

houston VOICE

Lesbian Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin led a packed Black Tie Dinner in Houston last weekend that raised over \$135,000 for local organizations.
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Wesley Snipes was a comic drag queen in 'To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar,' but transgendered characters are often poorly portrayed on the Silver Screen.
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ISSUE 995

ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR LIFE. AND YOUR STYLE.

NOVEMBER 19, 1999

Mayor AWOL on 'medical emergency'?



Harris County Judge Robert Eckels (left) called for a 'region-wide' approach this week to combating AIDS among blacks, while Houston Mayor Lee Brown (right) has yet to publicly respond to the growing problem.

A leading funding source for AIDS care cites new statistics in calling on political leaders like Houston Mayor Lee Brown to combat surge of HIV cases in African-American community

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

A startling rise in the number of new HIV cases among African-Americans in metro Houston this year has some service providers pushing to enlist the support of key political leaders, who oversee the allocation of millions of dollars in funds for prevention, education and care.

But officials with the Ryan White Planning Council, which allocates about \$15.5 million in federal funds for services to people affected by AIDS, are having limited success.

Harris County Judge Robert Eckels has supported the council's call to declare a medical emergency in the black community over the new statistics; Mayor Lee Brown has yet to respond to a request for his assistance.

"It's an explosive situation that will quickly get out of hand. It will overwhelm local resources," Gary Van Ooteghem, chairman of the Ryan White Planning Council, said during a Harris County Commissioners Court meeting Tuesday.



County Commissioner El Franco Lee said the lessons gays learned in fighting AIDS can be used by African-Americans.

"We need all of our leaders to speak out on this issue. We have approached Mayor Brown on this and have gotten no response. There is no doubt in the information we have. If we don't act, we are going to bankrupt the system," Van Ooteghem said.

Some 63 percent of new HIV infections in the Houston area this year are African-Americans, nearly triple that of any other ethnic group, according to the planning council.

About 1,500 cases of new HIV infections have been reported in Harris and five surrounding counties in 1999, the council said. Of 500 cases closely examined, 307, or 63 percent, were African-Americans; 110 cases, or 22 percent, were whites; and 73, 15 percent, were Hispanics.

While new infections are dropping among gays, blacks and heterosexuals are seeing the largest increases, according to the council.

Among new cases in 1999, African-Americans account for nearly 61 percent of the heterosexual transmissions of HIV, 66 percent of the cases transmitted by drug use and 23 percent of male-to-male sex-

> Continued on Page 18

Battle lines drawn

A Methodist Church jury defrocks a pastor for performing a same-sex union, while two Georgia churches are ousted for welcoming gays in a flurry of anti-gay actions this week by some religious denominations



Rev. Jimmy Creech pauses while speaking during a press conference Wednesday in Grand Island, Neb., after being found guilty of violating United Methodist Church rules by performing a same-sex union ceremony last April.

Gay Christians worshipping in mainstream religious denominations were dealt additional blows this week, as the United Methodist Church defrocked Rev. Jimmy Creech for performing same-sex unions, and the Georgia Baptist Convention ousted two Atlanta churches for violating a rule adopted last year banning churches which "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior."

Both actions, neither of which were unexpected, came after months and even years of controversy that highlighted the ongoing debate over the place of gay men and lesbians in mainstream Christianity.

Creech first drew the attention of United Methodist Church officials in 1997, when he performed a union ceremony for a lesbian couple in his Omaha congregation. In a trial the next year, eight of 11 members of a Methodist tribunal decided to take no action against him.

Though acquitted on charges of disobeying church rules, Creech was not re-appointed to his pulpit and is on a voluntary leave of absence. He remains a member of the Nebraska clergy and is answerable to Nebraska Bishop Joel Martinez.

At the time of Creech's first trial in Kearney, it was unclear if the church's ban on performing "same-sex commitments" carried the weight of church law.

The church's Judicial Council, which interprets church law much like the Supreme Court interprets the Constitution, has since ruled that it does, forming the basis for Creech's second trial this week for performing a ceremony for a gay male couple in North Carolina, where he now lives.

On Wednesday, a 13-member jury of Nebraska ministers meeting in Grand Island found Creech guilty of breaking church law, and voted to strip him of his credentials as a United Methodist minister.

Creech could appeal the conviction to national church leaders, but he has vowed not to end his support for same-sex unions.

"I don't know where God will carry me or lead me," Creech said after Wednesday. "I do not feel deserted or abandoned by God, and I do not feel that the end of my ministry has come.

"The penalty is a harsh one. I feel the penalty severely," Creech said outside the church where the trial was held. "The church has said it will use its power—legal power, spiritual power and financial power—to enforce big-

> Continued on Page 19

Special thanks...



...to Jay Allen and Bob Ryan of Sonoma Restaurant and Charles Armstrong for their continuing support of me and my "Deep in the Heart of Texas" birthday party and fundraiser. Representing the gay, lesbian and transgender community has always and will continue to be an honor. I will forever appreciate you and all who have contributed time, energy, and support for my efforts.

Thank you all.

Debra Danburg
State Representative

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05V331R0

* Roche Amplicor HIV-1 MONITOR[®] Test

May 1999

BRIEF SUMMARY

COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

The following is a brief summary only; see full prescribing information for complete product information.

WARNING: ZIDOVUDINE, ONE OF THE TWO ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN COMBIVIR, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING NEUTROPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA, PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF ZIDOVUDINE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOPATHY. LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING LAMIVUDINE, ZIDOVUDINE, AND OTHER ANTIRETROVIRALS (SEE WARNINGS).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: COMBIVIR is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

Description of Clinical Studies: COMBIVIR: There have been no clinical trials conducted with COMBIVIR. See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY for information about bioequivalence. One COMBIVIR Tablet given twice a day is an alternative regimen to EPIVIR Tablets 150 mg twice a day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day in divided doses.

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine: The NUC3007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy (zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)) to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm³ at baseline were enrolled. Median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Patients (%) With At Least One HIV Disease-Progression Event or Death

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPIVIR plus Current Therapy (n = 696)	EPIVIR plus a NRTI* plus Current Therapy (n = 460)
HIV progression or death	90 (19.6%)	86 (9.6%)	41 (8.9%)
Death	27 (5.9%)	23 (2.6%)	14 (3.0%)

*An investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor not approved in the United States.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: COMBIVIR Tablets are contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product.

WARNINGS: COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine.

The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated.

Bone Marrow Suppression: COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR. For HIV-infected individuals and patients with asymptomatic or early HIV disease, periodic blood counts are recommended.

Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including lamivudine, zidovudine, and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obese and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Particular caution should be exercised when administering COMBIVIR to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with COMBIVIR should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations).

Myopathy: Myopathy and myositis, with pathological changes similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of zidovudine, and therefore may occur with therapy with COMBIVIR.

PRECAUTIONS:

General: Reduction of doses of lamivudine is recommended for patients with low body weight (less than 50 kg or 110 lb); therefore patients with low body weight should not receive COMBIVIR.

Patients With HIV and Hepatitis B Virus Coinfection: In clinical trials and postmarketing experience, some patients with HIV infection who have chronic liver disease due to hepatitis B virus infection experienced clinical or laboratory evidence of recurrent hepatitis upon discontinuation of lamivudine. Consequences may be more severe in patients with decompensated liver disease.

Patients With Impaired Renal Function: Reduction of the dosages of lamivudine and zidovudine is recommended for patients with impaired renal function. Patients with creatinine clearance <50 mL/min should not receive COMBIVIR.

Information for Patients: COMBIVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and patients may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised that the use of COMBIVIR has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the major toxicities of COMBIVIR are neutropenia and/or anemia. They should be told of the extreme importance of having their blood counts followed closely while on therapy, especially for patients with advanced HIV disease. Patients should be advised of the importance of taking COMBIVIR as it is prescribed.

Drug Interactions: Coadministration of ganciclovir, interferon- α , and other bone marrow suppressive or cytotoxic agents may increase the hematologic toxicity of zidovudine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of full prescribing information).

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity:

Lamivudine: Lamivudine long-term carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats showed no evidence of carcinogenic potential at exposures up to 10 times (mice) and 58 times (rats) those observed in humans at the recommended therapeutic dose.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was administered orally at three dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

In mice, seven late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (five nonmetastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, one squamous cell papilloma, and one squamous polyp) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle-dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose. In rats, two late-appearing (after 20 months), nonmetastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately three times (mouse) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately three times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung of any other organ in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (~1000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or ~450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine.

It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans.

Mutagenicity: Lamivudine: Lamivudine was negative in a microbial mutagenicity screen, in an in vitro cell transformation assay, in a rat micronucleus test, in a rat bone marrow cytogenetic assay, and in an assay for unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat liver. It was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK⁺ mouse lymphoma assay and clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK⁺ mouse lymphoma assay, positive in an in vitro cell transformation assay, clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes, and positive in mouse and rat micronucleus tests after repeated doses. It was negative in a cytogenetic study in rats given a single dose.

Impairment of Fertility: Lamivudine: In a study of reproductive performance, lamivudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, revealed no evidence of impaired fertility (judged by conception rates) and no effect on the survival, growth, and development to weaning of the offspring.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 7 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, had no effect on fertility judged by conception rates.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C.

References: 1. CAESAR Coordinating Committee. Randomized trial of addition of lamivudine or lamivudine plus zidovudine to zidovudine-containing regimens for patients with HIV-1 infection: the CAESAR trial. *Lancet* 1997;349:1413-1421. 2. Hammer SM, Squires KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus didanosine in persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection and CD4 cell counts of 200 per cubic millimeter or less. *N Engl J Med*. 1997;337:725-733.

COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets): There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of COMBIVIR in pregnant women. Reproduction studies with lamivudine and zidovudine have been performed in animals (see Lamivudine and Zidovudine sections below). COMBIVIR should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

Lamivudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

Zidovudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryofetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility).

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-258-4263.

Nursing Mothers: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breastfeed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

COMBIVIR: Zidovudine is excreted in breast milk (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics: Nursing Mothers subsection of full prescribing information); however, no data are available on COMBIVIR or lamivudine. Therefore, there is a potential for adverse effects in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed not to breastfeed if they are receiving COMBIVIR.

Pediatric Use: COMBIVIR should not be administered to pediatric patients less than 12 years of age because it is a fixed-dose combination that cannot be adjusted for this patient population.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations: In four randomized, controlled trials of EPIVIR 300 mg per day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (>5% Frequency) in Four Controlled Clinical Trials With EPIVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day

Adverse Event	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR (n = 251)
Body as a whole	
Headache	35%
Malaise & fatigue	27%
Fever or chills	10%
Digestive	
Nausea	33%
Diarrhea	18%
Nausea & vomiting	13%
Anorexia and/or decreased appetite	10%
Abdominal pain	9%
Abdominal cramps	6%
Dyspepsia	5%
Nervous system	
Neuropathy	12%
Insomnia & other sleep disorders	11%
Dizziness	10%
Depressive disorders	9%
Respiratory	
Nasal signs & symptoms	20%
Cough	18%
Skin	
Skin rashes	9%
Musculoskeletal	
Musculoskeletal pain	12%
Myalgia	8%
Arthralgia	5%

Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPIVIR in controlled clinical trials. Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in Four Controlled Clinical Trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day*

Test (Abnormal Level)	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR (%)
Neutropenia (ANC <750/mm ³)	7.2% (237)
Anemia (Hgb <8.0 g/dL)	2.9% (241)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	0.4% (240)
ALT (>5.0 x ULN)	3.7% (241)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	1.7% (241)
Bilirubin (>2.5 x ULN)	0.8% (241)
Amylase (>2.0 x ULN)	4.2% (72)

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

n = Number of patients assessed.

*Frequencies of these laboratory abnormalities were higher in patients with mild laboratory abnormalities at baseline.

Observed During Clinical Practice: In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during post-approval use of EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to a combination of their seriousness, frequency of reporting, or potential causal connection to EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR.

Endocrine and Metabolic: Hyperglycemia.

General: Sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), vasculitis.

Hepatobiliary Tract and Pancreas: Lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS); pancreatitis.

Musculoskeletal: Muscle weakness, CPK elevation, rhabdomyolysis.

Nervous: Seizures.

Skin: Alopecia, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria.

OVERDOSAGE:

COMBIVIR: There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

Lamivudine: One case of an adult ingesting 6 grams of lamivudine was reported; there were no clinical signs or symptoms noted and hematologic tests remained normal. It is not known whether lamivudine can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

Zidovudine: Acute overdoses of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, confusion, and one report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, GZDV, is enhanced.

DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION: The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is one tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

Dose Adjustment: Because it is a fixed-dose combination, COMBIVIR should not be prescribed for patients requiring dosage adjustment such as those with reduced renal function (creatinine clearance <50 mL/min), those with low body weight (<50 kg or 110 lb), or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

US Patent Nos. 5,047,407; 4,818,538; 4,828,838; 4,724,232; 4,833,130; and 4,837,208

GlaxoWellcome

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Lamivudine is manufactured under agreement from BioChem Pharma Inc.
Laval, Quebec, Canada
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Issue 995

houston voice

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Competition heats up for gay voters

Leading GOP candidate meets with gay Republicans; L.A. council member comes out, plans mayoral run

From a Los Angeles City Council member's decision to come out to a Republican presidential candidate's meeting with gay GOP members, there was a growing awareness of the impact gay and lesbian voters can have on elections around the country last week.

In Los Angeles, City Councilman Joel Wachs told a cable television interviewer he is "proud" to be a gay man, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Wachs, 60, who has served on the City Council for 28 years, was asked if he was gay by Bill Rosendahl, an openly gay man who hosts a public affairs program for Adelphia Communications.

"I am and I'm very proud of what I've done for the community, and I'm also very proud of the fact that what I've done for the community is what I've done for all communities," Wachs said.

He told the *Times* he answered the question because it arose naturally in the course of the interview and wasn't "a *National Enquirer*-type question."

While such an announcement could have spelled the end for a politician's career years ago, some political observers have said they think Wachs announcement could actually help his career as he readies himself to run for mayor by bringing in dollars from gay donors and support from those who appreciate his honesty.

If elected, Wachs would be the first gay mayor of such a large American city.

