

Gay activist Jack Valinski thought Houston was just a temporary move for him 20 years ago.
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INSIDE



Houston's PFLAG and HATCH host an evening focusing on safe schools, with gay activist Derek Henkle among special guests.

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New pledges have helped the CATS shelter for transgenders, but its financial woes are not over.

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The unique linked plays 'Home' and 'Garden' at Alley Theatre are among new April productions on stage.

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Teen found guilty in killing

Defendant told police he killed friend due to guilt over homosexual relationship

By PENNY WEAVER

A Katy teenager was found guilty and sentenced to 70 years in prison this week for killing another teen amid what he told police was severe guilt over their homosexual relationship.

Attorneys for Jon Paul Marsh, 17, tried as an adult in Harris County District Court, argued that Marsh was under the influence of the prescription drug Paxil and became temporarily insane when he killed Nathan Mayoral, 14, on March 20, 2001.

Prosecutor Chuck Noll of the Harris County District Attorney's office said he does not believe that Marsh was in "conflict" about his sexuality.

"To me it's just a plain simple crime of passion," Noll said. "He hated what he was. I think he realized in himself that he was gay. Enough of that crap about conflict. There was no conflict."



Teenager Jon Marsh (far left) was convicted this week of killing Nathan Mayoral, 14. Marsh said he beat Mayoral to death last year because of what he termed their 'inappropriate' relationship. A jury on Wednesday sentenced him to 70 years in prison.

"This bullshit attitude that there's something that flipped him out about his homosexuality is crazy," Noll added. "There's something much more wrong with this boy." Attorneys Brett Podolsky and Jerald Graber represented Marsh in court. Podolsky said he plans to appeal the conviction.

"I was obviously hoping that [the jury] would be a little more understanding as far as his inner turmoil and the torment that he was receiving because of his homosexuality and the lack of understanding and

the ridicule he was receiving from his friends and his parents," Podolsky said. "[That], all the psychiatrists testified, tore him apart. I think what ultimately condemned him, though... was some of his personal writings that were of a very dark and disturbing nature."

According to Podolsky, the defense's argument was that Marsh's dosage of Paxil, an anti-depressant, "was sort of like the match that lit the fuse" in conjunction

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Cross-dresser denies molestation charge

Male-to-female transgender Houstonian won the right to dress as a woman during trial this week

By PENNY WEAVER

Attorneys gave final arguments Thursday at the Houston trial of a male-to-female transgender person, given permission by a judge to dress in female attire in court, who is accused of sexual assault.

Marcus Alexander, 25, is charged with sexually assaulting a 4-year-old girl on July 28, 2000, as her mother slept in another room, according to press reports. Alexander denies the allegations.

Earlier this month, State District Judge Denise Collins ruled that Alexander could dress as a woman at the trial. She said the court could not infringe on Alexander's constitutional right to dress as she wants to.

But transgender activists, Judge Collins and defense attorney Tyrone Moncriffe have expressed concern that Alexander's choice to wear women's clothes may affect the jury, since she is charged and being tried as a male.

Moncriffe said before closing arguments that he will urge the jury to not be influenced by Alexander's appearance.

"I hope it does not [adversely affect jurors]," Moncriffe said. "I have argued that [the jury] look beyond that and judge the facts of this case based upon what it is, rather than [her] sexual orientation."

"This is a human being. I want them to see this human being beneath all... differences," he added.

Prosecutor Cary Hart said Alexander has the right to dress as a woman during the trial as long as she is not attempting to prejudice the jury, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Collins said she would address Alexander's appearance during the trial.

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Marcus Alexander, shown in a police photo, is a male-to-female transgender person accused of sexual assault. A judge ruled earlier this month that Alexander could dress as a female during this week's trial in Houston.

local news

Houston school leaders hear gay message

PFLAG coordinated visit by young gay activist, attorney advocating safety in schools for all students

By ELLA TYLER

Six hundred principals and assistant principals, from every school in the Houston Independent School District, met Wednesday to be trained in how to make their schools safe for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students.

"This is the largest school district to ever do this," Jon Davidson, an attorney for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund who spoke at the training, told a group of P-FLAG members Wednesday evening.

"I am usually an adversary of school districts, and it is nice to be on the same side with people who voluntarily understand that their legal and educational mission is to be there for all students," he said. "It is an issue of common decency and safety."

Davidson is the lawyer on behalf of Lambda for Derek Henkle, who is suing a rural Nevada school district and some of its employees for their alleged failure to protect him from verbal and physical abuse from his fellow high school students. From the time that he came out as gay in the ninth grade, Henkle was routinely harassed by other youth in the district.

Hinkle, now 21 and a college student, told his story to the school administrators, and later told the P-FLAG group, "I think we did change the world today, and it will make a difference in the life of GLBT students."

"This is the state of the president who talks about 'leaving no child behind,'" Henkle said. "[George W.] Bush talks about equal educational opportunity



Gay student and activist **Derek Henkle** (left) spoke to a number of groups while in Houston this week to promote safe schools for gay youth. Attorney **Jon Davidson** with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund is assisting Henkle in his lawsuit against the school district where Henkle, as a young student, was harassed and physically abused for being gay. (Photos by Dalton Dehart)

being the key civil rights issue of modern times, but 30 percent of gay high school students drop out. Harassment of GLBT students at school is a national epidemic.

"More than 80 percent [of gay youth] report verbal harassment, and more than 40 percent report physical attacks," he said. "Once a student drops out of high school, they are locked out of the opportunity for quality higher education."

Hinkle said the harassment he experienced led him to two suicide attempts.

"One day a group of six students surrounded me on the school parking lot. They had a lasso and said they were going to 'string up the fag' and tie me to the truck and drag me," he said. "My survival instinct took over and all I could think of was 'Don't run. If I run, I'll fall, and then I'll be dead.'"

"They managed to get the lasso around my neck three times, but I kept walking as fast as I could and finally got to the closest classroom with a teacher," Henkle said. "It took an hour and 45 minutes for an administrator to respond, and he made fun of me because I was still shaken up and couldn't get the words out."

The students were never disciplined, he said. The school administration later

transferred Henkle to the district's alternative education school.

"I had been in gifted and talented programs since I was in third grade, and was going to school with juvenile delinquents and teenage mothers. I was given a sixth-grade reader to study," Henkle said. "A condition of this transfer was that I remain in the closet. I was coached about how to act appropriate and monitored to see if I was acting 'too gay.'"

"When I was there, I got no harassment from students, just administrators," he said. "I finally asked to be transferred back to a traditional school, because I was at least getting an education."

While at this next school, Henkle was attacked and beaten by a student even though there were two school police officers within view.

"When I walked past them, bleeding from split lips and other cuts on my face, they turned and walked the other way," he said of the officers. "When I said I wanted to file hate-crime charges, they told me that I would have to get my mother's permission. They thought I wasn't out to her. Even though I had her permission, they refused to file hate-crime charges, and wouldn't let the city police do it either."

Finally, when Hinkle turned 16, he was transferred to the district's adult education program. "Essentially, they made me a drop-out," he said. He is now working in San Francisco and attending classes at San Francisco City College.

"No four-year school will take me, even though I've been working as a journalist and have good professional credentials," he said.

Anti-gay attacks can begin simply, but school officials must take action, Henkle and Davidson emphasized.

"It all starts with words," he said. "At first they called me names, then they would push lunch carts into me and spit food on me, then they started assaulting me."

Davidson said prompt action by teachers and administrations really does make a difference in stopping harassment.

"It doesn't just change from the school to the street. When teachers say name-calling is unacceptable and discipline will follow, it stops," Davidson said. "Students realize that there is nothing in that game anymore."

Jim Null of Houston's PFLAG chapter (Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) organized the training and brought Davidson and Henkle to the city.

"I was at a PFLAG workshop last year and Jon Davidson was the most interesting and entertaining speaker," Null said. "I thought, 'Instead of beating our heads against the wall working with individual principals, why don't we approach the administration and explain that this is a way to prevent lawsuits?' I approached Dr. Harriet Avery, deputy assistant superintendent, and she liked the idea."

Null said principals were required to attend and also to send one assistant principal. "Laurie Bricker, the school board president, opened the meetings," he added, illustrating HISD's broad support for the safe schools seminar.

Null, Davidson and Hinkle agreed that administrators seemed interested and responsive when they heard the session message.

"We could see their faces change. It was like a light bulb went on, and they got it," Davidson said. "There was some discussion about whether elementary school principals would be required to attend, but when the district found out that some students start coming out when they are 12, they realized that some of these students are still in grade school."

"The most popular insult at every level — elementary, junior and senior high school — is 'That's so gay,' he added. "Even kids who don't understand gay know it is 'bad.'"

Davidson and Hinkle spent three days in Houston speaking to a variety of groups. In addition to the HISD and PFLAG engagements, they spoke at the University of Houston law school and school of social work and before the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

Null said Davidson and Hinkle's travel expenses were paid by the Krewe of Olympus, Bunnies on the Bayou, the Kellet Foundation, Chase Bank, the Pauls Foundation from Chicago, and the Austin based Alice Kleberg Reynolds Meter Foundation.

Scientific researcher addresses Chamber members



Dr. Cheryl Lynn Weill, a well-known scientific researcher into sexual orientation and sexual identity, was the guest speaker at Tuesday's monthly dinner for the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce. More than 100 people attended the event to hear Weill's presentation on the latest studies into the biological origins of sexual orientation. She discussed how both gender identity and sexual orientation largely are shaped for an individual before birth. Scientists have found several biological factors that affect sexual orientation, and more than one study has concluded that it is determined before birth. Still, researchers cannot yet conclusively identify how sexual orientation or sexual identity are formed, Weill noted. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

local news

Shelter for transgenders still endangered

Despite raising enough funds to survive April, CATS facility needs more pledges, volunteers

by ELLA TYLER

Following desperate pleas for funds, the area shelter for homeless transgenders, located in Galveston, has raised enough money to keep its doors open for another month, but its long-term survival is still in doubt.

"We finally got last month's bills paid, and have rent and basic bills for April covered, but we don't know about the month after this," said Cristan Williams, president of Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS), the non-profit group that runs the shelter.

The facility, which opened near the end of 2000, had a grant that covered its expenses for the first year, but that money ran out in January.

"It takes between \$850 and \$900 a month to keep the shelter open and the residents fed," Williams said. "We have monthly pledges for less than half of that."

In addition to providing housing, food and other necessities, CATS volunteers help residents get enrolled with Texas Rehabilitation and arranges

We are open to anyone who has been turned away from other shelters because of their gender identity or ... sexual preference.

counseling and case management.

The shelter can house as many as four residents at a time, "but that's tight living," Williams said. "Two is ideal."

The facility has one large bedroom which accommodates a bunk bed and a full-size bed; plus and a living and dining room, she said.

According to Williams, in the last two years, more than a dozen people have lived at the shelter long enough to begin independent living.

"Several of our residents have become roommates, and one just reconciled with her family and went back home," she said. "Of course, we do have people who don't want to work and don't want to follow the rules, so we ask them to leave. Two of our residents have been female-to-male, but most have been male-to-female."

Williams pointed out that the shelter is not just for transgenders.

"We are open to anyone who has been turned away from other shelters because of their gender identity or gender expression or sexual preference. This is a safety net so people don't land in the gutter," she said.

There are no other shelters for homeless transgenders, according to Williams.

"Some shelters will let them stay if they are willing to look, dress and act like their former gender, but to people who've given up everything so they can be true to themselves, that's not a solution," she said. "I've been on the phone, calling all of them, and few have been rude, but they explain that they aren't set up to deal with them."

The shelter's long-term survival may require relocating the facility to Houston, Williams said.

"The decision to locate in Galveston was made for several reasons, including that, at the time, the best health care for transgenders was there," she said. "UTMB (University of Texas Medical Branch) was an indigent facility and that included their gender program. Now they have a community clinic and the gender program is not open to indigent patients."

"Also, we found a space that we liked and we thought our residents might do better away from their old stomping grounds," she added.

Williams also said social services have been accessible in Galveston.

"The Texas Rehabilitation Commission office is near the shelter and they find our people jobs," she said.

But there are drawbacks to the Galveston location, and Williams said the shelter may be more visible if relocated to Houston.

"It is hard to get people to come to Galveston to volunteer," she said. "People need to be reminded that when they write a check, it's not a building fund or organization that they're supporting. It's for a transgendered person who won't have to live on the street."

She noted that financial support is only one aspect of needs at the shelter.

"Besides money, we need people who are willing to be mentors, to be a friend," Williams said. "You don't have to be transgendered to do that. It helps if you know how discrimination feels, and have tools to overcome it."

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around the nation

Gay candidate drops out of Mass. lieutenant governor race

BOSTON (AP) — Patrick Guerriero, the 34-year-old gay politician who was acting Gov. Jane Swift's running mate, dropped out of the race for lieutenant governor Tuesday. Guerriero had been in limbo since Swift withdrew last month. He and former state Republican Party Chair James Rappaport had tried to portray themselves as the best running mate for Mitt Romney, the former Winter Olympics chief who entered the governor's race hours after Swift bowed out. Guerriero instead threw his support to GOP Chair Kerry Murphy Healey. It was not immediately clear whether Romney will choose a running mate. In Massachusetts, governor and lieutenant governor are elected separately. Romney is the only Republican candidate for governor. Five Democrats are vying for their party's nomination.



