



HOUSTON

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Sloan's romance opens today page 15

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Delays parked mobile clinic for months

Poor management cited in snags, stockpiling of condoms

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

A \$145,000 federally-funded mobile clinic designed to provide free testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases is back in service after sitting dormant for months in a fire station, city officials said Thursday.

Mechanical snags, delays and staffing shortages have plagued the

deployment of the massive 50-foot truck since it hit the streets briefly earlier this year.

"It is a very nice and expensive mobile facility purchased specifically to deal with HIV and AIDS populations and it was just sitting there collecting dust," said city councilwoman Annise Parker. "It was a waste of taxpayer

money."

Designed to carry a staff of up to five from the city health department and volunteers from community-based groups, the mobile clinic was parked in late January after serving about 1,200 people, said Kathy Barton, a spokeswoman for the city Health and Human Services Department.

From late September 1997 to January, the mobile unit was sidelined 27 times with mechanical problems, Barton said. Finding employees to staff the clinic was also a problem. So a health department official decided to mothball the rig until the concerns were ironed out, she said.

"This was in the shop for days at a time," Barton said. "(But) when it was operating, we did see a lot of people."

See CLINIC/page 4

AIDS Walk raises \$250,000

Some 2,000 people ignore health warnings

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

More than 2,000 people showed for a modified AIDS Walk that raised an estimated \$250,000 on May 17, despite a thick smoky haze and health warnings to stay home.

The health advisories forced organizers of the Ninth Annual Southwestern Bell Houston AIDS Walk to change venues and move indoors to the George R. Brown Convention Center.

That contributed to the event raising \$50,000 less than expected, said Sara Selber, executive director of AIDS Foundation Houston, an organization that helps stage the event and receives 85 percent of the proceeds.

"If you talk about what we had to change and we saw 2,000 people show up at a convention center, that is a strong number to show that there is a commitment and that Houston heard us," said event chairman Harold Shultz.

Some 18 HIV/AIDS service agencies will split funds pledged for the walk. Last year's AIDS Walk raised \$200,000.

Moving the event inside cost organizers funds typically raised from participants registering on the morning of the event, Selber said. Corporate Houston donated more than \$100,000 to the event.

"We did not have the traditional walk-up. That hurt us," she said.

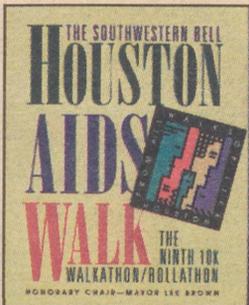
But the mood inside the convention center remained festive. Water and fruit stops were still in place and booths were filled with volunteers.

"AIDS has no boundaries," Mayor Lee Brown told the early morning crowd. "It has no single face. It doesn't belong to any one community. This deadly virus does not discriminate against anyone."

Proceeds from the event raise about \$130,000 of the foundation's \$3.5 million annual budget and help pay for a variety of programs, Selber said.

And the AIDS Walk helps fill in the financial holes left in an age of fewer state and federal funding sources, said Ken Kelly, communications director for the foundation.

"It is becoming more and more See WALK/ page 4



Pink means pride

Banners hint at upcoming Pride month

by ELLA TYLER

The parade of pink triangles that appeared on light poles along lower Westheimer last week was not the work of little elves.

Although the flags showed as if by magic, in reality they are one of the Pride Committee's many projects leading up to the June 12 kickoff.

The city council designated the area from Waugh to Bagby as the Lower Westheimer banner district three years ago. Sandy Stone, the city staffer who handles the process, said the sponsoring organization must work with both the city and Houston Lighting and Power to get approval to hang banners.

"We hire a company that specializes in this to hang the banners and take them down," said Brian Keever, chairman of the Pride

Committee's banner district committee. The banners will stay up until at least July 4th, he said.

The pink triangles spend the off season in a secure warehouse. Although the banners should last for 10 years, organizers may decide to go with more glitz, Keever said. Banners may not contain words, political messages or commercial endorsements, according to city rules.

"They are a great way to create community pride and identity", Stone said.

An application is pending to form a Museum Area banner district along Montrose. The present city ordinance allows banner districts only in areas that are not primarily residential. Parts of Downtown, Galleria, Greenspoint and the South Main area are banner districts.

HIV-Positive Role Models

Modeling agency is putting a sexy new face on HIV



by SCOTT SEOMIN

With meadow-green eyes, coal-black hair, and a chiseled face, Jeff Jones is gorgeous and — no surprise here — earns a living as a model. But the Los Angeles native has something unusual on his resume, which lists the obligatory suit size (40R), inseam (32 inches) and shoe size (10).

Jones, 29, is HIV-positive.

HIV-positive model Jeff Jones

"When I saw my face on a billboard the first time, I was amazed at my courage," says Jones, who is represented by Proof Positive, a modeling agency headquartered in the beach community of Costa Mesa, California. "Now when I see my image on the side of a bus or in a magazine, I am proud to say that I am making a difference."

Making a difference is exactly what Keith Lewis has been doing since 1993, the year he founded the Proof Positive division of the Morgan Agency, Lewis' seven-year-old modeling agency.

"A few years ago, we noticed an increase in castings for print jobs that required the model to be HIV-positive," says the 35-year-old Lewis. "We thought, 'Where are they going to find someone who is HIV-positive who is willing to be on a billboard?'"

Yet Lewis felt an obligation to try and find that someone. "Being a gay male and owning my own business, I realized I had a responsibility to look

within myself and in the capacity of my job to make real change."

When Lewis sent casting sheets out to local AIDS support groups, his initial thoughts proved way off-base: his office was flooded with almost 100 HIV-infected individuals, all eager to talk about their lives in the age of AIDS.

"It was the most emotional situation for me and my staff here in the office because they were coming from all walks of life," Lewis explains. "At the time, I had not realized the change in the disease. I didn't realize that it was affecting so many different socioeconomic groups. We met with grandfathers and single teenage women. It was amazing."

Today, Proof Positive models appear in print advertisements for pharmaceutical companies like Roche, Alza, Roxane Laboratories, Merck, GlaxoWellcome and Abbott. They can also be seen

See MODELS/ page 4

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LOCAL

Police chief to address same-sex domestic violence

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Houston's top cop will meet with gays next month to answer concerns about hate crimes, same-sex domestic violence and police handling of a recent murder-suicide on Montrose, officials said.

Chief C.O. Bradford will appear at the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus' monthly meeting on June 3 in an effort to stay abreast of concerns in the gay community, said Clarence Bagby, president of the caucus.

The session will mark the third time the police commander has met with gays, Bagby said.

"It is his desire to continue to have an open line of communication to our community," he said.

Bradford, Houston's police chief since January 1997, is the uniformed official charged with meeting Mayor Lee Brown's pledge to toughen the city's response to hate crimes. Last month, Brown named a hate crimes coordinator, opened a 24-hour hotline

and ordered more training for police to increase awareness of hate crimes.

Some gays questioned how police investigate reports of same-sex domestic violence after a gruesome murder-suicide that unfolded during brunch on March 29.

Before Marc D. Kajs was shot and killed by his former lover, Ilhan Yilmaz, the 28-year-old man filed at least three reports with police citing his killer's threats and repeated harassment to no avail, according to the slain man's family and friends.

Police launched an investigation into



Bradford

their handling of the complaints shortly after the shooting near Urbana's on Montrose. But officials have yet to release details of the probe.

"It's a chance for him (Bradford) to let the community know that he regards same-sex relationships in the same way they (police) regard marriages," said Matthew Eastus, Brown's liaison to the gay community.

"He (Bradford) finds it valuable to go out and talk with citizens and hear their concerns directly," Eastus said.

The police chief is also expected to field questions from the public during the meeting.

What: Police Chief C.O. Bradford

When: June 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne Ave.

Why: A discussion on hate crimes, same-sex domestic violence

Contact: 713-521-1000

Conference to challenge state's lesbians

From staff reports

More than 200 lesbians are expected to converge on San Antonio May 29 for an open dialogue on how to strengthen their community.

Organizers of the 11th annual Texas Lesbian Conference have put together a weekend of speakers and entertainment to provoke lesbians into action, said Maria Salazar, co-chairwoman of the event.

"It is an opportunity for women to gather and dialogue over like minded issues and challenge one another and take a minute to figure out the priorities for the lesbian community," Salazar said.

Speakers during the three-day event include author Suzanne Pharr; Carmen Vasquez, policy director for the New York Lesbian Gay Community Center; and Sharon Bridgeforth, an Austin-based playwright and director.

The annual event rotates sites and recent attendance numbers have ranged from 150 to 400, Salazar said. The conference often draws a regional crowd and pulls people from neighboring states.

"It is about building community and strengthening those communities," Salazar said.

But participants will also focus on building an impact in San Antonio, a difficult city to organize because of conservative elements, Salazar said.

"There is a trend here of getting into the politics of assimilation and we are looking at what that means and what are the dangers. We are looking to have a more positive local impact," she said.

Discussions will focus on race, class, sexism and homophobia, Salazar said.

"We are hoping to get through some tough issues," she said.

'It is an opportunity for women to gather and dialogue over like minded issues.'

—Maria Salazar

What: 11th annual Texas Lesbian Conference

When: May 29 - May 31

Where: Esperanza Center, 922 San Pedro, San Antonio

Cost: \$60 for full conference; \$40 for May 30

Contact: 210-828-LISA.

Local Activist Named to National Task Force

Building partnerships and improving visibility are the top goals of a local gay activist recently tapped for the board of directors for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Clarence Bagby, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, traveled to Washington, D.C. earlier this month for his first meeting of the 22-member board of the national gay civil rights group. Bagby is one of three people recently appointed to the board.

"We will take a regional approach in making people aware of the great grassroots organizing and support that the task force provides for state and local organizations," Bagby said.

The task force is a key backer of "Equality Begins at Home" — actions planned in all 50 state capitals in March 1999 — and will help organize activists in the 14 states that don't have statewide lobbying groups, organizers have said.

"The task force will be making a significant financial contribution to the 50 State Actions to enhance the grassroots political movement that is the essence of our work," Bagby said.

Bagby has been involved with a number of Houston civic groups, including the Houston Enterprise Community Governance Board and

the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance. He is self-employed as a fund-raiser and public relations consultant.

Stress, Images Explored in Network Meetings

Upcoming meetings of the Men's Network and Women's Network focus on exploring images of desire and stress management.

The Men's Network will use collage and drawing to investigate the nature of desire for its monthly meeting on May 26 at 7:15 p.m.

On May 27, the Women's Network will discuss techniques for managing stress with a professional counselor at 7 p.m.

Both meetings are held at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. For more information, call 713-529-0037.

Nominations Sought to Honor 'Extra Mile'

Organizers are seeking nominations for the Extra Mile Award to be named by An Uncommon Legacy Foundation on June 28.

The annual award honors a woman of Houston for her work in the community. Letters of nomination are due by June 15 to 1400

Hermann, 15G, Houston, Texas 77004.

Retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, a lesbian seeking the Democratic nomination for a Congressional seat in Washington, is the keynote speaker for next month's event.

Call 713-522-0864 for more information.

'TV Montrose' Names New Producer

Local cable television's gay-themed show has named J.C. Michelak as its new associate producer.

Michelak, a former editor and associate publisher of *Houston Voice*, will now monitor editorial coverage and assist with program segments and directing in his new role. He will also host a weekly interview segment.

"We are excited to have J.C. on board with 'TV Montrose,'" said Executive Producer Steve Baker. "With J.C.'s contacts and reputation in media circles, both in the gay and mainstream press, 'TV Montrose' will be able to provide our viewers in-depth interviews with high profile politicians and celebrities."

Michelak was also recently named news editor of the *Texas Triangle*.

"TV Montrose" airs Monday and Wednesday at 8 p.m. on Warner Cable Channel 54.

CLINIC/from page 1

City officials ordered the clinic into service Tuesday as a local television reporter prepared a story about its service record. KTRK Channel 13 outlined details of the problems during a newscast Wednesday.

"We stumbled, but we have ensured that there are no obstacles to keep that thing off the roads," Barton said.

The idea for the mobile clinic surfaced in 1995 and city health officials pursued federal funding to design and build it. Grants were awarded three years ago, but the unit wasn't delivered until June 1997.

The mix-up, combined with a stockpile of nearly 675,000 condoms packed in storage, shows overlapping prevention efforts and a lack of communication between the city health department and community-based service groups, officials and gay activists said.

Health officials spent \$75,000 last year to purchase nearly 1 million condoms to distribute in the city through service organizations and health clinics. The city bought the condoms in bulk to save money and about 300,000 have been given out over the last three months, Barton said.

But AIDS Foundation Houston, which hands out an estimated 75,000 condoms each year, said it could spend the \$12,000 allocated for condoms for other programs if the city would provide some to the organization.

"If the city is spending federal dollars on condoms to be distributed and we are also spending federal dollars, we could have redirected that money for staff," said Mike Mizwa, the foundation's education director. "It is a duplication of costs."

The AIDS Foundation has also repeatedly asked to take part in the city's mobile clinic, but has been turned back, Mizwa said. The foundation wants to provide oral swab testing for HIV in the unit, he said.

"The van was purchased as part of community planning that said we need this so agencies like us could have a mechanism for us to go out and do testing. For the city to say 'no' doesn't make a lot of sense," Mizwa said.

Even with the difficulties, the city's mobile clinic and condom distribution programs have been helpful, said Angela Mora, executive director of Amigos Volunteers & Education Services (AVES).

"They have always cooperated," Mora said. "It takes a little longer, but they get things done."

AVES gives out nearly 400,000 condoms each year as part of its outreach effort across 12 counties; a number of those are provided by the city, Mora said.

"Our storage area is full of condoms, but we will use them. We don't have any problem accessing their (the city's) condoms," she said.

Duplication of efforts and mix-ups with the mobile clinic could hurt the city's HIV/AIDS prevention efforts when proposals come to the city council for approval in the future, Parker said.

"The problem is when any city department does something like this — and I do think it was poor management in that area — the next funding item that comes before the council gets punished. We may take it out on them or at least make the department jump through a few extra hoops before they get (approval)," Parker said.

MODELS/from page 1

in public service campaigns for the likes of the AIDS Action Committee, the Miller Brewing Company, the National Minority AIDS Council, the California Department of Health Services and AIDS Project Los Angeles.

By simply appearing in these ads — many of which contain the line, "All individuals depicted are HIV positive" — these models are giving AIDS a vital, healthy face. And that's a far cry from the image of emaciated, lesion-covered patients dying in hospital beds, according to Lewis.

"With advances in medicine, there are more people out there than ever before living with HIV who don't fit into the stereotype of the disease-wasted individual," Lewis says. "It's so important to show them."

The enthusiastic models on the Proof Positive roster share this philosophy with their agent.

"Before Proof Positive, I think the public's perception of people with AIDS was someone with an anorexic-looking, diseased body with sores and lesions," says model Felice Jones, who has lived with HIV for over 14 years. "Now, I think people know that that is not the image, that people do look healthy."

The 38-year-old beauty — who could easily pass for Eartha Kitt's kid sister — also wants her modeling gigs to send a powerful message to those infected with the virus.

"I hope what people are getting is that they can remain healthy with this disease by taking care of themselves," she said.

Jones also believes that media images that fixate on the latter stages of AIDS — such as the 1991 Benetton advertisement depicting an AIDS patient bed-ridden and near death — are dangerous.

Getting messages across seems to be the goal of Lewis' models, who aim to shatter the air-head image of many runway walkers.

"When people see me [in an advertisement], it tells them that anybody

can have HIV," Jeff Jones says. "I appear to be like the boy next door, so if people can see me as someone who is living with the disease, then that's something."

