

Openly gay Rev. Bill Clark finds home in a small Fort Bend County church, using a mix of compassion, humor and openness to find success in his first full-time position. Page 5



'Boogie Nights' actor Philip Seymour Hoffman garners high praise for trans role, discovers a new empathy and respect for drag queens and transsexuals. Page 19



Bradley, Gore spar over gay rights

For the first time, a viable candidate for president has called for 'sexual orientation' to be added to the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act, but his opposition may surprise you

by LAURA BROWN

When Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley first issued a call to amend the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include "sexual orientation," the campaign stand—while evidence of the greatest competition for gay votes ever in a presidential race—nevertheless drew fire from some gay rights supporters.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), the most senior openly gay representative in Congress, said Bradley was "well-intentioned but very incorrect" in suggesting the Civil Rights Act be amended.

"I admire his instinct," Frank said at the

time. "But he is mistaken about the way to do it. What Bill Bradley has proposed ignores the very careful legislative work we've been doing. I wish he had checked with us."

Several African-American civil rights leaders, including Rev. Jesse Jackson, also publicly disagreed with Bradley's proposal.

Opening up the 1964 Civil Rights Act, they said, is

too dangerous in a conservative Congress that could use the opportunity to restrict affirmative action or other means of addressing discrimination against minorities.

Spurred by black caucus leaders and others who support Vice President Al Gore, Bradley's only opponent for the party's presidential nomination, the

Democratic National Committee



weighed in—expressing "strong support" for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a federal bill to ban job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, while urging the 1964 act "not be re-opened for debate or amendments."

The visceral reaction against adding "sexual orientation" to the landmark civil rights law by gay rights leaders and others generally supportive of gay right has raised eyebrows for several reasons:

- Until ENDA was introduced in 1994, amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act was exactly the strategy supported by gay civil rights leaders.

- While national gay civil rights groups have kept it mum, a bill was introduced just this year to add sexual orientation to the 1964 act, as well as the Fair Housing Act.

- Whatever concerns there may be about opening up the 1964 Civil Rights Act to hostile amendments, a number of other, unrelated bills have been introduced this year that would amend the act, without the outcry from civil rights leaders generated by Bradley's suggestion to add sexual orientation.

Among these are several by progressive Democrats looking to expand the act's pro-

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Houston prepping for World Aids Day

A New York professor highlights local events Dec. 1 with lecture on how gays were persecuted in Nazi Germany



Taking part in a tree lighting ceremony and candlelight vigil to mark World AIDS day last year in Galesburg, Ill., are, from left: Justin Dennis; Denise Axcell; Nikki Axcell; Wayne Dennis; and Barb Dennis. Several activities are set for next week in Houston.

by KAY DAYUS

A lecture on the persecution of gays in Nazi Germany highlights a week's worth of events in Houston as people around the globe mark World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 for the 12th time since 1988.

The annual commemoration comes amid mixed signals from the front in the fight against AIDS. Some people with AIDS continue to enjoy improved health as a result of improved drug combination therapies, but most people living with AIDS can't access basic therapies that others take for granted, AIDS experts said.

And now, some 33.6 million people worldwide—including 1.6 million children—are infected with HIV. This is up 200,000 people from last year, according to a report released Monday by the U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization. This year,

2.6 million people are expected to die of AIDS—the highest annual death toll yet. To date, 16 million people have died of AIDS.

In Houston, from the display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to a luncheon to raise awareness and candlelight vigils, several organizations have stepped forward to call attention to HIV/AIDS, which has killed some 48,000 people in Texas and nearly 400,000

John Fout, a professor and social historian at Bard College in New York, will deliver a lecture at Holocaust Museum Houston on Dec. 2 and show that Jews and others were attacked in Nazi Germany.

"There were other victim groups—the old, the sick and homosexuals. It showed the ferocity against their very own people in Germany," Fout said in a telephone interview.

Some 100,000 homosexuals were arrested

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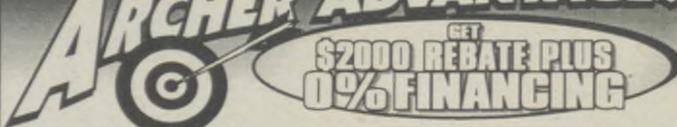
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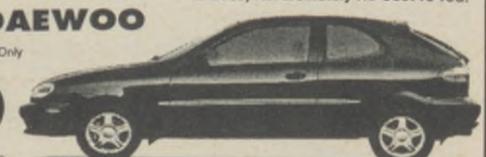
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SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. 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.

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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.

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FOR HIV

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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>

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

What is SUSTIVA?

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

How does SUSTIVA work?

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

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

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

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

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

How should I take SUSTIVA?

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

Can children take SUSTIVA?

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

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

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

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

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (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 Cafegot®)

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.

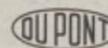
How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

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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Ministering in Houston suburb

Openly gay pastor finds home in small Fort Bend County church, using a mix of compassion, humor and openness to find success in his first full-time position

by ROBERT B. HENDERSON

An openly gay rookie minister with experience caring for people with AIDS has found an unlikely home—a small church in suburban Houston in Fort Bend County.

Rev. Bill Clark began his duties as the first full-time minister of Henry David Thoreau Unitarian Universalists Congregation in Stafford in September. Since then, the 80 or so members of the congregation have been nothing but supportive, Clark said.

"Bill as a person puts his whole heart, mind and soul into the work of ministry. He is very authentic, a very good listener, very caring and has a terrific sense of humor. I think he definitely affected me and others with his sense of humor," said Joe Sullivan, president of the church's board of trustees.

In becoming the congregation's first full-time minister, Clark, 47, also gained his first position as a minister since graduating in June from Harvard Divinity School. He was ordained last May at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Brewster, Mass.

Being an openly gay minister has broadened Clark's outlook, he said.

"I think it has made me more compassionate, more understanding of people, more accepting of differences, far more open minded," Clark said. "I think once you struggle with accepting who you are finally demonstrates such a freedom you learn to celebrate life."

Appointment as the congregation's minister is not final; members must vote to affirm the hire. Clark first visited the congregation in early July and spent a week getting to know its members, Sullivan said.

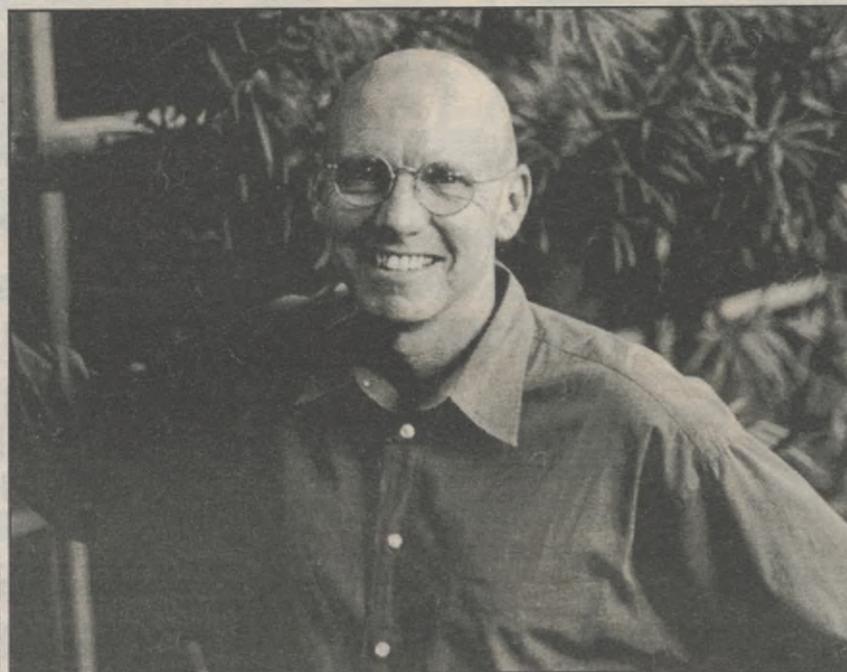
Clark, raised a Roman Catholic, became increasingly aware that he is gay during high school.

"I was supposed to have a girlfriend and I had a girlfriend, but it was not where my feelings were. So the mask and the game playing really started to take shape then. I didn't actually come out to myself until I was a sophomore in college," he said.

Before Clark set his course for ministry, he was a teacher working with deaf children. It had been his vocation since 1974 when he received his baccalaureate degree. He later received a master's degree with an emphasis on working with deaf children.

"To me I felt a very strong calling coming from around my working with the AIDS ministry. Initially a lot of my ministry call came into working with people who are dying. There was a comfort level of being at the bedside of a dying person. I felt that is where my ministry work would lead me until I started a lot of my work in the church in Brewster," Clark said.

He also worked with teenagers who were struggling to come of age.



KIM THOMPSON

Rev. Bill Clark, who is openly gay, has found support and encouragement from suburban church members since he became their minister nearly three months ago.

"It was very life-affirming. This happened almost simultaneously while I was working in Provincetown with the AIDS ministry. It was life altering. I decided after I graduated, rather than continue in the work with the dying, it felt really positive to develop relationships with people in one church over a period of time," Clark said.

It was his change of ministry focus bringing him to look at a more traditional family congregation and specifically to Thoreau Congregation in Stafford.

His "second language" is American Sign Language, and while enrolled at Harvard Divinity School, he pushed to have officials there accept American Sign Language as his required second language.

"The catalog read 'a language of theological scholarship or a foreign language which has a use in your ministry.' I had to convince them it would do that. I also tried to make the argument that American Sign Language, and I believe it is, could be used as a language of theological scholarship," Clark said.

Clark credits coming to terms with being gay to his practice of Christian Science. When he came out to himself, he also outed himself to a Christian Science practitioner. She responded by offering to heal him of the "disease," describing it as a "hell hole," Clark said.

The episode pushed him away from Christian Science and more toward self-acceptance.

"I came out to my family many years later, to my siblings first and then to my parents. My siblings were pretty accepting. My mother struggled and my father was

silent, which was the way they always were," Clark said.

His mother later suffered a stroke, and her ill feelings of her son's homosexuality surfaced, Clark said.

"She became quite nasty. My father became quite protective of me. I don't know if he fell into the role or I was his son, no matter what. My mother would tell me I couldn't bring my friends home. He would say, 'He can bring anyone home he wants. He's our son,' Clark said.

Church members are pleased with Clark's work, Sullivan said.

"He brings a lot of energy and a terrific commitment. One of the themes Bill is carrying to our church that resonates with us, especially since we were a congregation that was lay led, it is important to us to maintain or help nurture this 'shared ministry' within the church. Bill seems to have a tremendous appreciation and sense for that," Sullivan said.

INFO

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Around the South

DeKalb County public park targeted for gay male cruising arrests

ATLANTA—DeKalb police are conducting undercover operations at a Tucker park that police say men are using to solicit sex from other men, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported Nov. 18. Some complaints were filed with police by visitors, including families



An undercover operation at Henderson Park has resulted in arrests despite DeKalb prosecutor Gwen Keyes' statement earlier this year that her office did not intend to prosecute the state's solicitation of sodomy law except in cases involving prostitution.

with children, to Henderson Park, which the newspaper reported is a quarter-mile from a DeKalb County elementary school. "Henderson Park has been a recurring problem for years," Maj. Bobby Ethridge told the *AJC*. "We've had a resurgence of complaints down there." Undercover officers working at the park reported a number of parked cars with male drivers who were observed speaking briefly before leaving their cars and walking together into the woods, the newspaper reported. A 58-year-old man was arrested Nov. 1 after he approached an undercover officer, spoke with him briefly and invited him into the woods for sex, police said. The man, one of several arrested, has been charged with solicitation of sodomy. That charge comes after DeKalb County prosecutor Gwen Keyes said earlier this year that her office would not prosecute solicitation offense unless they involved prostitution. That policy was Keyes' reaction to the Georgia Supreme Court decision finding the state's sodomy law unconstitutional. At the time, Keyes said DeKalb's vice unit did not focus on gay men soliciting consensual sex. "They have never focused on the gay community or this type of crime," she told *Houston Voice*. "They are not the moral majority, and that is not their job to try and pursue anybody for that, so here in DeKalb County we don't make an issue of it."

Strip club indictments allege 'lesbian sex show' for athletes

ATLANTA (AP)—Federal prosecutors say a local strip club arranged for strippers to perform a 'lesbian sex' show for professional basketball players at a Charleston, S.C. hotel. Steven Kaplan, owner of the Gold Club, is one of 16 people named in a federal indictment unsealed Nov. 18. He and 11 other defendants pleaded not guilty that same day before a federal magistrate. Kaplan was released on \$2 million bond and the others on \$50,000 bonds. The indictment states that in or about April or May 1997, Kaplan and the other defendants "transported female dancers from the Gold Club to the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, so that dancers could perform a lesbian sex show and have sex with members of a professional basketball team." Kaplan has declined to comment, but a statement released by his attorneys said they "vigorously deny" the government's allegations and expect a "complete vindication" in court.

Louisville gay rights ordinance challenged in federal court

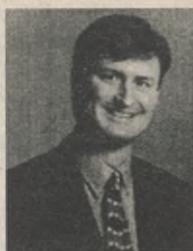
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Jefferson County's gay rights ordinance has come under attack in a federal lawsuit challenging its constitutionality. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court by Dr. J. Barrett Hyman, an obstetrician and gynecologist who previously challenged Louisville's gay-rights ordinance, which is narrower in scope than the county version. The county ordinance bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations. The city ordinance bans discrimination against gays and lesbians in employment. Following the same argument as his suit against the city law, Hyman says that his Christian beliefs prevent him from complying with the county ordinance. Because of those beliefs, Hyman says he is compelled to deny employment to a homosexual or fire any employee he learns is gay. Hyman is being represented by the American Center for Law and Justice, founded by conservative televangelist Pat Robertson. "This is a case of government attempting to legislate its own view of morality at the expense of the fundamental rights of its citizens," said Francis J. Manion, who is representing Hyman. Russ Maple, a Jefferson County commissioner who voted for the ordinance, said he was confident the law would withstand the challenge.

Bowling Green commission calls for non-discrimination law

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP)—The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission voted Nov. 18 to recommend that the City Commission and state legislators enact laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Human Rights Commission, however, voted not to recommend the exact wording in an ordinance proposed by the Louisville-based Kentucky Fairness Alliance and a student group at Western Kentucky University. The wording of the proposed ordinance authored by the alliance and Lambda Society, a gay-students group at WKU, worried commissioners. They feared it would require not just equality but special treatment for homosexuals. City Commission members have said, however, they will not support such an ordinance.

—From staff and wire reports

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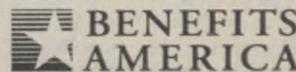
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Research Director, Community Research Initiative of New England and Research Consultant, Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates in Boston

Eric S. Rosenberg, MD

Instructor of Medicine, Harvard University and Clinical Assistant in Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital

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Bush says no to meeting with gay Republicans

Leading GOP candidate challenged to say the word 'AIDS' for the first time in public

In his first live talk show interview Sunday, George W. Bush said he would probably not meet with the gay group Log Cabin Republicans.

"I don't believe in group thought, pitting one group of people against another," the GOP presidential front-runner said from the Texas governor's mansion when asked if he would meet with gay Republicans.

Asked about rival Sen. John McCain's recent meeting with Log Cabin, Bush replied that he would "probably not" meet with the group because it would create a "huge political nightmare."

