

Texas Attorney General John Cornyn squelched a gay activist's request to establish a legal registry for same-sex domestic partners, though at least one county clerk vows to ignore the legal opinion. **Page 2**



Hollywood wunderkind Matt Damon breaks from his usual hard-core heterosexual characters to do gay for pay in the new movie 'The Talented Mr. Ripley.' **Page 15**



Across Houston, bell ringers from the Salvation Army are collecting funds for a charity that is firm in its belief that homosexuality is morally wrong.

'Tis the season to think before you give

The holiday season is often a time of charitable giving, but some well-known organizations that ask for your gay dollars in Houston have anti-gay policies or fund anti-gay groups

by GIP PLASTER

For many, the holiday season is a time of giving back, often in the form of charitable giving.

But many gay men and lesbians might be surprised to learn that some popular charities they have supported in the past have anti-gay policies or maintain close ties with anti-gay groups.

Houston's United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast has policies and benefits that support its gay and lesbian employees, but it also supports the Sam Houston Area Council of Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts has fought nationwide to keep gay men and boys out, even trumpeting the gay ban in fund-raising to conservative mailing lists.

Outside retail establishments everywhere, volunteers and employees ring bells for Salvation Army, a combined church and charity so firm in its belief that homosexuality is morally

wrong that it turned down millions of dollars from the city of San Francisco because of an ordinance that would have required the group to offer benefits to the domestic partners of employees.

And United Way dollars in Houston go to the Salvation Army, too.

United Way stands by Scouts

United Way in Houston has an employment nondiscrimination policy that includes protection based on sexual orientation and the organization will begin offering domestic partner benefits to its 120 employees on Jan. 1.

But some of the dollars donated to United Way end up in the pockets of Boy Scouts of America. Even more of those dollars go to the Salvation Army.

The local Boy Scouts organization received more than \$1.4 million of the \$70 million United Way raised in metro Houston

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Gay couples win equal rights in Vermont

State legislature may decide between marriage license and domestic partnerships, state Supreme Court rules

by LAURA BROWN

Gay couples are entitled to the same benefits and protections as their married heterosexual counterparts, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled Monday.

The court stopped short of calling for the state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, holding that the state legislature should decide whether to grant the benefits through marriage or through a separate system like domestic partnerships.

"Whatever system is chosen, however, must conform with the constitutional imperative to afford all Vermonters the common benefit, protection and security of the law," the court ruled.

While the decision did not legalize same-sex marriage outright, as some activists had hoped it would, it also did not foreclose the possibility, and in fact noted that gay marriages would be an "obvious" way for the legislature to provide the benefits.

The justices said extending the benefits to same-sex couples "as Vermonters who seek nothing more, nor less, than legal protection and security for their avowed commitment to an intimate and loving relationship is simply, when all is said and done, a recognition of our common humanity."

Gay rights groups declared the ruling a major victory.

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'This is a great day,' Nina Beck (left) told reporters after the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that her relationship with Stacey Jolles, who is holding their son Seth, was entitled to the same benefits and protections as a heterosexual married couple.

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State's top lawyer nixes DP registries

But some county clerks may ignore legal ruling that says they can't allow a same-sex couple to register their union

by CHRIS LEEDS
Dallas Voice

Answering a request that originated from Bexar County's gay community, the state's top lawyer ruled last week that county clerks are not required to accept registrations of same-sex domestic partnerships.

Attorney General John Cornyn's opinion, issued Dec. 23, comes about four months after a gay San Antonio resident sought to legally register his relationship through the Bexar County clerk.

But the decision seemed to create confusion for the two county clerks immediately affected by the ruling because it states that county clerks are not required, and uses language to suggest that DP registries are not allowed under Texas law.

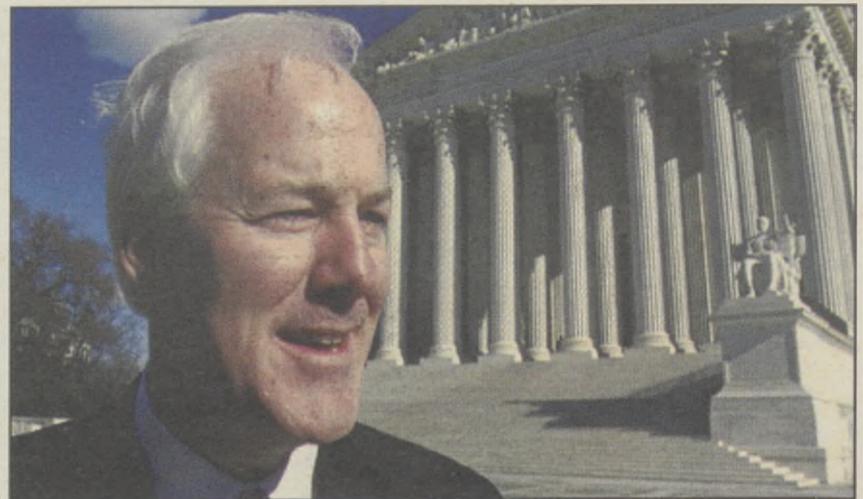
Bexar County clerk Gerry Rickoff said Tuesday that he would consult the district attorney before commenting on what the opinion would mean for his office.

In Travis County, the only county in the state to offer a domestic partners registry, County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir said she expects no changes in the registry's existence and operation. The Travis County registry was established when the City of Austin first offered benefits for same-sex partners in 1993.

In July, the chairman of the San Antonio Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Michael McGowan, asked Rickoff to accept a declaration of his domestic partnership. Unsure of his obligations, Rickoff asked district attorney Susan Reed to request an opinion from the attorney general.

Cornyn's opinion, which does not carry the effect of state law, cited previous decisions, established under former general Dan Morales, to deem declarations of domestic partnership not "documents required or permitted by law to be recorded."

Heather Browne, a spokeswoman for



JOE MARQUETTE

Texas Attorney General John Cornyn ruled last week that state law does not require or permit county clerks to accept domestic partner registries.

Cornyn's office, said the legal opinion is limited to interpreting existing statutes about similar affidavits.

Cornyn's opinion does not say whether county clerks can or cannot register domestic partners, she said, but maintains that "it's not their duty," Browne said.

"Opinions issued from this office are nonbinding legal documents. They're not something someone has to follow by law and put into statute," she said. "It's just the opinion of this office, clarification of the law on a certain issue."

Debeauvoir said Travis County officials plan to study the opinion, but added that she expects to continue accepting affidavits from same-sex partners.

"Now that we've gotten the attorney general's opinion, we're going to read through it very clearly," DeBeauvoir said. "But at this point in time, I'm not anticipating any big changes."

McGowan said he viewed the opinion as

a step backward for Texas.

"Naturally, I'm disappointed," he told the San Antonio Express-News. "In the broad view of things, this is an example of just how far behind the times Texas is. With private employers across the country and in our state offering domestic partnership benefits, Texas is going in the wrong direction."

Leaders of Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas say they are not overly surprised about the opinion.

"I'm not surprised by the ... opinion, and I don't really think it will have that much effect on gays and lesbians in Texas," said Steve Atkinson, co-chairman of the gay lobby's board of directors.

Cornyn's opinion will have no effect on existing statutes that restrict marriage to a man and woman, nor will it alter Texas Family Code that precludes the state from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, Browne said.

Police arrest suspects in Montrose shooting

From staff reports

Two men have been arrested and charged in connection with the Nov. 28 shooting of a Houston woman, police said Wednesday.

Kevin Albert Rivas, 17, and a juvenile were arrested this week and charged with attempted capital murder after Pasadena police spotted one of the men in the car of Tracey Lynn Deel. Her Honda Accord had been missing since Deel was attacked at a fast food restaurant, shot several times and left for dead in the 10,000 block of East Haven Road.

Last Sunday, Pasadena police arrested two juvenile suspects for shoplifting and discovered that the vehicle they were driving belonged to Deel. One of the suspects admitted his role in Deel's attack and allegedly implicated Rivas, police said.

Police arrested Rivas at his Pasadena home on Monday.

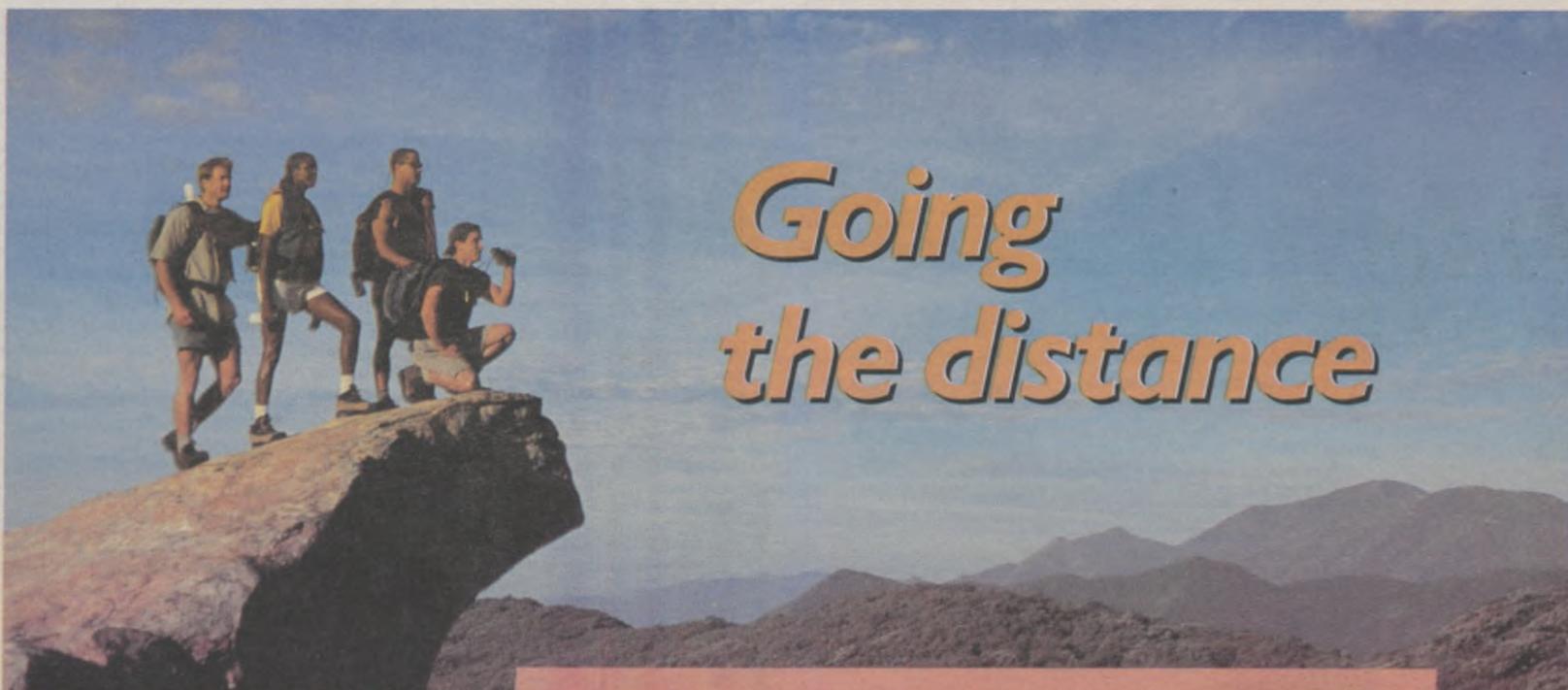
Authorities have said two young Hispanic males attacked Deel at Whataburger, 3712 South Shepherd, about 3:55 a.m. and ordered about \$9.55 in food. The attack came less than two hours after Deel left Chances, a Montrose bar for lesbians.