Not only do Lewis' models have different looks, they also have different messages they hope to convey by going public with their HIV status. While Jones wants to reach HIV-negative folks, model Joe Calderone, 35, wants to reach the HIV-positive.

"This virus no longer makes you the social outcast it once did," says the Manhattan resident, who discovered he was positive 11 years ago, just after he and his wife Diane walked down the aisle. "During the time I was first diagnosed, there were doctors who wouldn't see me and some people avoided me. People with HIV were treated like lepers, but thankfully that's changed."

Keith Lewis and his Proof Positive models have not gone with criticism, particularly from the AIDS community.

"Early on during the ad campaign for Advera (a nutritional drink), we heard, 'How dare this pharmaceutical company take this healthy, hunky guy and use him for sexual bait,'" Lewis recalled. "It was more about our community not even looking at itself and realizing the face of the disease was changing. It was a scary situation, because basically people were saying you could look at someone and tell if they have AIDS. That was one of the messages that was smashed."

And the pharmaceutical companies say they are using HIV-positive models in their advertisements for public education, not model exploitation.

Lewis now actively represents close to 200 models — about 65 percent male, 35 percent female — in the Proof Positive division, which brings in a quarter of the Morgan Agency's revenue. But being pretty and positive does not a model make.

"They have to be open with their status and cannot have family members who don't know," says Lewis, who asks applicants to write a letter describing their journey with the virus that causes AIDS.

Selber said. Those camps cost about \$65,000, she said.

"In the 11th hour, the entire city came together to help this event go on. Cancellation was never an issue; we knew we had to go forward," Selber said.

Correction

A story in the May 15, 1998 edition of *Houston Voice* incorrectly stated the address of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center on 803 Hawthorne Ave. We regret the error.

WALK/from page 1

important for us to solicit more private donations from things like the AIDS Walk," he said.

Funds help support upcoming summer programs, including Camp Hope for about 100 children ages eight and nine, and Camp Hug for children five and under,



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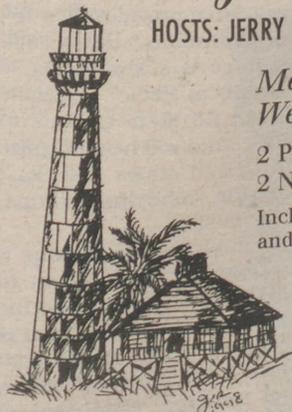
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References: 1. CAESAR Coordinating Committee. Randomised trial of addition of lamivudine or lamivudine plus zidovudine to zidovudine-containing regimens for patients with HIV-1 infection: the CAESAR trial. *Lancet*. 1997;349:1413-1421. 2. Hammer SM, Squires KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus zidovudine 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.

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Please see brief summary for Combivir on following page.

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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 ANTIRETROVIRAL NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING ZIDOVUDINE AND LAMIVUDINE (SEE WARNINGS).

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

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

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine: The NUCB3007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy [zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)] to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1,816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm³ at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bone Marrow Suppression: COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1,000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

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

Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of antiretroviral nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including zidovudine and lamivudine. A majority of these cases have been in women. Caution should be exercised when administering COMBIVIR to any patient, and particularly to those with known risk factors for liver disease. Treatment with COMBIVIR should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or hepatotoxicity.

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

PRECAUTIONS:

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

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

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

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

Drug Interactions: Coadministration of ganciclovir, interferon-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 non-metastasizing 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), non-metastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

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

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately three times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung 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 (~1,000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or ~450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine.

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

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

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

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

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

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C.

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

Lamivudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at 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 3,000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3,683 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™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets) and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 722-9292, ext. 39437.

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

COMBIVIR: Zidovudine is excreted in breast milk (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics: Nursing Mothers section 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 breast-feed if they are receiving COMBIVIR.**

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

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

n = Number of patients assessed.

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

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

Alopecia, erythema multiforme, hyperglycemia, lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), pancreatitis, seizures, sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria, and vasculitis.

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, 3'-azido-3'-deoxy-5'-O-β-D-glucopyranuronosylthymidine (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), those with low body weight (<50 kg or 110 lb), or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

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

GlaxoWellcome

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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

January 1998/RL-505

Printer Dumps Gay Newspaper

A Georgia newspaper on Tuesday canceled its agreement to print *Southern Voice* just four weeks after the company started its new role as printer of the weekly newspaper for gays. The decision comes days after leaders of two churches in Gainesville, Ga., called on members to cancel subscriptions and call advertisers of *The Gainesville Times* because of its work with "The Homosexual *Southern Voice*." *Southern Voice* and *Houston Voice* are both owned by Atlanta-based Window Media.

Although *Times* Publisher Chris Jensen told *Southern Voice* the decision was not motivated by the protests, "that's about as transparent as Saran Wrap," said *Southern Voice* Editor and Publisher Chris Crain. "I understand the economic pressure being put on *The Gainesville Times*, but it is extremely disappointing that a newspaper would surrender so easily the First Amendment freedoms that it depends upon for its own survival, and it is even more disappointing that they don't have the courage to tell the truth about what they are doing," he said.

Gay rights groups denounced the decision.

The Gainesville Times gave two reasons unrelated to the ongoing controversy for the decision to dump *Southern Voice*: the upcoming change of *The Times* from an afternoon to a morning newspaper and a planned change in the capacity of its press equipment for *USA Today*.

"Our decision was based totally on operational issues and our ability to meet the schedule in the future," Jensen said, adding that it was "unfor-

unate" that the decision coincided with the protests.

Southern Voice officials said those matters were worked out before the protests surfaced.

Parents of Suspended Students Contact ACLU

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Five parents of students at Irmo High School have contacted the American Civil Liberties Union about a lawsuit after the students were suspended for eight days for protesting the principal's decision to cancel the Indigo Girls' concert May 7. After some parents complained to Principal Gerald Witt that the duo are



Amy Ray, left, and Emily Saliers of Indigo Girls.

lesbians, he cancelled the free, on-campus concert. About 200 students left class briefly to protest the cancellation.

Once the larger walkout was over, about a dozen Irmo students remained outside for more than an hour. Later in the day, at least 10 of those students were suspended for eight days. ACLU lawyer Andy Brumme met with Witt on May 11 "Our position is that these students were punished for protesting," Brumme said. "The Constitution does not forget about high school students." A federal judge May 13 refused to send the five suspended students back to school before their suspensions end, saying their First Amendment rights weren't stripped when they were punished for a protest during school

hours. "The school has to have the right to direct people to go to class during instructional time," U.S. District Judge Patrick M. Duffy said.

Web Listing Brings Police to Restroom

HAMPTON, Va. — A few local restrooms for men were listed on a web-site as places where men could meet for sex, leading to a police crackdown at some of the locations. Officials at Hecht's in the city's Coliseum Mall and at the Langley Air Force Base Community Activities Center said several people have been arrested in the men's bathrooms in recent weeks during the crackdown on illegal sexual activity. The investigation was sparked by the locations' inclusion, along with others, on the San Francisco-based web-site called *cruisingforsex.com*, which lists places where men can go to find male sexual partners. Keith Griffith, creator of the site, said the information came from tips people sent him. He estimated 14,000 people look at the page each day.

S.C. Candidate Takes on Gay Farmers

GREENVILLE, S.C. — A candidate for South Carolina commissioner of agriculture says homosexuality is a threat to the family farm.

"We can't have farming based on Bob and Bob being married and a new definition of marriage," said Jim Gordon, a real estate developer who is seeking the Republican nomination in a three-way primary June 9. "American Christian values have encouraged farming," he said Monday.

"I see the cultural upheaval we're in right now as an attack against farming. The homosexual movement, which has come to South Carolina, needs to be reversed."

Gay rights advocates called it a desperate campaign tactic. "Many gays and lesbians were brought up on those same family farms he's discussing," said Susan Stallard, co-chairman of ProJustice Carolina. Two years ago the Greenville County gained notoriety when it passed a resolution condemning homosexuality.

Critics of Arkansas Anti-Discrimination Measure Fight Back

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Some local ministers and other residents of Fayetteville have begun a campaign to put to a vote this fall a city resolution banning discrimination against gays in the city's hiring. The City Council this month overturned the mayor's veto of the council's passage of the measure. The resolution forbids discrimination in city hiring based on sexual orientation and familial status, which addresses marital status and members of families not bound by a legal marriage. It also addresses discrimination in areas covered by federal law, such as race, sex, religion, ancestry and disability. Critics oppose the part of the resolution regarding gays. "We think we represent the majority of people in Fayetteville," said the Rev. Charlie Brown, minister at Ridgeview Baptist Church. He said the measure may signal the beginning of a movement toward gays earning special status in Fayetteville.

— From staff and wire reports

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*The Silver Screen/
Color Me Lavender*

Friday, June 5, 8:45pm
Saturday, June 6, 2:15pm

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Saturday, June 6, 7:30pm
Sunday, June 7, 5pm

Latin Boys Go to Hell

Saturday, June 6, 8:45pm
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Evening of Short Videos

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QUAC Mix-Up Video

Saturday, May 30, 8pm

Pride Divide

Sunday, May 31, 6pm

Panel Discussion: A Houston

Gay & Lesbian History

Sunday, May 31, 7:15-8:30 pm

June 12 - June 14

RICE MEDIA CENTER

I, The Worst of All

Friday, June 12, 9pm
Saturday, June 13, 5pm

Female Closet

Short: *Ich und Frau Berger*

Friday, June 12, 7:30pm
Sunday, June 14, 5pm

Peoria Babylon

Saturday, June 13, 3pm

Series of Shorts: Girl Talk

Sunday, June 14, 5pm

Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End

Short: *The Cost of Love
and Proust's Favorite Fantasy*

Saturday, June 13, 7:30pm
Sunday, June 14, 7:30pm

Landmark Greenway Theatre	713.626.0402
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The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston	713.639.7515
Rice Media Center	713.527.4853

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May 29 thru 31

Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Riverwalk North
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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, May 29

- 3:30-7pm Registration
- 3:30-7pm Welcome at Hotel
- 6:30-8pm Open House at Esperanza Center
922 San Pedro
- 8-9pm Monica Palacios at Esperanza Center

Saturday, May 30

- 7am-5pm Registration, Workshops and Speakers
- 7pm-8pm Comedy performance with Karen Ripley

Sunday, May 31

- 9am Breakfast
- 10:30am Closing Remarks

Keynote speakers include

- Suzanne Pharr, author of *Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism*
- Carmen Vasquez, Policy Director for the New York Lesbian/Gay Community Center
- Sharon Bridgeforth, Austin based playwright and director.
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Registration for the full 3 day conference is \$60.
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Window Media to Add Third Gay Newspaper

Window Media, the Atlanta-based newspaper company that owns *Houston Voice* and *Southern Voice*, is purchasing a third newspaper, making the media group the country's largest gay newspaper chain.

The sale of *Impact*, the bi-weekly gay newspaper in New Orleans, and its entertainment guide, *Eclipse*, will be completed August 15, and will mark the one-year anniversary of the purchase of *Southern Voice*, the flagship newspaper in the growing Window Media newspaper group.

"The resources that Window Media will provide will afford our readers an even higher quality magazine and newspaper," said Kyle Scafile, *Impact*'s publisher and owner since 1992.

Once the New Orleans sale is complete, Window Media will be on its way to building a national chain of 10 gay newspapers within five years, a goal previously announced by gay rights advocate William Waybourn, who founded Window Media last year, along with partners Chris Crain, Rick Ellsasser and Chad Johnson.

"It's exciting to know you're part of an excellent team that has a commitment to educate and inform gays and lesbians throughout the USA," said Ellsasser, co-publisher of *Houston Voice* and *Southern Voice*.

Moderate Wins Over Anti-Gay Opponent

OMAHA, Neb. — A tearful Rep. Jon Christensen struggled for words after learning he had been trounced from behind in his bid to win the

Republican gubernatorial nomination. Once the front-runner, the 35-year-old Christensen finished third last Tuesday in a five-candidate field. Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns easily won the GOP nomination, stunning the conservative two-term congressman who gave up his seat on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee to run for governor. Johanns, 47, emerged as a serious challenger in the past month,



The loser: Conservative Jon Christensen

winning endorsements from eight of the state's nine daily newspapers. But Christensen's conservative rhetoric, including his statement that his fiancée had saved herself for marriage and his vow not to appoint gays to positions of leadership, made him stand out. "People were turned off by the negative ads that also reminded people that he was a social conservative, a message that maybe has run out of gas," said Graham Ramsden, political science professor at Creighton University.

Gay Couples Qualify for Housing in Iowa City

IOWA CITY, Iowa — A close vote by the Iowa City Council will allow same-sex couples without children to qualify for federal housing assistance. City Attorney Eleanor Dilkes said if a 4-3 vote on May 12 had been reversed, it likely would have violated the city's own human rights ordinance. Council member Dee Vanderhoef, who cast the

deciding vote, drew applause from the more than 50 people in attendance when she said she would support the proposal brought by the city housing staff. The change goes beyond federal guidelines, but supporters say it falls in line with a city ordinance protecting sexual orientation from discrimination in housing. "I'm real clear that it is time to move forward and identify couples as families, whether it be heterosexual or whether it be homosexual," Vanderhoef said. "For me, it's a human issue." Mayor Ernie Lehman and council members Dean Thornberry and Mike O'Donnell voted against the proposal that changes housing assistance guidelines on what constitutes a family.

George Michael Fined After Plea of No Contest

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — British pop star George Michael pleaded no contest on May 14 to committing a lewd act in a park restroom. Michael, who did not appear for the arraignment at Beverly Hills Municipal Court, was fined \$810 and ordered to perform 80 hours of community service. In exchange for the plea, Judge Charles Rubin banned Michael from Will Rogers Park, where the singer was arrested last month. He also ordered Michael to undergo counseling. Michael, 34, was charged with a single misde-



Banned: George Michael can no longer visit Will Rogers Parks.

meanor count of lewd conduct. The maximum sentence for conviction is six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. The evening of his arrest, Michael posted \$500 bail and was released later that night. He told CNN, "I won't even say it's the first time it's happened."

Likely Presidential Candidate Backs Off Anti-Gay Statements

WASHINGTON — Usually liberal Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry was quoted in a story by the Reuters news service as making statements against gay marriages and gay families, but now his supporters say he was misquoted. Kerry is considering a run for the presidency in the year 2000. The Reuters story indicated that Kerry had little patience for those who advocate teaching about non-traditional families or homosexual or lesbian marriages. "They are not parents by definition. They are parents by law, but they're not parents by biology," Kerry is quoted as saying. "The battle in America right now is not over the non-traditional family. The battle in America right now is over whether or not we can even save the traditional family." Kerry's aides have since defended the senator's record to gay rights advocates. Kerry is the only senator up for re-election in 1996 who voted against the Defense of Marriage Act, his communications director Jim Jones pointed out. "He has not and will not change his position that gay people in this country deserve all the rights that are afforded to every American," says Jones. "I have never said that gay people cannot or should not be parents," Kerry said later, calling the story a case of journalistic "sensationalism."