"I am someone who is a uniter, not a divider," Bush said during the hour-long interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

McCain said on CBS's "Face the Nation" that members of Log Cabin are "part of our party," and Republicans "are an inclusive party, and we should maintain the principles of Abraham Lincoln."

And on CNN's "Late Edition," publisher Steve Forbes said, "If people want to talk to me, that's fine. They might not like what I have to say on issues such as same-sex marriage. ... I'm open to meeting a lot of people."

Log Cabin leaders have condemned Bush's statements, particularly after the

candidate has "cultivated an image as an inclusive Republican who reaches out to minorities," according to a press release.

"If Governor Bush wants to be the next President of the United States, then he needs to reach out to the moderate gay vote," said LCR/Texas President Steve Labinski, president of Log Cabin Republicans Texas. "Bush is clearly getting bad advice on how to be a mainstream conservative. There is nothing un-Republican about opposing discrimination. Bush's attitude demonstrates that many Republicans still do not realize the potential returns of gay and lesbian voters."

Mixed messages

Bush's response surprised some Log Cabin leaders, who had received positive signals from campaign officials about a possible meeting with the candidate. It wasn't the first time the Texas governor has zig-zagged on gay issues.

In April, Bush told the *New York Times* that he would have no problem appointing openly gay people to his administration. "As a general statement, if someone can do a job, and a job that he's qualified for, that person ought to be allowed to do his job," he said at the time.

But by September, Bush reportedly

pledged to a group of religious conservatives that he would not "knowingly" hire a gay person, but would not fire someone who was later "discovered" to be gay.

His inconsistency is frustrating to some gay Republicans.

"What we saw in this interview is that Bush is not living up to the image of an inclusive candidate that his campaign has been pushing," said LCR Executive Director Rich Tafel.

"He was all over the place in his responses. He met with scores of groups, including the Christian Coalition, and lectures the Republican Party on the importance of reaching out to minority groups like Latinos and African Americans, and now says he won't meet with gays because we are a 'group,'" Tafel said.

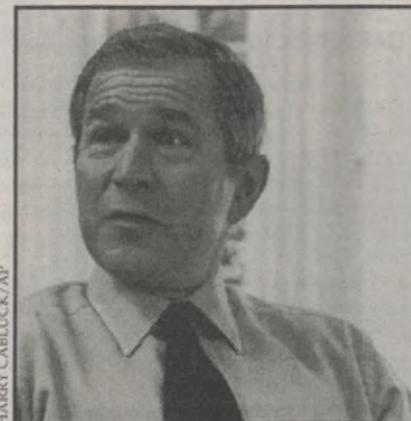
Bush reiterated his refusal to meet with gay Republicans at an appearance at Timberland Co. on Monday, according to a report in the *Dallas Morning News*. He said he strongly disagrees with the group on issues including gay marriage and gay adoption.

"There is no need to debate the issue; I've already made up my mind," he said.

Say the word 'AIDS'

Bush has also been challenged to address problems related to HIV/AIDS, starting with saying the word "AIDS."

AIDS Action, an advocacy group, released a statement Monday challenging



Texas Gov. George W. Bush relaxes before his interview on NBC's 'Meet The Press' last Sunday.

Bush to at least utter the word in public, something he's never done, according to AIDS activists.

"Millions of Americans affected by HIV and AIDS deserve to hear the voice of a leading governor and presidential candidate," said Daniel Zingale, AIDS Action executive director. "Compassion begins with a willingness to talk."

Bush's reticence has been compared to former President Ronald Reagan's similar silence during the early years of the epidemic, a silence that was loudly criticized by activists.

—From staff and wire reports

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Around the Nation

L.A. city council okays ordinance mandating partner benefits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The L.A. City Council voted to extend rules for domestic partner benefits so they also apply to companies that do business with the city. An ordinance unanimously approved Nov. 17 would require municipal contractors that offer health insurance to workers and their spouses to also extend the benefits to their gay, lesbian and heterosexual domestic partners. A similar ordinance passed in San Francisco resulted in hundreds of companies adopting DP benefits for the very first time. Council member Rudy Svorinich at first voted against the proposal. That would have pushed adoption back one week. But he agreed to leave the chamber so the council could pass the proposal unopposed and send it to Mayor Richard Riordan for consideration. Riordan is leaning toward approval but wants to study the proposal's impact, an aide said. On Monday, the city council in Seattle also voted to require its major private contractors to provide domestic partner benefits to gay employees.



Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan is leaning toward signing an ordinance modeled after the historic law passed in S.F. requiring all businesses with city contracts to offer DP benefits.

California governor reverses ban on gay foster parent adoptions

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A state policy of automatically opposing adoptions of foster children by gay and other unmarried couples was quietly dropped this week by Gov. Gray Davis. The move rescinded a 1995 order by then-Republican Gov. Pete Wilson. Gays applauded the change as a victory for families. Conservative religious leaders condemn it as "a disaster for children." Even with the earlier policy, judges could overrule the state opposition if the would-be parents hired an attorney and appealed. Attorneys representing gay and lesbian groups challenged the regulation earlier this year. State Department of Social Services attorneys "concluded that it was an underground regulation, or one that did not go through the proper legal process," agency spokeswoman Sidonie Squier said Nov. 17. Gov. Davis approved the agency's decision, but that doesn't mean he supports adoptions by gay couples, spokesman Michael Bustamante said. "The previous administration took a position on adoptions. This administration is not," he said. "This governor has made the determination that the professionals, not the state, are best suited to decide" which couples are suitable adoptive parents.

Colorado to contest listing lesbian couple on birth certificate

DENVER (AP)—The state Attorney General's office is challenging a judge's ruling to allow two lesbians to each be listed as the natural mother on a birth certificate. In a motion filed last week, Attorney General Ken Salazar's office said Boulder District Judge Roxanne Bailin erred in ruling "a child can have two legal, natural mothers." Bailin issued the ruling in September in a case involving two women identified by the court only as Anne G. and Jane K. Anne G. was pregnant with a child she conceived through sperm implanted from an anonymous donor. Gay rights advocates cheered the ruling, saying it allows gay and lesbian couples to offer their children the same legal rights as those enjoyed by children of heterosexual couples. Barbara Lavender, the couple's attorney, said the state has allowed two women to be placed on birth certificates in the past. "We did this five years ago with same-sex adoptions," Lavender said. "The state has issued certificates with two mothers before, so they are confused now." But there is a difference, state officials say. "[This] was the first time two women [were listed] as natural mothers on the certificate," said Cynthia Honssinger, director of the Office of Legal and Regulatory Affairs for the state Department of Public Health and Environment. If Bailin refuses to reverse her order, the state registrar could take the case to the Colorado Court of Appeals.

Pa. legislature bans same-sex health benefits for college workers

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pennsylvania Legislature pushed through a bill to ban same-sex health benefits for workers at state-financed colleges and universities, potentially ending a legal fight for the University of Pittsburgh. The legislature passed the measure Nov. 16, also exempting colleges and universities from any municipal ordinance that requires institutions to provide health benefits to unmarried, same-sex partners of employees. Gov. Tom Ridge said he would sign the measure, which will take effect immediately. "The governor believes marriage is a heterosexual institution," said Tim Reeves, Ridge's spokesman. "We see what's happening in Pittsburgh as an [intrusion]... on the institution of marriage." The American Civil Liberties Union said it plans to challenge the bill in court. Since approval of the measure, the University of Pittsburgh has moved to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the school's decision to refuse to provide health benefits to same-sex partners of its staff and faculty. Opponents charged the university policy ran afoul of a city law that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation.

—From staff and wire reports

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by MELINDA SHELTON

It was a splendid fall day when the extended, and extensive, Shelton clan gathered outside the small East Texas community of McLeod. We met, more than 70 of us, at the gymnasium of the Good Exchange Baptist Church.

The occasion was joyous: Evelyn Shelton's 90th birthday.

We stood beneath towering hickory, oak and pine trees; multi-generational relatives who have taken, in some cases—especially mine—starkly different life paths. Cousins who once romped through the dense forests around our family's homestead that we called "Bebie's house," either embraced with great gusto or stood shyly aside, embarrassed to admit we didn't recognize one another.

Still, Shelton blood is thick; elapsed decades melted away like the gallons of homemade ice cream we shared as children.

My grandmother arrived to cheers befitting the family matriarch that she is. Resplendent in a brightly colored blouse, fire-engine red slacks, shoes, nails and lipstick, she laughed as she must have back when this century and she were young.

Mamaw's dimming eyes sparkled, and her thick Southern drawl became thicker and more drawling as she dispensed vivacious greetings. With a dancer's grace, she maneuvered through the crowd giving bear-hugs and lipstick-laden kisses on countless cheeks, never forgetting a great-grandchild's name, or that of yet another new grand-daughter-or

grand-son-in-law.

"Mamaw," I asked, "how's it feel to be 90?"

"Weeeeellllllll, child, I guess it feels purty good," Mamaw replied, giving me yet another breath-taking hug. And then came the predictable aside, followed by that schoolgirl laugh: "Sure beats not bein' here and not makin' 90!"

When the dinner call rang out at precisely 1 p.m., we moved inside the gymnasium to share what surely was our 1,000th—10,000th—meal together. But instead of the women folk laboring in hot kitchens with babies at their feet, my grandmother's children opted for the '90s version of a reunion: they ordered out. Trays of smoked pork, beef and sausage, topped with tangy barbecue sauce. Barbecued beans. Potato salad. Coleslaw. And loaves of white bread to sop up the barbecue sauce. A slice of heaven came that day on a paper plate.

My cousin Darren, whom I remember as a little boy with sparkling blue eyes, held his toddler son's hand and said grace. I couldn't resist a quip to my brother at the end of the lengthy prayer: "He must be Baptist." It was a good-natured insider joke from the lone Catholics in the predominantly Protestant Shelton clan.

As my eyes swept across the filled tables, I thought of my grandfather, who died a decade ago, and not long after my eight-year-old niece, Wendy. Papaw reveled in gathering his offspring together, much as my own father does to this day.

"What do you think Papaw would think about today?" I asked my grandmother.



Evelyn (left) and Melinda Shelton came together with dozens of family members in East Texas for a folksy birthday party and reunion.

For a fleeting moment, her faced saddened. Then Mamaw's eyes settled on her five sons and lone daughter, and she smiled, broadly.

"Child, I cain't say for sure, but I think he'd be havin' the time of his life, just like I am."

And then they gathered, my grandmother and her children, for a priceless family portrait: Dale, the eldest, followed by my father, Ted, then C.L., David, Linda and Mike. Remarkably, miraculously, each is in good health, particularly my aunt, who is a breast cancer survivor.

The inevitable "group shot" followed, and the sight was stunning. Mamaw's six children produced 20 grandchildren, and the grandchildren have produced, well, I can't even remember how many great-grandchildren. Suffice it to say: a couple of dozen, probably closer to three. Surprisingly, there are no great-great-grandchildren ... yet.

Next, presents were opened and the four-tiered cake my grandmother declared to be "Just grand, graaaaa-and," was cut.

As we reminisced, gossiped, and laughed—especially at the antics of my still-devilish Aunt Sue—my grandmother held court. More than once I saw her shake her head and laugh, no doubt amazed at the "fruits of her loin," as those Baptists would say.

Outside in the brilliant sunshine, my father led a tour of the Good Exchange Cemetery, where he insists that I will be laid to rest someday in one of the plots he and my mother purchased. As he walked among the tombstones bearing our family names—Shelton, Johnson, Blanchard, and others—he explained relationships—not an easy task considering the way country families

"mix and mingle," as he so delicately puts it.

I paused at our beloved great-grandmother's grave. "Cecil 'Bebie' Johnson, 1893-1983," is etched on the gray stone. Bebie (grandkids' spelling), Mamaw's mother, raised many of us, just as she helped to raise her grandchildren. Bebie was a soft-spoken woman who dispensed love as freely and predictably as the fresh-water spring that flows to this day on our family's property. I can still hear her voice, smell the Pond's beauty cream she religiously used on her smooth face, feel the soft peck on the cheek she gave to each of us.

As the sun's shadows drew long across the cemetery, I watched the Shelton clan leaving for their respective homes in Texas, Louisiana and Colorado—or a nearby campsite to do some more hunting. My still-effervescent grandmother waved and kissed and laughed and hugged all the way to the car, thrilled with her day and happy to return to the retirement community where "I live the life of Riley."

Some of us older cousins long ago talked about leaving those piney woods of East Texas for good, eager to escape what we—I—thought were backwoods ideas and ridiculously simple ways of life. And some of us did leave, myself included.

But that thick Shelton blood, mixed with my mother's, made its way through my thicker head and back to my heart.

Happy birthday, Mamaw. It's good to be home.

Melinda Shelton is editor of *IMPACT News* in New Orleans, a sister newspaper of the *Houston Voice*.





AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD

This queen don't like spiders and snakes

by SUKIE DE LA CROIX

I've seen everything now. Two doors down from my office, there's an antique store. In the window, they have an interesting item for sale in a glass box; a lesbian separatist stick insect:

"They can be found in thick bushes in tropical jungles. Their name reveals their behavior and appearance. By day they take up a motionless, rigid position, with only a movement giving them away. The Malaysian stick insect can measure up to 30 centimeters in length. They can reproduce parthenogenetically (without fertilization) with only females being developed."

You should see this thing; it's huge and very creepy. It's like something out of a bad 1950s sci-fi movie, and so far as I'm concerned, it has no place being on this planet. It's ugly, and it has to go. It's neither use nor ornament.

I mentioned this "thing" to my lover, and he said, "Did you know that the male sea horse gives birth?" Then he told me about lungfish, fish that have lungs and which waddle out of one pond and into another. Then he really creeped me out by telling me about some fossils recently found in Australia of an animal that, thankfully—so there is a God!—"died out." It was some kind of flesh-eating kangaroo. Imagine that bouncing

around and lunging at your throat!

You see, I have a terrible, morbid fear of "nature." I want the countryside to just go away and leave me alone. I date this back to my years in England, when I was twice bitten by snakes; one poisonous and the other was just bored and looking for something to do.

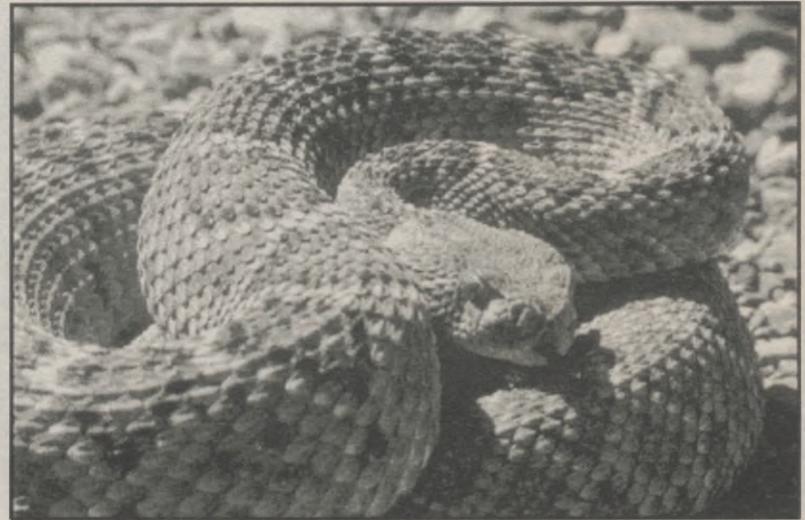
The poisonous one—a male viper—has a story behind it. It was circa 1972. I was living on a housing estate, and I had the biggest garden, which was a complete waste, as I'm the 'runt of the litter' when it comes to English people and their precious gardens. I have no interest.

