

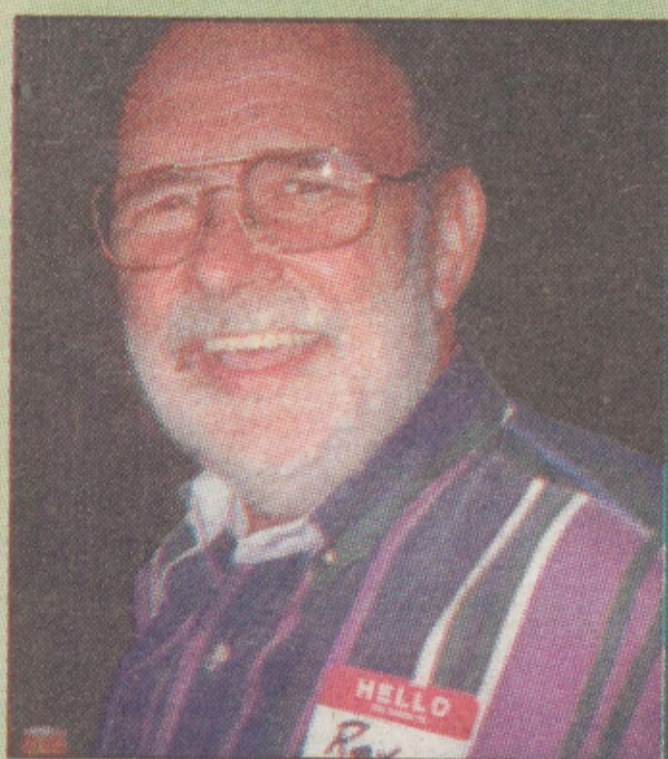
WEST FEST

Drag queen contest, complete with 7-foot trophy, added to annual fete

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INSIDE



Longtime community activist Ray Hill celebrates his 60th with a little help from his friends

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The Houston Gay & Lesbian Switchboard teams with the Montrose Counseling Center to offer a 24-hour hotline

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The Alley spoofs 'Cabaret,' Stages turns 'The Screw' and other spooky treats planned for Halloween

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Hate crimes bill, ENDA dead?

Despite support from both houses of Congress and a fatal shooting in a Virginia gay bar, the state's Republican senator stripped a hate crime provision from a defense bill

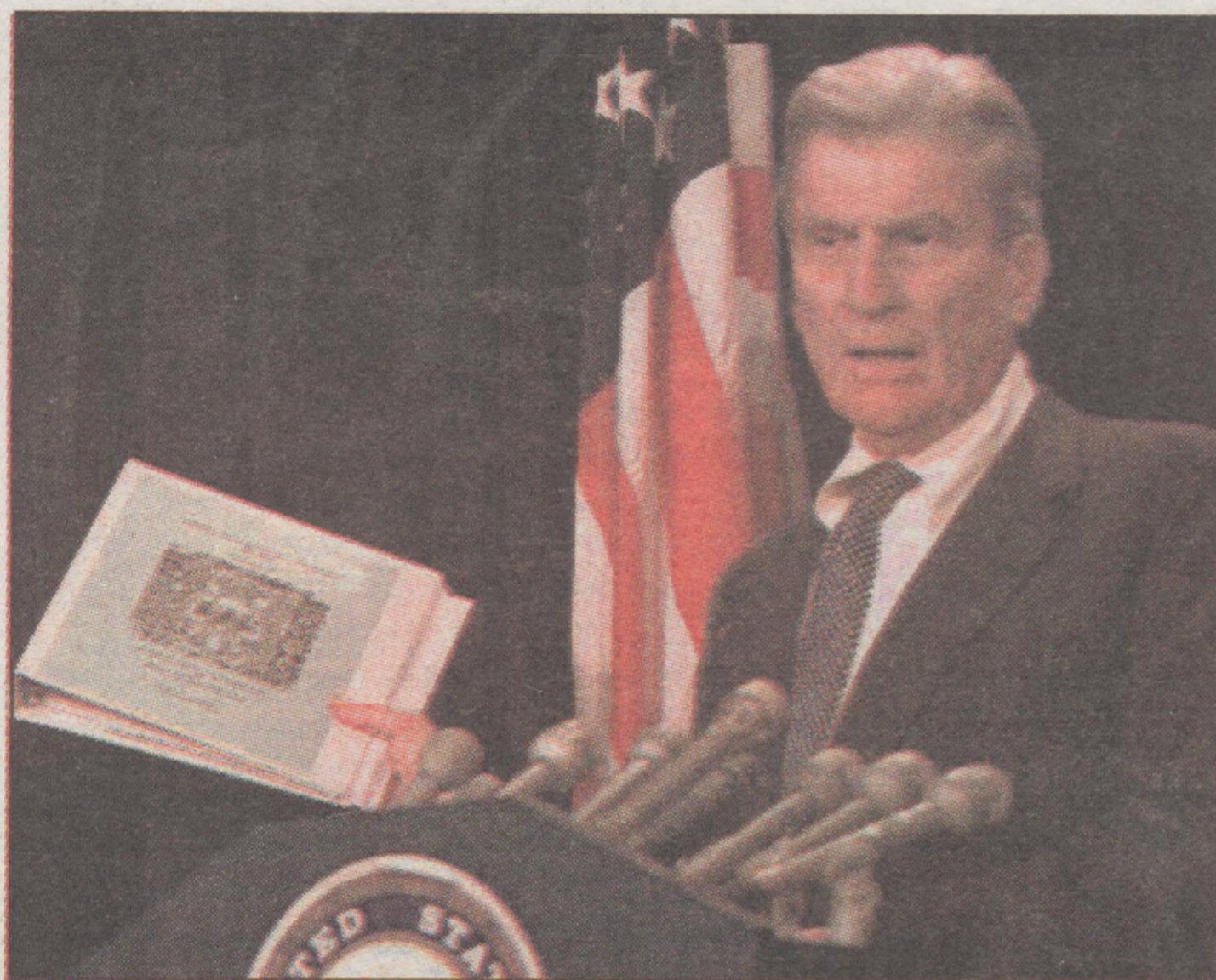
by LAURA BROWN and LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Members of a Senate conference committee voted last week to remove a gay-inclusive hate crime measure from a defense bill, killing off the best chance of passing the measure this year.

And in the wake of the hate crime fight, Capitol Hill insiders say the other key piece of gay rights legislation in Congress, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to ban job bias on the basis of sexual orientation, won't even get a vote this year.

The hate crimes measure, known first as the "Hate Crimes Prevention Act" and later as the "Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2000," would have added sexual orientation, gender and disability to exist-

> Continued on Page 10



Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) helped strip the hate crimes measure out of the defense bill, disappointing gay rights activists who hoped he would change his position after a fatal shooting last month in a Roanoke, Va. gay bar.



Some gay Democrats fear Ralph Nader could draw votes away from Vice President Al Gore, tipping the election for the Republican, Texas Gov. George W. Bush

A Green for president?

Nader's candidacy has some gays excited, others concerned about impact of his campaign

by LAURA BROWN

Despite the two faces seen on presidential debates, the race for the nation's top job isn't limited to just Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic nominee, and Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the Republican nominee.

Two major third party candidates—anti-gay conservative Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party and liberal consumer advocate Ralph Nader of the Green Party—are also vying for votes, and Nader's candidacy has drawn particular attention from gays.

Unlike both Buchanan and Bush, Nader and the Green Party platform he endorsed support many issues of concern

to gay voters, including allowing gays to serve openly in the military, hate crimes laws, banning job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and legal recognition for same-sex relationships.

In interviews on the campaign trail, Nader repeats a mantra for gay citizens: "equal rights and equal responsibilities."

Gore also supports each of these issues, though there may be some differences in the two candidates positions on the recognition of gay relationships. Gore has said he opposes opening marriage to gays, but he would convene a commission to study domestic partnership.

The Green platform Nader endorsed supports "the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in... civil marriage," although when asked about gay marriage in interviews, Nader has said he supports "civil unions," the name given to a separate system created in Vermont for gay couples.

The two candidates' similarities could add up to tough choices for some gay voters, particularly progressives who also support Nader's long-stand-

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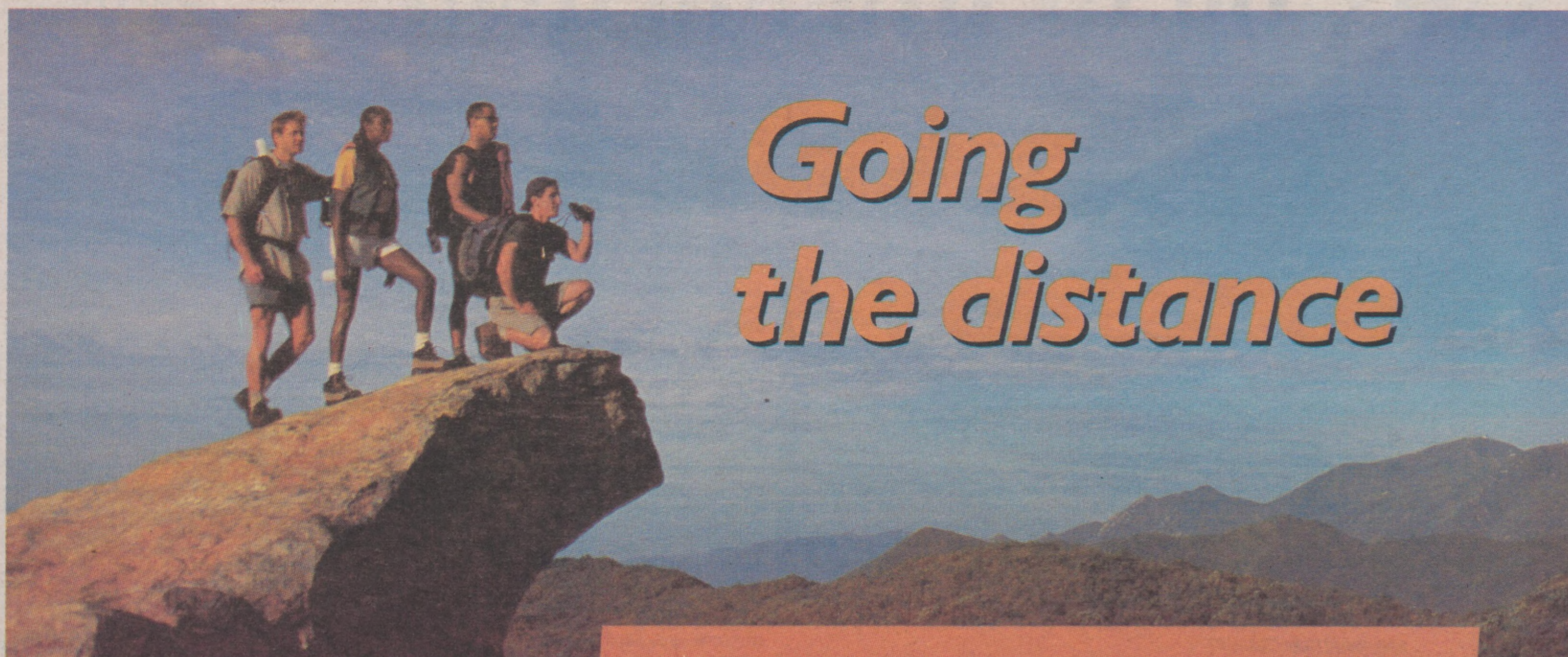
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■ HIGHLY EFFECTIVE THERAPY

CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.¹ CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

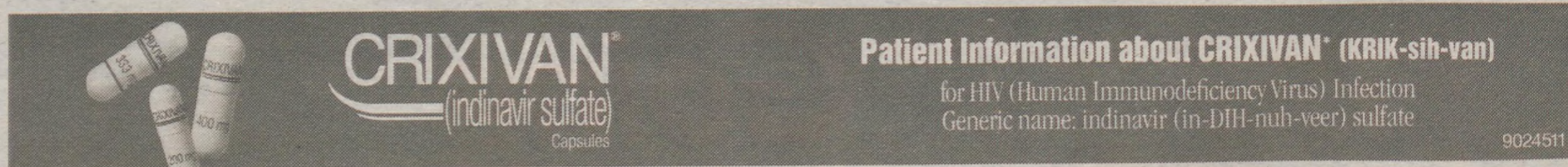
As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Also, taking CRIXIVAN with any products containing St. John's wort, an herbal supplement, is not recommended because it may decrease the effectiveness of CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹ Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

**Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules



Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

9024511

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
 Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.

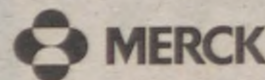
Also talk to your doctor if you have:

- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia
- High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines, herbal products including St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), or dietary supplements.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately. This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
ORAP® (pimozide)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
PROPULSID® (cisapride)	

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with the following: Rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Taking CRIXIVAN with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Taking St. John's wort has been shown to decrease CRIXIVAN levels and may lead to decreased effectiveness of CRIXIVAN and other HIV-related drugs.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)	isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	Methadone

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.
MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.
NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.
RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.
SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.
SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

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

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; heart problems including heart attack; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms.

If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



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Switchboard to go 24/7

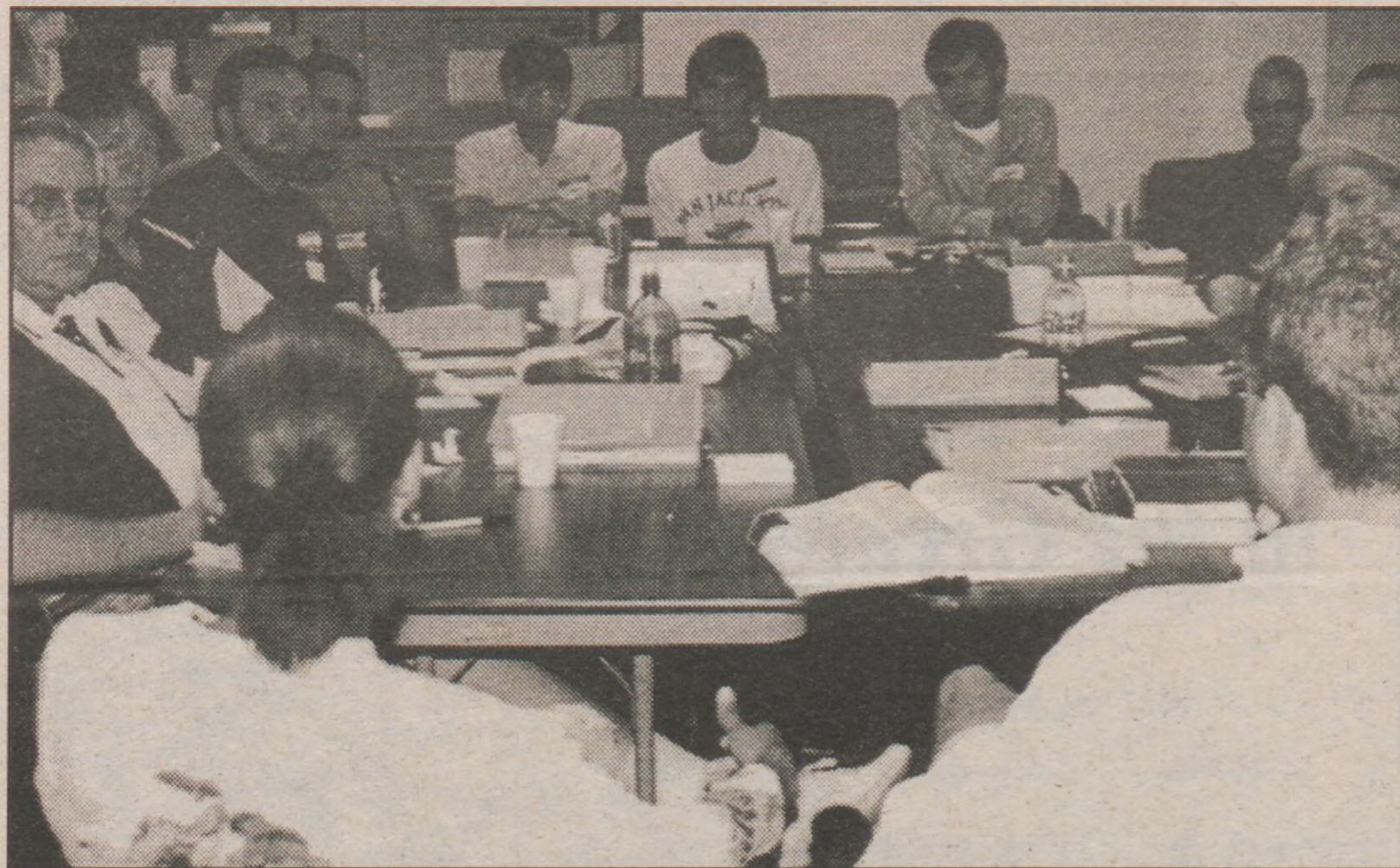
Houston Gay & Lesbian Switchboard teams with Montrose Counseling Center to provide round-the-clock resources

by ELLA TYLER

The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston will become a 24-hour-a-day resource for members of Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities on Dec. 1, when it affiliates with Montrose Counseling Center.

Currently, the Switchboard, which has been entirely volunteer-managed, has limited service hours. The Switchboard will retain the name and current phone number, 713-529-3211.

"GLSH has an excellent reputation for providing referrals and intervention, and by joining Montrose Counseling Center, the switchboard will be available to Houston's



Volunteers at a recent training session for the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard learn how to deal with everything from domestic abuse to inquiries about local gay bars.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered population whenever a crisis occurs," said Ann Robison, MCC executive director.

Montrose Counseling Center is recruit-

ing volunteers to staff the Switchboard.