— From staff and wire reports

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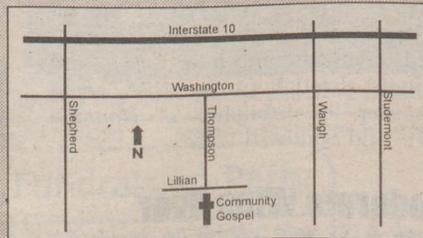
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Manufacturer Says 3TC Offers Hope for Hepatitis B Sufferers

NEW ORLEANS — Two major clinical studies add important new information about the anti-viral drug, lamivudine or 3TC, in the treatment of patients with chronic hepatitis B. The studies with 3TC, an oral anti-viral treatment under development by Glaxo Wellcome Inc., show that the drug offers benefits that can be sustained for as long as two years in patients with chronic hepatitis B. Currently, established treatments for hepatitis B are designed to boost the immune system. The goal of anti-viral treatment with drugs such as lamivudine is to inhibit replication of the hepatitis B virus, leading to reduced inflammatory attack by the immune system on the liver, and potentially stopping or delaying progressive liver damage.



Gallo

the end of this year. Eventually the researchers hope to develop a vaccine for people not infected with the disease, although the immediate goal is to find a cure for sufferers. This would be particularly useful in the third world, Gallo said, where the population has no access to expensive cocktail therapy.

President's AIDS Advisor Warns of HIV in Rural Communities

ORLANDO, Fla. — While many continue to believe AIDS is a disease that only strikes urban areas, HIV/AIDS is on the rise in rural areas, a 14.6 percent increase in total reported cases from July 1996 to June 1997, as reported in the most recent Centers for Disease Control HIV/AIDS surveillance report. "HIV/AIDS continues to be a growing epidemic in rural areas," said Dr. Scott Hitt, a Los Angeles-based



Hitt

disease develops. Tests have been carried out on 242 patients and preliminary results have proved positive, although results showing the effectiveness of this new approach will not be known until

physician and chairman of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. "Some people in rural America have not yet recognized that there is a problem. When people say there's not a problem, that's usually when there is one." The most recent CDC statistics demonstrate that while the numbers in rural areas are still small, AIDS rates have been increasing faster than in recent years.

Study Recommends Condom Emphasis

CHICAGO — Safe-sex lessons for children are more effective if condom use instead of abstinence is emphasized, researchers found in a study of inner-city blacks. A separate finding underscored the compelling need for the grown-up subject matter: Although the youngsters' average age was just 11, 25 percent of them said they were no longer virgins.

The study of 659 sixth- and seventh-graders at three inner-city Philadelphia schools sought ways to stem the high rate of sexually transmitted diseases among black adolescents. Among 13-to-19-year-olds with AIDS, blacks represented 57 percent and whites just 23 percent in 1996, federal statistics show, while the gonorrhea rate among 15-to-19-year-olds was about 24 times higher among blacks than whites.

The researchers in the Philadelphia study divided the youngsters into three groups, each receiving eight hours of health education. One focused on abstinence, one concentrated on condom use and a control group addressed avoiding nonsexual diseases. At six months, slightly more

of the abstinence-group students were having sex than the condom-group students. By 12 months, 20 percent of the abstinence group had recent sex, compared with 16.5 percent of the condom group and 23.1 percent of the control group. The abstinence group also reported having engaged in more unprotected sex than the condom group.

Conservative groups such as the Family Research Council have pushed the abstinence approach, and the federal government has mandated that states use \$50 million in sex-education money for abstinence-only programs.

HIV Shown to Discriminate Among Blood Cells

BALTIMORE — Researchers at Johns Hopkins have discovered that the HIV depends on the moving parts of a cell's surface in order to enter the cell. "The white blood cell has an intricate semi-rigid structural framework that is both pliable and mobile. It can assemble and disassemble rapidly in response to internal and external signals. This allows the cell to migrate across blood vessel walls and squeeze through small spaces," said David H. Schwartz, associate professor of Molecular, Microbiology and Immunology at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, who co-authored the paper with Sujatha Iyengar, PhD, and James E.K. Hildreth. The implications could be significant. Iyengar said that the findings could be relevant to many other kinds of viruses.

— From staff and wire reports

Promising Early Results in AIDS Vaccine Tests

TOKYO — A team of the world's top AIDS researchers said May 11 in Tokyo that important progress was being made towards the creation of a vaccine against the disease. Robert Gallo, a professor at Maryland University and among the first scientists to identify the AIDS virus, told a news conference that tests on patients in Belgium, Italy and Israel had proved promising. The team is working on creating a vaccine which would increase antibody resistance and neutralize the "TAT" protein, which is thought to restrict healthy cells as the

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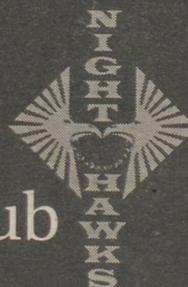
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Conservative correctness

How much are freedom of speech and freedom of the press worth in Gainesville, Georgia?

Apparently fewer than 100 newspaper readers, 47 conservative ministers, a couple of disgruntled press room employees and a closed-minded advertiser or two.

That combination proved too much for the Gainesville Times, the Gannett-owned newspaper that unceremoniously dumped Southern Voice on Tuesday after months of aggressively courting the job of printing 25,000 copies of the Atlanta-based weekly lesbian and gay newspaper.

The rumblings in Gainesville started small. A couple of Times employees alerted two conservative churches to the fact that "the Homosexual Southern Voice" was now being printed at the Gainesville facility. Then 47 ministers met in a local cafeteria to map out their strategy. The goal? Apply economic pressure to Gainesville Times officials in an effort to squelch the Southern Voice, at least in Gainesville.

It worked. A few angry phone calls, cancelled subscriptions and pulled advertisements later, and Southern Voice had no printer.

The publisher of the Times said the Gainesville newspaper decided to move the printing because of scheduling conflicts, not pressure from local ministers. "Our problems were purely operational," Times publisher Chris Jensen told the Associated Press. "I guess maybe the timing was kind of bad."

As stewards of cherished First Amendment freedoms, we could ask for better than the Gainesville Times. Entering into the business of publishing newspapers requires the courage to publish unpopular viewpoints — in your own newspaper, much less in print jobs taken on to improve the financial bottom line.

No company should know that better than Gannett, the Times' parent company. The gargantuan publishing company includes USA TODAY and hundreds of other newspapers in its empire, and has generously donated funds since the 1930s toward the protection of the First Amendment.

Gannett must take its stand with the First Amendment or with censorship-minded conservatives and the "journalists" who cave in to them. Not only did the Times fail to stand up to pressure from religious conservatives, the newspaper's publisher wouldn't own up to his own First Amendment failings.

The attempted squelching of Southern Voice is only the latest in what appears to be a change of strategy for those who oppose equal rights for lesbian and gay Americans.

Just weeks ago, high schools in South Carolina

and Tennessee cancelled free concerts by Atlanta's own Indigo Girls after principals learned of the duo's "deviant" sexual orientation.

As was the case in Gainesville, the principals didn't for the most part admit to the anti-gay bias behind the concert cancellations, or at least the pressure to cancel. Profanity was the pretext: one word in one song that the Indigo Girls willingly agreed to remove after hearing the objection.

The principals' excuse is particularly ironic given all the recent publicity over the use of profanity by Indiana Republican Dan Burton in his description of our president, and by Alabama Gov. Fob James in belittling a half-hearted effort at returning prayer to public schools. It's our best guess that these conservative politicians won't find themselves banned from high schools based on their artful use of the English language.

After years of aggressive conservative criticism of "political correctness" and its chilling effect on free speech, the treatment of the Indigo Girls and the dumping of Southern Voice are only the most recent examples of a newer variant on the theme that can only be dubbed "conservative correctness."

Running out of reasons to deny gays and lesbians fair and equal treatment in society, the conservative aggressors in the Culture Wars have opted to silence us instead.

One by one, the old saws of homophobia have lost their resonance with fair-minded Americans.

In the 1970s, the leading psychological associations removed homosexuality from the list of mental disorders. In the 1980s, the government acknowledged it was "a bit of an old chestnut" to suggest that gays threatened the national security by playing an active role in the Defense Department. In the 1990s, the Catholic Church, that most conservative of all institutions, even agreed that homosexuality is "experienced" by most gays and lesbians as a received personality trait, like heterosexuality, and is not a chosen "lifestyle."

Down to their last nubs, those still on the religious right (and those afraid to stand up to them) have been forced to silence our voices entirely, at least when our viewpoint isn't "conservatively correct."

It won't work.

The Indigo Girls sang in South Carolina and Tennessee anyway, and readers won't miss a single issue of Southern Voice. Involvement from national gay rights groups and others will bring to light the censorship in Gainesville, and more folks will be educated in the process about who we are.

Will we back down?

Absolutely not.

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Poll Watching

Numbers show attitudes about gays slowly improving



by PAUL VARNELL
When we talk about the greater acceptance of gays or the reduction of prejudice, polling data are what we know, and they are all we know.

In late April, the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press issued an update of its ongoing survey of American social beliefs in the last decade. The results provide striking evidence on two fronts: First, gays have made remarkable strides in public acceptance in the last decade. Second, these strides have been largely independent of Americans' views about other minorities or public issues.

In 1987, more than half (51 percent) of Americans agreed that school boards should have the right to fire teachers known to be gay. Only 42 percent opposed that position.

However, the most recent poll, in November 1997, found that Americans now reject that idea by about 2-1. Some 63 percent said school boards should not have that right, while only 33 percent said they should.

Interestingly, Americans also rejected the notion that AIDS "might be God's punishment for immoral sexual behavior" by exactly the same 63 percent to 33 percent.

This growing acceptance of gays is reasonably well-known. What is less often realized is that this acceptance has occurred while Americans' other

social views changed far less or not at all.

While support for gay teachers increased by 21 percent in 10 years, in 1997 about the same percentage of Americans as in 1987 said they held "old-fashioned values about family and marriage" and believed that "there are clear guidelines about what's good or evil." Insistence on a "more traditional" role for women declined by only 6 percent, support for banning dangerous books from school libraries was unchanged (at 50 percent), and disapproval of pornography increased by 9 percent (to 56 percent).

Although support for "preferential treatment" (affirmative action) for blacks increased slightly since 1987, it was still rejected in 1997 by more than 2-1 (65 percent to 31 percent); there was slightly more agreement that we have "gone too far in pushing equal rights;" and support for stronger immigration controls held nearly steady since 1987 at more than 3-1 (73 percent to 24 percent).

These numbers suggest that attitudes about gays do not rise and fall in conjunction with other issues, but have a separate dynamic.

Gays are being assessed on their own merits and gradually being judged "moral," or "OK," or even "acceptable," and slowly included in the human family.

But how accurate are such polls?

A different poll, released by Pew Research in March, was an effort to get a better grasp on one of the basic problems of polling.

Pew Research conducted two polls

with the same questions. One was a standard telephone poll of about 1,000 people, completed in three to five days. The other poll made a more exhaustive effort to contact and interview designated people by sending them an advance letter about the poll, telephoning them repeatedly if they refused at first, and offering a "small monetary gift" to participants.

Although most of the answers in the two polls turned out to be fairly similar, there were some minor differences in attitudes toward gays and other minorities.

Most importantly, the rigorous survey found slightly greater acceptance of gays than the standard survey. In the standard survey, 45 percent agreed that "homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society." But in the rigorous survey, 48 percent agreed that homosexuality should be accepted, or 3 percent more.

That is not a large difference, but it suggests that standard surveys, the kind usually done, may slightly underestimate the public acceptance of gays. That fact is particularly significant inasmuch as the rigorous survey generally found slightly more conservative views than the standard survey.

These results show that there is an even greater disconnect between gay and other social issues than standard polls suggest. And it underscores the fact that the means by which gays are making progress must be very different from what our progressive gay leaders believe.

Paul Varnell writes for Chicago's *Windy City Times* and other gay newspapers.

'One of a kind' recently roasted

Longtime activist Ray Hill was recently sidelined with heart surgery and was the subject of a fund-raising Roast and Toast to help pay some of his medical expenses. I was the only participant who took the opportunity to roast rather than toast him. What a surprise. I expected a long list of activists ready to give him his due.

Ray is truly one of a kind. I'd like to share the text of my remarks, delivered as an affectionate, tongue-in-cheek tribute to Ray.

Ray is the guy we love to hate, or hate to love. Admittedly, Ray is not a team player. His own business cards refer to him as a "pesky contemptuous troublemaker." I recall many years ago a president of the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus who called a meeting to discuss the "Ray Hill problem." We just shrugged. You let him do what he wants and no problem.

I want to tell you things you may not know about Ray.

Ray gained a lot of work experience in the area of building security and alarm systems. He finally went to work for a huge state agency with thousands of personnel and extensive holdings in agriculture — the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Ray has a real talent with facts and figures. If he doesn't know them, he makes them up, particularly about himself.

Ray is a very erudite guy. Why, he spends most of his time in bookstores and theaters. (Oh, that's right — adult bookstores and theaters.)

He has also spent more time with naked woman than most lesbians. You did know he has been employed by topless clubs for years.

Ray is extremely articulate. I wish I had half of his eloquence, and a quarter of his ego.

I have gone head to head with Ray in political races twice and won. The second time he ran against me resulted in a tie. I edged him by one vote on the recount. I think one of his voters had already headed for the bar. (This taught me to never take anything for granted in an election.)

Even in defeat he was gracious and always generous with his support. The day after each of those votes, we were partners again.

Seriously, I have known Ray Hill for more than 20 years. I met him in 1975. I have learned from him. I have worked with him. Few people have contributed as much to our movement, and he is truly in a class by himself in the length of his service.

He is the first person I would call if I were arrested. You can disagree with his methods, you can like or dislike him, but you cannot ignore him and you cannot dispute the magnitude of his contributions to the gay, transgender, First Amendment and prison rights issues.

Annie Parker
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Gay Horses

Talking with conservatives can expand movement



By SANDY RAPP
I spent "Freedom To Marry Day" with WABC Radio's Curtis Sliwa. Yep, the Guardian Angels founder rang me for some on-air conversation

around air-play of my lesbian/gay politics song "Everyone Was At Stonewall." The format was call-in and the atmosphere was good-natured confrontation. Curtis acknowledged that discrimination was a bad thing, then prodded: "But what about the argument that no other species has same-sex relations?"

"Curtis, where have you been?" I asked. "Zoologists from Alfred Kinsey on down have noticed same-gender relations in all species. There are gay horses, gay ducks, gay newts and gay Gingriches. You should get around more."

A phone call interrupted my diatribe. From past experience I expected something hostile. But no, it was a woman somewhere in rural America who was all for "Freedom To Marry Day," and whose stallion, it seemed, repeatedly mounted her gelding (an altered male). Conscious of our getting lost in this expanding exploration of gay livestock, I turned the conversation to the nature/nurture stuff underlying the whole issue. "UCLA professor and author Richard Green provides an excellent theory of what makes for sexual orientation. He once said 'the answer is yes to the question is homosexuality learned or inborn.'" I said.

The point is that orientation,

whether gay or non-gay, is a deeply-felt, self-defining attribute with origins as complex as the soul itself.

I wanted to add that arguing orientation as purely "natural" serves gay politics no better than arguing the reverse. I have always been afraid the political advancement of a simplistic "gay gene" theory would return us to past practice of electro-shock "therapy" and hormone "cures" for lesbian and gay people. But the radio station ran a commercial and a news spot so we sat in silence.

"Furthermore," I thought, "civil rights in the United States are often premised on acquired characteristics. For example religious groups, whose protection is based precisely on whatever religion they've acquired, are perfectly free to discriminate against gays in no less than 40 of these United States. So we needn't beat these gay horses to death."

The next caller was what you'd expect. She too was from farm country, but argued that if animals did it, it couldn't be good. Then Miami, Florida rang in. He liked the tune about Stonewall but wondered what recognition of gay marriages would do to existing marriage laws.

