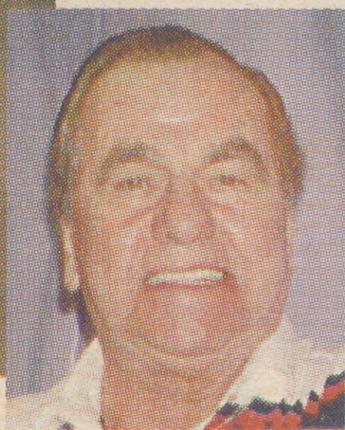


Was Mike Keller murdered?



Keller circa 1950 (above) and a few years ago

► After beating, a 77-year-old man dies leaving authorities with a mystery on their hands: Did the victim die of the beating, or of a chronic ailment? Friends and family say it was murder.

by ANTHONY CONNOLLY

Authorities can't seem to get their stories straight on how a 77-year-old gay Houston man died, May 19.

On May 24, the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office said Michael Tom Keller died of natural causes, three days after being beaten by thieves who broke into his Sul Ross apartment on May 16.

His doctor, Dr. Juan Plana at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center—where Keller was treated for his beating wounds for three days—said he was informed by the forensic team at the medical examiner's office that Keller had died not of the multiple fractures to his face and skull, but from a blood clot in his lungs.

"He didn't die from trauma, he died from the blood clot," said Dr. Plana.

However, after persistent calls for a review of the case by friends, family and the gay press, both the medical examiner's office and the Houston Police Department are backing away from earlier reports.

As of May 27, the cause of Keller's death was still to be determined.

Meanwhile HPD is investigating the incident as an aggravated robbery, not as a homicide.

Friends and family say Keller was murdered, and the police ought to deal with the case in that manner.

"It irritates me to no end. Mike was murdered, no

doubt about it. And the police are going to do nothing about it. He was beaten to death," said longtime friend, Tom Carver.

"I pay more taxes than 20 over-populating hetro-motherfuckers and yet when one of my children get murdered there's nothing to be done... yet," said Carver who knew Keller for over 56 years. "Notice, I said, 'yet.'"

Keller is described by friends as a man of great humor, of an over-active libido, and for his ways of spending millions he inherited over the years. He was at one time the manager of Diner's News, and was active in the local gay Alcoholics Anonymous.

During his earlier years, he sang with the Tommy Dorsey Band, prior to Frank Sinatra, said Carver.

"He had the voice God meant for someone else. People would swoon for his voice."

Carver and others said Keller's penchant for companionship caused him no end of trouble. Many believe it may have led to his death.

"Mike would pick up young Hispanic tricks (gay prostitutes), and bring them back to his house. The person came back that night with three people and beat him and robbed him," said friend, Wendy Patterson.

It is a view shared by an acquaintance, Tim Campbell. "My conjecture is that he allowed his regular boyfriend/trick to stay the night and the

► See Murder? Page 5

Texas Lesbian Conference '99

Lesbians told to get political

► Conference speakers say lesbians need to vote, generate excitement and stand up for their beliefs to ensure rights now and for a new generation.

by KAY Y. DAYUS and TAMMYE NASH

The 12th annual Texas Lesbian Conference, held May 21-23 in Dallas, was a huge success, both financially and in terms of content, according to organizing committee co-chair Emily Cruse.

"That place (host hotel Ramada Inn Market Center) was packed," said Cruse. "It was great, just wonderful. All the evaluation forms we got back said kudos, kudos kudos."

"Empowering," "comfortable," "safe," and "camaraderie," were the buzz words Sunday at the close of the event. Some 225 lesbians gathered in Dallas from as far as Arizona and St. Louis, Missouri for the conference.

They came to mix, mingle, meet new friends, and listen to the likes of Robin Tyler, Joan Garry, Kelli Herd, and Trisha Todd give their visions of the future.

Attendees had more than 25 workshops ranging from lesbian health issues to relationships to cyberspace and belly dancing to choose from. In fact, said Clarissa Carter of Denton, "the only downside was that there were too many good workshops."

Robin Tyler, the nation's first openly gay comedian, activist and producer, the first of the conference's four keynote speakers, spoke of the need to organize for protection.

"We're the only minority group in the nation without civil rights," said Tyler.

"We think we have rights, but we don't. We don't even have the right to get murdered," referring to the failure of several hate crimes bills to pass legislative muster.

Violence against gays in general is escalating Tyler says, because we are more visible.

"We've emerged from the darkness to light, we've become a threat." But, she adds, "We are not going to agonize anymore; we are going to organize."

Lesbians and gay men must organize for the next generation, said Tyler, "So they don't have to be called fag or queer."

Tyler, executive producer of the gay and lesbian Millennium March for Equality on Washington sched-

► See Conference Page 5



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Issue 970

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voice**

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Stalking ends in the death of two men in Houston

by ANTHONY CONNOLLY

An altercation between two men who "had a relationship together," ended in a murder/suicide, May 24 on a Gulf Freeway feeder road in Houston.

Michael Anthony Calim, 32, of 7735 Hereford, was shot in the face by Bobby L. Williams, 40, who then turned the gun on himself.

The exact relationship between the

two men, at press time, was not clear to HPD.

Investigators believe Williams and Calim had a relationship for, "a couple of months to a year," in Ohio where they lived together and did some traveling, said John Cannon of HPD.

Police investigating the double shooting interviewed Calim's present roommate and discovered Williams had been

"stalking," Calim for some time.

By interviewing the roommate HPD discovered how the two men came to be on the freeway together.

"Calim told (Williams) he would take him to a hotel on the Gulf Freeway. Once at the hotel, the suspect shot Calim and then himself. Both men were pronounced dead at the scene."

Nevada passes 'landmark' job discrimination bill

CARSON CITY—Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn is expected to sign a bill passed by the state Legislature last week that outlaws employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Signing the bill into law would make Nevada the 11th state to have a civil rights law banning discrimination against gays, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Similar bills have failed in four state legislatures this year, according to the task force. New Hampshire was the last state to enact such a measure, which lawmakers did in 1997.

Nevada's Senate voted 13-8 on May 20 to pass the bill after rejecting two amendments. Assembly Bill 311 was approved 30-11 by the Assembly on April 1. The bill was sent to Guinn on Monday. His chief of staff has said the governor will sign the measure.

"I'm a fair guy,"

Guinn said about the issue during a recent visit to the legislature, according to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

Under the bill, job discrimination would be prohibited on the grounds of a person's sexual orientation, regardless of whether the person is gay, bisexual or heterosexual.

Assemblyman David Parks, (D-Las Vegas), the legislature's only openly gay member, spearheaded the measure. He said the law is needed because there are no federal or state laws specifically protecting gay rights.

"I'm immensely pleased that this passed," Parks said. "I was confident that it would pass because it is the right thing to do. I fought for civil rights in the '60s. This is just further evolution of equality."

Senate Minority Leader Dina Titus, (D-Las Vegas), called it landmark legislation.

"I think this will be considered by far one of the most significant things we will have done during this legislative

session," Titus said.

During the floor debate, Sen. Maurice Washington, (R-Sparks), tried unsuccessfully to tack on an amendment that would exempt a long list of companies from the requirements. Under the bill, exemptions would be granted for companies with 15 or fewer employees and religious and nonprofit organizations, like the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts.

Sen. Bill O'Donnell, (R-Las Vegas), lost a move to attach an amendment that would delay enforcement of the anti-discrimination law until the federal government adopted a similar law.

O'Donnell argued that passage would lead to litigation that the state would be forced to fight and that no money has been set aside for such legal battles.

"It is unfair and fiscally irresponsible," he said. "None of us here discriminate. How are we going to afford to

the *Review-Journal*.

Sen. Randolph Townsend, (R-Reno), argued that if employers did not discriminate, then no need would exist for lawsuits.

"That is the goal," he said, according to the *Review-Journal*. "If you don't discriminate, then there is no cost."

After the hearing, Parks said a Congressional study found no increase in lawsuits in states where anti-discrimination laws for gays were passed.

The bill was backed by all nine Democrats in the Senate and four of the 12 Republicans, including Majority Leader Bill Raggio, (R-Reno).

"I don't read into AB311 anything that condones any particular lifestyle," Raggio said. "I see it as a measure that prevents someone from firing someone from a job merely because of that (sexual orientation)."

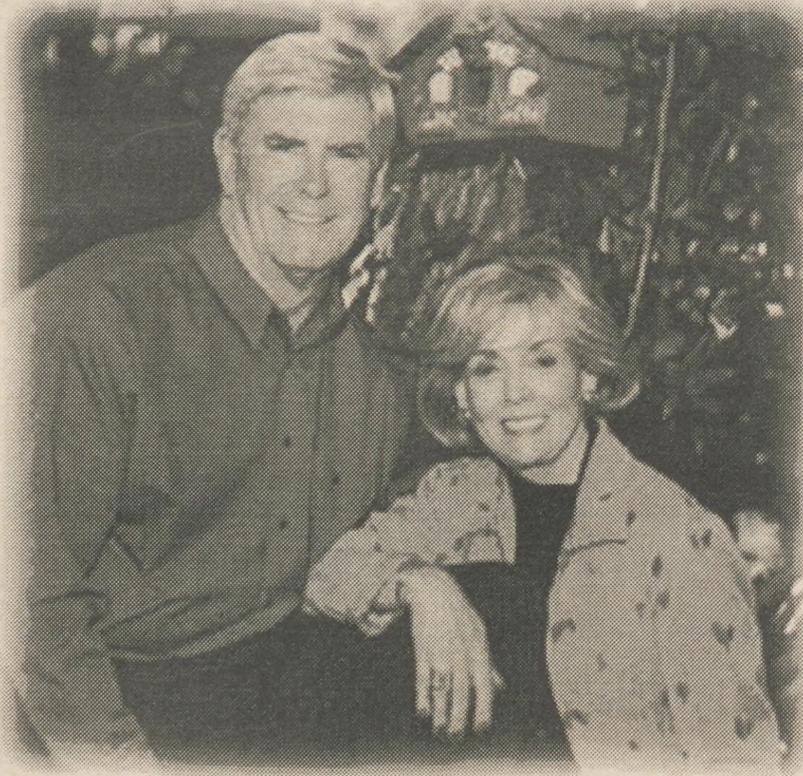
Eagle Forum lobbyist Janine Hansen was disappointed by the vote.

"It creates a situation in Nevada where employers' rights of freedom of religion and speech and association are undermined," she said. "We already have under the Constitution equal rights for everyone. Now we have special rights for homosexuals."

Ten states have civil rights laws banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in some categories, including employment, housing, and public accommodations: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Bills creating or strengthening civil rights laws covering gays have been introduced in 20 states; bills in five of the states Delaware, Illinois,

Louisiana, Nevada and Texas cover only employment-based discrimination. Of those five, only the Nevada bill remains alive, according to the NGLTF.



Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn is expected to support a pro-gay measure.

fight these cases?"

Titus argued that justice delayed would be justice denied.

"Why is it okay to discriminate now but not later?" she asked, according to

SEROSTIM™

Because there is no time to waste.

Human Growth Hormone combats the loss of lean body mass in ways other treatments don't.*

SEROSTIM is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia, in combination with antiviral therapy, based on analysis of intermediate effects in studies up to 12 weeks duration.

You may know that wasting robs a person of lean muscle and organ mass, and physical performance. But did you know that it can strike anyone with HIV? At any time? Even while your weight remains constant? That's because you could be adding fat to your body while still losing lean body mass (LBM).

If you are experiencing wasting, discuss with your doctor whether SEROSTIM—human growth hormone—might be right for you.

SEROSTIM rebuilds LBM and improves physical performance while reducing body fat. Studies show that without the LBM you need, you could become weaker, get sick more often and may not live as long as people who are not losing lean body mass; although the clinical significance of treatment-induced weight gain and increasing LBM have not been established. Physical performance was assessed by treadmill exercise testing. Grip strength, another measure of muscle performance may decline, probably due to increased tissue fullness, which sometimes occurs with growth hormone. Subjective assessment of performance was measured in a nine-point questionnaire. SEROSTIM showed significant improvements on two points—change in appearance and overall benefit of therapy—while results of the other measures were inconclusive. Patients who continue to lose weight in their first two weeks of therapy should be reevaluated.



SEROSTIM isn't a steroid, an appetite stimulant or nutritional supplement. It's a completely new anabolic (LBM building) and anticatabolic (inhibits LBM breakdown) treatment that increases LBM and improves physical performance by interacting with a variety of cell types.

One way to know for sure if your treatment has restored LBM is to ask your doctor about BIA or Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis. BIA measures body composition so changes in LBM can be monitored. It takes just 5 minutes and is completely painless. If your physician cannot provide BIA testing, ask him/her to call Serono at 800-714-2437 and a representative will help your physician gain access to a BIA system on your behalf.

People on SEROSTIM may observe side effects. In clinical trials, patients treated with SEROSTIM noticed muscle and joint soreness (53.7% vs. 33.3% for placebo) and swelling in the hands and feet (27.3% vs. 2.7% for placebo). Physicians rated these symptoms as mild-to-moderate, and in most cases they will subside with continued

treatment. Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. SEROSTIM use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Also, SEROSTIM must be used along with anti-HIV drug therapy. Data related to interactions between SEROSTIM and anti-HIV treatments are not yet available.

Wasting is treatable. See your doctor or call the SEROSTIM Access Line at **800-714-2437** to find out about SEROSTIM's solution.

The power of nature is the science of Serostim.

Serono
PART OF THE ABBE-SERONO GROUP

*Serostim is an anabolic and anticatabolic agent that works by interacting with specific receptors on a variety of cell types. For additional information about Serostim, please refer to the brief summary on the next page.

SLI 98-8130

Serostim®
[somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection]

Serostim[®]

[somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection]

BRIEF SUMMARY. SEE FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION BEFORE PRESCRIBING.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Serostim[®] [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia. This indication is based on analyses of surrogate endpoints in studies of up to 12 weeks in duration. Concomitant anti-viral therapy is necessary (see PRECAUTIONS: General). The continued use of Serostim treatment should be reevaluated in patients who continue to lose weight in the first two weeks of treatment.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Growth hormone should not be initiated to treat patients with acute critical illness due to complications following open heart or abdominal surgery, multiple accidental trauma or to patients having acute respiratory failure. Two placebo-controlled clinical trials in non-growth hormone deficient adult patients (n=522) with these conditions revealed a significant increase in mortality (41.9% vs 19.3%) among somatropin treated patients (doses 5.3-8 mg/day) compared to those receiving placebo (see WARNINGS).

Serostim[®] [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to growth hormone.

WARNINGS: See CONTRAINDICATIONS for information on increased mortality in patients with acute critical illnesses in intensive care units due to complications following open heart or abdominal surgery, multiple accidental trauma or acute respiratory failure. The safety of continuing growth hormone treatment in patients receiving replacement doses for approved indications who concurrently develop these illnesses has not been established. Therefore, the potential benefit of treatment continuation with growth hormone in patients having acute critical illnesses should be weighed against the potential risk.

PRECAUTIONS: General: Serostim therapy should be carried out under the regular guidance of a physician who is experienced in the diagnosis and management of AIDS. Inadequate nutritional intake, malabsorption and hypogonadism, which are common in individuals with AIDS and which may contribute to catabolism and weight loss, should also be monitored and treated.

HIV and Growth Hormone Considerations: In some experimental systems, recombinant human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been shown to potentiate HIV replication in vitro at concentrations ranging from 50-250 ng/ml. There was no increase in virus production when the antiretroviral agents, zidovudine, didanosine or lamivudine were added to the culture medium. Additional in vitro studies have shown that r-hGH does not interfere with the antiviral activity of zalcitabine or stavudine. In the controlled clinical trials, no significant growth hormone-associated increase in viral burden was observed. However, the protocol required all participants to be on concomitant nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of the study. In view of the potential for acceleration of virus replication, it is recommended that HIV+ patients be maintained on nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of Serostim treatment.

Increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly in the hands and feet) and musculoskeletal discomfort (pain, swelling and/or stiffness) may occur during treatment with Serostim, but may resolve spontaneously, with analgesic therapy, or after reducing the frequency of dosing (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Carpal tunnel syndrome may occur during treatment with Serostim. If the symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome do not resolve by decreasing the weekly number of doses of Serostim, it is recommended that treatment be discontinued.

Patients should be informed that allergic reactions are possible and that prompt medical attention should be sought if an allergic reaction occurs. None of the 188 study participants with AIDS wasting who were evaluable for antibody assessments and who were treated with Serostim for the first time developed detectable antibodies to growth hormone (> 4 pg binding). Patients were not rechallenged.

Recombinant Human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been associated with acute pancreatitis.

Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. Serostim use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Patients with other risk factors for glucose intolerance should be monitored closely during Serostim therapy.

No cases of intracranial hypertension (IH) have been observed among patients with AIDS wasting treated with Serostim. The syndrome of IH, with papilledema, visual changes, headache, and nausea and/or vomiting has been reported in a small number of children with growth failure treated with growth hormone products. Nevertheless, funduscopic evaluation of patients is recommended at the initiation and periodically during the course of Serostim therapy.

Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, and other malignancies are common in HIV+ individuals. There was no increase in the incidence of Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, or in the progression of cutaneous Kaposi's sarcoma in clinical studies of Serostim. Patients with internal KS lesions were excluded from the studies. Potential effects on other malignancies are unknown.

Information For Patients: Patients being treated with Serostim should be informed of the potential benefits and risks associated with treatment. Patients should be instructed to contact their physician should they experience any side effects or discomfort during treatment with Serostim. It is recommended that Serostim be administered using sterile, disposable syringes and needles. Patients should be thoroughly instructed in the importance of proper disposal and cautioned against any reuse of needles and syringes. An appropriate container for the disposal of used syringes and needles should be employed. Patients should be instructed to rotate injection sites to avoid lipodystrophy.

Drug Interactions: Formal in vitro drug interaction studies have not been conducted. No data are available on drug interactions between Serostim and HIV protease inhibitors or the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term animal studies for carcinogenicity have not been performed with Serostim. There is no evidence from animal studies to date of Serostim-induced mutagenicity or impairment of fertility.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category B. Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits. Doses up to 5 to 10 times the human dose, based on body surface area, have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to Serostim. There are, however, no adequate and well controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Women: It is not known whether Serostim is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when Serostim is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: In two small studies, 11 children with HIV associated failure to thrive were treated subcutaneously with human growth hormone. In one study, five children (age range, 6 to 17 years) were treated with 0.04 mg/kg/day for 26 weeks. In a second study, six children (age range, 8 to 14 years) were treated with 0.07 mg/kg/day for 4 weeks. Treatment appeared to be well tolerated in both studies. These preliminary data collected in a limited number of patients with HIV associated failure to thrive appear to be consistent with safety observations in growth hormone treated adults with AIDS wasting.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: In two placebo-controlled clinical trials in which 205 patients were treated with Serostim the most common adverse reactions judged to be associated with Serostim were musculoskeletal discomfort and increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly of the hands or feet) (see PRECAUTIONS: General). These symptoms were generally rated by investigators as mild to moderate in severity and usually subsided with continued treatment. Discontinuations as a result of these events were rare.

