

Several new Hollywood releases feature gay themes and characters, from the demented to the sexy.

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An upcoming dessert feast benefits Houston's AssistHers, which helps lesbians who are coping with life-threatening and debilitating diseases.

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A number of gay men and lesbians were among the victims of Sept. 11's terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania.

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Much of the Houston Ballet's offering of 'Pied Piper' falls flat despite a soaring lead performance by Dominic Walsh.

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Activists: Lanier against anti-gay measure

Former mayor will lend clout to battle against conservatives' ballot amendment, according to gay civil rights advocates

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON—Former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier, a strong political voice in the city for more than a decade, will join the effort to defeat an anti-gay measure slated for November's election ballot, according to activists fighting the proposal.

"We had a meeting with him. He expressed support for what we're doing," said Grant Martin, a gay rights advocate helping lead the effort against the measure. "He's going to make a contribution and he's going to play a role. We're still working on what his role will be.

"He is definitely ... on board, which I think is going to be tremendous for us," Martin added.

Despite repeated attempts by the *Voice*,

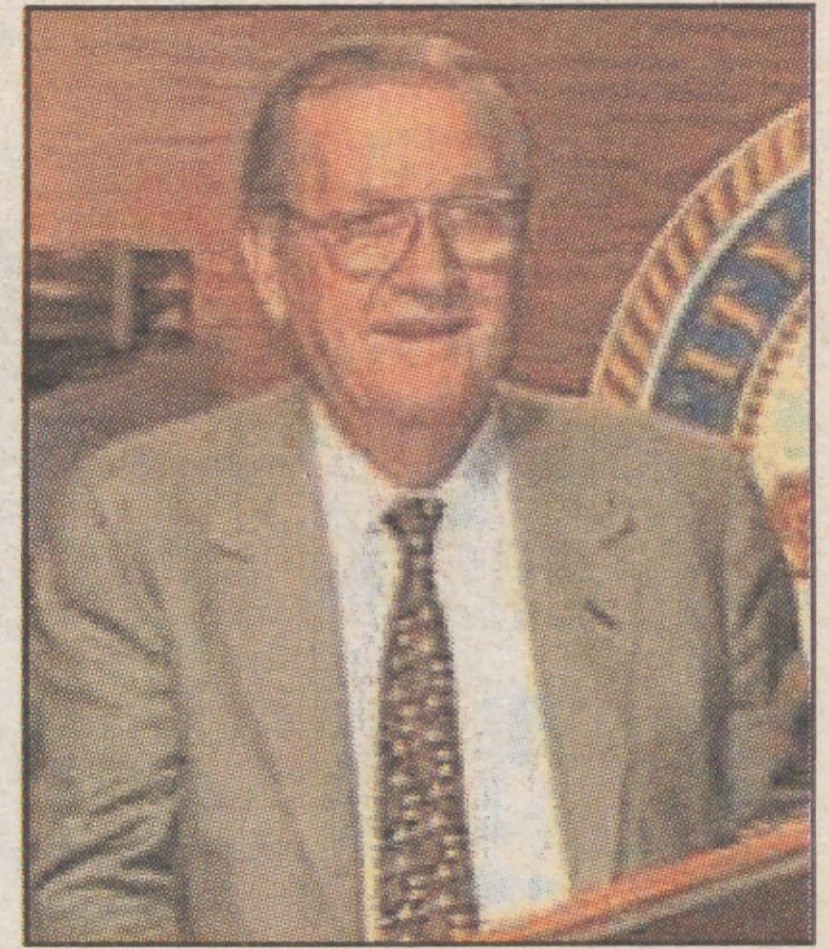
Lanier could not be reached for comment by press time.

Gay rights activists continue in their attempt to raise \$1 million to defeat the proposal from David Wilson, founder of the conservative Houstonians For Family Values. The measure would block the city from offering benefits including health insurance to the domestic partners of gay employees.

Wilson and Lanier are not strangers. Wilson ran unsuccessfully for mayor against Lanier in 1995.

Wilson said Thursday that he hesitated to comment unless Lanier himself publicly confirms his opposition to the ballot amendment. But he said he would not have expected Lanier to take that stance.

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Gay rights advocates say former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier will lend his support to the move to defeat an anti-gay ballot question backed by the conservative Houstonians For Family Values.

Falwell, Robertson denounced for blaming gays, liberal groups for terrorist attacks

Conservatives distance themselves; Houston PFLAG board member calls Falwell 'no better than the terrorists'

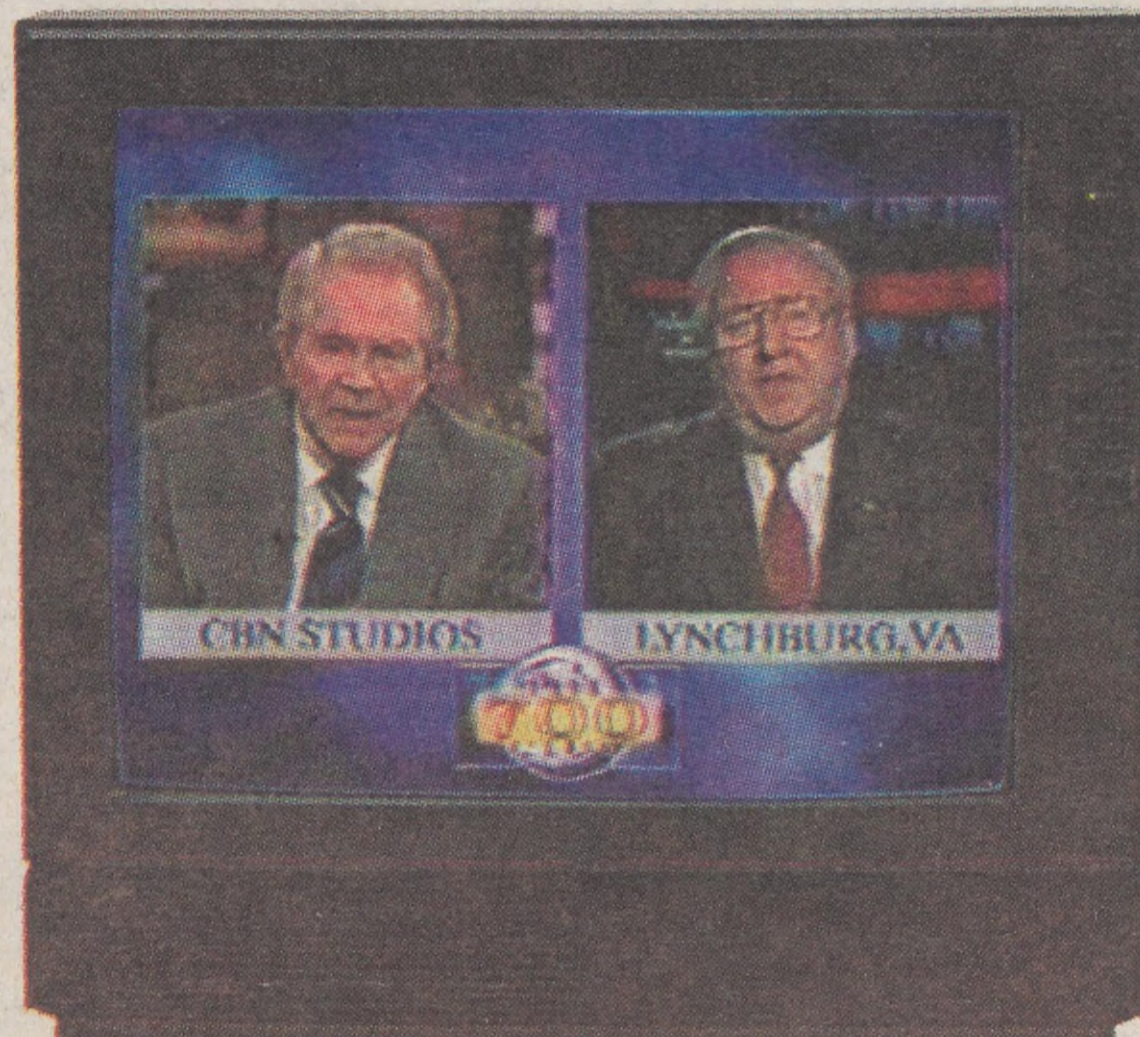
by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON—In a twist unimaginable just one week ago, the nation's often-divided political establishment joined in collective outrage over remarks by televangelists Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson suggesting that last week's terrorist attacks were brought about, in part, by God's wrath over gays, "pagans," and a host of liberal groups.

