



Swoopes, there it wasn't

Construction issues
delay Swoopes 22
grand opening

By DEBORAH MONCRIEF BELL

Sheryl Swoopes may be a living legend in women's basketball, but the shot clock ran out on her first attempt to open her new lesbian-friendly venue, Swoopes 22 Sports Bar & Nightclub.

Or, as one disappointed lesbian put it, "Swoopes as a player: 1. Swoopes as a club owner: 0."

Construction delays and the remaining repairs that were pending meant that the club could not meet the necessary occupancy inspection required prior to its planned May 3 opening, Darryl Linden, the club's general manager, explained.

"It prevented us from completing finishing details that will make Swoopes 22 one of the best all-purpose venues in town and the 'only' place to follow Comets basketball," he said.

The occupancy approval was to take place on May 16, Linden said. He hopes for a Memorial Day weekend opening, though others connected with the club are reluctant to state a definitive opening date until they know it will be a sure thing.

So instead of opening night at Swoopes 22 itself, the Houston Comets phenom and many of her fans and friends moved the party to House of Finesse, though the word of mouth didn't reach everyone.

Many who were excited to check out the new venue expressed some disappointment.



Swoopes 22 Sports Bar & Nightclub is still not open for business, after missing the targeted opening date of May 3. (Photo by Nancy Ford)

Carol Wyatt, host of the Professional Women's night on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Meteor Lounge, said she had urged subscribers to her e-mail list to try out Swoopes 22.

"I think everyone in the community is excited about the opening of a new, upscale bar in town," she said, but added that she felt the Swoopes 22 management should have communicated the delayed opening on its webpage or outgoing voicemail greeting, and used its e-mail list to get out the word.

"However, they chose to do nothing," said Wyatt, "and therefore a lot of people made a wasted trip down-

town."

Wyatt said the customer service letdown hasn't dampened her enthusiasm for the eventual grand opening.

"That having been said, I wish them great success, and can't wait to visit the bar myself!" she said.

Madelyn Sklar, founder of Go Girls Music, a group devoted to promoting women in music, said she and her girlfriend went to the "opening" of Swoopes 22 Club because it was listed as the meeting place for the Professional Women's Happy Hour on that date.

Sklar said she wasn't "terribly dis-

Please see **SWOOPES** on Page 3



Lesbian Mary Cheney, (right), holds the Bible as her mother watches while her father is sworn in for a second term as vice president on Jan. 20, 2005. Cheney is breaking her long silence on her political views in a new book. (Photo by Paul Sancya/AP)

Breaking her silence

Mary Cheney denounces
anti-gay amendment, but critics
say it's too little too late

By KATHERINE VOLIN

MARY CHENEY BROKE her long record of silence on gay issues this month with a PR blitz that would make Tom Cruise proud.

After years of criticism from activists who said Vice President Dick Cheney's lesbian daughter should have lobbied publicly for gay rights instead of working for the Bush-Cheney campaigns, the woman who once preferred to fly under the radar was suddenly everywhere, from "Primetime Live" to "Larry King" to the Washington Post. It was an unlikely week in the spotlight for a woman nor-

Please see **CHENEY** on Page 19



Local health executives
chosen to lead national
AIDS Action organization.
News, Page 4

HIV-positive Larry Teeter
is running and cycling
his way back to health.
Local Life, Page 8

Human Rights Campaign
launches new ads to fight
anti-gay marriage amendment.
News, Page 5



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local news



Vickie Hayes (far left) and Tricia Ewing (far right) surround Marion Coleman (second from left) and her partner Trudy Denny, at Kindred Spirits' fifth annual reunion celebration. More than 400 guests jammed Edwin R. Hornberger Center on April 29 to raise money for area charities. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

Reunion raises \$4K, seeks beneficiaries for 2007 event

At a gathering of its organizational committee on May 13, Kindred Spirits Reunion Celebrations founder Marion Coleman announced that the group raised approximately \$4,000 from its April 29 event to donate to its designated beneficiaries.

Organizations splitting the proceeds are Houston Buyers Club, Lesbian Health Initiative, Bering Support Network and AssistHers.

Coleman said the group was currently accepting applications from non-profit groups interested in becoming beneficiaries of the 2007 reunion, set for April 28 at the Edwin R. Hornberger Center. Area 501 (c) (3) organizations that provide assistance to the GLBT community, especially health and wellness groups focusing on Houston's women's community are eligible to submit an application. The deadline is Aug. 1, 2006.

Applications must include a letter of interest and designating the plans for the use of the monies, a letter of determination for 501 (c) (3) status and any other pertinent information deemed necessary by the applicant. For more information, e-mail KSReunions@aol.com.

Austin approves domestic partnership benefits for city employees

In a citywide election held May 13, Austin voters backed the repeal of a 12-year-old section of the city charter that prohibited the city from offering health benefits to city employees' domestic partners.

The passage of Proposition 6 allows Austin city employees to add domestic partners to their insurance. It also allows more discussion of an employee 'plus-one' package to add a dependent older than 25.

Austin offered similar benefits in 1993 before opponents overturned them. The approval of the measure could prompt Austin's City Council to write a new health policy, at an estimated cost of \$250,000 to \$1.2 million.

The City of Dallas currently offers its employees the "Plus-one" option package.

States offering domestic partner insurance package to its employees include California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, New Jersey, New Mexico,

New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

Montrose Counseling Center offers new 'coming out' support group

Citing the success of its last two sessions, Montrose Counseling Center has announced the formation of its newest coming out support group.

Just in time for Pride Month, the new group begins meeting on June 1 at 6 p.m. and will be held every Thursday for eight consecutive weeks at MCC in room 15.

There is no fee for the group, although participants will be asked for a donation. Participants do not need to be a client of Montrose Counseling Center, nor are they required to attend all eight sessions.

Anyone who identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning is welcomed to attend, organizers said.

MCC is located at 701 Richmond Ave. For more information, call 713-529-0037, ext. 340.

From staff and wire reports

local news



Houston Comets forward Sheryl Swoopes talks about her admission of being a lesbian during an Oct. 26, 2005 interview. Swoopes told ESPN The Magazine that she didn't always know she was gay and fears that coming out could jeopardize her status as a role model. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

Swoopes 22 promises special 'Houston Voice' grand opening

SWOOPES, continued from Page 1

appointed" because upon arriving into the parking lot she spotted a few friends she had not seen in a while.

"It was like our own little party," she said. "We all followed each other to House of Finesse and kept our party going and later on headed to Meteor."

Sklar said that she would give Swoopes' club another chance, "but not before calling first."

T. C. Mayfield, another WNBA fan, said she was very excited that the bar, touted as an "alternative club," was going to open.

"I rarely go to bars but I wanted to support Swoopes and her business endeavor," she said. "When I heard it did not open I was dismayed."

"Sisters need to get it together and practice good business with their community," Mayfield continued. "After all, we are the ones that will support it."

Another Comets fan, Ann Reid, said she wondered why some were so intent on "dishing" Swoopes because the club did

not open on time.

"Those of us who have ever been involved in a remodeling or building project are well aware of how things can change with the blink of an eye," she said.

"So she didn't get the news out in time that the club would not open, but maybe she didn't know herself until it was too late to do anything about it, media-wise."

Reid said she believes that Swoopes is trying to do something that may be very good for Houston's gay and lesbian community.

"Let's give her the benefit of the doubt," she said. "I'm looking forward to enjoying a lot of entertaining evenings when it is up and running."

Linden said an exclusive Swoopes 22 pre-grand opening "Houston Voice Happy Hour" is being planned at Swoopes' urging for the readers, supporters, and sponsors of the Houston Voice, including a tour of the club, with time and date to be announced. It is a gesture to say thank-you for bearing with management as they try to get the club up and running, he said.

He added that Swoopes is "trying her best" to schedule the Houston Voice pre-grand opening on a day that she can attend.

"I sincerely regret the grand opening delay, and I will make it up to my Houston Voice family," Sheryl Swoopes said. "I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the club."

MORE INFO

Swoopes 22 Sports Bar & Nightclub
2020 Leeland Ave.
Houston, Texas 77002
713-227-9667
www.swoopes22.net

houston news

Legacy executives elected to lead national group

AIDS Action taps Caldwell, Malone as board chairs

By NANCY FORD

Two local leaders who have been on the front lines of Houston's fight against HIV and AIDS have been elected to serve as officers for AIDS Action, a national organization whose motto is "Until it's over."

Katy Caldwell, executive director of Legacy Community Health Services, has been elected board chair of the AIDS Action Council.

MORE INFO

AIDS Action
1906 Sunderland Place NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-530-8030
www.aidsaction.org

Legacy Community Health Services
215 Westheimer Rd.
Houston, Texas 77006
713-830-3000
www.legacycommunityhealthservices.org

"I am pleased to take on this leadership role for AIDS Action Council," Caldwell said of her election.

"There are many important issues under discussion right now, like the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, the shrinking HIV funding portfolio, HIV prevention, and research on vaccines and microbicides,"

The AIDS Action Foundation also elected Kenneth Malone, chief financial officer of the Legacy Community Health Services, as chair.

"I am excited about the leadership of the foundation board as we continue to research innovative ways to connect HIV positive individuals to quality care," Malone said.

"In partnership with the HIV/AIDS Bureau at the Health Resources Services Administration, AIDS Action Foundation has been investigating best practices in connecting ex-offenders to HIV care as well as innovative connections to quality HIV care in rural settings," he added. "The end result of this research will help to increase the number of HIV-positive people enrolled in quality care throughout the United States."

A national voice on HIV

Malone previously served as executive director of The Assistance Fund, which merged with the Montrose Clinic in 2005 to



Recently elected chair of the board of the AIDS Action Council, Katy Caldwell directs Houston's Legacy Community Health Services. Legacy provides services to more than 15,000 men, women and teens annually. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

form Legacy Community Health Services.

AIDS Action strives to end the HIV epidemic by advancing public policies that prevent new infections, provide care for people living with HIV, and support the search for a cure. The group also serves as the national voice for AIDS service organizations, health departments, and a diverse

network of organizations across the country that provide services for people living with or affected by HIV infection.

Rebecca Haag, executive director of AIDS Action's Council and Foundation said she was pleased to see that the new officers included those who had previously served in leadership roles and had significant experience with the organization.