Deel called a friend about 2:30 a.m. Sunday and said she was at Chances, which was preparing to close, police said. About two hours later, Deel—who had been shot several times by a .22-caliber pistol—managed to crawl more than 300 yards to awaken residents of an apartment complex at 10280 Windmill Lakes and ask for help.

Friends in Houston's lesbian community have rallied to raise funds for Deel's medical recovery and joined with her father to post a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and indictment of her attackers. CrimeStoppers has offered a \$1,000 reward in the case.



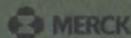
Tracey Lynn Deel was shot several times after being attacked at a South Shepard fast food restaurant Nov. 28.



Going the distance

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healthier life.*

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■ HIGHLY EFFECTIVE THERAPY

CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.¹ CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

■ 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.

¹Guidelines 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.

**Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules



CRIXIVAN
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

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

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

9024509

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

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:

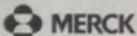
- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with 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 other CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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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) EPVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T) isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole) DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAVIN® (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; 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

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Around the Nation

Expelled student seeks \$75 million in harassment lawsuit

BOSTON (AP)—A student expelled for allegedly threatening classmates just days after the Columbine High shootings in Colorado is suing Sandwich, Mass. school officials for \$75 million, claiming they did nothing to stop the harassment he was getting from fellow students. Ten days after the April 20 Columbine shooting, the unidentified boy, 16 at the time, allegedly listed the initials of four classmates on the bathroom wall and wrote: "You will die." The boy's lawyer, Michael Turner, said the boy was taunted for 18 months by other students. "Can you imagine being in a classroom and you raise your hand and someone behind you who is bigger and stronger says 'Shut up faggot,' and everyone laughs," said Turner. In papers filed in federal court, Sandwich officials acknowledged that the boy told school officials of the harassment, and that they did nothing. Turner said the boy, who is not gay, has been rejected by another school, and his parents can't afford to send him to private school.

Fla. man, 45, sentenced to death for murder, mutilation

PUNTA GORDA, Fla.—A Florida man was sentenced to death for the murder and mutilation of a 21-year-old man during a sexual encounter, APBnews.com reported Dec. 10. Daniel O. Conahan Jr., was sentenced to death for the April 16, 1996 murder of Richard Montgomery. The prosecution contended Conahan lured Montgomery to a wooded area by offering him money to pose nude in progressive stages of bondage. Montgomery's genitals were surgically removed after his death. Prosecutors said that Conahan, an unemployed nurse, believed that if he left Montgomery's genitals intact, police could link him to the crime through saliva left behind from oral sex. A charge of sexual battery was dropped because of a lack of evidence.



Daniel Conahan Jr., 45, was sentenced to death for the murder and mutilation of a 21-year-old man in Florida.

Judge scales back gag order in Shepard case, orders release

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP)—A judge has lifted part of a gag order on the court file of one of Matthew Shepard's killers. The order signed by Judge Barton Voigt allows the public to view court documents in the case against Aaron McKinney, 22, who is spending life in prison. According to the order, 18 documents on file will remain sealed to protect "the sanctity of jury deliberations." The gag was imposed to protect the confidentiality of McKinney and Shepard, but there is no longer a need to prevent the public from viewing the file, Voigt said in his order. McKinney and codefendant Russell Henderson, 22, were sentenced to life in prison without parole for the beating death of Shepard, who was beaten, pistol-whipped, tied to a fence outside Laramie last winter.

Outgoing ATF boss thinks bombing suspect Rudolph is dead

MURPHY, N.C.—Police searching for accused bomber Eric Rudolph say it is impossible to know whether he is alive, in spite of a statement by the departing director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, who said in an interview that he thinks Rudolph is dead. "My gut instinct is that he is still there, in a cave, and he's dead. That's only my opinion," said ATF Director John Magaw, in an interview with *USA Today*. "There hasn't been any missing food. There haven't been any missing shoes. No cabins have been broken into. Life isn't sustainable over this period of time if he stayed in there," he said. The ATF, members of the Southeast Bomb Task Force, the FBI and local police have been searching for Rudolph, 33, in North Carolina's mountainous Nantahala National Forest for more than a year. He's accused of six bombings, including the hate-motivated bombing in February 1997 of the Otherside Lounge, an Atlanta nightclub popular with lesbians and gay men. "I don't know how anyone can make a flat-out statement that Eric Rudolph is dead," said Murphy police chief Larry Payne.

New study shows Calif. ban on gay marriage would harm kids

A study has found that California's proposed ban on gay marriage would adversely affect at least 40,000 children living with gay couples and 100,000 more with gay single parents. Those children could feel ostracized by society if their parents' unions were considered invalid, concludes the review by Michael Wald, a Stanford University law professor. Proposition 22 would force California to recognize only marriages performed between a man and a woman. It will be voted on in March. Meanwhile, in Salt Lake City, an effort has begun to recruit students at Brigham Young University as volunteers to help pass Proposition 22. Jim Backman, director of BYU's Office of Academic Internships, said his office has not yet sanctioned the project as a credit-earning experience, but that it is not unusual for students to serve politically charged internships.

In Denver, a proposed constitutional amendment to restrict same-sex marriages in Colorado has been approved by the secretary of state's office and now advances to a 30-day challenge period. If it survives, signatures of nearly 64,000 registered voters would have to be collected to put the measure on the ballot.

—From staff and wire reports

If you are seriously ill, money shouldn't be an added source of stress. Selling your life insurance policy is an option to consider.



M. Bryan Freeman
Founder & Chief Client Advocate

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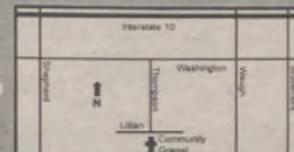


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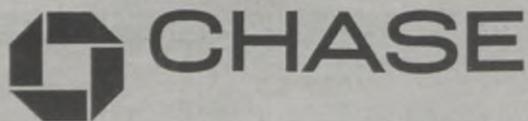


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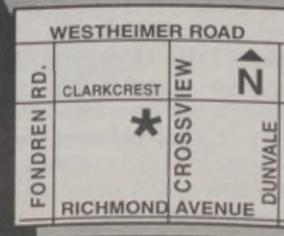
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Holiday giving: Are charities naughty or nice?

➤ Continued from Page 1

in 1999, making it one of the biggest recipients of the local funds, according to Mario Gomez, a United Way spokesman.

"Our United Way has a long standing partnership with the Boy Scouts, for the past 76 years," Gomez said.

There are no plans to change it, he said.

"Basically, our position is that each one of the agencies which we fund has the right to make its own decisions on internal matters," Gomez said.

But United Way does fund many important charitable causes, including gay and lesbian agencies in some cities and HIV/AIDS service agencies, including some in Houston.

Montrose Clinic received more than \$98,000 in 1999 from United Way and is expected to receive even more in 2000 to fund HIV counseling, testing, education and case management.

United Way also provided about \$121,000 to Montrose Counseling Center this year; funds are expected to increase to \$124,000 in 2000.

Each of the nation's 1,400 local United Way chapters makes individual decisions about what to fund and whether to affiliate with the United Way of America. While some United Way organizations in California and the Northeast have stopped funding Boy Scouts, most still do.

Like Houston's United Way, the United Way of America offers domestic partner benefits to the 190 employees of its national headquarters in Virginia.

The national group also has an employment nondiscrimination policy that includes protec-

tion based on sexual orientation and a diversity statement that includes sexual orientation.

The problem with Boy Scouts

Boy Scouts claims 4.5 million members and 1.2 million adult participants. The organization's prohibition of homosexuals is rooted in the Scout Oath that all boys and men must take to become a part of Scouts.

Boy Scouts of America has defended its prohibition of gays by pointing to the Scout Oath, which calls on scouts to be "morally straight."

Some, however, contend that at the time the oath was written, "straight" did not have the same meaning it does today.

Whatever the reasoning, BSA continues to discriminate against gays, despite a New Jersey court ruling against the organization in that state.

The BSA announced in August that it was initiating a study into the causes of homosexuality and the consequences for funding if the ban stays in place.

Officials from Houston's Sam Houston Council of Boy Scouts did not return calls seeking comment from *Houston Voice*.

Church, charity, army

The Salvation Army shares as much in common with the Religious Right as it does with social service organizations. Nevertheless, it received almost \$1.6 million from the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast in 1999.

The organization provides much-needed assistance to some of the country's most needy people, but a conservative Christian interpretation of the Bible has led to denunci-

ations of homosexuality and a refusal in one city to abide by an ordinance requiring recognition of gay couples.

Salvation Army in San Francisco turned down \$3.5 million in funding from the city of San Francisco in June 1998 because the Salvation Army did not want to comply with an equal benefit ordinance that requires all entities that do business with the city to offer domestic partner benefits. The Salvation Army argued that the law runs counter to the group's religious beliefs.

The organization is still not accepting funds from the city, according to officials in San Francisco.

Col. Tom Jones, a spokesman for Salvation Army's national office, said that while it refused to comply with the ordinance, that does not mean that gay men and lesbians are being refused services.

The church's services are made available to anybody, Jones said. The only qualifications are whether the person needs help and whether local resources are available to provide the help.

But the Salvation Army is a religious organization based on spiritual principles, Jones said.

When asked if the group has a written position statement regarding service to gays and lesbians, he said the Bible is its position statement.

"This is a sticky area for us," said Rolan Chambless of the Houston Salvation Army. "We have a certain religious belief and we also have a belief that we should help anyone."

The Salvation Army is not just a charity but also a conservative Christian church, complete with worship services and an organizational model structured after the military.

The church believes in an 11-point doctrine that is similar to policies of many conservative Christian churches. The doctrine states that they believe in one, three-part God made up of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

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EDITORIAL

The Vermont court giveth, and taketh away

The decision this week by the Vermont Supreme Court represents dramatic progress in the battle for recognition of gay marriage, but its impact is still sinking in among combatants on both sides.

On the one hand, the court ruled that gay couples are entitled to the exact same legal benefits and protections as married couples.

That's remarkable progress, even in a state like Vermont where gay couples already enjoyed the right to adopt children, win visitation rights should they split, and where as individuals they are protected from workplace discrimination and anti-gay hate crimes.

Along the way, the Vermont court noted with striking language the fundamental human right at issue in the case.

"[The decision] to acknowledge plaintiffs as Vermonters who seek nothing more, nor less, than legal protection and security for their avowed commitment to an intimate and lasting human relationship is simply, when all is said and done, a recognition of our common humanity," the court held.

On the other hand, the court didn't order the state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, even though that is the only remedy sought by the gay couples who brought the lawsuit. Four of the five Vermont justices decided that doing so might have "disruptive and unforeseen consequences" on the institution of marriage.

Instead, the state legislature has been given "a reasonable period of time" to either expand marriage to include same-sex couples or enact a "domestic partnership" regime that looks and acts like marriage.

Already, the state's political leaders, who are among the most receptive anywhere to gay civil

rights, are talking about enacting a separate domestic partnership regime for same-sex couples rather than expanding marriage to include gays.

Gay marriage "makes me uncomfortable, the same as anybody else," Gov. Howard Dean said after the ruling.

It's striking how a court could appear to so clearly "get it," but at the same time directly encourage a Jim Crow, "separate but equal" legal system for gay couples and straight couples.

As the dissent rightly points out, it would seem "unfathomable" to us today that the U.S. Supreme Court would have considered a "separate but equal" set of partnership rights for interracial couples when it struck down anti-miscegenation laws in 1969.

On the one hand, the court deftly rejected all the state's purported reasons for withholding legal sanction from same-sex couples, including the principle worry that doing so would undermine "the link between procreation and child-rearing."