Patrick Guerriero, a gay Republican former mayor in Massachusetts, dropped his bid for lieutenant governor on Tuesday. (Photo by Elise Amendola/AP)

Ala. lesbian mom speaks out on 'inherent evil' ruling

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Speaking out for the first time since the Alabama Supreme Court ruled against her child custody appeal, a lesbian mother said she is still deciding whether to go to the nation's highest court to try to get her children back. "Presuming that I am an unfit parent simply based on whom I choose to love is wrong," said Dawn Huber, 42, of Los Angeles, whose bid for custody of her three children was unanimously rejected in February. Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore has drawn protests for his concurring legal opinion that homosexuality is "inherent evil." Huber appeared at a Los Angeles press conference on March 28. "I am not a deviant, nor am I evil," she said. "I am the one who helped my children prepare for their first Holy Communion. I am the one the principal of their parochial school asked to serve as the secretary of the PTA." Huber said she hasn't decided whether to take on the expense of appealing the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gay teen challenges Internet filtering law

PHILADELPHIA — A three-judge panel of the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard testimony last week on the Children's Internet Protection Act, a federal law that would cut out subsidies for Internet access to libraries that don't install filtering software, Reuters reported. The ACLU challenged the federal measure in court, saying it violates free speech rights. One of the plaintiffs, Emmalyn Rood, 16, testified that using the Internet at the public library helped her gain information when coming out as a lesbian at Wilson High School in Portland, Ore., according to the Oregonian. "I basically found people I could talk to. I didn't have anybody I could talk to in real life," Rood testified. Much of the testimony focused on the kinds of filtering software available and exactly what they would block. Plaintiffs, including Rood, said the software will block informational sites as well as pornography, while a government witness said some software will block only photographs, allowing text-only access even to explicit Web sites. The court is expected to rule in May.

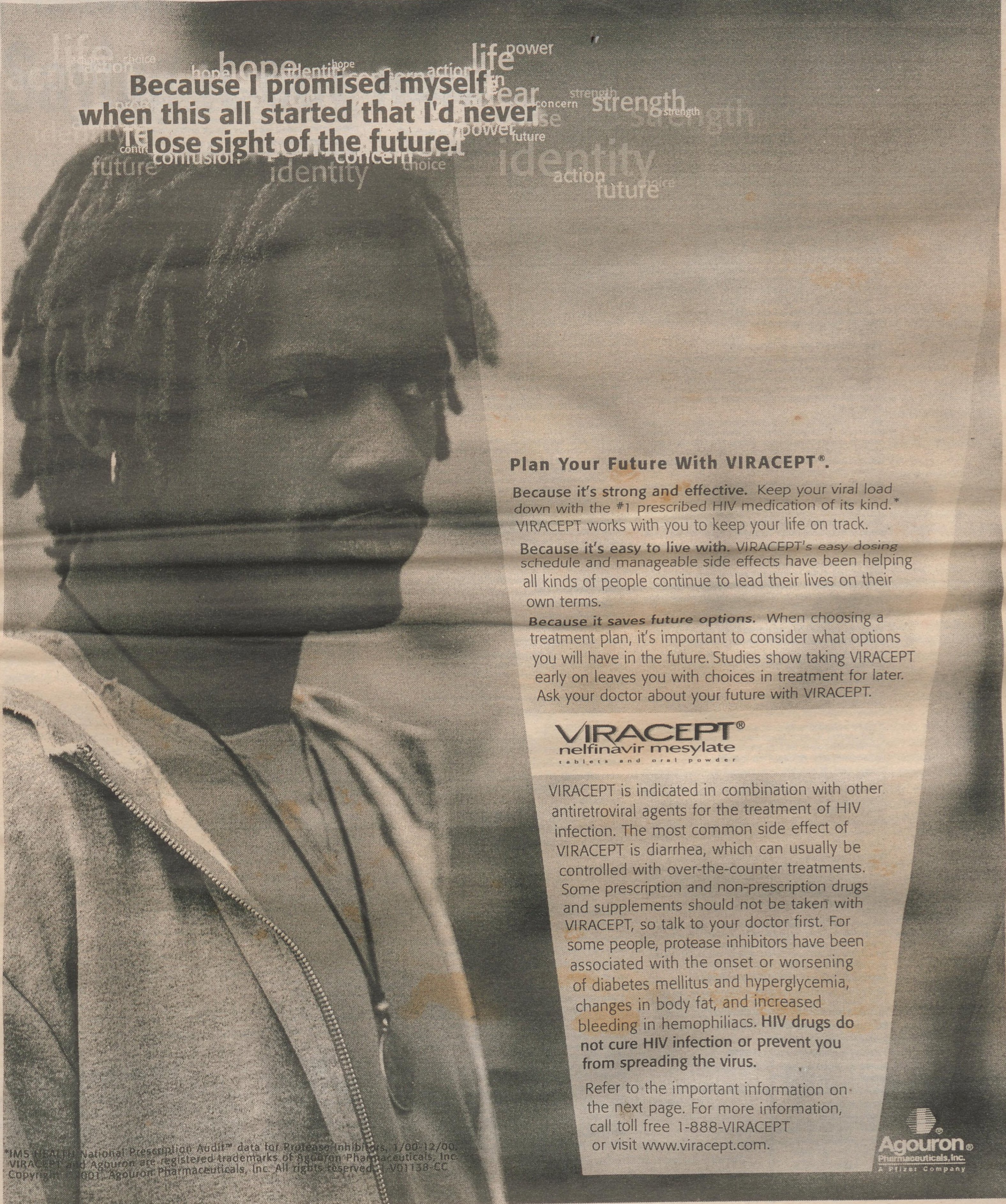
Mo. university drops, renews military debt relief

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Officials with the Washington University School of Law decided March 27 to reinstate a policy offering help with repaying student loans to students who enter the military, two weeks after dropping the policy over the armed forces' ban on gay members. The law school's Loan Repayment Assistance Program offers help to students who earn an annual salary of less than \$45,000 working in government or public service jobs, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. The law school faculty voted March 13 to bar the help to students with military jobs because the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy violates the school's gay-inclusive non-discrimination policy. Critics denounced dropping the support as unpatriotic. School of Law Dean Joel Seligman said he reversed the faculty's decision because it was unfair to some students. "I wasn't comfortable with a policy that favors one student over another," he told the Post-Dispatch.

L.A. gay center cuts jobs in wake of AIDS ride feud

LOS ANGELES — The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center announced March 22 it would reduce staff by about 20 percent and close a primary care health clinic. The changes are due in part to financial hardships caused by the agency's decision to withdraw as a beneficiary of an AIDS Ride organized by Pallotta Teamworks and launch its own bicycle benefit instead. "This restructuring addresses a budget deficit caused by a combination of factors... including a failed lawsuit to stop the center's new fund-raiser, AIDS/LifeCycle," center staff said in a press release. Facing a budget deficit of \$4.5 million, the center laid off 60 employees this week, and Center Director Gwenn A. Baldwin will step down after the new AIDS ride, set for May 13-19, the Los Angeles Times reported. After concerns about high costs and lower proceeds on the Pallotta ride, the center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation created their own event, sparking a lawsuit from Pallotta. The lawsuit ultimately failed, but center staff spent about \$600,000 fighting it, the Times reported.

From staff and wire reports



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Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.



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Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

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VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zert® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts. VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

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

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

Special considerations

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

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

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

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

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

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

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.
Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

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

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

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

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

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

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

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

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

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

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

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

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

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight		Number of	Number of	Number of
Kg	Lb	Level Scoops*	Level Teaspoons†	Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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national news

Saying it out loud

Largest-ever survey of black gays ranks HIV as top problem, highlights troubles with white gays, straight blacks

By RHONDA SMITH

The three most important issues facing black gays in the U.S. are HIV/AIDS, hate crime violence, and marriage and domestic partnership matters, according to the largest multi-city survey of this population to date.

Mandy Carter, a longtime gay civil rights advocate who lives in North Carolina, said it is politically significant that many of the 2,645 respondents who took part in the Black Pride Survey 2000 identified marriage and domestic partnership matters as priorities.

"Marriage and domestic partnership appear to be issues that resonate in communities of color," she said. "Therefore, let's make sure that the faces and voices of the Freedom to Marry movement reflect that diversity. It can and should.

"And let's not make the mistakes made with the gays in the military issue," she said, "where there were almost exclusively white faces and voices [discussing this matter] when we know that the military services are full of tons of lesbians and gay men of color."

The Black Pride survey results appear in a report titled, "Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud," which was to be released publicly this week by the New York-based Policy Institute of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. The survey represents the largest national, multi-city sample of black gay people ever gathered, the report's authors said.

Cathy J. Cohen, a professor of political science and African American Studies at Yale University and one of five researchers who assembled the report, said 10,000 copies of it would soon be distributed to black public officials and various organizations and individuals nationwide.

"We want to generate discussions about the lives of black gay people, about the politics of both black communities and gay communities, and about how to improve the living conditions of black gay people in this country," said Cohen, currently a visiting professor at the University of Chicago.

A total of 2,645 black gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people completed the 35-question survey in 2000 at Black Pride events in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Houston. Fifty-eight percent of the respondents were male, 40 percent were female, and 2 percent identified as transgender.

A black gay cross-section

Cohen said the data in the report is not representative of all black lesbian and gay people and focuses on a small, targeted group of individuals who attended Black Pride events in 2000.

"In the past, we could say, 'I know 10 black gay people and this is what they think,'" she said. "Now we can say that across the coun-

try we've talked to 2,600 people. It gives us a little more power in terms of making claims about what this population feels."

The survey results show 51 percent of respondents had a college degree or more, 29 percent had some college, 17 percent had a high school diploma, and 3 percent had less than a high school education.

Two-thirds of respondents said they were registered Democrats and one in 10 said they were registered Republicans. The respondents' median household income was between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

The survey results also indicate that less than a third of respondents (31 percent) owned their homes, which the report's authors said is much lower than the 47 percent overall black home ownership rate, based on 2000 Census Bureau data.

Gerard Ferguson, a researcher for the project and the openly gay director of Research, Planning & Evaluation in the office of Washington's Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth & Families, said the study provides more authoritative data about black gays, especially about health-related issues such as HIV/AIDS.

"We're going to be able to dispel a lot of rumors about our community," he said.

The Black Pride Survey 2000 began to take shape in 1999 after Chicago resident Willa Taylor, a former co-chair of the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum, mentioned it to Urvashi Vaid, the Policy Institute's former director.

Vaid asked Cohen to help coordinate this effort, and she recruited other black gay scholars and researchers to help. Their aim was to learn more about the lives of black gays nationwide by getting them to share information about their family structure, political behavior, racism experiences, homophobia and policy priorities.

Ranking the issues

Many survey respondents agreed that racism is a problem in the white gay community, the report states, and homophobia is a problem in the mainstream black community. Fifty percent of survey respondents said racism is a problem for black gays in their relations with white gays. Two thirds of the respondents said homophobia is a problem among the general black population.

Black gays identified HIV/AIDS, hate crime violence, and marriage/domestic partnership as the leading issues facing black gay people, but they ranked drugs, education and HIV/AIDS as the three leading issues facing the general black population in the U.S.

"Black people understand that while we share a general experience, being black and gay or being black and a woman or being black and poor means we can have very different experiences," from each other and from white gay people, Cohen said. "So we



Yale Professor **Cathy Cohen**, one of the researchers behind the Black Pride Survey 2000, said the motivation behind the study was to generate discussion about how black gays live within the gay community and the general black population.

need organizations that represent the diversity of how black people live their lives in this country and abroad."

Cohen is author of "The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics," a book published in 1999, in which she argues that if mainstream black organizations like the NAACP ignore the needs of poor African Americans or black gays, those people should hold the organizations and its leaders accountable.

"If issues such as HIV/AIDS and marriage/domestic partnership are not showing up as important to our national black organizations like the NAACP," Cohen said this week, "we need to figure out ways to have those organizations change their agenda to include these issues or to develop new organizations."

Kenneth Jones, the research director at the NGLTF Policy Institute, said national gay organizations increasingly are working with black mainstream organizations such as the NAACP and the Urban League. The Task Force participates on the Leadership Council on Civil Rights, a coalition of civil rights groups from across the country, as does a representative from the Human Rights Campaign.

"However, there remains work to be done," Jones and Juan Battle, the report's lead researcher, said in the report. Battle is an associate professor of sociology and holds joint positions at Hunter College and at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

"Although a few more churches and black political organizations are beginning to address HIV/AIDS, for example, these efforts are, for the most part, too little, too late," they wrote. "Sunday sermons preaching against our very existence are still commonplace. Our family forms are not universally respected or even recognized. Many of us still face physical violence and harassment in our own communities because we are, or are perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender."

In addition to holding mainstream black organizations such as the NAACP accountable, Cohen said predominantly white gay organizations must also be held accountable when they fail to address all the needs of gay communities of color.

"If the Human Rights Campaign or NGLTF do not address the needs and the issues affecting black gay people," she said, "we need to force them to change their agenda or build our own national gay organizations for gay folks of color."

In recent years, various black gay leaders such as Carter have increasingly said gay people of color should create their own national autonomous, self-sufficient organizations to address gay and other civil rights issues. Such organizations would set their own agendas, Carter said, but also work with predominantly white gay organizations on issues important to both groups.