My 'manicuring the lawn' neighbors (read snooty Brit bastards) were jealous of my big yard and really pissed that it looked like a jungle. I overheard them say one day, "If it was mine, I'd put a vegetable patch down that side over there, get rid of that old washing machine, maybe plant an apple tree."

Eventually, guilt got the better of me, so one day I snorted up a mind/body shattering quantity of amphetamine sulfate and ran screaming into the yard, yanking up handfuls of weeds as I went. I was the Wild Woman of Wongo.

That's when the viper got me. It only nipped my hand, but I saw its tell-tale black and white diamond back slithering away into the undergrowth. Oh I was sick!

WARNING: Snake venom, speed and



WARNING: Snake venom, speed and queeny hysterics do not mix. In fact, they clash horribly, and can put the fear of God into people working in a hospital emergency room.

queeny hysterics do not mix. In fact, they clash horribly, and can put the fear of God into people working in the emergency room at the hospital. They were backing away, waving crucifixes.

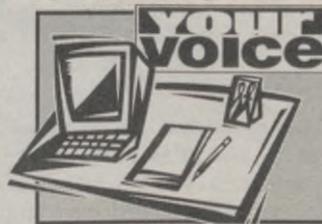
That was what really crystallized my loathing of nature. I've avoided it ever since, which is why I never go camping.

So you sit in a field in a tent—and then what? Where do I plug in my Play Station, or my electric nose-hair remover?

My ideal planet would be like Cher's tits—completely artificial and plastic. Nature would be something you watch on TV. And 30-centimeter female Malaysian stick insects who fuck themselves silly and only have girl babies would be a thing of the past.

Planet Sukie would be creepy-crawly free zone.

Sukie de la Croix is a Chicago-based freelance writer and can be reached via this publication or by e-mail, sukiecroix@aol.com



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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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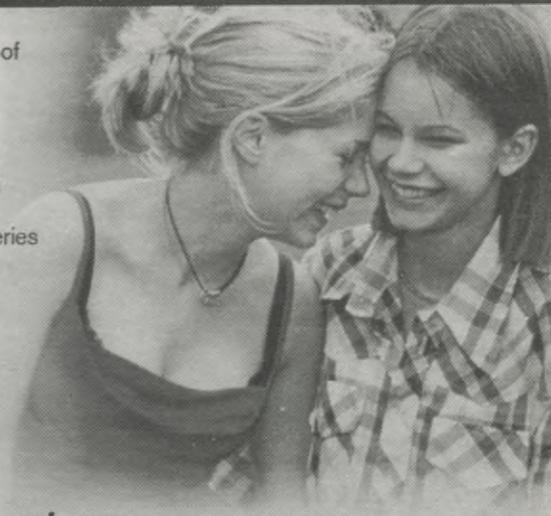
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"Quote unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and STAFF

"You can have sex with a sheep in Wyoming, just don't tie the shepherd to the fence."

—A popular Wyoming joke in the year since the murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard, who was beaten and left to die on a fencepost, as reported by JoAnn Wypijewski for *Harper's* magazine



"I would like nothing better than to see you die, Mr. McKinney. However, this is the time to begin the healing process. To show mercy to someone who refused to show any mercy. ... I give you life in the memory of one who no longer lives. May you have a long life and may you thank Matthew every day for it."

—Dennis Shepard (left), addressing his son Matthew's convicted killer, Aaron McKinney in court Nov. 4, the day McKinney was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences

"He's got a built-in gay vote, and I don't have that. It's like a fraternity."

—East Point City Council member Johnny Fowler, about his openly gay run-off opponent Bobby Carnes, in an interview with the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"My best friend is gay. So, many of my friends are. One slowly becomes sensitive to how big of a deal homophobia is."

—Actor William Macy (right), who plays the gay character Sheriff Chappy in the film "Happy, Texas," to *Boston's Bay Windows*, Oct. 7.



"Heterosexuals could not have made a bigger mess of the whole marriage thing if they had intentionally set out to do so. In fact, it often occurs to me that it would be a very good idea to just give the institution of marriage exclusively to the gay community for six or eight years and let them refurbish it, like they do with rundown neighborhoods. Then, once they've fixed it all up and made it cute and appealing again, we can have it back to defile and degrade."

—Humorist Merrill Markoe, in a Nov. 18 posting from the on-line magazine *Slate*

"I don't mind the homosexuality, I understand it. ... Nevertheless, goddamn, I don't think you glorify it on public television [on 'All In The Family'] even more than you glorify whores. We all know we have weaknesses. But, goddamn it, what do you think that does to kids? You know what happened to the Greeks! Homosexuality destroyed them. Sure, Aristotle was a homo; we all know that so was Socrates. ... You know what happened to the Romans? The last six Roman emperors were fags; neither in a public way. You know what happened to the popes? They [had sex with] the nuns, that's been goin' on for years, centuries. But the Catholic Church went to hell, three or four centuries ago. It was homosexual, and it had to be cleaned out. ... Let's look at the strong societies: the Russians. Goddamn, they root 'em out. They don't let 'em around at all. I don't know what they do with them. Look at this country. You think the Russians allow dope? Homosexuality, dope, immorality are the enemies of strong societies. That's why the communists and left-wingers are clinging to one another. They're trying to destroy us."

—From newly released tapes of former President Richard Nixon's conversations with White House advisors



"The upper class in San Francisco is that way. The Bohemian Grove [an elite, secrecy-filled gathering outside San Francisco], which I attend from time to time, it is the most faggy goddamned thing you could ever imagine with that San Francisco crowd. I can't shake hands with anybody from San Francisco."

—From newly released tapes of former President Richard Nixon's conversations with White House advisors

School superintendents to receive 'primer' on gay youth

by LAURA BROWN

A 12-page guide mailed Tuesday to the almost 15,000 public school superintendents in the U.S. will help educators create environments where all students, including gay students, can succeed to the best of their ability, organizers said.

The first-ever publication, titled "Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth," was produced by a coalition of 10 national health, mental health, education and religious organizations, including the National Education Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Association of School Administrators.

"Just the Facts" includes sections on sexual orientation development; "reparative therapy," "transformational ministries," and relevant legal principles, as well as a long list of resources.

"Reparative therapy," which attempts to change sexual orientation through psychotherapy, is based on "an understanding of homosexuality that has been rejected by all the major health and mental health professions," the books says, citing a long list of groups that "have all taken the position that homosexuality is not a mental disorder and thus there is no need for a 'cure.'"

"Transformational ministry," according to the guide, is a term used to describe attempts to change sexual orientation through religion. "Although 'transformational ministry' pro-



Kate Frankfurt, GLSEN advocacy director, helped spark the idea for the new publication when she convened a coalition of national organizations to discuss the ex-gay movement's plan to get its message into public schools.

notes the message that religious faith and acceptance of gay, lesbian and bisexual sexuality are incompatible, that message is countered by the large number of outspoken clergy and people of faith who promote love and acceptance," according to the pamphlet.

A "recent upsurge in aggressive promotion" of reparative therapy and transformational ministries prompted the creation of the publication, the primer's introduction reports.

'Protecting children' from gays

But while "Just the Facts" was only distributed on Tuesday, the guide has already

drawn heated criticism from groups supporting the idea that gay people can be changed.

"This is another attempt by the homosexual lobby to silence any views on homosexuality but its own," said Janet Parshall, spokesperson for the Family Research Council, in a press statement also released Tuesday.

"The primer does not acknowledge the unhealthy consequences of homosexuality. It presents a one-sided case that promotes homosexuality by advocating censorship for information in schools about the opportunity of individuals to experience a healthy change and leave the homosexual lifestyle," she said.

According to Parshall, "children's physical, spiritual, and mental well-being is at stake."

To counter the "Just the Facts" guide, FRC announced that it would release two publications of its own: "Top 10 Strategies Used by Homosexual Activists in Schools" and "How to Protect Your Children from Pro-Homosexuality Propaganda in Schools."

Jim Anderson, communications director for the Gay Lesbian & Straight Education Network, said the vehemence of FRC's reaction demonstrates the powerful message of the broad coalition supporting "Just the Facts."

"What I see here is the nation's educators saying clearly that when it comes to lesbian, gay and bisexual students, there is no 'other side'—period," Anderson said. "The anti-gay organizations are reacting exactly as you would expect them to, and it is unfortunate that they continue to turn students into pawns in their

anti-gay games."

GLSEN, a national non-profit organization dedicated to "teaching respect for all in our schools," began the process that led to the "Just the Facts" guide after members attended an October 1998 conference sponsored by Focus on the Family that encouraged promoting "reparative therapy" in public schools, Anderson said.

"We were highly alarmed because it represented a much more organized attempt to direct the ex-gay message to young people," he said.

After the meeting, Anderson said, GLSEN organized a meeting of national education, health and mental health organization, where GLSEN Advocacy Director Kate Frankfurt shared what was learned at the Focus on the Family conference.

"We brought them together and let them know what we had discovered, and we also spent a lot of time educating them on the issues gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth face in general," Anderson said.

GLSEN and the coalition members hope school superintendents will read "Just the Facts" themselves, then share it with other school personnel. The publication is not intended for children, Anderson said.

INFO

'Just the Facts'

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network

copies of the book are available on-line at www.glsen.org

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World Aids Day

➤ Continued from Page 1

by Germany during World War II. Between 5,000 and 15,000 were sent to concentration camps, where some were killed and others died in euthanasia programs in mental institutions. The rest went to civilian prisons.

But their punishment did not end there, Fout said.

"Once released from civilian prison, they were drafted into the Wehrmacht (German army)," he said.

Many were then assigned to "cannon fodder units," where there was slim chance of survival. These units were told not to retreat at any cost. As an aside, Fout said the American military during both World Wars dealt harshly with gays.

Raising awareness

Several other events are scheduled in Houston to mark World AIDS Day.

- AIDS Foundation Houston is sponsoring a luncheon to raise awareness and provide funds to assist those impacted by HIV/AIDS.

"It is important for Houstonians to take time out to understand that we still have an incredible problem. We are still seeing alarming increases in new HIV infection in all communities," said Sara Selber, executive director of AIDS Foundation Houston.

- The NAMES Project Houston plans three events to honor the memory of AIDS victims, including a candlelight march Nov. 30. Other events include displaying portions of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and the lighting of the Tree of Remembrance.



MATTHEW A. HENNING

Sara Selber, executive director of AIDS Foundation Houston, flanked by panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt during a World AIDS Day observance in 1998.

- Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church is hosting and co-sponsoring an ecumenical World AIDS Day workshop service Nov. 28. City Council member Annise Parker will open the service and Rev. Bruce Folker of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church will deliver the sermon.

- AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas is hosting a candlelight ceremony in Galveston's Saengerfest Park Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m. Houston Comet Sheryl Swoopes will be the guest speaker. Other guests include Congressman Nick Lampson and Galveston Mayor pro tem Danny Allen.

- Rice University's gay student organization, Pride, is sponsoring an evening of films and discussion beginning at 8 p.m. at the Kyle Morrow Room of the Rice Library. Call 713.630.8667 for more information.

- The Thomas Street Clinic will host its first

health fair Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. to provide information about HIV/AIDS and a free lunch to the first 100 people that arrive.

- The University of Houston has several events on tap, according to Shilpa Singh of the school's World AIDS Day Committee. Pieces of the Quilt will be exhibited in the World Affairs Lounge. A workshop on risky behaviors and how to lower the risk is set for 10 a.m. in the Atlantic/Pacific room in UC Underground. HIV

information will also be set up around the campus with free red AIDS ribbons available.

The Blaffer Gallery Art Museum of the University of Houston has an exhibition "Hospice: A Photographic Inquiry," showing the growing importance of hospice care. The Catholic Center will have a 5:15 p.m. mass honoring those who have died from AIDS, and KUHT Channel 8 will air a documentary on HIV/AIDS Dec. 1 at 9 a.m.

INFO

World AIDS Day Worship Service

Nov. 28, 6:30 p.m.
Resurrection MCC
1919 Decatur St.

The NAMES Project Houston

Candlelight march, quilt dedication
Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m.
4617 Montrose, Chelsea Market
713-52-NAMES
www.namesproject.org

Tree of Remembrance commemoration

Dec. 1, 6 p.m.
Metropolitan Multiservice Center
1475 West Gray

Open House

Dec. 5, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
4617 Montrose, Chelsea Market

AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas

Candlelight vigil
Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m.

Saengerfest Park, Galveston
409-770-9077

Health Fair

Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thomas Street Clinic
2015 Thomas St., 3rd floor
713-793-4026

AIDS Memorial Quilt

Dec. 1, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Texas Instruments
Building One Auditorium
12203 Southwest Freeway
Stafford

AIDS Foundation Houston

luncheon, Dec. 1
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Democrats split over gay inclusion into Civil Rights Act

> Continued from Page 1

tections or applicability, including a bill by Rev. Jackson's son, Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. (D-Illinois), and even a bill by Frank himself.

So why has Bradley's proposal garnered so much opposition?

In published reports, officials with the Gore campaign have said the Vice President's opposition to Bradley's plan has helped him with black voters worried about any threat to affirmative action.

But some observers say the difference is one based on principle and legislative strategy, and one that pits gay rights allies—and gays—against one another.

The debates and what's at stake

Despite the heat from the Democratic National Committee, whose presidential nomination he hopes to win, Bradley has stuck to his proposal to amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act, repeating it again in his Oct. 27 nationally televised debate Gore.

Asked a question about legalizing same-sex marriage, which all of the major presidential candidates oppose, Gore turned the debate back to Bradley's civil rights amendment proposal.

"I have supported the [Employment] Non-Discrimination Act in the Congress," Gore countered. "And frankly, you know, most gay and lesbian leaders, and certainly most civil rights leaders, have argued against opening up the 1964 Civil Rights Act."

Gore may be right—at least about the lack of public support for Bradley's proposal.

Of the five national gay rights organizations that responded to questions from Houston Voice about the issue—the Human Rights Campaign, the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Log Cabin Republicans, National Stonewall Democratic Federation, and the National Latino/a Lesbian & Gay Organization—none openly advocated dumping ENDA for the amending the Civil Rights Act.

Two more national gay rights groups, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum, did not respond to interview requests about the issue.

Yet despite the apparent lack of support for his proposal, Bradley elaborated on both the idea and his commitment to gay civil rights in written responses released Tuesday to questions submitted by Houston Voice.

"The issue for me has always been about equality and ending discrimination in employment, in housing, in public accommodations. ... These basic protections should be provided through the Civil Rights Act, through the Fair Housing Act, or through stand-alone legislation," Bradley said.

Bradley said his commitment to gay civil rights, including amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act, came from listening to the concerns of "gay and lesbian leaders in many



Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), the most senior openly gay member of Congress, has been one of the loudest critics of Bill Bradley's call to add sexual orientation to the Civil Rights Act.

communities around the country," as well as "what I believe is just plain common sense."

"Half measures just don't work," Bradley said, citing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which was supposed to let gays serve in the military as long as they didn't disclose their sexual orientation. Bradley has said he would allow gays to serve openly, while Gore has committed only to supporting a more "compassionate" enforcement of DADT.

Under DADT, Bradley told Houston Voice, "discrimination got worse."