The court pointed out that many opposite-sex couples don't get married with any idea toward having children, some never do and others can't. At the same time, many same-sex couples are raising children, and their future is harmed, not helped, by withholding legal protection from their parents' relationship.

What's more, the court ruled, there's no sign that the lack of a biological connection from one or both parents in a same-sex relationship results in less parental attention—any more than there's evidence of a similar problem among opposite-sex couples who resort to medical assistance when one partner is infertile.

On the other hand, having cast aside these baseless reasons for denying recognition for same-

sex couples, the Vermont court refused to concede that the attempt to limit marriage represented anti-gay discrimination, even acknowledging society's "longstanding hostility" toward homosexuality.

That's right, the court made clear that the ban isn't one on gay marriage, but on "same-sex" marriage. Under the current law, the court noted, gays could freely marry an opposite-sex partner.

"Plaintiffs have not demonstrated that the exclusion of same-sex couples from the definition of marriage was intended to discriminate against women or lesbians and gay men, as racial segregation was designed to maintain the pernicious doctrine of white supremacy," the court held, incredibly.

Not only is this the kind of argument only a lawyer could love, it seems impossible coming from the same court that just pages earlier in the same decision listed as justifications for limiting marriage argued by the state things like "bridging differences" between the sexes and discouraging "marriages of convenience."

Is it such a leap to conclude that inherent in the idea that gay marriage cheapens the institution is the "pernicious doctrine of heterosexual supremacy," otherwise known as homophobia or anti-gay bias?

"There is no doubt," said the one Vermont justice who disagreed with the majority on this point, "that the requirement that civil marriage be a union of one man and one woman has the effect of discriminating against lesbian and gay couples, like the plaintiffs in this case, who are unable to marry the life partners of their choice."

On the one hand, the court listed dozens of legal benefits and protections to which married couples are entitled but which are denied to same-sex couples, among them "access to a spouse's medical, life, and disability insurance, hospital visitation and other medical decision-making privileges, spousal support, intestate succession, homestead protections, and many other statutory protections."

That's a significant list, and the most important one there may be spousal support and divorce laws, which not only provide extra "glue" to keep couples from splitting at the first sign of trouble, but which also protect both parties if it comes time to split up belongings.

If the court succeeds in forcing the Vermont legislature to enact such protections, it would represent among the most progressive approaches in the world today toward equality and fairness for gay couples.

On the other hand, the court does not list what is without doubt the most important legal benefit that the state of Vermont bestows upon couples wishing to marry: a marriage license recognized by the governments of the other 49 states and most foreign countries.

If the legislature takes the bait, as expected, and passes a DP regime, then gay Vermont couples lose every one of those newly minted legal rights the minute they cross the state line, something you could do by making a wrong turn in a state as tiny as Vermont.

What's more, the state of Vermont has the authority to issue marriage licenses to presumably anyone asking for one, regardless of where they reside, and there's a long history of legal recognition for those licenses in other states.

If a gay couple from Texas, for example, should travel to Vermont and obtain a marriage license no different from that bestowed on straight couples, the document has a much greater chance than a "DP certificate" of affording legal rights and benefits back home, or at least in the 20 states that haven't yet enacted laws that refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

And even in states like Georgia that have passed a "Defense of Marriage Act," the Vermont license offers a much more powerful challenge to DOMA under the U.S. Constitution's "Full Faith and Credit Clause."

First in Hawaii and then in Vermont, gay couples are finally winning fairer treatment from the judicial system designed to protect our civil rights.

But just as the Hawaii court shrank from its responsibility and withheld judgment for more than two years so the heterosexual majority could decide whether to pass an amendment overruling the court, the Vermont justices have stopped short of doing justice for fear of offending.

We applauded Hawaii, and we cheer Vermont. But we wait for some court of last resort that understands its responsibility to recognize these most fundamental of human rights.





VIEWPOINT

The night the lights went out—and we had to talk

by Rich Arenschioldt

Earlier this year I attended a piano recital by Russian wunderkind Evgeny Kissen, one of the best masters of the keyboard in the world. The audience was comprised of a "Who's Who" of pianists and teachers from the southwestern U.S.

His playing permeated your soul. Rarely do I sit in a concert hall and think, "I am so lucky to be here." This night was one of those times.

Then it happened. The shrillness of some bozo's cellular phone splintered the sound in which the audience was cocooned. Hatred for the perpetrator was visible—how could they violate what composer Alan Hovhaness called "The Temple of Sound?" At that minute, I wished that telecommunication devices would be rendered obsolete, like the lumps of non-biodegradable plastic that they are.

Some months later, I viewed a wry television commercial that poked fun at Y2K calamities and being stranded on a dark planet as greasy-hair techno-geeks who can't get a date control our future and bring the planet to a screeching halt.

The scene is wearily familiar: midnight on New Year's Eve, celebrations in full swing. And at a second past the drop of the

ball in Times Square, anything invented by Thomas Alva Edison becomes useless.

Enjoying this thought, I wondered one step further. Wouldn't it be cool if all the lights went out, too?

I'm not advocating a return to the hunter-gatherer way of life. Having been camping all of once, I am an avowed lover of nature. But rooting around for nuts and berries and competing with vermin for food is not my idea of a smashing good time.

Having said that, I am somewhat hyper-connected to the universe, especially during the last minutes of this millennium. Just looking at the stuff plugged into my walls makes me dizzy. At home I have two phone lines (and am contemplating DSL), one big computer, a laptop, a cell phone, a pager. The computers come with two e-mail accounts. Like most gay men, I have one for "Sunday school me" and one for "cruisy me." Add to this my other computer, fax, phone and e-mail access at work and I'm the main character in a bizarre Stephen King novel.

If only Houston's power company would become temporarily inoperative, then I would be free. My life would change as quickly as a bug that gets fried on one of those blue-colored zappers. Sitting in the dark, realizing that a major morph has just occurred, how would I pass the quiet time?

First, I'd make a run for the melting quart of chocolate ice cream in the freezer about as quick as that little Taco Bell Chihuahua heads for the chalupa. After that, then I'd wonder about the neighbors and the woman who lives next door, raising three kids in a single-parent home.

The electronic gate surrounding her compound would now be useless. She'd probably be out in the carport looking around, concerned about the safety of her brood. I don't really know her. We usually just admire one another from a distance. Our communication is polite but almost always non-verbal.

With my rechargeable spotlight, bought in a rare act of Y2K preparedness, I would check on her and the little bambinos. Something strange might happen—maybe we would communicate.

With the advent of new technology, our spoken lives have the brevity of a

Hemingway novel with none of its accompanying imagery. The world has become verbally instantaneous. It is crucial that we're never out of reach, but our fixation with technologically insular communication prohibits us from reaching out.

People shy away from conversation that has any intensity. As long as quips and jokes are bantered about, all is well. But let the topic turn thoughtful or deliberative and people flee. Communication that takes time or effort is becoming an endangered species.

Our quest for verbal accessibility and immediacy have come at the expense of intimacy. When—and if—the lights go out, make sure you have a candle nearby. Then you will be able to see the expressions of those around as they are forced to talk with you. Don't miss this opportunity.

Houston resident Rich Arenschioldt writes about the arts, HIV and advocacy issues for the Houston Voice.



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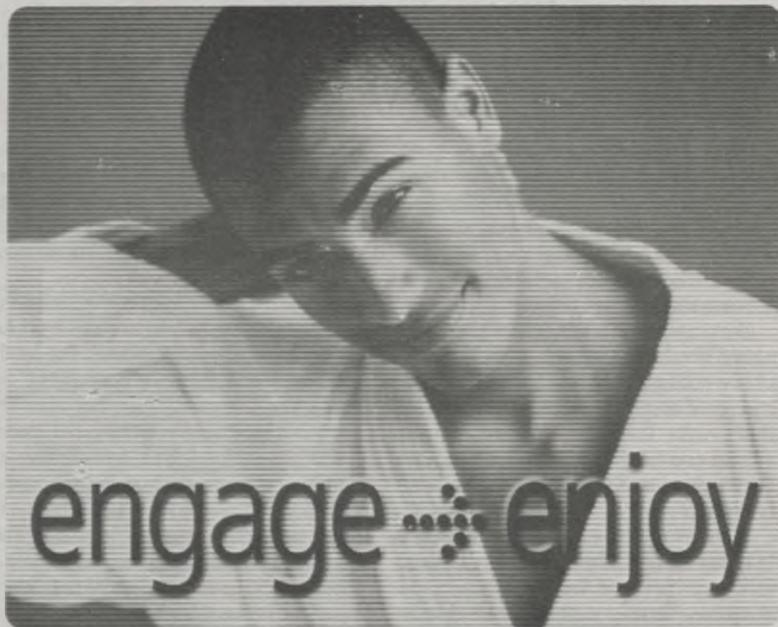
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Vermont lawmakers unlikely to approve gay marriages

> Continued from Page 1

"This is a legal and cultural milestone," said Mary Bonauto, co-counsel for the three couples who brought the case.

"The court recognized that same-sex couples need and deserve the same legal rights and protections other people take for granted. The court's decision paves the way for more secure families and stronger communities," said Bonauto, director of the Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders.

"Certainly we would have liked to see an immediate order to end discrimination in marriage laws themselves and allow same-sex marriages, but if we have to get to full equality in two steps rather than one, we will continue to march forward," said Evan Wolfson, marriage project director for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

Because the Vermont Court based its decision on the Common Benefits Clause of the state constitution, the case cannot be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

Other states do not have to abide by the ruling, but the court's decision can still have a broad impact in the fight for equal rights for gay couples nationwide, Wolfson said.

The ruling also "lays the legal foundation for Vermont to be the first state to accord full equality to same sex couples," Wolfson said. "Once they do, fair-minded individuals will have a chance to see the sky doesn't fall, and we can continue asking for sup-

port and building on this."

Vermont unlikely to approve marriage

The Vermont Supreme Court's ruling allowed the state legislature a "reasonable period of time" to determine how to implement the decision, although it also expressly gave the same-sex couples the right to bring the case back to court if the legislature did not act.

Vermont lawmakers predicted this week that the state legislature would pass some form of domestic partnership, with hearings on the matter beginning as early as when the legislature reconvenes in January.

Gay marriage "makes me uncomfortable, the same as anybody else," Gov. Howard Dean told the Associated Press. The governor, a Democrat, said he agreed with the court's ruling and supports domestic partnerships, but not gay marriage.

"I think it's a step forward," he said. "It guarantees civil rights, but doesn't go into uncharted territory where I think the majority of Vermonters, who I think are fair-minded, would have been very uncomfortable."

Michael Obuchowski, Democratic speaker of the Vermont House, has been a supporter of gay marriage, but said Tuesday he agrees that domestic partnership would be the easiest solution.

Groups opposing gay marriage vowed to fight either approach to fulfilling the court's ruling.

"The options are going to be getting to the legislature at least at a minimum and convinc-

ing them that number one, it should not be through a marriage license. [But] we don't think domestic partnership is right either," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law & Justice, which filed briefs with the Vermont Supreme Court arguing against the gay couples, and has filed lawsuits challenging gay rights measures around the country.

Gore praises ruling, growing DP support

Vermont has one of the country's most progressive records on gay rights issues in the nation, the state Supreme Court noted in its ruling this week. In 1991, the state became one of the first in the country to pass a statewide law banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing and other public services.

Vermont's hate crimes law includes sexual orientation, and in 1996, the state's General Assembly voted to remove barriers to adoptions by gay couples. The state legislature also took the further step of protecting gay families through court-ordered child support and parent-child contact in cases where same-sex couples broke up.

Vermont became the best hope for advancing the fight for gay marriage earlier this month, after the Hawaii Supreme Court issued a ruling against three gay couples who had sued for marriage licenses in that state.