Although Wachs had not come out publicly prior to the television interview, he has supported gay rights measures while on the council. He helped lead the fight for a Los Angeles law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and other 20 years ago; and authored a city law banning discrimination against people with AIDS.

McCain meets with Log Cabin

Also last week, Republican presidential candidate John McCain, a senator from Arizona, met with leaders of the Log Cabin Republicans, the gay GOP group.

The meeting, which the conservative *Washington Times* newspaper said was aimed at "going after the homosexual Republican vote as no other serious presidential nomination contender has in his party in recent memory," lasted about 30 minutes.

Log Cabin leaders used the time to "brief" McCain on issues of concern to their members, including employment discrimination, anti-gay violence, gays in the military, AIDS funding, and family issues like the right to adopt and serve as foster parents, Kevin Ivers, the organization's communications director, told the *Houston Voice*.

While McCain did not announce new policy positions on these issues, Ivers described the discussion as a "very positive meeting" that offered a "great opportunity"

for gay Republicans to educate the candidate on their issues.

Ivers said McCain made "his general abiding principle very clear": "He said, 'I have a visceral dislike for discrimination. ... I will work to eliminate discrimination,'" Ivers recalled. The senator also said that he knows "discrimination against gays is ever occurring," according to Ivers.

But McCain has not supported the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would ban job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and Ivers said McCain told Log Cabin he is not convinced that federal legislation is the answer to solving the problem.

McCain supports the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy banning openly gay military service members, but he has questioned Defense Secretary William Cohen about whether the Defense Department was acting to prevent the witch hunts that DADT was intended to end.

McCain also said he has a nondiscrimination policy in his office, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported.

Front-runner Texas Gov. George W. Bush has agreed to meet with Log Cabin but has not set a date, Ivers said.

New Buchanan campaign chair calls for gay, ethnic support

Also last week, Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan, who recently left the Republican Party, announced that he has selected Lenora Fulani, an independent presidential candidate in 1992, to serve as co-chair of his campaign.

Although Buchanan has been an outspoken opponent of gay rights, Fulani, who is African-American, claimed his campaign would reach out to minority voters.

"We're going to integrate that peasant army of his," Fulani said, as quoted by the *Associated Press*. "We're going to bring black folks and Latino folks and gay folks and liberal folks into that army."

Buchanan echoed the theme of openness, but cited only African-Americans specifically.

Gay candidate fights to become S.F. mayor

In San Francisco, Tom Ammiano, the openly gay president of the city's Board of Supervisors, is gearing up for the Dec. 14 run-off in the mayor's race.

Ammiano surprised many political observers Nov. 2 by qualifying for a run-off with Mayor Willie Brown on the strength of a write-in campaign launched only 20 days before the election.

The race presents an interesting dilemma for gay groups and voters because Brown has been an outspoken gay rights supporter for 30 years, while Ammiano's activist roots date to the 1970s, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported.

"It is splitting the community," said



Joel Wachs, a 28-year veteran of the Los Angeles City Council, came out last week amid plans to run for mayor.

Michael Colbruno, Brown's former deputy director of legislative affairs. "It's core activists, gay people under 30 for Ammiano, and it's over-30, middle-class gays for Brown."

Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, which endorsed Brown, has posted billboards in the city reading "Re-elect the Most Pro-Gay Mayor in America," while the leader of another gay group says that gay rights are so accepted in San Francisco as to not even be an issue in the race.

"You know, the reality of it is, they'd better be pro-gay if they're going to be mayor of San Francisco," said Criss Romero, president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, which endorsed Ammiano.

Meanwhile, the *Associated Press* reported Nov. 12 that San Francisco police are considering putting Ammiano under 24-hour police protection because of an anti-gay Internet message sent to two San Francisco publications' bulletin boards that described Ammiano's daily whereabouts.

—From staff and wire reports

Corrections

In the Oct. 29 *Houston Voice*, Richard Murray, a political science professor at the University of Houston, was not fully identified.

Also, a story about the Gulf Coast Archive of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History contained some inaccurate information. Rick Hurt serves as vice-chairman. Jimmy Carper was Grand Marshall of the 1997 Pride Parade. For more information: www.houstongayweb.com/gulf-coastarchive, e-mail gcam@mail.com, or call 713-227-5973.

In the Nov. 12 *Houston Voice*, a story on Patricia Barber stated that the musician was scheduled to appear in Houston for a concert. The event was canceled and notification was not received before press time.

We regret the errors.



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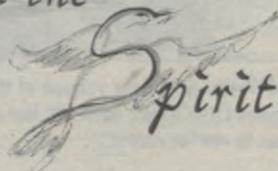
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Around the South

Court refuses request to move trial for fatal beating of gay soldier

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—A military judge turned down requests Nov. 9 for a change of venue and a new hearing for a soldier accused of fatally beating another soldier with a baseball bat last summer. Pvt. Calvin Glover, 18, of Sulphur, Okla., did not enter a plea and did not choose what type of military court will hear his case. Glover must enter a



Pvt. Calvin Glover did not enter a plea at the hearing.

plea before his Dec. 6 court-martial date, according to Army officials. Another hearing was scheduled for Nov. 15. Spec. Justin R. Fisher, 25, of Lincoln, Neb., Winchell's roommate in the barracks where he was beaten, is accused of encouraging Glover in the attack and lying to Army investigators about his involvement. Fisher's court martial date has not been set. The victim, Pfc. Barry L. Winchell, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was perceived by some soldiers in his unit as gay. According to Army investigators, Winchell was beaten in the barracks where he and Fisher lived. Winchell died the following day.

Va. Baptists scale back ties to Univ. of Richmond over gay tolerance

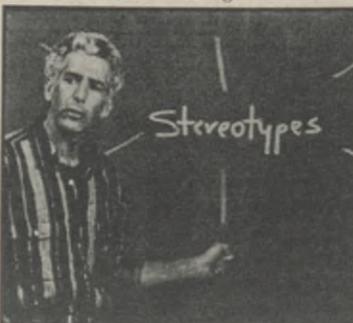
RICHMOND (AP)—Virginia Baptists will end annual contributions to the University of Richmond because of what one leader calls "tacit approval" of homosexuality. At its annual meeting last week, the Baptist General Association of Virginia approved a "new relationship" with the private university. Under the new plan, the association forfeits its right to appoint a university trustee, and has agreed to phase out annual financial contributions to the school over three years, which had amounted to about \$235,000, or less than one percent of the university's budget. The group is upset over the university's new anti-discrimination policy, which bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The discrimination ban lends "tacit approval" to homosexuality, said Reginald McDonough, executive director of the Baptist association. In a statement, University President William Cooper thanked the Baptists for their past support and pledged to continue working with them on a Baptist heritage center set to open on campus next year. The university was founded in 1830 by the Virginia Baptist Education Society as a training school for ministers.

Ky. legislators prepare for pro-gay, anti-gay rights battles in 2000

FRANKFORT, Ky.—Legislators on both sides of the gay rights issue are preparing bills for the Kentucky legislature to consider next year, the *Kentucky Post* reported Nov. 13. Democratic State Rep. Kathy Stein of Lexington has already filed a bill that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing and employment, and bar insurance agencies and financial institutions from discriminating against gays in housing and mortgage-related actions. Meanwhile, Democratic State Rep. Tom Kerr has begun drafting a bill that would forbid cities and counties from granting legal protections to gays and would void local gay-rights laws already in place. "It's something that affects all Kentuckians, not just the citizens in those areas where those ordinances have been enacted," Kerr said. Within the last 12 months, gay rights ordinances were enacted in Louisville, Lexington, Henderson and Jefferson County; one was also debated in Bowling Green.

N.C. public TV station won't air documentary about gay school issues

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—After months of discussion, a North Carolina public television station has joined the ranks of PBS stations that won't telecast "It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School." Diane Lucas, director of programming at UNC-TV, said she decided not to air the documentary after watching it, hearing from viewers on both sides and checking with schools. She decided the station instead should broaden



'It's Elementary,' a documentary about how schoolchildren deal with the issue of homosexuality, has aired in more than 100 of the nation's 347 public TV stations, including Houston's KUHT.

UNC-TV's race initiative program and explore tolerance locally. "Here, we obviously have issues of intolerance toward not just gays, but Hispanics and African-Americans," she said. Written and directed by Oscar-winning documentarian Debra Chasnoff, the film records children in six classrooms talking about what they think it means to be gay and how lesbians and gay men are viewed in society. When San Francisco public station KQED decided to help distribute the film, conservative protesters started an e-mail and phone campaign to stop it. Of the 347 public television stations, 85 refused to air the documentary and more than 100 showed it. In Georgia, GPTV chose not to air the show. Another channel did. Houston's KUHT also aired the documentary.

—From staff and wire reports

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EXPERTS ADVISE STAYING ON THERAPY

Remember, HAART is not indicated for the treatment or prevention of CMV retinitis. The bottom line is that even when HAART is working well against HIV, it does not always protect people against the progression of CMV retinitis. HAART can also fail! If it does, people with HIV/AIDS will be vulnerable to CMV and other opportunistic infections.

In response to these concerns, a panel of experts convened by the International AIDS Society (IAS) has recommended continuing anti-CMV maintenance therapy in people receiving HAART. According to the IAS panel, "Generally, patients in whom CMV disease has been diagnosed should be advised to continue their anti-CMV maintenance therapy as indicated because the effect of potent antiretroviral therapy on the course of CMV disease is still poorly understood."³

IT'S UP TO YOU...

If you are thinking about stopping your anti-CMV maintenance therapy, talk to your doctor. And consider this: Are the benefits really worth the risks? After all, it's your vision.

Be sure to talk to your doctor if you have any questions about your condition or therapy.

References: 1. Jabs DA et al. *Am J Ophthalmol.* December 1998;126:817-822. 2. Michelet C et al. *AIDS.* October 1998;12:1815-1822. 3. Whitley RJ et al. *Arch Intern Med.* May 1998;158:957-969.

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AOL meets gay leaders over hate, sex policies

Some criticized last week's meeting as 'secretive,' but gay leaders are optimistic about future relations with AOL

by PAIGE PARVIN

Gay civil rights leaders were mostly positive about a sit-down meeting with America Online Nov. 9, when attendees discussed the recent firestorm over AOL's terms of service agreement, among other issues.

AOL had arranged the meeting before controversy broke out last month, according to a company spokesman, "to continue to work on establishing a more regular dialogue and partnership with the gay communities."

The country's largest Internet service provider has been criticized in recent weeks for deleting some gay users' profiles due to sexual content, but not profiles that contain hate speech against gays.

AOL has responded that hate speech and sexually explicit content both violate the company's terms of service agreement, but the company relies on members, not AOL staff, to police the massive on-line domain and report violations.

Last week's nearly five-hour meeting included representatives from several high-profile national gay organizations, including

the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Human Rights Campaign, National Youth Advocacy, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, and PlanetOut, a for-profit on-line service that is partially owned by AOL.

Some activists have been critical of the secretive nature of the invitation-only, closed-door meeting; AOL would not reveal the list of invitees or the planned agenda in advance of the meeting, even to those attending.

Asked about the guest list, AOL acknowledged that this meeting was meant for the heavy hitters of national gay leadership.

AOL declined to discuss specifics of the meeting but said a senior company representative responsible for administering the controversial terms of service agreement was there to explain the policy.

"I think it's fair to say that most in the meeting came away with a new appreciation that the terms of service agreement is, in fact, flexible and contextual," said an AOL spokesman, who insisted on anonymity and

answered by e-mail written questions submitted by the Houston Voice.

Most of those present seemed to agree and were optimistic that the meeting established valuable lines of communication.

"The meeting opened up a dialogue between representatives of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and AOL, regarding their terms of service policy and enforcement methods," said Will Doherty, GLAAD's director of on-line community development. "GLAAD feels that AOL has acted responsibly, and we are happy to engage in a continuing dialogue."

GLAAD Executive Director Joan Garry said in a statement she was "encouraged by the conversation."

"The community raised concerns about the TOS agreement as a prelude to what I now believe will be further in-depth conversations engaging other voices," she said. "We encouraged them to get out in front and be more proactive on the dangers of hate speech and to listen intently to the voices of its gay and lesbian members."

AOL, in turn, expressed their intention to do just that, its spokesman said.

The meeting was apparently only meant to be a first step, and AOL announced no changes in its policies, according to Kim Mills, an HRC spokeswoman. Some individual activists who have been vocal about



Joan Garry of GLAAD said she is 'encouraged' by a meeting held by America Online last week.

AOL's policies were not included in the Nov. 9 meeting. John Aravosis of Wired Strategies, an on-line advocacy service, said he doesn't mind, as long as this wasn't the only meeting.

But another on-line lobby group, NationalGayLobby.org, dismissed the AOL meeting.

In response to what NGL views as unfair and inconsistent treatment of gay users, the group has called for a boycott of AOL, which officially began at noon Tuesday. NGL Director Michael Romanello could not say if the boycott is having any effect.

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Around the Nation

NYC punished AIDS organization because it criticized Giuliani

NEW YORK (AP)—City officials tried to make an AIDS service group ineligible for millions of dollars in federal money because it had been critical of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a judge has found. In a ruling released Nov. 12, U.S. District Judge Allen Schwartz found that city officials acted with "retaliatory intent" against Housing Works, a non-profit group that operates two homes for homeless people with AIDS, mental illness and drug addiction. The group is a relentless critic of Giuliani's AIDS policies. Housing Works claimed the administration had initially given it a favorable rating, making it likely to qualify for grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. When the rating was downgraded, Housing Works was effectively blocked from obtaining \$2.4 million in funds. Schwartz issued an injunction ordering the city to restore the original rating, and barred the city from punishing the group for its "criticism of the Giuliani administration or its advocacy on behalf of persons with HIV or AIDS."

Lesbian politico named as president's new gay outreach liaison

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Clinton has named Elizabeth Julian Potter, a lesbian with a long history of grassroots experience, to be his new director of lesbian and gay outreach. Potter, who assumed her responsibilities Nov. 15, replaces Richard Socarides, who has taken a job in the private sector. Most of her government service has been in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Gay rights activists and government employees applauded Potter's appointment.