"We need 50 new volunteers to cover the expanded hours, and because we

> Continued on Page 14

Happy birthday, Ray Hill

Celebration planned for longtime Houston gay activist

by MARIA MINICUCCI

On Friday, Oct. 13, 2000, one of Houston's bold, brazen, and at times brash, queers will be celebrating his sixtieth birthday.

For most of those 60 years, Ray Hill's life has been spent, in one way or another, for better or for worse, standing up for social justice for queer folk or for folks who simply had been too beaten down to stand up for themselves.

Jack Valinski has known Ray Hill for 18 years and during that time, he says, "I am constantly amazed at the hundreds and hundreds of people Ray has helped out over the years. People who were in so called 'hopeless' situations would turn to Ray and he would never turn them away."

Valinski's unshakable respect and awe over his longtime friend are evident as he gleefully tells his "I first met Ray story."

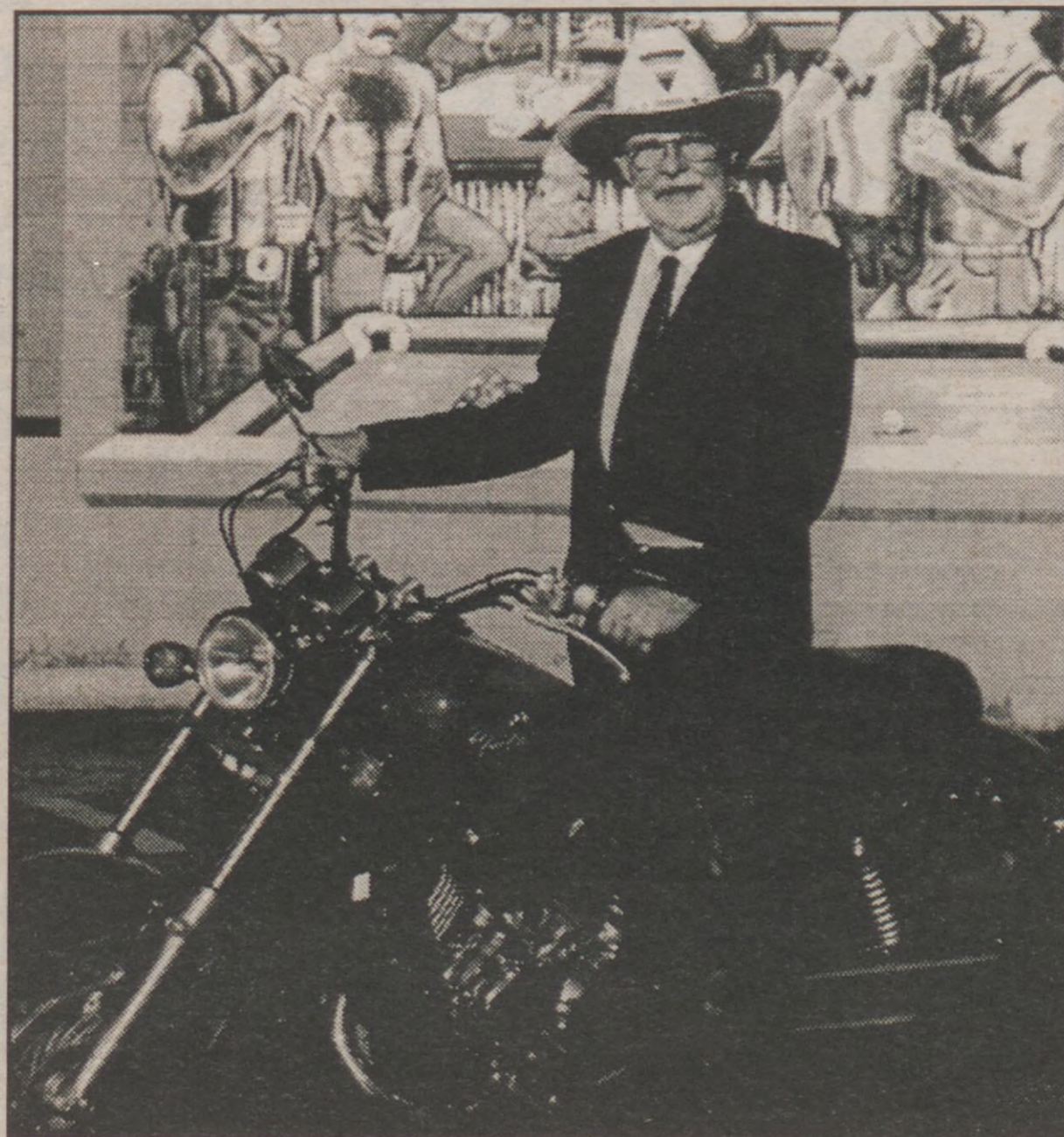
"Ray was the first person I met when I moved here in 1981," Valinski said. "I had been in broadcasting prior to moving to Houston and that background led me to KPFT and an introduction to Ray Hill. When Ray spoke, his enthusiasm and passion for his work at KPFT inspired me personally and, soon thereafter, politically."

"Watching Ray organize and develop the gay agenda at a time when most people were satisfied with having gay bars to go to, motivated me to develop a political consciousness and eventually, follow in Ray's activist footsteps."

Valinski qualifies his statements by adding yet another credit to Ray's character. "I have always known Ray to encourage you to go your own way—not twist your arm to go his way."

What is Ray's way? Hill admits that his way has always been "years ahead of my time." He backs that statement up by reminiscing about attending Tulane College in 1966. He enrolled in the graduate program there and submitted his thesis topic, "A Sissy is a Sissy."

Academic achievement was secondary to his real agenda on campus. "Tulane University, at that time, had six African-American stu-



A celebration is set for Oct. 21 at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center for longtime gay activist Ray Hill's sixtieth birthday.

dents enrolled," Hill explains. "My presence there was to force desegregation in academia and while I was at it, raise some gay consciousness."

Hill's "in your face" approach apparently rubbed at least one person the wrong way and information was leaked to the administration that he was there under false pretenses. Needless to say, Ray did not succeed in obtaining a Master's degree. He points out that he never attended undergraduate school, as one reason.

> Continued on Page 14

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Judge says transgender student can wear girls' clothes to school

BROCKTON, Mass. (AP)—A 15-year-old boy who was barred from school for wearing girls' clothing, including padded bras, wigs and high-heeled shoes, should be allowed to return to classes, a judge has ruled.

Judge Linda Giles on Wednesday ordered South Junior High School in Brockton to allow the student, identified in court records as "Pat Doe," to wear any clothing or accessories that any other male or female student would be permitted to wear.

The school referred Pat to a therapist, who in 1999 diagnosed Pat with gender identity disorder. Therapist Judith Havens said it would be "medically and clinically necessary for (Pat) to wear clothing consistent with female gender and that failure to do so could cause harm to (Pat's) mental health," according to court documents.

On Wednesday, the judge agreed, and ruled the prohibition amounted to "the stifling of a person's self-hood merely because it causes some members of the community discomfort."

The judge, who is gay, added that students need to be exposed to differences at an early age in order to learn tolerance. The judge earlier refused a request by the school to take herself off the case because of her sexual orientation.

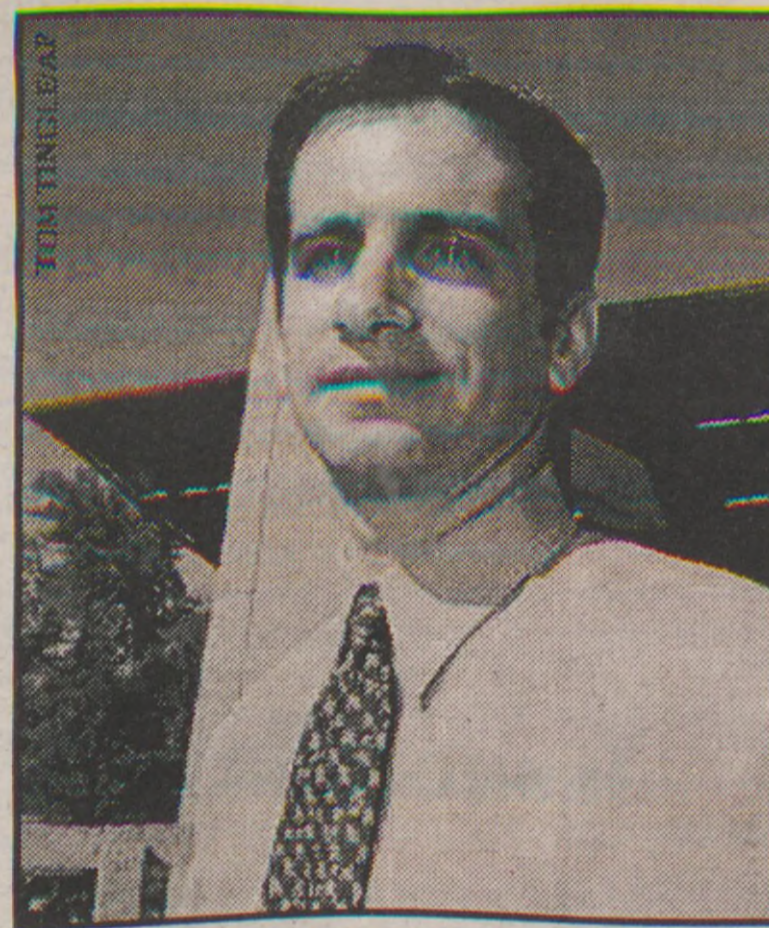
Supreme Court ruling exempts bisexuals from harassment law

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court rejected the appeal of a married couple who say they were sexually harassed at work by the same supervisor, letting stand a ruling that found sexual harassment law not to apply to bisexual harassers. The court, acting without comment Oct. 2, turned away the appeal of Steven and Karen Holman, who work together at the Indiana Department of Transportation. They sued in 1997 over the alleged conduct of their supervisor, shop foreman Gale Uhrich. In the lawsuit, Karen Holman alleged that Uhrich had been harassing her since late 1995. Her husband alleged that Uhrich had also asked him for sexual favors, beginning in the summer of 1995. Both alleged that Uhrich retaliated against them for rejecting his advances. A federal trial judge threw out the sexual-harassment allegations, filed under Title VII of the Civil Right Act of 1964, and the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that dismissal last May. "Title VII does not cover the 'equal opportunity' or 'bisexual' harasser... because such a person is not discriminating on the basis of sex," the appeals court ruled.

Openly gay, Republican Tempe mayor target of recall campaign

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Some residents here are mounting a recall campaign against openly gay Mayor Neil Giuliano for trying to prevent city employees from donating to the Boy Scouts through the United Way. Giuliano, a Republican who was re-elected in March to a third term with 70 percent of the vote, had proposed the city reduce its involvement with Valley of the Sun United Way, which serves as a conduit for just under \$500,000 of donations to the Scouts. Giuliano apologized and recanted his position Oct. 7. Giuliano said that it's too early to tell whether he will suffer long-lasting damage. "We will find out," he said. "I don't think there is reason to throw me out of office."

Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano proposed the city cut its funding to a local United Way that donates to the Boy Scouts, then reversed his decision.



GLSEN wants Scouts out of schools, while conservatives attack

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. (AP)—A gay-rights education advocacy group is starting a national campaign to get school districts to stop sponsoring Boy Scout troops unless the organization reverses its ban on gay scout leaders. The initiative was announced at the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network's annual conference last weekend. GLSEN has encouraged schools to shift support to other youth groups, like 4-H or the Boys and Girls Clubs. Meanwhile, Peter LaBarbera, Director of the Americans for Truth Project, condemned GLSEN for distributing a local gay visitor's guide that contains ads for a gay bathhouse, a gay sex club, and two leather bars. LaBarbera also called on GLSEN to give details about how it screens its adult leaders in the wake of the arrest of Dave Thomas, 33, a Chicago GLSEN leader, for attempting to set up a sexual liaison with an underage boy.

Christian station holds ads for 'Hell House' showing dead gay man

FAIRFIELD, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio church's notorious Halloween display depicting damnation for a gay man who died of AIDS has prompted a Christian radio station to pull the church's ads for the event. Vern Baldwin, general manager of WNLN said ads placed by Kings Point Church of God for its "Hell House" youth event will be put on hold until he can review them. The display is intended to show teens the effects of sin by giving them a tour through five scenes in hell, including the funeral of a gay man who has died of AIDS. Rev. Randy Ballard said the problem with the ads was surprising, and that his church didn't mean to offend anyone. "We are not saying all homosexuals with AIDS die in hell," Ballard said. "We are showing the effects of sin—what happens when, in a hypothetical situation, a homosexual has AIDS and dies and has not repented their sins."



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—From staff and wire reports

Time Out

Moon over Parma

SPORTS COLUMN

Gay bowling leagues forming for fall

by D.L. MURPHY

Hey, been bowling lately? Me neither, but after meeting with Donald Burken, co-director of the Texas Invitational Tournament, I just might have to return to the lanes.

In addition to being a great way to meet new people, the Texas Invitational Tournament has supported community charities to the tune of \$60,000 over the past 10 years. During the past two years, they have donated approximately \$16,000 to Steven's House, PWA Coalition, AssistHers, Montrose Clinic/Frost Eye Clinic, Homeless Pet Placement League and H.A.T.C.H.

The Texas Invitational Tournament supports our community in other ways. The tournament has been held here in Houston the past two years. Right now, Houston is bidding for the IGBO Mid-Year 2001 tournament. The International Gay Bowling Organization, of which TIT is a part, is the largest GLBT sports organization in the world. It currently has about 13,000 members in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

If the Texas Invitational Tournament is successful in winning the bid, lots of new faces will visit in November of 2001, bringing new business to the Montrose.

I can hear it now, "this is great for high-average bowlers, but what about me?" Well, all of the leagues work on a handicap system, allowing bowlers of all levels to participate together.

Let's take care of the rest of your excuses and/or questions. "I don't have shoes or a ball." No problem, you can rent them at the lanes. "I don't have enough friends to field a team." Again, not a problem, the league assigns "singlets" to teams. "I can't commit to a once-a-week activity." OK, so if you can't be there, an alternate bowls for you, or your average score is used. "This costs too much." Maybe, but know that your \$10-\$13 each week covers your bowling, administration fees, and the prize fund.

About the prize fund. Everyone gets some money back at the end of the season. Last year, it worked out to a minimum of \$25 per bowler.

The IGBO offers leagues for everyone.

The Inner Loop Alternatives is a mixed league that bowls Sunday at 7 p.m. at Palace Lanes (Bellaire at Stella Link).

Montrose Monday Night Men's League bowls Mondays at 9 p.m. at Palace Lanes.

The Monday Night Women's League bowls Monday's at 6:45 p.m. at Dynamic Lanes (US 59 at Hillcroft).

The Wednesday Night Mixers, a mixed five-person format, on Wednesday's at 6:30 p.m. at Palace Lanes. And last but not least, the I Luv Luci Duos, a mixed doubles league bowls at a time and place to be announced.

Right now, Houston is bidding for the International Gay Bowling Organization Mid-Year 2001 tournament. The International Gay Bowling Organization, of which the Texas Invitational Tournament is a part, is the largest GLBT sports organization in the world. It currently has about 13,000 members in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Call Tom at 713-522-9612 for more information, or to sign up, for all the above leagues except the Monday Night Woman league. For information concerning this league, call Pat at 281-427-6218.

It's great if you sign up in advance, but if you don't decide to participate until the last possible minute you can just show up at the times and places described above.

Donald asked me to emphasize that these are fun leagues, doing such things as bowling in costume at Halloween. "Don't be afraid to come out. Most of the people that come in stay," he said.

So, if you're tired of the same old same old or just want to meet new people, why not give bowling a try. Sounds like it might be a blast.



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Gore is the clear choice for gays

POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT

It is an encouraging sign of the times. The 2000 campaign for president features a Republican candidate more comfortable on gay issues than all his predecessors combined, and yet never has it been clearer that lesbian and gay voters should support the Democrat.

Both major party candidates have moved, along with society, toward greater acceptance of gay Americans and our call for equal rights. But when compared on the issues, the Democratic nominee is the obvious pick.

AL GORE has been a long-time supporter of the two pieces of federal legislation that have been at the forefront of the gay rights movement: protection against job discrimination and hate crime legislation.

But that's not where the vice president impresses the most. Nudged by Bill Bradley in the primaries, Gore announced last year that he no longer supports the infamous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays in the military. He even went so far as to suggest in a debate that he wouldn't select a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs who disagreed, a litmus test he later backed away from.

When Vermont stole the political spotlight last December, passing legal recognition for gay couples that comes close to full-fledged marriage, Gore announced his support for similar legislation elsewhere. He also favors extending immigration rights to same-sex couples, so that a foreign partner can obtain a green card.

On a personal level, it's clear that Gore and (even more so) his wife Tipper have a genuine comfort level with gay people and issues. His campaign manager, Donna Brazile, served on the board of the Millennium March on Washington for gay rights, though she coyly refuses to acknowledge her sexual orientation.

To be sure, Gore isn't the dream candidate. He opposes gay marriage and gives no good reason besides politics for doing so. He shares his president's poll-driven tendencies, and there are real questions about whether he will expend real political capital on gay issues in ways Bill Clinton never did.

But he will almost certainly match his predecessor's impressive record of appointing openly gay men and lesbians to important policy positions; and perhaps one of his Cabinet members will even be open about her homosexuality.

GEORGE W. BUSH, on the other hand, is on the wrong side of every one of these issues.

He opposes affording gays protection from job discrimination, though he claims to be opposed to anti-gay discrimination generally. He also opposes extension of hate crime legislation to include sexual orientation, though his reasoning would support repealing existing hate crime laws that cover race and religion, something he doesn't advocate.