Because of the diverse clinical manifestations of AIDS, and the frequent occurrence of adverse events associated with underlying disease process, it was often difficult to distinguish adverse events possibly associated with the administration of Serostim from underlying signs or symptoms of AIDS or associated intercurrent illnesses.

Clinical adverse events which occurred during the first 12 weeks of study in at least 10% of those who received Serostim during the two placebo-controlled trials are listed below by treatment group, without regard to causality assessment.

Table 2: Controlled Trials Adverse Events

Adverse Event	Serostim (n=205)		Placebo (n=150)	
	%		%	
Musculoskeletal discomfort	53.7		33.3	
Fever	31.2		29.3	
Increased tissue turgor	27.3		2.7	
Diarrhea	25.9		20.0	
Neuropathy	25.9		17.3	
Nausea	25.9		16.0	
Headache	19.0		20.7	
Abdominal pain	17.1		18.7	
Fatigue	17.1		16.0	
Leukopenia	15.1		24.7	
Albuminuria	15.1		9.3	
Granulocytopenia	14.1		21.3	
Lymphadenopathy	14.1		16.0	
Increased sweating	14.1		8.7	
Anorexia	12.2		9.3	
Anemia	12.2		8.7	
Vomiting	11.7		12.0	
SGOT increased	11.7		6.0	
Insomnia	11.2		9.3	
Tachycardia	11.2		6.0	
Hyperglycemia	10.2		6.0	
SGPT increased	10.2		5.3	

Adverse events that occurred in 1% to less than 10% of study participants receiving Serostim in the two placebo-controlled clinical efficacy studies are listed below by body system. The list of adverse events has been compiled regardless of causal relationship to Serostim.

Body as a Whole: rigors, flu-like symptoms, back pain, malaise, asthenia, carpal tunnel syndrome (see PRECAUTIONS: General), chest pain, hot flashes, allergic reaction. **Gastrointestinal System:** oral leukoplakia, flatulence, dyspepsia, dry mouth, constipation, ulcerative stomatitis, increased amylase, dysphagia, esophagitis, colitis, pancreatitis, rectal disorder, gastritis, tongue ulceration, gingivitis. **Musculoskeletal System:** muscle weakness. **Central and Peripheral Nervous System:** dizziness, convulsions, hypertonia, neuralgia, tremor, encephalopathy, nystagmus, meningism. **Respiratory System:** dyspnea, coughing, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection, pharyngitis, rhinitis, pneumonia, bronchitis, increased sputum, respiratory disorder, bronchospasm, pneumonitis, pleurisy. **White Blood Cell and Reticuloendothelial System Disorders:** cervical lymphadenopathy, eosinophilia. **Skin and Appendages:** skin disorder, folliculitis, rash, alopecia, photosensitivity reaction, erythematous rash, pruritus, abnormal pigmentation, seborrhea, dermatitis, skin ulceration, acne, skin discoloration, verruca. **Psychiatric:** depression, anxiety, somnolence, nervousness, appetite increased, amnesia, abnormal thinking. **Metabolic and Nutritional:** hypertriglyceridemia, increased alkaline phosphatase, dehydration, increased creatinine phosphokinase, increased LDH, glycosuria, hypokalemia, cachexia, thirst, acidosis. **Immune System Dysfunction:** moniliasis, bacterial infection, Pneumocystis carinii infection, viral infection, infection, Herpes simplex, sepsis, abscess, fungal infection, Herpes zoster. **Urinary System:** hematuria, urinary tract infection, nocturia. **Liver and Biliary System:** abnormal hepatic function, hepatomegaly, hepatitis. **Vision:** retinitis, abnormal vision, photophobia. **Platelet, Bleeding and Clotting:** thrombocytopenia, purpura. **Cardiovascular, General:** abnormal ECG, heart murmur, hypertension, hypotension. **Application Site:** injection site pain, injection site reaction. **Neoplasms:** Kaposi's sarcoma. **Male Reproductive:** epididymitis, penis disorder, inguinal hernia. **Hearing and Vestibular:** earache, ear disorder, decreasing hearing. **Endocrine:** gynecomastia, male breast pain.

The types and incidences of adverse events reported in an open-label, extension trial and in a single, foreign trial, for up to one year, were not different from, or greater in frequency, than those observed in the primary, placebo-controlled, clinical trials.

OVERDOSAGE

Glucose intolerance can occur with overdosage. Long-term overdosage with growth hormone could result in signs and symptoms of acromegaly.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Serostim[®] [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] should be administered subcutaneously daily at bedtime according to the following dosage recommendations:

Weight Range	Dose*
>55 kg	6 mg SC daily
45-55 kg	5 mg SC daily
35-45 kg	4 mg SC daily

*Based on an approximate daily dosage of 0.1 mg/kg.

In patients who weigh less than 35 kg, Serostim should be administered at a dose of 0.1 mg/kg subcutaneously daily at bedtime. Dose reductions for side effects felt to be related to treatment with Serostim, which are unresponsive to symptomatic treatment, may be effected by reducing the total daily dose or the number of doses given per week.

In patients who continue to lose weight at week 2, reevaluate for concurrent opportunistic infections or other clinical events. Injection sites should be rotated.

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients with AIDS have not been established.

Each vial of Serostim 4 mg, 5 mg or 6 mg is reconstituted with 1 mL sterile water for injection. To reconstitute Serostim, inject the diluent into the vial of Serostim aiming the liquid against the glass vial wall. Swirl the vial with a gentle rotary motion until contents are dissolved completely. The Serostim solution should be clear immediately after reconstitution. **DO NOT INJECT** Serostim if the reconstituted product is cloudy immediately after reconstitution or refrigeration. Occasionally, after refrigeration, small colorless particles may be present in the Serostim solution. This is not unusual for proteins like Serostim.

STABILITY AND STORAGE

Before reconstitution: Serostim should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Expiration dates are stated on product labels.

After reconstitution: Use within 24 hours after reconstitution with diluent. The reconstituted solution should be stored under refrigerated conditions (36° - 46°F/2° - 8°C).

Sterile Diluent, 1 mL (Sterile Water for Injection, USP) should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Avoid freezing vials of Serostim and Sterile Diluent.

HOW SUPPLIED

Serostim is available in the following forms:

Serostim vials containing 4 mg (approximately 12 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP.
 Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0004-7

Serostim vials containing 5 mg (approximately 15 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP.
 Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0005-7

Serostim vials containing 6 mg (approximately 18 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP.
 Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0006-7

Manufactured for: Serono Laboratories, Inc., Randolph, MA 02368
 Rx Only

February 1999
 SLI 99-8167



Police need help in solving what happened to Keller

Murder? from page 1

boyfriend/trick let in the ones who bashed him."

According to the HPD, Keller called May 16, around 1 a.m., to report that he had been beaten and robbed in this apartment, in the 2100 block of Sul Ross.

"He stated to our officers he was assaulted in his home by five, unknown suspects, all described as men," said John Cannon of HPD.

Keller's 1995 Buick Regal was stolen, and later recovered, dented and scrawled with black graffiti. His wallet was stolen. A TV and VCR in the apartment were not touched.

"He said he was sitting in bed watching television, when suddenly he remembers being struck in the head. Five or six men, possibly, were running around his apartment, ran-sacking it," said Cannon.

For the assailants to enter into Keller's apartment they would have to have gone

through a security gate and his apartment door. The security gate is not always locked, said landlord Linda Barth.

Cannon said, "Our officers did not find any signs of forced entry into the apartment."

Keller denied to investigators, allowing anyone into his apartment.

"First he contended the door was locked. And later, after our officer told him there was no forced entry, he fessed up that it was unlocked," Cannon said.

The HPD spokesman said, there was blood found in Keller's bedroom, and that the 77-year-old man was examined on the scene by paramedics, who later transferred him to the medical center, at 2002 Holcombe Blvd.

"I guess, he had trouble recovering and his condition worsened over the next couple of days," said Cannon.

The medical examiner's office said Keller died of "pulmonary embolic," sec-

ondary to "pulmonary carcinoma," and "chronic obstructive pulmonary disease."

The cause of death: "natural," said the control desk of the medical examiner's office.

Friends who saw Keller hours before the attack say he did not look like a man who was about to die from his lingering illness.

"We all agreed he was not going to die by Wednesday, not of cancer. He was looking like a 77-year-old man, but not a man about to die. We are very disappointed in this ruling," said Campbell.

He and several others saw Keller hours before the attack at the Lambda Center, 1201 W. Clay.

"I saw him on Saturday and he looked great; he didn't look like he'd be dead of cancer in three days," said Patterson, commenting on one of Keller's ailments.

Another friend, David Stone said, "It's scary that no one would follow through on a deal like that. The blood clot idea is just not what killed him. Didn't they break a lot of bones in his face?"

Indeed, medical records say Keller's skull was fractured, and his nose had been broken.

"If you hit a 77-year-old man hard enough to fracture his skull, and he dies three days later, and they say it's natural causes, is unacceptable to me," said Campbell.

Keller's relatives, living in Dallas and Mission Viejo, California want the police to investigate their loved one's death as a murder.

"It certainly seems the police should pursue this case more as a murder," said Dwight Huizenga, a family spokesman. The family was notified that Keller had died of a blood clot. The family is asking the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office to review its autopsy.

Cannon of the HPD said until such time as the cause of death is either confirmed, or changed, the incident involving Michael Tom Keller, five assailants, and a ran-sacked apartment will be handled by the Robbery division, not Homicide.

The police say it has few leads.

"We don't have a heck of a lot to go on until witnesses come forward," said Cannon.

Friends have offered names of suspects, including the name of Keller's boyfriend.

But Cannon said, "None of those names have turned up any link as to what happened that night." The HPD spokesman said the names of witnesses or suspects are not being released.

"Some of his friends told us he was known to pick up men and take them back to his apartment," said Cannon. That's a lead the police are looking into, but at this point, "Nobody knows if that was the case that night."

Keller has been cremated. His ashes are to be scattered over a body of water, said Huizenga.

A memorial service is planned for Sunday, May 30, at 2 p.m. at the Lambda Center.

Any person with information should call Robbery division 713-308-0700.

'We have to make our voices heard'

Conference from page 1

uled for next April, says gays and lesbians have power if they organize. Based on self-identified exit polls, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender vote is estimated to be four to six percent nationwide. Furthermore, in the top 20 gay cities, such as San Francisco, that percentage rises to about 15 percent. Often, the gay community is the deciding block of votes in a race.

It is crucial to get out the GLBT vote, says Tyler. Her organization plans to register the GLBT community with the help of their gigantic PlanetOut website and Rock the Vote. In the November 2000 presidential election, the GLBT community can be a decisive factor in determining the winner, she said.

Comedian Suzy Berger, a New Yorker living in San Francisco, performed at the conference Friday night.

"It's important to be political," she told the conference, "We have to make our voices heard."

Other entertainment was provided by singer Jamie Anderson, and Dallas all-girl band Doris Daze who opened for Cris Williamson and Tret Fure.

Trisha Todd, who played the sexy,

confused lead in 1992's classic, lesbian film "Claire of the Moon," spoke about her life after "Claire..." and read from her autobiographical book "The Drive."

Joan Garry, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the last of the keynote speakers, closed the conference.

Garry says that because there are no electrifying issues at this time, the gay and lesbian civil rights movement is in, "a slow, steady, creep along stage."

Nevertheless, she urged women at the conference to find their place in the movement and generate their own enthusiasm and excitement. "I want people to define and redefine the idea of activism, so that there is a place for each and every one of them in the movement," said Garry in a pre-conference interview with *The Dallas Voice*.

"The most effective way to change the hearts and minds of people is to change their cultural influences," and the most effective weapon for changing cultural influences is the media, Garry says.

Cruse estimated that organizers spent, "right at \$25,000," to put on the three-day event.

Nash is with the Dallas Voice.

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Houston's gay church needs to find a new home to accommodate congregation

by ELLA TYLER

Houston's largest gay church, Metropolitan Community Church of The Resurrection, is looking for a new home. The congregation, which has been housed in a historic old church in the Sixth Ward for 20 years, has outgrown the space, said Reverend Ralph Lasher, assistant pastor.

"We had to rent Wortham Theater for our Christmas Eve service and had to have an extra service on Easter Sunday to accommodate nearly 1,000 worshippers," he said. "We had to turn babies away from the nursery on Palm Sunday," he added.

The church is feeling the space-pinch every day, not just on holidays. Rev. Lasher and the church's board share an office that is literally a cubbyhole. There are not enough classrooms for the children who want to attend Sunday school.

Dan Medina, chair of the New Facilities Task Force contributed the best example of the pressing need for space. "We had to go off-site to interview architects to design the new building," he said.

It is not just the size of the building that is a problem. Its only concession to handicap accessibility is a chair lift and, according to Lasher, the kitchen facilities are not up to code.

The church houses an extensive GLBT archive and library with more than 10,000 volumes, both collected by

the late Charles Botts, but the space is inadequate for its needs. Serious planning for the upcoming move began two years ago. People who attended services were polled about their addresses. Although members come from all over Houston, Montrose/Heights area has the most members, the near Northwest, the second most.

More recently, the building was listed with a broker again and members of Facilities Task Force began looking at property and interviewing architects and fund-raisers. Lasher said the new building must be visible, accessible by car and bus, and near the heart of the city.

Medina said that he would like to have about 10 acres of land, mostly for parking, but believes that will be difficult to afford.

Medina hopes "a hot real estate market," will help sell the old church quickly. The asking price for the brick church, which was built in 1926 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and its two parking lots and small house, is \$950,000.

Medina says the first phase of development of the new facility will cost between \$2-3 million dollars. In the long term, costs will be between \$6-\$8 million, he said. The church is considering a variety of methods to raise the funds. A separate fund-raising project is being proposed for the archives.

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'Fatty, fatty, 2 x 4, how did you get through that door?'

by D.L. GROOVER

Attenuated twink? Potbellied bear? Pneumatic muscle head? Leathery dad?

What image turns you on? What image do you want in your mirror? What image do you want in your bed? And who's responsible for these pervasive gay icons?

Preceded by a shrewd mixed-media performance piece by Sixto Wagan from the Queer Artist Collective, provocative questions such as these on body image were asked and answered in an entertaining public forum sponsored by the Fabulous Boys Network (FBN) May 24 at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

Founder and organizer of FBN, Michael Crawford, steered the discussion which, in a mere hour and a half, touched upon Botticelli, barebacking, "beautiful boys," and issues of intimacy.

"Where are you with your bodies?" Crawford asked, displaying recent magazines displaying images of male perfection.

"How does the media affect the way you feel about your bodies? Is this what we're supposed to want as gay men?"

One forum attendee said, "Sometimes I think it's more about wanting to get you to look like them. It's more about wanting to have the right, 'look,' than about

desire."

Brian, one of the youngest men in the room, wasn't sure what he was supposed to look like when he came out.

"When I was under 19 and couldn't go to any bars, it seemed all very weird to me. The only images I had in my head of what gay men looked like were either hairless wonders or the big bear types. I never saw anything in between. I spent quite a few years trying to figure out which one am I supposed to be?"

Image as merchandising ploy?

Do gay men objectify other men in the same way that straight men objectify women? Or is this part of a larger process of selling products: gym memberships, razor blades, protein powders?

"The clone look is easy to sell," said one person in attendance. "Anyone can shave off their body hair and get a lean look. It's something that they can sell a lot of products around. You create a model based on selling merchandise."

"I've had female friends go with me to the bars and say, 'Wow, there're so many gorgeous gay men,'" one man said during the discussion. "Percentage-wise I don't think there are any more gay men who are more attractive than straight men, but the difference is there are a lot more gay men doing a lot more primping."



Sixto Wagan performs before the Fabulous Boys Network forum on body image, May 24 at the Houston Lesbian And Gay Community Center. The performer posed numerous questions in his work as a warm up to the evening's discussion.

Someone at the forum disagreed saying, "I think it's environmental. Club ABC may be more primped than XYZ, so those people gravitate to that place where they're looking for others like them. But I don't think gay men primp more than any other men."

"So what happens when we internalize the media's eroticizing of the male body?" Crawford asked.

"Fantasy sells," commented one man on the predominant gay media image of pumped-up male beauty. "It's up to us to recognize that."

But, that "fantasy," forces young gay

men to attempt a standard they may never obtain, the forum was told.

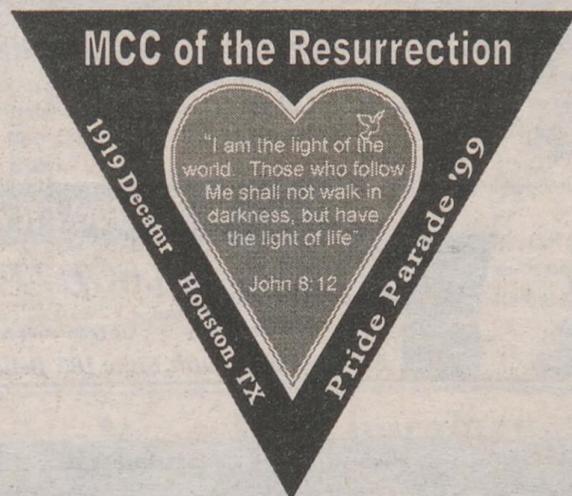
Prevalence of eating disorders?

A young gay man's need for the perfect body, forum participants said, meant eating disorders developed and more and more men were using steroids. Diets are an obsession.

In the end, one forum participant in particular inquired about definition.

"I have a problem with the categorization of the individual," said Sixto Wagan. "There are too many categories. Why do we even have to fit in?"

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ASK THE PASTOR

Q: What does the Bible say about suicide? Do we really go to hell? A: Last week's *Houston Voice* had a very tragic story of two gay men who killed themselves under distress. This is a topic that many people avoid addressing because it is too painful to talk about. Having thoughts of suicide is many times about life becoming unbearable, or a person unable to conceive how one could live another minute. Life gets too painful for many different reasons. For the one who betrayed Jesus, he could not face the horrible crime that he had committed. Judas did not know that Jesus was to give his life and that this was all a part of the plan. What he did not know, was that there was pardon for him even in his horrible crime. God's forgiveness reaches to the depths of our soul. When we feel like there is no way out, Jesus opens a window. When we feel like there is no end to the pain, God's grace carries me yet another step along. When we feel that life is not worth living, God gives us a reason to go on. Suicide is about a person being paralyzed in their options for living. It is a premature act on humanity's part that short-circuits God's hand to provide the help to go on. As one person described the two young men who gunned down classmates and teachers in Littleton, CO, "They were people without hope." The Bible does not say that anyone committing suicide goes to hell. We serve a God of HOPE, FORGIVENESS, and LOVE, who meets people in the valley of the shadow of death. It is possible that Jesus has met every person in that valley to give them opportunity to receive hope even in their final moments of life.