The Hawaii court found in favor of the

couples in 1993, calling the marriage ban gender discrimination and ordering the state to show a compelling reason for denying same-sex marriage.

The Hawaii state legislature responded by passing a law against same-sex marriage in 1994, and Hawaii voters in 1998 approved an amendment to the state constitution authorizing the law. The constitutional amendment made the gay couples' lawsuit moot, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled Dec. 9.

But the Hawaii Supreme Court, like the Vermont Supreme Court, has held that whether or not the state issues marriage licenses to them, gay couples are entitled to the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples—benefits that advocates say number more than 1,000 at the federal level alone.

Domestic partnerships have also received high profile support in the Democratic presidential primary, with both Vice President Al Gore and former Sen. Bill Bradley stating in public debates and interviews that they support full rights for gay couples, but not gay "marriage."

The developments show a growing trend in acceptance for gay couples, even without providing the label of "gay marriage," Lambda's Wolfson said.

The next battleground for gay marriage will be California, Wolfson said, where voters must consider a March 2000 ballot measure, known as "the Knight initiative" after its lead sponsor, that would limit marriage to "one man and one woman."

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MEMBER JASON GRIGGER

Health Briefs

Gore supports 'flexibility' on medical marijuana

CONCORD, N.H.—At a New Hampshire town hall meeting Dec. 14, Vice President Al Gore gave his tentative support for the use of marijuana to relieve the suffering of medical patients, the *Washington Blade* reported. In response to a question from the audience, Gore said that doctors "ought to have the option" of prescribing medical marijuana. "Where the alleviation of pain is concerned, we have not given doctors enough flexibility to help patients who are going through acute pain," said Gore, whose sister decided against taking the drug during a painful, fatal bout with cancer. "Many of us have seen that ourselves." Gore qualified his statement slightly during a press conference after the forum, saying that marijuana should be used to relieve pain only "under certain limited medical circumstances." Gore's rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bill Bradley, has also said that medical marijuana should be studied further. The Clinton administration has generally opposed efforts to legalize medical marijuana.

Number of older Americans with HIV increasing at fastest rate

HOUSTON—Seniors are the age group with the fastest-growing AIDS rates—up 22 percent between 1991 and 1996, compared with a 9 percent increase among people age 13-49, according to the CDC. But health officials warned that the increases seem dramatic because the numbers are small, the *Houston Chronicle* reported. Currently, about 11 percent of AIDS cases are in Americans aged 50 and over, totaling about 72,000. According to the CDC, slightly more than one-third of older people with AIDS are gay or bisexual men, with about 20 percent infected by using a dirty needle to inject drugs. Ironically, the drug Viagra that has allowed many older men to revive dormant sex lives also has heightened concern about the spread of AIDS. "They are pretty AIDS-unaware as they venture out into the world of sexual activity," said Sara Selber, executive director of AIDS Foundation Houston. "AIDS wasn't really on their screen at the time they were [previously] sexually active."

AIDS Action executive to head Calif.'s managed care department

WASHINGTON—Daniel Zingale, the 39-year-old executive director of AIDS Action, announced last week that he will resign from that position Jan. 2 to become director of California's newly created Department of Managed Care. The move will make him the highest-ranking openly gay man in California state government. In his new position, Zingale will create an entire bureaucracy to evaluate and oversee the care that California's \$15 billion HMO industry provides. From 1993 to 1997, Zingale was political director at the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political organization. "Nothing short of an exciting, big challenge could have taken me away from this job that I love," Zingale said.



Daniel Zingale is stepping down as director of AIDS Action Council to head up a California state health agency, making him the highest ranking openly gay man in state government there.

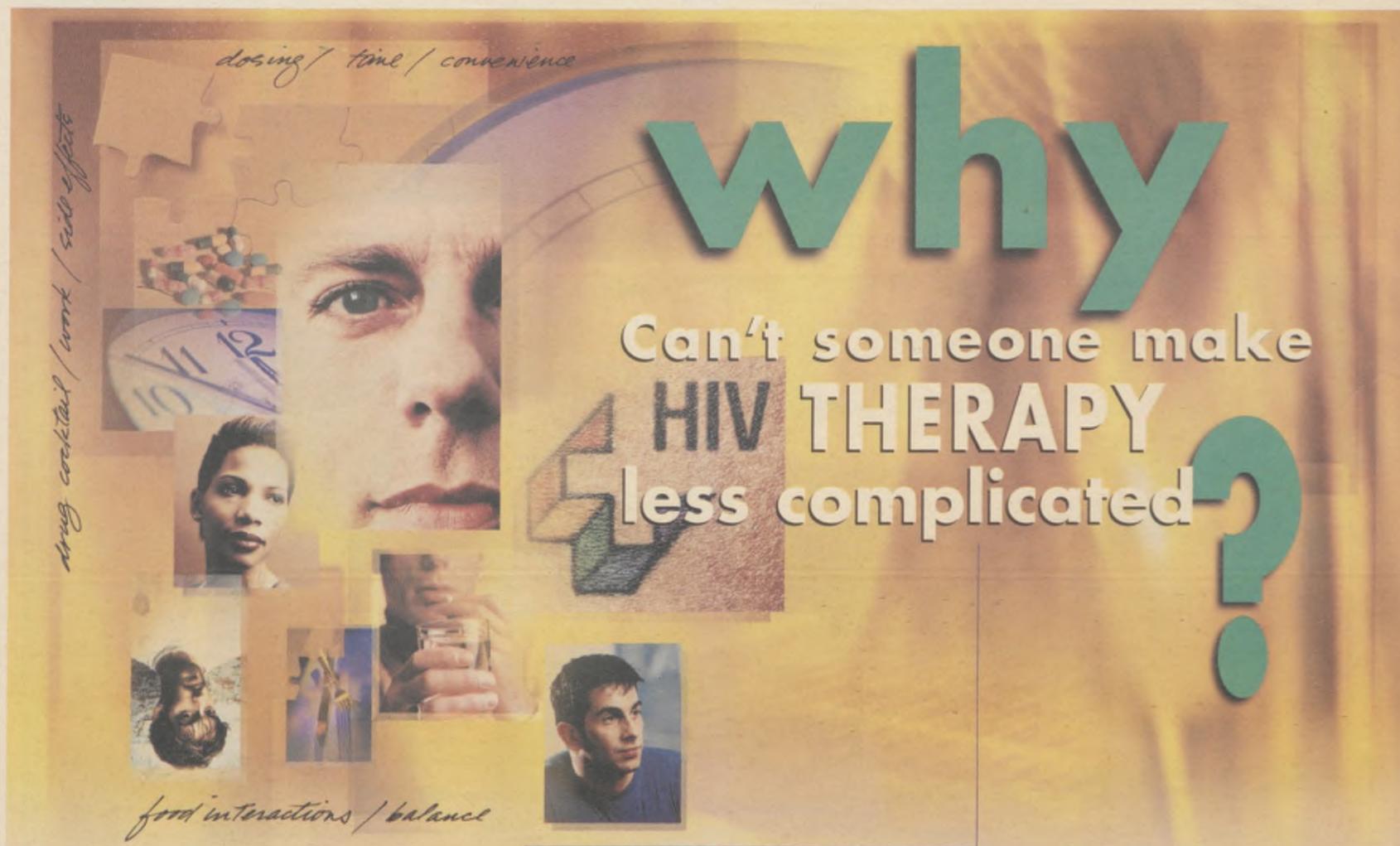
Sustiva may be superior to protease inhibitors, studies suggest

WASHINGTON—Two new studies underscore the effectiveness of Sustiva, generically called efavirenz, in reducing the viral load in people with AIDS. One of the studies, published in the Dec. 17 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, found that in 48 percent of cases involving treatment with a protease inhibitor (Crixivan) plus AZT and 3TC, blood levels of HIV fell to undetectable levels. That result compares 70 percent of those taking a mix of Sustiva and the same two other drugs. Also, 43 percent of the protease inhibitor patients stopped treatment because of side effects, while only 27 percent of the Sustiva group dropped out. The study was funded by DuPont, which manufactures Sustiva. In the second study, doctors tested a drug mix with both Sustiva and a protease inhibitor on 57 youngsters who had taken only the older medicines. Youngsters' blood levels of the virus fell to undetectable levels in 63 percent of cases. The article suggests that one of the reasons Sustiva works better is because it's taken only once a day, while protease inhibitors must be taken three times a day.

One in three schools teaches 'abstinence-only' sex education

WASHINGTON—A survey of high school principals reveals that one in three school districts is using an abstinence-only curriculum that permits discussion of contraception only in the context of condom failure rates, the *New York Times* reported Dec. 15. The poll of principals revealed that 95 percent of classes discuss AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, while only 39 percent discuss how to use condoms, and only 36 percent discuss the issue of sexual orientation. In the South, 55 percent of schools teach the abstinence-only curriculum, while only 20 percent of schools in the Northeast teach it. Only five percent of Southern schools offer comprehensive sex education, the survey found. Much of this may have resulted from Congressional action in 1996 that made \$250 million in federal money available to teach abstinence-only classes.

—From staff and wire reports



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SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

Now listed among preferred anti-HIV drugs in government guidelines.†

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

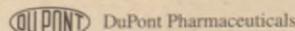
Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

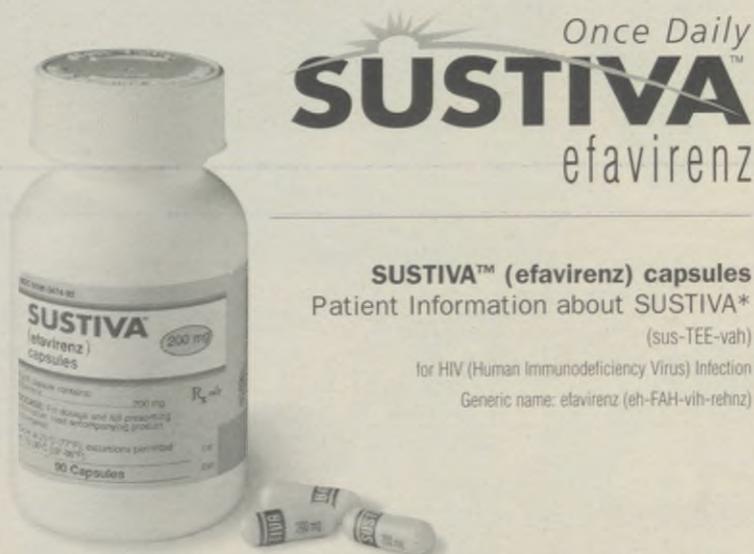
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† Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), December 1998.

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*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.
 For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at <http://www.sustiva.com>
 For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at <http://www.hivatis.org>



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SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules
 Patient Information about SUSTIVA*

(sus-TEE-vah)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection

Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehinz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

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

How does SUSTIVA work?

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

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

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

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

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

How should I take SUSTIVA?

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

Can children take SUSTIVA?

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

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

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

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

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

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

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

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

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

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

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

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

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

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

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

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

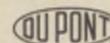
How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

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

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

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Wilmington, DE 19880
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Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE • DECEMBER 24, 1999

A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME



THE TALENTED Mr. Ripley

Hollywood wunderkind Matt Damon breaks from his usual hard-core heterosexual characters to do gay for pay

by EARL DITTMAN

The holiday season packs a few surprises for movie buffs.

Directed and adapted for the screen by Oscar-winning filmmaker Anthony Minghella ("The English Patient"), "The Talented Mr. Ripley" is a bold artistic achievement. Sporting a dazzling ensemble cast that includes Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law and Cate Blanchett, "Mr. Ripley" is a gripping tale of romance and obsession that shocks the senses and penetrates the soul.

It's also put one of Hollywood's rising stars in the role of a gay serial killer.