"I really believe," Falwell said on Robertson's "700 Club," "that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People for the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America, I point the finger and say, quote 'You helped this happen.'"

"Well, I totally concur," Robertson responded, "and the problem is we have adopted their agenda at the highest levels of our govern-

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Televangelists Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson touched off a national firestorm when they agreed last week during a '700 Club' broadcast that gays and liberal groups had provoked God, making the country vulnerable to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

A personal look at some of the gay victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks page 7

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Issue 1091

**houston
voice**

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Desserts galore offered up for fund-raiser

Group that assists lesbians with health problems to benefit from 'Decadent Dessert Extravaganza'

by KAY DAYUS

HOUSTON—Remember when your mother told you to eat all your veggies before you could have dessert? Remember when you were told you couldn't have your cake and eat it? And remember when you first heard Queen Marie Antoinette of France's famous remark, "Let them eat cake," to the peasants because there was a bread shortage?

Well, disregard all the above. You can have your cake and eat it and you don't have to eat all your dinner before dessert. And who wouldn't rather eat delectable desserts than bread anyway?

In fact, you can sample desserts to your heart's content at an AssistHers fund-raiser aptly called, "Decadent Dessert Extravaganza," from 4-7 p.m. on Sept. 30 at Meteor Lounge on Genesee at Fairview. AssistHers is a local organization that helps lesbians with health problems.

Mouthwatering desserts such as chocolate orgasm will be dreamed up by Acadian Bakers, Baba Yega's, Café Zorro, Fabio's, Fox Diner, Three Dog Bakery, Urbana Restaurant and Bar and D.C. in the Heights, according to Mary Jean Tiernan, co-chair for the event.



A Sept. 30 fund-raiser for AssistHers, a local group that helps lesbians with health problems, will feature a wide range of tasty desserts.

Bering United Methodist Church's kitchen will also chip in homemade desserts, said Tiernan. And Mo Mong is contracting with Dacapo's to make desserts for them because the Vietnamese restaurant on Westheimer does not already create desserts.

Tiernan said she has been amazed by the bigheartedness of gay men and lesbians for their eagerness to help stage the event.

"The generosity of the community has really blown me away, especially the men. They said it was time for them to give back after all the help they received from lesbians during the AIDS crisis. They want to give back financially and emotionally," Tiernan said.

Steve Chrisenberry, co-owner with Carlos Reyes of Don Carlos Catering and D.C. in the Heights, said they will supply several lip-smacking goodies, such as Jack Daniels pecan pie squares, cinnamon caramel brownies,

cheesecake topped lemon squares and an assortment of mini cookies.

"It should be fun; there will be lots of sweets and everyone can get all sugared up," said Chrisenberry.

Jerry Atwood and Marsha Carlton are slated to provide live music at the extravaganza and trash disco will be the DJ's music of choice.

AssistHers has been in existence for almost five years, helping lesbians with health problems on a short- or long-term basis.

One founder, Tori Williams, said that when she and other lesbian friends helped gay men during the early days of the AIDS crisis, they realized that there were lesbians out there who needed help with health problems too.

In 1996, after many help groups were in place for HIV/AIDS, they turned their thoughts and energies toward helping lesbians who were ill and had little or no support.

"We wanted to improve the health of our lesbian community...with patience, and passion," Williams said.

AssistHers has grown to almost 100 caregivers providing services such as shopping, cleaning and delivering meals to 13 current clients with ailments ranging from multiple sclerosis, cancer and osteoporosis to heart disease and chronic fatigue syndrome.

INFO

4-7 p.m., Sept. 30
Meteor Lounge
AssistHers fund-raiser
713-521-4628

Former mayor's political presence still felt in city

> Continued from Page 1

"I'm a little surprised. I thought he was more pro-family than pro-homosexual," Wilson said.

Last week, City Secretary Anna Russell certified 21,028 signatures on petitions gathered by HFFV in support of putting the proposal on the Nov. 6 ballot. The group needed 20,000 signatures to place the measure before voters.

But gay rights activists are examining the signatures on the petitions, hoping to find enough errors to drop the number below those needed. The City Council still must approve the language of the question to appear on the ballot.

Martin, a gay political consultant who co-founded People for a Fair Houston to fight the HFFV referendum, said this week that there are mistakes in HFFV's petition gathering.

"We are finding all kinds of errors," he said.

Volunteers for People for a Fair Houston and Progressive Voters in Action, which is active in many issues including gay civil rights, are combing through the seven boxes of petitions turned in by HFFV.

"It's a laborious process," Martin said.

"We are working away."

Martin expects next Wednesday to be the activists' deadline to dispute any petition signatures. Opposition must be voiced before the county prints the fall ballots for the city, he said.

"It's looking good but it's too early to tell," Martin said.

Lanier's support is a big shot in the arm for the effort against the ballot measure, according to Martin.

Alex Morua, executive director of PVA, agreed. He also confirmed that Lanier said last week that he will support opponents of the anti-gay amendment.

Morua said voters pay attention to Lanier's opinions.

"He has a high level of respect in the city, and I think from [people of] all classes, races, backgrounds. I think people listen when he has to say something," Morua said. "His help from many levels I think will be very important for the campaign. I think moderate to conservative voters will also listen to him, and I think that'll be very helpful too."

Dr. Richard Murray, political science professor at the University of Houston, said Lanier's continued popularity since his first

election as mayor in 1991 maintains his position as an important figure in city politics.

"Lanier remains very popular in the city, particularly with white conservatives, who would normally be inclined to vote for this," he added. "I think it's good to have him as a person who would speak out against this for those who would oppose the amendment."

Murray also is the co-author of "Texas Politics: An Introduction" and "Chance and Governance in Houston." He said it is unlikely that the HFFV's ballot amendment will receive a strong thumbs up or thumbs down from voters.

The political climate on gay civil rights has changed since the city's infamous vote that overwhelmingly turned down a measure that would have banned discrimination against gays, according to Murray.

"I think that there has been a general increase across the country for tolerance in different lifestyles and that's true in Houston," he said. "Also, the city has lost a lot of its older white blue collar workers that tend to be the most anti-gay."

"It's still going to be a close vote in my opinion," Murray added. "It will probably be quite close."

Because where I go
from here is up to me.

