



HOUSTON

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Delta Queen
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MARCH 27, 1998 • www.houstonvoice.com • ISSUE 909



Agnostic twins Michael (left) and William Randall, both 16, joined a gay scout leader in lawsuits challenging Boy Scout exclusion of atheists, agnostics and gays.

California court says Boy Scouts can exclude gays

San Francisco—Split decisions by courts in two states won't slow the 17-year-old legal battle over including gays in the Boy Scouts, according to advocates on both sides of the debate.

In a pair of rulings earlier this week, the California Supreme Court ruled the Scouts don't fall under the state's civil rights law and can exclude gays, agnostics and atheists.

The rulings contradict a March 2 decision issued by a New Jersey appellate court that said the Scouts and their local councils were "places of accommodation" with open membership and were covered by that state's civil rights laws.

A higher court will have to move to end the legal wrangling, according to parties on both sides, each of which claimed victory in the wake of the contrasting decisions.

The national Boy Scouts spokesman, Gregg Shields, said Tuesday that his group is elated with the court's decision.

"For 88 years we have brought the moral values of the Scout Oath and Law to American boys, helping them to achieve the objectives of Scouting. Since our founding in 1910, the BSA has been a voluntary association, and those who meet the standards of membership are welcome," Shields said.

Gay rights groups say their battle with the Boy Scouts is far from over.

"We are hopeful that cases continuing across the country will ultimately topple the Boy Scouts of America's anti-gay policy," said Evan Wolfson, senior staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education

See **BOY SCOUTS/** page 12

Judge blocks gay rights order

By CHRIS CRAIN

A judge has blocked the city, at least temporarily, from enforcing Mayor Lee Brown's executive order banning discrimination against lesbians and gays in city government.

State District Judge Patrick W. Mizell agreed with conservative City Council member Rob Todd and anti-gay activist Richard Hotze that Brown lacks authority under the city charter to impose such an order. But Mizell also found that Hotze lacks standing to pursue the case, leaving Todd as the lone plaintiff.

"We are disappointed with Judge Mizell's ruling," Brown said. "We continue to believe that our interpretation is correct, that the mayor has the power to issue executive orders." The Mayor has been briefed by city attorneys on the issue, and although no decision has been announced about whether the judge's order will be appealed, one local gay rights leader said one was in the works.

"It is my understanding that the city attorney is planning to appeal," said Bagby, president of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.

Bagby said it was clear to him that the lawsuit, and the judge's ruling, had more to do with politics than the law.

"Clearly this decision is politically motivated and a temporary setback in the drive by Mayor Brown and the rest of the community to end discrimination against city employees," said Clarence

Bagby said that Judge Mizell is well-known in conservative circles and has contributed in the past to the influential right-wing political action committee headed up by political consultant Stephen Hotze, Richard Hotze's brother.

Matthew Eastus, an openly gay attorney with the firm of Baker & Botts and Mayor Brown's newly-appointed gay liaison, would not divulge advice he



Conservative City Council member Rob Todd (left) came out the winner in Friday's ruling, while claims by anti-gay activist Richard Hotze were dismissed from the case.

gave the Mayor on last Friday's ruling, nor would he criticize Mizell or his decision.

"Judge Mizell is a smart judge," Eastus said. "He worked at Vinson and Elkins. I can't really speak for his entire legal analysis because I'm not the Mayor's attorney, and I have not reviewed all the briefs."

Eastus did express concern that any appeal by the Mayor would go before appellate judges with politically conservative reputations.

Lesbian Council member Annise Parker said she was "not particularly surprised" by the ruling and stopped short of accusing Judge Mizell of bowing to conservative supporters.

"Since we elect our judges, something I've always been opposed to, there's a possibility that politics entered into it," said Parker, and she noted that Mizell set the trial in the case for election-eve, November 1988, eight months away even though very few facts are in dispute.

Brown signed the order in January, fulfilling a campaign pledge to ban discrimination in city government on the basis of sexual orientation.

Although criticized by some City Council conservatives, Brown's idea had the support of a council majority if he decided to seek an anti-discrimination ordinance. But Brown issued an executive order, instead.

Mizell said the charter authorizes only the council and the Civil Service Commission to make rules regarding discrimination, not the mayor.

But city attorneys argued that the commission usually hears grievances and protects employee rights without functioning as a rule-making body.

Mizell's order rejected such claims, noting "the historical practice of the city does not alter the plain language of the charter."

See **RULING/** page 12

Mayor appoints first-ever gay liaison

Selection of relative unknown raises eyebrows among community leaders

by J.C. MICHELAK

Delivering on a key campaign promise to the gay and lesbian community, Mayor Lee P. Brown has selected Matthew Eastus as his administration's liaison to the gay community.

Eastus confirmed his appointment during an interview with the *Houston Voice* and answered concerns from some in the gay community about why the Mayor would appoint a relative unknown to the unpaid advisory position.

An attorney with large Houston law firm of Baker & Botts, Eastus by his own admission has not had significant leadership involvement in the gay community since mov-

ing to the Bayou City in September 1992, but he sees his neophyte status is a plus.

"One of the reasons why the mayor selected me as that I'm not—and Annise Parker has admitted this—particularly an activist or known as an activist in the community at this stage of my life, so I'm not particularly beholden to any particular group," Eastus said.

He said he plans to meet with leaders from the gay community and the city itself. "I'm going to try to meet with the police chief, the fire chief and the councilman whose territory covers Montrose

and get to know them, so that if they have gay issues, perhaps if they want to get the mayor's ear, or get the message to the mayor, I can convey that," Eastus said.

The mayor has already indicated he would call Eastus when faced with gay-related legislation, said Eastus. "He may ask for my perspective. At the same time, I'm not going to just rely on my own instincts, although I certainly will to some degree, but I'm going to consult with the leaders of the community where it's appropriate."

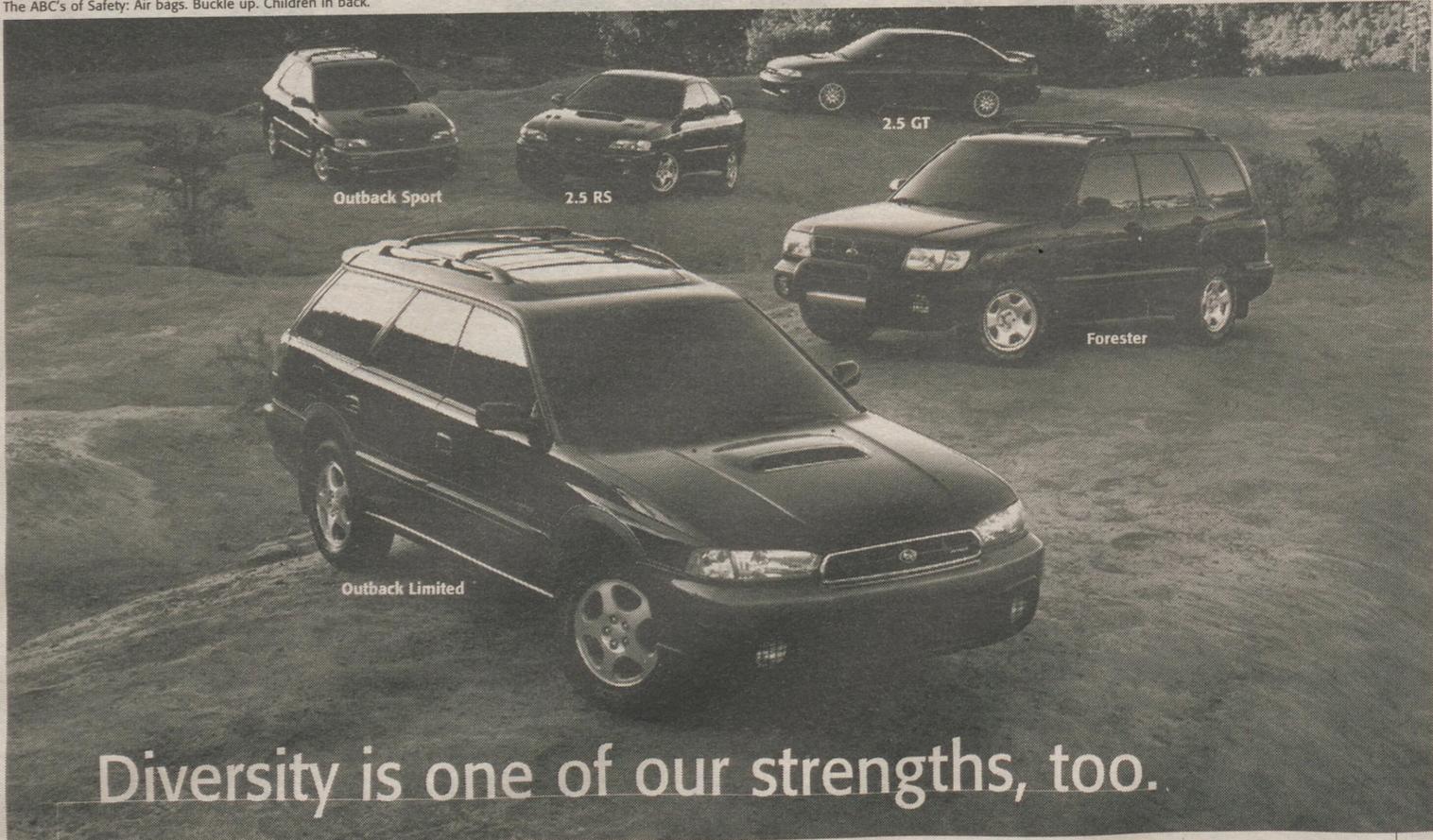
Officials from the mayor's office referred phone calls about the



See **LIAISON/** page 12

Newly-appointed gay liaison Matthew Eastus

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LOCAL

Diana Awards bring Hollywood glitz to Houston

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

The hotly anticipated 44th Annual Diana Awards—affectionately known as the "Dianas"—are set for this Saturday, and Houston's upwardly mobile lesbians and gay men will be donning the formal attire for the annual spoof of the Academy Awards.

Houston's oldest organized social fundraiser, the Dianas were formally established in 1953 by gay socialites Charles Hebert, Tom Adams, and David Moncrief as an Academy Awards party at Moncrief's house. What began as a get-together of 8 or 10 friends has since evolved into a massive social event, topping 1,000 guests at the now-defunct Tower Theater, as recently as the early '80s.

Today, the Diana Awards are anchored at well-established, upper middle-class haunts like the illustrious Houston Club and the Colombe d'Or Hotel Ballroom. This year's ceremony will take place at the Four Seasons downtown, with ticket sales and invitations limited to about 300 guests.

Winners of five or six "spoof" awards like "Best Supported Actor" (for those best "kept") and "Best Production" (for the worst decorating) are kept secret until the night of the event. Local socialites who've committed scandalous acts over the last 12 months are usually targeted as award recipients. In high gay style, genders are reversed in each category, with women receiving the actor awards and men receiving the actress honors.

One serious award, the prestigious Diana Award, is announced early in the evening. This year's recipient is gay-friendly State Rep. Debra Danburg. "I am absolutely thrilled," Danburg said in an interview from her Houston offices. "This is a very high honor from lots of old, dear, and long-time friends, as well as a lot of new people in our neighborhoods."

How did the acclaimed Diana Foundation get its name?

"The Dianas gets its name from the Roman goddess Diana, the goddess of the hunt," said Ogden Robertson, Diana Awards Board 2nd Vice President. "It's a parody on the sexual hunt of how gay men look for sex."

Robertson has been active with the organization since the '60s. He said it outgrew its strictly social function in the late '60s and began over the decades to focus its financial resources on Houston's gay rights movement and the AIDS crisis.

"When Anita Bryant came along, we began giving money to the Gay Political Caucus [in Houston]," said Robertson. "When AIDS came along in the 1980s, we started giving our money to AIDS charities."

The Diana Foundation will award this year's proceeds to the Assistance Fund, a local charity that pays health insurance premiums for HIV patients who need to maintain quality health care and freedom from county services.

"Through 10 years of friendship, the Diana Foundation and many of its individual members have contributed to the Assistance Fund," said Marion E. Coleman, fund-raising chairperson for the Diana Foundation and past Diana Award recipient. "This year, we are raising funds through a raffle and an auction for a seven-day Norwegian cruise the night of the event."

But the Diana Foundation has had a few interesting fund-raising asides, according to Robertson.

"One year, some members had a pri-



The glamour of Dianas past.

vate fund-raiser to give [one our frequent female entertainers] a breast-implant job," he remembered. "She felt deficient 'cause some of the female impersonators in our shows had better looking breasts than her."

Besides the awards and fund-raising, the Diana Awards have a rich history of brilliant entertainment. Expertly crafted production numbers highlight Houston and regional entertainers who leave the town talking for months.

This year's entertainment features local singers and a female Streisand illusionist in a cabaret setting. Eight individual and group productions round out the evening.

"Cindy Harrelson, Woody Harrelson's

first cousin, is our Streisand illusionist," said Jerry Atwood, Music Director for the Diana Foundation and 1995 Diana Award recipient. "She has worked on cruise ships and at nightclubs in Puerto Rico which hire illusionists only."

Aubrey Bennie, Sharon Montgomery, Alec D' Storm, and Harrelson accompany Atwood with individual and group numbers. Said Atwood, "Aubrey [Cindy Harrelson's daughter] will make her Houston debut. She and Cindy make a flawless Celine Dion and Barbra Streisand combo."

D' Storm, a manager for JR's Bar and Grill, is a popular host of the nightclub's karaoke contest on Thursday nights

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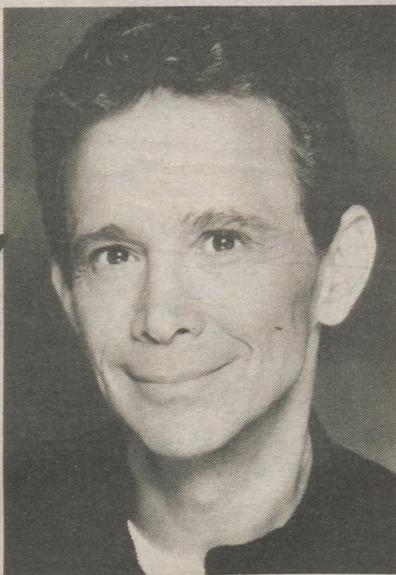
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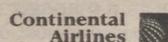
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May the Red Dot Boys paint a red dot on your barn?

by ELLA TYLER

Houston artists Rick Carpenter and Robert Ramos set off on a journey across rural America March 26, knocking on doors and asking permission to paint their now-famous red dots.

Carpenter is a sculptor, working in heavy metal. As we sat amid chunks of metal and welding equipment in his studio overlooking a grassy slope to a bayou, he told the story of the red dots.

"Robert and I went to Auburn, Kansas, to help my twin brother build an addition to his house," Carpenter says. "It's a very small town—70 miles from the nearest gay bar—and after three weeks, we got bored. My brother had given me a hoop that had been the rim for a wooden buggy wheel, and we decided to use it to paint a dot on the barn."

The red dot itself has no symbolic meaning, according to Carpenter.

"My brother's new puppy is named Red, because our dad had a bottle of red nail polish in his truck—we don't know why—the day they went to pick out a puppy," Carpenter laughs. "They were too little to be weaned, so they marked the puppy they wanted with the red nail polish."

The dot was a surprise to Rick's brother and sister-in-law. He sent them to town and painted it while they were gone. They liked it, and so did the neighbors.

"A few days later, we went to town and were inundated with questions. What did it mean? Why did we put it there? It was exciting to hear these farmers talking about art, instead of weather and crops," Carpenter says.

"Even though the landscape is very dramatic, there is no public art in rural areas. On our trip home, we stopped at a few places and volunteered to paint dots. A few people let us," he remembers.

Back home in Houston, Carpenter and Ramos painted a few dots for friends. Lou Vanek, Carpenter's lover, allowed one to be painted on his refinishing shop at Waugh and Fairview.

Gene Harrington, an owner of several Carpenter sculpture pieces, ordered one for his turquoise house near the University of Houston. There are now 16 in the Houston area, mostly in the Montrose and downtown areas. The Art League has one and the Museum of Fine Arts has one on the fence surrounding the new construction, Carpenter says.

All the dots are identical, 53" in diameter, using the template made from the old carriage wheel, and all are true red. The dots are placed to balance the architecture and scenery and accent both, Carpenter says. "It's interesting how different the dots look depending on where they are placed."

Carpenter did not deny rumors that the "Red Dot Boys"—as he and Ramos have become known—work their magic in the nude.

"Robert does like to take his clothes off," Carpenter grins, "so one day when we were painting a shed in Liberty for a friend's aunt, I told him he could drop his pants for the picture we take at the end. I had the owner stand off to the side, so she wouldn't see him, but she turned her head and saw Robert."

Carpenter said the lady said nothing, "but she insisted I take her picture by herself, and when I snapped the picture, she flashed me the bird. Then she



Rick Carpenter shows off Red Dot No. 1, painted on a barn in Auburn, Kansas.

fed us the best meal I've ever eaten."

"Absolutely not," Carpenter answers when asked if he, too, ever took his clothes off on the job.

"We won't be doing nudity on this trip," Carpenter laughs. "We don't want to offend anyone and, besides, it's still cold up there."

The trip begins in San Francisco, where one dot adorns the gable of a house overlooking Castro, but no dots will be painted there on this trip. "Robert drove to San Francisco last week, and as soon as I fly in, we head off for Klamath Falls, Oregon," Carpenter says.