Al Gore

That means no chance of passage for either piece of legislation for the next four years, even though both appear poised to push through Congress, especially if the Democrats retake the House.

Bush opposes legal recognition for gay relationships and supports discharging gays from the military unless they lie about their sexual orientation. His running mate, Dick Cheney, has spoken warmly about accepting gay relationships—probably with his own daughter and her partner in mind—but his positions on the issues are no different.

Bush did meet with gay Republicans and spoke affectionately about their support, though he publicly refused an audience with them when he still faced an important primary in conservative South Carolina. In fact, his right-wing supporters excoriated his opponent, John McCain, for agreeing to just such a meeting.

Bush even opposes adoption rights for gay parents, a shocking political throwback for a major party candidate.

On the whole, Bush's "compassionate conservatism" views gay rights through the same "color blind" prism that Ronald Reagan used on race, imagining a world fairer than it is and seeing no role for government in protecting our civil rights.

And then there's the Supreme Court. The next president will likely appoint several new justices in his first term, and the two candidates are likely to make dramatically different selections.

Gore is likely to appoint progressives who are open to hearing that gays deserve protection under our Constitution's Equal Protection Clause, especially on issues like marriage and military service, as well as abortion rights.

Bush, on the other hand, has said that he considers Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas as ideal justices. Both have not only taken consistently anti-gay positions, but with rhetoric that is so virulently bigot-

ed that future generations will be embarrassed by it.

Bush has indicated a willingness to make openly gay appointments at all levels of government, but in the same breath he has wondered whether anyone who is openly gay would support his agenda.

Looking carefully at where these candidates stand, it's hard to disagree with the Texas governor on that point.

Throw away votes

There may be good reasons to throw away perfectly good votes on Green Party candidate Ralph Nader or Libertarian Party candidate Harry Browne, but the gay rights cause isn't one of them.

Both parties are warmly solicitous of gay support and completely reject the theocratic opposition to gay rights made popular by social conservatives on the religious right. But both these candidates don't stack up on the issues, even if they had a snowball's chance at getting elected.

HARRY BROWNE joins Gore in opposing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and supporting gay adoption, but he takes the Libertarian Party line opposing legislation that would extend job protection and hate crime laws to include sexual orientation. The reason may be to limit government's authority, but the end result would still be a veto.

Even worse, Browne has said he also thinks government should play no role supporting research and prevention on AIDS or breast cancer. And he wants government completely out of the business of granting marriage licenses or recognizing adoptions.

With loopy positions like that, it's no wonder he registers almost no support in nationwide polls.

RALPH NADER takes all the right positions on gay civil rights, and his party platform supports gay marriage, though he has only talked about "civil unions" when the question has come up on the campaign trail.

But he is a very late arrival to the party, too late even to be on "gay time." Just four years ago when he ran for president, Nader dismissed gay rights as "gonadal politics."

We should welcome his support today, but don't risk the election of George W. Bush to cast a protest ballot for Nader.

A word on endorsements

Houston Voice is a newspaper that covers issues of interest to lesbian and gay readers, filling the gap in "mainstream" media coverage. As a result, candidate endorsements are intended as a guide to where the candidates stand on gay civil rights and other issues of particular importance to lesbians and gay men.

Gay voters consider a wide variety of other economic, foreign policy and social issues, as well as candidate intangibles like honesty and character, in casting their ballots. This endorsement is not intended to rate the candidates on those issues or suggest they are of no importance.



What's your superstition?

by WENDY K. MOHON

Are your fingers crossed? Where's your lucky rabbit's foot or four-leaf clover? Have you been avoiding those sidewalk cracks in honor of dear old Mom's lumbago today?

Here it is, two days after National Coming Out Day and I'm outing myself as a paraskavedekatriaphobe.

In case you haven't looked at the calendar yet or perused the top corner of this newspaper page, today is Friday the 13th—the day when superstitions can take hold of even the most logical and stoic individuals.

Take for example your average, everyday newspaper editor. While most who know me would likely describe me as a reasonably intelligent, level-headed person, what they don't know is that I'm secretly a superstitious fool like about 90 percent of the rest of the population.

Now, I won't have a screaming fit if a black cat crosses my path, nor will I go into convulsions if I happen to break a mirror, but I do tend to be extra careful on days like today.

A cruel lesson learned

You see, shortly after I turned 16, the thirteenth just happened to fall on a Friday—the same Friday I was to take my road test for a much-coveted driver's license.

It was raining. My car, the one I was accustomed to driving, refused to start—a portent of the day ahead.

My brother allowed me to borrow his car, a Ford Cougar with a front end that seemed to extend for about 12 city blocks. I'm not sure, but I think I ran over a black cat on my way to the Department of Public Safety office (I'm a tad nearsighted and it was hard to see what I hit with the front wheels of the vehicle since they were situated roughly two miles from the windshield).

In case you haven't guessed by now, the actual road test did not go well. When the officer asked me to signal for a turn, I cleaned the windshield. I parallel parked exactly between the two little orange cones as I was instructed, but

did so three feet away from the curb. I grew to hate Friday the 13th that day.

History repeats itself

A few years later, when I was in college, the calendar yielded another unlucky end-of-the-week day for me. On that particular Friday the thirteenth, I broke my foot.

Unfortunately, the story of that little mishap isn't nearly as fun to tell. I twisted my ankle stepping off a dangerously high six-inch doorstep. Did I mention this happened in July? Wearing a big, unsightly removable cast, which vaguely resembles an astronaut's boot, is not fun in the dead of summer in south Texas.

A couple of years after that, fate still had some yucks to get in at my expense, evidently. The person I intended to spend eternity with chose Friday the 13th to tell me he "needed some space."

That's right, I said he. At that time in my life, I was still desperately trying to be straight. At the time, it seemed vitally important and I was pretty devastated that my plans to marry and "be normal" were dashed.

In retrospect, that Friday the 13th was a fortunate day for me. I eventually came to accept and embrace who I am—a normal, slightly superstitious gay woman. Even the driving test failure and broken foot incident were valuable lessons. I'm a very careful, albeit lead-footed driver, and when on foot, I always carefully navigate any step higher than two millimeters.

Still, I don't think I'm going to tempt fate today. Perhaps I'll take a cab to work. There's no sense chancing another speeding ticket. I'll tread carefully and avoid sharp objects and serious talks with loved ones.

I should be safe. Then again, perhaps I'll just flip the page on the calendar early and pretend it's Saturday. Oh, wait a minute... turning the calendar over early is bad luck. Guess I'll just have to sit tight and wonder what lesson will be learned today.

Wendy Mohon is editor of the Houston Voice and proud owner of a four-leaf clover. She can be reached at editor@houstonvoice.com.

LETTER

Summit on HIV prevention slated

To the Editor:

Chris Crain raises compelling points about the failure of HIV prevention efforts among gay youth ("Silence on AIDS still = death," *Houston Voice*, Oct. 6, 2000).

Although the Center for AIDS focuses on treatment for those already living with the virus and not on preventing its spread, we have nevertheless taken note of the rising number of new infections in our community. In particular, we are especially concerned about one report suggesting that young gay male Houstonians have the highest rate of new HIV infections of any gay male community in the United States.

In response to this "second wave" of new cases, the center will convene a summit of gay leadership in April 2001 to discuss the possible establishment in Houston of a post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) project. PEP refers to the experimental use of anti-HIV drugs for the purpose of preventing HIV infection in an individual recently exposed to the virus.

PEP would not replace the massive public education campaign that Crain calls for, nor would it negate the need to examine the political culture and social reasons that underlie the continuing spread of HIV in our community. But PEP may serve as a firewall when other prevention efforts have failed.

There is no longer in our community an agency focused primarily on the prevention of HIV infection among gay men. As we approach the third decade of this epidemic, the gay community must hold itself accountable for our collective failure to protect the health of our youngest brothers. We have the means to stop the spread of this virus and we must do so.

Paul Simmons, RN, ACRN
director of treatment information and advocacy,
The Center for AIDS-Houston

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Orner

MEET
EETH

Ethan Green is average in every way, except maybe for his dating history, which resembles a survey of famous natural & man made disasters.

Kind of like Waterloo & Three Mile Island & the Hindenberg all rolled up and embodied by one guy's romantic life.

Luckily, he's gotta family of wonderful friends & a smart-aleck cat to help him over heartbreak.

He also has a demanding job as the personal assistant for the city's lowest rated, perpetually inaccurate TV weatherman...

And a mom who would like to fix him up with the podiatrist son of someone she met at PFLAG.

He's glad you're checking him out & hopes to see you again next week here at the Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

Republican leaders dead-set against hate crimes measure

> Continued from Page 1

ing federal hate crimes law, and expanded federal jurisdiction to prosecute such crimes.

Gay rights advocates had high hopes for passing the bill after it gained historic support in floor votes in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. In June, the U.S. Senate voted 57-42 to add the hate crime measure to its version of the massive Department of Defense Authorization bill.

In September, the House voted in favor of a non-binding "motion to instruct" a conference committee to keep the hate crimes language added by the Senate in the final version of the defense bill. The conference committee, made up of members of both bodies of Congress, was charged with resolving differences between the two versions of the defense bill.

But Republican leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), remained dead-set against the hate crimes measure. And on Oct. 5, a Senate committee working on the bill voted 11-9, mostly along party lines, to kill it.

Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he instructed his committee conferees to strip the hate crimes measure from the Defense bill.

"I had to make the decision that in the interest of national defense, this bill must be acted upon by the Senate, hopefully favorably, and not be subject to filibuster and therefore I recommended to the Senate conferees and the House that this language in the Senate had to be dropped," Warner told the Associated Press.

Although Warner voted against the hate crime bill when it was before the full Senate in June, gay activists had lobbied him to change his position in light of a hate-related shooting at a gay bar in his state earlier this month. The shooting in Roanoke, Va., left one gay man dead and six other bar patrons injured.

Warner's opposition to the hate bill "demonstrates a shocking and callous disconnect between Sen. Warner and the conservative leadership of Congress and the public that these so-called leaders are supposed to represent," said David Elliot, spokesperson for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

In the wake of the gay bar shooting, NGLTF presented Warner with a petition signed by more than 500 Roanoke residents asking him to support the hate crime bill. The group also urged Warner to meet with the family of Danny Lee Overstreet, the man killed in the shooting.

Warner did speak with Carol Overstreet, the victim's sister, Elliot said. "He told her he now favors the concept of hate crimes legislation, but he didn't want it attached to his military bill," Elliot recounted. "She replied that while you're trying pass your military bill, your constituents are getting shot."

With GOP leaders opposed to bringing the hate crimes bill to a stand-alone vote and no real vehicle bills remaining, hope for passing the measure this year is now very



Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Sen. Jim Jeffords (R-Vt.), ENDA sponsors, may have decided to hold off on pressing for a vote on the bill in the wake of the hate crimes fight, Capitol Hill insiders said.

dim, said Winnie Stachelberg, political director for the Human Rights Campaign, which lobbied for the bill. The best hope, though slight, would be if the hate crimes measure could be added in ongoing negotiations over several massive appropriations bills that remain pending.

Still, Democratic leaders vowed to do "whatever we can" to continue the fight.

"I will continue to fight the Republican leadership in Congress to make sure this important work gets done this year," President Clinton vowed the day the bill was stripped, chiding the "Republican leadership" for making a "serious mistake."

Senate Democrats may make a motion to bring the bill to the Senate floor, and will likely try every possible procedural move possible, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) told the Associated Press.

ENDA also dead?

Plans by Sen. James Jeffords (R-Vt.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) to bring the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to a vote in the Senate this year also appear all but dead due to strong opposition by Republican lawmakers, said supporters of the bill this week.

The legislation, known as ENDA, calls for prohibiting employment discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation. Gay civil rights leaders have called it the single most important piece of legislation aimed at improving the lives of gay people.

In May, Jeffords and Kennedy said through spokespersons that they planned to force a Senate vote on ENDA by moving to attach it as an amendment to another bill sometime before the middle of October, when Congress is expected to adjourn for

the year.

This week, spokespersons for the two senators said they remain determined to move the legislation this year if an opportunity presents itself in the next two to three weeks.

But Capitol Hill insiders and gay civil rights activists said strong opposition to ENDA from Republican leaders in the House and Senate—and the belief that House GOP leaders would block approval of ENDA in a conference committee—have prompted Jeffords and Kennedy to conclude that forcing a Senate vote this year might cause more harm than good.

If ENDA were to lose by a larger margin than the one-vote defeat it suffered in the Senate in 1996, Capitol Hill sources said this week, its chances for passage next year could be diminished.

After assessing the climate for passing gay-related legislation, Kennedy chose to move ahead first on the hate crime bill, sources said.

"We feel there is more support at this time for the hate crimes bill than for ENDA," said one congressional insider, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Do you damage both by going for the weaker one? Do you hurt your chances for next year by going for both now?"

These were among the questions raised by members of Congress who support ENDA, the congressional insider said.

HRC believes Jeffords and Kennedy have done all they can on behalf of ENDA, Stachelberg said.

"At this point, we don't think Mr. Lott will allow anything to come to the floor that can be amended [to attach ENDA]," Stachelberg said, referring to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.).

Stachelberg noted that the only legislation scheduled to reach the Senate floor between now and the end of the session are appropriations bills. Under Senate rules, non-germane amendments, like ENDA, cannot be attached to an appropriations bill without first obtaining a suspension of the rules. Doing that requires 60 votes, and ENDA supporters do not believe 60 senators are ready to vote for the gay civil rights measure at this time.

Christopher Anders, a gay civil rights lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington, D.C., office, said the rush to pass as many as 11 remaining appropriations bills in the next two weeks could create a potential opportunity for Kennedy and Jeffords to push for ENDA.

Anders noted that ENDA supporters in the Senate and House, along with President Clinton, who is a strong ENDA supporter, could theoretically threaten to hold up the passage of key appropriations bills until GOP leaders relinquish their opposition to the measure.

But U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), one of the ENDA's lead sponsors in the House, said such a plan could create more harm than good. If ENDA supporters threaten to "shut down the government" by blocking passage of key appropriations bills, which fund various government agencies, Frank said, ENDA will lose public support.

How the Senate committee voted

In favor of keeping the hate crimes act as part of the defense bill:

Carl Levin (D-Mich.)
Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.)
Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.)
Charles Robb (D-Va.)
Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.)
Max Cleland (D-Ga.)
Mary Landrieu (D-La.)
Jack Reed (D-R.I.)
* Olympia Snowe (R-Maine)

Against:

* Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.)
John Warner (R-Va.)
Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.)
John McCain (R-Ariz.)
Bob Smith (R-N.H.)
James Inhofe (R-Okla.)
Rick Santorum (R-Pa.)
Pat Roberts (R-Kan.)
Wayne Allard (R-Colo.)
Tim Hutchinson (R-Ark.)
Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.)

* Denotes crossed party line in vote.
Source: Human Rights Campaign

Gays concerned over Nader's impact on election

> Continued from Page 1

ing activism against major corporations.

Nader will be on the ballot in 45 states, including Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Nader's press department has not responded to numerous interview requests, submitted both shortly before the Green Party national convention in June and again this week.

Could Nader tip the scale?

Few political observers expect Nader to gain even 10 percent of the popular vote nationwide, and many supporters talk mostly in terms of sending a message about the viability of the Green Party, and about third party candidates in general.

Winning a slim five percent of the vote would qualify the Green Party for millions of dollars in federal matching funds in the next election, enough to buy an enormous boost in visibility that Buchanan got this year.

But where that 5 percent could come from has some gay activists who support Gore worried.

With polls showing Gore and Bush in a dead heat, a push from more liberal voters for Nader could give Bush the edge—putting in office a candidate who opposes most legislative issues of key importance to gays.

Gay Greens say it's a worthwhile price to pay to send a long-term message about electoral politics.

But that logic infuriates many national gay political activists who are supporting Gore.

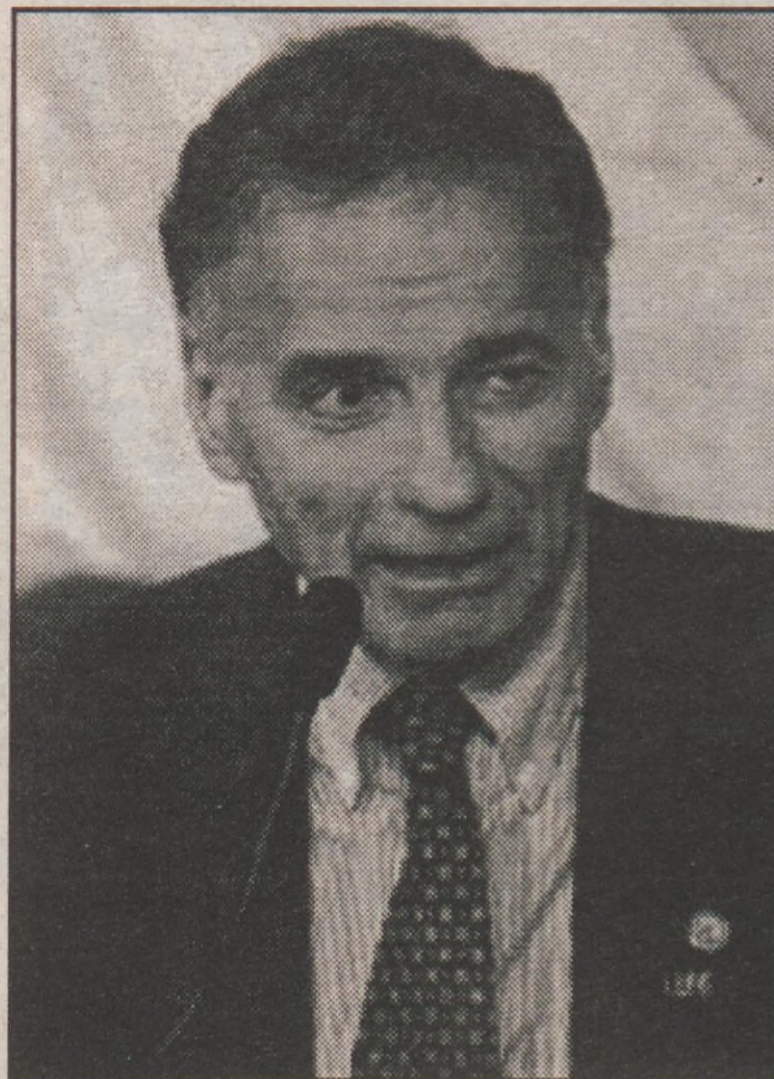
This summer, the National Stonewall Democrats—a gay partisan group that has endorsed Gore—passed an official resolution urging gay voters not to “throw away” votes on Nader.