N.Y. college admissions director hid papers reporting hate crime

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP)—The director of admissions at Skidmore College has admitted she ordered her staff to remove student newspapers from the campus center Nov. 8 because she was afraid a report about an anti-gay hate crime would offend prospective students. Mary Lou Bates said Nov. 11 that she ordered the removal of 1,200 copies of the *Skidmore News* because the Nov. 5 issue featured a photo and an article about the disappearance of a gay flag from the school's Sexuality Awareness House, a dorm for gay students, and the smearing of feces on a pickup truck parked outside the house. In a letter of apology to the campus, Bates said she made "a poor decision." College officials apologized for the incident in a meeting with the newspaper's editor-in-chief, Shawn McCormack, who later suggested Bates shouldn't be fired.

Ore. scout den withdraws because of Boy Scouts' policy on gays

ASHLAND, Ore. (AP)—A local Cub Scout den will pull out of the national Boy Scouts of America because of the organization's efforts to bar gay men from leadership positions. Ashland Cub Scout Den 2 of Pack 320 will not renew its membership with the Boy Scouts of America this year. "Our den has decided to discontinue our affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America because of their intolerance of diversity," wrote Serena Ota St. Clair and Sally Kirkpatrick, the den's co-leaders. The seeds of the den's withdrawal may have begun at the town's Fourth of July Parade last year, when the boys marched behind the people representing Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. "Being right by the PFLAG entry, I suddenly realized that I was uncomfortable being part of the Boy Scouts, which were then starting to be seen as discriminating against homosexuals," St. Clair said.

College football coaches draw fire for handling of gay issues

LINCOLN, Neb.—Two big college sports programs are being questioned for their handling of gay issues. In Lincoln, Neb., University of Nebraska football coach Ron Brown has spoken at religious meetings, saying that Christians must show love to "win the homosexual to Christ." Critics have called for an apology from Brown or the university, or a reprimand, the *Omaha World Herald* reported. But University Chancellor James Moeser said that

Brown, the team's receivers coach, had not violated the university's nondiscrimination policy, which includes religion and sexual orientation. "I personally disagree with Coach Brown," Moeser said, but "I defend his right to promulgate his views, as long as there is no overt pressure by virtue of his position on the coaching staff to bring people in line with his view."

Meanwhile, in Minneapolis, Athletics Director Mark Dienhart appeared before a faculty-student committee Nov. 11 to address charges of ignoring reports of sexual harassment in the University of Minnesota's Men's Athletic Department in the mid 1990s, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* reported. In a 1998 lawsuit, former academic counselor Rick Marsden charged that coaches expressed concern that the university would get a reputation for being "a place where gay athletes came." Dienhart claims to remember only a meeting where a coach recommended that student-athletes "suffering from sexual identity issues be referred to Marsden because Marsden had been helpful to one of that coach's student-athletes."

—From staff and wire reports



Ron Brown, who coaches receivers on the Univ. of Nebraska football team, has defended his public call to 'win the homosexual to Christ.'

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Shepard never made a sexual advance, convicted killer says

by LOU CHIBBARO, JR.

Investigators in the Matthew Shepard murder case, free from a court-imposed gag order, said that the man who pleaded guilty in April to murdering the gay University of Wyoming student told them he never saw Shepard make a sexual advance toward Aaron McKinney, the Laramie man convicted Nov. 3 of second-degree murder in connection with Shepard's death.

With a court-imposed gag order lifted, the investigators revealed for the first time that co-defendant Russell Henderson stated in his confession that McKinney made no gestures or comments to indicate Shepard had touched McKinney's genitals after the two men lured Shepard into McKinney's pickup truck in October 1998.

McKinney's attorneys relied heavily on such an argument at his trial, which took place Oct. 24 to Nov. 4.

With the three men sitting close together in the front seat of the pickup, the investigators said, Henderson would have had to be deaf or blind not to have seen or heard McKinney react to the groping he alleged Shepard made.

At McKinney's trial, his attorneys argued that Shepard's alleged grope in the truck, combined with McKinney's addiction to the drug methamphetamine, prompted McKinney to fly into an uncontrollable rage that the attorneys said led to McKinney's "unintentional" beating death of Matthew Shepard.

A jury on Nov. 3 found McKinney guilty of



Days after Aaron McKinney (center) argued to a Wyoming jury that he killed Matthew Shepard (left) after an unwanted sexual advance, investigators say the other man convicted of the murder, Russell Henderson (right) never saw a romantic pass.

second-degree murder, felony murder, kidnapping, and aggravated robbery in connection with Shepard's death.

A day after the conviction, in a gesture of reconciliation, Shepard's mother Judy persuaded the prosecutor to drop his call for the death penalty in exchange for an agreement by McKinney to accept a sentence of two consecutive terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole. McKinney also gave up his right to appeal the verdict.

Henderson pleaded guilty to felony murder and kidnapping in April and received a sentence of two consecutive terms of life in prison.

McKinney stated in a taped confession, which was played for the jury, that Shepard's

advances prompted him to begin hitting Shepard in the head with the butt of a .357 Magnum pistol in the pickup truck. In his confession, he said that from that point on, he had lost control of his emotions and appeared to be outside his own body as he "watched" himself bludgeon Shepard in a remote field outside of town.

But the investigators said Henderson's statement confirmed their belief that McKinney was in full control of his emotions and acted as a "cold-blooded killer" when he directed Henderson to tie Shepard to a buck fence and then crushed Shepard's skull with the gun.

The investigators, Albany County, Wyo., Sheriff's Detective Rob DuBree and Laramie

Police Commander David O'Malley, told reporters Nov. 4 that Henderson's confession convinced them that the alleged grope never happened. The two said they are convinced McKinney fabricated the groping incident as an excuse to justify his decision to beat Shepard to death.

DuBree, O'Malley, and Albany County Sheriff James Pond talked with reporters about the case in the Albany County Courthouse less than an hour after Wyoming District Judge Barton Voigt lifted a gag order that barred law enforcement officials from discussing any aspect of the case.

In a development considered a potentially serious setback for the prosecution, Henderson refused to testify as a prosecution witness at McKinney's trial. DuBree and O'Malley said Henderson, who by then had served more than six months in a Wyoming penitentiary, told them he did not want to become known as a "jailhouse snitch," which could put him in danger.

Unlike prosecutors and investigators, who were freed from a court-imposed gag order when Aaron McKinney's trial for the murder of Matthew Shepard concluded, McKinney himself remains under a gag order for life, *Editor & Publisher* reported.

According to the report, McKinney's plea agreement included a clause that prohibited McKinney and any members of the defense team "from talking to any news media organizations about the case.



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EDITORIAL

Gag orders hide the hate

When Dennis Shepard took to the stand and looked straight into the eyes of the man who murdered his son Matthew, the words bristled with righteous indignation.

It was a riveting condemnation, as Matthew's father explained to convicted killer Aaron McKinney why the Shepard family agreed to a plea bargain that spared McKinney the risk of a death sentence.

"It means no drawn-out appeals process, [no] chance of walking away free due to a technicality, and no chance of a lighter sentence due to a 'merciful' jury," Shepard said. "Best of all, you won't be a symbol. No years of publicity, no chance of commutation, no nothing—just a miserable future and a more miserable end."

Those present in the courtroom at the time weren't privy to the details of McKinney's plea bargain, and so missed the significance of Dennis Shepard's promise that McKinney would not ever gain publicity for his brutality.

Now we know that prosecutors, at Judy Shepard's urging, obtained from McKinney as part of his plea bargain a stipulation that he may never grant interviews or speak publicly about the Shepard murder.

Coming from Matthew's parents, the motivation for the gag order is perfectly understandable. They have no doubt seen how cold-blooded killers have gained demi-celebrity status in today's twisted culture, and word has already spread that McKinney was being treated like a "star" by other inmates.

The plea bargain was

intended to spare us all that spectacle, but its goal of preventing McKinney from becoming a symbol has already failed.

Civil liberty proponents have taken up McKinney's cause as a First Amendment matter, questioning prosecutor Cal Rerucha's willingness to push for the gag order, which they say impinges on the convicted killer's free speech rights, however repugnant we might find whatever it is he might have to say.

But McKinney isn't the only one who loses something from the gag order. As a society, we lose a valuable opportunity to see first-hand the hate behind the crime, a motivation for Matthew's murder that was skillfully hidden by a prosecutor less interested in the truth than in getting a conviction and saving face for his hometown.

Hate is ugly, and hearing from anti-gay murderers can be a painful, double-edged sword. But there's almost no more riveting evidence of the seething homophobia lurking in America's heartland.

Filmmaker Arthur Dong captured that anger in an unforgettable documentary, "Licensed to Kill," for which he interviewed inmates convicted of killing gay men.

Thanks to the McKinney gag order, we'll never have the opportunity for similar insight into the Shepard murder. Imagine what we could have learned from McKinney if, after time to consider his actions, he gave an interview something like the one Dong conducted with Jeffrey Swinford, who killed a gay man he said was being flirtatious with a friend.

Shepard killer gagged for life, see p. 11

AOL meets with gay leaders, see p. 8

"I really probably, you know, shouldn't have done it," Swinford told Dong. "But if a man ever hits his hands on me again, that's just where I'm going to have to take it."

"This guy, you know, he was trying to make a homosexuality advancement at my best friend. He's dead because of it and this stuff, you know, it's just, you know, life's just one big opinion and what you make of the opinion. I mean—and I don't have any opinion whatsoever for homosexuals except they ought to all be taken care of."

Gagging the truth

Only days after McKinney's case was resolved, investigators shed important new light on the case—once they were freed of another gag order, this one imposed by the Shepard trial judge.

(see story, p. 11)

They said that Russell Henderson, McKinney's partner in crime, told police in his confession that he never saw any sign that Matthew made a sexual advance at McKinney during the fateful truck ride immediately before the brutal beating.

Jurors never heard that key piece of evidence, which undermined McKinney's "gay panic" defense that he became enraged after Matthew grabbed his testicles in the cab of the pickup truck.

Because of the trial judge's gag order, the prosecutor was under no public pressure to make sure the truth about the truck ride got told. Instead, Rerucha could stick to his strategy of not discussing sexual advances or Matthew's sexual orientation, as if the gay college student was beaten to death with the blunt end of a pistol to steal the \$20 he had in his wallet.

The gag orders in the Shepard murder case teach a lesson even beyond that tragic hate crime. There is a natural tendency, whenever humans gain power, to silence those with whom they most ardently



Gag orders like the one imposed on Matthew Shepard's killer prevent the rest of society from witnessing first-hand the hate behind the crime; a lesson we should have learned from filmmaker Arthur Dong in his documentary "Licensed to Kill," which featured unforgettable interviews with inmates, like William Cross (pictured), convicted of killing gay men.

disagree. But even, as here, where the intention is benevolent and the offending opinion repugnant, the right answer is always more speech, not less.

Don't censor AOL hate

That lesson applies just as well to the ongoing controversy involving hate speech in personal profiles of America Online subscribers.

Gay rights advocates have come out of the woodwork criticizing what they say is a skewed censorship policy that forced the removal of a gay man's sexually explicit profile while leaving in place dozens of profiles with vicious, homophobic slurs.

Putting aside the company's common-sense response that, as a practical matter, it relied on members to report hateful and sexually explicit profiles that violate AOL rules, the activists are on the wrong side of a free speech issue.

As ugly as we may find homophobic speech, censoring it isn't the answer. We're better off knowing our enemies for who they are, and society is better off seeing the hate that's out there.

Criminalizing hate crimes is one thing; censoring hate speech is altogether another.



THE VIEW FROM HERE

Some feminists are lesbians, as Ireland knows well

by JENNIFER VANASCO

I heard Patricia Ireland, the president of the National Organization for Women, at a talk she was giving for college students. And I left blazing mad.

Not because of the continuing inequities for women that she listed, not because of the stories of doltish behavior by white male senators she recounted, but because of something Ireland herself said at the end of her speech.

It was a throwaway line, really, at the very end of the question and answer session, when the moderator was closing things down.

"If you are fighting for women's rights," she said, "there will be a time when—not if—someone calls you a lesbian. You need to be prepared for that. You need to be able to handle a little name-calling."

She went on to say that students could borrow Gloria Steinem's line to a nosy male reporter. When asked if she were a lesbian, Steinem said, with disgust on her face, "Are you the alternative?"

Another possible response, said Ireland, when faced with a female asking the question, is "Why, do you want a date?"

Buzz. Wrong answer, Ms. Steinem; wrong answer, Ms. Ireland.

The correct answer to the question, "Are you a lesbian?" is:

- (1) Yes, I am. Thanks for asking.
- (2) Actually, I'm bisexual; or
- (3) No, I'm straight. But I'm honored that you would ask.

The worst part is that Ireland herself

is famously bisexual—though she won't claim the title. Instead, in her book "What Women Want," she says, "I have a husband, and he's very important in my life. I have a companion, and she is very important in my life, too."

In fact, Ireland spends a whole chapter of her book talking about how women are "attacked" for being lesbians whenever they are unmarried and run for political office, or maneuver for power, or speak their minds.

Do I believe that this happens? Yes. But I wouldn't use the word "attack." Why? Because the fact is, many of those unmarried women are lesbians. The women's movement has always been inundated with lesbians who are willing to fight for the rights of all women.

When Ireland says that women are running from the women's movement because they're afraid they will be called lesbians, I say we need a consciousness-raising campaign among those women.

We shouldn't try to tell them how to get around the lesbian question. Instead, we should tell them that being lesbian or bisexual is terrific—don't be scared of that label.

It's difficult to pick a bone with Ireland. After all, she's been a progressive president for NOW. Under her leadership, the organization has recommitted to fighting for lesbian, gay and bisexual rights; it has held a lesbian summit; it has brought lesbians closer into the women's rights fold. She is clearly struggling to do the right thing.

In her book, she details how aligning herself with lesbians hurt her stomach



"If you are fighting for women's rights, there will be a time when—not if—someone calls you a lesbian. You need to be prepared for that. You need to be able to handle a little name-calling."
—Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization of Women

"Lesbians, bisexuals and gays should have rights—but don't think I'm one of them just because I think so and happen to sleep with a woman."

Ireland says she wants to draw a circle around her private life. Most of us in the gay rights movement probably wish that. We wish that our private lives weren't so much of an issue, that we could love who we want to love without being harassed by the state, our family, or our neighbors.

