

Ah, show tunes!

Three local venues offer musicals raging from campy to dramatic

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INSIDE



Dave Wilson, founder of Houstonians For Family Values, says he has the required 20,000 signatures to call for a referendum vote in November. Wilson wants the city's Charter to prohibit same-sex domestic partner benefits from being offered to city employees.

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Janine Brunjes (left), sits with Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown, who appointed her his liaison to the gay community. Brown was the keynote speaker at Tuesday's Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce meeting.

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What are you reading? Several new books may help you while away the waning days of summer.

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New trial ordered for gay death row inmate

Court says sleeping lawyer denied fair trial to Texas man on death row 17 years

by PETER FREIBERG

A federal appeals court ruled Monday that a gay man who has been on death row in Texas for 17 years should get a new trial because his lawyer slept during portions of the inmate's 1984 murder trial.

By a 9-5 vote, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit said Calvin Burdine, 48, was denied his right to a fair trial because his lawyer slept. The court, in a rare move, reversed a ruling by a three-judge panel of the court.

"The Supreme Court, has long recognized that 'a trial is unfair if the accused is denied counsel at a critical stage of his trial,'" Judge Fortunato Benavides wrote for the majority.

"When a state court finds on the basis of credible evidence that defense counsel

repeatedly slept as evidence was being introduced against a defendant, that defendant has been denied counsel at a critical stage of his trial," Benavides added.

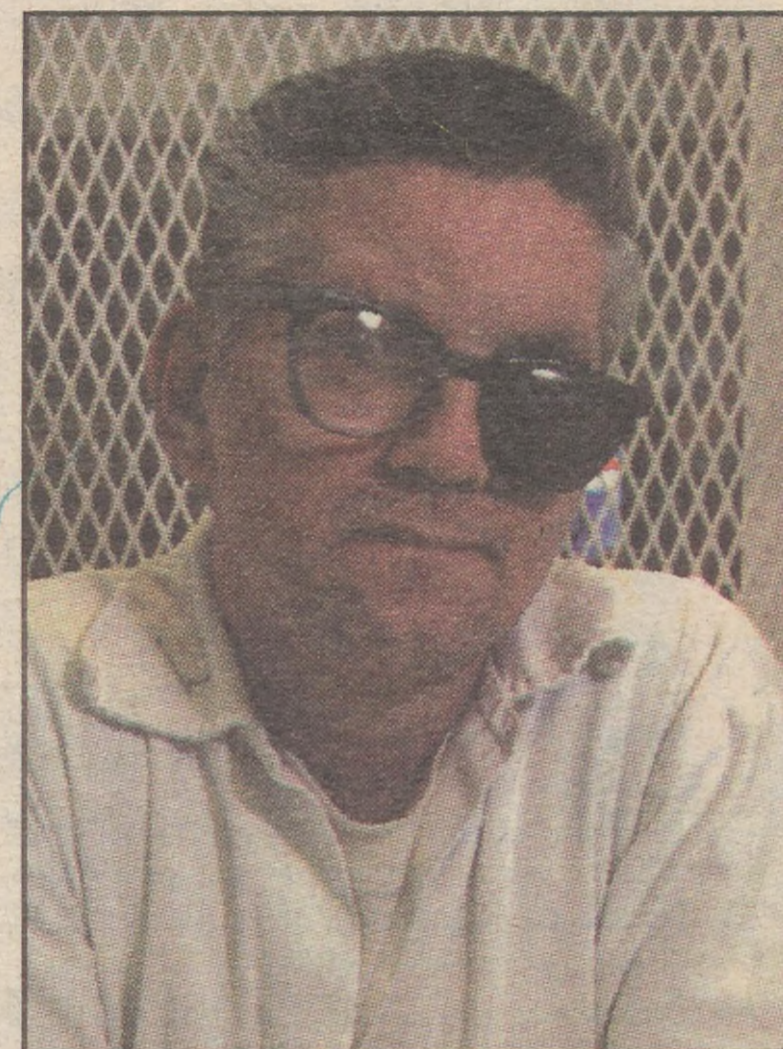
Robert McGlasson, an Atlanta attorney handling Burdine's appeal, said his client was "cautiously pleased" by the ruling. Burdine is incarcerated in Livingston, about an hour north of Harris County and Houston.

"He said he slept better [Monday] night than he's slept in years," McGlasson said. "He was quite relieved and pleased, but in some way he's immune to getting overly excited because of the fact that he's been through this up-and-down roller coaster ride so many times."

McGlasson praised the decision, saying, "The court did no more than affirm what we've been saying all along: That a sleeping lawyer is the same as no lawyer, and that a trial conducted under those circumstances violates basic notions of fairness and fair play."

The 5th Circuit did not rule on what McGlasson, gay legal activists and death

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Calvin Burdine, a gay Texas death row inmate for 17 years, may receive a new trial after a federal appeals court ruled Monday that he was denied a right to a fair trial.

Memory fading on AIDS

Disease experts decry lack of diversity in prevention programs, focus on ways to avoid new resurgence during conference

by ERIC ERICKSON

Passionate speeches from national leaders in the fight against HIV inspired a crowd of thousands of AIDS educators, researchers and doctors at the second National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta this week.

Their message was clear: New studies show the decline of full-blown AIDS cases has stagnated and prevention programs aren't reaching new minority groups as quickly as the disease.

Health experts spent the four-day conference sounding an alarm to keep the new trends from evolving into a new epidemic.

"Scientific evidence suggests there's a

resurgence [of HIV] among men who have sex with men," said Linda Valleroy, a Centers for Disease Control & Prevention epidemiologist who has conducted extensive research on men who have sex with men and spoke at the conference.

"My take on that is perhaps there is [a resurgence], but it doesn't almost matter because the important thing is how many people are getting infected right now," she added. "Please don't misinterpret me—people are just trying to figure out whether there's a resurgence, but to me, do I have to wait for there to be a resurgence, because we have such a bad situation now?"

The conference highlighted two emerging trends: The declines in the number of people contracting AIDS and those dying of the disease are leveling off, and more than 40 percent of HIV-positive Americans don't know they are infected until just before developing full-blown AIDS, sometimes missing out on a decade or more of critical treatment.

Both studies, researchers said, demonstrate that Americans are becoming more complacent about the disease.

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Cynthia Gomez, an assistant professor at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California San Francisco, said a lack of frank talk in prevention campaigns has helped feed the disease in women and youth.

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Anti-gay measure may come up for November vote

Conservative group leader claims to have enough signatures on petition

by D.L. GROOVER

The special purpose political action committee, Dave Wilson's pro-family Houstonians For Family Values, has apparently cleared a major hurdle in its petition-drive challenge "to prohibit same-sex domestic partner benefits for city of Houston employees and other privileges based on sexual preference."

HFFV is legally required to have 20,000 registered city voters sign the petition, which then places the amendment on the upcoming November ballot to be voted on by the general public. Wilson is set to announce at a Monday City Hall press conference that he has more than the 20,000 needed. He hasn't set a specific time for the event, but says it will be "sometime after noon."

"We've got well over 20,000, and they're verified, too," says a confident Wilson, who's previous history includes two other city charter amendment drives along with his political activist's career in conservative causes. After years of titling at City Council windmills, Wilson knows the shifting political winds, when to face them and when to show them your back.

He formed HFFV last Feb. 14 in response to the city's health insurance contract then in the process of being re-negotiated. Although Mayor Lee P. Brown put domestic partnership benefits on hold in favor of passing a broader city non-discrimination policy, Wilson nonetheless went full-steam ahead to cancel the former domestic-partnership issue once and for all by placing it before the voters.

If his petitions are declared valid, the following is the amendment to the Charter of the City of Houston that will be on the ballot in two months:

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Dave Wilson, founder of Houstonians For Family Values, claims to have the required 20,000 signatures on a petition for a ballot measure in November. Wilson wants the city's Charter amended to prohibit the city from offering same-sex domestic partner benefits for city employees, an idea Mayor Lee P. Brown put on hold earlier this year in favor of working on an anti-discrimination ordinance, which passed July 25.

Browns speaks to gay chamber membership

Mayor talks about non-discrimination, further changes in the city

by KAY Y. DAYUS

The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce demonstrated its considerable clout when it attracted Mayor Lee P. Brown as guest speaker for its regular monthly dinner meeting last Tuesday at the Crown Plaza Hotel in the Medical Center.

Surrounded by his entourage of bodyguards and aides, Brown arrived early and waited patiently until he was announced during the first course of the meal promising he would not talk too long because he knew everyone was waiting for the main course.

But for many of the 100-some members and guests at the dinner, Brown himself was the main course and with their hearty applause they expressed appreciation of his taking the time to come to speak to them.

Janine Brunjes, liaison to the Mayor for the lesbian and gay community, introduced Brown. Among other things, Brunjes noted that Brown was the first mayor to ride in the Pride Parade last year and again this year.

For his part, Brown said he was very pleased to be there and lend his support to the gay community. On the subject of the recent passage of the anti-discrimination ordinance he said the very idea of discrimination was wrong anywhere, particularly in government.

"It was the right thing to do. I have experienced discrimination myself," Brown said. "Government shouldn't discriminate against anyone for any reason. That's why we passed the ordinance."

> Continued on Page 13



Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown was the keynote speaker at the August meeting of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, held Tuesday at the Crown Plaza Hotel in the Medical Center.

Because where I go
from here is up to me.

**Think Ahead.
Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.**

Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

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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VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients

about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate
For the Treatment of Human
Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

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), Efavir® (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 (Cafegot® 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				
Body Weight		Number of	Number of	Number of
Kg	Lb	Level Scoops*	Level Teaspoons†	Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Five gay foster parents sue for privilege to adopt in FL

MIAMI—U.S. District Judge Lawrence King is expected to rule soon on whether a lawsuit filed two years ago by five openly gay foster parents should be dismissed or proceed to a non-jury trial, the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* and the *Orlando Sentinel* reported. The five gay men are challenging the state's 1977 law that prevents anyone who is gay, whether single or part of a couple, from adopting. This is the first case to challenge Florida's law in federal court, claiming it violates the equal protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. The state argues that the suit should be tossed out because the state has a right to legislate its "moral disapproval of homosexuality" and its belief that children need a married mother and father for healthy development, according to the *Orlando Sentinel*. But the ACLU, which is representing the plaintiffs in the suit, said almost anyone in the state can apply to adopt, including people who are single, or have a history of substance abuse or violence. A pretrial conference is scheduled for Friday.

CA politician apologizes for 'yanking' welcome for Scouts

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—An openly gay councilman apologized last week for persuading Berkeley's mayor to postpone a meeting with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops visiting from Japan. "I am truly sorry for the undignified yanking of the welcome mat at City Hall from the Japanese scouts," Kriss Worthington said, flanked by parents who held up a banner that said, "Berkeley scouting parents say no homophobia." The Japanese scouts and the Girl Scouts of America have no policy against gays, but the Boy Scouts of America bans gay leaders. Last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ban. Worthington objected to the city hosting an event with an organization he says discriminates against gays, and Mayor Shirley Dean decided to reschedule the meeting away from City Hall. Worthington apologized using the Japanese words for "I'm sorry."

Council member delays vote on anti-bias policy

FORT WAYNE, Ind.—An ordinance which would add sexual orientation to Fort Wayne's anti-discrimination policy was to be voted on Aug. 7, but City Councilman Tom Henry opted to delay the proposal a month to iron out concerns with its enforcement, the *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* reported. Henry said he will use the coming weeks to bring together local businesses and the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission (Metro), which investigates claims of discrimination, for discussion. Metro voted 4-3 in opposition to Henry's pending ordinance, stating that they agency would lack the ability to fine businesses found to be discriminating against gays. Henry did not include the authority to fine because sexual orientation is not listed in the state's non-discrimination policy. Metro's stance has led the agency's openly gay executive director, Leslie Raymer, to consider resignation, according to the *Gazette*. "My intent behind this ordinance is very simple, and that is to give every resident of this community the respect and dignity they deserve," Henry said.



Fort Wayne City Councilman Tom Henry will wait to introduce his anti-discrimination ordinance over concerns about enforcement.

IN play production opens amid demonstrations

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP)—A college student production of Terrence McNally's play "Corpus Christi" went on as scheduled last Friday amid shouting matches between opponents and supporters outside the theater. About 25 people protested the performance on the Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne campus, some holding signs that read "Repent: Turn or Burn" and "Jesus is Love But Hates Sin." Three people demonstrated in support of the play, shouting back at opponents. Christian conservatives consider the play blasphemous and a misuse of taxpayer money. Twice they asked federal judges to halt the production or move it off campus, but the courts sided with university officials who cited academic freedom in allowing the student-produced play. It was slated for a six-day run and features a character named Joshua who is growing up gay in modern-day Texas with 12 other gay male characters, most of whom bear the names of Christ's disciples. "I liked the way the story was told, and I liked the message—love one another," Suzanne Druehl of Fort Wayne said after the play.

Boston Boy Scout council rejects gay applicant

BOSTON (AP)—Mark Noel, a New Hampshire man kicked out of the Boy Scouts because he is gay, thought he had found a new home with Boston's Minuteman Scout Council after the group adopted an anti-discrimination policy. But the council leader said Noel, who applied last week, will be rejected because he was dismissed as a New Hampshire troop leader by the national office last summer after revealing in a newspaper editorial that he is gay. "We will not accept anybody who has had their membership revoked by the national council," Brock Bigsby, the council's executive director, told *The Boston Globe*. "I'm assuming they revoked it for a good reason." The decision comes a month after the council pledged to serve its 18,000 youngsters and 3,300 volunteers "without regard to color, race, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation, or economic status." Noel said he will appeal, citing the council's own policy.