After a brief stop in Portland, the "Red Dot Tour 98" will take back roads in a semi-circle through Idaho, Nebraska, Illinois and go as far east as Welch, West Virginia. From there, the Red Dot boys head home in time for his lover's birthday. The trip will cover about 500 miles a day.

Some of the dots to be painted on the tour have already been commissioned, but in some towns, Carpenter and Ramos will have to knock on doors. "We have a silo in Nebraska, which I'm excited about, because we've never painted on anything round," Carpenter says.

A recent mention on Paul Harvey's popular radio spot may make it easier to find sites, says Carpenter.

"My father never recognized me as a professional artist until he heard that show," Carpenter laughs. "He called and says, '(Paul Harvey) didn't say your names, but I knew who he was taking about. You're famous.'" Rick reported.

Asked what the dots mean, Carpenter says they are in the eye of the beholder.

"Different things to different people. Some people think they're a red pool of anger, some people think they're the dot that Eastern Indian women wear on the foreheads, and others think they're a bulls-eye," Carpenter says. "People have their own ideas and are always surprised when someone sees a different meaning."

Pressed for a personal meaning, Carpenter demurs.

"It's personal. I keep it to myself," he says. "Of course, in the art world, a red dot means a work is sold."

Ramos and Carpenter do not charge for the dots in rural areas. The trip is funded by gifts from people who have bought Carpenter's sculptures and Ramos' multi-media paintings.

"We sent a letter to our patrons and got an incredible response," says Carpenter. "Nearly 80 percent of the people we wrote sent checks to help pay our expenses for the trip."

There will be a show of the photographs of the dots and comments about them in Houston this summer. For information about the progress of the tour, check out their web-site at www.brokersys.com/~reddot.

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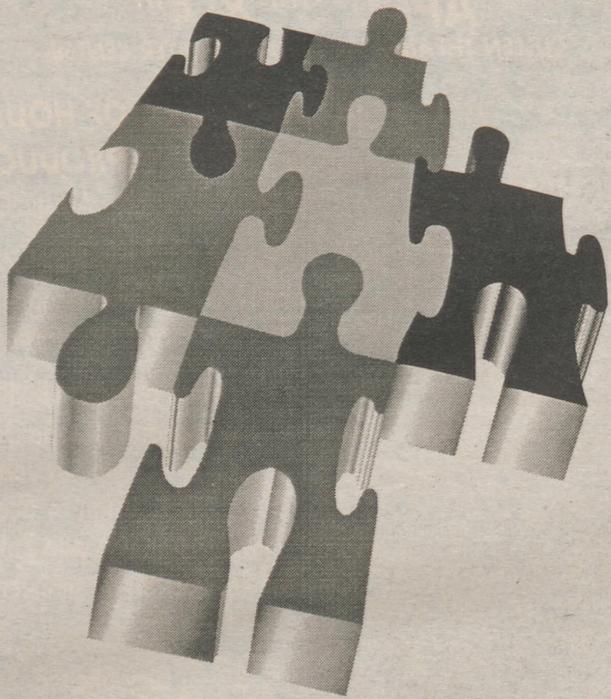
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TransGenderFest bridges gap to 'fringe'

For those who view the life of transgendered persons as "fringe culture," a set of exhibits to be presented by DiverseWorks that are intended to offer a clearer understanding of "a complex fringe culture that is frightening and risky, and yet, filled with awakening humanity."

TransGenderFest unfolds, over a three-day weekend, kicking off Friday, April 3 at 8 p.m. with "Body Alchemy," a slide show presentation by photographer Loren Cameron. Cameron, who is a female-to-male transsexual, will offer intimate portraits of the "transformational rite of passage" from a woman to a man.

A variety of 12-minute pieces make up "Smashing Assumptions," the program set for Saturday, April 4 at 8 p.m. Included are performances, new writings, and video shorts challenging the boundaries of gender, including works by Tee Sullivan, Lisa Jacobs, and Daniell Christian McCleney of Houston, Tom Kinney of Dallas, Horatio 68 of Costa Rica, J.R. Schoubroek of Waller, Tex.

TransGenderFest concludes with the award-winning documentary "You Don't Know Dick," on Sunday, April 5 at 7 p.m. The film, by Candace Schenmerhorn and Bestor Cram, is a 75-minute look at women who have chosen to change their gender and become men, embarking on a struggle to recover dignity and an identity denied them.



Self Portrait by Loren Cameron

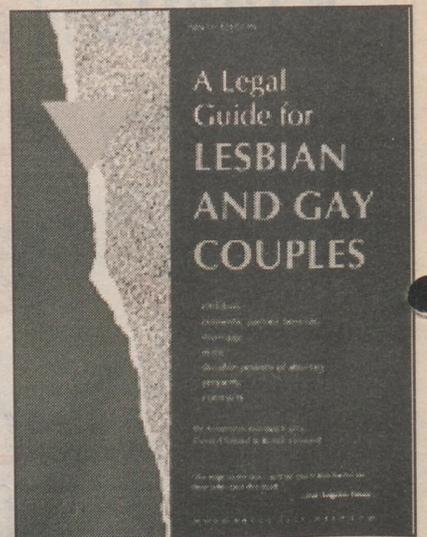
What: TransGenderFest
When: April 3-5
Where: DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, Houston
How Much: \$20 for three-day pass
Contact: (713) 228-0914 (tickets)

Gay Men's Chorus Offers Evening of Romance

It's spring! It's love! It's natural! The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, under the artistic direction of Dr. J. David Faber, continues its season of travel with "Sing of Love," a whirlwind excursion into passion and romance from historic Lambert Hall in the Heights.

Soloists, small ensembles, and the full chorus will guide the tour through the monuments of love—emotion, physical attraction, passion for freedom and heritage, and devotion to the eternal.

In the first act, the audience sails to the continent for French and Italian romantic and Renaissance selections, heads back to familiar soil with an exuberant set of African-American spirituals, then glides into port for the world premier of a new work by



This self-help guide for gay and lesbian couples may be one of 80 under investigation for improperly offering legal advice.

Gay Self-Help Book Publisher Investigated by Texas Supreme Court

Austin—The Texas Supreme Court will hold a hearing later this year to determine whether a publisher's self-help books and software—including a legal guide for gay couples—in the state of Texas involve the unauthorized practice of law.

A spokesperson for Nolo Press says the company is under scrutiny by the high court's Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, which enforces the Depression-era consumer protection law.

The court has not specified which of Nolo's more than 80 books and software for sale in the state is under investigation, or what the consequences will be if Nolo is found to have violated the law. Nolo Press, founded in 1971, styles itself as America's pioneer publisher of self-help law books and software, including the "Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples."

"Nolo sees itself as a publisher of basic legal tools and information designed to allow Americans—many of whom can't afford to pay lawyers upwards of \$175 an hour—to gain the information necessary to cope with their everyday legal problems," said Ralph Warner, co-founder and publisher of Nolo Press.

Warner said he fears the Texas investigation is the first step toward widespread state censorship. "In a nation founded on the idea that citizens have a right to directly participate in all three branches of government, it seems ludicrous for Texas to consider restricting access to the very tools that allow this to happen," he said.

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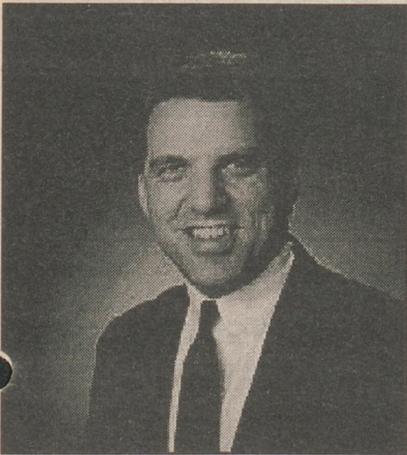
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Presbyterians Keep Ban on Gay Ministers

New York—The nation's largest Presbyterian denomination has rejected a proposal to overturn a 10-month-old church law that effectively bars ordination of openly practicing homosexuals, the New York Times reported today. The controversial Amendment B, adopted last June, states that any person ordained as a minister, elder or deacon must refrain from sexual activity outside marriage.



Rev. Jack Haberer opposed church roles for gays.

In a series of votes since October, a majority of regional bodies of the 2.6 million-member Presbyterian Church (USA) turned down a broader statement that would have asked ministers, elders and deacons to "demonstrate fidelity and integrity in marriage or singleness and in all relationships of life," church officials told the newspaper. The Rev. Jack Haberer, a Houston minister who is moderator of the Presbyterian Coalition, which supports Amendment B, said the voting showed the "center of the church" believed that "sex belongs inside a marriage, and we want our leaders to model that."

D.C. Youth Pride Attacked By Camille Paglia

Washington—Author Camille Paglia issued a blistering attack on DC Youth Pride, and the youth group says it is shocked and saddened by Paglia's attack. Writing in her "Ask Camille" column, which appears in the on-line magazine Salon, Paglia accused DC Youth Pride of being part of "the Trojan Horse of gay activism, which is being dragged into high schools under the false flag of compassion." Paglia also opposed regulating anti-gay speech in high schools, writing that "verbal epithets, however offensive or hurtful, have First Amendment protection." She also expressed doubt about claims that gay youth are more likely to commit suicide. "We are absolutely stunned by Paglia's attack on us," said Chris Dyer, chair of DC Youth Pride. "We're simply providing a positive escape, where kids can learn to respect themselves and each other, gay, straight or anywhere in between."



Camille Paglia

In a letter sent to Paglia, Dyer defended his organization and asked Paglia to apologize for her remarks.

Homeless Man Given Award for Identifying Gay-Bashing Suspect

San Francisco—A homeless man has been honored for helping identify a suspect who allegedly beat to death a gay man outside a bar. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors gave awards March 16 to Michael Gillespie and two police inspectors who apprehended Edgar Mora of South San Francisco. Mora has been charged with murder in the Friday night beating and was charged with a special enhancement for allegedly committing a hate crime. Mora reportedly uttered anti-gay slurs before striking Brian Wilmes, 45, who hit his head on the concrete, lapsed into a coma and died

the next day. Mora also was charged with assault in an attack on a homeless man on March 13, the district attorney's office said. Prosecutors said they did not charge Mora with a hate-crime special circumstance, an allegation that could carry the death penalty. The special charge can be used only when a murder is motivated by racial hatred, not sexual orientation, said spokesman John Shanley. If he is convicted, the hate-enhancement clause could add three years to Mora's prison time.

For Help Beating Gay-Panic Defense

Martinez, Calif.—A prosecutor wants help from gay residents in San Francisco to refute a "gay-panic" defense strategy allegedly being used by the lawyer for a teenager charged with murder. In a letter to a San

Francisco gay newspaper, Contra Costa Deputy District Attorney Barry Grove urged witnesses to come forward with information about accused killer Joshua Puckett of Atascadero.

"There are people in (San Francisco's) Castro community who have valuable evidence relating to this case," Grove said Monday, adding he is looking for evidence that Puckett had previously engaged in gay sex. "I know for a fact there are people who could completely and unequivocally eradicate Puckett's gay panic defense."

Puckett, 18, is charged with the August murder of businessman Vitaly Poliakov. He has admitted to hitting the victim with a heavy glass bottle, but claims he acted in self-defense following the 29-year-old Russian immigrant's repeated homosexual advances. Puckett allegedly transported Poliakov's body to San Luis Obispo County, where he dumped it in a creek.

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Reggie White Slams Gays in Speech to Wis. Lawmakers

Madison, Wis.—Most people invited to speak to the Wisconsin Legislature give five minutes of pleasantries, get a few moments of applause and go home. Lawmakers weren't expecting the earful Reggie White had in store for them Wednesday.

They thought the Green Bay Packers star and ordained minister came to talk about his community work and a recent trip to Israel.

White did, but his nearly hour-long speech also included remarks on homosexuality, race and slavery that turned the Assembly's applause to stunned silence.

White said the United States has gotten away from God, in part by allowing homosexuality to "run rampant." Homosexuality is a sin, and the plight of gays and lesbians should not be compared to that of blacks, White

told lawmakers.

"Homosexuality is a decision, it's not a race," White said. "People from all different ethnic backgrounds live in this lifestyle. But people from all different ethnic backgrounds also are liars and cheaters and malicious and back-stabbing."

"This is the first time I've been at a loss for words," Assembly Minority Leader Walter Kunicki, D-Milwaukee, said after White's speech. "You can still tell from the tension in the room that much of this was offensive."

White was invited to speak by Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen, R-Waukesha. Jensen called White's comments about homosexuality "disappointing." Homosexuality is a genetic predisposition, not a decision, Jensen said.

Rep. Tammy Baldwin, a Madison Democrat and the Legislature's only openly gay member, said she disagreed with White's remarks, but as a lawmaker believed in putting aside personal feelings to promote a

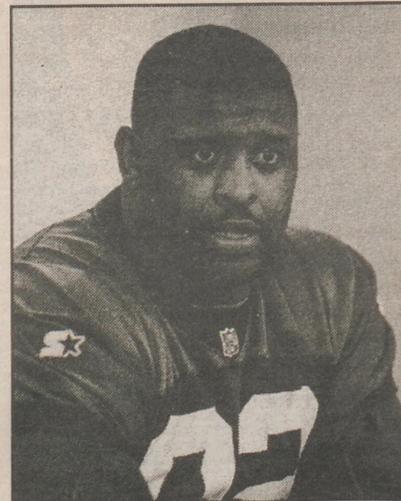
"Homosexuality is a decision, it's not a race"

"healthy debate."

CBS Sports spokeswoman Leslie Ann Wade declined to comment on White's speech or whether his remarks would affect his chances for a studio analyst's job. White has auditioned for a commentating job at the network.

CBS fired football analyst Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder in 1988 for saying that blacks had been "bred from slavery" to make better athletes. "CBS doesn't accept bias from any of its announcers of any kind," Wade said.

White declined to comment on whether he will leave the Packers before the 1998 season.



Reggie White said the plight of gays shouldn't be compared with that facing blacks.

Methodist Bishops Oppose Gay Marriage Despite Acquittal

The Nebraska bishop of the United Methodist Church wants a national church ruling on same-sex marriages in the wake of a pastor's acquittal last week for performing one. Bishop Joel Martinez wrote March 16 in a letter to Methodist pastors in Nebraska that the church jury's decision "speaks only for this particular case." Martinez wrote that if a pastor performed a similar same-sex covenanting service and a complaint was brought forward, he would process it in the same manner as before.

Martinez had warned the Rev. Jimmy Creech of Omaha that performing such a ceremony would violate church rules, and after Creech performed the ceremony in September for two women in his parish, Martinez suspended him. The Nebraska church's Committee on Investigation later ordered Creech to stand trial for violating the church's social principles. In his letter, Martinez said he will seek a ruling by the denomination's Judicial Council, which serves as a supreme court for the 9.5 million member church.

In the meantime, Methodist leaders in Georgia and North Carolina have reaffirmed the denomination's prohibition on gay marriage, despite the Nebraska ruling. North Carolina Bishop Marion M. Edwards said the United Methodist Church's General Conference, the worldwide body which speaks for the denomination, has clearly stated that the practice of homosexuality "is considered incompatible with Christian teachings."

Georgia's Methodist bishops echoed those sentiments. In a letter to church members, South Georgia Bishop Richard C. Looney and North Georgia Bishop G. Lindsey Davis wrote that, "like many of you, we are disappointed and troubled by the verdict of the Nebraska area jury." The bishops added that they would take "appropriate action" if a Methodist minister in Georgia blessed a same-sex union.

The bishops' letter wasn't enough for one of the state's largest United Methodist churches, which has decided to withhold \$58,427 from the national denomination to protest its stands on homosexuality and other social issues. The board of stewards of the First United Methodist Church of Marietta voted 142-58 Sunday to redirect the money to three north Georgia ministries.

"I doubt that this will be a wake-up call for the Methodist church," said the Marietta church's pastor, the Rev. Charles Sineath. "But we made this decision because we want our church to be restored to mainstream, classical, orthodox Christianity." The church has about 5,000 members.

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Marinol (dronabinol) is indicated for the treatment of:

1. anorexia associated with weight loss in patients with AIDS; and
2. nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conventional antiemetic treatments.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Marinol (dronabinol) is contraindicated in any patient who has a history of hypersensitivity to any cannabinoid or sesame oil.

WARNINGS

Marinol (dronabinol) is a medication with a potential for abuse. Physicians and pharmacists should use the same care in prescribing and accounting for Marinol as they would with morphine or other drugs controlled under Schedule II (CII) of the Controlled Substances Act. Because of the risk of diversion, it is recommended that prescriptions be limited to the amount necessary for the period between clinic visits.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

PRECAUTIONS

General: The risk/benefit ratio of Marinol (dronabinol) use should be carefully evaluated in patients with the following medical conditions because of individual variation in response and tolerance to the effects of Marinol.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with cardiac disorders because of occasional hypotension, possible hypertension, syncope, or tachycardia (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with a history of substance abuse, including alcohol abuse or dependence, because they may be more prone to abuse Marinol as well. Multiple substance abuse is common and marijuana, which contains the same active compound, is a frequently abused substance.

Marinol should be used with caution and careful psychiatric monitoring in patients with mania, depression, or schizophrenia because Marinol may exacerbate these illnesses.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients receiving concomitant therapy with sedatives, hypnotics or other psychoactive drugs because of the potential for additive or synergistic CNS effects.