"That should be a lesson for us in seeking full participation by gays and lesbians in all areas of employment, housing and public accommodations," he said. "It is unfortunate that some people have tried to divide the black and gay and lesbian communities when they both have suffered from discrimination and both should be united in the effort to end all discrimination."

When Bradley's proposal first made headlines, Gore's press secretary told Associated Press the vice president supports ENDA because "it can actually pass," but the campaign did not respond to a question from Houston Voice about whether there are other reasons for Gore's stand.

While Bradley has clearly attempted to stake out amending the Civil Rights Act as an example of where he trumps Gore on gay rights, and Gore has just as clearly attempted to counter the move, some of ENDA's strongest supporters say the current debate between the two is, in essence, no debate at all.

"A lot of this has been blown up around a very small point" that should make little

difference to gay voters, said Chai Feldblum, a Georgetown University Law School professor who helped craft the legislation that evolved into ENDA.

"Bradley's position is absolutely correct as a matter of general philosophy," Feldblum said. "His position on gay rights and non-discrimination is clear and correct that there should be federal protections."

"After that, it becomes a very 'inside the Beltway' conversation about whether to [ban discrimination] through a free-standing bill or amending the civil rights act, but the result is the very same thing."

But for others, the question of whether sexual orientation should be covered under the same law as other characteristics targeted for discrimination strikes at the core of how to view different aspects of identity.

Martin Ornelas-Quintero, executive director of the National Latino/a Lesbian & Gay Organization (LLEGO), said his organization hasn't taken a position on whether to advocate strictly for ENDA or to support opening the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

But Ornelas-Quintero said the argument that opening the Civil Rights Act to add protection for sexual orientation could weaken protections for other minorities places him in a difficult position.

"For us as queer people of color, it places us in the position of having to focus either on our ethnicity or our sexual orientation," he said. "For the long-term, it would behoove the LGBT community to be in the Civil Rights Act, but is that going to happen in the short-term? Not with this Congress."

"But I don't want to be in the position of saying my orientation has to get in the back

of the bus, while my ethnicity has every right to sit at the front of the bus," Ornelas-Quintero said.

'Separate but equal'?

In the interview with the gay magazine Advocate that started the recent debate, Bradley said he supports expanding the Civil Rights Act because "that would clearly indicate that discrimination against gays is in the same category as discrimination against other protected groups."

Yet according to Feldblum, the idea that gay people lose something by not being included in the landmark civil rights bill "is as bullshit an argument as to say that we would gain something major if we were put in."

"Does anyone for a second think that discrimination on the basis of disability is different, because it is addressed in the free-standing Americans with Disabilities Act?" she asked. "The key question is, 'Is there a federal policy against discrimination?'"

Frank turned hostile at a question from Houston Voice about whether protecting gays in a separate bill might be interpreted as a "second class" status.

"In what sense? You are thinking in irrelevant categories. How does it make it second class to give it entirely the same protections?" he said.

"Did you ever suggest that ENDA was second class status before Bill Bradley decided to run for president? Why does Bill Bradley change all of that?"

And yet the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the national organization fighting for gay civil rights in the courts, found legal significance in where within federal legislation gay protections are located.

"I definitely, on Lambda's behalf, have been one voice in this who has balked somewhat at the notion that you really send the correct message if you take the initiative to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination, but then do so in a completely separate manner than other forms of discrimination," said Beatrice Dohrn, Lambda's legal director.

"I have always felt that plays a little to the 'not quite fully equal' notion I think unfortunately a lot of people have," she said.

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INFO

Flexology

A GUIDE TO BETTER HEALTH

Beating the holiday blues

by GREG HERREN

Physically and emotionally, the big year-end holidays take a toll on our psyches.

Traditional imagery fed to American society by the media frequently focuses on the nuclear family and "traditional" holiday fare: the entire family gathering for a huge celebration, dining tables groaning beneath the weight of enough food to feed a Third World nation, laughter, egg nog, pumpkin pie and "It's a wonderful Life."

The intent is to make you want to run out and spend all of your money on food and gifts. Unfortunately, the side effect is that it can lead to severe depression. Not being able to buy gifts can lead to feelings of failure. Not being with the family can lead to depression.

Funny how what's supposed to be a joyous time has the highest suicide rate of the year. Even those who have the traditional style holiday season can end up feeling depressed. This comes from over-indulgence in food and alcohol.

On Dec. 26, people step on their scales and start that downward spiral into depression about their health. "My God, I've gained 10 pounds." And since the media have successfully tied weight and body image to self-esteem, naturally, a weight gain results in lower self-esteem and depression. This generally leads to New Year's resolutions that lead to higher gym memberships and more personal training clients—and higher sales of diet books and videos, and get-it-quick empty promises.

First of all, don't buy into the insanity that you aren't going to gain weight during the holidays, that there's some fail-safe method to keep pounds off. It's going to happen, unless you watch your calories during the feasting. What fun is that?

Keep in mind, too, that winter is a colder period of the year, so metabolisms are slowing down in an attempt to preserve body fat and keep the organs warm and operating. If you ate a traditional, huge family holiday dinner in August, for example, you might gain a pound or two, if that.

Your metabolism runs faster in the hot months in an attempt to burn off some fat to keep the body cool. Eating that same meal in the winter will add more pounds as the body tries to stay warm and healthy.

The best way to keep from gaining weight during this period is regular exercise. Take a long walk after the meal. This will kick-start your metabolism and start burning calories that the body might try to preserve and store. Do some crunches before you go to bed. This will help to burn off calories that during your sleep might turn into fat.

If you are not with your family or loved ones during the holidays, don't binge eat. Many Americans find comfort in food. How



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A little calorie watching and exercise will help keep those unwanted holiday pounds from expanding your waistline.

many times have I heard someone say that the only thing that can cheer them up is a gallon of ice cream or a cheesecake? Eat sensibly.

If you have to be alone for the holidays, make sensible meals with special treats that you wouldn't ordinarily have. Rather than focusing on thoughts like "I'm alone; nobody loves me; why am I such a loser," use the time to focus on yourself. Do things for yourself that you wouldn't ordinarily do.

When I used to be alone on Thanksgiving or Christmas, I treated myself to what I called a "day of Greg." I gave myself a facial. I hot-oil treated my hair. I focused on ways to improve the quality of my life. I rented movies that none of my friends ever wanted to see. I caught up on my reading. I looked at the positive things I had going on in my life.

Just remember: the holidays aren't just about food. The holidays are a time when we should reflect on our lives and be grateful for the good, positive things. Don't focus on the negative. The negative leads to depression and unhealthy attitudes. Stay positive.

Being alone is not the end of the world. Neither is gaining a few pounds. Take some walks, stay positive, and focus on the good in your life.

Greg Herren is a personal trainer who has written on fitness issues for several gay publications. He can be reached at alexiukr@aol.com, or through this publication.

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A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

'Flawless'

'Boogie Nights' actor
garners high praise
for tranny role,
discovers a new
empathy and respect
for drag queens and
transsexuals

by EARL DITTMAN

He may not be a household name with movie-goers at the moment, but by the time we collectively usher in the next millennium, Philip Seymour Hoffman should be as recognizable as Tom Cruise.

Between now and the end of the year, the actor best known for his supporting roles in "Boogie Nights," "Patch Adams" and "Happiness" will be gracing silver screens with three dazzling, diverse performances in a trio of highly-anticipated motion pictures: Paul Thomas Anderson's "Magnolia," Anthony Minghella's "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and director Joel Schumacher's "Flawless."

"I'm sure people are probably thinking, 'Is he the only actor left in Hollywood?'" Hoffman said with a laugh. "I guess I've just been lucky to have been cast in some really good films. And, the fact that they are all coming out at the same time—during what Hollywood calls 'Oscar Season'—just means that a lot of other people have a feeling they're really good pictures, too."

While his turns in "Magnolia" and "The Talented Mr. Ripley" already have critics touting him as a likely Best Supporting Actor nominee at next year's Academy Awards, it's his starring role (opposite Robert DeNiro) as Rusty, a pre-operative transsexual, in "Flawless" that has most of Hollywood singing his praises.

"There have been some great male performances this year, but none of them even come close to Philip's portrayal in 'Flawless'—he's a totally different person," William H. Macy, Hoffman's co-star in "Magnolia" and "Boogie Nights," said. "I've known Philip for a long time now, and he's the straightest, most 'butch' guy I know. But, he's so incredibly believable in the role. When he's up on the screen in a dress, I have to admit I even think he's a woman."

"Flawless," written and directed by gay filmmaker Joel Schumacher ("Batman and Robin," "A Time To Kill"), is the story of a flamboyant, street-hardened drag club emcee who reluctantly agrees to give voice lessons to his ailing neighbor, an ultraconservative security guard who has suffered a stroke, in order to help him regain his power of speech. It's an endearing, yet, powerful tale about trust and acceptance between two men from vastly different worlds.

"In the simplest terms, 'Flawless' is really about what it means to be a man, regardless of what you look or act like on the outside," Schumacher said. "In a lot of ways, the two main characters are very much alike, even though they don't appear that way on the surface. They are both lonely people, disconnected from the rest of the world. Although they can't stand one another in the beginning, as the story progresses, they both realize they are really kindred spirits."

From the beginning, Schumacher knew that Robert DeNiro

> Continued on page 26

ANDREW SCHWARTZ/SM/SP

Philip Seymour Hoffman, who considers himself a 'pretty rugged guy,' says he doesn't think he's tough enough to be someone like his character Rusty, a pre-op transsexual.

No JUSTICE No reprieve

by DAVID GOLDMAN

November 27, 1978, is a date deeply burned into the heart of gay history. That day in San Francisco, the nation's first openly gay elected official became the U.S. gay movement's first national martyr.

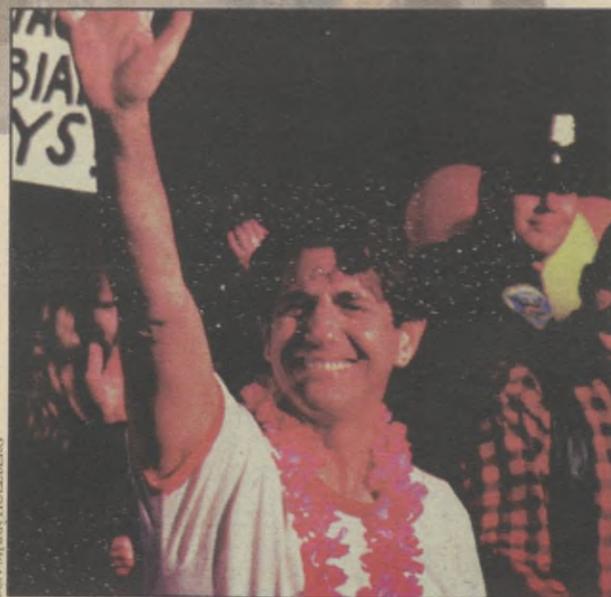
Harvey Milk (who had united the city's fledgling gay community to win a seat on the city's board of supervisors) and Mayor George Moscone (whose election sig-

Not even telling the story from his point of view—as in Showtime's new 'Execution of Justice' on Sunday—can redeem the image of double-murderer Dan White

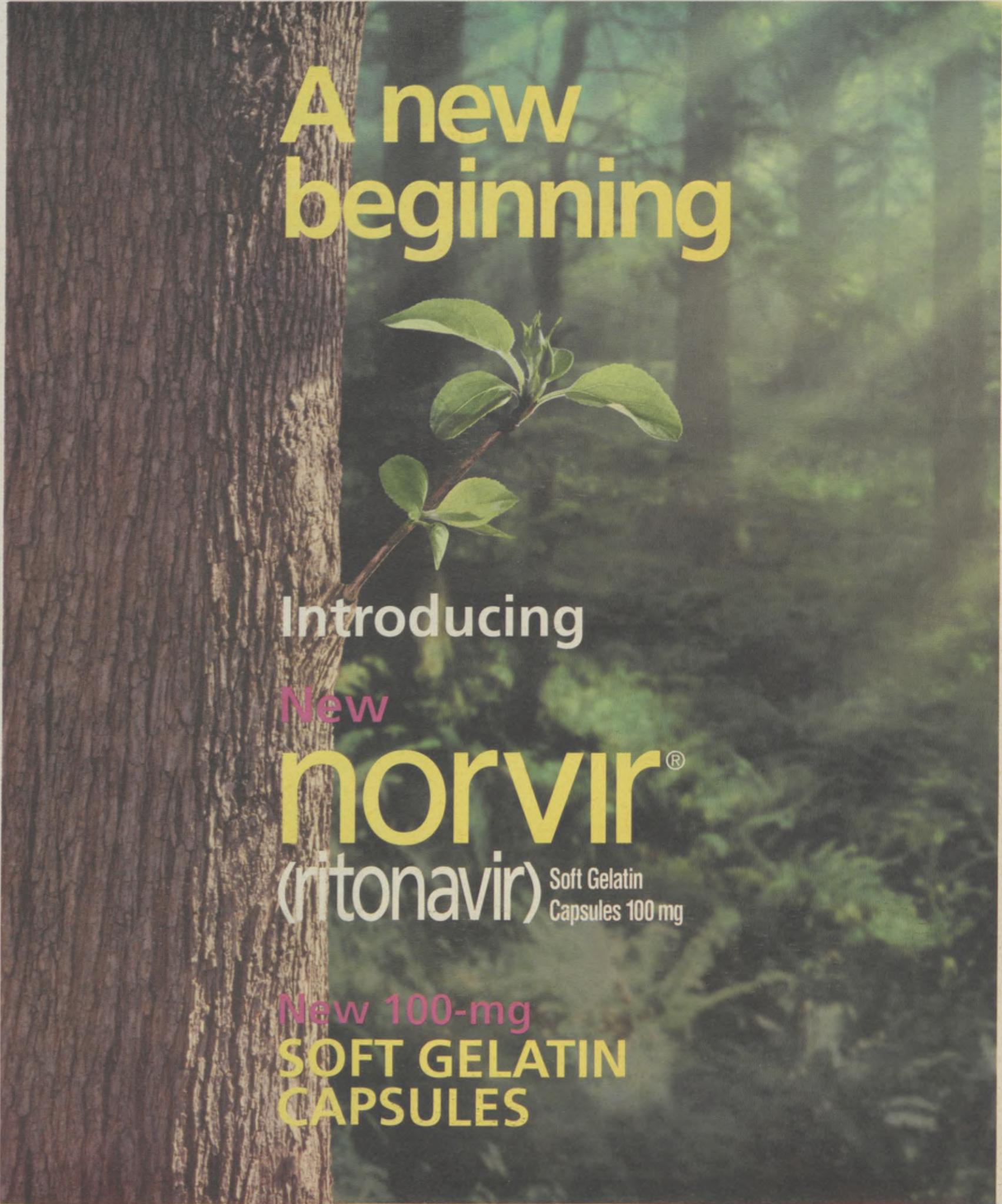
naled a shift toward liberalism in city government) were both assassinated in cold blood that Monday morning by former Supervisor Dan White.

Milk had been unknown to most Americans that morning, but by the evening millions across the country knew his name. National news reports included the information that Milk had won with strong backing

> Continued on page 27



Peter Coyote as Harvey Milk, the San Francisco supervisor assassinated in 1978.