—From staff and wire reports



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When you have issues to deal with, being gay shouldn't be one of them.

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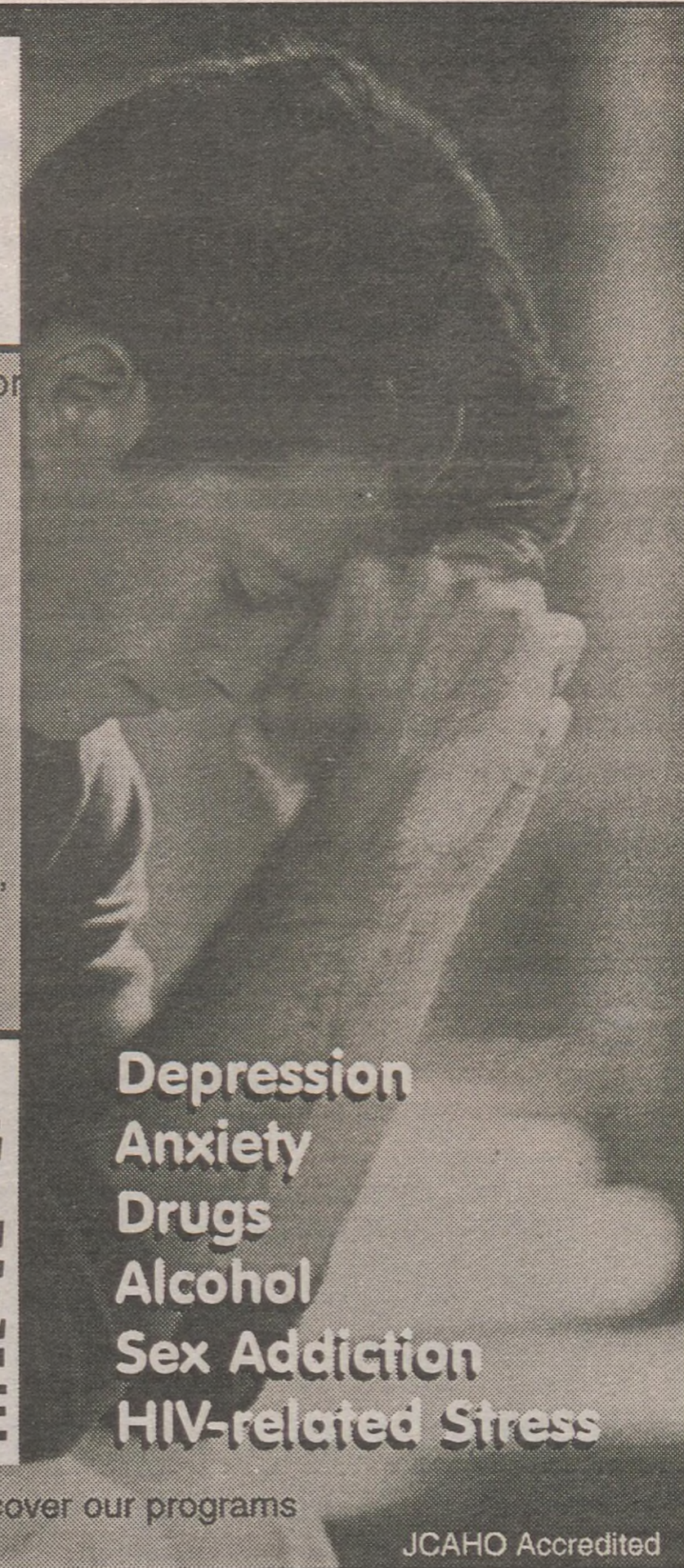
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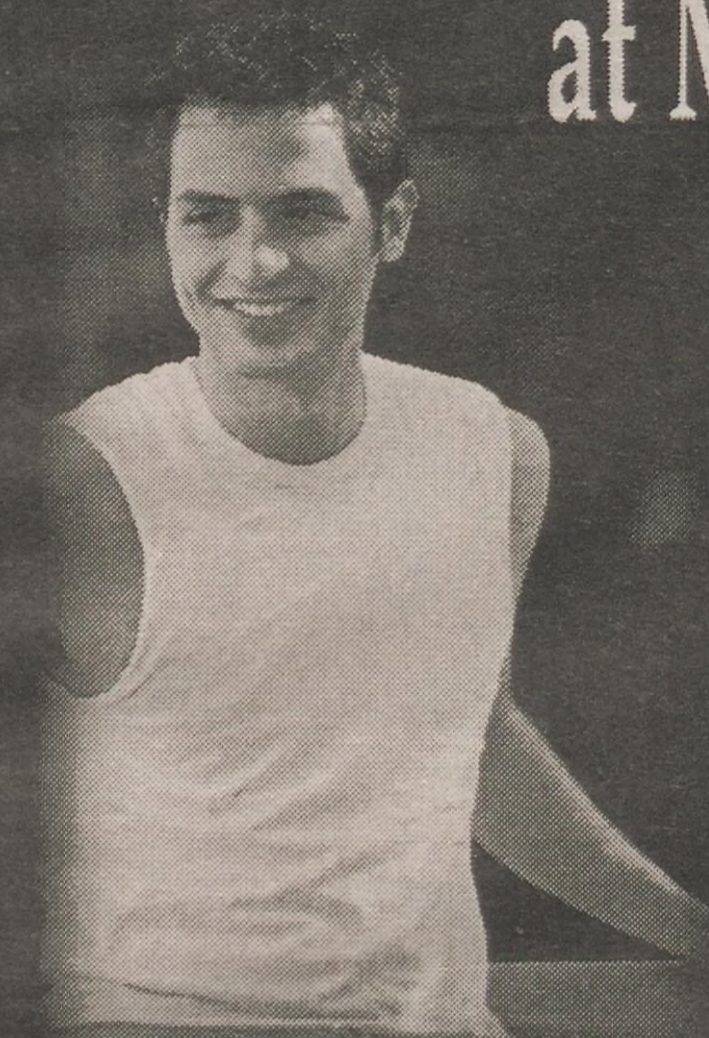
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Group intervention can reduce risky behavior, study says

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Group intervention can reduce risky sexual behaviors by HIV-infected patients, according to a report published in the August issue of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, Reuters reported. Dr. Seth C. Kalichman of the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and colleagues studied 332 HIV-infected patients, with each receiving a five-session group intervention program on safe sex practices or a similar program in which safe sex practices were not addressed. After six months, significantly less unprotected sex and greater condom use was noted in the safe-sex group compared with the control group, according to the study. Sexual behaviors that may endanger a non-HIV-infected partner were also significantly lower in the safe-sex group, the authors noted.

Quadruple therapy helps some after HIV drugs fail

NEW YORK—Quadruple therapy that includes several types of antiviral drugs can control HIV levels in many patients who have failed treatment with an earlier class of drugs, a new study shows. But the benefits of quadruple therapy must be weighed against the risk of serious side effects and the possibility that the quadruple treatment may limit future treatment options if a patient's HIV levels rebound, the study's authors cautioned in the Aug. 9 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Drug combinations containing protease inhibitors or nonnucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitors—two HIV drug classes—can cut HIV levels in the blood of as many as 90 percent of patients, Reuters Health reported. But the drugs are less effective for individuals who have already taken one or more HIV drugs called nucleoside. The results of the study "confirm the importance of prescribing, whenever possible, at least two drugs of new classes for patients who have already received treatment, so as to increase the likelihood of a sustained virologic response," according to Dr. Julio S.G. Montaner of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and Dr. John W. Mellors of the University of Pittsburgh.

Women's health advocate reintroduces mastectomy bill

WASHINGTON—U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), an advocate for women's health, has reintroduced the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, a measure that would require insurance companies to cover a minimum 48-hour hospital stay for patients undergoing a mastectomy, according to lifetimetv.com. It's about eliminating the so-called "drive-through" mastectomy in which women are sent home hours after surgery against the wishes of their doctor, still groggy from anesthesia and sometimes with drainage tubes still attached. Last year, more than half the House signed on to the bill, but it was never brought to a vote. Lifetime Television has put this bill on its Web page with a petition drive and has collected more than 225,000 signatures.



U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) has reintroduced the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, a measure that would help eliminate 'drive-through' mastectomies, she says.

'Highly active' therapy prolongs time without retinitis

LONDON—Researchers reported in the July issue of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* that highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) can significantly prolong disease-free intervals in AIDS patients with cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis, according to Reuters. Suzanne M. Mitchell, of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, and colleagues reported that in some patients "the lack of CMV retinitis reactivation after stopping anti-CMV maintenance therapy has been attributed to the use of HAART." Researchers conducted a study of 1,292 people with AIDS receiving HAART that included one or more protease inhibitors. In total, 53 patients developed CMV retinitis before starting HAART and 13 patients developed the condition after starting HAART. The researchers concluded that HAART "significantly prolongs the disease-free intervals in patients with pre-existing disease."

medical report

Warning on shellfish issued after CA deaths

LOS ANGELES (AP)—County health officials issued a warning to people with weakened immune systems and chronic diseases to avoid eating raw shellfish after two deaths were linked to a rare bacteria found in oysters. Two men have died in Los Angeles County of *Vibrio vulnificus* this month. Since June, three other people have been hospitalized in the county with the infection. The bacteria is generally found in raw oysters from the Gulf of Mexico and most severely affects people with AIDS, cirrhosis, hepatitis, cancer and diabetes. Heavy drinkers and people undergoing chemotherapy are also at risk. Officials said all five people with the infection had liver disease. The infection, which is fatal in 50 percent of all cases, can cause septic shock, skin lesions and gangrene that can require the amputation of limbs. People with healthy immune systems suffer such symptoms as diarrhea, abdominal pain and vomiting but generally recover.



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Please see Brief Summary for COMBIVIR on the following page.

BRIEF SUMMARY

COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

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

WARNING: ZIDOVUDINE, ONE OF THE TWO ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN COMBIVIR, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING NEUTROPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA, PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF ZIDOVUDINE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOPATHY.

LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING LAMIVUDINE, ZIDOVUDINE, AND OTHER ANTIRETROVIRALS (SEE WARNINGS).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: COMBIVIR in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

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

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine: The NUCB3007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy (zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)) to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm³ at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

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

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPIVIR plus Current Therapy (n = 896)	EPIVIR plus a NNRTI* plus Current Therapy (n = 460)
HIV progression or death	90 (19.6%)	86 (9.6%)	41 (8.9%)
Death	27 (5.9%)	23 (2.6%)	14 (3.0%)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRECAUTIONS:

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

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

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

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

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity:

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

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was administered orally at 3 dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

In mice, 7 late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (5 nonmetastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, 1 squamous cell papilloma, and 1 squamous polyp) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle-dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose.

In rats, 2 late-appearing (after 20 months), nonmetastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately 3 times (mouse) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately 3 times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung or any other organ in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (~1000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or ~450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine. It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans.

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

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

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

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

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C.

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

Lamivudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at

COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

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

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

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

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

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

Geriatric Use: Clinical studies of COMBIVIR did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy. COMBIVIR is not recommended for patients with impaired renal function (i.e., creatinine clearance <50 mL/min; see PRECAUTIONS: Patients with Impaired Renal Function and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations: In 4 randomized, controlled trials of EPIVIR 300 mg per day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (≥5% Frequency) in 4 Controlled Clinical Trials With EPIVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day

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

Pancreatitis was observed in 3 of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPIVIR in controlled clinical trials.

Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in 4 Controlled Clinical Trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day*

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

ULN = Upper limit of normal. ANC = Absolute neutrophil count. n = Number of patients assessed.

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

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

Endocrine and Metabolic: Hyperglycemia.

General: Sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), vasculitis.

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

Musculoskeletal: Muscle weakness, CPK elevation, rhabdomyolysis.

Nervous: Seizures.

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

OVERDOSAGE:

COMBIVIR: There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

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

Zidovudine: Acute overdoses of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, confusion, and 1 report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, GZDV, is enhanced.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is 1 tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

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

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

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

4,837,208; 5,859,021 and 5,905,082

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LA man sentenced to 10 years in prison for mailings

LIVINGSTON, La. (AP)—A man who pleaded guilty to mailing altered pictures of people involved in gay sex acts has been sentenced to 10 years in prison. Clifton Chisholm of Walker pleaded guilty Monday to 155 counts of obscenity. State District Judge Brenda Ricks sentenced him to 20 years in prison, but suspended 10 years of the sentence. Chisholm, 42, used a computer to superimpose faces of local teens on the bodies of people involved in sex acts in the photographs and mailed them throughout the parish. Others were left in restrooms at Walker High School. The sentence was generally in line with what most of the victims in the case wanted, said Assistant District Attorney David Guidry. A task force of 12 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies worked on the case. Chisholm's computer was found wrapped in garbage bags and hidden in a wooden area behind his residence, authorities said. Chisholm still faces similar charges in East Baton Rouge and Ascension parishes.

CO police upgrade charge, but won't call murder a hate crime

CORTEZ, Colo. (AP)—Authorities insist the beating death of a transgendered Navajo teen was not a hate crime, though charges have been upgraded to first-degree murder. Shaun Murphy, 18, of Farmington, N.M., was advised of the upgraded charge Monday. He was originally charged with second-degree murder in the death of Fred C. Martinez Jr. Martinez's bludgeoned body was found June 21 near Cortez. A preliminary hearing for Murphy was scheduled for Sept. 7. Prosecutor Joe Olt Jr. said testimony provided last week led to the amended charge. He declined to elaborate. Murphy was being held in the Montezuma County Jail on \$500,000 bail. Activists believe Martinez might have been assaulted because of his transgender identity. "It doesn't fit the criteria of a hate crime at this time," said Lt. Calvin Boggs, a Montezuma County sheriff's deputy. About 200 people attended an Aug. 11 candlelight vigil for Martinez, including Martinez's mother, Pauline Mitchell, and Judy Shepard, the mother of slain gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard.