**Think Ahead.
Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.**

Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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VIRACEPT®

(nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human
Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

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

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

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

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

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

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

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
Halcion® (triazolam)
Versed® (midazolam)
Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

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

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

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

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

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

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

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

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

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

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

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

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

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

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

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

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

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

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

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

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily			
Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of	Number of
		Level Scoops*	Level Teaspoons†
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Theater troupe offers benefit for AIDS Foundation children's camps



Walt Zipprian plays 'Christopher' in a Saturday performance by The Fan Factory that benefits AIDS Foundation Houston's Camp Hope and Camp HUG for children.

HOUSTON—The Fan Factory Theatre Co. plans a special performance of "You Should Be So Lucky" by Charles Busch, directed by Will Shepherd, at the Midtown Art Center as a fund-raiser for AIDS Foundation Houston's two children's camps. The Camp Hope Benefit Show is 8 p.m. Sept. 22, and all ticket proceeds will go to Camp Hope and Camp HUG (Hope, Understanding and Giving). The two programs assist children living with HIV/AIDS and are held by the foundation in collaboration with Camp For All Foundation, Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine. Camp Hope gives children living with HIV/AIDS a chance to experience the outdoors safely. Camp HUG is designed for HIV-positive children, their siblings and their parents or caregivers, with recreation as the focus.

INFO

Camp Hope Benefit Show

8 p.m. Saturday
\$10 per ticket
Midtown Art Center
1423 Holman
Houston, TX
713-688-4631
www.fanfactory.org

Leather group hosts Sunday ball to benefit local charities

HOUSTON—The Misfits, a social not-for-profit levi/leather group in Houston, will hold "The Misfit Ball 3—Lock Down" this Sunday as a fund-raiser for two local organizations. The third annual levi/leather/uniform ball will include a 50/50 raffle, cash bar and music provided by guest DJ John Sims of The Sims Sound. All proceeds benefit Houston Buyers Club and PWA Coalition. Club Rehab has donated space for the event, and Sims is donating his time as DJ. Founded in 1992 by Bill Havard and Creath Robinson, the Misfits' goal is to have fun as well as raise funds for community organizations. Its five officers are elected annually, and the group meets on the second Sunday of each month.

INFO

Misfit Ball 3—Lock Down

5-10 p.m. Sunday
Tickets: \$10
Club Rehab
700 Franklin St.
Houston, TX
www.misfitshouston.org

Monday event jump starts annual Songfest charity benefit

HOUSTON—The kick off party for "A Christmas Songfest 2001" will be held Monday, Sept. 24, at the Meteor in Houston. Featured entertainment will be by Sharon Montgomery and Jerry Atwood. "A Christmas Songfest" is an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds for HIV-related service providers in the Houston area. There is no charge to attend the kick off party, but tables for the December Songfest will be on sale. The annual event will be held at the Hornberger Conference Center at the Texas Medical Center from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 2 and is titled "A Nutcracker Songfest." The celebration will include a singalong, silent auction and food and beverage party. This year, the event benefits the charities AssistHers and Steven's House.

INFO

A Christmas Songfest

Kick off party
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Upcoming events focus on battle against breast cancer

HOUSTON—The American Cancer Society will host its annual Reach to Recovery Breast Cancer Forum on Tuesday, Sept. 25, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Medical Center. The event will include exhibits, dinner and a medical panel. Keynote speaker is Kathy LaTour, author of "The Breast Cancer Companion." LaTour also has been featured on the "Today Show," "CBS Evening News" and has had excerpts from her book published in "Good Housekeeping" and "Chicken Soup for the Surviving Soul." In addition, the Houston Center for Photography currently is hosting "Documenting Hope: Celebrating Breast Cancer Survivors" through Nov. 4. The group exhibition from four women photographers—including Jean Karotkin of Dallas and Sharon Seligman of Austin—commemorates the "unique sisterhood of survivors" of breast cancer, according to the Center. A panel discussion featuring the artists, an oncologist, a nutritionist and a psychotherapist is set for Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Center.

INFO

Reach to Recovery Breast Cancer Forum

To register: 713-266-2877

Sept. 22 panel discussion

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—Penny Weaver



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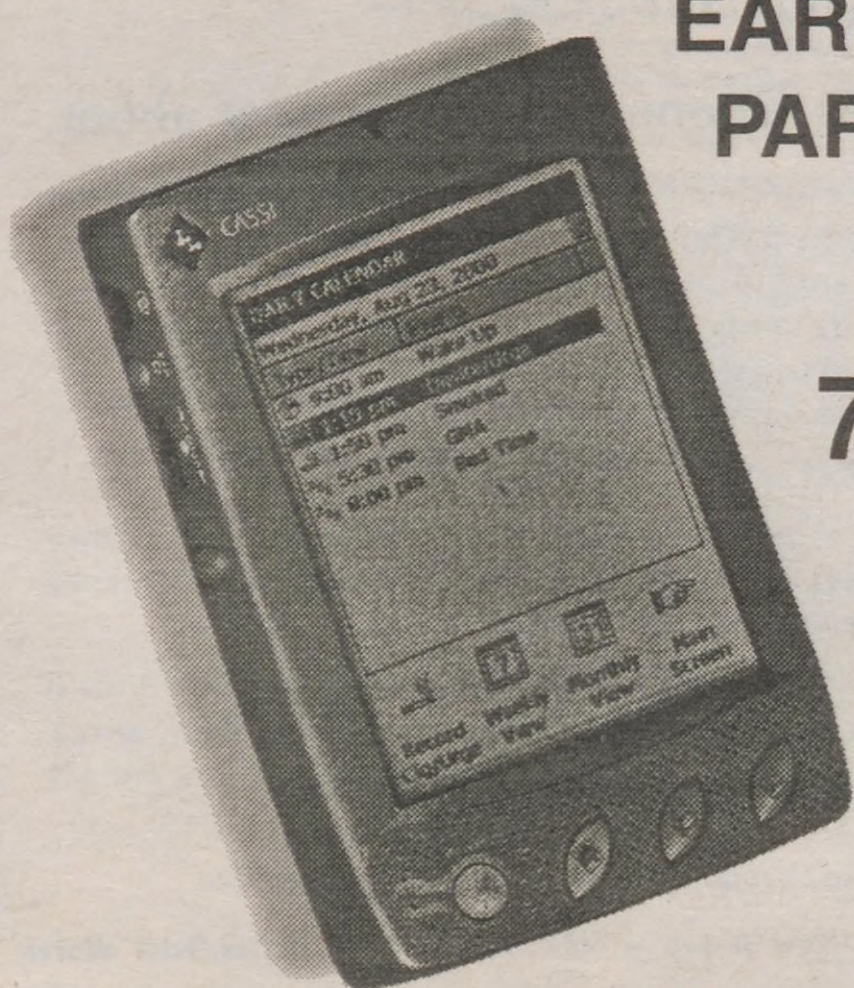
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Obituaries

Designer remembered as active citizen in Houston

Rod L. Hamlin, 59, a prominent interior designer and American Society for Interior Design member, died Sept. 8, 2001.

Mr. Hamlin was a member of the Four Seasons Social Club, the Diana Foundation and an 18-year member of Executive & Professional Association of Houston.

He was a resident of Houston for 23 years and is survived by his partner, Robert Brooks; sister Nancy Hamilton of Rocky Mount, Va; and two nieces and one nephew in Virginia.

A memorial service was held in the Community Room at Parc IV on Sept. 11.
—Kay Dayus

Hunt, retired oil executive, to be remembered with luncheon

William S. "Bill" Hunt of Houston died Aug. 27, 2001. A memorial luncheon will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 29 at Decades, 1205 Richmond.

