized for failing to call witnesses who might have helped the defense.

At the time, Cannon was rankled by the charges, he told the *Houston Chronicle*.

"In his confession, my client said he was a dead man," Cannon said. "My trial strategy was simple. (Burdine) was a young boy and the fellow he killed was 20 or 30 years older. I maintained that my client was seduced and used by this old, vicious individual who'd seduced young boys all over town."

Burdine told the Associated Press recently that he would like to leave death row, even if it were for the Harris County Jail.

"All I want to do is go out that gate, hug my mama, get a cigarette and go about my business," he said. "And I don't even smoke, but I want to because I've been told I couldn't have one."

know that," Lobel said.

But not all gay and lesbian groups oppose the death penalty. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) did not take a position on capital punishment because it said the issue is not related to its mission.

"HRC has chosen not to take a position on the death penalty because we do not believe it has relevance to the issues that we are working on," said David Smith, the HRC's communications director. "We are quite concerned about it as citizens, but we don't take specific positions on issues that aren't directly related to issues we're working on."

Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay GOP group, is the only major gay and lesbian group that favored the death penalty for Shepard's killers.

"It was one of the most heinous crimes in that state's history, and our organization is largely an organization that takes a more conservative attitude," said Kevin Ivers, an LCR spokesman. "In that case, the position was clear."

But Ivers said that does not mean the organization takes a

stance in favor of the death penalty in all cases. He said the group is "not a debating society" and only takes positions in specific cases rather than on general issues.

### Texas groups downplay capital punishment

In Texas, Steve Labinski, president of the state chapter of Log Cabin Republicans, said many members of the state group support capital punishment, but it is not an issue of particular interest. He also downplayed concerns about fairness in applying the death penalty.

"In Texas, we have three levels of courts to adjudicate criminal cases. People convicted with the death penalty go through pretty lengthy appeals," he said.

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL), the state's major gay and lesbian group, said she opposes the death penalty, but the organization's board discussed the issue during the Shepard case and decided to take no position.

"LGRL's priority is making Texas safe for gay and lesbian people. A lot of our concern is focused on preventative legislation," Hardy-Garcia said from her Washington D.C. office, where she is on leave from LGRL to organize the Millennium March on Washington.

"Once someone's been killed because they are gay and the murderer has been sentenced to death, that tragedy is not repairable," she said.

Gay activist Ray Hill, who was demonstrating against the death penalty when the killer of his former lover was executed, said he has never seen his work for criminal justice and gay rights as separate causes.

Supporting the death penalty, Hill said, sets up a slippery slope that could ultimately hurt the gay and lesbian community.

"Coming from a class of people whose lives have been devalued, the death penalty is the ultimate devaluation of life," he said. "If we are going to start placing different values on different people—playing 'us' against 'them'—there is always going to be someone to call us 'them.'"

## Providing 'solid research' to patients is key in HIV treatment, activist says

> Continued from Page 5

drug/treatment failure and strategies for treatment for people dealing with that problem. Too often resistance is thought to be the sole cause of drug failure when in fact, it could be attributed to a number of factors," he said.

Delaney will also address genotypic and phenotypic testing—the diagnostic tools some doctors use to determine drug resistance patterns in patients.

"It's important that people know about these tests—what they are, how they differ in accuracy and what their role is in a treatment plan," he said.

The release of new statistics regarding oral sex and the increased transmission risk for HIV will also be covered, Delaney said.

"The oral sex issue is a difficult one, especially as to how you quantify it as a transmission factor. There are related issues—reinfection and the impact that has on positive partners who pass new viral strains between themselves. There is now a well documented case for this secondary infection (in which a HIV positive person receives additional viral strains of HIV from another infected person). The issue is: how many people would have to be reinfected before it is

accepted as fact that this is occurring?" Delaney said.

But Delaney said he doesn't want to tell people how to treat HIV, but present information on which to base a decision.

"It is not my purpose to come to Houston to tell people what to do concerning treatment options, but rather to provide them with information based on solid research that they can use to make informed decisions," he said.

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INFO

## McCain lesser of GOP evils for gays?

> Continued from Page 5

Wald's criticism echoes comments from Bush himself, offered as another reason why he refuses to meet with Log Cabin, although McCain sat down with the group last fall.

In a recent debate moderated by CNN's Larry King, Bush said he wouldn't meet with Log Cabin because the group already "made a commitment" to McCain—although he insisted that "each person needs to be judged with their heard and soul. I don't ask the question what somebody's sexual orientation is."

Earlier in the campaign, Bush said he wouldn't meet with Log Cabin because it would "create a huge political scene."

### McCain: the least right-wing?

To some Log Cabin members, McCain has repeatedly been cast as the least right-wing, the voice of a more "inclusive" Republican party.

And compared to the other Republican candidates, McCain has been by far the most receptive to gay support: He met with Log Cabin, accepted their campaign donations, and has supported gay appointments and political candidates.

Yet McCain is not without his own ties to the GOP's more conservative side. He has pledged to nominate judges who support voluntary prayer and displaying the Ten

Commandments in schools, and he won endorsement from Gary Bauer, a GOP primary drop-out and former leader of the Family Research Council, an arch-conservative think tank known for its anti-gay positions.

McCain has a fix on "the moral idea of America," Bauer said.

McCain also cast votes to convict President Clinton last year on both articles of impeachment.

On Feb. 7, campaigning in South Carolina to an audience of law enforcement students and officers, McCain reportedly said he does not approve of the gay "lifestyle."

According to the Associated Press, after expressing his support for the military ban on openly gay service members, McCain said, "I don't approve of that lifestyle." Log Cabin claims AP left off the rest of the quote: "But I don't condone discrimination."

Still, both of the other GOP candidates have their own ties to the right as well, a crucial constituency of the Republican party.

Former ambassador Alan Keyes, the third remaining candidate, has repeatedly called homosexuality an "abomination" and cast himself as the choice for conservative Christians.

While Bauer supports McCain, Bush has collected endorsements from far-right leaders including Pat Robertson and Ralph Reed, the former Christian Coalition head who now



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serves as an adviser to Bush's campaign.

In addition, Bush and Keyes both accepted invitations to speak at Bob Jones University, the arch-conservative South Carolina school that has threatened gay alumni with arrest for setting foot on campus, bans interracial dating, and is strictly anti-Catholic.

Keyes—a Catholic, African-American married to a woman from India—did criticize the school for its policies on interracial relationships and religion during his visit, but Bush offered no criticism of the school's policies while on the campus.

Bob Jones refused to invite McCain to speak, and an e-mail slandering McCain, insisting among other things that the candidate fathered several children out of wedlock, has also been traced to a Bob Jones professor.

### GOP more accepting?

Early in the presidential race, press accounts made much of an apparent softening of major Republican candidates towards gays:

Candidates including McCain, Bush and Elizabeth Dole, who has since withdrawn, "are creating an atmosphere that is subtly but fundamentally more inviting to gay and lesbian voters than party leaders have been in recent memory," said a New York Times article published in August and widely distributed by Log Cabin.

Since then, however, Bush publicly refused to meet with the gay GOP group and back-tracked on his willingness to appoint gay officials, although he did insist in a debate last week that he has "gay supporters."

Meanwhile, increasingly public pro-gay positions from the Democratic candidates unleashed a deluge of opposition from the GOP side.

Although Log Cabin still sees this year's campaign as the most "open" on gay issues in history, Ivers admitted that Bush's apparent about-face was upsetting.

"The support you see rising up for McCain [among Log Cabin members] has been largely commensurate to the growing anger towards Bush for the way he is handling gay issues," he said.

Even Wald, the Bush supporter, said he was "disappointed" about the decision not to meet with Log Cabin, although he supports Bush's policies in areas like the economy and defense and believes the candidate to be willing to learn about gay issues.

But those disappointments don't mean the GOP has completely reverted to its more openly anti-gay days, Ivers said.

Last Saturday's South Carolina primary, known as one of the most conservative in the nation, came down to a key battle for control of the Republican party, he said.



From bad to worse to homophobe? GOP presidential candidate John McCain (left) sat down with Log Cabin members last fall, while front-runner George W. Bush (center) refused to meet with the gay group and third-place candidate Alan Keyes (right) called homosexuality an 'abomination.'

By the numbers, Bush won hands down, taking 53 percent of the vote to McCain's 42 percent, and only 5 percent for Alan Keyes, the third remaining candidate.

Yet just because Bush won the battle, doesn't mean he'll win the war—or the "crusade," as McCain termed it in his South Carolina concession speech.

Bush's win "shows the religious right and Pat Robertson and that whole gang

did everything they could to save him," Ivers said. "If John McCain had won, it would have been the last dying breath of the religious right."

It remains to be seen whether Bush's attempts to attract the votes of religious conservatives in South Carolina will hurt him in states with more moderate Republican constituencies, political pundits said.



## Where the Republicans stand on the issues...

### Gays in the military

**Bush:** Supports "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the 1993 compromise policy that allows gays to serve only if they do not reveal their sexual orientation. After the Democratic presidential candidates debated whether there should be a "litmus test" on the issue for their appointments to the Joint Chiefs of staff, Bush said he would not appoint members of the Joint Chiefs who want to lift the ban.

**Keyes:** Opposes DADT and has vowed to ban gays from the military altogether. "One of the nice things about military people is they're straight," Keyes said in one debate.

**McCain:** Supports "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"—voted for the policy in the Senate in 1993 and voted against the amendment to let the president overturn the ban. "If [DADT] needs some reviews or changes, fine tuning... I'll be glad to support such a thing," McCain said, according to the New York Times. Opposes Gore's comments about a "litmus test" for the Joint Chiefs, which McCain said constitutes making the military "pursue a social agenda."