First-degree murder charges have been made in the bludgeoning death of Fred C. Martinez, a transgendered Colorado teenager, though police say the incident is not a hate crime.

San Fran police to get trans sensitivity training

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The San Francisco Police Department has agreed to train new recruits and veteran officers to be more sensitive to transgendered people. The move comes amid accusations of bias against cross-dressers and transsexuals in a city noted for its tolerance of sexual variety. The department gave the training program the go-ahead at the request of community activists and the Office of Citizen Complaints, the city's official police watchdog agency. There is concern that officers have been less than respectful of transgendered people. The complaints range from deliberately using the wrong pronoun when addressing suspects to more serious verbal and physical harassment. Police Chief Fred Lau acknowledged that there is need for improvement and said most of the problems stem from misunderstanding and miscommunication.

WV judge says prosecutors must give witness summary

FAIRMONT, W.Va.—Marion Judge David R. Janes said Aug. 6 that prosecutors will have to give defense attorneys for Jared M. Wilson a summary of what key state witnesses are likely to say against the defendant during his murder trial, the *Times-West Virginian* reported. Wilson and others are charged with murdering Arthur C. "JR" Warren Jr., 26, an African American gay man from Grant Town. Warren was beaten to death July 3, 2000. His body was driven over several times in order to make his death look like a hit-and-run accident. Janes's recent statement forces the prosecution to divulge the witness summary, but does not force the witnesses, David A. Parker and an unidentified juvenile, to speak with the defense attorneys. Parker and the juvenile have already been convicted for their parts in the murder. Parker was given a life sentence last month, and will be eligible for parole in 15 years.

OH rainbow flag burner charged with assault

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A man has been charged with assault and aggravated menacing for splashing gasoline on a security worker at the Columbus Pride Parade, where he burned a Gay Pride flag. Charles Spingola, 45, had already been charged with open burning, a fire-code violation and first-degree misdemeanor. City prosecutors added the other charges last week based on accusations by Andrea Critchet, a parade security volunteer who said Spingola doused her with gasoline before telling her she was going to burn in hell. Jeff Redfield, executive director of Stonewall Columbus, said he is pleased the attorney's office is pursuing the matter. "His action does not represent freedom of speech, but violence," he said of Spingola. Attorney Thomas Condit, who represents Spingola, said his client will plead innocent to the new charges. Critchet told police she approached Spingola during the June 23 parade and told him to stay away from participants. Spingola then splashed her with gasoline, she said.

—From staff and wire reports



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VIEWPOINT

Bush fares poorly on six-month report

by LISA KEEN

At the start of the August recess, the White House issued a list of President Bush's accomplishments in his first six months. But the list reads like a poor resume:

He "unveiled" a "strategy" on energy and "directed" the defense secretary to conduct a review; he "unveiled principles for improving Medicare" and "sent Congress a plan to help Americans with disabilities." He "ordered Cabinet-level review of climate change" and "embraced" the Ford-Carter report on election reform.

We should be proud that, in the United States, anybody can grow up to be president; but, at regular intervals, this particular anybody stokes the suspicion that somebody other than himself is in charge.

"I'll be making that decision when—I'll be making that announcement when I'm ready to make the announcement," he said Aug. 6 in response to a reporter's question about federal funding for stem cell research. It is a complicated issue; but Bush's indecision had the look of a man stalling for time until someone could hand him the envelope, please, so he could announce the winner.

When he finally did "make the announcement," three days later, his aides seemed unusually eager to convince the public that Bush had worked hard to "arrive at his decision." They were probably reacting to the Time/CNN poll in mid-July that showed 54 percent believe Bush is "merely reacting to events," versus 39 percent who say he has "taken charge of Washington."

Of course, the Time/CNN poll was not the poll the White House chose to quote in issuing its six-month report card. Instead, the focus was on a Washington Post/ABC News poll that showed 59 percent approve of the president's performance.

If 54 percent believe he's "merely reacting to events" and 59 percent approve of his performance, perhaps this slim majority of Americans feels comfortable with a president who is "reacting" to and not running the show.

But he still doesn't do well on the actual six-month report card.

There were 19 items of "accomplishment" on the White House report card. Putting aside the "unveilings" and such ("fostering warm relations" with other countries, for instance), there were only six items standing.

Among those six, there were redundancies. "Campaign Finance Reform" (sending a proposal to Congress) and "Election Reform" ("embracing" the Ford-Carter proposal) equaled one, and since there hasn't really been any election reform yet, the list stood at four. "Tax Relief" (that's where the infamous tax refund comes in) and "Economy" (which the White House itself describes as "tax relief") are one and the same, so the list was really three items long. Having received my \$300 refund check,

I can declare that the younger George Bush has stimulated my personal economy to the tune of \$300 and thereby avoided his father's "read my lips" embarrassment. But depending on which economists' predictions are right, he may have a tax embarrassment of his own making.

That brings the list down to two "accomplishments": "Education" and the "Community & Faith-Based Agenda." Neither Bush's education bill nor his faith-based initiative has cleared Congress, but, for many of us, Bush's education bill has a pox upon it in the form of the anti-gay Boy Scout amendment. The White House said Bush didn't support adding any amendments, but Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) said he never got that call.

We may never learn who's really in charge on issues that concern us in the new Bush White House, but it's pretty clear that, more often than not, they are not working for us.

The faith-based initiative has cleared only the House and it, too, contains an anti-gay amendment—one the White House did support. In this case, the anti-gay amendment seeks to give religious charities exemption from local and state laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. It has run into such heated opposition in the Senate that Bush felt compelled to give at least lip service to civil rights laws generally and the right of states and local governments to enact them.

Still, it's hard to take comfort from Bush's expression of respect for civil rights laws. When opposition flared up on that amendment in the House, the president backed off only long enough to muster Republicans into the party line before advancing the measure through. And White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer's recent squirming on the issue suggests the administration might be quietly maneuvering troops once again.

At a routine press briefing Aug. 2, a reporter noted the president had said that he wants to support "all the U.S. civil rights laws" but Fleischer quoted Bush as saying he supports "all civil rights laws."

"Is there a distinction there?" asked the reporter.

"No," said Fleischer, "I'm talking about federal laws."

"Not state and local laws, which are the ones at issue in this provision?" asked the reporter.

"The President's statement, ... and I heard Senator [Joseph] Lieberman say it as well—[was] that we have to honor the civil rights laws, the federal civil rights laws," replied Fleischer.

"Lieberman," noted the reporter, "said we should honor all civil rights laws, including state and local."

"Yes, then, that question, I think—that is something that is going to go to conference, and the president is going to work produc-

tively with the members of the conference. He wants to get agreement on a faith-based bill that is in accordance with the federal civil rights laws."

Whatever "is" is, President Bush's advisers on the faith-based initiative most certainly know that federal civil rights laws do not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. So, it would appear someone in the Bush administration has learned from his predecessor to parse language to evade the enemy.

This is where grading President Bush's first six months in office gets most tricky—figuring out who made gay people the enemy. Bush met with Log Cabin Republican members during the campaign—an accomplishment unprecedented

for a Republican presidential nominee. And he uttered a call for "tolerance" at the convention. But, after Bush's first six months in office, we're left wondering what he meant by "tolerance" and who is in charge of implementing that call.

Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson gets the credit for Bush's appointment of an openly gay AIDS czar and recommending Bush keep the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV & AIDS. And Secretary of State Colin Powell appears to be the driving force behind the Bush administration's unanticipated willingness to address the AIDS epidemic in Africa. It even appears political strategy. Karl Rove gets the blame for trying to barter away civil rights laws in exchange for the Salvation Army's support on the faith-based initiative.

But just as often, we can't tell who's pulling the strings. For instance, in his first six months, Bush signed proclamations declaring "Women's History Month," "Black History Month," "Irish-American History Month," "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month," and "National Poison Prevention Month," just to name a few.

But, in June, when it came time to consider a "Gay History Month" proclamation, who advised Bush to balk, saying such a proclamation would amount to "politicizing people's sexual orientation"? Who got to tell Helms about Bush's "no amendments" preference? Who neglected to remind House Republicans to respect local and state civil rights laws?

We may never learn who's really in charge on issues that concern us in the new Bush White House, but in these first six months, it's a fair conclusion that, more often than not, they are not working for us.

Lisa Keen is senior political correspondent for *Southern Voice* and can be reached at lkeen@washblade.com.



VIEWPOINT

Take Bush's rebate check and pay it forward

by PAULA MARTINAC

For many of us on the left, President Bush's tax plan is not much more than a shameless payback to the wealthy and corporate interests that helped place him in the White House. So what could lesbians and gay men who didn't vote for Bush or his deplorable agenda do to protest the so-called "tax relief" checks that are arriving in our mailboxes?

I never wanted a tax rebate. I wish the government had kept all those \$300 checks (which, by the way, will cost the country about \$40 million just to cut and mail) and applied them to something useful, like shoring up the sagging Social Security and Medicare systems, increasing funding for AIDS research, or beginning the process of building a national health-care system.

The smug satisfaction that Bush, Vice President Cheney and other Republicans have shown about the tax cut is especially galling. On the first day the checks went out in the mail, Rep. Bill Thomas (R-Calif.) of the House Ways & Means

Committee suggested that taxpayers write notes to Bush telling him how they spent the money and how much they'd like the chance to do it again. It can't be long now before Bush starts announcing what thankful Americans have purchased with their rebates.

Like many lesbians and gay men, I'm in the privileged position of not really needing extra cash at this moment in my life. That doesn't mean I won't need it someday. Millions of Americans who don't have pension

is no longer as attractive to wealthy Americans as it once was.

Because so many Americans are being left out of the "relief" (oddly enough, a synonym for welfare), a number of dot-orgs have been piecing together a protest in which as many people as possible donate their checks to charity.

One site is TaxRebatePledge.org, which asks Americans who oppose the tax cut to pledge their rebates to groups actively working against the Bush agenda. The site doesn't take any money

raising money from private and corporate sources than have our large national organizations.

A few, like the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., are well-known names. But many obscure groups, like Outsmart in the Midlands, which operates programs and social services for queer youth in Columbia, S.C., could also put tax-rebate donations to good use.

You can always make a donation on your own or help a less fortunate friend. However, consider this: Protest is most effective when it's not done in silence. No matter what course you take, remember to send an e-mail to Bush and to your representatives in Washington detailing how you used your check.

But instead of thanking Bush and saying, "Please, sir, I want some more," let him know you're angry. Here's an example you should feel free to steal:

"Mr. Bush: Like a majority of Americans, I didn't vote for you, and I do not believe you have a mandate for your policies. I reject my share of the tax cut, which is money that would have been better spent on social programs. I am therefore donating my tax rebate to [fill in the blank] to help defeat you and your agenda and to aid all the lesbians and gay men who stand to be hurt by your conservative policies."

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com.

Because so many Americans are being left out of Bush's 'relief,' a number of dot-orgs are organizing protest sites where people can donate their checks to charity.

plans at work could deposit their checks into an IRA for the future, when Social Security may be bankrupt and every dollar saved will matter.

And then there's the nagging fact that the people who could use the rebate most right now will be receiving absolutely nothing. In addition, many of these same poor and lower-income Americans rely on social services and programs run by nonprofit organizations whose federal funding is now in grave danger of being funneled to religious-based programs instead. Things could get even tougher for nonreligious charities when the estate tax is phased out over the next decade and charitable giving

itself and reportedly cost its creator only \$500 of his own funds to set up. One page of the site suggests a variety of nonprofits to donate to, including many familiar gay groups, like the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

Helping.org goes even further by accepting your contribution on behalf of the group of your choice. What's valuable about this site is its extensive list of nonprofit groups, including some local gay and AIDS organizations that may find themselves squeezed by cuts in government spending. These groups, too, have generally had more difficulty

INFO

Helping.org
www.helping.org

TaxRebatePledge.org
www.taxrebatepledge.org

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

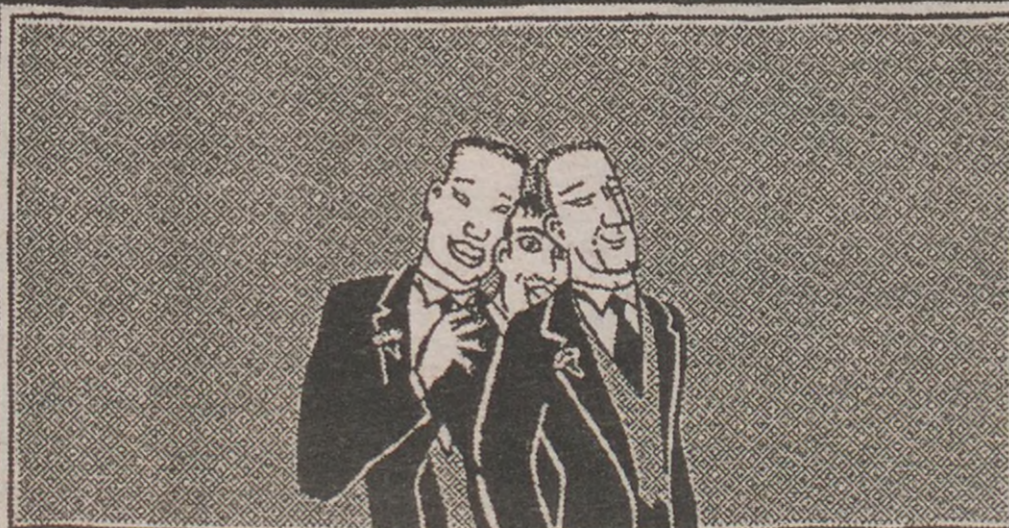
by eric orner

Three Grooms and a Funeral

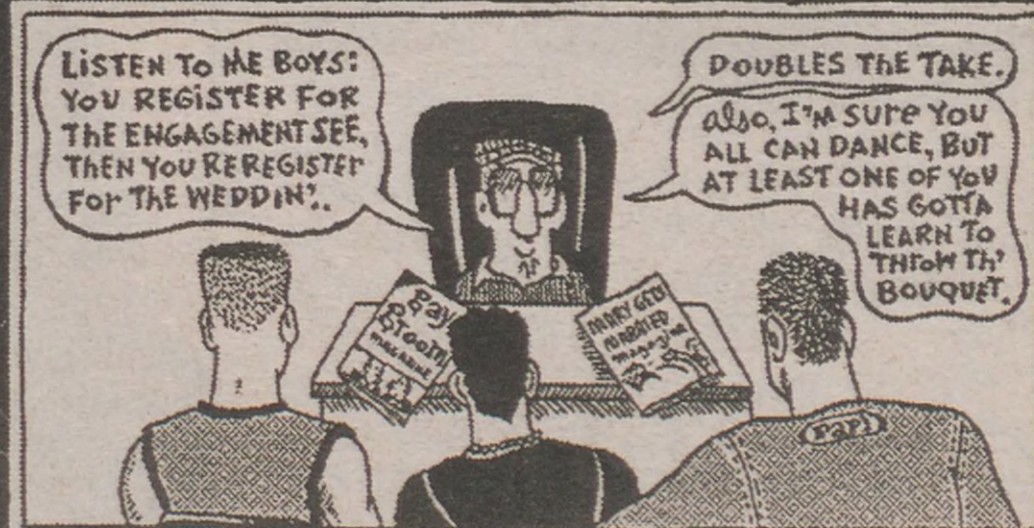
Tim, Carlos and Jason Chang are together again. They are throwing themselves a party.