Nothing. Recognizing more marriages does not invalidate traditional ones. The arguments against gay marriage are precisely those used 30 years ago against legalization of interracial marriage. And the federal Defense of Marriage Act, permitting states to not recognize gay marriages performed in other states, is probably unconstitutional. Similar anti-gay DOMA measures are on the books in twenty-six states, New York not among them so

far. And we're probably headed for a major constitutional showdown sometime this year, when the Hawaii Supreme Court's decision could make that state the first to recognize lesbian/gay civil marriages. I fit a good bit of this in through the next few calls, one hostile and two friendly.

The radio segment ended with a caller praising Sliwa's Guardian Angels for having saved her life all the way over in London. I found myself recalling a bit of local history. When, in 1988 we argued for the expansion of Suffolk County's Human Rights Commission's domain to include lesbian and gay-related investigations, the topic of animals also arose. Repeated testimony, to the effect that the overwhelming preponderance of child abusers are heterosexual men, did nothing to dissuade Suffolk's fundamentalists from distributing flyers declaring the human rights bill legalized "child-molestation" and "bestiality." One local newspaper ran a column about the immorality of sex between humans and ducks.

Before the radio show, I'd talked to Lambda's marriage project director who emphasized that we should "use on-air forums to elicit non-gay support for gay issues." He stressed the need for allies and said to remind listeners that "winning one battle is never enough." Indeed, dialogue with conservative hosts does expand our movement in significant ways. Curtis now knows, (and I believe likes) one more gay. And my female terrier mix, Cagney, is definitely bi.

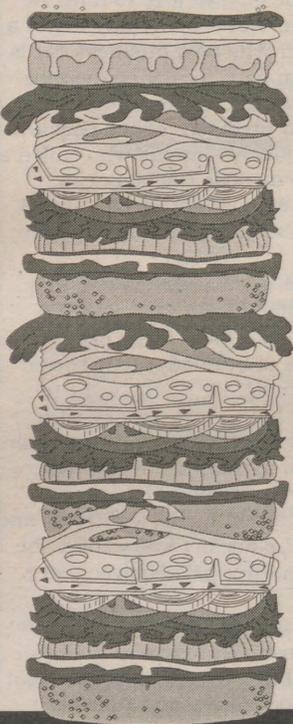
Sandy Rapp is a Long Island-based feminist activist and singer and can be reached through this publication or by e-mailing SandyRapp@aol.com.

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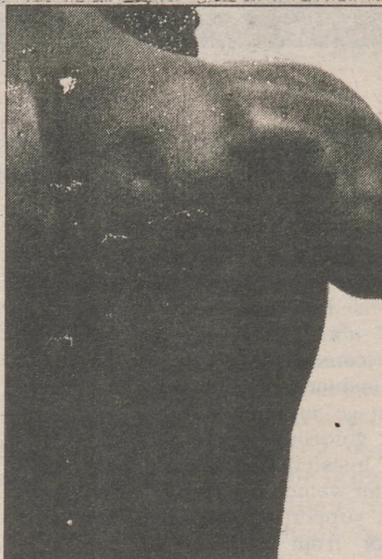


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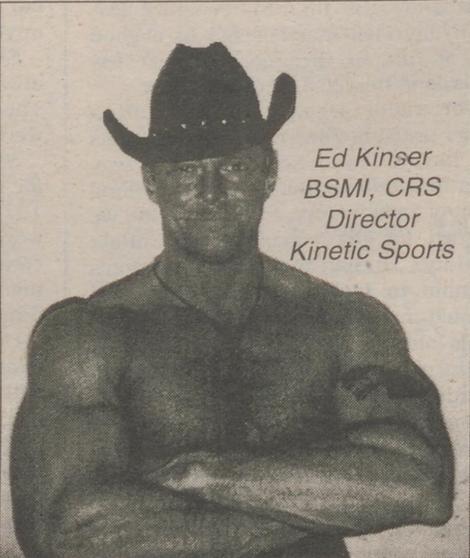
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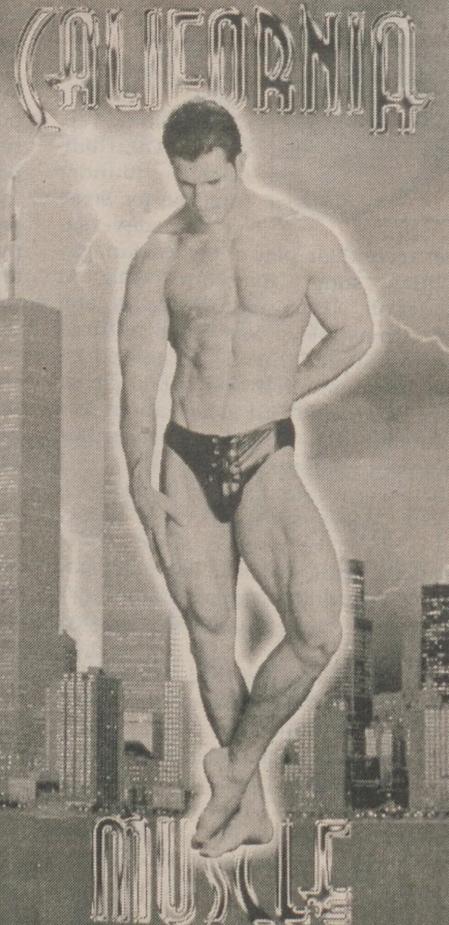
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May 22

It's show time as the Second Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival begins its four-week run. Join the opening night gala at Stages Repertory Theater, 3201 Allen Parkway, with a scrumptious buffet catered by Whole Foods Market. For \$15, you also get a ticket to the Landmark Greenway's 9:30 p.m. showing of "I Think I Do," the festival's inaugural film. Festivities begin at 7:30 p.m. Contact: 713-914-5037 or www.Neosoft.com/~travism/film_fest.htm.

May 22 — June 7

You can hear guitars strumming from the hills of Quiet Valley Ranch as the Kerrville Folk Festival digs in for its 18-day acoustic musical escapade. It's a Woodstock, Texas style, with lots of earth children turning on to tunes to save the planet. This year's highlights: the incomparable Tish Hinojosa, the Burns Sisters, Shake Russell, Trout Fishing in America, and Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary. There's great music biz activities like the Kerrville Songwriting School, the Advanced Songwriting and Music Business Workshop, and the Second Annual Booking and Management Seminar. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$22 per day. 5600 Medina Hwy, Kerrville. Contact: (830) 257-3600 or the festival's website at www.kerrville-music.com/index.html.

May 22 - May 25

One of the perks of living in a world-class city is a world-class orchestra. Maestro Christoph Eschenbach took the baton of the Houston Symphony by the horns in 1988, and molded the then struggling organization into one of the most respected and highly-toured professional orchestras of the 90's. Conductor-in-residence Stephen Stein has a strong following among gay music aficionados, and his Compaq Casual series is a hip and relaxed alternative that's opened the symphony's doors to working class folk usually inclined to shun the arts. With so much to celebrate, the symphony has dedicated its Memorial Day program to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." Plus, Eschenbach and company will premiere a symphony-commissioned work by German composer van Bose. On Friday, Saturday and Monday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana, between Texas and Capitol. Tickets: \$13 to \$59. Contact: 713-227-ARTS.

May 23 - May 24

Skipping town for the Island? The Strand will be packed for "Red, White, and Boom," a Memorial Day celebration sponsored by Mix 96.5. Things get started with the Fourth Annual Art Festival on Pier 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The open-air expose showcases works from over 100 Texas artists. On Saturday night, music artists Billie Myers and Edwin McCain perform free at Saengerfest Park, 23rd and Strand Street, and a 15-minute fire works show closes the star spangled soiree on Sunday. \$5, kids free. Pier 21, at Harborside, Galveston. Contact: 713-521-0133.

OUT ON THE BAYOU



HOUSTON VOICE • MAY 22, 1998
A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

INTERVIEW: BRIAN SLOAN

'Good date film' marks director's debut

Career behind camera started in friend's attic

by GREG VARNER

The movie bug bit him when he saw Star Wars at age 11.

Ironically, Brian Sloan resisted his parents when they offered to take him to the Uptown Theater to see it, having been put off by the long ticket lines he'd seen on the local television news. Luckily for Sloan and his widening circle of admirers, his parents prevailed.

"I got very excited about movie-making from that film," Sloan says. "I became completely obsessed with how they made that movie, and then started making my own little movies."

Sloan and a neighborhood friend in suburban Kensington, Md., started filming their own episodes of their favorite television shows, such as "Wild, Wild West" and "Star Trek," in the friend's attic.

"We would make up our own plots," Sloan recalls. "We literally would do that every day after school for two or three years. He would usually star. I was a reluctant actor. I was much more into being behind the camera."

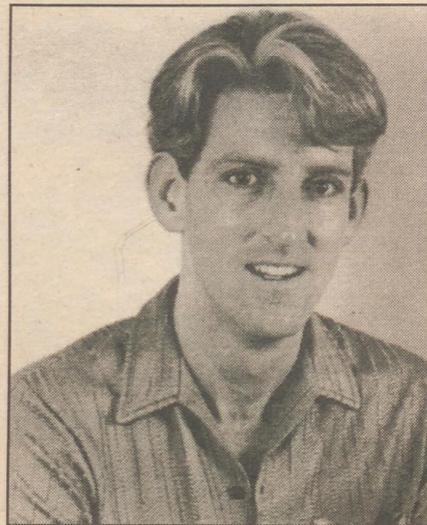
The friend's mother tried to chase them outdoors, Sloan remembers — "She would say, 'It's a beautiful day, you should be outside!' She probably had a point" — but to no avail. Sloan's boyhood friend is now making television commercials in Boston. And Sloan himself is a graduate of New York University's film school, with two popular short films — "Pool Days" and "Shall We Dance" — already to his credit and his recently-released first feature film, "I Think I Do," which opens in Houston today at Landmark Greenway 3.

Five months ago, Washington, D.C., audiences voted "I Think I Do" the best men's feature at Reel Affirmations, the annual gay film festival. All three films are essentially coming out stories, told in a distinctly fresh comic voice. Sloan, however, says he now finds "Shall We Dance" too talky.

"I'm learning how not to let the dialogue overwhelm," he says, adding that this can be tricky because he likes writing dialogue. "I like stories that are character-driven," he explains, "and generally such stories aren't very action-oriented."

"I Think I Do" is a sweetly subversive romantic comedy. It tells the story of Bob and Brendan, students at George Washington University who are roommates in a group house. Bob comes out as Gay and admits that he has a crush on Brendan, but it's a painful case of unrequited love for a guy who appears to be straight. Flash forward five years, to when the gang has graduated and dispersed, but reassembles in Washington for the wedding of former housemates Matt and Carol.

Bob is Carol's maid of honor; he brings his boyfriend, Sterling, who is a soap opera star. Brendan, meanwhile, has realized that he is Gay after all, and the fun begins. The film's story is up-to-the-minute, but if its sweet spirit seems familiar, Sloan says, that's because he was inspired by the classic screwball comedies of the 1930s and '40s. While working as a researcher on a series of PBS documentaries about the history of American film, he fell in love with roman-



Debut: Director Brian Sloan makes his debut with "I Think I Do," which opens in Houston today.

tic comedies such as "Philadelphia Story" and "It Happened One Night."

"The thing that surprised me was how funny they were," Sloan says. "I thought black and white films were boring and stodgy." The subversive undercurrent running through many of the films he was watching also impressed him. "Many of them were about very independent women getting divorces and having children out of wedlock. It was social commentary with a very light touch. Back then, the taboo issue in our society was the role of women, and today the taboo issue is the role of gays."

Sloan's political commentary in "I Think I Do" comes partly in its use of Washington as a setting. A discussion between Matt and Sterling during which both men — one gay, one straight — plan their weddings was filmed at the Jefferson Memorial. It was Sloan's way of advocating for equality in "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

As the tall, sandy-haired Sloan talks, it becomes increasingly apparent that he did not simply borrow his comic sensi-

See SLOAN/page 19



FILM REVIEW

'I Think I Do' caters to romantics

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

In writer/director Brian Sloan's homogeneous love comedy "I Think I Do," Alexis Arquette plays Bob, a young George Washington University co-ed who is in love with his roommate Brendan (Christian Maelen). He shares an apartment in Washington, D.C. with five other roommates, one of whom is Sarah (Marianne Hagan), a conservative Republican operative who doubles as Brendan's college sex kitten.

The film begins with Bob and Brendan returning from a Halloween party. They

almost seem inseparable in their Skipper and Gillian garb. When they return to their room, Brendan reveals his well-sculptured body as his costume comes off; Bob spins a hazy gaze. The look is unmistakable. Bob is steaming with lust, but Brendan hasn't got a clue.

But the two like to horseplay. They wrestle in the privacy of their room while roommates bang on the walls to shut them up. They grab each other in all sorts of places, and it's the easiest way for Bob to get close to Brendan without sex. Brendan lets Bob win, then Brendan gets right back on top. After a

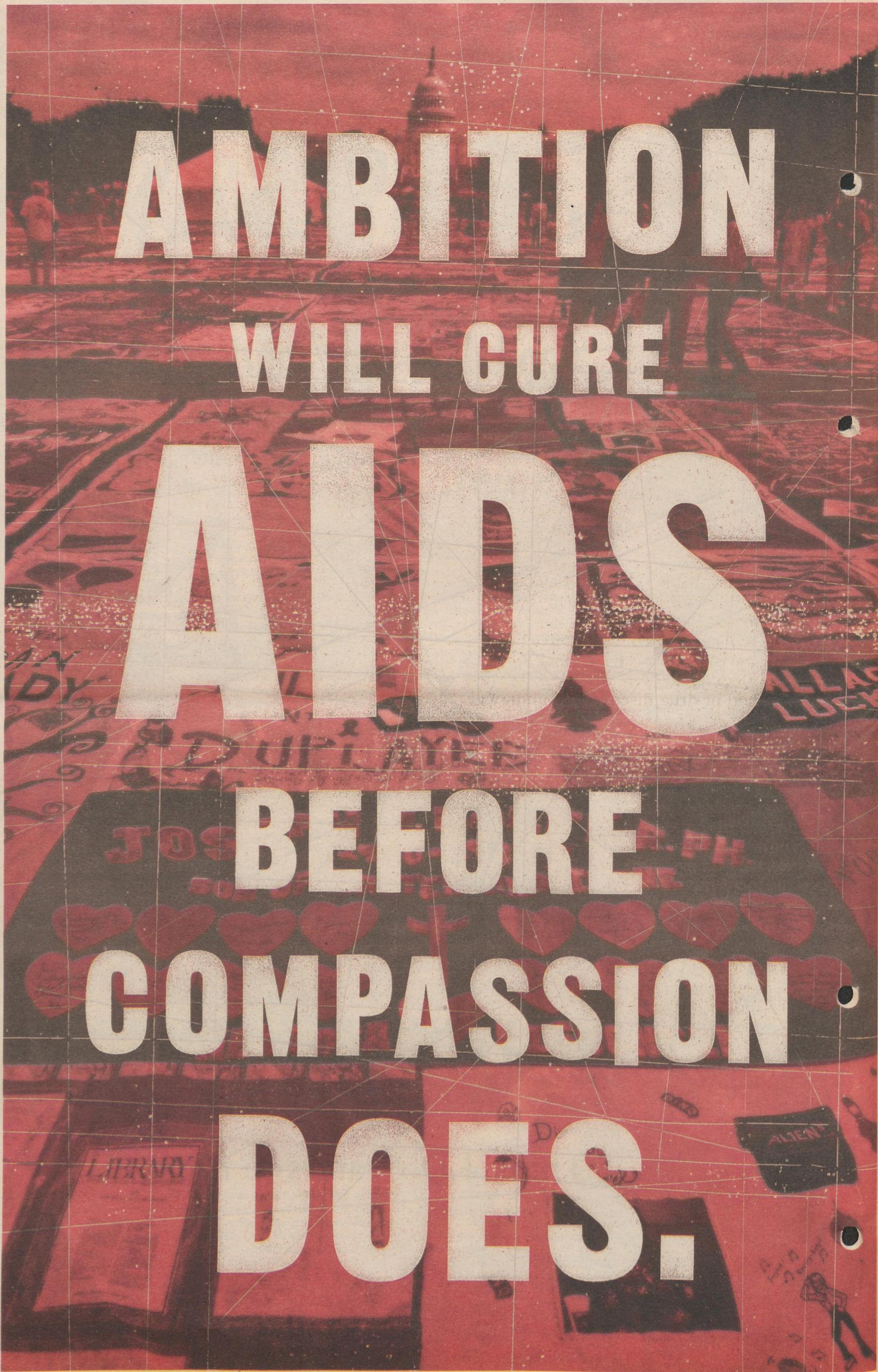
quick stare down that leaves Brendan with the jitters, Bob is left to cope with a love that dares not speak its name.