### Anti-discrimination laws

**Bush:** Says a president "must fight against discrimination," but "I think we can do so without special treatment of people," according to the Dallas Morning News. Told the 1998 Project Vote Smart questionnaire he would oppose a state-level sexual orientation anti-discrimination law for Texas.

**Keyes:** Opposes anti-discrimination laws. "If we're going to have special legal legislation for homosexuals, shouldn't everyone else's uncontrollable sexual orientations be protected? Shouldn't adulterers, pedophiles, rapists [get the same protections]?" Keyes

said, as quoted in the Buffalo News.

**McCain:** As a senator, voted against ENDA in 1996, when it failed to pass by one vote. Reportedly told the Log Cabin Republicans in their meeting this year that, "All my life I've had a visceral dislike of discrimination.... My goal is to eliminate discrimination."

### Gay marriage

**Bush:** Against same-sex marriage. "I am against gay marriage because I believe that marriage is for men and women," Bush said on Meet the Press in November.

**Keyes:** Against same-sex marriage and domestic partnerships.

**McCain:** As a senator, voted for the Defense of Marriage Act, a bill passed in 1996 that defined marriage as between a man and a woman and banned federal recognition of same-sex marriage. According to an article in the Washington Blade, McCain also opposes domestic partner legislation.

### Hate crimes legislation

**Bush:** As governor of Texas, opposed including sexual orientation in the state's hate crimes law, and opposed the hate crimes law altogether. "I always said that all crime is hate crime," Bush said, according to the Dallas Morning News.

**Keyes:** Opposes hate crimes laws and believes they will be used to punish people for opposing gay rights, according to the Fresno Bee. Signed a pledge against education efforts aimed at stemming homophobia.

**McCain:** Opposes the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, a bill to add sexual orientation, gender and disability to existing federal hate crimes laws and expand federal juris-

diction to prosecute such crimes. But as a senator, McCain did support the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990. The bill asked the Attorney General to collect data on hate crimes, including those motivated by sexual orientation.

### Gay parenting issues

**Bush:** Supported a Texas bill to ban adoptions and foster parenting by gays. Said he had "no idea" if children already being raised by gay parents should be removed from their homes.

**Keyes:** Opposes gay adoption and foster parenting.

**McCain:** On the CBS talk show "Face the Nation," said he is "opposed to legalization of gay marriages, gay adoptions."

### Meeting with gay groups

**Bush:** According to the Log Cabin Republicans, Bush initially agreed to meet with the group. But Bush later refused, telling the NBC News program "Meet the Press," he would "probably not" meet with Log Cabin.

"It creates a huge political scene," Bush explained. "I am someone who is a uniter, not a divider. I don't believe in group thought, pitting one group of people against another. And all that does is create kind of a huge political, you know, nightmare for people."

**Keyes:** Calls gays "immoral" and homosexuality an "abomination."

**McCain:** Met with the Log Cabin Republicans. "I am unashamed, unembarrassed and proud to work with you," McCain said, according to those who attended the meeting, though he emphasized publicly that he disagreed with the group on most issues.

### Gay appointments

**Bush:** According to the American Prospect, has appointed openly gay people to his state campaigns. Still, Bush told the *New York Times* he would appoint gays "as long as their political agenda was the same as mine," but later told the conservative *Washington Times* he would not "knowingly" appoint a gay person. Has declined to clarify his position on gay appointments.

Last week, asked on a Christian radio station if he would appoint someone who is openly gay, Bush replied, "An openly known homosexual is somebody who probably wouldn't share my philosophy."

Bush didn't mean he would ban all gay appointees, but thought the question meant gay "activists" who are unlikely to be conservatives, Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer later told the *New York Post*.

**Keyes:** Has consistently spoken out against all measures to provide job protections for gay men and lesbians.

**McCain:** In 1994, signed a statement pledging non-discrimination in his senate office. Appointed Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz), who is the only openly gay Republican in the House of Representatives, to his campaign steering committee. Supported the 1998 mayoral campaign of Neil Giuliano, the openly gay Republican mayor of Tempe, Ariz. Has said he could imagine a gay or lesbian president in the future.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, McCain also criticized his fellow senators for delaying the confirmation of James Hormel, a gay San Francisco philanthropist, as ambassador to Luxembourg.

—Sources: Staff and wire reports; National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

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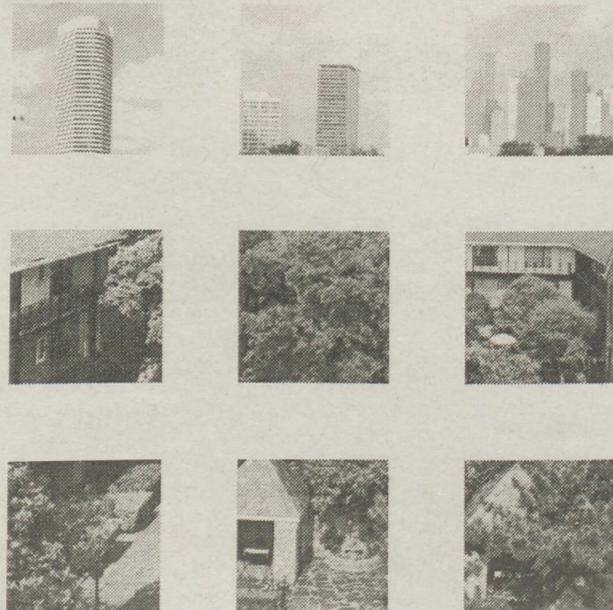
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RON BATZDORFF

### America's gay sweetheart Rupert Everett plays dad to Madonna's child in 'The Next Best Thing'

by LUCAS J. MIRE

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—On a gorgeous day in South Beach at a poolside bungalow, Rupert Everett, 40, seems relaxed and a little sleepy. Casually dressed in black athletic pants and shoes with a tight heather gray short-sleeved t-shirt, he complains of recently battling the flu. He's disarmingly down-to-earth, but all business—and for now, his business is getting people to see "The Next Best Thing."

"My fantasy for this film has always been for every gay and lesbian person to come see this film," Everett says. "If they did, it would be more successful than 'Titanic,' and there would be so many more movies coming out with gay and lesbian characters in them—because all Hollywood needs is the financial incentive."

While "The Next Best Thing" reeks of marketing manipulation and studio suits trying to strike while the having-a-gay-best-friend-iron is hot, Everett is sympathetic.

"Hollywood's not really homophobic," he says. "Hollywood's just business oriented. Whatever's going to make money is what they're interested in."

After the \$286 million world-wide gross of 1997's "My Best Friend's Wedding," you can bet Hollywood is very interested in making sure the John Schlesinger directed "The Next Best Thing" does big business. After all, a movie starring a woman by the name of Madonna and her best friend, who happens to be America's gay sweetheart—well, you do the math.

"I think films like this are very puzzling to  
> Continued on page 23

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by AMY GILL and MARGARET COBLE

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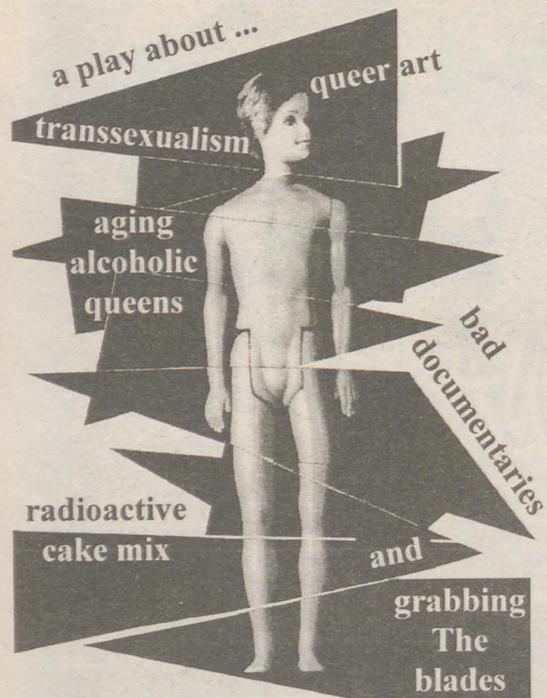
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## On Stage

### Sleeping in the eye of beauty

by D.L. GROOVER and  
RICH ARENSCHIEDT

More downtown than even Diverse-Works, the theater of Commerce Street Artists Warehouse is a space that is just way too cool.

It boasts burnt wood rafters, exposed industrial piping, a true distressed concrete floor, a working overhead gantry that would put a blush in the cheeks of any S&M maven, bleachers with industrial high school seating, plastic sheeting as side curtains, cobweb-infested sky lights, a garden that overlooks the corrugated metal walls of neighboring warehouses, and tons of tacky-chic East Village attitude.

And you can smoke while the play goes on—what more could you want?

Blazing into this ultra-hip spot come two one-act plays by Charles Busch, the master high dramatist of camp: **SLEEPING BEAUTY** and **VAMPIRE LESBIANS OF SODOM**.

These delirious, amphetamine-induced comedies are given a cheesy charm in the greasy hands of the dos chicas production team, both directed with aplomb by Anne Zimmerman, who also stars in them with charismatic wit.

Both Busch plays, like all of his fine work, pricks the conventions—of cinema, theater, society and sex—with surgical precision. They are whacked-out loving versions of Republic B-pictures grafted onto the glossy A-types that starred Lana Turner.