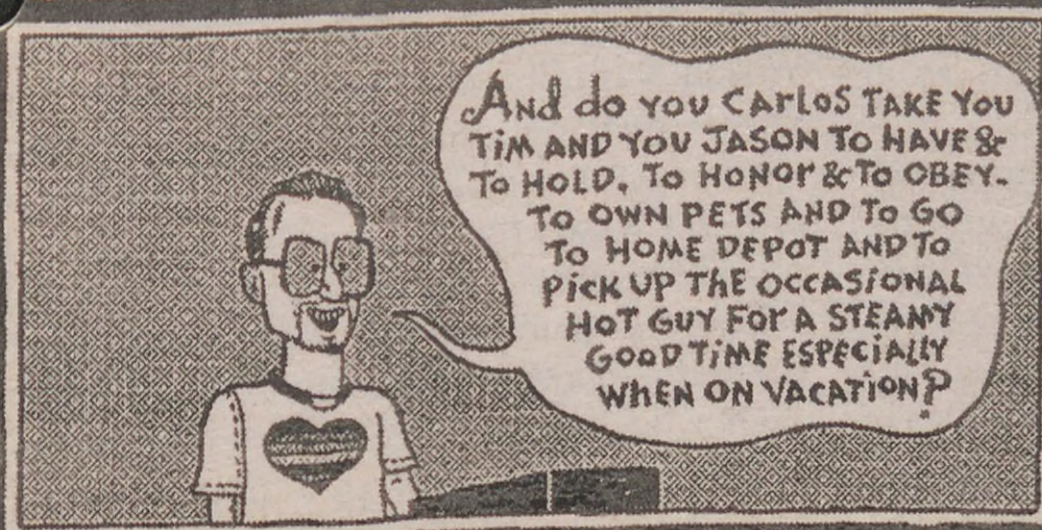
It's an Engagement. The Wedding is penciled in for a year from today.



Uncle Junior Soprano couldn't have planned a more perfect shakedown.



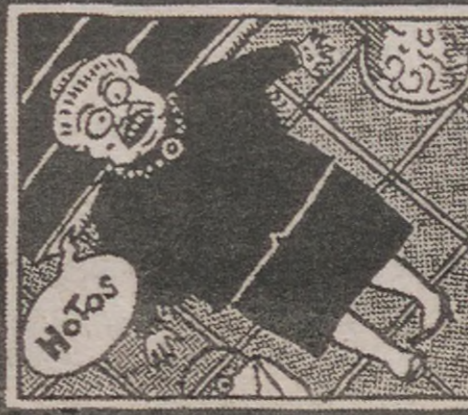
At the party, a quack clergyman called Reverend Jerald Justice conducts a made up ceremony.



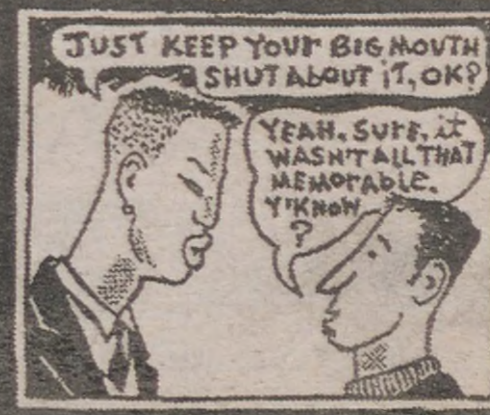
Carlos's Grandma, Doña Alvarez, is in from Mexico DF. She is a bit underinformed.



Sadly, comprehension & deliverance arrive for Doña Alvarez simultaneously.



Jason corners Ethan by the punch bowl. Hisses a warning. The two of them tricked secretly a while back.



DA can ask Supreme Court to take case, re-prosecute or release Burdine

>Continued from Page 1

penalty opponents have said was homophobia on the part of both prosecutor and defense lawyer during the original trial.

In arguing for the death penalty and against life imprisonment following Burdine's conviction, the prosecutor told the jury, "Sending a homosexual to the penitentiary [for life] certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what he's asking you to do."

In a 1995 brief asking that Burdine's conviction be overturned, four gay and civil liberties groups asserted, "The prosecution clearly implied that... life behind bars would be pleasant for a gay person—in effect portraying the gay inmate as a 'kid in a candy store.'"

The prosecutor also said, in seeking the death penalty during the sentencing phase of the trial, that Burdine's 1971 Texas conviction for sodomy, a consensual offense, was evidence of his "likeliness to commit criminal violent acts in the future."

McGlasson said Joe Cannon, the sleeping defense attorney who has since died, was himself homophobic, failing to challenge the prosecutor's biased statements to the jury as well as prospective jurors who exhibited anti-gay bias.

In 1999, a federal judge overturned Burdine's conviction because of evidence of his defense attorney's sleeping. But the judge did not rule on the allegations that homophobia influenced the death sentence.

Matt Coles, executive director of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Project of the ACLU, said it wasn't surprising the judge did not rule on the homophobia question, since he seized on the "easiest" way to overturn Burdine's conviction—the sleeping lawyer evidence.

Because the judge didn't deal with the homophobia allegations, they were not considered when the state appealed his decision. A three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2-1 last October to reverse that decision and reinstate the conviction. That action led the full



Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal, who has said he wants to re-prosecute Calvin Burdine for his role in a 1983 killing, said he was unaware that the original trial included anti-gay statements.

court, in a rare move, to consider the case, resulting in Monday's 9-5 ruling.

In a dissent from the majority ruling, Justices E. Grady Jolly and Jerry Smith said the record "makes clear that Burdine is plainly guilty of capital murder" and that there is "no suggestion that the outcome in this case would have been any different on account of the allegations now made" of his attorney's sleeping.

McGlasson said Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal now has three choices: He can ask the U.S. Supreme Court to take the case, he could release Burdine or he could re-prosecute, which could either mean a full re-trial or a negotiated plea bargain.

"We should retry the case because I basically think it's an affront to the first jury who tried the case and heard the facts to not do it again," Rosenthal told the *Dallas Morning News*.

But Rosenthal told *Southern Voice* Tuesday that he had not yet read the decision and had not decided how to proceed. He said he did not believe there was "conclusive evidence" the lawyer had slept during portions of the trial.

Asked about the prosecutor's statement to the jury about sending a homosexual to prison for life, Rosenthal said the question was "the first I've ever heard of this."

The ACLU's Coles said it was unlikely the Supreme Court would agree to a request by Rosenthal to take the case.

The 5th Circuit majority, Coles said, based its ruling on findings of fact—that the defense lawyer slept. That court, he noted, is "one of the more conservative federal circuits," and the Supreme Court like the appeals court, would find it "hard to stomach the state's argument here that you have effective counsel if your lawyer's asleep."

Coles urged the district attorney to "think long and hard whether it makes any sense to prosecute this guy again."

"He's already served more time than his co-defendant," Coles noted. "The death penalty in his case, given what they did with the other defendant, never made a lot of sense."

Burdine's conviction was for the 1983 stabbing murder of W.T. Wise, an older Houston man who associated with young male hustlers. Wise let Burdine stay in his trailer and had a brief sexual relationship with Burdine.

The two men had an acrimonious breakup. According to the *Houston Chronicle*, Burdine told police he moved out because Wise wanted him to work as a prostitute.

Burdine was subsequently beaten up by a group of young men and was told Wise had put out a contract on him. He then went to Wise's trailer with a friend, Douglas McCreight, to stop Wise's aggression and get money from him.

According to Burdine, after talking with Wise, McCreight stabbed Wise, killing him. The prosecution maintains that each man stabbed Wise once.

HIV prevention programs not reaching minorities as quickly as disease

>Continued from Page 1

Since 1993, the number of new AIDS cases reported fell each quarter, dropping from a total of 20,000 eight years ago to 10,000 in 1998, according to the CDC.

In 1994, the CDC reported 12,000 deaths each quarter. That number continued to drop to about 4,000 deaths each quarter in 1998.

In the last three years, the numbers have stabilized, worrying AIDS educators and experts who fear a complacency surrounding the disease could lead to an increase in the number of new cases.

At the same time, new HIV cases among ethnic minorities have been on the rise. Over, new HIV infections have leveled off at about 40,000 a year.

"We really are at a very critical point in this epidemic," said Dr. Helene Gayle, the CDC's AIDS chief, according to the Associated Press. "We must work to ensure that the plateaus that we've reached will not remain plateaus—or worse, given some of the trends that we're seeing, evolve into a newly expanding epidemic."

The statistics suggest that the next wave of progress in fighting AIDS lies in expanding HIV testing, improving access to quality care and finding new treatments



Linda Valleroy, an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, warned of new evidence that suggests a resurgence of HIV among gay men.

for patients in whom the virus resists drugs, Gayle said, according to the AP.

The National HIV Prevention Conference takes place every other year, alternating with the International AIDS conference. As startling statistics show HIV infections touching people in every corner of the country, many AIDS educators said this week that they want to see

continued, even increased emphasis on prevention efforts.

"Twenty years into the epidemic, prevention interventions need to help all men who are having sex with men [to] think through decision-making and risk-taking, including those marching in Gay Pride marches and those who never will," said Phil Wilson, executive director of the African American AIDS Policy & Training Institute in Los Angeles.

During a passionate speech Tuesday, Wilson reminded conference attendees that AIDS prevention efforts can no longer be tailored to a specific segment of society.

"If messages are only designed for people who are white or for people who are out or people who live in the north, those of us who do not have that experience won't understand those messages simply because of the stigma of HIV," Wilson said. "It is absolutely imperative and essential that message resonates from those who you are trying to reach."

Several speakers during the conference outlined a host of demographic groups, other than white gay men, who need to be the focus of heightened prevention efforts.

Cynthia Gomez, assistant professor for the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California San Francisco,

asked attendees if they are surprised at the groups of people seeing an increase in the number of AIDS cases.

"Youth. Is this a surprise since we've been unable to speak to youth openly about sex and about sexuality and about condom use?" Gomez said. "Young gay men. Is this a surprise? Again, individuals who have not been allowed to embrace their sexuality."

"Have we been able to help young, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer youth? Not very easily. Has someone said, 'Here's somebody to help these kids?'" she added.

Women and black gay men also need better prevention programs targeted at them, Gomez said. Wilson echoed that plea.

"When gay, white men thought AIDS was primarily a white, gay disease, they wanted everyone to pay attention," Wilson said. "Unfortunately, a very few, very expensive, very toxic drugs that work for some people, some of the time, does not a cure make."

Wilson also spoke about a CDC study released earlier this year that outlined a dramatic increase in the number of black men who have sex with other men and contracted HIV.

Wilson to hold press conference at City Hall Monday

> Continued from Page 2

Except as required by State or Federal law, the City of Houston shall not provide employment benefits, including health care, to persons other than employees, their legal spouses and dependent children; nor shall the City provide any privilege in promotion, hiring, or contracting to a person or group on the basis of sexual preference, either by a vote of the city council or an executive order by the Mayor. Further, the City of Houston shall not require entities doing business with the city to have any of the above benefits or policies.

If any portion of this proposed Charter amendment is declared unlawful, then such portion shall be removed and the remainder of the Charter amendment will remain in effect. Any ordinance in conflict with this section of the Charter is hereby repealed and declared invalid.

Although this amendment is viewed by the gay community as deeply anti-gay, Wilson is adamantly opposed to such a label.

Anti-gay is a total mischaracterization of what we're doing. What we are is pro-traditional family and pro-traditional marriage... We're not anti-gay.

—Dave Wilson, founder, Houstonians For Family Values

"Anti-gay is a total mischaracterization of what we're doing," he says with conviction. "What we are is pro-traditional family and pro-traditional marriage. We want to protect and preserve that relationship, which we consider to be the cornerstone of any successful society: the standard family and the standard marriage. And I kind of resent the fact that we're called anti-gay because that's not what we are. We're not anti-gay."