Parents but not queers

The Black Pride survey also revealed that almost 40 percent of women said they have at least one child. In contrast, 18 percent of men and 15 percent of transgender people reported having one child.

"The parenting data are interesting because they show the falsehood of the anti-gay movement's construction of 'gay' and 'family' as mutually exclusive categories," said Sean Cahill, director of NGLTF's Policy Institute.

The report highlights why anti-gay adoption and foster parenting policies might pose a particular threat to black gays and blacks generally. Cahill noted that the three states with explicitly anti-gay adoption or foster care policies — Florida, Mississippi, and Arkansas — have larger black populations.

"Anti-gay adoption bills may threaten the black community as a whole," the report concluded, "by significantly reducing the potential pool of foster and adoptive parents."

One in five survey respondents reported being biological parents, while 2.2 percent said they were adoptive or foster parents.

The report also noted that 20 percent of transgender respondents reported a lack of health coverage, the highest percentage of any group in the survey.

The Black Pride survey also explored the terms that black gays use most often to identify their sexual orientation.

The report noted that 42 percent of respondents self-identify as "gay," while 24 percent describe themselves as "lesbian." About 11 percent of respondents said they are bisexual, while 1 percent identify as transgender. Eight percent of respondents (more men than women) identified as "same gender loving."

"In contrast to the high levels of agreement on the labels gay and lesbian," the report's authors said, "Black LGBT people do not readily, or even remotely, identify as 'queer.'" The term "queer" was one of the least popular options, the report stated, receiving 1 percent of the responses.

In addition, more than half of those surveyed said their church or religion viewed homosexuality as "wrong and sinful," while 25 percent said their church was accepting of homosexuality.

Black Pride Survey 2000

To download after April 1:
www.nglftf.org/pi/blackpride.htm
 To obtain a copy:
 National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
 202-332-6483
 Cost: \$10

Prosecutor: 'Plain simple crime of passion'

> Continued from Page 1

"with all that inner severe anxiety," he said.

The verdict is an example of further misunderstanding, Podolsky said.

"This case [shows that] society is still unwilling to be sensitive to or be understanding of psychological or psychiatric issues," he said. "They fear what they don't understand and act accordingly, and I think that this verdict shows that."

Noll said Marsh's own journal entries reflect much of the teen's thinking prior to Mayoral's death.

"He said he grew up in a Christian home where homosexuals are scorned, looked down on," Noll said.

The prosecutor read from Marsh's journal, in which the teen wrote, "I was just an abomination. I couldn't get rid of it. I couldn't just be his friend."

Noll added, "I think he's simply gay and doesn't want to be, and doesn't want to be because he's been taught from childhood in this very fundamental Christian family that being a homosexual is, as their lawyer put it, 'second only to being a serial killer.'"

Marsh's writings reflect that he was not in doubt or conflict about his sexuality, according to Noll, but knew he was gay.

"In one of his journal entries, the first entry at the top of the page is, 'I am a queer,'" Noll said. "In his journal he refers to his deepest darkest secret and...he hates that...[he's gay]."

"He talks in his journal about feeling

Noll placed much of the blame for Marsh's self-hatred with the young man's parents, even though Jon Marsh told the Chronicle that he and his wife gave their son "unconditionally love" when he confided in them about his sexual confusion...

"When you teach hate, hate is learned," Noll said.

"He learned the lesson well, I guess."

passion when he kisses boys, but not feeling any passion when he kisses girls," Noll said.

Podolsky said the defense and prosecution agreed that Marsh was the subject of misunderstanding due to his sexuality. That, he said, was what sparked Marsh's inner conflict.

"Mr. Noll even in his arguments admitted that [Marsh] was being tormented by his parents," Podolsky said. "[His parents'] reaction to him, their complete lack of understanding, was what drove him."

Marsh was 16 at the time of the slaying. He told police that he didn't want what he termed an "inappropriate" relationship with Mayoral.

"It was the last thing keeping me hating myself," Marsh told investigators.

Mayoral's body was found eight days after the March 20 slaying in a west Harris

County field. A partial fingerprint on tape used to bind the body in a sheet was used to link Marsh to the crime.

Marsh told investigators he beat Mayoral with a ceramic plant saucer, slammed the boy's head against the ground several times, then stood on Mayoral's neck and beat his head with a hammer.

Harris County homicide detective Allen Beall testified this week that Marsh told him that he had "homosexual contact" with Mayoral the day he killed him.

"He was extremely distraught over his homosexual lifestyle," Beall said, according to the Houston Chronicle. "He said it was the worst sin. He said he decided he needed to get away from that lifestyle. He couldn't help himself as far as Nathan was concerned."

Mayoral's parents told the Chronicle they don't believe their son was gay.

"I don't feel like Nathan was a willing

participant, or he'd still be alive today," said Tony Mayoral, his father. "Whether he was or he wasn't, I love him still the same."

Beall said in an interview after the trial that he considers Marsh more likely a pedophile than someone who struggled with being gay.

"What he claimed was that he hated himself for that lifestyle and that he couldn't help himself when it came to this little 14-year-old," Beall told the Voice. "And so his solution to this was to kill the 14-year-old."

"He's actually along the lines more of a pedophile," Beall said. "He was fighting those demons. It's hard to figure out how somebody could be as screwed up as he is at 16."

The detective noted that Marsh and Mayoral were almost three years apart in age, "which, at that age, is a chasm," he said.

"I would almost be inclined to define him as a pedophile as anything else," Beall said. "His thought process is not the same as the rest of us."

Noll placed much of the blame for Marsh's self-hatred with the young man's parents, even though Jon Marsh told the Chronicle that he and his wife gave their son "unconditionally love" when he confided in them about his sexual confusion about six months before the killing.

"When you teach hate, hate is learned," Noll said. "He learned the lesson well, I guess."



obituary

Bryan Anthony Forrest, 37

Bryan Anthony Forrest, 37, of Houston died on March 16, 2002.

Forrest was born on Feb. 26, 1965.

"He touched each of our hearts in his own special way, some with great love and others with great friendship and some with both," said Forrest's partner, Michael.

Survivors include his life partner, Michael; mother, Delia Menchaca; sister, Dora Rocha; and numerous friends and family.

Alexander in midst of male-to-female transition

> Continued from Page 1

"I will have something to say to the jury about his (sic) dress," she said, according to the Chronicle.

Born male, Alexander has testified in court that she often has dressed as a woman while in public over the last several years. She said she is in the midst of hormone therapy to become a woman, the Chronicle reported.

Moncriffe has said Alexander plans to have a sex-change operation to complete the transition.

The attorney said he is concerned about the media emphasis on his client's appearance.

"It becomes somewhat of a circus, a carnival type atmosphere," Moncriffe said.

Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of the Houston-based National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, also wonders if Alexander will get a fair trial.

"I'm kind of concerned about the media coverage of it. There is some concern about the veracity of the claims themselves," she said. "I feel sorry for the defendant if indeed she did not do this. It's very easy for people to automatically pass judge

on someone who's transgender anyway."

But Foster is encouraged by Collins' decision to allow Alexander to dress as she wishes in court.

"I'm glad that they at least considered this and allowed her to do so. By and large it is kind of a difficult situation [for transgenders] even just being allowed to dress as oneself in the courtroom," she said. "Some courtrooms won't accept this — they just decide it's too much of a distraction."

"I'm actually pleased that Judge Collins did allow that," Foster added. "It shouldn't be an issue."

Media coverage can be a distraction in such a case, she said, particularly for Alexander, a transgender person who also is black, making her a minority on the "fringes of the fringes of society," Foster added.

"I do kind of worry about the possibility of her not getting a fair trial," she said. "Hopefully that won't be the case."

Foster rebuked the media for its emphasis on Alexander's gender identity.

"They definitely need a stylebook," she said. "They love just pumping up the rhetoric for ratings."

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national news

Bush names top health officials

Picks for agencies raise concerns over whether gay issues will be lost under conservative leadership

By MIKE FLEMING

Some gay health activists greeted with "cautious optimism" President Bush's nominations last week of a new surgeon general and director of the National Institutes of Health.

Gay activists have raised concerns that the two appointments — along with whoever receives the nod to head the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control & Prevention — would mirror Bush's conservative credentials, possibly threatening AIDS funding and research into gay health issues.

"We are cautiously optimistic about these latest appointments because neither has an overtly anti-gay record on LGBT health like some of Bush's previous appointments," said Maureen O'Leary, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association.

Bush nominated Elias Zerhouni, a researcher at Johns Hopkins University, for the post at NIH, which includes the Office of

AIDS Research, which manages the scientific, budgetary, legislative and policy elements of the agency's AIDS research program.

Police trauma surgeon Richard Carmona was tapped for surgeon general, the nation's top spokesperson on public health.

Left open is CDC director; Jeffrey Koplan left last week to take over academic health affairs at Emory University.

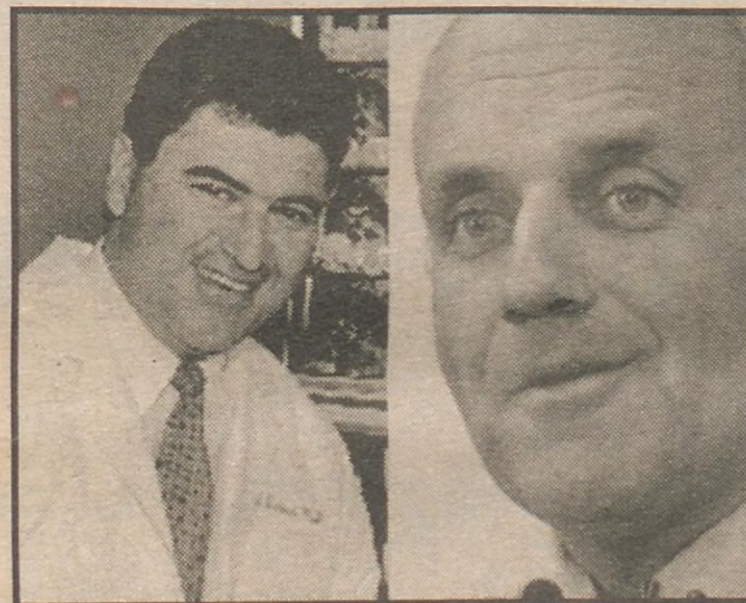
Zerhouni and Carmona face hearings in the Democrat-controlled Senate and a committee headed by gay-friendly Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) No date has been set for the hearings.

'Wait and see'

GLMA is taking a wait-and-see approach on the nominations as they move through the Senate hearings before getting more involved, O'Leary said.

"Given the anti-gay appointments to the AIDS panel, and the whole administration stance on abstinence-only prevention, we have to keep our eye on what's happening," O'Leary said.

Bush was criticized earlier this year for his choice of conservative Republican Tom Coburn, a former congressman from Oklahoma, to head the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Coburn, a medical doctor, has said sexual abstinence, rather than condom use, should be



President Bush last week nominated Elias Zerhouni as director of the National Institutes of Health and Richard Carmona for surgeon general, choices that have drawn a 'cautious' reaction from some gay health advocates. (Photos by AP)

the main component of the nation's AIDS prevention programs.

In selecting Zerhouni and Carmona last week, the White House said the two men share views to similar to Bush.

"I don't think you'd expect the president to appoint people who hold wildly different views than he does," said Ari Fleischer, Bush's press secretary, upon the announcements.

Threat to AIDS research?

To AIDS activists, how funding for pre-

vention, research and care will be handled are central issues in the nominations for the nation's top health posts. Bush's federal budget proposal for 2003 does not include any increases in AIDS prevention and treatment programs, a move defended by Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson during a meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS last month.

Thompson said the nation's war on terrorism and the need for a sweeping homeland security program made it difficult to find new funds for most domestic programs. He noted that Bush increased the budget for AIDS research.

Bush's budget provides no increased funding for the Ryan White Care Act, the AIDS Drug Assistance program or federal Medicaid contributions, which combined will negatively affect 30 percent of people living with AIDS, the coalition said.

In selecting Zerhouni for the NIH post, Bush overlooked noted AIDS researcher Anthony Fauci, director of NIH's National Institute of Allergies & Infectious Diseases. Thompson publicly pushed for Fauci to head the agency, which has been without a director for two years.

Bush said Zerhouni will be a "perfect fit" as the NIH chief, in part because the two men see "eye to eye" on a conservative approach to stem cell research.

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Issue 1119

Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

APRIL 5, 2002

PAGE 10

viewpoint

Homophobia's body count

A Houston jury decided this week that insanity wasn't to blame for the murder of a teen. Prosecutors say it was internalized homophobia, something we know about.

By PENNY WEAVER

A YOUNG HOUSTON man sat in Harris County District Court this week on trial because, according to prosecutors, he was so ashamed of a homosexual relationship that he beat another teen to death.

The defense argued that the jury should acquit Jon Marsh on grounds of insanity, saying the teen was under the influence of heavy doses of anti-depressants when he killed Nathan Mayoral. Evidence presented included a taped confession Marsh gave to Harris County Sheriff's Department officers.

That jury found Marsh guilty on Wednesday, despite the insanity plea.

One detective who testified gave details of Marsh's comments to investigators. The teen said his homosexuality was an "abomination" and a sin. The detective said Marsh's way to deal with his sexuality was to kill the alleged object of his affection, Nathan Mayoral.