Some days, we wish we could just be quiet, not make our sexuality an issue, and hide in a dark room. But we can't. We can't be private because we are fighting an important battle for our rights. And to win, we need to show the other side just how many soldiers we have. We need to stand up and be brave and be counted.

Ireland is right. Straight men often do reduce women to their sexuality. They reduce us to body parts, or say all we need is "a good screw," as Ireland puts it so eloquently. Or they call us lesbians.

But Ireland needs to remember—NOW needs to remember—that many of us are lesbians. And many of our foremothers were lesbians.

And we are tired of evading the question of whether we are or not because we are proud of our sexual orientation and proud of our community. It's too bad that she can't stand with us and be proud of her orientation, too.

Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based freelance writer and can be reached at j-vasasco@uchicago.edu.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life Of Ethan Green

By Eric Orner

Rejection Aint Pretty

Thursday

Friday

Tuesday

...DESPITE YOUR KNOWING WAY BETTER, here YOU ARE BACK ON THE I-LIKE-HIM-BETTER-THAN-HE-LIKES-ME GERBIL WHEEL...

... AND DESPITE ALL OF YOUR INTELLECTUALIZING, THE SUPPORT OF YOUR FRIENDS AND THE EXPLANATION OF ZOLNA, YOUR THERAPIST, IT STILL HURTS...

WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOU THAT MAKES YOU IGNORE EVERYTHING LAID AT YOUR FEET, MAKES YOU COVET ONLY WHAT'S UNAVAILABLE?

MAYBE YOU'LL BUY A GUITAR, SCRIBBLE DOWN ALL THE PATHETIC, TEAR-JERKING THOUGHTS YOU'VE BEEN THINKING, AND MOVE TO NASHVILLE TO RECORD COUNTRY WESTERN CDs..

Talk to your healthcare professional about ZIAGEN. Or call 1-888-TALK-2-GW (1-888-825-5249).

I am

Ziagen™

abacavir sulfate 300 mg tablets

I drive down viral load

Most people who took ZIAGEN with two other nucleoside analogues as their first combination regimen achieved undetectable viral load through 16 weeks.* ZIAGEN does not cure HIV infection/AIDS or prevent passing HIV to others. It's not known whether taking ZIAGEN will slow the progress of HIV disease or help you live longer.

I am two pills a day, with or without food

The easy dosing of ZIAGEN—just one tablet in the morning and one at night, with or without food—simplifies your combination therapy.

I give you treatment options

ZIAGEN is powerful enough to achieve undetectable viral load when used in initial combination therapy*—for example, ZIAGEN + COMBIVIR® (lamivudine 150 mg/zidovudine 300 mg) Tablets—and may preserve future treatment options. ZIAGEN can be effective in patients who have used anti-HIV drugs before, but the effects are less.

Important safety information

About 5% of patients (5 in 100) who take ZIAGEN have a hypersensitivity reaction (a serious allergic reaction) that may result in death. IF YOU HAVE SKIN RASH OR TWO OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SETS OF SYMPTOMS, STOP TAKING ZIAGEN AND CALL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY: fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain, severe tiredness, achiness, or generally ill feeling. A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card and Medication Guide provided by your pharmacist. You should carry the Warning Card with you.

If you must stop treatment with ZIAGEN because you

have had this serious reaction, NEVER TAKE ZIAGEN AGAIN. If you take ZIAGEN again after you have had this serious reaction, WITHIN HOURS you may experience LIFE-THREATENING symptoms that may include LOWERING OF YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE OR DEATH.

A buildup of lactic acid and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported rarely with HIV drugs of this type.

Most side effects were mild to moderate; the most common side effects were nausea, vomiting, malaise or fatigue, headache, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. Most of these side effects did not cause people to stop taking ZIAGEN.

*71% (62/87) of patients taking ZIAGEN with lamivudine + zidovudine in this clinical trial had viral load undetectable below 400 copies/mL using the Roche Amplicor HIV-1 MONITOR® Test.

Please see important information for ZIAGEN and COMBIVIR on adjacent pages.

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July 1999

www.ZIAGEN.com

Glaxo Wellcome
HIV

A division of Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Web site: www.glaxowellcome.com

MEDICATION GUIDE**ZIAGEN™ (z-EYE-uh-jen) (abacavir sulfate) Tablets and Oral Solution**

Established name: abacavir (uh-BACK-ah-veer) sulfate tablets and oral solution

In order to take Ziagen safely, you should read all of the information in this Medication Guide each time you fill your prescription for Ziagen.

What is the most important information I should know about Ziagen?

About 5% of patients (5 in 100) who take Ziagen have a hypersensitivity reaction (a serious allergic reaction) **that may result in death.** If you have **skin rash** or two or more of the following sets of symptoms, you may be having this kind of reaction:

- fever
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain
- severe tiredness, achiness, or generally ill feeling

A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card provided by your pharmacist. You should carry this Warning Card with you.

IF YOU NOTICE THESE SYMPTOMS WHILE TAKING ZIAGEN, STOP TAKING ZIAGEN AND CALL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY.

If you must stop treatment with Ziagen because you have had this serious reaction, **NEVER TAKE ZIAGEN AGAIN.** If you take Ziagen again after you have had this serious reaction, **WITHIN HOURS** you may experience **LIFE-THREATENING** symptoms that may include **LOWERING OF YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE OR DEATH.**

Ziagen can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read "What are the possible side effects of Ziagen?" in the section to the right.

What is Ziagen?

Ziagen is a medication used to treat HIV infection. Ziagen is taken by mouth as a tablet or a strawberry-banana flavored liquid. It belongs to a class of anti-HIV medicines called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). Ziagen is only proven to work when taken in combination with other anti-HIV medications. When used in combination with these other medications, Ziagen helps lower the amount of HIV found in your blood and keep your immune system as healthy as possible so that it can help fight infection. However, Ziagen does not have these effects in all patients.

Ziagen does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At this time, there is no evidence that Ziagen will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that are associated with HIV infection or AIDS. Because of this, you must be sure to be seen regularly by your health care provider.

Who should not take Ziagen?

Do not take Ziagen if you have ever had a hypersensitivity reaction (a serious allergic reaction) to Ziagen. In such cases, you should return all of your unused Ziagen to your doctor or pharmacist for proper disposal.

How should I take Ziagen?

Take Ziagen exactly as your doctor prescribes it.

The usual dosage for adults (at least 16 years of age) is one 300-mg tablet twice a day.

Adolescents and children from 3 months to 16 years of age can also take Ziagen™ (abacavir sulfate) Tablets and Oral Solution. Your doctor will tell you if the oral solution or tablet is best for your child.

Also, your child's doctor will decide the right dose based on your child's weight and age. Ziagen has not been studied in children under 3 months of age.

Ziagen can be taken with food or on an empty stomach.

To help make sure that your anti-HIV therapy is as effective as it can be, be very careful to take all of your medication exactly as your doctor prescribed it and do not skip any doses.

If you miss a dose of Ziagen, take the missed dose immediately. Then, take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.

When your supply of Ziagen and other anti-HIV drugs starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. It is very important that you take anti-HIV drugs as prescribed by your doctor because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if one or more of the drugs is stopped, even for a short time.

What should I avoid while taking Ziagen?

Ziagen has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex while using Ziagen. Do not use or share dirty needles.

Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking Ziagen. Ziagen has not been studied in pregnant women and the risk to the unborn child is not known.

Mothers with HIV should not breastfeed their infants because HIV in the breast milk can be passed to the infant.

What are the possible or reasonably likely side effects of Ziagen?

Some people have had a hypersensitivity reaction (a serious allergic reaction) to Ziagen, which can be fatal. Instructions on how to recognize a possible reaction, as well as what to do if such a reaction is suspected, are discussed in the section "What is the most important information I should know about Ziagen?"

The class of medicines to which Ziagen belongs (NRTIs) can cause a condition called lactic acidosis, together with an enlarged liver. In some cases, this condition can be fatal. Women are more likely than men to experience this rare but serious side effect.

Ziagen can cause other side effects. In studies, the most common side effects with Ziagen were nausea, vomiting, malaise or fatigue, headache, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. Most of these side effects did not cause people to stop taking Ziagen. This listing of side effects is not complete. Your doctor or pharmacist can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects with Ziagen. Talk to your doctor promptly about any side effects you have.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Ask a health care professional about any concerns about Ziagen. Professional labeling is available to your doctor and other health care professionals. If you want more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the professional labeling.

GlaxoWellcome

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

December 1998

MG - 001

This Medication Guide has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

**Patient Information about
COMBIVIR® (lamivudine 150 mg/zidovudine 300 mg) Tablets**

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: lamivudine/zidovudine tablets

Please read this information before you start taking COMBIVIR (pronounced KOM-bi-veer). Staying informed will help you to work more closely with your doctor and healthcare team to determine what is best for you. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussion with your healthcare provider. You should remain under a doctor's care when using COMBIVIR and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your healthcare provider.

What is COMBIVIR?

COMBIVIR is the brand name of a tablet that combines EPIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine tablets) [3TC®] and RETROVIR® (zidovudine) Tablets [ZDV], two drugs which are used to treat HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

How does COMBIVIR work?

COMBIVIR is a combination of lamivudine (la-MIV-u-deen) and zidovudine (zi-DOHV-u-deen), two medicines (nucleoside analogues) that slow down the replication of the HIV virus. This can reduce the virus' ability to infect new cells. It may help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. Lamivudine plus zidovudine when used together can have stronger (synergistic) effects against the virus. COMBIVIR is a convenient way of taking lamivudine and zidovudine. COMBIVIR should usually be taken with other anti-HIV therapy.

Will COMBIVIR work the same as EPIVIR and RETROVIR taken together?

Yes, taking one COMBIVIR Tablet twice a day is the same as taking one EPIVIR 150 mg Tablet twice a day and either two RETROVIR 100 mg Capsules three times a day or one RETROVIR 300 mg Tablet twice a day.

How should I take COMBIVIR?

Take COMBIVIR as your doctor prescribes it. The recommended dose is one COMBIVIR Tablet orally two times a day, with or without food. To help make sure you will benefit from COMBIVIR, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays."

What should I do if I miss a dose of COMBIVIR?

If you miss a dose by more than 4 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by less than 4 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of COMBIVIR at any one time.

Does COMBIVIR cure HIV infection or AIDS?

No, there is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking COMBIVIR may still develop infections or other illnesses associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important to remain under the care of a healthcare provider. Use of lamivudine plus zidovudine has been shown to help patients with HIV infection stay healthy and live longer.

Does COMBIVIR reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

No, COMBIVIR, as well as other HIV medications, has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take COMBIVIR?

You should not take COMBIVIR if you have had a serious allergic reaction to either lamivudine or zidovudine.

Do not take COMBIVIR at the same time as EPIVIR or RETROVIR because they also contain lamivudine and zidovudine.

Individual dosing with EPIVIR plus RETROVIR, rather than COMBIVIR, should be considered for:

- A child under 12 years of age.
- A patient who weighs less than 110 pounds.
- Anyone who requires dosage adjustments due to drug side effects or poor kidney function.

What medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my healthcare provider?

Talk to your healthcare provider if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking COMBIVIR® (lamivudine 150 mg/zidovudine 300 mg) Tablets. Ask your doctor about enrolling you in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: 1-800-258-4263.
- You are breastfeeding. Mothers infected with HIV should not breastfeed their infants because HIV is present in breast milk.

Also talk to your doctor about:

- Problems with your blood counts.
- Problems with your muscles.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease, such as hepatitis.

Can COMBIVIR be taken with other medications?

Yes, COMBIVIR can be taken with most medications, including most anti-HIV drugs. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medications, over-the-counter or prescription, that you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of COMBIVIR?

Do not rely on this summary alone for information about side effects. Your healthcare provider can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects that may be relevant to you.

The safety of COMBIVIR is not expected to be different from the safety of EPIVIR and RETROVIR given separately.

In clinical studies of lamivudine plus zidovudine, side effects occurring in 5% or more of patients included: muscle and joint pain, headache, nausea, weakness and fatigue, nasal symptoms, cough, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, neuropathy, trouble sleeping, fever or chills, loss of appetite, dizziness, abdominal pain or cramps, depression, skin rashes, and indigestion.

It's important to know that serious side effects can occur with COMBIVIR; such as a decrease in red and white blood cells and muscle damage. A buildup of lactic acid and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported rarely with some HIV drugs, including nucleoside analogues.

For HIV-infected individuals, periodic blood tests are recommended. If certain changes occur in your laboratory results while you are taking COMBIVIR, particularly if you become anemic or if your white blood cell count falls too low, your medication may need to be adjusted; your doctor may prescribe EPIVIR plus RETROVIR separately in place of COMBIVIR.

Tell your doctor promptly about any side effects or other unusual symptoms you may experience.

Other Information

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep COMBIVIR and all medicines out of the reach of children.

Like most prescription drugs, lamivudine and zidovudine were required to be tested on animals before they were allowed for human use. In animal studies with doses much higher than those used in humans, zidovudine was associated with vaginal tumors. Your healthcare provider can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests may mean about safety for you.

How should I store COMBIVIR Tablets?

COMBIVIR Tablets may be stored at room temperature and do not require refrigeration.

This provides a summary of information about COMBIVIR. If you have any questions or concerns about COMBIVIR or HIV, talk to your healthcare provider.



Surge of HIV cases among blacks

> Continued from Page 1

ual transmissions, the council said.

"Not many agencies are going into the African-American communities to educate about the disease," said Ella Hines, a nurse and vice-chair of the planning council.

The number of new HIV cases among blacks in the Houston area first surpassed those of whites in 1996. Newly diagnosed cases among whites have dropped in the last several years, while new infections among blacks have climbed by nearly a third, according to the council.

Nationally, while African-Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, they made up 45 percent of new AIDS cases last year and 49 percent of AIDS deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-American men and women ages 25-44.

The new statistics—and the continuing shift of HIV/AIDS to African-Americans—prompted the 38-member Ryan White Planning Council last month to unanimously declare a medical emergency, which allows the group to call public attention to the issue and shift its \$15.5 million in resources to target the problem.

But the planning council is limited to distributing federal funds, and the money must go to AIDS service providers, not education and prevention efforts.