Neatly tied into 100-petition packets, boxes containing the precious amendment signatures will be delivered after noon Monday, Aug. 20, to City Secretary Anna Russell, whose Herculean task will be to count and verify the signatures on every petition.

"They're checked against the voter

lists to see if they're registered voters," says Russell. "I haven't seen his petition so I don't know what information he has on it. The data on the petition helps you verify whether John Doe is John Doe. I don't make any decisions until I see them, and then if I have any questions I discuss it with Legal. And I might mention, if it does come in and I start checking it, I do not give updates."

Wilson foresees no problem at all with his 200 packets. He understands they must be above reproach.

"We have valid signatures. When you sign those petitions, sometimes they don't have the cert [certificate] number, so on every signed petition we've looked up the number and written it on the petition. We've double checked the address

with the person signing it to make sure it's all valid.

"We've probably got 30,000 signatures in total, somewhere around there; we've spent hours and hours verifying. It'll be real easy for the city to verify. We've done this three times [petitioning to amend the city charter]. If the city throws out one petition we take down there I'll be surprised."

How long will this process take? Depends on the petition, says Russell.

"Some petitions are easier to check than others," she explains. "There's no procedural manual. We don't even run any tapes or anything until we get through. We just wait until we finish it. I like to wait until I have the facts, then I'll give them out. I give the Mayor and the City Counsel my report, and everybody will find out at the same time."

Wilson is pleased with the successful result of his six-month drive and looks forward to November for a validation of his conservative views. He's jumped the first hurdle. Can he win the race?

"Monday's the big day. Then, it's up to the voters."

Chamber gearing up for Empower in October

> Continued from Page 2

Brown went on to talk about how far Houston has come in the last few years, especially downtown Houston. "Houston's downtown is not coming back; it is back," he said with reference to the new Astros arena, the groundbreaking for the new basketball arena and the new convention center hotel, as well as the coming of light rail to the city.

The GLBT Chamber is growing and changing just like the city of Houston, Michael Tolleson, chamber president, said. The group is currently celebrating an increase in membership and the recent hiring of Coy Tow as executive director.

"At this point, we have about a couple of hundred entities as members, but with the individuals from corporate business, we have closer to 350," said Tolleson.

Chase Bank, Compaq, Wells Fargo and Kroger on Montrose Boulevard are all represented at the chamber, he said. And if Tolleson has anything to do with it, his vitality and enthusiasm will make the chamber grow even more and increase its power, "not just in the GLBT community, but to show the worth and value of our dollar."

"I see the chamber really growing. I see us having more impact. I see us being a source for referrals and information; almost like a travel agent for people from other areas circulating honest information about businesses," said Tolleson.

Tolleson said that most people outside the gay and lesbian community often think of gay-owned businesses as only bars or

I see the chamber really growing. I see us having more impact.

I see us being a source for referrals and information; almost like a travel agent for people from other areas circulating honest information about businesses.

—Michael Tolleson, Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce president

bookstores, when in fact gay-owned businesses encompass much more.

"We are doctors, dentists, accountants, etc. We're in all businesses. If you think of a business or industry, we are there," he said.

Tolleson said he believes strongly in the mission of the chamber and is passionate about promoting it. He sees himself and Tow as visionaries ever striving for better things in the future.

"There are visionaries and maintainers in this world," said Tolleson. "The visionaries sees something bigger and better for the GLBT community. The maintainer is good and we need them, but the visionary pushes it forward. Coy is a visionary."

Tow, as one of the chamber's founders in 1996, "has a feel for it," said Tolleson.

The chamber's premiere event, Empower 2001, is just on the horizon. The "gay expo" which is slated for Oct. 14 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, is expected to draw around 7,000 visitors.

Billed as "one of the largest community expositions in the nation for GLBT con-

sumers," Empower features business expositions, job and health fairs, exhibits on sports and outdoors, visual and performing arts, non-profit volunteer opportunities, a classic car show, educational seminars and a fashion show.

Tolleson said that Budweiser is a major sponsor for Empower 2001. "We are really proud of this event. It promises to be even bigger and better than last year."

The chamber is hosting a party the night before Empower for booth holders, chamber members and their guests and Brown will once again be in attendance.

"The mayor will be there again. I am very, very happy for him to be so supportive. We have had (Democratic State Rep.) Debra Danburg and (Houston Councilwoman) Annise Parker as guests at our meetings. It shows we can attract good speakers. It shows where our clout is. We are loyal and powerful to the people we are loyal to," Tolleson said.

Although Tolleson is more than halfway through his term as president,



Janine Brunjes, the city's liaison to the gay community, sits next to Mayor Lee P. Brown at Tuesday's Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce meeting. Brown spoke to the group about the recent passage of a more inclusive anti-discrimination ordinance for city employees and other changes within the city.

which ends in December, he said he will still push and promote the chamber. "I want us to be bigger and more informed within the community. The more recognition we have, the more effective we are."

The chamber's next general dinner meeting is Sept. 11 and guest speaker is Councilwoman Annise Parker.

INFO

Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce

713.523.7576

www.gghlcc.org

PVA launches Web site, supports candidates

Progressive Voters in Action assisting Edwards, Parker with City Council bids

by ELLA TYLER

"Whoever has the most names wins."

That's the message Dave Fleischer, who teaches political skills for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, preaches. Alex Moura and Grant Martin, founders of Progressive Voters in Action, heard Fleischer's call and organized PVA in 1999. Their goal was to build a list of 100,000 Houston voters who can be relied on to support progressive causes, including gay rights issues.

• See Anti-gay measure story Page 2

Today, the group has an executive director, Moura; two employees and two interns, an ethnically and culturally diverse group of volunteers, a new Web site and the names of 27,000 voters who say they will vote against any anti-gay ballot proposal. And PVA may have its next battle on the horizon.

Conservative Dave Wilson, founder of Houstonians For Family Values, claims he has the required 20,000 signatures on a petition calling for an election in November to amend the Houston City Charter to forbid same-sex domestic partner benefits for city employees. Wilson began the name-gather-

ing process six months ago.

Wilson plans to deliver his petition to City Hall on Monday, where the task of verifying the signatures will fall to City Secretary Anna Russell.

The ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in Houston city employment, could be overturned by voter referendum, as occurred in 1985, but Moura said that nearly 1-month-old measure appears to be safe.

"A petition to overturn an ordinance must be submitted within thirty days after the ordinance passed, which was July 25, and we have heard of no organized effort to get such a petition signed," Moura said.

Moura isn't planning his vacation yet, though. PVA is supporting two Houston City Council candidates, incumbent Annise Parker and Ada Edwards.

"The conservatives have promised a fight over domestic partner benefits whenever it comes up, and they could think of something else," Moura said. "These campaigns help us gather names to prepare for that. You can't begin organizing the month before the election.

"Wilson could bring up a charter amendment at any time. The law says only that the signatures must not have been collected more than six months ago.

Parker is running for her third term as an at-large City Council member. Edwards is a candidate for the District D City Council spot being vacated by Jew Don Boney.

"We have not endorsed Edwards," Moura said. "We do not make endorsements. That is the function of the GLPC (Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus). The GLPC does a lot of very important things that we do not do. They screen and endorse candidates, for example, and do voter registration. We work with the GLPC, but we are very different."

Moura said that the PVA Board decided last November to help Edwards in her campaign.

"Our goal is to build the list, and we do that in the context of concrete issues and candidates who represent those values. Ada is known in the community for her work on the Ida Delaney case and on HIV AIDS education. She was the only candidate out there at the time."

The PVA Board is made up of Maria Gonzalez, Lynne Huffer, Tamara Jones, Martin and Moura.

Moura said he's excited about PVA's new Web site. It's prominent D V A N icon sends visitors off to information about making donations, volunteering, getting an activist kit and news. Its home page contains links to Parker's and Edwards' Web sites.

Obituary

Richard Earl 'Rick' Kittrell



Richard Earl "Rick" Kittrell, 58, died Thursday, Aug. 9, at St. Luke's Hospital. He had a heart attack the previous Sunday afternoon and did not recover. "We had been at brunch that morning," his close

friend Cassandra McCory, said.

Kittrell began selling real estate in the late 1960s and established Kittrell Realty in the '70s. His blue Kittrell Realty signs dominated the Montrose landscape until he closed the agency in 1983. Most, if not all, Montrose real estate agents selling during the real estate boom of the late '70s and early '80s worked for Kittrell at some point in their careers.

He is survived by his brother Joseph Kittrell of Houston, two sisters, Margaret Carpenter and Marcia Faye Elmore of Mobile, Ala., and very close friends McCory and Bob King.

"I would go with Rick to visit his family in Mobile and they adopted me," McCory said. "They were very close, like Southern families are.

The funeral was held in Houston on Aug. 12 and he was buried in the family plot in Bayou La Battrie, Ala. on Wednesday.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Colt 45s at P.O. Box 66804, Houston, TX 77266-6804 or St. Lukes Hospital.

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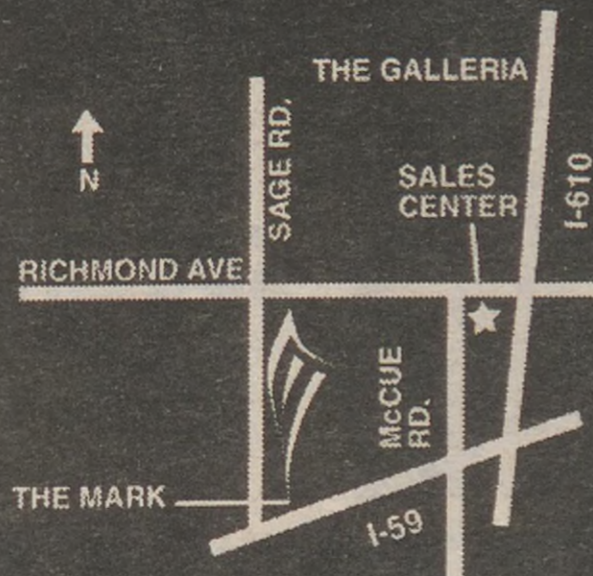
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Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

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Houston



Bienvenue's production of Jerry Herman's 'La Cage Aux Folles' offers expert choreography, great performances and campy fun.

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Three venues stage vampy, campy, dramatic musicals

by D.L. GROOVER

After an introduction welcoming the audience to the notorious and dangerous drag nightclub La Cage, the curtains part. The theme "We Are What We Are" vamps in pizzicato anticipation. The chorus girls, those infamous Cagelles, undulate in silhouette. The lights come up. All is pink: the spangly costumes, the Sally Rand ostrich fans so adroitly positioned, the light itself. Mylar streamers frame the stage. All is aglitter. Coyly, the chorines reveal their treasures—and their talents—as they strut and sing their stuff.

It's a pace-quickenning magical opening that only happens in the province of the Broadway musical—brazen and shameless, like these naughty but nice gypsies with a secret. This smashing beginning is but one of the sheer delights to be savored at Bienvenue's nifty little production of Jerry Herman's LA CAGE AUX FOLLES.

This 1983 Tony award-winning musical is justly famous for being the first ever Broadway gay musical. Fit for the matinee crowd from Long Island, it delivered a tangy glimpse into the netherworld, seasoned by liberal goodness and a heart-felt plea for tolerance, all while relishing the sight of glamorous men in glamorous drag. Albin (Ken Williamson) is the screaming queen of queens, but his soul is all-encompassing. Georges (Christian DeVries) is the top, the "plain homosexual," whose love for his partner still brings a blush to his cheek after 20 years. The Cagelles are a world unto themselves.

The Little Room Downstairs world premiere production, 'Disparate Ingredients,' walks a fine line between the dramatic and the musical with just a few missteps along the way.

> Continued on Page 18



Infernal Bridegroom's latest installment in its continuing 'Tamalalia' series, regrettably, gives its talented star Tamarie Cooper little to do.

Summer Reading

New tomes cover everything from celebrity to mystery

by ELLA TYLER

I've been delinquent about writing a "Beach Reading" piece, but there's enough of summer left that the idea of lying by the pool reading a book sounds very enticing. Now that the children are back at school, it might even be quiet enough.

Here's some of the books I've enjoyed this summer. Even though I don't follow the entertainment business, I had fun with "Hollywood Urban Legends" by movie critic Richard Roeper. It reveals the "true facts," rather than the widely believed (and much more interesting) stories about popular movie, music and TV personalities.

For example, Cher has not had a rib removed, Marilyn Monroe was not a size 16, and Mama Cass did not choke to death on a ham sandwich. This might be the only book I ever write about that is excerpted in the National Enquirer. If you sneak a peek at the Enquirer when you're at the grocery store, you'll like it. Roeper is co-host of "Ebert & Roeper and the Movies" and writes a syndicated column, so it's much more acceptable to be caught reading it.

Local gay author Dean James, a mystery expert, had his second mystery, "Closer Than the Bones," published this spring. It is traditional English house-party mystery (think Agatha Christie) that he has set in a Mississippi mansion and populated with writers and assorted other eccentrics.

Six months before, at a party at the house, a guest drowned in suspicious circumstances. Her plan to publish her memoirs threatened to reveal deep secrets of each of the other guests. The party has been reconvened so that amateur detective Ernestine Carpenter, a retired teacher, might unmask the killer. It is a pleasant, easy read with interesting characters and a likable lead character. One of its main virtues as summer reading is that it is a challenging enough mystery to keep your attention, but not so complex that it demands 100 percent concentration.

> Continued on Page 21



'Disparate Ingredients' not perfect, but worth watching

> Continued from Page 17

As Albin, Williamson gives a defining performance, and is certainly just as lovely as Broadway-originator George Hearn. Amply proportioned, when all painted, gowned and coifed, Williamson bears an uncanny resemblance to Rosemary Clooney, which isn't as bad as it sounds. He's every inch the diva, swirling his train or swathed in terrycloth turban.