Marinol should be used with caution in pregnant patients, nursing mothers, or pediatric patients because it has not been studied in these patient populations.

Marinol should be used with caution for treatment of anorexia and weight loss in elderly patients with AIDS because they may be more sensitive to the psychoactive effects and because its use in these patients has not been studied.

Information for Patients: Patients receiving treatment with Marinol (dronabinol) should be alerted to the potential for additive central nervous system depression if Marinol is used concomitantly with alcohol or other CNS depressants such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

Patients using Marinol should be advised of possible changes in mood and other adverse behavioral effects of the drug so as to avoid panic in the event of such manifestations. Patients should remain under the supervision of a responsible adult during initial use of Marinol and following dosage adjustments.

Drug Interactions: In studies involving patients with AIDS and/or cancer, Marinol (dronabinol) has been co-administered with a variety of medications (e.g., cytotoxic agents, anti-infective agents, sedatives, or opioid analgesics) without resulting in any clinically significant drug/drug interactions. Although no drug/drug interactions were discovered during the clinical trials of Marinol, cannabinoids may interact with other medications through both metabolic and pharmacodynamic mechanisms. Dronabinol is highly protein bound to plasma proteins, and therefore, might displace other protein-bound drugs. Although this displacement has not been confirmed *in vivo*, practitioners should monitor patients for a change in dosage requirements when administering dronabinol to patients receiving other highly protein-bound drugs. Published reports of drug/drug interactions involving cannabinoids are summarized in the following table.

CONCOMITANT DRUG	CLINICAL EFFECT(S)
Amphetamines, cocaine, other sympathomimetic agents	Additive hypertension, tachycardia, possibly cardiotoxicity
Atropine, scopolamine, anticholinergics, other anticholinergic agents	Additive or super-additive tachycardia, drowsiness
Amitriptyline, amoxapine, desipramine, other tricyclic antidepressants	Additive tachycardia, hypertension, drowsiness
Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, ethanol, lithium, opioids, buspirone, anticholinergics, muscle relaxants, other CNS depressants	Additive drowsiness and CNS depression
Disulfiram	A reversible hypomanic reaction was reported in a 28 y/o man who smoked marijuana; confirmed by dechallenge and rechallenge
Fluoxetine	A 21 y/o female with depression and bulimia receiving 20 mg/day fluoxetine X 4 wks became hypomanic after smoking marijuana; symptoms resolved after 4 days
Antipyrene, barbiturates	Decreased clearance of these agents, presumably via competitive inhibition of metabolism
Theophylline	Increased theophylline metabolism reported with smoking of marijuana; effect similar to that following smoking tobacco

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity studies have not been performed with dronabinol. Mutagenicity testing of dronabinol was negative in an Ames test. In a long-term study (77 days) in rats, oral administration of dronabinol at doses of 30 to 150 mg/m², equivalent to 0.3 to 1.5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, reduced ventral prostate, seminal vesicle and epididymal weights and caused a decrease in seminal fluid volume. Decreases in spermatogenesis, number of developing germ cells, and number of Leydig cells in the testis were also observed. However, sperm count, mating success and testosterone levels were not affected. The significance of these animal findings in humans is not known.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. Reproduction studies with dronabinol have been performed in mice at 15 to 450 mg/m², equivalent to 0.2 to 5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 1 to 30 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, and in rats at 74 to 295 mg/m² (equivalent to 0.8 to 3 times MRHD of 90 mg/m² in cancer patients or 5 to 20 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients). These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity due to dronabinol. At these dosages in mice and rats, dronabinol decreased maternal weight gain and number of viable pups and increased fetal mortality and early resorptions. Such effects were dose dependent and less apparent at lower doses which produced less maternal toxicity. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Dronabinol should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Use of Marinol is not recommended in nursing mothers since, in addition to the secretion of HIV virus in breast milk, dronabinol is concentrated in and secreted in human breast milk and is absorbed by the nursing baby.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse experiences information summarized in the tables below was derived from well-controlled clinical trials conducted in the US and US territories involving 474 patients exposed to Marinol (dronabinol). Studies of AIDS-related weight loss included 157 patients receiving dronabinol at a dose of 2.5 mg twice daily and 67 receiving placebo. Studies of different durations were combined by considering the first occurrence of events during the first 28 days. Studies of nausea and vomiting related to cancer chemotherapy included 317 patients receiving dronabinol and 68 receiving placebo.

A cannabinoid dose-related "high" (easy laughing, elation and heightened awareness) has been reported by patients receiving Marinol in both the antiemetic (24%) and the lower dose appetite stimulant clinical trials (8%) (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

The most frequently reported adverse experiences in patients with AIDS during placebo-controlled clinical trials involved the CNS and were reported by 33% of patients receiving Marinol. About 25% of patients reported a minor CNS adverse event during the first 2 weeks and about 4% reported such an event each week for the next 6 weeks thereafter.

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence greater than 1%.

Rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317). Rates were generally higher in the anti-emetic use (given in parentheses).

Body as a whole: Astenia.

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, vasodilation/facial flush.

Digestive: Abdominal pain*, nausea*, vomiting*.

Nervous system: (Amnesia), anxiety/nervousness, (ataxia), confusion, depersonalization, dizziness*, euphoria*, (hallucination), paranoid reaction*, somnolence*, thinking abnormal*.

*Incidence of events 3% to 10%

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence less than 1%.

Event rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317).

Cardiovascular: Conjunctivitis*, hypotension*.

Digestive: Diarrhea*, fecal incontinence.

Musculoskeletal: Myalgias.

Nervous system: Depression, nightmares, speech difficulties, tinnitus.

Skin and Appendages: Flushing*.

Special senses: Vision difficulties.

*Incidence of events 0.3% to 1%.

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN: Incidence less than 1%.

The clinical significance of the association of these events with Marinol treatment is unknown, but they are reported as alerting information for the clinician.

Body as a whole: Chills, headache, malaise.

Digestive: Anorexia, hepatic enzyme elevation.

Respiratory: Cough, rhinitis, sinusitis.

Skin and Appendages: Sweating.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Marinol (dronabinol) is one of the psychoactive compounds present in cannabis, and is abusable and controlled Schedule II (CII) under the Controlled Substances Act. Both psychological and physiological dependence have been noted in healthy individuals receiving dronabinol, but addiction is uncommon and has only been seen after prolonged high dose administration.

Chronic abuse of cannabis has been associated with decrements in motivation, cognition, judgement, and perception. The etiology of these impairments is unknown, but may be associated with the complex process of addiction rather than an isolated effect of the drug. No such decrements in psychological, social or neurological status have been associated with the administration of Marinol for therapeutic purposes.

In an open-label study in patients with AIDS who received Marinol for up to five months, no abuse, diversion or systematic change in personality or social functioning were observed despite the inclusion of a substantial number of patients with a past history of drug abuse.

An abstinence syndrome has been reported after the abrupt discontinuation of dronabinol in volunteers receiving dosages of 210 mg/day for 12 to 16 consecutive days. Within 12 hours after discontinuation, these volunteers manifested symptoms such as irritability, insomnia, and restlessness. By approximately 24 hours post-dronabinol discontinuation, withdrawal symptoms intensified to include "hot flashes", sweating, rhinorrhea, loose stools, hiccoughs and anorexia.

These withdrawal symptoms gradually dissipated over the next 48 hours. Electroencephalographic changes consistent with the effects of drug withdrawal (hyperexcitability) were recorded in patients after abrupt dechallenge. Patients also complained of disturbed sleep for several weeks after discontinuing therapy with high dosages of dronabinol.

OVERDOSAGE

Signs and symptoms following MILD Marinol (dronabinol) intoxication include drowsiness, euphoria, heightened sensory awareness, altered memory/perception, reddened conjunctiva, dry mouth and tachycardia; following MODERATE intoxication include memory impairment, depersonalization, mood alteration, urinary retention, and reduced bowel motility; and following SEVERE intoxication include decreased motor coordination, lethargy, slurred speech, and postural hypotension. Apprehensive patients may experience panic reactions and seizures may occur in patients with existing seizure disorders.

The estimated lethal human dose of intravenous dronabinol is 30 mg/kg (2100 mg/70 kg). Significant CNS symptoms in antiemetic studies followed oral doses of 0.4 mg/kg (28 mg/70 kg) of Marinol.

Management: A potentially serious oral ingestion, if recent, should be managed with gut decontamination. In unconscious patients with a secure airway, instill activated charcoal (30 to 100 g in adults, 1 to 2 g/kg in infants) via a nasogastric tube. A saline cathartic or sorbitol may be added to the first dose of activated charcoal. Patients experiencing depressive, hallucinatory or psychotic reactions should be placed in a quiet area and offered reassurance. Benzodiazepines (5 to 10 mg diazepam *po*) may be used for treatment of extreme agitation. Hypotension usually responds to Trendelenburg position and IV fluids. Pressors are rarely required.

DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

Appetite stimulation: Initially, 2.5 mg Marinol (dronabinol) should be administered orally twice daily (b.i.d.), before lunch and supper. For patients unable to tolerate this 5 mg/day dosage of Marinol, the dosage can be reduced to 2.5 mg/day, administered as a single dose in the evening or at bedtime. If clinically indicated and in the absence of significant adverse effects, the dosage may be gradually increased to a maximum of 20 mg/day Marinol, administered in divided oral doses. Caution should be exercised in escalating the dosage of Marinol because of the increased frequency of dose-related adverse experiences at higher dosages (see PRECAUTIONS).

Antiemetic: Marinol is best administered at an initial dose of 5 mg/m², given 1 to 3 hours prior to the administration of chemotherapy, then every 2 to 4 hours after chemotherapy is given, for a total of 4 to 6 doses/day. Should the 5 mg/m² dose prove to be ineffective, and in the absence of significant side effects, the dose may be escalated by 2.5 mg/m² increments to a maximum of 15 mg/m² per dose. Caution should be exercised in dose escalation, however, as the incidence of disturbing psychiatric symptoms increases significantly at maximum dose (see PRECAUTIONS).

SAFETY AND HANDLING

Marinol (dronabinol) should be packaged in a well-closed container and stored in a cool environment between 8° and 15°C (46° and 59°F). Protect from freezing. No particular hazard to health care workers handling the capsules has been identified.

Access to abusable drugs such as Marinol presents an occupational hazard for addiction in the health care industry. Routine procedures for handling controlled substances developed to protect the public may not be adequate to protect health care workers. Implementation of more effective accounting procedures and measures to appropriately restrict access to drugs of this class may minimize the risk of self-administration by health care providers.

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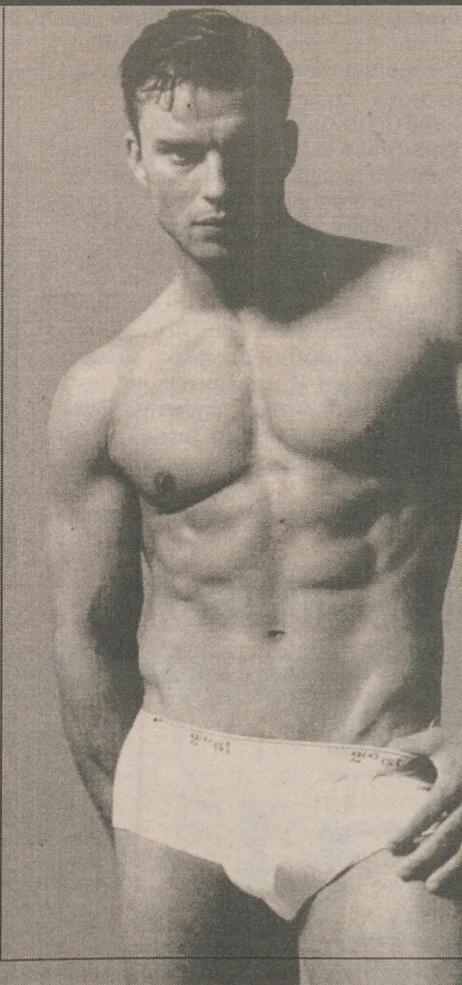


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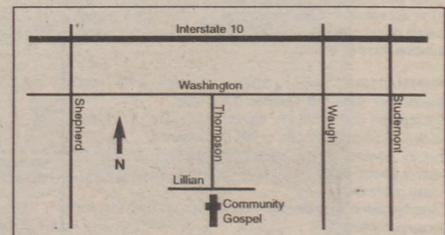
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ISSUE 909
MARCH 27, 1998

Established 1974 as the Montrose Star, reestablished 1980 as the Houston Montrose Star, Changed name to The Houston Voice in 1991 incorporating the New Orleans Crescent City Star, Reestablished as the Houston Voice by Thomas Nelson in 1993
811 Westheimer, Suite 105
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 529-8490
(800) 729-8490
Fax: (713) 529-9531
Email: editor@houstonvoice.com
feedback@houstonvoice.com
Contents copyright 1998
Office hours: 9:00am-5:30pm weekdays

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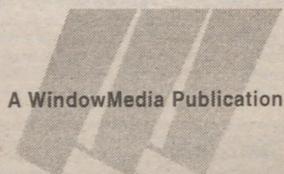
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EDITORIAL

Boy Scout victory snatched from jaws of 'defeat'

What if, by some strange twist of fate, last week's defeat in the California Supreme Court for a gay man who wanted to serve as an openly gay Boy Scout leader were actually a victory for gay civil rights?

And conversely, what if the triumphant win in the New Jersey Supreme Court last month for the openly gay, would-be Boy Scout leader were actually a set-back for the gay rights cause?

Unfortunately, these Orwellian outcomes are the reality. The legal battle against the Boy Scouts is by no means black-and-white, and ought never to have been initiated in the first place.

Both lawsuits were brought by gay men who wanted to serve as scout leaders, and they claimed that their exclusion by the Boy Scouts violated civil rights laws in California and New Jersey prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

In both cases, the civil rights laws covered discrimination in the operation of "public accommodations." Since the 1960s, these laws have been used to extend civil rights laws to otherwise private businesses, especially hotels, restaurants, and retail stores.

But clever lawyers also succeeded at having those laws apply to not-so-public operations, like private business clubs where admission often is the key to accessing the old-boy network that can make or break a professional career in many cities.

It is this "expanded" definition of "public accommodation" that the gay Scouts relied upon in their lawsuits. If Boy Scouts use public campgrounds and (sometimes) meeting places, and sell Scout products to raise money, then the Scouting organization is a "public accommodation" and cannot discriminate.

As a factual matter, the gay Scouts' claim is something of a stretch. As the California Chief Justice wrote, "Scouts meet regularly in small groups (often in private homes) that are intended to foster close friendship, trust and loyalty." A Scout troop is hardly akin to a Woolworth's lunch counter, and does not approach the economic prowess of an exclusive business club.

Even if you can swallow the Boy Scouts as a "public accommodation," there are serious constitutional issues raised by the gay Scouts' lawsuits. The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees "freedom of association," meaning that the government cannot pass laws that interfere with our right to create private associations that

include who we want, and exclude who we don't want.

By suing to require the Boy Scouts to accept gay Scouts and Scout leaders, the gay plaintiffs are using the heavy hand of the government to decide for the Boy Scouts with whom they will associate.

Would gay youth groups want no right to exclude from their membership some evangelical Christian teen or adult who firmly believes in religious conversion of sexual orientation, and preaches such to the organization's struggling young lesbians and gay men?

What about an avowed member of the North American Man-Boy Love Association who wanted to serve as a HATCH group leader?

Do we want the government deciding which new HATCH member is acceptable and which is not? Or should that decision be left to the good folks in charge of the organization?

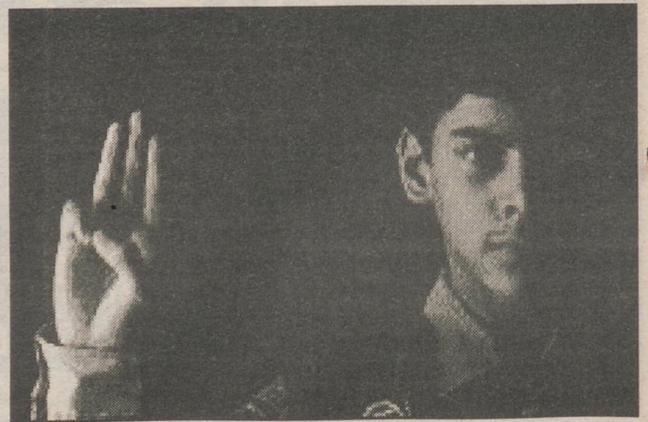
If these questions about the freedom of association sound familiar, they have been asked (and answered) before. It was only a couple of years ago that the United States Supreme Court rejected a civil rights claim brought by a group of Irish gays challenging their exclusion from Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Like the Boy Scout lawsuits, the Irish gays claimed that the parade was a "public accommodation" covered by Massachusetts' civil rights law, which bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. A lower court had already ruled that the privately-run parade was a public accommodation, but the Supreme Court threw out the lawsuit nonetheless.

The Court ruled that the organizers of the St. Patrick's Day Parade had a First Amendment right to decide the message their celebration would send, even if that message were one of exclusion.

There is another reason why the Boy Scout lawsuits—and the St. Patrick's Parade lawsuit—should never have been brought. A more practical reason.