Eckels said Tuesday there is a need for "a regional, countywide approach and not just

aimed at a spike in the African-American community." Eckels oversees the Ryan White Planning Council.

"There are a lot of resources at our disposal," he said.

Van Ooteghem and others on the planning council want political and religious leaders—particularly African-Americans—to step forward and use their bully pulpits to attack the problem, as well as attract other community leaders.

Late last month, Van Ooteghem hand-delivered to Brown a six-paragraph letter detailing the new statistics and asking for a meeting to review the problem. Van Ooteghem, who has worked on Brown's two mayoral campaigns, hasn't received a response.

A spokeswoman for Brown did not return calls this week seeking comment.

Brown oversees nearly \$5 million in prevention funds through the city's health and human services department, money that the planning council and other AIDS educators and activists would like to see better targeted in the African-American community.

"He has millions of dollars in the budget to get the word out. We can't. The city has the money, and they are the ones that are supposed to do it. If (Brown) doesn't accept the problem, where else are we supposed to turn? He is not accepting his responsibility," Van Ooteghem said.

City health officials want to join the Ryan White Planning Council and county officials in declaring a medical emergency in the



Gary Van Ooteghem and Ella Hines, officials of the Ryan White Planning Council, called on county commissioners Tuesday to address statistics that show a surge in new HIV infections among blacks.

African-American community over HIV/AIDS, said Kathy Barton, spokeswoman for the city's health department.

They want to make a declaration by World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, she said. On Tuesday, county commissioners voted in favor of a resolution in support of World AIDS Day.

Brown will receive an extensive briefing on the new statistics when he returns from his extended trip abroad, though the session has not been scheduled, Barton said.

"What we need is leadership for mobilization in the black community," Barton said. "I am not saying that City Hall has been complacent at all. This is a really important issue. This is a topic that can easily be incorporated into a neighborhood

speech or neighborhood action plan."

County Commissioner El Franco Lee, whose district includes a wide mix of gays and blacks across Montrose, Midtown and the inner city, said African-American religious and political leaders are reluctant to address the issue because they often view homosexuality, sex and illegal drug use as taboos.

"Where is the most vocal leadership from the minority communities? There is no question that needs to be done better. We shouldn't leave out any leadership, from the mayor to others," Lee said.

But Lee made it clear during Tuesday's commissioners court that tackling HIV should be part of a comprehensive education and health program, not just one that targets specific minority communities.

Local clergy must be engaged to help in an education campaign, and African-Americans can learn lessons from the gay community in combating the disease, he said.

"We would need the assistance and the successes of the outreach and education that occurred in the gay and lesbian community and how they educated themselves. We haven't examined that," Lee said.

Current prevention and education programs do target minorities, but the lack of open discussion about HIV and AIDS is a region-wide problem not just affecting African-Americans, said Sara Selber, executive director of AIDS Foundation Houston.

"No where is there a huge and comprehensive campaign that talks about complete wellness. Houston is in a state of emergency for new HIV infections," Selber said.

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ASK THE PASTOR

Q: Psalm 103 was comforting during my illness. Verse 11 states, "So great is God's love toward those who fear God." What does it mean to fear God?"

A: The word, "fear," is not meant to be one of dread or terror, but reverence and carefulness. This fear that the Psalmist is talking about stems from a love based relationship. It is a positive emotion that reaps great benefits for the one related to God in love. To fear God means that one is concerned not to offend God and desires very much to please God. This fear is put in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. For those who fear God there are several blessings: 1. Angels protect them (Ps. 34:7), and 2. They are under the shadow of the Almighty (Ps. 91:5,6). The person who fears God desires God's favor, reveres God's holiness, submits cheerfully to God's will, is grateful for God's benefits (Ps. 103:3-5), sincerely worships God, and conscientiously obeys God's commandments. Fear and love are two elements that exist in a dynamic tension, producing a healthy relationship. Together they enable us to please and serve God with all our hearts. The Bible tells us many wonderful things that this positive fear produces in our life. Here are just a few: the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom, to fear the LORD is to hate evil, the fear of the LORD adds length to life, the fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, and the fear of the LORD teaches a person wisdom. In summary, to fear God is to respect, worship and reverence God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. When we do this, we experience the great love God has for us!



Battle lines drawn

> Continued from Page 1

otry. It is a sad day. It is a scandalous day for the United Methodist Church."

The jury could have banished Creech, 55, from the church altogether or given him lighter sanctions. But Rev. Steve Flader of Omaha, who acted as prosecutor, recommended that Creech lose his credentials to be a minister.

Creech's actions have plunged the church's 9.5 million members once again into a bitter debate over its doctrine. Creech implored the jury during the 90-minute trial to refuse to reach a verdict, arguing that church law forbidding gay marriage is demeaning and a form of sacrilege.

"You are being asked to uphold a law that is wrong," Creech said. "I believe the law that prohibits pastors from celebrating holy unions with gay and lesbian couples is an unjust and immoral law."

Rev. Gregory Dell, a United Methodist minister from Illinois who is serving a suspension for marrying two gay men, said he was saddened by the verdict against Creech.

"It suggests how deeply the polarization has gone in the church," Dell said.

Creech acted as his own attorney and refused to recognize the trial as legitimate. He also refused to enter a plea to the charges, saying that doing so would legitimize the church law he was accused of ignoring.

Flader took little time to present his case; he read the church law Creech was accused

of violating and briefly questioned Creech about the ceremony he performed earlier this year in North Carolina.

On the eve of his trial, Creech presided at a recommitment ceremony for Larry Ellis and James Raymer, the same men whose ceremony at a Baptist church in Chapel Hill, N.C., prompted the church to seek the trial.

Supporters of SoulForce, a non-violent protest movement led by Rev. Mel White, a Metropolitan Community Church minister and former speech writer for Jerry Falwell, gathered in Grand Island in an attempt to persuade jurors to refuse to participate in Creech's trial.

As the proceedings got under way at Trinity United Methodist Church, protesters came forward in pairs to lock arms and symbolically block the doors of the church, although participants could actually still walk around them to enter the building. Police arrested 74 of the Creech supporters.

Rev. Fred Phelps of Topeka, Kan., the minister known for picketing the funerals of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard and people who have died of AIDS, stood across the street with a handful of protesters holding up signs decrying Creech and his supporters.

The issue of gay unions and equal treatment for gays is expected to be debated again when the General Conference of the United Methodist Church meets next May in Cleveland, the Lincoln Journal-Star reported.

The battle over homosexuality among Christians who identify as Methodists also



James Raymer (left) puts a ring on his partner Larry Ellis's finger during Tuesday night's recommitment ceremony in Grand Island, Neb., as Rev. Jimmy Creech officiates. The couple was married in April 1999 by Creech in North Carolina.

of violating and briefly questioned Creech about the ceremony he performed earlier this year in North Carolina.

Bishop William Grove of West Virginia, who presided over Creech's trial, said he was saddened by the verdict.

"It was a very difficult day for all of us. Nobody takes any joy in this day," said Grove, adding he worries that the controversy will further divide the church. "We think the church did what it was called on ... to do."

Rev. Jeff Kelley of Nebraska City, the jury foreman, read a statement after the trial that the jury was simply following church law.

reaches beyond the United States.

In New Zealand, those attending the Methodist Conference in Auckland last week were unable to reach a decision on a proposal to create a separate synod for those who are opposed to ordaining gay men and lesbians, the Christchurch Press reported.

Georgia Baptists oust gay-friendly churches

The day before Creech's conviction, the Georgia Baptist Convention, meeting in Macon, Ga., voted to oust two Atlanta area churches for violating a ban on churches



Rev. Tim Shirley's Atlanta church, which is open to gays and has gay deacons, was one of two churches ousted from the Georgia Baptist Convention this week.

that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior."

The move, which had been approved by a committee of the GBC earlier this fall, marks the first time in its 177-year history that the GBC has taken such action against its members.

Delegates voted 2,111 to 228 to remove Virginia-Highland Baptist Church in Atlanta, and 2,086 to 262 in favor of ousting Oakhurst Baptist Church in the Atlanta suburb of Decatur.

Both churches have gay deacons, and Oakhurst's assistant pastor, Rev. Chris Copeland, is openly gay.

"It's a heartbreaking thing to be put in a situation where you have to make a decision like this," said Rev. Gerald Harris, president of the Georgia Baptist Convention. "We just decided to draw the line."

"We know that they do not value the Holy Scriptures as a great majority of Southern Baptists do," Harris said.

Rev. Lanny Peters of Oakhurst said he was disappointed but not surprised by the vote. He said he was very upset that the convention had no interest in discussing the topic: His motion to refer the resolutions for additional dialogue was rejected.

"There seemed to be a fear about having face-to-face conversations among Christians, among Baptists, and that's unsettling to me," he said.

Asked to respond to charges from the Georgia Baptist Convention about its support for gay and lesbian members, Virginia-Highland Baptist Church issued a statement in late October saying the GBC "has created an environment of fear, hostility, judgment, and exclusion... [and] divisiveness and destroyed all avenues for meaningful discussion and reflection."

Its response "concerning human sexuality" declared a belief in "the goodness in all that God creates."

"We understand human sexuality to be a gift from God and not an individual choice," the letter stated. "Efforts at deprogramming or changing a person's sexual orientation do not honor the dignity of God's creation and, indeed, militate against it."

"I hope our response convicts us," Rev.

Tim Shirley, senior minister at Virginia-Highland, told the *Houston Voice*. "We don't have anything to hide. We are not going to play games as to who we are and what we are doing."

The Georgia Baptist Convention represents 1.3 million Georgia Baptists in 3,415 churches.

Texas is the only other Southern Baptist state convention to expel a church over the issue of homosexuality, according to Rev. Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's ethics and religious liberty commission.

There are about 16 million Southern Baptists nationwide, making the Protestant denomination second only to the Roman Catholic Church in membership. The national convention expelled two North Carolina churches in the early '90s for similar reasons.

Gays and religion at center of controversy

Homosexuality continues to cause controversy in many state conventions. In Virginia, Southern Baptists recently voted to cut off financial support to the University of Richmond because of a nondiscrimination policy involving gay organizations.

At the California Southern Baptist Convention on Wednesday, delegates voted to support Proposition 22, called the "Knight Initiative," a measure on the California ballot in March 200 that would prohibit the state from recognizing same-sex marriage.

The convention also overwhelmingly voted, without debate, to condemn Gov. Gray Davis for signing recent gay-rights bills.

The state organization will send a letter to Davis outlining their "disapproval of recent bills passed in California giving special rights to homosexuals," said the Rev. Wiley Drake.

The new laws ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in public schools, strengthen protection against job discrimination based on sexual orientation and provide health benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of state employees.

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A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

on the

OUTside

While the portrayal of gay men and lesbians has improved on the Silver Screen, transgendered characters are often inaccurate and damaging

by MARK J. HUISMAN

In his landmark book, "The Celluloid Closet," the late critic Vito Russo identified a pattern about Hollywood's handling of queer characters: "Cure 'em or kill 'em," Russo wrote. If you can't make a queer straight, just bump them off.

While Hollywood still sometimes treats gay men and lesbians that way, gay directors have taken matters into their own hands by making films that accurately, and honestly reflect queer life.

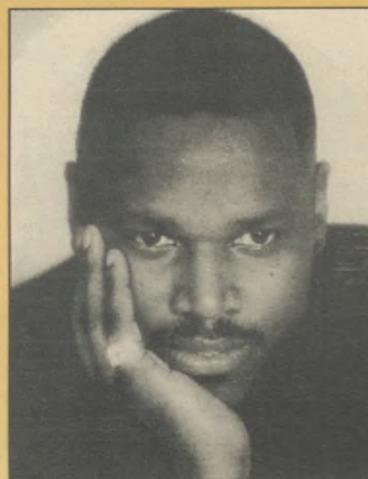
But transgendered characters, who have appeared on screen to ridicule and ruin just as long as gays and lesbians, are still most often portrayed as disturbed, strangely inhuman creatures doomed to death or confinement. Carrie Davis, a staff counselor at the Gender Identity Project at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in New York, said there are several ways trans characters make it onto screens big and small.

"We can be shown as crazy killers," Davis said. "Norman Bates in 'Psycho' was a trans person. The villain in 'Silence of the Lambs' was making a woman's body of woman's skin. Trans people are depicted as horribly disturbed because that's what society expects." And transgendered characters can also be the butt of jokes, Davis said.

Cross-dressing is indeed one of cinema's oldest sight gags: The very first filmed transgender (long before that word was coined) was a transvestite posing before a mirror in a 1903 silent film. Comedians including Fatty Arbuckle and Harold Lloyd appeared in drag (critics called Lloyd "repellent"). Milton Berle made drag a household name, and he's currently suing a gay publication for printing his picture without permission. Jack Lemon and Tony Curtis dressed up and cavorted around Miami Beach with Marilyn Monroe in "Some Like It Hot."

There are more recent films—from "Birdcage" and "To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar," along with Peter Outerbridge as Judy in "Better Than Chocolate."

> Continued on page 27



First-time novelist Dwayne Carter draws on his own struggles with homophobia in 'The Best Man,' which focuses on a gay-straight friendship.

the best man

'Best Friends' might be a more apt title for Dwayne Carter's first novel, which uses the friendship between a gay man and a straight man to explore homophobia and hope in the black community

by PAIGE PARVIN

Rick and Rashaan are the perfect couple. They have a pretty house, nice cars, supportive friends, loving family and good jobs. They are both attractive and call each other "baby." They go to church, where they mentor disadvantaged teens. They say "I love you" to one another on a regular basis.

Yet it is Rick's troubled friendship with a straight man that lies at the heart of "The Best Man," Atlanta native Dwayne Carter's first novel, published this year.

The complexity and tension created by this pairing allows Carter to tackle the novel's toughest themes: homophobia, sexual identity, fidelity, greed, and underlying all, the painful, but ultimately essential, ties of love and family.

'Meet my roommate'

We meet the cast of "The Best Man" at a point when first-person storyteller Rick and his partner Rashaan are shackled up, stable and—seen from a distance—almost ridiculously happy.

But it just takes a visit from Rick's oldest and closest friend, Tony, an arrogant but good-natured ladies' man, to upset the delicate balance and force Rick to confront some skeletons that are still hiding in his closet.