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- NORVIR is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral medications for the treatment of HIV-infection.¹
- This indication is based on the results from a study in patients with advanced HIV disease that showed a reduction in both mortality and AIDS-defining clinical events for patients who received NORVIR either alone or in combination with nucleoside analogues.¹
- NORVIR is not a cure for HIV infection. People treated with NORVIR may continue to acquire illnesses associated with advanced HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Long-term effects of NORVIR are unknown. NORVIR has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others.¹

SAFETY PROFILE

- NORVIR may not be right for everyone, including people with liver disease, hepatitis, or hemophilia. Redistribution/accumulation of body fat has been observed in patients receiving protease inhibitors. Elevated blood sugar levels have been reported in patients taking protease inhibitors. Allergic reactions ranging from mild to severe have been reported. Pancreatitis has been observed in patients receiving NORVIR therapy, including those who developed high triglycerides.¹
- Common adverse reactions include fatigue, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, taste disturbance, tingling sensation or numbness in the hands, feet, or around the lips, headache, and dizziness.¹
- NORVIR should not be used with certain nonsedating antihistamines, sedative/hypnotics, antiarrhythmics, or ergot alkaloids.¹

DOSING INFORMATION

- NORVIR should be started at no less than 300 mg twice daily and increased at 2 to 3 day intervals by 100 mg twice daily up to 600 mg twice daily.¹
- If saquinavir and NORVIR are used in combination, the dosage of saquinavir should be reduced to 400 mg twice daily.¹
- The optimum dosage for NORVIR (400 mg or 600 mg twice daily), in combination with saquinavir, has not been determined; however, the combination regimen was better tolerated in patients who received NORVIR 400 mg twice daily.¹
- Take NORVIR every day as prescribed.¹

References: 1. NORVIR® package insert, Abbott Laboratories. 2. Data on file, R.P. Scherer North America. Please see brief summary of prescribing information on adjacent page.

BRIEF SUMMARY CONSULT PACKAGE INSERT FOR FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

NORVIR®

(ritonavir capsules) Soft Gelatin
(ritonavir oral solution)

WARNING
CO-ADMINISTRATION OF NORVIR WITH CERTAIN NONSEDATING ANTIHISTAMINES, SEDATIVE HYPNOTICS, ANTIARRHYTHMICS, OR ERGOT ALKALOID PREPARATIONS MAY RESULT IN POTENTIALLY SERIOUS AND/OR LIFE-THREATENING ADVERSE EVENTS DUE TO POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF NORVIR ON THE HEPATIC METABOLISM OF CERTAIN DRUGS. SEE **CONTRAINDICATIONS** AND **PRECAUTIONS** SECTIONS.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

NORVIR is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to ritonavir or any of its ingredients.

NORVIR should not be administered concurrently with the drugs listed in Table 1 (also see **PRECAUTIONS** Table 2: Contraindicated Drugs) because competition for primarily CYP3A by ritonavir could result in inhibition of the metabolism of these drugs and create the potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions such as cardiac arrhythmias, prolonged or increased sedation, and respiratory depression.

Postmarketing reports indicate that co-administration of ritonavir with ergotamine or dihydroergotamine has been associated with acute ergot toxicity characterized by peripheral vasospasm and ischemia of the extremities.

Drug Class	Drugs Within Class That Are CONTRAINDICATED With NORVIR
Antiarrhythmics	amiodarone, bepridil, flecainide, propafenone, quinidine
Antihistamines	astemizole, terfenadine
Antimigraine	dihydroergotamine, ergotamine
Sedative/hypnotics	midazolam, triazolam
GI motility agent	cisapride
Neuroleptic	pimozide

WARNINGS

Drug Interactions

The magnitude of the interactions and therapeutic consequences between ritonavir and the drugs listed in Table 2 **Predicted Drug Interactions: Use With Caution** cannot be predicted with any certainty. When co-administering ritonavir with any agent listed in Table 2 **Predicted Drug Interactions: Use With Caution**, special attention is warranted.

Cardiac and neurologic events have been reported with ritonavir when co-administered with disopyramide, mexiletine, nefazodone, fluoxetine and beta blockers. The possibility of drug interaction cannot be excluded.

Particular caution should be used when prescribing sildenafil in patients receiving NORVIR. Co-administration of NORVIR with sildenafil is expected to substantially increase sildenafil concentrations (11-fold increase in AUC) and may result in an increase in sildenafil-associated adverse events, including hypotension, syncope, visual changes, and prolonged erection (see **PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions**, Table 2 **Established Drug Interactions: Alteration in Dose or Regimen Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies** and the complete prescribing information for sildenafil).

Allergic Reactions

Allergic reactions including urticaria, mild skin eruptions, bronchospasm, and angioedema have been reported. Rare cases of anaphylaxis and Stevens-Johnson syndrome have also been reported.

Hepatic Reactions

Hepatic transaminase elevations exceeding 5 times the upper limit of normal, clinical hepatitis, and jaundice have occurred in patients receiving NORVIR alone or in combination with other antiretroviral drugs (see Table 4). There may be an increased risk for transaminase elevations in patients with underlying hepatitis B or C. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering NORVIR to patients with pre-existing liver diseases, liver enzyme abnormalities, or hepatitis. Increased AST/ALT monitoring should be considered in these patients, especially during the first three months of NORVIR treatment.

There have been postmarketing reports of hepatic dysfunction, including some fatalities. These have generally occurred in patients taking multiple concomitant medications and/or with advanced AIDS.

Pancreatitis

Pancreatitis has been observed in patients receiving NORVIR therapy, including those who developed hypertriglyceridemia. In some cases fatalities have been observed. Patients with advanced HIV disease may be at increased risk of elevated triglycerides and pancreatitis.

Pancreatitis should be considered if clinical symptoms (nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain) or abnormalities in laboratory values (such as increased serum lipase or amylase values) suggestive of pancreatitis should occur. Patients who exhibit these signs or symptoms should be evaluated and NORVIR therapy should be discontinued if a diagnosis of pancreatitis is made.

Diabetes Mellitus/Hyperglycemia

New onset diabetes mellitus, exacerbation of pre-existing diabetes mellitus, and hyperglycemia have been reported during postmarketing surveillance in HIV-infected patients receiving protease inhibitor therapy. Some patients required either initiation or dose adjustments of insulin or oral hypoglycemic agents for treatment of these events. In some cases, diabetic ketoacidosis has occurred. In those patients who discontinued protease inhibitor therapy, hyperglycemia persisted in some cases. Because these events have been reported voluntarily during clinical practice, estimates of frequency cannot be made and a causal relationship between protease inhibitor therapy and these events has not been established.

PRECAUTIONS

General

Ritonavir is principally metabolized by the liver. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering this drug to patients with impaired hepatic function (see **WARNINGS**).

Resistance/Cross-resistance

Varying degrees of cross-resistance among protease inhibitors have been observed. Continued administration of ritonavir therapy following loss of viral suppression may increase the likelihood of cross-resistance to other protease inhibitors.

Hemophilia

There have been reports of increased bleeding, including spontaneous skin hematomas and hemarthrosis, in patients with hemophilia type A and B treated with protease inhibitors. In some patients additional factor VIII was given. In more than half of the reported cases, treatment with protease inhibitors was continued or reintroduced. A causal relationship has not been established.

Fat Redistribution

Redistribution/accumulation of body fat including central obesity, dorsocervical fat enlargement (buffalo hump), peripheral wasting, breast enlargement, and "cushingoid appearance" have been observed in patients receiving protease inhibitors. The mechanism and long-term consequences of these events are currently unknown. A causal relationship has not been established.

Lipid Disorders

Treatment with NORVIR therapy alone or in combination with saquinavir has resulted in substantial increases in the concentration of total triglycerides and cholesterol. Triglyceride and cholesterol testing should be performed prior to initiating NORVIR therapy and at periodic intervals during therapy. Lipid disorders should be managed as clinically appropriate. See **PRECAUTIONS** Table 2 for additional information on potential drug interactions with NORVIR and HMG CoA reductase inhibitors.

Information For Patients

Patients should be informed that NORVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with advanced HIV infection, including opportunistic infections.

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

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

Since NORVIR interacts with some drugs when taken together, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications, including prescription and nonprescription drugs.

Patients should be informed that redistribution or accumulation of body fat may occur in patients receiving protease inhibitors and that the cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Laboratory Tests

Ritonavir has been shown to increase triglycerides, cholesterol, SGOT (AST), SGPT (ALT), GGT, CPK, and uric acid. Appropriate laboratory testing should be performed prior to initiating NORVIR therapy and at periodic intervals or if any clinical signs or symptoms occur during therapy. For comprehensive information concerning laboratory test alterations associated with nucleoside analogues, physicians should refer to the complete product information for each of these drugs.

Drug Interactions

Ritonavir has been found to be an inhibitor of cytochrome P450 3A (CYP3A) both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Agents that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A and have high first pass metabolism appear to be the most susceptible to large increases in AUC (>3-fold) when co-administered with ritonavir. Ritonavir also inhibits CYP2D6 to a lesser extent. Co-administration of substrates of CYP2D6 with ritonavir could result in increases (up to 2-fold) in the AUC of the other agent, possibly requiring a proportional dosage reduction. Ritonavir also appears to induce CYP3A as well as other enzymes, including glucuronosyl transferase, CYP1A2, and possibly CYP2C9.

Drugs that are contraindicated specifically due to the expected magnitude of interaction and potential for serious adverse events are listed both in **CONTRAINDICATIONS** Table 1 and under **Contraindicated Drugs** in Table 2. The clinical recommendations based on the results of these studies are listed in Table 2 **Established Drug Interactions: Alteration in Dose or Regimen Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies**.

A systematic review of over 200 medications prescribed to HIV-infected patients was performed to identify potential drug interactions with ritonavir. There are a number of agents in which CYP3A or CYP2D6 partially contribute to the metabolism of the agent. In these cases, the magnitude of the interaction and therapeutic consequences cannot be predicted with any certainty.

When co-administering ritonavir with calcium channel blockers, immunosuppressants, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, some steroids, or other substrates of CYP3A, or most antidepressants, certain antiarrhythmics, and some narcotic analgesics which are partially mediated by CYP2D6 metabolism, it is possible that substantial increases in concentrations of these other agents may occur, possibly requiring a dosage reduction (>50%); examples are listed in Table 2 **Predicted Drug Interactions: Use With Caution, Dose Decrease May Be Needed**.

When co-administering ritonavir with any agent having a narrow therapeutic margin, such as anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, and antiarrhythmics, special attention is warranted. With some agents, the metabolism may be induced, resulting in decreased concentrations (see Table 2 **Predicted Drug Interactions: Use With Caution, Dose Increase May Be Needed**).

Table 2
Drug Interactions With NORVIR
CONTRAINDICATED DRUGS
(Same as Table 1)

Drug Class	Drugs Within Class That Are CONTRAINDICATED With NORVIR
Antiarrhythmics	amiodarone, bepridil, flecainide, propafenone, quinidine
Antihistamines	astemizole, terfenadine
Antimigraine	dihydroergotamine, ergotamine
Sedative/hypnotics	midazolam, triazolam
GI motility agent	cisapride
Neuroleptic	pimozide

Established Drug Interactions: Alteration in Dose or Regimen Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies

Drug Name	Effect	Clinical Comment
Clarithromycin	↑ clarithromycin concentration	For patients with renal impairment the following dosage adjustments should be considered: • For patients with Cl_{CR} 30 to 60 mL/min the dose of clarithromycin should be reduced by 50%. • For patients with Cl_{CR} < 30 mL/min the dose of clarithromycin should be decreased by 75%. No dose adjustment for patients with normal renal function is necessary.
Desipramine	↑ desipramine concentration	Dosage reduction and concentration monitoring of desipramine is recommended.
Didanosine		Dosing of didanosine and ritonavir should be separated by 2.5 hours to avoid formulation incompatibility.
Disulfiram/Metronidazole		Ritonavir formulations contain alcohol, which can produce disulfiram-like reactions when co-administered with disulfiram or other drugs that produce this reaction (e.g., metronidazole).
Indinavir	↑ indinavir concentration	Appropriate doses for this combination, with respect to efficacy and safety, have not been established.
Ketoconazole	↑ ketoconazole concentration	High doses of ketoconazole (>200 mg/day) are not recommended.
Meperidine	↓ meperidine concentration/ ↑ normeperidine concentration (metabolite)	Dosage increase and long-term use of meperidine with ritonavir are not recommended due to the increased concentrations of the metabolite normeperidine which has both analgesic activity and CNS stimulant activity (e.g., seizures).
Methadone	↓ methadone concentration	Dosage increase of methadone may be considered.
Oral Contraceptives	↓ ethinyl estradiol concentration	Dosage increase or alternate contraceptive measures should be considered.
Ribavirin	↑ ribavirin and ribavirin metabolite concentration	Dosage reduction of ribavirin by at least three-quarters of the usual dose of 300 mg/day is recommended (e.g., 150 mg every other day or three times a week). Further dosage reduction may be necessary.
Ritampin	↓ ritonavir concentration	Alternate antimicrobial agents such as rifabutin should be considered (see Ribavirin, for dose reduction recommendations).
Saquinavir	↑ saquinavir concentration	When used in combination therapy for up to 24 weeks, doses of 400 mg b.i.d. of ritonavir and saquinavir were better tolerated than the higher doses of the combination. Saquinavir plasma concentrations achieved with Invirase® (saquinavir mesylate) (400 mg b.i.d.) and ritonavir (400 mg b.i.d.) are similar to those achieved with Fortovase™ (saquinavir) (400 mg b.i.d.) and ritonavir (400 mg b.i.d.). Sildenafil should not exceed a maximum single dose of 25 mg in a 48-hour period in patients receiving concomitant ritonavir therapy (see WARNINGS).
Theophylline	↓ theophylline concentration	Increased dosage of theophylline may be required; therapeutic monitoring should be considered.

Predicted Drug Interactions: Use With Caution,
Dose Decrease of Coadministered Drug May Be Needed
(see **WARNINGS**)

Drug Class	Examples of Drugs
Analgesics, narcotic	tramadol, propoxyphene
Antiarrhythmics	disopyramide, lidocaine, mexiletine
Anticonvulsants	carbamazepine, clobazepam, ethosuximide
Antidepressants	bupropion, nefazodone, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), tricyclics
Antiemetics	dronabinol
Antiparasitics	quinine
β-blockers	metoprolol, timolol
Calcium channel blockers	diltiazem, nifedipine, verapamil
Hypolipemics, HMG CoA reductase inhibitors	atorvastatin, cerivastatin, lovastatin, simvastatin
Immunosuppressants	cyclosporine, tacrolimus
Neuroleptics	perphenazine, risperidone, thioridazine
Sedative/hypnotics	clorazepate, diazepam, estazolam, flurazepam, zolpidem
Steroids	dexamethasone, prednisone
Stimulants	methamphetamine

Predicted Drug Interactions: Use With Caution,
Dose Increase of Coadministered Drug May Be Needed
(see **WARNINGS**)

Drug Class	Examples of Drugs
Anticoagulants	warfarin
Anticonvulsants	phenytoin, divalproex, lamotrigine
Antiparasitics	atovaquone

Post-Marketing Experience with Drugs Listed in Table 2

Cardiac and neurologic events have been reported when ritonavir has been co-administered with disopyramide, mexiletine, nefazodone, fluoxetine, and beta blockers. The possibility of drug interaction cannot be excluded.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

Long-term carcinogenicity studies of ritonavir in animal systems have not been completed. However, ritonavir was not mutagenic or clastogenic in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including bacterial reverse mutation (Ames) using *S. typhimurium* and *E. coli*, mouse lymphoma, mouse micronucleus, and chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes.