All our favorites are here, from Norma Desmond divas and bitch goddesses to insipid ingenues and overwrought boys with skeletons in their closet. In a wonderful embrace, all this hothouse atmosphere is then overlaid with a slimy sheen of sexual perversion and gender-bending.

Although "Vampire Lesbians" is now considered a classic and constantly plays somewhere in the world, Busch's lesser known "Sleeping Beauty" is the real winner. Believe it or not, it has a much truer-to-life feel. The targets it punctures are closer to home than Sodom's VistaVision Hollywood gargoyles.

It takes a razor sharp fingernail to the mod-swinging London scene with more panache, intelligence and inspiration than that poor re-tread "Austin Powers" could dream about. It references and then lovingly skewers "A Clockwork Orange," "Yellow Submarine" and Antonioni's "Blow Up."

The same actors perform in each play and succeed in treading that fine line between parody and silliness. Anne Zimmerman, who does quadruple duty as director, costume designer, and actor in two leading roles, shines in all four.

The eye-opener in both plays, though, is Walt Zipprian, who portrays the Charles Busch-like roles of Fauna Alexander, the under-appreciated designer in "Sleeping Beauty" and the woman-eating Succubus in "Vampire Lesbians." With foghorn voice, Zipprian etches these characters with great comic style; they're over the top and under control at the same time. It's perfect Busch.



Marcy Bannor, Heather Bryson and Jennifer Earhart in 'Eye of the Gull,' a classic chronicle of 12 lesbians.

Gay offerings also continue with **EYE OF THE GULL** at Little Room Downstairs Theater by lesbian playwright Jane Chambers. It's a classic which chronicles the interactions of 12 gay women while visiting at a seaside bed and breakfast.

"Gull" is built around a lesbian couple—Pat (Marcy Bannor) and Maggie (Heather Bryson)—and the care of Pat's developmentally disabled daughter, Sara (Jennifer Earhart). This couple owns a beach house cottage and much of the action centers around guests that come and go throughout the June weekend. The cast is varied in approach and ability, with some of them giving enjoyable performances.

Chambers, who died in 1983, has a cadre of works with a specific hush-hush view of lesbianism. Written in 1971, "Gull" focuses on a group of small village women and tourists—each with a relationship that is in disarray. In addition to Pat and Maggie, Jessie (Sheryl Croix) and Pearl (Catherine Douglas) represent the other long-term relationship in the play.

Croix and Bryson are the best in this cast. Many of the other women have characteristics that are entertaining, but the Act I discourse between these two women, each in a separate relationship, is strong point. Croix's portrayal of the financially successful, but unhappy Jessie is played with her usual air of effective understatement. That's a refreshing reprieve from other cast members, who overplay characters to make them believable.

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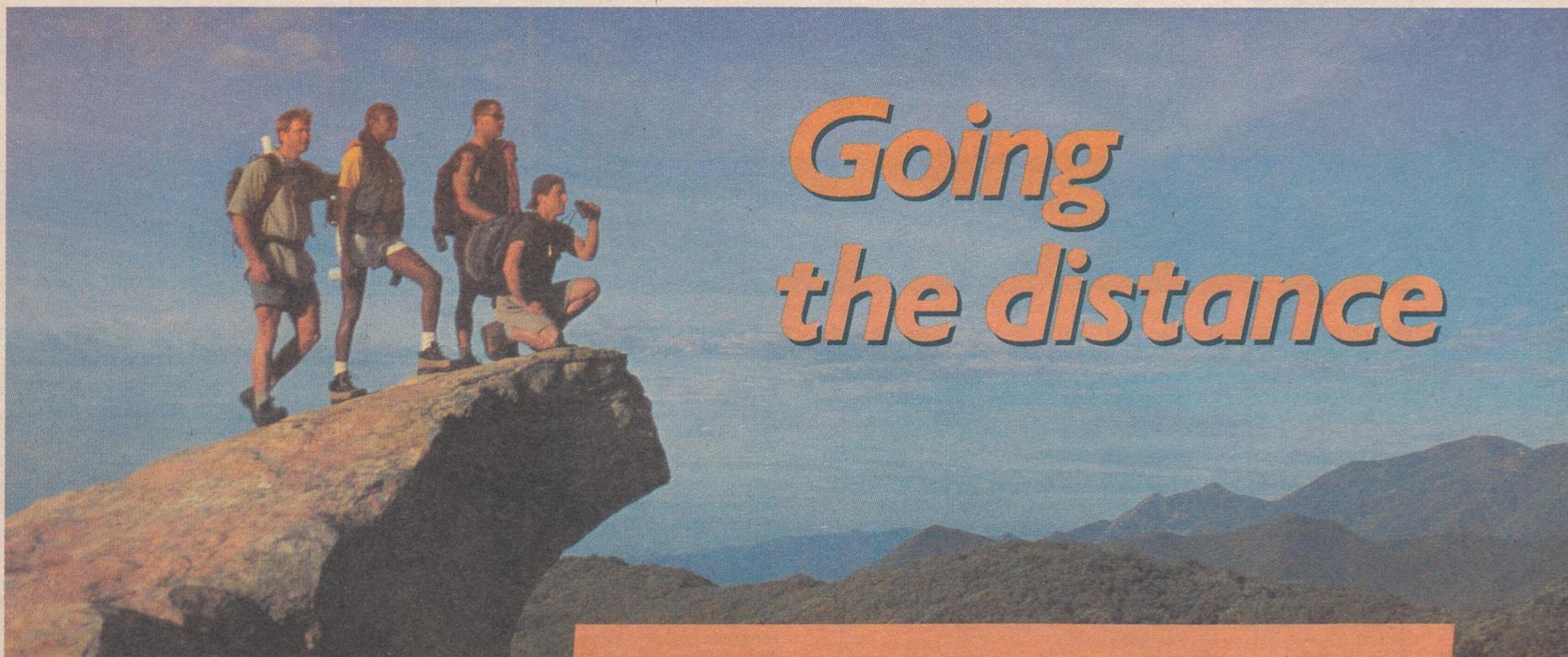
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#### ■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

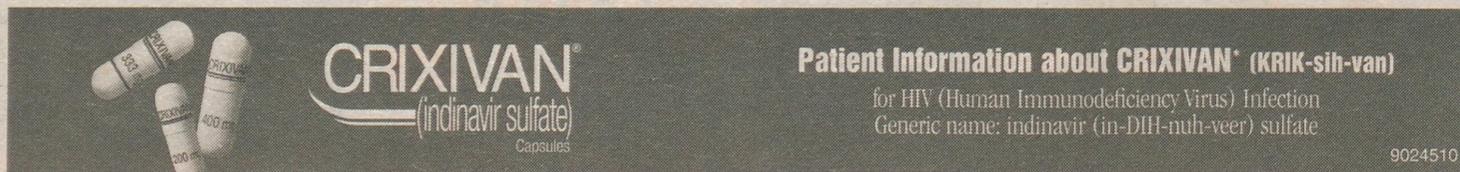
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#### How does CRIXIVAN work?

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CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

#### How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as **skim** or **non-fat** milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a **light** meal. Examples of light meals include:
  - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with **skim** or **non-fat** milk and sugar if you want)
  - corn flakes with **skim** or **non-fat** milk and sugar
 Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

#### Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

#### Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

#### Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

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

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.

Also talk to your doctor if you have:

- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia
- High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

**This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines 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.**

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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003424(3)(510)-CRX-CON

## Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection  
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

9024510

#### Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?\*\*\*

##### Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

##### Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)	isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	methadone

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA™, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

#### What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is **not** a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

**Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone.** Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

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.

##### Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

##### Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; heart problems including heart attack; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

#### How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



**CRIXIVAN®**  
(indinavir sulfate)  
Capsules

Issued September 1999  
MERCK & CO., INC.  
West Point, PA 19486, USA

# our gay **BEST FRIEND**

➤ Continued from page 19

Hollywood," Everett explains. "They're not sure where the audience is, if there's an audience, if one audience is going to be turned off because it's too in-your-face. The whole thing is a series of compromises that have to be made."

Everett had some compromises of his own to suggest in regards to the original script, which portrayed Abbie (Madonna) as a "very hard and bitter woman" and Robert (Everett) as a "flubby, asexual queen."

He smoothed out Abbie's rough edges and made Robert more of a hero. In the film, the best friends have an unexpectedly passionate evening together (read: have sex) and wind up co-habiting and co-parenting, until Abbie meets Ben (Benjamin Bratt) and falls in love.

But anyone expecting a simple comedy about the knee-slapping pratfalls of raising a kid with your best friend will be surprised. The film starts out as a quirky comedy and unexpectedly u-turns into a courtroom drama.

"I was looking to do another gay role that was still funny and accessible to middle American straight people," Everett says. "This story seemed to me to be ideal

because it's jerky and fun in the beginning and then it has a turn, which personally, I liked a lot."

But does Everett think that watching a gay "Father Knows Best" type could be a big turn-off to both straight and gay audiences?

"I think [the film is] good on the subject of family, and it's good on the subject of what actually does make a father. Is it blood or is it commitment?" Everett asks.

"In the end it deals with a series of serious subjects. The one that was the most beguiling to me was that you can be a practicing homosexual and a really good father, and I think that was a very important point to make."

With popular recent books like Dan Savage's adoption story "The Kid" and "The Velveteen Father" by Jesse Green, gay men and lesbians as parents is an idea who's time has arrived. But critics of the film have wondered if Everett's character, Robert, undermines the true gay identity, a la Anne Heche's "Oprah" appearance.

In a country where homosexuality is largely misunderstood, and in the age of Reformation ministries, do his character's actions portray being gay as a choice?