“Ralph Nader should come with a warning label,” said Daniel McGlinchey, Stonewall's political director. “He's drawing votes from the left, which he knows will help elect Bush, and that's a complete betrayal of the issues he claims to care about.”

'Gonadal politics'?

While Greens like Esco cast the decision between Nader and Gore as a choice between conscience and strategy, others dispute the implication that Nader is the better—though likely unelectable—choice on gay rights.

Despite support for issues like hate crimes and banning job discrimination, Greens point out that the Clinton-Gore administration also presided over two of the worst losses for gay rights in recent years: “Don't Ask, Don't Tell,” the ban on open gays in the military, and the Defense of



Ralph Nader

Marriage Act, which banned federal recognition of gay marriage, and allows states to ignore such marriages if they are ever legalized in other states.

“On gay and lesbian rights, I am far superior to Al Gore, far superior,” Nader asserted, responding to questions after a speech to the National Press Club in July.

But Gore supporters point out that their candidate has a longer record of supporting

gay rights than Nader. And while the Clinton administration supported DOMA, Nader dismissed the issue as “gonadal politics” during an interview during his 1996 presidential campaign.

“Your desire to avoid what you deride as ‘gonadal politics,’ and I think of as the fight for gay and lesbian rights, has been consistent,” openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) wrote in an open letter to Nader after the National Press Club speech. “Having been actively involved in the fight against gay and lesbian bias in Congress since 1981, I cannot remember ever hearing from you on this subject.”

Frank and other gays who have endorsed Gore also take issue with Nader's frequent assertion that there are no major differences between Bush and Gore, the two major party candidates.

According to Frank, Bush and Gore vary widely on issues including gay rights, abortion, gun regulation and affirmative action.

INFO

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Obituaries

Gregory Gene Cheshire

Gregory Gene Cheshire was born Aug. 14, 1961 and found peace with God on June 2, 2000. Greg died of complications from Burkitt's lymphoma.

Greg was exceptionally intelligent and worked a computer programmer, most notably at Rockwell Space Operations Company on flight designs for the space shuttle.

Greg was charming, unique, colorful, outgoing and entertaining and made instant friends and acquaintances in any setting. Those around him would soon be wearing a smile or sharing a hearty laugh. He had the uncanny ability to find happiness in any situation in life. Once you got to know and love Greg, it was impossible to get him out of your system, even if you tried!

Greg loved exotic plants and at one point, raised orchids. His other interests included electronics, computers, science fiction, mineral collecting, art, music, English comedies and rollerblading.

Greg especially loved his dog, Velvet, a Sheltie, and his staghorn ferns. Greg loved to dance and collected dance tapes local DJs recorded for him. Greg enjoyed warm days on the patio at Cafe Adobe and other restaurants, sipping margaritas with friends.

Greg, you rebounded quickly from illness, so we are shocked how fast cancer took you from us. Thankfully, you had loving family and friends around you. We love and miss you greatly!

Greg is survived by John and Carolyn Cheshire, Him, Rick, Amber and Michael Hill, Dwayne, Jon, Herman, Christopher, Michael, Zach, James and a host of others. Rest in peace.

Ruth Ellis, African-American lesbian activist

DETROIT—Ruth Ellis, considered a role model for many lesbians and gay men, has died. She was 101.

Ellis was the subject of an award-winning documentary film, "Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis at 100," and Detroit celebrates "Ruth Ellis Day" each year as part of Black History Month. A new Detroit center for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth that opened last month



Small in stature, but large in presence, Ruth Ellis is considered a role model for many gays. She died Oct. 5 at age 101.

was named the Ruth Ellis Center in her honor, according to the *Detroit Free Press*.

Ellis died in her sleep Oct. 5 in her Detroit apartment. She had recently been hospitalized for two weeks with heart problems.

Ellis—at 4 feet, 8 inches and 83 pounds—was considered an enormous presence in the lives of those who knew her. She brought together people of all races, ages and sexual orientations. Author Alice Walker called her a woman of "power, audacity, and joy."

Ellis was born July 23, 1899, in Springfield, Ill. In 1937, she moved to Detroit with her partner, Ceceline "Babe" Franklin, bought a house and lived together for 34 years until Franklin moved to the suburbs. Franklin died in 1975.

Ellis ran a successful print shop out of the home she shared with Franklin. Their home also became a haven for black gays and lesbians. Friends said Ellis never hid her sexuality, serving as inspiration for younger people.

"When we listened to Ruth's stories, we knew we should also be able to accomplish things and not have to fear," friend Kofi Adoma told the *Free Press*.

Friends are organizing a memorial service to be held in Detroit later this month. Details will be posted on Ellis' Web site at www-lib.usc.edu/~retter/ruthmain.html.

—From staff and wire reports

Local News

an Uncommon visit

National executive director of Uncommon Legacy visits Houston

by MARIA MINICUCCI

The ambiance at Lobo Bookstore and Café was a bit brighter than usual as groups of two, three or more women came by to meet and chat with Beverly Baker, the new national executive director for Uncommon Legacy, a national foundation with a chapter here in Houston.

Local Uncommon Legacy Foundation representative, and national co-chair, Janine Brunjes was on hand to provide some of the very unique and pertinent history of how this foundation began.

In an amused tone, Brunjes told the story of a group of women from the East Hamptons who gained substantial fame for the success of their annual Garden Party. Each year, more and more people anticipated attending this event as each year also proved to be more enjoyable.

Of course, the majority of the women who organized the successful soiree and the party participants were also representative of a more monied segment of society. The East Hampton women recognized this as a means to a greater endeavor; they started to charge people to attend the event.

By 1991, Uncommon Legacy was incorporated as a fund-raising foundation with a very specific mission. Brunjes and Baker, proudly and succinctly declare that this foundation is committed to: enhancing the visibility, vitality and strength of lesbian communities throughout the United States.

Since 1991, Uncommon Legacy has indeed "put the money where their mission" lies. Currently, the foundation has distributed the largest amount of donor dollars for scholarships to out lesbians around the country, grants to numerous organizations with an objective to provide services which enhance the well being of lesbian, and encourages philanthropy among women.

How and why did Baker become involved in this particular foundation?

"It was such a natural progression based on all of the work I had been involved in. I have worked in Washington, D.C for several major women's organizations for the past 10 years.

Baker's work included serving as executive director for the Women's Health Network and as executive director for the Mautner Project (a resource for women with cancer). She later created her own consulting business applying her interests and skills to organizational development, board development and working with non-profits.

"I had, through my work history, become aware of Uncommon Legacy and eventually formed work relationships with the women involved in this project," Baker said



Bev Baker, left, national executive director of Uncommon Legacy, recently visited members of the local chapter of the organization which raises funds for organizations that provide services to enhance the well being of lesbian. Tracy Alston, a member of the steering committee for Uncommon Legacy-Houston, is also the co-chair for the group's fund-raising golf tournament, coming up Oct. 21.

Uncommon Legacy was originally based in New York City with Karen Sauvagine as executive director. The queer political climate in the early part of the decade influenced new, numerous and national LGBT groups to relocate to Washington, D.C. as a central location. Uncommon Legacy was among the D.C. émigrés.

Already working and living in D.C., Baker recognized an opportunity to pursue work which encompassed her commitment, passion, and skills by applying for the position of executive director for Uncommon Legacy. During the four months that she has been in this position, Baker has been inspired and encouraged by the direction the foundation is going.

"I have been visiting the Foundation's representatives in all of the cities where we have chapters—New York, Houston, Atlanta, San Francisco—and am impressed with and support the work I see going on," Baker said. "We are increasing our donor base, breaking down the perception of elitism by increasing opportunities for women of all economic classes to become involved, increasing the amount of money we are raising."

The two major fund-raising events produced by Uncommon Legacy in Houston are the annual Brunch held in June and the second annual Golf Tournament coming up on Oct. 21.

Tracy Alston, a member of the steering committee for Uncommon Legacy is also the co-chair for the Golf Tournament.

"Plan to be on the course at Hermann Park Golf Course, 8 a.m. sharp on Oct. 21," she advises.

INFO

Uncommon Legacy Golf Tournament

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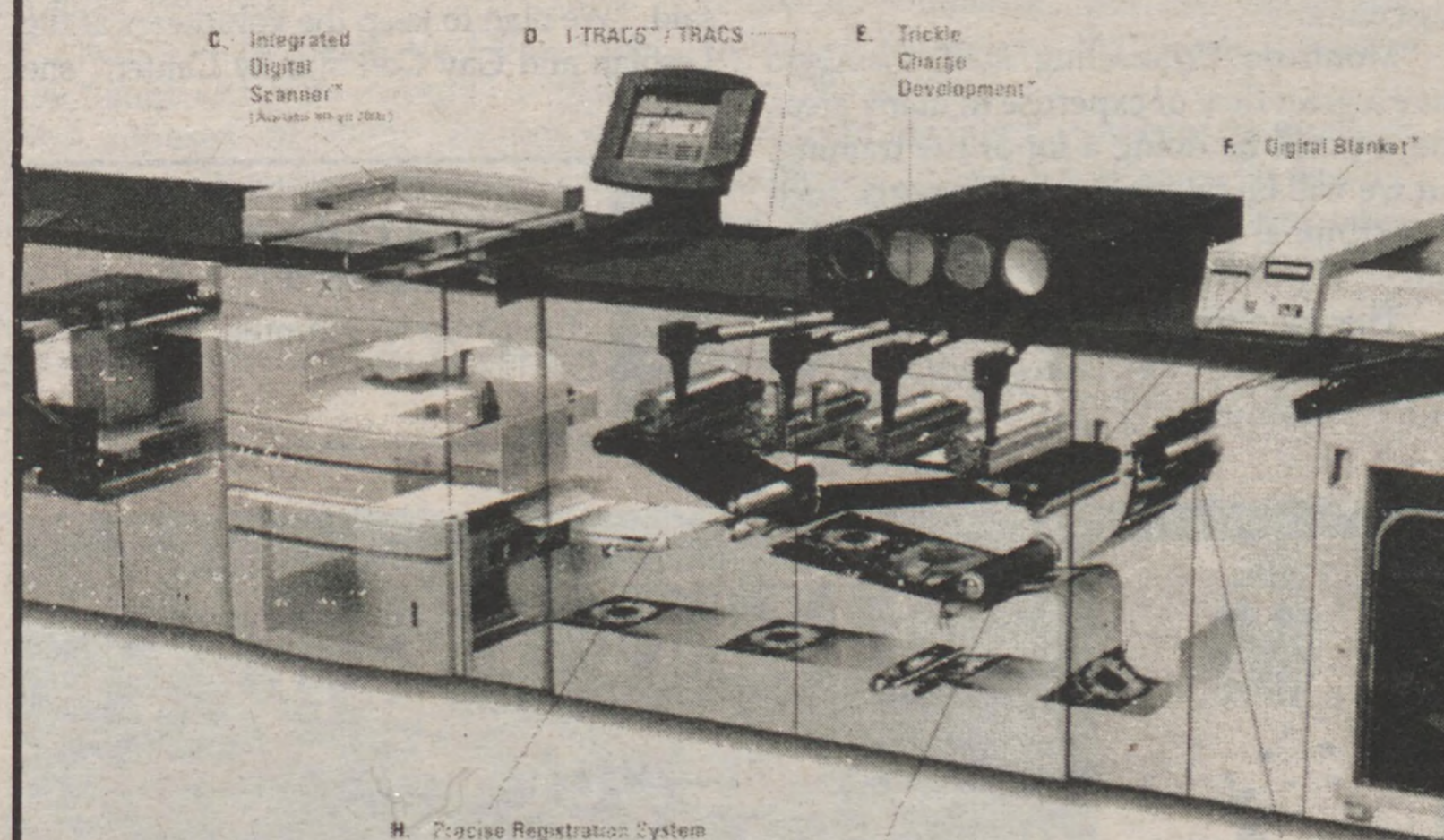
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Counseling Center teams with Switchboard to expand resources available by phone

> Continued from Page 5

expect that the Switchboard will be handling more crisis calls, we are developing an extensive training program," said Sally Huffer, MCC's development and marketing manager.

Volunteers will be trained how to handle issues such as suicide threats, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, hate crimes, HIV, and chemical dependency, Huffer said.

"One of the strengths that Montrose Counseling has is that we have a better referral service, and that will benefit Switchboard callers," Huffer said. "We expect that a lot of calls will continue to be out-of-towners or newcomers who want to know about bars and GLBT friendly businesses, but we hope that they will remember the Switchboard if they have a crisis."

Volunteer training will take 25 hours and will be spread over two weekends, beginning.

"Montrose Counseling staff members have a great deal of expertise in many areas and we will be doing a lot of the training, but we will be calling in other experts, such as a criminal defense lawyer, too," Huffer said.

"The training and referral sources are very specific to the issues faced by the GLBT community," said Agnes Chapa,

MCC's volunteer manager, who will be working with the Switchboard. "Also, we hope to be able to answer pretty much any question someone has about the community and be able to give three referrals for any question someone has.

"Our long-term goal is to have a team of advocates who can, for example, meet a person who has been beaten up by a partner at the hospital and take them to a shelter or go with someone to the police station to fill out a report about a hate crime."

Chapa said volunteers must be at least 18 years old. They will be asked to commit at least one year to the program and cover a three-hour evening shift each week and one overnight shift per month.

"Right now, our plans are to have MCC staff answer the calls during the day, use volunteers in the evening until about 10 and then switch the phone to a volunteer's home phone for overnight calls," Chapa said. "We plan to keep the volunteers at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center," she said.

INFO

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard

To sign up for volunteer training call 713.529.0037

Birthday bash for Hill set at HLGCC

> Continued from Page 5

Hill's biggest struggle as he approaches a new decade in his life is to try to remain relevant. For Hill this means some brutally honest reevaluation and realignment of his efforts and approach.

"I have always been alarmingly relevant; on the cutting edge of several movements—GLBT, a premier inclusionist, and more since the early '60s.

"The 'shock value' method of getting things done has lost its effectiveness in the year 2000. My biggest fear is that my vision for the GLBT movement might not be relevant, that I may not have anything to contribute to the political, social and cultural mix that is evolving."

At this point in his life, Hill believes that, in spite of his newfound trepidation, he does not see himself as a worn out, wrung out former anything. On the contrary, he declares, "I am on the verge of significant changes."

What keeps Hill going? Jone Devlin has known him for the past five years and during that time, she too has experienced Hill to be undaunted by challenges and tireless in his efforts.

"Ray takes his commitment to social justice very seriously and until there is more of it to go around, he refuses to stop," Devlin said.

Devlin said she also values the priority Hill places on doing for other people.

"I have seen Ray fight battles solo because he believes in the cause or in the

person, not in lining his own pockets."

Speaking of pockets, when asked what he would like printed about his life, Ray began by describing himself as "old, poor and crippled." He explained, "I don't mind being old or crippled. I do mind being poor."

Would he do anything any differently if it meant reaping more financial rewards?

"No, I don't regret how I have lived my life," Hill says. "The only time I did live above the poverty level, I did things that I do regret and would never do again. Life is wonderful, poverty is not."

Valinski, Devlin and a host of others who care deeply about Ray Hill as a friend and about the fine work he continues to do have planned a "Celebrate Ray's 60th" birthday bash.

"We want Ray to know how much we applaud his work and his life," Valinski said. "Yes, we are honoring his life and we are also asking people to contribute what they can toward mounting medical costs for major surgery Ray is scheduled for in the near future."


INFO

Ray Hill's Birthday Bash

Saturday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.