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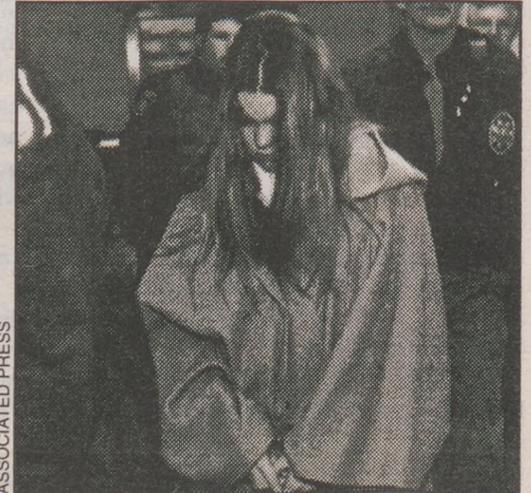
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Woman sentenced for role in Matthew Shepard attack

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP)—The girlfriend of a man who pleaded guilty to killing gay college student Matthew Shepard was sentenced May 21 to up to two years in prison for helping to cover up evidence in the killing. Chasity Vera Pasley, 20, cried repeatedly as she was sentenced to 15 months to two years in prison for being an accessory after the fact to first-degree murder. Pasley said she was sorry for helping to dispose of bloody clothing her boyfriend, Russell Henderson, wore during the Oct. 7 attack on Shepard, 21. Authorities said Henderson and Aaron McKinney, both 21, posed as gay men and lured Shepard out of a bar before taking him to a remote area, pistol-whipping him and leaving him tied to a fence in the cold. He died five days later. Pasley faced up to three years in prison. "I needed to face up to what I did," Pasley said during her sentencing hearing. "I can't bring him back. I'm sorry."

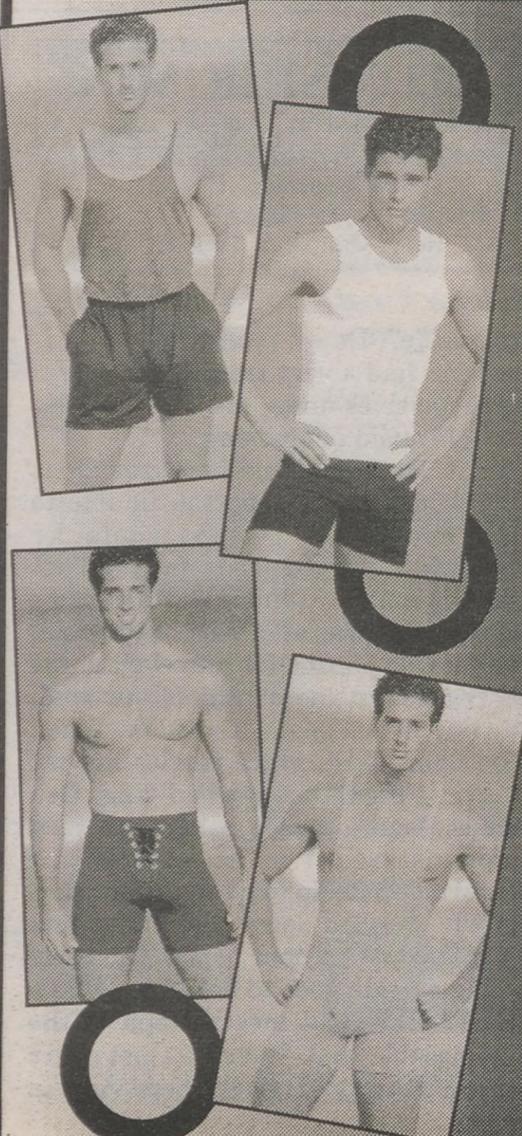


ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chasity Vera Pasley, center, is led out of Albany County Courthouse in Laramie, Wyo., in this Dec. 23, 1998 AP file photo. Pasley was sentenced May 21 to 15-24 months in prison for being an accessory after the fact to first-degree murder in the beating death of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard.

Pasley was one of two women accused of helping McKinney and Henderson dispose of Henderson's bloody clothes. Henderson pleaded guilty last month to kidnapping and felony murder and was sentenced to consecutive life prison terms. McKinney has pleaded innocent and is scheduled to stand trial in August. He faces the death penalty if convicted of murder. Kristen LeAnn Price, 19, was McKinney's girlfriend. She also was charged with being an accessory after the fact to first-degree murder, but her trial has been delayed.

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The Tapes are available through LOBO Bookstore, 3939 Montrose, free of charge.

“Quote unquote”



“I have quite a few really, really close gay friends. In fact, maybe most of my friends.”

—Diana Ross to the *Advocate*, May 11.

“You know the reason why I think I inspire a lot of female impersonators? Because it’s not difficult to try to look like me! Put on a nice, big fluffy wig and lots of eye makeup. It’s such a blessing for me to know that gay people really like me.”

—Diana Ross to the *Advocate*, May 11.

“Frequently I get offered the best gay roles, and that was entirely due to ‘My Best Friend’s Wedding.’ I can tell you that there’s really not a lot of good work that’s on offer today.”

—Actor Rupert Everett to London’s *Pink Paper*, April 23.

“I still, to this day, think people will look back at the last season and say it was one of the best seasons the show ever had. Being gay is not just an easy, fun experience. It’s not ‘Birdcage.’”

—Ellen DeGeneres speaking last month to students at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

“I’m not going to out anybody. But I will say that when I did this, I certainly hoped more would come out. Nobody’s lined up behind me. I know who’s gay in Hollywood. I have the list in my back pocket give me some liquor, and I’ll start talking.”

—Ellen DeGeneres speaking last month to students at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

“I had two gay friends in the world of wrestling that were together 41 years. Unfortunately, one of them passed on. But when one was ill, the other was never allowed to be by his bed in the hospital. That was very inhumane. It’s why in my campaign I had the quote ‘Love is bigger than government.’”

—Minnesota Governor and former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura to the *Advocate*, May 25.



“I saw ‘Will & Grace’ for the first time last night on television. I just thought it was fabulous. I would love to have written that kind of TV stuff.”

—Playwright and activist Larry Kramer to Chicago’s *Outlines*, May 5.

“(S)ometimes Christians on television will remind us with a wagging finger, and this is my personal favorite, ‘After all, God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.’ That always makes me sit bolt upright and yell back at the TV, ‘He gave them kids named Cain and Abel, not Cain and Abigail.’ But did you ever notice that somehow Cain found a wife (Gen. 4:17). ‘Where did she come from?’ we might ask. Perhaps she had different parents, which would mean Adam and Eve were not the first people. Or else she was one of Adam and Eve’s ‘other sons and daughters’ (Gen. 5:4), in which case she was his sister, and he was committing incest. It has to be one or the other. Which is it? But, after all, the whole thing is a Hebrew myth, a fiction to explain where people came from.”

—Syndicated gay press columnist Paul Varnell in an early May filing.

“If you go into any office on (Capitol) Hill, the staff is disproportionately gay and they’re living in constant fear that they’ll be outed.”

—Rich Tafel, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, to the D.C. publication *The Hill*, May 5.



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VIEWPOINT

Marketing to gay community more a part of Corporate America

by MUBARAK S. DAHIR

Wrapped in an airplane

vomit bag with the message, "What American Airlines is doing will make you SICK," an open letter from leaders of two right-wing organizations was recently passed around at an American Airlines shareholders meeting.

The letter was authored by Peter LaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth, and Michael Johnston, president of Kerusso Ministries (one of the groups that sponsored the recent national ads of "former" gay men).

The letter nicknamed American Airlines as, "America's Homosexual Airline" and chastised the airline for supporting gay and lesbian groups. The not-so-veiled threat against the airline's support of gay and lesbian causes and groups was, "at the risk of offending and alienating millions of American families and loyal customers."

Ah, the infamous boycott tactic. It's certainly nothing new for the religious right (or for any politically-charged group, for that matter.) Through highly publicized pressure campaigns, followers of the religious right have let corporate America know they will not be visiting one well-known Florida amusement park, will not be downing one well-known "lite" beer, and now, apparently, will not be flying a certain airline.

What does seem to be new in recent years, has been corporate America's response to such threats from the far right: One big yawn.

Disney has long held fast in offering domestic partners to its employees, and not crushing the unofficial, "gay days" at the wildly popular theme park.

Anheuser-Busch, the makers of Bud Lite—which now has a gay advertisement of two beefy men holding hands—has said it, too, will hold fast not only to its ad campaign, but to its support of gay and lesbian events.

American Airlines offers support to gay and lesbian groups such as the media watchdog group Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; the Human Rights Campaign; and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. Like the other big businesses that have recently made their financial interest in the gay and lesbian market known through ad campaigns or by being public sponsors of gay and lesbian

activities, American Airlines will probably, politely, ignore the rantings of the religious right.

After all, if the right were to boycott every business that markets to gays and lesbians, they wouldn't be using their American Express cards or drinking Absolut vodka, or driving a Subaru, or drinking Miller beer, much less Budweiser, wearing Levis or buying their furniture from Ikea. There are simply far too many big corporations that have recognized the dollar value of the gay and lesbian market, and have

Think two gay men, professional incomes, no children. This doesn't paint a picture of every gay man in America, of course, but it certainly describes a sizable subset.

And corporate America has paid attention. According to a story in the *Los Angeles Times*, advertising in the gay media is the fastest-growing market niche, with a 20 percent jump in gay or lesbian-directed ads last year. In the past five years, the number of dollars spent marketing to gay and lesbian consumers has more than doubled.

Now, there will be those among us who find little enthusiasm in the world's capitalistic interest in us as a, "target group." But this is America, after all. But beyond the dollar signs, we as gays and lesbians should read the relatively new trend as a sign of larger social change. Yes, big companies are primarily interested in our

pocket books, not our politics. But we should remember that in the not-so-distant past, the gay and lesbian dollar was worth a whole lot less than 100 pennies in this country.

Gay and lesbian groups were often forbidden to take out advertising that explicitly identified them as such (and in many parts of the country, that still happens). More importantly, being gay and lesbian was seen as so socially unacceptable, it didn't matter how much money you had to spend, you weren't going to affiliate yourself with a group that all the rest of your customers found so repugnant. It would sour your brand name. That's no longer true, and that fact is not just a change in the tide of big business, it represents the underlying change in public attitudes towards gays and lesbians.

Forget the religious right for a moment. Think Middle America. While much of America is not doing back flips to help gay and lesbian political causes, a surprising number of Americans will tell you they oppose discrimination against gays and lesbians. And the public is much more comfortable hearing about gay and lesbian issues than they were just a decade ago. Few consumers in the real world today are going to go out of their way to boycott a product that does nothing more than sell its wares to gays and lesbians.

More and more, for Corporate America, marketing to gay and lesbian consumers just makes cents.

Mubarak Dahir receives e-mail at MubarakDah@aol.com



American Airlines is being pressured by right-wing extremists for their support of gay issues.

gone after it, for righteous boycott's by the right to make them stop. There is something to be said about safety in numbers.

Much of the new-found corporate consciousness is, of course, less about gay and lesbian civil rights than about the bottom line. Gay and lesbian consumers have been identified as a desirable target group, and are being sought after as

"The letter nicknamed American Airlines as, 'America's Homosexual Airline' and chastised the airline for supporting gay and lesbian groups..."

such. Marketers put the average income of gay men at about \$57,100 per year, and lesbians at \$53,600. Compare that to the average household of \$30,000 per year. While such figures are often disputed (by both friends and enemies of the gay and lesbian community), it's almost common sense to believe that the lavender dollar is more disposable.



STRAIGHTJACKET

Why can't I look like Billy or Carlos instead of Homer Simpson?

by ANTHONY CONNOLLY

Carlos' and Billy's rippled abs have my

undivided attention.

And those chests! Oh boy!

Why can't I be more like them, in all their fine geometry, instead of resembling Homer Simpson, puffy with Duff beer and jelly donuts? Or worse Drew Carey with severe water-retention?

But wait a second there, sports fans—I don't drink, I don't quaff jelly donuts (well, OK, some, but not often); in fact I exercise regularly and eat sensibly. I'm a vegetarian for Pete's sake.

So why can't I look like Carlos and Billy? I mean check it out, those abs are chiseled like a Grecian god's belly. My lord: they're dolls.

Could it be I have a false sense of what is ideal? In fact, I may be totally deranged when it comes to body image. I grew up with G.I. Joe, and we all know he's not built right. Come on, he's got Velcro for hair!

I think I have always had that problem: Looking to others for body image satisfaction, while at the same time, being hard on myself. I remember thinking when I was younger how fat I was. Now that I am indeed a tad wider, I realize I had it good back then.

The world is forever telling us—women, men, transgendered—we have to look a certain way, have all the skinny in the right place, and all the bulk somewhere else. If anything is the slightest out of kilter with the prescribed form—look out! The game is over.

Once we are naked in front of that

bathroom mirror in the morning, we come face to face with who we are.

It is too easy to blame TV for our poor physical self-esteem. It's too easy to say it's the Carlos and Bill dolls, the "Baywatch" syndrome that leads to our body image madness. The strife all body-conscious people must deal with is of the inner variety. Self-appraisal is the worst inventory; self-evaluation is always the harshest critic. No matter how many images assail us, we ultimately determine how to reflect them.

It is unfair to say media feeds our image banks with so much of the ideal that we are unable to filter out what is real. Over the past decade, we have gained more actors like Camryn Manheim and Calista Flockhart to fuel the extremes of that argument. But mostly, we got the average. If you don't believe me, take a night and watch a slew of sitcoms. You will see the body image isn't one of perfection, but one of diversity. We ask for trouble when we flip through those fashion magazines or look to cultural icons, like Cher, Zena, John John Kennedy or so many others, to define ourselves.

We ultimately define our own image—and our reaction to it. Just as we cannot ask others to ensure our happiness, we can only ask ourselves to define how we see ourselves.

There are times when I do wish I was lighter, but for the most part, I am happy with myself. I wonder if I really want to be leaner to please myself or others. I get depressed only when someone else points out my physical flaws. My mother-in-law calls me, of all things, "bubble butt." I don't think of my derriere until she calls me that,

even though she says it in jest (I think).

I don't think there is a uniform body type for gay men, lesbians, transgendered or straights. I think there are just people, who dress the way they like, and try, very hard, to like how they look.

For some, it is more difficult; there is no minimizing that.

My straight guy senses tell me there is an obsession with body image in some gay men. Well, not so much an obsession; it's just that gay men talk more openly about their bodies, while straight guys simply grip their love-handles and say, "Oh, she is feeding me too much."

I don't really want Billy's or Carlos' tummy—well, maybe some days when I'm at the beach. But then I realize how much work it takes to have those ripped abdomen muscles.

I would rather read a good book or see a movie than do 1,000 stomach-crunches at the crack of dawn. So, the decisions I make—dictate, to a degree—are the body I will have.



Left to right—New York Carlos, Cha-Cha Carlos, Country Billy and Master Billy dolls. Is this what 'body image' is all about?

For me, it is one less thing to shed, making room for things of greater importance. "How many cares one loses when one decides not to be something but to be someone," said Coco Chanel.

Who you are always matters more than how svelte or taunt you are.

There are times I stand in front of my bathroom mirror and think: "Hey, I'm not bad."

And there are times when I wonder how Drew Carey slipped into my bathroom, naked!

But that makes me, me.

And that's Mr. Bubble Butt to you.

LETTERS

If this is the land of 'equal rights', where are mine?

Editor:

I have a strong opinion on the bill that was attempting to be passed in the Texas State Senate. I personally think that Gov. Bush is just listening to his votes and not to the people. I am a 19-year-old, gay white man.

I choose not to vote because of elected officials like him. I think that he lied to Texans, just so he could get in office. I don't understand why politicians like him can't go by what the American Constitution says. It states that this is a free country and everyone has rights.

Well that is not what this country is coming to...if anything I think that this country is becoming more and more of a dictatorship society. I mean for the most part, there is a lot of democracy...but there are things like

our own god given rights that are not...they are basically telling us how to live our lives.

Clayton J. Kucera, Sealy, TX
via e-mail

Gay community needs to stop, 'eating our own'

Editor:

TV Montrose was a milestone in Houston's gay history. Bravo to Steve Baker and Russ Byrd who worked so hard to make their dream a reality. I wanted to vent my objection to the insensitive, tactless remarks of Martin Kavka, (Letter to the editor, *Houston Voice*, April 30, page 9).

Kavka illuminates the seriousness of the vicious attacks that we pound on our own community members. Please, stop the hate and critical attacks amongst ourselves. TV

Montrose was not the epitome of TV network news, but it was on its way.

I salute Steve and Russ, and the staff and crew at TV Montrose. Ya'll did a great thing for our community. Thank you. I insist that we unite to our common cause and stop, "eating our own."

Dan DiDonato
via e-mail

Court ruling leaves lesbian mom childless

Editor:

I read the article, "Study finds lesbians make great parents," (*Houston Voice*, May 7, page 2) by Kay Y. Dayus and agreed with the principles. Last week, I was in a custody jury trial for my children in Waller County. The evidence showed that I was an active parent, my children's academics

reflected my dedication to them and continuous parenting skills that labeled me as a role model. The evidence, also showed clearly that their father did not have the children's best interest at heart. The end result was that the jury awarded custody of my children to their father. I am angry, yes. I felt the blow of discrimination at the cost of my children.

Name withheld
via Houston Voice web page feedback

YOUR VOICE

What Do You Think?

Let your views be known—
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We'll print your letters
in a future issue.

Book illustrates gay and lesbian business success stories

by KIM THOMPSON

The idea for Sue Levin's book, "In the Pink: The Making of Successful Gay and Lesbian Owned Businesses," began when she was laid off from an executive position with a computer corporation and decided to pursue a dream of starting her own business.

She went to the gay bookstore in San Francisco for a book on being an entrepreneur. Expecting to find several, she was shocked to find that there was no such book. Although Levin's intention was not to write the book but read it, she set out to compile real life data on gay and lesbian-owned businesses.

She sent out 4,500 surveys throughout the United States, 650 were returned and 60 successful businesses became the focus. Her findings and top-ten list of things learned during the writing were presented at the LiB, Lesbians in Business, meeting May 21.

Levin told the audience that one of the most important aspects of her book is to provide successful entrepreneurial role models that share their experiences and knowledge.

Houston's own well known real estate diva, Suzanne Anderson is one of the featured businesses in "In the Pink."

Another success story involves a North Carolina man who hated being an auditor but loved weekend flea market shopping and hunting for china pieces.

He quit his job and turned his hobby into a 70 million-dollar company called Replacements.

*"Do what you love,
the money probably
won't come that
quickly, but,
you'll be doing
what you love."*

-Levin

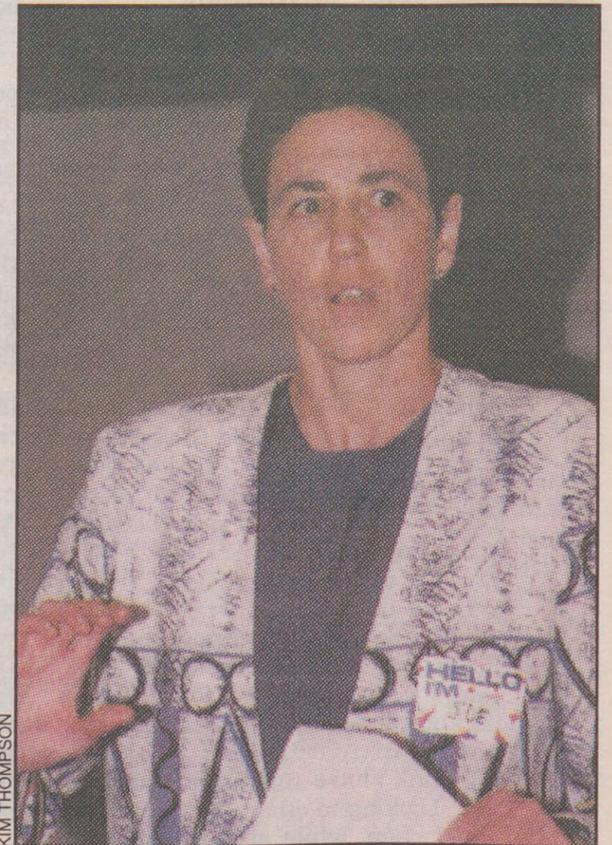
There is also Tim Gill, a very shy computer geek in Denver who after being fired just couldn't bring himself to interview for employment. He borrowed \$3,000 from his mother and built a \$275

million computer software business called Quark, Inc.