Mr. Hunt was born on Oct. 5, 1920, in San Jose, Calif., the son of Shirley and Etta Hunt. He attended Fremont High School in Oakland, Calif., and graduated from Stanford University in 1942 with a computer science degree.

He worked in various locations across the country for Shell Oil, retiring in Houston after 43 years in management.

Survivors include his partner, Justin Talbit and close relatives, all from California: Jack and Betsy Mehan of Pleasanton, Joan Clark of Napa, Lynn Clark of St. Helena, Jan Mehan of Benicia, Clark Megan of El Dorado Hills and Ross Mehan of Sunnyvale.



Celebration of life for Woods set for Saturday in Houston

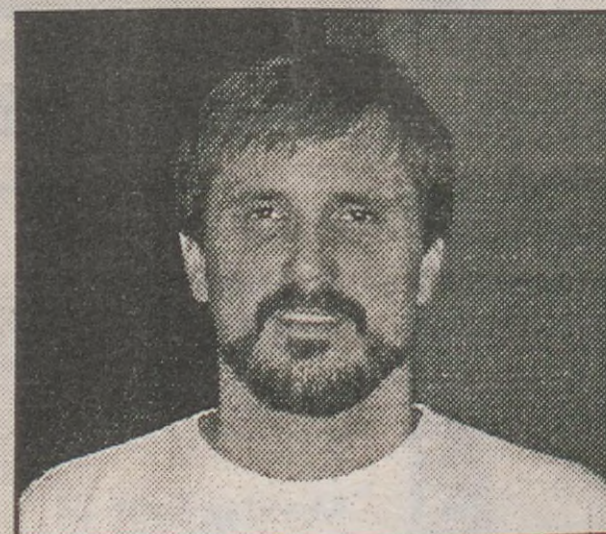
Donald R. Woods died at 7:33 p.m. Sept. 4, 2001, surrounded by family and friends.

According to loved ones, Mr. Woods looked at death as his "last great adventure" and did not want the people he cared for to be sad.

A celebration of life is planned for 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at Mary's in Houston.

Survivors include his partner, John Benivedis.

—Penny Weaver



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Ill. parents want to oust transgendered principal

WILMETTE, Ill. — Parents disturbed over the sex change of a middle school principal have organized a petition drive to ask the Avoca School District 37 board to reconsider its decision to retain the administrator, the *Chicago Tribune* reported. Parents of students at Marie Murphy School received a letter before the beginning of the school year informing them that Principal Donald Reed had undergone gender reassignment surgery and would be returning to school as Deanna Reed. A tenured employee who has been principal of the school for 12 years, Reed told the *Tribune* in August that she had received encouraging words from parents. But 35 parents circulated petitions that were to be delivered to the school board Thursday and have also sent out a letter to district residents. The parents are concerned that Reed's new gender is having an adverse affect on their children, despite having psychologists on hand to discuss the issue with students.

Pa. Supreme Court hears arguments on visitation rights

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A woman is asking the state Supreme Court to protect her right to ask for visitation rights with a child she helped raise with her former lesbian partner. The issue at the hearing on Sept. 10 in the state Supreme Court was a Pennsylvania Superior Court ruling, handed down last year, that the woman — identified only as T.B. in court papers — can continue to have contact with a girl she claims she raised from birth to age 3. The child's biological mother, who was identified as L.R.M in court papers, appealed the decision, wanting to stop her former partner from having any contact with the child. Both women's identities were being withheld to protect the identity of the child. The court's ruling could set a precedent in Pennsylvania, allowing non-biological same-sex partners legal standing to maintain relationships with children after a couple ends their relationship, said T.B.'s attorney, Patricia M. Logue, senior counsel for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.



Patricia M. Logue, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, has asked a Pennsylvania court to grant visitation rights to a woman for her former partner's biological child.

Ohio court says same-sex solicitation law is biased

CLEVELAND (AP) — An Ohio court ruled that a little-known statute that treats same-sex violations differently from unwanted heterosexual advances is discriminatory. With the decision Sept. 13, the 8th Ohio District Court of Appeals unanimously overturned the conviction of a Cleveland State University student and ended a year-long probation sentence. "Society has changed," Judge Colleen Conway Cooney wrote in her opinion. "There is simply no rational basis for burdening homosexuals with greater criminal liability for conduct which, if heterosexual in nature, would be subject to lesser punishment." Joseph Maistros, 46, peeked under a university bathroom stall and asked another student for sex in November 1999. Officers arrested Maistros on a charge of importuning, a subsection of the disorderly conduct statute that deals only with same-sex solicitation. Maistros was convicted in Cleveland Municipal Court and sentenced to one year probation. Under the 1972 law, the maximum penalty is six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Neb. Supreme Court to hear same-sex adoption case

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in October before ruling on whether state law allows adoptions by gay and lesbian couples, while organizations on both sides have been working to file legal briefs in anticipation of the hearing, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported. This is the first time the high court has been asked to rule on whether Nebraska law allows adoptions by gay couples, which was triggered by a woman wanting to adopt her partner's biological son. The American Civil Liberties Union is representing the woman and the Nebraska Attorney General's Office is arguing against it. At least four groups intend to file amicus briefs in support of the Attorney General's Office, including the Nebraska Catholic Conference, Family Research Council, Nonpartisan Family Coalition, and Family First. Those filing briefs in support of the ACLU are the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the Nebraska Association of Social Workers, and the Nebraska Psychological Association.

Indiana University OKs DP health benefits

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Indiana University board of trustees voted Sept. 14 to extend health insurance and other benefits to same-sex partners of faculty, staff and students, the *Indianapolis Star* reported. "IU is committed to equal opportunity for all its employees," trustee John Walda, a lawyer who introduced the resolution, told the *Star*. "At a minimum, equal opportunity must mean equal compensation." The board rejected the same policy seven years ago when then-trustee Cindy Stone, who is gay, proposed it. Only Stone voted for it, according to the *Star*. "The board changed and times changed," Walda said. "Back then, it was viewed as out of step. Now, it's in step." The benefits are estimated to cost IU \$200,000 a year. IU now spends \$60 million annually on health insurance for its 15,000 full-time employees.

—From staff and wire reports



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Falwell, Robertson a 'grotesque sideshow' to tragedy

> Continued from Page 1 ment."

Falwell sought to backtrack from his initial remarks, which he made on Robertson's "The 700 Club" television program, then issued a full apology. That came after a barrage of criticism from voices ranging from conservative radio commentator Rush Limbaugh and the normally anti-gay Family Research Council to the White House and dozens of newspaper editorial writers and commentators.

Gay rights advocates in Houston also criticized Falwell for his remarks. Sue Null, secretary of the local PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) chapter, denounced the renowned conservative's comments.

"Jerry Falwell is a disgrace to any religion. He is no better than the terrorists in massacring innocent people, in condemning entire groups of people," Null said.

Many referred to the Falwell and Robertson episode as a grotesque sideshow during a week when the overwhelming majority of Americans—including gays—put aside political differences to express support for the families of those killed or injured in the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington and for President Bush's efforts to respond to those attacks.