Although that same detective told the Voice this week that he considers Marsh more likely a pedophile, not a homosexual — and the detective was careful to make that distinction — prosecutors argued that Marsh simply couldn't handle being gay and took it out on his victim.

Among the many shocking aspects of this case may be the likelihood that all gay Houstonians — even if only in a tiny part of our consciousness — can understand Marsh's alleged revulsion at his own sexuality.

WE'VE ALL SORT of been there. "Internalized homophobia," they call it. Most of society teaches that being anything other than heterosexual is not only wrong, but repulsive, sickening, an "abomination." At the least, we are taught that being gay is something "different," and therefore to be feared and avoided.

Externally, we as youth reject those who are different, particularly gays or

anyone who does not fit gender stereotypes. Weak or submissive males are called fags; strong or aggressive females are called dykes.

For past generations, gays were so feared that no one talked about "it," as though homosexuality didn't exist. More recently, "queers" were equated with drug addicts, prostitutes and criminals.

Today, "gay" is one of young peoples' favorite words for someone or something that is perceived as stupid or uncool. "That's so gay!" they say, when the same meaning as, "That's so stupid!"

Whether out of the closet or not, most gay adults can probably recall incidents in their school-age years in which they were verbally abused, put down or even physically threatened or harmed because they were perceived as gay. Certainly we all have witnessed such acts.

In Houston this week, thanks to the local PFLAG chapter, gay college student Derek Henkle met with several gay groups and told his own story of abuse at the hands of high schoolmates. Henkle came out when he was in the ninth grade, and was continually harassed. He was threatened to the point of almost being dragged behind some teen's pickup truck by a rope, with a noose around his neck. (Sound familiar, fellow Texans?)

Henkle is suing his former school district in a potentially groundbreaking case, with the assistance of Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. When he complained to school officials about the abuse he suffered, he was transferred to another school — more than once. Henkle, the victim, was treated as though he were the problem.

That's still what our society would have us believe. Gays — or anyone who is "different" — are the problems, not the victims. Marsh apparently thought his sexuality was a problem — one so severe that he killed the alleged object of his affection.

SHAME ON US if we let society get away with this. But not only do we have to

fight homophobia in our culture as a whole — within the fight for equal civil rights for gays — we have to fight our own self-hatred.

Gays have to stop believing that the mistreatment we receive is deserved. Let's admit it — the Marsh case reminds us all of times, be they recent or long past, that we have hated ourselves, and even hated and feared the object of our affection.

Sometimes we hated being gay, even if we didn't want to admit it to the rest of society, because it would seem like admitting defeat. But sometimes we feel that way. We want to pretend we aren't gay, and act as though we aren't attracted to someone of the same sex.

But it is society and the culture that has put that negativity into our heads. We have to remember it is a false negative, and we have to overcome our natural human fear of anything different, a fear of the unknown.

We're far from that. It's part of the reason that gays and transgenders frequently are at odds. Some gays believe that it is even more difficult for heterosexuals to accept transgenders — who are perceived as farther out on the spectrum from homosexuals — so trans folks should be kept at a distance from the gay civil rights movement. Perhaps they are too different, whereas gays might squeak past the straight mindset more easily to some level of acceptance.

The real fight for equality — the battle against scenarios like the one in the Marsh/Mayoral case — begins inside each of us. Once we immunize ourselves against homophobia, we can begin to teach others in society — convincingly — that gay is not synonymous with "stupid" or "moron" or "abomination."

Senseless killings like that of Nathan Mayoral remind us how far we still have to go — not just in society at large, but within our own selves. The foundation for a culture that does not harbor or tolerate homophobia begins in the mind of every gay person.

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viewpoint DANIEL A. HELMINIAK



Deliberately kept psychosexually immature, Catholic priests find congenial sex partners in equally immature male adolescents.

Repressed gay priests at the heart of the scandal

IS HOMOSEXUALITY THE culprit in the sex-abuse problem in the Catholic Church, as Vatican Press Officer Navarro-Valls charges? Say "repressed homosexuality" and you've got a viable thesis.

The few statistics available — Catholic bishops have repeatedly refused to allow scientific studies or to release the numbers they have — show that the majority of abuse cases do involve boys. Moreover, the boys are usually post-pubescent, young adolescents, not children.

Other guesstimates suggest that anywhere from 30 to 60 percent of Catholic priests are gay. The Catholic priesthood includes a large group of homosexual men in an all-male institution committed to asexuality.

That combination is a sure formula for trouble, yet the formula is deliberate. The celibate Catholic priesthood is pitched to men who have no strong desire to marry. In addition, the official Catholic view vociferously condemns homosexuality.

Thus, the Catholic priesthood is likely to attract repressed homosexual men. Eventually, these men are likely to fail in repressing their sexual inclinations. Psychosexually immature, and deliberately kept that way, they will find their most congenial sex partners in others who are equally immature: male adolescents.

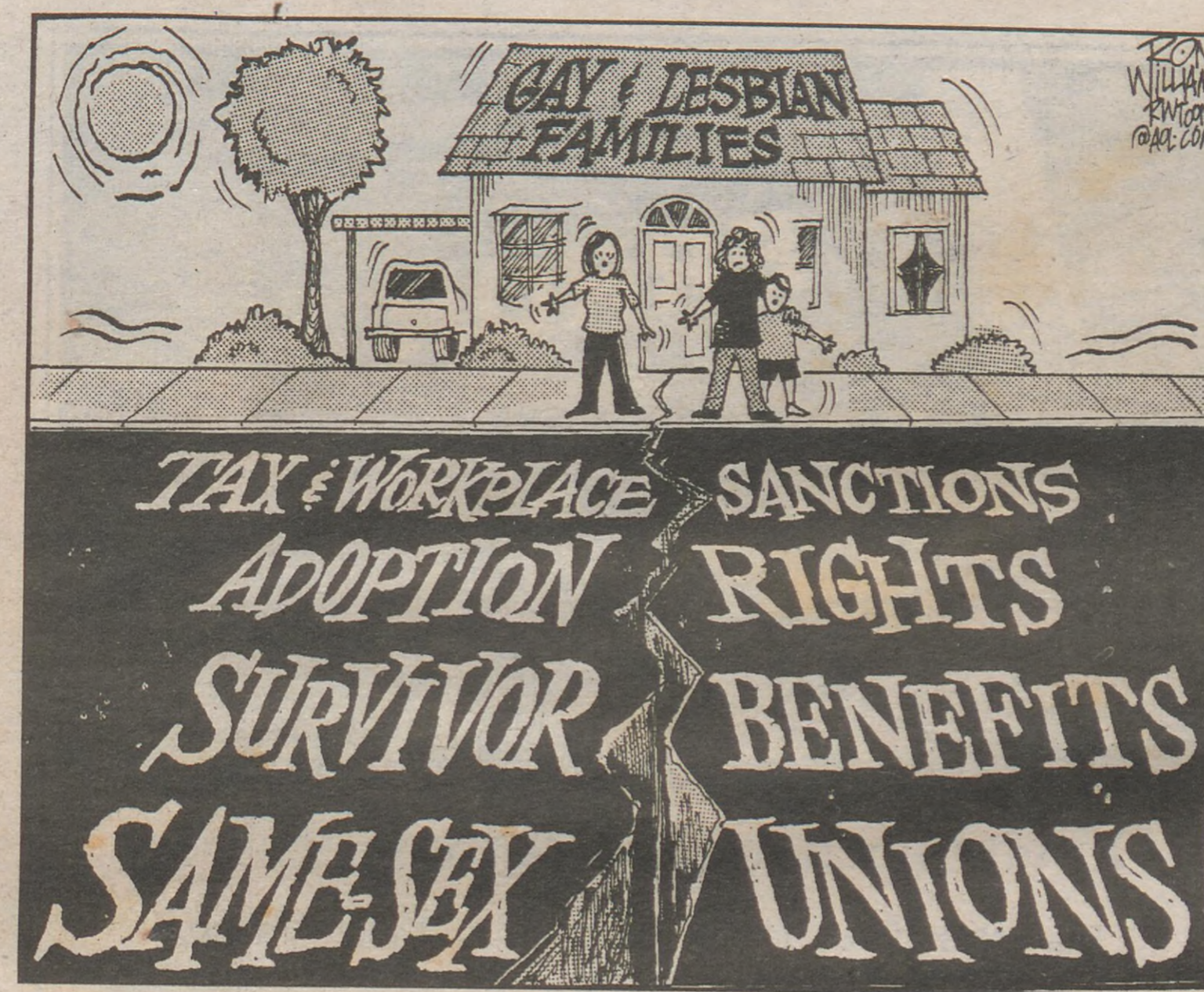
I understand that mechanism. I was subject to it myself. I entered the Catholic seminary at a very-immature 17. I had no desire to get married. I was intelligent and personable. I was committed to God. All signs pointed to "a vocation to the priesthood."

THE CELIBACY OF the priesthood made sex off limits, so I could avoid dealing with my sexuality, I could hang out with other guys, and I would be honored for doing so. The priesthood was the perfect place for men like me.

Nothing in my eight years of seminary training dealt with sex — except repeated reminders about the evil of masturbation and a comment by one retreat master that guys in the seminary who have sex with other guys "ought to be taken out and shot."

But once in a parish and away from the supportive routines and congenial camaraderie of the seminary, isolation hit with a vengeance. I was often in tears because I was so lonely, and I was guilt-ridden when I could not resist solo-sex. But at least I had the strength to maintain appropriate boundaries with the members of my "flock."

Still, I can imagine in part why others might not. As currently structured, the Catholic priesthood offers little of the per-



sonal support and psychological intimacy that a human being needs.

Was I sexually attracted at times to high-school boys in the youth group? Of course, I was. Who doesn't find young people attractive? Were there occasions when, if I had wanted, I could have pushed them to some sexual contact? Regularly.

People were suspicious when I socialized with women or girls, but people saw Father doing his work when I was out for a burger or on the playing field or otherwise spending time with the boys. Did some of them come on to me? A couple. Better than I, they knew what sex was, knew they were gay, and knew I was, too. I was in holy denial; I was a dedicated Catholic priest.

AS A PRIEST-THEOLOGIAN in San Antonio — out, by that time, at least to myself — I wrote a policy paper on gay seminarians.

My first premise, that being gay or straight should make no difference in a celibate priesthood, was unacceptable. My argument that seminarians should be advised, if they cannot control their sexual desires, to at least find responsible outlets and not get involved with parishioners, youth, or children, was considered outrageous.

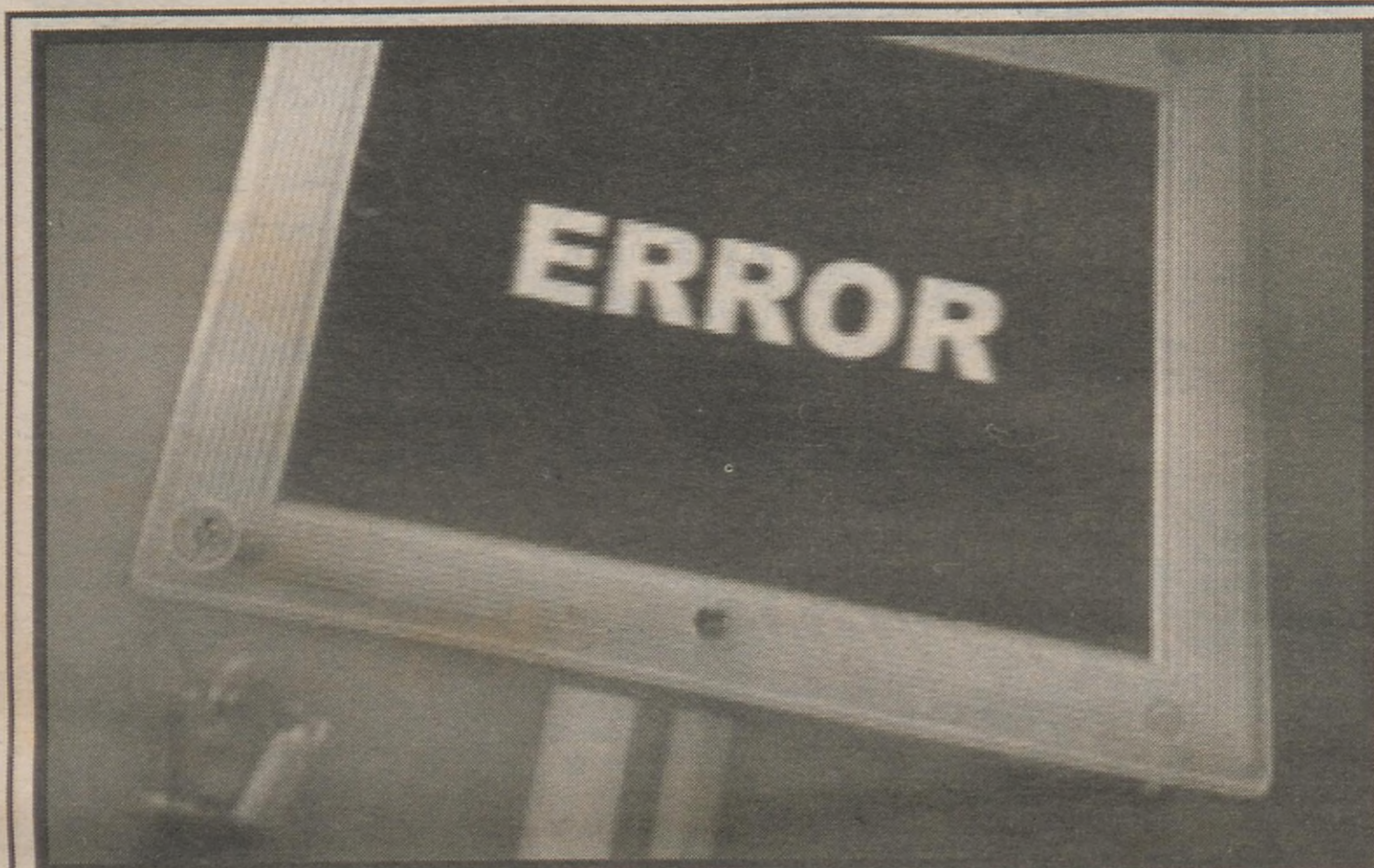
It suits the Catholic Church to avoid dealing realistically with homosexuality. What would happen if its pool of priestly candidates got comfortable with their sexuality?