While being an entrepreneur may not make you a millionaire, there are plenty of benefits: independence, flexibility, doing what you love, gaining self-confidence and self-esteem, and contributing in meaningful ways, said Levin.

Whatever one sets out to accomplish, Levin says, it is important to follow your heart. "Do what you love, the money probably won't come that quickly, but you'll be doing what you love."

Levin's book details specific issues for gay and lesbian entrepreneurs, like targeting the gay and lesbian market place, being partners with our partners, coming out, making a business plan, financial backing, risks and trying to decide if one has what it takes. "In the Pink," delivers the first research ever done on gay and lesbian business owners.



Susan Levin, author of 'In The Pink: The Making Of Successful Gay And Lesbian Owned Businesses,' says the key to success is to do something you love.

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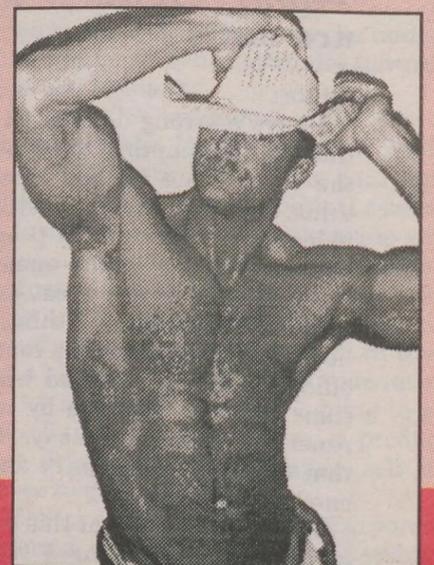


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Flexology

A GUIDE TO BETTER HEALTH

Getting the most of your treadmill

by JOHN AARON

A good treadmill can enable you to stick to a year-round, all-weather exercise plan, even in Houston.

In fact, once you start using a treadmill, you may not want to stop. According to recent studies, rating current exercise machines, treadmills are the most popular and frequently used pieces of fitness equipment, and have been for quite some time.

Perhaps the reason walking has become such a popular form of exercise is because it is something that generally gets taught to us at a very early age. Walking may not seem as difficult as using a stair machine, elliptical trainer, rowing machine or even a recumbent bike. This is because, although the amount of energy burned using other machines (as opposed to a treadmill) may turn out be the same as when using a treadmill, the amount of, "perceived exertion," (your personal sense of difficulty or level of exercise intensity) may actually be less when using a treadmill because of its familiarity of movement.

Since their first introduction, treadmills have gone through various stages of "tweaking," in order to provide its user with safer, easier and more effective workouts. Today's treadmills are user friendly, ergonomic and ideal for nearly everybody. Current technology is breaking new ground to develop virtual reality walks, and built in computer keyboards that will allow its users access to the Internet or the ability to play video games while exercising. Manufacturers are even finding ways to link treadmills in various locations to provide further exercise adherence and motivational options.

Now, if you are sold on the benefits of using a treadmill, but aren't too excited about joining a gym to gain access to one, you may consider purchasing your own. However, take care when choosing your machine from the many, many products currently on the market.

When choosing a treadmill you should research the stride room and compare it to your normal walking gait. The treadmill should provide enough foot clearance so that you do not feel like you are having to take very short steps in order to keep yourself from falling off the back end of it. Tread dimensions of around 52" in length, by 18" in width should be a good start. Furthermore, the running surface should be smooth and feel consistent and natural. There should be no hesitation or slippage of the tread-belt.

Good treadmills have safety features like emergency stop buttons that slow the

tread-belt gradually for easy dismounting, and a default setting of .5 miles per hour so that the user doesn't have to straddle the treadmill before getting on. Other user-friendly, but optional features include, time, speed, elevation, calories burned, and heart rate displays.

However, before you completely refuse the idea of joining a fitness facility that allows you access to treadmills (and all sorts of fitness equipment), consider the costs. Although a health club may cost a few hundred dollars a year for membership, they do offer a variety of different programs, classes, and equipment. And, while owning your own treadmill may provide you with the privacy and scheduling control you want, be prepared to shell out from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for a feature loaded, high quality, home treadmill. If owning is still the route you want to go, be sure that there is a good service program, engine warranty, and be sure to consider the costs of getting your treadmill repaired (can they do it in home, or does it have to be shipped to outer Mongolia?). Also, look for extra features like a reversible deck (the support that allows the belt to move smoothly). This may cost more, but it will add years to the life of your treadmill.

So, who shouldn't use a treadmill? People with balance or equilibrium problems may not be comfortable with walking on a moving tread-belt. However, handrails may be an additional purchase option that may alleviate this problem.

How much you should work out depends on what fitness level you

want to achieve.

Try using the "FIT Plan" (frequency, intensity, time). Start with short, more frequent walks (5 to 6 times per week) on the treadmill. Then, as your endurance increases, decrease frequency and begin increasing the intensity. The average healthy, and injury free person should be able to walk 20 minutes on a flat surface at two or three miles an hour several times a week without difficulty. However, because walking is a weight bearing exercise, users with certain injuries may need to find alternatives to using the treadmill while healing.

In any case, if you are uncertain whether a treadmill will work for you, be sure to ask your doctor.

John Aaron is a nationally certified personal trainer, member of the International Assoc. of Fitness Professionals, and owner of Muscle Mechanics, a personal fitness training and nutritional guidance facility.



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After disclosing he has AIDS, diver Greg Louganis endorsement contract for Speedo was continued. Muscle Mechanics proudly supports Speedo for their continued unprejudiced commitment and asks your support as well.

photo by Gary Laird

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 28

At 7 p.m. The Silver Screen Opening of the 1999 Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival kicks off at the Crystal Ballroom at The Rice. Tickets are \$15, 713-807-8354.

June 2

Fourteen-year-old AIDS activist Hydeia L. Broadbent and others will be honored at the 1999 **Essense Awards**, 8 p.m. FOX TV.



June 3

Starting at 6 p.m. the **Peter Vogel Sound Sculptures** exhibit begins its five-week installation at Goethe-Institut, 3120 Southwest Freeway. The installation will run until July 12. There is no admission charge, 713-528-2787.



Now & Until

The **Last Session** musical playing at the Little Room Downstairs Theater, 2326 Bissonnet, has extended its run. The play will now run until June 26. Tickets \$10-\$15, 713-523-0791

Daytimer alert—June 5:



AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON

10 a.m. **CAESAR Sex**, a forum workshop put on by Project CAESAR, the gay men's health initiative at AIDS Foundation Houston. The workshop is at 3202 Wesleyan. It is free, 713-623-6796.

Ongoing:

Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. **HIV Art Course Program**. For more information contact Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.

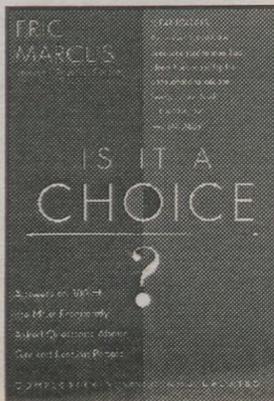
Free Yoga classes at 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Wednesdays and Thursday down at the Devanand Yoga Center, 3115 W. South Loop. For information contact 713-965-9642. Thursdays, it also holds free meditation classes. Ohm!

MEDIA DIET

Read this!—

If you've ever had a so-called "stupid" question to ask about being gay, this book is for you. "Is It A Choice," by Eric Marcus supplies answers to a myriad of questions, or at the very least, offers advice. Find answers to, "do some people have to stay in the closet at work?" or "what does the Bible say about gay men and lesbians?" just to name a few of the gems in this cool volume. But, really don't we all know there are no "stupid" questions.

—Anthony Connolly



Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE • MAY 28, 1999
A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

Outpower!

by EARL DITTMAN

When gay playwright Patrick Wylde wrote, "What's Wrong With Angry?" a play about a teen-aged boy having to come clean about his sexual orientation, the London-born writer was determined to send a strong message to English theater-goers.

"A lot of people, especially straight people, don't have any idea how traumatic it is for someone to come out of the closet, so, I wanted to make sure they felt the intensity of it," Wylde said. "I didn't know how well it would be received, but I felt like it was a subject that needed to be explored on stage."

Surprisingly, British audiences loved his play so much, it eventually found a home on the West End, London's equivalent of Broadway.

One man, film director Simon Shore, was so taken by Wylde's work that he offered the playwright the chance to pen a screenplay for a feature film based on the stage piece.

Several years, and many drafts later, Wylde would deliver, "Get Real," his own adaptation of "What's Wrong With Angry?" Before long, a cast was decided upon (including newcomer Ben Silverstone), cameras began rolling and "Get Real" became a reality. Thanks to incredibly positive critical reviews generated by its screening at several of the our country's most prestigious film festivals, "Get Real" was picked up by Paramount Classics, the major American studio's art-house division, to become its flag-ship release.

On the eve of the film's wide, American theatrical opening and its inclusion in the 1999 Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, we caught up with Wylde, at his London home, to discuss his part in bringing "Get Real" to multi-plexes all over the United States.

HV: "Get Real" has been a part of your life for



Top: 'Get Real' includes Ben Silverstone (top left) and Brad Gorton (bottom center) in a bit-tersweet, gay love story.
Bottom: Silverstone in a light moment from 'Get Real.'

a long time, hasn't it? Can we talk a little bit about its origins?

Wylde: I wrote a stage play about seven years ago called, "What's Wrong With Angry?" It's basically the same story as what you see in the film, "Get Real." I was an actor and a theater director at that time, and I felt like I had a lot to say about the subject of young people coming out of the closet.

HV: It's not often that playwrights are allowed to adapt their work for the screen. How did you luck out?

Wylde: It was one of those lovely quirks of fate, actually. One of the gay gentlemen who helped contribute money

to the earlier productions of "What's Wrong With Angry?" is a cousin to Simon Shore, the director of "Get Real." He brought Simon along to see the play one night and he loved so much, that they virtually commissioned me to write the screenplay, right on the spot. He said that I really touched on the experience of coming out better than he had ever seen done before, so, he said I would be the perfect person to adapt it for the screen.

BEING GAY
IS EASIER
THESE
DAYS, SAYS
'GET REAL'
WRITER

HV: You're 39 now; how old were you when you first came out of the closet?

Wylde: That's a bit hard to say, because I sort of came out bit by bit. I didn't stand up on a stage and tell everybody I was queer. I suppose, I have to say that I was really out to everybody by the time I was 21.

HV: Do you think it is easier for young people to come out in the larger cities—places like London, Los Angeles and New York—then it is in the smaller towns?

Wylde: Very much so, and I think that's my contention in "Get Real." I think that it is easier to be gay, now, then it ever was. I just don't think it is any easier to come out if you live in a small town or if your dad is a policeman or in the army. Those things make it tougher. I was lucky, because I became an actor, and I lived in London. It was almost obligatory that I was gay.

HV: But, being gay in the big city also has its drawbacks, doesn't it?

Wylde: Oh yeah, I think a lot of gays that come out in the big city forget what it's like to be gay and the son of a coal miner. I know that in London, the 'scene' can be real cynical towards those kinds of things. And, the London scene is bigger than it's ever been, but, sometimes, it feels like this big, exclusive club. Everyone's just worried about going out and having a good time in the clubs and the bars. One can forget that, every year, there's a new generation of young gay kids that need help.

HV: Recently, America has been experiencing a series of hate-motivated crimes against gay men. And, just a few weeks ago, London was rocked by a bomb that exploded in SoHo, the heart of the city's gay district. Is writing films like 'Get Real' a way to help educate some of these people to the fact that gay men and women are just like everyone else?

Wylde: "Yes, it's my sincere wish that "Get Real" makes an impact on just one

person that's anti-gay. But, the continuing frustration is getting those people who need to have their minds changed into the cinema to see something like 'Get Real.' I mean, if you are a bigot, you are not going to see this film. I suppose, what I would hope is that the young, straight people who see it today are tomorrow's parents. In that way, I think it could make a difference. But, honestly, no white extremist is going to go watch this film for fun, and then come out of it saying, 'I've seen the light!' I am realistic enough to know that.

HV: What are some the things that teenagers have said to you after seeing "Get Real?"

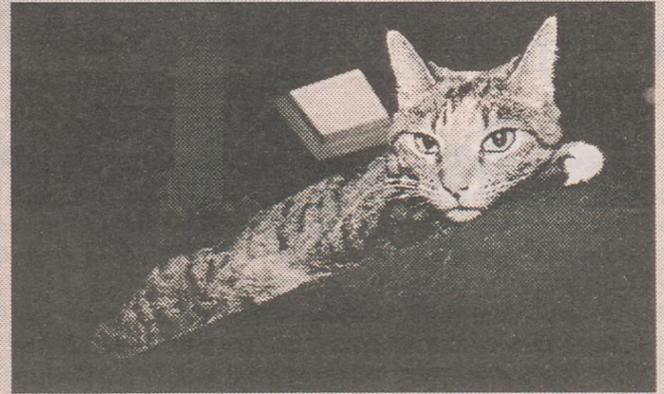
Wylde: Well, I've gotten some lovely letters from gay kids who say that it really helped them come to terms with their sexuality. A lot of them hadn't told their parents that they were gay, but, after seeing "Get Real," they now feel like they can. Better yet, I've gotten a lot of letters from the parents of gay children who have said it has helped them understand something they never understood before. That's all very gratifying.

HV: So, what is the best advice you'd give a gay teen getting ready to come out?

Wylde: I would suggest telling one or two people at first, rather than making a big thing about it. That's what happens in the film, and I think it is sound advice. Tell your best friends, or, if you have brothers and sisters, tell them before you tell your parents. That way, you won't be on your own if your parents happen to reject you. And, believe it or not, I think that people should come out as early as possible, for a whole number of reasons. But, they should be sensible about it, and not push it down everyone's throats. The important thing they need to remember is that there's millions of us out there, just like them. That's the main thing, to never say you're sorry for being gay.

Occasions

Pet of the Week comes to us from **Katrina C. Rose.** This right here is "Hope," the apple of her eye.



Birthdays

Fabulous Bank United financial wizard, **Harold Shultz** calculates his birthday on May 29.



Harold

Picasso and Guava owner **Woody Gould** whispers in another year on June 3.



Woody

The one and only **Ken McNames** has a birthday on May 30.



Ken

Crazy **Jimmie Arispie** celebrates his birthday on May 30.



Lucy

EJ's own **Lucy** adds another wrinkle on May 31.

In Memory

Oscar Weyman Walker passed away April 26, 1999. He had lived in the Houston area since the late '70s. Ron Gamble, his partner, said this of Walker: "(He was) an honorable man of exceptional character, quiet in demeanor, and different than many, but as good as God ever made."



Oscar Walker

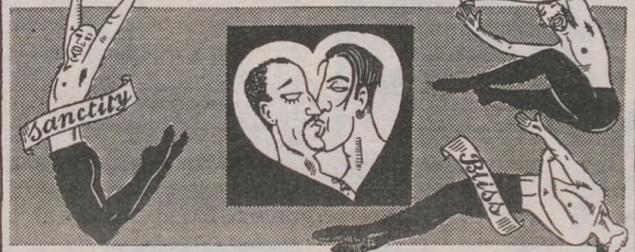
The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life Of Ethan Green

By Eric Orner

A SPECIAL RING OF HELL IS RESERVED FOR THE MARRIED FLIRT WHO WEASELS THE ATTENTION OF WHATEVER DESIRABLE SINGLE GUY IS PRESENT AT A GIVEN SOCIAL SETTING..



GENERALLY SPEAKING, HE WON'T MAKE THE FIRST MOVE. DOING SO WOULD DISHONOR THE SANCTITY, BEAUTY, AND BLISS OF THE THING HE'S GOT WITH HIS HUSBAND...



...ON THE OTHER HAND, HE THOUGHT YOU WOULD NEVER ASK...



ONE RULE OF THUMB FOR THE UNINITIATED: DO BEWARE OF THE OLD RING SWITCHEROO..



YES, WELL, EVIDENTLY, THE MARRIED FLIRT IS QUITE CAPABLE OF WHORISHNESS & INDECENCY..



... UNLESS YOU ARE HOPING FOR THOSE BEHAVIORS, IN WHICH CASE HE'S SURE TO BE OUT SOMEWHERE, SEEING AND BEING SEEN, WITH HIS HUMPY HUSBAND, THEIR SPORTY COUP, AND ADORABLE PAIR OF JACK RUSSELL TERRIERS...



Eric Orner

Out In Print

BOOK NEWS

Women's festivals before the advent of Lilith Fair

by ELLA TYLER

The highest praise I give to most books is to say that I stayed up all night to finish it. "Eden Built by Eves," gets a star beyond that: I stayed up all night to finish it, and because of the book, I want to go to the next woman's music festival.

Author Bonnie J. Morris makes the experience of being surrounded by thousands of women listening to music sound so euphoric that I'm ready to pack my bags for Michigan.

For more than 25 years, thousands of women, mostly lesbians, have attended festivals across the country. The longest surviving, and the best known, festival is the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, held each August since 1976. Morris attended her first Michigan festival in 1981. Then 20, and a budding historian, Morris kept a journal of her experiences and passed it around for the reactions of her sister "festi-goers." Like many women, Morris has been back every year since, and added a few other festivals to her rounds.

Morris, who acquired a doctorate in women's history in between festivals, mined her archives for pictures, programs, cartoons and speeches as well as interviews with musicians, workers and attendees. She weaves these

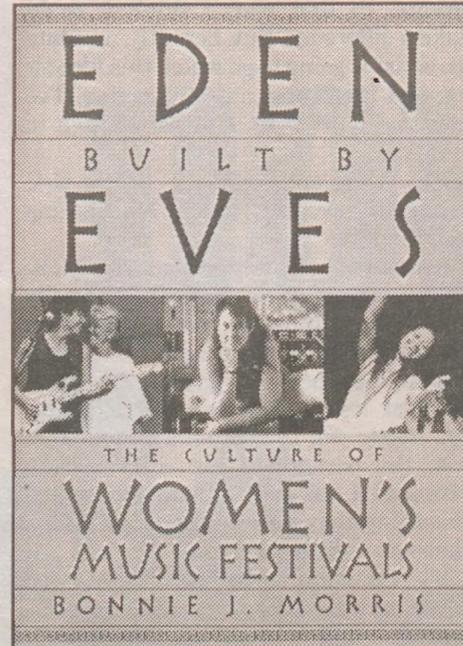
together with insightful commentary about festivals and their role in lesbian culture.