The comic highlights belong to Omari Tau Williams as Jacob, the swishy maid/butler of the household, whose characterization whether in fuzzy wuzzy wig or Louis XIV mufti is hilariously perfect.

In the extreme close-up intimacy of the Bienvenue, the feminine illusion of the Cagelles is difficult to maintain, but the girls give it a game try and succeed in making us forgive, if not forget.

The expert choreography is by Andy Clements, who knows how to transform a six-Cagelle kick line into a phalanx of Rockettes. The only misstep is the young lovers' Fred and Ginger homage; the dancers just aren't up to such smooth effortlessness. The production flows by as if on casters, thanks to the greased efficiency of director DeVries, whose portrayal of Georges is needed unflappable calm next to Albin's fussy tornado.

If you've never seen this show live, or only know it from Mike Nichols' frumpy non-musical version, hasten to Bienvenue to experience the joy and the mascara firsthand.

Tamalalia 6

"What's the password?" asks the gun moll with a wink before parting the curtain and allowing you to enter the low keylight nightclub/theater. We're in the world of speakeasies, suckers, temperance busters and Gatsbys. We're rubbing elbows with fluffy-headed chorus girls who can tap dance on your heart; we meet old time gangsters who resemble Al and Bugsy, even Cagney and Bogart.

We're also in the world of Tamarie Cooper and Andy Nelson, responsible for the loony tune series "Tamalalia" that Infernal Bridegroom Productions whips up every summer. With each edition, this entertaining cult showcase becomes more bizarre and hilarious, continuing and building upon the previous shows. Last year's was the acme, with Tamarie caught in a nowhere existence in the Woodlands until she Sits 'N Spins into personal history.

Edition 6, though, has become mainstream: a slight Broadway show with tepid Broadway book.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the IB Orchestra, music director Anthony Barilla, and zippy lyrics by Nelson, the cartoon characters sing at the drop of a Fedora, for which we're grateful. But there's something missing, something essential to the spell this show casts so effortlessly: it's big Tamarie's heart.

The show's funny for a while, but the

effusive Ms. Cooper, IBP's Rubensian Imogene Coca and Duse combo, has nothing to do.

Although she taps up a storm and choreographs the Mack Sennett chases with silent movie pizzazz, she's basically unfulfilled. This is her valentine to the roaring '20s, but in her generosity to the other players, she's forgotten to send one to herself.

Come back, Ms. Cooper, come back.

Disparate Ingredients

A musical with thoughts in its head has to walk a delicate balance: too few, and the work seems skimpy; too many, and it becomes confusing and overdrawn.

Richard Laub's world premiere musical unveiled at Little Room Downstairs has much to applaud: passion and conviction, incredibly powerful performances, a slick production. What it doesn't possess is coherence. Somewhere between acts I and II, another story occurs which has the same characters, but now we're in the realm of the symbolic, where meanings are implied, where actions flow unnaturally. It's not wrenching, but enough of a difference in tone to be jarring and slightly off-putting.

The music and lyrics are first-rate throughout, but suffers from a heavy dose of Sondheim-itis: you won't leave the theater humming. The songs are slick and/or powerful, especially the ones for Mother, and Laub's incredible talents are obvious,

but why have memorable ballads been banished from musicals?

The actors are as good as they get—revelatory, really—and the ensemble work is above reproach, thanks to the crack direction under Marcy Bannor and the musical direction by Michael Harren.

"Disparate Ingredients" is good, but not perfect. Not yet, anyway. But go see it for all that it does accomplish with such theatrical flair and ease. A vote for this show will not be wasted.

INFO

La Cage Aux Folles

Through August, closing date TBA
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Tamalalia 6

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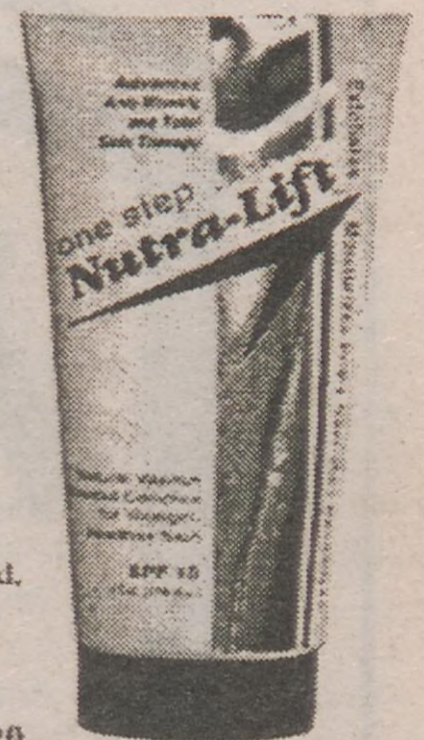
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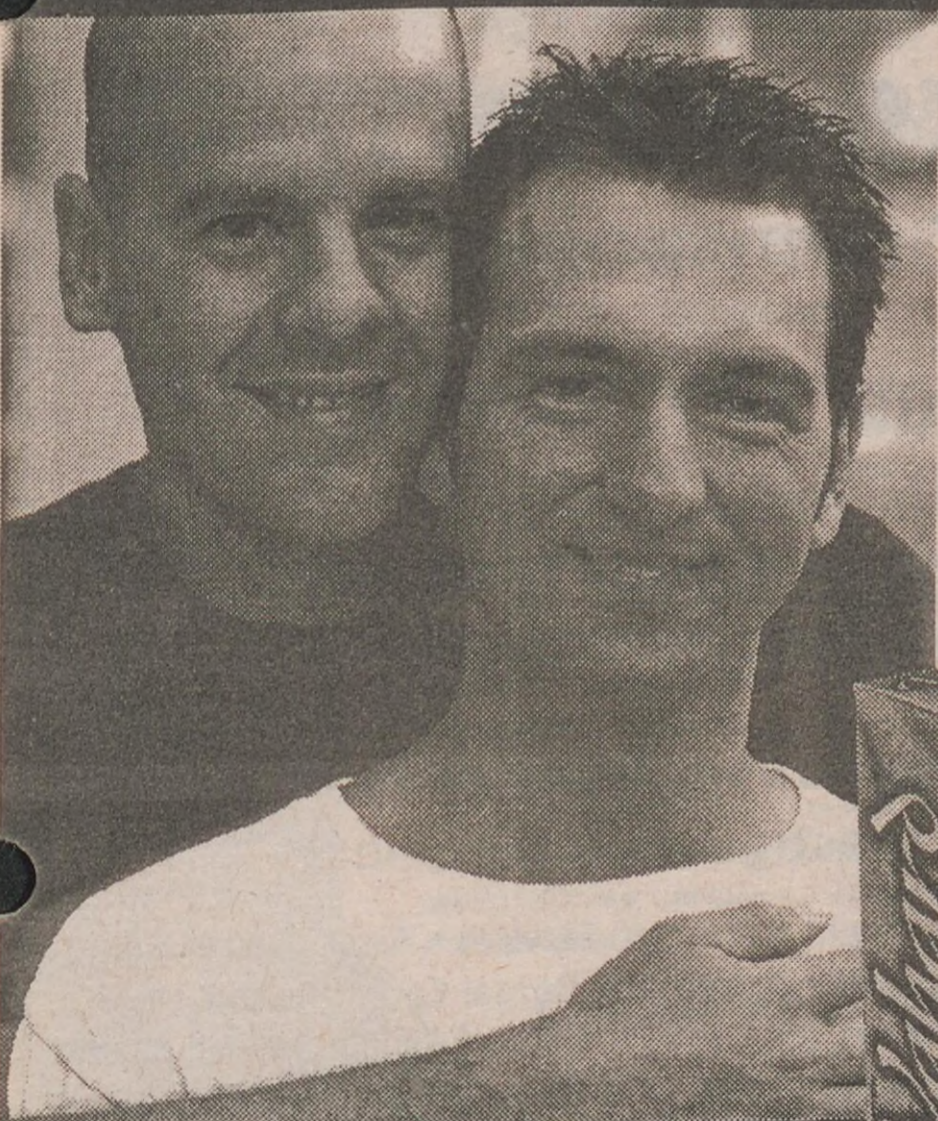
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'The Last Blue Plate Special' written by former Houstonian Padgett

➤ Continued from Page 17

James also has a short story in "Confederacy of Crime," edited by Sarah Shankman. It's a real chiller about a boy and his mother. Anthologies are great vacation books. They can be read in fits and starts without losing any story line and introduce authors you might not have read before.

"Rebel Yell," edited by Jay Quinn contains a variety of stories by contemporary gay Southern authors. It comes highly recommended by Greg Herren, who used to write a fitness column for the Voice and now edits Lambda Book Report.

I'm still reading Abigail Padgett's "The Last Blue Plate Special," and one of the reasons is that I don't want to finish it. I like the main character, Blue McCarron, too much to give her up. I read the beginning and the end, and I'm dawdling through the middle. McCarron is a social psychologist who lives in an abandoned motel at the edge of desert outside San Diego and makes big bucks as a consultant on shopping behavior. She is a lesbian.

She is working for a female city council candidate who is getting death threats. Such threats are common, McCarron learns, but these are made more menacing by recent events. Two local elected

officials, the women who encouraged our candidate to run for office, have recently died of apparent heart attacks. The coincidence is too much for McCarron who convinces the police to become involved.

The characters are all interesting—Blue's lover an African-American woman who is a fan of C/W dancing and is a forensic psychiatrist; her assistant, who is a gay black man and ex-con; and the police officers who are remarkably un-homophobic. The mystery is challenging and well presented, but the charm of this book is McCarron's asides about people, events, and social behavior.

Padgett lived in Houston briefly in the early '80s, and this book is dedicated to local activist Iris Sizemore.

On the other hand, I have zipped through "The Myth of Excellence: Why Great Companies Never Try To Be the Best at Everything" by Fred Crawford and Ryan Mathews. It talks about companies, consumers and marketing, and it's a rarely entertaining business book. It's a "must read" for anyone in retail and interesting for anyone who is just a shopper.

Based on this test, I'm taking Michael Nava's "Rag and Bone," which will be the finale to the Henry Rios series, and Felice Picano's "Onyx" to Dallas with me this weekend.

Bayou Calendar

Odyssey 2001

"Come see community activists sing and dance," proclaims the flier for this musical. We subscribe to Han-Net so we're well aware of how community activists sing and dance. Perhaps, a better incentive would be to know that the evening is a heart-felt benefit for the Bering Support Network, a counseling and support group for people with HIV/AIDS. Bering & Friends Productions presents a musical history of the Bering Church. Directed by David Stotlar, it's a celebration that's good for you; that'll also make you feel good, perhaps uplifted, about your neighbors. Some of the singing/dancing activists include David Barron, Eileen Buerkert, Jim Carter, Linda Enger, Nancy Hall, Jason Sechrest, Valerie Silk and Roger Woest.

Tickets are \$25/person and tax deductible. Aug. 18 @ 6 p.m. is a gala dinner for \$75.

Aug. 17, 8 p.m. Aug. 19, 8 p.m. Aug. 20, 3 p.m. Bering Church, 1440 Harold Street

CATS' yard sale

No, not those tabbies. This is the Community Awareness for Transgender Support (or C.A.T.S.) yard sale, benefiting the 52nd Street House in Galveston—the only shelter in the U.S. dedicated to transgender individuals—and the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. The gates open at 7 a.m.(!) just like a real yard sale. Good stuff aplenty from books to clothes to who knows what. Don't get there any earlier,

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Last chance to see:

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One of Shakespeare's least performed works, this early history play could have been phoned in if Will had cellular. But the artists at Houston Shakespeare Festival, especially Joel Sandel as the King, Lillian Evans as a she-wolf of an Elinor, his mother, and Philip Lehl's self-serving Faulconbridge, work wonders with this rarity. You won't have another opportunity to see this play again for some time, I assure you, so take advantage of the free admission and get yourself some culture.

Aug. 17, 8:30 p.m.

Miller Outdoor Theatre, Hermann Park 713-284-8350

Heart of a Woman

Robert Edward Williams' country/western flavored comic BBQ of a play is lip-smacking good in the capable dramatic hands of Anne Quackenbush, Drake Simpson, and Deborah Hope. This play has heart, literally, and Hannah goes in search of one—her dead husband's. What she finds is heaven. So do we.

Through Aug. 18

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September 8/9

Gay and Lesbian Couples

\$155 per couple

Understanding and Improving Love Relationships

Most couples leave this workshop with better communication skills, reduced frustration and blame, specific plans for increasing happiness, greater compassion for themselves and their partners, increased certainty about their relationship, tools for shaping a happier future, and improved ways for working through the hot spots.

September 29/30

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

That's Italian

Romano's offers authentic New York style pizza and more

by KATHREEN LEE

You decide you want Italian for dinner. Great! From the glut of restaurant choices Houston has to offer, you've managed to at least whittle down your options to one cuisine type. You also decide you want an Italian place that's cheap, serves great food, quick, casual (as in T-shirt-and-Bermuda-shorts casual), and without obligatory valet parking.

You've just narrowed down the possibilities almost to the point of elimination.

But don't fret. Amongst the slim pickings, there stands out one restaurant that easily satisfies all of the above prerequisites. ROMANO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT boasts "timeless authentic Italian food" and New York style pizza unequivocal to any around.

For those not from New York, those unfamiliar with the culinary art of pizza-making, or those who think that a New York style pizza is anything like "The Big New Yorker," here's a simple primer on the characteristics defining a "New York style" pizza. Features include a thick puffy, yet crunchy, outer crust that soon tapers into one that's thin and crispy.