And despite its stellar credentials, not everyone in Tinsel Town is convinced "Mr. Ripley" will pack theaters across Middle America this holiday season. Are they ready for an epic about a gay serial killer?

Damon, whose portrayal as the film's title character recently garnered him a Golden Globe Best Actor nod, is clearly frustrated by the ever-growing perception that "The Talented Mr. Ripley" is simply a major studio's version of a gay movie.

"Ripley's sexual preference is such a small part of who he is, but it seems to be the biggest thing that people are focusing on," Damon says. "He's an outsider who is uncomfortable in the skin he's in. And the fact that he's gay isn't the main thing that makes him feel alone or desperate for a better life. It's just a part of who he is. So, labeling it a 'gay movie' does the film an injustice."

But in a recent interview, wasn't it long-time friend Ben Affleck who publicly pegged it, "Matt's gay flick?"

"That's just Ben, and he said it jokingly ... I think," the 29-year-old Damon says with his trademark,

> Continued on page 18

HOLIDAY HOPE

From his flirtation with personal ads to placing his ruby slippers with those of other openly gay actors in Houston, Paul Hope offers light hearted insight into life behind the theater curtain

by D.L. GROOVER

Paul Hope beat me to the punch.

In a recent lunch with this Alley Theater actor, I was about to comment on his striking resemblance to Broadway musical comedy star Jack Cassidy, when Hope dropped his name first. It really should be no surprise.

Hope is quick on his feet, full of fascinating stories and intriguing backstage gossip.

His love of theater is obvious, and when he gets on a roll he becomes

a one-man parade. It's a gleeful, theatric quality that serves him well—an old-fashioned charisma rarely seen anymore.

Beguiled by show business since his Dallas childhood when he would "put on a cape and jump out of trees," Hope still has that wide-eyed enthralment on and off the stage.

His mother knew how to calm her overactive tot. She placed him in front of the TV with "The Dinah Shore Show."

"I'd be transfixed," Hope said.

Show biz has been delighting Hope, a graduate of Houston's High

> Continued on page 20



BRUCE BENNETT

Paul Hope as David Attenborough in the comedy 'Mere Mortals.' The actor says being openly gay has had little impact on his career.

Out In Print

BOOK NEWS

Sex theories taken to task

by ANDREA L.T. PETERSON

Edward Stein wrote *THE MISMEASURE OF DESIRE* in an effort to clarify scientific, legal and personal thinking about human sexuality—and to contest the now widely-accepted view that “sexual orientations are genetic and/or biological.”

“Not only is there bad science being done,” he said in an interview, “but the media coverage of the science exacerbates the mistakes of science. Further, the social and legal conclusions that are being drawn from this science are mistaken. Perhaps the main reason I wrote this book was to debunk scientific research on sexual orientation and offer an alternative view of the significance of research on sexual orientation.”

Stein looks at everything from early Greek assumptions about sexuality to notions of a “gay gene.” Although he explains why it is “reasonable” for us to be interested in how sexual desire develops, he wonders aloud if we really need such theories.

“These theories,” says Stein, “are definitely inaccurate; with regards to legal and ethical arguments, these theories are also unhelpful.” By this he does not mean to suggest that science is not worth pursuing. But does the issue warrant its growing cultural obsession and commensurate funding?

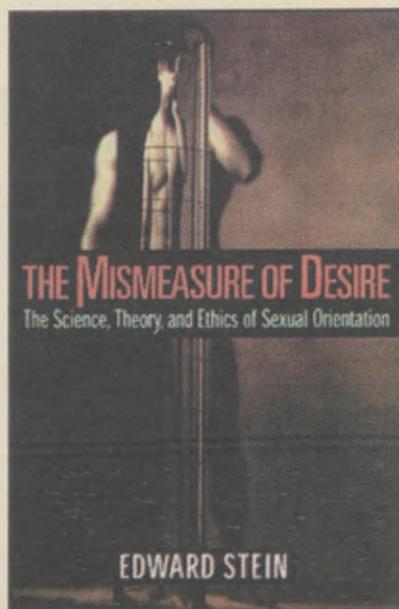
“I think that some research on human sexuality should be funded and supported. However, I’m not convinced that scientific research on sexual orientation of the sort that is primarily being done up to now is worthwhile.”

Though “Mismeasure of Desire” is dense—bursting at its binding with minutia—the end result is still rewarding. Stein summarizes and reviews the material he has covered, allowing you to focus on certain parts of the book, poring over the ethical issues, for example, without delving into the scientific research.

“The problems with the simple picture of sexual orientation [is] that [it] sees sexual orientations as coming in two and only two flavors,” Stein contends. “Human sexual desires are complicated and they can be grouped in a variety of ways: how much sex you like to have, the sort of sex you like to have, the physical features of people you are attracted to, etc. Sexual orientation, the gender of the people you are sexually attracted to is just one aspect of sexual desire.”

“We aren’t justified in assuming that sexual orientation, compared to other aspects of sexual desire, is especially revealing of one’s inner character,” he argues.

Looking at the scientific evidence, Stein’s position is clear: “All existing scientific theo-



ries of the origins of sexual orientation are wrong,” he says. “Even if the scientific research improves over time, attempts to link theories of the origins of sexual orientation to legal and ethical positions concerning sexual orientation are also mistaken.”

“Some gay rights advocates claim that if scientific research demonstrates that sexual orientations are not chosen, then lesbians and gay men deserve legal protections,” he explains. “While this argument seems plausible, I think this is a mistaken and a dangerous argument. ... It is very risky to link our basic human rights to the ups and downs of scientific research, especially when it is in an early stage.”

Stein also argues that while nature v. nurture appears to be an argument about whether being gay is a choice, most of what’s important about being gay is, in fact, a choice.

“Gay people chose to engage in same-sex sexual behaviors, to enter same-sex relationships and to express their gay identities,” Stein claims. “The ‘lack of choice’ argument is basically impotent. No one who is against lesbian and gay rights in the first place will be persuaded by this argument.”

Many lesbians and gay men feel that they didn’t choose their sexual orientation. From this, says Stein, “they infer that they were born with the sexual orientation.” He points out that there are other personality traits that weren’t chosen but, rather, developed after their birth.

“This doesn’t mean that I think a person’s sexual orientation can be changed—in fact, I think it is impossible to change a person’s sexual orientation, but this doesn’t mean that people are born with sexual orientations.”

INFO **The Mismeasure of Desire**
by Edward Stein
Oxford University Press, \$35

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by Mark O'Donnell, \$12
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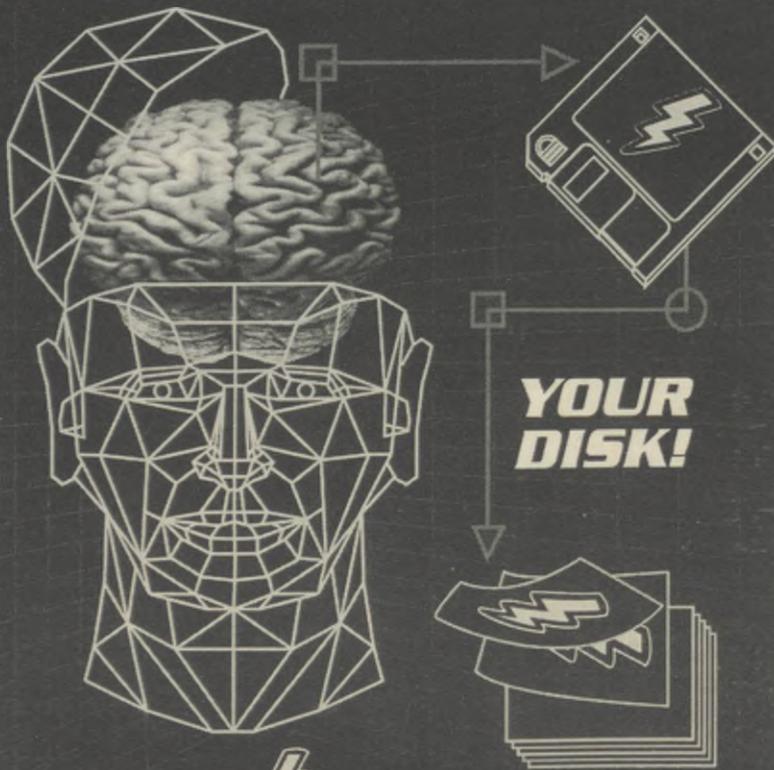
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THE TALENTED Mr. Damon

> Continued from page 15

toothy smile. "Look, Ripley is gay. So what? It just adds another dimension to a bigger picture. I don't want to make it sound like I'm trying to downplay it because it's a bad thing or something. It's just that a lot of people are saying that Middle America can stomach a mass murderer, just not a gay one."

Paltrow doesn't buy into the notion that some film-goers are going to ignore "The Talented Mr. Ripley" because of its homoerotic content. In fact, she's confident mainstream audiences are aesthetically starving for a film just like it.

"I think a whole lot of people have been waiting for a great, beautiful, epic Hollywood movie which is totally subversive and 'un-Hollywood' at the same time," Paltrow said. "Sure, in a lot of ways it is a risky, bold project, but I think it's a film that everyone will be able to understand and enjoy."

Based on author Patricia Highsmith's first in a series of suspenseful "Ripley" novels, "The Talented Mr. Ripley" tells the story of Herbert Greenleaf (James Rebhorn), a wealthy American industrialist who has grown tired of the hedonistic, playboy ways of his son.

Upon meeting Tom Ripley (Damon), a seemingly ambitious, friendly, young go-getter, the elder Greenleaf sends him to sun-drenched, 1950s Italy to help convince his progeny, Dickie (Law), to return to the U.S. and take the helm of the family business. But the amiable, sensitive Ripley turns out

to be a bit of sociopath, becoming dangerously obsessed with rich, young Dickie's lifestyle and falling in love with the handsome socialite.

When Dickie grows tired of Ripley's fawning, Ripley murders him and assumes his identity. But the killing doesn't stop there. The body count mounts as Dickie's friends and the authorities slowly start to unravel Ripley's devious, evil web.

"I don't see Ripley as evil at all," Damon said. "I see him as somebody who is deeply, deeply lonely. Believe it or not, he has a great capacity for love and is tremendously sensitive. It's easy to see why he would fall for someone like Dickie. Dickie's charismatic and has this beautiful sunlight around him. But he just doesn't understand the effect that his charisma has on the people around him—and that's his fatal flaw. Dickie is very careless about it and that's how people are always getting stepped on by him. When Ripley kills him, it's a crime of passion."

After Tom Cruise passed over the role of Ripley to appear in Stanley Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut," Minghella pursued Damon to discuss the part.

"I had seen Matt in 'Courage Under Fire' and was incredibly impressed with his range as an actor," Minghella said. "I didn't know if he would want the role, though, because it seemed like Hollywood was grooming him for their latest hunk or male sex symbol. I didn't know if the role of Ripley would fit into that 'master plan,' and I told him that."

Damon says he was surprised at Minghella's concerns.



Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law in 'The Talented Mr. Ripley,' a movie generating some fuss over Ripley's sexual orientation, something Law said is 'typical American silliness.'

"He told me I would be perfect, but he wasn't sure if I would want to take the role because of Ripley's yearnings for other men," Damon said. "Since my other movie parts had been such hard-core heterosexual characters, he thought career-wise, I wouldn't want to play a gay character."