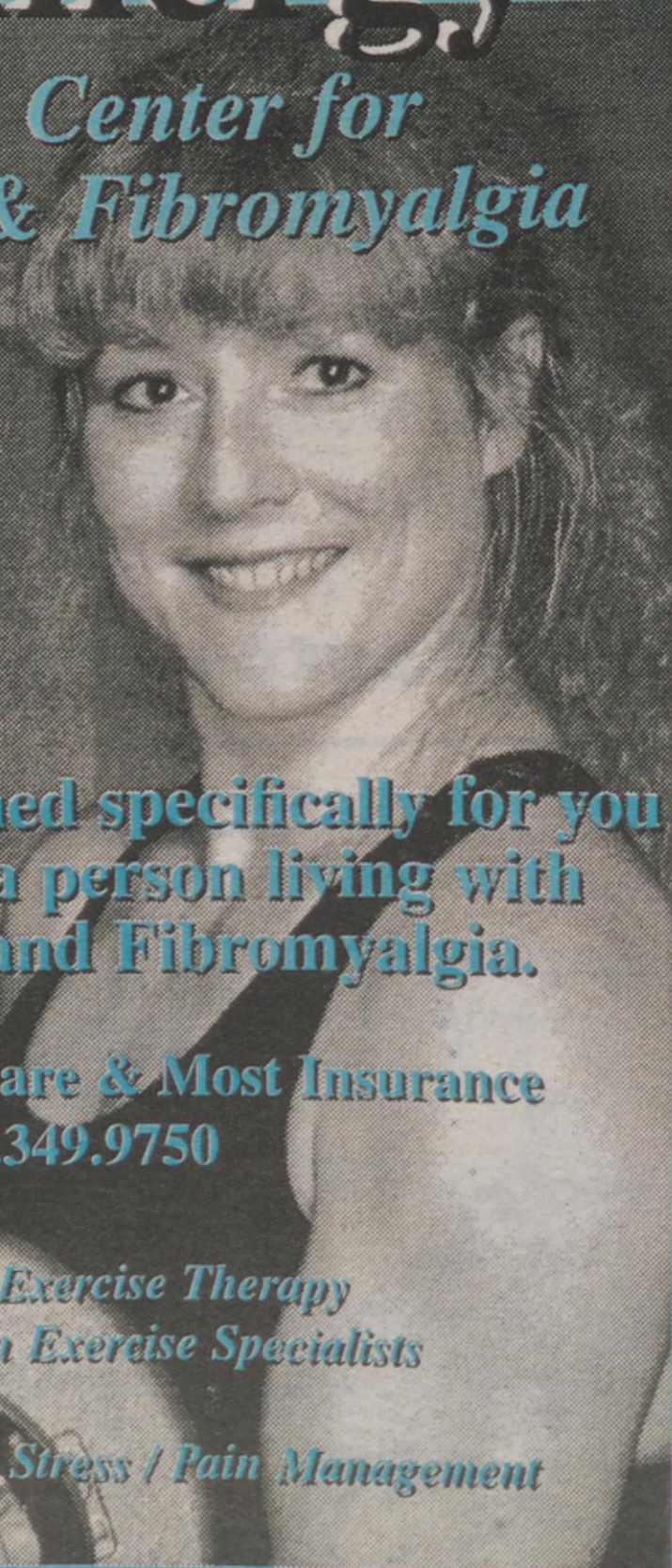
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RMCC hosts program on HIV case management

by ELLA TYLER

Resurrection MCC is hosting a free seminar, "Case Management for Individuals with HIV," on Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

People With AIDS Coalition staff members Erin White and Van Rodriguez will explain case management and describe some of the services available to people who are HIV positive.

"It is frustrating and overwhelming for a person who is HIV positive to get help because there is no single agency that provides all needed services, and a client needs to sign up with each agency he or she is getting help from," said White, who has been a case manager for more than five years.

She said that case management is a process that assesses a client's needs in all areas, provides referrals to agencies that can meet these needs, and follows up to be sure the services are being used.

White said that the first step in case management is to determine a client's needs.

"We ask 'why are you here?' He or she may need financial aid, home health care or help with prescription drugs."

Once the assessment is done, the client's needs are ranked and referrals are made to agencies that help with the most pressing needs, White said.

White said that a case manager works with an individual for three months to a year.

"Our goal is to educate clients about how to get the services they need and to be able to be an effective advocate for themselves," she said.

On Nov. 21, attorney Mitchell Katine will discuss living wills, powers of attorney and wills.

INFO

Case Management for Individuals with HIV

Resurrection MCC,
2025 W. 11 Street,
in the sanctuary

Delta offers domestic partner benefits

by LAURA BROWN

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines announced last week it will extend domestic partner benefits to its approximately 75,000 employees in the U.S. and San Juan. The benefits will be available to same-sex domestic partners only.

Delta becomes one of the last major domestic airlines to offer the benefits. American Airlines, United Airlines, U.S. Airways, Continental, Northwest Airlines and Southwest Airlines already offer benefits to employees' domestic partners. American, United and Northwest also limit their benefits to same-sex partners.

The move by Delta is "a significant step" toward achieving the airline's commitment to "attracting and retaining a diverse workforce, respecting cultural differences, and making an inclusive work environment one of our greatest strengths," according to an internal memo released Thursday from Bob Colman, Delta's executive vice president for human resources.

According to the memo, the DP benefits will be "similar to those currently available to the spouses of Delta employees," although like all domestic partner benefits, they will be counted as income to the employee under federal and state tax laws. Because tax law recognizes marriage, benefits to married heterosexual spouses are not taxed in this way.

The Delta benefits plan will take effect in two steps, one immediately and one next summer. Bereavement leave and family medical leave are now available to employees with domestic partners.

Employees can begin enrolling domestic partners for additional benefits, including medical and dental insurance, on May 1, 2001. These benefits will take effect July 1, 2001, and also include optional life insurance, long term care insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, short-term disability benefits, survivor income benefits and travel privileges.

A gay and lesbian employee group, Pride of Delta, formed at the airline over two years ago and began lobbying for domestic partner benefits. In June, the Georgia Equality Project, a statewide gay political group, launched a major effort targeting nine Georgia companies, including Delta, to ask them to offer the benefits.

The project, launched to coincide with gay Pride weekend, originally planned to target 10 companies, but the Coca-Cola Company announced that week it would offer DP benefits.

Atlanta Gas Light, another of the targeted companies, announced in early September that it would offer the benefits. Companies remaining on the targeted list include Home Depot, Bell South, Georgia Pacific, Wachovia, United Parcel Service, Shaw Industries and Gulf Stream Aerospace.

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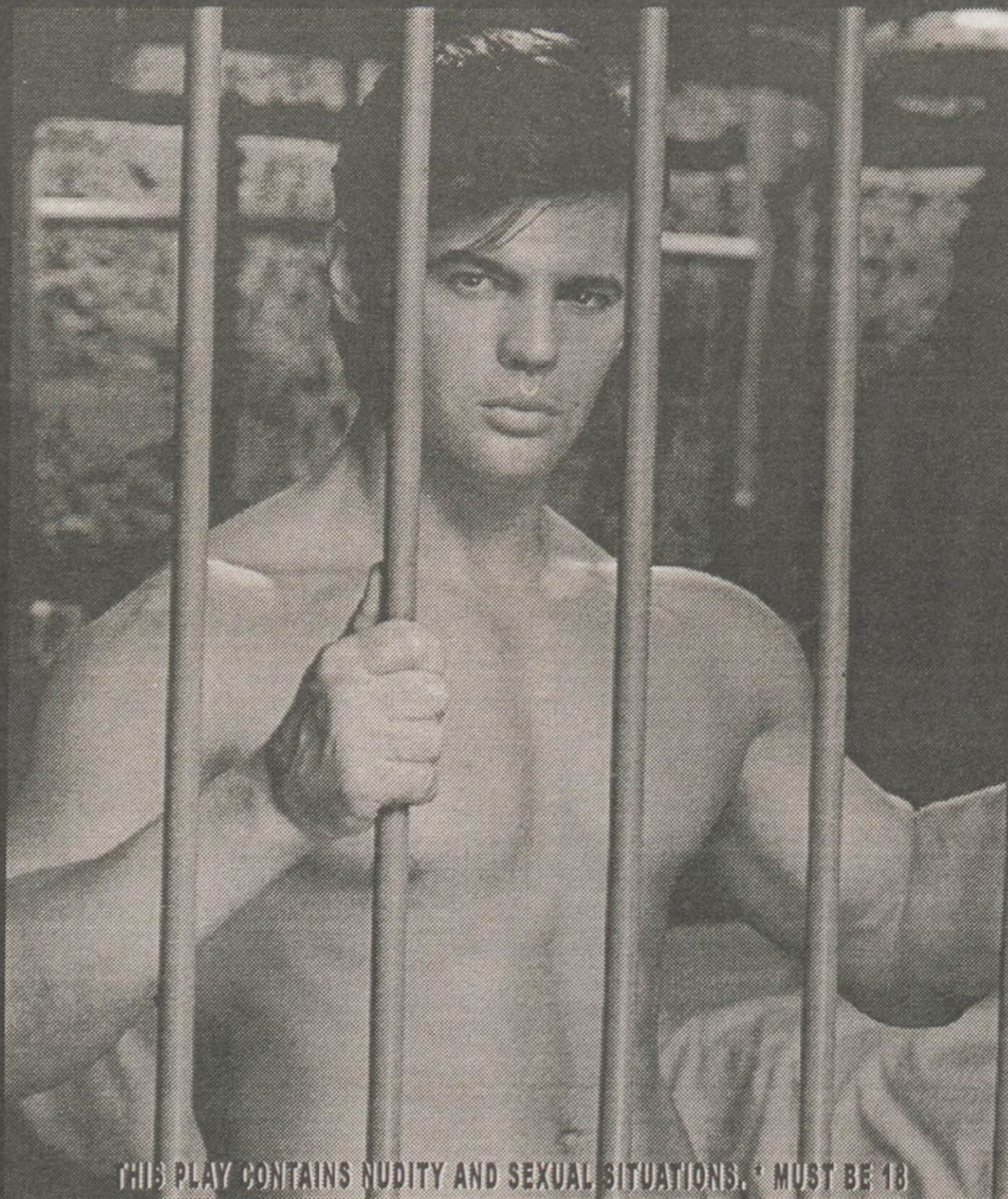
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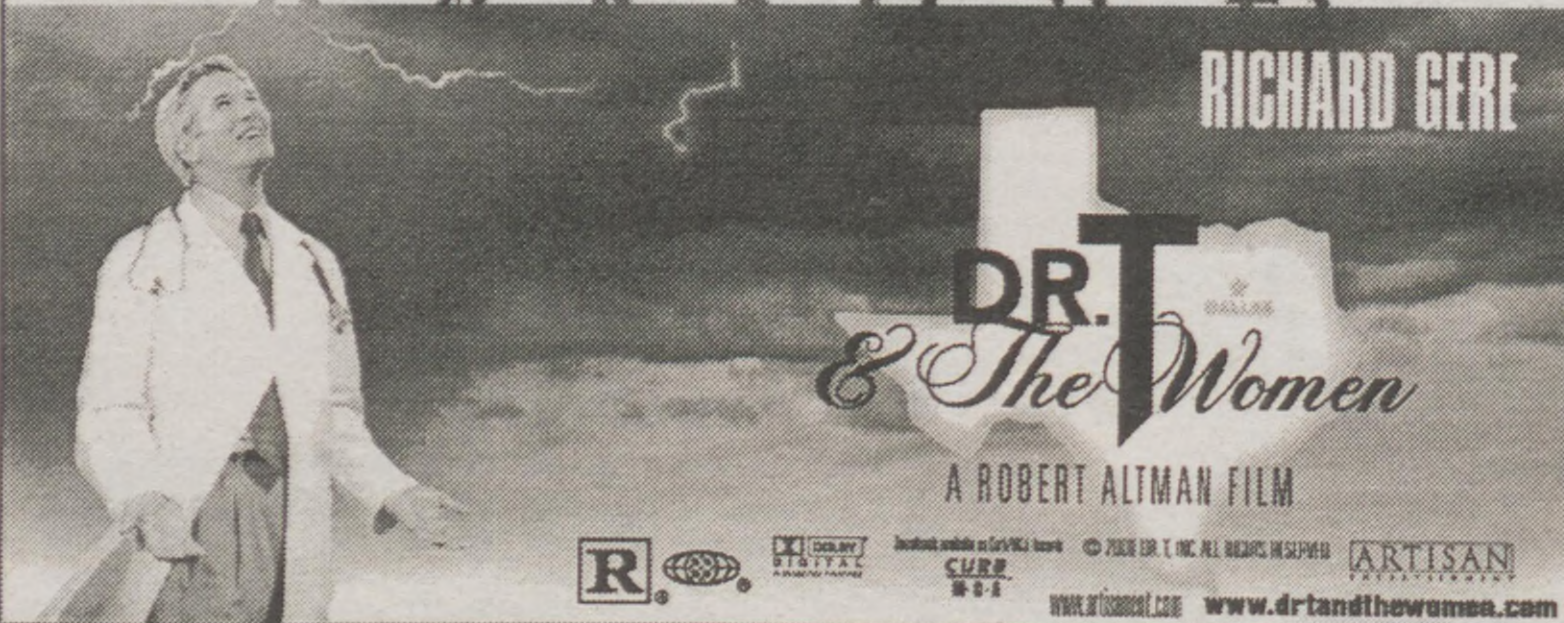
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Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • OCTOBER 13, 2000

Westheimer Street Festival adds drag queen contest to event line-up

by ELLA TYLER

Next weekend's Westheimer Street Festival, will be, "The absolute best we have ever done!" raves organizer John Flores.

The notoriously overly enthusiastic Flores may be right. The Fall Festival, the second since it was moved to Allen Parkway last spring, adds three major attractions, each designed to attract a different segment of Houston's population.

The first "Miss West Fest" contest features performances by Houston's drag queens on Saturday and Sunday at the Budweiser/ 94.5 Buzz/ Houston Press stage, at the east entrance to the festival.

The well-known Darnell, who, Flores says, can make anyone start dancing, is the Master of Ceremonies at this stage. At the end of the festival, Miss West Fest 2000 will be named and presented with a stunning trophy. The trophy, which Flores describes as, "not six-and-a-half, or six-and-three-quarters, but a full seven-foot tall," deserves a stage of its own. It has four tiers, two statues, and a chalice, and is adorned with various jewels.

Miss West contestants may register at the festival Web site, www.westheimerfestival.com.

The second new attraction, "Campus Corral," is open only to college students, of any age, who show a current school identification.

"This is a place where students from the various colleges can meet students from other schools," Flores says. This area features video games, karaoke, shaded seating and misting fans, and a wet T-shirt contest.

KidZone is the addition to the festival that Flores seems most excited about.



Moving the festival is not a bad deal at all. We have room for many, many more attractions and it's particularly good for the vendors.

—John Flores,
Westheimer Street
Festival organizer

"We hope people who came to the Westheimer Street Festival when they were children will come back with their kids," he said. It has activities for young children, including a miniature train, moon walk, petting zoo, pony rides, a super slide, and playground.

Attractions for older children include the Quad Power Jump and skateboarding

demonstrations on the half-pipe used by Tony Hawks in a recent performance at Houston's Space Center.

Everyone will be watching the Warriors of Wrestling demonstrations, Flores predicts. "They are very agile, and very good, and even have a female wrestler," he said.

Other eye-catchers are an exhibit from Forbidden Gardens, a rock climbing contest, and art cars.

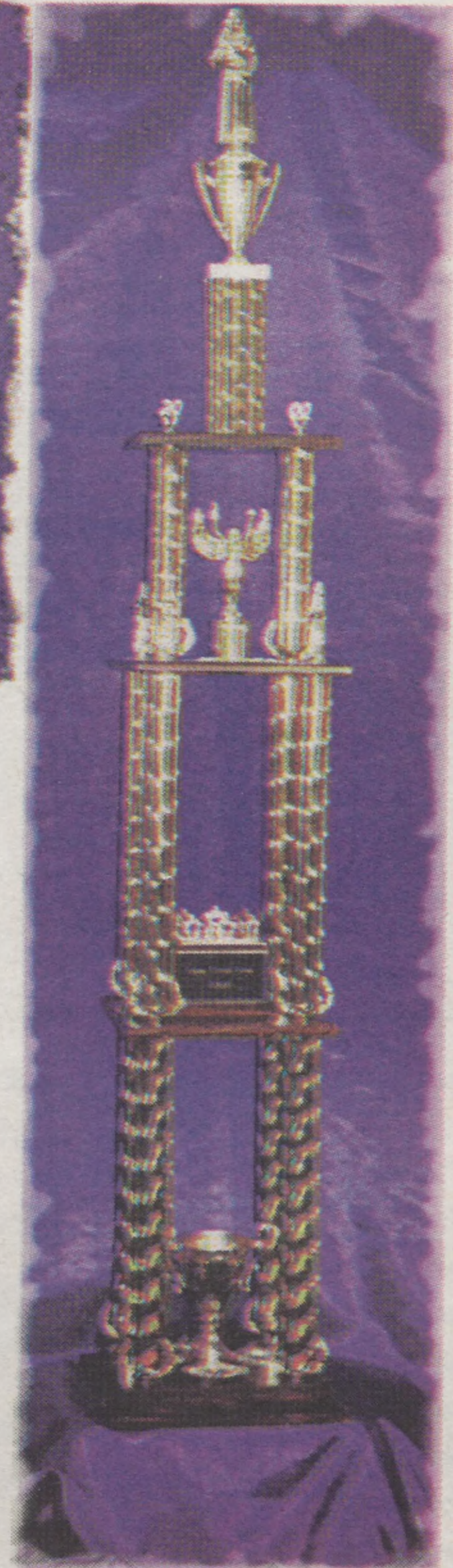
One event that the new location makes possible is downhill cart rides.

"We made more carts for this festival, since they were a big hit with both adults and kids at the spring festival," Flores said.

If Houston's ordinary fall weather returns, the Rain Forest area, a vine-covered shade structure with cool mists will be a popular destination.

In addition to the Budweiser stage, there are five other stages in the festival area. Local record producer, Dennis Lang, of Molecular Records, is producing one stage. KRBE will broadcast live from the Festival,

> Continued on Page 23



The Halloween Magic Players, including Gilbert Perez as Venezuela and Joel Quinones as Mango, will present 'West Side Cabaret—Montrose Style,' benefiting eight Houston AIDS service organizations.

Things that go boo! in the night

Variety of spooky shows planned for holiday

by D.L. GROOVER

It's soon upon us, that fright-night supreme when adults get to dress up in funny costumes, wear trowels of make-up, and party way past the bewitching hour. No, it's not Gay Pride Day; it's Halloween, of course.

Here are some worthwhile suggestions for celebrating the expanded nights of the living dead.

What better way to start the ghoulish festivities than this sublime, ridiculous romp?

Halloween Magic

Reveling in its eleventh incarnation of high camp and wicked wit, this annual tradition finds our beloved friends (Venezuela Maria Concepcion de los Angeles Valdez Vallejo Gonzalez, Wanda June Smathers, and Pleasure Nouveau) in even zanier adventures—and higher heels—as they travel down the Broadway of "Cabaret" and "West Side Story," hurling political zingers and topical humor with deadly aim.

Our Hispanic spitfire must prevent the deportation of her long-lost

relative, Mango, all without tripping over her train at Dame Edna's Institute of Charm or running into the nefarious clutches of a certain U.S. government official who looks suspiciously like Janet Reno.

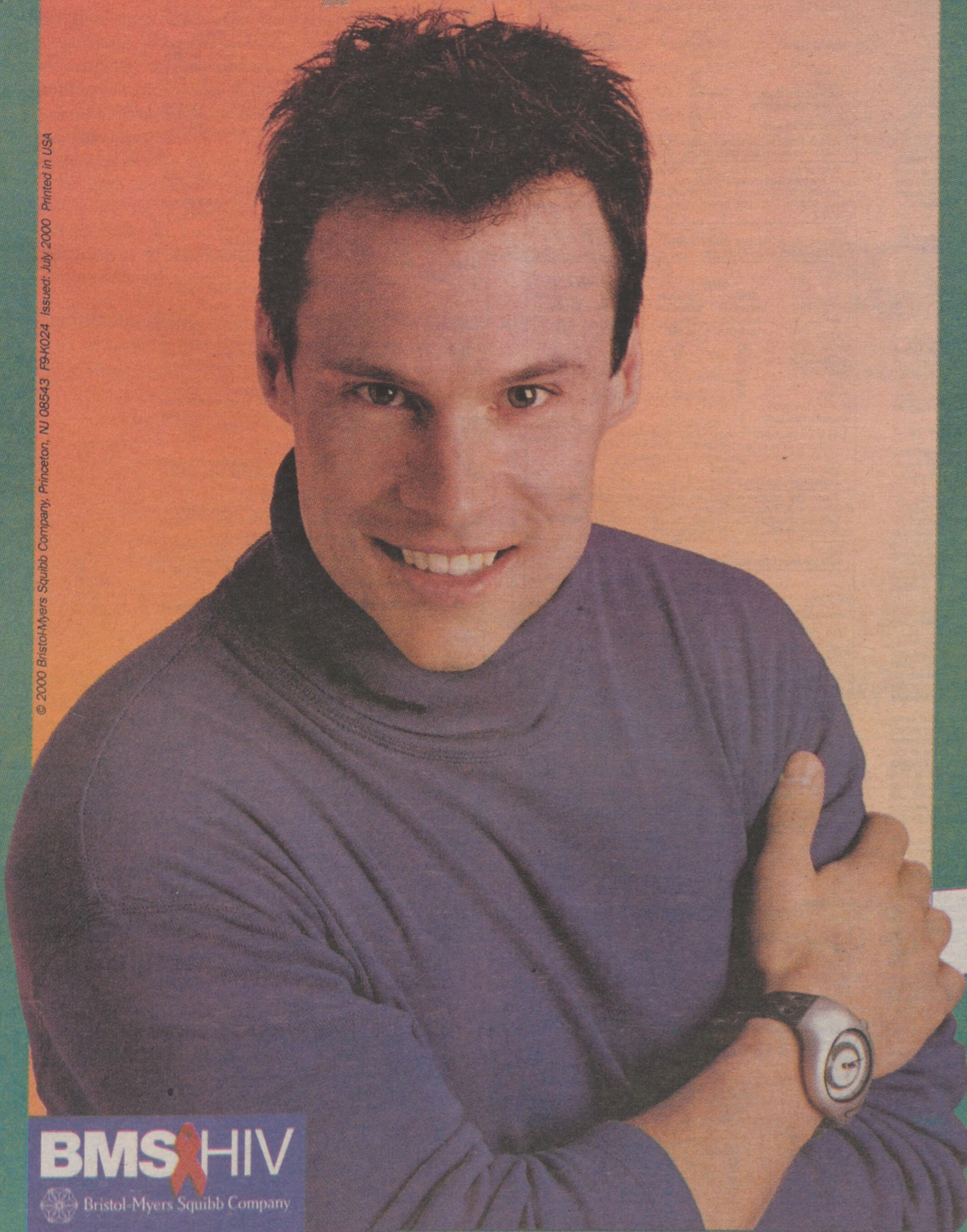
Halloween Magic

Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 22, 5 p.m.
Edwin Hornberger Center, 2151
West Holcombe
713-226-2342

> Continued on Page 23



“ZERIT is the #1 prescribed HIV brand in combination therapy. I gotta believe it can work for me. I’m positive.”



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One small capsule twice a day with or without food

Powerful enough in combination therapy to keep viral load down¹



#1 prescribed HIV brand in combination therapy²

Generally Well Tolerated

SAFETY INFORMATION:

There have been cases of acid buildup in the blood and enlarged liver, including fatal cases. Fatal and non-fatal pancreatitis has occurred when ZERIT was part of a combination regimen that included didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea.

ZERIT may cause numbness, tingling or pain in the hands or feet (neuropathy). This risk is increased in patients with advanced HIV disease or a history of neuropathy. If this occurs, your doctor may suggest lowering the dose or stopping ZERIT to improve symptoms. Patients treated with ZERIT in combination with other medicines that may cause similar side effects may have a higher chance of developing these side effects. The most frequent side effects are nausea, diarrhea, headache, rash and neuropathy. ZERIT does not cure HIV infection or prevent passing HIV to others. ZERIT, in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

1) 83% (49/59) and 49% (49/101) of patients taking ZERIT with lamivudine and didanosine had viral load undetectable at 48 weeks in an as treated and intent to treat analysis respectively. (START 1. Data on file, Bristol-Myers Squibb).
2) IMS NPA Prescription Data 4/99 - 4/00.

1-888-262-9673 (toll free) or visit www.ZERIT.com

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT
ZERIT[®]
(stavudine) CAPSULES / POWDER FOR ORAL SOLUTION
ALSO KNOWN AS **d4T**

Please see the adjacent page for more information about ZERIT.

ZERIT® (stavudine)

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information, 8/99. For complete prescribing information, please consult official package circular.

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

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT® (stavudine), in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection (see CLINICAL STUDIES).

CLINICAL STUDIES

Combination Therapy: The combination use of ZERIT is based on the results of clinical studies in HIV-infected patients in double- and triple-combination regimens with other antiretroviral agents.

One of these studies (START 1) was a multicenter, randomized, open-label study comparing ZERIT (40 mg BID) plus lamivudine plus indinavir to zidovudine plus lamivudine plus indinavir in 202 treatment-naïve patients. Both regimens resulted in a similar magnitude of inhibition of HIV RNA levels and increases in CD4 cell counts through 48 weeks.

Monotherapy: The efficacy of ZERIT was demonstrated in a randomized, double-blind study (AI455-019, conducted 1992-1994) comparing ZERIT with zidovudine in 822 patients with a spectrum of HIV-related symptoms. The outcome in terms of progression of HIV disease and death was similar for both drugs.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

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

2. Peripheral Neuropathy: Peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, has been reported in patients receiving ZERIT therapy. Peripheral neuropathy has occurred more frequently in patients with advanced HIV disease, a history of neuropathy, or concurrent neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that an important toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be aware that peripheral neuropathy is manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in hands or feet, and that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians. Patients should be counseled that peripheral neuropathy occurs with greatest frequency in patients who have advanced HIV disease or a history of peripheral neuropathy, and that dose modification and/or discontinuation of ZERIT may be required if toxicity develops.

Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy.

Patients should be informed that when ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. These patients should be followed closely.

Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy 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 long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time.

Patients should be informed that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Drug Interactions: Zidovudine may competitively inhibit the intracellular phosphorylation of stavudine. Therefore, use of zidovudine in combination with ZERIT is not recommended. (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY.)

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: In 2-year carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats, stavudine was noncarcinogenic at doses which produced exposures (AUC) 39 and 168 times, respectively, human exposure at the recommended clinical dose. Benign and malignant liver tumors in mice and rats and malignant urinary bladder tumors in male rats occurred at levels of exposure 250 (mice) and 732 (rats) times human exposure at the recommended clinical dose.

Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation). In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy "Category C." Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unfused or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

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

Nursing Mothers: Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This instruction is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control recommendation that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Pediatric Use: Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional pharmacokinetic and safety data in pediatric patients.

Rx ONLY

Adverse events that were reported to occur in 105 pediatric patients receiving ZERIT (stavudine) 2 mg/kg/day for a median of 6.4 months in study ACTG 240 were generally similar to those reported in adults.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients ranging in age from 5 weeks to 15 years and in weight from 2 to 43 kg after IV, or oral administration of single doses and BID regimens (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Table 1 in full prescribing information).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adults: ZERIT therapy has been associated with peripheral neuropathy, which can be severe, is dose related, and occurs more frequently in patients being treated with neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine, in patients with advanced HIV infection, or in patients who have previously experienced peripheral neuropathy.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the dose (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered.

When ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. Patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine may be at increased risk for adverse events such as pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, and liver function abnormalities. (See WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS).

Selected clinical events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy trial (Study AI455-019) are provided in Table 1.

Table 1
Selected Clinical Adverse Events in Study AI455-019* (Monotherapy)

Adverse Events	Percent (%)	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Diarrhea	50	44
Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy	52	39
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	39	44

* Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 412 adult patients who received ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy study.

Selected clinical adverse events that occurred in antiretroviral naïve adult patients receiving ZERIT from two controlled combination studies are provided in Table 2.

Table 2
Selected Clinical Adverse Events in START 1 and START 2* Studies (Combination Therapy)

Adverse Events	Percent (%)			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100 ^a)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102 ^a)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Nausea	43	63	53	67
Diarrhea	34	16	45	39
Headache	25	26	46	37
Rash	18	13	30	18
Vomiting	18	33	30	35
Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy	8	7	21	10

* START 2 compared two triple-combination regimens in 205 treatment-naïve patients. Patients received either ZERIT (40 mg BID) plus didanosine plus indinavir or zidovudine plus lamivudine plus indinavir.
^a Duration of stavudine therapy = 48 weeks.

Pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in one patient who received ZERIT plus didanosine plus indinavir in the START 2 study.

Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in a controlled monotherapy study (Study AI455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3
Selected Adult Laboratory Abnormalities in Study AI455-019^{a,b}

Parameter	Percent (%)	
	ZERIT (stavudine) (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (>5.0 x ULN)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (>5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Amylase (≥1.4 x ULN)	14	13

^a Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.
^b Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.
 ULN = upper limit of normal.

Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in two controlled combination studies are provided in Tables 4 and 5.

Table 4
Selected Laboratory Abnormalities in START 1 and START 2 Studies (Grades 3-4)

Parameter	Percent of Patients			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Bilirubin (>2.5 x ULN)	7	6	16	8
SGOT (AST) (>5 x ULN)	5	2	7	7
SGPT (ALT) (>5 x ULN)	6	2	8	5
GGT (>5 x ULN)	2	2	5	2
Lipase (>2 x ULN)	6	3	5	5
Amylase (>2 x ULN)	4	<1	8	2

ULN = upper limit of normal.

Table 5
Selected Laboratory Abnormalities in START 1 and START 2 Studies (All Grades)

Parameter	Percent (%)			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Total Bilirubin	65	60	68	55
SGOT (AST)	42	20	53	20
SGPT (ALT)	40	20	50	18
GGT	15	8	28	12
Lipase	27	12	26	19
Amylase	21	19	31	17

Observed During Clinical Practice: The following events have been identified during post-approval use of ZERIT (stavudine). 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 ZERIT, or a combination of these factors.

Body as a Whole: abdominal pain, allergic reaction, and chills/fever.

Digestive Disorders: anorexia.

Hematologic Disorders: anemia, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia.

Liver: lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), hepatitis and liver failure.

Musculoskeletal: myalgia.

Nervous System: insomnia.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. Stavudine can be removed by hemodialysis; the mean \pm SD hemodialysis clearance of stavudine is 120 \pm 18 mL/min. Whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis has not been studied.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The interval between doses of ZERIT should be 12 hours. ZERIT may be taken without regard to meals.

Adults: The recommended dose based on body weight is as follows:

40 mg twice daily for patients \geq 60 kg.

30 mg twice daily for patients <60 kg.

Pediatrics: The recommended dose for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 1 mg/kg/dose, given every 12 hours. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dosage.

Dosage Adjustment: Patients should be monitored for the development of peripheral neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. These symptoms may be difficult to detect in young children (see WARNINGS). If these symptoms develop during treatment, stavudine therapy should be interrupted. Symptoms may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the recommended dose.

20 mg twice daily for patients \geq 60 kg.

15 mg twice daily for patients <60 kg.

If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered.

Renal Impairment: ZERIT may be administered to adult patients with impaired renal function with adjustment in dose as shown in Table 6.

Table 6
Recommended Dosage Adjustment for Renal Impairment

Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)	Recommended ZERIT Dose by Patient Weight	
	\geq 60 kg	<60 kg
>50	40 mg every 12 hours	30 mg every 12 hours
26-50	20 mg every 12 hours	15 mg every 12 hours
10-25	20 mg every 24 hours	15 mg every 24 hours

Since urinary excretion is also a major route of elimination of stavudine in pediatric patients, the clearance of stavudine may be altered in children with renal impairment. Although there are insufficient data to recommend a specific dose adjustment of ZERIT in this patient population, a reduction in the dose and/or an increase in the interval between doses should be considered.

Hemodialysis Patients: The recommended dose is 20 mg every 24 hours (\geq 60 kg) or 15 mg every 24 hours (<60 kg), administered after the completion of hemodialysis and at the same time of day on non-dialysis days.

Method of Preparation:

ZERIT (stavudine) for Oral Solution
Prior to dispensing, the pharmacist must constitute the dry powder with purified water to a concentration of 1 mg stavudine per mL of solution, as follows:

1. Add 202 mL of purified water to the container.
2. Shake container vigorously until the powder dissolves completely. Constitution in this way produces 200 mL (deliverable volume) of 1 mg/mL stavudine solution. The solution may appear slightly hazy.

3. Dispense solution in original container with measuring cup provided. Instruct patient to shake the container vigorously prior to measuring each dose and to store the tightly closed container in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964 15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965 20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966 30	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967 40	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit-flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label and in the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section of this insert. ZERIT for Oral Solution (NDC No. 0003-1968-01) is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water.

US Patent No.: 4,978,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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health news

Congress alters funding formula in okaying massive AIDS measure

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress has agreed to provide more than \$1 billion a year for AIDS prevention and treatment in a bill that for the first time factors in HIV infection as well as AIDS cases in determining how federal money will be distributed. In a 411-0 vote last week, Congress has reauthorized the Ryan White CARE Act. The measure now goes to President Clinton for his signature. The bill changes the way funds are allocated to communities, focusing on HIV infections, rather than full-blown AIDS cases. The change takes place in 2005. The sponsor, Rep. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), said the emphasis on full-blown AIDS cases rather than on infections, has been "devastating." "While our attention was placed on AIDS, the virus silently spread through communities of color and more and more women became unknowingly infected." Supporters say the new funding distribution will mean more money for programs that help infants, women, minorities and people in rural areas. It met resistance from lawmakers representing districts with large gay male populations.

Fed-funded AIDS study targeting cats angers animal rights activists

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A researcher's plan to infect 120 cats with the feline version of HIV and then inject them with methamphetamine to study the effects has outraged animal rights activists. Ohio State University professor Michael Podell received a \$355,000 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for the first year of what he expects to be a five-year study costing \$1.68 million. "We want to understand more about HIV and drug abuse in people," Podell said. "One of the ways to do that is to develop an animal model that has similar characteristics." Feline immunodeficiency virus and human immunodeficiency virus have similar effects on the immune and neurological systems of their respective hosts, he said, and cats respond to methamphetamine similar to the way people do. Peter Wood, a spokesperson for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, attacked the study as "cruel, wasteful and bizarre." "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know meth use will have an adverse effect on your body," Wood said. "Our limited resources would be better spent on teaching people how to avoid contracting HIV or on drug prevention."

Clinical trials to start early next year for South African AIDS vaccine

CAPE TOWN—South Africa will begin clinical trials of an AIDS vaccine early next year, said Medical Research Council President Malegapuru Makgoba, according to Reuters. Makgoba is a stern critic of South African President Thabo Mbeki, who has publicly doubted that AIDS is caused by a single virus, and flatly contradicted Mbeki at his news conference. "This syndrome is caused by one virus," Makgoba said. MRC spokesperson Michelle Galloway said the phase one clinical trials would involve a handful of people who would be monitored for side effects for about a year. Larger trials would follow in the hopes that an HIV vaccine would be available by 2005. "It is an ambitious target but we are still aiming for it," Galloway said. "A successful HIV/AIDS vaccine is estimated to have the potential to save the lives of about 20 million people during the first decade of its use."



South African researcher Malegapuru Makgoba said clinical trials for a possible AIDS vaccine will begin next year, despite doubt by some that a single virus causes the disease.

Wide range of treatments cutting relapses in breast cancer for women

BRUSSELS—Research indicates that the wide range of treatments available for breast cancer are cutting relapse rates in women, the *Advocate* reported. The treatments include radiotherapy, chemotherapy and hormone therapy using the drug tamoxifen. "This is the first time we have good evidence on the effects of treatment on 15-year survival," said Sir Richard Peto, an Oxford University professor, at the second European Breast Cancer Conference in Brussels last week. "These results, from a worldwide overview of 300 trials that included around 200,000 patients, are a lot better than we expected. It seems that we can at last talk about a real cure."