"I don't like the idea—whether it's truthful or not—that gay guys disappear into a puff of smoke as soon as they're confronted with a woman," Everett says. "When I knew I wanted to make the sexual act between the characters a spontaneous one, I thought Madonna was the perfect person to pull it off. And that's aside from the fact that we are friends because she is one of the

few women you could put into a gay club and everyone will still try to fuck her.

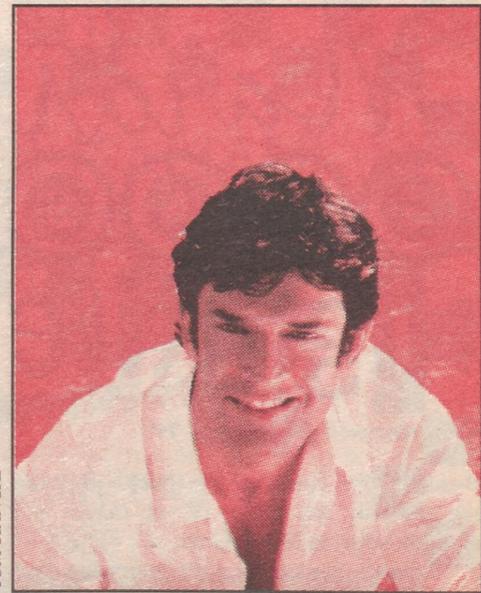
"I wanted that to be an easy bridge for the audience to make," he continues. "I think if you put Helen Hunt in the role, it would have been harder to imagine. Madonna's got a certain appeal that crosses the board, which is part of her fascination."

If Madonna fascinates gay audiences, it's only a reflection of how much Everett fascinates legions of straight people who didn't know gay people could be so much fun to have as friends.

The opportunity to trade in a luke warm acting career ("Another Country," "Dunston Checks In"), and a sideline novelist gig ("Hello Darling, Are You Working?"; "Hairdressers of St. Tropez"), and a seedy past for superstardom came as a surprise to Everett as well. But it's clear he intends to make the most of every opportunity that comes his way.

He's focused, intelligent and a budding marketing maven. Everett is to thank for shrewdly suggesting Paramount fly a dozen or so writers from regional gay newspapers around the country to Miami Beach to eat, drink and, oh yeah, write about "The Next Best Thing." Why?

Everett wants to promote the film without the political stances that come with coverage in glossy magazines like the Advocate. According to Everett, he prefers papers that tell you what's going on in that particular city on that particular weekend. Like grassroots campaigns of old, Everett believes in the cause. He wants you to see his movie.



TOM BIANCHI

Rupert Everett does gay as the father of Madonna's child in 'The Next Best Thing'

"It's exciting for gay characters to join the Hollywood family in a mainstream way," he says. "I think it's obviously more exciting for me to become more successful, and it's also really exciting to be a part of a movement to de-stereotype characters like this."

But, despite his drive and ambition, and unexpected success, Everett knows that he could quickly become an episode of VH-1's "Where Are They Now." While his role in introducing gay characters to major motion pictures cannot be denied, Everett is cautious about patting himself on the back so soon.

"I think the moment you start worrying about what you'll be remembered for is the beginning of a downhill slalom."

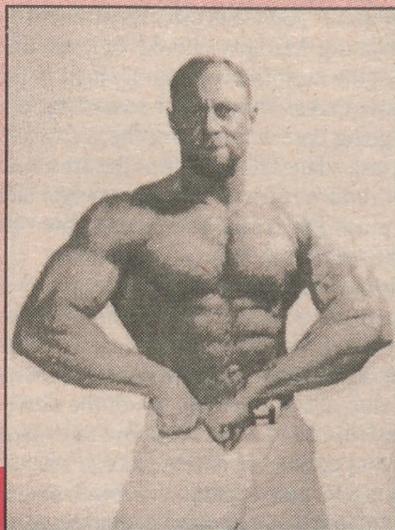


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DIANA HUNTRESS

# Mardi GRAS Nightlife

> Continued from page 19

that flash. Yes, flash, just like those body parts we see way too much of—or maybe not enough—during Mardi Gras.

Hotbeads contain a nifty microchip that makes them flash, and if early runs on them are any indication, they'll be hot sellers.

Jackson calls her Hotbeads "the Mardi Gras throw of the new millennium."

Jackson has lived in the New Orleans area since 1994, but her first Mardi Gras was in the early '80s. She loved the holiday, describing it as a "lost weekend" that resulted in a headache, an empty wallet and an enormous smile. She also admits to "losing her mind" at many subsequent Mardi Gras celebrations.

Since moving to New Orleans, Jackson has made her living peddling jewelry at the French Market and in two local stores. In 1977 her thoughts turned to Mardi Gras beads.

Jackson first developed the Hotbeads idea during a conversation with a friend who is a toy maker. The discussion turned to the evolution of Mardi Gras beads and their persist-

ent move toward flashiness. With some beads now bordering on the obscene, Jackson realized that "the necklaces had evolved to the point where they couldn't get any flashier without incorporating new technology." With that revelation, which she describes through the apt metaphor of "a light bulb over [her] head," Jackson became appropriately obsessed with making the idea a reality.

The beads combine traditional Mardi Gras appeal with new technology. Each 36-inch strand includes six "hot" beads that are one-inch in diameter and include light-emitting diodes (LED). The larger beads are separated by smaller, normal beads.

According to a Hotbeads advertisement, the overall design is carefully structured to ensure the beads "can withstand the rigors of Mardi-Gras-style partying and balcony throwing."

The beads are powered by common watch batteries, and they include an on/off switch to save power between parades or when the wearer doesn't want to attract so much attention.

Hotbeads are available in three designs: tricolor, black and red, and a special Mardi Gras medallion.

Jackson received a utility patent for her idea, which gives her control over the design and overall concept.

Jackson found two business consultants who were also inspired by the idea and formed a company, We're Talkin' Mardi Gras (WTMG). WTMG has in turn become affiliated with Kern International, a massive organization with extensive experience in Mardi Gras beads. The affiliation with Kern International allows them to offer customers "the option of incorporating custom designs and logos" for special promo-



Leslie Jackson (left) with her family and Hotbeads, which add a new twist to Mardi Gras.

tions, Jackson said.

Hotbeads are widely available in the city, and Jackson has already seen glimpses of the beads' seemingly unstoppable success.

After her two-year struggle to get the product on the market, Jackson still is not yet able to relax and enjoy success with her partner of eight years and her four-year-old daughter. She is involved in all the decisions involving Hotbeads, and she expects to spend this Mardi Gras working.

What do the beads hold in the future for Jackson? Think "new line of rave accessories" and you'll begin to see the light.

But where to wear Jackson's new Hotbeads? Mardi Gras certainly has it's gayside.

Since 1958, gays have formed their own clubs to take part in the celebration of carnival. The balls grew and so did new krewes until the 70s, when the gay carnival ball side of Mardi Gras flourished.

Mardi Gras 200 features at least three gay-themed balls. And if the more formal, costume-oriented events aren't your type, gay and lesbian bars and clubs might fill in the entertainment gap.

For girls just wanting to have fun, RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE (640 Frenchmen) in the Faubourg Marigny should be your first stop. It's the most lesbian-friendly joint in the downtown area. They've got something different going on every night of the week, and with a large dance floor, state of the art sound system, and a variety of high energy and house music DJs, it's the best place in town for a dyke to disco.

If hip-hop and more urban musical fare is what you gals crave, try the more intimate setting of SAN MONE' (Dourgenois & Banks Streets), a popular African-American women's dance club. It's a short ride out of the downtown area, but at 2 a.m. when you're looking to get your groove on, it's the place to be.

Hoping to hear a good live band or just hang out with some friends? A short walk up Elysian Fields will land you at the new MINT (940 Elysian Fields), a friendly neighborhood bar with a mixed gay male/lesbian clientele that occupies the former location of the legendary lesbian bar Charlene's.

And right across the street THE PHOENIX (941 Elysian Fields) is a neighborhood bar popular with the leather crowd but welcoming to all.

Boys will most likely want to head right over to Bourbon Street where high energy dance spots BOURBON PUB/PARADE (801 Bourbon), OZ (800 Bourbon) and the country's oldest gay bar CAFE' LAFITTE IN EXILE (901 Bourbon) will be filled to the brim with shirtless hunks. WOLFENDALE'S (834 N. Rampart) is a dance club preferred by African-American men, and in that same area there's VOODOO at Congo Square (718 N. Rampart) and FOOTLOOSE (700 N. Rampart).

Casual hangouts like GOOD FRIENDS (740 Dauphine) and leather-Levi bar RAWHIDE 2010 (740 Burgundy) are other popular gay-male destinations. Gals, the Pub/Parade and Good Friends are great places to meet and mingle, so keep that in mind.

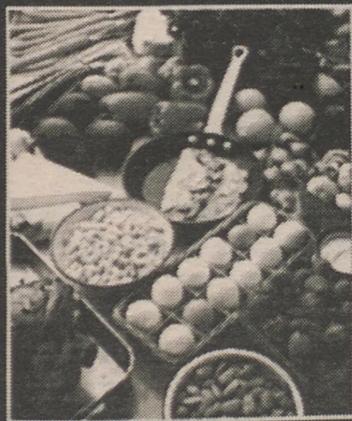
A brief cab or car ride to the Lower Garden District will get you to the seediest underground club in town, the AUDUBON HOTEL (1225 St. Charles), where the soundtrack is always eclectic and the clientele is predictably colorful. Performance art happenings, drag king/queen shows, and visual art openings are often featured on their calendar, along with a revolving lineup of DJs.