Why plaintiffs in New Jersey, California and Massachusetts are testing the limits of their gay rights laws, those of us living here in Texas are trying to decriminalize our sex lives and



win basic rights not to be fired from our jobs or be kicked out by our landlords.

When gay rights advocates push the limits of civil rights laws into the murky area of whether a private club can discriminate, they provide perfect fodder from the bigots who would deny gay Texans basic employment and housing rights.

You can almost hear Stephen Hotze now: If we pass this gay rights law, then even the Boy Scouts won't be able to decide for themselves who can be members!

That said, we should at the same time reaffirm our battle in the court of public opinion to integrate the Boy Scouts, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and other private groups. By excluding gays from membership, the Boy Scouts have managed exactly what they claim to fear most: sexualizing the group activities of pubescent boys and the older male advisors.

Even more grotesquely, they perpetuate the ugly confusion of homosexuality and pedophilia, as if the rape of a young girl by a male adult were an expression of heterosexuality.

But Big Brother government and the legal system are not the only means to achieving societal change, and the urge to sue in this instance serves no one but the lawyers.

Correction

Due to an editing error, gay rights advocate Gene Harrington was incorrectly identified as a woman in an article about the appointment of Anthony Hall as Houston's next City Attorney. ("Hall pick for City Attorney," *Houston Voice*, March 6). Harrington is, in fact, a man. The *Houston Voice* regrets the error.

LETTER

No Amnesty

To the Editor:

As a long-time member of and contributor to Amnesty International, I must now re-evaluate my support for this organization. ("Are gay rights human rights?" *Houston Voice*, Jan. 23).

I really thought that Amnesty International was an organization that supported human rights for persons regardless of their political, religious, or sexual orientation.

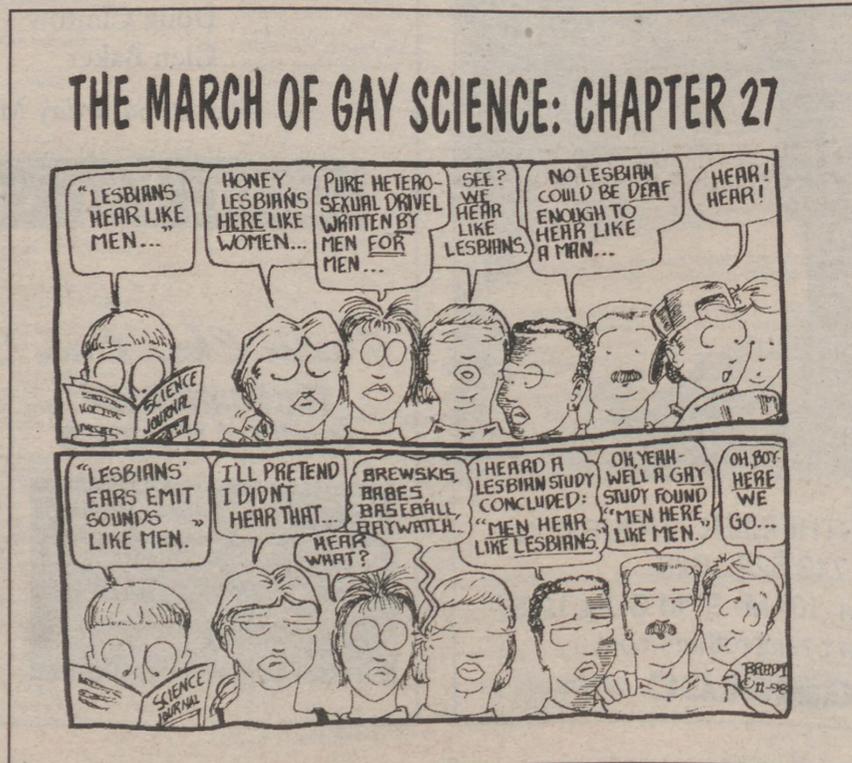
Bigotry, no matter how you rationalize it, is still bigotry. I am painfully aware that bigotry against gays is still very much a part of many organizations.

Failure to speak out forcefully against violations of the basic human rights of gays, lesbians and transgendered adults is reminiscent of the logic used by many religious organizations during the Third Reich: "We might make it worse if we offend."

This is not a diplomatic approach. It is a gutless, indefensible policy and deserves worldwide disdain.

G. Mullin

via www.houstonvoice.com



One tiny little pill to straighten out your life

by MICHAEL ALVEAR



What if you could put a photograph of your lover on your desk and have your boss say what a fine couple you two make?

What if you could tell your commanding officer at Randolph Air Force base where you were really going on your Saturday night off and have him slap your back and wish you luck? What if you could give your parents the grandchildren they so desperately want from you?

What if you weren't handsome or in-shape but could get the most beautiful body in the room simply by being charming, sensitive and accomplished? What if you could do all this, have all this, with a simple glass of water?

And that tiny little pill. That one. Over there. The one you spent years hoping for when you were first coming out.

You pick it up. The size of an Advil. You read the bottle:

"For the permanent relief of the minor aches, major disappointments, and crushing dehumanization associated with being homosexual. Relieves the discomfort of constantly lying to yourself and others and reduces the chances you'll live out your old age alone and childless."

It's here. The pill we've all hoped for at some point in our awakening. It's finally here.

You pick it up between your index finger and thumb. You hold it up to the light. You flash

back to your late teens, early 20s. When you looked at the mirror in disgust. When you were horrified at the feelings that wouldn't obey your orders.

You move the pill up toward the ceiling. The light reminds you: You once prayed for this pill. To pull you to of a place you never asked to be in. To return you from where you'd been kidnapped.

You put the pill back on the table and read the warning label:

"The effects of this medicine are permanent. It should only be taken under the advice and supervision of a trained physician."

Then you remember something else. The therapist you went to, a long time ago. You couldn't even say it when he asked you why you were there. And when you finally did say it, you broke in half. And the more you said, the more pieces you broke into.

Kids. You wanted kids. And now you can't have them, you thought then. You wanted the house, the fireplace, a spouse, a family. And the more you wanted it, it seemed, the further away it got.

But that was so long ago. You managed to put back together the pieces you broke in two. Most of them, anyhow. Life isn't so hard now. You're out. Well, maybe not out, but you're not in either. You don't really lie about who you are these days, unless you're outside the loop.

Sure there's the inevitable "uh oh" moments. Like when your mother asks you to keep it from your father. When you can be out at work but you can't talk about it. When a client asks you to go to the Gentlemen's Club.

But all in all, life's pretty good. You have a lot of fun, great friends and committed interests. No, that pill is in your past. Or is it?

You pick it up again. You pause. All the faces of the people you loved, you once loved, float by. They died, and some died pretty horribly. You remember when "cocktail hour" meant lifting spirits, not T-cells.

Suddenly you think, maybe you won't have to get tested anymore. Maybe the relentless worrying about HIV will go away. And maybe your friends will stop dying.

Suddenly, without thinking, the pill is in your mouth, and the glass of water is rising to meet your lips.

"No," you think to yourself. "I'm way past that." And you put the glass down.

But are you? Yes, definitely, you're way past that. Absolutely.

Still, you wonder. "What would my life be like if I were straight?"

The glass of water goes up again. You sip it. Do you swallow The Pill?

The Houston Voice invites you to cast a very personal vote. If The Pill were in your mouth, would you swallow? Write us a short note telling us why or why not. We're going to devote space in an upcoming issue to your answers. If you're willing to have your full name or photo published alongside your answer, please forward it to 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, Texas 77006. Otherwise, fax your response to (713) 529-9531.

Letter to a 16-year-old who is attracted to her teacher

by SHELLY ROBERTS



I met "Susan" on the internet, on an open bulletin board marked "Women Who Love Women," where she came to ask for advice because she's in love with a teacher. I'm sharing my response because you may

be a teenager, or know one, who is facing the same questions. "Susan" isn't her real name. But I'm sure that there are some Susans out there who feel the same.

Dear Susan,

I don't know if anyone else offered you any answers, but I wanted to make sure that someone did.

So that you know where I come from, I'm an out lesbian several decades older than you are. I write books about it. And I am fine with myself and my society about being gay.

If you are 16 and attracted to another female, you need to be very easy with yourself about it. There's nothing wrong with your feelings. They're natural, and normal. What you need to be very careful of right now is either acting on them, or telling many people about them. Because you are a minor, and therefore under your parents' legal control. If they're not accepting of homosexuality, or if they are generally intolerant, then they can have a very profound effect on the rest of

your life. I am not cautioning you to pretend to feelings that are different from your own, but I'm suggesting *very strongly*, that you stand back to look around you.

And the issue of a teacher is another one you have to look at carefully. If the woman is not a lesbian, and you act on your "crush"—which is probably much more than that, but that's how it will be viewed (and diminished)—you could incur her wrath, which would certainly affect your feelings, and also, probably your grades, and your ability to show up everyday for class.

If your teacher is a lesbian, and it isn't known, calling attention to it could risk her career, which isn't something you want to happen to someone you care about.

I am a strong public advocate for adults coming out, and for everyone acting honestly about who they are. But with people under the age of 21 or in school who are dependent financially or legally on parents, I always caution moving slowly.

I know that your feelings are strong. And everyone all your life has probably told you to wait till you're grown up to understand. Well I think you understand right now. And that your feelings are real. But I think you need to get a whole lot more information and support before you *do* anything, or even talk to people you aren't sure of.

I know you probably only want to hear that it's okay to have "feelings" for your teacher. But you are old enough to understand that, in spite of

Ellen's coming out on TV and real life, not everyone is as accepting as Ellen's mom and dad.

Please know that you are cared about. And that the feelings are normal. And that you have done absolutely nothing wrong. And that there are a lot of us working right now to make sure, as soon as we can, that you and every other teen-aged person who has to struggle with the possibility of her or his homosexuality, will be able to do so without feeling like a freak or a reject or a bad person. Being a teenager is hard. Being a gay teenager is tougher than it should be.

Last week, I spoke with a gay psychiatrist who runs a hospital for troubled teens, and asked if the statistics on gay teen suicides had improved. He said, "Who can tell? Nobody's tracking it. And how do you tally drinking too much and running your car into a light pole? Or partying too hard on drugs with your friends? How can you clock the innards of a teenager? But what difference does it make? One gay teen age suicide, is one more too many."

Who can disagree with that?

Love yourselves. And each other. It's the first thing you can do to change the world. For yourself. For "Susan." And for everyone else.

Shelly Roberts is an internationally syndicated columnist, and the author of the newest best-selling "Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Break Ups."

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner

Ethan Green's
CHAOS THEORY OF LOVE

JASON CHANG LOVES JIM & CARLOS. JIM & CARLOS, HOWEVER, LOVE BUCKY.

BUCKY ONLY LOVES HANS, HANS, THOUGH, LOVES LAST NIGHT'S TRICK.

LAST NIGHT'S TRICK, AS IT HAPPENS, REALLY LOVES LEEZA...

ETIENNE MOSTLY JUST LOVES ETIENNE, BUT OCCASIONALLY CAN BE FOUND TO LOVE CARLOS'S BEST GIRLFRIEND JAMES.

Leo. SEVERAL YEARS TARDY, THINKS HE JUST MIGHT BE READY TO LOVE ETHAN.

BUT ETHAN LOVES DOUG.

BUT LEEZA, AS IS WELL DOCUMENTED, ONLY LOVES ETIENNE...

BUT CARLOS'S BEST GIRLFRIEND JAMES APPARENTLY LOVES ETHAN'S EX-LOVER, Leo.

Fear NOT, HOWEVER, CUZ, SCIENTISTS, SOCIAL ENGINEERS & ELLEN AND HER NEW GIRLFRIEND ARE WORKING 'ROUND THE CLOCK TO DEVELOP A FORMULA TO GET THE PERSON YOU LOVE, TO LOVE YOU BACK, AND VICE-VERSA, ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

HEY, I LOVE YOU FIGHT NOW!

HEY, I LOVE YOU FIGHT NOW BACK!

MAMA BOOK THE CHAPEL, THERE'S GONNA BE A WEDDING!

HTTP://WWW.STONEWALLINN.COM/ETHAN/ AT ERICORNER@aol

RULING/from page 1

The judge noted that every anti-discrimination measure the city offered for his consideration had, at some point, been voted on by council.

Todd has denied that their lawsuit was intended to suppress homosexuals. He and Hotze say their suit is aimed at procedural concerns alone.

Parker said she felt differently about their motives.

"I think it's interesting that Richard Hotze and Rob Todd have very carefully couched their public statements to say that this has nothing to do with the gay and lesbian community, but with the balance of power [between the Mayor and City Council]," she said.

"Ten years ago, they would have been on the front steps of City Hall, screaming that gays are child molesters, and they were [in fact saying that]. Today, the feelings are still there, but they've had to bow to political realities and tone down the rhetoric."

Hotze said he plans to appeal the ruling excluding him from the lawsuit. But he said he also has "mixed feelings" about winning an order against the city.

"I feel sorry for the mayor because he was advised poorly. What he did was illegal and nobody at City Hall would tell him so," Hotze said. "But at the

same time, I am elated we have struck a blow for what was right."

Both Parker and Bagby said they were confident that there were enough votes on City Council to pass the non-discrimination policy as an ordinance, thereby eliminating the issues raised by the lawsuit. But both worried that doing so would put the issues back before voters in a repeal referendum, and they fear that vote is by no means guaranteed.

Parker said, "I think that times have changed since 1985," when 85 percent voted to repeal a similar non-discrimination ordinance. "The outcome would be very different than in the '80s."

"What happened in '80s, the other side was able to frame the debate, and take over, and it was all about special rights, forcing private employers to hire gays, gay school teachers—all of which was untrue."

"Houston is certainly a very different city today, 13 years later," agreed Bagby. "We have a black mayor and an openly gay citywide council member, but I don't have a crystal ball, and while these two steps in our progress show a more tolerant city, I wouldn't venture a guess on how [another gay rights repeal] would fare, since so much of politics now comes down to money."

—From staff and wire reports

BOY SCOUTS/from page 1

Fund, co-counsel in one of the California cases.

The California ruling upheld a decision by a Contra Costa County Scout organization in 1981 to reject Timothy Curran, an 18-year-old former Eagle Scout, as an assistant scoutmaster after he disclosed in a newspaper article that he was gay. That case was the oldest pending challenge to the Scout's exclusion of gays, according to Lambda.

The other California ruling involved 9-year-old twin brothers, Michael and William Randall, who were barred by an Orange County Cub Scout den in 1990 after they refused to declare a belief in God.

The twins, now 16, were allowed into the Scouts by lower-court rulings and recently qualified to become Eagle Scouts, Scouting's highest honor, subject to approval by the national organization. They and their father, James G. Randall, who is also their

lawyer, say the boys are agnostics who haven't yet worked out their religious beliefs.

Both suits were brought under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act, which forbids discrimination by business establishments on various grounds, including sexual orientation and religion. The justices said that the Scouts are a private, selective organization, not a business.

"Scouts meet regularly in small groups (often in private homes) that are intended to foster close friendship, trust and loyalty," said the lead opinion by Chief Justice Ronald George. "The Boy Scouts is an expressive social organization whose primary function is the inculcation of values in its youth members."

The Boy Scouts say homosexuality violates their concept of traditional moral values, embodied in a provision of the Scout oath in which members pledge to be "morally straight."

—From staff and wire reports

LIAISON/from page 1

Eastus appointment to Brown himself, who did not reach the *Houston Voice* by press time.

A number of gay community leaders—including some who were rumored to be in the running for the liaison post—have expressed concerns in public and in private about whether Eastus is qualified for the position.

"I'll work with him, but I don't like the way the process was done," said Gary Van Ooteghem, president of Log Cabin Republicans—Houston. "The Mayor's action, in choosing somebody that is naive and unknown in the community, is similar to a slap in the face in that there were more knowledgeable candidates to choose from."

Van Ooteghem told the *Houston Voice* his frustration is with Brown, not Eastus, because the community will now have to liaison through someone who will require education, issue by issue.

"I think it was ignorant on the Mayor's part," said Van Ooteghem. "[Brown] is effectively appointing someone who won't nudge him on sensitive issues. He has basically appointed a quiet liaison."

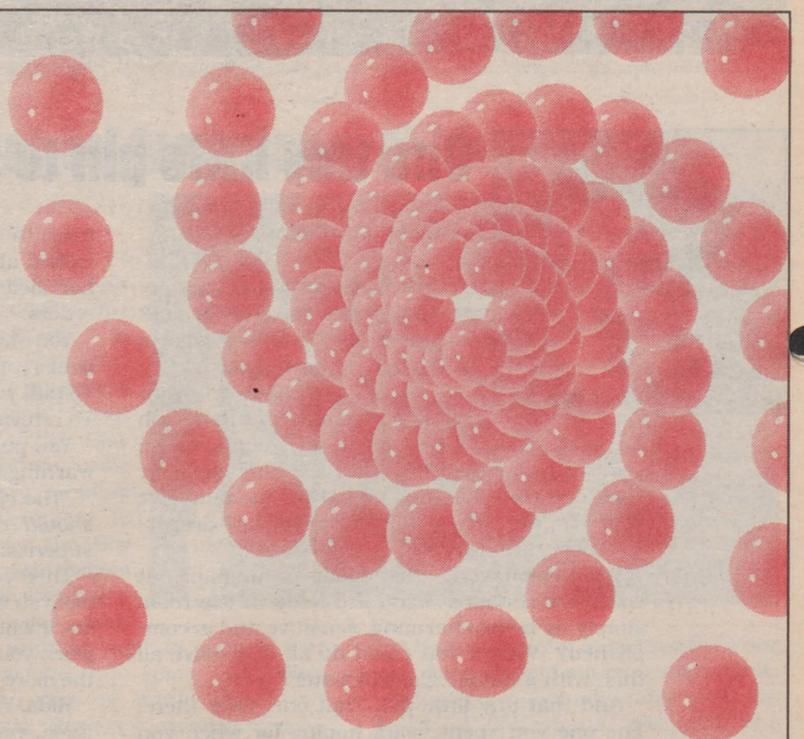
Others argue that Eastus' lack of prior involvement is irrelevant for the position. "It is our understanding from the Mayor that this is not a policy

advisory type position," said Clarence Bagby, president of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. "The mayor's direct communication with the Caucus has been outstanding since his election, and Mr. Eastus will be an outstanding gay liaison to the broader community for the mayor."