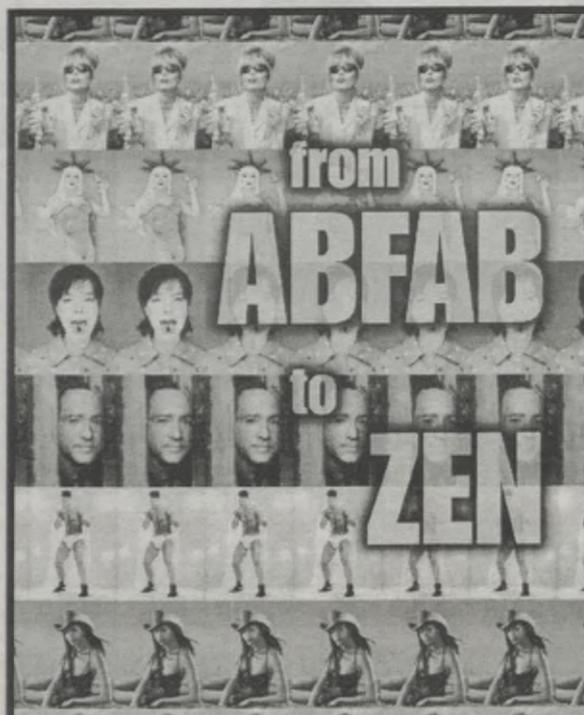
But reading the script for "Mr. Ripley" convinced Damon to take the part.

"I knew I wanted to play Ripley, no matter who he wanted to go to bed with. I never questioned it or thought of it as a bold move. I just knew that I would have been a fool to pass it up. I mean, if I was given scripts as good as this one, all the time, I'd play gay characters from now on," Damon said.

Law says he finds all the fuss over Ripley's sexuality silly—and typical American hype.

"It's hard to believe that U.S. audiences would make such a big deal about Matt's character being gay," said Law, who portrayed Oscar Wilde's lover in "Wilde" and a bisexual hustler in "Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil."

"It's almost like there's this feeling that big American movie stars should stray away from any role that has anything to do with homosexuality. That's so ludicrous. Americans seem to be more comfortable with characters that murder dozens of people than they are with two men hugging each other. That just doesn't make sense. ... But as a society, Americans need to get away from the idea that you're a brave and courageous actor just because you play a gay man. I mean, if that were the case I should be a national hero with statues of me erected all over the States."



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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

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by TRAYCE DISKIN

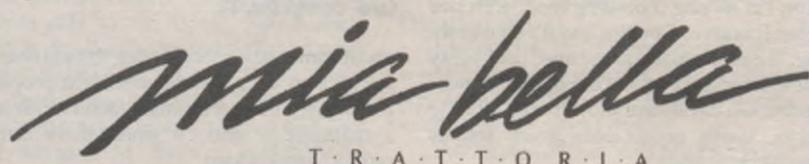
To approach MIA BELLA, a relatively new "trattoria" downtown, is to have the sensation of living in a "real" city, in which a diverse crowd of citizens jockey for sidewalk space between various restaurants, shops and bus stops bustling with riders.

Okay, maybe Houston has a ways to go when it comes to having a fully-functioning life downtown, but Mia Bella is another place of quality.

smoky and rich flavor.

After our wait neared 90 minutes, and the crowds around us at the bar kept growing, we quizzed the hostess about our seats. "Oh," she said, and suggested we just keep dining in our chairs at the bar. After assuring her that we indeed planned to dine at a table, we waited another 30 minutes to be seated.

Separate the attitude of the staff from the quality of the food, and the meal can be enjoyable. We tried the Pesce alla Paesano



T · R A T T O R I A

After settling in at the bar for our hour-long wait, we ordered two appetizers to tide us over. The Crostini de Mozzarella (\$3.95) arrived on a bed of basil and arrugula leaves, and the milky, pillowy mozzarella more than compensated for the unripened tomato slices.

The Bruschetta alla Romana (\$3.95) was less impressive, if only for the extremely salty taste of the chopped tomato mixture. The grilled bread slices and large lakes of ripe parmesan were nice, but didn't prevent a sodium-induced wince from my dining partner and me.

The prices and quality of the appetizers made us ponder making a dinner out of such dishes as Vongole en Vino Bianco (\$5.95), baby clams sautéed in white wine and the hearty Stucchi di Angello (\$5.95), grilled lamb kebob. The customary Calamari alla Fritti (\$4.95) was crisp, light and meaty, and the more adventurous Funghi e Formaggio (\$4.95), wild mushroom strudel with goat cheese, packs a

(\$9.95), a brick-sized filet of baked rainbow trout marinated in roasted cilantro jalapeno pesto. The pesto was delicious and each herb and flavor mingled wickedly for a spicy coating. The pesto was more of a topping than a marinade and slid off the fish.

The rest of the meat didn't soak up the flavor, so the fish was a bit plain, if not respectably cooked. But the side scoop of nutty, tender cous-cous effortlessly absorbed the pesto and provided a delicious alternative. The steamed vegetables were only mundane.

The Ossobucco di Capretto (\$11.95), lamb shank braised in red wine with shitake mushrooms, sun-dried tomatoes, and port wine sauce, was so tender that the meat actually fell from the bones. The sauce permeated the entire dish. Although the mushrooms provided a distinct taste, the mingling of flavors was perfect. The mashed potatoes were too lightly seasoned and the leeks and garlic were nearly undetectable.

In true trattoria style, Mia Bella offers a large selection of pasta dishes, like the exquisite Capellini di Mare (\$11.95), angel hair pasta with fresh seafood, and Papardelle al Modo Mio, (\$8.95), a dish of sautéed artichoke hearts, mushrooms, goat cheese and toasted pine nuts in a rich tomato basil sauce.

The uneven and inattentive service seemed to result more from lack of efficiency and organization than anything else, even though the place was packed. Our service went from poor to worse after a friend finished her soft drink, served in a pint glass with no straw. After finishing, she noticed a wide crack and realized the grainy feeling she felt while chewing ice was probably shards of glass. Management made only excuses and no apologies. A little professionalism and basic logic would have gone a long way.

Although the food and atmosphere of Mia Bella may be worthy, we wondered how well Mia Bella will fare once it's joined by newer, trendy neighbors. Courteous and efficient service needs to be a priority and Mia Bella has some kinks to iron out.

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HOLIDAY HOPE

➤ Continued from page 15

School of the Performing and Visual Arts and the University of Houston, ever since.

Hope is a frequent feature in the Houston theater scene, and he is currently adding holiday cheer to "A Christmas Carol, A Ghost Story of Christmas" with his giddy characterization of Scrooge's first employer, Fezziwig.

He's also been the valet Bennett in "Travesties," delivering a show-stopping three-page monologue on the slippery course of Russian revolutionary theory. In the farce "Noises Off," his split-second antics were in league with the best of Carol Burnett.

Hope also has done the memorable role of John Barrymore in "I Hate Hamlet." With the larger-than-life presence of a silent film star, and the matinee idol looks of the "great Profile" himself, Hope was Barrymore.

In addition to his Alley performances, Hope brought the South alive again while dancing with Juliet Prowse in the touring company of "Mame," barged down the Mississippi in "Showboat," shot bulls-eyes in "Annie Get Your Gun," looked properly sanctimonious in nun drag in "Execution of Justice," and removed his clothes for "Love! Valour! Compassion!"

"Talk about a motivator," Hope said of sans clothes appearance in "Love! Valour! Compassion!" "I had gotten in the best shape of my life. We should all have to be naked on stage all the time. I lost 30 pounds and lived at

the gym and tanning salon.

"Before the Second Act, you'd see us doing crunches in the wings and pushups and lunges. Boobs, butt, and abs; boobs, butt, and abs," he said.

Hope did manage to get a date out of all that physical exertion, but it didn't turn out well—he started off the evening disparaging Hope's car and, not too much later, his income.

But being single is just another role to master, Hope said.

"That's when I came to the hypothesis that actors are caught in the middle where dating is concerned. I think this may be particularly true in the gay community, but I would like to think it's not. But if we meet somebody who's into the arts, and is well read, and witty and fun, and loves what we do, and we're on the same page, chances are, if they're not another actor, they're so A-list, they don't want to date an actor. It's like, they're fun for a dinner party, but I don't want to marry one," he said.

After a quick glance out the window over Bayou Place, Hope puts another spin on his dating theory, wondering if some people don't want to date actors because of the hours they work—they're often working when others are getting off and heading home.

"That narrows it down to bartenders, drunks, pushers and hustlers," he said before a brief pause and a burst of laughter.

"Well, I guess there are worse things," Hope added.

He concedes that one had better be a theater junkie if dating an actor.

"And, we don't have a large pool of gay actors in town. Or, if that's the case, they're taken and are in lovely relationships ... the fuckers," Hope said with a laugh.

"There are all of the frustrations of being a gay actor in Houston, which are probably not much different from being an actor. It's a good essay. Maybe it just needs more thought."

In a fit of desperation, Hope has tried personal ads in newspapers.

"First, I'm going to find out if there are any people out there in the audience who've wondered if I was datable, so I've got to make this ad obvious to those who know who this is," he said.

So he included this phrase: "Appreciation of Victoria de los Angeles and Irene Dunne not required, but advisable."

The ad received no response, so he changed the reference to Maria Callas and Geraldine Page. Two dates came from that one, ending his attempts with personal ads.

"What's interesting about working at the Alley is that there are fewer gay actors in 'straight' dramas than one might think. Right now, I'm sharing a dressing room with two other Friends of Dorothy, and it's so refreshing. The ruby slippers are all lined up. I'll play show tunes and opera, scented candles, male nudes. You can always know it's my dressing room: smells good, looks good, sounds good," Hope said.

Is there a downside to his current show, "A Christmas Carol?"

"What's really bad about this show is that there's no time to cruise the audience. We're always so busy and in motion, we can't check out who's out there," he said.

Casing the house is a time-honored theatrical tradition, and Hope says he relishes it, except when a complex script requires concentration.

"In 'Gross Indecency,' my brain was bleed-



Paul Hope, a fixture on the Houston theater scene, appears in Alley Theatre's 'A Christmas Carol' through Dec. 20.

about known gay actors playing straight characters, than there are about straight people playing gay. But, no, I haven't found much of a challenge or obstacle where that's concerned," Hope added.

INFO

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Fund-raiser pays big dividends for local groups

by ROBERT B. HENDERSON

From heath fairs for lesbians to advocacy efforts for gay teens, more than a dozen local groups received financial support for their efforts, thanks to the proceeds from a record-setting dinner.

Some \$144,000 in proceeds from the Nov. 13 Houston Black Tie Dinner was distributed to the groups earlier this month. A record-setting 1,200 people attended the event at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

"We throw one big party. It's a glamorous evening where people come out. They're able to eat dinner, hear a great speaker, do silent auction and take pictures with their friends. We had dinner music and dance music at the end. The George R. Brown has never looked more gorgeous," said Amanda M. Barhost, president of Houston Black Tie Dinner.

The \$16,000 that Bering Omega Community Services received will support several programs for the AIDS service organization, said Bill Kersten, executive director.

"We really want to get the community to think of us as offering HIV services rather than thinking of our individual components," he said. "That was the thinking behind asking for the money in this way.

Overall our goal is to provide continuous care to people with HIV," Kersten said.

Some \$12,166 went to the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.), which will help continue funding for the group's mentoring efforts for young gays ages 13 to 20, and expand outreach efforts into local public schools, said Kevin Davidson, H.A.T.C.H. board president.

"[We will be] offering continuing education unit hours to administrators, teachers and counselors to educate on sexual minority youth issues and safe environments within their schools," Davidson said.

Though H.A.T.C.H. focuses mostly on schools within Houston Independent School District, the group is receiving calls from suburban school districts.

The Montrose Clinic will use its \$18,120 for several programs, including specialty clinics, HIV counseling and testing, and advocacy efforts, said Todd Foster, the clinic's development director.