If you're headed out to the suburbs, don't fret that you're leaving the city's gay-friendliness behind. There are a handful of gay/lesbian bars in Metairie and Kenner where you can duck out of the craziness of the Quarter and still have a good time.

At the top of the list are ANGLES (2301 N. Causeway Blvd.) and 4 SEASONS (3229 N. Causeway Blvd.), Metairie bars that cater to a mixed gay/lesbian clientele and feature pool tables, DJs, karaoke and live music on the weekends.

For women, CLUB PARK AVENUE (3515 Hessmer) is a relatively new hang-out, and PRESLEY'S PUB (5029 Quincy) is a more established venue where you can listen to music, grab a bite to eat, and hang out with friends.

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# Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

## An island vibe

by TRAYCE DISKIN

When most Houston diners imagine a culinary island paradise, we think of lush margaritas on a slick wooden patio, or slender palms lining an adjacent parking lot. But those of us fortunate enough to know about **REGGAE HUT** might prefer to sip an icy Red Stripe from a wobbly table on the concrete sidewalk where cars jockey for spaces.

Reggae Hut, one of Houston's best Caribbean restaurants, is also its most authentic. Nestled into an otherwise residential block in the Sixth Ward, the restaurant consists of two cozy dining rooms filled with mismatched, colorful painted tables, bouquets of dried flowers, funky candleholders, and of course, the characteristic Bob Marley portrait beaming down.

Beneath Bob, on most nights you're likely to find a steel drum soloist or a full reggae jazz band. Or perhaps, there's low playing Wailers music streaming from the speakers to mix with the chatty staff, neighborhood locals, Caribbean natives and a host of other customers packed in for a long, relaxing meal or gathered at the busy takeout counter.

On a recent night, some friends and I began with a large order of Plantains (\$2.50). Thick and meaty, the sweet glaze perfectly saturated each slab. I would have preferred some type of dipping sauce, if only to provide a little moistness to the otherwise dry texture. But the flavor didn't need any help.

Although it didn't take us long to order the much-revered Coco Bread (\$1.25), this side could be ordered at any time. A jazzed up version of the dinner roll, this thick, fresh dough, baked with coconut milk, makes a great sponge for dinner sauces.

Although the emphasis is clearly on shrimp and seafood, the meat and chicken dishes demonstrate the same amount of home-cooked care. The Curry Goat (\$7.75) stews in a buttery, spicy curry. A friend loved the small meat chunks, but lamented the even smaller bones that riddled each tender piece. In the restaurant's typically attentive fashion, the menu warns diners about bones, but nonetheless, my friend found the constant picking and chewing a hassle.

The Jerk Chicken (\$6.75) received rave reviews from another friend who only stopped enjoying the dish long enough to beg for some milk to wash down the peppery bite.

The Curry Shrimp (\$8.75) was drowning in butter, as are many of the main dishes. Thankfully, the powerful, sharp curry transformed the entire platter into a kind of wonderful stew. Even the rice, black beans and steamed cabbage soaked up the rich sauce.

A friend who ordered the Shrimp Scampi (\$8.75) commented on the moist, seasoned rice, but was quick to assure us that the shrimp were fresh and tender and simmering in white wine, garlic and onions. The Red Snapper (\$12.95) sounded heavenly to another friend, but it wasn't to be, a fact that told us more about Reggae Hut's commitment to excellent service than it did their lack of menu items.

Two minutes after our server delivered the bad news that snapper had just run out, she appeared with a free round of beers, and three complimentary Reggae Hut Patties (\$1.50) so my friend didn't feel left out while his companions scarfed down their food. Although incredibly grateful and surprised, we weren't shocked. Such genuine friendliness is typical of Reggae Hut staff.

As for the free chow, the golden-brown turnovers stuffed with beef, chicken and vegetables were toasty and hearty enough for a main dish. But the Kingfish (\$8.95) was a bit of a disappointment. Although I was willing to sort through the bones, the meat was so dry and overcooked that the usually tangy escovitch sauce (the Jamaican version of vinaigrette) became crusty and acidic. Still, I was happy to gobble up the rice and beans as a side dish and enjoy my complimentary Red Stripe.

In addition to several beers, the menu offers fresh smoothies sweetened with natural fruit juice—try the papaya, mango and banana (\$3)—and the bizarre Peter Pan Man Punch (\$3.95), flavored with peanut butter.

More common desserts like apple pie, cheesecake and muffins are also available. On Saturday nights, the hut doors stay open from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. for open mic night, which features poetry, local bands and other community performers. "Authentic Jamaican Food and Vibe" and "Home Cookin' Island Style" the menu declares, and it's this mix of mood and cooking that make Reggae Hut one of our reliable favorites.



**Reggae Hut**  
4814 Almeda  
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Service:

Value:

Scene:

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**FOOD FILE**

# Out In Print

BOOK NEWS

## Exploring the truth of lesbian history

by SHAMICA HARPER

While the term "beauty" is socially linked to women, the concept of what beauty means surpasses both the eye of the beholder and the depth of skin.

To the masses, "beauty" is a doll. In society at large, Barbie represents the beautiful woman.

In **LESBIANS, LEVIS AND LIPSTICK: THE MEANING OF BEAUTY IN OUR LIVES**, editors Jeanine C. Cogan and Joanie M. Erickson find fault with that ideal.

The book explores, in three parts, how all women understand beauty and ultimately finds that beauty standards for lesbian women in particular span far beyond appearance and plastic.

"Lesbians, Levis and Lipstick" first attempts to identify and define lesbian beauty norms. Secondly, the book addresses the varying freedoms and constraints of lesbian beauty norms. Finally, this work examines whether or not lesbians might be less subject to the social pressures for all women to be thin.

Although mainly a reference work for lesbian studies scholars, the text combines personal narrative, research and poetry to state that appearance norms specific to les-

bian culture do exist.

The findings confirm that while the lesbian beauty standard has always existed, beauty standards for lesbians differ from the beauty assumptions of both men and heterosexual women.

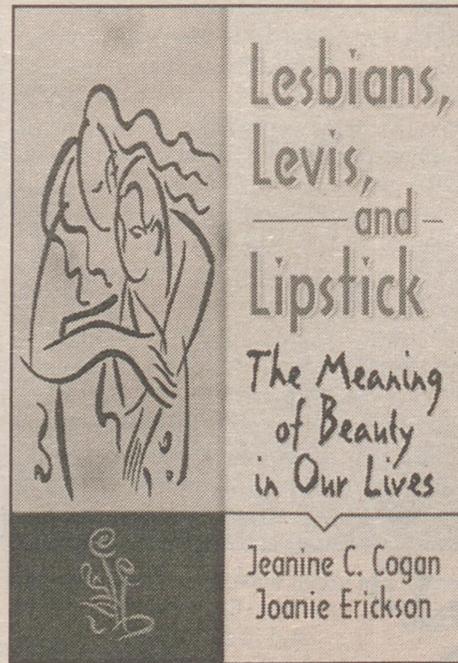
Through research and direct interviews based mainly on four studies conducted between 1990 and 1996, the editors conclude that both lesbians and straight women are obsessed with appearance and similarly dissatisfied with their bodies.

Further, a study of 77 bisexual women reveals that women who are attracted to both men and women feel more pressure to comply with traditional beauty standards when coupled with a male partner.

When paired with another women, bisexual women feel more at ease and less pressure to conform to standard beauty norms, the findings show.

Although self-esteem is generally linked to image in all women, beauty norms in lesbian culture are centered around clothes, hair and makeup.

Levis, short hair and the absence of lipstick are mainstays of lesbian imagery and symbols that serve to define our identity and to make us recognizable to other members of the group.



While many lesbians tend to adopt such a look, the most prevailing factor that determines the height of self-esteem for all women is how satisfied we are with our bodies.

Cogan and Erickson find that not only straight women but lesbians, too, engage in frequent dieting. A study of 181 women summarizes that in most lesbian circles, prevailing beauty amounts to this: Thin is in and femme is out.

Those who do not conform to these standards oftentimes, in a sense, remain outwardly closeted or nearly invisible.

Despite that, Cogan and Erickson's findings are based largely on small samples and often rely on personal testimony.

"Lesbians, Levis and Lipstick" is pioneering literature that opens the topic of lesbian beauty for discussion.

Because beauty is atypically masculine and lesbian women have most often been identified by their masculine traits, exploring what makes lesbians beautiful poses man questions and this book offers no definitive conclusions.

As the lesbian population becomes more visibly diverse, the overall image of what makes us beautiful is a topic worthy of further study. The book makes an interesting statement, based on a discussion of beauty and aging, between three lesbians: Our definition of lesbian beauty may broaden with age.

Barbie has come a long way since 1955, signifying that beauty norms, too, change with time. Might there soon be a market for butch Barbie?

In the meantime, "Lesbians, Levis and Lipstick" is a good reference manual for anyone daring enough to try and put us in little pink boxes.

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INFO

### Lesbians, Levis and Lipstick

ed. by Jeanine C. Cogan and  
Joanie M. Erickson

Harrington Park Press

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## Workshops will offer lesbians answers to age-old questions

by KAY DAYUS

The answers to the age-old question of what do lesbians do is within your grasp.

"What Do Lesbians Do?"—a series of workshops offered by the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center—kicks off March 2 to foster discussion about lesbian sexuality. That's often a subject lesbians are hesitant to discuss, said Maria Minicucci, a psychologist and president of the community center who facilitate the discussions.