Carter says none of the main characters is totally autobiographical, but "they all have a little bit of myself."

"Some of my beliefs and values are spread out among all the characters," he explained.

> Continued on page 30



LOREY SEBASTIAN

Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo in 'To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar,' along with Peter Outerbridge as Judy in 'Better Than Chocolate.'

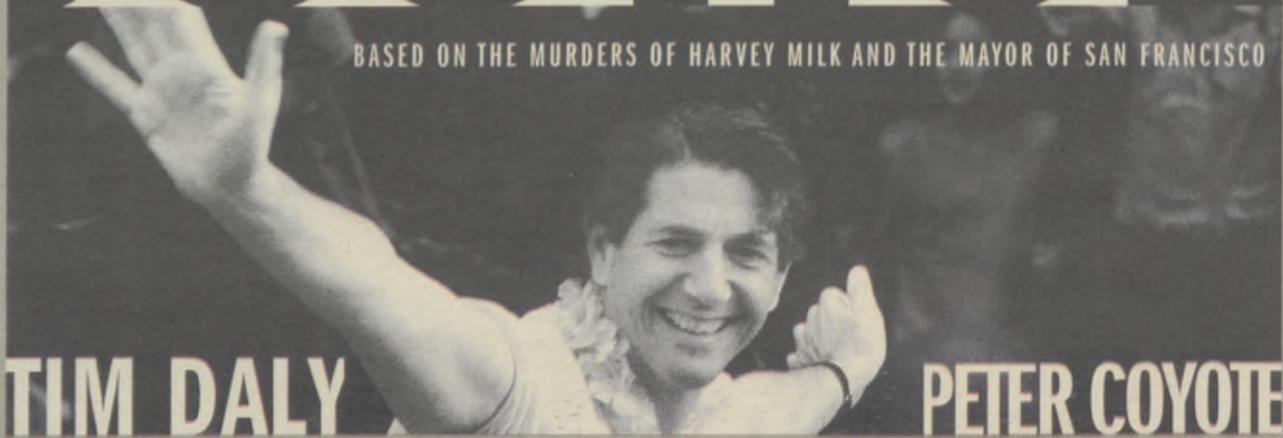
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On Stage

THEATER NEWS & REVIEWS

Rebel with a cause

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

"I'm not a girl. I'm not sexually uncertain. I'm not a lesbian. I'm Brandon." So begins the hour-long lament of BRANDON TEENA in Little Room Downstairs' explosive new theatrical production. This show, which is here in its first performance outside New York, packs a wallop that scores a direct emotional hit with audiences.

Many gay men and lesbians know and have become outraged at the real-life story of transgendered Teena Brandon and her struggle to live in rural mid-America as a male. For a time, she fooled classmates, enjoyed romantic relationships with females, and even had a steady girlfriend. Once Brandon's true gender was revealed, however, she was brutally raped and killed.

Natalie Maisel plays the title role in this chronicle of the Nebraska farm kid and rebel, who is also the subject of the recent wide release film, "Boys Don't Cry." In this version, playwright Leigh Silverman's work is a series of flashbacks and confessions from a confused youth doing a four-day stint in a detention center.

"I wrote this [play] as a reaction to all of the sensational journalism about Brandon," said Silverman, a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with a dual degree in directing and playwriting. "I did a ton of research but found out nothing about who Teena was."

Silverman's perspective reflects Brandon's thought processes. Her view of the situations and events leading up to his death provide us with not only an in-depth look into the mind of an individual trapped in the body of the wrong sex, but also a person confined by the narrowness of his small community and their perceptions.

While much of the publicity surrounding Teena Brandon focuses on the grisly details and sexual mechanics of his life, "Brandon Teena" allows us a peak into the sexuality/gender matrix of his mind.

The Little Room again goes out on a theatrical limb with this controversial and visceral production, resulting in a complete success. Maisel gives the strongest single performance of the Little Room's current season in this one 'person' show. The petite Maisel bears a physical resemblance to the real Teena Brandon. Her slight figure and boyish appearance help to easily relay her character to the audience. The performance reinforces the question that many have about Teena—how can such a seemingly disarming 'boy' be the object of such brutal hatred?

Maisel's initial volcanic utterances stun us, shock us and compel us to understand the plight of her character. It is on this deep-seated foundation that the rest of the show is presented.

The production is directed by Richard Laub, the Little Room's founding artistic director. The venue is perfectly matched to accommodate this show. Though drama



Natalie Maisel in the explosive 'Brandon Teena.'

combined with mixed media presentations are often distracting, much of the expletive-enhanced dialogue is accompanied by some wonderful slide projections onto the stark set.

Images of rural family, work and romance are remarkably effective. These pictures, obtained by the playwright, are the result of a two-year search. The effect is well worth that effort. The way in which Maisel mirrors these photographs bring additional reality to the play.

Much of the script is expected. Given the situation, we realize that there is nothing conventional about Teena Brandon. It is not surprising that she suffers as an unempowered individual in virtually all realms of her existence. Her male gender identity empowers her.

As Brandon, she impacts the lives of others. Her particular pattern of deceit resolves itself in the same way as countless numbers of transgendered individuals who came before her.

Though the central issue in "Brandon Teena" is gender, Silverman writes this character in a way that gives the whole work more depth. In Brandon's own mind, there is no ambiguity. She believes herself to be a fully functional heterosexual male. There is no cross-dressing here, but rather someone who believes she has been the unfortunate victim of a simple anatomical mistake.

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BOOK NEWS

A bumpy ride home

by ELLA TYLER

I respected and admired **COMFORT AND JOY**, and truly enjoyed reading much of it, but I'm not sure I liked it. It is the story of relationships that are often difficult and uncertain, and author Jim Grimsley is such a gifted writer that the emotions seep through the pages. It's not a light and happy Christmas story, but it feels like a true one.

The story centers around Ford McKinney, a young doctor, and Dan Crell, a low-level administrator at the Atlanta hospital where McKinney is a pediatric resident. This is the second Christmas that they have been a couple, and they are going to see Dan's family.

It is not a comfortable journey. The drive through North Carolina's tobacco country gives each man plenty of time to think and worry. For much of the drive, they are silent, lost in their own memories.

Ford is from an aristocratic Savannah family, the kind in which your trust fund and your furniture come from your grandparents. Dan's mother and step-father live in a trailer on the grounds of the small cemetery they own. Even though Dan's mother and Ford have talked on the phone and seem to like each other, Dan is worried what Ford and his family will think of each other.

As Grimsley describes it, the road to Dan's parents is not filled with pretty site-seeing. "He watched the procession of devastated landscape, ruined farms and collapsing shanties, wrecks of unpainted carpentry from which, nevertheless, smoke rose through chimneys into a cloudless sky. Pastel mobile homes perched on cinder-block feet in bleak squares of grass."

This will be the first time Ford has not been with his clan at Christmas, but Dan would not be tolerated there. Ford's parents want him to marry and carry on the family name, and constantly worry him about settling down with a nice young woman. Although he has told them he's not the "marrying kind," each visit home is an opportunity for his parents to try match-making. Ford has spent his life trying to please his family and went home the year before. On that trip, he left mid-visit after confronting his parents with news that Dan is not a roommate, but a lover. They continued in their denial.

Christmas is close to Dan and Ford's anniversary. Ford heard Dan sing "God Rest Ye merry Gentlemen" at a hospital Christmas event a year before he finally got the courage to go out with him. He had made and canceled a date, but then asked



again.

Dan is the first man with whom Ford has had a deliberate and formal relationship. He's had sex before, but has been afraid to ratify his homosexuality by choosing a lover. It has been a difficult relationship. They quarrel about money, public displays of affection, working too hard, an Dan's secrecy about his hemophilia. He gets painful bleeds when he bumps himself, but refuses to let Ford take care of him until he is immobile.

When they arrive at Dan's parents, Dan's mother is welcoming. Ford goes to call the hospital to check on a very sick patient, and Dan's mother says "He reminds me of one of your doctors when you were in Chapel Hill, that first time. He was one of the interns. I don't remember what his name was. But he was real nice to me. And he always acted like he was so worried about you. Ford reminds me of him." Ford wins Dan's step-father over on a visit to admire the wood-working shop.

On Christmas Day, Ford goes on a walk through the adjoining graveyard and finds Dan's mother at the tomb of her youngest son. The thought comes forth that perhaps, when you are glad your son is alive, it is easier to accept the way he wants to live.

Grimsley is particularly adept at capturing the encounters that create new bonds between people and those that are the result of old ties. These moments which Ford and Dan share with varied co-workers and family members are some of the sweetest in the book.

INFO

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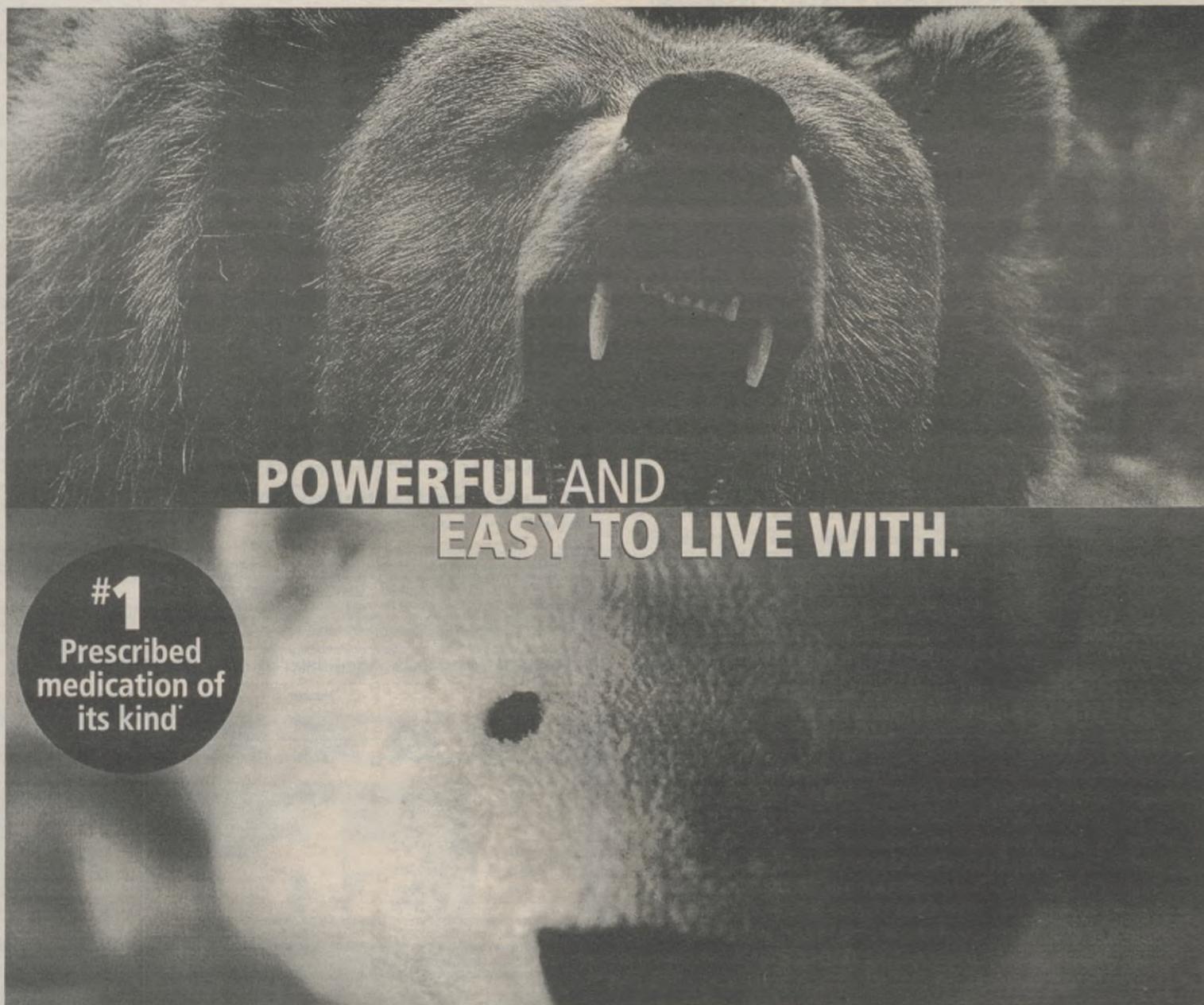
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If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

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

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

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

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

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

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

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

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

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

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

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

- Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

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

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

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

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

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

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

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

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

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

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

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

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

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

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

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

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on the side

> Continued from page 21

Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar" to "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss" and "trick"—that present drag queens as comic (and sometimes truly scary) characters. This summer's sumptuous French film, "Those Who Love Me Can Take The Train," presents a witty trans character named Viviane (whether she is a transvestite or an in-transition transsexual is a little unclear), who is sympathetically drawn but a little deluded.

Jokes or not, these depictions don't mean trans folks are faring well in real life, said Rosalynne Blumenstein, executive director of the Gender Identity Project. Take the case of a recent commercial for KIA, which features a heterosexual couple, she said.

"They encounter various objects and animals, which are identified with witty tag lines. Suddenly, a man dressed as a woman appears. And the screen says, 'Freak of nature,'" Blumenstein said.

"That kind of media tells people how to deal with trans people. It teaches, 'Hate us, beat us, kill us,'" she said.

Both Davis and Blumenstein said a fear of physical violence moves the transgendered deeper into the closet, with the result that they don't step forward to demand equality the way gay men and lesbians do. And there's a further problem with the freak syndrome.

"In 'The Crying Game,' Stephen Rea was horrified by Jaye Davidson's genitalia,"

Blumenstein said. "But how many of us are mortified by our partners' genitalia generally? You see it and think, 'That's a dick?' Just like gays and lesbians have moved away from being defined by a single sex act, we have to get away from defining trans people by their genitalia."

The third category of trans representation, Davis said, are the victims, exemplified by two recent films. In the very first scene of "The Velocity of Gary," deaf drag queen Kid Joey is called a fag and promptly bashed. Joey is then romantically ridiculed by the movie's gay protagonist, who shudders at the thought of dating a drag queen. Finally, Joey is killed by a speeding truck. (The EMT workers carry off his body scowling, "It's a fag!")