"The board leadership includes perspectives from different geographic locations as well as both community services and medical based service models," she said. "I am pleased to have a leadership team with such a depth of experience and expertise, and look forward to working with them on the very significant challenges that face our advocacy work on behalf of those living with HIV and AIDS."

The new officers were elected at the AIDS Action annual meeting in March.

The new AIDS Action Council and Foundation Board Members were elected to serve a one-year term that expires in March 2007.

"AIDS Action is in the forefront of HIV advocacy in Washington," Caldwell concluded. "I am pleased to be able to build upon the work of our immediate past chair, Craig Thompson."

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national news

Most Americans oppose marriage amendment: poll

Gay groups unite to fight as June vote nears

By JOSHUA LYNSEN and ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

A majority of Americans oppose the proposed federal constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, according to a new poll commissioned by the Human Rights Campaign.

The poll, conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates and released May 9, also shows that voters believe Congress should consider the Marriage Protection Amendment only after it makes health care more affordable, deals with the war in Iraq and halts illegal immigration.

"Voters want Congress focused on fixing America's challenges, not creating more," said Samantha Smoot, HRC's political director.

The polling, conducted in April among 802 registered voters nationwide, showed that 49 percent of those questioned believe gay marriage should be a state issue. Only 33 percent of those questioned believed the issue should be decided by amending the U.S. Constitution. Another 18 percent were not sure how to handle the issue.

"The numbers show that Americans want Congress working on affordable health care, the ongoing war in Iraq and passing new ethics and lobbying laws, not changing the Constitution," Smoot said. "Senators and representatives should take these numbers as a sign that this political ploy will backfire at the polls."

The Marriage Protection Amendment, scheduled for a Senate vote the week of June 5, would ban marriage, civil unions and other forms of relationship recognition for same-sex couples.

The language of the proposed constitutional amendment states: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents

thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

Gay rights advocates, Democratic party leaders, and others are working in public and private to stop Congress from passing the proposed amendment.

"We will call it what it is — an attempt to scapegoat people," said Democratic Party spokesperson Damien LaVera. "We won't let the Republicans get away with it."

Conservative groups, meanwhile, are working just as hard to lobby Congress to pass the measure. The Family Research Council is hosting an online petition with a goal of obtaining 50,000 signatures in support of the gay marriage ban.

Vote expected to fall short

Previously called the Federal Marriage Amendment, a Senate vote on the proposal in 2004 failed 50-48.

Also at that time, the House voted 227-186 in favor of the proposal. The measure still needed 29 more votes in the House and 19 more votes in the Senate to reach the two-thirds majority required to pass a constitutional amendment.

In the 2004 vote, 36 House Democrats joined 191 Republicans voting for the amendment. Twenty-seven House Republicans and 158 House Democrats opposed the measure.

Political observers have forecasted this year's Senate vote at 52-48 in favor of the measure, mostly due to Democratic seats won by the GOP in November 2004. Such a vote still would fall 17 votes shy of the necessary two-thirds majority.

Patrick Guerriero, president of Log Cabin Republicans, a gay partisan group, said Marriage Protection Amendment opponents have lost some ground.

"[We will] see a slight pick up in the Senate," he said, "but will hold pretty solid with the people with us last time."

"The far right will claim they're making progress, when in reality they're very far away from the majority," he said. "Their biggest chance was last time."

Guerriero said the measure likely will fail next month, but gay rights groups should still work to defeat the measure so as "not to let our opponents gain any real momentum."



Samantha Smoot of the Human Rights Campaign says voters want Congress to focus on issues like affordable health care and the Iraq war rather than spending time debating a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. (Photo by Harry Cabluck/AP)

Log Cabin has crafted a campaign to defeat the proposed amendment that is rooted in conservative values, like federalism and states' rights, Guerriero said.

"A new wave of Republican voices are coming out against the [amendment]," he said. "You can be a good Republican and not want to write discrimination into the Constitution."

Log Cabin's strategy will focus on grassroots organizing, and cost less than its 2004 campaign, when the group spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, Guerriero said.

"We're not spending at the clip we did in 2004," he said. "We now have a real feel on who is with us and against us."

Democrats to filibuster?

The National Stonewall Democrats also are working on a grassroots campaign to fight the proposed amendment.

"We're working with chapters around the country to talk to individual members of Congress, especially Democrats, regardless of their current position on the amendment," said John Marble of National Stonewall Democrats, a gay partisan group.

Marble said Stonewall Democrats also are asking Democratic National Committee leaders and members to meet with their

respective members of Congress.

"It's one thing to hear from us," he said. "Members of Congress need to be hearing from our straight allies as well."

In a May 8 telephone conference call for the media, Smoot said some Democratic senators have told HRC they'll filibuster to attempt to derail the proposed amendment.

HRC spokesperson Jay Smith Brown said opposing senators will argue the amendment is unnecessary because many states already have — through the Defense of Marriage Act — the authority to refuse to recognize gay marriages from other states.

"That's definitely the main argument in Congress against it," he said.

Smith Brown said more than 120 gay rights and civil liberty groups are working together to defeat the proposed amendment.

Earlier this month, HRC launched an advertising campaign urging gay and straight Americans to act against the amendment.

Among the campaign's tools is an online video highlighting what HRC called "the radical right's discriminatory campaign," print ads attacking Republican Senators Rick Santorum and Bill Frist, and e-mails asking amendment opponents to sign postcards that will be hand-delivered to Congress.

HRC President Joe Solmonese said the ad campaign's tools "are just pieces of the puzzle" to defeat the proposed amendment.

"While we're on Capitol Hill day in and day out lobbying against any effort to put discrimination in our Constitution, it's vital that back home all fair-minded Americans are doing their part to make their voices heard," he said.

Some gay advocates have complained that at least some senators should base their opposition to the amendment on the argument that gay couples should have full marriage equality.

Smith Brown noted that Sen. Russell Feingold (D-Wis.) recently announced his full support for gay-marriage rights, and he is expected to present such arguments in the Senate. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) previously argued in favor of equal marriage rights in 2004.

Lou Chibbaro Jr. contributed to this report.

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news in brief

Laura Bush warns against political use of gay marriage issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Laura Bush warned May 14 against using the proposed constitutional amendment against gay marriage as a campaign tool. The first lady told "Fox News Sunday" that she thinks the American people want a debate on the issue. But, she said, "I don't think it should be used as a campaign tool, obviously. It requires a lot of sensitivity to just talk about the issue — a lot of sensitivity," she said. The Senate will debate early next month legislation that would have the Constitution define marriage as the union between a man and a woman, Majority Leader Bill Frist said on CNN's "Late Edition." President Bush supports the amendment, but Vice President Dick Cheney does not. Cheney's daughter, Mary, is a lesbian and has been speaking out against the marriage amendment as she promotes her new book, "Now It's My Turn." Mary Cheney wrote that she almost quit the Bush-Cheney campaign in 2004 because of Bush's position on the issue. Asked Sunday about reports that White House political adviser Karl Rove and other Republicans want to use the issue to mobilize conservatives for the midterm election, Cheney said she hoped "no one would think about trying to amend the Constitution as a political strategy."



First Lady Laura Bush didn't say she opposed the constitutional amendment against gay marriage, but did say it shouldn't be used as a 'campaign tool.' (Photo by AP/FOX News Sunday, Freddie Lee)

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German cannibal sentenced to life for eating gay victim

FRANKFURT, Germany — A cannibal who killed and ate an apparently willing gay male victim has been convicted of murder and will spend the rest of his life in jail after a German court overturned as too lenient a conviction of manslaughter, the U.K. Independent reported May 10. Armin Meiwes, 44, known throughout Germany as the "Cannibal of Rotenburg," had been sentenced to eight and one-half years in 2004 for killing and eating Bernd Jurgen Brandes, 43, a gay computer engineer whom Meiwes met via the internet. Judges at the first trial said they based their manslaughter verdict on evidence that Brandes volunteered to be killed and eaten. Meiwes maintained that he would "never have touched" his victim had he not wanted to be killed. But a Frankfurt appeals court overturned the verdict May 9, concluding judges overlooked key trial evidence that Meiwes killed for sexual pleasure. "Meiwes slaughtered his victim like a piece of livestock and treated him as an object of his fancy," the state prosecutor said.

Judge sentences 'Survivor's' Hatch to 51 months in jail

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Richard Hatch, who won \$1 million in the debut season of "Survivor," was sentenced May 16 to 51 months in prison for failing to pay income taxes on his reality TV prize and other earnings. Hatch, 45, was convicted in January. The charges carried a maximum of 13 years in prison. U.S. District Judge Ernest Torres said he issued a harsher than expected sentence because he believed Hatch perjured himself repeatedly during his trial. "It seems unfortunately very clear to me that Mr. Hatch lied," Torres said. When Hatch was convicted, Torres said he expected to sentence him to 33 to 41 months. "I believe I've been completely truthful and completely forthcoming throughout the entire process," Hatch told the judge before he was sen-

tenced. Hatch claimed he thought the show's producers would pay his taxes and pleaded ignorance about money matters, saying he forgot to tell his accountants about some other "Survivor"-related income. Hatch became known as "the fat naked guy" — a term coined by David Letterman — for refusing to wear clothes for much of the show.

U.S. Supreme Court leaves lesbian mom with parental rights

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court refused May 15 to block a lesbian from seeking parental rights to a child she had helped raise with her partner. Justices could have used the case to clarify the rights of gays in child custody disputes stemming from nontraditional families. They declined, without comment, to disturb a ruling of Washington state's highest court that said Sue Ellen Carvin could pursue ties to the girl as a "de facto parent." The girl is now 11. Lawyers for the girl's biological mother, Page Britain, told justices that the state court decision in this case and others around the country "pave the way for children to have an unlimited and ever-changing number of parents."

Trial court overturns Ga. marriage amendment

ATLANTA — The state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage approved by Georgia voters in 2004 was thrown out May 16 by a Fulton County Superior Court judge. Judge Constance Russell agreed with those challenging the amendment because it violates the "single-subject rule" in the Georgia Constitution, which prohibits multiple questions being presented to voters in a single proposition. Opponents of the amendment contended that in addition to limiting marriage to heterosexual couples, it also prohibited civil unions and domestic partnerships.