All the issues that confront the lesbian communities are, of course, acted out in festival politics. Morris includes an entire chapter on festival humor, poking affectionate fun at some of conventions of festival life—vegetarian food, porta-Janes, constant admonitions about safety and respecting the sensitivities of others.

Morris neither ignores nor overplays the impact of conflicts over more important issues. While discussing the fact that festivals have never attracted women of color or poor women, despite earnest desires to do so, Morris points out that poor women don't think camping out and eating vegetarian meals is a vacation. They think privacy and eating meat is a sign of success.

Morris also attempts to answer many questions that arise when there's a gathering of thousands and special circumstances arise.

However, despite the problems, the weather, the issues, women keep coming back. The magic of the music and of the community overrides the other issues, and Morris captures that feeling. Put on an old Holly Near album and read on!



INFO

Eden Built by Eves: The Culture of Women's Music Festivals

by Bonnie J. Morris
Alyson Books, 370 pages, \$15.95
7 p.m., May 24

Allison in Bayou City



KIM THOMPSON

National writing treasure Dorothy Allison was in Houston, May 24 for a series of interviews and fan gatherings. Here, she is outside the BookStop before a book signing. Allison, one of the country's best writers, is known for her exploration of the Southern soul, for both straight and gay characters. Her latest is "Cavedweller."

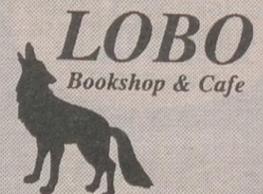
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Lesbian filmmaker did what she had to do

by EARL DITTMAN

Kelli Herd has balls. No, the other kind, the metaphorical ones. You know, the kind that only determined, headstrong, unstoppable individuals of either sex possess. And, as this lovely, talented, blonde 37-year-old lesbian from Tyler, Texas will tell you, they've come in quite handy over the past few years.

"I've had a tough life, and if I hadn't of had the guts and nuts to make my way past all its obstacles, I wouldn't be here today," the once married, mother of a 11-year-old son, said.

"Standing up to things and fighting the fights that life throws at you, only makes you a stronger person. I know it's made me tougher, but in a good way. If I wouldn't have fought for what I believed in, I'd still be a Junior Leaguer in East Texas. I wouldn't be pursuing my true calling."

As the writer and director of the clever and campy satire, "It's In The Water," the hilarious tale of a Southern town convinced its water supply is turning its inhabitants into "homosexuals," it's obvious that making films for the gay community is what life always had in mind for this gutsy lady.

"It may have taken me a few decades, but I found my true calling in making movies...Look, I may be determined, but I guess you could say I'm also a little slow," Herd said with a laugh. "I never envisioned becoming a writer or director while I was living the life of an East Texas housewife. It wasn't until I came out and had the balls to take life-changing chances that it all came into focus."

The 1999 Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival will feature Herd's comedy during its run, May 28-June 6. The *Houston Voice* took the opportunity to sit down with the talented director for a look at life and movies.

HV: "It's In The Water," is your first film. Before you became a filmmaker, what were you doing, professionally?

Herd: I was a disc jockey at a station in East Texas. Before that, I had been a real estate broker, with my own real estate business in Tyler. I was also chairman of the Cattle Raisers Gala, and I was in the Junior League. I was a real upstanding, married woman with a son.

But, once I kissed another girl, that part of my life was all over with. When I finally got a divorce, I decided I wanted to be in the entertainment business, so, I got a job at an easy listening station in East Texas, as the afternoon drive-time girl. While I was there, I met this man named Martin Jurow, who would come in and tape radio shows to play on Saturday mornings. He would always tell me he had been involved in the making of movies like "Terms Of Endearment" and

"Breakfast At Tiffany's." And, he was always like, "Darling, we need to get you into the film business." I was like, "Right, and you're just the man to help do it. I ain't holding my breath!"

About this same time, my son was getting older, so, I decided it would probably be good for him to spend more time with his father, so, we moved up to Dallas. I started hanging out more with Martin, and he started to introduce me to people in the film business. I started taking screenwriting, directing and filmmaking courses—anything I could get my hands on. And, slowly, but surely, I realized I wanted to make movies that lesbian women, like myself, would want to see.

HV: Just lesbian films?

Herd: Yeah, at least in the beginning, because there weren't any out there. When I first came out, about 10 years ago, I, and every other lesbian in Dallas went to see "Claire Of The Moon." I left the movie going, "Is this all Hollywood has for lesbians? That is not fair! We deserve better than that." Lesbian movie-goers were starving for movies that we could see ourselves in. I figured if straight people were getting Richard Gere and Julia Roberts in "Pretty Woman," what the fuck was this all about? I started to investigate how the director of "Claire" got her movie made. I found out she did it all on her own. She was the one that got that movie into the theaters for us. I thought, "She did a great thing for lesbians. If she can do it, why can't I?" But, at the same time, I started to realize that gay films only fit in either one of two categories: they were either for the boys or they were for the girls. One of my best friends, Gordon, who I call my husband, is as queer as a three dollar bill, but I knew he was not going to see another lesbian movie with me—period. And, quite frankly, I have to say, I was tired of all the gay boy movies, too. And, worst, yet, in all the gay movies I was seeing, someone was either dying, someone was going to kill themselves or they wanted to go straight. So, I thought, "In my life, although I've experienced a tremendous amount of tragedy, it has not been full of constant sadness. It's been



Kelli Herd
Native Texan, writer and
director of "It's In The Water."

filled with good times with friends that were both male and female.' So, if I was going to make a movie, I wanted it to be something that the girls and the boys would want to see. That's when I came up with the idea for "It's In The Water."

HV: Some of those tragedies you spoke of included being estranged from your parents after coming out and losing custody of your son to

> See Director page 20

Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 3

Friday, May 28

"Get Real"

Landmark's Greenway Theatre (call theater for showtimes)
A gay love story against the backdrop of teenagers in search of identity.



Saturday, May 29

"The Righteous Babes"

(UK, 1998, 50 min.)
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston • 5:00 p.m.
The powerful intersection of feminism and popular music examined via Chrissie Hynde, Ani DeFranco and others.
followed by

"Wavelengths" (1997, 15 minutes)

One woman finds a unique solution to the singles scene.

"Khush" (1991, 24 minutes)

A revealing documentary on South Asian lesbians and gays.

"It's In The Water"

(USA, 1998, 100 min.)
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston • 7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.
A comedy about a homophobic town in Texas opposing the opening of an AIDS hospice.

Sunday, May 30

"Dear Jesse"

(USA, 1997, 82 min.)
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
5:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.
The gay identity of a Southern man plays out against the probing of Southern culture.

"Cavafy"

(Greece, 1996, 85 min., subtitled)
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston • 7:00 p.m.
Iannis Smaragdis, captures the poet's ardor with a deeply lyrical style, interweaving verse and memory.



preceded by

"A Summer Dress"

(France, 1997, 15 min., subtitled)
A love triangle story set in France.

Monday, May 31

"The Righteous Babes"

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston • 5:00 p.m.

(UK, 1998, 50 min.) Followed by
"Wavelengths" (1997, 15 minutes)



"Khush" (1991, 24 minutes)

"It's In The Water" (USA, 1998, 100 min.)

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 1

SHORT WORKS

Aurora Picture Show • 7:30 p.m.

"Scent Uva Butch"

(dir. Shoshana Rosenfeld, 1998, color, video, 36 min.)
The "butch" movement within the cutting edge world of "dykes."

"Goodnight, I Love You"

(dir. Gordon Thomas, 1997, color, video, 7 min.)
Animated documentary on the responsibilities of love..

"Sleep Come Free Me"

(dir. Laurie Schmidt, 1998, color, 16mm, 19 min.)
Woman's fantasy allows escape from boring life.

Wednesday, June 2

"French Twist"

Rice University Media Center • 6:00 p.m.
(dir. Josiane Balasko, French/subtitled, 1995, 105 min., 35mm)
A stranger enters a couple's life and changes everything.

"Homo Heights"

Rice University Media Center • 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.
(dir. Sara Moore, USA, 1997, 92 min.)
A hilarious, surreal comedy set in the rarefied dream world of drag queen glitter.

Thursday, June 3

"Lone Star Hate"

Rice University Media center • 6:00 p.m.
(dir. Paul Yule, UK, 1997, 76 min., color)
A documentary investigating the gay bashing death of Nicholas West in Tyler, Texas, 1993.



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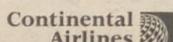
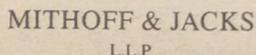
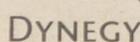
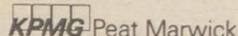


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Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 3

"Relax... It's Just Sex"

Rice University Media Center • 7:30 p.m.

(dir. P.J. Castellanta, USA, 1998, 110 min., color)

The tangled web of gay, straight and lesbian friends who are regulars at a local watering hole.



"Hallelujah"

Rice University Media Center • 9:30 p.m.

(US, 1998, 90min., 35mm, documentary).

Note: FOR MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY.

The body-piercing and mutilation public art performances of Ron Athey detailed in this documentary. A scheduled Q & A follows the film.

Friday, June 4

FAIRYTALES AND FIREWORKS

(short works) DiverseWorks • 7:00 p.m.

"Fireworks" (dir. Kenneth Anger, 1947, 15 min.)

Homoerotic themes tackled in this short.

"Pink Narcissus" (Anonymous, 1971, 71 min.)

Glamour, princes, and pinkness all rolled into one.

"The Story of the Red Rose" (1997, 24 min.)

An interpretation of Oscar Wilde's fairytale.



"QuAC Mix-Up Video!"

DiverseWorks • 9:00 p.m.

An open call production by gay and lesbian filmmakers.

"French Twist"

Rice University Media Center

7:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.

(dir. Josiane Balaska, French/subtitled, 1995, 105 min., 35mm)

Saturday, June 5

"Homo Heights"

Rice University Media Center • 7:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.

(dir. Sara Moore, USA, 1997, 92 min.)

FAIRYTALES AND FIREWORKS

(short works) DiverseWorks • 7:00 p.m.

"Fireworks" (dir. Kenneth Anger, 1947, 15 min.)

"Pink Narcissus" (Anonymous, 1971, 71 min.)

"The Sory of the Red Rose" (1997, 24 min.)

DYKES IN WONDERLAND

(short works) DiverseWorks • 9:00 p.m.

"My Cunt"

(dir. Deb Strutt and Liz Baulch, Australian, 6 min)

A witty performance piece about one of our culture's few remaining taboos.

"She's Real, Worse Than Queer"

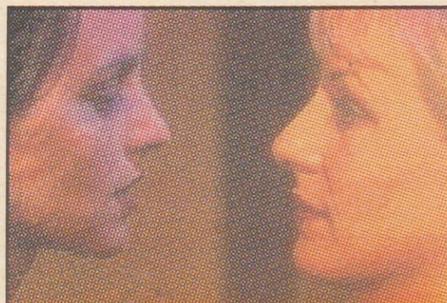
(dir. Lucy Thane, U.K., 50 min.)

A rough documentary about punk rock dyke bands.

"Twisted Sheets"

(dir. Chris Deacon, Canada, 14 min)

A 90's romance story with a twist.



"Elizabeth Taylor Sometimes"

(dir. Deb Strutt & Liz Baulch Australia, 8 min.)

Engaging soliloquy exploring concepts of reality and hyper-reality via the television.

"Nice Girls Don't Do It"

(dir. K. Daymond, Canada, 11 min.)

A provocative "how to" about female ejaculation.

Sunday, June 6

DYKES IN WONDERLAND

(short works) DiverseWorks • 5:00 p.m.

"My Cunt"

(dir. Deb Strutt and Liz Baulch, Australian, 6 min)

"She's Real, Worse Than Queer"

(dir. Lucy Thane, U.K., 50 min.)

"Twisted Sheets"

(dir. Chris Deacon, Canada, 14 min)

"Elizabeth Taylor Sometimes"

(dir. Deb Strutt & Liz Baulch Australia, 8 min.)



"Nice Girls Don't Do It"

(dir. K. Daymond, Canada, 11 min.)

Homo(In)Visibility: Film Festivals Come of Age (Panel Discussion)

DiverseWorks • 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

As gay film festivals enter their third decade, how does the current crop of gay and lesbian films stack up to the real lives of Houstonians?

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-Michael Wilmington, FILM COMMENT

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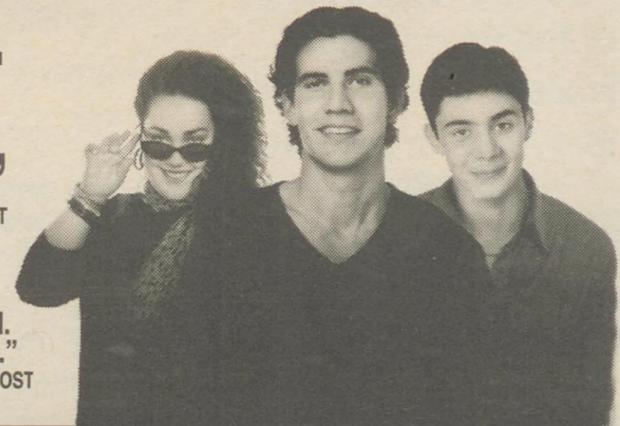
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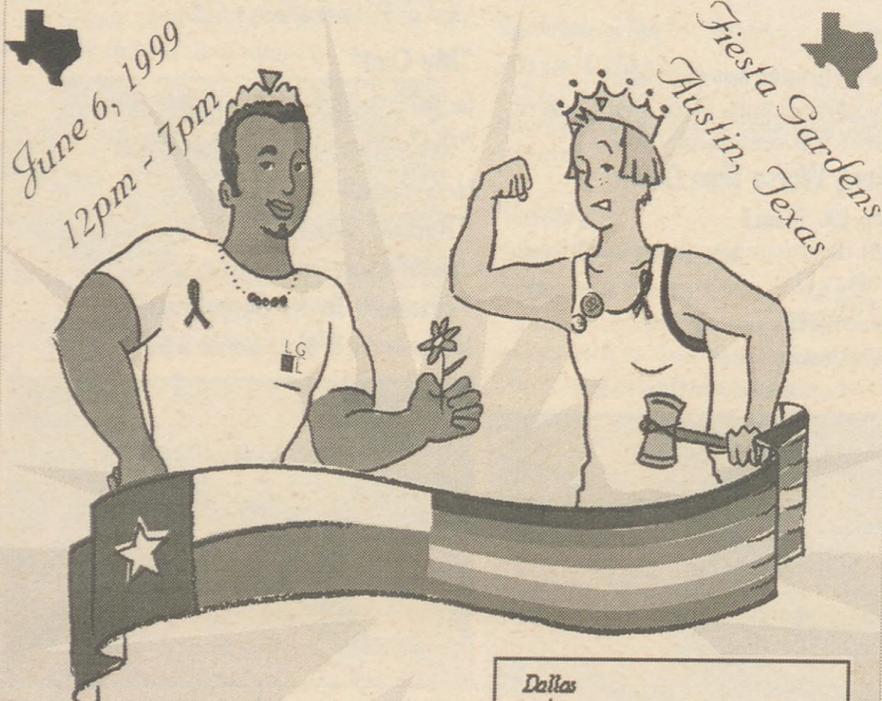
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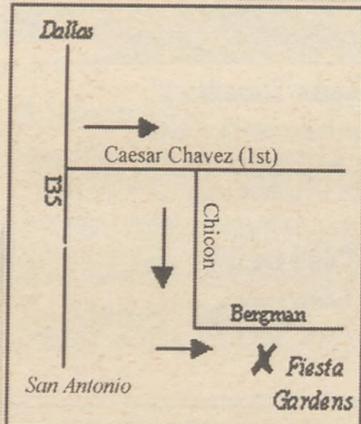


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Director from page 17

your husband because you were a lesbian. When the two of you were getting a divorce, didn't he know that you liked other women?

Herd: Noooooo way! I denied it the whole time we were getting a divorce, because I really wasn't sure I was gay. But, I did know that the way I felt about girls was the way I was supposed to feel about my husband. He was a nice guy, but I knew if I came out with the fact that I was a lesbian, I was going to lose custody of my son. I had seen it happen to several women that I knew in Tyler. But, a year after the divorce, I went to everybody I knew and told them the truth. I went to my parents and I went to him, and everything was great for about another year. When I told my ex-husband that I was moving to Dallas so that our son could be closer to him, he was like, 'That's great! We can share custody of him and everything will work out fine.' Before I actually moved, though, I sent Michael (her son) up to his father so that I could get packed and get out of town. But, once I got to Dallas, my ex-husband said, 'You can't have him, because I'm going to court to keep him. And, not only are my parents behind it, but your parents are paying for it.' I was wrecked. But, in retrospect, we've all found out that he just played us against one another, and my parents never said that. Consequently, I got the meanest, biggest bastard of an attorney to help me get my son back.

HV: Are parts of "It's In The Water" autobiographical?

Herd: Yes and no. A lot of people have asked me if the mother that's in the movie is a faithful depiction of mine. You know what? That's no more my mother than any other fag that walked up to me after a screening of the film and went, 'Oh, my God, how did you get my mother up there?' Most parents respond to their children coming out in one of two ways. They are either like, 'Well, this isn't exactly what we had in mind for you, but, you're still our child, we want you to be happy, take care of yourself, use condoms, and just know that we love you any way.' Or, the parents go, 'Oh, my God, you are ruining our lives! Why are you doing this to us?' So, that experience is very universal. So, if 'It's In The Water' is autobiographical, it's the true story of any woman or man that's gay.

HV: I understand you sacrificed a lot to get "It's In The Water" made.

Herd: I did. I had to sell my house, sell my car, sign my life away to get loans and do what ever it took, short of becoming a prostitute, to get this film made. It ended up costing me about a quarter of a million dollars, but, it was worth it. It has brought so much joy, to so many people, that I know I made the right decision by doing it.

HV: What do you want people to feel after having seen, "It's In The Water"?

Herd: A lot of things. But, most of all, I want them to be proud of the fact that they are gay.



Timothy Vahle, Derrick Sanders, Keri Jo Chapman, Teresa Garrett and John Hallum live happily ever after in Kelli Herd's directorial debut "It's In The Water."

Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Hip joint, so-so food

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Bocados is a study in contradictions: upscale but casual, an intimate but airy Tex-Mex bistro. Although a restaurant this size could menacingly cramp in its customers, Bocados expertly uses its space. In addition to the slick, steely bar area, the three tiny dining rooms seem cozy and romantic, thanks to the savvy interior scheme of cool melons and pastels, and shiny hardwood floors. On the walls, large paintings of Matisse-like interiors radiate bold, passionate colors of Mexican folk scenes.

Unfortunately, Bocados flaunts little style or excitement when it comes to cuisine. Although a minimalist menu can certainly yield its treasures, the results here are frighteningly bland. For appetizers, the Empanaditas de Pollo (\$6) consist of barely seasoned chicken in an unremarkable crust. The Calimari (\$6) is a better choice although you won't be able to enjoy it for long. The crunchy batter perfectly dusts each piece, allowing the diner to savor the meaty, succulent squid, but where are the rest? In fact, most plates suffer from too much blank space. Take the Crab cakes with Tomatillo Sauce (\$8), for instance. The creamy and flavorful crab mixture is supplemented by tangy bits of

red pepper, but the mere two golf-ball size cakes are

impaired by the overly greasy crust exterior. The safest bet is probably the Ceviche (\$8). More like a, "fish salsa," with tender cod, bass, peppers, tomato, and cilantro all jockeying for flavor, this chilled dish on crackers slides down beautifully with a cold beer on a hot Houston night.

Entrees are surprisingly unimaginative. The Spinach Enchiladas (\$10) are just that—no more than steamed spinach stuffed into two wheat tortillas. Isn't the beauty of the perfect enchilada that mingling, baked-in flavor? I'd assume that these are meant to be healthy and simple, except that they are smothered in melting lumps of sour cream. The Chicken Enchiladas (\$9) overpoweringly drenched in melted cheese, are not much of an improvement.

Fajitas come in beef, chicken, or mushroom varieties, but suspiciously lack the basic staples: guacamole and cheese. The Portobella Mushroom Fajitas (\$10) include perfectly sized strips of thick, smoky, and juicy mushrooms, and I appreciate how this dish bows to the fussy vegetarian with its sides of brown Mexican rice and black

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beans. The rice deliciously soaks up the juice for a taste and texture that makes me sorry for those who forgo such veggie pleasures for a mere, meaty steak. The Chicken Fajitas (\$12), accompanied by refried beans and slightly salty Spanish rice, inspire apathy which wanes only slightly after requesting a side of guacamole to spice it up.

What Bocados lacks in solids, it remedies with liquids. The expertly-blended Margaritas tingle with fresh lime juice and smooth, potent tequila, and the sangria, although not as fruity as I prefer, avoids being too watery or too sweet. There is also a selection of

fine beers and wines, and the outdoor patio makes Bocados a perfect destination for an outdoor drink. Like the transformed interior, the patio packs a minuscule area with a few multicolored glass mosaic tables, tiny white lights, and a ton of atmosphere. Reserve these tables if you want to sit outside. Otherwise, they're difficult to snag.

There is one other redeeming factor: Wednesday nights. Every Wednesday, Bocados packs in a lively and diverse crowd of women who fill the dance floor. The music is sexy and festive—imagine salsa, country, Erasure, Lauryn Hill, and "Oh, Mickey You're so Fine," within the span of an hour. If you're not up for dancing, spend awhile people watching and chatting.

Bocados may be the epitome of form over substance, if your idea of substance is quality food to go along with your scene. However, if substance, for you, is a superb place to hang out surrounded by a hip crowd of Houston women, grab a patio table on a Wednesday night and wait for the crowd, and the drinks, to pour in.



H O U S T O N

Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 3

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Starts Friday May 28

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"Cavalry" preceded by "A Summer Dress"
Saturday May 29 thru Sunday May 31

Aurora Picture Show

"Scent Uva Butch" • "Goodnight, I Love You"
"Sleep Come Free Me"
Tuesday June 1

Rice Media Center

"Homo Heights" • "Lone Star Hate"
"Relax...It's Just Sex" • "Hallelujah"
"French Twist"
Wednesday June 2 thru Saturday June 5

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Classes clash and glass crashes in Alley Theatre season closer



BRUCE BENNETT

L-R: Curtis Billings as Bentley Summerhays, Judith Lightfoot Clarke as Hypatia Tarleton, Kevin Waldron as Joseph Percival, Elizabeth Heflin as Lina Szczepanowska, and Dennis Perlato as John Tarleton.

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

In an interesting progression, the Alley Theatre winds down its regular season with George Bernard Shaw's romantic comedy "Misalliance." This presentation fits very well into the theatrical time timeline presented this season. Henry Ibsen, Oscar Wilde and Shaw all share commonalty. Ibsen (Hedda Gabler) was seen by many as the first modern commentator on equality, especially for women. In fact, William Archer, a close friend of Shaw, was a critic and translator of Ibsen's works. Shaw was also connected to Oscar Wilde. Shaw supported Wilde, pleading with the establishment to recognize Wilde's genius, instead of his fallibility. "Misalliance," is in many ways a wisely planned kind of a "wrap up," theatrical themes circa 1850-1910.

The show is deceptively layered. Viewed in its simplest form it's a wonderful verbose romp through the mores of late 19th century England. Here, in "Misalliance," the the English aristocracy (who have no money, but plenty of breeding) are forced into cohabitation with the haute bourgeois merchant class (who have no pedigree, but possess plenty of cash), mainly through the arranged marriage of their respective (if not respectful) progeny.

In this snappy production directed by David Wheeler, these bizarre pairings appear, develop, and dissipate with well-appreciated rapidity.

The beautifully sunny day room of underwear magnate John Tarelton (played by the wonderfully by silver-haired Dennis Perlato) serves as the single locale for all of the action.

The capitalist's daughter, Hypatia is engaged to be married to the wimpy, but well papered, Bentley Summerhays, son of the estimable, but now useless, Lord Summerhays. A weekend house party turns weird as a handsome pilot and his passenger drop from the sky at the end of Act One. Much to the surprise of all the guests, the passenger

turns out to be a spunky Polish aviatrix, Lina Szczepanowska. Things heat up as this crazy queen of kielbasa sizzles every sausage she can find.

In true Shaw style the men here walk around thinking with the wrong extremity, something which shocks none of the women on stage. Judith Clark, making her Alley debut as the daughter Hypatia, gives a splendidly energetic portrayal of a young woman sick of being bound by morals and convention. Clearly uncontrolled by any man, her freewheeling, clear accented performance keeps the audience with her through every syllable. Her betrothed, Lord Bentley Jr. (Curtis Billings), is immediately irritating; a broad mouthed, clenched toothed, Milquetoast.

Elizabeth Heflin plays the part of Lina. Her Second Act speech regarding the man/woman dichotomy of the period is one of the play's important messages. She recycles the men on stage like plastic bags and throws them out again, serving as lightning rod for many of the societal points made in this script. This mighty mouse charges in and out and up and down with a great combination of gusto and sexuality.

Others in the cast do a good job as well. Betty Fitzpatrick is appropriately maternal and wise (though sans accent). Keith Reddin, as the despot Julius Gunner, is in a role that might be, unjustifiably, discounted. His character, that of a poor clerk whose mother was seduced by tycoon Tarelton, is autobiographical of the playwright. Early in his life Shaw was himself a poor clerk, eeking out a living at the hand of another. No activity is spared from Shaw's subtle wit, not even his own life.

INFO

Misalliance

Alley Theatre
Through June 13
Tickets, \$13-\$46
713-228-8421

New videos in the educational arsenal

by STEVE BAKER

Progress in the quest for gay and lesbian equality is usually measured by large public victories in courts of law or in government houses.

The recognition of those gains come, at times, at the expense of smaller, unseen victories achieved through education.

One of the newest weapons in this educational arsenal is an inspiring documentary, "It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School." The major distinction to be made about this gay educational video, than most others, is that it features children, but its message is aimed at adults.

Most of the video is of children commenting on what they know about gay men and lesbians, and how they learned what they know.

The documentary shows that most children get their images of this community from TV. Specifically mentioned were talk shows like "Jerry Springer" and news stories where most often the focus on gay life was less than a positive one. Next, the children said, "flamboyant" characters in motion pictures, where the characters exhibit stereotypical mannerisms, are a source of gay images.

Documentary producers, Debra Chasnoff and Helen Cohen took cameras into six schools across the country and into Canada, interviewing straight teachers as well as the children. The teachers were the open-minded type that were supportive of opening up dis-

cussions with their students. Using fast paced sound bites from the kids and the teachers, the documentary moves at an interesting pace that touches on a wide array of gay issues and stereotypes in a civil and calm environment usually

It's Elementary

missing in public discussions about "homosexuality."

Perhaps the most positive element in the video is the children themselves. Some of the kids spoke with the maturity of adults. Others spoke about complex gay issues with a simplicity that only children are capable, and they made sense. While many of the kids had the usual negative stereotypes about gays, they appeared to easily absorb the facts about gays. The producers of, "It's Elementary" proved that it is far easier to open minds to prejudice of all types, at early ages rather than with adults with life-long, established opinions that require far more time and effort to break down.

"It's Elementary" will air on Houston's PBS affiliate, KUHT Channel 8 on June 8. As with most gay-friendly programs picked up by PBS, there has been some calls of protest.

"Complaints against showing the documentary have been coming in at a rate consistent with other gay issue programs aired in the past, but the decision to air it as scheduled is firm," said Ken Lawrence, program director at KUHT.

"Most complaints seemed to be from people that have a misunderstanding that the video is geared to show in classrooms to force children to accept homosexuality which it is not."

Log Cabin Republicans get into the act

In another area of gay rights advocacy via video production, there's a new release, "On the Front Lines" which is about the 1998 Texas Republican Convention held

feel too comfortable about their level of freedom in this country.

This documentary is produced by Log Cabin Republicans and is focused on gay republicans addressing the party leadership from outside the convention hall for full inclusion in the convention process going on inside.

The video does a good job of showing the intense passion for hate against gays within the Republican Party.

In essence, "On the Front Lines" is about showing just how radical and shocking the far right can be holding Bibles and signs that say "Fags Burn In Hell," as well as all the other popular slogans seen at such "Christian" gatherings.

Baker is the former producer of "TV Montrose"

Talking About Gay Issues In School

Fort Worth.

If that sounds dry, throw in the fact that gay republicans were refused a booth by the party leadership and far right protesters of the most vicious kind and you have a video full of emotion-raising images of hate.

No matter what one thinks about gay republicans and the Republican Party, seeing this video is probably good for all gays just so they don't



Cohen, producer

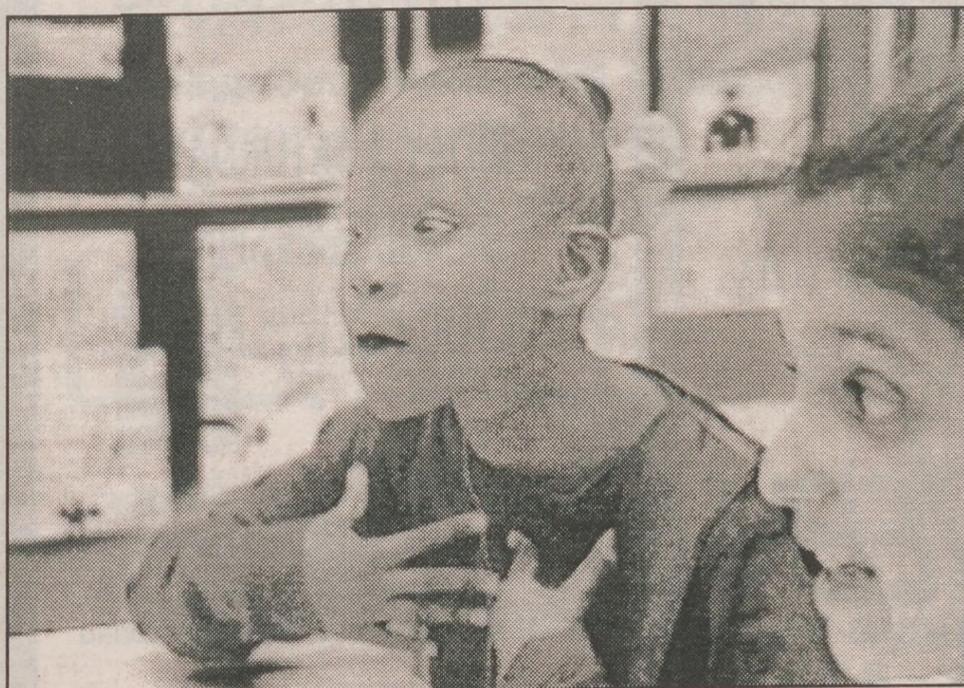


Chasnoff, producer

INFO

"It's Elementary"
Channel 8, PBS KUHT
June 8 at 9 p.m.

"On The Front Lines"
\$19.95
Log Cabin Republicans
202-347-5306



Students debating gay rights, from 'It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues In School.'

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Community Calendar

► Friday, May 28

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Evolution (Galveston) 8 p.m. to midnight, Inergy 8 p.m. to midnight, and Rich's 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. 713-520-2000.

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.
Houston Tennis Club at 7:30 p.m. 713-864-8468.

Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Lesbian Avengers. Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama at 7 p.m.

Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

Kolbe Project. Park Plaza Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.

Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.

Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM, 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

Movie Time at the Kolbe Project. 7:30 p.m. 713-522-8182.

Mishpach Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.

Co Dependents Anonymous. 7:30 p.m. At MCCR. 713-861-9149.

Healing Eucharist. 7 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral. 1117 Texas Ave. 713-222-2593.

► Saturday, May 29

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Toyz Disco 9 p.m. to midnight and Pec's (Galveston) 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM, 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

Visual Arts Alliance. 10 a.m. 281-583-8408.

Rainbow Fishing Club meets. 713-526-7070.

Dignity mass at 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary at 8

a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

► Sunday, May 30

The Women's Group. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.

Rainbow Riders, a bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

FrontRunners. 9 a.m. 713-522-8021.

Lone Star Volleyball plays. 281-878-4629.

Houston Tennis Club. 10:30 a.m. 713-864-8468.

Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church. Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I at 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II at 8:55 a.m.; Education hour at 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. "Preaching the Gospel" at 11 a.m. 713-528-6756.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.

Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. 713-526-5200.

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. Sunday School for children. 4305 Lillian. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Houston Mission Church. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.

Covenant Baptist Church. Service at 1:30 p.m.; education hour at 3 p.m. 713-668-8830.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m. Sunday school at 9:40 a.m. 713-526-1017.

MCCR. Handbell Choir rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 402 Church St. in Galveston. Service at 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 11 a.m. 713-520-7847.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

Church of Kindred Spirits (Beaumont). Service at 7 p.m. 409-835-4765.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum at 10 a.m. Service at 11 a.m. and noon. 1504 Wirt. 7713-686-5876.

► Monday, May 31

Some events may be canceled due to the Memorial Day holiday. Please call first.

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Outpost 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group, 8 p.m. 713-861-6181.

Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week, 7 p.m. 713-529-1223.

Outpatient Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center, 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group. Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group. 713-526-1017.

Bering Support Network. Grief and Divorce Groups at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

AIDS Caregiver's Support Group. 6 p.m. 713-732-4300.

HIV testing. Free from AVES from 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.

Kolbe Project Park Plaza visitation. 713-861-1800.

AIDS Foundation Houston. Free creative writing class at 3 p.m. 713-623-6796.

FrontRunners. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

Kolbe Project. Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Texas Medical Center Lambda. 5 p.m. 713-523-5539.

Integrity Houston. For gay and lesbian Episcopalians. 7:30 p.m. Autry House, 6265 Main.

► Tuesday, June 1

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Club Houston 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. 7 p.m. 239 Westheimer. 713-495-8009.

Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center at 4:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Youth-Rap. 6:30 p.m. 713-822-8511.

Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037

AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. 7 p.m. 713-488-4492.

PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse. Montrose Counseling Center at 6:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Kolbe Projects. Park Plaza Visitation. 713-861-1800.

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang at 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

Love, Lust and Intimacy. Discussion group at 7 p.m. 713-524-2374.

MCCR. Tuesday night program at 7 p.m. 713-861-9149.

Maranatha Fellowship MCC. Home groups meet for fellowship, sharing God's word and prayer. 713-528-6756.

Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. The Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Love, Lust & Intimacy. Improving communication and intimacy in relationships. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. 713-524-2374.

Male Impotence Gay Support. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

► Wednesday, June 2

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Mary's 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Venture-N 8 p.m. to midnight, Mela's 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams to people with HIV. 713-520-2000.

Houston Pride Band. Practices at Dignity Houston. 713-524-0218.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 p.m. 713-864-8468.

Women's Network. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713-529-0037.

Ongoing Mixed Living in Process. Group for men and women. 713-622-7250.

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Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center, 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
HIV survivor support group. 7 p.m. 713-782-4050.
Free Yoga classes. 7 p.m. 713-965-9642.
Bering Spiritual Support Group. 6:45 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. Free from AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.
Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
Rainbow Ranglers. 8 p.m. at the BRB.
Lambda Rollerskating Club. Skating at 8 p.m. 713-933-5818.
Thomas Street Health Center Council. 2 p.m. 713-902-2231.
Healing and Happiness Through Wellness. 7 p.m. 713-623-6796.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Bible study at 12:30 p.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

MCCR. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.; service at 7 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 7:30 p.m. 713-520-7847
Maranatha Fellowship MCC. Home groups meet for fellowship, sharing God's word and prayer. 713-528-6756.
Kolbe Project. Healing Service at 8 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Healing and Happiness Through Wellness. 7 p.m. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. 713-623-6796.
Rainbow Roller Skating. 8 p.m. Skateworld Northwest, 9514 Anderson Mill Road.
HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Mary's 4 to 8 p.m. Nighthawks 8 p.m. to midnight, Mela's 8 p.m. to midnight. 712-520-2000.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. General meeting 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne.

► **Thursday, June 3**
HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Brazos River Bottom 4 p.m. to midnight. 713-530-2000.
Art Labs. The Art League at 1 p.m.

713-225-9411.
Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal at 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
Living in Process Groups. For gay men. 713-622-7250.
HIV+ Men Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Relapse Prevention. Montrose Counseling Center, 2 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Women's Therapy Group. Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Meditation and Chanting Group. 7 p.m. 713-942-0923.
HIV Affected. CASA. 7 p.m. 713-796-2272.
HIV Survivor Support Group. 7 p.m., 2929 Unity Drive. 713-782-4050.
Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 713-738-RACE.
FrontRunners at 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
HIV Prevention Community Planning Group. 9 a.m. 713-794-9251.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 713-830-3000.

Faith and Hope Fellowship. Bible study 7 p.m. 713-520-7847.
Community Gospel. Choir practice. 6:30 p.m.; service at 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Kolbe Project. Ecumenical outreach to gays. 7 p.m. 713-522-8182.
Montrose Ice Picks. 8 p.m. Galleria Ice Rink, 5015 Westheimer. 713-629-1432.
BiNet Houston. Discussion group at 7:30 p.m. 713-467-7031.
HIV/AIDS Support Group. 2:30 at Family Service Center. 713-861-4849.
Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group. 7 p.m. Family Service Center. 713-247-3810.
HIV/AIDS Support Group. 7 p.m. Family Service Center in Conroe. 888-247-3810.
Gulf Coast Transgender Community. Discussion group. 713-780-GCTC

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

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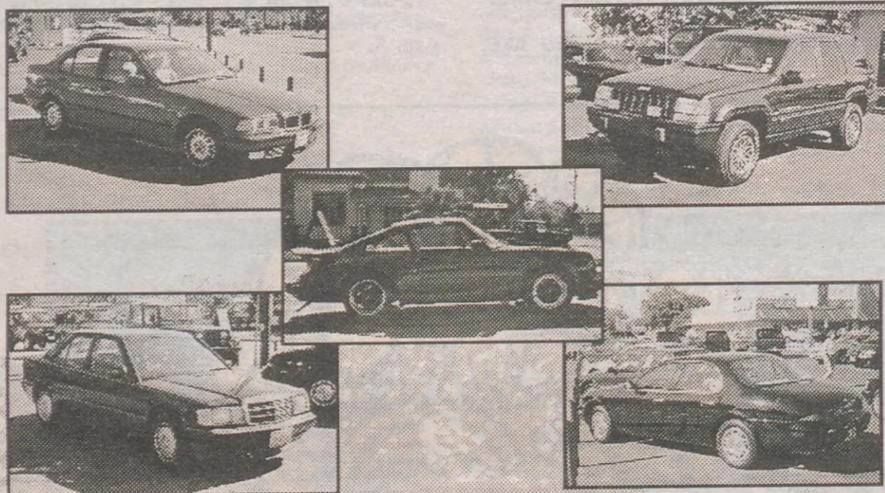
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Galaxy Gayzer

by JOSEPH MOLINA

May 28 - June 3

**Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)**

Happy Birthday Gemini! This year the sun connects with where it was when you were born. You should have hope and believe in what tomorrow will bring. Independence will be yours, even though you try and hide from it.

**Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)**

Mars challenges you, while Jupiter in Aries softens the blow. Venus lends you its power and you have the ability to win over anyone and any thing. You must be careful in taking advantage or allowing this much attention to go to your head.

**Leo (JULY 24 — AUG. 23)**

This week, some very interesting forces permeate throughout your life. The sun and Neptune force you to stop worrying or allowing the universe to get the better of you. Keeping your head centered in work could be your best course of action. Otherwise, you may find yourself giving into emotion and having one crises after another.

**Virgo (AUG. 24 — SEPT. 23)**

Get ready Virgo, life is about to take some twist and turns, for better or worse. The full moon produces a moody cycle, in which your attitude goes from all powerful to bitter. Just remember that this is a temporary cycle and it will not last long.

**Libra (SEPT. 24 — OCT. 23)**

Universal influences cause a cycle to begin in your life. This week Mars shifts direction and your whole life rattles because of it. A sense of irresponsibility overcomes you and you have a need to party. Beware of those who would take advantage of this energy, you're very prone to manipulation and could find yourself in the middle of foul play.

**Scorpio (OCT. 24 — NOV. 22)**

Because you happen to be born under the sign of Scorpio, doesn't mean that you are immune to the cosmic energies. Pluto combines forces with the sun and some parts of your life are bound to dry up and disappear. Notice what gets on your nerves and let this be an indication of what has been influencing your life for too long and get rid of it.

**Sagittarius (NOV. 23 — DEC. 22)**

Six months till your birthday the moon turns full and you're forced to look at all the aspects of your life. Pluto and the moon combine forces and produce life transforming experiences. Beware of becoming obsessive about anything or allowing anger to build within you. If you play your cards right, some positive things could occur, but you had better be absolutely sure what you want.

**Capricorn (DEC. 23 — JAN. 20)**

The sun and Saturn make a connection producing opposition throughout your life. For some odd reason, everyone is going to challenge and test you. Don't let this get to you, ignore it if you can. Try painting, building things or working with your hands.

**Aquarius (JAN. 21 — FEB. 19)**

As the sun sets off Uranus and Neptune, Aquarius has the opportunity to balance, harmonize and put order through your life. Buried moods will rise to the surface and could manifest as insecurity and criticism. It might be best if you could just stay at home and avoid the world until after this week.

**Pisces (FEB. 20 — MARCH 20)**

The sun and Pluto combine efforts to force open your eyes and do some heavy evaluating over your life in general. Momentarily you could experience a loss of power and find yourself in situations that you may have to pretend you're having fun. Grin and bear it, and with just a little patience, it will all pass by.

**Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)**

As Mars retrograde comes to a close your creative energies will begin to flow and you will feel rejuvenated. You must become aware of your anxiety and insecurity, realizing where it holds you back from success. All good things are possible now, just as long as you don't get too anxious.

**Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)**

Saturn in your sign causes all sorts of shifts, forcing you to look at your life. Uranus and Neptune combine influences, triggering change and encouraging you to make choices in your life. Expect pain and turbulent emotions as your whole being begins to transform.

Joseph Molina, a practicing psychic for over 15 years, can be reached at astralwind@astralwind.com



Debra Danburg
State Representative

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NAGVA championships serve up countrywide competition

by LARA L. ZUEHLKE

Although some of the players at North American Gay Volleyball (NAGVA) Championships, May 21-23, might say the tournament was about having fun, the look of determination on most of their faces and the lunging bodies on the court depicted another motive altogether—to win.

This was no ordinary volleyball tournament, as some 700 gay volleyball players—almost all men—visited Houston to compete in the championship matches, held last weekend at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

More than 100 teams braved the Texas heat to participate in this year's championships, not to mention traveled from all parts of the country and continent. From Seattle to New York and Puerto Rico, volleyball players made the trek to Houston to take part in the 17th annual event, making this the second time Houston has hosted the championships.

Eight teams from Houston's Lone Star Volleyball Association participated in the tournament, although none qualified for the championship round of play.

Most teams had a packed schedule of play, participating in anywhere from four to 10 matches throughout each day of the three-day tourney.

Teams were broken down into four categories, from most competitive, AA, to the lesser competitive, BB.

Taking home this year's first place trophy in the AA division was the Kansas City Divas, which competed against three other teams for the crown. More than 20 teams in the A division fought it out for first place, with the Chicago Assault overcoming the Denver Phenom in straight games (15-7, 15-7) for the division title. Thus, placing Denver second and the Atlanta Big Dogs third.

Although the Houston teams were eliminated early on, the Dallas Bitches represented Texas in the division B finals. Dallas took on the Minneapolis Trailer Park Trash and squeaked by in the first game, 16-14. However, Minneapolis came back to win the next two games (15-5, 15-11), giving them the first place win. The final division title, BB, went to the Miami Maneators, who beat Indianapolis' Indy Go Girls 15-10, 15-8.

Earl Allen, captain of the Indy Go Girls, said the tournament was enjoyable largely because Houston was so receptive to the event.

"It's been a great tournament because everyone has been very nice to us," he said. "This convention center is a great place to play because it is very conducive to holding an event of this magnitude."

Due to the large number of teams, there was anywhere from seven to 17 courts set up and running at one time.

Tournament director and U.S.A. Volleyball (USAV) official, Gordon

Morrison, attributed the tournament's success to the diligent efforts by local volunteers.

"The volunteers have been great and have put in a lot of hard work," said Morrison. "It has also helped that many of people here have helped run Houston Lone Star Volleyball Association tournaments every year."

Morrison said the level of play was more intense the last half of the tournament because USAV referees from Louisiana, Dallas and other regional areas officiated the matches, rather than the teams calling their own games.

"By having the paid officials come in, it really cuts down on a lot of the complaints and turns up the level of play," said Morrison.

To conclude this year's NAGVA Championships, the association held its annual banquet after the final games Sunday, distributing awards to the top teams and players.

John Pastrano, president of NAGVA and a Houston player, said the top four teams in each division received trophies, with



STEVEN BAKER

players on teams placing first through third receiving an individual trophy.

In addition, five all-star players and a most valuable player were selected from each of the four divisions, said Pastrano.

The most outstanding official was also recognized and given the "Golden Whistle" award.

The tournament concludes the Lone Star Volleyball Association's regular season play.

INFO

Houston Lone Star Volleyball Association
281-878-4629



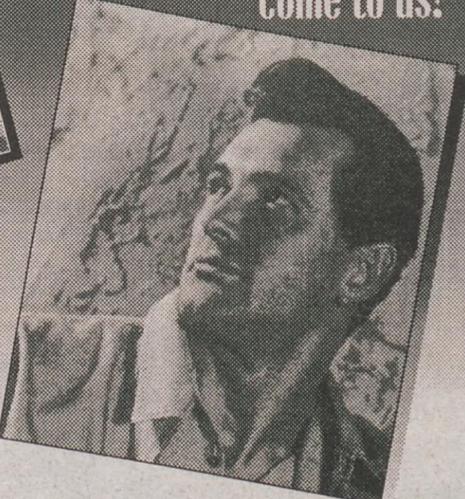
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HERE

NEWS FROM HOUSTON AND TEXAS

Life sentence for man who infected boy with HIV

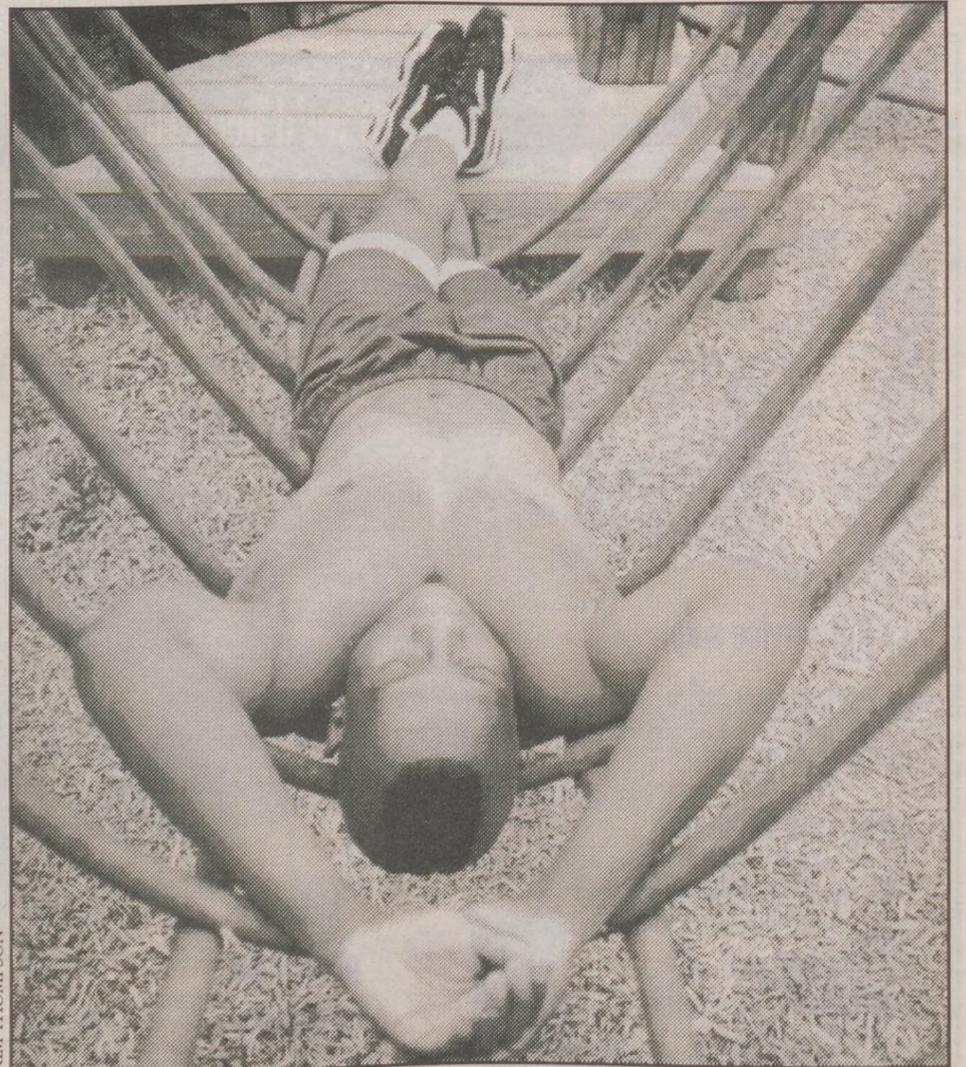
HOUSTON—Paul Edward Broussard, 39, has been sentenced to life behind bars for the 1993 sexual assault of a seven-year-old boy. The *Houston Chronicle* reported, May 26, Broussard sexually assaulted the boy over the course of a year while infected with HIV. Broussard must serve 30 years before he's parole-eligible. It took the jury of eight women and four men about 20 minutes to punish Broussard. The term was imposed by Judge Mike Anderson.

American Airlines Under Fire For Support Of gay groups

DALLAS—Conservative Christian groups protested, "broken promises" from American Airlines at the company's shareholders meeting on May 18. Peter LaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth, and Michael Johnston, president of Kerusso Ministries, said in an open letter to share holders that American CEO and Chairman Donald Carty failed to honor a 1998 pledge by the previous to, "refrain from open advocacy or endorsement of organizations with active political agendas." The groups said American continued to fund gay groups such as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Human Rights Campaign for engaging in anti-Christian rhetoric and promoting of adoptions and same-sex marriages. The letter to shareholders was packaged in an airplane sickness bag labeled, "What American Airlines is doing will make you SICK." Inside the bag were examples of the corporation's financial support of the gay groups. The letter states that American Airlines seems "committed to becoming 'America's Homosexual Airline' at the risk of offending and alienating millions of American families and loyal customers.

~ A Sense Of Place ~

▼ a photographic diary of our community ▼



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THERE

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AND THE NATION

Web-site hackers reshape GOP nod into pro-gay candidate

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—The web-site for the front-runner for Kentucky's Republican nomination for governor was hacked recently, with changes to make her look like a supporter of gun control and gay rights, the *Kentucky Post* reported. "It certainly raised some concern," candidate Peppy Martin said. "But hopefully the media will help me assure people that was a bogus report." Martin was leading her only opponent before Tuesday's primary. The winner will face Democratic incumbent Paul Patton in November. Martin's Web page, which was indefinitely dismantled on May 17, contained biographical information on her and her lieutenant governor running mate. One of the bogus changes purported to show Martin advocating a gay rights platform, including mandates that both the state and private employers hire gays and that October be designated as gay history month "to celebrate our sexual diversity."

Judge fines lesbian bistro owner for flying gay flag

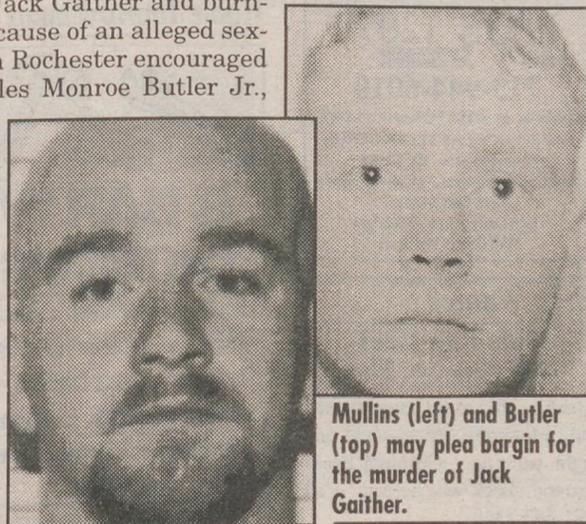
MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.—A municipal judge found a lesbian guilty of violating Myrtle Beach's sign ordinance and fined her for flying rainbow flags in front of her restaurant, the *Myrtle Beach Sun News* reported May 20. City Court Judge Ted Collins fined Linda Robertson, owner of the Rainbow House Bistro, \$373 for flying a rainbow flag from the porch of her business. Robertson had been notified by the city last month that the flags she was flying were in violation of the sign ordinance, which prohibits corporate flags in some areas of the city. Robertson maintains the flag, a symbol of gay pride, is a form of speech protected under the First Amendment. "The municipal judge just went by whether (Robertson) violated the ordinance," said Andy Brumme, staff counsel for the South Carolina ACLU, pointing out that most cases seeking to overturn laws are heard in federal courts. Robertson said she will pursue legal action against the city for violation of her civil rights.

Gay activist takes on Virginia sodomy law as trials loom

ROANOKE, Va.—A prominent Washington gay activist has publicly invited four of Roanoke's top law enforcement officials to join him in a private act of sodomy, the *Roanoke Times* reported May 21. Long-time activist Franklin Kameny used this same tactic in 1972 when fighting the District of Columbia's sodomy law, which was repealed in 1993. The case involves 18 men charged with solicitation of sodomy in a Roanoke park. Since all of the 18 men are charged with solicitation of sodomy, Kameny believes that if his solicitation goes uncharged, then the other men should also be cleared. All four officials two judges, an assistant attorney and Roanoke's police chief acknowledged receipt of the letter, but declined to comment. Sam Garrison, a Roanoke attorney representing nine of the men, said he doesn't think Kameny's letter is a helpful approach. Some 12 of the accused men will likely accept plea agreements that allow them to plead no contest to the charges. Each would receive a 12-month suspended sentence, a \$1,000 fine and be barred from Roanoke parks for five years.

Construction workers could take plea bargain in killing

ROCKFORD, Ala. (AP)—Defense attorneys aren't ruling out the possibility of plea-bargains for two men who now say they are innocent of charges of killing Billy Jack Gaither and burning his body on a pile of tires because of an alleged sexual advance. Circuit Judge John Rochester encouraged Steven Eric Mullins and Charles Monroe Butler Jr., both construction workers, to "work out a settlement" of their capital murder cases during brief hearings May 21 in which both men pleaded innocent. The trials are set to begin Aug. 2, but a delay is possible. In addition to pleading innocent, Butler pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. Mullins also asked the judge to throw out a statement in which investigators say he confessed to the killing, arguing he talked because he was promised "that by giving a statement he would avoid the death penalty." The motions could be considered during a June 24 hearing.



Mullins (left) and Butler (top) may plea bargain for the murder of Jack Gaither.

—From staff and wire reports



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Classifieds

Announcements

The Silver Screen - Kick Off Party

The 1999 Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival steering committee announces the date for the official kick off party with the theme of "Silver Screen". • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 1999 • The Crystal Ballroom at The Rice, 909 Texas Ave. in downtown Houston • \$15.00 Admission to the party which includes a ticket to any screening of Get Real, the opening film of the Gay & Lesbian Film Festival showing at the Greenway Theater beginning Friday, May 28. • Run dates for the festival are May 28th - June 6th • For more information on films, dates and times please call 713.807.8354 or check out the website: <http://freeweb.pdq.net/quac>

Bering Support Network 5th Anniversary Open House & Pot-Luck Dinner

Bering Support Network's PROJECT support members are planning to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the group with an Open House & Pot-Luck Dinner on Tuesday, June 8, 1999 at 7:00pm. Current and past members, as well as visitors, friends, and guest (HIV-negative or positive) are invited to bring a favorite covered dish and join the special celebration. PROJECT provides a safe place every Tuesday at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. To R.S.V.P., coordinate food, or for more information, please call Russ Robinett at 713.526.1017, ext. 211.

The Krewe of Olympus-TX, Inc. Calls For Letters of Intent

The Krewe of Olympus Texas, Inc. celebrating its thirtieth year of service to the community is now seeking letters of intent pertaining to the awarding of financial grants. Requests for grants will be accepted through June 1, 1999. All area organizations that provide assistance to the gay and lesbian community are eligible especially those that are HIV/AIDS related. All requests should be directed to: The Krewe of Olympus-Texas, Inc., David Gandy, Vice President, 4861 Woodpecker, Houston, TX 77035. Letter should include Determination of 501(c)(3) status, most recent financial statement, 1999 Operating Budget and use of the grant if selected.

"The Board of Directors of the National Leather Association-Houston Chapter is to be held accountable only for its own actions and assumes no responsibility for words or actions of members, past or present, that are beyond the scope or function of this organization."

Wigs on Fire is Back! The Inferno!

Join us for a night of fun, dancing, complimentary well drinks, the most outrageous wig contest and entertainment by Bonnie Pointer (of the Pointer Sisters) as we celebrate Pride Week. The event comes to a blaze at 7:00pm and burns on until 11:00pm at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto on Saturday, June 19, 1999. Last year the foundation raised \$70,000 for AIDS related charities. Our success has been due to the hard work of our members and the generosity of people like you! We are asking that you once again help us in underwriting our Wigs on Fire fund raising event. To receive more information on the different underwriting levels or just to donate funds please call 713.940.STAR.