As of late this week, at least nine gay men and two lesbians were listed among the dead from the terrorist disasters, with many more expected to be identified as mem-



President Bush criticized Falwell's '700 Club' appearance, saying through a spokesperson that the televangelist's comments were 'inappropriate.' But Falwell still attended last Friday's interfaith service at National Cathedral at the invitation of the White House.

ber of the National Gay Pilots Association, was co-piloting American Airlines Flight 77 when a terrorist hijacker slammed it into the Pentagon. There were no survivors among the passengers and crew, and more than 100 Pentagon workers were also killed, with recovery workers unearthing more bodies each day.

Like their straight counterparts, gay people throughout the nation rushed to volunteer their services in efforts to raise money for the families of the victims, according to gay activists. Lesbians, who are not affected by a Red Cross policy that prohibits gay men from donating blood, turned out at blood donation centers to join thousands of Americans across the country who donated blood.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a litigation group that assists military personnel under investigation for being gay, said it began receiving phone calls last week for gays interested in signing up for military duty. Steve Ralls, an SLDN official, said the group advised the callers of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which allows gays to serve only if they keep their sexual orientation a secret.

With this as a backdrop, gay activists appeared, for the most part, to take a back seat while the nation's mainstream political establishment—along with rank-and-file Americans—expressed outrage over the remarks by Falwell and Robertson.

Those remarks first surfaced last week

when Falwell appeared as a guest on Robertson's nationally televised religious program "The 700 Club." During a discussion on the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, Falwell said "secular" policies of the nation over the past 50 years, including Supreme Court decisions legalizing abortion and banning prayer in public schools, may have prompted God to lift the protective "curtain" over America "to give us probably what we deserve."

Lorri Jean, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, was the first to pounce on Falwell, calling his remarks hurtful and divisive and asking for an apology.

cue workers and recovery crews sift through the rubble at the site of the World Trade Center in New York.

In Washington, more than 300 people packed St. Matthew's Cathedral on Tuesday, Sept. 18, for a memorial Mass for gay co-pilot David Charlebois.

Charlebois, 39, a D.C. resident and mem-

INFO

Rev. Jerry Falwell

www.falwell.com

Liberty University

1971 University Blvd.

Lynchburg, VA 24502

804-582-2000

Rev. Pat Robertson

'The 700 Club'

Christian Broadcasting Network

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Gays caught in crosshairs of attack

As details of terrorist attacks surface, so do stories of gays who died in Sept. 11 tragedies

The following are just some of the gay men and lesbians who were victims of the worst terrorist acts ever on American soil.

MARK BINGHAM

Rugby player called a hero

Gay rugby enthusiast Mark Bingham, has been hailed as one of a small group of heroes who fought back against hijackers on United Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania. The flight was believed to have been headed to Washington, D.C., likely to attack another national symbol.



Bingham, 31, was a member of the San Francisco Fog, a gay rugby team and planned to organize a rugby team for next year's Gay Games in Sydney, Australia. Outsports called Bingham "a warm, friendly, smart, handsome man who welcomed people into his life. ... He was a member of our community."

Bingham's mother, Alice Hoglan, became one of the early faces to speak in the wake of the tragedy when she appeared on news shows, tearfully recounting the telephone conversation she had with her son shortly before he died.

Kevin Waizenhoffer, head coach of the Fog, joined in a tribute page hosted by the team. He said, in part: "Mark enjoyed life so much. He had a blast, while at the same time being very responsible."

That tribute page also includes an e-mail from Bingham after he had learned that the Fog had been accepted as a permanent member of the California Rugby Football Union. Bingham recounted his struggle to reconcile being gay and being a rugby player.

"Gay men weren't always wallflowers waiting on the sideline," he said, applauding his team's acceptance into the league. "We have the opportunity to let these other athletes know that gay men were around all along — on their little league teams, in their classes, being their friends."

PAMELA J. BOYCE

Accounting exec 'not afraid to die'

Pamela J. Boyce, 43, is one of only several dozen World Trade Center workers who have officially been confirmed dead, while thousands more remain missing.

Boyce, a resident of Dyker Heights, Brooklyn, worked on the 92nd floor of One



NEW YORK TIMES

World Trade Center as assistant vice president of accounting for the New York office of Carr Futures.

Catherine Anello, Boyce's partner, told the *New York Times* that Boyce was a no-nonsense person who wouldn't want her loved ones to be overcome by grief.

"If there was someone who lost a loved one and had been grieving too long, so that they were not living their life, she would say, 'Stop. It's not what they would want. They are in a better place,'" Anello said. "She said, 'I'm not afraid to die because I know where I am going is beautiful.'"

DANIEL BRANDHORST RONALD GAMBOA DAVID BRANDHORST

Adopted son dies with fathers

Los Angeles gay couple Daniel Brandhorst and Ronald Gamboa were on-board United Airlines Flight 175 when it crashed into the World Trade Center. David Brandhorst, the couple's 3-year-old adopted son, was with them when the plane went down shortly after terrorists hijacked following its departure from Boston. It was headed for Los Angeles.

Andrew Isen, a close friend of the couple, said Brandhorst and Gamboa had been together 10 years and adopted their child at the time of his birth.

"[David] knew his parents as 'Daddy' and 'Poppy,'" Isen said. "He was the loving focus of their lives." Isen, who said he met Brandhorst and Gamboa nine years ago during a Colorado ski trip, said he is devastated over the tragic events that ended their lives.

"They were a wonderful, functioning, church-going family," Isen said.

Daniel Brandhorst, 42, was a lawyer with PricewaterhouseCoopers, according to MSNBC. Gamboa, 33, was a store manager at The Gap.

JOE FERGUSON

Geography educator inspired students

James Joe Ferguson, director of geography education outreach for the National Geographic Society, was on American Airlines Flight 77 when it crashed into the Pentagon. Ferguson was traveling on a National Geographic-sponsored educational field trip to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary off Santa Barbara, Calif.



Ferguson, 39, was accompanying a colleague, three teachers, and three sixth-grade students, all from Washington, on the trip.

Ferguson lived on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., for 10 years with Winston, his wire-haired fox terrier. He was born July 25, 1962, in Durant, Miss., and joined National Geographic as an intern in 1987.

He later accepted a permanent job and worked there for 14 years. Ferguson was one of the principal architects who designed the infrastructure of geography education, which resulted in the improvement of geography education throughout the U.S., according to National Geographic.

"Through his passion and dedication, Mr. Ferguson had become a creative leader of the Society team charged with the enhancing the teaching and learning of geography in American classrooms. The thousands of teachers and students he worked with loved him for it," according to a National Geographic statement.

REV. MYCHAL JUDGE

Priest cared for dying firefighters

New York City Fire Department Chaplain Mychal Judge was killed during the collapse of the World Trade Center towers while administering last rites to a dying firefighter. Fellow firefighters carried his body to St. Peter's Church and then back to

the firehouse, the *New York Times* reported.

Judge, 68, had been a Catholic chaplain for the New York City Fire Department since 1992. "Father Mike," as Judge was known, was laid to rest last Saturday in a memorial service attended by more than 3,000 and presided over by Cardinal Edward M. Egan.

A Brooklyn native, Judge was remembered as "a decent, wonderful human being," by New York gay journalist Andy Humm. "I saw him at many demonstrations for gay and AIDS causes, showing up in his Franciscan monk's cassock. And he was equally beloved by the Fire Department, there at every major fire tragedy in the city lending moral support to firefighters," Humm said.

Judge was also a "longtime member" of Dignity/USA, according to the Web site of the organization for "gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Catholics, our families and friends."

—Kara Fox, Lou Chibbaro Jr., Kristina Campbell and Laura Douglas-Brown contributed to this report.



