

The resilient Indigo Girls tour the nation to support their latest album, 'Become You.'
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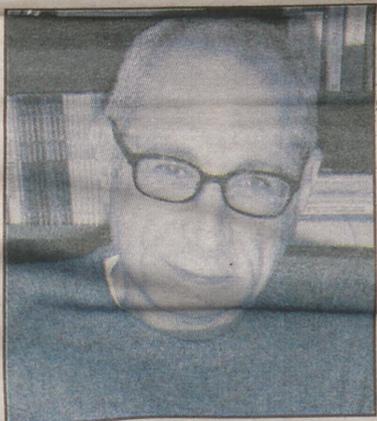


INSIDE



Lesbian theologian Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward leads an 'Exploring Justice' seminar next weekend in Houston.

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Fewer anti-gay hate crimes were tracked in 2001, but that is due to a drop in reporting, not an actual drop in crime, according to Richard Haymes of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

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Unhinged Productions premieres a new play about sexual identity among 1950s Latino boxers.

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New access to power?

In one week's time, gay movement leaders met with Bush aides and Hill leaders, but they're blaming each other for failing to enact workplace protection

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Recognizing the growing influence of gay voters, the Bush White House and the Democratic controlled U.S. Senate hosted first-of-their-kind meetings with contingents of gay political leaders within days of one another, nudging gays closer into mainstream politics and signifying another step forward in influence, according to political analysts and gay activists.

Although the two meetings were largely ignored by the mainstream press, political insiders in both parties most likely view the two events as a recognition by Republican Party pragmatists that the gay vote can no longer be ignored, said University of Virginia

political science professor Larry Sabato. Sabato, a recognized expert on U.S. elections, said Democratic Party leaders are responding to the Republican overtures by an aggressive outreach to a greater number of gay voters, fearful that the Republicans might chip away a gay vote that, until now, has gone overwhelmingly to the Democrats.

"The marvelous thing about democracy is that political parties interested in winning elections simply look at the numbers and the votes," Sabato said. "They see that gay and lesbian Americans comprise millions of voters."

Sabato and other political observers

Please see POWER, on Page 7



Senior presidential advisor Mary Matalin was among White House aides who briefed Log Cabin leaders, including Rich Tafel, the group's director. Observers say that recent Washington meetings suggest unprecedented access, but gay partisans blame each other for failing to enact basic gay rights legislation. (Photo courtesy of Log Cabin Republicans)

TX may cover AIDS medicine tests

As early as this month, state Medicaid tests that evaluate AIDS medicines

By PENNY WEAVER

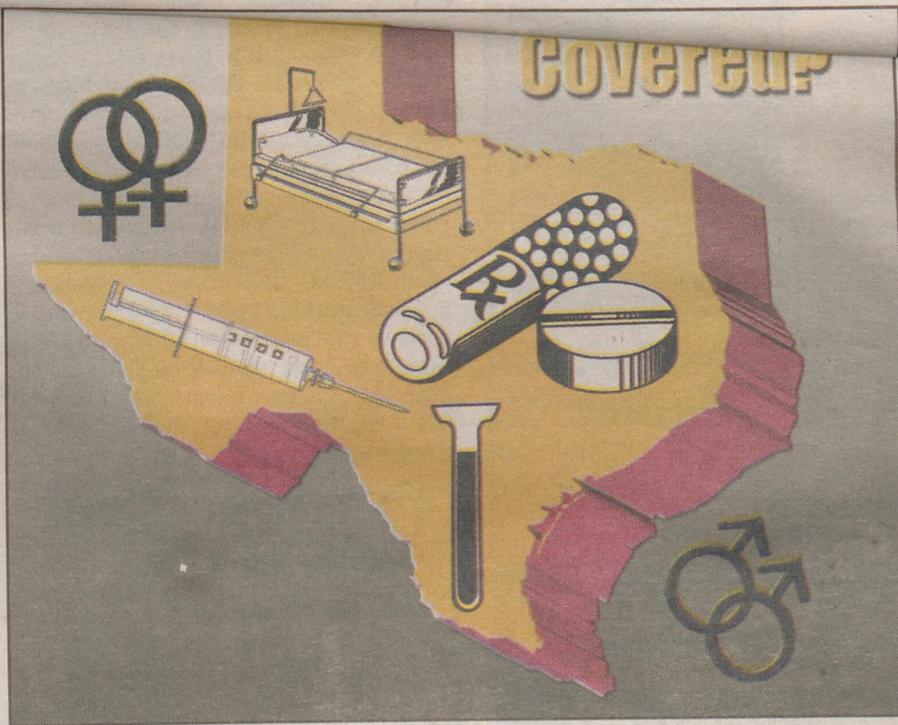
As the AIDS virus grows more resistant to medicines that once helped hold off symptoms, Texas is considering changing its Medicaid program to pay for tests that determine which prescriptions work best.

Local clinic leaders who work with HIV/AIDS patients daily said that change could be a mixed blessing for gay Texans battling the disease.

"In general, I would say yes, it's a good thing," said Tom Gegeny, editor at Houston's Center for AIDS. "It's sort of a mixed bag. Having these tests available for the patients who need them the most is useful, but they can be abused."

"There's a time and a place in a patient's history to use them," Gegeny added. "The tests are still being perfected in some ways."

Medicaid programs in 44 states pay for two



Texas' Medicaid program may soon cover the costs of AIDS drug resistance testing, but some Houston medical leaders say that move might be a mixed blessing for patients. (Graphic by Bonnie Naugle)

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around houston

Lesbian theologian featured in 'Exploring Justice' workshops

The Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward travels to Houston next week to lead a weekend seminar titled "Exploring Justice." The lecture series and workshop will explore justice issues facing the church and society today. Topics include race, gender/sexual orientation and the environment. Heyward is one of the famous "Philadelphia Eleven" — in 1974, she and 10 other women deacons were ordained as priests in a service that stunned the Episcopal Church, which would not until 1976 pass legislation explicitly stating that women could be ordained as priests and bishops. Last September, the original date of her visit to Houston, was the 25th anniversary of this legislation. Several years later, she created further controversy in the church by coming out as a lesbian. Heyward is the author of several books, including her latest, "Saving Jesus from Those Who Are Right: Rethinking What it Means to be a Christian." She is the Howard Chandler Robbins Professor of Theology at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass. The May 10-12 event is co-sponsored by Brigid's Place, the Helen Morris Havens Lectures at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Integrity-Houston, Randolph-Macon Woman's College Houston Area Alumnae Chapter, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.



Lesbian theologian Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward comes to Houston next weekend to lead a seminar rescheduled from last September.

i 'Exploring Justice'

Pre-registration required
Brigid's Place
Christ Church Cathedral
1117 Texas Ave. • Houston, TX 77002
713-590-3333
E-mail: brigidsp@christchurchcathedral.org
Web site: www.brigidspplace.org

7 p.m. Friday, May 10
Helen Morris Havens Lectures
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1805 W. Alabama

9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 11
Christ Church Cathedral
Cost: \$45 (includes lunch).
Some scholarships available

6 p.m. Saturday, May 11
Worship service
Bering United
Methodist Church
1440 Harold Drive
Dinner will follow for \$10.

Sunday, May 12
Sermon at the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services
Christ Church Cathedral
Lunch will follow the
11 a.m. service in the Great Hall for \$15.
706-322-0514

Gay students have more time to apply for scholarships

The deadline for 2002-03 scholarship applications has been extended to May 15 by the PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation (PHYSF). PFLAG Houston and H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) jointly created PHYSF to offer a scholarship program to assist worthy youth in the Houston area in pursuing a college education. The scholarship program is for lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement while in high school or college. In addition to helping provide for higher education, PFLAG and H.A.T.C.H. leaders hope scholarship recipients will provide positive role models for other youth who cannot be open about their orientation. This year, the group expects to hand out about \$60,000 in grants.

Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. seeks groups as beneficiaries

The Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. has announced the beginning of its 2002 beneficiary selection process. The deadline is May 13. The Houston-based charitable organization raises funds for many local charities and one national charity. These organizations must be committed to HIV/AIDS services, prevention and support, women's health issues and the promotion of equal rights for all. Since 1993, the Houston Black Tie Dinner has raised more than \$1.1 million. This year's dinner is set for Oct. 12.

From staff reports

i Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc.

Contact: Sandy Clough
713-774-1744

Correction

In information with photos from the PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Spring Fling 2002 in last week's Houston Voice, it was incorrectly stated that Laura Springel and Joy Villarreal are high school students. In fact, both are college students at Sam Houston State University; Springel is a junior, and Villarreal is a graduating senior. The Voice regrets the error.



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local news

Doctors concerned about overuse of tests

MEDICINE, continued from Page 1

tests that determine which drugs will work and which won't, and Vermont covers one test. Florida, Mississippi, New Jersey and Hawaii don't cover either test via Medicaid, the No. 1 insurance carrier of AIDS sufferers.

Texas also covers neither, but state Medicaid officials will consider a revision of that policy at meetings this month.

Medicaid is the government-funded health care program for the poor and disabled.

AIDS and HIV patients whose viruses dropped to undetectable levels in the mid- and late-1990s because of powerful drug combinations now find the virus on the rebound, resistant to at least one of the drugs in the combination previously so good at controlling them.

As a result, physicians are forced to experiment with prescribing different combinations of around-the-clock pills and injections, said Dr. Dave Wright, who has a private family practice in Austin, Texas, where 400 patients are infected with the disease.

"Sometimes it seems like you might as well be flipping a coin," Wright said. "Perhaps we were setting patients up for failure. There is certainly lots of demands on them and lots of expectations on the drugs."

Dr. Shannon Schrader, whose Houston practice focuses mostly on AIDS patients, said she believes it's important for Texas' Medicaid to pay for the drug tests.