From staff and wire reports



THIS JUNE

As early as June 5, the Senate will vote on the **FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT**, which would ban marriage and threaten civil unions and domestic partnerships for same-sex couples. The House vote is expected before the fall elections.

The Human Rights Campaign is working on Capitol Hill and across the country to **FIGHT** the Federal Marriage Amendment, which would put **DISCRIMINATION** in the U.S. Constitution. But we can't do it without you.

TAKE ACTION

- 1) **LOG ON** to www.hrc.org/voteno to tell your senators and representatives that you strongly oppose this and any attempt to put discrimination into the Constitution.
- 2) **ALERT** your friends and family to this issue and ask them to take action as well.
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Photo by Mark Wilson / Getty Images

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Ain't no mountain high enough

Marathoner Larry Teeter switches sports to raise funds to fight HIV

By NANCY FORD

IN 1994, LARRY TEETER WAS RUNNING along Buffalo Bayou, as the avid runner often did. The fact that he had been diagnosed HIV positive in 1989 hadn't impeded his ability to maintain his energetic lifestyle.

As he was running that day, Teeter noticed "there was something up" with his vision.

"It just didn't seem right," Teeter, 46, says. "I was familiar with the opportunistic infections associated with HIV; I'd heard about CMV retinitis and how it could take your vision very rapidly."

He immediately made an appointment with an ophthalmologist, soon learning that his self-diagnosis had been correct. His doctor told him he faced a lifetime of therapy, saying that from then on he would be on intravenous anti-virals to treat the CMV, in order to keep his vision.

"Thinking of being on an IV for the rest of my life at that time was not really a good prospect," he says. "I ended up losing all my vision in one eye because of that."

With one prosthetic eye, Teeter doggedly went on to compete in and complete more than 80 marathons and ultramarathons including the Western States 100 Miles Endurance Run.

"In 2004 alone, I completed 18 races of marathon length or greater, including five 50 mile races and the Western States 100 mile endurance run," he says.

Then this accomplished athlete was told he was developing avascular necrosis.

"The head of my femur was dead and is eroding, so the pounding from running increases the chances that that's going to deteriorate," Teeter says.

His orthopedic surgeon told him was going to have to get a new sport, though he had always relied on running to help maintain a good quality of life.

So switch spots, he did. This September 15 through 17, Teeter will join about 150 others for a 275 mile bicycle ride from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to Manhattan in the heart of New York City to raise funds for the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, a community-based organization in New York City that provides services to more than 5000 persons living with or affected by HIV and AIDS each year.

"Since I was diagnosed with avascular necrosis of the hip, I've been more interested in branching out from my running experience to something that's not pounding my hip as much," Teeter says. "I was looking for something on a bicycle and this came up."

TO TRAIN FOR "BRAKING THE CYCLE," Teeter said he has participated in some charity rides locally in the last several months, the longest distance being 80 miles in the Katy area, called Tour de Cypress.

"It starts at Katy Mills Mall and goes up toward Waller and back," he says.

But the "Brake the Cycle" course will likely look far different than anything Teeter has become accustomed to in Texas.

The course starts in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and goes through Amish country, winds toward the Delaware Water Gap, into the scenic foothills of western New Jersey then ending up at The Center right in downtown Manhattan, Teeter explained.

"It sounds like it's going to be beautiful," Teeter says of the ride. "The first day is like 90 miles, the second day, 110. The third day is shorter, making up the balance. We all congregate at the river on the New Jersey side and wait for everybody to come in. All the bikes and individuals will be put on a fairy and go across the river and we'll ride the last couple miles together."

But Teeter says he is most looking forward to camaraderie of riding with all sorts of individuals, communing with people with HIV disease and others just affected by the disease, "just being motivated to do something for the cause," he says.

A biomedical researcher working in the field of infectious disease epidemiology at Houston's renowned Baylor College of Medicine, Teeter explained the money-raising intricacies of "Braking the Cycle." Its structure is unlike the much-maligned Palotta HIV fundraising cycling events of the '90s which drew criticism for returning only a small portion of funds raised back to its designated beneficiaries.

"In our recent conference call the Ride Coach indicated that typically about 65 percent of the funds raised went to The Center, and that percentage has been



Larry Teeter, an accomplished runner, cyclist and rock-climber, isn't letting HIV hold him back. Here he is participating in the Ouachita 50, a race held each April in Maumelle Park and Pinnacle Mountain Park near Little Rock, Ark.

increasing each year," Teeter says.

In its first three years, the riders of "Braking the Cycle" have sent more than \$620,000 to support HIV and AIDS services at The Center in New York.

This ride also differs from other organized fundraising rides in that there is a cap for the number of participants.

"And they're asking for larger amounts of fundraising for each individual involved — a minimum of \$3,500, versus rides where you have to raise something like \$500 each," Teeter says.

To donate to Teeter's effort, go to www.brakingthecycle.org, click "donate now," select "Larry Teeter #137" from the

dropdown list of riders. Donations are tax deductible.

AS HE PREPARES FOR "BRAKING THE Cycle," Teeter recognizes that he's been fortunate to come back an "end stage AIDS" diagnosis in the early 1990s to compete as an accomplished athlete.

"But HIV robbed me of many friends, took half my vision, and inserted a five year gap in my resume," he says. "It also transformed my life, altered my perspective, and brought about a change in my career path. This fundraiser is a small way for me to give back to the community that has helped me and others to survive."

MORE INFO

Braking the Cycle 2006
Sept. 15-17, 2006
Gettysburg to Manhattan
212-989-1111
www.brakingthecycle.org



out in houston

1. Fore for four

Fred Wich, Jack Cole, Houston City Controller Annise D. Parker and Ray Olachia at the Lone Star Cup Golf Tournament.

2. Hot properties

Theatre Under the Stars' cast of '110 in the Shade' assemble at the Out at TUTS mixer.

3. Divine divas

Fiona Dawson, Dan Snare, Camille Zamora, Ann Kennedy, Geoffrey Walker and Cathryn Rodd Selman at a reception honoring Zamora's annual 'Art Songs and Arias' fundraiser for Bering Omega Community Services.

4. Wherefore art thou?

Domenico Luciano, Carole Miller, Lucho owner Hector Villarreal, Dominic Walsh at Domenic Walsh Dance Theatre and Lucho's celebration of 'Romeo & Juliet.'

5. Brokeback living room

Hosts of the 'Cowboys and Indians' 2006 event.

6. After the ball

Softball players and the fans who love them gather after the game at Mary's, Naturally.

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BEST FEATURE
Midwest LGBT Film Festival

BEST FEATURE
Midwest Queer Film Festival

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Forum

editorial

Howard Dean's gay lapdogs

If the DNC chair shows a 'serious lack of leadership' on gay marriage by changing the subject to rising gas prices, then why is the Human Rights Campaign following him?

By CHRIS CRAIN

EVER SINCE HOWARD DEAN went on Pat Robertson's "700 Club" to proclaim (inaccurately) that the Democratic Party platform calls for "marriage between a man and a woman," the party chair has

received a chorus of condemnation from gay rights groups and even gay Democrats.

Patrick Guerriero, the Log Cabin Republicans president, was predictably caustic, quipping that, "Howard Dean puts his foot in his mouth so often that he should open a pedicure wing in the DNC."

That was actually charitable, given that Dean's pronouncement on Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network wasn't another of his famous gaffes; he's said the same thing too many times after being told it misrepresents the party's official stance, which is to leave the issue to the states to resolve.

Dean's deliberate misstatement was the latest in a series of disses that ought to convince even the most ardent gay partisan that the Democrats, tasting a return to power after six years on the outs, aren't about to let gay rights stand in the way.

Dean is clearly betting that gay Americans are so disgusted with six years of Republican-controlled Washington that he can afford to anger a few activists while moving the party to the political center. The strategy isn't new; Republicans have been doing it with the Christian conservatives since the Reagan years.

But Dean is miscalculating for two important reasons: First and foremost, gay Americans are fighting for their own civil rights, unlike their counterparts on the right, who are pushing to limit someone else's freedoms. One reason America's history reflects progress by minorities despite hostility from the majority is that the minorities are far more motivated than their foes, not to mention the "mushy middle" that doesn't feel strongly one way or the other.

Second, by treating gay civil rights like just another "special interest" to be alter-

natively pandered to or ignored, Dean and the Dems only contribute to their party's worst image problem: that of a do-nothing party without clear positions, principles or a plan.

YOU CAN FORGIVE HOWARD DEAN for thinking he can get away with it. After all, the nation's richest gay political group has long been willing to play lapdog to the Democratic Party, even after Dean's repeated disses.

It is a central article of faith at the Human Rights Campaign that the success of the gay rights movement is inexorably linked to the success of the Democratic Party, and herein lies the single biggest internal obstacle to equality for gay Americans.

There's no question, of course, that Democrats in general and almost always in particular, are better on gay rights than their Republican counterparts. And gay rights legislation no doubt stands a greater likelihood of passage if Democrats control Congress — though history suggests otherwise.

But that doesn't mean that gay rights leaders should sacrifice the movement at the altar of the Democratic Party, and continue crafting their message off the DNC's transparently political talking points.

Yet that's what we see, time and time again, especially at HRC, whose leader Joe Solmonese came from Emily's List, a partisan Democrat group.

True, HRC issued an angry press release after Dean's "700 Club" dalliance, slamming his "serious lack of leadership" on the issue of gay marriage. So why, days later, was Solmonese once again following him?

On Tuesday afternoon, Dean's DNC issued a press release taking to task Bill Frist, the Senate GOP Leader, for ignoring First Lady Laura Bush's recent advice about not using gay marriage "as a campaign tool." Frist and the Republicans don't need to be engaged on the issue of gay marriage, the press release argues, because they're really just trying to change the subject from their own political problems.

(Typical of the Democrats' stealth defense of gays, the primary target audi-

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MAY 19, 2006

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ence for the DNC statement was apparently... gays. The release isn't posted on the DNC website.)

Still, despite Dean's "serious lack of leadership" on gay marriage, Solmonese and HRC were quick to play follower. Just one hour after the DNC press release went out, HRC issued its "Amen, sister!" reply.

Titled "Senator Frist Pushing a Campaign Strategy Opposed by First Lady Laura Bush," the HRC press release hits all the same talking points, accusing Frist of not taking Laura Bush's sage advice.