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VIEWPOINT

Don't bomb hate—get at its root

by LISA KEEN

I don't want our country to be at war, but if the events of Sept. 11 require that we hunt down those responsible for the deaths of thousands of civilians in the United States that day, I hope we'll be careful to identify the real enemy.

Like everybody else in America, I have watched the hijack attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon with a level of horror and disbelief I've never felt before. I have taken into my heart every emotionally wrenching story told by a victim's spouse or partner, friend or family.

I have wept at the recounting of every frantic phone call to say the last goodbye, and I have felt the anguish that every adult must have felt to learn there were children aboard those flights.

I have felt pride for every hero, those who have survived and those who died. I have felt special pride, of course, for the heroics of gay victims—for United Airlines passenger Mark Bingham who is believed to have succeeded, with at least two other passengers, in thwarting the hijackers' plan to crash into a second bombing site in Washington; and for New York Fire Department chaplain Mychal Judge, who died while ministering to a fireman as the World Trade Center collapsed.

I am proud of the tireless and often courageous work of gay journalists, too—such as New Yorker Rose Arce who ran toward the World Trade Center after the bombings to phone in CNN's live report from across the street.

The Sept. 11 suicide attacks were an abhorrent hate crime—a crime motivated by hatred based on nationality. It was carried out in conspiracy by a group of men who appear, at this point, to have been religious fanatics operating under the command of a leader or leaders who have yet to be identified with definitive evidence but who were clearly motivated by their contempt for Americans.

For all we know, their mastermind is still at large and will likely strike us again. So, what do we do to stop this barbarism?

Since the moment the second airplane crashed into the second World Trade Building, revealing with self-evident starkness that this was, indeed, a coordi-

Religious fanatics who hate gays are motivated by a fear borne of ignorance; the same is true of anti-American fanatics. In both cases, we must teach those who hate us who we really are.

nated terrorist attack against our country, our emotional responses have been reeling—from agony over this enormous tragedy to a natural gut reaction to bomb somebody. Bomb the hell out of somebody.

But whether we return the attack on those we identify definitively as responsible or only our "prime suspect" or perhaps the governments that harbor him, the result will likely be the same: We will have more terrorism, more escalation, more of the same.

There is no doubt the United States can exact revenge for the World Trade Center-Pentagon attacks, but responding to this hate crime with more violence will show only that we have been dragged into the crude mentality where "might is right." That will not be a victory for civilization. It will be a victory for those who believe that "might is right."

If we could definitively identify the leader or leaders behind this assault—and, given past history, there is considerable doubt we can—we could and should take them to court, as we did with the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. That was the civilized thing to do, but clearly it did not stop the terrorist attacks.

But rather than respond to the terrorist act or even to the terrorists themselves, what if we responded to the underlying cause of this hate?

Some suggest the underlying cause is American wealth or our disrespect for non-Judeo-Christian religions. I see these as excuses—the same excuses that religious fanatics in this country make to claim they should be able to discriminate against gays because we allegedly are wealthy and violate their religious tenets.

What really motivates religious fanatics who hate gays is a fear of homosexuality borne of ignorance. To end the hate, we must alleviate the fear. To alleviate the fear, we must teach those who hate us who we really are. And who we really are as Americans, I hope, is a "gentle, loving people."

Two great seekers of infinite justice

have already taught us how to respond to hateful violence. Mahatma Gandhi told us, "Hatred ever kills, love never dies. ... What is obtained by love is retained for all time. What is obtained by hatred proves a burden in reality for it increases hatred."

"It may be long," he wrote, "before the law of love will be recognized in international affairs. The machineries of government stand between and hide the hearts of one people from those of another."

Accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time." We must, he said, "overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence."

If we are to have war, let it not be with the warplanes our government has detailed to the Persian Gulf. As President Bush suggested Wednesday: "This is a war not against a specific individual, nor will it be a war against solely one organization. It is a war against terrorist activities."

A "war against terrorist activities" is a war against hate. It is a war that cannot be fought with warplanes and bombs, but with the hearts and minds of a civilized people against the real enemies: ignorance and fear.

Lisa Keen is senior political correspondent for the *Houston Voice* and can be reached at lkeen@washblade.com.

CORRECTION

In last week's edition, *Houston Voice* erroneously reported that photographer and actress Berry Berenson, who was killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, had been divorced from Anthony Perkins, the actor. The two were, in fact, married until Perkins' death from AIDS complications. *Houston Voice* regrets the error.



Let us know what you think!

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LETTERS

Society has no room for hate, intolerance of any kind

the Editor:

Hate, prejudice and intolerance are dangerous and destructive in and of themselves but when religious fanaticism is added to the mix, it becomes an even more evil and deadly force. The events of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, are a product this sinister mix.

For most, religion provides comfort, it inspires us to be better human beings and is a force for good in many of our lives. However, there are individuals and groups who have bastardized religion such that they have convinced themselves that hate, terrorism, murder and destruction is God's will.

The network of fanatic Muslims who perpetrated these atrocities on our country are not representative of Muslims as a whole. The Christian fanatics who have terrorized healthcare professionals and patients at clinics that perform abortions, or have attended funerals of victims of AIDS chanting hateful remarks at mourning families, or white supremacists who have justified violence against minorities in the name of God, are not representative of Christians as a whole.

I hope we Americans and indeed the world learn that hate, intolerance and prejudice have no place in or society nor in our religions. Our peace and freedom depend on it.

Steve Christy
Houston, TX

Falwell, Robertson are another kind of terrorists

To the Editor:

When I first saw the crawler on CNN, I snorted and thought, how typical. Then, the second time I saw it, I GOT MAD. What kind of hate mongering creep points a finger at the very people who are reaching out and offering their assistance in this time of crisis? What kind of narrow minded cowards sit there and blame God's wrath for the actions of the insane and the brainwashed? What kind of pompous asses sit in judgment of others while their own kind perpetrate acts of cruelty and anger?

I know who. They're the same kind of hate mongering creeps who fly airplanes into buildings because they hate what they have been told a country stands for; the same kind of cowards who willingly snuff out the lives of innocent mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and children in the name of their narrow minded view of God; the same pompous asses who brainwash their young people so that they take to the streets to dance and laugh in celebration of the murder of thousands of innocent people.

Falwell and Robertson, you too are terrorists. Falwell and Robertson, you are hate mongers. Falwell and Robertson, you will know one day the turning of the wheel and your smug shiny faces will change to masks of horror as you come to understand the full depth and breadth of the evil that you have done. I beg the deities to allow me

to be there when they do.

Pagans, gays, lesbians, feminists, pro-choice folks, people with intellect and compassion, start writing letters, please. Start telling your friends about what these people are saying. Help others understand just how evil and insidious these men are.

I also urge everyone who is out of the closet (broom or other) to let people know where you stand on the matter of our country's victimization and on hate rhetoric against ourselves or our Muslim and Arab brothers and sisters. Let us set a

vocal example of just how wrong Falwell and Robertson are. Meet these men not with hate and violence—meet them with your wit and your will.

Let's stand against this type of speech in our own country, because if we can't stamp out hate and violence against minorities in this country, we can't do it in the rest of the world.