Pregnancy, Fertility, and Reproduction

Pregnancy Category B. Ritonavir produced no effects on fertility in rats at drug exposures approximately 40% (male) and 60% (female) of that achieved with the proposed therapeutic dose. Higher dosages were not feasible due to hepatic toxicity.

No treatment-related malformations were observed when ritonavir was administered to pregnant rats or rabbits. Developmental toxicity observed in rats (early resorptions, decreased fetal body weight and ossification delays and developmental variations) occurred at a maternally toxic dosage at an exposure equivalent to approximately 30% of that achieved with the proposed therapeutic dose. A slight increase in the incidence of cryptorchidism was also noted in rats at an exposure approximately 22% of that achieved with the proposed therapeutic dose.

Developmental toxicity observed in rabbits (resorptions, decreased litter size and decreased fetal weights) also occurred at a maternally toxic dosage equivalent to 1.8 times the proposed therapeutic dose based on a body surface area conversion factor.

There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers: It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when ritonavir is administered to a nursing woman. However, the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breast-feed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not be infected.

Pediatric Use

The safety and pharmacokinetic profile of ritonavir in pediatric patients below the age of 2 years have not been established. In HIV-infected patients age 2 to 16 years, the adverse event profile seen during a clinical trial and postmarketing experience was similar to that for adult patients. The evaluation of the antiviral activity of ritonavir in pediatric patients in clinical trials is ongoing.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The safety of NORVIR alone and in combination with nucleoside analogues was studied in 1270 patients. Table 3 lists treatment-emergent adverse events (at least possibly related and of at least moderate intensity) that occurred in 2% or greater of patients receiving NORVIR alone or in combination with nucleosides in Study 245 or Study 247 and in combination with saquinavir in ongoing Study 462. The most frequently reported clinical adverse events, other than asthenia, among patients receiving NORVIR

were gastrointestinal and neurological disturbances including nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, anorexia, abdominal pain, taste perversion, and circumoral and peripheral paresthesias. Similar adverse event profiles were reported in patients receiving ritonavir in other trials.

Table 3
Percentage of Patients with Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events¹ of Moderate or Severe Intensity Occurring in ≥ 2% of Patients Receiving NORVIR

Adverse Events	Study 245 Naive Patients ²			Study 247 Advanced Patients ³		Study 462 PI-Naive Patients ⁴
	NORVIR + ZDV n = 116	NORVIR n = 117	ZDV n = 119	NORVIR n = 541	Placebo n = 545	NORVIR + Saquinavir n = 141
Body as a Whole						
Abdominal Pain	5.2	6.0	5.9	8.3	5.1	2.1
Asthenia	28.4	10.3	11.8	15.3	6.4	16.3
Fever	1.7	0.9	1.7	5.0	2.4	0.7
Headache	7.8	6.0	6.7	6.5	5.7	4.3
Malaise	5.2	1.7	3.4	0.7	0.2	2.8
Pain (unspecified)	0.9	1.7	0.8	2.2	1.8	4.3
Cardiovascular						
Syncope	0.9	1.7	0.8	0.6	0.0	2.1
Vasodilation	3.4	1.7	0.8	1.7	0.0	3.5
Digestive						
Anorexia	8.6	1.7	4.2	7.8	4.2	4.3
Constipation	3.4	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.4	1.4
Diarrhea	25.0	15.4	2.5	23.3	7.9	22.7
Dyspepsia	2.5	0.0	1.7	5.9	1.5	0.7
Fecal Incontinence	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8
Flatulence	2.6	0.9	1.7	1.7	0.7	3.5
Local Throat Irritation	0.9	1.7	0.8	2.8	0.4	1.4
Nausea	46.6	25.6	26.1	29.8	8.4	18.4
Vomiting	23.3	13.7	12.6	17.4	4.4	7.1
Metabolic and Nutritional						
Weight Loss	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	1.7	0.0
Musculoskeletal						
Arthralgia	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.7	2.1
Myalgia	1.7	1.7	0.8	2.4	1.1	2.1
Nervous						
Anxiety	0.9	0.0	0.8	1.7	0.9	2.1
Circumoral Paresthesia	5.2	3.4	0.0	6.7	0.4	6.4
Confusion	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.6	0.6	2.1
Depression	1.7	1.7	2.5	1.7	0.7	7.1
Dizziness	5.2	2.6	3.4	3.9	1.1	8.5
Insomnia	3.4	2.6	0.8	2.0	1.8	2.8
Paresthesia	5.2	2.6	0.0	3.0	0.4	2.1
Peripheral Paresthesia	0.0	6.0	0.8	5.0	1.1	5.7
Somnolence	2.6	2.6	0.0	2.4	0.2	0.0
Thinking Abnormal	2.6	0.0	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.7
Respiratory						
Pharyngitis	0.9	2.6	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.4
Skin and Appendages						
Rash	0.9	0.0	0.8	3.5	1.5	0.7
Sweating	3.4	2.6	1.7	1.7	1.1	2.8
Special Senses						
Taste Perversion	17.2	11.1	8.4	7.0	2.2	5.0
Urogenital						
Nocturia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.8

¹ Includes those adverse events at least possibly related to study drug or of unknown relationship and excludes concurrent HIV conditions.
² The median duration of treatment for patients randomized to regimens containing NORVIR in Study 245 was 9.1 months.
³ The median duration of treatment for patients randomized to regimens containing NORVIR in Study 247 was 9.4 months.
⁴ The median duration of treatment for patients in ongoing Study 462 was 48 weeks.

Adverse events occurring in less than 2% of patients receiving NORVIR in all phase II/phase III studies and considered at least possibly related or of unknown relationship to treatment and of at least moderate intensity are listed below by body system.
Body as a Whole: Abdomen enlarged, accidental injury, allergic reaction, back pain, cachexia, chest pain, chills, facial edema, facial pain, flu syndrome, hormone level altered, hypothermia, kidney pain, neck pain, neck rigidity, pelvic pain, photosensitivity reaction, and substernal chest pain.
Cardiovascular System: Cardiovascular disorder, cerebral ischemia, cerebral venous thrombosis, hypertension, hypotension, migraine, myocardial infarct, palpitation, peripheral vascular disorder, phlebitis, postural hypotension, tachycardia and vasospasm.

Digestive System: Abnormal stools, bloody diarrhea, cheilitis, cholestatic jaundice, colitis, dry mouth, dysphagia, eructation, esophageal ulcer, esophagitis, gastritis, gastroenteritis, gastrointestinal disorder, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, gingivitis, hepatic coma, hepatitis, hepatomegaly, hepatosplenomegaly, ileus, liver damage, melena, mouth ulcer, pancreatitis, pseudomembranous colitis, rectal disorder, rectal hemorrhage, sialadenitis, stomatitis, tenesmus, thirst, tongue edema, and ulcerative colitis.
Endocrine System: Adrenal cortex insufficiency and diabetes mellitus.
Hemic and Lymphatic System: Acute myeloblastic leukemia, anemia, ecchymosis, leukopenia, lymphadenopathy, lymphocytosis, myeloproliferative disorder, and thrombocytopenia.

Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders: Albuminuria, alcohol intolerance, avitaminosis, BUN increased, dehydration, edema, enzymatic abnormality, glycosuria, gout, hypercholesterolemia, peripheral edema, and xanthomatosis.

Musculoskeletal System: Arthritis, arthrosis, bone disorder, bone pain, extracocular palsy, joint disorder, leg cramps, muscle cramps, muscle weakness, myositis, and twitching.

Nervous System: Abnormal dreams, abnormal gait, agitation, amnesia, aphasia, ataxia, coma, convulsion, dementia, depersonalization, diplopia, emotional lability, euphoria, grand mal convulsion, hallucinations, hyperesthesia, hyperkinesia, hyposthesia, incoordination, libido decreased, manic reaction, nervousness, neuralgia, neuropathy, paralysis, peripheral neuropathic pain, peripheral neuropathy, peripheral sensory neuropathy, personality disorder, sleep disorder, speech disorder, stupor, subdural hematoma, tremor, urinary retention, vertigo, and vestibular disorder.
Respiratory System: Asthma, bronchitis, dyspnea, epistaxis, hiccup, hypoventilation, increased cough, interstitial pneumonia, larynx edema, lung disorder, rhinitis, and sinusitis.

Skin and Appendages: Acne, contact dermatitis, dry skin, eczema, erythema multiforme, exfoliative dermatitis, folliculitis, fungal dermatitis, furunculosis, maculopapular rash, molluscum contagiosum, onychomycosis, pruritus, psoriasis, pustular rash, seborrhea, skin discoloration, skin disorder, skin hypertrophy, skin melanoma, urticaria, and vesiculobullous rash.

Special Senses: Abnormal electro-oculogram, abnormal electroretinogram, abnormal vision, amblyopia/blurred vision, blepharitis, conjunctivitis, ear pain, eye disorder, eye pain, hearing impairment, increased cerumen, iritis, parosmia, photophobia, taste loss, tinnitus, uveitis, visual field defect, and vitreous disorder.

Urogenital System: Acute kidney failure, breast pain, cystitis, dysuria, hematuria, impotence, kidney calculus, kidney failure, kidney function abnormal, kidney pain, menorrhagia, penis disorder, polyuria, urethritis, urinary frequency, urinary tract infection, and vaginitis.

Post-Marketing Experience: There have been postmarketing reports of seizure. Cause and effect relationship has not been established.

Dehydration, usually associated with gastrointestinal symptoms, and sometimes resulting in hypotension, syncope, or renal insufficiency has been reported. Syncope, orthostatic hypotension, and renal insufficiency have also been reported without known dehydration.

Redistribution/accumulation of body fat has been reported (see **PRECAUTIONS, Fat Redistribution**). There have been reports of increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia A or B (see **PRECAUTIONS, Hemophilia**).

Laboratory Abnormalities
 Table 4 shows the percentage of patients who developed marked laboratory abnormalities.

Table 4
Percentage of Patients, by Study and Treatment Group, with Chemistry and Hematology Abnormalities Occurring in > 3% of Patients Receiving NORVIR

Variable	Limit	Study 245 Naive Patients			Study 247 Advanced Patients		Study 462 PI-Naive Patients
		NORVIR + ZDV	NORVIR	ZDV	NORVIR	Placebo	NORVIR + Saquinavir
Chemistry	High						
Cholesterol	>240 mg/dL	30.7	44.8	9.3	35.5	8.0	65.2
CPK	>1000 IU/L	9.6	12.1	11.0	9.1	6.3	9.9
GGT	>300 IU/L	1.6	5.2	1.7	19.6	11.3	9.2
SGOT (AST)	>180 IU/L	5.3	9.5	2.5	6.4	7.0	7.8
SGPT (ALT)	>215 IU/L	5.3	7.8	3.4	8.5	4.4	9.2
Triglycerides	>800 mg/dL	9.6	17.2	3.4	33.6	9.4	23.4
Triglycerides	>1500 mg/dL	1.8	2.6	-	12.6	0.4	11.3
Triglycerides Fasting	>1500 mg/dL	1.5	1.3	-	9.9	0.3	-
Uric Acid	>12 mg/dL	-	-	-	3.6	0.2	1.4
Hematology	Low						
Hematocrit	<30%	2.6	-	0.8	17.3	22.0	0.7
Hemoglobin	<8.0 g/dL	0.9	-	-	3.8	3.9	-
Neutrophils	±0.5 × 10 ⁹ /L	-	-	-	6.0	8.3	-
RBC	<3.0 × 10 ¹² /L	1.8	-	5.9	18.6	24.4	-
WBC	<2.5 × 10 ⁹ /L	-	0.9	6.8	36.9	59.4	3.5

¹ ULN = upper limit of the normal range.
 - Indicates no events reported.

OVERDOSAGE

Acute Overdose

Human Overdose Experience: Human experience of acute overdose with NORVIR is limited. One patient in clinical trials took NORVIR 1500 mg/day for two days. The patient reported paresthesias which resolved after the dose was decreased. A post-marketing case of renal failure with eosinophilia has been reported with ritonavir overdose.

The approximate lethal dose was found to be greater than 20 times the related human dose in rats and 10 times the related human dose in mice.

Management of Overdose

Treatment of overdose with NORVIR consists of general supportive measures including monitoring of vital signs and observation of the clinical status of the patient. There is no specific antidote for overdose with NORVIR. If indicated, elimination of unabsorbed drug should be achieved by emesis or gastric lavage; usual precautions should be observed to maintain the airway. Administration of activated charcoal may also be used to aid in removal of unabsorbed drug. Since ritonavir is extensively metabolized by the liver and is highly protein bound, dialysis is unlikely to be beneficial in significant removal of the drug. A Certified Poison Control Center should be consulted for up-to-date information on the management of overdose with NORVIR.

Ref. 03-4938-R11-Revised June, 1999

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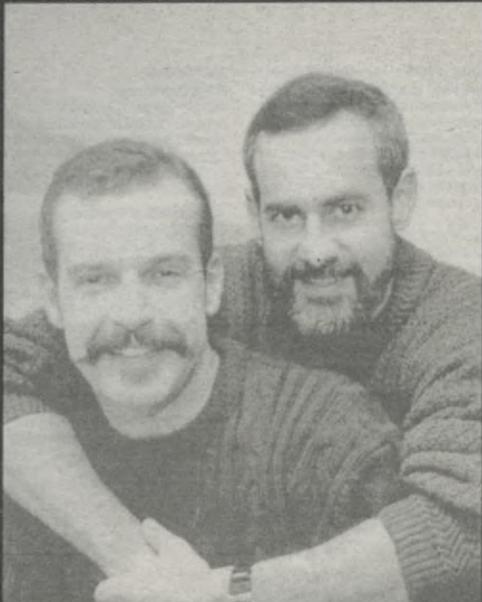


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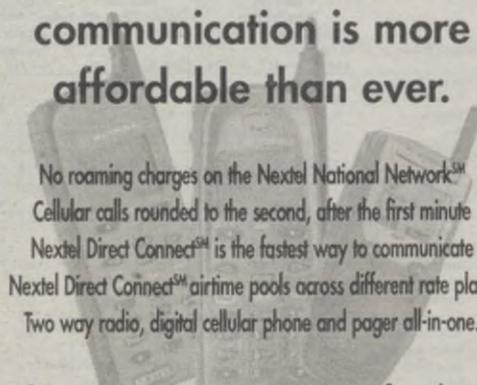
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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Feeding your chip addiction

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Lodged in the chain-riddled Rice Village Arcade, **EL MESON**, an authentic and unique Cuban restaurant, is hardly the Banana Republic or Gap of Latin dining.

Rather it is upbeat, unpretentious and affordable. Even on a Sunday night, it might be bustling with tables of students, friends and families. The multi-colored dining room is both striking and subdued—the magenta, teal and violet walls glow warmly under the crisp, festive neon that runs along the ceiling. While the retro 1950s furniture would be right at home in a stylish neo-diner, the overall effect of the decor is so cheery and casual that it hardly calls attention to itself.

But what does earn your attention is the excellent food. Like most Latin American restaurants, a meal at El Meson begins with a basket of warm tortilla chips. The variation of a heated, smoky salsa was no help in staving off the chip addiction, and the thin, almost translucent dip added a perfect peppery bite to each.