How To Adopt Internationally

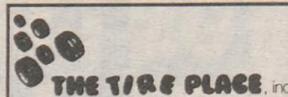
Family to Family Adoption Services, an adoption networking agency, is in partnership with several non-profit adoption agencies who are dedicated to finding loving homes for thousands of orphans in many countries. Single men, women, and couples from 25 - 57 years old are eligible to adopt. For more information please call Maxine at 713.219.1472 or email: Fam2fam@aol.com

PWA Coalition desperately needs the following: Dishes, silverware, pots/pans, sheets, towels, dressers, dinettes, coffee tables, sofas, and small appliances. Available for pick-ups. Call Wilson or Kerry at 713.522.5428.

HATCH Seeks Sponsors for Prom Night '99

The 6th Annual Gay and Lesbian Prom Night is planned for June 19th. Sponsored by the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals. Prom Night raises money for activities throughout the year for youth attending HATCH functions. Open to the public, tickets will be available at the door. The event is free for teens; \$20 for adults. You can also be a sponsor of the prom: for \$500 you can be a Superintendent of the event; \$250 get you Principal status; and \$100 names you as a Chaperone. Any donation will be appreciated. For more information, phone HATCH at 713.942.7002.

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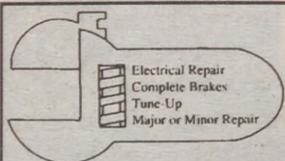
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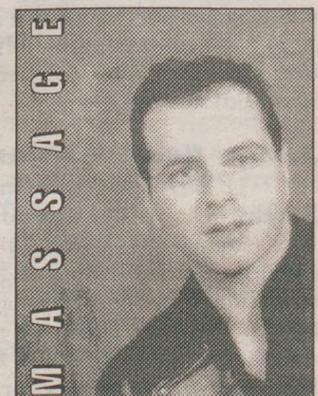
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NEWS OVERSEAS AND AROUND THE GLOBE

Gay couples gain full spousal rights by Canadian decision

OTTAWA—Canada's Supreme Court has recognized gay couples to have the same right as straight couples to sue for spousal support, *The Wall Street Journal* reported May 21. The ruling finds that differentiating between same-sex and opposite-sex couples is unconstitutional, and requires all Canadian governments to extend the same rights to couples, regardless of their sexual orientation. Gay-rights advocates quickly hailed the 8-to-1 decision as an advance that would help their cause in the U.S. and elsewhere. "Any kind of high-court recognition, particularly from a court as respected as Canada's, is tremendously significant," said Evan Wolfson, director of the marriage project for the New York-based Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The case focused on two Toronto women who separated after a 10-year relationship, leaving one financially strapped. She sued for support, but was told the provincial statute in Ontario didn't recognize same-sex partnerships. Ontario Premier Mike Harris, as well as the heads of other provinces, said they would comply with the ruling.



Evan Wolfson

British gays hail end to discriminatory law, challenge ban

LONDON—Gay groups celebrated as the British government announced plans to repeal an 11-year ban on the promotion of homosexuality in schools, *Reuters* reported May 21. Tony Blair's Labor government agreed to repeal Section 28 of the 1988 Local Government Act as soon as possible, which could take place by November. "This has been a big symbol of oppression for us," said a spokesman for Stonewall, Britain's gay and lesbian pressure group. Margaret Thatcher's government enacted the law at the height of debate about left-wing local councils who used public money to promote minority issues, including ones affecting gay and ethnic communities. Also, the ban on gay men and lesbians serving in the British armed forces is being challenged in a European Community court by protesters who say other NATO countries do not discriminate against gays, the *South China Morning Post* reported May 20. Lawyers representing four former service personnel three men and a woman all fired over their homosexuality submitted their representations to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg May 18. Their lawyers claim their dismissal violated the European Treaty of Human Rights on grounds of privacy, freedom from discrimination and was inhumane and degrading." Turkey is the only other NATO member country which has an outright ban on gay people serving in its armed forces.

China moves to protect privacy of HIV-positive citizens

BEIJING (AP)—China issued its first rules to protect the privacy of people with AIDS and their rights to hold jobs and marry on May 21. The Health Ministry rules, expected to become law later this year, bar discouraging people with the AIDS virus from marrying for fear they will pass it to their children, and hospitals and medical workers will be forbidden to release personal information about people with AIDS. An order by the ministry, "declares that the legal rights and interests of those people and their relatives should not be infringed," the state-run *Xinhua News Agency* said. The new rules also guarantee the right of people with AIDS to attend school and receive health care and counseling.

Thai TV ordered to remove transsexuals from shows

BANGKOK—The Thai Government has asked TV networks to curb the appearance of transvestites and transsexuals on their shows, the *South China Morning Post* reported May 19. Kulya Boonak, the senior official supervising broadcast monitoring, confirmed that a directive had been sent to TV networks seeking "cooperation" against shows, "that promote sexual abnormalities." He said the action was taken after complaints about such shows flooded Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai's home page on the Internet. The department's request which amounts to an order said disgruntled viewers feared such television shows would lead impressionable youths into copycat acts.

—From staff and wire reports



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Panretin[®] gel does not prevent the appearance of new lesions or the increased growth of KS lesions not treated with Panretin[®] gel. Patients using Panretin[®] gel should avoid prolonged exposure of the treated area to sunlight or other ultraviolet light. While using Panretin[®] gel, you may experience some local effects such as redness, discomfort, itching, and skin peeling or flaking at the area

of application. Other possible local skin effects include: rawness, surface or deep cracking, scabbing, crusting, drainage, oozing, or infection. Consult your health care provider for more information on how to manage these effects. Do not use Panretin[®] gel if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

Your doctor can tell you more about Panretin[®] gel, how to use it and what results you may expect. For more information, call 1-800-964-5836.



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The following is a brief summary. Before prescribing, please consult full prescribing information.

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Panretin[®] gel is indicated for topical treatment of cutaneous lesions in patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma. Panretin[®] gel is not indicated when systemic anti-KS therapy is required (e.g., more than 10 new KS lesions in the prior month, symptomatic lymphedema, symptomatic pulmonary KS, or symptomatic visceral involvement). There is no experience to date using Panretin[®] gel with systemic anti-KS treatment.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Panretin[®] gel is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to retinoids or to any of the ingredients of the product.

WARNINGS

Pregnancy: Panretin[®] gel could cause fetal harm if significant absorption were to occur in a pregnant woman. 9-*cis*-Retinoic acid has been shown to be teratogenic in rabbits and mice. An increased incidence of fused sternebrae and limb and craniofacial defects occurred in rabbits given oral doses of 0.5 mg/kg/day (about five times the estimated daily human topical dose on a mg/m² basis, assuming complete systemic absorption of 9-*cis*-retinoic acid, when Panretin[®] gel is administered as a 60 g tube over 1 month in a 60 kg human) during the period of organogenesis. Limb and craniofacial defects also occurred in mice given a single oral dose of 50 mg/kg on day eleven of gestation (about 127 times the estimated daily human topical dose on a mg/m² basis). Oral 9-*cis*-retinoic acid was also embryocidal, as indicated by early resorptions and post-implantation loss when it was given during the period of organogenesis to rabbits at doses of 1.5 mg/kg/day (about 15 times the estimated daily human topical dose on a mg/m² basis) and to rats at doses of 5 mg/kg/day (about 25 times the estimated daily human topical dose on a mg/m² basis). Animal reproduction studies with topical 9-*cis*-retinoic acid have not been conducted. It is not known whether topical Panretin[®] gel can modulate endogenous 9-*cis*-retinoic acid levels in a pregnant woman nor whether systemic exposure is increased by application to ulcerated lesions or by duration of treatment. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. If Panretin[®] gel is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking it, the patient should be apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus. Women of child-bearing potential should be advised to avoid becoming pregnant.

PRECAUTIONS

Panretin[®] gel is indicated for topical treatment of Kaposi's sarcoma. Patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma were less tolerant of topical Panretin[®] gel; five of seven patients had 6 episodes of treatment-limiting toxicities—grade 3 dermal irritation—with Panretin[®] gel (0.01% or 0.05%).

Photosensitivity: Retinoids as a class have been associated with photosensitivity. There were no reports of photosensitivity associated with the use of Panretin[®] gel in the clinical studies. Nonetheless, because *in vitro* data indicate that 9-*cis*-retinoic acid may have a weak photosensitizing effect, patients should be advised to minimize exposure of treated areas to sunlight and sunlamps during the use of Panretin[®] gel.

Drug Interactions: Patients who are applying Panretin[®] gel should not concurrently use products that contain DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), a common component of insect repellent products. Animal toxicology studies showed increased DEET toxicity when DEET was included as part of the formulation.

Although there was no clinical evidence in the vehicle-controlled studies of drug interactions with systemic antiretroviral agents, including protease inhibitors, macrolide antibiotics, and azole antifungals, the effect of Panretin[®] gel on the steady-state concentrations of these drugs is not known. No drug interaction data are available on concomitant administration of Panretin[®] gel and systemic anti-KS agents.

Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions: No interference with laboratory tests has been observed.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term studies in animals to assess the carcinogenic potential of 9-*cis*-retinoic acid have not been conducted.

9-*cis*-Retinoic acid was not mutagenic *in vitro* (bacterial assays, Chinese hamster ovary cell HGPRT mutation assay) and was not clastogenic *in vitro* (chromosome aberration test in human lymphocytes) nor *in vivo* (mouse micronucleus test).

Pregnancy Category D (see "Warnings" section)

Nursing Mothers: It is not known whether alitretinoin or its metabolites are excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for adverse reactions from Panretin[®] gel in nursing infants, mothers should discontinue nursing prior to using the drug.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

Geriatric Use: Inadequate information is available to assess safety and efficacy in patients age 65 years or older.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The safety of Panretin[®] gel has been assessed in clinical studies of 385 patients with

AIDS-related KS. Adverse events associated with the use of Panretin[®] gel in patients with AIDS-related KS occurred almost exclusively at the site of application. The dermal toxicity begins as erythema; with continued application of Panretin[®] gel, erythema may increase and edema may develop. Dermal toxicity may become treatment-limiting, with intense erythema, edema, and vesiculation. Usually, however, adverse events are mild to moderate in severity; they led to withdrawal from the study in only 7% of the patients. Severe local (application site) skin adverse events occurred in about 10% of patients in the U.S. study (versus 0% in the vehicle control). Table 1 lists the adverse events that occurred at the application site with an incidence of at least 5% during the double-blind phase in the Panretin[®] gel-treated group and in the vehicle control group in either of the two controlled studies. Adverse events were reported at other sites but generally were similar in the two groups.

TABLE 1

Adverse Events with an Incidence of at Least 5% at the Application Site in Either Controlled Study in Patients Receiving Panretin[®] Gel or Vehicle Control

Adverse Event Term	Study 1		Study 2	
	Panretin [®] Gel N=134 Pts. %	Vehicle Gel N=134 Pts. %	Panretin [®] Gel N=36 Pts. %	Vehicle Gel N=46 Pts. %
Rash ¹	77	11	25	4
Pain ²	34	7	0	4
Pruritus ³	11	4	8	4
Exfoliative dermatitis ⁴	9	2	3	0
Skin disorder ⁵	8	1	0	0
Paresthesia ⁶	3	0	22	7
Edema ⁷	8	3	3	0

Includes Investigator terms:

¹ Erythema, scaling, irritation, redness, rash, dermatitis

² Burning, pain

³ Itching, pruritus

⁴ Flaking, peeling, desquamation, exfoliation

⁵ Excoriation, cracking, scab, crusting, drainage, eschar, fissure or oozing

⁶ Stinging, tingling

⁷ Edema, swelling, inflammation

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Panretin[®] gel should initially be applied two (2) times a day to cutaneous KS lesions. The application frequency can be gradually increased to three (3) or four (4) times a day according to individual lesion tolerance. If application site toxicity occurs, the application

frequency can be reduced. Should severe irritation occur, application of drug can be temporarily discontinued for a few days until the symptoms subside.

Sufficient gel should be applied to cover the lesion with a generous coating. The gel should be allowed to dry for three to five minutes before covering with clothing. Because unaffected skin may become irritated, application of the gel to normal skin surrounding the lesions should be avoided. In addition, do not apply the gel on or near mucosal surfaces of the body.

A response of KS lesions may be seen as soon as two weeks after initiation of therapy but most patients require longer application. With continued application, further benefit may be attained. Some patients have required over 14 weeks to respond. In clinical trials, Panretin[®] gel was applied for up to 96 weeks. Panretin[®] gel should be continued as long as the patient is deriving benefit.

Occlusive dressings should not be used with Panretin[®] gel.

OVERDOSAGE

There has been no experience with acute overdose of Panretin[®] gel in humans. Systemic toxicity following acute overdose with topical application of Panretin[®] gel is unlikely because of limited systemic plasma levels observed with normal therapeutic doses. There is no specific antidote for overdose.

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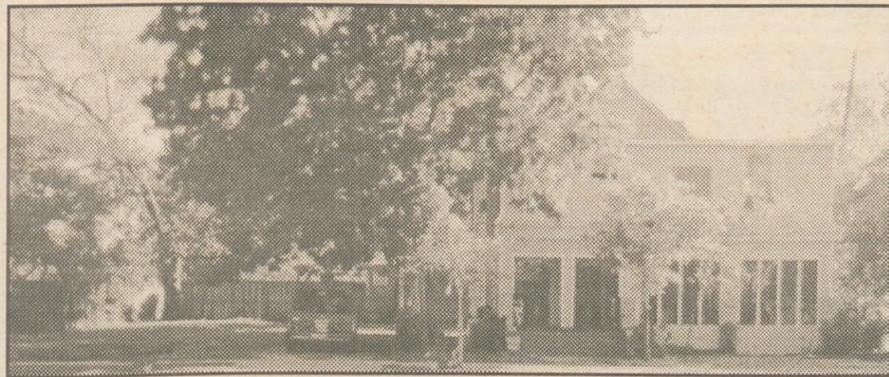


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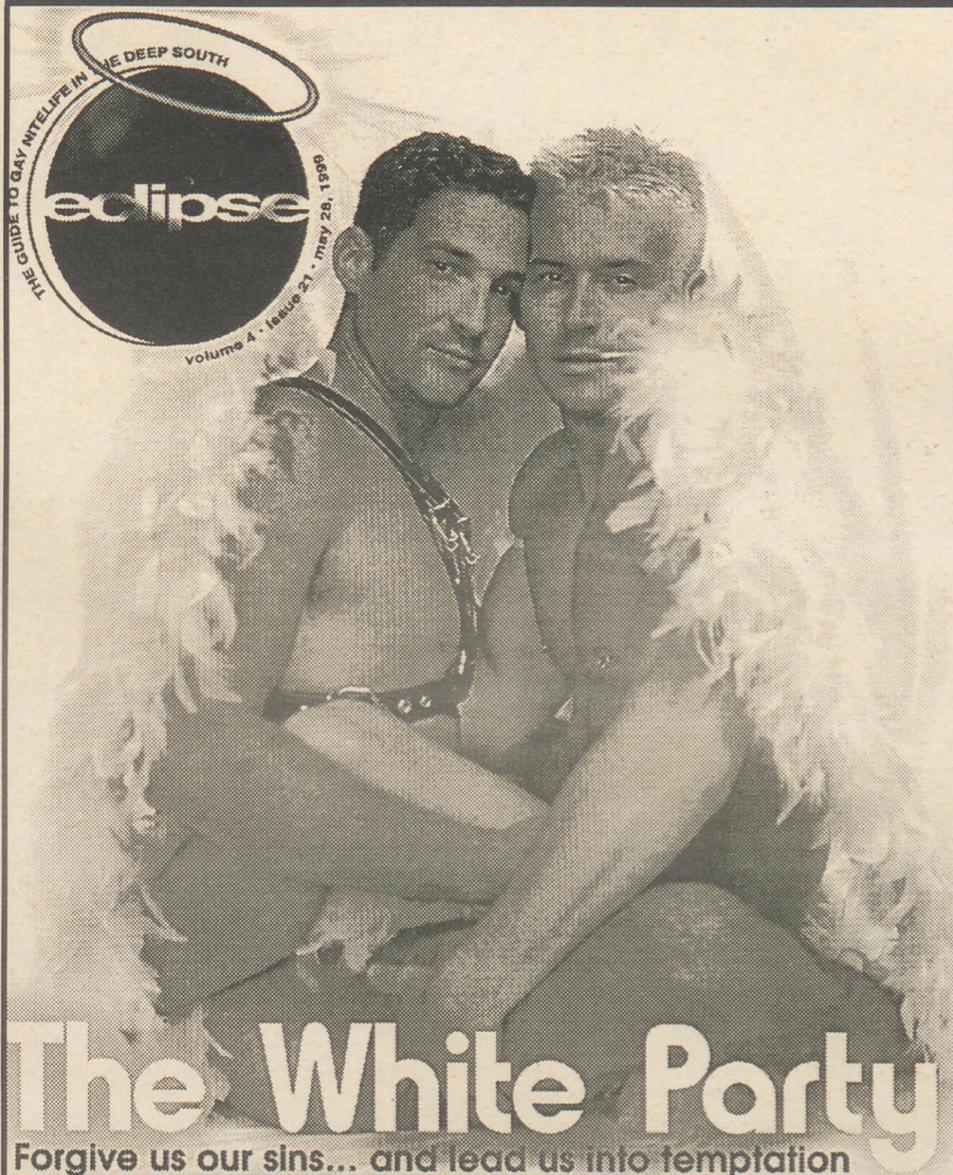
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The White Party



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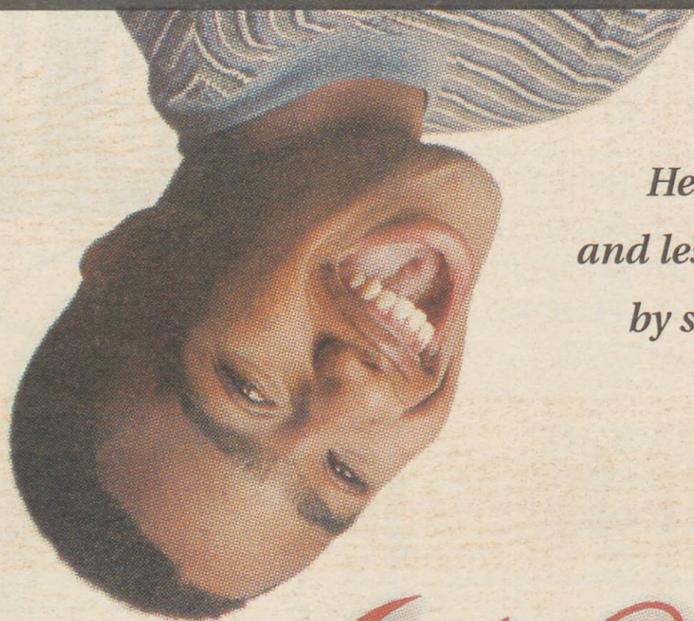
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