"Women, and lesbians in particular, are repressed sexually," Minicucci said. "We are very hesitant to speak about our sexuality." It was a "prude or pervert time," she says. Aply, one of the workshops is entitled, "Prude or Pervert?"

It's often a debate between prude or pervert, Minicucci said, similar to the "sex wars" of the 1980s in which there was divisiveness among lesbians and sex, some of whom were against the use of sex toys.

"These discussions are a way to break down the divisiveness among women and to have some fun," Minicucci she said.

At least six discussions are initially planned, and if successful, organizers hope the sessions evolve into regular meetings.

The first session, "Own Your Desire," will include discussions on fantasy, auto-

eroticism and dating. Minicucci, author of "Woman to Woman: The Erotic Revolution," said that a woman's personal power is tied in with sexuality.

"It is the seed of our personal power," Minicucci said.

During her 15 years as a therapist, Minicucci said she has seen couples who have been together for many years. "But," she added, "for many of them, sex stopped after a year or two. And, usually, when the sex stops, the intimacy does also."

That's a phenomena that rarely takes place in heterosexual or gay male relationships, she said. Often, these lesbian couples stay together because of finances or other reasons long after the sex has stopped. Sometimes, Minicucci said, companionship emerges and this is valuable. But, often, one or both, start cheating, rather than discuss the lack of sex and intimacy, she said.

"We want to start with the basics and get women to talk about sex in a safe, comfortable place," Minicucci said.

Deborah Bell, a community activist and an outreach worker with the Montrose Counseling Center, will facilitate the sessions with Minicucci. Bell wants to be sure lesbian health issues are included in the talks.

"Women, and lesbians in particular, are ignorant about their own bodies," Bell said.



Maria Minicucci, a psychologist and president of the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, will co-host a series of workshops targeted at teaching lesbians more about their bodies.

When we talk about what lesbians do, Bell said, "we're not talking about volunteering, pot luck dinners or scrabble"—instead their sexuality, bodies and health.

Controversial subjects, like butch/femme, S&M, monogamy vs. non-monogamy, bisexuality, sexuality for the disabled and love with a transgendered person will also be discussed, Bell said. All this will take place in a non-threatening environment where women can choose to participate on their own level, Bell and Minicucci said.

The second session, "The Vagina Monologues," includes the "whole shebang of "what's down there," and health concerns, Bell said, an "intersection of health and sexuality and sexual risk reduction."

Another session, "Prude or Pervert?" covers the emotional and psychological aspects of sexuality, including often-taboo subjects like penetration, sex toys and female orgasms.

Lesbians need to be more open about these subjects and know what others think, Bell said. "Some lesbians are even concerned about whether they are doing it right. We want them to know, there is no right or wrong way," she said.

Both Minicucci and Bell are adamant that although they hope for candid and lively participation, they also want to have fun.

"It will be very confidential," Bell said. "But we intend to have a good time."

INFO

### What Do Lesbians Do?—Own Your Desire

March 2, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Suggested donation of \$5

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# community calendar

## saturday, february 26

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM, 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.  
 Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
 Visual Arts Alliance. 10 a.m. 281-583-8408.  
 Dignity mass at 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary at 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.  
 Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. 713-863-1860.  
 Rainbow Fishing Club. 713-526-7070.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay drop-in hours from noon to 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-956-1866.  
 Pride Committee of Houston Grand Marshall voting. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## sunday, feb. 27

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.  
 Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.  
 Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church. Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.  
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I at 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II at 8:55 a.m.; Education hour at 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.  
 Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. "Preaching the Gospel" Bible study at 9:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.  
 Resurrection MCC Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.  
 Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.  
 First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. Sunday School for children. 4305 Lillian. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
 Houston Mission Church. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.  
 Covenant Baptist Church. Service at 1:30 p.m.; education hour at 3 p.m. 713-668-8830.  
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m. Sunday school at 9:40 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
 Resurrection MCC Handbell Choir rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.  
 The Women's Group. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.  
 Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 402 Church St. in Galveston. Service at 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.  
 Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 11 a.m. 713-520-7847.  
 First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.  
 Church of Kindred Spirits (Beaumont). Service at 7 p.m. 409-835-4765.  
 Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum at 10 a.m. Service at

11 a.m. and noon. Open Circle Family Support at 12:30 p.m. 1504 Wirt. 713-686-5876.  
 Interfaith Worship Celebration. 7 p.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. 713-528-3601.  
 Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion at 9:45 a.m.; service at 11 a.m. 3945 Greenbriar. Stafford. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.  
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-868-5039.  
 Montrose Ice Picks. Galleria. 5 p.m. 713-629-1432.

## monday, feb. 28

Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group, 8 p.m. 713-861-6181.  
 Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week, 7 p.m. 713-529-1223.  
 Bering Support Network. Grief and Divorce Groups at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.  
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
 AIDS Caregivers' Support Group. 6 p.m. 713-732-4300.  
 HIV testing. Free from AVES from 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.  
 FrontRunners. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
 Kolbe Project. Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.  
 Integrity Houston. For gay and lesbian Episcopalians. 7:30 p.m., Autry House, 6265 Main.  
 More Light Presbyterians. Meeting. 1110 Lovett. 9:30 p.m. 281-444-8861 X309.  
 AIDS Foundation Houston Creative Writing Class. 3 p.m. 713-623-69796.  
 gayDAR. Wellness community. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017 X211.  
 Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition's weekly meeting at 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. Houston Lesbian and Gay Community drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Stonewall Democrats of Houston. 7 p.m. 608 W. Gray. stonewall-houston@hotmail.com.  
 Log Cabin Republicans meet at 7 p.m. 2006 Lexington. 713-529-9100.

## tuesday, feb 29

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. 7 p.m. 239 Westheimer. 713-495-8009.  
 Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center at 4:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.  
 Youth-Rap. 6:30 p.m. 713-822-8511.  
 Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.  
 AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. 7 p.m. 713-488-4492.  
 PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.  
 Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse. Montrose Counseling Center at 6:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.  
 Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang at 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.  
 More on Relationships. Discussion group. 7 p.m. 415 W. Gray. 713-861-9149.  
 Lambda Skating Club skates at 8 p.m. at the Tradewinds. 713-523-9620.  
 Gay & Bi Male Support Group support group forming. Sponsored by AVES 713-626-2837.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m.; Lesbian Coming Out Group meets at 7:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.  
 Pre-Need Burial Plans. 7 p.m. Presented by Veteran's Funeral Services. 713-861-9149.  
 Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus meets at 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Prime Timers Card Night. 7 p.m. 611 Hyde Park. 713-867-3903.  
 Houston Outdoor Group general meeting. 713-522-7809.  
 Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. "The Different Drum." 713-861-1600.

## wednesday, march 1

Free HIV Testing at Thomas Street Clinic at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.  
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting at Cafe Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. 713-467-4380  
 Women's Network. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713-529-0037.  
 HIV survivor support group. 7 p.m. 713-782-4050.  
 Mind/Body Connection: Alternative Approaches. 7 p.m. 1475 W. Gray. 713-524-2374.  
 Project: Caesar. 7 p.m. AFH, 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.  
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club, 8 to 10 p.m. at 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.  
 HAMS Motorcycle Club meets for coffee. 713-688-1300 or hams1999@yahoo.com  
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.  
 Houston Pride Band. All skill levels. 7:15 p.m. 713-522-4282 or www.houstonprideband.org.  
 Hospital Volunteer Training. Kolbe Project. 1 to 4 p.m. 713-861-1800.  
 Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 803 Hawthorne. 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3181  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Classic Chassis Car Club meets. 7 p.m. 1430 W. Gray. 713-863-7024

## thursday, march 2

Art Labs. The Art League at 1 p.m. 713-225-9411.  
 Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal at 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.  
 HIV+ Men Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center, 1:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.  
 Relapse Prevention. Montrose Counseling Center, 2 p.m. 713-529-0037.  
 Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center, 6 p.m. 713-

529-0037.  
 Women's Therapy Group. Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.  
 Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 713-738-RACE.  
 FrontRunners at 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.  
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 713-830-3000.  
 Faith and Hope Fellowship. Bible study 7 p.m. 713-520-7847.  
 Twenty Something Rap Session. 7:30 p.m. 713-315-6786.  
 Open Mike Night at Cafe Artist. 8 p.m. 713-528-3704.  
 Community Gospel. Service at 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
 HIV/AIDS Support Group, 2:30 at Family Service Center. 713-861-4849.  
 Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group, 4:30 p.m. Family Service Center. 713-247-3810.  
 HIV/AIDS Support Group, 7 p.m. Family Service Center in Conroe. 888-247-3810.  
 Yoga at Body Positive. 6:30 p.m. \$5. 713-524-2374.  
 Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston (GLOBAL) meets at 4 p.m. 713-743-7539.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.  
 Gulf Coast Archives and Museum. 7 p.m. 2700 Albany. 713-227-5973.  
 Lesbian Sex Forum. 7 p.m. 713-524-3818.  
 PotLuck at 7 p.m. Kolbe Project, Matthew Eastus-speaker. 713-861-1600.

## friday, march 3

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.  
 Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.  
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
 Lesbian Avengers. Cafe Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama at 7 p.m.  
 Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. Park Plaza Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.  
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.  
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM, 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.  
 Movie Time at the Kolbe Project. 7:00 p.m. 713-861-1600  
 Life Begins at 40. Pot luck dinner and discussion. 6:30 p.m. 1440 Harold. 713-526-1017.  
 Mishpachah Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.  
 Co-dependents Anonymous. 7:30 p.m. at MCCR. 713-861-9149.  
 Men's Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-3818.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.  
 Healing Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral. 7 p.m. 1117 Texas. 713-222-2593.  
 Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS) meets. 409-927-1705 or P.O. Box 62, Galveston, Texas, 77553.  
 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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# Past Out

GAY AND  
LESBIAN HISTORY

by DAVID BIANCO

## The Lavender House

How gay was the White House?