The crust is almost always slightly burnt to add flavor and texture, and unlike many other types of pizzas, pans are not used in the cooking process. Instead, the crust is hand-tossed and cooked directly on the oven (or a hot stone) without pans, aluminum foil, or any other accessories. While grease may be a standard and expected element of pizzas, New York style pizzas generally should not have enough pliant crust to absorb gallons of soluble lard.

Romano's home made pizzas precisely fits the above specifications. Chef's behind the counter continuously toss fresh crusts into the air. With the exception of old stand-bys like cheese and pepperoni which are always available immediately, Romano's specializes in custom pizzas which you can watch being tossed and furbished to your personal wishes. Ingredients range from a wide variety of meats (sausages to chicken), vegetables and cheeses which you can customize. And like all New York style pizzas, the slices are pieced into sizes an Italian mama would cut for her growing bambino.

In addition to pizzas, Romano's also offers a diversity of Italian dishes such as Chicken Parmigiana (\$8.95), hot and cold subs (\$4.95-\$6.95), and pasta dishes. Every night, Romano's offers dinner specials (\$6.95) such as lasagna, manicotti, beef cannelloni or eggplant Parmigiana, which also come with garlic

ROMANO'S Italian Restaurant



Romano's Italian Restaurant
1428 West Gray
713-526-1182


FOOD FILE

Food: 

Service: 

Value: 

Scene: 

 Opt for bread, water at home
 OK, if you really must
 Fine for most
 Worth the drive, so live a little
 As good as it gets

bread and a house salad. The supple and warm bread is brushed with only a subtle hint of butter and garlic so as to not overwhelm the palate.

Furthermore, their salad, served with slices of cheese, pastrami and olives, comes with Romano's own house Italian dressing, which provides the perfect combination of vinegar, oil, parsley and oregano to give the salad a tangy punch.

With Romano's prices, a party of five can easily polish off a hearty dinner for under \$50 dollars. Furthermore, since Romano's is located immediately adjacent to the out-of-service movie theater (thanks to the monopolistic mega cinema complexes nearby) in the once-bustling shopping complex on West Gray, parking is ample and hassle-free with no scurrying valets to tip for parking the car in a lot three feet from where you're standing.

For those who expect this New York style pizzeria to be the mangy yet homey hole-in-the-wall, you'll be slightly disappointed. On first glance, the gleaming counter space, the blue, purple and yellow frosted glass geometric lamp shades, empty built-in beverage racks and portraits of picturesque landscapes scream Starbucks.

But once you get a whiff of the steaming dishes, perceive the rhythmic toss and slice of pizza, and hear the owner address his customers as "hey buddy" in a thick New York Italian accent, you know you're in for the real McCoy.

° Sea libre! Para que la libertad en Cristo sea una realidad en su vida

Este es el primer recurso en español escrito por esta popular autora y líder de conferencias para mujeres. Este estudio de 10 semanas se basa en la historia de la cautividad de los israelitas según se describe en Isaías; pero en un nivel más personal, establece algunos paralelos con los tipos de esclavitud moderna contra los que los creyentes tienen que luchar cada día. Al ayudar a los cristianos a reconocer en qué partes de su vida están trabajando el enemigo y al animarlos a caminar cada día con Dios, este estudio muestra cómo pueden ellos hacer de la libertad en Cristo una realidad en sus vidas.



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Rev. Bernard Barbour

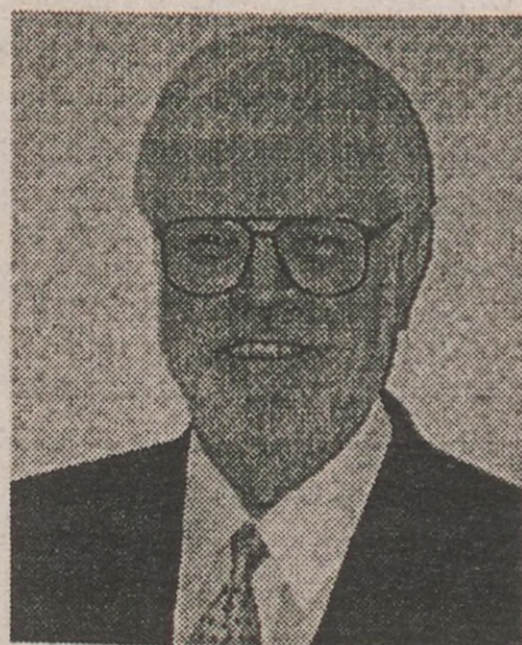
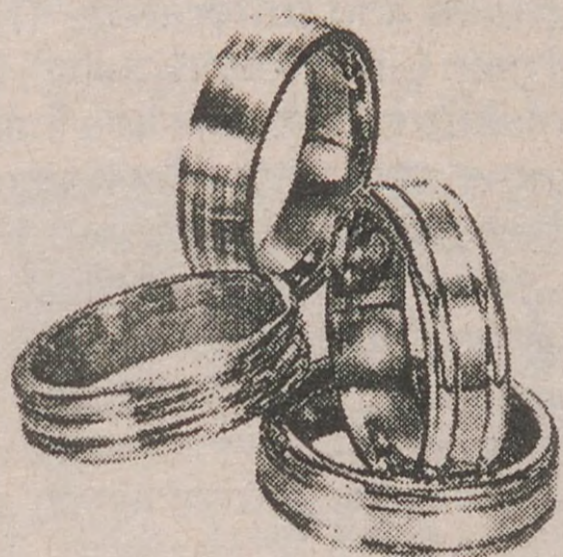
Bishop Kelly is the first African-American woman to be elected bishop in the United Methodist Church. Kelly's work for social justice has been recognized with numerous honors and awards. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference honored Kelly with the Grass Roots Leadership Award and the Martin Luther King Jr. "Drum Major for Justice" award.

She has also earned the Black Achievement Award by Ebony magazine and has been included in USA Today's "Fifty Black Role Models," in Ladies Home Journal's "100 Most Important Women in America," and in a nationwide touring exhibit of the nation's most outstanding black women (conducted by the Corcoran Gallery of Washington D.C.)

In October 2000, Kelly was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

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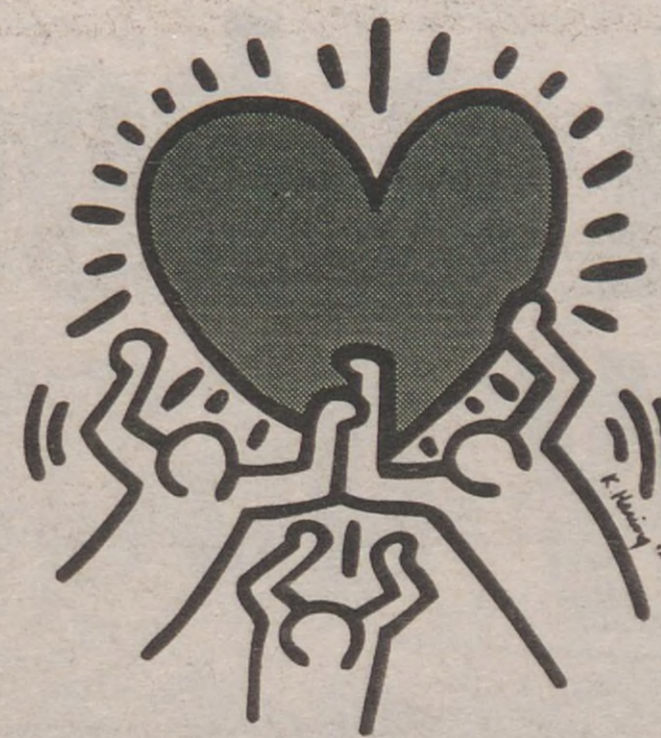
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"quote/unquote"

compiled from staff reports

"Mowing your lawn is against nature."

—Singer Rufus Wainwright, who is openly gay, responding to a characterization of homosexuality by Rev. Lou Sheldon, of the Traditional Family Values Coalition, on CBS' "Politically Incorrect"



Rufus Wainwright

"Our show is reliable. It's like, when you're hanging out with your friends in a bar, you know? You go, 'Hey, you faggot!' You don't mean, 'Oh my God, I hate gay people! Let's go out and smash them in the head with a hammer.'"

—New York DJ Anthony, one half of the prime-time disk jockeys on WNEW-FM, to *Rolling Stone*, which named them 'Hot Shock Jocks.' Anthony and his partner Opie, who signed a syndication deal reportedly worth \$30 million, recently told a female guest on the show, "You know, I'd 'F' you in the 'A' right now. I'd take my 'D,' rub it all over your 'Ts' and blow my 'S' all over your face. Open up, you wily bitch."



Shawn Colvin

"A lot of people think I'm gay. I wish I was. I tried it, a long, long time ago. It was in New York. I felt like I was driving the wrong car. I like guys."

—Singer Shawn Colvin, during a Washington, D.C.-area concert on July 31

"They say everybody should have the right to be in the Scouts, but everybody has the right to feel comfortable, too. A lot of people don't feel comfortable around homosexuals."

—Greg Gutta, Jr., a Boy Scout interviewed by *Newsweek* at the 15th annual Boy Scouts Jamboree, attended by more than 30,000 other Scouts

"I think as long as they stay off of you, they're fine, that's all. I don't think people should be kicked out for just being gay."

—Another Boy Scout, Noah Kinney, 15, interviewed by *Newsweek* from the same troop; troopmate Gutta nodded in agreement as Kinney spoke

"In September of 1999, a 13-year-old Arkansas boy named Jesse Dirkhising was drugged, tied to a bed, raped, tortured and suffocated. The perpetrators of this crime were two homosexual men (since found guilty), but this despicable crime was not reported by the mainstream media as a 'hate crime.' ... This probably was not the first 'hate crime' committed by homosexuals in the last. ... If Jesse Dirkhising were a gay youngster who was tortured and killed by straight men, whether for 'hate-crime' reasons or just for fun, the story would have been on every front page in the nation within 24 hours."

—Letter writer David J. Dreith, writing to the *Omaha World-Herald* after another reader wrote in saying, "I don't remember the last time I read about homosexuals committing a hate crime"

"When I see that scene now, I think, 'Wow, it looks pretty loving, like two girls who adore each other and have created this energy and trust, and that's the natural extension.' But on the day we shot it, we'd kiss, [Director] David [Lynch] would say cut, and then we'd immediately fall on our backs and laugh and feel like the biggest dorks."



Laura Elena Harring (left) and Naomi Watts

—Actress Naomi Watts, on her love scenes with Laura Elena Harring in "Mulholland Drive," the new film by David Lynch (of "Twin Peaks" fame), in the Aug. 30 issue of *Rolling Stone*

"It's hard to say nothing when something like this is going on in our community. ... When my 6-year-old daughter asked me what 'gay' means, I told her it was a lifestyle that God has said is wrong. ... They've reserved 24 private rooms at the Holiday Inn and are targeting these younger people. It's Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."

—Rev. Lew Phelps, of the Calvary Chapel in Pocatello, Idaho, criticizing planned Gay Pride events that he said were designed to recruit 17- to 20-year-old men and women into "the gay lifestyle"

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For additional information, please contact the church office at 713.528.6756

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August 26	"What Good News Have You Shared Lately?"	Rev. Janet Parker
September 2	"God's Chosen Fast"	Rev. Janet Parker

Church Service begins at 6:30pm and nursery is available for small children. Mid-week "Home Group" services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