City Council member Annise Parker told the *Houston Voice* that although Eastus hasn't been particularly active in the community, he has nonetheless earned a strong reputation where he has served.

"I don't particularly know Mr. Eastus," said Parker. "I did have an opportunity to meet with him. He seems to be enthusiastic about the job, and he seems to have a good working relationship with the Mayor, which is a key element of the job. And, I think he will do fine."

Eastus, 30, contends that his background will enable him to have a fresh perspective on how the process all works because he hasn't tied himself to one particular group. "I haven't made a lot of enemies over the years," he says. "I'm not saying that anyone in particular has, but it's a large interest group, and it's a diverse interest group, and there are some contentious personalities and issues, and I'm sure that tempers have flared over the years."



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CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday-March 27

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

Saturday-March 28

- Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm.

Sunday-March 29

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 10:30 am at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service at 11 am.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. (A Study in the Book of Exodus.) 4305 Lillian 880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.
- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm.
- Faith and Hope Fellowship Service at 11:00 am. 713-520-7847.

Monday-March 30

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

Tuesday-March 31

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

Wednesday-April 1

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149.
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm.
- Healing Service at 8 pm. the Kolbe Project. 713-861-7212.
- Revival! 7:30 pm. Community Gospel Church. 713-880-9235.

Thursday-April 2

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

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



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-Danna K. Archer

Danna K. Archer

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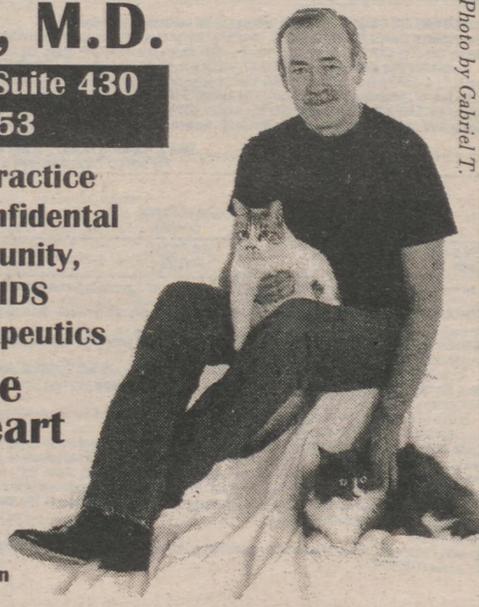
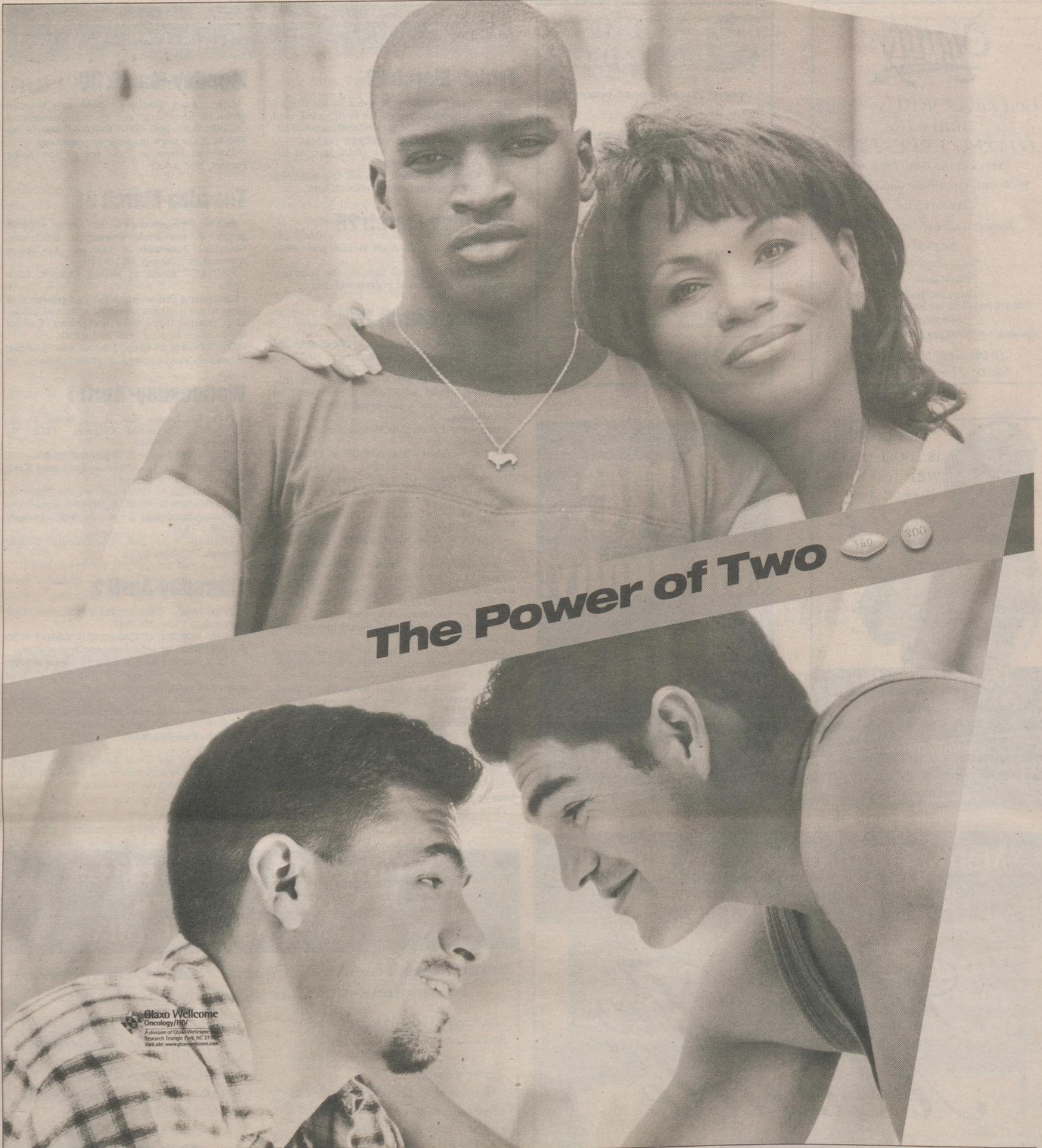


Photo by Gabriel T.



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BRIEF SUMMARY

COMBIVIR™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

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

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

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

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

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

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine: The NUC3007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy [zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)] to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1,816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm³ at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Number of Patients (%) With At Least One HIV Disease-Progression Event or Death

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

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

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

WARNINGS: COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine. The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated. **Bone Marrow Suppression:** COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1,000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

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

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

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

PRECAUTIONS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately three times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung or any other organ in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (~1,000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or ~450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine.

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

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

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

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

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

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C.

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

Lamivudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

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- One Epiriv® (lamivudine; 3TC) Tablet 150 mg + one Retrovir® (zidovudine; AZT) Tablet 300 mg = Combivir
- One Combivir Tablet morning and night, with or without food
- Studies have shown that Epiriv (3TC) + Retrovir (AZT) as part of potent antiretroviral regimens can help you live a longer, healthier life¹
- If you're on antiretroviral therapy—or if you're about to start—new Combivir may be right for you

The safety profile of Combivir should be the same as that of Epiriv + Retrovir. The most frequent side effects associated with Epiriv + Retrovir taken together are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose. People taking antiretroviral drugs, including lamivudine and zidovudine, should see their doctors regularly because serious problems have occurred in some patients. See important information about Combivir on the following page.

Combivir is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

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Call 1-888-TREAT HIV ext. 116 for more information

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Together**
www.treathiv.com

See important information about Combivir on following page.

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Zidovudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryo/fetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 37 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3,000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3,683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility).

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets) and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 722-9292, ext. 39437. **Nursing Mothers:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

n = Number of patients assessed.

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

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

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

OVERDOSAGE:

COMBIVIR™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets): There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

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

Zidovudine: Acute overdoses of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, confusion, and one report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, 3'-azido-3'-deoxy-5'-O-β-D-glucopyranuronosylthymidine (GZDV), is enhanced.

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

Dose Adjustment: Because it is a fixed-dose combination, COMBIVIR should not be prescribed for patients requiring dosage adjustment such as those with reduced renal function (creatinine clearance < 50 mL/min), those with low body weight (< 50 kg or 110 lb), or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

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

GlaxoWellcome

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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

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

September 1997/RL-466

Enchanting Redgrave breathes life into 'Mrs. Dalloway'

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

If God were to incarnate himself (or herself) as an actress, surely the result would be Vanessa Redgrave. The sophisticated and splendid Academy Award winning actress so splendidly portrays the screenplay protagonist of Virginia Woolf's "Mrs. Dalloway" that it seems as if fate transported the soul to realm of the divine.

With the elegance of a bygone era and the simplicity of a contemporary gentlewoman, Redgrave endows "Mrs. Dalloway" with incomparable tenderness. For 97 minutes, I thought I had lived and gone to heaven.

The vibrant Mrs. Dalloway is in hurried preparations for her pah-tey on June 13, 1923, entertaining London's finest—even the Prime Minister is expected (and he shows). But Mrs. Dalloway receives a surprise visit during late afternoon preparations. Peter Walsh (Michael Kitchen), a man who courted her in her youth, visits unexpectedly on his return from India. Clarissa invites Peter to the pah-tey; and his response is both eager and reluctant.



Film icon Vanessa Redgrave

The film vacillates between the day of the pah-tey and events 30 years earlier that fixed Clarissa's fate and uneasy "comfortableness." A handsome, young Peter Walsh (Alan Cox) proves a bit too adventurous when what the young Clarissa (Natascha McElhone) wants is "safety"—that is, predictability in her relationship.

Peter and Clarissa seem mis-matched from the get-go. He complains and wines about her obsession with parties; while she, for the most part, grins and bears it. Of course, why do you suppose Peter's antics are politely tolerated? There's another rooster and hen perched outside the hen house.

We are led to believe that Clarissa tinkers with lesbianism, with the help of her good friend, Sally Seton (Lena Headey), who turns out to be as risky and daring as Peter. Ironically, a naked Sally skirts a homosexual edge by embracing a clothed Clarissa in closed quarters. A strange, electric energy is created by their quaint fondling, reading love poetry in the woods, and even a nervous-yet-anticipated kiss within Peter's view.

Clarissa and Sally are very close. We can't be sure they actually have sex, but love is at work between these ladies. Love is at work between Clarissa and Peter, too, but the inevitable tension plays against Peter's desires. To complicate this odd love triangle, Clarissa takes a liking to the young Richard Dalloway (Robert Portal) during a dinner pah-tey, leaving the love-struck Peter rowing the pair during a boat outing after supper.

Intuitively, Peter speaks the truth: "She's going to marry that man." And so she does.

Redgrave allows us to live in Mrs. Dalloway's shoes 30 years after that

fateful decision. We find Clarissa displaced from the ornate country manor to a dazzling Westminster townhouse. When the pah-tey begins in the early evening, she is consumed with proper class appearance and the improper dispositions of her guests.

Oh, that's the wrong color dress. My, what a vulgar hat.

The evening proceeds well until Clarissa that a shell-shocked soldier has committed suicide, and she wonders whether "comfortableness" with Richard may have been a mistake. On a balcony similar to the one

from which the tortured soldier leapt, she wonders "Is this all I am? Did I make a dreadful mistake that summer? Who am I really?"

This excellent film is glorious in style and substance. The beautiful country manor and the elegant townhouse are but poignant examples of the wonder of upper middle-class British life. Clarissa spends a very important day reflecting on the consequences of her decisions, but it seems the good life has a greater hold on her than her soul. We can empathize with her without crucifying her. And we can empathize with Peter and Sally who each loved Clarissa in their own way in a time when love never seemed to matter.



Scenes between Natascha McElhone (young Clarissa) and Lena Headey (Sally) lend a brief sexual charge to "Mrs. Dalloway."

HOUSTON VOICE RATING: ****

Rated: Not rated

Run Time: 97 minutes

Genre: Drama

Director: Marleen Gorris

Screenplay: Eileen Atkins

Cast: Vanessa Redgrave, Natascha

McElhone, Rupert Graves,

Michael Kitchen, Alan Cox, Lena

Headey, Sarah Badel, Amelia

Bullmore, Oliver Ford Davies,

Selina Cadell, John Standing

Theaters: Greenway Plaza 3 and the

Angelika Film Center

Houston Voice readers agree 'Titanic' is tops

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Wow! What a night! The 70th Annual Academy Awards proved to be a night to remember. With all its glitz and glamour, an estimated one billion people worldwide tuned in to the ritzy spectacle. Viewership was expected to increase this year, in large part because of "Titanic's" record-breaking box office grosses.

It was, in fact, a titanic night. Of the 14 nominations garnered for the ship that couldn't sink, the big boat flick captured 11 Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Cinematography—tying "Ben Hur," a 1959 epic movie, as the most awarded film in history.

"Titanic" fell short on three categories that could have put it over the top: Kate Winslet lost for Best Actress; Gloria Stuart fell short for Best Supporting Actress; and "Men in Black" topped "Titanic" for Best Makeup.

Perhaps the most gorgeous couple (or non-couple) award should go to Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, who won Best Original Screenplay for "Good Will Hunting." Affleck said about the award, "I just said to Matt, 'Losing would suck and winning would be really scary.' It's really, really scary."

Two weeks ago, the Houston Voice printed a ballot with 10 categories from the official Academy Awards ballot and invited the community to register their favorite choices.

Oscar or no Oscar, here are your favorites for this year's Academy Awards:

Best Supporting Actress

Oscar winner: Kim Basinger

Critic's Choice: Kim Basinger

Houston Choice: Kim Basinger



Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, Oscar winners for co-writing the screenplay for 'Good Will Hunting.'

Basinger gets the Houston nod with 39 percent of the vote, but you gave Gloria Stuart a convincing look with 26 percent. After a heart-wrenching interview with Barbra Walters just minutes before the awards, do you think Mrs. Alec Baldwin is back for good? And will she stop buying towns in Georgia? Minnie Driver and Julianne Moore round out your favorites in this category.

Best Supporting Actor

Oscar winner: Robin Williams

Critic's Choice: Greg Kinnear

Houston Choice: Burt Reynolds

Your vote was a close one, but gay Houstonians liked Burt Reynolds for the Oscar with 43 percent of the vote. Robin Williams came in second with 39 percent, followed by Anthony Hopkins and Greg Kinnear. Oddly enough, Williams seemed overwhelmed when he got the Oscar. An actor known for his craziness, did his "speechlessness" seem strange to you?

Best Costume Design

Oscar winner: "Titanic"

Critic's Choice: "Kundun"

Houston Choice: "Titanic"

Okay, you folks liked the dresses on "Titanic" more than any other movie, with 78 percent of the vote. So, does this mean that the Gay Pride Parade and the Diana Awards will mimic Kate Winslet's flawless couturiers? Don't be surprised if they do. But all the nominees this year had an excellent chance at the Oscar. I liked "Kundun" for its rich, Tibetan religious costumes.

Best Makeup

Oscar winner: "Men In Black"

Critic's Choice: "Titanic"

Houston Choice: Tie between "Titanic" and "Men In Black"

We all know how important this category is to queens. You tied your votes between "Men in Black" and "Titanic," with 43 percent respectively. Of course, the Oscar went to "Men in Black," but given a choice between an oversized insect people-eater and a fem on a sinking ship, I'll take Kate's makeup tips any day.

Best Original Song

Oscar winner: "My Heart Will Go On"

Critic's Choice: "My Heart Will Go On"

Houston Choice: "My Heart Will Go On"

The only category to earn all your votes — drum roll!!!!!! None other than "My Heart Will Go On," the love theme from "Titanic." Celine Dion performed an abbreviated version with the Academy orchestra and delivered the finest vocal performance of the night. Presenter Madonna seemed cool and confident,

but a bit aloof. Detect any hard feelings left over from "Evita" last year?

Best Visual Effect

Oscar winner: "Titanic"

Critic's Choice: "Titanic"

Houston Choice: "Titanic"

Movie buffs registered their fondness for a sinking ship over dinosaurs and space aliens. With co-nominees "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" and "Starship Trooper," the movie about the great ship got 82 percent of the vote. What's next? A "Titanic" wet ride at Astroworld? Don't be surprised if the Batman follies get canned this year.



Kim Basinger swept the voting among Academy member, Houston Voice readers and our critic for her supporting role in "L.A. Confidential."