BESIDES THE LAPDOG POSTURE, HRC's willingness to do Dean's Dems' bidding causes lasting harm to the gay rights movement.

Rather than actually defend gay families and make the case for gay marriage, HRC is stuck in a three-year strategy of arguing that the American people don't — and shouldn't! — care about marriage equality for gay couples.

"Voters want candidates focused on soaring gas prices, a health care crisis and national security," Solmonese says in the release, "not putting discrimination in the United States Constitution."

What sort of gay rights strategy is it, when the attention of Americans is focused on our issues, to argue that our rights aren't important, and refuse to engage our opponents in the debate over our equality?

Sure it makes political sense for Dean and the DNC to issue press releases, delivered only to us, defending us, and then have the party's senators respond to conservative attacks on our families by arguing that the issue isn't as important as rising gas prices. But what self-respecting gay rights group would echo that argument?

Can anyone imagine Martin Luther King Jr., responding to an attempt to roll back the gains of the Civil Rights Movement by arguing that the issue shouldn't be debated because rising gas prices are more important?

Worst of all, HRC's lapdog strategy reeks of lacking confidence in the arguments for our own equality.

 **Chris Crain**
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@houstonvoice.com.





Individual results may vary.

INDICATION: REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). REYATAZ has been studied in 48-week trials in both patients who have taken or have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

REYATAZ does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take REYATAZ if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra®, Levitra®, Cialis®, Vfend®, Advair®, Flonase®, or Flovent® while you are taking REYATAZ without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.

- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate).
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Other side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take REYATAZ once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Once Daily REYATAZ®

(atazanavir sulfate)

is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy:

- ◆ Can help raise your T-cells
- ◆ Can help lower your viral load to undetectable*
- ◆ Low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)†
- ◆ Two pills taken once a day (with a snack or meal)‡

* Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL (depending on the test used).
 † REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.
 ‡ People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

REYATAZ does not cure HIV, a serious disease, or help prevent passing HIV to others.

WWW.REYATAZ.COM

REYATAZ®
 (atazanavir sulfate) 150 mg/200 mg capsules

ASK YOUR DOCTOR if REYATAZ, in HIV combination therapy, can help you fight HIV your way.

If you or someone you know needs help paying for medicine, call 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669). Or go to www.pparc.org

Please see Important Patient Information about REYATAZ on the next page.

PATIENT INFORMATION

ONLY

REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)

(generic name = atazanavir sulfate) Capsules

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate). Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?

Tell your healthcare provider:

- if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- if you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- if you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- if you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- if you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
 - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
 - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- Always take REYATAZ with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or VIDEK® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, or Enteric-Coated Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine), talk to your healthcare provider.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- rash (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) with other medicines*?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood.

- This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:
- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
 - St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
 - "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together.

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (ADVAIR®, FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- FORTOVASE®, INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- Antacids or buffered medicines.
- VIDEK® (didanosine).
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil), and others.
- BIAXIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.


This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Princeton, NJ 08543 USA

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Based on package insert dated January 2006

action alert

Burger chain bans bias

Wendy's amends EEO policy to protect gay, transgender workers

By ERIC ERVIN

THE WENDY'S RESTAURANT CHAIN earned praise from one gay advocacy group for adding sexual orientation and gender identity to its corporate nondiscrimination policy, but another group wonders if the fast-food chain is just rolling out another limited-time promotional campaign like its menu offerings.

"The question is will Wendy's live up to the commitment made in the amendment of their policy?" asked Daryl Herrschaft, director of the Human Rights Campaign's Workplace Project, which publishes the organization's annual Corporate Equality Index. "We have not received a copy of the policy."

The Corporate Equality Index rates companies from 0 to 100 on anti-discrimination policies, gender identity policies, availability of domestic partner benefits, diversity training, marketing, philanthropy and public support of gay rights issues.

Wendy's is not included in the index. Herrschaft said each year since 2002 — the first year the index was published — Wendy's has not responded to HRC's request for information to score the chain.

Officials with Wendy's International also did not respond to repeated interview requests on the policy change.

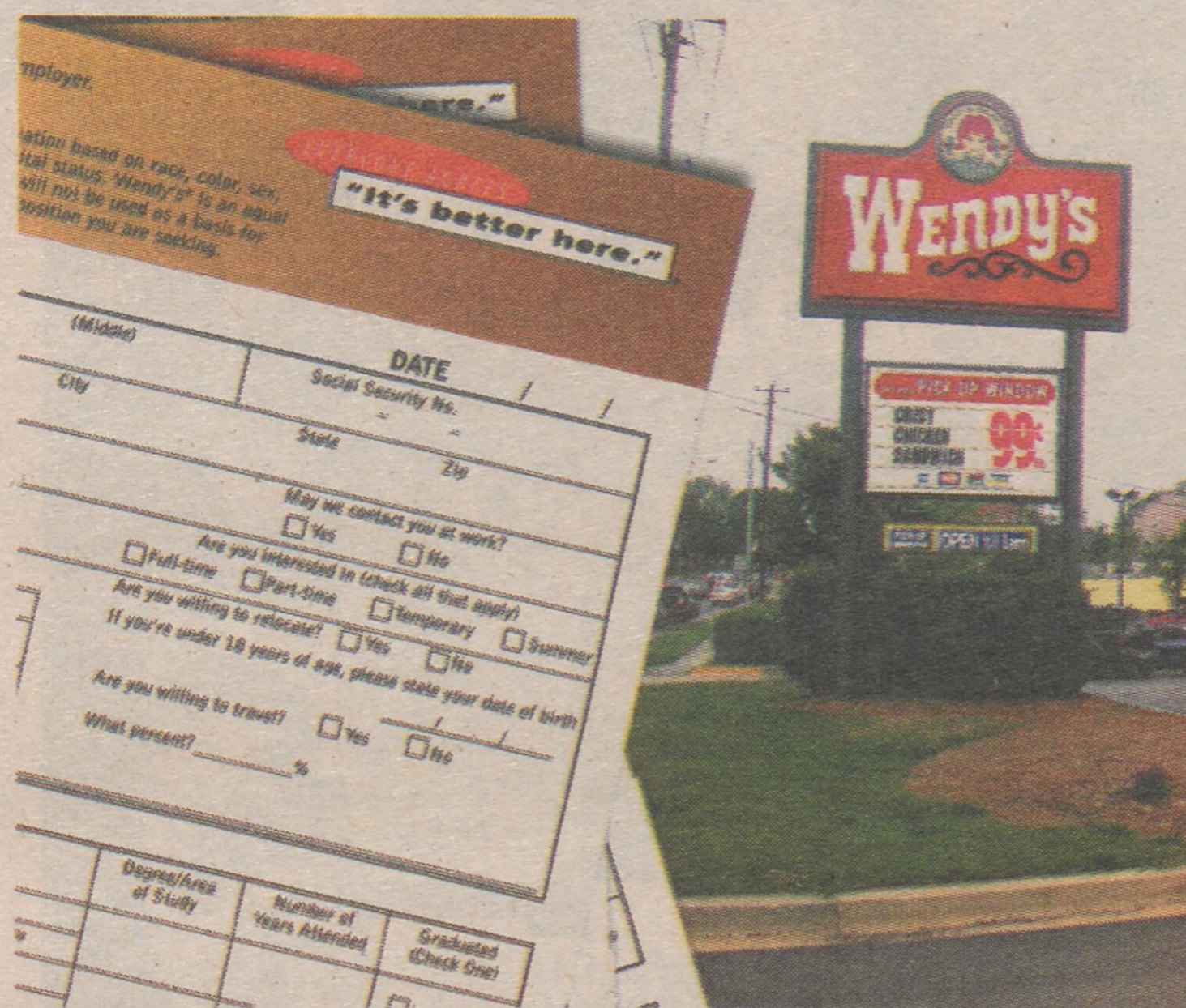
But the Equality Project Coalition, a separate group that backs shareholder resolutions to change corporate policies on gay issues, praised the Wendy's decision to add the protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"We're very happy they did this," said Grant Lukenbill, managing director of the Equality Project. "Equality is not guaranteed to GLBT people because we do not have a federal law to protect us."

THE CHANGE IN POLICY AT WENDY'S was sparked by a resolution filed last fall with the Securities & Exchange Commission by members of the New York City Pension Funds, who own a combined 296,252 shares of Wendy's stock worth more than \$17.2 million.

In a March 8 letter to New York City's Office of the Comptroller, Wendy's officials said that if the shareholder resolution were withdrawn, the company would amend its equal employment opportunity and anti-harassment policies within six weeks, and also revise and update corporate training programs to reflect the new policies.

Wendy's is "committed to prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity," Lee



Wendy's recently amended its nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation and gender identity, but still trails McDonald's on domestic partner benefits. (Photo by Bo Shell)

McCorkle of Wendy's wrote in the letter posted on the comptroller's website.

THE RECENT CHANGES AT WENDY'S put the fast-food chain ahead of competitor McDonald's on transgender issues, although Wendy's still lags on domestic partner benefits.

McDonald's, which also owns Boston Market and Chipotle Mexican Grill, scored a 79 on HRC's Corporate Equality Index. The leading fast-food hamburger chain has a nondiscrimination policy that covers sexual orientation, but does not offer protections based on gender identity or expression. Domestic partner benefits for same-sex and opposite-sex couples were adopted in 2005.

"McDonald's is making an effort," HRC's Herrschaft said. "If we had an a la carte menu, we would take some from Wendy's and some from McDonald's."

Burger King also is not included in the index. Herrschaft said officials there wouldn't provide information.

An official with Burger King declined comment on the company's policies this week, citing a mandatory "media quiet" period preceding Burger King's upcoming initial public stock offering.

@ ABOUT ACTION ALERT: Action Alert is a Forum section feature that informs readers of issues for response and lobbying. Send comments to forum@houstonvoice.com.

THE

Q We already know about Montrose, The Heights, Garden Oaks and Westbury. What is Houston's next big GLBT neighborhood?



Eastwood. There has been a presence for years in this neighborhood just two miles east of downtown.

SPENCER HOWARD, 24
Houston
Architect



Sam Houston State University. Our Stonewall Kats organization for GLBT students has increasingly and rapidly grown. In the Houston area, there is quite a presence in the area around I-10 and North Main.

EVA GARCIA, 19
Houston
Student



Pearland. It is an up and coming community, and there is a lot of the community already there or moving to Pearland.

KRISTI LUTHER, 34
Houston
Project administrator



Midtown. It is very trendy and near Montrose. It has a heavy GLBT population.

RANDY SYMANK, 24
Arlington, Texas
Ticketing supervisor



Pearland. My partner and I just built a house in Shadow Creek Ranch. We have noticed many same-sex couples. It's a very diverse and tolerant neighborhood.

MARK AKERLUND, 34
Pearland, Texas
Clinical social worker

Sound off about what's happening in your world at www.houstonvoice.com/soundoff.

Interviews and photos by Dalton DeHart

lesbian

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gay

bisexual

transgender

May 21st

11am

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on the record



"I don't think it should be used as a campaign tool, obviously. ... It requires a lot of sensitivity to just talk about the issue — a lot of sensitivity."

First lady Laura Bush on the effort to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage, which her husband supports ("Fox News Sunday," May 14)

"I certainly don't know what conversations have gone on between Karl [Rove] and anybody up on the Hill. But you know, what I can say is look, amending the Constitution with this amendment, this piece of legislation, is a bad piece of legislation. It is writing discrimination into the Constitution, and, as I say, it is fundamentally wrong."

Mary Cheney, the vice president's daughter, on the marriage amendment, which her father also opposes ("Fox News Sunday," May 14)

"I basically say, Mr. Vice President, right now marriage is under attack in this country. And we've seen ... where state legislatures have passed laws defining marriage between a man and a woman, and that's being overturned by a handful of activist judges around the country."

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) on how he would defend to Dick Cheney the anti-gay constitutional amendment (CNN, May 14)

"There is a special urgency today to avoid confusion with other types of unions based on a weak love. Only the rock of total and irrevocable love between a man and woman is able to build a society that is home to all men."

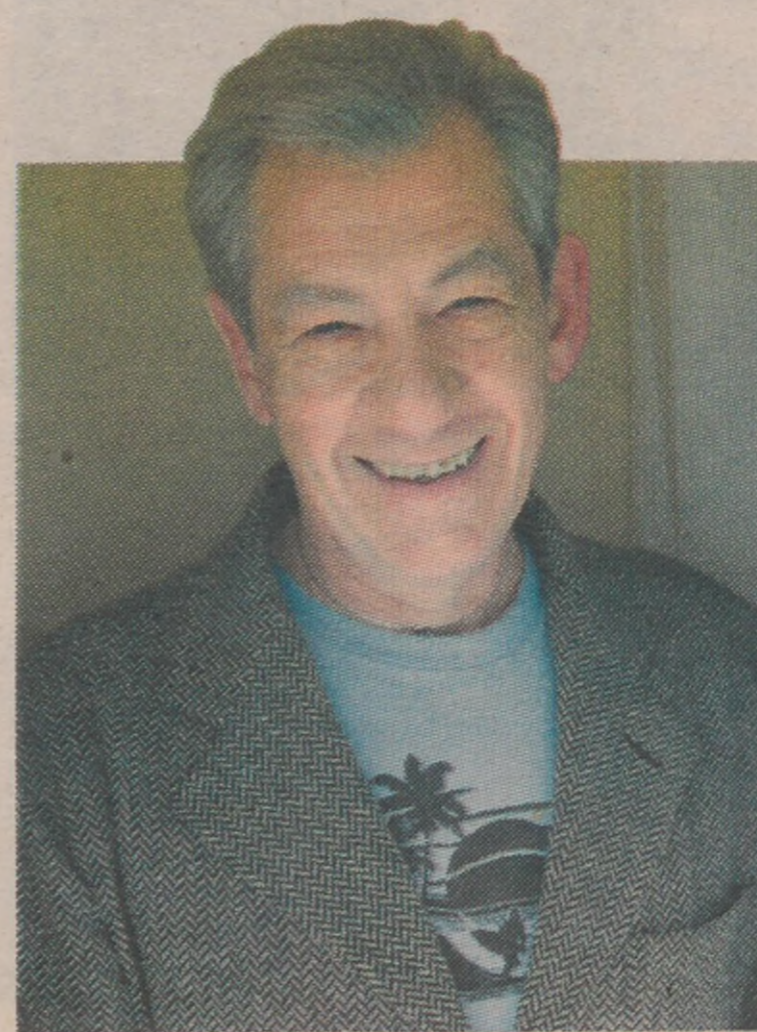
Pope Benedict XVI, to the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage & Family (Associated Press, May 11)

"I love Ellen DeGeneres. ... It's not whether she's a man or a woman. She just has sexual energy. ... And what's wrong with that? Nuthin'. Ellen DeGeneres is hot. She is muy caliente. It doesn't matter if she's a guy or a girl. I don't care."

Janice Dickinson, "the world's first supermodel," in an interview promoting her new book, "Check, Please!" (The Book Standard, May 15)

"Scoop Jackson and Hubert Humphrey would twirl in their graves to think that she is the symbol of their party, let alone its leading candidate."

Reclusive Republican strategist Arthur Finkelstein, who married his partner of 40 years in a private Massachusetts ceremony 18 months ago, on his arch-enemy, Hillary Rodham Clinton (Jewish Ledger, May 12)



"Some people have said that we are going to lose votes of the homosexuals — fine yes indeed, I think that they cannot be a population anyway and think that a population of homosexuals will disappear in no time."

Leading South African politician Motsoko Pheko, on why because gays can't reproduce they needn't be a political factor; he apologized the next day for the remarks (SABC News, March 16)

"I'm very happy to believe that Jesus was married. I know the Catholic Church has problems with gay people, and I thought this would be absolute proof that Jesus was not gay."

Sir Ian McKellen, an openly gay actor who appears in "The Da Vinci Code," making light of the controversy raised by the book and movie about whether Jesus was married (Reuters, May 17)

eclipse

GAY HOUSTON NIGHTLIFE, ARTS & CULTURE

www.houstonvoice.com

MAY 19, 2006



bumpy night

Catch director Gregory Brown's 'The Wisdom of Eve' at Pasadena Little Theatre. **Page 16**

Drop it like it's hot

These new convertibles will add some sizzle to the summer

MOVE OVER DOROTHY, THERE'S NO better way to travel home — or to the beach — than in a cool convertible. That's because all the wicked rides below are brimming with gotcha styling, glam features, and enough room for you, your luggage and Toto too.

What's more, each of these roadsters gets good mpg — a big plus as gas prices edge up this summer. And each has the kind of power and handling often found on ragtops costing thousands (sometimes tens of thousands) more.

Saturn Sky

\$23,500

Mpg: 20 city/28 highway

Cooler features: More shapely, less costly than a Miata.

With Corvette-like styling and Porsche-perfect handling, the Sky is turning heads faster than a celebrity sighting. That's good news for Saturn, known for its limited lineup of solid yet mundane sedans and SUVs.

Built on the same platform as



Volvo C70

Pontiac's snazzy Solstice, the Sky is edgier and comes full of standard gear: ABS, cruise control, power doors/windows/mirrors, keyless entry, an alarm, even OnStar for a year. Big, 18-inch wheels ratchet up the macho factor, while a 177-hp four-cylinder engine provides plenty of punch.

The cockpit, with its techno console and smooth 5-speed manual, is surprisingly roomy. But the trunk, with a measly five cubic feet, is not.

Two other downsides: a cumbersome manual cloth top and no side airbags. Still, this rear-drive roadster is great value for the money. And a high-performance model, with 260-hp, chrome dual exhausts, and polished aluminum alloys, roars into showrooms this fall.

Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder GT

\$28,500

Mpg: 18 city/26 highway

Cooler features: High-test V6, killer stereo

Spiderman may get his kicks swinging through city canyons, but you can have just as much fun in a Spyder GT. It's fast, with a 260-hp V6, traction control and loads of low-end torque for hot pursuits. It's roomy, with enough room for two full-sized adults in front, two smaller-sized in back.

It's stylish, with beefy, flared vendors and a bulging snout. But best of all is



Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder GT

the whopping 650-watt, nine-speaker Rockford Fosgate audio, with subwoofer, in-dash six-CD changer, MP3 capability and speed-compensating volume control.

An easy-to-use power soft top, complete with glass window and defroster, stows itself in just 19 seconds. And must-have options include heated seats/mirrors, wind deflector and a slick sport-trim package.

Volvo C70

\$39,000

Mpg: 21 city/29 highway

Cooler feature: Retractable hardtop

Need more passenger and cargo room? For \$10,000 more, there's the versatile C70. With the touch of a button, a retractable hardtop transforms this Volvo from chic convertible to cozy coupe. The multi-layered hardtop actually uses less trunk space than most cloth tops.

A five-cylinder turbo is rather sprightly, especially with the standard six-speed manual. And there's no skimping on safety, with ABS, traction/stability control, front/side/head airbags and rollover bars that automatically deploy in an accident.

It's really the luxe features that will seal the deal: dual-zone climate control,

auto-dimming rearview mirror, power/heated seats, rain-sensing wipers, headlamp washers, nav system and a 12-speaker sound system with two subwoofers and high-output amplifiers.

Jaguar XK-Series

\$81,000

Mpg: 18 city/26 highway

Cooler feature: The blue-blood cachet

You can feel like a queen for a day in many convertibles, but Jag's redesigned XK will pamper you royally all-year long. That's because this is the sleekest and sexiest Jaguar yet, both inside and out.

The cabin mixes high-tech gadgetry with a choice of either burl walnut or poplar wood trim. The quick shifting and impressive braking rival many exotics that cost twice as much, though the modest 300-hp V8 means the XK is no speed demon. But a lightweight aluminum frame, nimble cornering, and steering-wheel shift paddles make the XK a blast to drive.

All the usual creature comforts are here, along with headlights that turn when cornering and adaptive cruise control, which brakes or accelerates depending on the distance of the car in front of you. Fave feature: the throaty exhaust growl.