Blanche Wiesen Cook's multi-volume biography of Eleanor Roosevelt and Rodger Streitmatter's collection of her passionate correspondence with reporter Lorena Hickok suggest that at least one former first lady of the U.S. had a lesbian relationship. But several 19th-century inhabitants of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue may have had queer leanings, too.

One of James Buchanan's (1791-1868) claims to fame is that he was the first "bachelor" president of the U.S. When he was in his 20s, Buchanan worked as a lawyer in Lancaster, Pa., where he met and became engaged to a woman named Ann Coleman. But Buchanan's fiancée broke off the engagement suddenly and died soon after. Buchanan remained unmarried for the rest of his life.

But Buchanan enjoyed a 20-year intimate friendship with another bachelor, William Rufus de Vane King. The two men met as U.S. senators in 1834, when King was 57 and Buchanan, 43. They shared quarters in Washington, D.C., for many years, and Buchanan called their relationship a "communion."

King, a cotton planter from Alabama, was the object of derision by some of his peers, like Andrew Jackson, who dubbed him "Miss Nancy." Aaron Brown, a leading Democrat, called King "Aunt Fancy" and Buchanan's "better half." In a private letter, Brown used the feminine pronoun for King. Despite King's perceived effeminacy, he was elected as Franklin Pierce's vice president in 1852 on the pro-slavery ticket. But after only six weeks in office, King died of tuberculosis.

Buchanan went on to hold several higher offices, including secretary of state, and became president in 1857. His single term was fraught with upheaval: the Panic of 1857, John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, and the secession of seven Southern states. He is now mainly remembered for his failure to take a strong stand against slavery. Buchanan was followed into the White House by another possibly queer figure—Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865).

As a young man, Lincoln had a romantic friendship with Joshua Speed, a Springfield, Ill., shopkeeper. In 1837, a penniless Lincoln arrived in town to start his legal career. He rode in on a borrowed horse with all his possessions loaded into two saddlebags. In need of a place to stay, he inquired at Speed's general store. "I have a very large room and a very large double bed in it," Speed, who was reportedly quite handsome, offered. Lincoln immediately accepted and shared Speed's bed for the next four years.

Two bachelors sharing a bed in the mid-19th century was not uncommon. But Lincoln and Speed also shared their deepest confidences, including a fear of women and marriage. As one woman whom Lincoln briefly



Eleanor Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln were two residents of a White House with shades of lavender.

courted saw it, "Mr. Lincoln was deficient in those little links which make up the chain of a woman's happiness."

Was their relationship sexual? As early as 1926, Lincoln biographer Carl Sandburg intimated that it was; it had "a streak of lavender and soft spots as May violets," he wrote, code words in Sandburg's day for homosexuality.

Most recently, writer Larry Kramer claims to have turned up a diary belonging to Speed and letters between the two men that were hidden under the floorboards of the old general store. "Our Abe is like a school girl," always demanding physical affection, Speed reportedly wrote. "He often kisses me when I tease him." Speed's language suggests that, even if the men's relationship wasn't sexually consummated, there was a strong homoerotic current to it.

In 1885, 20 years after Lincoln's death, another unmarried president took office. Unlike bachelor Buchanan, though, Grover Cleveland had a reputation as a rake. He asked his sister Rose, a "spinster" with a successful career as a teacher, novelist, and literary critic, to move to Washington to be his first lady and bring a note of respectability to the White House. She acted as first lady until her brother married in 1886.

In 1889, when she was 44, Rose Cleveland began a romantic friendship with Evangeline Simpson, a wealthy 30-year-old widow, whom she met while on vacation in Florida. After returning to their respective homes, the two women exchanged a flurry of increasingly erotic letters.

But after a few years, Simpson chose to follow a more conventional path. In 1892, she became engaged to an Episcopal bishop twice her age. The decision, Cleveland wrote, hurt her deeply. Nevertheless, she wished the couple well—on White House stationery.

When Simpson's husband died a few years later, she returned to corresponding with Cleveland. Reunited, the women moved to Italy in 1910, where they lived together until Cleveland died eight years later. Remaining in Italy, Simpson survived her partner by 12 years, and the two were buried there side by side.

David Bianco is the author of "Gay Essentials", a collection of his history columns. He can be reached at [DaveBianco@aol.com](mailto:DaveBianco@aol.com).

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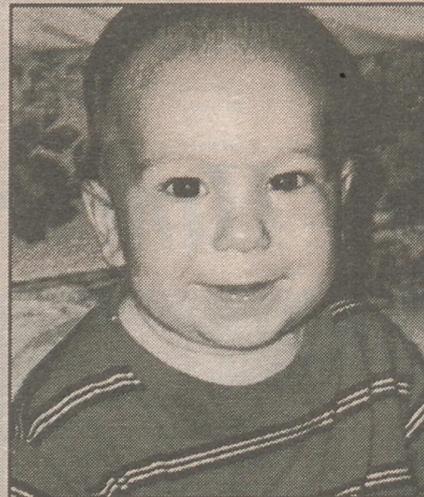
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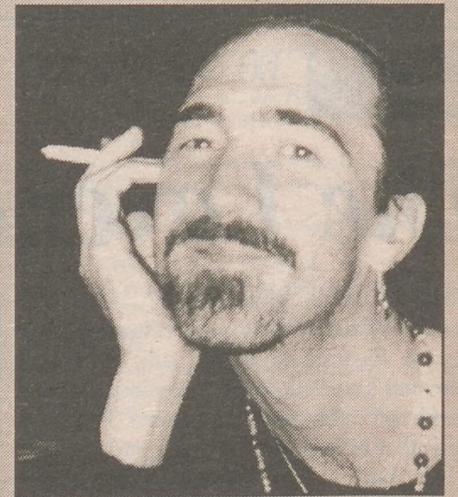


St. Thomas University,  
Montrose Branch Library

## Occasions



Nathaniel Parker Lindberg sees his first birthday on March 2.



Happy birthday to Clifford Edwards on Feb. 25.

### Birthdays

Happy birthday to legal eagle Patricia O'Kane on Feb. 26.

The fabulous Tom Mays toasts his birthday on Feb. 28.

Jeril McNeil blows out his birthday candles on Feb. 28.

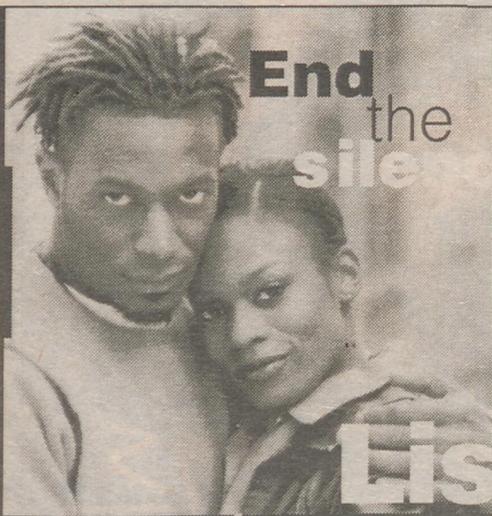
Animal, the one and only of the Brazos River Bottom, growls in a birthday on Feb. 28.

Aubergine is the color of Barry

Petri's birthday cake on March 1.

Former *Houston Voice* staffer Jim Cheek celebrates his birthday on March 2.

The *Houston Voice* welcomes your special occasions. Send e-mail to [croberts@houstonvoice.com](mailto:croberts@houstonvoice.com). Fax: 713-529-9531. Mail: Occasions, *Houston Voice*, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006. Please include a telephone number so occasions can be verified and considered for publication.



## End the silence...

Memorial  
Donald R. Watkins  
Foundation

### A Community HIV Treatment Update from the Retrovirus Conference

Tuesday, February 29, 2000  
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

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The Warwick Hotel  
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Moderator  
**Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.P.**

Guest Speakers:  
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**Dr. Shannon Schrader**  
**Dr. Natalie Vanek**



This is an activity offered by the Academy of Continuing Education Program. The Academy of Continuing Education Program is approved by the American Council of Pharmaceutical Education as a provider of continuing education. This course is approved for 2.0 contact hours or 20 CEUs (continuing education units) of credit. Universal Program No.: 797-000-0009-001

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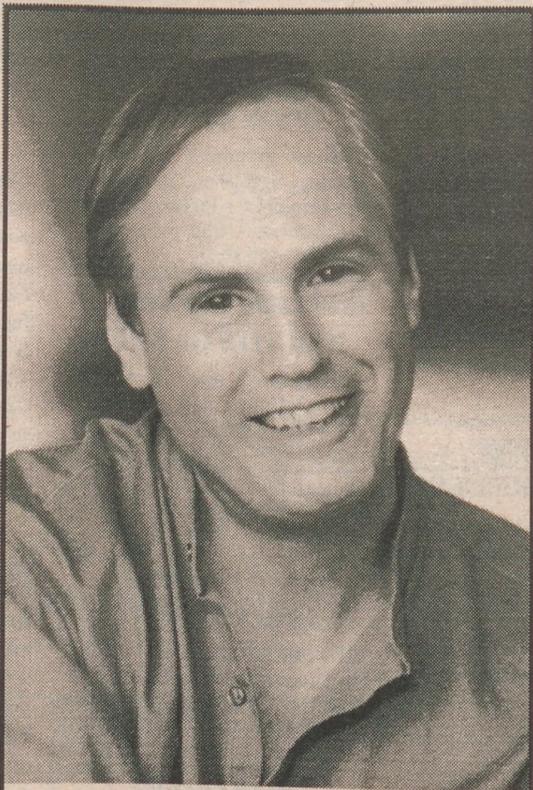
Photo by Gabriel T.