Ah, but what will happen to the Catholic Church now that its policy of sexual repression comes home to roost?

@ Daniel Helminiak is an assistant professor of psychology at the State University of West Georgia, a former Catholic priest, and author of "What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality."

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel





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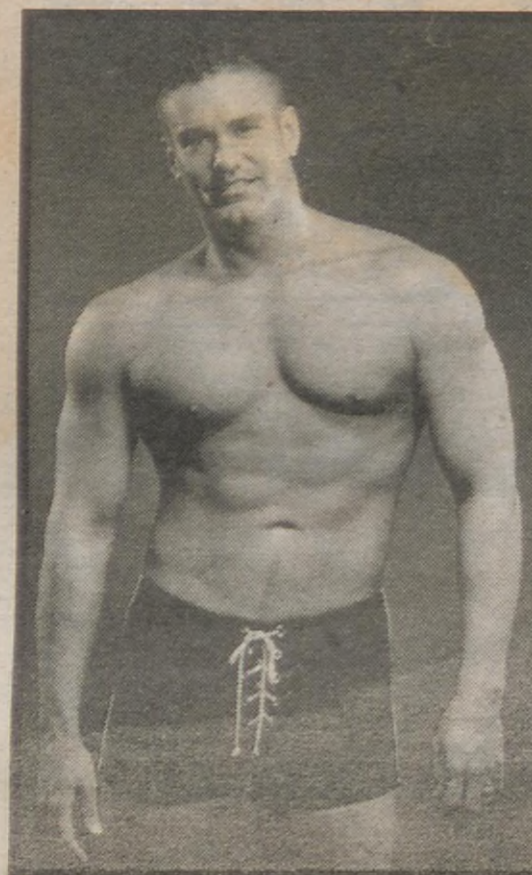
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on the record

“Rhymes with Abercrombie and... OK, it’s tacky to call a congresswoman the b-word, but still, how many of you didn’t immediately think of sending him a thank-you note?”

A March 27 congressional briefing by the national office of Log Cabin Republicans, responding to press reports that Los Angeles Police Commission President Rick Caruso called liberal Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) a “bitch” (Washington Post, March 28)

“I don’t worry about those kinds of comments. I’m one of the biggest supporters of the rights of our gay citizens in this country be they Republicans or Democrats. They need people like me to fight for them when people in their own party are denigrating them.”

Rep. Maxine Waters, responding to the Log Cabin briefing (Washington Post, March 28)



“I See Drunk People”

A T-shirt worn at a post-Oscars party by gay comedian Bruce Vilanch, the gay writer behind the annual Academy Awards



“What I’ve gained from this group is phenomenal. If he is just a gay music teacher from Texas how he could teach all these advanced ways of being that really work?”

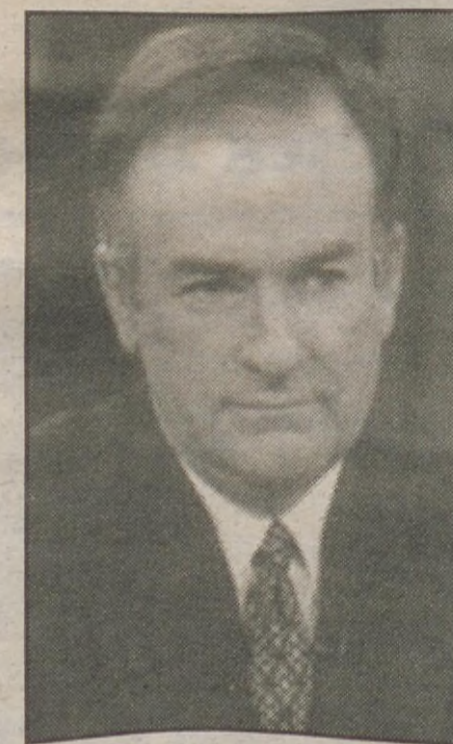
Rio DiAngelo, a former member of the Heaven’s Gate cult, who discovered the bodies of 39 cult members five years ago, March 26, 1997, on his continued interest in the cult and its founder, **Marshall Applewhite** (Associated Press, March 25)

“While the themes in Harry Potter books do not expressly advocate homosexuality or abortion, these are philosophical beliefs deeply embedded in Wicca. The child who is seduced into Wicca witchcraft through Harry Potter books will eventually be introduced to these other concepts.”

Rev. Lou Sheldon, head of the Traditional Values Coalition (Church & State, March 2002 issue)

“Rosie O’Donnell will eventually win her fight to have the State of Florida legalize adoption by responsible homosexuals. Logic is on her side, as is human kindness, and it is just a matter of time before the legislature in the Sunshine State puts the welfare of hard-to-adopt kids ahead of gay fear. Most clear-thinking Americans realize it is better for a child to live in a nurturing home run by gays than to be on the merry-go-round of foster care.”

Conservative Fox News talk-show host **Bill O’Reilly** (Syndicated column, March 26)

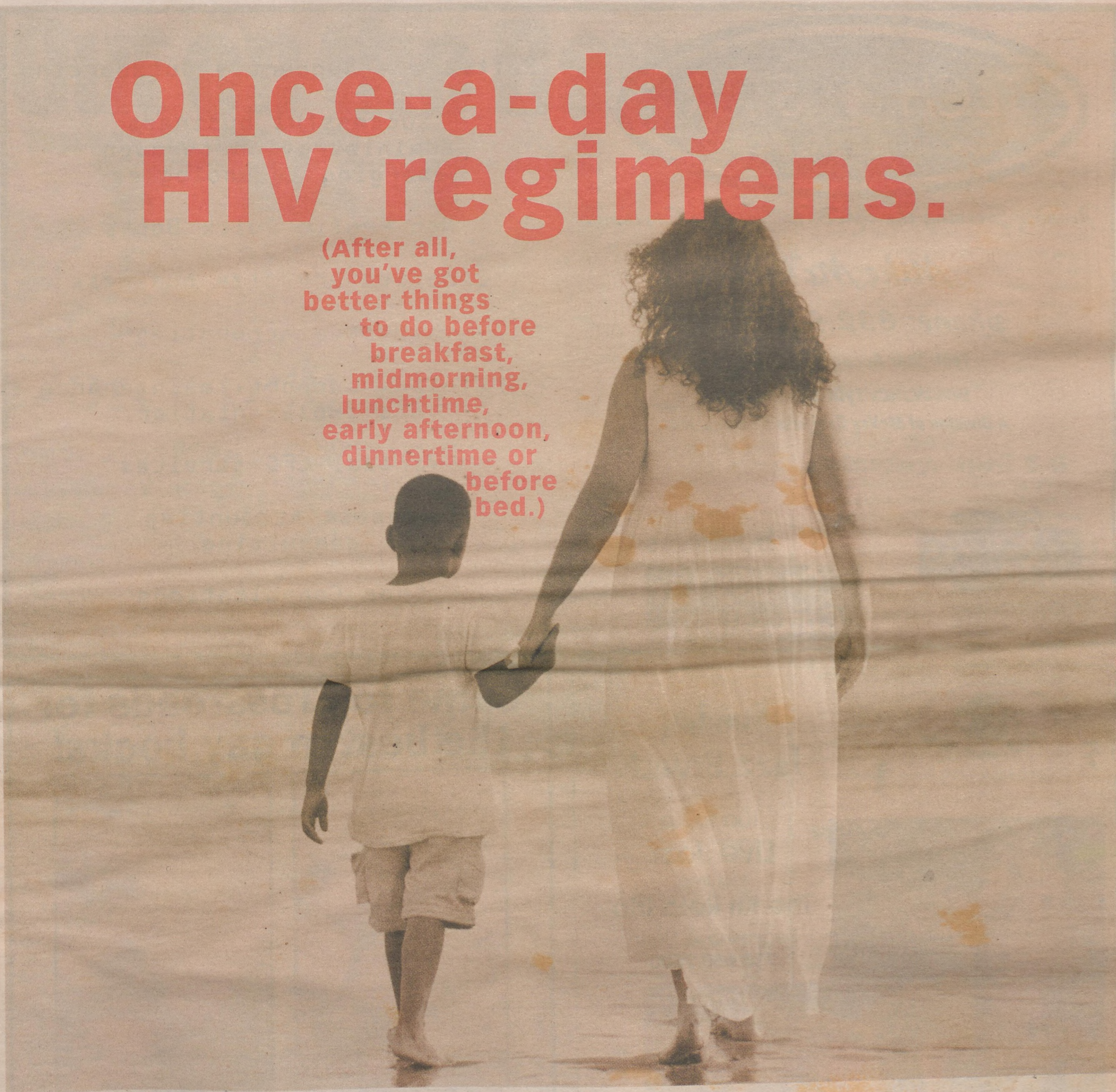


“Homosexuals should realize that their public presentation presents problems for the parents of young children. I want my kids to have a childhood. I don’t want to have to explain to a 7-year-old why some guy dressed up like Dolly Parton is holding hands with a biker. Mature gays understand that.”

Conservative Fox News talk-show host **Bill O’Reilly** (Syndicated column, March 26)

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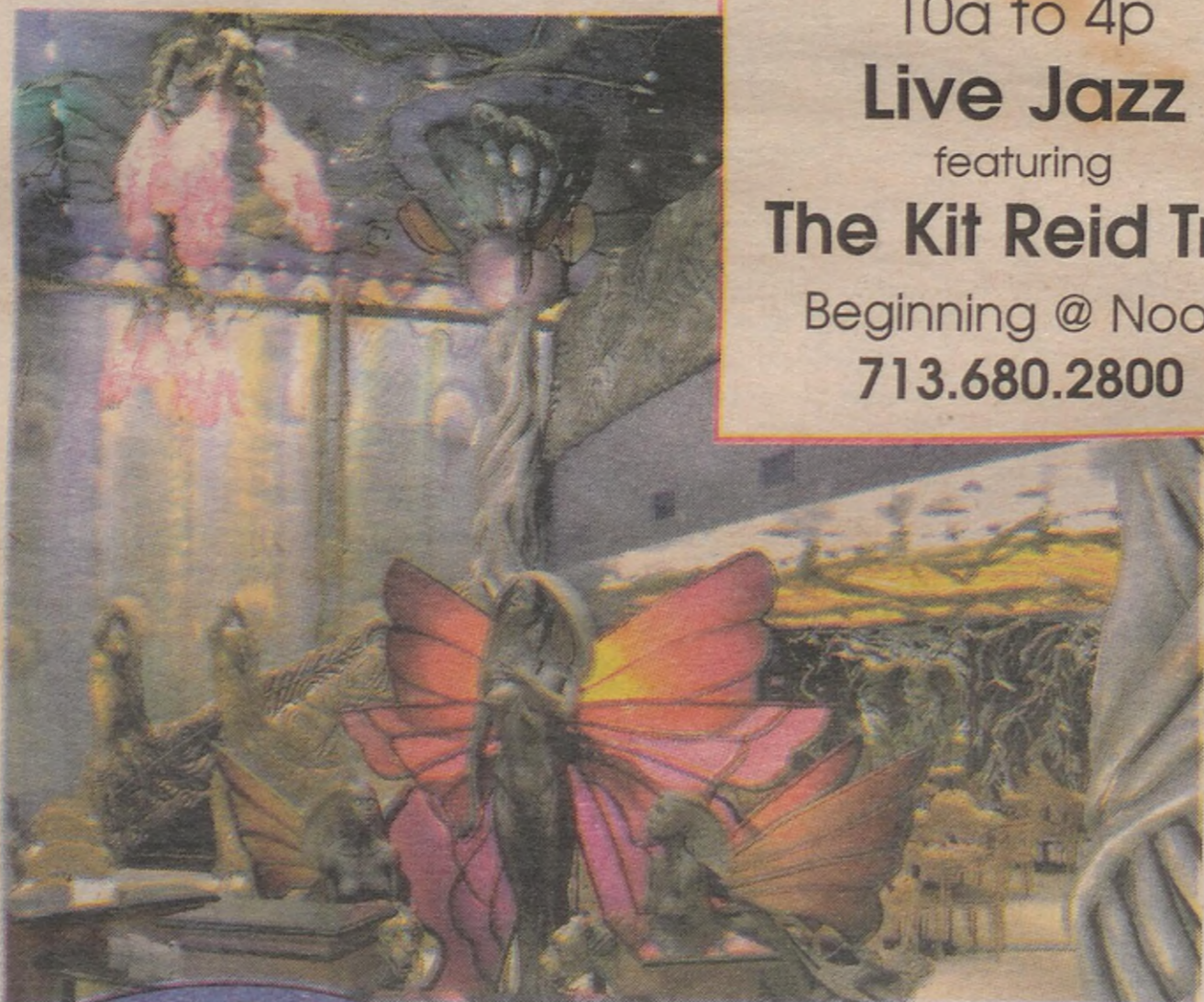
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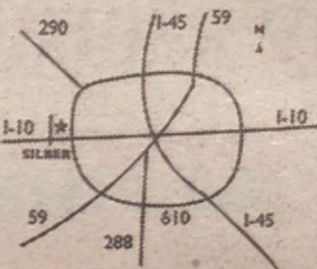
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Out on the Bayou

Houston Voice • April 5, 2002



Don't you know Jack?