Adult smoking habits holding steady at nearly one-in-four, study says

ATLANTA (AP)—The number of American adults who smoke held steady in 1998 at one in four, a rate that hardly budged during the 1990s despite anti-tobacco campaigns and scientific advances in helping people kick the habit. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reported last week that some 24 percent of Americans 18 and older smoked cigarettes in 1998. The rate was nearly 25 in 1997 and as far back as 1990. The numbers fall far short of the CDC's goal of cutting the adult smoking rate to 15 percent by 2000. The nation's smoking rate has dropped sharply since 1965, when 44 percent of adults were smokers. Dr. Corinne Husten, a medical officer with the CDC Office on Smoking & Health, said there are signs the smoking rate can go much lower. The recently-released survey found that only 11 percent of college-educated adults smoke and 39 percent of adult smokers had tried to quit in the preceding year.

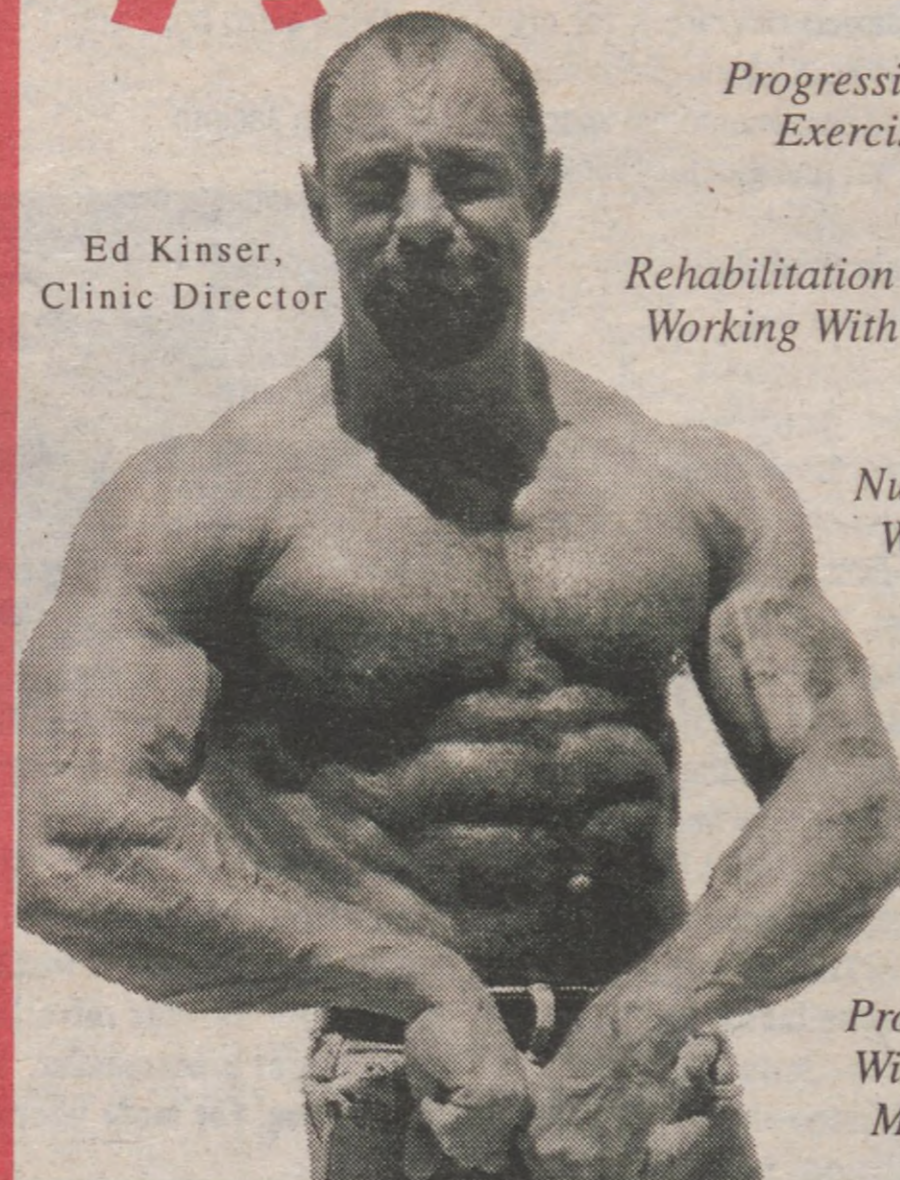
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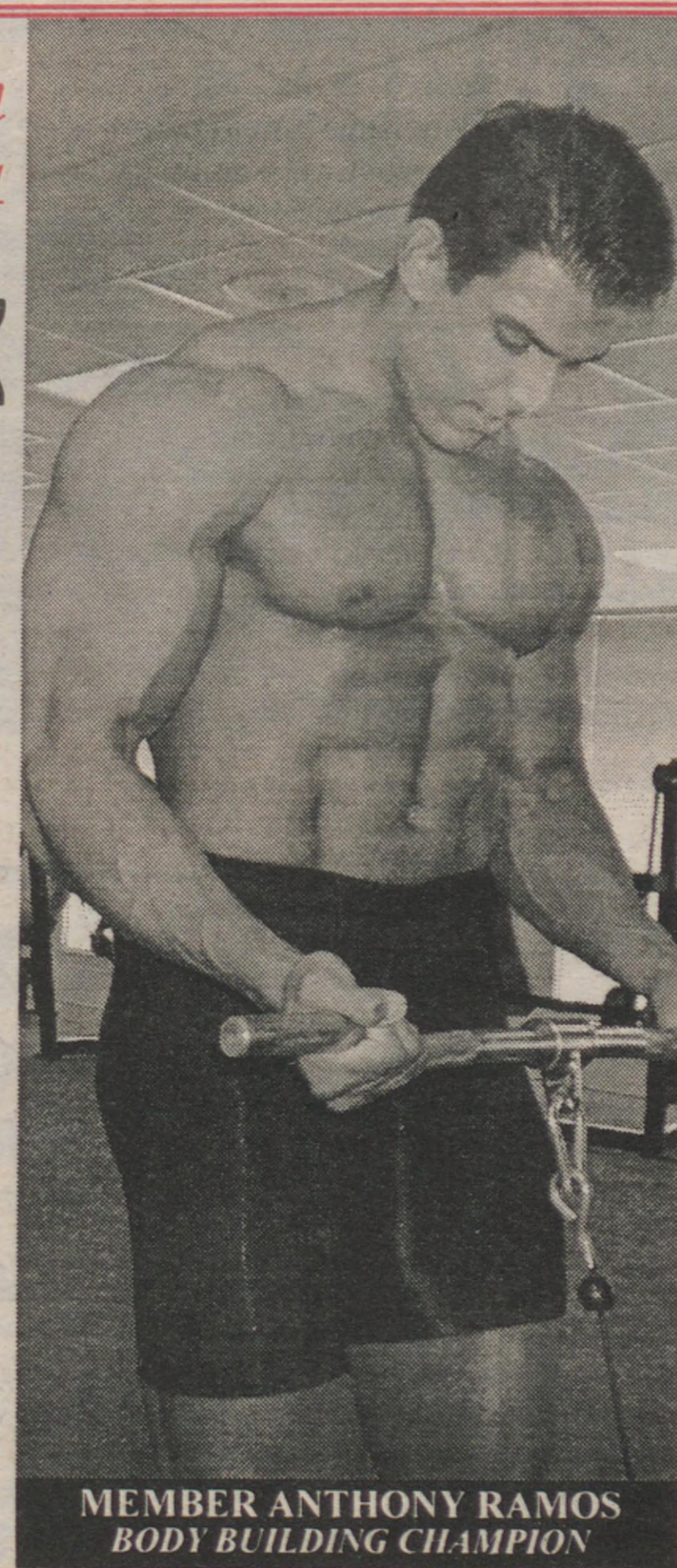
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MEMBER ANTHONY RAMOS
BODY BUILDING CHAMPION

Bayou Calendar

Teatro Tinglado

These thought-provoking puppets from Mexico City are a far cry from Howdy Doody. Here, the psychopathic Clotario Demoniak murders his best friend to get up close and personal to his widow, sort of like Pulcinella meets Hamlet. Offbeat and gleefully wicked. Oct. 13th & 14th, 8 p.m. DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway (N. Main @ Naylor) 713-335-3445

Texas Leatherfest Weekend

Okay, fasten your harness and squeeze into those chaps, daddies and boys, this weekend it's Mr. Drummer time in Houston, benefiting the Colt 45s and AIDS Trouble Fund. First, on Friday, Oct. 13, there's the BULL party at Club 611, 10 p.m. to midnight (611 Hyde Park). Saturday afternoon brings the Dawg Daze Cookout to the Ripcord from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (715 Fairview). Sunday finds aromatic clouds from the Cigar Social wafting out of the Hyde Park Gallery from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. (711 Hyde Park); local Mr. Drummers and Drummer Boys will strut their stuff at a contest at Mary's from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. (1022 Westheimer); and a T-Dance and Leather Finale concludes at Rich's from 7 p.m. to ?? (2401 San Jacinto). By the time all this is over, if you don't have rope burns, you're either a rank amateur or real pro. e-mail: BullDawgPromos@aol.com 713-850-9412

Rich's 17th Anniversary Party

For 17 years, Rich's has had the lock on gay disco in Houston. Ahead of the pack with its light shows and promotions, there's always something to look at, if you can tear your eyes off the hot clientele moshing around you. Celebrate their anniversary with

Kristine W and what's billed as an "unbelievable laser show." Shirtless disco boys aren't known for their spelling. Oct. 14 2401 San Jacinto



DALTON DEHART

The Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center will host its annual Unity Party Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. to honor partners and raise support for the organization. Local band Smokin' Hair Day, above, will perform at the event which is open to the public. Beer, wine and snacks will be served. A \$10 donation at the door includes refreshments and entertainment and supports center programming. The center is located at 803 Hawthorne. For more information, call 713-524-3818.

Kennedy

It's rare when a classical musician is publicized solely by last name, but (Nigel) Kennedy has the talent to back it up. Iconoclastic and quirky, he's brought the violin repertory to a whole new generation of listeners, witnessed by his raft of best selling CDs and concert

appearances. Hear him rhapsodize through Bruch's "Violin Concerto No. 1" conducted by Roberto Abbado. It might make you a groupie, too. Oct. 14 & 16, 8 p.m., Oct. 15, 2:30 p.m. Houston Symphony Jones Hall, downtown


Bayou City Arts Festival Downtown

Count them to 300 artists selling their original handiwork: painting, sculpture, ceramics, glass, furniture, photography, wood, leather, textiles. Plus food, music, and a Creative Zone where you, too, can be an artist. Support the arts and buy something. Oct. 14 & 15, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hermann Square @ City Hall 713-521-0133

UH School Of Theatre Costume Sale

Need inspiration for upcoming Allhallow Eve? The University of Houston School of Theatre can supply all your demands as they sell off their inventory to make room for more. Hats, shoes, coats, and custom-built costumes are up for grabs, as are pieces from the Shakespeare Festival and Children's Theatre Festival. Cash and checks are the preferred methods of payment. By the way, you look fetching in that ruff and farthingale. Oct. 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. University of Houston Lyndall Finley Wortham Theatre I-45 & Cullen (Entrance #16) 713-743-2919

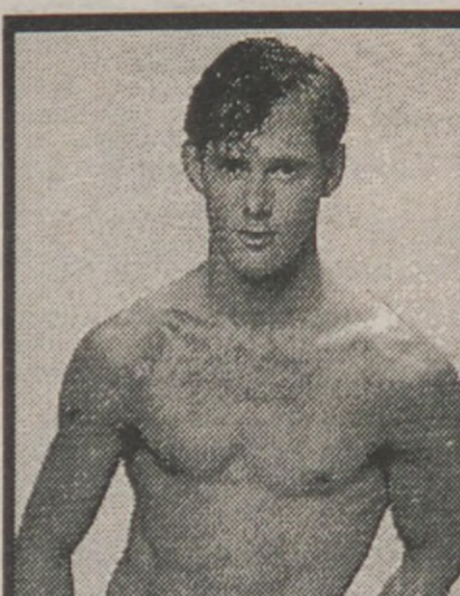
To submit items to the Bayou Calendar, write to Houston Voice, 500 Lovett, Ste. 200, Houston, Texas 77006 or e-mail editor@houston-voice.com.



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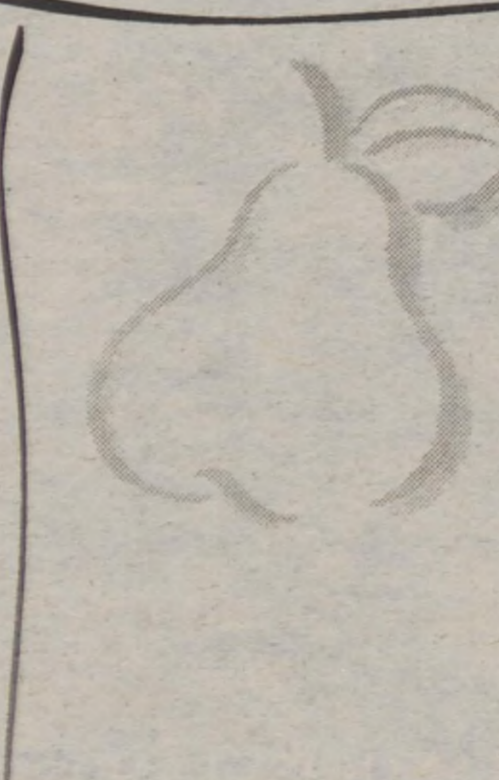
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Contests, attractions added to West Fest

> Continued from Page 17

and KQQK will present Latin music.

One stage will have a psychedelic, 3D show.

The festival, which had been along lower Westheimer for more than 20 years, moved to the Allen Parkway site last spring because of growing opposition by neighbors, but Flores is not unhappy.

"Moving the festival is not a bad deal at all," Flores said. "We have room for many, many more attractions and it's particularly good for the vendors. They are not all jammed up together and can use three sides of the booth, not just the front," he continued.

Festival vendors sell a variety of food, drinks, sweets and trinkets.

The festival is open from noon to 8 on Saturday, Oct. 21 and noon to 7 on Sunday, Oct. 22. Admission to the festival is free and most of the attractions are also free.

The festival area covers both sides of Allen Parkway between Sabine Street (at the edge of downtown) and Taft. There are entrances at Sabine and Taft. Allen Parkway will be closed from 6 a.m. Saturday to 3 a.m. Monday.

Parking is available downtown in the Metropolitan Garage and other nearby lots and along Dallas. Parking is \$5.

There will be a free shuttle that runs through Montrose. It will make stops on Westheimer at Taft, by the Oven; at Westheimer and Lincoln, by the Burger

King and at Montrose and Gray and Montrose and Dallas. It takes passengers to the west entrance to the festival. The shuttle begins at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday and shuts down at 9 p.m. on Saturday and 8 p.m. on Sunday.



Crowds throng to West Fest.

The deadline for the poster contest for the Spring 2001 Westheimer Street Festival is Oct. 20. The winning artist gets a \$250 prize. For information about the poster contest call the Festival office at 713-522-6548.

INFO
Westheimer Street Festival
 Oct. 21 & 22, noon to 8 p.m.
 713-522-6548
 www.westheimerfestival.com

Area theater groups HALLOWEEN plan themed shows

> Continued from Page 17

Laugh yourself hoarse for a worthy cause, proceeds benefit eight Houston AIDS service organizations.

If you have a soft spot for Freddie Kruger-type slasher movies, a weekend horror triptych from Italian gore-meister Lucio Fulci will guarantee nightmares and put you in the perfect holiday mood. "The Beyond" (1981), Fulci's best known work, concerns real estate built upon very tainted ground. Here, a decrepit Southern hotel sits right atop the gates to Hell. "Zombie" (1979), a runaway hit that grossed millions, placed Fulci squarely on Italy's bankable list of directors. This gruesome tale concerns a daughter's search for her father that takes her to a remote Caribbean island—they're always remote in these movies—whose inhabitants just happen to be flesh-eating zombies. No umbrellas in their drinks, obviously.

"The Gates of Hell" (1983) returns Fulci to his recurrent theme wherein a priest's suicide unleashes Hell's fury. The gory goings-on are so over-the-top that this movie is still banned in some countries, but not here. "The Beyond," Oct. 28, 11:30 p.m.

"Zombie," Oct. 28, 9:30 p.m.; Oct. 29, 7 p.m.

"The Gates of Hell," Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.;

Oct. 29, 9 p.m.

Rice Media Center, University Blvd. & Stockton Drive, entrance #8, 713-348-4853

The Turn Of The Screw

If something a bit more high-brow is required to raise your hackles, try Jeffrey Hatcher's stage adaptation of Henry James' novella of a ghost tale, "The Turn of the Screw." This has it all: an isolated old estate, strange bumps and banging in the night, spooky visitations, and creepy psychological undertones that seem to rise out of suppressed desire and thwarted passion, something the virginal Mr. James knew all about.

Turn of the Screw

Oct. 27 & 28, 8 p.m.; Oct. 29, 3 p.m.
 Stages Repertory Theatre, 3210 Allen Parkway @ Waugh & D'Amico
 713-527-8243

Misery

In Stephen King's tightest, most chilling novel, the shivers come from the everyday not the supernatural. It's the perfect Halloween story retold for the stage: a novelist, saved from a car accident by his most devoted, albeit demented, fan, is required to rewrite his book before leaving her care. Every attempted escape brings him more misery and fewer limbs.