"Without them, doctors are forced to treat patients by trial and error, wasting thousands of dollars on medications that don't work and contributing to the virus'

"Sometimes it seems like you might as well be flipping a coin," Dr. Dave Wright said. "Perhaps we were setting patients up for failure. There is certainly lots of demands on them and lots of expectations on the drugs."

evolving ability to resist treatment," Schrader said.

The drug-resistance tests come in two styles: a "genotypic" test, approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, that identifies mutations in a patient's virus and can be used to predict drug resistance; and a "phenotypic" test, still under review by the FDA, that pits the patient's virus against antiviral drugs, giving doctors evidence which ones won't work.

Both tests have their boosters, but an analysis of them presented recently at an AIDS conference in Seattle endorsed genotypic testing.

The genotypic testing, which provides faster results, is cheaper than the pheno-

typic testing, but still costs \$300 to \$600 per test. The phenotypic testing, considered easier to interpret, costs \$800 to \$1,000 per test.

Proponents say the costs are worth it because they say patients' typical drug regimens cost about \$1,000 a month. Testing is less than the cost of wasteful,

very new technology, whether it's genotypic or phenotypic testing. They're still coming up with better standards."

Genotypic testing, for example, only detects major species of resistant virus types, so that minor species may not be detected, he explained.

"It's an idea of precision," Gegeny said. "There's still a lot of issues [with drug resistance testing]. It needs to be used wisely."

Baylor medicine professor Dr. Wayne Shandara, who works at the Thomas Street Clinic in Houston, said that in most cases a doctor familiar with a patient's history should be able to predict the appropriate drugs.

"I'm not sure Texas is backwards on this," Shandara said. "If these tests are covered by Medicaid and widely available, they undoubtedly will be used inappropriately and constitute a terrible waste of money — money that could be better spent on other treatment or research, say, involving early detection."

Gegeny agreed, noting that public funding for HIV/AIDS treatment is limited.

"We've got to be real careful how we use it," he said. "There's a huge amount of new patients coming into the system and the amount of public assistance is not growing in proportion to the number of patients who need it."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.



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local news

Fewer anti-gay crimes reported in 2001

Numbers mean a decline in tracking, not violence, activists say

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

In New York City last year, a gay man living in a shelter found himself under attack from another resident. "I heard about you, shut the fuck up, you faggot," the assailant said, bashing the victim in the head.

Also last year, in the same city, a gay teen was followed on the subway after school by four youth shouting anti-gay slurs, who attempted to hit him, but missed.

In another incident, an assailant accosted a woman leaving a gay senior citizens group, yelling "dyke" while pushing her against a building and trying to steal her briefcase.

Such crimes are just the tip of the iceberg, activists say.

Anti-gay hate crimes reported to a coalition of organizations around the country dropped 12 percent in 2001, according to a report released last week. But anti-violence advocates say actual crimes against gays haven't slowed.

"Absolutely, unequivocally, it does not reflect that violence is down," said Richard Haymes, executive director of the New York Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project and a board member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, the umbrella group that compiled the report.

Some 1,887 incidents — including the three New York attacks — were reported to NCAVP member projects last year, compared to 2,135 in 2000. But Haymes and Clarence Patton, author of the NCAVP report, attributed the drop to a lack of participation in reporting, not a lack of crimes to report.

"It is clear that violence against queer people is still an ongoing threat to the safety of our community, but what also poses a threat to our community is the lack of support for anti-violence programs around the country," Haymes said. "That severely impacts our ability to both help victims of hate crimes and also document those incidents."

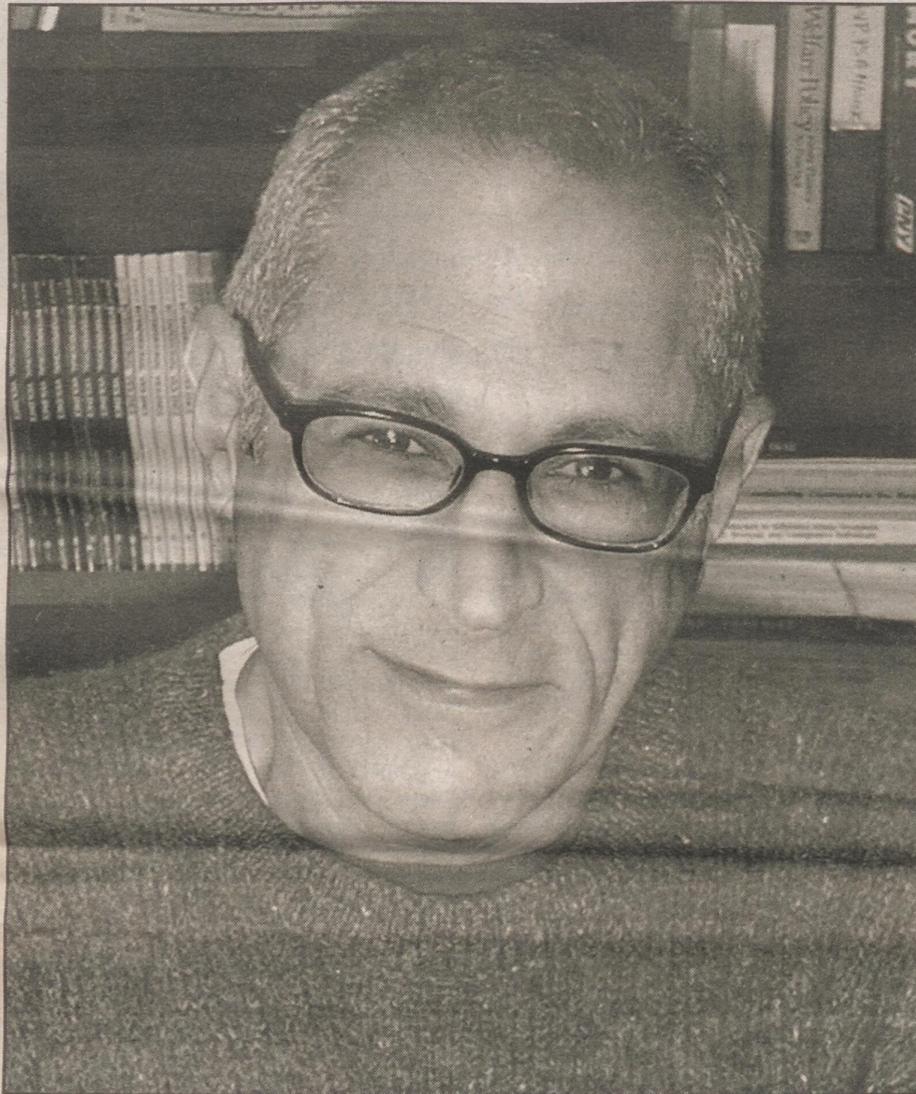
Of the 26 NCAVP member projects around the country, only 12 were able to devote enough resources to tracking to take part in the report.

And the problem may be even more severe in the South, NCAVP leaders said.

The Montrose Counseling Center in Houston was the only NCAVP member in the South to participate in the report. The center reported 32 hate incidents in 2001, down from 39 in 2000 — an 18 percent decrease.

But Marilyn Barnes, MCC hate crimes specialist, said the facility's reporting was incomplete for 2001.

"It's fairly simple. These are only peo-



The drop in anti-gay hate crimes tracked in 2001 is due to a drop in reporting, not an actual drop in crime, according to Richard Haymes, a board member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

ple that we work directly with," Barnes said. "In the past year, the position was vacant for several months. I think that accounts for the difference."

The first months of 2002 indicate reported anti-gay hate crimes in Houston already are on the rise, according to Barnes. She estimated she has fielded almost 40 such cases so far this year.

"Right now, I'm working with 29 people," she said. "I'm swamped. I'm very, very busy. I would say it's quite a bit up."

"I'm not really sure why. I think a lot of hate crimes are so underreported — very significantly underreported — that it's really hard to tell if more people are being hurt or if more people are becoming comfortable reporting," Barnes added.

NCAVP groups in New Orleans, Lexington, Ky.; Richmond, Va.; and Washington, D.C. did not participate in reporting. The coalition requires members to compile statistics for three years before being included in the report, and New Orleans is only in its second year of tracking.

The other Southern groups did not have the resources to report this year, Patton said, although some may at least be able to offer help to hate crimes victims in their areas.

Gays in other areas of the South, including Georgia and Alabama, aren't that lucky, because they don't have anti-violence projects at all.

That means some of the highest profile hate crimes of recent years — including the murder of gay Alabama resident Billy Jack Gaiter and the bombing of the Otherside Lounge in Atlanta — have never been included in NCAVP reporting.

"One thing we talk about a lot here as a full coalition is the lack of reporting in the Southeast," Patton said. "I think when you look at the coalescing of queer communities in the region — outside of maybe Atlanta, although we have a blank in reporting in Atlanta, too, right now — a lot of community institution building is really just beginning to blossom in Southern cities."

An Atlanta hate crimes group, led by activist Jon Greaves, attempted to work with the NCAVP and produced its own statistics for one year, 1997. But Greaves ended the effort after sustaining it basically alone, and no other organization has been created to take its place.

"As the NCAVP builds as an organization, that will be one of our priorities — lending technical assistance in more

concerted ways to groups in the South," Haymes said.

Hate crime tracking often follows the model of "build it and they will come," Haymes said, citing an increase in crimes targeting transgendered people, which made up 13 percent of those reported to the New York Project last year.

The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, another NCAVP group, reported a similar jump in hate crimes reported by gay Latinos, which they also attributed to greater outreach to that population. Some 38 percent of the 339 victims reported to the center in 2001 were Latino, compared to 24 percent in 2000.

The group attributed the jump to an organized outreach campaign to Spanish-speaking Latinos, including street outreach and 60 billboards.

Impact of Sept. 11

Along with an overall drop in reporting, the decline in hate crimes reported to the NCAVP last year may have a direct link to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, Haymes and Patton said.