"Without Black Tie, that would leave a significant dollar amount we would have to go out and ask the community for," Foster said. "One of the great advantages of Black Tie is it consolidates fund-raising efforts between several different agencies. It's really nice to see the community

Bering Omega's Bill Kersten said proceeds from the Black Tie Dinner will bolster the group's programs for people with AIDS, while Jackie Duval, president of Lesbian Health Initiative, said new funding will help its health fairs.



come together as one like that for a common cause."

The 7-year-old Lesbian Health Initiative received \$2,579 from Black Tie, which will help fund health fairs that provide mammograms, Pap smears, and screenings for osteoporosis and sexually transmitted diseases.

"With the Health Initiative we're able to provide on an annual basis health fairs," said Jackie Duval, the group's president. "It allows a group of women to have more focused fairs like for Hispanic women, Asian women, and older women."

The health fairs often provide the only preventative health care some women receive because of a lack of insurance

or a lack of comfort with other doctors, Duval said.

"The physicians we have who come and staff the health fairs are volunteers who understand our community very well. The physicians are lesbian or 'friendly,'" Duval said.

Other groups receiving funds from the dinner: AIDS Foundation Houston (\$7,432), The Assistance Fund (\$17,592), AssistHers (\$5,720), Body Positive-Houston (\$3,868), Center for AIDS (\$3,798), PFLAG (\$7,829), PWA Coalition (\$5,852), Texas Human Rights Foundation (\$3,540), An Uncommon Legacy (\$6,130) and The Gay & Lesbian Victory Foundation (\$27,800).

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Occasions

Birthdays

Happy birthday to Texas Renegade Greg Gordon on Dec. 24.

Mary's one and only Jerry Jones toasts in his birthday on Dec. 24.

Rick, member of the Houston Area Bears wants a fuzzy birthday on Dec. 25.

Puppet Master Alan Gibson motions in his birthday on Dec. 25.

Travel Diva Rich G. hopes for a cruise for his birthday on Dec. 25.

Chances superwoman Lisa celebrated her birthday on Dec. 26.

Mr. Magic hands Randall massages his birthday on Dec. 26. Nationwide Insurance Agent Tony May pays his birthday premium on Dec. 27.

Mark Muckelroy puts down a down payment for his birthday on Dec. 29.

Anniversaries

Billy and Dan celebrate six years together on Dec. 24

The Houston Voice welcomes your special occasions. Send e-mail to 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.



Pet of the Week: Ruby is a collie. She is full grown but could stand to gain a few pounds. Her hair is long and needs some grooming to keep her pretty. She is okay with other animals and with children. She will need some exercise like long walks in the park. Ruby is an inside dog. For adoption information call Houston Humane Society at 713-434-5555.

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'98 Jeep Wrangler • Auto, A/C, soft top, rugged and fun to drive, save thousands! • Only \$13,588 • Details? Call Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'97 GMC Bravada • Low miles, leather, CD, PW, PL, tilt, and much more! • \$19,360 • Ask for Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

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'99 GMC Yukon • The one and only, 9,875 low miles, must drive to appreciate! • \$26,395 • Call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'99 BMW 318Ti • Avus Blue, sunroof, cass., Stk.#30067 • MSRP \$25,975, this week's special \$21,969 • Call Mauricio Hussmann - Advantage BMW, 713.653.8300.

community calendar

(Some events may be changed due to the holiday.)

saturday, dec. 25

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 Lesbian and Gay drop-in hours from noon to 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, dec. 26

The Women's Group. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
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. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-6756.
Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. 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.
MCCR. Handbell Choir rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
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.neosoft.com/thoreau.

monday, dec. 27

Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group, 8 p.m. 713-861-6181.
Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week, 7 p.m. 713-529-1223.
Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group. 713-526-1017.
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.
Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition's weekly meeting at 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m., 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, dec. 28

FREE HIV testing at Club Houston at 8:30 p.m. to midnight. the Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. 7 p.m., 239 Westheimer. 713-495-8009.
Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy. "The Survivor's Circle" ceremony and celebration. 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.

wednesday, dec. 29

Free HIV testing by the Montrose clinic at Mary's (4-8 p.m.) and Midtowne Spa (8 p.m. to midnight), and Ripcord (9 p.m. to midnight). 713-830-3000.
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.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours noon to 9 p.m. Computer Class 7 to 8 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

thursday, dec. 30

Free HIV testing at Toyz (9 p.m. to midnight) by the Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
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.
Community Gospel. Choir practice. 6:30 p.m.; 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.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.

friday, dec. 31

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. 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. 7:30 p.m. 713-522-8182.
Life Begins at 40. Pot luck dinner. 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.
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.

To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.

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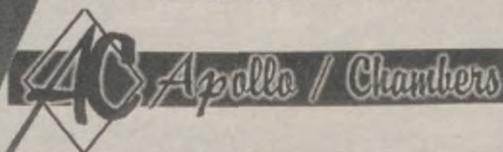


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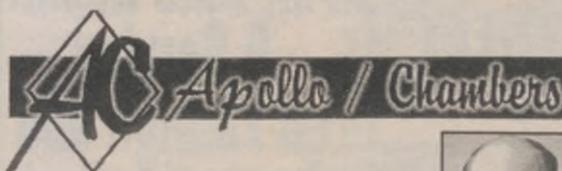
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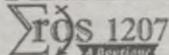
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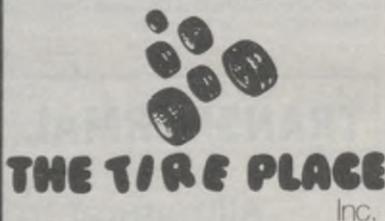
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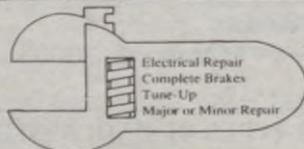
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by JILL DEARMAN

Dec. 24 - 30



ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

This is the right time for you to make a big statement to the world about your intentions in love and in career. Don't keep the enthusiasm to yourself. Everyone is getting sexy vibes from you now, especially an Aquarius. Don't play coy.



TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

The moon will be in your house of love as 1999 turns to 2000. There's a sense of adventure that surrounds you these days, so different from your usual stay-at-home vibe. Give a Cancer a great big kiss. Give yourself a pat on the back.



GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Jupiter is going forward in your house of friends, so you are apt to be surrounded by all the right people as the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. Put your cold and clever front aside, and welcome in a warmer version of yourself. An Aquarius will certainly give you a warm welcome.



CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Generous Jupiter is moving forward in your career house and will only pick up speed as we settle into 2000. So what do you want to be when you grow up? Expect to make some important decisions about relationships. A Taurus can help you be true to yourself.



LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

The Sun is giving you extra strength and vitality. Take this as a sign from the universe that the next century will be a powerful one for you. For now, stick close to home. You don't need all the hangers-on distracting you from your true nature. Let a Sagittarius guide you back to your roots.



VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

The moon will be in the chattiest sector of your chart as the ball drops in Times Square, so pay attention to the cocktail chatter. You'll get brilliant ideas and make important acquaintances, including a new version of yourself—one with a healthy ego. A Pisces can help build you up.



LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Jupiter is moving forward at a fast clip in your house of love, so enjoy the ride. Don't think too much about your love life; instead try a few lovers on for size. All work and no play should not be the way to go in 2000. Have more fun in bed with a Cancer.



SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

The moon will be in your sign as the clock strikes 12 on that special night. Pay attention to how you feel. Whatever you do, don't be phony and try to "balance" everything out. That's just not you. Draw your life in bold colors. A Libra would love to do some body-painting with you.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

It's time for you to believe in yourself, and stop taking a back seat to people who are better at self-promotion. The Sun in your money sector bodes well not just for your financial plans, but for your biggest, most important goals. A Capricorn's belief in you should help.



CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

The Sun in your sign should give you some confidence, and Jupiter's forward motion in your home sector should give you the security you crave. What are you going to give yourself? You should finally be able to articulate your important resolutions, as well as what you really want sexually, from a Sag.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB 19)

You're surrounded by power players right now, and they are certainly taking notice of you. Don't reveal your brilliant ideas yet. Think them through and work them out first. Your intuition can tell you a lot about what you really need. Err on the side of what feels right, especially in the case of a Gemini.



PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Venus plows through your most adventurous house as 1999 draws to a close. You and your allies can collaborate to do something completely original in the New Year. And you are leader of the pack. Your recent year-long phase of passivity is over. An Aries wants you to do something bold.

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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Classifieds

Announcements

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STELLA LINK SEVILLE

JANUARY 9, 2000- Stella Link Seville, Candidate for Empress XVI of the RSCSS will be hosting a candidate show entitled "Millennium Madness", held at the Brazos River Bottom. Show time is 8:30 drag standard time p.m. Some of Houston's biggest and brightest stars will be performing. Draft Beer and Hot Dogs. Benefactors for the show are Emperor & Empress XV for their stepping down at Coronation XVI.

Place To Play?

If you play bass/acoustic guitar, brass or keyboards, a gay Christian praise and worship team needs you. Call 713.686.7735.

PROTECT

PROTECT provides a safe place every Tuesday at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold, for HIV negative people to share their experiences in an effort to understand and change behaviors that could lead to infection. Visitors and new members are welcome at every meeting. For more information, call 713.526.1017, ext. 211.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Abuse offers support for gay men who are in a current or past relationship with an abusive or violent partner. For information or assessment/screening, call Russ Robinett at 713.526.1017, ext. 211. Leave your name and a safe telephone number where your call can be returned.

Community Resale Shop, 515 Richmond has been providing clothing to people living with AIDS for 14 years. We urgently need fall clothes. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Sunday. Purveyors of couture to starving artists of all ilk. Independent 501 (c) (3). 713.528.2555.

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Massage therapy now available at Muscle Mechanics personal training & wellness studio - sports massage, therapeutic massage, relaxation therapy. Call now for your appointment! Muscle Mechanics 713.523.5330.

Pets

The Homeless Pet Placement League is a Houston area, non-profit animal welfare organization. HPPL provides for the rehabilitation of stray and abandoned dogs and cats through its unique foster care program. All animals are spayed/neutered and have their first set of shots. For more information call 713.862.7387 or view website at www.HPPL.org

The Spay Neuter Assistance Program will provide FREE spaying/neutering, rabies vaccinations and city licenses for animals belonging to qualifying low income dog and cat guardians. For qualifications and transportation information please call 713.522.2337.

Professional Services

BODY WAXING

Personal grooming by Dale • Waxing specialist & licensed Cosmetologist • Private Location in Montrose • Call for appointment 713.529.5952.

Real Estate For Rent

Heights 2/1 \$575+ electric • New paint • Carpet • Central AC/H • Security Gates • Small complex • Gay managed/friendly. 713.298.8999 or 713.868.2890.

Heights House • Charming 1920 bungalow with many upgrades • 3/1 • new washer, dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher. Central air/heat. No dogs/ \$990. per month. 713.426.0319.

HEIGHTS

UPDATED GARAGE

Efficiency • \$400/mo. • Bills paid • Low Deposit • No Pets • Available Now • No lease required. 713.862.9775.

Inside loop • 2/1 with study • central heat • no smokers/pets • Available December • 713.699.8390.

MIDTOWN/MUSEUM

Huge duplex • 3-1/1.5 • Hardwood/carpet • High Ceiling

• W/D • No pets • No more than three people • 2 year lease • \$900 per month • 713.526.8634.

HEIGHTS

Updated Garage Efficiency • \$400 per month • Bills Paid • Low Deposit • No pets • Available now • No Lease required • 713.862.9775.

MONTROSE

Commercial & residential for lease • 2 suites 675 & 875 sq ft. (\$700 & \$900/mo), 2/1 1500 sq ft (\$1100/mo), 3/2 875 sq ft. (\$900/mo). All available now. Reduced \$ for qualified non-profit orgs. Hollyfield Foundation. 713.523.6900.