Lisa Ann Combest
Houston, TX



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A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

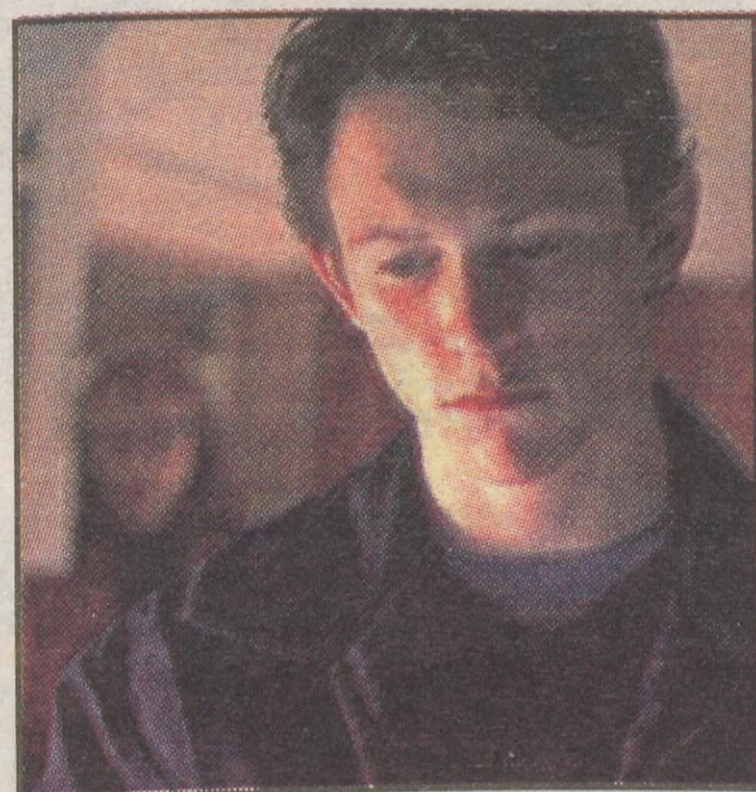
Movies in mauve

Gay-themed flicks from Hollywood grace local big screens

by D.L. GROOVER

In our mega-plex era when films last no longer than an unrefrigerated carton of opened milk, it's refreshing to see so many gay-themed movies still playing in the Bayou City.

"The Deep End"



A son is protected by his mother after the apparent murder of his gay lover in 'The Deep End.'

What gay boy wouldn't want Tilda Swinton as his mother? First, she looks smashing in her fire engine-red coat and green turtleneck sweater; then she'll break the law to protect her teen son Beau (Jonathon Tucker) whom she thinks has murdered his smarmy male lover. What could be better?

When Darby, in drunken sweaty heat, arrives under Beau's window for a quickie, Beau's reluctance and anger at submission escalates from a lover's quarrel to Darby's accidental fall from the pier, killing him.

Mom not only discovers the body the next morning, but proceeds to heave it into her dinghy and dump it in a faraway cove. Later, she must return to the scene of her crime and retrieve incriminating car keys from the dead Darby's pockets. Swinton also looks smashing in bra and panties as she dives underwater to rifle the body.

The plot thickens considerably when Darby's mafia backers blackmail Mom with evidence of Beau and Darby together. Beau's gayness takes a backseat from then on. Mom never confronts him about his secret life or his emotional problems.

"The Girl"



Agathe de la Boulaye (left) and Clair Keim heat up the screen in 'The Girl.'

Take a sparse Hemingway-type narration, add two beautiful and sensuous women, mix in creamy cinematography, fold in a smoky jazz soundtrack, make sure the butch one is a painter and the fem bisexual is a torch singer—overbake slightly—and voila, you have "The Girl," Sande Zeig and Monique Wettig's French-accented lesbian film noir.

Now out of theaters but soon headed for video, this leisurely film takes its time. It wants to be mysterious and deep, and it partially succeeds. "The Girl" gets us involved by being so radical, for here is a lesbian love story intershot with scenes of arty soft core porn.

Agathe de la Boulaye is a stunner, an androgynous beauty "like a beautiful young man" in her suits and cropped hair. Clair Keim, the eponymous Girl, in slinky orange sequined gown and long mane of luxurious hair, is the ideal image of cabaret singer, but her character bounces between Boulaye's painter and The Man who owns the nightclub. She needs to make up her mind.

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch"

If there's any movie that'll put the Hollywood musical genre back upon its pedestal, it's going to be John Cameron Mitchell's sumptuous—and very gay—"Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

Neophyte director Mitchell has adapted his fantastic, theatrical award-winning off-Broadway show, with music by Stephen Trask, into the cinematic equivalent of a "Citizen Kane." It's a one-of-a-kind movie, an original, unlike any other

and unable to be ignored.

Mitchell's post-op "internationally ignored" songstress travels the world in the hope of finding his lost self. A former East Berlin "girly boy," Hansel undergoes a sex-change operation to marry his American G.I. lover and escape to the West. The botched procedure—the ultimate sacrifice of what he did for love—has left Hedwig appropriately angry with his angry inch ("what I have to work with") and deserted in a trailer park outside Kansas City.

Mitchell gives an absolutely startling performance throughout, deeply moving and nuanced, and wickedly clever. It's his show from first frame to fade-out.

"All Over the Guy"

Skittering along like a frisky puppy, Dan Bucatinsky's "All Over The Guy," directed by Julie Davis, wags its tail and barks, "Pet me, pet me, aren't I cute?" You know what? It is.

Packing plenty of laughs with its smart gay-tinged banter and attractive leads, this movie, sentimental and gently insightful, is an old-fashioned romantic comedy that producer Ross Hunter in his Doris Day/Rock Hudson period would have killed to have made.

Eli (Dan Bucatinsky) is so neurotically obsessed with finding Mr. Right that he drives prospective boyfriends away with his emotional clutching. Meanwhile, the sexual commando Tom (Richard Ruccolo) is so obsessed with staying as far away from any hint of commitment that he hides in alcohol and a cold blasé attitude.

The supporting cast includes Doris Roberts (our generation's Thelma Ritter),

Christina Ricci (Eli's sister), Lisa Kudrow (playing a ditzy actress), and the phenomenally silly Andrea Martin (Eli's mother, a new-age psychologist, who advises him about the latest technique of testicular examination while on the speaker phone).

"L.I.E."

Coming up in mauve movies: Michael Cuesta's pederastic and homoerotic "L.I.E." for a sobering change of pace. Two teen buddies, Howie (Paul Franklin Dano) and Gary (Billy Kay), both without much future, rob houses and generally hang out on Long Island waiting to grow up. When they rob the house of Big John (Brian Cox), Howie learns that Gary, with whom he's falling in love, has been having sex for money with the older man. Caught by John and ordered to pay up, Howie may be payment enough. Starts Sept. 21 at Landmark River Oaks 3.