The seven NCAVP reporting members with the most complete data — New York, San Francisco, Massachusetts, Los Angeles, Colorado, Chicago and Columbus, Ohio — "reported an average decrease in reported incidents of 18 percent from their monthly averages in September and October," the study said.

While groups like the New York Anti-Violence Project devoted resources to helping survivors cope with grief and shock, other bias crime victims may have been reluctant to come forward, Haymes said.

"Given the trauma the entire country suffered because of Sept. 11, victims of verbal harassment might have been more hesitant to come forward and report that," he said.

"When you have a group of young people throwing beer cans and yelling anti-gay epithets — if you put that on a scale with Sept. 11, in the moment it doesn't seem worth reporting," Haymes said.

The events of Sept. 11, and the resulting redeployment of police to security issues, may also explain a 35 percent drop in cases in New York where police were the perpetrators, he said.

Finally, like many non-profit groups around the country, anti-violence projects were hit hard by the economic downturn that accompanied the terrorist attacks.

"I know Sept. 11 exacerbated the problems for some folks, although these issues predated the attacks," Patton said.

Penny Weaver contributed to this report.

For more info:

To see the report:
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
www.avp.org

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



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

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

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.

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

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
Ergot derivatives (Catergot® and others, for migraine headache)
Halcion® (triazolam)
Versed® (midazolam)
Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

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 (Tegreto® 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.

Special considerations

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

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

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

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

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the 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)
EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)
Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

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

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

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

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

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

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

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

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

Invirase® (saquinavir)

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

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

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

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

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

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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national news

Politicians said to be more aware of gay vote

POWER, continued from Page 1
were commenting on two recent meetings that gay Republicans and gay Democrats have characterized as groundbreaking, if not historic.

On April 18, the White House hosted an official briefing for about 50 leaders of Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay group, marking the first time such an event has taken place under a Republican president. (Please see related story on this page.) Although President Bush did not attend, White House officials discussed the major issues of the day with the Log Cabin members, just as they would with other constituency groups, those who attended the meeting said.

One week later, on April 25, 16 Democratic senators met at the U.S. Capitol with leaders of more than a dozen gay civil rights and AIDS organizations in a meeting put together by the Senate Democratic Steering & Coordination Committee. The committee, which is comprised of senior Democratic leaders in the Senate, coordinates strategy and policy pertaining to legislation with key constituency groups aligned with the Democratic Party. Senator John Kerry (D-Mass.), chair of the panel, said the meeting with gay leaders was a first-of-its-kind for any Senate leadership committee, either Democrat or Republican.

The meeting with Senate Democrats also came one week after Democratic National Committee Chair Terry McAliffe arranged for gay Democrats to participate in the multi-city kick-off for a massive DNC-sponsored voter registration drive in cities throughout the country. One of the events associated with the voter drive was held at New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center.

Bill Schneider, chief political analyst for the Cable News Network and a fellow with the American Enterprise Institute, said the White House meeting with Log Cabin leaders was an example of how the president is putting his strategy of compassionate conservatism to good use.

"These are not insignificant people," he said, when informed of the high level White House staff members who met with Log Cabin members.

"One of the ways Bush advertises his compassionate conservatism is by telling conservatives, 'I embrace your views, even though I will meet with your adversaries,'" Schneider said. "He doesn't give anyone the cold shoulder. But he doesn't change his policies."

Schneider added, "Bush doesn't mind it when he defies the anti-gay groups who don't want him to meet with gays. But Bush still supports the anti-gay groups on the big issues," although not necessarily on just gay issues, he said. "It's conservatism with a smiling face. Politically, it works."

Sabato said that while Bush and the Republican Party may not agree with many of the issues being pushed by gay advocacy groups, the symbolism of

embracing gay leaders at a White House meeting could set the stage for change in policy position in the near future. Eventually, Sabato said, if any political party wants to win votes by a given constituency group, the party has to make substantive concessions.

"The Bush II White House understands that if all the minorities in the nation line up against the Republicans, then the Republicans will be a permanent minority party," Sabato said.

"Right now," he said, "these groups are aligned to a large extent with the Democrats — the gays, Asians, Latinos, and African Americans." He said women, who make up 50 percent of the electorate, also lean toward the Democrats.

"At a certain point, you can't win," Sabato said. "You don't have enough white male voters. So this administration has finally recognized the numbers."

"In the long term, it's the only strategy that makes sense for the Republicans," said Sabato, in commenting on the White House outreach to gays and other minorities. "They need to chip away at the Democrats' stranglehold on the gay vote. They don't need all of it. Just more than they have now."

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, praised both the White House and Senate Democratic meetings, saying the two events reflect a growing recognition of the gay movement's role in national politics.

Officials with Log Cabin and the National Stonewall Democrats, which represents gay Democrats, also had praise for both meetings, although the two groups made it clear that they will be working on the opposite side in the upcoming congressional elections.

A split over ENDA?

NGLTF Executive Director Lorri Jean, while calling the White House and Senate Democratic meetings "very significant," said gay Republican and gay Democratic groups have not been pushing hard enough for pro-gay policies within their own parties.

"I think the leadership of our movement has to be much more demanding toward our parties and our elected officials," Jean said. "We must make it clear that we won't be satisfied until we have all the rights that other Americans have."

Johnson, with the National Stonewall Democrats, said, "Bush has some brilliant political tacticians who know how to put moderate face on him at the same time he takes strong conservative positions on the issues and in his actions."

He noted that Bush has refused to offer support on two of the most important issues for gays pending before Congress — the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and a hate crimes bill authorizing the federal government to prosecute anti-gay hate crimes.

Other gay Democrats, including Kurt Vorndran, president of D.C.'s Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, note that President Bill Clinton met personally and often with gay leaders, at the White House and in cities and towns across the country.

"When it comes to gays at the White House, we've been there, done that," said Vorndran.

Log Cabin spokesperson Kevin Ivers said gay Democratic leaders had struck a deal with Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and other congressional Democrats to use ENDA and the hate crimes bill as a "wedge" issue against Republicans in the November elections. Ivers said he believes "some version" of the two bills could pass both the House and Senate if the Democrats agreed to enter into serious negotiations with House and Senate Republicans, who oppose the two bills.

"The question for the Democrats is, do they want an issue or do they want a law?" Ivers said. "This will require compromise."

Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director and one of the chief lobbies for ENDA and the hate crimes bill, said Log Cabin, rather than the Democrats, appears to be injecting partisan politics in the debate over ENDA and the hate crimes bill. Stachelberg said Log Cabin, which strongly endorsed ENDA when it was introduced in 1994, has been softening its support in recent policy statements, including a release issued this week by Log Cabin Executive Director Rich Tafel.

Stachelberg said ENDA enjoys widespread support among House and Senate Republicans as well as Democrats, and points to statements by Republican lawmakers that ENDA would most likely pass in the House if refusal to allow it to come up for a vote. She said supporters of the bill have already made many compromises during the past decade, working closely with Republicans and Democrats.

Ivers declined say what changes Republican leaders want in order for them to support the bill.

"It's up to the two sides to work this out," he said.

Johnson said Log Cabin, in an effort to take the heat off Bush and congressional Republicans who don't support ENDA, is undermining its historic role of pushing for gay issues within the Republican Party in favor of "short term political gain."

Ivers said it's the gay Democrats who appear to be undermining the good of the gay community by putting the chances of passing the two pro-gay bills in jeopardy by shunning compromise and turning the legislation into an election issue against the Republicans.

News reporter Lou Chibbaro Jr. can be reached at lchibbaro@washblade.com.

White House hosts Log Cabin meeting

Gay 'briefing' is first of its kind in GOP administration, but officials not lobbied on rights bills

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

About 50 leaders of the national gay group Log Cabin Republicans attended a White House briefing on April 18 at the invitation of Bush administration advisors, representing the first time such a meeting has been held in a Republican administration.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill hosted a separate briefing for Log Cabin officials that same day at the Treasury Department, where he discussed President Bush's economic policies, according to Log Cabin spokesperson Kevin Ivers.

"The running theme of these meetings was to acknowledge that we have been a part of their team," Ivers said. "They feel we have a role to play in advancing the administration's policies."

"It was a good give and take," said Jim Wilkinson, special assistant to the president and deputy White House communications director, who was among the White House officials attending the meeting. "They had a lot of questions, and hopefully, they viewed our responses as helpful."

Among the White House officials conducting the briefing, in addition to Wilkinson, was Mary Matalin, assistant to the president and counselor to Vice President Dick Cheney, who discussed political issues facing the administration on the eve of the 2002 congressional elections. Lezlee Westine, assistant to the president and director of the White House Office of associate counsel; and James Wilkinson, deputy director of White House communications, also joined in the briefing, Ivers said.

Also participating were Scott Evertz, the openly gay Log Cabin leader whom Bush named last year as director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy; and Maria Cino, the former Bush campaign political director who serves now as an official at the Department of Commerce.

The briefing was held at the Old Executive Office Building, a building next to the White House where many members of the White House staff have their offices.

Ivers said that while the briefings discussed some gay issues, the main focus was on the president's major domestic and foreign policy issues and ways that Log Cabin members can help the administration advance those policies.

Log Cabin Republicans

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around texas

Convicted gay-basher's execution one of nine in May in Texas

TYLER, Texas (AP) — Among nine condemned killers set to be executed in the state this month is a man convicted in the 1993 slaying of a Tyler medical records clerk, who prosecutors say was targeted because he was gay. Prosecutors said Henry Earl Dunn Jr., 27, has exhausted his appeals to state and federal court. Dunn appeared before Judge Diane DeVasto last December, and the judge set his execution for May 14. She told him, "May God have mercy on your soul." Dunn was sentenced to death along with Donald Loren Aldrich in the kidnapping, robbery and murder of 23-year-old Nicolas West. No execution date has been set for Aldrich. They had said the crime resulted at least in part from their hatred of gays. They confessed to abducting West from a Tyler city park and driving him to a clay pit in a rural area outside the East Texas city, where West was robbed of his vehicle and shot at least nine times. If all nine executions planned this month are carried out, it would be the most prolific series of punishment in Texas since 12 inmates were put to death over a 29-day period in May and June 1997. The timing of the punishments is coincidental. Dates are set by local trial court judges.