Longtime activist Valinski wears many hats as a gay Houstonian

By KAY Y. DAYUS

Jack Valinski's name is well known among Houston's lesbians and gays. And although his name has been synonymous with the Houston Pride Committee for the past 20 years, Valinski is not one of the glitzy movers and shakers in the community. Nor is he officially associated with the Pride Committee any longer.

Valinski knows how to get the job done; he knows the people to approach for funds, but you won't find him at the premier gay events such as the Houston Black Tie or the Human Rights Campaign's annual dinners. No black tie for him. He prefers to hang out doing his thing in his customary shorts and T-shirt.

Valinski has not only served as the volunteer executive director of the Pride Committee for many years, but he also has been the voice of the gay Houstonians on KPFT community radio since the 1980s.

Born in Pennsylvania, Valinski moved to Houston in 1981 when he was

young, not yet out of the closet and convinced Houston would just be a brief stopping place for him until he moved to the city of his dreams.

"I never intended to stay this long in Houston. I always thought I would end up in New York or Los Angeles," says Valinski in his staccato, rapid-fire way of speaking.

But he did indeed stay and he became an integral part of the community.

Valinski came here to work for ABC affiliate 97 Rock, now Mix 96.5, not as an announcer but "behind the scenes," he says. He was young, the world was his oyster and he moved into a brand new apartment near the Astrodome.

"It was the boom time in Houston back then — everything was brand new," he recalls.

After a while, he started listening to long-time Houston activist Ray Hill on KPFT. "He had a show called Wilde and Stein: You know, like Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein," Valinski explains. Although he enjoyed the show, Valinski remembers that Hill always sounded "off-mike," because the station didn't have the greatest equipment.

"I volunteered to run the [audio] board for him. Back then, the station often went off the air because of poor equipment," Valinski says.

He said Hill told him one day that he had other things to do and that Valinski should run the radio show. That's how he got involved in Houston's gay scene.

He was at the helm of the show in 1993 when it was canceled by KPFT. "But

Houston's lesbians and gays protested until they reinstated the show in early 1994 as *Lesbian and Gay Voices*," recalls Valinski.

Recently, the show was renamed *Queer Voices*. Valinski emphasizes that he is not the "star" of the show.

"We interview [gay] community people and mostly talk about upcoming events. We can give them a long time on-air, especially since we're a no-commercial radio. It's just a nice flow of information," he says.

Just as Valinski stumbled into becoming a local radio personality, he also almost accidentally began working on the Pride Committee and getting involved in the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.

> Continued on Page 17



appts.

friday, april 5

Former Houston Voice contributor Greg Herren will be in town to meet with readers and sign his first book, **"Murder in the Rue Dauphine."** The book features private eye Chansé MacLeod, who is on a quest to find the killer of his rich, closeted client's blackmailing boyfriend. The boyfriend is dead in an apparent hate crime and the entire gay community of New Orleans is up in arms, demanding justice. Herren, now the editor-in-chief of the *Lambda Book Report*, is a former resident of New Orleans, where he worked as a personal trainer and freelance writer. 5:30 p.m. Murder by the Book, 2342 Bissonnet.

friday and saturday, april 5-6

DiverseWorks presents William Yang's **"Blood Links"** this weekend. A world renowned photographer and performance artist, Yang hails from Sydney, Australia, to trace the scattering of his family, who migrated from China to Australia more than a century ago, in "Blood Links."

Tickets: \$20 general admission, \$15 for DiverseWorks members, \$10 for students. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. 713-335-3445. www.diverseworks.org.



Photographer and performance artist William Yang offers the exhibit 'Blood Links' at DiverseWorks in Houston this weekend.

sunday, april 7

PFLAG Houston's regular meeting features James Knapp and the **Gay Men's Chorus of Houston** in a program that will include a concert, personal stories and time for questions and answers. 2 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas at San Jacinto. Free parking is available across San Jacinto from the church. www.pflaghouston.org. 713-46P-FLAG.

thursday, april 11

An auction of lamps and lighting will raise funds to assist DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) of Houston. **"Turn One On For DIFFA"** will include cocktails, a buffet, entertainment and live and silent auctions. The event features a collection of one-of-a-kind lamps and lighting created by Houston artists. Admission: \$75 per person. 6:30-10:30 p.m., with live auction starting at 8 p.m. The Crystal Ballroom at the Rice Hotel, 909 Texas Ave. 713-528-0505. www.diffa.org.



photos by Kimberly Thompson

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The voice of Jack Valinski permeates Houston culture

➤ Continued from Page 15

"I ran against Annise Parker in the early '80s for a board seat on the Caucus and she won. Obviously she was the right choice for look where she is now," Valinski says. He adds that he did manage to get on the board in a later election.

As for the Pride Committee, Valinski says he helped out in the '80s with media only until the early '90s.

"Felix Garcia, the co-chair for the Pride Committee, announced that he was sick and would have to resign. So I agreed to be co-chair with Carol Clark," Valinski recalls.

When Clark resigned three years later, and Valinski's solo reign began.

He praises the volunteers who keep Pride going.

"We have a lot of people to draw from in Houston and the parade is truly a community effort. It was like magic, making all the parts work together," he says.

According to Valinski, the parade has always been a popular event, not just for gays but for all Houstonians. But in the late '80s and early '90s, things started to change and the crowds dwindled.

"The economy downturned, people were getting sick and couldn't come out in the heat for the parade," he says. "We knew we had to do something different."

So in the mid '90s, talk turned to the possibility of a night parade, the first of its kind in the nation. Valinski calls it "an ingenious



idea. Wish I'd thought of it." The notion took hold and became a reality in 1997 with Houston's first nighttime Pride Parade. "As the floats lighted up, I was in tears," he admits.

Valinski obviously loved working with the Pride Committee, a group he calls "the most democratic of all committees. We work year-round until the day of the parade."

So why did he leave this volunteer work he enjoyed so much? He hedges a little when asked this question and finally says, "I felt it was time for me to move on. We got in a rut and I didn't see a way out of it. In a way, we

were a victim of our own success." He also thought the parade and its month-long surrounding activities were becoming too much to handle.

He will not give specific reasons for his departure, but does say, "I am sometimes a little too truthful. Some on the Pride Committee are not too happy with me right now. I can't hide things and certainly the Pride Committee has nothing to be ashamed of."

Valinski never really intended to be so prominent in the community; this self-confessed introvert was an accidental activist.

Introvert? Some may have a hard time believing that of Valinski.

"I am an introvert, but I'm not afraid to talk about politics and things," he says. "But when it comes to talking about the weather, plants or flowers, I'm at a loss. I'm not good at small talk."

He is single and likes it. "I'm selfish with my time," Valinski says. He has no pets, no plants, and no children. "I don't dislike them. It just wouldn't be fair — I have so little time at home."

He has some close friends who meet once a week for dinner — but not at fancy restaurants, he hastily mentions. Then he would have to wear something other than shorts. He loves movies but reads no books, although he does try to take time out to read *The New York Times* each day.

Valinski puts on no airs, no superficial graces. He's straightforward, down-home and down to earth. What those who meet him sense is his strong love of Houston and its gay residents.

"I love the individuality of this community, and I love to see the different elements of the community in the Parade, and I love the beauty of our community," he says with fervor in his voice.

This summer, the first in many, he is not involved directly with the Parade, and he seems a little sad about it.

"I don't know what I'll do the day of the parade this year," Valinski admits.

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on the aisle PENNY WEAVER

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April stages bloom

'Zastrozzi, the Master of Discipline'

An extension of the one-act melodrama by George F. Walker, "Zastrozzi, the Master of Discipline," is being presented by Dos Chicas Theater Commune at Heliotrope's outdoor stage. Walker wrote the play in 1997 and based it loosely on the novel by Percy B. Shelley. All characters in Zastrozzi live in a state of heightened reality that is serious at heart but comic in its intensity.

on stage **'Zastrozzi, the
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'Another Million Dollars'

Composer/writer Anna Fay Williams' musical, "Another Million Dollars," will be performed this weekend at Country Playhouse, located in Town & Country Village, just southeast of Interstate 10 and Beltway 8. The production features the comic treatment of shady dealings in the international oil business. It is part of the playhouse's series that offers Houston playwrights an opportunity to present new plays.

on stage **'Another Million
Dollars'**

7 p.m. Sunday, April 7
Free admission
Country Playhouse
12802 Queensbury
713-467-4497

'Billie Holiday: Colors of My Soul'

Theatre New West presents "Billie Holiday: Colors of My Soul" through next week. The piece is a new and revised production that was presented at Houston's Rockefeller in 1991. It again stars Anne Le Sear, a recording artist who has also portrayed Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin in the off-Broadway musical, "Beehive." Many songs and monologues have been added to this production to complete the theatrical experience. Director Joe Watts, artistic director at Theatre New West, also wrote original dialogue for the presentation.

on stage **'Billie Holiday:
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Upcoming productions on Houston stages include Alley Theatre's 'House' and 'Garden' by Alan Ayckbourn.

'House' and 'Garden'

Using its two stages, Alley Theatre offers audiences Alan Ayckbourn's pair of linked comedies starting next week. "House" and "Garden" are performed separately on the theater's stages by the same cast. The audience sees only one play at a time. In "House," Teddy has dreams of a bright future as the new local member of Parliament, but an urgent need to clean up his private life stands in his way. Down in the "Garden," preparations are under way for the annual village carnival, and questions abound behind the scenes. Written as companion plays, each of the two productions stands alone as a comedic evening of theater.

on stage **'House' and
'Garden'**

April 12-May 12
Tickets: \$20-50 each play
Alley Theatre
615 Texas Ave.
713-228-8421
www.alleytheatre.org

'Sakura, the Bandit Princess'

Written by Kikue Tashiro and featuring Kati Kuroda, musician Allen Nyoshin Stier and Mami Kimura, "Sakura, the Princess Warrior" details a country girl's odyssey from young innocent to powerful princess. Kabuki meets Western theater as this epic adventure of 11th century Kyoto makes its Houston debut. The production is filled with comedy, romance, action, mystery and adventure. Actress Kuroda portrays an assorted cast of characters that include a Samurai, a prince, a warrior general, while embroidering the poetry of Kabuki and Noh styles.

on stage **'Sakura, the
Bandit Princess'**

April 13-21
Tickets:
Theater LaB Houston
1706 Alamo
713-868-7516
www.theaterlabhouston.com

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(lit'ē-gā'shen)

lit·i·ga·tion

The meaning according to Webster: n. 1. The act or process of engaging in legal action. 2. A judicial contest; lawsuit. 3. Rare: Dispute; controversy.

(rez'ē-lōō'shen)

res·o·lu·tion

The meaning according to Webster: n. 1. The act of resolving or reducing to a simpler form. 2. The purpose or course resolved upon. *Lat.*: A judgement or decision of a court.

(sat'is-fak'shen)

sat·is·fac·tion

The meaning according to Webster: n. 1. The act of satisfying or the state of being satisfied; gratification. 2. That which satisfies; atonement; compensation. *Lat.*: Compensation for a loss or injury; vindication.

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homefront ELLA TYLER

Home and garden tours
pop up like new bluebonnets
during this season

Spring is tour time

The home and garden tour is as much a rite of spring as a drive toward Austin to see the bluebonnets and baby animals. Neighborhoods all over town will be showing off their prettiest gardens and most interesting houses from now until school lets out.

If your neighborhood is having a tour, go. These are a great way to support your community's project and a socially acceptable way to indulge your curiosity about how your neighbors live. Many houses in a subdivision will share the same quirky detail — the builder got a good price of burgundy and pink tiles — and you can see how other people deal with it.

If you're thinking about moving into a neighborhood, be sure to do the home tour. These are a chance to see lots of area residents in their native habitat. Do you want to live among these people? The way they furnish their houses isn't as important as how they work together and how they greet visitors.

I've made plans to visit a few houses and gardens. The Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour is this Sunday and features six houses and three gardens, including Alan York's house, garden and pool. Tour admission is \$15 and tickets are available at the command center at Garden Oaks Center, North Shepherd and Garden Oaks Boulevard. Hours are noon to 6 p.m.

The following weekend, April 13 and 14, is the Garden Conservancy's Open Days for Houston and Washington County. This national group cares for significant gardens once the owners die or can no longer continue the constant upkeep a garden demands. Peckerwood Gardens, near Hempstead, is one of the gardens assisted by the group.

Open Days are a major fund-raiser for the group. Interesting gardens in 28 states are open at the best time for that locale. If you enjoy seeing gardens when you travel, check out the Web site, www.gardenconservancy.org, to see if you might catch a local garden tour or be near one of the Conservancy's projects.