"The Adventures of Sebastian Cole" tries, but fails, to be sympathetic about its trans character, a pre-op transsexual named Henrietta. Consider this particularly gruesome exchange about sex-changes:

"He's gonna cut off his dick?"

"First you take female hormones, then you lose your body hair, grow tits and an ass. Then you cut it off," Sebastian said.

"Hank's a fag?"

"Well, he still wants to be with my mother, so I guess that makes him a dyke," Sebastian retorts.

The film treats Henrietta like a drag queen, not someone in transition. We don't actually see hormone shots, counseling sessions or physical

changes (even in Hank's voice), just lots of handbags and flowered housecoats. Henrietta dies (off screen) of a botched sex change surgery.

But a change may be in the air.

The story of trans murder victim Brandon Teena was told in Greta Olafsdottir and Susan Muska's chillingly constructed documentary, "The Brandon Teena Story." Also out this fall, "Boys Don't Cry," is the debut feature of lesbian director Kimberly Pierce, a dramatic re-telling of the same story.

While both films technically fit the "victim" category, Brandon is treated as a struggling soul, standing up to situations and prejudice that would make most urban queers melt. Pierce's film derives its power chiefly by making Brandon, its lead character, someone of immense bravery and determination.

"There's never been a movie who has just allowed a person of trans experience to just be that person without pathology or ridicule," Blumenstein said. "Just a character struggling with life—career issues, personal relationships. There's never been a trans person depicted as having a healthy relationship."

But "Better Than Chocolate" from Canadian director Anne Wheeler comes close to doing just that.

The film includes a richly drawn character named Judy (Peter Outerbridge), who is in transition from having been Jeremy.



LEE SALEM

Hilary Swank in "Boys Don't Cry," the dramatic story of a transgendered murder victim.

Judy has a job as a nightclub singer, a gaggle of friends and a terrific new condo. Judy even has her eye on Francis, a relationship-shy lesbian who manages the local queer bookstore.

In the course of the film, Judy befriends another character's divorced, despondent mother, deals with family hatred, fights transphobia in the bathroom and, in the end, lives to tell about it all. Judy is drawn with such intensity and intelligence, and played by Outerbridge with such fierce dignity, it could be the dawning of a whole new trans age.

But given the evolution of gay and lesbian characters on the big screen, Davis remains cautious about the prospects for trans portrayals.

"Imagine if there were no gay actors, no gay directors or writers to represent themselves," Davis said. "We'd get a very biased viewpoint of the community. That happened for a very long time. But it's changed. But there aren't trans writers, directors or actors. We're still totally outside the process. As long as you remain outside the process you're going to be stigmatized as some 'other.'"

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Traveling for tasty Tapas

by KATHREEN LEE

Your initial impression of TASCAs defies any inkling of romance or intimacy.

Bleak abandoned buildings in a downtown area, where the renovation efforts have not yet quite reached, surround the exterior. Upon entering, your sense of the interior is overwhelmed by a clamorous and chilly atmosphere that leaves one begging for the table in the corner away from the noisy crowd and air vents.

But once you settle down to browse the menu and peruse the surroundings, your perceptions suddenly change. The dark cherry wood furnishings, with built in shelves along the walls, secures a feeling of being in someone's study or private library. The black and white charcoal portraits of "ordinary folk" adorning the walls lends a sense of welcoming and familiarity.

And you can choose to dine outside where the atmosphere is much more tranquil (and warmer). In the midst of concrete edifices, the outdoor patio resembles a small oasis of trees and bricked walkways. While dining, you can hear the staccatoed clicking of horseshoes on pavement and see the white horse-drawn carriages drive by the small courtyard. No longer are you eating in a cold and stark hole in the wall, but rather picnicking in a small romantic inglenook.

For me, the first test of a restaurant's muster is its introductory serving of house bread or some other appetite-warming dish. My dining companion and I were initially served a healthy portion of one of the warmest and softest fresh breads, which merits being its own separate menu item. With that propitious start, we dove into the rest of the offerings.

One of Tascas's hallmarks is its tapas.

Originally in Spain, a tapa was a piece of bread or other simple food item that was used in saloons to cover a glass of wine or sherry in order to prevent the dust from settling in. From that start, the tapas evolved into an embellished array of small cuisines. While Tascas does not carry an extensive selection of tapas, they do have an excellent selection of the finest tapas staples.

To start, my companion and I ordered the Spanish Potato Omelet (\$3), the Fisherman Style Mussels (\$3), the Braised French Snails (\$6), and the Calamari (\$5). The pie-sized potato omelets were not particularly striking and rather bland in taste, but considering that the potato omelets in Spain are the American equivalent of meat and potatoes, we weren't expecting anything earth shattering.

The raw tasting mussels were meaty and well braised in the marinara. But the marinara was also rather bland and lacked that spicy punch which could accentuate the unique mussel savor. The snails were braised in garlic and butter and served with thin slices of seasoned bread. While I found the snails a little too salty for my tastes, my companion complimented the dish for its rich and succulent flavor.

Finally, unlike most Calamari, which are deep-fried, ours were sautéed with fresh bay leaves, garlic comfit and lemon zest. The blend of spices perfectly balanced each other, and the Calamari left us eager for the rest of the meal.

For the main course, my companion had the Smoked Thyme and Mushroom Risotto (\$8), which is a traditional Italian dish made with saffron, broth, onion, garlic and Arborio Rice. At first appearance, the risotto looked more like glorified cheese melted over rice. But the texture was smooth and almost porridge-like, with the consistency of thick oatmeal.

The sage, saffron, garlic, onion and parsley complemented each other perfectly to provide a rich and savory flavor. But my companion did complain that the risotto was overly cheesy, and suggested that next time they go easy on the Parmesan.

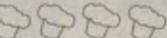
I ordered the Tasmanian Salmon (\$17) glazed with truffled salsa verde (green salsa). While I did bemoan the rather small serving of the salmon, the fillet was grilled perfectly, and the salsa, which had thoroughly permeated the salmon, accentuated the flavor and provided a rather piquant flavor.

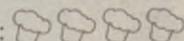
For dessert, we shared a Chocolate Mousse with Ganache Roof (\$5). Served in a deep cup, the large helping of rich chocolate mousse and the tangy ganache served as a perfect finish to our meal.

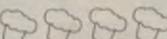
Although eating downtown may sometimes be more of a hassle than it is worth, I would recommend Tascas for a romantic dining experience.

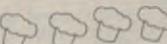
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thebestman

> Continued from page 21

In many ways, Carter, who is 33, black and openly gay, can relate to Rick, who's at a point in his life when being "out" is a relative term.

"My own experience shows in Rick's character, and comes from being in church years ago," he recalled. "At that point I did not openly express myself. I had all these little pockets of friends that I tried to keep separated. Eventually I grew out of that, but I can relate to that time when you are just not ready."

Asked if fear of homophobia in the black community has made it difficult to "openly express" himself, Carter replied, "Yes, very much so."

Carter's personal struggle with the homophobia he claims is widespread among African Americans is distilled in "The Best Man," playing itself out in Rick and Tony's interaction. Tony, Carter said, is "kind of an extreme" character who typifies anti-gay prejudice, so much so that his best childhood friend feels it necessary to hide his gay sexual orientation.

In the spirit of films like "The Wedding Banquet" and the more recent "Better Than Chocolate"—but without the "Three's Company"-style humor—Tony comes to stay with Rick and boyfriend Rashaan before his own wedding, in which Rick is to be his best man. The gay couple pretends to be "roommates" during the visit, causing tension all around.

Carter talked about the internalized homophobia that causes Rick to hide his relationship from Tony, an instinct that goes hand-in-

hand with Tony's refusal to see what's right before his eyes.

"In the black community, even when we see it and know it, people try to close their eyes to people being gay, especially when it's a loved one," he said. "But the real message is Rick's part of it. He plays a part in creating that homophobia by not being honest. The message is to be proud and honest about who you are."

In real life, Carter said, the hardest place for many black men to be out and proud is the church, where anti-gay sentiment can be "brutal" and where much of the community's homophobia is fed.

"I see it firsthand. It's more pervasive in our churches than anywhere else," he said. "The irony is that you find a vast majority of men in church who are gay. They are not always closeted; they may be open in their actions but don't necessarily talk about it. But the churches make so many derogatory statements about gays, and for some reason people just tolerate it."

In the book, Rick and Rashaan are members of a welcoming church, a place of spiritual fulfillment that Carter calls "my ideal of what church should be." He holds a hope that real-life churches can change for the better, even if they take only incremental steps toward the "ideal."

"Someone has to take a stand or churches will lose a large portion of their membership," he said. "We pass on such self-hatred

among each other. Healing and love can't start until we love ourselves."

A clear message

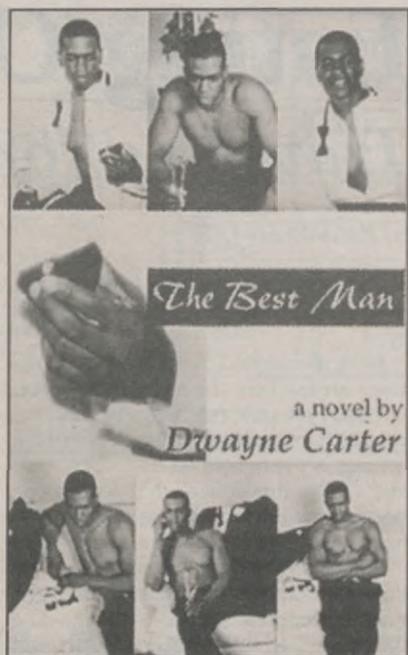
Another positive example Carter tried to set in "The Best Man" is in Tony's father, "Poppy," who is like family to Rick and, unlike his son, accepts and supports Rick's life with Rashaan. Although Poppy "hasn't always been an angel," according to Carter, his healthy, committed relationship with his much-younger girlfriend Paula was meant to give a positive portrayal of a heterosexual couple.

Tony, on the other hand, is engaged to a "stereotypical snob," a beautiful, privileged woman whose character embodies "all the values I don't believe in," Carter explained.

For the most part, Carter's characters serve as vehicles to convey his message, each playing a clearly defined role. His storytelling relies heavily on dialogue, which can sometimes fall into the "Dawson's Creek" trap of sounding too eloquent to be real.

But "The Best Man" is an honest first effort to tell a story of two friends who overcome their differences and manage to grow and learn something in the process. Tony does come around and apologizes for "disrespecting" Rick and Rashaan, and Rick begins to understand how damaging his complicated closet can be to his life and love.

As he was writing "The Best Man," Carter



said he considered his audience to be primarily gay men. But he hopes straight men can find a lesson in the book as well.

Carter said he "definitely" thinks it's possible for gay and straight black men to enjoy strong friendships, but even his own heterosexual friends knew Carter was gay from the beginning.

Reaction to the book has been "very positive," according to Carter, who has three other novels in the works and hopes to become a full-time writer.

community

OCCASIONS • PAST OUT
COMMUNITY CALENDAR • CLASSIFIEDS
BUSINESS DIRECTORY • CARMART • MY STARS

Black Tie draws record crowd, raises over \$135,000

by KAY DAYUS

The staid George R. Brown Convention Center underwent a transformation from stodginess to studied elegance Nov. 13 as it played host to Houston's annual Black Tie Dinner and raised an estimated \$135,000 for 14 local organizations.

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, the first open lesbian to be elected to Congress, headlined the event as KUHT's Ernie Manouse and former Houston radio personality, Dayna Steele, emceed the evening.

The evening began with a tribute to Phil Lacy, one of the founders of the Black Tie event. Lacy, a long-time community activist, died earlier this year. The video tribute celebrated his life, and judging from the laughter and applause, he was obviously well remembered by many guests.

Lacy lived to see how far the Black Tie event has come from its first dinner held in the wine cellar of Tony's restaurant a decade ago. Just a few people attended that inaugural event.

This year, almost 1,200 people packed the dinner, according to board member Grant Martin.

Organizers, all volunteers, couldn't be more pleased with the outcome of the event, Martin said.

Houston City Councilman Chris Bell was honored with this year's Hollyfield Political

Service Award for his support of the gay and lesbian community. Marion Coleman, a local lesbian businesswoman, was given the Humanitarian Award for her dedication and commitment to public service.

Later in the evening, a poised and polished Baldwin took center stage to deliver her keynote address.

"In a world too filled with half-truths, those of us who are out are perceived as being honest," Baldwin said.

She said one of her constituents praised her for that honesty when he said, "If you can be honest about that (her sexuality), you can be honest about everything."

"I was out for 12 years before I ran for Congress. My sexuality was a non-issue. I was not just a lesbian candidate. I talked about the issues," Baldwin said.

And the issues are important to Baldwin. She is an advocate for health care reform, preserving Social Security and Medicare, and assisting people with disabilities in their efforts to lead better lives. Baldwin serves on the House Budget Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

Baldwin, who is also the first woman ever elected to the Congress from the State of Wisconsin, said she has faced anti-gay activists in that state. Some of them "put up billboards saying 'homosexuality is not a family value.' My supporters retaliated with lawn signs everywhere saying 'Madison

supports its gay and lesbian community,'" she said.

Educating her constituents about gay men and lesbians is important, Baldwin said, and they usually respond positively. She recalled one case in which she successfully helped a veteran with his benefits. He was so pleased, Baldwin said, he told her, "Being a lesbian is not that bad after all. She helped me."

Baldwin, 38, is no political newcomer. She was elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors at 24. Because she was open about being a lesbian, "The thought that I could run for office was a terrifying thought, but it was the most freeing thing I've done."

She served there for four terms before being elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in November 1992, where she served until she took her seat in Congress last January.

Between political campaigns, she earned a law degree and practiced law from 1989 until 1992.

The dinner raised an estimated \$135,000 to \$145,000 for 14 local organizations and the



RICH ARENSCHIELDT

U.S. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, a lesbian, said being out hasn't affected her political career.

Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation, Martin said, though a final accounting won't be available for a few weeks. How much the event cost to stage was not available at press time Thursday.

The organization has donated more than \$860,000 to organizations since its inception.

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Occasions

Birthdays

Happy birthday to Rene Rodriguez of the RSICSS on Nov. 25.

Buddy Jackson, former owner of the Lazy J adds a birthday candle on his birthday cake Nov. 22.

Super-sister Claire Bartran gets ready to do her birthday boogie

with her own personal "Boogie" on Nov. 21.