To start, I had the Nachos Cubanos (half order for \$3.95). These six nachos could easily pass for a small meal, with gooey dollops of black beans and chunky fried plantains, covered in a thin and silky melted Monterey.

The plantains, served with several of dishes on the menu, are beautifully cooked—not too sweet, yet glazed with a deep, slightly nutty flavor. The plantain's meaty chewiness further proved that these fruits may be tropical, but are

more a meal than a dessert.

As for the nachos, the blue tortilla chips managed to stay strong and crisp under the weight, and impressively held the delightful mush. Sliced jalapenos in the center of the plate allow the diner to add a sting of pepper to counter the deep, yet mild flavors.

I wasn't expecting the Tortilla Espanola (\$3.95) to be one of the stronger dishes, yet the huge chunks of potato and moist egg made it impossible for me to save it for the fridge, as I had originally intended once more plates were clamoring for room on our table. The onion was invisible, yet strongly present, lending the dish a sweet, caramelized flavor.

The Chorizo Riojano al Jerez (\$4.95) had a smoky pepperoni taste, rich in garlic and pepper. Although you could clearly see the sea of grease that accompanies most sausages wherever they go, the liquid tasted more like a fresh oil than stale grease.

Just when we were gorging ourselves on a meal built entirely of appetizers, two simple, fresh dinner salads arrived to signal the entrees. Although the crispy cucumbers and lettuce were a bit more impressive than the usual side salad fare, the white vinegar and oil were slightly disappointing as the only choice of dressing.

The Enchiladas del Mar (\$8.95) consist of two wheat tortillas stuffed with huge, tightly coiled sautéed shrimp. I loved how the buttery sauté was still slathered on the shrimp, and the flakes of garlic and pepper made sure that seafood dominated this dish, rather than the usual melted cheese.

The only complaint I had was that it was virtually impossible to eat enchilada style, perhaps a compliment to the thick meat. Instead, I dined on pieces of shrimp and intermittently reached for a bite of what became a soggy tortilla. The accompanying plantains and black beans and rice worked wonderfully as side dishes competing for attention.

The Ropa Vieja (\$9.95), shredded beef, was soft and the sauce, a cross between salsa and barbecue sauce, left no part of the meat uncoated. The meat was extremely tender and the combination of the meat dish.

For dessert we had the only available choice, a Tres Leches that was certainly respectable, if not spectacular (\$2.95). The zesty hint of lemon was soon overpowered by its sweet flavor, aggravated further by a thick layer of whipped cream, but it hardly mattered. There wasn't any room left after such a comfortable, fabulous meal.

El Meson
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'Flawless'

> Continued from page 19

would be perfect in the role as the close-minded, often bigoted security guard but, initially, the seasoned director had trouble casting the character of Rusty. He auditioned hundreds of female impersonators before deciding on Hoffman.

Hoffman, however, wasn't as confident he could do the role justice.

"It is so easy to play a part like Rusty and completely ruin it by going too much over-the-top," he said. "I didn't want him to be a caricature or stereotype. I wanted him to be believable. Not knowing much about drag queens or transsexuals, I wasn't sure I would be able to pull it off."

Hoffman would secure himself a bit of artistic insurance by spending as much time as he could in several of New York's more infamous drag bars. His time there would ultimately pay off.

"The world of drag is nothing like I imagined," he said. "The more places I visited, the more I realized these guys were serious about what they were doing. For the most part, they are just entertainers. They are actors, acting out the part of women. But, they do it in a way that is very unique—very specific. And, since Rusty is a club emcee, I was particularly interested in seeing how they performed."

After witnessing a few of the Big

Apple's top drag emcees in action, Hoffman came away with a whole new appreciation for their craft.

"They were all fantastic performers, but let me tell you, those drag emcees can be brutal on their audiences—they're a pretty tough bunch," he said with a laugh. "But, I guess that just comes with the territory, because you have to be pretty tough to be a man who dresses-up like a woman in public. I think of myself as a fairly rugged guy, but I don't think I'd ever be tough enough or have enough guts to be a drag queen in real life."

Hoffman's research into defining his character didn't end simply with visiting a few transvestite clubs. His quest would eventually take him into the often misunderstood world of transsexuals.

"Rusty is not really a drag queen, per se," he said. "He works as a drag queen, but what you find out is that he is really a pre-op transsexual, which is very, very different. Being a drag queen is just a job. That's all it is. But, Rusty just wants to be a woman, and he's like that 24/7. For me, that was the toughest part of doing the movie. That's why I had to do so much more research."

"I really needed to understand what drove them to feel the way they did about themselves. I needed to answer the



Rusty (Philip Seymour Hoffman) coaches Walt Koontz (Robert De Niro) in voice to help him regain his speech after a stroke.

question, 'Was it just their feminine side over-riding their masculine side that made them think they wanted to be women?'"

What started out as an exercise in simple role research for Hoffman would eventually evolve into a better understanding of the male psyche.

But did his time spent with the "third sex," ultimately put him in touch with his own feminine side?

"Since doing 'Flawless,' I don't even know what the hell that is anymore," he

said jokingly. "Seriously, though, when we start putting labels on our emotions or actions by calling them feminine or masculine is when bigotry and discrimination starts to rear its ugly head."

"And, I think that is what the movie tries to stress by showing that two very different men can come to respect and care about each other once they cut through the bullshit of how we are 'supposed' to act as men. We're all just people, period. Once we all realize that, then I think we'll be a lot smarter and happier."

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No JUSTICE No reprieve

> Continued from page 21

from San Francisco's gay community. In 1978, just nine years after the Stonewall Riots, Milk's death did more to increase national awareness of the gay movement than anything that had gone before.

Now, 21 years and one day after the assassinations, Showtime will premiere a new movie, "Execution of Justice," based on the murders and their aftermath (Nov. 28, 8 p.m.). But unlike previous accounts of the crime—Randy Shilt's "The Mayor of Castro Street," the 1984 documentary "The Times of Harvey Milk" and the opera "Harvey Milk"—this account aims to tell the tale from the killer's point of view.

But don't make the mistake of thinking that Leon Ichaso, the film's director who emigrated from his native Cuba at 14, has any fond feelings for his subject. "I have no sympathy for him whatsoever," Ichaso told Houston Voice in a telephone interview Monday. "I was beaten up by the 'Dan Whites' of Miami when I smoked my first joint. I was victimized by people like Dan White going back to 1965."

Ichaso sees White as possessing "a sense of rightfulness which is totally wrong. A lot of people will get to know him through the film and see him as a coward, an intransigent human being, a madman, a fake, a liar, a lost person. But then again, a lot of us are lost and we don't pick up a gun and kill."

In the film, Tim Daly pulls double-duty as both star and executive producer.

Peter Coyote plays the charismatic Milk. The movie begins with the murders and White's blubbing confession, during which he first makes the sniveling excuses that eventually saved him from California's death chamber. He is revealed as a man unable to fit in—twice joining the police force, twice resigning; a hero fireman who won a seat on the city's board of supervisors by appealing to other white people who felt increasingly lost in the multi-cultural, gay-friendly metropolis San Francisco was becoming.

White and Milk won election on the same day, but at the hands of radically different constituents who had completely different plans for the city's future. White's campaign speeches were laced with sinister, Hitler-like references to social "malignancies"; Milk's were joyful celebrations of the dawning era of gay political muscle.

In the film, White's world begins to unravel the day he learns he must give up his more lucrative job as a firefighter in order to keep his new elected post. Money troubles increasingly plague the family. At last White, indignant over his finances, resigns his supervisor's seat.

But this infuriates his wealthy conservative backers, who see him as their only chance to halt San Francisco's leftward slide. At their insistence, White tries to recant his resignation. When Mayor Moscone refuses to allow this, White mur-



Tim Daly plays Dan White, the San Francisco supervisor who shot Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone Nov. 27, 1978. Amy Van Nostrand plays White's wife, who stood by him until his suicide in 1985.

ders him and, for good measure, long-time political foe Milk.

On the night of the murders, some 50,000 San Franciscans poured into the streets for a silent march from the Castro to the site of the murders. Thanks to the media, Americans everywhere saw the astonishing gesture of love and respect for Milk and Moscone.

But all who grieved the two leaders were shocked again when, on May 21, 1979, the jury trying White found him guilty of two counts of voluntary manslaughter, not murder. In what became known as the "Twinkie defense," White's attorneys argued a diet of junk food had weakened his judgment. Gay San Franciscans returned to the street—this time, to riot in disbelief.

"What is sinister about it is that this situation

has not gone away. By showing the attacker, and by showing through his eyes the journey of this madman, we are making it current. Right before we started shooting the Matthew Shepard murder happened. The attacks and gay-bashings have never really stopped," Ichaso said.

White served seven years in Soledad Prison before being released on Jan. 6, 1985. Not surprisingly, the king-size chip on his shoulder had grown even larger in prison. As an ex-felon, he had difficulty finding work. Then, in the only act that could rival the murders for cowardice, White used his car to asphyxiate himself, leaving his wife and three children to fend for themselves.

He died on Oct. 21, 1985.

"It was the only thing Dan White did right," Ichaso said.

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BOOK NEWS

Sri Lankan captures culture's sea change

by AL COTTON

CINNAMON GARDENS, the first novel from Shyam Selvadurai, a Canadian writer born in Sri Lanka, is as old-fashioned and traditional as a novel gets nowadays.

Set in the 1920s on the island nation formerly known as Ceylon off the southeast coast of India, Selvadurai weaves together the stories of two protagonists—Balendran, the 40-year-old son of a local power broker, and Annalukshmi, his 20-something niece.

Twenty years before, Balendran went to Oxford and fell in love with a Englishman, Richard Howland. When his father, the Mudaliyar Navaratnam, got word of the relationship, he went to England, ended it, brought his son home and arranged his marriage to Sonia.

When the novel opens, Balendran's life and livelihood is still in his father's hands—running the family's rubber estate, being a good husband and father, and when the stress becomes too much, finding furtive, anonymous sex with men along the railroad tracks.

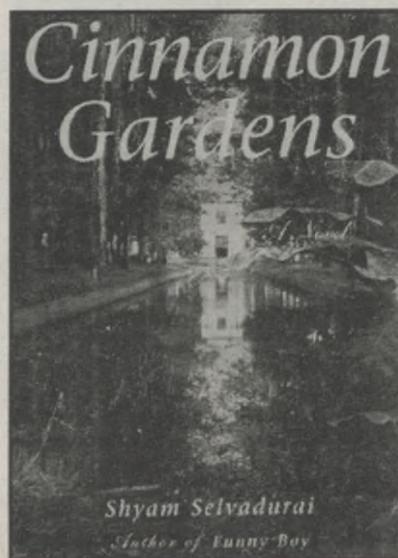
Balendran, the good son, does his father's bidding, while his brother Arul is the rebel—marrying a Hindu woman against his father's wishes, and moving to

India. He had a son who no one in Balendran's family has seen.

Annalukshmi is the oldest of four daughters in a not-wealthy household. Custom requires that she must marry before her sisters, but she wants to be a career woman. Her model is Miss Layton, a spinster who teaches at an English school for the offspring of the upper class who live in their fine houses in the Cinnamon Gardens neighborhood of Colombo.

The plot kicks into gear when Richard comes to Colombo as part of a group studying political reforms the English should implement in Sri Lanka. About the same time, Annalukshmi scandalizes the entire neighborhood by riding a bicycle to school, and her mother decides it's time to find a husband for her daughter.

The mainstays of such a traditional novel are plot, character development, and historical detail, and in these departments, "Cinnamon Gardens" is a winner. Selvadurai fills his novel with an impressive array of characters—Annalukshmi's passionately traditional sister Kumudini; her matchmaking neighbor, Philomena; Balendran's responsible, estranged nephew Seelan; Richard's slightly stereotypical boyfriend James; Annalukshmi's artistic



suitor, Chandron MacIntosh.

Just the duel between English and Sinhalese names underscores the sense of a society being pulled in two directions. Selvadurai manages to create and distinguish a huge number of characters, and has done a fine job of capturing the mood and feel of this Asian island with a colonial English culture grafted on top of it.

If there's a quibble here, it's that Selvadurai may be a better short story writer than a novelist. His first book, 1994's "Funny Boy," is a collection of inter-related short stories that worked beautifully to convey the nuances of a gay childhood amid the Sri Lankan religious riots in the early '80s. The dramatic arc of "Cinnamon Gardens" rises and falls like a lot of short stories stitched together into a narrative, with a few narrative dry spells scattered about.

Both of Selvadurai's books hold an incredible emotional resonance and universality, especially his portrait of Balendran, the dutiful, good gay son who doesn't want to disappoint his parents, and so puts his own life on hold. For some readers, Annalukshmi's feminism will strike a familiar cord. Her character is basically a subcontinental Helena Bonham Carter role, with lots of spunk and passion.

Much like the South today, Sri Lanka then was a society moving away from a more traditional, repressive atmosphere evolving toward a progressive and modern outlook.

And in the middle of all this confusion and movement, people make decisions that will affect their lives, guessing about the ultimate consequence of decisions made years ago, when contexts and situations were different. It's this swirl of life that Selvadurai captures in such fine detail, with objective compassion and precision.

INFO **Cinnamon Gardens**
by Shyam Selvadurai
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Two local groups tap new leaders for Y2K

by ELLA TYLER

Two leading organizations in the city's gay and lesbian community have elected new leadership.

Last month, the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center selected its new officers, including Maria Minicucci as president; Susan Guerrero, vice-president; Patrick McKee, treasurer; and Ron Helaire, secretary. Tim Brookover, Bruce Turner and Rick Castillo were tapped for the board of directors, while Don Hauboldt and Sean Carter remain as directors. Carl Reidel and William Morey have left the board.

"We appreciate and thank them for the hard work they have given to the community center," said Minicucci, who had been the center's program coordinator and served on the board.

A psychologist, Minicucci also owns a consulting business focusing on community development and mediation. Minicucci is a native of Buffalo and moved to Houston from Toronto two years ago to take a new job.

"I looked at different groups for more than a year before I decided to get involved with the community center," she said. "I have a staunch commitment to community. It's important in everyone's life."

Minicucci defined community as "a sense

of belonging and of being taken care of, and being willing to take care of others." She wants the center to expand its offerings of programs and increase its volunteers.

Also last month, the Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce elected new officers and expanded its board of directors. Elected to two-year terms on the group's board of directors: Gordon Bayless, Rene Guerra, Richard Wiederholt, Marion E. Coleman and Randy Mitchmore.

They join seven others on the chamber's board. Four positions were open, but when a tie vote was cast for the fourth slot, the organization opted to expand the board of directors.

The board then elected Debbie Hunt as president, Richard Wiederholt as vice president and secretary and Rene Guerra, a lawyer with the firm of Hunt and Moore, had been the chamber's vice president.

"I am very excited about the next year. We will be looking at ways to increase member benefits and working to increase our membership," Hunt said.

She said that Empower, the chamber sponsored trade show, will be held next year, and she expects it to be better than the last.

"It was fabulous this year. More than 5,000 people attended and we made money. The same people will do it again and their experience will benefit the show," Hunt said.



The city's gay community center selected a new leadership team: Don Hauboldt (standing, left), Tim Brookover, Sean Carter, Bruce Turner, Rick Castillo, Patrick McKee (sitting, left), Susan Guerrero, Maria Minicucci, Ron Helaire.