Dallas City Council to vote next week on ordinance to protect gays from bias

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas City Council is reviewing a proposal that seeks to protect gays and lesbians in hiring, housing and public accommodations such as hotels and restaurants. Under the proposed ordinance, employers with more than 15 workers would not be allowed to hire, fire or in any other way discriminate against employees on the basis of sexual orientation. Proprietors of hotels, theaters and other public places would not be able to refuse service or segregate their patrons. Religious organizations and state and federal offices would be exempt from the ordinance. Mayor Laura Miller and four council members drafted the plan. The council has set May 8 as a tentative date for a vote on the measure. "It's a major step forward for the city of Dallas," said council member Ed Oakley, who helped draft the plan. "Austin and Fort

Worth and Houston have already passed these ordinances. I think it just brings us into the 21st century." Violations of the ordinance would be treated as misdemeanors, punishable with a \$200 to \$500 fine. The city's Fair Housing Office would enforce the ordinance. Two city human resources employees would be moved to the office to help investigate complaints. Verified complaints would be sent to mediation, and those that couldn't be resolved would go to the city attorney's office. But city officials said they didn't expect cases to get that far. "We wouldn't propose something that we didn't think we could police," Miller told The Dallas Morning News. "That's why we're putting the limited resources we have into responding to the complaints we have." Local gay-rights advocates applauded the council's proposal. "We just have more people on the City Council who are behind us than we ever had before," said Maria Rubio, president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance.



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He touched each of our hearts in his own special way, some with great love, others with great friendship and some with both. He will be greatly missed and his memories will forever live on in all of our hearts. We all wish you a beautiful and safe journey as you move on to heaven and wait for us to reunite with you.

Bryan is survived by his partner Michael Gordon, mother Delia Menchaca and sister Dora Rocha.

He is also survived by numerous friends and family.

Obituary

**Thomas Coronado, 40,
Miss Camp member**

Thomas Coronado, a.k.a. Tamika Lee, died on April 5, 2002.

Coronado was born on April 13, 1961. He was a former member of the Garden Party and was a member of the Miss Camp America Foundation.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 4, 2002, at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 West 11th St. The event is "BYOB: Bring Your Own Boas, Broaches, Bracelets and Beads." A colorful celebration is planned.

One friend said of Coronado, "I am sure he is up there now giving make-up tips to the Queen Mum."

From staff reports

Cullum added to Houston Voice staff

Houstonian Brett Cullum has joined the staff at the Houston Voice as an account executive.

In this new position, Cullum is responsible for advertising sales, and he brings a wealth of experience to the newspaper's team of advertising representatives.

Cullum is a cum laude graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies/History, with emphasis in Business & Economics, in 1993. He has several years of experience in advertising sales for media including radio and television.

Most recently, Cullum served as a sales account manager for a Houston telecom-



Brett Cullum

munications firm. His background includes work in telecommunications, marketing/advertising, promotions and management.

"I'm enjoying meeting so many new people in the city's gay community," Cullum said. "I look forward to assisting businesses in best utilizing the Voice to reach our more than 30,000 readers each week."

Cullum joins a sales staff that also includes Jim Nixon, regional sales manager, and Wanda Faulkner, senior account executive.

"We're excited to have Brett on board," Nixon said. "I know Houston-area business owners are going to appreciate his knowledge and enthusiasm in helping their operations grow through advertising with the Voice."

From staff reports



around the nation

Wash. city expands bias law; Dallas considers measure



Dallas Mayor **Laura Miller** said the city is ready to enforce an expanded bias law if it passes the City Council next week. (Photo by Donna McWilliam/AP)

TACOMA, Wash. — The Tacoma City Council voted April 23 to add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the city’s non-discrimination law, covering employment and housing in both the public and private sectors, the Tacoma News Tribune reported. Council member Michael Loneragan, who cast the only “no” vote on the measure, noted that voters in Tacoma had already rejected two local and one statewide attempt to ban job discrimination against gays. Both supporters and opponents of the measure predicted it would face a repeal effort. Meanwhile, a similar law banning sexual orientation discrimination in hiring, housing and public accommodations has been proposed by Dallas Mayor Laura Miller, the Dallas Morning News reported. “It’s a major step forward for the city of Dallas,” said Dallas City Council member Ed Oakley, who worked with the mayor to draft the proposal. At press time, a vote was tentatively scheduled for May 8.

Salvation Army’s DP benefits refusal puts Maine program at risk

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The Salvation Army’s refusal to comply with Portland’s domestic partnership ordinance could jeopardize the only activity center and meals-on-wheels program that serves the city’s elderly. The organization received \$60,000 a year from the city to operate its \$400,000 meals program and the center for seniors. But under the year-old city ordinance, organizations that get federal funding through the city must provide health and employment benefits to domestic partners of employees. Salvation Army officials have refused to comply with the ordinance, even if it means losing the money. “There’s got to be a way to continue having them do what they have done so well for so long,” said Portland City Council member Philip Dawson said.

Fla. school board approves partnership with gay group

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A marathon meeting packed with parents and fiery rhetoric, the Broward County School Board voted April 23 to formalize an agreement with the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network of Ft. Lauderdale. The deal allows the local chapter of the national non-profit education group to conduct training for teachers and other staff members on how deal with sexual orientation issues. The 6-3 vote last week formalized a four-year working relationship between GLSEN and the county, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported. When the proposal first came before the board in October, it was rejected 5-4 following complaints from some citizens about 16 “filthy words” in planning materials used by some GLSEN chapters in other states. Steve Kane, a conservative talk show host on South Florida radio station WNNN 1470, launched an on-air campaign against GLSEN. The new deal does not allow GLSEN to work directly with students.

Lockheed, Alltel shareholders reject gay employment policy

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Shareholders at defense contractor Lockheed Martin and communications giant Alltel on April 25

rejected shareholder proposals to add sexual orientation to anti-bias employment policies at the companies. The proposal at Lockheed came from Swarthmore College. “Our company is essentially announcing... that it reserves the right to discriminate where it is legal,” said Morgan Simon, a sophomore at the 1,450-student liberal arts college in Pennsylvania. Swarthmore used the school’s stockholder status — it owns 7,500 shares of Common Stock in the company — to introduce the resolution to add sexual orientation to Lockheed’s policy. Lockheed Chair and CEO Vance D. Coffman said no such policy was necessary because the company does not tolerate harassment or discrimination of any kind. “Everyone is welcome at Lockheed Martin,” he said. “That includes gays and lesbians.” The company urged shareholders to reject the measure, which they did by a margin of 92 percent to 5 percent. Alltel also urged shareholders to reject a similar proposal from Calvert Asset than expected,” said Kenneth. “We did better introduced the proposal. “When you combine the yes votes and those who abstained, roughly 12 percent of the votes went against Alltel management’s recommendation opposing the equal employment resolution.”

Vt. neighbors object to camp for gay men

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. (AP) — Neighbors of a gay men’s camp in Grafton are opposing an expansion plan because of concerns that nudity by campers would damage property values. The camp is part of a national organization called the Radical Faeries. Attorney Richard Gale, representing the Grafton Planning Commission, said “the nudity factor” was the biggest issue on the town’s list. Camp spokesperson Jim Jackson objected to the idea that the camp catered to nudists simply because a few visitors last summer had gone skinny-dipping in the Hall Brook. Jackson said the group is being singled out because members are gay.

From staff and wire reports

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Issue 1123

Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

MAY 3, 2002

PAGE 10

viewpoint

I want my gay TV

The small screen has been a wasteland when it comes to real gay representations. All that may be about to change.

By INGA SORENSEN

OK, OK. SO I enjoy a smattering of schlock TV. I mean, after nearly 20 years in the news business, I have to find *some* way to unwind, right?

Don't get me wrong, I'm not a total trash enthusiast. Not even close. I don't watch Jenny or Maury or Regis & Kelly or "Survivor" or "Fear Factor" or "Temptation Island."

But I will cop to staying apprised of the sundry goings-on of lesbian youngster Bianca as she navigates her myriad travails on that tasty treat, "All My Children." Did Bianca kill almost-lover Mary Frances "Frankie" Stone? Did homophobe mom Erica off Frankie? Will Bianca *ever* have a same-sex relationship with some meat to it? The sapphic plot line, albeit a tad limp, is groundbreaking for a soap.

My other guilty pleasure comes in the form of Lifetime. You know, "television for women" — not lesbians mind you, but women nonetheless. After pondering budget cuts and politics and oppression and discrimination and nondiscrimination all day every day, it's a relief to veg with one of those sappy flicks featuring Donna Mills or Jaclyn Smith.

In small portions, this junk entertains me. But, I must admit, I'd be more satisfied if those Lifetime movies had Donna and Jaclyn's characters hooking up with each other, rather than with their respective boys.

Like anybody else, I enjoy a little fantastical affirmation of my life and loves. No big deal, right? Yeah, don't we wish.

I don't know if Lifetime will ever expand its scope to include women who love — and have sex with — women. I'd like to think it will, but the point might soon be moot.

As you've likely heard, MTV and Showtime are exploring plans to launch a cable channel geared toward gay and lesbian viewers, and Canada's 4-month-old gay channel, PrideVision, is considering expanding into the U.S. market. This week, Showtime is in Atlanta interviewing focus groups of potential gay viewers, asking them what kind of programming that want to see.

I SAY BRING it on!

Gay and lesbian viewers have, for the most part, received television's scraps. A gay hug there, a lesbian — or more likely bisexual — peck on the cheek here, you know the drill.

Public television snares kudos for airing "In the Life," a nationally broadcast gay and lesbian newsmagazine that typically focuses on serious issues of the day. But we need more choice — gay soaps, gay game shows, gay talk shows, gay "Real World" spin-offs with a token het or two, gay documentaries, gay news.

Straight viewers have options; why not us? But that's not the only reason there needs to be more gay-oriented programming. While we're part of society, you wouldn't know it by surveying the current viewing smorgasbord.

Ditto for the big screen. As Southern Voice reported in a story earlier this year about the movie "A Beautiful Mind," queer storylines often land on the cutting-room floor, slicing us out of history and boxing us out of the mass-culture consciousness.

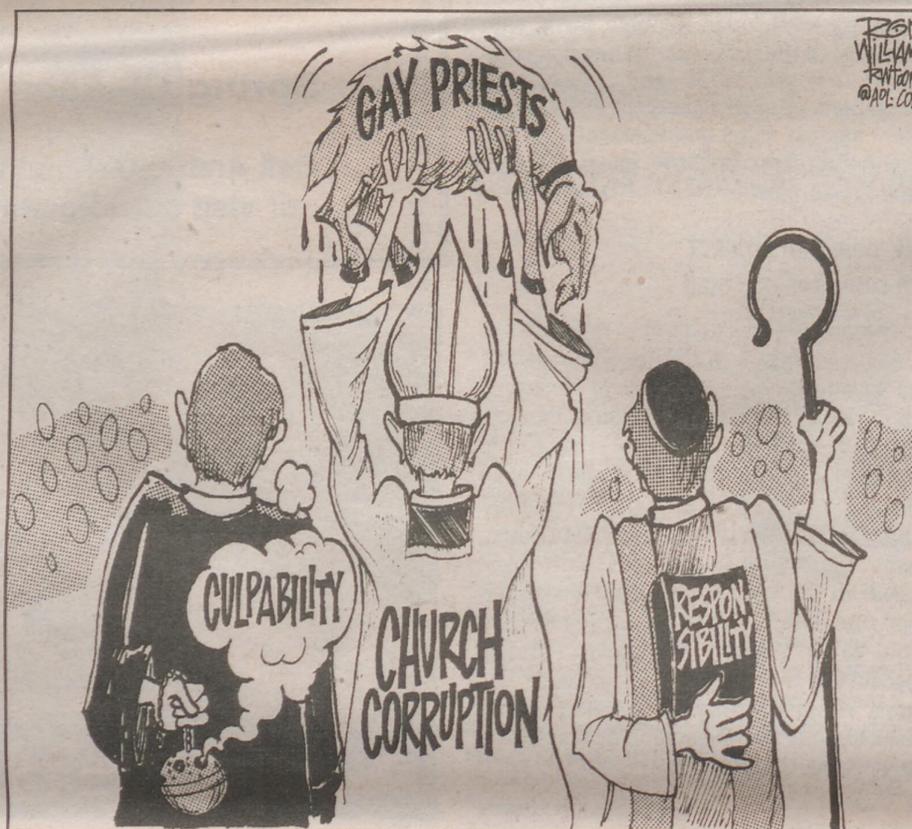
I'm one of those who subscribe to the belief that keeping us off the screen keeps us invisible. Being invisible keeps us down and isolates us. It's time for that to end, and if it means creating channels dedicated solely to us, so be it.

The anti-television crowd is no doubt lamenting the addition to the existing glut of TV programming and how that might contribute to the so-called dumbing-down of America. Point well taken, but the fact is, people watch TV.

And some television isn't so bad. It can be entertaining and enlightening and touching and informative. I'll bet most of us turned to our television sets to witness the devastating events of Sept. 11 as they transpired. Hooray for TV.

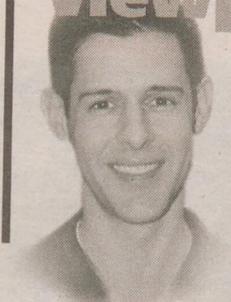
At the same time, most mainstream media were slow to acknowledge — if they acknowledged it at all — that among the heroes and victims of Sept. 11 were gay men and lesbians.

Gay TV wouldn't let that slip by, now would it? Don't think so.



@ Inga Sorensen is the editor of the New York Blade News and can be reached at isorensen@nyblade.com.

viewpoint JOHN CORVINO



A lesbian deaf couple were wrong to arrange for their child's disability, but the harm wasn't visited on him.

'Designer baby' is deaf or not at all

IT'S THE STUFF that Lifetime Television Movies are made of.

Sharon Duchesneau and Candace McCullough are deaf lesbian parents. Thanks to modern reproductive technology, Sharon recently gave birth to a baby boy, Gauvin. Preliminary tests indicate that Gauvin is, like his mothers, deaf.

Just as his mothers had hoped and planned.

And that's the kicker: Sharon and Candy, a real-life lesbian couple who live in Washington, wanted their baby to be deaf — just like them. They chose a deaf male friend as donor to maximize their odds. Baby Gauvin, now nearly four months old, is completely deaf in one ear and severely deaf in the other.

The case has sparked a fierce debate. Some simply deny that deafness is a disability. To them, deafness is like racial difference or sexual orientation: a cultural identity rather than a handicap. Others argue that Sharon and Candy are guilty of child abuse, depriving their son of a fundamental human capacity.

Both sides are wrong.

CONSIDER FIRST THE claim that deafness is a mere difference, not a disability. If that were true, why not aim for a hearing child and then allow him to opt for deafness later, should he come to share that view?

Of course he wouldn't, and shouldn't. Deafness is a disability, one that profoundly narrows communication options. Even Sharon and Candy admit that they're cut off socially from most of their neighbors.

This is not to say that deaf people can't lead satisfying, worthwhile, productive lives. Sharon and Candy are a prime example: Both have graduate degrees and successful careers. Their relationship seems solid and fulfilling. And they have two children (Gauvin plus an older daughter, also deaf) whom they love deeply.

Some might quibble with the last point. Reflecting on their choice of a deaf donor, one columnist wrote, "It is hard to know why they went to the extra trouble. They could just as well have had a child by some healthy, hearing sperm donor, then when the baby was born they could have jammed pointed sticks into its ears to break its eardrums.

"Legally there may be a difference between that and what they actually did. But philosophically, morally, there is no difference: The intent and the result are exactly the same. What they did amounts to child abuse."

Well, no. Even if we grant (as I do) that those who aim to have a deaf child thereby harm their child. To show that Sharon and Candy have harmed Gauvin, we would have to show that there was



BRADY'S CORNER 4-23-02 ©

something they could have done differently to prevent his disability.

What could they have done? They could have chosen a different donor. Or they could have chosen adoption rather than pregnancy. (Even with a hearing donor, there was a better-than-average chance that Sharon's offspring would be deaf.)

But neither of those choices would have resulted in Gauvin's having hearing. On the contrary, they would have resulted in his not being born at all.

THINK OF IT this way: Gauvin is a genetically distinct individual. If Sharon had used a different donor, she would have had a different child. And it's hard to make the case that Sharon and Candy have harmed Gauvin by bringing him into the world rather than someone else.

This is quite different from the case of a pregnant woman who abuses drugs, thereby injuring an individual child who given his genetic makeup, had been born healthy either born deaf or not born at all. So unless you think it would be better for

Gauvin not to exist, you can't claim that Sharon and Candy have harmed *him* by choosing a deaf donor. The abuse charge is not merely inflammatory; it outright misses the mark.

Which is not to say that Sharon and Candy have done no wrong. Their choice seems narcissistic and irresponsible. There is something unseemly about the trend toward making children "just like us," especially when "just like us" includes palpable limitations.

We could even question whether it's appropriate to bring new children into the world — especially disabled children — when so many existing ones need care.

These questions deserve serious moral thought. In confronting them, however, let's be careful not to hold deaf lesbians to a higher standard than everyone else.

John Corvino teaches philosophy at Wayne State University and is the editor and Culture of Homosexuality; he can be reached through this publication.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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on the record

"What is so important about a person's sexual orientation? We're becoming obsessed. Why are we so fascinated as a nation with sexual orientation? To me it's irrelevant."



Congressman Bob Barr (R-Ga.), on passage out of the Senate committee of a bill that bans bias against gays in the workplace; Barr was the primary sponsor of the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages (Washington Times, April 25)

"I spend money on anything I can. But I'm trying to learn to live a little more simply — live like the Amish."

Ellen DeGeneres on her new barn-raising austerity plan (InStyle.com)

"Call me naive, but I never imagined anything real would come out of 'The Real World,' because it is what it is — a cheesy little reality TV show."

Danny Roberts, gay castmate from the show's New Orleans season about his new role as a lecturer and gay activist (New York magazine, April 29)

"A lot of it happens in editing, although Rand and I are certainly making out and simulating sex. We're comfortable enough with each other to be able to give them enough raw material, you know what I mean?"

Actor Gale Harold, who is heterosexual, on playing Brian on "Queer As Folk" (New York magazine, April 29)



"Em hit the roof. He's got this hard man image to live up to and the pictures didn't bring this across."

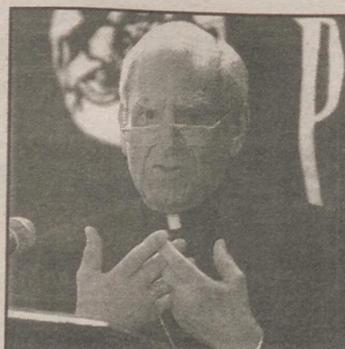
A friend of Eminem, who reportedly paid \$14,500 to destroy the first run of the May issue of the British rock magazine Face, because it featured a retouched photo of the rapper wearing a T-shirt that was actually red but appeared pink (The [London] Guardian, April 24)

"Eminem's defense of the homophobic lyrics on his albums has always been that he's not speaking as himself, he's speaking as a character, and he's representing homophobia in America. I thought it would be quite interesting to take that method and just to imagine a scene where a boy meets a famous rap star backstage at his concert and is surprised to discover he's gay and ends up sleeping with him. Just to present rap in this homosexual context. I mean, there obviously are gay rap stars."