Send e-mail to croberts@houston-voice.com. Fax: 713-529-9531. Mail: Occasions, Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006. Please include a telephone number so occasions can be verified and considered for publication.

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Past Out

GAY AND
LESBIAN HISTORY

by DAVID BIANCO

The roots of lesbian land

What is the history of the lesbian land movement?

In 1993, near the town of Ovet, Miss., lesbian life partners Wanda and Brenda Henson founded Camp Sister Spirit, a feminist retreat and educational center, on a 120-acre pig farm. Camp Sister Spirit soon made national headlines when the Hensons began to experience harassment and receive death threats from the neighboring community. The chance of serious physical violence became so great that Attorney General Janet Reno finally sent federal mediators into the area.

But the news reports rarely noted that the Hensons' center was part of a peaceful feminist tradition that goes back 20 years before the founding of Camp Sister Spirit to the early 1970s and the beginnings of the lesbian land movement.

The roots of lesbian land communities were in the countercultural "back to the land movement" of the 1960s. Some pioneers of the lesbian land movement had originally belonged to mixed-gender communes and had been partnered with men.

When they came out as lesbians, their interests turned to establishing safe, collectively owned communities for women and children to live free of male domination and violence. These separatist communities were designed to provide an affirming, alternative living arrangement in which women could strengthen themselves physically and emotionally and get in touch with their creativity and spirituality.

Some of the earliest lesbian land communities were in southern Oregon, where land was forest-covered, abundant and cheap. At WomanShare, founded in 1974 near Grants Pass, three women formed "a home and family of lesbians," purchasing 23 acres on which the only useful structures were a broken-down cabin and a chicken coop.

Life at communities like WomanShare was filled with hard work and isolation. Billie Miracle, one pioneer, remembered that in the early winters there was "so much rain, so many days with no new faces." At Rootworks, founded at Sunny Valley, Ore., in 1978, Jean and Ruth Mountaingrove had to edit and typeset their feminist magazine, "WomanSpirit," in a nearby town because of a lack of electricity. As late as the 1980s, some of the communities still had outhouses.

Throughout the 1970s, separatist communities began springing up across the country. Outdoor women's events like the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival began in mid-decade and fueled many lesbians' desire to live in women-only communities. As one festival-goer and future commune member saw it, the music festivals were "the first time many of us saw how power-



Events like the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival began in the mid 1970s fueling many lesbians' desire to live in women only communities.

ful and rich an all-women environment could be."

Upstate New York was another common site for lesbian land communities. In 1974, A Woman's Place was founded in the Adirondacks on the site of an abandoned camp, Moose Mountain Lodge, which had been a popular retreat for heterosexual families in the 1950s. "Our original dream was a woman's utopia," Buckwheat Turner, one of the founders, later wrote.

But in November 1982, AWP folded, a victim of the same problems that had plagued other land communities, which went beyond grueling work and loneliness. Consensus decision-making was time-consuming and exhausting, yet all decisions regarding the community had to be reached by full agreement of the members. And conflicts were common. Should the community allow male children? How about transsexuals? Should the group practice strict vegetarianism?

Power and money also figured prominently. Though the ideal was to share power by rotating jobs and making all decisions jointly, women who lived on the land the longest wielded more power and influence. Newcomers often left after only a short time, saying they felt shut out and powerless. Members rarely had their own money.

Although lesbianism was a common bond at land communities, living in a tightly knit group of women-loving-women could have a downside. Monogamy equaled "possession," but non-monogamy in a limited circle of women could and did lead to jealousy and arguments. Race and class issues also plagued the communities.

But new communities continue to crop up. Lesbian Natural Resources, a nonprofit group founded in 1991, helps keep the land movement going by awarding grant money to those who start new communities or try to revitalize older ones.

David Bianco is the author of "Gay Essentials," a collection of his history columns; he can be reached at DaveBianco@aol.com.

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Opens November 24

community calendar

Some events may be canceled due to the Thanksgiving holidays.

saturday, nov. 20

After Hours, KPFT 90.1 FM, 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Visual Arts Alliance, 10 a.m. 281-583-8408.
Dignity mass at 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary at 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Montrose Writer's Group meets at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. 3 to 4:30 p.m. \$7 per session. 713-874-0655.
Houston Lesbian and Gay drop-in hours from noon to 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, nov. 21

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

Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 11 a.m. 713-520-7847.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Church of Kindred Spirits (Beaumont). Service at 7 p.m. 409-835-4765.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum at 10 a.m. Service at 11 a.m. and noon. Open Circle Family Support at 12:30 p.m. 1504 Wirt. 713-686-5876.
Interfaith Worship Celebration. 7 p.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. 713-528-3601.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parent's Family Thanksgiving Pot Luck dinner. 713-284-4939.
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion at 9:45 a.m.; service at 11 a.m. 3945 Greenbriar. Stafford. 281-277-8882. www.neosoft.com/~thoreau.
PFLAG-Galveston meets at 2 p.m. at 1405 39th Street.

monday, nov. 23

Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group, 8 p.m. 713-861-6181.
Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week, 7 p.m. 713-529-1223.
Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group. 713-526-1017.
Bering Support Network. Grief and Divorce Groups at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
AIDS Caregivers' Support Group. 6 p.m. 713-732-4300.
HIV testing. Free from AVES from 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
FrontRunners. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Integrity Houston. For gay and lesbian Episcopalians. 7:30 p.m., Astry House, 6265 Main.
More Light Presbyterians. Meeting. 1110 Lovett. 9:30 p.m. 281-444-8861 X309.
Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition's weekly meeting at 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m., 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, nov. 23

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

at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037
AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. 7 p.m. 713-488-4492.
PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse. Montrose Counseling Center at 6:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang at 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m., 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men, 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
More on Relationships. Discussion group. 7 p.m. 415 W. Gray. 713-861-9149.
Lambda Skating Club skates at 8 p.m. at the Tradewinds. 713-523-9620.
Gay & Bi Male Support Group support group forming. Sponsored by AVES 713-626-2837.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

wednesday, nov. 24

BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting at Cafe Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. 713-467-4380
Women's Network. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713-529-0037.
HIV survivor support group. 7 p.m. 713-782-4050.
Mind/Body Connection: Alternative Approaches. 7 p.m. 1475 W. Gray. 713-524-2374.
Project: Caesar. 7 p.m. AFH, 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. at 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours noon to 9 p.m. Brown Bag lunch at noon. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents meet for birthdays, anniversaries and newsletter mailout at Buffet Express, 4056 Bellaire. 713-284-4939.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

thursday, nov. 25

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

713-529-0037.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center, 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Women's Therapy Group. Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 713-738-RACE.
FrontRunners at 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 713-830-3000.
Faith and Hope Fellowship. Bible study 7 p.m. 713-520-7847.
Community Gospel. Choir practice. 6:30 p.m.; service at 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
HIV/AIDS Support Group, 2:30 at Family Service Center. 713-861-4849.
Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group, 4:30 p.m. Family Service Center. 713-247-3810.
HIV/AIDS Support Group, 7 p.m. Family Service Center in Conroe. 888-247-3810.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. FREE Thanksgiving Dinner. 713-524-3818.

friday, nov. 26

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Lesbian Avengers. Cafe Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama at 7 p.m.
Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Kolbe Project: Park Plaza Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.
Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM, 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
Movie Time at the Kolbe Project. 7:30 p.m. 713-522-8182.
Life Begins at 40. Pot luck dinner. 6:30 p.m. 1440 Harold. 713-526-1017.
Mishpachal Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
Co-dependents Anonymous. 7:30 p.m. at MCCR. 713-861-9149.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.
Healing Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral. 7 p.m. 1117 Texas. 713-222-2593.

To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail croberts@houstonvoice.com.
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Classifieds

Announcements

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

PROTECT

Dena Gray, Director of Community Outreach and Volunteer Services for Bering Omega Community Services and co-chair HIV Prevention Community Planning Group will be the speaker for PROTECT meeting on November 16, 1999 @ 7 p.m. PROTECT provides a safe place every Tuesday at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold, for HIV negative people to share their experiences in an effort to understand and change behaviors that could lead to infection. Visitors and new members are welcome at every meeting. For more information, call 713.526.1017, ext. 211.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

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

Adopt Internationally

Family To Family Adoption

Services an adoption networking agency, is in partnership with several non-profit adoption agencies who are dedicated to find loving homes for thousands of orphans from many countries. FFAS is sponsoring a free workshop for prospective adoptive parents seeking more information about adopting children from other countries. Single men, women, and couples from 25-57 years old are eligible to adopt. Please call Maxine at 713.219.1472 or email Fam2-Fam@aol.com for information.

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

Help the Quilt

Clean your closet and donate your items to the Names Project. • Proceeds to benefit the Houston Quilt Workshop. • For more information and pick-up scheduling call 713.526.2637 or 713.956.5693.

Help Wanted

MCCR

Resurrection MCC, Houston, Texas is seeking a director of Administration and Accounting. Please contact us at 713.861.9149 for job description and application.

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Busy Heights area deli needs counter help • Apply in person at 375 W. 19th Street or call Doug at 713.864.3354.

Project CAESAR is hiring! • PT Outreach Educator, up to 30 hours/week • Fax Resume to: Project CAESAR, Attention: Philip Knowlton, 713.623.4029 • EOE.

RESURRECTION MCC

Experienced musically degreed individual to direct and administer the music and worship program of Resurrection MCC-Houston, Texas. • Full time • Contact at us 713.861.9149 or mccr@neosoft.com for an application.

Nightingale Employment Services (Division of NADC) is a non-profit organization that provides job seeking skills training and placement assistance for persons with HIV. For more

information call 713.981.1543.

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

The Lovett Inn

Houston's premier gay owned/operated lodging and reception facility is now accepting applications for full/part-time positions. • Evenings/weekends required. • For more information call 713.528.6433 (between 11AM - 4PM, Mon. - Fri.) or fax resume with photo to 713.528.6708.

EROS 1207

Houston's newest erotic boutique super store is now accepting applications for energetic sales staff. • Full/Part-time, excellent opportunity • Apply in person, 1207 Spencer Highway, South Houston, TX, 10AM to 2PM, Monday through Friday • 713.944.6010.

Full-Time Receptionist/Secretary at Christ Church Cathedral. Various job duties include answering phones, greeting visitors, handling calendar for meetings, and maintaining prayer list/hospital list. Computer skills necessary - MS Word specifically and good typing skills. Fax resume to 713.222.2412, Attn.: Judy Everett or mail to 1117 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002.

Experienced/professional courier drivers wanted for 24 Hour courier/hot-shot service • Must have own truck or van. • Call Mon. - Fri., 8am - 5pm • Quality Express, 713.290.8755.

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Pets

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

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

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

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\$60's • 1 bedroom. • Nice Unit • Call Alan Morlan @ 713-520-8888.

HEIGHTS

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

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GWM seeks non-smoker to share 2 bedroom apartment • Private room and bath. \$375 plus 1/2 electricity • Includes cable, security and pool. 713.723.0377.

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

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GWM • Westbury (near Meyerland) prefer non-smoker. Large 3 bedroom house • Private room and bath • Separate living area negotiable. \$435 per month • 1/2 utilities. 713.726.8736.

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

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

Volunteers

AssistHers

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

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

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

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

Web-sites

www.houstonvoice.com
www.sovo.com
www.impactnews.com
www.montrosesoftballleague.com
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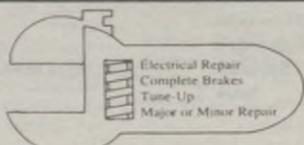
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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

by JILL DEARMAN

Nov. 19 - Nov. 25

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

Life seems so much less serious after the Sun moves into your adventurous ninth house on Nov. 23, so have a good time. And while you're hanging with a Libra, you may have an almost religious epiphany about how to experience more joy in your life.

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

You may finally be ready to settle into a relationship that includes both security and passion. No need to trade one for the other. But lately, it seems like you're just going through the motions, both at work and in love. Take a chance with a Scorpio to show what's really in your heart.

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

The full moon falls in your sign, and that puts the spotlight on you. But be careful what you wish for; you just might get it, though in an unexpected way. A dream becomes a reality in your career. An Aquarius can make your love life dreamy, too.

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

Your body needs lots of TLC right now, so think about what you eat, how much you exercise and how you can boost your energy. A romantic riddle may puzzle you in the days ahead, but focus on the little details, and love will resolve itself, maybe with the help of a playful Sag.

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

You can't do much to make things better at work right now, except to throw some more creativity into the mix. Success on the job leads to more confidence in your love life. Let that old Leonine ego you've been hiding come out of the closet. A Cancer will be impressed.

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

With the Sun in your home sector and Venus in your house of money and possessions, it's a good time for redecorating. Making your house more of a home is not a frivolous act. Decision making is a lot easier now; start by deciding whether it's all or nothing at all with a Pisces.

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

Your appeal is super-strong now as the Sun moves towards Pluto in the most flirtatious house in your chart. Stop denying your obvious charms, and use them. You may feel a desire to date even people you wrote off long ago. Break your own rules and have some fun. A Capricorn won't mind in the least.

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

The full moon in your partnership house signifies the beginning of a new cycle in your love life. If you've been unsure whether to go all the way emotionally, I suggest you give it a shot. Just do me a favor: Blend the passionate with the practical. An Aquarius will show you how.

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

This is your time of year, and opportunities are popping up all over. You may make a lot of fast friends beginning late on Nov. 22, when the full moon enters your house of relationships, but don't give yourself away too quickly. Let a Taurus come to you.

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

A dreamy cycle in your life is beginning, but it could be scary, too. You could find out things about yourself that you were afraid to see before. Take notice of the way your day job affects your physical well-being. An Aries can help you rediscover your heart.

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

The effects of the full moon (on Nov. 22) are strong. Rather than pick a fight with a Gemini, pick a creative project to throw yourself into. Mercury goes direct in your career house on Thanksgiving, so make a secret wish for a loved one's success and pay back a karmic debt.

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

You have a lot on your plate these days in every area of your life. Organize your time, and vow that you will actually finish everything you start. Look for metaphors everywhere and apply them to your own daily battles. A Scorpio helps you keep your dramatic antics in line.

Jill Dearman is the author of two new books, "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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