Misery

Oct. 27, 28, & 30, 8 p.m.; Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
 Little Room Downstairs, 2328 Bissonnet
 713-522-5737

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

More than Tex-Mex

Cafe Piquet delivers taste and great service

by TRAYCE DISKIN

What is it lately, about potted palms, stagy terra cotta fountains, and overcrowded parking lots that send me running?

While I love a festive Tex-Mex hangout as much as any honorary Houston, it's often the smaller, independent, less ostentatious establishments that satisfy the craving for quality Latino food.

Quietly nestled in an otherwise empty strip mall in a rather unglamorous section of Bellaire, Cafe Piquet is such a gem.

The gray-tiled interior and high white walls are both unassuming and funky simultaneously.

Perhaps it's the wall decorations of battered-silver decorative platters and bowls or the vibrantly pastiched collection of international license plates from Australia to Uruguay.

The vibe is loud and bustling, but intimate enough for families, couples or small groups of friends to enjoy an authentic, casual meal.

From the moment we entered, we experienced the authenticity and friendliness.

Although our server didn't speak English, he motioned us to our seats and deciphered our drink preferences before our halting Spanish could rise above the din of chatting diners.

We ordered from the wide selection of Cuban and South American beers and juices, awaited our appetizers and passed around the piping hot bread and butter.

The Yuca con Mojo (\$2.50) practically melts in its coat of butter and garlic, and although I would have preferred it cooked a little less mushy, the taste was subtle and savory.

My complaint, however, was easily solved by ordering the Yuca Frita (\$3), a superior substitute for French fries with its crunchy, greaseless coating and smooth, waxy texture inside.

It also helps to scan the "A La Carte" section of the menu for essential appetizers masquerading as mere side items.

The Platanos Maduros (\$2.50) are beautifully glazed without being overly sweet, and the Frijoles Negros (\$2) arrive by the abundant bowlful, fresh, well-seasoned, and just liquidy enough to ladle over the billowy rice.

With more than five types of Cuban sandwiches to choose from, and three times as many combinations of meat, cheeses and condiments, any starving meat-eater will leave full and satisfied.

The El Super Cubano (\$7.95), with its Swiss cheese, ham, peppers, turkey, onions and mayonnaise was a little dry according to some of my companions, but others praised the mingling of sharp cheese and peppers.

The Pechugona (\$5.95) is a grilled chicken breast with onions, tomatoes and lettuce, and while it doesn't necessarily differ from your typical grilled chicken tossed

between two slices of bread, the accompanying plantain chips and spicy seasonings make it a unique choice.

The immense list of entrees range from chicken, pork and beef, to seafood, the last of which proved the most promising.

I loved the Filete de Pargo Emanizado (\$10.95), Red Snapper breaded with chile, pepper and other grassy seasonings that held together the shining white flakes of fish. The coating was thick but hardly oily, and the accompanying plantains and black beans lent a sweet and tropical flavor to the succulent meat.



The Cuban Shrimp Creole (\$13.95) was delicious in its glossy, hot tomato base. The shrimp curled thickly, allowing the sauce to cling to each bite, and the fried green plantains were a nice switch from the sweeter variety we had indulged in for appetizers and side dishes galore.

The Palomilla (\$10.95), or Sirloin Steak, was well-cooked and the hint of peppery sauce kept the meat moist and tender.

Throughout the meal, our server passed by busily inquiring after our needs. No matter how many parties came streaming through door, someone always managed to refill a water glass or replenish our bread within minutes.

For dessert, Cafe Piquet offers the customary Flan (\$3) and Tres Leches (\$3). However, I recommend trying the hard-to-find Batidos, the Latino version of the smoothie. These shakes are usually thinner than the concoctions from smoothie chains, and use fresher, more tropical fruits.

The passion fruit, mango, banana or papaya options create a perfect finish to a that meal delivers all of the goods, without forcing the frills.

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FOOD FILE

Food:

Service:

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"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER

"I never could make too much distinction between men and women. I really couldn't. I was always amazed at the depth of my own feelings. I don't even want to use the term bisexual. Because it seems weaselly. It's a weasel word! And I'm not gonna categorize myself. Because I might change my mind tomorrow. But I don't care if other people do. I've had a lot of sniping and gossip and rumor and damaging things said about me since I became a public person. That's the fate of public people."

—Syndicated gossip columnist Liz Smith (right) to *New York* magazine, Sept. 25



"The Coca-Cola Company has not directly purchased advertising on the Dr. Laura television show, either nationally or locally, and the show is not part of our planned buy for 2000. Any Coca-Cola advertising that viewers may have seen on the show was placed in error by a local television station. We have instructed the local television stations where we advertise to adhere strictly to our media plan."

—Company statement, Sept. 22

"There are five classes of [gay] people [in China]. The lowest are those who have sex in the public toilets—you don't even have to know each others' names. The second-lowest are those who meet in the public parks, like People's Square. The third are those who meet at 'midnight restaurants'—now there are none around—and the second are those who meet in bars. The highest class are those in a hotel room or apartment who live off Hong Kongese, Taiwanese, etc. People always stay in their class, or sometimes go a class below."

—Phill, "Shanghai's most visible gay," to *Inside China Today Daily News*, Sept. 22

"Like any gay man in America in my generation I grew up in an environment that was not gay-accepting, never mind gay-friendly. Somewhere early I knew who I was. I was a good person and it was [the homophobes] who were screwed up if they have a problem with me because of my sexual orientation. Shortly after coming to that conclusion pretty much nothing else mattered. I used my own insights for what was right for me and what was right period. I'm very comfortable with who I am."

—"Survivor" winner Richard Hatch (left) to Boston's *Bay Windows*, Sept. 21



"My being gay has never been an obstacle in anything I've ever done. It's always been an asset."

—"Survivor" winner Richard Hatch to the *Advocate*, Oct. 10

"Being able to say two plus two equals five (or woman + hormones + plastic surgery = man), and believing it when you say it, is the very evidence that Big Brother has got you by the tail."

—*Advocate* columnist Norah Vincent, Oct. 10

"In 1968 the Vietnam War was the main target of [Democratic convention] protesters. This year's demonstrations showcased a dazzling myriad of issues, including reproductive rights, child support, corporate globalization, capital punishment, racism, sexism, wages for housework, universal health care, nuclear abolition, welfare rights, media monopoly, gay rights, three-strikes laws, rain forests, wetlands, militarism, veterans' benefits, AIDS, immigration, disability rights, starvation, breast-feeding rights, genetic engineering... The unsung theme song of this movement has evolved from 'We shall Overcome' into 'We Shall Overlap.'"

—Paul Krassner (right), cofounder of the Youth International Party (the Yippies), writing in *George* magazine, October issue



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saturday, October 14

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.
Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.
AssistHers. In Service. 713-521-4628.

sunday, october 15

Common Group (formerly New Hope Christian Center) Worship Service. 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.
Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
PFLAG-Woodlands. Support/social group. 2 p.m. 713-867-9020.

monday, october 16

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.
gayDAR. Wellness community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Black Lesbian & Gay Coalition meeting. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, october 17

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

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calendar

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. 713-410-7215.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Lesbian Island Association meeting. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

wednesday, october 18

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • 713-524-3818.
 Men's Mixer. Center for AIDS. 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.
 Houston Council of Clubs. Monthly meeting. Mary's. 8 p.m.

thursday, october 19

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

Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer 713-526-1118.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Mixed Gender Discussion Group of Bi-Net Houston. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818
 EC Houston. Pro-Gay. Pro-Christian Bible study & fellowship. 1-800-310-6718 or Houstonec@hotmail.com.
 Houston Metropolitan Dance Company. Fundraiser. 6 p.m. 713-693-2658.

friday, october 20

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. Movie Night. 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Mishpach Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

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

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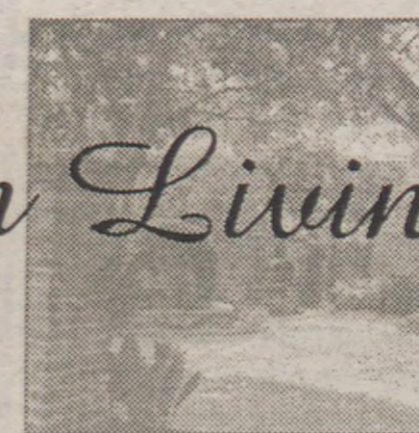


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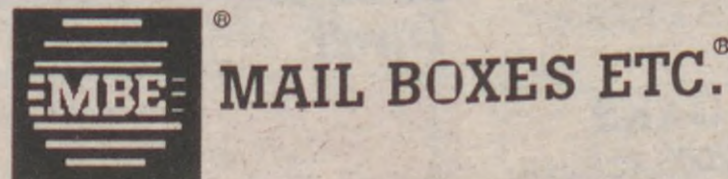
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Sat, Oct. 14, 10am-5pm
1806 W. Bell St., Dunlavy & West Gray area. 713.526.4664

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Youth Empowerment Advocates of Houston, an outreach center for homeless youth, is seeking the following donations: Clothing • Hygiene supplies • Towels • Books • Videos • Backpacks • Call Brian Jones 713.523.9324
Houston Women's Festival • Saturday, Oct. 28 at Garden in the Heights • Music • Art • Marketplace • Community • See www.hwfestival.org • Or call 713.861.3316

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Apartment: Lindale Park on the Northside inside the loop • 2Br/1Ba • Over 1000 square feet • New paint • New blinds • Washer & dryer included • \$550 • 1 Month security deposit • 281.660.9182 Steve

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\$475 + 1/2 electric • GM seeks N/S responsible, professional M/F • You get the master bedroom in large 2/2 townhouse • Fairview, West of Montrose • Central A/H • Washer/dryer • 2 Assigned parking spots • 713.526.3163

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The Lean On Me Foundation

Individuals who are experiencing the effects of HIV/AIDS fight a tireless battle proudly and diligently on a daily basis. Many organizations in Houston have responded to this devastating disease by providing funds and services for affected persons. Tens of thousands of workers and volunteers are involved in this effort, exemplifying the spirit of caring and compassion for others.

Founded in 1994, The Lean On Me Foundation is a group of men and women deeply concerned about the needs of people afflicted with HIV/AIDS. A non-profit organization, the foundation is comprised of volunteers proud to contribute time, effort, and financial support to help combat this serious disease and help ease the burden of those suffering from it.

On October 15, 2000, The Lean On Me Foundation will host its Autumn Show, "Reflections." Featuring a cast of dedicated entertainers, this special event will include a silent auction and support The Lean On Me Foundation's work on behalf of those with HIV/AIDS.

The City of Houston salutes The Lean On Me Foundation on the auspicious occasion and extends best wishes to all for a successful and rewarding event.

Therefore, I Lee P. Brown, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim October 15, 2000, as

The Lean On Me Foundation Day

in Houston, Texas.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 28th day of September, 2000, A.D.

Lee P. Brown
Lee P. Brown
Mayor of the City of Houston

houston voice

Classified Order Form Fax: 713-529-9531, Phone: 713-529-8490

TO PLACE AN AD:

IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5:30 pm) 500 Lovett, suite 200. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX., 77006. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 713-529-8490.

BY FAX: Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 713-529-9531. **BY E-MAIL:** feedback@houstonvoice.com

AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation.

Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines

- HIV Services & Education
- Volunteers
- Non-Profit Organizations
- *First 20 words

INDIVIDUAL RATE \$7:

- Announcements
- Auditions
- Employment-Seeking
- Pets-Free or Lost & Found
- Roommates
- Personal Websites

BUSINESS RATE \$15:

- Auto Repair
- Business Opportunities
- Entertainment
- Help Wanted
- Help Wanted-Seeking
- Home Improvement
- Items For Sale
- Licensed Massage
- Moving Services
- Professional Services
- Real Estate For Rent
- Real Estate For Sale

Call 713-529-8490 for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

CATEGORY: _____ # OF ISSUES: _____

Giant or Bold Headline - Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST
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Up to 20 words for \$7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: 7.00

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my AMEX MC VISA

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____

Signature _____

Occasions

Birthdays

CCCC Members Craig S., & Frank W. rev up their birthday engines this week.

Birthday boy Chi Chi, who still looks great in tight jeans, celebrates his birthday on Oct. 13.

Bet Lady B will be having a cocktail or 20 on his Oct. 14 birthday.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard volunteer Tom Jones dials his birthday up a year on Oct. 14.

Coleman toasts in his birthday on Oct. 18.

Sir, yes, Sir. Have a happy birthday, Sir. Dennis Watson whips in his birthday on Oct. 15. Sir, thank you, Sir.

Queen Olympus XXX adds another jewel to his birthday crown on Oct. 16.

Kim Ziggler of Black Hawk Leathers will have a spankin' good time on his Oct. 18 birthday. Sir, thank you, Sir. Sir, may I have another, Sir?

Unions

Weldon H. and Sands S. celebrate 23 years together on Oct. 19.



Congrats to Club Rainbow owners Lynn Allen and Alexis Wasifuddin on their holy union on October 9, 2000.



Scruffy is the pet of Stacey Unger. Scruffy is a sweet, loyal, and loving Silky Terrier. She has fabulous grandparents who adore her, too!

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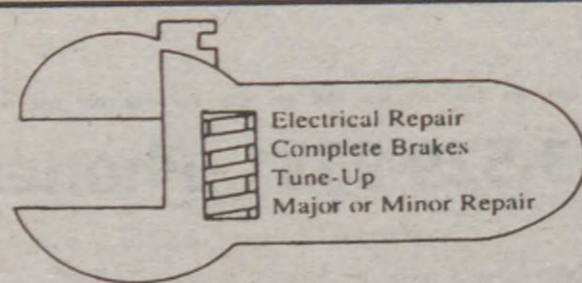
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- Tire rotation & balance
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- Wiper & washer service

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- Disc & drum service
- ABS diagnosis/repair
- Brake fluid service
- Master cylinders
- Air bag service

Engine/Exhaust

- Oil leak diagnosis
- Timing belt replacement
- Head gasket service
- Engine service
- Exhaust service
- Catalytic converter replacement

A/C Efficiency Services

- Leak diagnosis
- Water pumps & radiators
- Belts & hoses service
- Cooling system flush
- A/C system service
- Heater & thermostat

Suspension System

- Complete alignment service
- Strut & shocks service
- Steering components replacement
- CV boot & front axles
- Transmission & clutch service
- Rack & pinion service

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- Fuel injection service
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by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



October 13 - 19



ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

It's time to stake your claim at work and let everybody know you're still the boss. Don't take orders blindly or follow the beaten path, but don't let your temper get the best of you, either. Instead of angsty over a Capricorn, live your own life and live it fully. When you get a life, you get good lovin', too.



TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Saturn slips back into your sign in mid-October, which means that you can afford to toughen up and take charge of your career. If there's an idea that's been sticking in your craw for a while, follow up and see where it takes you. Another Taurus wants to star in a buddy movie with you. A car is a must. Clothes are optional.



GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

While the Sun is highlighting your creativity, pick one major project that means the world to you and take concrete steps to bring it to fruition. Jupiter ensures that timing is on your side, so please, don't be your own worst enemy. A Cancer can handle your success—can you?



CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Make your important decisions on Oct. 18 and 19, when your ruler, the moon, will be looking out for you. Instinct over experts, please. You may have to play the role of 40 lovers in order to satisfy your partner and yourself. A Pisces likes it when you think on your feet—and on your back.



LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

The effects of stationary Saturn in your friendship house can still be felt during the week of the 16th. Take one small baby step toward a friend who you've been having a hard time dealing with (or vice versa). Get over your pride and bore your friends silly with details of all your troubles. An Aquarius is unshockable.



VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Put some energy into your home and your roots will deepen, not just in your condo, but in your key relationships. You need to chill out and enjoy your own idiosyncrasies instead of trying to be so damned balanced. A Gemini wants to get closer to you.



LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Put your ear to the pavement and really listen hard to hear what's coming your way. The key to joy and triumph during mid-October is being in step with what's going on around you. Put your money down on 27 red, or wherever you think you'll get the biggest payoff. A Sag relates to the latent gambler in you.



SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

While Mercury's retrograde in your money house, you better pay your bills and watch your spending. You may have too many romantic options right now, you debaucherous creature, you. It may be time to ask yourself what you're really afraid of. Another Scorpio wants to go all the way with you.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

You may have to walk away from a relationship that has been fraught with confusion, pain and frustration. If there's love there, you'll connect again when you're ready. Mars at the top of your chart is encouraging you to take risks in your work. Take on energy from a new Leo in your life.



CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

This is your time to make a decision, but not necessarily to act on it. When Venus slips into your mystical and dreamy twelfth house on Oct. 19, you may find yourself longing for a lost love. Decide if you're in or out and if this is a fantasy or a reality. A Libra is just as unsure as you are.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

This could be the perfect time for a spontaneous vacation. When it comes to friends and group experiences, this is a time of drama, which rhymes with trauma. Confusing? This ain't the half of it, dearie. You're going to have to make a special effort to communicate clearly with an Aries.



PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Mars in your opposite sign may make you horny as a cat on a hot tin roof and as lovelorn as a gay teen in the '50s. With Mercury retrograde, you may have to bide your time till the shady planet goes direct (on Nov. 8). A Leo could comfort you and thrill you.

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

SPA

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"A vibrant blaze of movement." - Chicago Tribune

This dazzling company inspired the polished spectacular *Riverdance*. But with a dozen world champions of Irish dance, this surprisingly contemporary company revels in a freshness that's full of Irish charm.

Friday, October 20, 2000, Jones Hall, 8:00 p.m.

For program notes visit our website at www.spahouston.org



ARTS TALK 30 minutes prior to curtain

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