Gay rocker Neil Tennant, of the Pet Shop Boys, on a new song by the group that takes aim at anti-gay rapper Eminem (MTV.com)

"He's going to murder them. We needed another song anyway. They just gave us a concept. Oh my God. I hope they can stand the backlash."

Rap producer Dr. Dre, on his reaction to the Pet Shop Boys song, which Dre said he thought was "funny as hell" (MTV.com)



"When a heterosexual celibate chooses to become a celibate in the priesthood, he's taking on a good — that is, his own desire to become a priest — and he's giving up a very good thing, and that is a family and children that could follow. That would not be true of a homosexually oriented candidate. He may be choosing the good, but... he's giving up what the church considers an aberration, a moral evil."

Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua, archbishop of Philadelphia, on why seminaries under his control "screen out" gay candidates (Philadelphia Inquirer, April 27)

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res·o·lu·tion

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

(sat'is·fak·shən)

sat·is·fac·tion

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HOMEFRONT: Are you watering too much?
There are four "rules" for successful gardening. **Page 20**

THEATER: New plays in local theaters this month explore
sexual orientation and compatibility. **Page 18**



HOUSTON VOICE
MAY 3, 2002
PAGE 15

Out on the Bayou

Even with worldwide success, folk-rock duo
Indigo Girls still call the South home

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Despite their travels across the nation and around the world, Indigo Girls' Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have never left their Southern hometown behind for the brighter lights of a bigger city.

But "Become You," their new album now in stores, still feels like a homecoming of sorts for the popular Atlanta folk-rock duo, who returned to their hometown to record the project, which also marks a rediscovery of their acoustic roots.

Created at Tree Sound Studios in Norcross, Ga., the disc offers 12 songs that trade the more-produced sound of "Come on Now Social," Indigo Girls' last studio offering, for the open, organic feel of "Strange Fire" and "Indigo Girls," their first full-length albums.

"I've been wanting to do this for about four years. It's not that I didn't want to do 'Come on Now Social,' but I was also writing songs that wouldn't fit there for me," Ray says.

Southern blood

The duo whetted fans' appetites for the new album with an early spring tour that included several stops in Texas. Now that "Become You" is on store shelves and in CD players, the Girls are crisscrossing the country with concerts at larger venues.

Those stops include performances in their hometown. Being at home can sometimes be hard even when not performing, Ray concedes, although she says she usually doesn't have a hard time hanging out in the city despite her legions of devoted — and sometimes somewhat obsessive — fans.

"The only thing I find hard to do is go shopping for clothes, and I usually go to thrift stores," she says. "It's something I've felt weird about ever since I was kid. When you're trying clothes on, everyone feels vulnerable, and if someone recognizes who I am, I just feel super embarrassed. I have to leave."

LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

The new Indigo Girls project, like many in two decades of musical partnership between Ray and Saliers, required not only hard work, but also a give-and-take attitude.

"I wanted to do it totally acoustic, just me and Emily, but she wasn't really interested in that," Ray says. "So this was the compromise."

The result is a well-crafted compilation that combines Indigo Girls' trademark harmonies and introspective songwriting with acoustic guitar, bass, drums and mandolin, along with instruments

Please see **SOUTHERN** on Page 17



Indigo Girls' Amy Ray (left) and Emily Saliers offer snapshots of love, forgiveness, hope and healing on 'Become You,' their new CD now in stores.

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out on the bayou

Indigo Girls explore compromise, forgiveness in new album

SOUTHERN, continued from Page 15

as diverse as accordion, penny whistle and bouzouki (a long-necked, mandolin-like string instrument).

"Moment of Forgiveness," the album's first track, will also be the first single pushed for radio play. Written by Ray in a few minutes of back-stage reflection, the track sets an upbeat tone for the rest of the CD.

The tune "is about looking at myself, coming out of this really dim place where I'd been through a whole lot with break-up, and then waking up and thinking how I'd been such an idiot," Ray says. "It's asking what does it take to get someone to reach out, not even to be with someone again, but just to be friends again."

The theme of forgiveness set by the opening track extends throughout the album, as many of the songs deal, directly or indirectly, with coping with loss or pain without resorting to hate.

Saliers explores the end of a relationship in several of her songs, including "Deconstruction," "Hope Alone" and "Our Deliverance," acknowledging the hurt without losing sight of either good times shared or hope for the future.

"Our Deliverance," one of her strongest songs on the new CD, expands from a love once shared between two people to the broader battles of a nation at war.

"In our blind trust / love will find us /

just like it has before," Saliers promises in a chorus that offers a message of hope for both.

COMING HOME

Ray brings that message of acceptance home, quite literally, in the new CD's title song, "Become You," which uses her experiences with her rural North Georgia neighbors to examine the dilemma felt by many Southerners who love the region but abhor the racism inherent in its history.

"I see you walking in the glare / down the county road we share / My Southern blood / my heresy / damn that old Confederacy," Ray sings.

"It took a long time to / become the thing I am to you. / And you won't tear it apart / without a fight / without a heart," she pledges in the accordion-backed, *sings along chorus*.

"Where I live, it is just a lot of people who wanted to get out of the rush and hubbub of Atlanta. We're all different, and usually we don't agree, but we are still friends," Ray says. "When a tree falls in the road we all share, we all get together with our chainsaws to clear it away."

Despite its difficult history, "the South to me is beautiful," Ray continues, explaining both the song and why she stays in the region. "It's the center of the civil rights movement, and there is a spirituality here. ...

"The song is trying to say, look, it took

a long time to develop this history that we are so entrenched in, and we need to understand each other," she says.

And the spirit of the South isn't confined just to its borders, Ray acknowledges. Her partner, feminist author Jennifer Baumgardner, lives in New York City.

Visiting the city shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, "it felt like this weird Southern vibe. The atmosphere became much more unified. It was like the Confederacy without the racism," Ray says. "I know it sounds wacky, but a lot of my friends felt it too."

"There was a lot of righteous anger, but people were taking a spiritual approach to what happened, not their normal secular approach, and it felt much more like the South."

Ray and Baumgardner, co-author of "Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism & the Future," have been together for four years, negotiating a long-distance relationship between their respective homes in Georgia and New York.

But while Ray offers hints about her relationships in her songs and interviews, she says she's glad she and Baumgardner have never attracted the media scrutiny of celebrity lesbian couples (and now break-ups) like Ellen Degeneres and Anne Heche, or Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher.

"I don't believe in exploiting yourself in the press, and you can control a certain amount of that. ... If we have to go our sep-

arate ways, I wouldn't want it to be all over in the press. I hate all of that," Ray says.

And should fans look forward to a tell-all biography like Etheridge's recent "The Truth Is... My Life in Love and Music"?

"No way," Ray says.

"I have this to say about autobiographies: You better be a damn good writer if you are going to put one out," she adds. "Just because you're a great musician doesn't mean you are going to be able to write a book."

The current Indigo Girls tour to support "Become You" will crisscross the country and last about 18 months, followed by time off for writing new songs, Ray says.

The next Indigo Girls album will be the last on their current contract with Epic Records, and they haven't decided what to do next, Ray says.

"I think me and Emily feel differently about it, and we'll have to work it out," she says. "I would prefer to be independent, with a very big distributor, although I could never take for granted the things that Epic has done for us."

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imagesource**out on the aisle** PENNY WEAVERNew productions include gay-themed story
inside Latino boxing in the 1950s**Stages heat up in May****'Blade to the Heat'**

An exploration of love among men in the world of 1950s Latino boxing has begun its six-week run at Unhinged Productions. Written by Latino Californian Oliver Mayer, "Blade to the Heat" tells the story of a relative newcomer to the boxing scene, Mexican-American Pedro Quinn, who wins a surprise decision against Mantequilla Decima, a Cuban and the undisputed middleweight champion. The incident unsettles the former champ, and another boxer heightens the conflict by calling each of his rivals "maricon," the "queer" epithet in Spanish. Both Quinn and Decima struggle with their perceptions of their sexual identity. The play explores machismo in Latino culture and boxing in particular, but also looks at how people identify themselves through ethnic and sexual codes.

on stage 'Blade to the Heat'

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Theatre New West plans an eight-week-end run of "Dirty Little Showtunes ... Encore," conceived and written by Tom Orr. The play is part two of the original "Dirty Little Showtunes" produced by Theatre New West last year. Following the format of "Forbidden Broadway," the work uses new lyrics to show tunes to spoof the industry, in this case with a gay male context.

on stage 'Dirty Little Showtunes ... Encore'

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on stage 'Annie Get Your Gun'

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'On Approval'

Frederick Lonsdale's "On Approval" takes the stage at Main Street Theater starting May 9, with previews this weekend and on May 8. The piece is considered by many



Pedro Quinn (left, played by Ricky Catter) and Mantequilla Decima (right, played by Alex Omar Lemuz) square off in the ring in Unhinged Productions' 'Blade to the Heat,' now playing.

to be Lonsdale's best major comedy in terms of construction, character and originality. The play focuses on four characters: Two couples decide to spend time together in an isolated country house in Scotland so that each couple can find out if they are compatible for marriage. The "experiment" proves to be a complete success, although not exactly in the way intended.

on stage 'On Approval'

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www.mainstreettheater.com

'Once Upon a Mattress'

The Theatre Arts Ministries of First Presbyterian Church presents the Mary Rodgers' musical "Once Upon a Mattress," first done on Broadway starring Carol Burnett. Houston's version features Coleen O'Kitt in the starring role, accompanied by several other favorite performers. Michael Sullivan directs this musical retelling of the story of the "Princess and the Pea," billed as fun for adults and children alike.

on stage 'Once Upon a Mattress'

7:30 p.m. May 10 & 11

Tickets: \$12 for adults, \$5 for children,

\$24 for families of four or more

Theatre Arts Ministries

Grand Hall of Lancaster Center

First Presbyterian Church • 5300 Main St.

713-620-6523 or 713-620-6466

'Dos Chicas Sell Out!'

Dos Chicas Theater Commune presents an evening of short plays with five different black comedies, directed by Bob Morgan. Performances begin May 10. The plays are: "Man-Date" by Bob Morgan; "Variations on the Resurrection of Lazarus" by Kyle Mercer; "Shooting Gallery" by Israel Horovitz; "The Mayberry Blues" by Mercer" and "Line" by Horovitz.

on stage 'Dos Chicas Sell Out!'

8 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays from

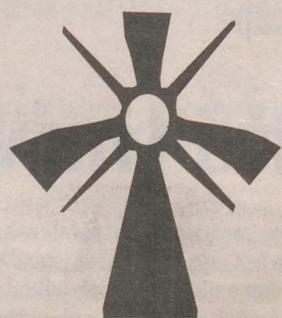
May 10 through June 1

May 20 -- pay what you want performance

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Dos Chicas Theater Commune

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Father Tom Martin, pastor

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by Oliver Mayer



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May 5	"Battering the Heart of God"	Rev. Janet Parker
May 12	"Worthless Guilt About Things That Don't Apply"	Rev. Janet Parker

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maranatha@ev1.net

Maranatha
Fellowship
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"Building Community Through Compassion"



homefront ELLA TYLER

'Four Corners of Garden Success' a good
start toward a healthy living landscape

Rules help plants thrive

I have been contemplating writing a "Twelve Steps" or "Ten Commandments" or "Seven Principles" of Gardening column for a while, and can't do it.

There just aren't that many rules. Most of the problems I see while working at the help desk of a local nursery are the result of four basic gardening errors. So, here they are: "The Four Corners of Garden Success." Catchy, isn't it?

FIRST, FIND OUT the conditions in your yard.

Where is the morning sun, poor drainage, dry shade? What grows there now and how is it doing? A change of a few feet in location can make the difference between a happy plant and a struggling plant, so it pays to know the microclimates in your yard.

For example, this spring, there were no flowers on the east side of my viburnum hedge — the buds had been nipped by that late freeze — but there were flowers on the west side.

Look around your immediate neighborhood, too. Rainfall, minimum temperature and soil types vary widely across Harris County. We sit at the intersection of three vegetation zones and cover two USDA Zones. If you don't see a plant growing nearby, do more research before you design your entire landscape around it.

SECOND, KNOW WHAT conditions your plant thrives in.

I use several reference books, all written in Texas or Louisiana, to find the cultural requirements for the plants I want. Do not believe Martha Stewart about what to grow here, or how to grow it.

There is no such thing as a plant for all places. One of my pet peeves is the use of bronze leafed begonias in the sun. They don't die, but they never look happy. They stay the same size all summer long and always look stiff and rigid. Plants that are labeled for sun to shade might be fine in morning sun, but not afternoon sun, which is much hotter.

This doesn't mean you can't experiment. Different books give conflicting cultural advice and there are always new varieties of plants. Just be aware that success is not guaranteed. A coworker and I were contemplating a new introduction — a lilac for this climate. She asked, "Are you going to set yourself up for misery and heartbreak and try one of these?" "Yes, I am," I replied. "Me, too," she said.

THE THIRD RULE or corner: Less is more.

I know someone else said it first, but if there is a Golden Rule of gardening, this is it. More than half the casualties I see are death by drowning. Plants do need water, but their roots need oxygen, too. When the soil stays wet, there is no room for oxygen, so the roots die.

When a plant has no leaves or when it is

overcast or cool, it uses less water than when it is hot and sunny. At the end of a very hot day, a plant will look wilted, even if it has enough water, but a plant that is wilted in the morning needs a drink. However, if a droopy plant does not perk up within 12 hours of a good watering, don't give it more water. That will not fix it.

A general rule is to wait for the top inch of soil to dry out before you water. Water long enough to wet the soil to a depth of several inches. Small pots might need to be watered every day in mid summer, unless you add moisture-retaining polymers, but plants in the ground should not need watering more than once or twice a week.

Trees and established hedges might go

Less is more. I know someone else said it first, but if there is a Golden Rule of gardening, this is it. More than half the casualties I see are death by drowning.

as long as a month without water. Watch them carefully. In case of a drought, remember that the trees, hedges and lawn are valuable, not the annual bedding plants.

Reduce the need for water by pulling weeds and adding mulch. Weeds always beat your garden plants in the race for water and nutrients.

The "less rule" applies to fertilizer too. Our heavy clay soil retains both water and nutrients, so you will not need to fertilize as often or heavily as the manufacturer suggests. Phosphorus (the middle number on fertilizer) builds up to toxic levels here. Almost everything benefits from a spring feeding, but only plants that flower repeatedly need to be fertilized throughout the year.

An over-fertilized, over-watered plant produces weak, soft growth that is vulnerable to bugs and funguses. Unhealthy or stressed plants seem to attract predators.

THE FOURTH CORNER of garden success is to read your labels and follow the instructions.

Don't just spray something on a sick plant. Garden chemicals are strictly regulated by the EPA, and for good reason. Many are very toxic to people, pets, birds and other wildlife. Toxicity to bees is a particular concern since they are vital to food production.

Home gardeners contribute as much environmental pollution as all other growers combined. Most labels have toll-free numbers to call with questions.

Start with these four corners, and you'll soon have a solid foundation for the garden of your dreams.

dining KATHREEN LEE

Blue Oyster Bar offers up a variety of tasty dishes for all seafood fans

Cajun eats hard to resist

OF COURSE THE first thing that comes to mind when one hears about a Blue Oyster Bar is the running gag on the Police Academy movie series where the dim-witted antagonists get unwittingly dispatched to the horrendously stereotypical gay biker bar.

The repeated Blue Oyster Bar scene features taut butless chaps, silver chains, and tight leather vests with matching hats that adorn the bodies of the seemingly libidinous men who circle around the new intruders as if appraising their fresh prey.

Naturally, such connotations lead to speculations about how Tony Mandola's Blue Oyster Bar in Houston matches up with its cinematic predecessor. Given the nature of the Mandola family's other restaurant ventures in Houston, however, I was not surprised to note the absence of leather fetishists at this particular Blue Oyster Bar.

Instead, soft blue paint, blue neon lights refracted through the glass cube cafeteria counter, and hanging swordfish and anchors establish the aquatic atmosphere of the seafood restaurant. The Cajun influence is evident in menu items which include Mama's Award-Winning Seafood Gumbo (\$3.95/cup), Fried Catfish (\$10.95), Crawfish plates (\$3.95/lb), and of course, Coon Ass Cole Slaw.

Those not from the South, such as my dinner companions and myself, may be initially alarmed to read what may be understood as a racial slur. Fortunately, a native Louisianian at an adjacent table clarified that a coon ass is usually an affectionate, yet sometimes derogatory, term for a Cajun of French descent. The Blue Oyster Bar's signature Coon Ass Cole Slaw features the typical shredded cabbages, carrots, and onions, but unlike most others, the coon ass variety was less creamy and without the usual tangy bite.

One of the Blue Oyster Bar's celebrated home dishes is Mama's Gumbo. Fresh okra, shrimp, scallops, octopi, and calamari festoon the creamy rich gumbo and provide a perfect complement to the other more piquant appetizers such as the Ceviche (\$5.95) and the Seafood Cocktail (\$8.95/large). The latter dish features copious amounts of fresh calamari, shrimp, octopi, cilantro, peppers, and avocado in a double-fisted size margarita glass. The mild cocktail sauce provided the perfect medium for the fresh seafood, and hot sauce was readily available for patrons to customize to their own fiery preference.

SET UP LIKE a 1950s diner, the Blue Oyster Bar can cater to the on-the-go patrons who grab a quick Po-Boy (\$6.95-\$9.95) or a basket of Fried Oysters



(713) 640-1117 GULF FWY. (713) 680-3333 KATY FWY.

(\$9.95/dozen) at the counter during a lunch break. The Fried Oysters are heavily breaded to provide a thick crunchy exterior. However, the oyster essence still remains soft, juicy, and succulent, thereby retaining its natural flavors.

CONSIDERING THAT CRAWFISH season is at its peak, of course one cannot dine at a Cajun seafood establishment without trying the per pound crawfish orders. Although the shells seemed tougher than usual, the freshly boiled and well-seasoned large crawfish were well worth the work and the wait.

Other seafood offerings abound, such as Deviled Crab (\$10.95), Cajun Poncorn (\$10.95) and a long list of fish, including snapper in a variety of forms: snapper etouffee (\$15.95), snapper blackened, broiled, or fried (\$12.95), snapper decadent (\$17.95), and the variety goes on.

Leather enthusiast, ragin' Cajun or not, the Blue Oyster Bar satisfies all desires for any seafood fan.

Tony Mandola's Blue Oyster Bar

7947 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77024
713-680-3333

Food: 101101101
Service: 101101101
Value: 101101101
Scene: 101101101

☛ = Stay home and eat cereal
101101 = Well, if you really must
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community calendar

**Join us for
Mother's Day
services**

Guest Speaker
Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham
Sunday, May 12, 2002
9am and 11am



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

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CALENDAR

Friday • May 3 Morning Prayer 10am	Saturday • May 11 Breakfast 9:30am
Monday • May 6 Eucharist 7:30pm	Monday • May 13 Eucharist 7:30pm
Friday • May 10 Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "The Princess Diaries"	Friday • May 17 Morning Prayer 10am

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SATURDAY, MAY 4

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

Classic Chassis Car Club. Road trip to Lakewood Wheels & Keels. Meet at The 59 Diner, 3801 Farnham. 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$10-15 per person. Jeffrey Bules, 713-728-9889. CCCC info line: 713-797-8615. www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org.