See OSCARS page 20



Re-Designing Delta

Delta Burke, who comes to Houston and Austin next weekend to sign her book 'Delta Style,' said her journey toward self-acceptance is much like the personal struggle many gays and lesbians go through.

by DAVID GOLDMAN

Those extraordinary eyes. Delta Burke writes that when she was born, her uncle compared her eyes to those of her mother's cat Delta—and the new baby got her name. After a childhood spent playing happily alone in the Florida woods, Burke blossomed and entered the world of beauty pageants. At age 17, she became the youngest-ever Miss Florida and the youngest contestant in the 1974 Miss America pageant.

Two years studying acting in London taught Burke how to do a lot more than just look lovely. Upon her return, she plunged into the shark tank of Los Angeles' film and TV scene—accompanied, like a good Southern girl, by her grandmother Nana. Following a slew of guest appearances—on "The Love Boat," "Fantasy Island," "Remington Steele"—Burke landed the role of sassy Suzanne Sugarbaker on "Designing Women." The show weathered a shaky start—only a massive letter-writing campaign saved it from cancellation in 1987—and became a top-ten success. Burke, just 30 years old, seemed to have it all.

But in her new autobiography and beauty guide "Delta Style—Eve Wasn't a Size 6 and Neither Am I!" Burke reveals some of the heartache behind the hit. Her battle to keep thin, waged since her teen years, turned into an all-out war that was mercilessly chronicled in tabloids whose headlines screamed that she was out of control, gorging herself and fighting with co-stars over food. Burke asked producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason to write a show dealing with the character's weight gain, and the resulting episode, "They Shoot Fat Women, Don't They?" became a TV legend.

Dropped by "Designing Women's" producers after its fifth season, Burke went on to star in the short-lived series "Delta" and "Women of the House." Today, in addition to acting, she promotes her own clothing lines, The Delta Burke Collection and Delta Blues Jeanswear, for "real-size women." Burke and her husband, Gerald McRaney, live in New Orleans. Her book describes the star of "Major Dad" as a romantic whose passions include preserving the home and artifacts of Nobel Prize-winning writer and fellow Mississippian William Faulkner. Burke talked to the

Houston Voice last Friday from her rooms at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York.

HoVo: Your personal struggle—from somebody who was obsessed with changing herself into somebody who loves herself as she is—mirrors the experience that a lot of gays and lesbians go through. Do you feel your story carries a message that gay people can relate to?

Delta: Yes. My mother always taught me, "to thine own self be true." You know in your heart and soul what feels right and natural and normal to you, and who you really are. You just have to stick with it. ... When the weight happened on "Designing Women," I knew I could not go back on those crash diets like I did when I was in my 20s to try to be something I wasn't meant to be. I was going to have to learn to love me and accept me, and come to terms with this and make others accept me, too. And that was a great feeling.

HoVo: Do you see a parallel between that and what a lot of gay people feel?

Delta: Oh, yeah. It's so similar it's like the same story.

HoVo: You're quite candid in the book about using black beauties and crystal meth to keep thin. Did you take a lot of speed?

Delta: I was able to function doing diet pills on a very steady basis and crystal meth for a short period of time and starving myself. I was able to function, but I tally it up to being young. I don't know how people do it beyond a certain age. It just wasn't right for me anymore.

HoVo: "Designing Women" was set in Atlanta but filmed in Los Angeles. Do people sometimes think you live there?

Delta: They think I'm from Atlanta, and they think I'm Miss Georgia! It's printed up in lots of places. Somebody sent me a new trivia game they had made up, and I was in there a couple of times—listed as being a Miss Georgia. Yes, fact and fiction have crossed many times with me and Suzanne Sugarbaker.

HoVo: You're both Southerners, both beauty queens. Was it difficult to keep that line drawn between yourself and her?

Delta: It's going to blur anyway, because you're playing the part. You're living it. I took Suzanne home with me, and I gave a lot of me to her.

When I went to Linda [Bloodworth-Thomason] and said, "I would like to do a show dealing with the weight. Please let Suzanne have the jokes. Give her the power. Don't make her the butt of the jokes," she wrote that fabulous script "They Shoot Fat Women, Don't They?" That empowered Suzanne, which also empowered me.

HoVo: In that episode, Suzanne says, "I'll have to admit I have put on a few pounds here and there, but you all act like I should be ordering fabric from Georgia Tent and Awning!" When I lined up this interview, the first question I thought of to ask you was, do you know somebody at Georgia Tent and Awning?

Delta: [laughs] No, I don't. But maybe Linda did.

HoVo: Delta, a lot of people, because of your association with President Bush and the Gulf War [where the couple entertained the troops], think you and your husband Gerald McRaney are Republicans. Are you all Republicans?

Delta: Yeah, we're Republicans. But you know there's all different levels of Republicans.

HoVo: Some Republicans are perceived as "pro-family" and anti-gay. I wonder if that's cost you any support among your gay fans.

Delta: I don't think so. I think they would see how I'm living my life and realize that's not the case. But that's the trouble with politics now. Everything is getting so extreme.

There are many voices, especially in the Republican Party—it's almost like you want to form a new group, because so much of it has gotten too extreme for me. I don't want extremes of either side. I want a nice happy middle where we all compromise and listen to each other and work with each other on all the issues.

HoVo: When you married Gerald McRaney back in 1989, a lot of people thought this was a good old-fashioned Hollywood publicity stunt.

Delta: Oh, really?

HoVo: Yeah. Now you're been

together for almost 10 years. What's your secret to staying happily married to someone in your same profession?

Delta: Genuine love and respect; caring for each other; allowing each other's dreams to come true. You compromise for each other; you support each other. Everyone's always wanting to label it a Hollywood thing. Or like they say now, "They're divorcing," simply because you're separated for work purposes. But we're not separated for marriage. You might be physically parted, but you're not spiritually parted. I know he loves me completely and that he will always be there for me. You know when you have that with somebody.



Who: Delta Burke
What: Signing "Delta Style—Eve Wasn't a Size 6 and Neither Am I!"
When: Friday, April 3, 12:30 p.m.
Where: Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 2545 Town Center Blvd., Sugarland
Contact: (281) 265-4620

When: Saturday, April 4, 1 p.m.
Where: Book People, 603 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin
Contact: (512) 472-5050

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Playground Rules

1. Go towards the lighted glass!
(Look for our new Lighted Martini)
2. Sip never Gulp!
(Sip on Dirty Donna)
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(Get here early on Wed. for Fajitas and South Park)
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10am - 4pm

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Happy Hour 7am - 9pm

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Open - Close

Happy Hour 7am - 9pm

Wednesdays

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Happy Hour 7am - 9pm

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Non-diva diva teams up with HGO for listener-friendly Sunday recital

By RICH ARENSCHIEDT

In a rare recital treat, soprano Renée Fleming teams up with Houston Grand Opera Conductor Christoph Eschenbach for an evening of extraordinary musical collaboration this Sunday at the Wortham Center.

Fleming's musical friendship with Maestro Eschenbach has produced some wonderful operatic experiences for Houstonians, most notably the 1995 HGO production of Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier." The duo's recent acclaimed recorded rendition of Strauss' vocal powder keg "Four Last Songs" has received praise for its depth and clarity.

Fleming is one of the busiest women in the music world, operatic and otherwise. Her discography is large and grows with each passing month. She has recorded albums with partners as diverse as pop star Michael Bolton and Sir Georg Solti, mega-maestro of the Chicago Symphony.

During a recent interview with the *Houston Voice*, this down-to-earth, non-diva diva spoke at length about the counsel she received from other singers throughout her artistic life.

"Advice that others gave me regarding the balance of family and career—both Marilyn Horne and Joan Sutherland provided invaluable insight," she recounts. "They both encouraged me to have a family—having children makes you sing better because you realize that you have much more than just a voice and a career. There's some other part of you."

It seems difficult to imagine this calm, polished professional musician having trouble juggling schedules, even if she accomplishes more in one month than most do in a year. Her January began with the Cleveland Orchestra (coincidentally conducted by Eschenbach). February brought her to Chicago for Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro," and now March brings her to Houston to do her first Arabella with HGO, then it's off to San Francisco and La Scala later this year.

Fleming has appeared at every major opera house and concert hall—here and abroad. She is especially committed to the presentation of music from contemporary composers, performing in John Corigliano's operatic hit "The Ghosts of Versailles" and Carlisle Floyd's "Susannah."

At this very moment, Fleming is creating the role of Blanche DuBois in André Previn's rendition of "A Streetcar Named Desire." She gets dreamy-eyed when discussing the quintessential women who "rely on the kindness of strangers."

"Oh, I love the challenge of creating a new role for the first time," she said. "As a matter of fact, André (Previn) just faxed me a new aria before I got on the plane to come here. It's really wonderful to be able say (to a compos-



"It was interesting singing with tear gas closing my throat," said Opera Star Renée Fleming of a particular memorable Paris performance.

er) 'I'd just love to sing a high B-flat here,' and they make it happen!"

This lady isn't afraid of any new project or situation. While in Paris, she sang just after protesters had entered the hall, come up on stage and had to be quelled by tear gas while police in full riot gear surrounded the building.

"The tickets in Paris are so expensive the audience wouldn't leave for anything!" she remembered with a laugh. "It was interesting singing with tear gas closing my throat!"

Her recital this Sunday should be quite a bit calmer. The program is listener-friendly, with a heavy emphasis on repertoire by established classical composers. This is very much in keeping with Fleming's views as a singer/recitalist.

"Years ago recitals became so academically oriented, many performers were presenting obscure works by obscure composers," she said. "Thankfully, that trend has changed and audiences seem to appreciate the work we are now performing."

The program includes works by Franz Schubert, king of the art form of singer/pianist, Hugo Wolf, French Impressionist composer Claude Debussy, Russian romantic Sergei Rachmaninov, and one of this most influential American composers of this century, Samuel Barber.

The intimacy of Wortham Center's Cullen Hall provides the perfect venue for an up-close and personal look and listen to the smiling Fleming and the serious Eschenbach. Who knows—maybe the Maestro will smile, even grin!

Who: Houston Grand Opera, conducted by Christoph Eschenbach, with guest soloist Renée Fleming

What: Recital

Where: Wortham Center's Cullen Hall

When: Sunday, March 29, at 5 p.m.

How much: starting at \$15, good seats still available

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OSCARS from page 16**Best Actress****Oscar winner: Helen Hunt****Critic's Choice: Helen Hunt****Houston Choice: Helen Hunt**

The single American actress co-nominated amongst four Britons, our Houston voters hit it right on the nose with 60 percent of ballots going to Helen Hunt. Kate Winslet came in a distant second with 17 percent. Winslet handled the shake-off gracefully, but just imagine how it feels to be in that other "Titanic" club—the three who didn't win.

Best Actor**Oscar winner: Jack Nicholson****Critic's Choice: Jack Nicholson****Houston Choice: Jack Nicholson**

Wow, what a victory for Jack, huh?! Nicholson looked oh-so-cool with those dark shades, but he admitted in post-award interviews that he was as nervous as it gets. You gave Jack the nod with 63 percent of your vote, but Peter Fonda and Robert Duvall received 18 percent each. Should we expect even more great Nicholson performances after the millennium? Probably so. He'll need a fourth Oscar in 2000 to beef up his collection after getting one in each decade since the 70's. Leonardo DiCaprio snubbed the ceremony since he wasn't nominated. Bad mistake. That attitude will be remembered by the Academy for a long time.

Best Director**Oscar winner: James Cameron****Critic's Choice: James Cameron****Houston Choice: James Cameron**

Overwhelmingly, you chose James Cameron—the "king of the world"—with 83 percent of the vote. Likewise, the Academy gave Cameron the nod for his persistence and vision. After all the dire predictions that "Titanic" would be a blood bath for Paramount and 20th Century Fox, do you think Cameron will ever waive his director fee again after all this Oscar success?

Best Picture**Oscar winner: "Titanic"****Critic's Choice: "As Good As It Gets"****Houston Choice: "Titanic"**

Hands down, "Titanic" struck a solid

chord with our readers, with 99 percent of the vote. But for whatever reason, "Titanic" has transcended all barriers—age, gender, and sexual orientation. Just imagine the rush when the video hits stores. I liked "As Good As It Gets" in large part because of the strong script and the solid acting of Nicholson and Hunt. But hey, maybe best picture price tag of \$200 million is just the tip of the iceberg.

And now, our contest winner! Congratulations to B. J. Almond of Houston, who correctly guessed 9 out of 10 Academy Awards contest ballot categories. Thanks to Mr. Almond and all our readers who participated. The Houston Voice staff hopes you enjoy your dinner for two, courtesy of Riva's Italian Restaurant.

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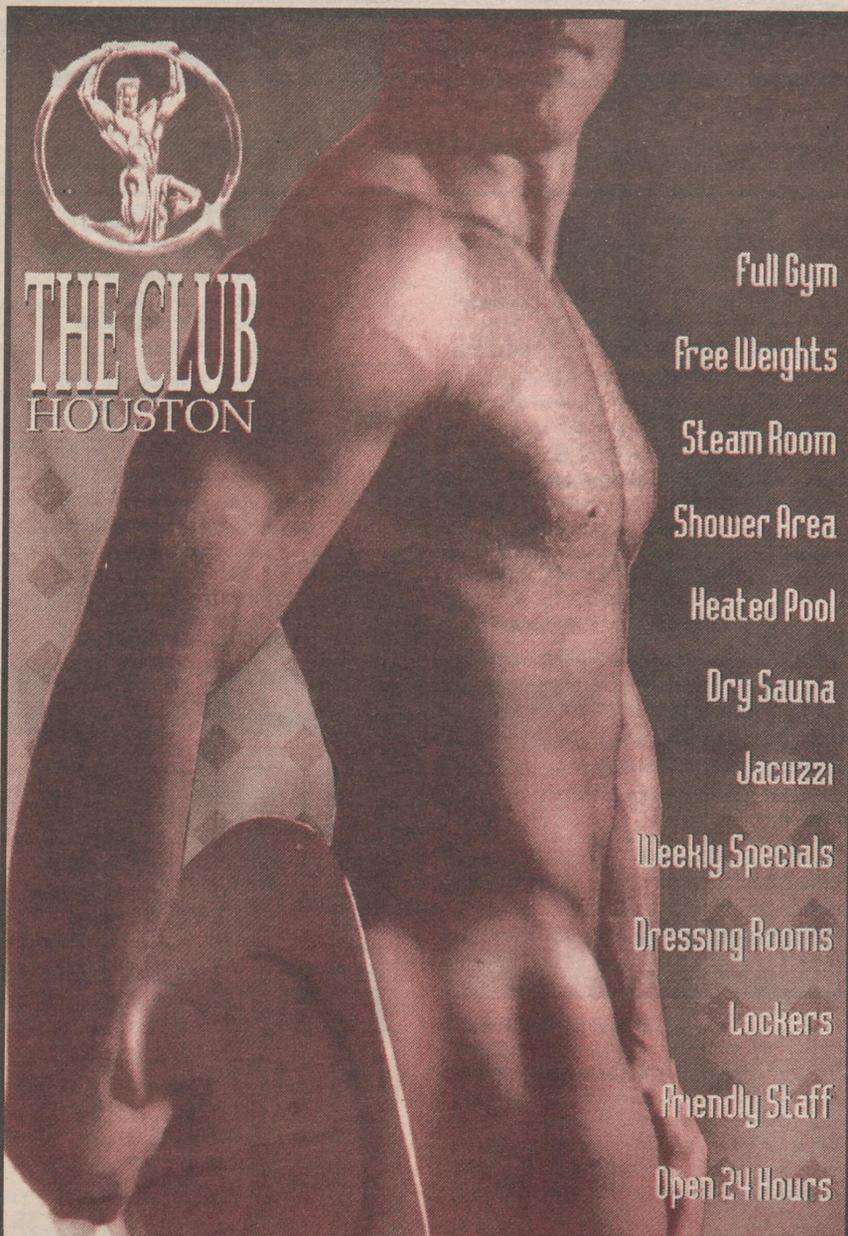
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To advertise in the Classifieds call (713)529-8490 or (800)729-8490 if not in Houston. Our office hours are 9:00 am-5:30 pm Monday through Friday. Classified deadline is Monday at noon for the following Friday publication. All major credit cards and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

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

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Advertising Deadlines

It has become necessary to change the deadlines for advertising placement. Under the new deadlines, ads should be reserved eight days before the publication date.

Revised Advertising Deadlines

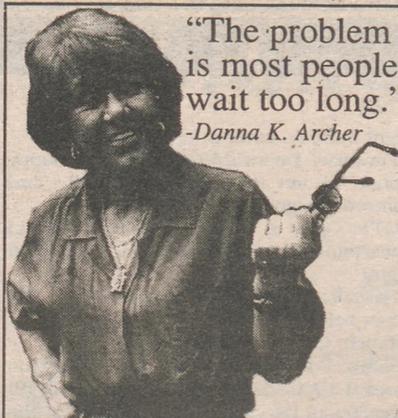
• Noon Thursday-Deadline for reserving space for the following Friday's issue.

• Noon Friday-Deadline for copy and artwork for advertisements designed by Houston Voice's Art Dept.

• Noon Monday-Deadline for advertisements with camera ready artwork.

• Noon Tuesday-Deadline for final proof of advertisement copy and /or artwork. (No changes or modifications will be made after this time.)

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in assisting us with these new deadlines. If you have any questions please call your sales representative at 713-529-8490.