The chamber hopes to organize a seminar series on the basics of running a small business to help many of the chamber's small business owners, she said.

The chamber has about 130 members, Hunt said. The benefits include a monthly newsletter, monthly meetings with speakers about a variety of general interest topics, and discounts on space at Empower, Hunt said.

New ideas for the organization include hiring an executive director and developing a business discount program.

INFO

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center

803 Hawthorne
713-524-3818
www.neosoft.com/~hlgcc

Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

713-523-7576
<http://www.ghlcc.org>

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Fiesta de Las Lumenarias
Dec. 5-7, 12-14, & 19-21 from 5 pm to 10 pm. Thousands of luminary candles line the Riverwalk.

Riverwalk Holiday Arts Fair
Dec. 10-12. Artisans and craftsmen display their wares along the Riverwalk.

"Coppelia"
Dec. 10-13. Presented by San Antonio Metropolitan Ballet.

"A Very Merry Pops"
Dec. 17-18. Sponsored by the San Antonio Symphony at Majestic Theatre.

"The Nutcracker"
Dec. 17-19. Performed by the Texas Ballet Concerto at Lila Cockrell Theatre.

Plus many more festivities!

For more holiday information:

www.expressnews.com
www.woofbyte.com/sanantonio/



community calendar

Saturday, Nov. 27

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.
Montrose Writer's Group meets at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. 3 to 4:30 p.m. \$7 per session. 713-874-0655.
Houston Lesbian and Gay drop-in hours from noon to 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Sunday, Nov. 28

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" at 10:30 a.m. Bible study at 9:30 p.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.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parent's Family Thanksgiving Pot Luck dinner. 713-284-4939.
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, Nov. 29

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., Astry 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, Nov. 30

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. 7 p.m., 239 Westheimer. 713-495-8009.
Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center at 4:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Youth-Rap. 6:30 p.m. 713-822-8511.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. 7 p.m. 713-488-4492.

PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse. Montrose Counseling Center at 6:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang at 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m., 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men, 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
More on Relationships. Discussion group. 7 p.m. 415 W. Gray. 713-861-9149.
Lambda Skating Club skates at 8 p.m. at the Tradewinds. 713-523-9620.
Gay & Bi Male Support Group support group forming. Sponsored by AVES 713-626-2837.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.

Wednesday, Dec. 1

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. Brown Bag lunch at noon. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents meet for birthdays, anniversaries and newsletter mailout at Buffet Express, 4056 Bellaire. 713-284-4939.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Thursday, Dec. 2

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

6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Women's Therapy Group. Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 713-738-RACE.
FrontRunners at 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 713-830-3000.
Faith and Hope Fellowship. Bible study 7 p.m. 713-520-7847.
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. FREE Thanksgiving Dinner. 713-524-3818.

Friday, Dec. 3

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Lesbian Avengers. Cafe Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama at 7 p.m.
Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Kolbe Project. 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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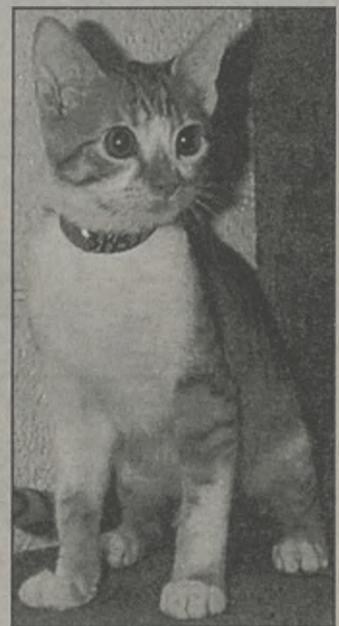
Happy birthday to Victor C. on Nov. 26.

Pete Z. celebrates his birthday on Nov. 28.

David Montgomery add a tall birthday candle on his birthday cake on Dec. 1.



The fabulous Rusty (a.k.a. Crystal Rae Lea Love) Mueller adds a jewel to her crown on Nov. 26



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According to some reports, investors lose billions of dollars each year to investment fraud. No one is immune from being a target. Whether you are gay, straight, young or old, people across all demographics are victimized by bogus investments. Keeping up-to-date on current scams and schemes and knowing where to report suspicious activity are the best ways to keep investment scam artists from emptying your savings account. Here are a few of the most common investment schemes:

Charities. Some swindlers approach you by using a charitable cause as a guise, when in reality they are taking your money for their own benefit. Be aware of callers that refuse to give you details about the nonprofit they represent. Even if they are gay-related and sound legitimate, legitimate charities should always report details of how your contributions will be used and will not back away if you request verification.

Telemarketing. Many phony investment opportunities are advertised on television and in print. But one of the most prevalent activities targets people at home through cold calls. Invitations are often extended to invest in almost anything, although art, jewels, land, securities and oil are some of the most popular products used to lure victims.

Don't give your information out unwittingly. There are professional identity stealers. When you give vital information like your birthday and social security number, be aware that these pros can use this to falsify "valid" ID. Their thieving end goal is to pave a gateway to your bank account and other valuable assets.

On-line investing. Many of us use the Internet as a convenient tool to aid in making investment decisions. You can do almost anything from research to actual purchase. But some unscrupulous scam artists are jumping on the Internet craze and are exploiting the technology as well. When investing on-line, keep your assets safe by thoroughly checking the background of companies through which you invest.

Ponzi schemes. Be wary of those who claim they will invest your money and guarantee a return in a short period of time. There are instances where such "profits" are generated by the monies "invested" by future victims rather than actual performance of the investment.

On line bidding. Purchasing antiques, toys and collectibles through the net is also gaining popularity. Be sure that what you're purchasing is for real. Otherwise, you may have thought that it was a McCoy but it turned out

to be McCrap.

Avoid being a victim. Watch out for the following "red flag" phrases.

"It sounds too good to be true."

"It's a risk-free investment."

"You must act now or lose the opportunity."

"Send cash immediately."

"Payment is easy by credit card."

The bottom line is you need to do your research. The best way to avoid losing money to a swindle is to research all solicitations carefully. Start by asking the sales person if the company they represent is publicly held. If so, request their prospectus and quarterly results. If not, it might be wise to check with your local better business bureau to see if there have been complaints against the solicitor.

In either case, you may want to take your research a step further. Many state and federal agencies encourage you to question fraudulent sales pitches or can help you research suspicious companies. The National Fraud Information Center (a division of the National Consumers League), Federal Trade Commission, state securities commission, state attorney general's office or district attorney's office are places to get more information about investment fraud.

Keep in mind that get-rich-quick opportunities are rare and that it is always best to establish a relationship with a trusted financial advisor to find legitimate opportunities that will help you reach your long- and short-term goals.

Karl Gustafson, MBA and Marta Shen, JD, CPA are financial advisors with American Financial Advisors. Send comments and suggestions to editor@houstonvoice.com.

INFO

National Fraud Information Center

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www.fraud.org

Federal Trade Commission

1-877-FTC-HELP

www.ftc.gov/ftc/consumer.htm

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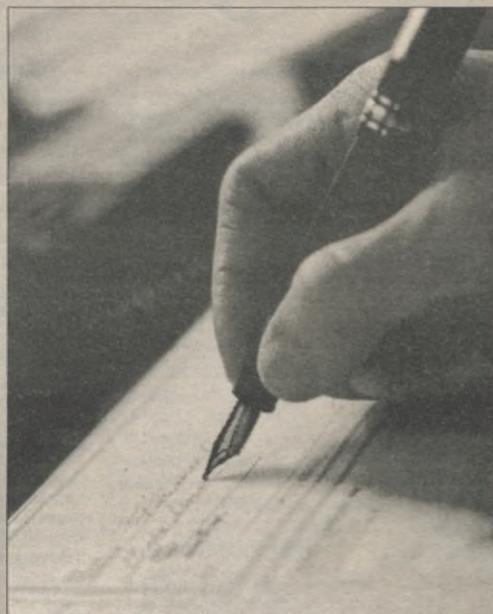
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Announcements

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PRISM is an employee network for employees of Equilon Enterprises, LLC, Motiva Enterprises, LLC, Equiva Services LLC, and Equiva Trading Company. This network is open to any employee of these companies and includes Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual employees and their friends. The mission of PRISM is to provide support for members and co-workers, promote equality for employees regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification and create awareness in management of issues and concerns affecting people in a diverse workplace inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identification. For more information call Jim at 281.544.8138, Robert at 713.241-1238 or Dick at 281.544.8730.

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PROTECT

Dena Gray, Director of Community Outreach and Volunteer Services for Bering Omega Community Services and co-chair HIV Prevention Community Planning Group will be the speaker for PROTECT meeting on November 16, 1999 @ 7 p.m. 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 Roberts at 713.526.1017, ext. 211. Leave your name and a safe telephone number where your call can be returned.

Adopt Internationally

Family To Family Adoption Services an adoption networking agency, is in partnership with several non-profit adoption agencies who are dedicated to find loving homes for thousands

of orphans from many countries. FFAS is sponsoring a free workshop for prospective adoptive parents seeking more information about adopting children from other countries. Single men, women, and couples from 25-57 years old are eligible to adopt. Please call Maxine at 713.219.1472 or email Fam2-Fam@aol.com for information.

Community Resale Shop, 515 Richmond has been providing clothing to people living with AIDS, for 14 years, urgently needs 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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Nightingale Employment Services (Division of NADC) is a non-profit organization that provides job seeking skills training and placement assistance for persons with HIV. For more information call 713.981.1543.

Christ Church Cathedral Episcopal is seeking a creative, organized professional with competent accounting skills to perform as Financial Administrator. This position will manage and maintains and preparing financial reports to the parish. Knowledge of Excel & MS Word necessary. Shelby Windows would be helpful. Submit a resume and 3 professional references to: Christopher Thomas, 1117 Texas Ave. Houston, Texas 77002 or fax to 713.222.2412.

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Pets

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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.

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Roommates

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GWM seeks non-smoker to share 2 bedroom apartment • Private room and bath. \$375 plus 1/2 electricity • Includes cable, security and pool. 13.723.0377.

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GWM seek roommate to share a lovely Montrose home. W/D • Ceiling fan • unfurnished bedroom • only \$300 all bills paid. Prefer non-smoker, stable and easy going. Call Jim at 713-528-5331. after 6 p.m.

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

Volunteers

AssistHers

AssistHers is looking for a few good volunteers. After being trained, volunteers are assigned to work with 6 others on a Care Team. Each Care Team is assigned to work with one client. Volunteers visit with the client once a month and meet with the care team once a month. Care Team volunteers help with grocery shopping, food preparation, transportation, child care, pet care and other tasks so that Lesbian women with chronic or disabling illness can stay in their own homes. For more information, call 713.521.4628.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

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

Omega House: Volunteers are needed to give 4 hours per month for in-home care visits to people living with HIV/AIDS. For more information on Bering's Sentry Program call Craig Overstreet at 713.523.7110, ext. 119.

Web-sites

www.houstonvoice.com

www.sovo.com

www.impactnews.com

www.montrosesoftballleague.com

www.iblhouston.net

www.gayswitchboardhouston.org

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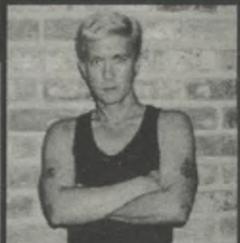
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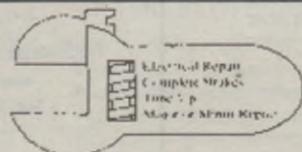
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My Stars!

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

by JILL DEARMAN

Nov. 26 - Dec. 2

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**

Venus is moving at a fast clip through your house of love, so no wonder you're feeling a little more doe-eyed and romantic than usual. Some very touchy-feely conversations with good friends could lead to something more, especially if your pal is a Capricorn.

**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**

Saturn retrograde in your sign may make you feel confused about the day-to-day aspects of your life. Try to slow down and make your schedule accommodate your basic nature. Do a reality check on your own life, and check out a Virgo while you're at it.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**

Change is on the horizon in your most passionate relationship when the Sun conjuncts Pluto in your house of love in early December. Just lie back and enjoy being wanted. The real you is about to make an appearance. A Pisces will love both sides of your so-called "split personality."

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**

Don't worry about what other people say, and don't be fooled by the masks they wear. Do all you need to do to make your future what you want it to be. Jupiter retrograde in your career house means opportunities could come disguised as major annoyances. But you can be yourself with a Scorpio.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**

A creative project could trigger a breakthrough in your love life—and vice versa. Venus is finishing up a stint in the most social sector of your chart, so give in to excitement and spontaneity. Kismet is in the air, and all the parts of your life seem related now. A Sag holds the key to your psyche.

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

Home and work issues may seem at odds, but actually, one area of your life could help you deal with the other. Clean house and get rid of the junk you've carried around for years. Once you restore order to your life, all your relationships will benefit, especially one with a Pisces.

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

Now that Mercury is back on track and the Sun is transiting your house of ideas, write down some of your little gems. Observe who makes you feel good and who drags you down, and vow to work on the relationships that are nourishing you spiritually. A Taurus wants to know you better.

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

The Sun joins Pluto in your money sector in early December, and that spells one thing: Transformation. Money comes easily to you now, and so does good sex. Connect the dots between these two loaded issues and don't waste what you receive in abundance. A Cancer helps you make it through the chaos.

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

You are about to enter a completely new cycle in your life. Can you feel it coming? Pluto is inspiring you to be the best you can be. You will surely have to ruffle some feathers, but keep your eye on your big vision of the future. A Gemini believes in you completely.

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

Follow your unconscious wherever it goes. Well-laid plans may have to be changed, so be flexible. Keep a journal of the wild thoughts that are running through your head. You are unlocking mysteries, and you don't want to forget the answers later. A Libra can explain.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB 19)**

If you're into hip-hop, listen to some British pop from the early '80s. If you love foreign films, douse yourself in Hollywood trash. Do whatever comes unnaturally, and you will benefit greatly in the months to come. Be as non-judgmental as you want others to be, and open your mind to a Virgo. I said "mind," darling, "mind."

**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)**

You can't control other people's behavior, but you can certainly have a powerful effect on them. Think about the subtle manipulation you've been doing for years, and try to stop—cold turkey. You have to give to get, but you will receive in abundance. A Leo has a special gift for you.

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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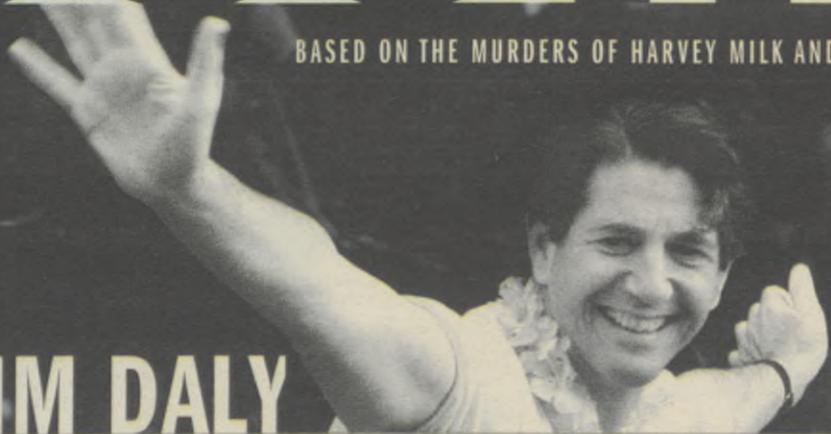
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