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# HIV in the 21st Century:

## What the Future Holds

A Discussion with AIDS Activist  
**Martin Delaney**



Founding Director of  
Project Inform

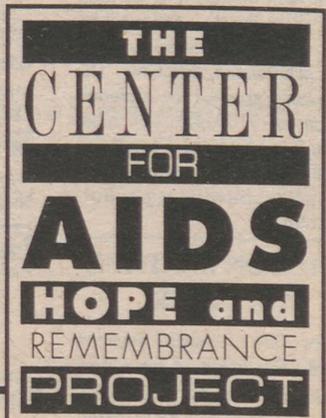
**Thursday, March 2, 2000**  
**7:30 pm**

**Light Meal 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

McGovern Auditorium of the  
Museum of Health & Medical Science  
1515 Hermann Drive

**Martin Delaney** is the Founding Director and public voice of *Project Inform*, one of the nation's best-known nonprofit foundations working in AIDS. Martin has served with *Project Inform* since its inception in 1985. He is an internationally recognized leader of the movement to accelerate FDA approval of promising drugs and was a key player in the development of today's widely used accelerated approval regulations and the parallel track system for providing experimental drugs to seriously ill people prior to formal approval by the FDA. He was one of the founders of the community-based research movement and through *Project Inform* led the way to the unprecedented level of HIV treatment education available to both for physicians and patients. Mr. Delaney has for 15 years been a constructive critic of federal, academic, and industry AIDS research efforts and a featured voice in the media and at scientific conferences on AIDS-related topics. His writings have appeared in such prestigious medical publications as *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* and the *Journal of AIDS*, and in a number of popular magazines.

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# Classifieds

## Announcements

### LOW VISION

Support Group forming • First Organizational meeting Sunday, March 5 • 2 p.m. • 515 Richmond • 713.528.2555.

### THANK YOU

Community Resale Shop • 515 Richmond • 713.528.2555.

### 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](http://www.bodypositive.org) or call 713.524.2374.

### 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](http://www.rwpc.org).

### GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD

Volunteer classes now forming. Reserve your space online or call 713.529.9615 • [www.gayswitchboardhouston.org](http://www.gayswitchboardhouston.org)

### gayDAR

Dream • Affirm • Restore: A new wellness community for persons 18 to 29 years old who are interested in making healthy connections meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. For more information, call Russ Robinett at 713.526.1017 X211.

The PFLAG/HATCH Scholarship Foundation's dinner and celebration will be held on Friday, March 1 at the Warwick Hotel. The evening will include a social hour with a silent auction, followed by dinner and presentations by some of the scholarship recipients. The fund raising goal for the millennium year is \$100,000. For more information about the Foundation and the scholarship program see [www.pflaghouston.org/scholarship.htm](http://www.pflaghouston.org/scholarship.htm).

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### PWA COALITION

The PWA Coalition needs the following items: dishes • silverware • pot • pans • sheets • towels • furniture • small appliances • We are available for pick up. Call Wilson or Terry at 713.522.5428.

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90 Accura • Legend • Sunroof • Leather • 4door • Auto • White • \$4388 • Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile • 281.243.8600.

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### Employment

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get in excess of \$4 million and 36 employees • Candidates should have commitment to working with state and local organizations, share NGLTF view of its role in the broader social justice movement • They should have experience in leadership role in a not-for-profit organization, successful experience raising funds, political awareness, demonstrated ability to lead, superior representational skills and excellent strategic skills. Minority and female candidates are encouraged to apply. Resumes should be forward to • Tom Goodwin • Goodwin & Company • 1159 Connecticut Ave. • Suite 200 • Washington, D.C. • 20036.

HIV Intermediate care home seeks night staff • Resident interaction, housework, and clerical • Understanding/sensitivity of HIV/AIDS and experience a plus • EOE • Send resume to Executive Director • PO Box 131303 • Houston, Texas 77219-1303.

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### Volunteers

The Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center is seeking volunteers to staff the facility in more extended hours. If organizations and individuals are interested, please contact Kevin Davidson at 713.524.3818 to discuss how you can help.

### Web-sites

[www.houstonvoice.com](http://www.houstonvoice.com)

[www.sovo.com](http://www.sovo.com)

[www.impactnews.com](http://www.impactnews.com)

[www.montrosesoftballeague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballeague.com)

[www.iblhouston.net](http://www.iblhouston.net)

[www.gayswitchboardhouston.org](http://www.gayswitchboardhouston.org)

[www.stevendavid.com](http://www.stevendavid.com)

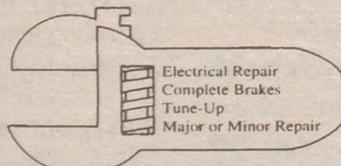
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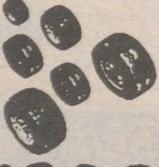
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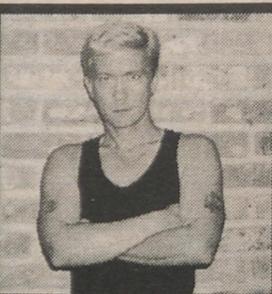
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# My Stars!

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

by JILL DEARMAN

Feb. 25 - Mar. 2



## ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

The sun is currently transiting your house of the unconscious, so lots of weird stimuli could pop up in your dreaming and waking hours. This is a make-or-break time, sexually. There could be a major sensual breakthrough for you. Get in touch with your inner guru. A Virgo likes the way you channel your chi.



## TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

You could stand to show a little more patience with yourself and your crew. You can get a lot done in late February if you ask your pals for some help. Group projects go well, but stick to what you know. An Aquarius will enrage and inspire you this week.



## GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

You are standing in your own way career-wise, Gemini. So move aside. Use your powers of attraction to discover something beautiful about yourself that you had long ago forgotten. A Virgo can be of assistance.



## CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Right now, your life is full of chance meetings with people who can help you change how you live. Decide who you want to be and then reinvent yourself. An Aquarius could be your spin doctor, and will give you just the inner and outer examination you need.



## LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

Take advantage of the fact that so many people are looking up to you right now; so gather your resources. But be careful whom you sign contracts with or make promises to. Impulsiveness won't serve you well. A Pisces would like to serve you slowly and luxuriously.



## VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Love is on its way, dear Virgo. It may be only slightly delayed while your ruler, Mercury, is retrograde. Be patient and dream about what you want out of a relationship. This is a major time of emotional growth for you. A Capricorn can help you enjoy the wonderful things available to you.



## LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Make a list of who's "for you" and "against you" and get together with those in Column A. You need someone to force you to be the best you can be. Inspiration comes in many strange forms this week. A Scorpio really does have your best interests at heart.



## SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

It's hard to figure out what people want from you right now, so don't even bother trying. Listen to your own instincts and the power of your own lust. This week put suspicions aside and go for the gusto. Your desire will not steer you wrong, if you're true to yourself. A Cancer is just waiting for you to make a bold move.



## SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Venus is encouraging you to get more social. You don't have to make any commitments, just commit to expanding your network of friends. You can see God in the weirdest characters: use that penetrating vision of yours. An Aries can't help but dream about you.



## CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Your ruler, Saturn, has teamed up with lucky Jupiter to make you take the artist within you more seriously. Use your talent and obvious people skills to bring more creativity into it. Business partners can help you become a lot richer. A Cancer wants a different sort of partnership.



## AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - Feb. 19)

You can accomplish a lot if you pace yourself. You've been burning the candle at both ends for too long now. Take this time to ask yourself what you really want to accomplish in the next few years and what you are afraid of. A Leo wants to take care of you.



## PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Give yourself a break, Pisces. You are about to be on the receiving end of a lot of key emotional information. You could even meet someone you are sure you knew in a past life. Honey, you are more on the money than you realize. A Libra wants to know you better in this life.

Jill Dearman is the author of two new books, "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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## **Ordinary people, not athletes, doing the AIDS Ride? Impossible.**

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## **Raising millions of dollars to fund AIDS programs from a bike ride? Impossible.**

Since 1994, Tanqueray's AIDS Rides USA have sent over \$62 million directly back to AIDS charities. The money you raise in 2000 will benefit AIDS service organizations throughout the Lone Star State. You will be funding hotlines, outreach, caring counselors, educational programs, and life-sustaining HIV medications. You will be making life possible again for so many people.

## **Me, living in a tent, roughing it, in the great outdoors? Impossible.**

Wait'll you see our spectacular Mobile City<sup>SM</sup>, the place you call home. We haul your luggage, provide your tent, and supply everything from hot showers, volunteer massage and chiropractic services to delicious breakfasts and dinner. And we help you get through each day—with roving bike techs at pit stops, where water, snacks, and lunch also await. People have consistently said that the AIDS Ride is the best-organized event they've ever been part of.

## **I don't think I could even ride 25 miles. 325 miles? Impossible.**

The Ride's not easy. You'll have to train. But we'll help you with that. And the fact that the Ride is tough and challenging is where most people find the meaning in it.

## **Sounds impossible. I'll have to think about it...**

The decision will never get easier. Nothing's going to change three days from now. Come on, don't you want to be out there on a training ride? One phone call, one visit to our website, opens up a whole new chapter in your life. And the life of someone living with AIDS.

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