At Christmas, Bob confides in Carol (Lauren Velez), an independent-minded Latina engaged to and living in the apartment with Matt (Jamie Harrold), another roommate. Sarah has moved in with Brendan, and Bob is all bent out of shape.

Bob is such a goober he panics, but his jig is up.

Suddenly, we are transported to yet

See REVIEW/page 21



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INTERVIEW: MARIANNE PENDINO

Houston funny lady leads premiere of 'Happily Hereafter'

Playwright tells Houston Voice about her brand of comedy

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

Sometimes you meet a person and know right away what motivates them. Playwright Marianne Pendino's DNA oozes humor — this diminutive lady with a sparkly laugh is observant and quick witted, qualities evidenced in her world premier, "Happily Hereafter," which opened at Main Street Theater on Thursday.

This show is an unusual combination of right-wing pot shots, sideways looks at spirituality and religion, and slice of life monologues all cloaked within something resembling musical theater, or as the playwright/composer labels it "a play with music."

Pendino made her first big splash with the hilarious hit, "The Attitude Club" premiered at Main Street with success. This quirky depiction of society's current fixation on 12-step mania played to packed houses and was extended several times. It is now a perennial holiday favorite at Main Street. Much of Pendino's work is the result of her long career performing in various venues throughout the last ten years.

"I came to theater in a backwards

sort of way" Pendino said during a recent interview. "I began performing by doing improvisational comedy. It was humor with a very serious face, all original work, no shtick or parody, just really honest material."

"Happily Hereafter," co-written with Jane Seger, exemplifies a fast-paced, quick-change brand of humor that only a bona-fide comedienne could execute.

"There are three actors portraying nine characters living a life in the afterlife, and they couldn't be more diverse" said a grinning Pendino. This smorgasbord of cast consists of a fundamentalist preacher, an Indian Guru, a Chicano rap artist and a Catholic Nun. These characters, and others, are all thrown together by a kind of heavenly happenstance resulting in weirdly amusing forced companionship. Co-actors Jimmy Phillips and Ann James, both well known in Houston for their dramatic and comedic portrayals, have the unenviable task of acting alongside with the creator/composer of "Happily Hereafter."

"These actors are probably so tired

of me interrupting them all the time" Pendino admits. "Happily Hereafter" is not without a modicum of seriousness. As a keen observer of world events, Pendino is acutely aware of her task — to entertain and enlighten audiences.

"Humor is my primary vehicle in this work, however, I ascribe to the view that the best laughs develop from some of the most serious situations. So much of what is happening in the world is reflective of the recent prominence of differing lifestyles — as new forms of expression present themselves in the media and other places I see a corresponding resurgence of discrimination, especially among right wing conservatives. This prejudice is something I feel should be addressed and I try to accomplish a sense of heightened awareness in a thought provoking, non threatening manner," she said.

Critics have compared Pendino to comedy diva Tracy Ullman in ability and approach. Pendino's talents as a playwright, comedienne, composer,



Happily: Jimmy Phillips (left), Ann C. James and Marianne Pendino in "Happily Hereafter," which opened on Thursday.

lyricist and singer all converge in "The Happily Hereafter" with promising possibilities. As we finished the interview she intimated. This gentle and entertaining woman puts the humor in humor, with wonderful results.

What: The Happily Hereafter
Where: Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd.
When: May 21 to June 21
Tickets: \$12 - \$17
Contact: 713-524-6706

Beauty, emotion highlight Houston Ballet mixed program

Lila York's elegiac 'Rapture' premieres

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

With six performances that started Thursday at the Wortham Center, Houston Ballet offers an interesting and beautiful combination of works — one an absolute classic and one a new and vibrant view of the other side of life.

"Serenade" by George Balanchine is the opening work in this varied program, one of the most important works choreographed in this century. In spite of its 61 years, this ballet remains fresh and maintains its prominence as an exquisite work in annals of dance. "Serenade" was the first work Balanchine created after his arrival in America. Its "new world" approach is indicative of the choreographer's neo-classical style, one that shifted the focus of dance for the better part of this century. With its prominence of female corps de ballet, "Serenade" is tailor-made for the ladies of our resident company, whose approach and technique rival that of the best ballet ensembles in the world.

Set to the music of Tchaikovsky's stirring "Serenade For Strings,"

"Serenade" presents the depiction of Balanchine — women in white, on point, in unison set against a dark blue background. Light and shadow, vivid contrast and perfect ensemble denote this talisman of movement. This piece has been in the Houston Ballet repertoire for years, normally cause for concern, as some works similarly situated have become stale and dry. The ingenuity and classicism of "Serenade" defies this aging process. In contrast to "Serenade," contemporary creator Lila York brings us "Rapture," her exuberantly pensive work from the other choreographic corner of the universe. As a twelve year veteran of the Paul Taylor ("Company B") Dance Company, York is steeped in a long-standing tradition of performance and interpretation of modern movement dating back to the mother of modernity, Martha Graham, mentor to Taylor and numerous others.

"I danced for Paul Taylor for so long that I come to ballet through modern dance, almost in a reverse order, in a

kind of crossover fashion," York said in a recent interview.

"Rapture's" life was, oddly enough, the result of inspiration that York gained from the death of two dance colleagues, both of whom died before their 40th birthday as the result of AIDS.

"It's really exuberant and joyous. This work is a picture of heaven — it does reflect struggle, especially in the middle movement. Within much of the piece the 20 dancers fly around the stage at an incredible rate."

This mixed program brings us an established master and a hot new talent — two choreographic voices from opposite ends of this century, each with its own profundity and beauty.



Premiere: Houston Ballet principal dancers Dawn Scannell and Dominic Walsh perform in "Rapture," which runs until May 31.

Who: Houston Ballet
What: Spring program
Where: Wortham Center
When: Until May 31
Contact: 713-227-ARTS

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

www.visi.com/~oprairie/



SLOAN/from page 15

bility from classic Hollywood screwball comedies — rather, they mirror his own bemused, romantic take on life, and perhaps helped him to refine it. In any case, he praises the directors of those older films, such as George Cukor and Preston Sturges, for making literate movies with an emphasis on character.

"There's a lack of that now," he says, "especially in comedy. Comedies are so broad, and often lack ideas. All audiences get now is Jim Carrey making obscene noises."

Sloan says he thinks audiences are "much smarter" than they receive credit for being, and that he hopes to give them "entertainment they can enjoy, but entertainment with an edge." In fact, he thinks of "I Think I Do" primarily as a "date movie," he says.

"It's not about AIDS or politics. It's a date movie, like straight people have had for years, and I'm glad to fill that gap. I'm a big romantic at heart," he says.

The music on the film's soundtrack was an inspired choice of Partridge Family classics such as "I Think I Love You." The music is "romantic, but kind of goofy," Sloan says, making it a perfect fit for his story. Well-matched as it is, his choice of music came as a felicitous accident.

"My boyfriend at the time I was writing the script was playing a lot of Partridge Family songs," Sloan says.

The process of directing a film, Sloan finds, is very similar to the way he chose the music - marked by collaboration and lucky coincidence. It is, in fact, like being a host at a party.

"You just put a bunch of interesting people in the room," he says. Sloan is not a bossy host. "As director, it is your job to tell everyone what to do," he says, "but that aspect of it has

never really appealed to me. It's really a collaborative effort between me and the actors and the crew."

Just as wise teachers are not afraid of silence, but wait for their students to talk, Sloan exercises similar patience on the movie set. "After the scene's over, I don't immediately jump in saying, 'Cut!'" he says. "It's wonderful to watch actors when they discover a little moment I hadn't thought about."

An example of such a moment in "I Think I Do," Sloan says, comes when Sterling, played by actor Tuc Watkins, stands in front of a bathroom mirror and sucks in his gut. It would have been all too easy for Sloan to stop filming when the dialogue had ended, but his respect for actors and their craft paid off — Watkins was improvising, and everyone on the set started laughing. "When the crew laughs, you know it's funny," Sloan says.

Maelen's agent told them that the actor had read the script but was not drawn to the material. On the last day of casting, a bicycle messenger came into the production office to make a delivery. It was Maelen, who said he had never seen the script. He got the part - and shortly got a new agent, too. Shooting commenced soon after that lucky day, and was completed 25 days later.

"We had a tight schedule," Sloan recalls, "and we couldn't stand for any divas."

The finished product is a date movie that should appeal to gay and straight audiences alike - a heartfelt comic examination of love and its uncertainties. Convincing audiences on an emotional level is important to Sloan. "It's a corny phrase, but emotion is the greatest special effect," he says. "I can't remember who said that, so if you want to give me credit, that's fine."

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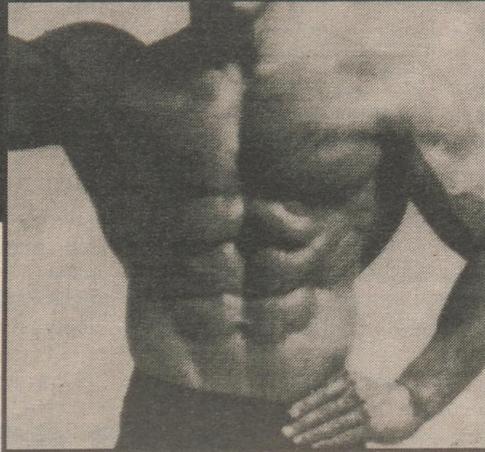


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WED	5/27	Burger night with Grandma
THUR	5/28	Amateur/Talent Night, 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love. Burger night with Grandma

REVIEW from page 15
 another holiday — Valentines Day — and things come to a head. As the apartment rocks with revelry and song, Sarah gets told that Bob has a crush on Brendan. She's drunk, but shocked just the same. You can see her mind ticking away: Bob can't be a threat, right? Brendan's straight, right? I'm sexy enough to keep him pleased, right?

For some reason, Brendan is irritated, and Bob gets cocky enough to wrestle him in the living room as everyone watches. He pushes Brendan way over the edge when he grabs his butt. Brendan responds with a quick punch to the mouth. Bob is shocked, the whole room goes silent, and we leave Sarah and Brendan in bed wrapped in each other's arm.

When the movie shifts to Matt and Carol's wedding five years later. Bob is boy-toyed by Sterling (Tuc Watkins), a hunkified soap opera star who soaks in Clinique. Working together on a popular television soap, Bob writes Sterling's roles, but the wedding stirs Sterling to write one of his own: Why don't Bob and he get married, too?

Bob's reluctant to Sterling's surprise. You can't imagine Sterling being turned down for anything. He's tall, handsome, well-toned, and very easy to look at. But he's also a schmuck.

From here on out, the plot modulates to a love triangle with Bob squarely at the center. There's Sterling, of course, but Brendan's back, too. But something about Brendan has changed. Over a half-decade, he's managed to discover his sexuality — and he's gay; maybe. When Brendan makes his moves, Bob resists with a faux deniability that's as odd as it gets.

We get the sense that Bob is a traditionalist at heart. But somewhere lurk-

ing underneath is that fairy tale sex fantasy that never got the old college try. Brendan makes matters worse, as he is aggressive, frisky and determined to bed Bob. At this point, we're hit with that classic gay dilemma of how do you turn down what you've wanted so bad when you're committed, and it's in your face, asking to be had?

You don't. And neither does Bob. But you can't blame him. He's locked out of his room because of Sterling's carelessness. As Brendan pats the sofa bed, it appears we're about to be invited to the centerpiece sex scene we've been waiting for. It happens, but without much fanfare or passion. In fact, director Sloan updates us on everybody's sexual adventures that night, but he leaves us to our own devices to make sense of Bob and Brendan's reinvigorated erotic obsession.

Sloan borrows heavily from the tried-and-true fate and destiny model, and he likes to include a good dose of pretty bods and resplendent faces to attract our attention. Like so many gay films before it, "I Think I Do" can leave you with the idea that you have to be gorgeous to be gay, to be in love, or have a sex life. That's a turnoff.

A well-balanced gay audience can enjoy this film for it's simple entertainment value. But if you are more of a romantic than a rationalist, "I Think I Do" is a torch song waiting to light your fire.

HOUSTON VOICE RATING ***

MPAA Rating: Not rated
Run Time: 93 minutes
Genre: Romantic Comedy
Director: Brian Sloan
Cast: Alexis Arquette, Christian Maelen, Marianne Hagan
Theater: Landmark Greenway 3, 5 Greenway Plaza. Opens today.
Tickets: \$6. 713-626-0402

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Has your love life
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 Houston Voice personals will have a
**whole new look, new features and plenty
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Mid-thirties, intelligent, trim and successful. Interests include culture, fitness, movies, gourmet food and travel seeks meaningful relationship. ☎0123

Connections

"Your Neighborhood Country Bar"

*Brick's II Welcomes
Lone Star Classic Softball
Tournament members*

MEMORIAL DAY
Join us Monday, May 25 for
BBQ on the patio at 3pm

Special Drink Prices...

- \$1.25 Well & Domestic Beer from 7am til noon, Mon-Fri.
- \$1.75 Well & Domestic Beer from noon til 2am Mon-Wed
- \$1.75 Well & Domestic Beer from noon til 9pm Thurs, Fri, & Sun
- \$1.75 Well & Domestic Beer from 7am til 9pm Sat.

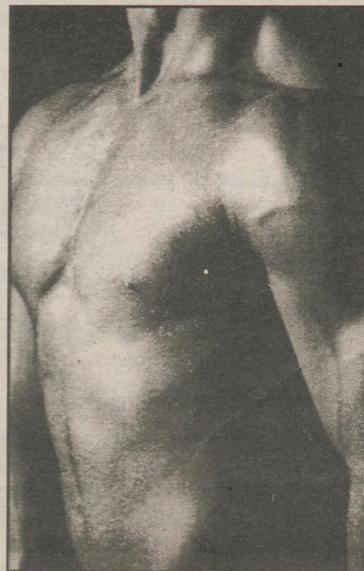
Free HIV Testing every Friday from 4-8pm



617 Fairview at Stanford • 713-528-8102

MEMORABLE DAYS! AWESOME NIGHTS!

PACIFIC STREET



Friday, 7 pm
Pacific Street Welcomes
the Montrose Softball
League!

**No Cover All Night
with Out-of-State ID!**

Saturday, 9 pm
**LEATHER & FLESH
FANTASY NIGHT!**

No Cover All Night in
Erotic Leather!

Sunday, 7 pm
**BRIEFS, BOXERS
& SKIVVIES!**

No Clothes! No Cover!
Take it Off & Party Hard!
Clothes Check Available!