Need more direction in your life? See what the stars and planets hold for you and yours this week. **Horoscope, Page 17**

Real live complaints, observations and general kvetches regarding all things gay and lesbian from real live readers. **Bitch, Page 23**

houston nightlife JOHNNY HOOKS

Flapping with Pride

Flags are out, auditions are on and Bingo is up this week for gay Houston

WELCOME BACK TO HOVO ON THE Go-Go, your weekly guide to what's hip and happening in Houston. This week the city hung up the rainbow flag banners along lower Westheimer in anticipation of next month's annual Pride spectacle. But with the weather outside playing tricks on us, it doesn't seem possible that summer is almost here. The weekend and the week ahead has lots activities with your name on them, so enjoy!

FIRST UP, WE NEED TO CORRECT SOMETHING from our last HotGG. A fabulous photo of Ms. Hedda Layne ran correctly, but the caption mentioned her Tuesday night performances at Meteor. Of course **Thursday night** is when Layne entertains the masses at Meteor and **Drag Bingo** is played on **Tuesdays**. All apologies for our slip!

Also this week Meteor is giving away the farm, or at least it seems that way. On Sunday, May 21, along with their weekly "Karaoke Idol" event, they are giving away the diva Patti Lupone's latest CD "The Lady with the Torch."

Then on Wednesday, May 24 Meteor will be giving away the debut CD from Sierra Swan called "Copper Red." Swan is the latest find for former 4 Non Blonds frontwoman, Linda Perry, who has gone on to work with Pink, Christina and most recently with HotGG uber-fave, Courtney Love! Stop by Meteor and see if you get one. 2306 Genesee St. 713-521-0123 or www.meteorhouston.com

THIS IS THE FINAL WEEKEND TO CATCH a terrific show at the **Pasadena Little Theater** called "The Wisdom of Eve." Originally written by Mary Orr as a short story, it went on to become the campy academy award nominated film "All About Eve," before being reborn as the musical, "Applause."

The story is as old as show business itself. The meeting of star-struck and seemingly naïve, Eve Harrington and her professed idol, renowned Broadway star, Margo Crane (played by Bette Davis in the film who quips her famous "Fasten your seatbelts, its going to be a bumpy night!" line) provides Eve with the opportunity to ingratiate herself into Margo's life.

Soon Eve's true nature emerges as she lies, cheats, and blackmails her way to Broadway stardom and a Hollywood career. This '50s era play is directed by **Gregory R. Brown** and is the final presentation of the theater's 51st season!

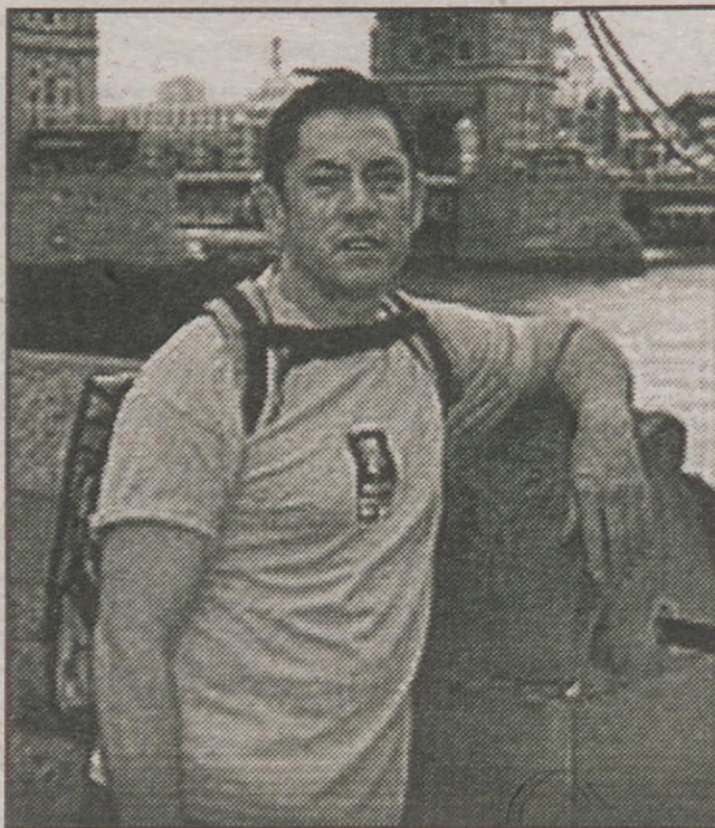
The cast and crew include Linda



There's still time this weekend to catch renowned local director Gregory Brown's rendition of 'The Wisdom of Eve,' the onstage precursor to screen fave, 'All About Eve,' at Pasadena Little Theatre.

Kissner, Carla Guidry, Rose Green, Julie Owen, John Kaiser, Steve Quimby, Noel Lezama, Katie Reed, Elaine Currie, Craig Trauschke, C. Alane Johnson, Gregory R. Brown, Renae Runnels, and Anne Bryant. Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20 at 8 p.m. with the final performance on Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m. Pasadena Little Theatre, 4318 Allen Genoa Rd., Pasadena. Call 713-941-1PLT (1758) to make reservations or visit www.pasadenalittletheatre.org for more info on their next season.

SPEAKING OF THEATER, THEATRE New West announces auditions for a 21st



Seriously! You can hear DJ JD Arnold on Sirius Satellite's OutQ Saturday night.

anniversary production of the groundbreaking play, "The Normal Heart" by Larry Kramer, opening June 30 at Bering & James Gallery. The play calls for a cast of eight males (25-40), and one female (35-55).

Auditions will consist of prepared monologues of one to two minutes, and/or reading from the script. Appointments are suggested, but walk-ins will be accepted with time permitting. Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bering & James Gallery, 805 Rhode Place, suite 500, just off of Taft St. and West Dallas St., behind Gravitas Restaurant. Call **Joe Watts**, Artistic Director, 713-522-2204 for information and an appointment.

B-I-N-G-O AND BINGO WAS HIS name — O! **Queer Bingo** is back at 1415 California, Saturday, May 20 with their always-unusual cash prizes, door prizes, music and rounds of the game. Doors open at 5 p.m. The games begin at 6 p.m. buy-in's are only \$15, but the prizes range from \$50 to \$250! Click on www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org for more details.

JD ARNOLD HAS BEEN SPINNING IN Houston since before many of the twinks today were born! This Saturday, May 20 at 8 p.m. 'til midnight, Arnold, South Beach's resident DJ will have a three hour mix-show as part of the "Saturday Night Out" on **Sirius Satellite's OutQ** show on channel 106. To listen online, go to www.sirius.com. SOBE is located at 810 Pacific St.

appts.

FRIDAY MAY 19

World Premiere of Dominic Walsh Dance Theater and Mercury Baroque's "ROMEO AND JULIET." 7:30 p.m. Wortham Theater Center's Cullen Theater. 713-315-2525 or www.mercurybaroque.org or www.dwdt.org.

First of two free performances of Houston Grand Opera's "THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO," sung in Italian. 8:30 p.m. Miller Outdoor Theater. Free. For reserved tickets call 713-284-8350.

SATURDAY MAY 20

TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK signs his new book, "ME A MOUND." Domy Books, 1709 Westheimer Rd. 5-8 p.m. 713-523-3669. www.DomyStore.com.

Miss Aurora Briar presents "BRIAR'S BEAUTIES." Benefits Legacy Community Health Services, Miss Mint Julep 2006 contest. 7 p.m. Keys West, 817 West Dallas St. 713-571-7870 www.keyswest.com.

SUNDAY MAY 21

BAYOU CITY BOYS CLUB distributes funds raised at Jungle 2006. 5-6 p.m. Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd. Bcbinfo@aol.com.

Miss Ireka Phish presents her second annual "MISS IREKA'S REVIVAL" with a 50/50 raffle and live and drag performances. Benefits Empire of the Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star. 7-9 p.m. Keys West, 817 W. Dallas St. 713-571-7870. Reservations: 281-650-0177.

THURSDAY MAY 25

Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance at Rice University and Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston present THE ROADS TO YOU TOUR: CELEBRATION OF ONE WORLD, an international assembly of musicians. Rice University's Stude Concert Hall. 8 p.m. \$10-\$50. 800-595-4TIX. www.boniukcenter.org.

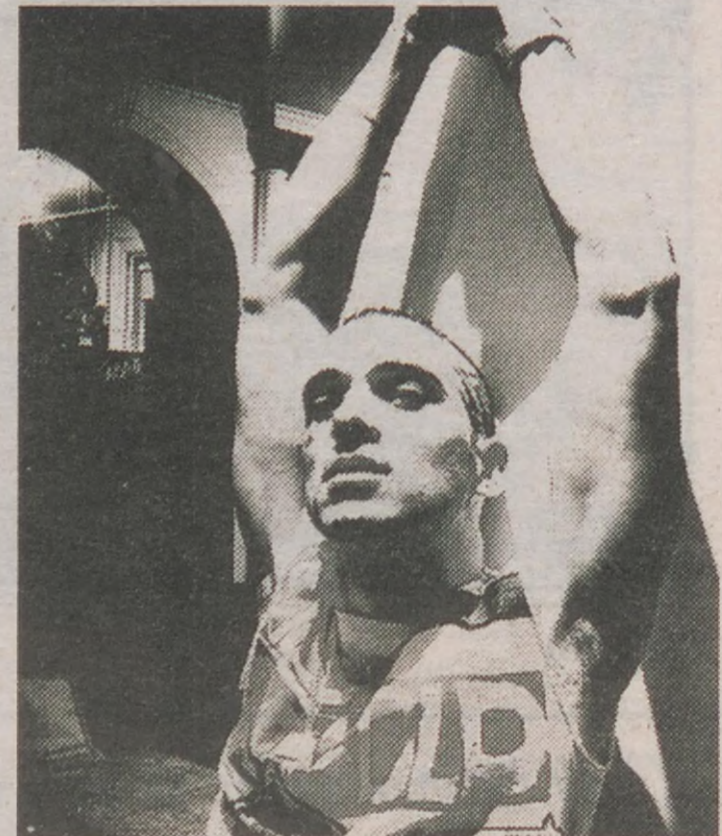
UPCOMING APPTS.

FRIDAY MAY 26

THE TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE, a statewide nonprofit organization that advocates for survivors of domestic violence in Texas wants to hear your voice. Dinner will be provided. 6-8 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center Board Room, 701 Richmond Ave. RSVP: 1-800-525-1978.

SATURDAY MAY 27

ARI GOLD performs with music provided by DJ MICHAEL KESSLER at Aquafest's 5th anniversary party. 7-9 p.m. VIP party with doors open to the public at 9 p.m. Jeffries, 710 Pacific St. 1-888-919-1126 to RSVP.