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



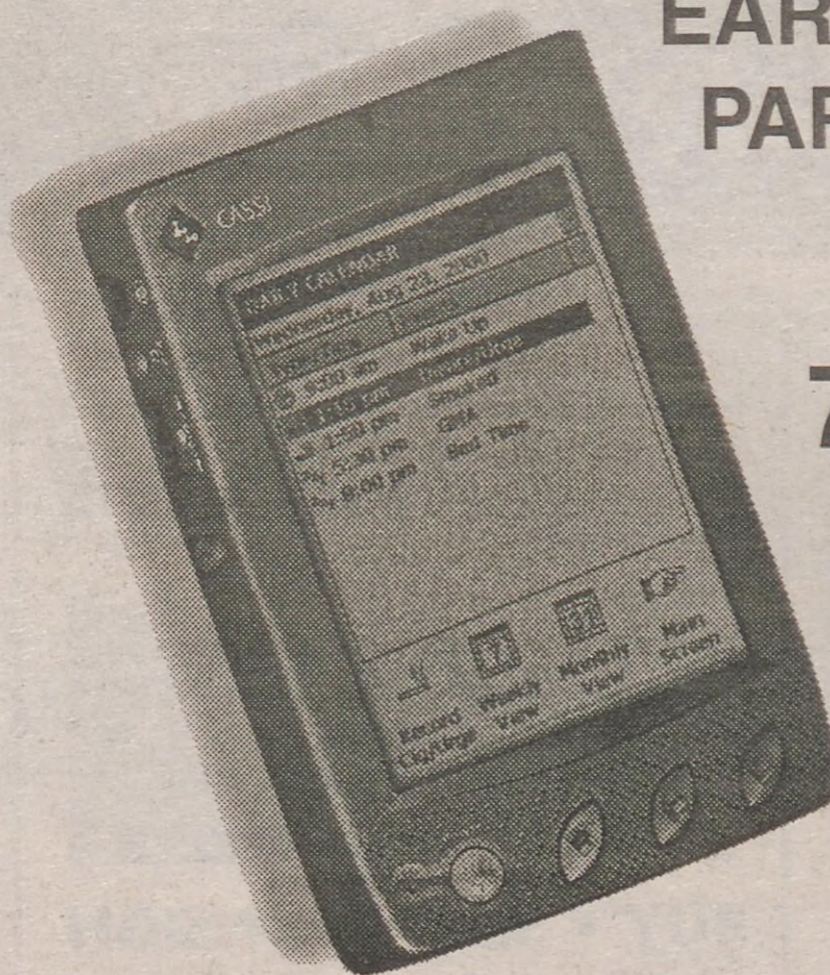
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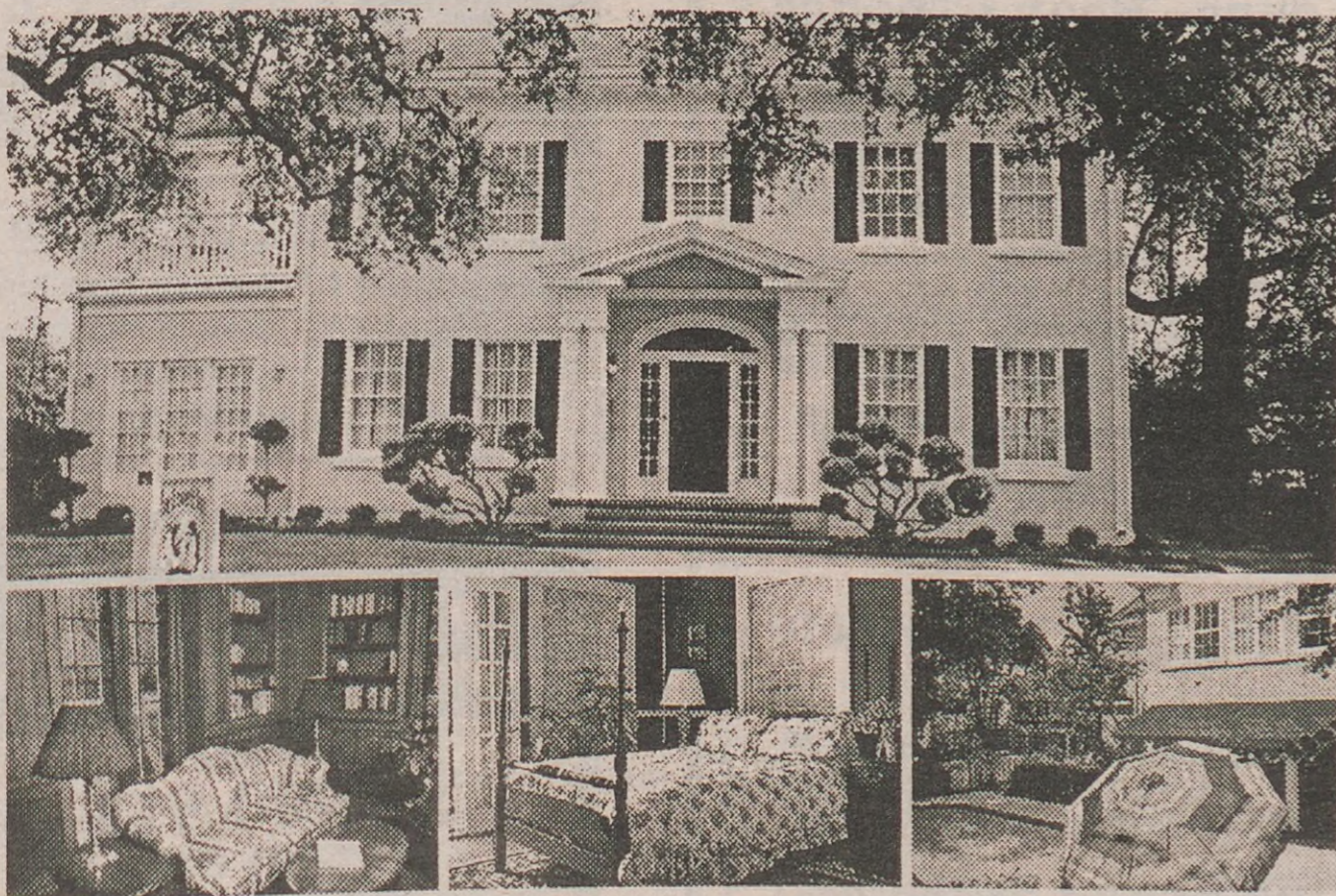
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saturday, august 18

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Benefit Yard Sale. (CATS) 7 a.m. Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Classic Chassis Car Club. Board meeting. 713-797-8615.
Gulf Coast Archive & Museum. Open Noon to 6 p.m. 713-227-5973
Asians and Friends. Bar Night. Guava Lamp.
www.AsiansAndFreindsHouston.com. 713-626-6300.
Houston Area Bears. social. 7713-867-9123.

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop in Hours 2-5 p.m. • Community awareness for Transgender Support. 1-4 p.m. • GLBT Play reading session. 2-4 p.m. • Dinner at the Center. pot Luck. 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

monday, august 20

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
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.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
"Homosexuality and the Bible." Workshop. Maranatha MCC. 713-528-6756.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.
gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, august 19

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

tuesday, august 21

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering. Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.
HTGA Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

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Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
 Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
 Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. @ hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
 CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.
 Bi-Net Houston. Men's Social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Center for AIDS. Men's Mixer. 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.

wednesday, august 22

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection CC. 713-861-9149.
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
 Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 -9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Center for AIDS. Women's mixer. 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing and counseling 6- 9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio. 6:30 p.m. • 713-524-3818.
 Kolbe-Project. The book of Ruth- in-depth study. 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.
 Center for AIDS. Women's Mixer. 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.

thursday, august 23

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. 2 hours free Line Dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Therapy Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 Gay Houston. New social group for all ages. 7 p.m. 713-526-9318.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Generation Sex. 7 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Gulf Coast Archive & Museum. Open Noon to 6 p.m. 713-227-5973

friday, august 24

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. Movie Night. "The Truman Show." 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.
 Houston Tennis Club. Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 -9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

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

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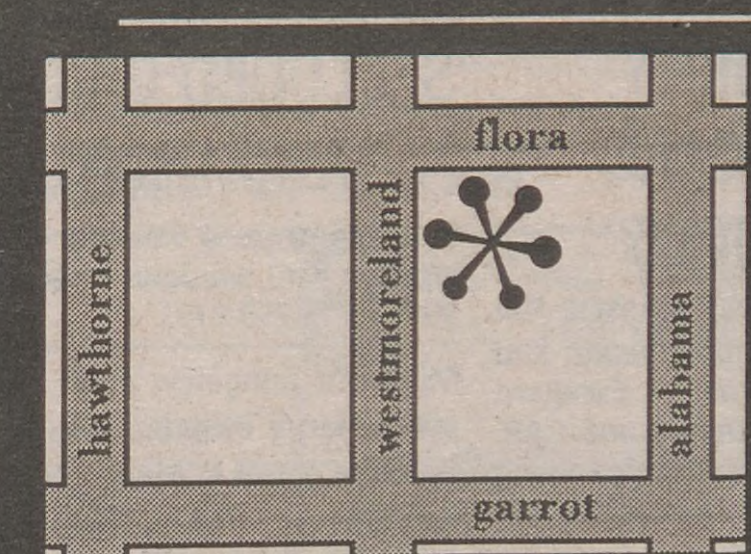
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There is a social group for gay & lesbians in the Clear Lake area • 281-488-0537

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L.U.E.Y ART CONTEST

Let Us Entertain You is looking for artwork submissions for the Pin & Poster design for LUEY 2002 • For information call 713-880-2628.

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Outreach center for homeless youths is seeking donations: Clothing hygiene supplies towels books videos & backpacks. Call Andrea @ 713-523-9324

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AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

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 Volunteers
 Non-Profit Organizations
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2 WRITE YOUR AD
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Occasions

Birthdays

Jim C., Joe W., and Lorain R. members of the CCCC ride in a birthday on Aug. 18.

Maranatha members A.J.C. (8/22), and Mary B. (8/24) are celebrating birthdays this week.

The one, the only Cindy (manager of Mary's) naturally toasts her birthday on Aug. 21.

Ken Long rolls the birthday dice on Aug. 21.

J.D. will be celebrating a birthday on Aug. 23.

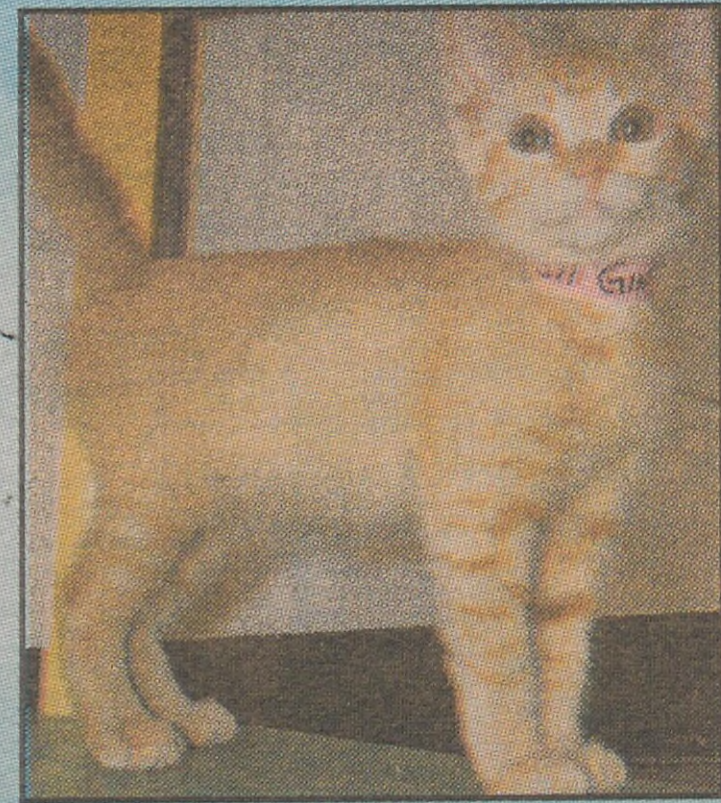
Misfit Robert H. sneaks in a birthday on Aug. 24.

One of Dallas' finest leatherman and all around terrific guy Larry Arbo will be dolling out birthday spankings on Aug. 24.

Handsome cowboy Robert Harwood rides that birthday horse on Aug. 24.

Big birthday hugs to Don (Mr. Wonderful) on Aug. 25. He is celebrating his 50th birthday at "Live! 2001," a benefit show for the Gulf Coast Archive & Museum at Rich's on Sunday, Aug 26 at 5 p.m. sharp.

Mixologist Devin shakes a tasty birthday cocktail on Aug. 28. Stop in EJ's and have a toast with him.



Pet of the Week

This is Gina, a 9-week-old female orange tabby. She loves to attack! To find out more about taking Gina home, call the Houston Humane Society at 713-433-6421, Ext. 5555.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JIMMYE BROWN FOR HOUSTON VOICE

My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

Aug. 17 - 23

ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

You need to be good to yourself, Aries. Just because co-workers and bosses are desperate for your help 24/7, that doesn't mean you have to jump every time they squawk. Pay attention to what your body is telling you. It may be time to get some nurturing (and nagging) from a Cancer.



TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

A little assertiveness goes a long way after the Sun shifts into your pushy and dramatic fifth house on Aug. 22. Lay back and lay off if you want to get laid by a Capricorn, darling. You need to have some faith that you will get all that you deserve. No need to push so hard, baby.



GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

It's easy for you to improve your status in this world, if you tune out what other people think. Every time you give someone else more respect and power than you give yourself, you end up taking several steps back. Fight for the love of your life or set him or her free. You can't play both ends against the middle, especially where a Libra is concerned.



CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

As Venus and Jupiter both transit your sign, you may sense that the stars are with you—and so are potential partners. Fashion gets you far, and so does a heavy dose of flirting. Balance out your fantasies with some hard-nosed reality. Someone new in your life, like a serious Scorpio, offers you plenty of both.



LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

Enjoy the last days of the Sun in Leo by doing all the glamorous, outrageous acts you've been wanting to do for months—maybe years. Congratulations for going from being an egoist to an altruist with such grace. You'll get plenty of accolades and hero worship from an Aquarius, whom you've inspired and desired.



VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

You may have to compete with a close friend or colleague for a job, as single-minded and focused Saturn transits the top of your chart. Stop trying to play a supportive role when you know you are meant to be the star. Taurus will surely want to play opposite you (and under and on top of you, too).



LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

Finally, after playing second fiddle to someone whom you despise, you can at last play the role of diva. It's a role you've rehearsed for all your life. Saturn in your travel house means that you have to commit and plan for an end-of-summer or early fall getaway. You can be more carefree and spontaneous with a Leo.



SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

You may not know where your career is headed—consciously—but intuitively you are so on the right track. Stop trying to plan things so far in advance. Put all feelings of self-loathing aside and transform your lower traits into higher ones. Of course, save some of that down-and-dirty energy for an Aries.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

Subtlety has never been your middle name, sweetie, and there's really no need for it. If you've been grappling with a feeling of being... uh... how can I say this? ... inarticulate, you can get over your insecurities as witty Mercury transits the top of your chart. An Aquarius would like to exchange double entendres with you.



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

See if you can sneak out of work or sneak out of a tedious engagement and do something bad and bold or at least fun, even if it's good and clean. Normally you're known for being reliable, but you do have a small window of opportunity to be as carefree and dizzy as anybody else. In late August you get a free pass from all the nags and freeloaders. An Aries is neither.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

Mars and Pluto are both transiting your house of friends, so you may have to deal with some passionate feelings from your little buddies. As Saturn transits your creative sector, spend time doing things that are for pure unadulterated pleasure, preferably of the artistic persuasion. A Pisces wants to be your nude model.



PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Love that you lost could come back to you in an almost mystical fashion in late August, as the Sun shifts into your house of love (on the 22nd). Take it easy on yourself, dear Pisces, especially if you are feeling romantically tortured. You really are loved by many, so stop self-flagellating. Let a Virgo whip your ass if that will calm you down!



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

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