EVERY SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resurrection MCC. Noche Espiritual, Spanish language worship, 6 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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

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

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys), 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

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

EVERY SUNDAY

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2105

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resurrection MCC. Services, 9 and 11 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School, 10 a.m. Children's service, 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

MONDAY, MAY 6

American Veterans for Equal Rights. Meeting, first Monday of each month. 7 p.m. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Classic Chassis Car Club. Houston board meeting, 7 p.m. 713-797-8615. www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org.

EVERY MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Queer Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1 713-529-1223.

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

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Lesbian Health Initiative of Houston, Inc. Nonprofit organization working for lesbian health meets the first Tuesday of each month. 7 p.m., 404 Westheimer. 713-603-0023. LHHouston00@aol.com

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

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

THURSDAY, MAY 9

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

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

appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment
activities for gay Houstonians

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, MAY 10

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Queer Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Card Players Club meets every fourth Friday of the month, 7 p.m. Call Jimmy: 713-864-7299 or 281-437-0636 • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

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

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

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

Scholarship foundation. The Amethyst Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, seeks two executive board members and ASF Community Event volunteers. The group provides college scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. 210-372-2020. www.amethystscholarship.org.

SPECIAL
FRIDAY, MAY 3

"Silent Moon" fund-raising gala. Annual event hosted by the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. 6:30 p.m. cocktails and silent auction, 8 p.m. dinner, 9 p.m. entertainment including cabaret singer Deborah Boily. Tickets: \$75. Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St. For tickets: 713-521-7464. www.gmch.org/special/silentmoon.

ONGOING

"Spring Hair 2002" runs through May 28. Evin Thayer Studios offers "Lights, Camera, Action" for \$99 as a fundraiser for AIDS Foundation Houston. From each photo session — which includes hair, makeup and photos by top artists — \$40 is donated to the foundation. Evin Thayer Studios, 2643 Colquitt. 713-524-0199.

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

"Grand Gala Opening Celebration" at the new Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. May 10-12. Building dedication ceremony, facility tours and free open house. Hobby Center, 800 block of Bagby at Walker. www.thehobbycenter.org.

FILM

FRIDAY, MAY 3

"Max Mon Amour" with Charlotte Rampling. A fable of love and tolerance. 7 p.m. Also plays May 8. Tickets: \$6. Rice Cinema, Rice University Campus, Entrance No. 8, University Boulevard and Stockton Drive. 713-348-4853. www.ruf.rice.edu/~cinema.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

"Mickey One" directed by Arthur Penn, starring Warren Beatty. A Detroit nightclub comic, on the run from the Mob, hides out in Chicago. 7 p.m., also plays May 5. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. 713-639-7515. www.mfah.org.

GALLERIES

ONGOING

"Dancer: 1999 Nudes by Irving Penn." Includes 27 photographs of dancer Alexandra Beller of the T. Jones Dance Co. posing and dancing nude in Penn's studio. Drop-in tours at noon May 8, 15, 22 and 29. On display through June 16. Admission: \$5. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Caroline Weiss Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet St. 713-639-7300.

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 5

"Let's Dance" new show by Cookie Wells runs from May 5-June 15. Wells' colorful dancers are painted in watermedia on paper. Opening reception for the artist is 5:30-8 p.m. May 11. Archway Gallery, 2013 W. Gray. 713-522-2409. www.archwaygallery.com.

ONGOING

"Autoskinning: Passive Abduction No. 5" by KIT, an international collaboration of artists and other professionals concerned with exploring the theory and practice of interactive art. Through May 18. DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. 713-223-8346. www.diverseworks.org.

ONGOING

"Christine Borland," the first exhibition in the Southwest of the Scottish artist. Through June 23. Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd. 713-284-8250. www.camh.org.

MUSIC

SATURDAY, MAY 4

"Rhythm 'n' Blues" by OrchestraX is a free concert featuring the Derek Menchan Quartet and the Tier Kreis Percussion Ensemble. 2 p.m. Pascal Robinson Gallery, 2307 W. Alabama. 713-225-6729.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

"Dancing Off the Page" presented by Chrysalis Dance Co. A number of Houston artists will participate in the concert of new choreography. 8 p.m. Also, 3 p.m. Sunday, May 5. Tickets: \$18 or \$8 senior citizens and students. I.W. Marks Theatre Center, Kaplan Theatre, The Jewish Community Center of Houston, 5601 S. Braeswood. 713-661-9855.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

"For the Love of Music: Heartsounds," Da Camera of Houston's conclusion of its 2001-02 season of ensemble music. 8 p.m. Cullen Theater of the Wortham Theater Center. Tickets: \$20-35 and available at Da Camera Music Center, 1427 Branard. 713-524-5050.

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Resurrection MCC Seeks Interim Gospel Ensemble Director. Previous musical direction, will work with arranger, knowledge of African-American worship music and styling. Part-time position. Contact: Mark Unbehagen - 713-861-9149 ext. 110.

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Q. Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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58						59						60		
61						62						63		

"EVERYTHING'S COMING OUT ROSIE"

Across

- Queen of ____ (Rosie's nickname)
- Tina, on the club circuit
- Homo leader to toga-wearers?
- Tennis stadium in Queens
- Scheme coming first
- Pleased in bed
- Early break for Rosie
- Painting and sculpture, to Michelangelo
- Sighs for a lover who lies between one's thighs
- Home state of Edna St. Vincent Millay
- What fruits do while preparing to get plucked
- Toward writer Harper?
- Sheet celebrated in "Come to My Window"?
- Dottermans of "Antonia's Line"
- Beach's partner Monnier
- "____ Eclipse"
- "Family" media watchdog org.
- It gets laid in some streets
- Out of your mind
- Rosie's role in "The Flintstones"
- Knight job for Alec Guinness
- Verlaine's name
- One fit for paddling
- Gay Indian filmmaker Nishit
- Ancient Greek gay, perhaps
- Kind of man, in Oz

- Jane Spahr and Mychal Judge, for short
- Protective wear for Bacchus?
- Like Beard's cuisine
- Imitate Brian Orser
- James M. Barrie's one?
- Early role for "A Beautiful Mind" director
- Hosting gig for Rosie
- Abuse orally
- Ex of Navratilova
- Swallow alternative
- Singer Fure
- "Battle of the ____" (King-Riggs tennis match)
- Rosie's "____ Are Punny"

- Vidal's "Visit to a ____ Planet"
- Police incursion at Stonewall
- Lacking potency
- Ask for it while kneeling
- Some opera queens
- Go out with
- It means nothing to Cherrie Moraga
- Wilde country
- South Beach mementos
- 1847 Melville novel
- Swallow alternative
- ____ Damon (Barbara Grier pen name)
- Bean and Burke waved theirs around
- Social activist Addams
- Big hole
- Muscle Mary's pride
- Examine the testes again, e.g.?
- Uranus and others
- Streisand's "The ____ Were"
- Traditionally limp joints
- Opened, as a fly
- Pains in the rear
- Rosie is one openly
- On ____ with
- Having forgot the Aqua Lube
- Bob Mould's "Fort ____ King Solomon"
- Meas. in a Nick Malgieri cookbook
- Don't ____ don't tell

Down

- Of an appendage in your face
- Porter's "Where ____ Life That Late I Led?"
- Climax at the end of an action film
- Always, to Emily Dickinson
- Allan of Minnesota and others
- Scotsman's skirt design
- Bring home the pork?
- Suffix with differ
- Morse's long one
- GLAMA award winner Valby
- Rosie's partner Kelli
- Paris, to Debussy
- "Exit to ____" (Rosie flick)

Answers on Page 25

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My Stars!

May 3-9



ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

Several planets are transiting the social sector of your chart, so please dear, cut the aloof act. Stop being so passive-aggressive with your friends. A Taurus needs your energy, baby.



TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

You have the chance to truly begin again when the New Moon falls in your sign on May 12. Come up with three life changes you want to make over the next six months. Write 'em down and get on 'em. A Scorpio wants to get on you.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Venus and Mars will be conjunct in your sign this week, which makes you the most popular diva in town. Call up someone who's previously said "no" to your overtures. Another Gemini answers "yes" to whatever you request.



CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

The new moon on May 12 falls in your house of friends and community. Force yourself to get more involved in the world outside of your comfort zone. You can change the world and change yourself with the help of a fellow Cancer.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

A bevy of planets in your friendship sector should make May an erotically exciting time for your platonic relationships. You've always had questionable boundaries. Well, you're just better than most at hiding it! An Aquarius can see beyond your facade.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

The new moon lands in your house of travel on May 12 and who knows where you will land in the coming weeks, my dear. Pick an exotic place to visit. Make it happen. Another Virgo wants to bunk with you.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

You may have to put more on the line if you want to get more out of a present relationship. A Sag wants to get to know you better, but you have to cut the superficial crap first.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

The new moon on May 12 falls in your house of love. Now more than ever, it's important for you to listen to your true desires. Stop making excuses. A relationship with another Scorpio brings out the pure animal in you — emphasis on "pure."



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You can be sure that a new colleague in your life is interested in more than your working relationship. You need to pick up on the subtle signs, baby. A Taurus is trying to get your attention.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

The new moon on May 12 falls in your house of creativity, sweetie. This means that you should do your artwork and show it, darling. You know you're not really that shy. A Cancer is going to surprise you in a most creative way.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

Venus and Mars liven up your fifth house and your cold heart this week, darling. Yep, you are finally getting in touch with the fiery part of your nature, you detached slut! An Aries knows that you are naughty by nature.



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

You've been carrying your angst around long enough, sweetie. This is your month to purge yourself of self-torture. Turn over a perkier leaf and see how much better you feel. Well, maybe not too perky. An Aries digs a bit of darkness, and that is your specialty.

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

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