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- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well; \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Blues Broad Susan Masar sings at 9 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Cousin's: Super Friday Night Drag show with fabulous performers at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm: Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm: \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Lazy J: Pool tournament
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. \$2.25 well \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Stoli and Skyy. Hard Body Male Dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm: male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am. \$1 well Vodka Juice Drinks.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Metroplex: Hot bartender night. Doors open at 4 pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, and wine until 7pm \$2.50 Cuervo!
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: "Fuel" 19 and up. DJ Chris Sill and Eusion.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails, \$2 Cuervo. 9:00
- Viviana's Nite Club: Doors open at 2 pm. Drag Show at Midnight.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Saturday, March 28

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 9pm. Joanne in the afternoons!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 domestic longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Cousin's: Super Saturday night Drag show with top Houston talent at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Super Show at 11pm.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 6 pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, and wine until 7 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo. Night in Black Leather
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy

- Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am. Happy House 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and domestic longnecks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am.; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm, See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard; D.J. J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Sunday, March 29

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; · BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Beer Bust 4 to 8 pm.
- Cousin's: Sinful Sunday Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toy Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6pm: Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm. 50¢ draft on the patio starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks: \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine. noon to 7 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm;
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No cover 7-9 pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; Happy hours noon to 8 pm \$1.75 well drinks and domestic longnecks.; \$1.75 Bloody Mary all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Trash Disco T-Dance. Doors open at 7 pm. DJ Chris Sill. Super cheap drinks!
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo;
- Viviana's: Doors open at noon. Drag show at Midnight.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.

Monday, March 30

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all night 7am-2pm.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLOGIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm: Male Strip 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open to close; Free Pool Table.
- Incognito: Male Strip night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm

- \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 4 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Outpost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 3pm. Happy Hours 11 am to 8 pm.
- QT's: Killer Bee Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Boxer Shorts Night Boxer Shots \$1.25.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.

Tuesday, March 31

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Night at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2(x)ist Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, wine, and frozen margaritas. Male strip at 11:00 pm
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$1 off all call liquor.
- Mela's Tejano: Free hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 4 pm. All Male Revue.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colors.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am Happy Hour 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and longnecks.
- QT's : Open at 8 am. Colorado Bulldogs (Kamora) \$3.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo. Dart Tournament at 7 pm.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.

Wednesday, April 1

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys

- dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 premium frozen drinks, \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night .Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & night \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Look alike contest at 11 pm. Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 4 pm. Special drink prices.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight: Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am Happy Hours all day and all night \$1.75 well and longnecks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Rich's doors open at 9 pm. 18 and up.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

Thursday, April 2

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm.
- BriarPatch: Doors open at 2 pm.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
- Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Amateur Talent contest @ 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Skyy Vodka open to close.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks \$3.75 all top shelf liquor. \$2.25 Imports and Micro Brews. Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$3 all call vodka.
- Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
- Metroplex: Doors open at 4 pm. Show at 10 pm.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm, Linda Lou with open mike 9-10:30 pm, 10:30 pm to 1 am Karokee
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueray or Absolut) \$3.75
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm, Pool tournament.
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's Club Hedo.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.
- Vintage Bar nightly wine tasting. 355-3093

Friday, March 27

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at E/J's 6-10 pm and at the Midtowne Spa 10 pm to 1 am.
- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713/864-8468
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Toffee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Free Yoga classes at 6 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Recovery and Beyond-relationship group meets at 8 pm. 713-333-9092.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- Houston Chain Gang Cycling Club meets for dinner. 768-8793.
- SNAP (Spay and Neuter Assistance Program) . 713/522-2337.

Saturday, March 28

- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at Brick's II 4 to 8 pm and the 611 Hyde Park Pub 8 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston's "Sing of Love" Spring Concert. 8 pm. 713-521-7464.

Sunday, March 29

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 am. 713-864-8468.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Montrose Softball League starts new season. 713-867-3913.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston's "Sing of Love" Spring Concert. 8 pm. 713-521-7464.

Monday, March 30

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 9 am to 1 pm; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am and Cousin's 8:30 pm to midnight.
- Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30 pm. 713-681-1309.
- How to Sell Your Life Insurance" seminar at 6 pm. FREE! 713-961-7100.

Tuesday, March 31

- Project Caesar workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 7pm. 495-8009.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037

- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Career Recovery/Resources Center 4 to 8 pm and Club Body Center 8pm to Midnight.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Project Caesar at AFH. 713-623-6796.
- HIV + Support group for men over 50 meets at 7:30 pm. 713/527-9106.
- HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer at 7 pm. 713/527-8219.
- Love, Lust, and Intimacy discussion group meets at 7 pm. 713/524-2374.
- Houston Outdoor Group meets for mailout. 713-864-0082.

Wednesday, April 1

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Chances 6 to 10 pm. Nighthawks/Venture-N 8 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713/864-8468.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4:30pm . 713/791-1412.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Toffee's at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey team recruits at 6:30 pm. 713-802-1248.
- Free Yoga classes at 7 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Rainbow Ronglers at 8 pm at the BRB.
- Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. 281-933-5818.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 623-6796.

Thursday, April 2

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- FrontRunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.

Galaxy Gayzer

by Joseph Molina

March 27 - April 2, 1998



Aries (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Happy birthday, Aries. It's time to let loose and be wild, it's all about you. With a strong sense of personal power and will, empowerment never felt so good. Focus combined with integrity has the potential to move your life forward. But first, off with the formulas and into casuals because you're in a mood to play.



Taurus (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

This week, you will be burdened by a need for quite some time. Time to recoup and find yourself. A guide or messenger could come to assist you in this process. You are peeling away a mask of flesh and giving birth to a butterfly. Accept solitude to find yourself, your life's path and your inner needs.



Gemini (MAY 21 - JUNE 21)

Over the course of this cycle, you need to be careful of falling prey to manipulation by another or yourself. It's all about your attitude that slows you down. You could manipulate your self through negative thinking or words. This cycle will end on the April 20, and all the positive ideas that rise to surface will have the potential to be actualized.



Cancer (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

This week will seem particularly heavier than normal. You will wonder why you can't seem to get free of stress. You will feel weighed down, attached to a ball and chain. With your mind working overtime, you could be letting the stress of the material get to you.



Leo (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

The best advice that I can give you is let go and let God. Having faith in a higher power means giving into love. The best way to take advantage of this cycle is let inspiration and unconditional love fill you. Direction will surface and in the ease of not doing, all of your answers will be found.



Virgo (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

This week, you will go through a crisis of spreading yourself too thin. Taking on too many projects could lead to despair. But, if you do not stay productive, you run the danger of falling behind. Manipulation could occur, committing you into obligations that you just as soon not accept. Your best choice of action is to make no promises so that none can be broken.



Libra (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Decadent desires could produce an inner-tension that could manifest as physical ailments. You need to break free from oppressive responsibility or lovers who demand too much. You could find yourself out and about, avoiding your work and relationships.



Scorpio (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

This cycle, you should pay attention to how you are relating. You may refuse to be open to some very important advice or could refuse some helpful assistance when offered. Generally, the child within will rise to the surface, steering you away from seriousness of any kind. A serious mood you will not be in, so try and keep the week light and jovial.



Sagittarius (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

You are at an apex of adventure, taking a step forward is leaping off into your future. Fear from taking the first step could deter you from you path. You will hesitate before a life-transforming decision. Be open to all ideas and opportunities.



Capricorn (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

A cloud could descend over your eyes and for a moment, a crisis could occur. You may not be able to see past your nose. Life will become apparent and you will have difficulty seeing past despair. But be assured that this will not last long.



Aquarius (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Pressing forces deep within your psyche raise opportunities to break free of limitations. Your chain has been rattled and shifts are running rapt throughout your life. You have only two choices: to break free of oppressive habits and negative thinking, or to succumb to events occurring now and experience Drama.



Pisces (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Keep in mind that you are experiencing a crisis in associations and relationships. This week is no different. Be reminded to keep in control of emotions and reactions to others. You could feel really high on life one day and read the wrong persons face. It's good to push forward your career but remember when someone on the other end has all the power.

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



The Way We Were

March 29 • 8pm

Miss International Gay Rodeo Association Second Runner-Up 1998

Jaime Roberts

presents

Trixie's Diner

(A step back to country)

benefiting International Gay Rodeo Association

Guest Bartenders on the patio

TGRA COMMERCIAL MEMBER
3-9pm



Tuesday Madness with
Nevada's Madness Variety Show 8pm
Extra Special Drink Prices

All Day til 11pm

Thursday
8:30pm
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with Scott



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Wednesdays - Special drink prices
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Fridays - No cover before 10pm
18 and up welcomed

Super Show

Thursday • 11pm

Starring

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Monique J.

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SPECIAL GUEST ENTERTAINERS:

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KELLY LAUREN
LINDSEY LOVE
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PAIMI LEE LOVE
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SAFIRE
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LANA BLAKE
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\$ 3 COVER CHARGE

\$ 1 WELL
\$ 2 DOMESTIC
\$ 3 CALL
DOORS AT 7 PM

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Special Notice

I received a letter from Bob (1998 Male Grand Marshall, RSICSS, HCC, and PWA Holiday Charities, HAB, Texas Renegades & Soiree Aubergine) Bouton this week. I'm paraphrasing: "Our community is facing a crisis. The Colt 45s Stone Soup Fund is running out of money. The Colt 45s Stone Soup Fund has not received funding from any group or organization this year. If no donations are forthcoming, it will be forced to shut down. AFH and the Colt 45s work in tandem to provide and fill the pantry. The Colt 45s Fund provides fresh meat, fruits, and vegetables. 100% of the monies donated to the fund are used to purchase these items at wholesale costs. At present spending levels, \$27,000 is necessary to provide these items for the coming year. Even this large amount only averages out to be \$1.11 spent per client per week." Bob is hosting a fundraiser at Nighthawks on Friday, April 3 at 9 pm. The Colt 45s need your help. Donate your time, talents, or money. Every penny helps. If you would like to perform, donate, or help in any way, call Bob at 713-521-7254 or Email at Bob77018@aol.com.



Viviana at her Grand Opening.

Important Stuff

The gang over at JR's is hosting a "Look Alike" contest on April Fool's day. Kofi, Lindsay Love, and Kourtney Van Wales will be looking like Linda Tripp, Monica Lewinsky, and Paula Jones. I bet the President won't show up for this party. \$300 in cash prizes if you want to enter the contest!



Hanging out at Pacific Street.

The Misfits are holding their 5th anniversary run this weekend! See you at Nighthawks on Saturday and Mary's on Sunday.

Return to the Wild! Jungle Lust VI, hosted by the Bayou City Boys Club, is on April 11. Tickets are available at Basic Brothers, Lobo, Custom Valet Cleaners, and Giovanni Hair and Nails. For more info, call 713-222-6621 X 326.

"I Wanna Be a Beauty Queen" a benefit to send Simply Divine to the Miss Gay Houston at Large contest will be at Rich's on Sunday, March 29 @ 10 pm.

The 6th Annual Ralph Street Awards are on April 1 at 7:30 pm at EJ's.

Saturday, March 28 Regent Emperor Buddy Thompson and Empress Jennifer Ellsworth present "A Wet T-shirt" contest at 9 pm. The \$10 entry fee benefits the Colt 45s. On Sunday, March 29, the Garden Party present "March Madness" at 9 pm. Where else but Chances!

On Monday, March 30 you can view "On the Boulevard," the gay sitcom, on the screens at Gentry. That is if you can take your eyes away from the fabu Boy Toy dancers!

Tuesdays at the Brazos River Bottom are madness. Nevada's show at 8 pm is truly twisted! The BRB also has extra special drink prices until 11 pm. Don't forget dance lessons on Thursdays with Scott at 8:30 pm.

Basic brothers is having a half-off sale! Buy one pair of underwear and get the second one at half-price!

Stan (Mr. Gulf Coast Boot Black) is presenting "West Side Story," not your typical drag show at Nighthawks on Saturday, March 28. This will benefit the Houston Buyer's Club. Knowing Stan as I do, I know this will be truly sick and twisted!

"Pigs in Wigs" is the attire for the "1998 Slut Ball." Thumper Knight Leigh is doing her farewell performance at Brick's II on Friday, March 27 starting at 8 pm. This is part of the fundraising efforts of Dennis Cooney, candidate for Mr. Prime Choice.



Shelby St. John & Devon DeVasquez

Sunday, April 19 is the Mr. Texas Drummer contest at Pacific Street! Applications are available at PS, and at all Leather by Boots locations!

Metroplex can be reserved for your private party on any Sunday. Call 520-5000 to get more info.

The S&M Ball V is on March 28! This truly legendary party is hosted by Dare-Ware and HPEP! For ticket info, call 713-953-9393.

Milestones

Hugs to Lee (formerly of the Ripcord) Brown on the passing of his father.

Happy 7th anniversary to the Houston Voices' own Connie Marmolejo and Patricia Marroquin!

Happy (Bourbon) birthday to Bear and Keisha of Pacific Street.



Susan & Shiela at Chances.

For Your Information:

Club Triangle has temporarily closed. They are looking for a new location. The neighborhood civic association has been complaining and their voices are very loud! This is too bad, 'cuz the place was really taking off as an after hours club. I wish Mike and the gang there good luck and look forward to restocking my Liqueur Locker in their new location very soon!

Rodent Droppings



Joann pulls a good one at the BRB.

The usual disclaimer is in force. Lies, gossip, and trash. No real news here! If you want well written copy, please turn to page one and start there!

Pepper the wonder dog sure wants to eat Rascal! I had Rascal on my shoulder while on the way to the kitchen to fill up Harvey's water bottle. As usual, I placed Rascal on the kitchen counter while I filled up the bottle. In a flash, Pepper's paws were up on the counter aiming for Rascal. A

very loud "NO" left my throat. Poor Rascal thought she had done something wrong. I immediately scooped up Rascal and back to my shoulder she went. Pepper started jumping on me. At least this time, Rascal did not get knocked off. Back to the ferret room we went. I then cleaned out the litter box and here are the droppings I found:

Crystal Rae Lee Love (RSICSS): And I quote: "I am not dinner on the first date!"

James E. (new manager of Ruggles): Thanks so much for the shot of Cuervo!

Scooter (Ripcord): Is it true you are leaving the Ripcord? And I understand that you have mastered the art of "Tossing your Cookies" while not spilling a drop of your drink!



A partying Papa Del.

Marlene (Chances): I understand that you have had tons of applicants from the Ripcord!

Gary (Ripcord): Do you need to place a help wanted ad?

Chris (hangs at the BRB): Booze, Vera, and piano moving don't mix!

Mike K. (Bar fly): Do you drive a "Fag-u-lar?"

Ricky Don (hangs at Brick's II): 6 (not sex) clues. #1 is coming!

Mario (BRB): Did you think of Vera when you went horseback riding last week?

Butt Boy: I hear you are single, and looking for a husband!

T-Bone (hangs at the BRB): Please don't lie when you are on the internet. You are NOT 21 years old!

Bud (hangs at Mary's): I have a message for you: "I Love you Big, Love Daddy Dan" (I am a week late on this message, I hope things have not changed!)

Twister (BRB): Still "haling" Miss Daisy?

Vanna (Gentry): The fantasy may be a day of you not drinking or hoping for anonymous sex!

David (Ripcord): What is this I hear about a "Booty" call, Burger King and Beer all in the same morning?

Bam Bam (PS) & Sammy: Tulips?

Darlene (formerly of the Outpost): I hear they set up a "UDF" fund!

Brian Keever (RSICSS): You drive like a grandma!

Kale (River Oaks Chrysler): I hear you like to install license plates in the parking lots of StopNGo!

Wayne G. (BriarPatch): Bear wanted me to tell you he has been kissed by worse!

Thomas (hangs at PS): I saw you kissing Mark!

Larry (BRB): Congrats on you working the door again! At least this time it is "inside!"

Black Velvet (DQ Diva): When was the last time you got filthy at Gentry?

Thumper Knight Leigh: Good luck in California!

Ralph (Paradise): I'm glad to see you up and around again!