MONTROSE

Large 2B/2B unit in 3 unit tropical compound with pool. Hot tub, sun room, centrals. Fresh paint, carpet & hardwoods. Owner/agent 713.529.9304.

MONTROSE

\$100 OFF FIRST MONTH'S RENT. One bedroom in small gated complex • \$450 plus utilities • \$200 deposit • Convenient to clubs and shopping • 713.524.4551.

GREENWAY PLAZA

3308 Branard @ Audley • 1/1 8 \$475. per month • \$150 deposit • Free basic cable • Move in special • Agent 713.524.9660.

Apt. 4 Lease • Montrose

New mini-blinds /carpet • \$495 per month with \$150 deposit • \$100 off move-in special • Agent 713.524.9660.

Executive office sublease \$250 per month. • One office in a very nice building located West Loop 610 near Bellaire Blvd. • Private entrance & suite number. • Call Rob at 713.661.7700.

Real Estate For Sale

HEIGHTS

2 bedroom • 1 bath • All bills paid including cable • 1912 Victorian Cottage/Duplex in desirable neighborhood • Lots of windows • Hardwood floors • \$900. 713.880.2740.

MONTROSE

\$250's • 3 Bedroom • 2 bedroom • 1 bedroom • Lots of potential. Call Alan Morlan or Bob Bezbom @ 713.520.8888.

MUSEUM

\$60's • 1 bedroom. • Nice Unit • Call Alan Morlan @ 713.520.8888.

HEIGHTS

\$180's • 2-3 Bedroom • 2 1/2 bath • 2 car garage • Townhouse • Patio and landscaped courtyard • Close to the Boulevard & 19th Street shopping. Call Alan Morlan @ 713.520.8888.

Looking for a home on the North side? • Call Bernie Johnson, Agent Keller-Williams Realty your Real Estate specialist, 281.364.4862.

Roommates

1400 RICHMOND

SGWM seeks roommate (non-smoker/drug user) to share 2/1 apartment. • Includes cable, security gates, and pool • \$375 month plus 1/2 of utilities • 713.520.7662.

Travel/Resorts

Island House • South Beach's Largest All Gay Guesthouse • Rooms & Studios • Complimentary Breakfast and weekend Happy Hours • Walk to everything • 1428 Collins Ave. • 800.382.2422 • 305.864.2422 • ihsobe@bellsouth.net.

WAIKIKI

Luxury ocean view • 18th floor • One bedroom condo in Waikiki • All amenities, fully furnished, including linens and remodeled kitchen. • Lovely terrace looks out to Diamond Head. • Secure building, non-smoking • \$99/night (double), 10 day minimum, security deposit plus cleaning fee • Available Oct. '99 • Rates for mid Dec. '99 to mid Jan. '00 - \$199/night. • For more information email: glarp@earthlink.net or call 310.473.1871 (Los Angeles).

The Abnett Inn, Atlanta's newest gay-owned B&B is also Atlanta's oldest, most authentic Victorian Inn. • www.abbet-tinn.com or 404.767.3708.

Volunteers

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

Volunteers needed at the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard-Houston. www.gayswitchboardhouston.org. To sign up please call 713.523.4390.

Web-sites

www.houstonvoice.com
www.sovo.com
www.impactnews.com
www.montrosesoftballleague.com
www.iblhouston.net
www.gayswitchboardhouston.org
www.stevendavid.com
PET LOVERS
Unique Pet Products
www.pathpetproducts

houston
voice

CLASSIFIEDS
REALLY
WORK

Call Carolyn A. Roberts or
Carolyn White for Rates & Info.
713-529-8490

Studz

1201 RICHMOND 713-528-1363
(two blocks west of montrose blvd)

**magazines
paperbacks
smoking items**

ADULT NOVELTIES • ADULT GAMES • PERSONAL ITEMS

SOMETHING FOR ALL LIFESTYLES

VIDEOS RENTALS & SALES

ALL RATINGS

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VIDEO MEMBERSHIP CLUB
JOIN TODAY!!!

video viewing area PRIVATE ROOMS

30+

VIDEO SELECTIONS IN EACH ROOM
ALL RATINGS AVAILABLE

SCREENS CONTINUOUSLY OPERATE • NO TOKENS NEEDED

ADMISSION FEE

REQUIRED

STAY AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE!

CARDS AVAILABLE AT CROSSROADS MARKET

houston voice

Classified Order Form Fax: 713-529-9531, Phone: 713-529-8490

TO PLACE AN AD:

IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5:30 pm) 500 Lovett, suite 200. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX., 77006. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 713-529-8490. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 713-529-9531. **BY E-MAIL:** feedback@houstonvoice.com
AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines

- HIV Services & Education
- Volunteers
- Non-Profit Organizations

INDIVIDUAL RATE \$7:

- Announcements
- Auditions
- Employment-Seeking
- Pets-Free or Lost & Found
- Roommates
- Personal Websites

BUSINESS RATE \$12:

- Auto Repair
- Business Opportunities
- Entertainment
- Help Wanted
- Help Wanted-Seeking
- Home Improvement
- Items For Sale
- Licensed Massage
- Moving Services
- Professional Services
- Real Estate For Rent
- Real Estate For Sale

Call 713-529-8490
for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

CATEGORY: _____ # OF ISSUES: _____

Giant or Bold Headline - Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST
CALL FOR BUSINESS CARD DISPLAY RATES

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS

Up to 20 words for \$7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: 7.00

Additional words _____ x 50¢: _____

Bold headline: 3.00 (per week)

Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)

Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues

Total: \$ _____

BUSINESS RATE ADS

Up to 20 words per week.

1-3 weeks: 12.00 • 4-7 weeks: 10.80 • 8 or more weeks: 9.60

Additional words _____ x 60¢ per word (per week): _____

Bold headline: 3.00 (per week)

Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)

Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues

Total: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my AMEX MC VISA

Card # _____ Exp. _____/_____/_____



Debra Danburg
State Representative

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The new millenium is quickly approaching. We are kicking off Danburg Campaign 2000. I appreciate and look forward to your continued support. Please call (713) 52-Debra and sign up to volunteer. I need your help!

713.520.8068 District
512.463.0504 Capitol

Crad Duren, M.D.

Internal medical practice offering discreet confidential care to the community, including HIV/AIDS diagnostics & therapeutics
Healthcare from the Heart
Anonymous Testing and Counseling

Major Credit Cards Accepted • Personal checks Accepted
Insurance with Qualification • Medicare

1213 Hermann Dr., Suite 430 • 713-520-0653



Photo by Gabriel T.

NEW 2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO



\$299/\$999
PER MONTH! DOWN!

Several to Choose. Pmt based on \$999 dwn + \$1500 rebate + TT&L. 35 prmts of \$299 with final pmt of \$18,369 @ 6.4% APR, WAC.

JIM ARCHER'S CHRYSLER PLYMOUTH
Contact Mike Cleek

ONLY ON I-45 NORTH AT GULF BANK
445-6400
www.archermotors.com

Prices Good On Day of Publication Only. Art for Illustration Purposes Only.

SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

OVER \$1.5 MILLION IN USED VEHICLES!

1.9%
APR AVAILABLE

TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE SPECIALS OF THE WEEK!

'97 CHEVY MALIBU
34K Miles, P/M, P/L, Tilt **\$11,461**

'97 DODGE INTREPID ES
3.5L, Leather, P/W, P/L, Tilt, Sunroof **\$12,280**

'97 CHRYSLER SEBRING CONVRT JXI
Pwr Seats, Leather, Come See **\$14,622**

'97 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT HARD TOP
4.0L, Clean, Ready To Drive **\$15,780**

'97 HONDA PASSPORT LX 4X4
P/W, P/L, Tilt, Cruise, Low Miles **\$15,860**

'96 INFINITI I30
Leather, S/R, Full Power, Stk#221393 **\$16,300**

'97 FORD F-150 EXT CAB 4X4
Nice, Clean, Ready To Go **\$18,490**

'97 OLDS BRAVADA
P/W, P/L, Leather, White, Stk#261384 **\$19,680**

'99 GMC YUKON
9875 Miles, Sharp, Road Ready **\$26,795**

JIM ARCHER'S CHRYSLER - PLYMOUTH - JEEP
ONLY ON I-45 NORTH @ GULF BANK
Contact Mike Cleek
281-445-6400
www.archermotors.com

All vehicles subject to prior sale. All prices + TT&L. All vehicles pre-owned. Prices good day of ad only. *EX: Stk#221132. 12 mos w/ 50% dwn @ 158 mo + TT&L.

LOOK NOVEMBER SELL-DOWN!

#1 CHRYSLER PLYMOUTH JEEP DEALER IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!

NEW 2000 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER



\$228/\$0
PER MONTH! DOWN!
\$16,499

Stk#800075 - 1 Only. Sale Price \$17,749 - \$1250 Rebate = \$16,499. Pmt based on \$0 dwn + TT&L. 36 prmts of \$228 with final pmt of \$10,057 @ 2.45% APR, WAC.

NEW 2000 PLYMOUTH NEON



\$158/\$0
PER MONTH! DOWN!
\$9995

2 To Choose. Pmt based on \$0 dwn + TT&L. 48 prmts of \$158 per mo with final pmt of \$4928 @ 7.9% APR, WAC.

JIM ARCHER'S JEEP
Contact Mike Cleek
ONLY ON I-45 NORTH AT GULF BANK
445-6400
www.archermotors.com

Prices Good On Day of Publication Only. Art for Illustration Purposes Only. *Ex. 2000 Neon \$0 down for 60 mos of \$174 mo @ 1.9% APR, WAC. †Ranked #1 among Houston for April '99.

EXPERIENCE THE ARCHER ADVANTAGE!

GET **\$2000 REBATE PLUS 0% FINANCING**
RIGHT ON TARGET PRICING!

#1 RANKED METRO MAZDA DEALER IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IN THE U.S.
WINNER OF THE 1998 PRESIDENT'S AWARD
MAZDA CERTIFIED SALES STAFF! • KIND, FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL SALES PERSONNEL

NEW 1999 MAZDA B2500
Air Conditioning, Stk#990525 -1 Only
\$9999
Sale Price \$11,495 - \$1500 Rebate
Contact Vic King

SE HABLA ESPANOL
JIM ARCHER'S Mazda
mazdausa.com • www.archermazda.com
445-6440
8455 I-45 North Between Shepherd & Gulf Bank

Art for illustration use only. Prices good day of ad only. All vehicles subject to prior sale. †Based on Mazda American Motors sales & service 1998. *WAC on New '99 Millenias. © City Lights

DAEWOO 0.9% APR Available!

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Introducing Daewoo. You'll be Surprised At How Much You Can Get For Your Money! Our Cars Come Well Equipped With Features Others May Consider Options. Each Of Our Amazingly Reliable And Comfortable Cars Is So Well Built We Cover Them For The First 3 Years or 36,000 Miles† on All Regularly Scheduled Maintenance (Even Oil and Wiper Blades) At Absolutely No Cost To You!

NEW '99 DAEWOO LANOS #590073 - 1 Only

\$6999
Sale Price \$8499 - \$1500 Rebate
You Also get Daewoo Priority Assistance (24 Hour Roadside Assistance) For the First 3 years or 36,000 Miles Should You Need It.††

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www.archermotors.com
445-6440
Contact Vic King

13 Years/36,000 Mile Warranty See Us For Details. ††Emergency Roadside Assistance Only. See Us For Details. Art for illustration use only. Prices good day of ad only. All vehicles subject to prior sale. *APR in lieu of rebate. With approved credit w/Debits financial. © City Lights