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dish

There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Show queens rejoice!

The Tony nominees are out, British conservative loves filth and Logo yanks P-town show

Theater queens were either squealing with delight or rending their garments in horror when the Tony Awards nominations were announced Tuesday, May 16.

Leading the fey pack is "The Drowsy Chaperone," a new musical with music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison. Although the main character is never called out as being gay, he is an old man in a one-bedroom apartment fantasizing about his favorite musical coming to life in his living room. Um, hello?! The show is nominated for 13 Tonys, including Best Musical.

"The Color Purple," the musical based on bisexual ALICE WALKER'S Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, received 11 nominations, including Best Musical. OPRAH WINFREY is one of the main producers of the show, which reportedly doesn't shy from the lesbian content nearly as much as the 1985 movie did.

Bertolt Brecht's "The Threepenny Opera" was nominated for Best Revival of a Musical. Gay actor and singer ALAN CUMMING is part of the cast, although he's nowhere to be found in the nominations, and sadly, gay icon CYNDI LAUPER, who received positive reviews for her performance, wasn't nominated either. In fact, the entire show missed out, receiving only one other nomination for long-time theater veteran JIM DALE (Best Featured Actor in a Musical).

However, Dish's personal favorite, "Sweeney Todd," one of gay composer STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S masterworks, is up for a bunch of awards, including Best Revival of a Musical. Major musical theater diva PATTI LUPONE (who still trumps MADONNA as Eva Peron) is nominated for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical, along with her co-star MICHAEL CERVERIS who was nominated for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical for his masterful portrayal of the title role.

Conservatives love porn

Karma must be one fierce drag queen, because her sense of humor is downright evil. Witness the case of RICHARD BARNBROOK, the London coordinator for the British National Party, a small conservative political party in the U.K.



Patti Lupone



Both gay actor Alan Cumming (left) and gay icon Cyndi Lauper were snubbed by this year's Tony Awards nominations. (Photo by Joan Marcus)

Barnbrook has promised to wipe gay people out, deeming homosexuality "wrong and unhealthy," according to PinkNews.co.uk, a British gay news website.

One of Britain's papers, the Evening Standard, claims it has a copy of a film that Barnbrook directed during the '80s. The seedy flick is full of men undressing one another and getting it on.

Smutty dialogue complements the imagery.

"Fists in a toilet that smells of piss ... open-mouthed, I shall dream of altar boys," a character in the film says, according to the Standard.

Barnbrook quickly responded to the Standard, trying to save his assuredly tattered reputation.

"It was an art film, not a bloody porn film," he told the paper. "This was sometime back in the mid-'80s."

We've all used that excuse, honey.



Richard Barnbrook

Canned reality show

Gay cable network Logo has pulled out of a proposed Provincetown-based reality show, reports the Cape Codder, a Massachusetts periodical.

The show was pitched to the network by a production company, Go-Go Lucky Productions, and although the show was never bought by Logo, sources close to the show say things were moving forward, with filming due to start at the beginning of June. In love and business, always get it in writing, my children.

The premise of "P-Town" was that four gay men in their 20s would go up to the queer Mecca of the Northeast and be "mentored" by four older residents.

Given that wide-open set-up, maybe Logo thought the show would degenerate into something Barnbrook might have directed in the '80s.



Send comments, suggestions to
Dish@houstonvoice.com

arts cover story

Among activists, mixed reactions to Mary Cheney's book

CHENEY, continued from Page 1

mally found behind the scenes.

During her father's tenure in office, Mary Cheney has resisted sharing her opinions on gay marriage, gay adoption or other gay issues, even as her father's boss spoke out against gay civil rights.

"She has been put in a unique place to make more difference than all of us can make combined," gay activist John Aravosis told the Voice in 2004. "With power comes responsibility."

Tired of what he saw as Mary Cheney's irresponsibility, Aravosis launched a website, DearMary.com, in February of 2004 that challenged Cheney on her silence regarding Bush's call for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

At the time, Cheney was serving as the re-election campaign director for her father. The site generated thousands of letters to Cheney asking for her to speak out against the anti-gay rhetoric of the Bush campaign. Characteristically, Cheney issued no response.

IN A REVERSAL OF THAT SILENCE, Cheney, 37, has written a book titled, "Now It's My Turn: A Daughter's Chronicle of Political Life," that was published on May 9 by Threshold Editions whose editor in chief

is Mary Matalin, a noted gay-friendly Republican politico and Cheney adviser. Matalin did not respond to a request for comment about the book. Cheney reportedly received a \$1 million advance for her story.

The book focuses primarily on Mary Cheney's political experiences, but includes her story of coming out to her parents and the revelation that President Bush once offered her the chance to issue a public statement in response to the administration's amendment effort. She declined the opportunity.

When she appeared on ABC's "Primetime Live" on May 4, Cheney said she was conflicted about maintaining her position on the 2004 campaign and decided not to attend the State of the Union address in which President Bush called for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

"I didn't want to be there," Cheney told Diane Sawyer. "No one banned me from being there, but I didn't want to stand up and cheer."

Cheney also said that most of her disagreements over the political stances of her father and President Bush were held in private.

"The president knows that I disagree with him," Cheney said. "Can you be too respectful of the leader of the free world? Can you be too respectful of the president of the United

States?" she said later when Sawyer questioned whether she held back too much.

REACTION TO MARY CHENEY'S decision to come out publicly with her views on gay marriage were mixed.

"It's extremely disappointing that she did not use the opportunity that the president gave her ... to make a statement against the administration's policy on same-sex marriage and the marriage amendment," says Pam Spaulding, a lesbian activist who writes a political blog at www.pamspaulding.com. "That is the one thing you walk away from that confirms her cowardice."

Spaulding says that Cheney's missed opportunity to speak out against the constitutional amendment may have cost gays and lesbians marriage rights at the state level.

"How many lives could have been changed for ordinary gays and lesbians if she would have said something during the campaign," Spaulding says. "From the time she was working on her father's campaign until now, how many marriage amendments were on the ballot? She chose silence."

Candice Gingrich, senior youth outreach manager for the Human Rights Campaign and the lesbian half-sister of former Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, took a very different path when her brother was in office than the

one chosen by Mary Cheney.

"I knew if there was this opportunity to talk about issues that I cared deeply about and have people listen, that I wouldn't be able to live with myself if I hadn't taken that opportunity," Gingrich says.

She added that she didn't believe sharing her opinion publicly was disrespectful to her half brother.

"I couldn't believe that he would ever begrudge me for taking a stance in what I believed in, even if it was completely opposite of what he said," Gingrich says.

Although Gingrich made very different choices than Mary Cheney, she says that Cheney needed to speak out in her own time.

PATRICK GUERRIERO, PRESIDENT of gay political group the Log Cabin Republicans, agrees that Cheney's timing shows a critical shift in conservative thinking on a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

"I think we're seeing a growing sentiment that there are a lot of good Republicans, good conservatives, who think we should not be playing politics with the American Constitution," Guerriero says. He also says the "Primetime Live" interview showed that Cheney's decision not to share her viewpoint was difficult for her.

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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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HEY, LEMME ASK YOU A QUESTION. SAY YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH BOTH PEOPLE IN A COUPLE, AND YOU KNOW ONE OF THEM'S CARRYING ON WITH SOMEONE ELSE. WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

GOD, GINGER. DON'T GET IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. BELIEVE ME, NO ONE WILL THANK YOU.

OH, MO? I DO KNOW, BUT I SWEAR I JUST FOUND OUT!

OH! THANK GOD I'M NOT THE ONLY PERSON WHO KNOWS. SO SHOULD WE TELL CLARICE?

WHY WOULD WE TELL CLARICE ABOUT SYDNEY AND MADELENE?

...THIS IS NPR. "WE WILL FINISH THE TASK THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR."

...SAID THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY, ADDING A BRAVURA FLOURISH OF CIRCULAR REASONING TO THE VIRTUOSIC CATALOG OF LOGICAL FALLACIES THAT HAS COMPRISED HIS IRAQ POLICY TO DATE.

I MEAN PERSON A.

SYDNEY'S CHEATING ON MO?

YEAH, WITH THIS WOMAN MADELENE. HER OLD PROFESSOR.

***! THAT'S MO NOW, SHE'S GIVING ME A RIPE TO WORK.

DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO HER!

OH, LIKE I WOULD.

UH... HI, MO. HOW'S IT GOING?

I'VE BEEN BETTER, SPARROW, LEMME ASK YOU A QUESTION.

A SHORT TIME LATER...

WELL, YOU'VE ANSWERED MY QUESTION, MO. DON'T INFORM YOUR FRIEND THAT HER GIRLFRIEND IS SCREWING AROUND WHILE SHE'S DRIVING!

ON THE OTHER HAND, AS LONG AS SHE'S NOT IN TRAFFIC, I SEE NO REASON WHY HER EYES SHOULDN'T BE OPENED. I'M NOT GOING THROUGH THIS ALONE.

CLARICE? ARE YOU IN A MOVING VEHICLE?

HEY, MO. NO. I'M AT WORK. 'SUP?

MO. WAIT...

SCREEEE! CRASH!

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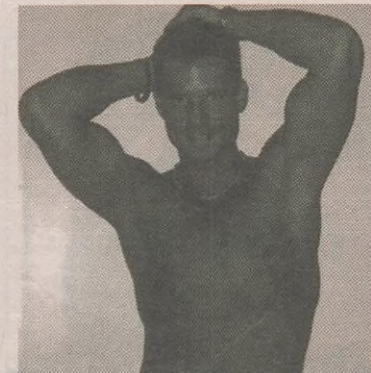
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bitch session

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HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE NEW politically correct computer keyboard? The keys are all unlabeled, since you're supposed to know what they are, even though the functions change randomly while you're working. The help file consists of one sentence: "You just don't get it."

SO YOU ARE MONOGAMOUS NOW? You've finally got a man and can play the nice boy. How sweet. But remember that only a few weeks ago, you were online 24/7 looking for a hook up while your roommates were out!

I'M A REPUBLICAN AND PROUD OF it. The party hasn't bit me in the ass. The left

has bit this country in the ass by not supporting it in a time of war. Shame on you!