Ten Houston gardens will be open on Saturday and three large gardens in Washington County are open on Sunday. Since 10 gardens are a lot to see in one day, I drove past them and chose the ones that had the most interesting view from the street. The garden at 2106 Persa, just west of Shepherd, is at the top of my list. The clipped boxwood hedge at 3311 Del Monte intrigues me enough that I'd like to see the rest of the garden.

These gardens are open from 2 to 6 p.m. The set of gardens that is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. has three gardens I want to see more of. They are at 1411 North Blvd, 2003 Dunstan and 2029 Albans.

I picked up an information sheet about the tour at Teas, but most full-service nurseries should have them. Ticket sales for the Houston gardens are at 2337 Tangley on Saturday, April 13, only Peaceable Kingdom Farm at 11111 Mount Falls School Road in



Peaceable Kingdom Farm in Washington, Texas, is one of the gardens featured in Open Days by the national group, Garden Conservancy. (Photo by E. Winsoon-Mize)

Washington is the starting point for the Sunday tours. Call 888-842-2442 during the week for more information.

When you're on a home or garden tour, take a little extra time to look at the other houses in the area. The drive from the house on Dunstan to the one on Albans included saw several interesting plants and houses. Many of the homes in these few blocks have loquat trees, which are full of bright yellow fruit right now. I suspect an enterprising squirrel has been at work.

Whenever you see a lot of one plant in a specific area, it is a good sign that conditions are ideal for that plant. On the other hand, if no one is growing it, or all the plants are small, that is a clue that the plant does not thrive in that area. Houston is at the intersection of three vegetation zones and has many different micro-climates, so not all plants do well in all areas. Do pay attention to the exposure. Is the plant facing west? Or north? Plants vary a lot in the amount of sun that they like.

Take a notebook with you. Generally, photography is not allowed, but you could sketch an interesting looking grouping or write down the name of a plant. If the owner is present, ask questions. Look at color, proportion and scale, texture, details and finishing touches. Even if you do not have a 4,000-square-foot house on a half-acre lot, there will be an idea that works for you. Learn from things that you don't like, too.

Most of all, don't get discouraged. The first time I went on a rose garden tour, a fringe benefit of my rose society membership, I was ready to slit my wrists and napalm the roses. Then I remembered that I was supposed to napalm the roses before I slit my wrists, and that these people had been growing roses for many years and spent a great deal of time at it.

dining TRAYCE DISKIN

Two Chefs offers Cajun and more on a menu that's delicious from start to finish

Bistro tempts taste buds

Although Two Chefs proudly claims its Cajun roots, don't expect to leave overstuffed with etouffees, jambalayas and blackened filets. There's something entirely more expansive and sophisticated about the wide-ranging menu whose French and Continental dishes subtly use a Cajun flair here or there, if at all.

The dark woods and plush burgundies of the interior accentuate Two Chefs' mingling of elegance and intimacy. And although any mere splash of color would stand out from previous white and gray minimalism of Dish — the now defunct restaurant which previously leased the space — the transformation is truly astounding. Sharp angles have been softened into cozy enclaves, and the side room bar's oblong shape creates a relaxing and stylish ambience for diners awaiting a table.

For the name alone, it was difficult to bypass the first listed appetizer. Angels on Horseback (\$8), a popular Cajun recipe featuring bacon-wrapped oysters with horseradish cream sauce and crispy julienned leeks. Instead, we headed straight for the classic Escargot (\$7), whose silky, meaty texture gorgeously soaked up the perfectly seasoned Garlic Herbed Beurre Noisette sauce.

The roasted Provencal tomato sauce competed with the succulent chunks of lobster in the Lobster Ravioli (\$12.95), and we appreciated the additional garnishes of sautéed lobster on plate. For those who don't mind an over-indulgence in Beurre — an ingredient that repeatedly surfaces as the appropriate but rich base in many of Two Chefs' sauces — try the Shallot and Leek Tart (\$10.50), with jumbo lump crabmeat with Beurre blanc sauce.

Dishes like Seafood Bouillabaisse (\$9) seasoned with garlic, parsley and saffron, or the Chicken and Sausage Gumbo (\$5.95), will certainly please Cajun food cravers, but save room for the impressive entrees that lean more toward Continental fare.

The Pecan Crusted Texas Striped Bass (\$17.95) can't escape its generous topping of Beurre Meuniere sauce, but the fillet, breaded with pecan flour and sprinkled with roasted pecans, retains its own juicy flavor. I opted for the lighter Grilled Gulf Fish (\$17.95) with fresh, sautéed vegetables and a tangy citrus vinaigrette. I loved how the simplicity of the dish allowed the meat and veggies to mingle subtly with the piquant marinade.

The Double Roasted Garlic Glazed Chicken Breast (\$15.95) could have done without the by now too familiar Beurre blanc, but luckily the festive sauté of artichokes, mushrooms and sun-dried tomatoes balanced out the creamy richness. One friend lamented the skin still left on the chicken breast: not only did it make the texture less appetizing, but it also pre-

vented the more rustic flavors and seasonings from reaching the meat. She did, however, applaud the roasted shallot mashed potatoes that came as a side.

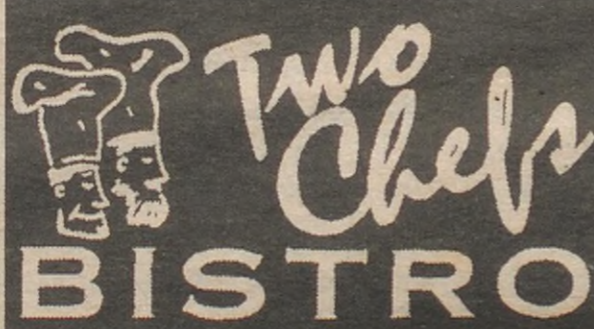
For a lighter touch still, try the Shrimp and Chicken Pasta Florentine (\$16.95) with fresh spinach fettuccine, or the Vegetable Plate (\$15.95), with a mélange of grilled, sautéed and steamed vegetables with fettuccini, garlic, and basil.

Red meat lovers will fall in love with the Herb Encrusted Rack of Lamb (\$28) with a rosemary tomato demi glace, or the Filet au Beuf au Pomme Frite (\$25) with French fries and Béarnaise sauce. The Pork Tenderloin of the Forest (\$17.95) lives up to its enchanting moniker with its red wine and wild mushroom sauce, and a side of spaghetti squash.

Two Chefs carries its expertise through to the desserts, especially with stellar knockouts like the Chocolate Molten Souffle and the White Chocolate Bread Pudding (both \$6.25). By this time, of course, our taste buds had long given up resisting the buttery richness of Two Chefs' dishes, and it was time to indulge.

The soufflé's crunchy, baked outer texture crumbles decadently into the pudding-like center, and the milky bread pudding sits in its own pool of white chocolate and caramel, flecked by slivers of dark chocolate. It was almost enough to make us forget about the preceding dishes, but not quite.

From the appetizers to the last sip of robust coffee, Two Chefs has truly created a cuisine that's rich and unforgettable.



Two Chefs Bistro
2300 Westheimer
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FOOD FILE

Food:

Service:

Value:

Scene:

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CALENDAR

<p>Friday • April 5 Morning Prayer 10am</p> <p>Monday • April 8 Eucharist 7:30pm</p> <p>Friday • April 12 Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "O Brother Where Art Thou?"</p>	<p>Saturday • April 13 Breakfast 9:30am</p> <p>Monday • April 15 Eucharist 7:30pm</p> <p>Friday • April 19 Morning Prayer 10am</p>
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community calendar

Join Us As We Celebrate Our 29th Anniversary!

Queen Bee Cook-Off and Dance
Sunday, April 20, 2002 • 2pm til 5:30pm
Adults: \$10 • Children: \$2

Guest Speaker

Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham
Sunday, April 28, 2002 • 9am and 11am

Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham is a former Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Taylor, Texas, and St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Houston. She currently serves the Presbyterian Church (USA) nationally, as an elected member of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee of the Office of the General Assembly.

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Second Annual

Fiesta Ball Extravaganza 2002

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April 7 "The New Prophet 'Humble & Bold'" Rev. Vicki Anderson
Please join us for Praise & Worship. We would love to have you visit us.

Church Service begins at 10am and
nursery is available for small children.
Mid-week "Home Group" services on
Tuesdays and Wednesdays

For more info...
713-528-6756 or e-mail
maranatha@ev1.net

**Maranatha
Fellowship**
Metropolitan
Community Church

"Building Community Through Compassion"

saturday, april 6

Classic Chassis Car Club. Road trip to the 24th annual Spring Fling in Rosenberg. 10 a.m. Meet at The 59 Diner, 3801 Farnham. 713-797-8615. www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org.

Houston Outdoor Group. Galveston Social. New and current members welcome. Don or Ray, 713-522-7809. www.galveston.com/calendars/

Rummage-A-Rama. Sale hosted first Saturday of each month to benefit AIDS Housing Coalition Houston. 202 Tuam Ave. 713-521-1613.

every saturday

All-Spanish Worship Service/Culto en español. 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-9403 or 713-861-9149.

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

Houston Outdoor Group. Memorial Park walk. 9:30 a.m., meet in front of tennis center. Jimmy, 713-864-7299.

Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatriol@aol.com

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in noon-4 p.m. GATE (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) Board of Directors meeting, 1-4 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, april 7

Classic Chassis Car Club. Annual Spring Car Show at The 611 parking lot, corner of Pacific at Stanford. 11 a.m. setup. Noon-5 p.m. show. 713-797-8615. www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org.

PFLAG-Houston. Meeting, 2 p.m. 713-867-9020. www.pflaghouston.org/meetings.html.

every sunday

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

Emerson Unitarian Church. Adult education, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. Lunch available at noon. www.emersonhou.org.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education, 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available, 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930.

Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.

Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houston-tennisclub@aol.com

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. 10 a.m. service. 3333 Fannin, Suite 106. 713-528-6756.

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 7:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 8:55 a.m.; Education hour, 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist, 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.

Sunday Brunch. For HIV-positive men. Price-fixed buffet. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul, 713-880-0690. e-mail: PoznFubb@aol.com.

The Women's Group. Meeting and discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion, 9:45 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service, 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in 2-5 p.m. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys) meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

monday, april 8

Classic Chassis Car Club. Monthly Houston board meeting. 713-797-8615. www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org.

every monday

AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsals, 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, april 9

Galveston Chamber. Galveston Island Lets Bi Gay Chamber of Commerce (GILTBGCC) holds its general membership meeting. 6 p.m. Whistle Stop Grill, 412 20th St., Galveston, TX 77550. 409-765-0257. www.LetsBiGay.com.

PFLAG-Houston. Meeting. 713-867-9020. www.pflaghouston.org/meetings.html.

every tuesday

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang, 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.

Gay youth. New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

HTGA. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

wednesday, april 10

Houston Area Bears. Dine Out and meeting. 6:30 p.m. Biba's, West Gray. 713-867-9123. www.HoustonAreaBears.com.

Houston Outdoor Group. Lake Somerville Campout pre-camp meeting. 7 p.m., Café Express on Kirby. Campout will be April 12-14. Ed B., 713-529-6661.

every wednesday

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Various support groups, 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-524-0218.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston, 7:30 p.m. • 713-524-3818.

thursday, april 11

Bi-Net Houston. Women's meeting. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force-Houston. 8 p.m. meeting. Chris, 713-426-3128. lgirtf-houston@egroups.com.

every thursday

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.

Free HIV Testing. By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

GLOBAL. Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston-Central Campus. Weekly meeting, 6 p.m. e-mail: nguyen0023@hotmail.com.

Hep C Recovery. Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

HIV Art Therapy Program. 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m. -6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

STD exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

Spanish Charla Conversation Group. Agora, 7 p.m. E-mail charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.

Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

friday, april 12

Kolbe Project. Movie Night. "O Brother Where Art Thou," 7 p.m. Soft drinks and popcorn provided. 1030 Heights Blvd. 713-861-1800. www.kolbeproject.org.

every Friday

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Light breakfast provided. 713-523-9530.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Govinda Yoga Club. Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Kolbe Project. Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.

Lesbian & Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

volunteer/self-help

Gay & Lesbian Help Line. For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Staffed by volunteers of all ages. 6-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 888-340-GLBT.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston. Volunteers offer a friendly ear to callers in need of information, nonjudgmental support, crisis intervention and referral services, emergency shelter and advocacy services to crime survivors who may need someone to accompany them to a hospital for medical attention or assistance in filing a police report. 713-529-3211

Montrose Counseling Center Permanent Endowment, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is looking for an attorney who wants to give back to the community by providing pro bono legal counsel to its Board of Directors. Attorneys with estate planning or real estate experience are encouraged to respond. Please send a letter of inquiry with your resume/CV to: Montrose Counseling Center Endowment — LC, Attn: Executive Director, 701 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713.526.4367. No phone calls.

Peer Listening Line. Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.