NIGHTLY: Men Behind Bars!
Our Exotic Male Dancers!
The Hottest Studs from all
across Texas Perform
For Your Pleasure!

Please Drink Responsibly!

**Houston's Lowest
Regular Drink Prices!**
\$1.25 Well / \$1.75 Beer
\$3.50 Premium
& \$1.25 Schnapps!

710 Pacific Street

Houston, Tx.

713/523-0213



The Way We Were

MEMORIAL DAY
Buffet on the patio 2pm til
served by The Lone Stars



SUNDAY, MAY 24 • 8 pm

Mr. & Miss BRB 1998 presents

REMEMBER THIS

benefiting Colt 45's Stone Soup

**Join the Colt 45's bartending
on the patio 3-9pm with 50¢ Draft Beer**

Party with our Dollar Day Crowd

- Tuesdays & Wednesdays
- 7am til 11pm \$1 Well Drinks
- 7am til 2am \$1 Domestic Beer

Don't Forget our Tuesday Madness Show with

NEVADA

benefiting Nevada in her quest for Ms. TGRA 1999

Thursday—Free Country Dance Lessons with Scott

Friday, May 22 • 9-1

Michael T and the Strait Forward Band

Wednesday, May 27

Rent-A-Cowboy

Hot Men-Hot Men-Hot Men

2400 Brazos

713-528-9192

GALAXY GAYZER

by JOSEPH MOLINA

May 22 — 28, 1998

This week, the sun moves into the sign of Gemini making aspects to Pluto, Uranus and Neptune. Pick up a phone and start making calls. Have light conversations and make your way to parties. It doesn't matter what sign you are as the dual air sign brings out the social nut in us all.



Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

Happy birthday Gemini. Standing before a doorway, your past is shed behind you and another year stands ahead. Make a wish or set a goal. You are in a powerful place to actualize your dreams and set the year to come. Recognize the fact that time alone is needed to evaluate the achievements of the previous year as you lay the foundation for your future. Homosexual twins are especially lucky as your birthday season begins.



Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)

Sensual Venus riding through the sign of Aries makes a connection with eye-opening Saturn. You've fallen into too much of a routine and Venus just won't have it. Too many days of following the same routine and you are going to notice it. Emotional situations are highlighted here and need to be paid attention to. A sober influence surrounds matters of the heart and could draw out many eye-opening emotions. If single, love could be around you. If married, lovers could reconcile differences and fall even more in love or go their separate ways.



Leo (JULY 24 — AUGUST 23)

Social Venus and reclusive Saturn require some quite time, as you sort through emotional dilemmas. In search of happiness, many internal signals will go off that will require some attention. Your attitude could reflect this, as you are more controlling, demanding and pushy. This could manifest as false optimism at the beginning of a new phase. Tune into a higher purpose to resolve this matter. Give in to learning to love yourself and striving for a purpose.



Virgo (AUGUST 24 — SEPTEMBER 23)

This week rationale Mercury touches off with eccentric Uranus. What does it mean to you to be happy? Realizations occur, forcing you to pay attention to lingering situations. It could seem like the weight of the world is on your shoulders. Oh no, not a gay Virgo in a mood. You need to sit in silence and find your center. Pay attention to the mood, search and find it's root, deal or know and live with the sobering truth.



Libra (SEPTEMBER 24 — OCTOBER 23)

Saucy Venus works with maturing Saturn to produce a homosexual teacher. Maybe this is someone that you already know — a friend, acquaintance or lover. Life will begin to show verifiable proof of the integrity that Saturn has been encouraging. This could be an exciting interlude. Romantic and stimulating. If married, try expanding your sexual outlet.



Scorpio (OCTOBER 24 — NOVEMBER 22)

Mystical Neptune and enlightening Uranus working through the influence of Mercury to stimulate huge amounts of growth. For a moment, you are Queen of Everything and possess a power to achieve and create. Visualize and set your goals into motion. Go as high as you can see. You may need a doctor or lawyer to get you out of a mess or to set these ideas into motion. Use this cycle to your advantage.



Sagittarius (NOVEMBER 23 — DECEMBER 22)

Sensual Venus spurns events stimulated by eye-opening Saturn manifesting as a sudden turn of events. Others will be involved as change progresses and reformats your life. Associations that are outworn and are disloyal will begin to be filtered out. Men will come and go. Women will remain elusive and the game is on. You have luck riding on your side, so use it to your advantage.



Capricorn (DECEMBER 23 — JANUARY 20)

Venus and Saturn complete the purging that has been permeating your life. What do you desire? Freedom, love or happiness in work? At times, following the correct course of action can be most challenging. The hardest thing can be giving into the simple freedom of doing. Love will be offered and freedom will be before you. If you are married, this is a perfect time to solidify your romance.



Aquarius (JANUARY 21 — FEBRUARY 19)

This week, you will be challenged to stand up and fight for what you believe in. Neptune and Uranus stimulate mischievous Mercury into pulling pranks and putting you in the middle of compromising situations. Take nothing too seriously and remember to see the humor in the simple realism of life.



Pisces (FEBRUARY 20 — MARCH 20)

Get ready Pisces, a Solar influence is going to stimulate all sorts of growth. Three months after your birthday a pressing influence will stand at the front of your mind. How are you taking control and steering your life in the direction you want? It's your state of mind that success rides on and for some reason everyone wants what you have. You will find friction everywhere you turn. To gain success you will need to exert will power and let nothing get in your way.



Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

Sobering Saturn brings awakenings through the manifestation of sensitive Venus. This week a healing process, which is occurring within, could awaken you to some sobering experiences. Are you in a mood? Well, this is the reason why. You are prone to indulging, even with Saturn's limitations on fine wine, some European chocolate, or having a facial and getting your nails done.



Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

Mischievous Mercury is urged into action through electric Uranus. At the beginning of a long journey, the next refinement under way is stimulating your communication skills. Your honesty is going to be boiling over. Homosexual Taurus need to be aware of it in the middle of dishing how much dish your spilling. Loose lips could get you into a lot of trouble. Everything is likely to come back and bite you in the bottom. Work at the idea of moderation in your thoughts, actions and words.

Joseph Molina, a student of the psychic sciences for over 15 years can be reached at 713-524-4411 for private appointments or e-mailed at joemo@swbell.net. Look for his upcoming website at www.AstralWind.com and watch for him on Montrose TV at the beginning of the month.

WIGS ON FIRE THE RESURRECTION

A Gay Pride
Kick-Off Event
SATURDAY,
JUNE 13, 1998
Igniting at 7pm
Burning Until 11pm

RCHS
HOUSTON
2401 San Jacinto

Special Appearance
By **MARTHA WASH**

Complimentary
Well Drinks
Special Guest DJ

Tickets Available At
Crossroads Market
\$25 Advance
\$30 At The Door



Photo by Dalton DeHart. Models courtesy of Muscles In Action/C.J. Harrington. Event sanctioned by Wigs On Fire, Inc.



Memorial Weekend '98 The Men of the Mine Turn Up The Heat!



Saturday

open at 1 pm
\$1.50 Domestic Longnecks
\$2.50 Well Drinks until
10pm.

Sunday

open at 1 pm
\$1.00 all well
Vodka Cocktails
\$2.00 Domestic
Longnecks
\$2.25 Well Drinks
all day, all night

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MINING
COMPANY**

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713.529.7488

Proud Sponsor of
The Lone Star Classic Softball Tournament
Sunday, May 24th...Join Softball Participants on the
patio for Hot dogs, Cold Beer and Fun!



KOLBE PROJECT

Monday, May 25
Memorial Day Holiday
Office closed

Tuesday, May 26 · 7pm
Thy Kingdom Come Discussion
Audio with Carolyn Myss

Friday, May 29 · 10am
Communion Service

Kolbe Prayer Line 713-861-1844

PH.(713)861-1800 FX.(713) 861-7212
1030 Heights Blvd. • Houston, TX 77008



God Loves YOU, so come
share the
LOVING EXPERIENCE

Serving the Gay, Lesbian,
Bi-Sexual Community of Catholics
and Friends.

Become a part of Dignity U.S.A.

Services

Saturdays 7:30pm
Traditional Mass

Inclusive Liturgy celebrated
Call and press 4 for our Social Events Schedules.
Todos bienvenidos!

(Full details in '95-'96 Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages)

In the Heights at 1307 Yale
Suite H • 713-880-2872

CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday, May 22

- Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel done to Christian music for body, soul, and spirit. 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Communion and Prayer Service at 10:00 am; at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday, May 23

- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Faith and Hope Fellowship 5th Annual Charter Awards Banquet at 6 pm. 72106 Waugh Dr.

Sunday, May 24

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 10:30 am at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service "Preaching the Gospel" at 11 am. 713-528-6756.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am .861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. (A Study in the Book of Joshua.) 4305 Lillian 880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm. 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.
- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

- Faith and Hope Fellowship Service at 11:00 am. 713-520-7847.

Monday, May 25

- Some events may be canceled due to the Holiday
- Low impact aerobics done to Christian Music for body, soul, and spirit at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Catholic Mass at 7:00 pm at the Kolbe Project. 861-1800

Tuesday, May 26

- MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm Orchestra rehearsal at 7:30 pm. 861-9149.
- PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- Maranatha Fellowship MCC has groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Women & Spiritually Series "Thy Kingdom Come", healing with Carolyn Myss at 7 pm. At the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800.

Wednesday, May 27

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149.
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Healing Service at 8 pm. the Kolbe Project. 713-861-7212.

Thursday, May 28

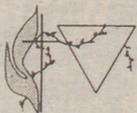
- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847.
- Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Choir Practice at 6:30 pm. Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>

If you want an event listed in this section, please call Carolyn Roberts at 529-8490 by 12 noon Mondays.

Catch the Bering Spirit- A Place for Everyone



BERING MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



A Reconciling Congregation

Where persons - regardless of sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, or age - fully participate in the church's life and ministries as loved disciples of Christ.

Sunday School9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship.....10:50 a.m.

Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams, Pastor

1440 Harold at Mulberry

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1848-1998

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Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection



Rev. Dwayne Johnson
Pastor

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We believe that each of us will discover our own spirituality through active participation in the work of God, in the pursuit of health and wholeness for everyone."

www.mccr-hou.com

Spiritual Uplift Service: Wednesdays 7 PM

Decatur St. H.O.M.E. Group: Wednesdays 7:30 PM

Worship Services: Sundays 9 AM & 11 AM

The Pride Events At The Wortham, June 21st!

(featuring Rev. Dr. Mel White)

Visit our web page at www.mccr-hou.com for the most current schedule of upcoming events!

713-861-9149 1919 Decatur, Houston, Texas 77007
Washington @ White St. (between Studemont and Houston Ave.)

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only \$19⁹⁵

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ACTIVATE YOUR PAGER

only \$19⁹⁵

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Premier PAGING & WIRELESS

12220 Murphy Road
(281) 575-8500

Friday, May 22

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at E/J's 6-10 pm and at the Midtown Spa 10 pm to 1 am. Inergy at 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713/864-8468
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Tootpee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Free Yoga classes at 6 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Recovery and Beyond-relationship group meets at 8 pm. 713-333-9092.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- SNAP (Spay and Neuter Assistance Program) . 713/522-2337.

Saturday, May 23

- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at Brick's II 4 to 8 pm and the 611 Hyde Park Pub 8 pm to midnight. Toyz 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group meets. 713-526-1017.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets. 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- The Movie Club meets. 218 -835-5312.

Sunday, May 24

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 am. 713-864-8468.

- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- AWARE (SW Bell Group) meets. 713-235-7929

Monday, May 25

- NOTE: Some events may be canceled due to the Memorial Day Holiday
- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 1pm to 7pm at 4126 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 9 am to 1 pm; and Cousin's 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30 pm. 713-681-1309
- Log Cabin Republicans meet. 713-529-9100.
- Gay and Lesbian readers group meets. 713-349-0050.

Tuesday, May 26

- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 7pm. 495-8009.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.

- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic Club Body Center and Mela's 8pm to Midnight.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Bering Support Network-Lunch Bunch Gang meets at 7 pm. 713-526-1017.
- HIV + Support group for men over 50 meets at 7:30 pm. 713/527-9106.
- HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer at 7 pm. 713/527-8219.
- Love, Lust, and Intimacy discussion group meets at 7 pm. 713/524-2374.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- AIDS Equity League meets. 713-910-2900.
- Queer Artists Collective meets. 713-874-0798
- HIV/AIDS Treatment mixer. 713-527-8219.
- Houston Oludoor Group meets. 713-KAM-POUT.

Wednesday, May 27

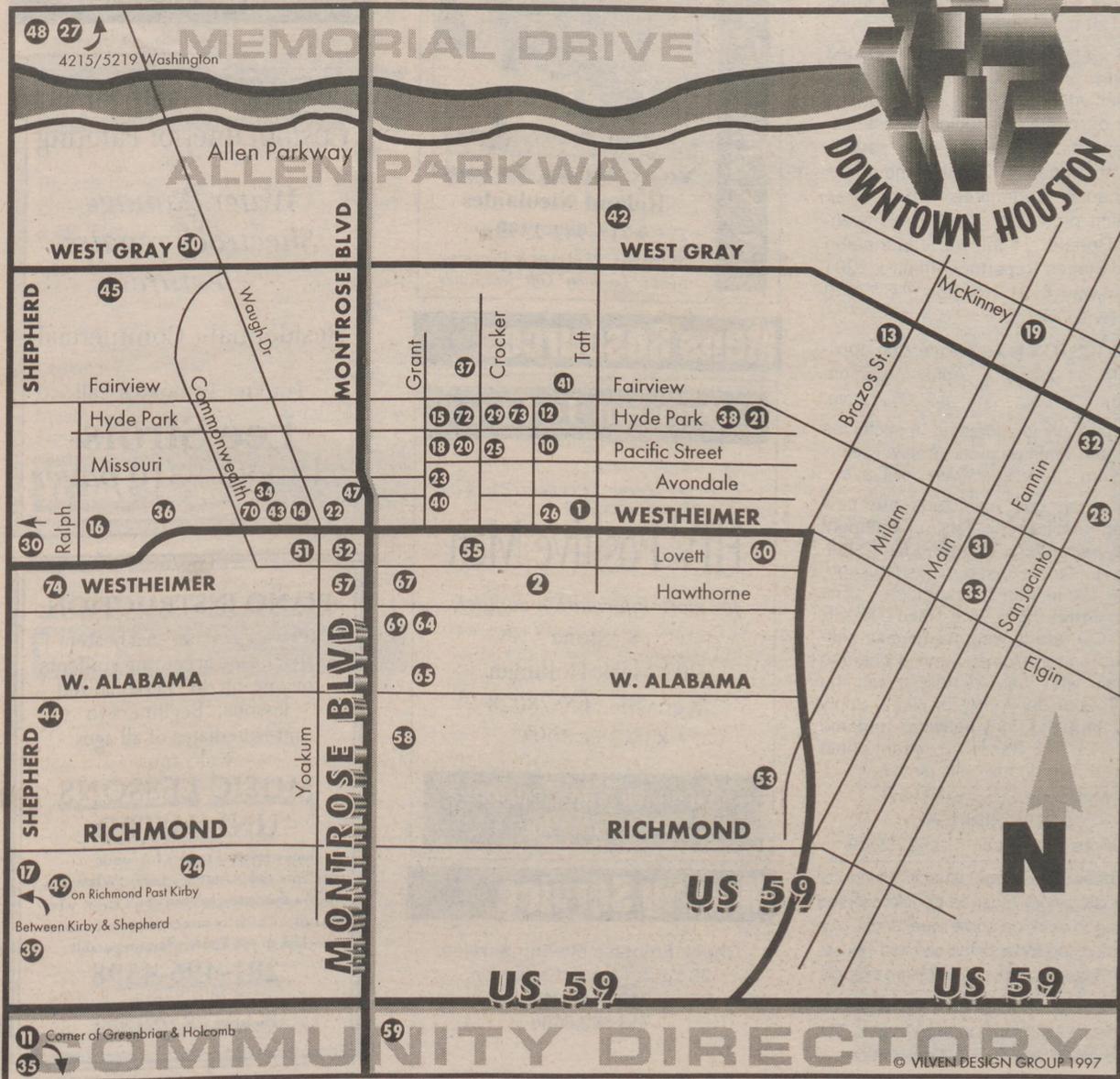
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Chances 6 to 10 pm. Nighthawks pm to midnight and the Ripcord 10 pm to 1 am.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713/864-8468.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4:30pm . 713/791-1412.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Tootpees at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey team recruits at 6:30 pm. 713-802-1248.
- Free Yoga classes at 7 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 1pm to 7pm at 4126 SW Freeway, suite 1717.

- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. 281-933-5818.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 623-6796.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer (for women). 713-527-8219.
- Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents meet at Tootpee's for a mailout. 713-284-4939.
- People in Medicine meet at 6:30 pm. 713-807-0675

Thursday, May 28

- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at the BRB from 4 to 8 pm and QT's 8 pm to midnight.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main . 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- FrontRunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY



ACCOMMODATIONS		
1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale 713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd 713/522-5224
BARS & CLUBS		
10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park 713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe 713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview 713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos 713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview 713/528-9204
16	EJ's	2517 Ralph 713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond 713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific 713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney 713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific 713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Tuam 713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer 713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific 713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond 713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific 713/523-0213
26	QT's	534 Westheimer 713/529-8813
27	Mail Box	4215 Washington 713/864-2977
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto 713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview 713/521-2792
30	Vintage Bar on Midlane	4356 Westheimer 713/355-3093
31	Nighthawks	2923 Main 713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin 713/659-4998
33	Midtown Spa	3100 Fannin 713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer 713/521-9533
35	PLAZA 9200:	
	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy 713/666-3436
36	Racials	1318 Westheimer 713/942-CLUB
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker 713/522-7366
38	Mela's Tejano Country	302 Tuam 713/523-0747
39	Metroplex	2165 Portsmouth 713/520-5000
48	Viviana's	5219 Washington 713/862-0203
RESTAURANTS		
40	Baba Yaga	2607 Grant 713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview 713/522-0106
42	Fox Diner	905 Taft 713/523-5369
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer 713/522-3332
44	Cafe Edi	3102 S. Shepherd 713/520-5221
45	Mesa Grill	1971 W. Gray 713/520-8900
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St. 713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES		
49	Allstate	3467 Kirby 713/526-5553
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray 713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer 713/942-0147
52	Eckerd Drugs	1007 Westheimer 713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam 713/524-9932
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer 713/529-8490
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose 713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939-S Montrose 713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose 713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer 713/520-2000
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne 713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama 713/523-2521
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose 713/520-8000
69	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (A5) 713/522-7373
CLOTHING SHOPS		
31	Black Hawks	2923 Main 713/520-6224
70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer 713/522-1626
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview 713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview 713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer 713/529-6299

To advertise in the Classifieds call (713)529-8490 or (800)729-8490 if not in Houston. Our office hours are 9:00 am-5:30 pm Monday through Friday. Classified deadline is Monday at noon for the following Friday publication. Most major credit cards and personal checks accepted. *Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.*

Announcements

HOUSTON'S HOTTEST HEALTH CLUB JUST GOT HOTTER!!!

FITNESS EXCHANGE has added 2 more **Precor EFX's** for a total of 10 and more new **CYBEX** equipment is on the way this **MONTH!!!** Celebrating **20 YEARS** in HOUSTON. 4040 Milam Street @ West Main, Houston, TX 77006, 713.524.9932.

Tanqueray's® TEXAS AIDS RIDE® - seven days from Austin through Houston to Dallas. October 5-11 benefiting 44 AIDS service organizations throughout the Lone Star State - is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help spread the word about the ride. For more information call 713.521.RIDE (7433).

The Pride Parade deadline is coming up fast, June 1st is just around the corner! Jim and Tina are asking for assistance with the parade applications. If you are a member of or know of any business and organizations that have yet to receive a Parade packet, please call and let us know. Thank you! Pride-line: 713.529.6979 Pride-fax: 713.529.6929.

!! FREE HIV/AIDS ART WORKSHOP !!
The Glassell School of Art located at 5101 Montrose Blvd. will be offering **FREE Art Courses** to those with HIV/AIDS! Classes are offered every Friday until August 1st., from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. All instruction, materials, and even lunch are provided free. Come explore the healing power behind your creativity! For information call 713.639.7500 or 713.526.1118.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998
The official Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998 merchandise is now available. T-shirts, tank tops, sleeveless muscle T's, caps and commemorative pins all feature the 1998 theme of "Unified, Diversified, Electrified." All proceeds help bring you PRIDE 1998. Call Fred, for more information, at 713.522.9752.

Auto Repairs

THE TIRE PLACE, inc.

- Alignment
- Brakes

Cooper TIRES

1307 Fairview
(3 blocks west of Montrose)
713-529-1414

Taft Street Auto Repair & Service

526-3723

Electrical Repair
Complete Brakes
Tune-Up
Major or Minor Repair

Carburetor and Fuel Injection

1411 Taft Houston, Texas 77019

TAFT STREET Auto Repair & Service

526-3723
1411 Taft Houston, Texas 77019

Cleaning Services

RAINBOW MAID CO.
Home/Office Cleaning • Organizing
Moving/Pet Care Assistance
Insured & Bonded
Michael pgr. 713.642.4858
713.721.5563

HOME SERVICE Residential & Commercial Cleaning
Bonded & Insured
FREE Estimates! • We Do Windows!
281.630.8446
pgr. 713.602.4766

Help Wanted

RECEPTIONIST/Permanent Part-time:
Rapidly growing weekly gay newspaper seeks experienced receptionist. Position requires excellent phone/organizational skill and Microsoft Office '97. JOIN the fastest growing gay media company in the country. We are an equal opportunity employer. Send resume (**NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE**) to: **Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Ste. 105, Houston, TX 77006.**

Furniture Sales - Full or Part-time.
Experience a plus. References needed. Call Robert at #1 Quality Furniture 713.914.0666.

The Houston Press has a part-time position available in the Romance Department for a person with a strong marketing and event planning background to coordinate singles events, primarily for men seeking men and women seeking women. Fax resume to the attention of Linda @ 713.961.3719.

The Houston Pride Band, a volunteer, non-profit organization is looking for a conductor/artistic director. Duties will include: providing artistic direction, conducting at weekly rehearsals, and participating at bi-weekly board meetings. For more information, please contact Russell Williams at 713.524.0218, or send email to HousTxBand@aol.com

F/T year round financial manager needed to oversee annual budget of \$750,000. Duties include cash flow management, creation of monthly financial statements, bank deposits, A/P, and weekly payroll. Reports to Managing Director and works with Finance Committee. Peachtree Accounting preferred. Salary mid-twenties. Donald Hightower, Managing Director, Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, #101, Houston, TX 77019 or fax 713.527-8669.

CLUB HOUSTON is now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person. Mon. - Thurs., 10am - 2pm at 2205 Fannin.

Mary's naturally is accepting applications for part-time maintenance. Apply Tues. - Thurs., 9am - 2pm, see Walter or Gaye.

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for management trainees, bartenders, door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group health insurance. JR's BAR & GRILL and THE MONTROSE MINING CO. are looking for honest, self-motivated and customer service oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. To join our family of clubs, apply Monday through Friday between 1pm and 5pm at JR's, 808 Pacific. A recent photo is required. No phone calls please.

Midtowne Spa - Houston
*** NOW HIRING***

For more details call 713.522.2379

The Fitness Exchange is now hiring for receptionist/trainer. Must be people oriented and willing to work on some weekends. We are also looking for a detail oriented housekeeper. Please come by 4040 Milam to apply.

Brazos River Bottom is now accepting applications for a full-time Country Western DJ. Apply in person Mon-Sat, 8:00am-1:00pm.

CHANCES & The NEW BARN

Taking applications for speed bartenders who can come to work sober and unescorted by current lover. Your pay is commensurate with your professionalism. We need folks who want to work & serve our valued customers! If you are sick & tired of not earning a decent take home pay come work with us & be delightfully surprised! No Jerks need apply!

GENTRY is accepting applications for full time barbacks. Apply from 2pm to 6pm @ 2303 Richmond. No Phone Calls Please.

Help Wanted! Houston-Join the friendly staff at Montrose's favorite men's dance bar: Pacific Street! Applications now being accepted for Bartenders, Door & Floor positions. Recent photo required. Apply Mondays & Fridays, Noon - 4pm. No Phone Inquires, Please.

General Labor: 713.942.8600

Nighthawks is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time is Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

Licensed Massage

Indulge Your Mind, Body & Soul
With a Stimulating and Relaxing Body Massage at
Pegasus Body Works
713.525.0542
Private and Professional
Hotel - In/Out Calls Available
Frank G. RMT#76986
Bill O'Rourke (MT0431)
713.864.2233

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!
TOM: 713.520.6018
(MT4397)

MONSIEUR MASSAGE



RMT
Your Body Friend
Roland Nicolaides
★713-942-2399★
Weekdays, Weekends & Evenings
Central Location · Gift Certificates

Mens Resources

Decision To Live

A one day seminar for
HIV Positive Men

for more information contact:

S. Stone
209 Mack Holliman
Kerrville, TX 78028
830-257-7093

Open dates in Houston
May, June, July

Moving Service

Chuck French's Moving Service
20 Years Master Craftsman
713.861.1212
713.942.8600

American Movers
Celebrating our 14th Year
Experienced • Trusted • Insured
Call Frank
713.522.1717
1.800.522.2670

Professional Services

Pamper yourself with a free
Mary Kay facial and
makeover. Learn different
makeup techniques and take
care of you skin.
Let me help you.



Call for appointment
Michele Hambach
713-220-0209 pager
713-789-0074

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Residential Repair & Remodeling

All your Interior/Exterior
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Specializing in Hardi-Plank siding
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Office 281-338-0860
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Custom Interior Painting

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Residential / Commercial

For Free Estimates Call

Lee Sirois
713-886-5310 pager

PIANO INSTRUCTION

Private teacher in Theater District now accepting students for one-on one personalized lessons. Beginners to intermediates of all ages welcome.

MUSIC LESSONS UNLIMITED

A unique referral service for music students and private teachers...When you need a music teacher but don't know who to call...Teachers screened and references checked so you know who is reputable.

281-496-4598
P.O. Box 19364
Houston, TX 77224-9364

CLASSIFIEDS

Real Estate For Rent

FREE customized information by mail, fax or in person. \$500/month & Up. HomeWorks Apartment Locators. 713.521.REAL (7325).

The Ultimate Sanctuary For The Lifestyle You Deserve

Small apartment community in the heart of River Oaks where units are remodeled with unsurpassed style.

- Mirrored walls
- Covered parking
- Floor to ceiling windows
- Vertical blinds
- One bedroom \$750
- Two bedroom \$980

Sensuous ambiance for a limited few

2415 Mimosa
713-524-0288
Kirby/San Felipe area

AIDS Emergency Housing - Montrose
Bed Space available at TLC House for HIV infected males. Weekly rental, no deposit, bill paid, free laundry/phone. No drugs/alcohol - Social Service vouchers welcome! AIDS Housing Coalition Houston. 713.521.1613.

Real Estate For Sale

Karen Derr
& Associates Realty
congratulates...

BILL BALDWIN

Agent of the Month!
Great Heights
3-2 nicely updated!
only \$149,000

Call Bill today
to see this great house!
281-731-8314

Bill@KarenDerr.com
www.KarenDerr.com/bill

Roommate

CLEAR LAKE

Roommate needed to find and share 2 Bedroom apartment. Quiet, Non-Smoker & No Pets.

TIM: 713.524.9891

Bisexual Male looking for a room to rent (within the loop) by June 1, 98. Pager 713.902.3998.

Looking for couple to share 1/2 Million Dollar Home. Located in the Museum/Montrose District. \$1350.00 + 1/2 electric. 713.520.1577.

Want To Buy

Fast Cash, Highest Price Paid. We buy antiques, estates, furniture, collectibles, jewelry, etc. Pick up available. 281.391.7515 or 713.994.5986 pgr.

WebSites

www.HoustonGayWeb.com

www.dupontmerck.co .

www.basicbrothers.com

www.communitygospel.org

http://ticketmaster.com

www.agouron.com

www.the/clubs.com

www.Roxane.com

www.pacificstreet.com

www.midtowne.spa.com/spa

www.dudejack.com

www.confidentialconnection.com

www.movo.com

Personals

Curious? Meet someone new. Record and listen to ads FREE. Use code 7070. Must be 18+ years. 713.526.9393.

FREE LIVE HOT GAY CHAT

PowerCruise, Personals, More!

1-617-378-1869

1-678-539-6633

1-212-796-3365

1-704-319-2065

1-473-441-1065

1-268-404-7440

18+ Only

LD Rates Apply

Small Red Hankie Group ages 30's to 50's seeks trim recruits, all races. Mike 713.355.4022.

MEET

YOUR

MATCH

1.900.288.2201

Ext. 2426

\$2.99 per min.

Must be 18 yrs.

Serv-U 619.645.8434

ORDER IN TONIGHT!

Discreetly explore your fantasies on The Confidential Connection@! 18+ Record, Listen & Respond FREE!

Call 713.892.5566 use code 7126

Houston's Newest, Hottest Gay Dateline. Meet local men & women NOW. 1.900.285.0074 ext. 8850. Must be 18+ \$2.99 per minute.

ALL GAY PARTY!!

On Club Voice-MALE™! 18+ Call 713.850.7900 use code: 7900 TRY IT FREE!

Experiment Orally!

Gay Group Fun on Club Voice-MALE™! Try it FREE! 713.850.7900 18+ code: 2313.

Curious? Meet someone new. Record & Listen to ads FREE. Use code 7070. Must be 18+ years. 713.526.9393.

MEETING GAY & BI LOCALS

FREE to Browse & Respond to

Voice Ads!

713.225.5500

PUB #625 (18+)

Models/Escorts

Hot! Healthy Hands.
Convenient Mid-Town Location
713.659.5266

Mark

24 Hours

713.697.2178

HANDSOME HARD BODY

281.520.8921

Young Fitness Model

713.518.0804

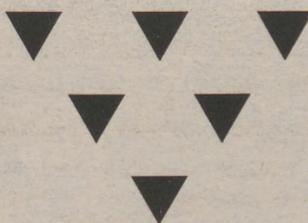
Call Me Direct!

Scottie

281.216.7499

RICK • 24 HOURS • 713.807.7190

Houston Voice Policy. Prostitution is illegal in Texas. State law prohibits the placement in this category of any such ads which might suggest solicitation. The Houston Voice will not knowingly accept any ads of this type.



Crad Duren, M.D.

1213 Hermann Dr., Suite 430
(713) 520-0653

Internal medical practice offering discreet confidential care to the community, including HIV/AIDS diagnostics & therapeutics

Healthcare from the Heart



Anonymous Testing and Counseling
Major Credit Cards & Personal checks Accepted
Insurance with Qualification Medicare

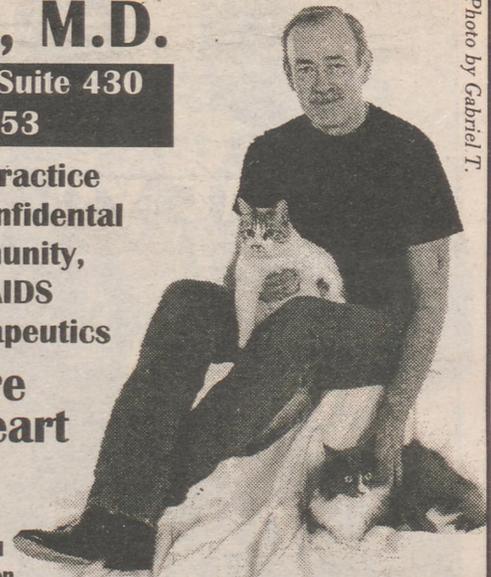


Photo by Gabriel T.

HOUSTON.....your web hosts have landed!



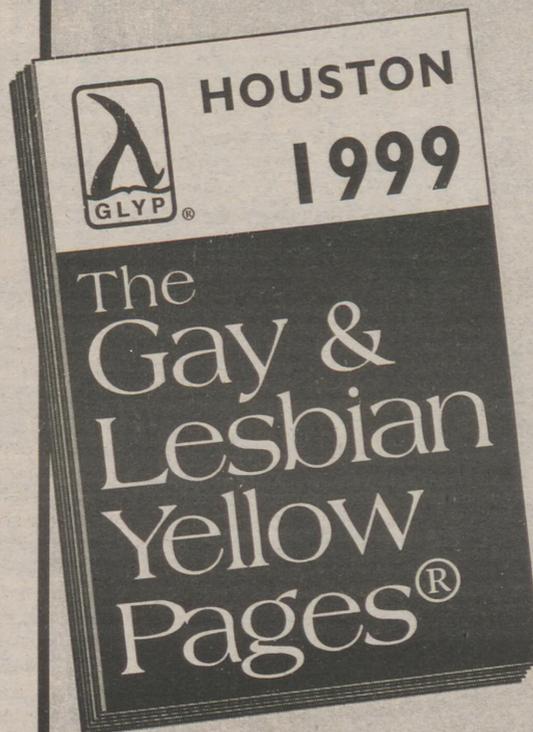
Web site design
Database integration
Online catalogs



Web site hosting
Logo design
Graphic design

800.369.6507 512.482.8064

For Outstanding Marketing Success...



See for yourself why Houston's leading professionals rely on GLYP® to cut costs & increase profits.

We know just where to look!

We invite you to advertise in the single, most effective advertising tool to the gay & lesbian community. See for yourself - just call today

(713) 942-0084

Record your own personal ads
Listen to the other hot ads
Leave guys private messages
All for Free!

what you want!

THE ACME DATING COMPANY
ACME
ACCEPT NO OTHER

(713) 526.9393 code 7111

Adults Only! Restrictions apply. Certain optional features are \$2.49 per minute. For ACME Customer Service call: 1-888-337-ACME

The Original USA **Gay Party Line**
1-268-404-5462 **NEW!**

LIVE GROUP ACTION, BACKROOMS
ONE-ON-ONE, LOCAL DATING

CALLS FROM BED
Night Meetings-Live
1-664-410-2071

GAY MASSAGE
IMMEDIATELY
011-56900-2625

Live Gay Cruising
Cruise through 100 telephone lines for a live one-on-one chat.
1-268-404-6433

WILD & DIRTY
011-592-591-526

Live Psychic Advisor
1-268-404-5020

International LDD Rates 18+

Video Ace
1¢ SALE
Adult XXX Video

Buy 1 Adult Video and get a 2nd for only 1¢.
We feature all new VHS Videos.
YOU cannot afford to miss this sale!!!

Your S. Houston, Pasadena, Hobby area full service video rental/sales destination.
New Release rentals \$3.00/Day, Adult \$3.99/Day
Free Memberships / No Deposits
Drive a little, **SAVE BIG \$\$\$\$**
1418 G Spencer at Allen Genoa • 713-910-0220
Gulf Freeway (145 S) Exit Airport/College then East 2 miles
11:00 am - 11:00 pm Daily
Sale April 1st through 30th • Not valid with any other specials

Who Said a Good Lawyer is Hard to Find?

Looking to sustain a relationship with an appealing person?

We won't object. Beginning this May, Houston Voice personals will have a **whole new look, lots of great new features and all kinds of new ads from single people who'd love to meet you.**

So file your brief.
Call 1-800-985-4666 and place your **FREE** personal ad today!

ATTORNEY
Handsome, charming and witty, seeks a male counterpart (31-35) attractive and intelligent. Friendship and possible relationship # 0123

Connections

© 1998 The TPI Group

MIDNIGHT MATINEE SPECIAL
Sunday thru Thursday
Midnight til Closing
Admission \$4 with Membership

FRENCH QUARTER
713-527-0782 • 3201 Louisiana • Houston

Thursday Matinee \$4 All Day with Membership

All Male Cinema presents

Friday & Saturday 11am-3am

Monday thru Thursday 11am-1am

Sunday 1pm-1am

Star Maker
Hunter Parrigan Stefano

The Penetrator
STARRING T.J. SLATER



**DONT BE ALONE
PICK UP THE PHONE**

Simple and direct. Find the man
you need by listening to hot ads.

**THE
CONFIDENTIAL
CONNECTION®**

Make the right call!™

713-892-5566
use access code: 7130

www.confidentialconnection.com

record,
listen &
respond
to ads
FREE!

Just \$1.99/\$2.49 per minute for certain optional features. 18+. Movo Media, Inc. does not prescreen callers and takes no responsibility for personal meetings. 800-825-1598

**Now You're Really
Cruising!**

Gay.Net will raise your sail. You can find just what
you're looking for right now on Gay.Net – the hottest guys,
powerful matchmaking tools, live videos, entertainment,
and more.

Limited Time Offer – enter the Gay.Net Sweepstakes and
register to win an RSVP® Cruise. Don't miss the boat – new
friends are waiting right now at www.gay.net/cruise

gay.net

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN PRIZE. Void where
prohibited or restricted by law. Sweepstakes open to all legal US residents
who are 18 years of age or older. Sweepstakes runs 4/20/98-5/20/98.

WIN A GAY CRUISE ON GAY.NET
www.gay.net/cruise



CRUISERS
We Got It all

**Live Message XChange
Virtual Chat
1on1**

- **Frat Boys**
767-446-9300
- **Pipeline**
268-404-6888
- **Boy's Club**
767-446-9333
316-697-7669

**The Only Numbers you'll
ever need**

L.D./Int'l Rates Apply
18+

Photo by Steven Davis

Starting next week,

**You'll make
Headlines.**



It's a free, fun, new,
and **easy** way to meet sophisticated
singles like yourself. Whether you are
looking for someone special, someone for
companionship, or even just someone,
Connections is for **you**.

Connections

CABALLO BUSCA...

Ranchero, compassionate, maricon, sensible GHM, 26,
seeks same for wild rides across Texan plains. Sense of
humor, bilingual desired. Come gallop into the sunset with
me! ☎1150

DANCING COWBOY

Attractive GWM, 40, 6'2", 170lbs, HIV-, moustache.
Seeking masculine, honest, dependable man, who enjoys
the country, C&W dancing, romance, home life, etc. H/W
proportionate. ☎1155

ATTRACTIVE HISPANIC

GHM, 32, 5'6", 145lbs, dark/brown, employed and stable,
enjoys quiet times, long drives, sports. Seeking good-look-
ing, straight-acting W/HM, 23-35, slim-muscular build, for
friendship, possible LTR. ☎1152

CONROE

WM, 38, 5'10", 170lbs, short black with gray streaks/green,
moderately hairy, seeks hairy male, 38-45, N/S, D/D-free.
Conroe/Woodland area, please. ☎1154

**BLUE
COLLAR GUY**

Healthy, masculine, attractive GWM, 36, 6'4", 205lbs,
swimmer's build, brown/brown, goatee, HIV positive,
seeks masculine, muscular GH/WM, 30-40, HIV positive,
nice build, who enjoys working out. ☎1153

**HIV
POSITIVE**

Sensitive, thoughtful, considerate GWM, 50, 5'11", 150lbs,
grey hair, HIV positive, very healthy, looking for LTR with
someone over 40. ☎1151

**PROFESSIONAL
BLACK MALE ...**

early 50s, intelligent, self-directed, and serious with a play-
ful side. Interests include travel, reading, quiet times at
home. Seeking meaningful relationship with secure other.
☎1125

TOP MAN

Very assertive, sensual, prime timer WPM, 5'10", 170lbs,
HIV negative, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, seeks submissive bot-
tom man, 5'10", HIV negative, N/S, no facial hair, for pos-
sible dating. ☎1050

**So don't delay.
Call today!**

To listen and respond to ads, call
1-900-370-7177
Calls cost \$1.99 per minute. Must be 18 or older.

To place your **FREE** ad, call **1-800-985-4666**



THE CLUB

POOL PARTY



**THIS WEEKEND
SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY
May 23, 24 and 25
1:00 - 3:00 PM**

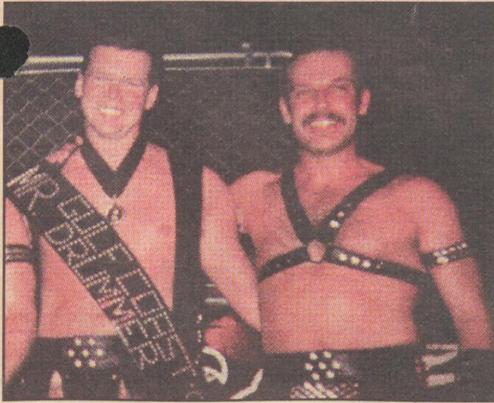
**Catered Buffet and Bev. Poolside
Door Prizes**

**MEMORIAL
WEEKEND**

HOUSTON 2205 Fannin (713)659-4998

Important Stuff

Congrats to the New Ms. Chances-Franki Ferranto, Miss Chances-Renee Monroe, and Mr. Chances Patrick Martin and Scott King (yes, it was a tie.) Congrats are also in order to Steven Bray (of Dallas) on being sashed the New Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer.



Winner Steve Bray (left) and retiring Ken Claude (right) at Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer.

figure) aluminum dryer hose and empty plastic cat food containers. They love it. Now they have two separate playgrounds.

My usual disclaimer is in force. Professional writer I am Not. I print lies, gossip, and trash. If you would like real news written by professional journalist, please don't read this crapola, please turn to page one and start reading there.



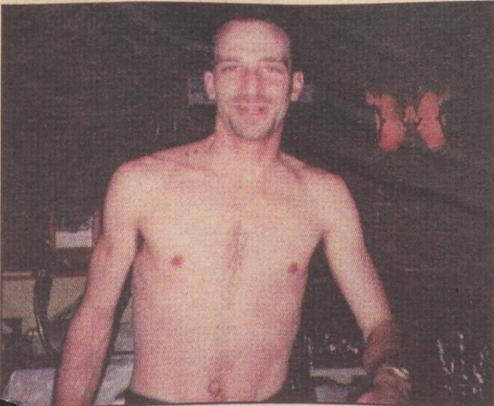
Franki and Chris.

Or is it Josephine? Don't invite me to breakfast when you use Liquid Drano in the eggs. I don't need my pipes cleaned.

Joanne (BRB): I hear you can be a good bouncer, especially with Nevada backing you up. Regina (TWT): Where did you pull that Martha Wash photo from?

Larry Crawford (Hyde Park Gallery): I hear someone stole your rubber Iguana and you want it back, no questions asked.

Jim Sorgini (NLA:H): Now it is your turn, you sash man.



Shane at Nighthawks.

bitter old queen. Hell, I used to date them."

Rob and Zack (hangs at Nighthawks): Strike a pose?

Norman (hangs at Mary's): Mary Kay, Mary Kay, Mary Kay.

Jeff (BRB): Another trip out of town with a social butterfly?

Ova Ewe (Mary's): Are you the "pie lady?"

Mario (BRB): I hear your truck would not go up a long hill-last week. Was it because Vera

(BRB) was laying in the bed?

Lazer Wizard (Pacific Street): How does your garden grow?

You will not being seeing me this weekend. I am going to meet all my family in Wisconsin.

We are celebrating my Grandma's 100th (yes, born in 1898) birthday.

It is too bad I won't be able to sneak down to Chicago for IML.

Keep sending in those Pets of the week.



Pet of the Week Fagalot owner Mary Bologna of GLYP.

Milestones

Happy (accounting) birthday to Ron Pappa. Happy (piggie) birthday to David Szyal. Happy BD to Pickles. Happy (I love to swing a golf club) birthday to Terry Murphy. Happy (Houston Voicing) birthday to Marshall Rainwater. Happy birthday to Mikey. Happy anniversary to Jerry and Elaine.

Rodent Droppings

Harvey and Rascal got manicures this weekend. Their nails are so tiny, but ever so sharp. We have to bribe them with treats to keep em still long enough for the procedure. This weekend, LW built them a new "Ferrettrail" out of old beer boxes (go

figure) aluminum dryer hose and empty plastic cat food containers. They love it. Now they have two separate playgrounds.

My usual disclaimer is in force. Professional writer I am Not. I print lies, gossip, and trash. If you would like real news written by professional journalist, please don't read this crapola, please turn to page one and start reading there.

Rogers (Montrose Clinic): I gave your Cuervo money to "The Rose." Thanks.

Shari (hangs at Chances): And I quote: "If they passed out women like they pass out Rumpleminze, I'd be happy."

Brian (NLA:H): The Red Roof Inn is not the Habana Inn. Please keep your clothes on while strolling the balconies in Dallas. Also, the Red Roof Inn is not Beck's Motor Lodge.

Henry (Montrose Inn): Who dotted your eye?

Papa Del (Gentry): You were a very bad boy and I have photos to prove it.

Michael Gaitz (Outpost): Congrats on having your doors open again.

Gary DeYoung (hangs at E/J's):

Wayne (BriarPatch): Did you bring any young talent to "God's Waiting Room" back from Bancock?

K. Pruitt (hangs at the BRB): Just how often does your truck get drunk at the BRB?

Scooter (formerly of the Ripcord): At least you wiggle when you get "it."

Wiley (Chances): And I quote: "Hell, put my name in your column, I need to advertise."

Curtis (hangs at Cousin's): I hear you are turning into a real Batty Crocker.

Boots (Chances): Congrats on your niece's graduation.

Paul Meyers: Congrats on getting your RN. I hear you got new 14k gold nipple rings in honor of the occasion.

Steve (the fabu florist): And I quote: "I never thought I would become a

Art by LEE DENNING

The Lazy J

312 Tuam · Houston · 713-528-9343

Saturday, May 23 · 10:30pm

TALENT NIGHT

hosted by Frankie Lane

\$50 for 1st Place

\$25 for 2nd Place

Friday Night 8-Ball

League Members Only · Cash Prizes

8

MAY 25

28th

ANNIVERSARY

\$1 Domestic Longnecks

Open to Close



1022 WESTHEIMER · HOUSTON

713.527.9669

Email : marysbar@aol.com

GET SHOWTIME TODAY TO SEE
THE SERIES TOO HOT FOR BROADCAST TV.

ARMISTEAD MAUPIN'S

MORE TALES OF THE CITY

THE LONG-AWAITED CONTINUATION OF
"ARMISTEAD MAUPIN'S TALES OF THE CITY" IS COMING...
AND IT'S ONLY ON SHOWTIME.

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