YOU ACT LIKE YOU ARE THE ONLY person in the world who has friends. Are your friendships the only ones that really count? It's not a contest.

THE WHOLE BITCHY, SNEERING, hateful routine is so high school.

YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR standing in the gay community? Honey, you might want to stay out of the clubs for a while. You are starting to lose touch with reality.

WE PUT OUR HIGH-AND-MIGHTY professions in our profiles and look for "equals" so we don't have to deal with your boorish, low-class personalities. **Bitch Boy responds:** As opposed to your boorish, high-class personality?



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If you watch the Home & Garden channel, you should have a "home" or a "garden." Turn off that crap in your studio basement apartment!

GAY MEN ARE SO PRETENTIOUS.

If you listen close, they can't possibly have a conversation without segueing into talk of their new granite countertops or upcoming vacations. It's so tedious I'm staying home and watching "American Idol."

FOR THE RECORD, THERE ARE PEOPLE like me who've had HIV for more than 20 years and never been on disability (because we've been lucky enough not to need it), and who've worked as hard as anyone else.

TO THE BITCH ABOUT GUYS USING urban street language in their online profiles: They do it for the same reason mainstream men have always co-opted street vernacular — for the "cool" factor. Ironically, they'd probably run screaming if actually confronted with someone who used the same lingo in real life.

AM I SUPPOSED TO BE FLATTERED when someone says they think Latin men are hot? As come-ons go, that's the

absolute lamest. There's nothing wrong with having a racial preference, but does anyone need to know?

EVERYBODY GIVES DJS ALL THE credit for a fun night of dancing, but nobody thinks about the light people. Do you think you'd be dancing for five or six hours to plain light? I don't think so. Bitch Boy responds: Plain light! On gay boys? Perish the thought!

ELTON JOHN AND HIS PARTNER MAY not legally have a marriage, only a civil union in the U.K., but at least that civil union is recognized by the entire country and not just one state like here in the USA.

TO THE LESBIAN WHO CLAIMED "Bitch Session" is misogynistic and should not include any bitching about women: Thanks for embracing the stereotype of the humorless, P.C. lesbian. Guess what? You just gave me something to bitch about.

SINCE GAY MEN AREN'T ALLOWED to disagree with lesbians on anything, what's a gay guy to do in the shockingly common case in which a lesbian and an evangelical say exactly the same thing?

Editors' note: These are real bitches, sent in by real readers, about gay life's little annoyances, and the big ones, too. Got a bitch? Call 1-800-858-8088 or e-mail: bitch@houstonvoice.com

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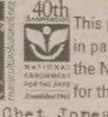
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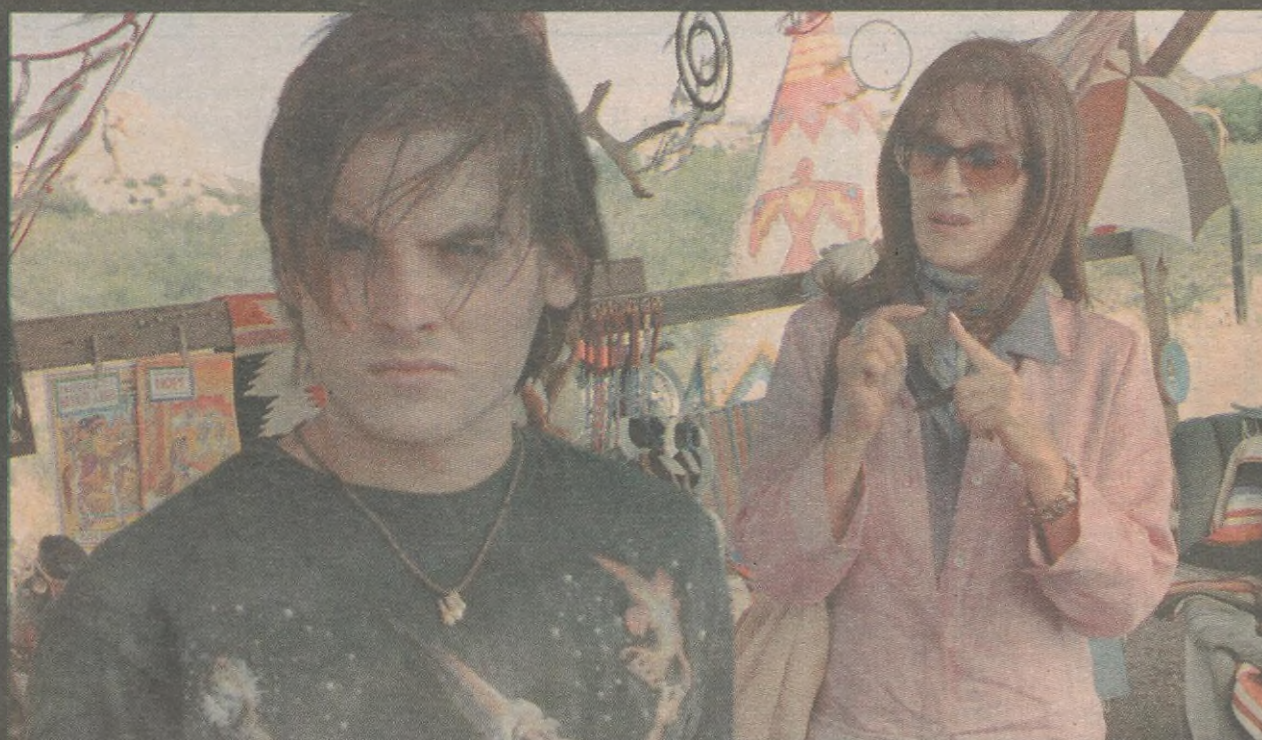
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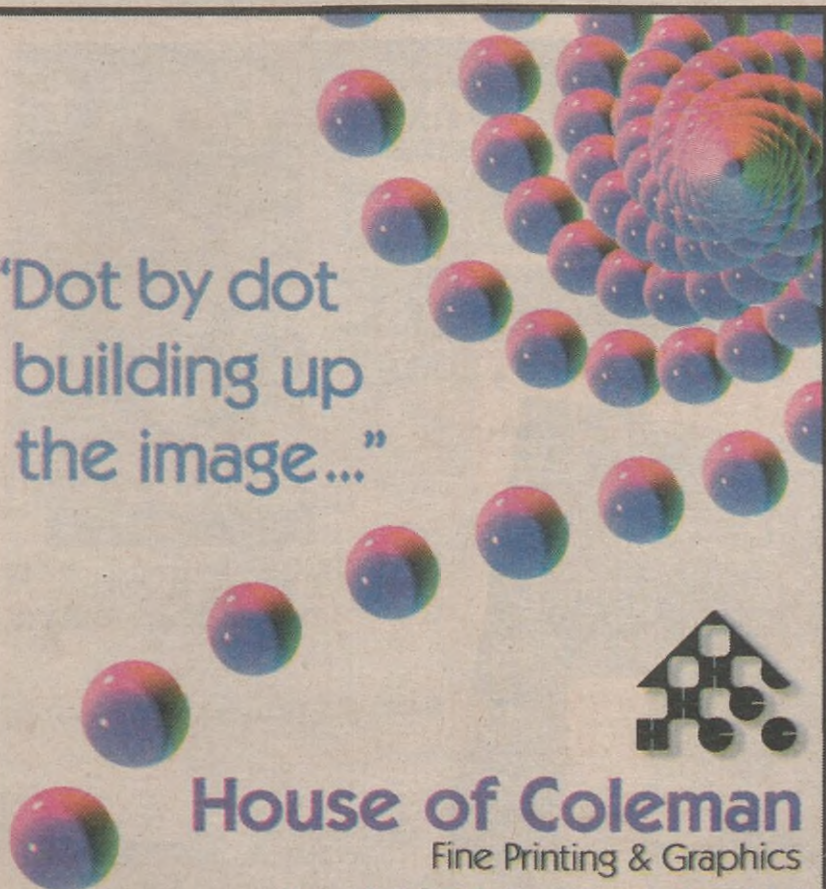
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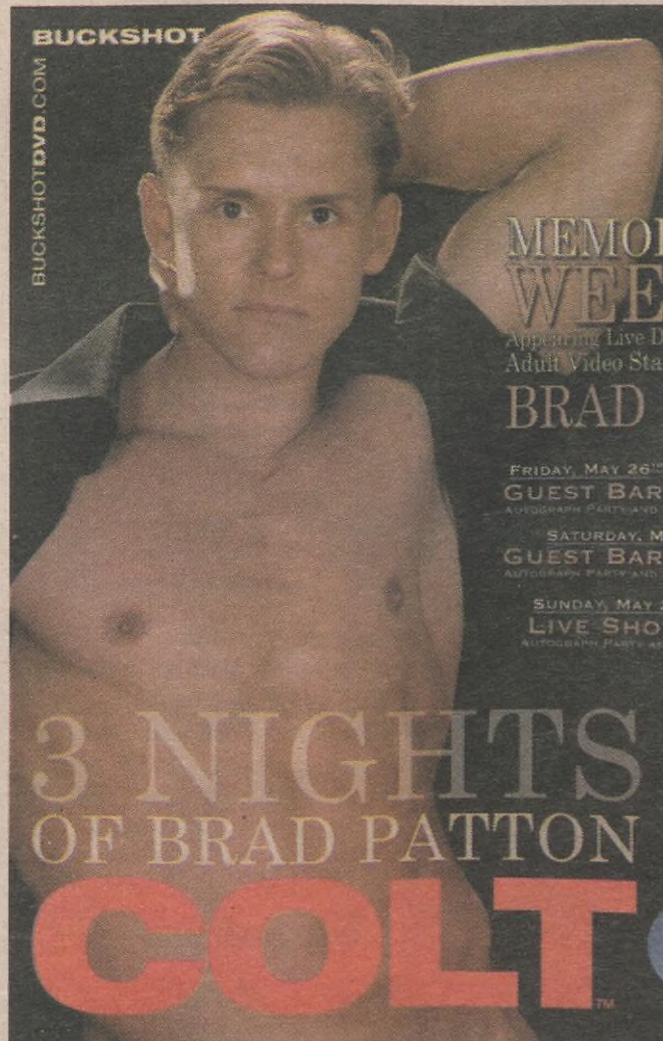


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