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

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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	57	58	59					60				61	62
63						64				65			66
67						68				69			
70						71				72			

"HOMO ERECTUS"

Across

- Robert, who played in a Bunch
- Moist mounds
- Hearst Castle architect Morgan
- Mr. Right-now
- State, to Renee Vivien
- McCormack and more
- They aren't straight
- It comes before American Relations
- Klumpke and Madrigal
- Glass House architect
- Fit your first mate's mast
- Ken of "Say Uncle"
- Santa _____, California
- Key West to South Beach dir.
- Etiquette writer Steven
- Tree with a straight trunk
- Tooth of 40-Across
- Come too quickly
- Renaissance architect
- Top
- Affirm orally
- Inked decoration, for short
- Deed done in an online room?
- Karen Walker, perhaps
- Nonpornographic raw material
- Auxiliary verb for Christopher Marlowe
- David Parks' st.
- He played a landscape architect in "The Next Best Thing"

- Like Christopher Rice's tales
- Doctors make you strip for it
- Something to deviate from
- Four for Billy Bean
- Teacher in "The King and I"
- Spread it and lick it
- See 72-Across
- Where to see sweaty men
- With 70-Across, architect played by 1-Across

Down

- Five fruits a day, e.g. (abbr.)
- He shot off at O.K. Corral
- Cut glass
- Ferro's "The Family of Max _____"
- Edith Head, to costumes
- What you can take from me
- Instrument strummed in "Mame"
- Seat in a gay bar
- Cross-dresser _____ d'Arc
- Greek vases
- Floor covering, for short
- _____ do anything better than you"
- "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's _____"
- Evans, kissed by Rock Hudson on "Dynasty"


- Body part to shoot from
- Black key for Elton John
- Dorothy, to Em
- It arouses two body openings
- They may be split
- Cycle beginning
- The Bee Gees' "_____ Me"
- First name in Irish literature
- Cultural critic Edmund
- Brown's "Songs _____ Handsome Woman"
- Maker of some fruit-flavored ice cream
- Mapplethorpe supporter (abbr.)
- How a butch may dress?
- Stonewall Democrat target
- Like Nathan Lane's role in "Mouse Hunt"?
- It gets laid in some streets
- Upright erection
- State of Dianne Hardy-Garcia
- Snaky discharge
- Bottom priority of a top
- Bear that roams the night
- Like a Piper in a fairy tale
- Drag queen on the make
- "Icicle" singer Amos
- Boldy go where no one has gone before
- Come out on the beach
- "Five Guys Named _____"

Answers on Page 25

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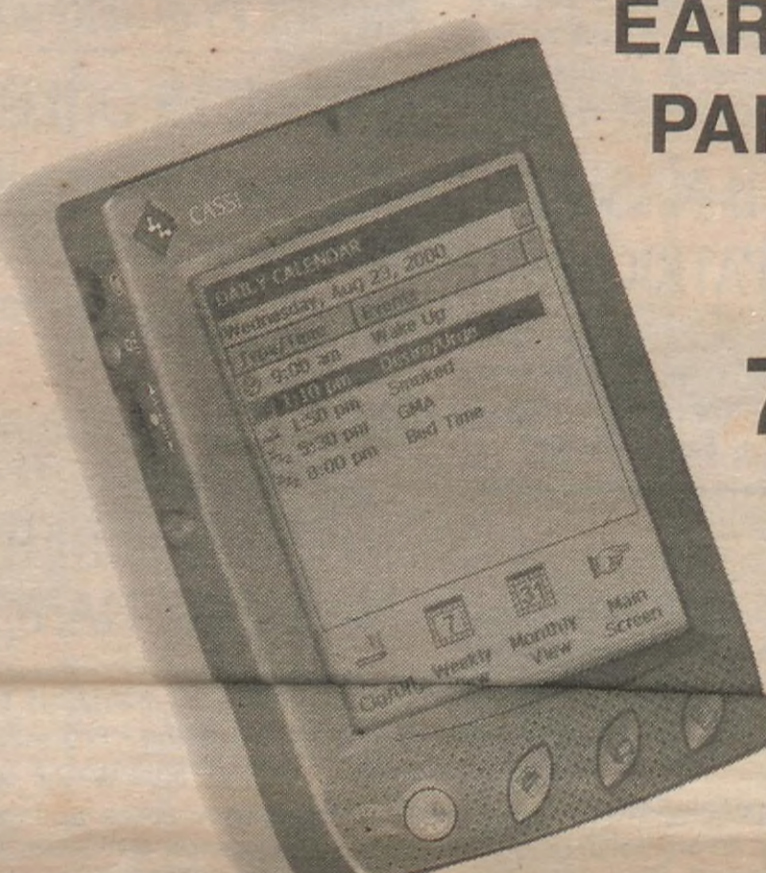
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My Stars!

April 5-11



ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

You should go for the gold, dear, once the new moon hits your sign on April 12. The stars are encouraging you to take chances and dream big. You are the only force holding yourself back. A Virgo wants you to let go.



TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

Jupiter is passing through the social sector of your chart, so please get out there and see more people. Why so hermetic? Another Taurus can help you get to back in touch with your inner hedonist.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Mars moves into your sign on April 13 and with it, a new phase in your life opens up. You need to be more assertive and stop waiting for things and people to come to you. Another Gemini wants to expand your relationship.



CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

Mars travels through your house of friends through April 12. During that time you may have to sort out issues of attraction and competition with your buds. You are sweet enough to come out on top with everyone — especially an alluring Pisces of the bottom persuasion.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

If life seems full of strange coincidences this week, go with them, darling. You won't be able to plan much, but you will have lots of fun. Give up control. Give yourself over to an Aries.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Life is rather funny right now, and you're going to have to keep your sense of humor in order to survive and actually enjoy it. A Libra wants to play games with you. What role do you want to play?



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

The new moon on April 12 falls into your house of love. With all the suitors in your court, you need to do the math. Who adds up to numero uno, darling? My money's on a Cancer who plays both mommy and daddy to you.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Mars finishes up a stint in your house of love on April 12 and fills you with one last blast of passive-aggressive plotting energy. Dear, you really do like to confuse yourself, don't you? Mid-April will provide more answers. A Sag gives you a clue.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You are close to finding out what you need to know about a work situation. And then it's time to make some decisions, sweetie. Your ambivalence has grown tiresome. An Aquarius wants you to take action and skip the words.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Saturn in your work sector may inhibit your social life, but you'll survive. You need to get things done, darling, and to stop distracting yourself. An Aries will keep you on track.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

The new moon on April 12 joins Mercury and the Sun in your house of communication, so pick up a pen and start writing, dear. You have too many good ideas. It's time to pick one — or two — and start developing them. A Sag can inspire you.



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

Mars finishes up a transit in your creative fifth house on April 12. Do some sort of artistic ritual to stir your senses. You can channel the muse now, sweetie — and lure in an Aquarius in the process.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.



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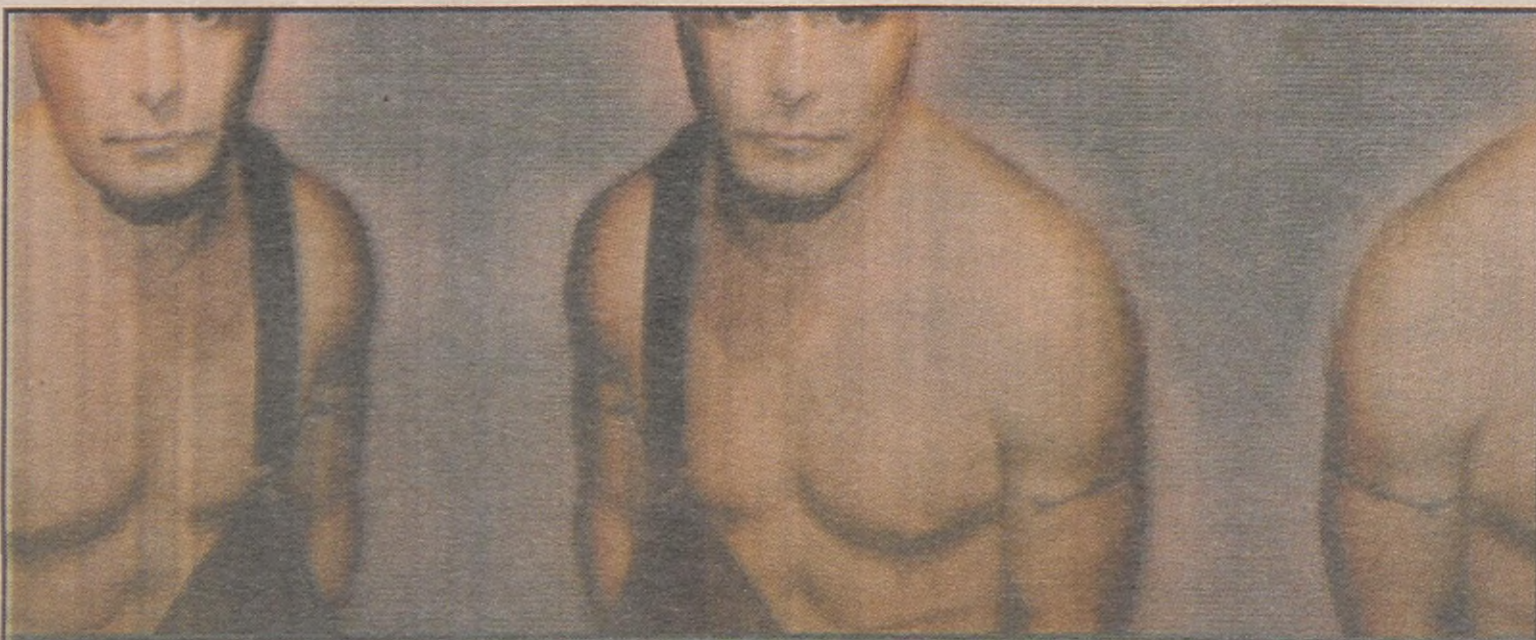
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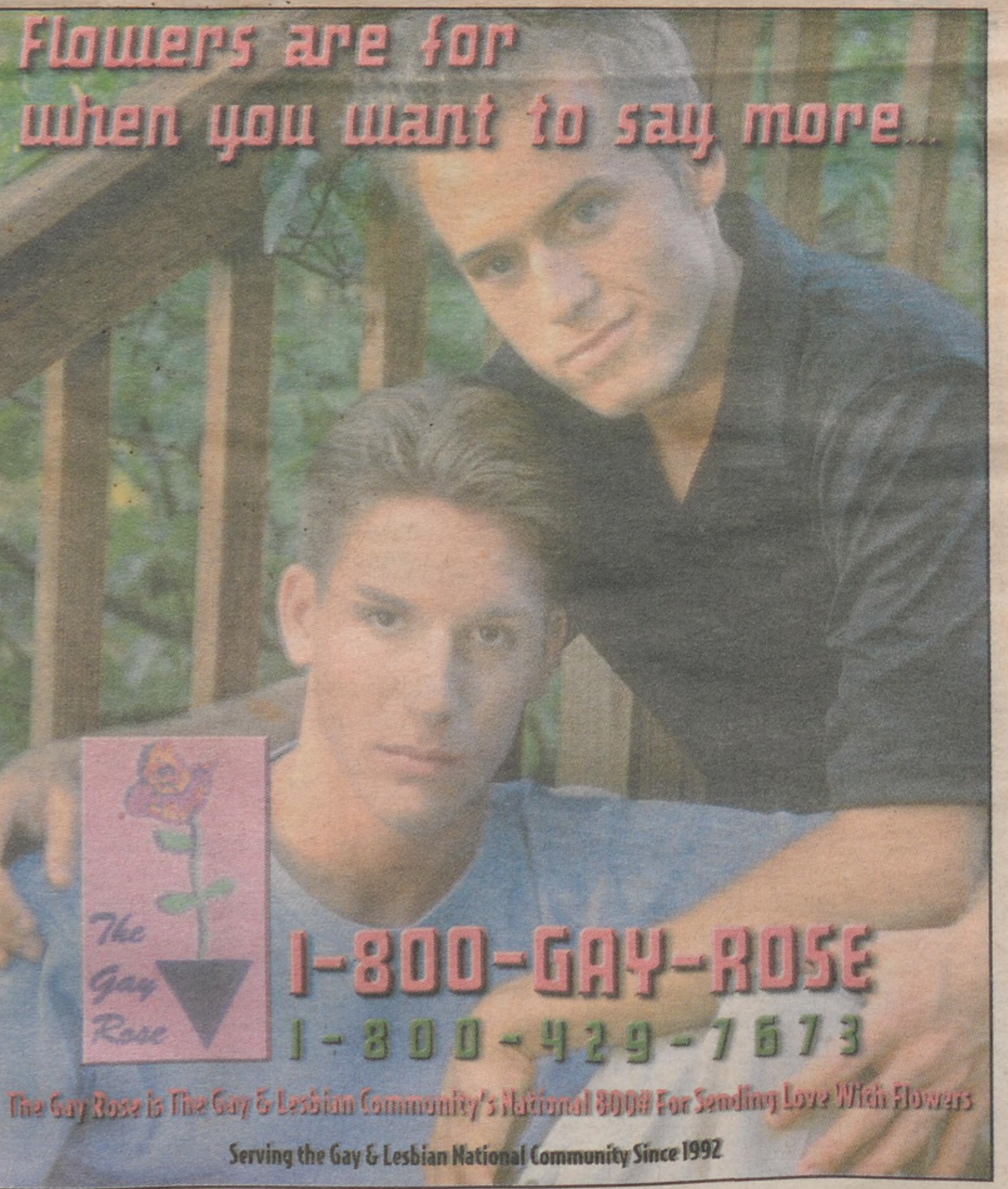
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