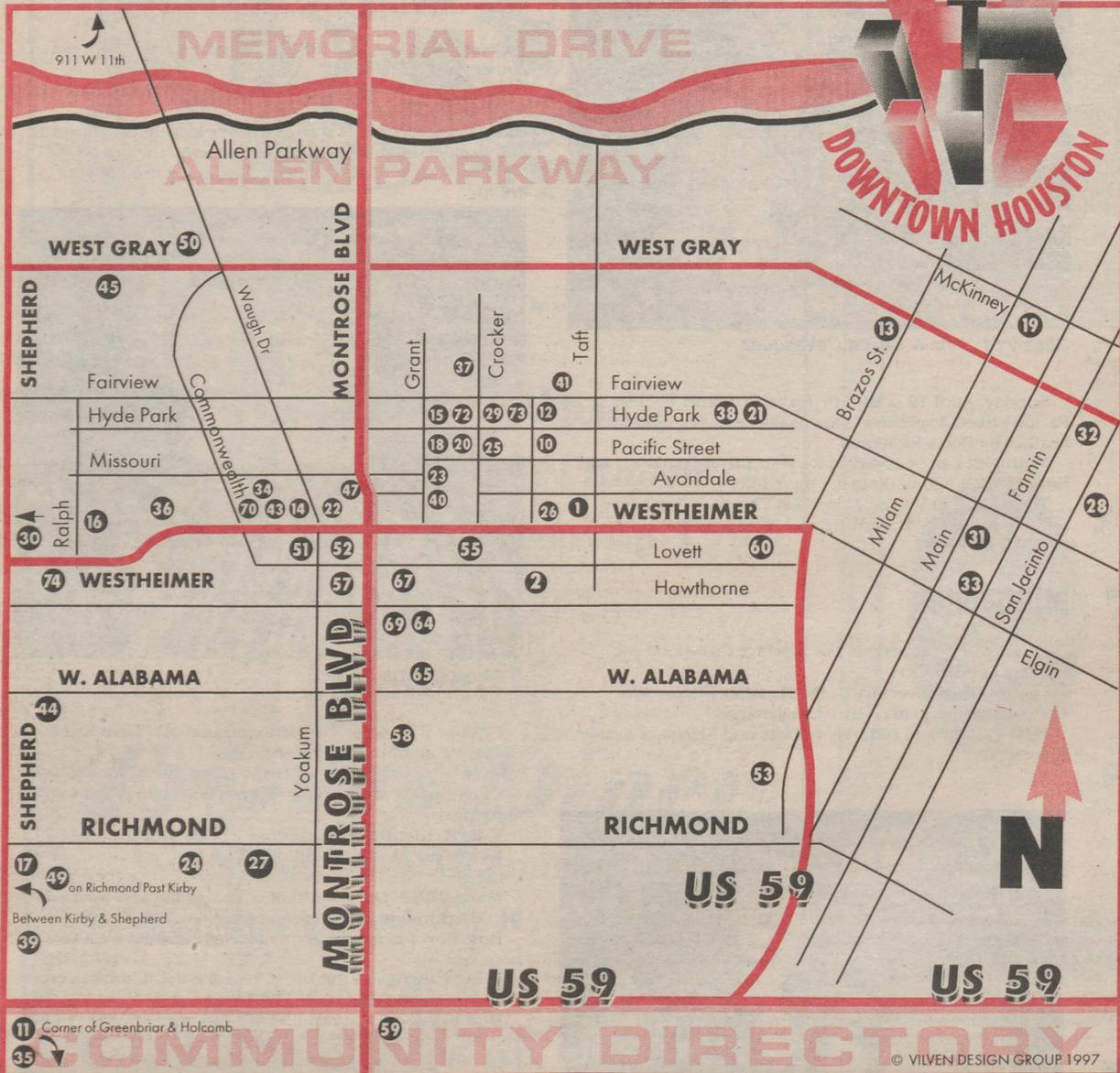
Keep sending in your "Pet of the Week!"



Pet of the Week - Lucy. Owner - Marion Coleman

Have a great week!

Cuervolyn



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2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd 713/522-5224
BARS & CLUBS		
10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park 713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe 713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview 713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos 713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview 713/528-9204
16	EJs	2517 Ralph 713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond 713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific 713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney 713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific 713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Tuam 713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer 713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific 713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond 713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific 713/523-0213
26	QT's	534 Westheimer 713/529-8813
27	Club Triangle	1205 Richmond 713/522-0881
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto 713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview 713/521-2792
30	Vintage Bar on Midlane	4356 Westheimer 713/355-3093
31	Venture N Nighthawks	2923 Main 713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin 713/659-4998
33	Midtowne Spa	3100 Fannin 713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer 713/521-9533
35	PLAZA 9200:	
	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy 713/666-3436
36	Rascals	1318 Westheimer 713/942-CLUB
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker 713/522-7366
38	Mela's Tejano Country	302 Taum 713/523-0747
39	Metroplex	2165 Portsmouth 713/520-5000
RESTAURANTS		
40	Baba Yega	2607 Grant 713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview 713/522-0106
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer 713/522-3332
44	Cafe Edi	3102 S. Shepherd 713/520-5221
45	Mesa Grill	1971 W. Gray 713/520-8900
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St. 713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES		
49	Allstate	3467 Kirby 713/526-5553
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray 713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer 713/942-0147
52	Eckerd Drugs	1007 Westheimer 713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam 713/524-9932
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer 713/529-8490
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose 713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939-S Montrose 713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose 713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer 713/520-2000
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne 713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama 713/523-2521
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose 713/520-8000
69	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (A5) 713/522-7373
CLOTHING SHOPS		
31	Black Hawks	2923 Main 713/520-6224
70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer 713/522-1626
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview 713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview 713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer 713/529-6299



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To schedule an HIV/AIDS education session for your workplace, or to obtain posters, brochures and other materials, call your Greater Houston Area Red Cross.
(713) 526-8300

Education that works, from a name you can trust.

American Red Cross
WORKPLACE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

Talent Night
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Week #2 Preliminary

Winners of the Tuesday & Thursday preliminaries return for finals.

\$500 Cash - Winner Take All

Super Saturday Night Fever

Roxanne Lee Love

Lana Blake

Paivi Lee Love

Dyan Michaels

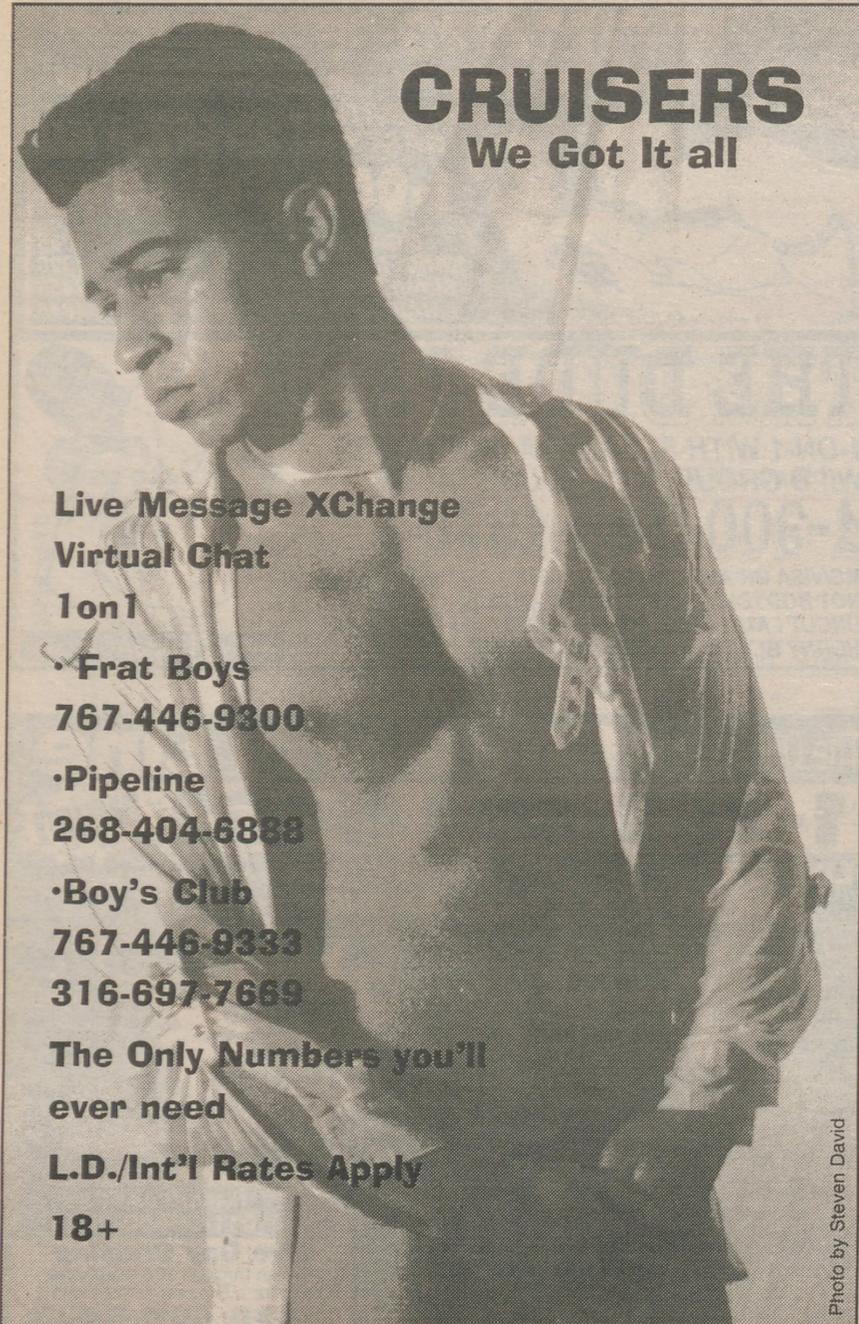
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\$1.50 Well 4-7 Saturday
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Mug Club 7am - 10pm
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Saturday, March 28
Black Velvet Dynasty

FRI	3/27	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
SAT	3/28	SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER at 11 pm
SUN	3/29	\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day and All Night
MON	3/30	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
TUE	3/31	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Dyan Michaels
WED	4/1	Granny's Burgers!
THUR	4/2	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos



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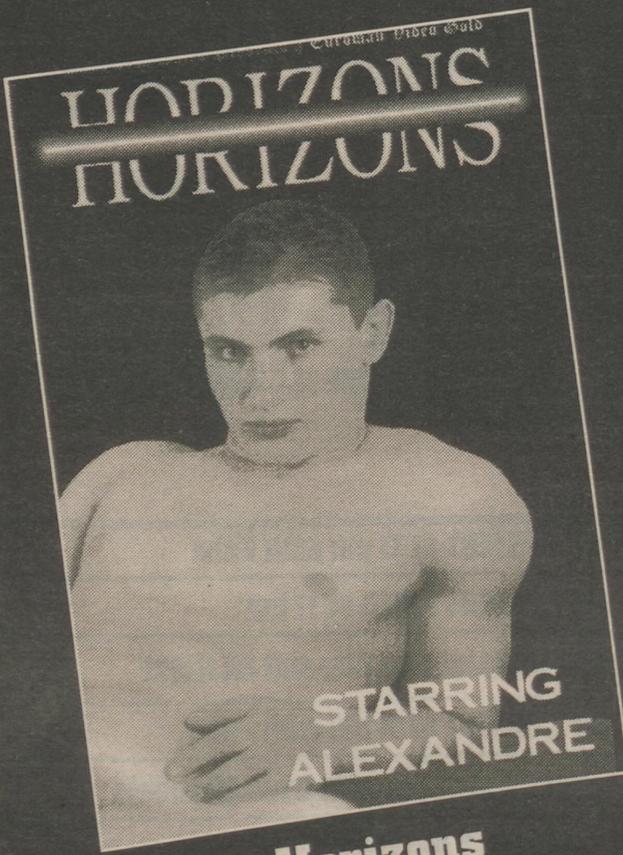
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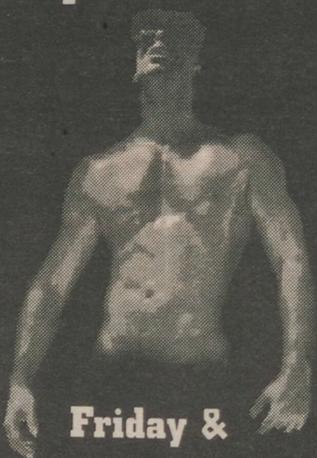
Thursday
Matinee
\$4 All Day
with
Membership

All Male Cinema presents



Horizons

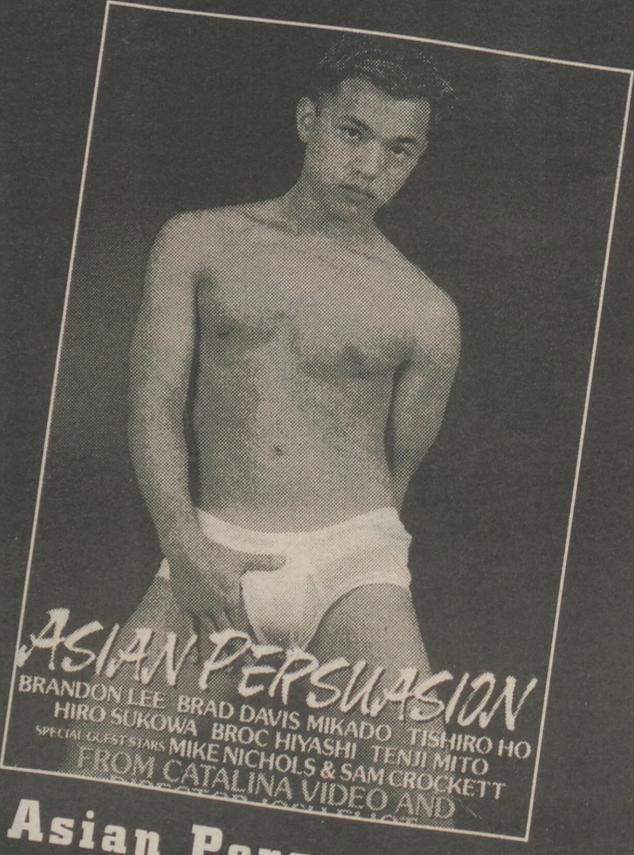
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nelfinavir mesylate

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT[®] (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

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

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

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

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

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

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

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane[®] (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal[®] (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid[®] (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone[®] (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute[®], Cardioquin[®], Quinidex[®], and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot[®] and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion[®] (triazolam)
- Versed[®] (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane[®], Rifadin[®], Rifater[®], or Rifamate[®]

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin[®] (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin[®] and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol[®] and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

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

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx[®] (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

- When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
- Viramune[®] (nevirapine)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs
- VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan[®] (indinavir)
The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir[™] (ritonavir)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase[®] (saquinavir)
The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do **not** have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

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

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

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

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

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

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

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

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

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7	to < 8.5	4	1	-
8.5	to <10.5	5	1 1/4	-
10.5	to <12	6	1 1/2	-
12	to <14	7	1 3/4	-
14	to <16	8	2	-
16	to <18	9	2 1/4	-
18	to <23	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

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Issued 11/13/97

CALL 1.888.VIRACEPT

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VIRACEPT IS POWERFUL It's tough on HIV. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy.

(The clinical significance of changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established.

The virus may still be present in other organ systems.) **VIRACEPT IS EASY TO LIVE WITH**

Take it three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks. **VIRACEPT IS**

GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED People treated with VIRACEPT

may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of

moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in clinical trials.

WHAT YOUR PROTEASE INHIBITOR CAN BE:

VIRACEPT WORKS It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common

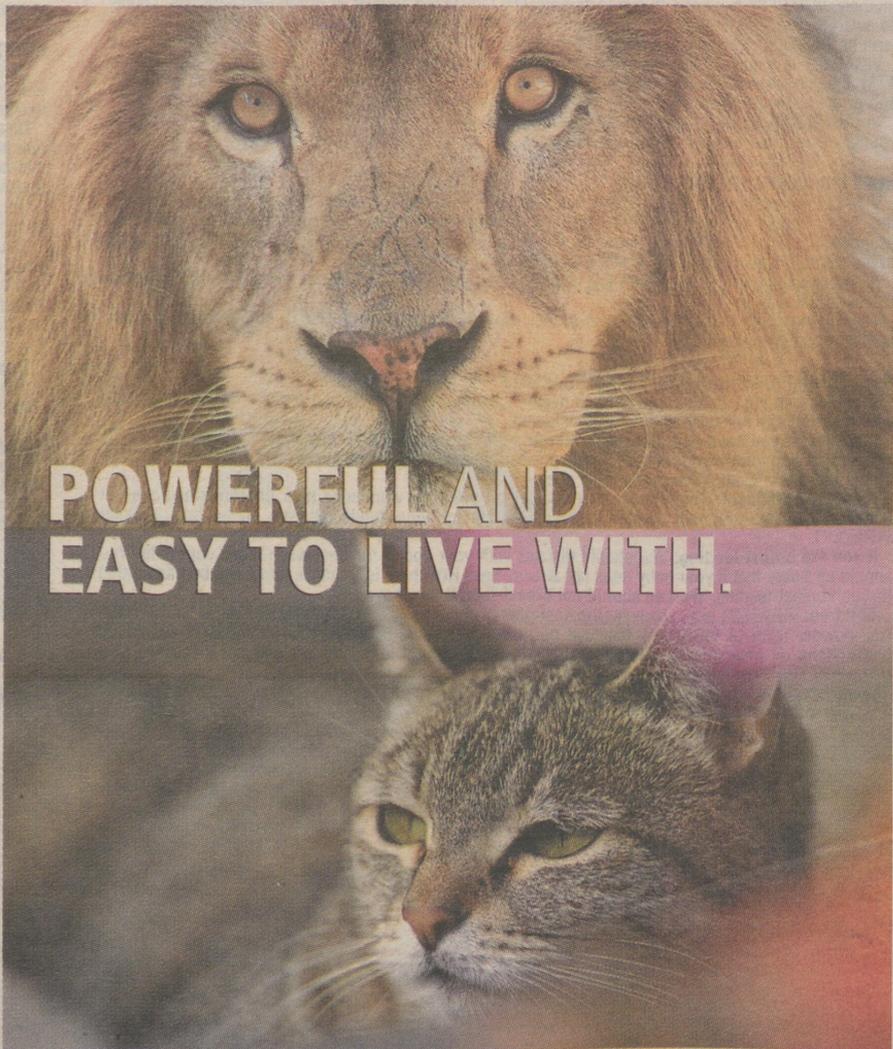
medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For

some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of

diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with

hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit

www.agouron.com. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)




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VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate