

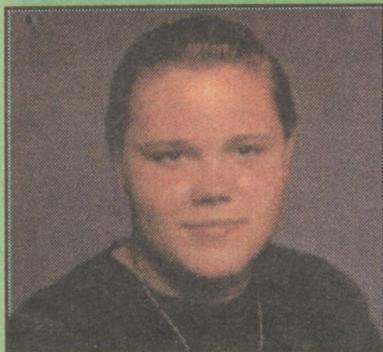


## GAY PRIDE 2000

Houston's Pride 2000 drew a crowd of an estimated 100,000. See the floats (and maybe some of your friends).

Pages 16, 19, & 20

### INSIDE



The convicted killer of Austin cross-dressing gay teen Donald Scott Fuller (above) received a 40-year prison sentence in a plea agreement reached last week.

Page 5



Tina Cousins tossed beads and belted songs at this year's Pride celebration.

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Backstage antics of 'Naked Boys Singing' are revealed OnStage.

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## Supreme Court rules Scouts can exclude gays

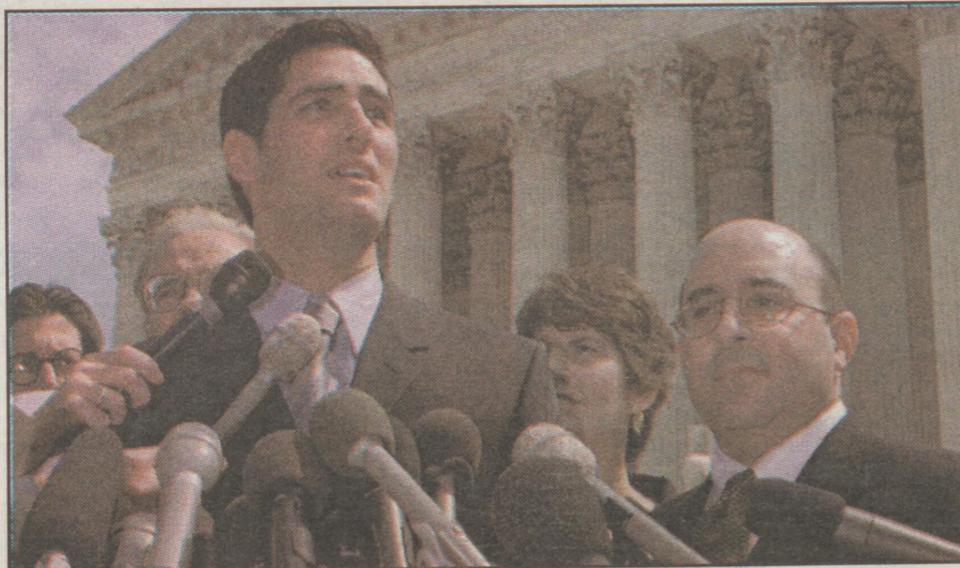
Gay rights advocates blast use of First Amendment in Boy Scouts of America v. Dale case

In a move that sparked immediate reaction from the gay community, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the Boy Scouts can bar homosexuals from serving as troop leaders. The 5-4 decision said forcing the Scouts to accept gay troop leaders would violate the organization's rights of free expression and free association under the Constitution's First Amendment.

"The Boy Scouts asserts that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the values it seeks to instill," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the court. Requiring them to accept a gay scoutmaster "would significantly burden the organization's right to oppose or disfavor homosexual conduct."

The ruling reversed a New Jersey Supreme Court holding that the Scouts wrongly ousted assistant scoutmaster James Dale when the organization learned he is gay. The state court had said the scouts' action violated a New Jersey law banning discrimination in public accommodation.

Dale, who was an Eagle Scout, had sued the Scouts under the New Jersey law. But the Supreme Court said Wednesday that law must yield to the Scout organization's right of "expressive association" under the Constitution's First Amendment.



AP PHOTO/RON THOMAS

Former Eagle Scout James Dale (center) talks to the press at the Supreme Court in Washington in April. Wednesday, the court ruled that the Boy Scouts can bar gays from serving as troop leaders. Also pictured are Dale's attorney Evan Wolfson and Dale's mother Doris Dick.

The Mormon church also became involved in the case, telling the U.S. Supreme Court that it will withdraw from the Boys Scouts of America, taking more than 400,000 Scouts with it, if Scouting is forced to accept gay scoutmasters.

Rehnquist's opinion was joined by Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas.

Dissenting were Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer.

Writing for the four, Stevens said the New Jersey law "does not impose any serious burdens" on the Boy Scouts' goals, "nor does it

force (the Boy Scouts) to communicate any message that it does not wish to endorse. New Jersey's law, therefore, abridges no constitutional right of the Boy Scouts."

The Texas human Rights Foundation expressed dismay at the ruling.

"The Supreme Court of our country told gay Boy Scouts they should lie, said Andres Pereira, THRF president. "Thousands of gay Boy Scouts worldwide will not be able to be truthful, because if they are, they will be unceremoniously thrown out of the organization."

The court's decision, though not a surprise,

> Continued on Page 16

## Three arrested in Thomas Street Clinic case

Trio allegedly forged prescriptions for steroids

by GIP PLASTER

Three people have been indicted for stealing from the state by using phony prescriptions to obtain steroids and charge them to Medicaid, according to authorities.

The indictments are among the latest developments in months of investigation involving the Thomas Street Clinic, Houston's largest publicly operated HIV/AIDS treatment center.

The investigation, as well as other relat-

ed and unrelated tensions at the clinic, has already resulted in the arrest of at least one other person, the reassignment of the clinic's director and the temporary suspension of a crucial volunteer program, staffed by Houston's People With AIDS Coalition, that has still not returned to full capacity.

In addition, the clinic's volunteer coordinator resigned last week and cited a lack of interest in the clinic by the PWA Coalition's new executive director as a primary reason for her departure.

### Arrests

Nichelle Leah Wise, 27, who worked at

the clinic through a group called Windsor AIDS Ministry—or WAM—was arrested on June 12 and has since posted bond, according to Terry Jennings of the district attorney's special crimes office.

Volunteer Terry Davidson, 34, was arrested June 20.

Esa Antero Laiho, 37, whose association with the clinic could not be determined by press time, was already in custody on charges related to possessing prescription forms, Jennings said.

All were indicted on June 6 for engaging in organized crime, he said.

The district attorney's office alleges in

> Continued on Page 17

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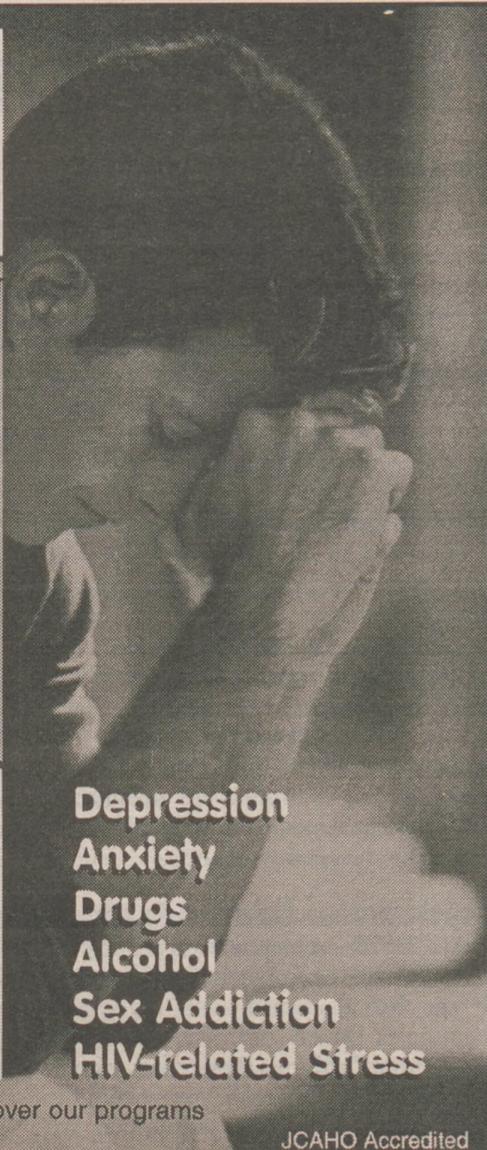
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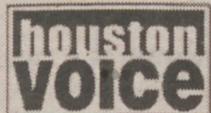
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# Around the South

## Insurance regulator wins \$2.55 million settlement in spying case

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—A St. Petersburg insurance company has agreed to pay \$2.55 million to settle a lawsuit brought by an openly gay state regulator it is accused of trying to intimidate. Bankers Insurance Co. and its officers admitted no wrongdoing in the U.S. District Court settlement with Kevin McCarty, who has worked for the Department of Insurance for nearly a decade. Bankers is said to have hired private investigator Peter Rayner, who followed McCarty to a gay bar, to the store where he shopped for groceries, looked into his bank records and tapped into his telephone calls. Rayner pleaded guilty to a federal wiretap charge in 1997. Bankers hired Rayner after it lost a \$16-million state insurance contract at an agency McCarty supervised at the time. Bankers Insurance still faces heavy fines or possible loss of its license.

## Baptist children's agency ponders state demands on hiring gays

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Directors of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children are deciding if they should end a policy of not employing openly gay workers in order to keep a lucrative state contract. In 1998, the church agency fired social worker Alicia Pedreira after she came out. The Kentucky Cabinet for Families & Children pays Baptist Homes to care for 277 children, and its contract with them expires June 30. The state offered a new contract with two significant restrictions: Baptist Homes would have to reimburse the state for legal costs of any lawsuit that resulted from its policies, and that the cabinet could stop sending children to Baptist Homes for any reason. The agency's president, Bill Smithwick, speculated that the vote could go either way. Smithwick said previously that, without the state's money, Baptist Homes would have to lay off workers and rely on church contributions to fund its many programs.

## Bicycle stolen from Pride Ride bike entourage in Augusta

AUGUSTA—A bicycle team riding cross-country to raise awareness and acceptance for gay people had one of their bicycles stolen in Augusta, the *Augusta Chronicle* reported June 21. The theft happened while the group—made up of Dori Friend, who's ridden her bicycle from California, Lori Swan, who has been driving an RV motor home behind the team, and other cyclists and drivers who joined the convoy along the way—was eating lunch at a Burger King. The stolen bicycle belonged to an Alabama woman who joined in the trip. The group, whose effort has been dubbed the "Pride Ride," had been warned about the South, but until Augusta they had had nothing but good experiences. "People here are really filled with love," Friend told the *Charleston Post & Courier* June 24. "We've had such a great reception that it's changed our perception of the South." A Mississippi sheriff made them nervous by pulling their van over, but all he wanted to do was add his signature to the hundreds already there.



Pride Riders, shown here in a stopover in Atlanta two weeks ago, had one of their bicycles stolen in Augusta soon afterward.

## Texas mother fights parole for bashers who killed her son

HOUSTON—Nine years after her son was beaten to death in Houston by 10 young men, a Texas mother is working to see that they serve their full sentences in jail, the *Dallas Voice* reported. Nancy Rodriguez used the July 1991 beating death of her gay son Paul Broussard to advocate for the passage of Texas's first hate crimes bill. Now, her son's attackers are coming up for parole, and she is asking that parole hearings for three of them be postponed. One of the defendants was paroled in March, after serving seven years of his 15-year sentence. Three others are up for hearings soon, and Rodriguez wants gays to write letters to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice requesting that the parole hearings be postponed. "They should serve their time, and I'll do everything in my power to make sure they do," Rodriguez vowed.

## AIDS threat in e-mail hoax nearly shuts down N.C. State Bar

RALEIGH (AP)—Callers jammed the N.C. State Bar's phone lines asking whether HIV-infected syringe needles were being concealed on the underside of gasoline pump handles after a legal secretary forwarded an e-mail message from a friend. The "Dangerous Prank" e-mail alert was quickly copied and sent across the Internet—along with the Bar Association's phone number. So many calls came in that the agency's 50 staffers were prevented from getting and returning business calls June 21, officials said. The state agency regulates lawyers. Tom Lunsford, the Bar's executive director, said the calls were from state officials, safety and health experts and others asking about the frightening but false urban legend that has popped up in other cities as well. "We've had over 1,000 telephone calls now," he said. "It's been an enormous problem."

—From staff and wire reports



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# Man gets 40 years for stabbing death of cross-dressing teen

## Austin man sentenced for killing 18-year-old

by GIP PLASTER

The man who brutally stabbed to death an Austin cross-dressing gay teen pleaded guilty and received a 40-year prison sentence in a plea agreement reached last week.

Gamaliel Coria, 29, pleaded guilty to the early 1999 murder of 18-year-old Donald Scott Fuller. Fuller's mother characterized Fuller as a tormented teen who felt most comfortable when dressed as a woman.

He also frequented a section of Austin known for prostitution, where he was known as Lauryn Paige.

The 40-year sentence was good enough, said Judy Shipway, the assistant district attorney who handled the case.

"The family and I would have preferred to see Coria get life in the penitentiary, but this is something we are satisfied with—maybe not completely happy, though," she said.

"Over the weekend, the defense offered to take responsibility for the murder in exchange for a 40-year sentence," Shipway said. "I talked with the family and we decided that would be an appropriate thing."

Shipway said the case was ready to go a

jury trial on Monday, but the plea agreement was reached before jury selection began.

Coria will not be eligible to be considered for parole for 20 years.

Since Coria's right to appeal was waived in the agreement, the family can reach closure on the death more quickly than if the case went through a trial and possible appeal, Shipway said.

### 'Sadistic' crime

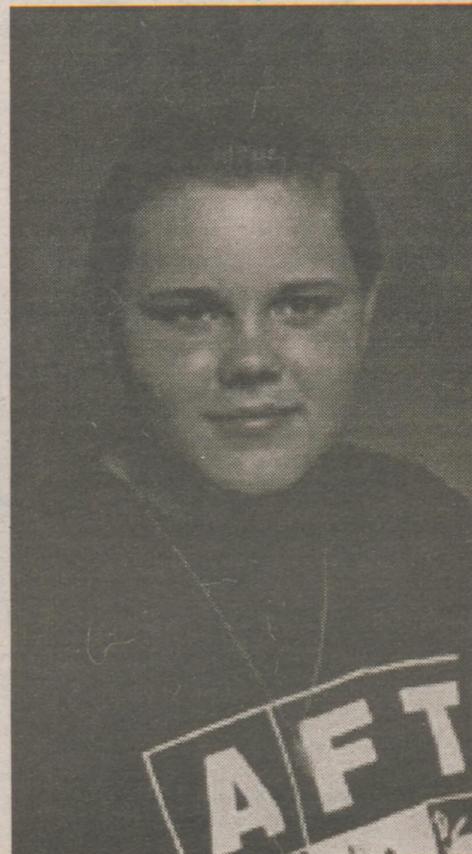
Along South Congress Avenue in Austin, an area police say is known for prostitution, Fuller used the name Lauryn Paige.

At a convenience store on that same avenue, Fuller met the Austin man who picked him up hoping to hire a prostitute, police said. Coria eventually stabbed Fuller several times in the head and torso, police said.

Coria cut a gash 9 inches long and 3 inches wide in Fuller's throat and stabbed him a number of other times before he dumped the teen in a wooded area near a Southeast Austin business complex, according to court documents. The body, still dressed in women's clothing, was covered with tree branches and leaves.

Police officials called it a "sadistic" slaying.

> Continued on Page 15



Donald Scott Fuller, a cross-dressing Austin 18-year-old, was stabbed to death in early 1999. Last week, Gamaliel Coria pleaded guilty to Fuller's murder and was sentenced to 40 years imprisonment.

# DA's office asks for full-court review of sodomy ruling

## Assistant DA wants 'en banc' hearing on three-judge panel's decision

by GIP PLASTER

Harris County assistant district attorney Bill Denmore did last Friday what he had said he was going to do: he asked all nine justices of the 14th Court of Appeals to reconsider the decision of a three-judge panel that effectively overturned the state's homosexual conduct statute, often called the sodomy law.

Denmore said in an interview for last week's Houston Voice that he was considering the move to have the case heard "en banc"—that is, but all nine justices—even though he said it is a request the 14th Court rarely grants.

"At this point, I'm leaning toward asking the 14th Court of Appeals to reconsider," he said last week. "It's a very unusual application of the Equal Rights Amendment that would have precedent in a number of areas."

On Friday, Denmore filed the motion. Representatives of the district attorney's office had previously said they would appeal the ruling directly to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin.

"It was a big surprise," said Mitchell Katine, a Houston lawyer who, along with Lambda Legal Defense and Education

Fund, is defending John Lawrence and Tyron Garner.

The case began in September 1998 after sheriff's deputies, responding to a false third-party report of an armed intruder, entered Lawrence's Houston apartment and found Lawrence and Garner having sex. The two were charged with violating the state's homosexual conduct law, a misdemeanor.

"En banc hearings are not a common thing," Katine said.

The ball was with the State of Texas to decide what to do and we are prepared to respond any way it goes.

—Mitchell Katine, defense attorney

In court documents, Denmore cites four reasons the full court should hear the case.

Among them, Denmore said the justices found that the statutes violates the Equal Rights Amendment of the Texas Constitution because it discriminates based on sex, but the statute applies equally to men and women, he said.

The request for a full-court hearing also calls the ruling an "almost unprecedented



Houston attorney Mitchell Katine said he was surprised by the decision by the Harris County DA's office to ask for a full-court review of the homosexual conduct law ruling made earlier this month by the 14th Court of Appeals.

expansion of the scope of the Equal Rights Amendment" and says the ruling is "likely to result in substantial confusion in other cases involving an attempted application of the Amendment."

Katine said he was surprised, but ready for anything.

"The ball was with the State of Texas to decide what to do and we are prepared to respond any way it goes," he said.

PHOTO BY: MITCHELL KATINE

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## STAFF

**Associate Publisher**  
Mike Fleming  
mike@houstonvoice.com

**Editor**  
Wendy K. Mohon  
editor@houstonvoice.com

**Production**  
Natasha Marquez

**Contributors**  
Rich Arenschioldt, Kay Y. Dayus,  
Trayce Diskin, Earl Dittman,  
D.L. Groover, Robert B. Henderson,  
Kathreen Lee, Maria E. Minicucci,  
Gip Plaster, Ella Tyler

**Photographers**  
Dalton DeHart, Kim Thompson,  
Terry Sullivan

**Advertising Sales**  
Ken Burd  
Tom Robbins

**Administration & Sales Support**  
Carolyn A. Roberts

**National Advertising Representative**  
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.  
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## EDITORIAL

# Snatching defeat from jaws of victory

The gay activists are up in arms!

"Today the U.S. Supreme Court spit on the grave of Boy Scout founder, Lord Baden-Powell, an outstanding gay man who started the entire Boy Scout movement."

That pronouncement came on Wednesday from one intemperate activist, who not only substituted rumor for fact about Lord Baden-Powell, but misdirected his anger.

The United States Supreme Court is not to blame for the Boy Scouts' bigotry. Responsibility for that belongs squarely at the right-wing professionals who run the massive non-profit out of Irving, Texas.

However wrongheaded the Boy Scouts' exclusion of gays may be—and it is very wrongheaded—the Supreme Court ruling in the Scouts' favor is really a civil rights victory—for all of us.

Stretching those rare gay rights laws in ways to decide the membership of a private organization or a parade only serves to diminish prospects for passing gay rights laws in the other three-quarters of the states. Already, the gay rights "victory" over the Boy Scouts in New Jersey has been used as an effective tool by those opposing passage of gay rights laws in a dozen other states.

Assistant Scoutmaster James Dale relied on a New Jersey anti-discrimination law in bringing his suit. That law extends protection against anti-gay discrimination to "public accommodations" like hotels, restaurants and similar public venues.

But Dale's lawyers, from Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, argued that the Boy Scouts, a private, non-profit organization, actually amounted to a "public accommodation" because its membership is so broad and often meets in public buildings, especially public schools. The New Jersey Supreme Court bought the argument, and the Boy Scouts took their case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Once there, the BSA argued that application of the "public accommodations" law violated the First Amendment right of "expressive association," meaning the freedom to use a set of membership criterion to

send whatever messages BSA chooses about the Scouting movement. In this case, the message was: "avowed homosexuals" are not proper role models for youth.

The lawyers at Lambda Legal are very good, something that usually works to our benefit. They countered that the New Jersey law had no real impact on the core mission of Scouting, which has nothing to do with sexuality or homosexuality.

The four dissenting Supreme Court justices agreed, and in persuasive fashion made the case that, at the time Dale was booted out, the Boy Scouts hadn't made much noise about the need to ban gay leaders. They also argued convincingly that excluding gays in the face of a non-discrimination law ran counter to the real core principles of Scouting, including its obedience to authority.

But even clever lawyering doesn't get around the danger of allowing the government to decide for an organization whether its membership standards and bylaws make sense. In a free society, the government has no business playing that role.

Today, interference from the courts might mean removing the ban on gay Scouts. Tomorrow, it might mean the Texas Lesbian Conference has to admit men.

Or worse yet, the courts might force H.A.T.C.H. or some other youth group to accept fundamentalist Christians who would try to convince gay teens to pray their way to heterosexuality.

The Dale case isn't the first time that our activists have been pitted against our real interest.

Five years ago, the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, a Boston-based legal advocacy group, challenged the exclusion of gay marchers from the city's annual St. Patrick's Day parade, using the same "public accommodation" argument.

If the U.S. Supreme court hadn't unambiguously ruled that the state's gay rights law couldn't trump parade organizers' First Amendment freedom of speech and association, Gay Pride organizers would have been forced to accept everyone wanting to march, including ex-gays and the pedophiles from the North American Man-Boy Love Association.

Aside from the legal fallout, winning the Boy Scouts and St. Patrick's Day cases would have presented another grave risk as well, this one even more practical. To date, New Jersey and Massachusetts are among fewer than a dozen states with gay rights laws that cover "public accommodations."

Stretching those rare gay rights laws in ways to decide the membership of a private organization or a parade only serves to diminish prospects for passing gay rights laws in the other three-quarters of the states.

Already, the gay rights "victory" over the Boy Scouts in New Jersey has been used as an effective tool by those opposing passage of gay rights laws in a dozen other states.

That's not to say that we should be reluctant to push enforcement of gay rights



James Dale, who was kicked out of the Boy Scouts because he is gay, poses at his lawyer's office in March 1998. Wednesday the Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America can bar gays from serving as troop leaders.

laws in the states that have them. But we should be thoughtful about picking our battles.

In those few states where gays are fortunate enough to live under civil rights protections, advocates should sue in those cases that best demonstrate the discrimination that the laws were passed to prevent. There's no comparison between the harm suffered from being fired from a job or refused a hotel room, for example, than being denied a spot in a St. Patrick's Day parade, however wrong-headed the exclusion.

As Republicans and Clinton Democrats

### • Supreme Court backs Boy Scouts' gay ban.....page 1

are so fond of saying, sometimes the government isn't the best solution to every problem. But that doesn't mean giving up the fight. It's just that sometimes we're better off applying pressure in the private sector to win our battles for fair treatment.

The Boy Scouts face more pressure points than a New Jersey anti-discrimination law. Probably most effective is hitting the bigots where it hurts the most, in the pocketbook. The Boy Scouts depend heavily on private funding, especially from the millions donated via the United Way, and on public meeting places, like schools and firehouses.

Pressuring the Boy Scouts in the court of public opinion is a far more effective challenge to their outrageous ban on gays—without risking our First Amendment rights and our chance at expanding gay rights laws beyond the few states that have them.



VIEWPOINT

# Challenging Christianity, one arrest at a time

by LAURA MONTGOMERY RUTT

"You're under arrest!" This phrase echoed in my mind as I rode silently in a taxicab from the Police Station to Soulforce Headquarters 20 blocks away.

I was not one of the 191 arrested the morning of May 10 outside the United Methodist General Conference in Cleveland, but I wanted to be. I felt on the "outside" of the action.

But my job was to be on the outside, to act as the media liaison, to answer questions the press had about what was going on and what was going to happen in the next few days.

I felt utterly alone in that taxicab, as a very distinguished group of people sat in jail cells for taking part in a peaceful act of non-violent civil disobedience to protest exclusionary church policies.

Among those arrested were Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandis Gandhi; Bishop Joseph Sprague; Rev. James Lawson, friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Rev. Mel White, co-founder of Soulforce; Rev. Jimmy Creech, the Methodist minister defrocked for performing a holy union for two men.

My mind drifted back to what led me to that point and the decision to join Soulforce, a movement based on the principles of Jesus, Gandhi and King.

For the past two decades, the United Methodist Church, the church to which I belong, has been implementing policies that dehumanize and exclude gays from the life of the church.

I could not remain silent and watch

I could not remain silent and watch the church destroy people in the name of God, claiming to be one body, however deeply wounded and bleeding profusely.

the church destroy people in the name of God, claiming to love all people, claiming to be one body. The church may think it is one body right now, but it is a deeply wounded body and bleeding profusely.

Early in the morning on May 10, approximately 400 Soulforce supporters, including bishops, ministers, and friends of the United Methodist Church, gathered on the mall next to the convention center to walk together, arm in arm, around the convention center.

"Marching in the Light of God" resounded through the crowd as the line of marchers encircled the convention center, partially drowning out the cat calls by Fred Phelps and a dozen or so other people carrying signs and shouting, "God hates fags!"

After the march, 191 courageous people, gay and straight, stood their ground outside the convention center blocking the exit, still arm in arm, refusing to move until police placed them under arrest.

At the same time, several United Methodists inside the convention center interrupted a speech by the Bishop of



Arrests of protestors at the United Methodist General Conference in May was a history-making event.

Canterbury to show solidarity with those standing outside the convention center and with those who have been forced out of the church because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Approximately 100 people, half in the balcony and half on the floor, sang out a back-and-forth litany "Wide is God's Welcome! Extend the Table!"

Twelve hours later, all those arrested had been charged with persistent disorderly conducted and fined \$100 plus court costs. It was a long day indeed. The next day was to prove just as trying.

As I sat in the convention center May 11 and heard the debate and watched 27 people get arrested in a peaceful protest of non-violent civil disobedience, it dawned on me that the past 36 hours had been history-making.

No longer would we sit silently by and watch the church send messages of antipathy and apathy as our brothers and sisters are defrocked, dehumanized, and devalued by the church.

The United Methodist Church claims to "love the individual." But on May 11, delegates voted to retain policies that state:

"Homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching"; "self avowed practicing homosexuals" cannot be ordained as ministers; and ministers can not perform holy unions between two people of the same sex.

Not only do these policies affect those inside the church, but as the country's largest mainline Protestant denomination, the decisions of the church affect how society perceives all of God's children. The Methodist Church may not use the same language as Fred Phelps, but the message the church sends is the same.

So many talented people have been forced out of the church because they could no longer deny a part of themselves. So many people have been forced to hide and lie about who they are to be able to answer their call to ministry in the United Methodist Church. So many people have given up on God and religion all together.

Changing society and winning hearts and minds through relentlessly speaking the truth is never easy. But as history shows us, a small group of committed citizens can change the world. And Soulforce is doing just that.

Laura Montgomery Rutt is a volunteer media coordinator for Soulforce, Inc., and can be reached at [lmrutt@voicenet.com](mailto:lmrutt@voicenet.com).

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Orner

**HATE HER AT THE SEDER**

You probably know that a Passover Seder involves 4 questions. This Year, yours involved a 5<sup>th</sup>:

This from your older sister Natalie, who's tact was washed away by a third glass of Manishevitz...

Tradition holds that on this night, the Angel of Death passes over Jewish homes. You're wishing tonight he'd make an exception...

Natalie has always resented your family's inconsistent policy on acceptable spouses:

This grudge, and others she's collected Since her x husband Gabe ran off with a Cuban gal from Orlando, has left Nat very much akin to the bitter herb portion of the holiday platter.

Depressingly, your family wasn't shocked at the news of your split with Doug, treating it as some sort of inevitability---like the end of an airport paperback they'd all read sometime.

PROVEN POWER FOR HIV

# Living Proof

*Because he works out to stay  
focused and strong*

*Because his little sister looks  
up to him*

*Because he's found HIV medicines  
that fit into his lifestyle*

*Because his viral load is still  
undetectable (<400 copies per mL\*)*

*Because he has COMBIVIR in  
his combination therapy—drugs  
proven to help people with HIV  
live longer, healthier lives<sup>1</sup>*

Shon G., Atlanta

Ask your doctor about

## Combivir<sup>®</sup>

lamivudine<sup>150</sup>mg/zidovudine<sup>300</sup>mg

ONE TABLET TWICE A DAY

**Smarter  
Together**

**2 powerful anti-HIV medicines in one tablet,  
taken twice a day with or without food**

### SAFETY INFORMATION

- Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and white blood cells
- Rarely, a buildup of acid in the blood and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been seen
- The most frequent side effects are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose
- Low risk of fat wasting, tingling or burning in the hands and feet, or problems with the pancreas

**CALL 1-800-760-3311 for information or visit our Web site at [www.treathiv.com](http://www.treathiv.com)**

 **Glaxo Wellcome**  
HIV  
A division of Glaxo Wellcome Inc.  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
Web site: [www.glaxowellcome.com](http://www.glaxowellcome.com)

Please see Brief Summary for COMBIVIR on the adjacent page.

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\* Roche Amplicor HIV-1 MONITOR<sup>®</sup> Test.

CBV406R0

March 2000

## 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 EPVIR 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 EPVIR 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 EPVIR or EPVIR 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/mm<sup>3</sup> at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

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

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPVIR plus Current Therapy (n = 896)	EPVIR 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/mm<sup>3</sup> 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 three dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

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

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

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

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately three times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung 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<sup>+</sup> mouse lymphoma assay and clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes.

**Zidovudine:** Zidovudine was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK<sup>+</sup> 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.

**Reference:** 1. Hammer SM, Squires KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus indinavir in persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection and CD4 cell counts of 200 per cubic millimeter or less. *N Engl J Med.* 1997;337:725-733.

### COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

**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 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.

### ADVERSE REACTIONS:

**Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations:** In four randomized, controlled trials of EPVIR 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 ( $\geq 5\%$  Frequency) in Four Controlled Clinical Trials With EPVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day

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

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

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

Test (Abnormal Level)	EPVIR plus RETROVIR % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC <750/mm <sup>3</sup> )	7.2% (237)
Anemia (Hgb <8.0 g/dL)	2.9% (241)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm <sup>3</sup> )	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 EPVIR 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 EPVIR and/or RETROVIR.

**Endocrine and Metabolic:** Hyperglycemia.

**General:** Sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), vasculitis.

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

**Musculoskeletal:** Muscle weakness, CPK elevation, rhabdomyolysis.

**Nervous:** Seizures.

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

### OVERDOSAGE:

**COMBIVIR:** There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

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

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

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

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

## GlaxoWellcome

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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 and 5,859,021

January 2000/RL-794



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

I am

# Ziagen<sup>®</sup>

*abacavir sulfate* 300 mg tablets

## I drive down viral load

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

## I am two pills a day, with or without food

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

## I give you treatment options

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

## Important safety information

About 5% of patients (5 in 100) who take ZIAGEN have a hypersensitivity reaction (a serious allergic reaction) that may result in death. IF YOU HAVE SKIN RASH OR TWO OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SETS OF SYMPTOMS, STOP TAKING ZIAGEN AND CALL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY:

- fever
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain
- severe tiredness, achiness, or generally ill feeling
- sore throat, shortness of breath, or cough

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

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

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

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

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

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

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March 2000

[www.ZIAGEN.com](http://www.ZIAGEN.com)



Glaxo Wellcome  
HIV

A division of Glaxo Wellcome Inc.  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
Web site: [www.glaxowellcome.com](http://www.glaxowellcome.com)

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

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

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

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

About 5% of patients (5 in 100) who take Ziagen have a hypersensitivity reaction (a serious allergic reaction) **that may result in death**. If you have **skin rash** or 2 or more of the following sets of symptoms, you may be having this kind of reaction:

- fever
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain
- severe tiredness, achiness, or generally ill feeling
- sore throat, shortness of breath, or cough

A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card provided by your pharmacist. You should carry this Warning Card with you. **IF YOU NOTICE THESE SYMPTOMS WHILE TAKING ZIAGEN, STOP TAKING ZIAGEN AND CALL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY.**

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

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

**What is Ziagen?**

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

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

**Who should not take Ziagen?**

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

**How should I take Ziagen?**

Take Ziagen exactly as your doctor prescribes it.

The usual dosage for adults (at least 16 years of age) is one

300-mg tablet twice a day.

Adolescents and children from 3 months to 16 years of age can also take Ziagen. Your doctor will tell you if the oral solution or tablet is best for your child. Also, your child's doctor will decide the right dose based on your child's weight and age. Ziagen has not been studied in children under 3 months of age.

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

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

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

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

**What should I avoid while taking Ziagen?**

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

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

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

**What are the possible side effects of Ziagen?**

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

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

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

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

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Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

January 2000 MG - 005

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

# Around the Nation

## N.Y. state sex crime bill would officially decriminalize sodomy

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A bill championed by New York Gov. George Pataki to crack down on sex criminals would also contain a provision formally repealing New York's sodomy law. The prohibition against consensual sodomy in New York state was declared unconstitutional in December 1980 by the state's highest court, but the statute was never removed from the books. "This is more than a great symbolic victory," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda. "It will also stop the isolated instances in which police use the statute to target gay couples they find in 'lovers' lanes."

## Small Business Association launches gay business loan program

DENVER (AP)—The U.S. Small Business Administration is making good on a commitment a top official made to include gay business owners in a lending program. SBA Deputy Administrator Fred Hochberg, the top openly gay member of the Clinton administration, signed an agreement with Denver lesbian and gay community leaders to kick off the nationwide program, officials said June 20. The initiative gives gay business owners access to federal small-business loans, government subcontracting opportunities, seminars led by business leaders and technical support services. The idea of arose last July in Denver during a meeting between SBA officials, including Hochberg, and members of the Colorado Business Council, the state's gay chamber of commerce. The SBA program includes partnerships with 106 gay and lesbian community centers in 36 states.



DAVID GOLDMAN

Fred Hochberg, an openly gay official with the Small Business Administration, has launched an effort to assist gay business owners.

## N.Y. gay man awarded \$20 million in work discrimination lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—A Manhattan jury awarded more than \$20 million to a nightclub manager who charged that he was emotionally and physically abused by the club's employees for months because he is gay. The State Supreme Court jury found that managers of the Supper Club subjected Steven Minichiello, 42, to "a hostile or abusive work environment" and then fired him because he is gay. Minichiello began having troubles in 1994, two years into his tenure, when new general manager Andre Cortez was hired. After several months of anti-gay slurs, including an episode during which he was forced to his knees and his hair pulled, Minichiello was fired in July 1995. The jury awarded Minichiello \$8 million for past pain and suffering, \$2 million for future distress, \$160,000 for four years of lost wages, and another \$10 million in punitive damages. Supper Club attorneys told the jury it would have made no sense for the defendants to keep Minichiello around as long as they did if they were homophobes.

## 'Dr. Laura' in tears over flap; poll says advertisers will take a hit

NEW YORK (AP)—Controversial radio talk-show host 'Dr. Laura' Schlessinger says efforts to have her upcoming television show axed has taken its toll. "I've cried more at times than I would like to admit," Schlessinger told *Time* magazine. "It's been agonizing." In the issue on newsstands June 26, Schlessinger said that despite protests over her Paramount-syndicated show, she has not been asked to tone down her approach. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation criticized the interview for being deferential and ignoring key facts. Meanwhile, a new poll suggests just how much business Schlessinger's advertisers might lose by airing ads on her show. The poll indicates 74 percent of gay consumers and 42 percent of heterosexual consumers said they would be less likely to buy a product advertised on a program that expressed negative views of gays, GayToday.com reported. Harris Interactive conducted an on-line poll among 13,276 adults, 744 of whom identified as gay.

## N.Y. police officer suspended for ignoring gay teen's harassment

NEW YORK (AP)—A police officer was suspended June 26 for allegedly failing to take any action when a 17-year-old told her he had been molested in the hours after Sunday's Gay Pride Parade. The allegation comes as police continue their investigation into whether officers failed to help women who were sexually abused in Central Park following the Puerto Rican Day Parade. The 17-year-old Bronx teen was among the crowd attending the after-parade festivities in Greenwich Village. Shortly after 9 p.m., outside the Dugout Bar on Christopher Street, the teen said a man put his hand inside his pants and groped his buttocks, police said. The teen approached Officer Donna Gaudino and told her what had happened. The teen alleges Gaudino did nothing, and he then approached two other officers, who took his report and began searching for the suspect, who was not found. Gaudino, a nine-year veteran, was suspended without pay for a maximum of 30 days for "failure to take police action," said Lt. Sean Crowley, a police spokesperson. Gaudino allegedly told the teen that she could not "do anything about it," and that the suspect would never be found, according to a police document.

—From staff and wire reports

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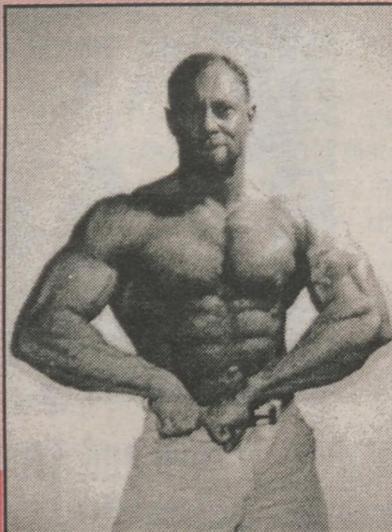


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# Health News

## South Carolina capital has nation's 4th highest HIV infection rate

COLUMBIA (AP)—The nation's fourth highest per capita rate of HIV infection in 1999 is the Columbia, S.C. metropolitan area, higher than San Francisco or Los Angeles, according to data from the CDC. With 282 reported AIDS cases in Greater Columbia in 1999, the area ranked behind only Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Miami and New York City. San Francisco ranked fifth. South Carolina's AIDS infection rate ranked sixth, behind the District of Columbia, New York, Florida, Maryland and New Jersey. Health officials couldn't explain why South Carolina's rate was so high, but said a high incidence of other sexually transmitted diseases likely contributed to the elevated AIDS infection rate.

In 1998, South Carolina had the nation's highest chlamydia infection rate in 1998 and ranked third for gonorrhea and sixth for infectious syphilis. "When you have one of those other sexually transmitted diseases, biologically you're more at risk to be infected" with HIV, said Lynda Kettinger, director of the STD/HIV division at the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. In South Carolina, the highest HIV and AIDS infection rates were reported among blacks, who account for about one-third of the state's population, and two-thirds of the state's HIV infections.

## Unsafe sex blamed for first rise in gonorrhea rates since 1985

ATLANTA (AP)—Gonorrhea climbed nine percent in the United States in 1998 after 12 straight years of decline, the government reported June 22. Debra Mosure, an epidemiologist with the CDC, speculated that the safe-sex practices that were adopted because of AIDS are being abandoned because of the introduction of more effective drugs against the virus. "There does seem to be some real increases in the overall number of gonorrhea cases due to unsafe sexual behavior," she said. Some states said improved testing was partly responsible for the increase in reported cases. The infection rate had fallen 64.2 percent from 1985 to 1997. Many states saw increases in gonorrhea among gay and bisexual men.

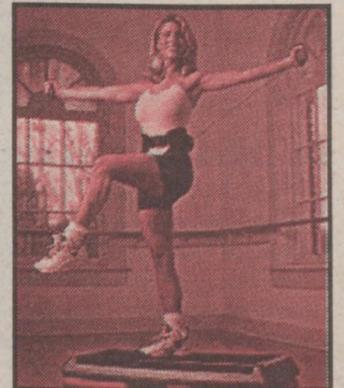
## Maker ordered to destroy med test kits after FDA denies approval

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has ordered the manufacturer of about 100 different types of diagnostic test kits to destroy its inventory because it failed to seek FDA approval for its products. Although Cal-Test Diagnostics of Chino, Calif. has made test kits for four years, there have been no reports of people's health suffering because of misdiagnoses from the tests, FDA spokesperson Sharon Snider said June 19. The kits test for pregnancy, hepatitis and HIV, among other things. Ontario attorney Robert Spitz, who represented Cal-Test President Dr. Robert Chen, said all the products were distributed outside the U.S.

## New TB drug shows promise, may be first approved in 30 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—An experimental drug shows promise in fighting tuberculosis at a time when TB is becoming increasingly resistant to existing antibiotics, researchers said June 21. If tests are successful and the compound, PA-824, is approved, it will be the first new TB-specific drug on the market in 30 years, said C. Kendall Stover, a scientist at PathoGenesis Corp., where it was developed. Stover said it kills all of the drug-resistant forms of TB that have been tested to date, including the strains resistant to more than one drug. Tests on mice and guinea pigs indicate PA-824 is at least as potent as today's first-line TB drug, isoniazid. The findings were published in the June 22 issue of the journal *Nature*.

Lifestyle changes like aerobic exercise and dietary changes were included as possible treatment for women affected by PMS.



## Key to preventing PMS lies in diet, exercise, lifestyle, vitamins

WASHINGTON—The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has issued revised guidelines outlining possible treatment options for women affected by premenstrual syndrome. The group recommended lifestyle changes like aerobic exercise and dietary changes, a diet of complex carbohydrate diet, and nutritional supplements like calcium, magnesium and vitamin E. Anti-depressants and anti-anxiety drugs were also recommended, though the study found little data to suggest that oral contraceptives, which some doctors prescribe, are effective. Alternative remedies, like natural progesterone, primrose oil and vitamin B6 have also been shown to be either ineffective or of only limited benefit.

## New drug shown effective against advanced stage ovarian cancer

WASHINGTON—A new study has found a combination of drugs that is more likely to help women with advanced stage ovarian cancer to improve, the *Washington Blade* reported June 9. The research, conducted in Europe and Canada, found that a combination of the drugs paclitaxel and cisplatin caused improvement in 59 percent of women, while the standard round of chemotherapy, which replaces paclitaxel with cyclophosphamide, only caused improvement in 45 percent of women studied. Remission rates were 41 percent and 27 percent, respectively, for the two treatments. The study was reported in the May 3 issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.



For more news, visit  
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—From staff and wire reports

# Man gets 40 years for stabbing death of cross-dressing teen

> Continued from Page 5

Coria was charged with murder after a witness told investigators he saw the man with Fuller just hours before his body was found.

Frank Santos, Coria's brother-in-law, contacted police after television news reports broadcast a composite drawing of him and Coria on Tuesday.

Coria and Santos were cruising South Congress Avenue in a white van on the evening of Jan. 7, 1999. They picked up two people—Fuller and a friend who were cross-dressing. Coria was hoping to pay for sex, police said.

Santos told police that he and Coria took the two to a secluded area near Interstate 35 south of Ben White Boulevard and parked. Later, the van stopped at Santos' apartment, where he was dropped off.

About 6:45 a.m., Santos told investigators that he saw Coria get back into the van with Fuller before they drove away from Santos' apartment.

Coria and Fuller were then alone together.

About 15 minutes later, employees arriving at the business complex noticed a van parked near an entrance road and standing next to it, a man and woman kissing, police said.

A few hours later, an employee returning from lunch spotted a female's shoe near the road, walked toward it and then noticed Fuller's body, police said.

He didn't like trucks or to dig in the dirt. I mean, my God, he might break a nail. He was my son—my daughter. It didn't matter which.

He was a sweet kid.

—Kathy Fuller, Donald Scott Fuller's mother

Police did not classify the murder as a hate crime.

"I personally don't think it was a hate crime," said Robert Icenhauer-Ramirez, Coria's attorney.

Icenhauer-Ramirez declined to say why he does not believe the crime was hate-motivated. He said he does not know what led his client to commit murder.

"I don't know that," he said.

## 'At war with himself'

Fuller came out to his parents about two years before his death. He found solace and some friends through Out Youth Austin, a nonprofit group for gay and lesbian youth.

For the last several months of his life, Fuller cross-dressed while with friends or one of his brothers, but he did not do it in the apartment he shared with his parents and grandparents, his mother said soon after his death.

At the time of his death, Fuller was working toward a General Equivalency Diploma so he could go to cosmetology school. The teen, who suffered from attention deficit disorder, was forced to repeat

one year of high school before eventually dropping out.

Fuller's mother, Kathy Fuller, said her son was born different.

"That wasn't a choice," she said. "I had four boys—he was the only one that was different. He dealt with that every day. He was at war with himself."

Kathy Fuller said she accepted that her son preferred dressing as a woman.

"He always wore my slippers and carried my purse," she told the Austin Chronicle in February 2000. "He didn't like trucks or to dig in the dirt. I mean, my God, he might break a nail."

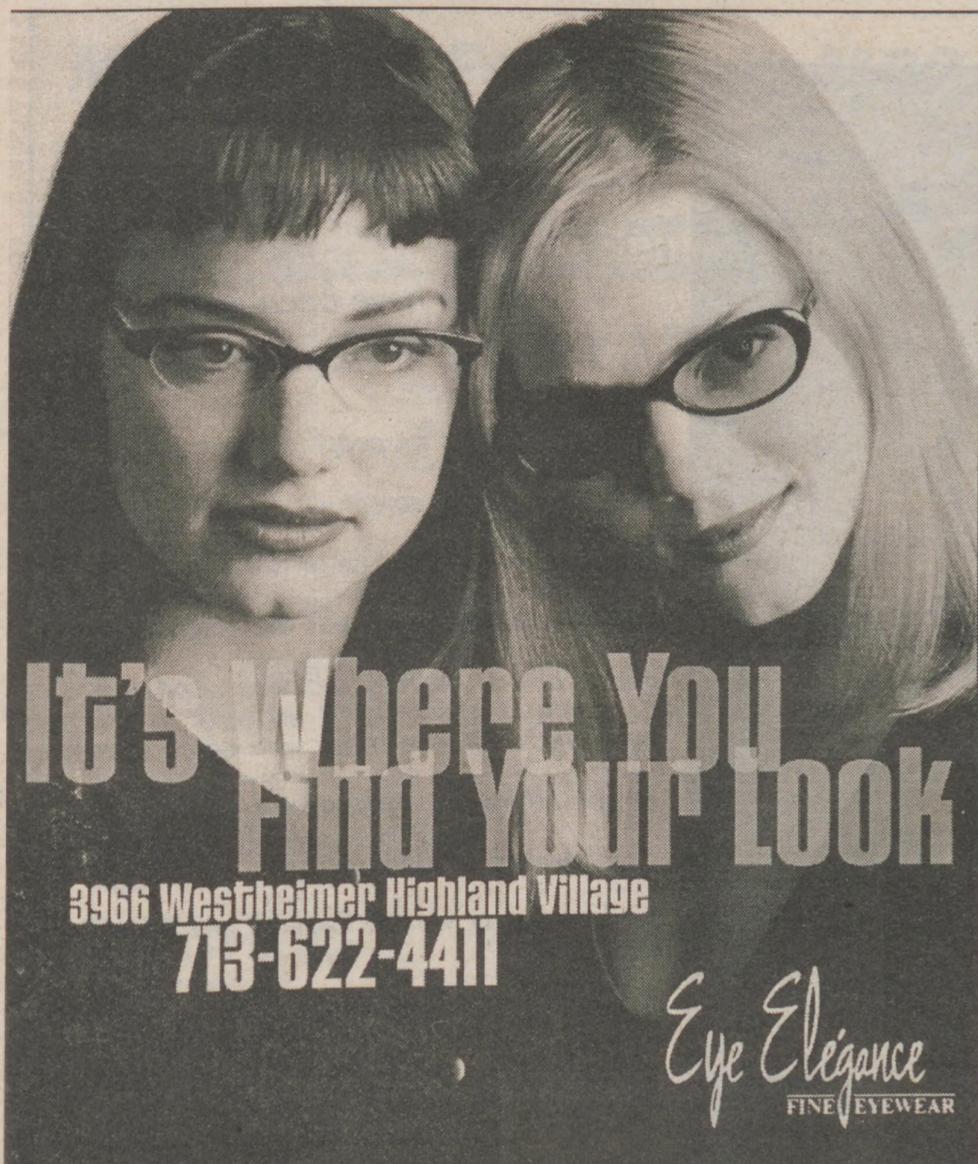
She added: "He was my son—my daughter. It didn't matter which. He was a sweet kid."



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Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Names may be withheld upon request, but submissions must include a name and phone number for verification.

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# Scouts can exclude gays

> Continued from Page 1

is nevertheless shocking," Pereira said. "It's unfortunate that an organization, based in Irving, Texas, has been given license to continue discriminating against people who, except for their sexual orientation, are model Scouts. It is clear the court does not consider gay and lesbian people worthy of the same legal protection afforded all other Americans."

Dale was 19 and an assistant scoutmaster of a Matawan, N.J., troop when in 1990 he was identified in a newspaper article as co-president of a campus lesbian and gay student group at Rutgers University.

The Scouts' Monmouth Council revoked Dale's registration as an adult leader, telling him the organization does not allow openly gay members. Dale sued, contending the Scouts violated New Jersey's anti-discrimination law.

The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in his favor, saying the expulsion of Dale was based "on little more than prejudice."

During oral arguments in April, the Scouts' lawyer, George Davidson, said the group had a right "to choose the moral leaders for the children in the program."

The Scouts relied on a 1995 Supreme Court decision in which the justices let the private sponsor of the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade exclude a group of gays and lesbians, saying parades are a "form of expression."

Dale's lawyer, Evan Wolfson, said giving public accommodations the broad freedom to exclude people who do not match their message could swallow the civil rights laws.

Rehnquist's opinion said "it appears that homosexuality has gained greater societal acceptance" in recent times.

"But this is scarcely an argument for denying First Amendment protection to those who refuse to accept those views," the chief justice wrote. "The First Amendment protects expression, be it of the popular variety or not."

• See editorial, Page 6

The Human Rights Campaign called Wednesday's Supreme Court decision a travesty of justice that may allow large, open membership groups to be above the law and evade state and local nondiscrimination laws.

"We are gravely disappointed with a ruling that gives the Boy Scouts of America the ability to discriminate with impunity," said HRC Legal Director Tony Varona. "This is a hollow victory for the Boy Scouts of America—considering the wasted time, energy and money it has spent on maintaining its ability to discriminate and attack young men who have served its organization with distinction. Is this any way to teach youth about fairness, honesty and justice?"

Meanwhile, the president of Gays and Lesbians for Individual Liberty praised the ruling, saying the Boy Scouts of America should be free to choose their own leaders, even if it means excluding gay men as Scoutmasters.

Richard Sincere, president of GLIL since February 1998, stated that his organization was pleased that "by a vote of 5 to 4, the Supreme Court recognizes that freedom of expressive association is protected under the U.S. Constitution. Despite what others might say, this is a victory for the rights of gay men and lesbians to form groups, gather for expressive purposes, and pursue their own visions of happiness with freedom and dignity."

GLIL had filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in the case, arguing that the Boy Scouts of America have a constitutional right to set their own standards for membership and leadership positions, even if that means the Boy Scouts may exclude openly gay Scout leaders from participation in the organization.

Sincere said GLIL leaders were pleased that Chief Justice Rehnquist seemed to follow the reasoning in the group's brief when he wrote that: "We are not, as we must not be, guided by our views of whether the Boy Scouts' teachings with respect to homosexual conduct are right or wrong; public or judicial disapproval of a tenet of an organization's expression does not justify the State's effort to compel the organization to accept members where such acceptance would derogate from the organization's expressive message."

"Our brief had emphasized our disagreement with the Boy Scouts' policy of excluding

gay members and leaders," said Sincere, a former Boy Scout himself. "But if government forces the Boy Scouts to change that policy, the constitutional rights of all of us—not just the Scouts, but everyone, gay or straight—will be

The Boy Scouts asserts that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the values it seeks to instill.

—Supreme Court Chief Justice  
William H. Rehnquist

diminished. Freedom does not belong only to those with whom we agree. Gay men and lesbians have suffered when freedom of association has not been respected. We benefit when freedom of speech and freedom of association are vigorously protected. A Supreme Court ruling against the Boy Scouts would have had the perverse effect of hurting gay and lesbian Americans."

Elizabeth Toledo, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said the ruling "dangerously subverts civil right laws that ban discrimination."

"Good citizenship and a more peaceful world would require understanding and tolerance, not rejection, of human differences," she said. "We renew our call on the BSA to model 'moral straightness' by ending its shameful exclusion of youth and adults who are different."

—From staff and wire reports.

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INSPIRATION

# Three arrested in Thomas Street Clinic case

> Continued from Page 1

the indictment that between Oct. 23, 1999 and Jan. 20, the three worked together to commit the offense of theft by stealing Medicaid money from the state through the bogus prescriptions, Jennings said.

The prescriptions were written for anadrol, Jennings said. The steroid is used by body builders to gain muscle mass and can also be used to help strengthen the bodies of people with AIDS.

Another man was arrested in January for allegedly obtaining drugs fraudulently from a South Main Street pharmacy by using the name of the clinic's medical director on several prescriptions, mostly for steroid-like substances, according to the Houston Police Department.

## Allegations of disinterest

Tracy Wilson, chair of the Thomas Street Clinic Council, said he hopes the recent arrests are the end of law enforcement intervention at the clinic. He said he wants to see the clinic begin to focus on solving other problems.

"I'm hoping that means the legal end of it is all over with," Wilson said. "We're still fighting to try to keep the volunteer program on track."

The volunteer program, which once provided crucial services at the clinic that the limited staff could not or would not do, was

off-line for weeks. When it was reinstated, the hospital district began requiring all volunteers to undergo criminal background checks.

Applicants with any sort of criminal background were excluded from volunteering at the clinic, according to Wilson. But that created a problem since many clinic volunteers had been in prison or have criminal activity in their distant past.

Now, volunteer background checks are handled by a security officer at the hospital district who evaluates each applicant individually, according to DeDe McLamroch, the hospital district's director of volunteers.

McLamroch said she wants to see the program back on track at full capacity.

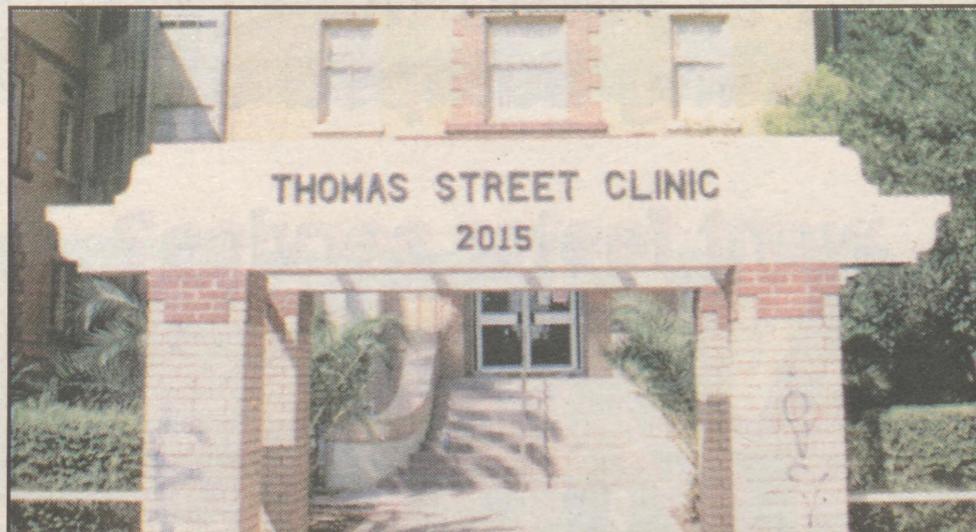
"It's a wonderful program. It's people with AIDS taking care of people with AIDS," she said.

About 40 volunteers have been approved and are back at the clinic, Wilson said.

The 7-year-old program logged more than 17,000 hours by about 100 volunteers in 1999. They routinely escorted patients, dispensed food in the cafeteria, distributed medical records, helped clients with paperwork and answered phones.

Jackie Weir, who left her position as volunteer coordinator at the clinic last week, said her departure is related to recent events.

"My leaving does have a lot to do with



what's happened, but it's not so much related to the hospital district," she said.

"My main reason for leaving is the new executive director at the PWA Coalition," Weir said when contacted on her last day at the clinic. "She seems to choose the programs she's interested in and this has not been one of them."

Naomi Madrid, who became executive director of the PWA Coalition in February, said she was "shocked" when contacted by the Houston Voice.

"I have seven programs in this organization that all need attention and I attempt to provide as much support as possible," she said. "Change makes people unhappy. I

didn't come into this job thinking or hoping I was going to win a popularity contest."

She said she wants to work to get all the volunteers back in place at the clinic.

But Wilson of the clinic's council also said he has concerns about the PWA Coalition's commitment to the clinic and to the volunteer program that is dependent on the coalition. Wilson was a board member of the coalition but recently resigned.

"In my opinion, the hospital district has been pretty cooperative [in getting the volunteer program back on track]," Wilson said. "The ultimate blame rests with the PWA Coalition—and they should be giving the most support. That's just not happening."

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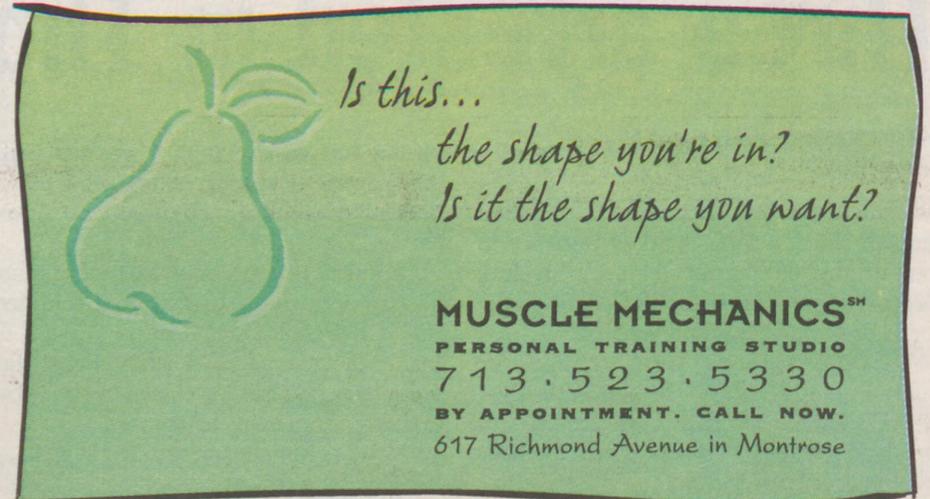
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# Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • JUNE 30, 2000

## The 'happy, pappy music' of

# TINA COUSINS

by ANAS BEN-MUSA

"Rich's was absolutely packed," Tina Cousins, 26, exclaimed, describing her post-Pride performance Saturday at the Montrose night spot. "I sweated to death, but I could have done another half hour. Once I'm on stage I don't want to get off."

Cousins lives to sing and prefers what she calls "happy, pappy music."

Cousins defines "happy, pappy music" as having a twist of spirituality and deep meaning.

"It's that song that everybody goes 'yeaaahhh,'" Cousins said. "Where you and your friends are all on the dance floor saying 'yeah this the one!'"

Cousins has a bright, cheery English accent; unlike the serious, passionate voice you hear singing

"Pray," the smash, dance hit playing constantly at local radio stations and dance clubs.

Born in Essex, England, Cousins started singing, or gigging as she calls it, at age 18 with various bands. She sang at every type of event from bar mitzvahs to weddings.

Her grandfather, who passed away last year, had the biggest influence on her musical career. That's why she dedicates her album, "Killing Time" to her "Granddad."

"He was the role model every kid would want," she said. "He was 75, skiing down the slopes, had a little sports car, and a girlfriend in every port. It was quite funny."

"Granddad used to sneak me into jazz clubs when I was 15," Cousins said. "(He) showed me what music did to people."

It's one of the reasons she loves performing at clubs. "I prefer the 1,000-capacity crowd because it tends to be more personal," she said. "I like to be close to the audience."

Rich's fit perfectly with Cousins. She was impressed especially by Bette Midler's recent performance at the establishment. "They have a great upscale variety of artists," she said.

She has performed larger venues, once to 180,000 people in Spain. That experience made her realize how such bookings are impersonal.

"I don't like it when they put up barriers so the crowd can't get near you. It makes you look like you're untouchable. If you stand there and go 'Hello, I'm Tina Cousins and this is my new single,' it's off. If you have fun with the crowd, then crowd will have fun as well."

With Houston and Rich's, Cousins had a wonderful experience, but being in the Pride parade wasn't what she was expecting.

"It was amazing what people would do for a T-shirt," Cousins said. "They were screaming their heads off."

> Continued on Page 23

Tina Cousins played to a packed house at Rich's Saturday in a post-Pride performance after riding on board the KRBE float in the annual Pride parade.

## Pride 2000 draws crowd of 100,000

by KAY DAYUS

The floats were bigger and better and the huge disco ball glowed brighter than last year as an estimated 100,000 people came out to watch participants in the Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade participants strut their stuff and throw their beads.

The parade route was lined with onlookers from start to finish, but the crowds thickened closer to the bend on Westheimer and swelled near Mary's bar and at the intersection with Montrose.

Mayor Lee P. Brown took part in the

parade, becoming the first Houston mayor to ride in the parade in its 22-year history. Kathy Whitnire participated in the parade during her campaign for mayor, but did not ride in the parade after taking office.

"We were incredibly happy the mayor joined in," said Jack Valinski, executive director of the Pride Committee. And, to many in the community, Brown's participation showed much support for the lesbian and gay community.

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas Rep. Debra Danburg and Houston city council members Annise Parker, Gordon

Quan and Carol Mims Galloway joined the mayor in the festivities.

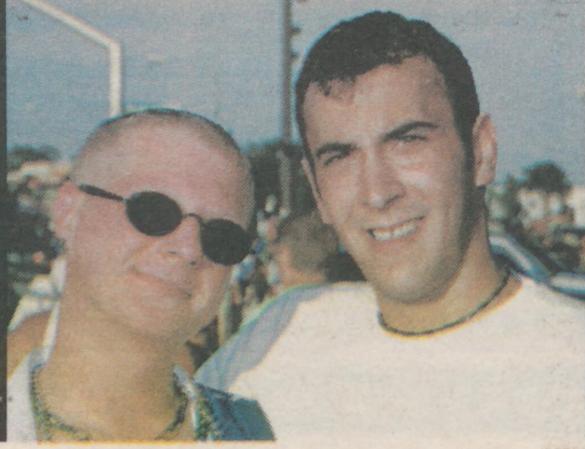
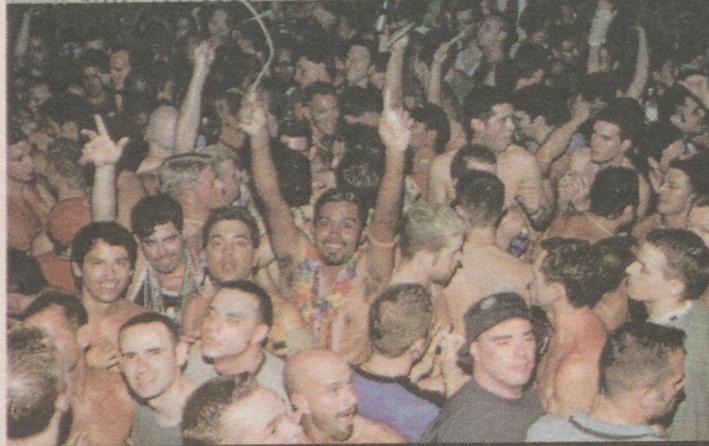
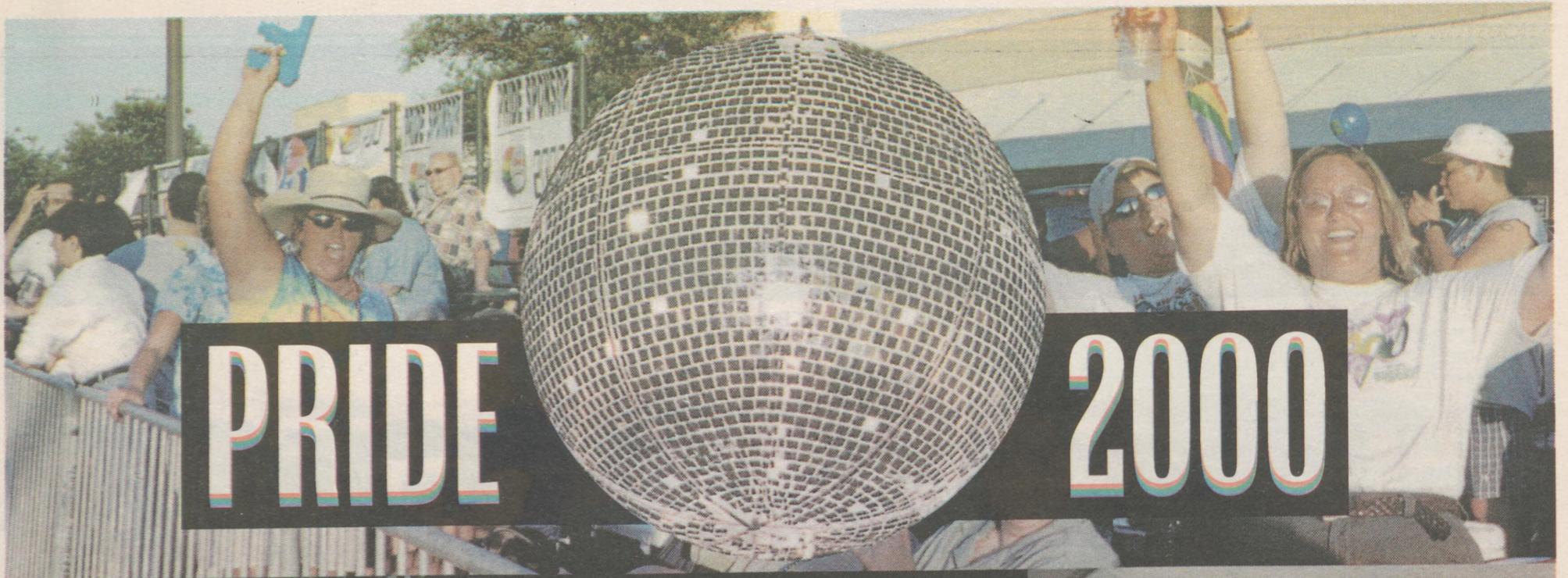
Protesters were there too, about 16 or so, but they departed after Brown's cortege went by.

More than 120 floats were in this year's parade sponsored by organizations, businesses and individuals, said Valinski. "And they were bigger and better than previous years. More people made use of lights. And we were really impressed with the homemade floats," he said.

The "Spirit of Montrose" award for the best

> Continued on Page 23





# Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

## Dishes don't live up to drinks' standards

by TRAYCE DISKIN

It was one of those perfect Friday afternoons and the venue was perfect too.

On the BLUE AGAVE's patio, thick with green, spidery ferns and Mexican tile, the lush decor seemed to block out the hiss of W. Gray traffic.

And by some stroke of luck, or science, there were no mosquitoes!

The extra-greasy chips appeared after a bit of a wait, but our friendly, if frenzied server redeemed himself immediately with the fresh pico de gallo salsa and green salsa.

The red salsa was so fresh I could distinguish each shred of basil, parsley and cilantro and although the green sauce was watery by comparison, it was hardly bland.

We started with the Fried Calimari (\$8.99), so heavily soaked in grease that a yellowish puddle formed at the bottom of the dish and glistened menacingly.



Doesn't the kitchen staff realize that this appetizer is best when a crispy, dry batter allows the succulence of the meat to emerge?

But since I'm not opposed to variations that produce taste, all of my dining companions loved the sauté of peppers, scallions, onions and garlic that topped the dish—perhaps, ironically, the cause of all that grease in the first place.

My entree, Spinach and Artichoke Enchiladas (\$11.99), were thankfully greaseless and so tenderly cooked that each bite held the flavor of each component, from the silky spinach and firm artichoke hearts with mild white cheese to the spinach tortillas themselves, lightly topped with melted jack cheese and topped with tomatillo and red sauce.

In addition to my winning choice, the Blue Agave offers the standard Pollo, Cheese and Beef Enchiladas, as well as Mixed Veggie, Shrimp and Spinach and Avocado (\$8.99-\$11.99).

The Grilled Chicken Salad (\$8.99) featured tomatoes, red onions and peppers, topped by an impressive honey mustard—tart, creamy and well-dispersed throughout the rather common salad.

The chicken, cut into thick, manageable strips, was grilled and cooked well, although it took a thick coating of dressing to provide enough flavor.

My friend who was most excited by the description of his Bacon and Jalepeno Wrapped Shrimp Piña (\$18.99) ended up the most disappointed.

Although the shrimp were huge, the bacon wasn't cooked thoroughly—proof that

indeed bacon and seafood don't cook in the same amount of time!

This dish comes in an appetizer size as well and perhaps is worth ordering, if you make a point of giving instructions to the server.

The accompanying pineapple butter makes for a decadent condiment, as long as the meal itself isn't raw.

The Chicken Fajitas (\$11.99) were unremarkable for the dryness of the meat, as well as the lack of suitable condiments?

Where was the snappy pico de gallo or red sauce?

Why did it take two tries to receive a side order of luscious, chunky guac?

Like the service, which was a bit faulty but well meaning, I wasn't quite prepared to give up on the Blue Agave when we left.

As we exited through the dining room, decked out in more funky tile centered around a Spanish fountain, I wanted to come back to try the Trout Piña (\$17.99) with blackened pineapples, or the Pecan Crusted Trout (\$17.99)—dishes with, perhaps, a little more innovation and potential spark.

Although I was perfectly enamored with sipping margaritas on the inviting patio—the food itself did little to wow us back.

And about those margaritas...

As the plant that bears the same name, the restaurant yields smooth, quality tequila, namely in the form of its signature margaritas.

The combination of it being a Friday afternoon and sitting with friends on a breeze-blessed cantina patio with addiction-forming chips, I initially lamented the fact that our margaritas arrived in such small cocktail glasses.

Upon a first, second and tenth sip, however, the potent and slick liquid was heavenly, smooth, as just the right amount.

If the Blue Agave can raise the standards of its dishes to that of its booze and atmosphere, I'll be the first one on the deck.

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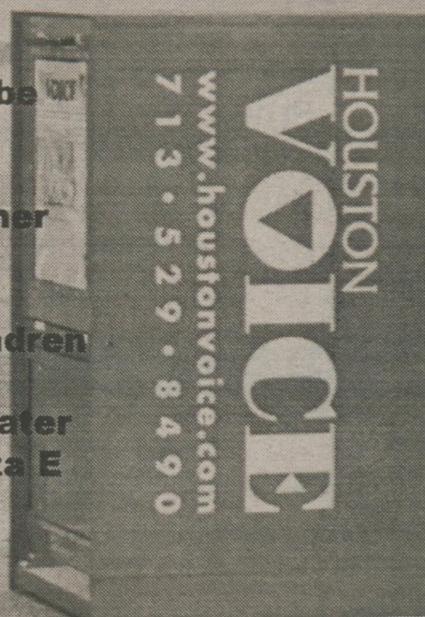
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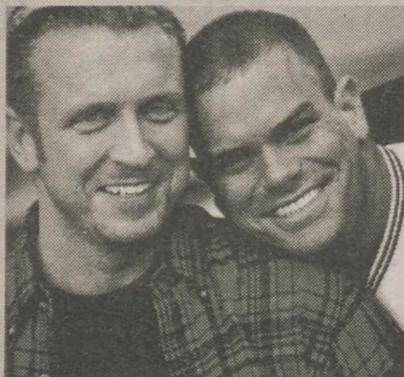
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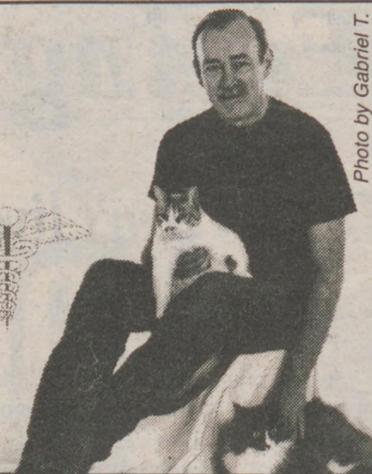


Photo by Gabriel T.

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*Paul Broussard*

# 'Happy, pappy' Tina Cousins Pride 2000

> Continued from Page 19

She wanted to be in Houston because it was the first U.S. city to fully embrace her music. The first radio stations and clubs to play her music. Cousins said she also wanted to show her respect for the Houston gay community.

"It's always the gay community that has accepted me first," Cousins said. In England, she has been a part of the gay Pride events for the past four years.



Yet, her recognition hasn't been an overnight sensation. Around the same time Cousins started singing, she started modeling for a year to earn some extra cash. And many of her peers still consider her a "model turned so-called singer." Well, Cousins doesn't consider herself "some silly, blond bimbo fronting a dance track."

And singing dance songs hasn't helped

her legitimacy. Although Cousins believes no matter what type of song you sing, it's the voice and talent that should be recognized.

She says she really wants everyone to like her music, but don't think she is a push over. She appreciates some of the "gutsy singers" who paved the way, like Madonna. "Like them, I always get myself in trouble," Cousins said.

On one occasion during her year of modeling, she had a chance to be an extra in a Rolling Stone video. Unfortunately, lead singer Mick Jagger wasn't being very cordial.

"He was sorta snobby, sorta stuck up" Cousins said. "I was really surprised, it's not how you imagine him to be. I thought he was part of the old school rock—really cool. But he was really up his own ass. He passed by and really shoved me out of the way. And I thought I'm not having that, so I shoved him back. Just because you're a major celeb doesn't mean you can shove people around like that."

Cousins said she hopes to come back and perform for Houston and Rich's in the near future. She's planning a two-week frenzied tour of the U.S. this year and currently is recording a new album due out late this year or early next. Whatever comes along, Cousins only promises to keep singing.

"As long as I keep singing, I'm happy."

> Continued from Page 19

overall float went to the Chase Bank P.R.I.D.E. team. And Razzle Dazzle Dallas won the "Gypsy Rose" award for the best out-of-town unit. "It was the first time we had them in the parade," said Valinski. "They were great."

The Houston Pride Band won the "Ruby Slipper" award for best walking unit. And the Krewe of Olympus received the award for best lighting on a non-professional float, while Miss Camp America got the award for best lighting on a professional float. Bering United Methodist Church won for best motorized non-professional float and Rich's for the best professional motorized float.

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents won the "Stonewall" award for the unit best commemorating Pride; and E.J.'s bar won for the best interpretation of this year's theme, "Take Pride, Take Joy, Take Action."

"What was really great," said Valinski, "is that although it was the community's parade, it was so diverse. There were straight people as well as gays both in the parade and in the crowds."

"For example, the Chase Bank people were not only gays and lesbians, there were straight people too. It was great that they came out as well."

And the disco ball atop the intersection of Montrose and Westheimer, where the

crowds surged, was brighter this year. "We had a light mounted on the corner of Cody's building that bounced light of the ball. And we had HL&P shut off the street lights for a better effect," said Valinski. He said it nearly took an act of Congress to do it, but it was worth it.

Valinski praised Pride Committee members and said it couldn't have happened without them, without the volunteers and without the corporate sponsors.

He also said that most committee members have already expressed a desire to stay on the committee and work on next year's parade. "In fact, we are already wondering how to do it better next year," said Valinski.

He added that since the parade keeps getting bigger, they might look at starting the parade a little earlier next year. But, not to worry, it will still be a nighttime parade with glitter, glamour, glow and the now signature disco ball.

The Pride Committee is active year-round and is holding volunteer interest sessions later in the summer to introduce interested individuals to the organization. Regular planning meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center.

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## "Quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and from staff reports



"We were at [songwriter] Paul Jabara's home in LA, and he was playing some different songs for us. And when he put on 'It's Raining Men,' we just laughed. He begged us to record the song for him—the music was there, the background was there, all we had to do was walk in and do the lead vocals. But we said no. He begged, and he pleaded, and finally we wound up doing it in a studio in about two and a half hours."

—Weather Girl Martha Wash (left) to *Genre* magazine, July issue

"Hypocrisy—that's why I detest the [Catholic] clergy so much. Everybody knows that it is full of prominently repressed homosexuals or pedophiles, for God's sake. Sheer hypocrisy. They're always in drag. The biggest drag show is high mass."

—Author John Rechy to *Genre* magazine, July issue

"I can't think of another time that we've seen a gay rights group exert this kind of pressure so effectively [as they have against 'Dr. Laura's' planned TV show]. I mean, to get Procter & Gamble, United Airlines—these are big American corporations. They must see gay consumers as being pretty important, and they must see some kind of penalty for them if they went ahead with this [advertising]."

—National Public Radio's Mara Liasson on FOX News, May 31



"Other advertisers should pay attention to P&G's [Procter & Gamble's] words: there are indeed 'better' program options."

—*Advertising Age* on P&G's decision not to advertise on "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger's (left) planned TV show because she is anti-gay, May 29

"I've cried more at times than I would like to admit because to see my name, my character, my person come under attack. It's astonishing to have your name smeared with such vitriol. I wouldn't wish it on people I dislike. It's been agonizing."

—"Dr. Laura" Schlessinger, in an interview with *Time* magazine, June 24

"Have you been searching for a place that will accept you as Christian and Leather, or S/M, or Kinky? The Leather Ministry is a group where the whole person can feel nurtured. We do not have to separate those two parts of our lives any longer. The Leather Ministry is for those people seeking to blend their Spirituality and their Sexuality."

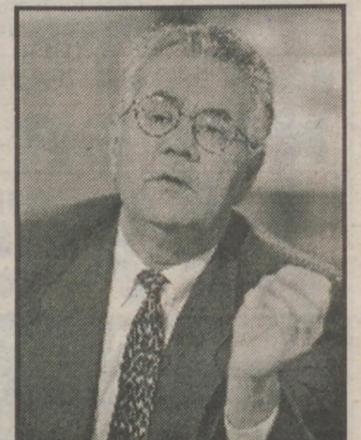
—From the San Diego leather e-mail list PT-List, June 8

"Hate crimes are abysmal. They are horrible. We should all be against them."

—Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), the only senator to speak out in a June 24 floor debate against passage of a measure extended federal hate crime laws to include sexual orientation, gender and disability

"Politics can have strange effects on people's views of bedfellowship."

—Openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) (right), on his theory that wavering House Republicans may vote in favor of the hate crimes measure passed by the Senate on June 20, as reported by the *New York Times*



# On Stage

## All singing, all dancing, all nude

by D.L. GROOVER

"Oh, that," Christian DeVries says with a smile as he picks up a crumpled jock strap discarded on the risers at Bienvenue Theatre and tosses it onto the football shoulder pads lying on stage, "that's Ricky's costume."

On a table behind the uniform's meager pile sits a turquoise clock radio. That is Craig's costume, or lack of one, for his ode-to-center-folds number "Nothin' But the Radio On."

Cowboy paraphernalia (Stetsons, chaps, bullwhips, cow skull and a bale of hay) decorate a wheeled cart, ready for duty during the "Everything is Bigger in Texas" production. Leaning against the lapis and lime flats, rests a purple glittered Star of David prop for "Bliss of a Bris." There's a plastic basket full of cleaning supplies and a rainbow feather duster for Chad to carry when he sings his paean to unclad cleanliness, "The Naked Maid."

All is being readied for tonight's Houston premiere of the off-Broadway mega-gay hit, that "man-o-rama" musical extravaganza, **NAKED BOYS SINGING**, directed by DeVries.

Appendages do funny things when you're dancing and we needed to get that stuff out of the way.

"What a variety," DeVries says while hanging the spangled star of David closer to the sequined Lone Star flag. "We know that people are going to come because there's nudity in it, but when they leave we want them to go, 'Wow, it was such a fun show, it was great. The voices were tremendous, and, by the way, they were naked.'"

"NBS" was the brainchild of Robert Schrock, the artistic director of Celebration Theatre, the preeminent gay theater company in Los Angeles. Bienvenue is the first company outside NYC licensed by Celebration to produce "NBS," and DeVries is justly proud.

"They really had to look into us before they decided we were the right ones," he said. "They get about five calls a week. The producers never expected anyone from Houston to apply."

Another "member" of the cast, Sean Carter, makes his Houston theatrical debut, although he's no stranger to the stage. A former Mr. Gay Texas All-American, the current Mr. BRB, and the president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Carter, who performed in shows at Louisiana State University while majoring in English lit and political science, was uncertain about being seen in the full monty, although many of his friends urged him to audition.

"What a debut," he exclaimed. "I'm used to being in theater, but not this kind of theater. I can just see half of the city council members thinking, 'what is he doing?' So, I told them there's just no way I could do it. But my partner and I went to New York the week before the March on Washington, and we went to see "NBS" off-Broadway. By intermission, I

Cast members of 'Naked Boys Singing' include (front, from left) Agustin Paz, Mikel Reper, Sean Carter, (back row, from left) Thom Knight, Todd Greenfield, David Brett, Ricky O'neill, Chad-Alan Carr, Craig Willoughby and Tony Parsons.



PHOTO BY GARY LAIRD

looked at Jerel and said, I'm going to audition for this.

"You're conscious of the nudity. The first song is kind of a shock, that everyone is up there naked, but after that you kind of forget about it."

To ease the cast's less-adventuresome into becoming comfortable with shedding their clothes, DeVries started rehearsals with minimum exposure. Before long, though, the actors doffed their inhibitions and got into the fun of it.

"We've had the best time putting this show together," DeVries says. "As we went through rehearsal, people just started relaxing with each other, so when we got to the nudity part it was just a very natural thing. Now, when they walk in the door, it's hard to keep their clothes on them. They're just having a ball."

"Truthfully," says Carter, "after a few weeks of rehearsals, it really is just nothing for us. We've gotten so used to it, we really don't even think about it anymore. By the end of this run, I won't have much to hide from the community."

"It's silly, it's campy," adds Reper, "but there're some very serious vocals in the show that are fairly complicated that take it above and beyond just a bunch of boys jumping around being silly and being naked. I think the community's going to be really receptive to it."

As head of the caucus, Carter assesses the show with a more politic view. "Someone I was talking to at the parade had said they had seen it and one of the lines that really stuck with them was, 'Nakedness is just another window to the soul,' which is the underlying theme of the whole musical. Nakedness really isn't anything that we need to be ashamed of."

"This is not a sexual show," DeVries says emphatically. "I have to make that very clear to everyone. If anyone is coming expecting groping and things like that, they're going to be very disappointed. It's only about an hour and a half with intermission, so you have plenty of time to come see the show and go to a bar or a movie afterward. It's a great date."

If nakedness is, indeed, just another window to the soul, then "Naked Boys Singing" is one great big bay window.

### INFO

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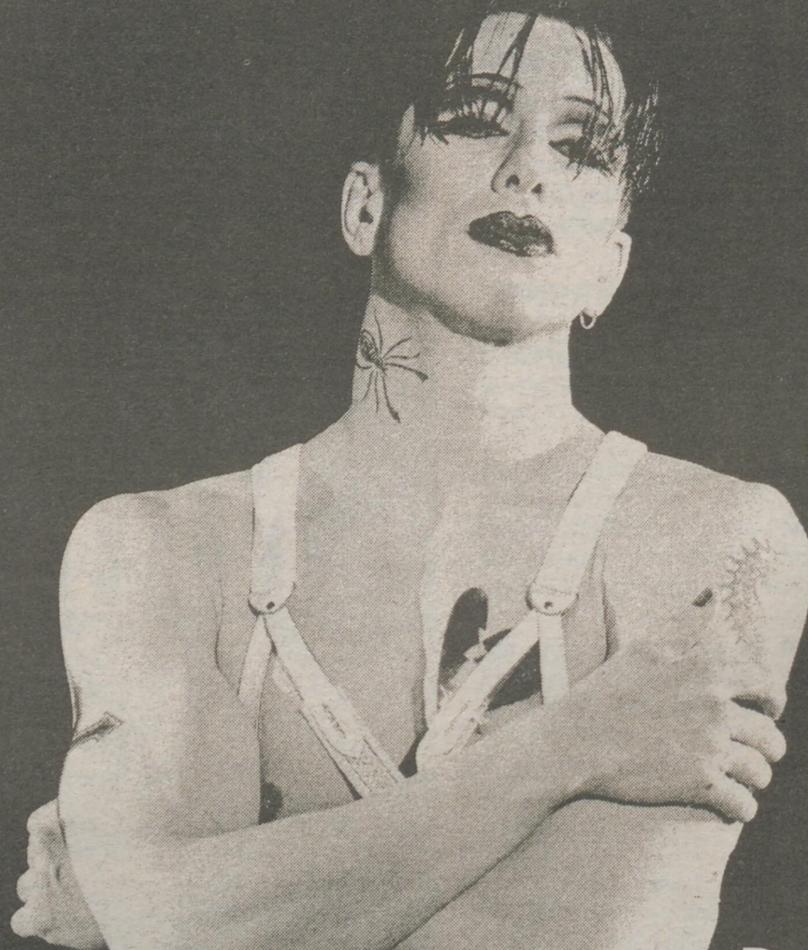
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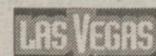
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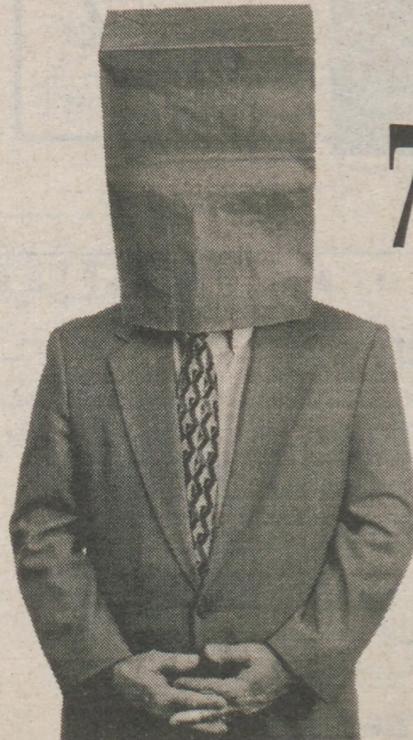
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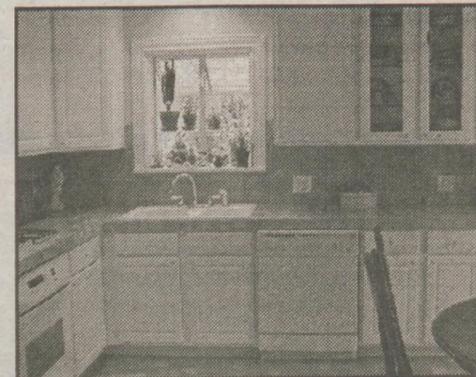
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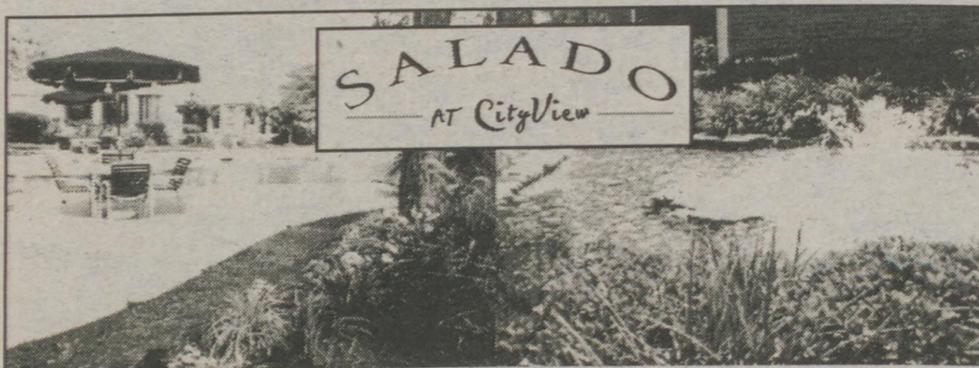
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# homefront



ON THE FRINGE: INTERIOR DESIGN

## Art Nouveau— the beginning of Modernism

by STEPHEN M. CALVERT, M.D.

It was only last night that I finally viewed "Titanic." This probably makes me the last (gay) man in the civilized world to see this popular movie. In general, I found it to be a good movie with good acting. It was the set designs, though, that impressed me and inspired this column.

Although the furniture and appointments on the Titanic (being of British origin) do not reflect a change from the "classical" styles, the lavish and exotic lifestyles of the wealthy passengers exemplify the move from the prudish Victorian Period to that of the enlightened 20th century.

"Art Nouveau" is the name given to a cluster of decorative styles that evolved in Europe during the 19th century. The inspiration came from two movements that had flourished in England. The Aesthetic Movement sought to elevate design to the level of fine art, the Arts and Crafts Movement emulated medieval ideas of craftsmanship.

The term "Art Nouveau" was derived from the Paris shop of the German entrepreneur Samuel Bing, "La Maison de l'Art nouveau." Opening in 1895, it became the major outlet for the glass of Emile Gallé, the lamps of Louis C. Tiffany, the jewelry of René Lalique and the furniture of Eugene Vallin—all hallmarks of Art Nouveau design.

The art Nouveau period is usually dated from 1900 to 1920. Although it had this name in France and Belgium, this form of design was called "Jugendstil" in Germany and Austria, and "Stile Floreale" in Italy.

No matter what you call it, it was the beginning of a concept which has inspired architects and designers over the past 100 years.

Objects, furniture and room decorations began to take highly sculptural forms from nature. Serpentine vines, floral reliefs, water nymphs, sinuous whiplash lines, peacock feathers and erotic female figures appeared on furniture, lamps, mirrors, posters, jewelry and door handles. Nothing was considered too trivial to merit embellishment.

Eroticism was a theme of the period, exemplified in the works of Parisian artists Alphonse Mocha and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. They celebrated the female form,

often in fantastical settings, attired in exotic costumes, their work imbued with erotic or ethereal suggestion.

Other major centers of the "new art" were Scotland and Austria. The Scottish architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh joined forces with Herbert MacNair and the MacDonald sisters, Frances and Margaret.

In Vienna, the "Secessionists" led by Josef Hoffmann and Kolomon Moser founded the Wiener Werkstatte (i.e. Vienna



Example of Art Nouveau

Workshops). They disregarded the curvilinear exuberance of the French, using a more controlled, straight-lined style with a vertical emphasis that was well received and greatly influenced furniture design of the day.

Collecting in Art Nouveau can be done at three distinct levels. Expensive hand-crafted works by top names such as Carlo Bugatti or Christopher Dresser are rarely available but highly sought after. Fine but more affordable pieces will still embody the key virtues of the style. Mass produced items, including many made for well known glass companies, can still be acquired at relatively modest prices.

Without regard to the level of your interest, Art Nouveau is a design form which integrates well into many periods and styles. Take note: this form will become the next true antique collectable. Remember, an item is not an antique until it is more than 100 years old. This form, therefore, will increase greatly in value in your lifetime. Consider that for your investment portfolio—as few as two years 'til payday.

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From: Management  
RE: Advertising corrections

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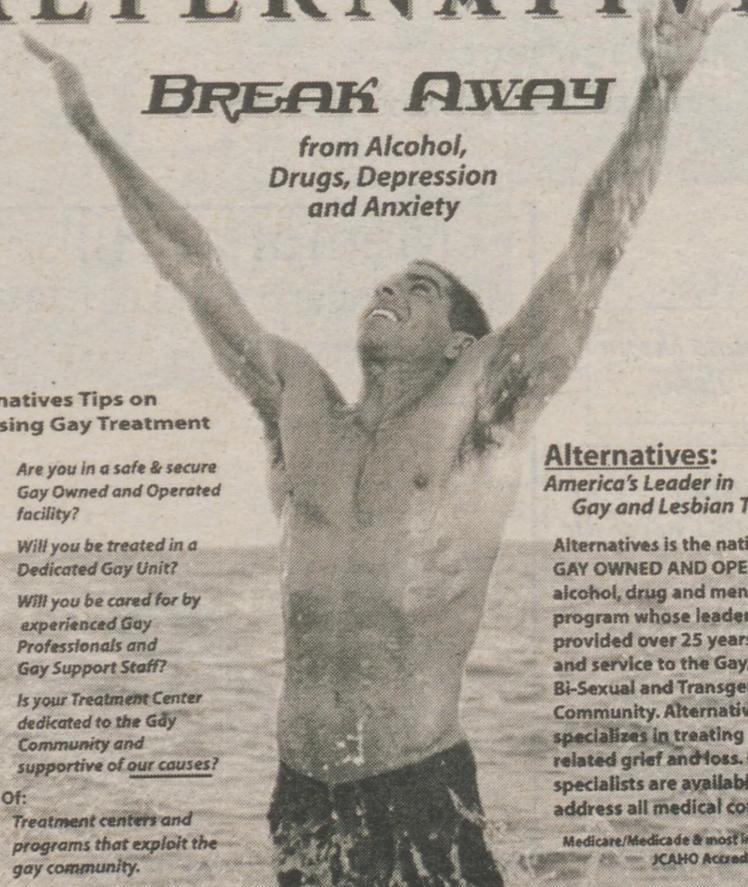
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Photo: Scott Ashton

# community calendar

## saturday, july 1

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.  
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.  
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.  
Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. 713-528-3818.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.  
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
FrontRunners Running Club, 9 a.m. 713-522-8021.  
PFLAG-Houston. Meeting, 2 p.m. 713-867-9020.

## monday, july 3

\* Some events may be canceled due to the 4th of July holiday. Please call first.  
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.  
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. Black Lesbian & Gay Coalition weekly meeting. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
Classic Chassis Car Club. Meeting. 7 p.m. 713-797-8615.

## sunday, july 2

New Hope Christian Center Worship Service. 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.  
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 Baptist Church. 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 11 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

## tuesday, july 4

\* Some events may be canceled due to the 4th of July holiday. Please call first.  
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. 281-495-8009.  
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang, 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

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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.  
 Lambda Skating Club skates, 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. 713-410-7215.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m.  
 Lesbians Island Young Women's Group meets 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.  
 Lesbian Health Initiative meeting, 7 p.m. 713-603-0023.

**wednesday, july 5**

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.  
 STD Exams & treatment HIV testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.  
 BiNet Houston, 7:30 p.m. Social meeting. 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.  
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.  
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.  
 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 MCC. 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. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group, 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.  
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal, 7 p.m. 713-524-0218.  
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups, 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Grace Lutheran Church. Vacation Bible School. Supper, 5:30 p.m. Classes at 6:30 and 8 p.m. Adult & children. 713-528-3269.

**thursday, july 6**

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.  
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.  
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017X211.  
 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.  
 FrontRunners Running Club, 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer 713-526-1118.  
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.  
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
 HIV testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston. (GLOBAL) Meeting. 4 p.m. 713-743-7539.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Gulf Coast Transgender Community meeting. 7 p.m. 713-780-4282.  
 EC Houston. Pro-Gay, Pro-Christian bible study & fellowship. 800-310-6718 or Houstonec@hotmail.com.

**friday, july 7**

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meeting, 713-942-7002.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.  
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 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. 713-861-1800.  
 Houston Tennis Club, 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
 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.  
 Mishpach Alizim Shabbat Services, 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Community Awareness for Transgender Support. Meeting. 6 p.m. 409-927-1705.  
 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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### Boy of Montrose Contest

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New Fridays! Live rock bands at midnight. • Thursdays - Amateur male strip contest, \$100 cash prize at midnight • Wednesdays - \$25 prize for best old campy drag contest at midnight.

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How to adopt internationally and domestically. • Family to Family Adoption Services is a Non-profit adoption agency dedicated to find loving homes for thousands of orphans. • Single men, women, and couples from 25 - 60 years of age are eligible to adopt. • For more information please call 713.249.5941.

### The Blood Center

Donors, who would like the location and hours of operation of a donor facility close to them, may call the Blood Center at 713.790.1200 or [www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org).

### PWA Coalition

Desperately needs the following items: Dishes, silverware, pots/pans, sheets, towels, dressers, dinettes, coffee tables, sofas, chairs and small appliances. Pick-up available, call 713.522.5428.

### Project L.E.A.P.

Are you interested in advocating for funding and services for people living with HIV and AIDS? The PWA Coalition-Houston announces start of Project L.E.A.P., an intensive training program for HIV positive individuals and others who want to become advocates for HIV/AIDS related services and funding. Classes for Project L.E.A.P. will begin in May. Participants must complete an application and a limited number of spaces are available. To receive an application or to obtain more information please call Rich Arenschioldt, Project Coordinator at 713.522.5428, ext. 28 or 800.999.0325.

### Body Positive Wellness Center

is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower those with HIV infection, through nutrition chiropractic services, yoga, and peer counseling. If you are interested in participation or volunteering, we want to speak with you! Visit our website at [www.bodypositive.org](http://www.bodypositive.org) or call 713.524.2374.

## Auditions

### Bienvenue Theatre

Auditions for chorus, understudies, and replacements for musical "Naked Boys Singing". • Males 20 -40 with good bodies call 713.426.2626.

## Autos For Sale

'92 Nissan P/U • 5 spd, good condition, cold A/C, runs great, 105K miles • No radio and the tailgate handle needs to be replaced, yet would be a great work truck. • \$3200.00 • Call Alan at 713.349.9750 (daytime) or 713.869.8169 (evenings).

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1997 Jeep Wrangler • 49,000 miles • Red w/ black soft top • \$12,888 • Stk # 9672 • River Oaks Chrysler Jeep • Richard Sisco • 713.524.3189.

2000 Chrysler 300M • Red w/ Camel Leather Interior • Loaded • Full Power • \$26,888 • Stk # 6977 • River Oaks Chrysler Jeep • Richard Sisco • 713.524.3189.

1997 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT Pick-up • 38,000 miles • Priced to sell @ \$14,888 • Stk # 5338 • River Oaks Chrysler Jeep • Richard Sisco • 713.524.3189.

1998 Ford Mustang GT Coupe • Red w/ tan leather • Only 12,000 miles • Cobra wheels • \$16,888 • Stk # 5337 • River Oaks Chrysler Jeep • Richard Sisco • 713.524.3189.

1997 Geo Tracker Convertible • 41,000 miles • Automatic • \$7888 • Stk # 9669 • River Oaks Chrysler Jeep • Richard Sisco • 713.524.3189.

1998 Hyundai Tiburon FX • Only 13,000 miles • Automatic • CD • \$10,888 • Stk # 6053 • River Oaks Chrysler Jeep • Richard Sisco • 713.524.3189.

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## Business Opportunities

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Own a computer? • Put it to work! • \$350 - \$850 week. • [www.pc4profit.com](http://www.pc4profit.com).

## Employment

### Admin. Assistant Kolbe Project 713.861.1800.

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Galveston's newest bar opening soon. • Applications for all positions are now being taken. • Apply in person between 1-4pm, 2515 Mechanic. • No phone calls, please.

Nightingale ADC offers free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals • Including job preparedness training, resume development, job search assistance. For more information call 713.981.1543.

### STEVEN'S HOUSE

HIV Intermediate care home seeks night staff • Resident interaction, housework, and clerical • Understanding/sensitivity of HIV/AIDS and experience a plus • EOE • Send resume to Executive Director • PO Box 131303 • Houston, Texas 77219-1303.

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## Organizations

[www.bodypositivehouse-on.org](http://www.bodypositivehouse-on.org)

[www.bearsonthebayou.com](http://www.bearsonthebayou.com)

[www.montrosesoftballleague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballleague.com)

[www.iblhouston.net](http://www.iblhouston.net)

## Pets

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

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

## Products & Services

### www.mykeith.com

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[www.HoustonGayWeb.com](http://www.HoustonGayWeb.com)

[www.edwina.com](http://www.edwina.com)

[www.gayswitchboardhouston.org](http://www.gayswitchboardhouston.org)

## Professional Services

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## Publications

[www.houstonvoice.com](http://www.houstonvoice.com)

[www.sovo.com](http://www.sovo.com)

[www.impactnews.com](http://www.impactnews.com)

## Real Estate For Rent

Heights-Deco • 1/1 stylish • All new • contemporary • painted floors • exposed brick. • \$695. • Call 281.638.5151.

1 Studio apartment • All bills paid • W/D • \$600/mo. •

1 Efficiency apartment • All bills paid • Really cozy • \$550/mo. •

1 Large efficiency apartment • All bills paid • 713.446.3331.

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Small 1 bedroom condo (450 sq. ft.) - \$400 month. • 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath condo/townhouse (1225 sq. ft.) with W/D, fenced patio, new stove/refrigerator - \$700 month • 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo (850 sq. ft.) - \$625 month • Call Lyn, on-site agent, for an appointment, 713.729.9316.

1419 Hyde Park efficiency apartment. • \$450 Move-In-Special • Call J.D. at 713.528.0561.

Near Intercontinental • Large 1bed/1bath, totally renovated, all new kitchen and bath, pool. • \$379 per month, + 1 month free! • Call 281.820.4910.

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### RIVER OAKS

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8 + acres located 35 miles east of Austin with improvements. • Magnificent view, year round creek with access to 4 - 5 acre lake. • \$6,500 per acre, 512.273.2310.

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Room for rent in a townhouse. • Private bath, light cooking & laundry privileges, huge closet, covered parking. • \$350 month. • Call Lyn, 713.729.9316.

Share 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with GWM couple in Cypress. • \$400 month, includes utilities, lawn service, housekeeping. • Call 281.897.9840

## Travel/Resorts

[www.lovetinn.com](http://www.lovetinn.com)

## The Rainbow Cruise!

Oct 7 to Oct 15, 2000. On board "The Big Red Boat III" sailing from Houston to Veracruz, Cozumel, and Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Gay group now forming, singles welcome! Space is limited. Cabins start at \$499 and up.

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## Volunteer Information

### GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD

Volunteer classes now forming. Reserve your space on line or call 713.529.9615 or [www.gay-switchboardhouston.org](http://www.gay-switchboardhouston.org).

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

to give four (4) hours per month for in-home care visits to people living with HIV/AIDS • For more information on Bering's Sentry Program call Craig Overstreet at 713.523.7110 EXT 119.

### Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center

is seeking volunteers to staff the facility in more extended hours. If organizations and individuals are interested, please contact Eva Luchak at 713.524.3818 to discuss how you can help.

### RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL

is looking for volunteers to serve on the council. The primary responsibility of the council is to determine what services are most needed. Last year's Council received over \$17 million from the federal government for use in the greater Houston area. Your participation DOES make a difference. Contact Tori Williams at 713.572.3724 or email [www.rwpc.org](http://www.rwpc.org).



# Occasions

## Birthdays

Texas Renegade Steve T. is celebrated his birthday on June 23.

Local artist Bob Porter painted his birthday cake on June 23.

Former *Houston Voice* editor Sheri Cohen Darbone edits her birthday wish list on June 25.

Oak Forest dweller and fabu artist Norman toasted in his birthday on June 25.

Classy Chassis Car Club member Ray M. birthday odometer rolled over on June 25.

Houston Area Bear Jim K. went hunting for a big bear birthday hug on June 25.

Jim F. of the Houston Area Bears came out of his den for his birthday on June 27.

Gary N. celebrated his birthday on June 27.

June 27 was the birthday for Tom S.

Franki (not a "Y") smiled in her birthday on June 28.

Paul R. of the CCCC motored in his birthday on June 29.

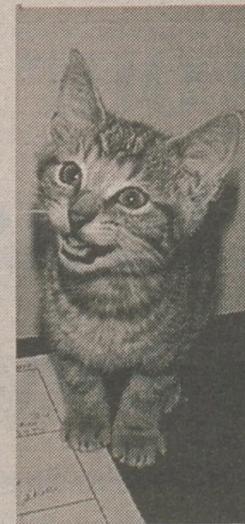
Brian of TNT T-shirts silk-screened his birthday T-shirt on June 26.

Local activist and all around great gal Marion Coleman celebrated her birthday on June 29.

Houston Area Bears Ray G. (6/30); Chuck G. (7/6) and Robert C. (7/7) will be having a bear of a good time on their birthdays.

*Houston Voice's* own Terry Sullivan (with her dog Gizmo) celebrate a birthday on July 2.

The famous, handsome, smart, funny, and con artist Jim (Uncle Bunko) Lockheart celebrated his 34th birthday again on July 6.



This little cutie is Eddie. He is a 12-week-old brown tabby kitten. He is trying to be an "office helper," but he is really just complaining about the paperwork.

To adopt, contact the Houston Humane Society at 713-434-5555 or pr@houstonhumane.org

The *Houston Voice* welcomes your special occasions. Send e-mail to [croberts@houstonvoice.com](mailto:croberts@houstonvoice.com). Fax: 713-529-9531. Mail: Occasions, *Houston Voice*, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006. Please include a telephone number so occasions can be verified and considered for publication.

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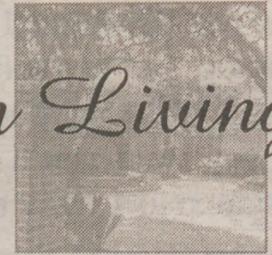
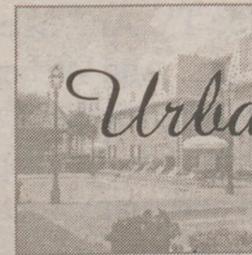


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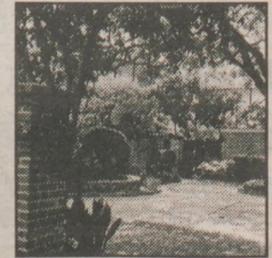
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## June 30 - July 6

### ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

The effects of July 1st's solar eclipse in your home and family sector can still be felt as fireworks go off on the 4th. Indulge your sentimental side. You may not know what to do about a career matter just yet, so why not concentrate on something that makes you really happy, like a close relationship with a Cancer?



### TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Jupiter is beginning a lucrative trek through your house of money, sweetie. Take advantage of this cycle and work your ass off to get some new gigs. It really is the perfect time to throw a summer party, or at least do some impromptu dancing and slacking off. If you think a Gemini is flirting with you, you are so right.



### GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Be careful what you wish for during this lucky, lucky time. All the changes you've been longing for could come to pass, but sooner than you expect. You may have to think on your feet. You've got energy to spare, and a Taurus is turned on by your spunk. (Oh, stop!)



### CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Jupiter is now moving through your twelfth house, which means it's time to be the person you are in your dreams. People are taking your words out of context because they don't know you that well. Turn on that soft charm of yours and make damage control a breeze. A Sagittarius is particularly receptive to your ways.



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

The moon in your sign should make the 4th of July particularly hot and full of fireworks. Your emotions are hanging out very close to the surface, which is good news for your love life. The start of a new life is weeks away, but right now you need to be ready for some minor discomforts and one major miracle. A Capricorn sees right through you, and digs your dirty secrets.



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

You should be prepared to fight a few small battles on the work front, but don't allow the concrete world to sap all your energy. Who you are is more important than what you call yourself on your taxes. You need to rethink your life a little, sweetie. An Aquarius can get you back on the fast track, but what's the rush?



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

You may still be feeling cocky about career matters after July 1st's eclipse, which hit the top of your chart. Well, honey, the work begins now. It's follow-up time. As you gain more power in your career, your sex drive increases twice as fast. See a connection? A Leo can make an honest slut out of you.



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

Don't be afraid to put your foot in your mouth or offend a few less-than-truly-important people in your life. You need to trust that the people who love you will always love you. Pick your partners wisely; don't give it away too easily. A Virgo can pay double what you're asking.



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

Money could come to you through an investment or legal situation. If you do come into extra funds, don't blow it all on a party, doll. Be open to the kind of relationship you claim to want: one that includes intellectual challenge and lots of bondage. A Scorpio can give you both.



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

This is an incredibly romantic time for you, baby. So why are you blathering on and on about work? It'll keep! People aren't used to you expressing emotions like sadness and fear. The more you show your heart aches, the less your heart will ache. A Taurus can make it all better.



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

Mercury is retrograde till the 17th, so be sure to say exactly what you mean and follow up on all business correspondence. People are easily offended now, so don't self-sabotage, dear! Dot every "i," cross every "t," and lick every spot on a Gemini's body.



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

Your obliviousness is your greatest asset 'round the 4th of July. Your creative juices are flowing (and so are other juices, especially when an Aries cozies up to you), so who cares about the petty aspects of life and work? This is a strange time of depth and superficiality. Find the right balance, you otherworldly creature, you!



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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