"The Deep End"

Angelika Film Center
510 Texas

Landmark Theatre
5 Greenway Plaza

Meyerland Plaza

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch"

Landmark Theatre
5 Greenway Plaza

"All Over the Guy"

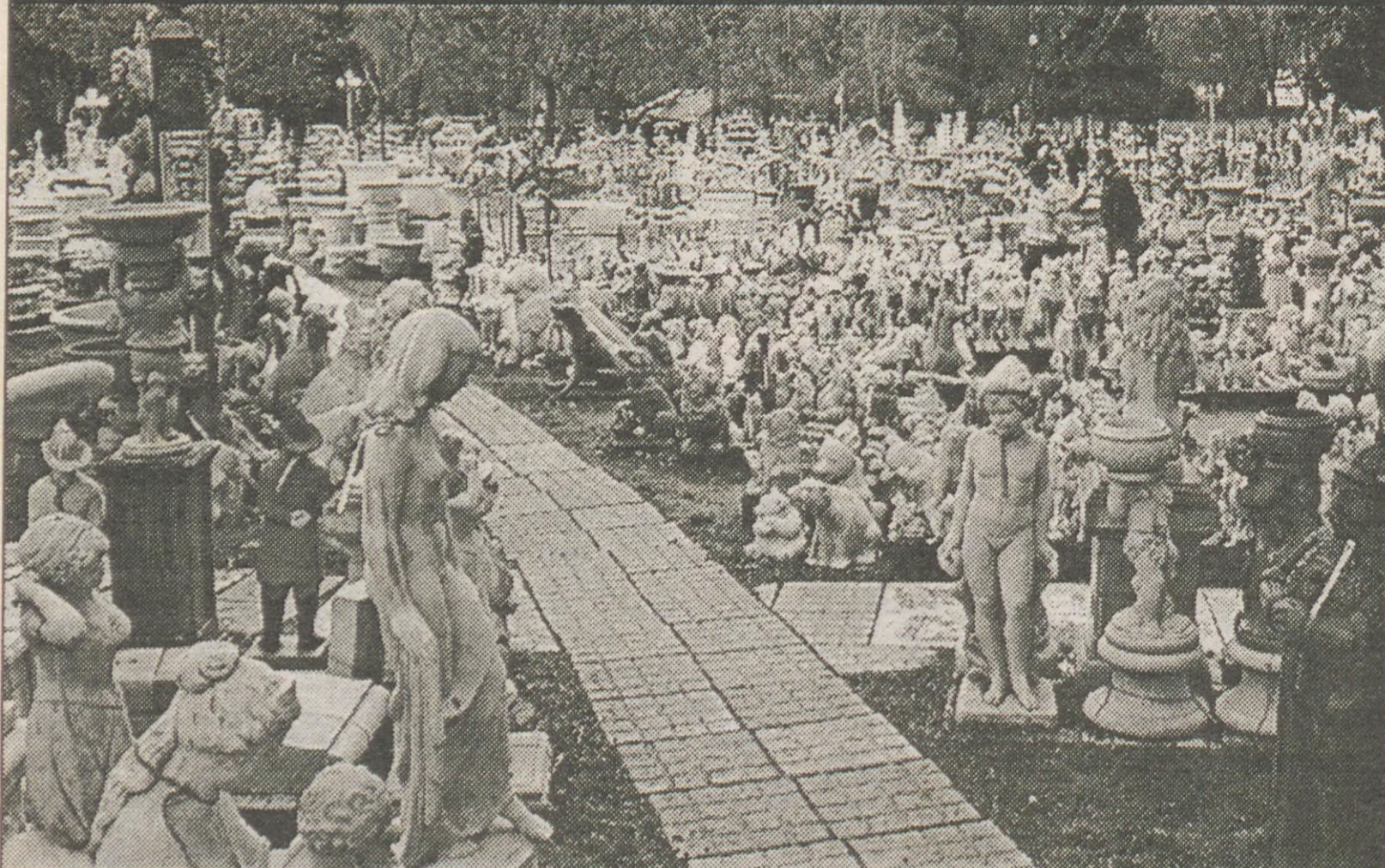
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SEPT. 7-13

by D.L. GROOVER

“Pagan Pride Project”

Hold on to your braziers and sistrums, it's the third annual Houston Pagan Pride Day, sponsored by the International Pagan Pride Project, which celebrates the fall harvest and autumn's equinox, goddess Mother Earth, et al., and, as evidence of their social responsibility, some worthy charitable activity. This year, Houston's shamans and totem-toters have selected local animal welfare groups for their beneficence: Noah's Ark, H.O.P.E. (Homeless & Orphaned Pets Endeavor) and C.A.P. (Citizens for Animal Protection). If you're coming to celebrate, bring \$5 or, in lieu of admission, pet supplies or a bag of Purina.

Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Garden in the Heights
3926 Feagan

“Summer's End Pool Party”

As a benefit for our own Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, the Summer's End Pool Party, rescheduled from last weekend, will be held at a private home here in Montrose. Food and adult beverages will be supplied—of course, if you have some tropical specialty, feel free to bring it along and share it with the wet ones. Synchronized swimming begins at 4 p.m. Call the center, 713-524-3818, for reservations and address. \$25. Don't forget your water wings.

Sept. 22, 4-9 p.m.

“Girls Gotta Dance”

If you think “La Cage Aux Folles” was great fun, wait until you see these beauties. Yes, Virginia, it's time for the 33rd Miss Camp American Pageant where girdles, panty hose, sequins, mascara, jewels, high heels, and hair glorify the boys in our midst and transform them into a bevy of beauteous distaff pulchritude—OK, maybe not from the first row. See them strut, see them dance, see them hide their stuffing behind their pants. It's an amazing sight to behold. This year, the pageant's designated charities include: The Assistance Fund, Bering Omega, Casa de Esperanza, Colt 45s Stone Soup, Stephen's House, and Women Helping Women.

Sept. 22, 7 p.m.

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“Boy Meets Boy”

A pre-opening night benefit performance for the Center for AIDS ushers into Houston this most charming gay musical comedy from 1975, written by Bill Solly (music, lyrics, book) and Donald Ward (book). Although we're in London in 1936 for the campy story that's tinged with Coward with echoes of the black and white cinema world of Astaire and Rogers, it's really set in some gay fantasy Neverland where men meet, fall in love, get married, and reminisce over the Boy Scouts—all in white. There are times when such fairy tales uplift as well as entertain.

Sept. 27, 8 p.m.
Theatre New West
1415 California Street
713-527-8219
\$25

“Killer Joe”



The cast gets out of hand in the black comedy ‘Killer Joe,’ now playing at Theater LaB Houston.

The trailer trash Smith family has a problem. Son Chris shows up at 3 a.m. having lost his precious stash of cocaine to his mother Adele, who's stolen it. He wants her dead, and convinces Dad, sister Dottie, and stepmom Sharla to go along with his whacked out plotting. When they enlist the help of loopy part-time paid assassin Killer Joe, he demands dear sister as collateral. To say things get out of hand would be an understatement. The laughs come fast in this Sam Shepard-inspired American comedy of dysfunction.

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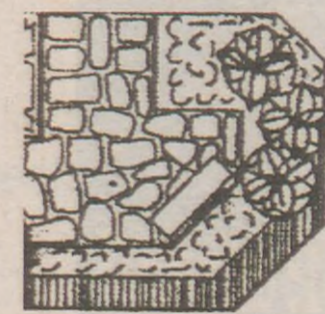


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on stage

THEATER REVIEW

High points can't save 'Piper'

Many positives in Houston Ballet's offering still don't outweigh muddled story

by D.L. GROOVER

HOUSTON—There were many things to like in David Parsons' "Pied Piper" ballet on view at Houston Ballet during its opening season program of mixed repertory.

In no particular order:

The music. John Corigliano's flute concerto from 1981, his "Pied Piper Fantasy," is an electrifying choice for a ballet. Atmospheric, joyous, frightening, mysterious, with the right amount of medieval hints throughout, the score is perfect for dance movement.

In its original form, from the setting-moon-and-sunrise crescendo of its beginning to the frenzy of the scurrying rats to its star-filled sky that echoes the piper's playing at its conclusion, the piece never flags, a tour de force of musical vitality and invention played to perfection by flute virtuoso Carol Wincenc and the Houston Ballet Orchestra under the stirring direction of Ermanno Florio.

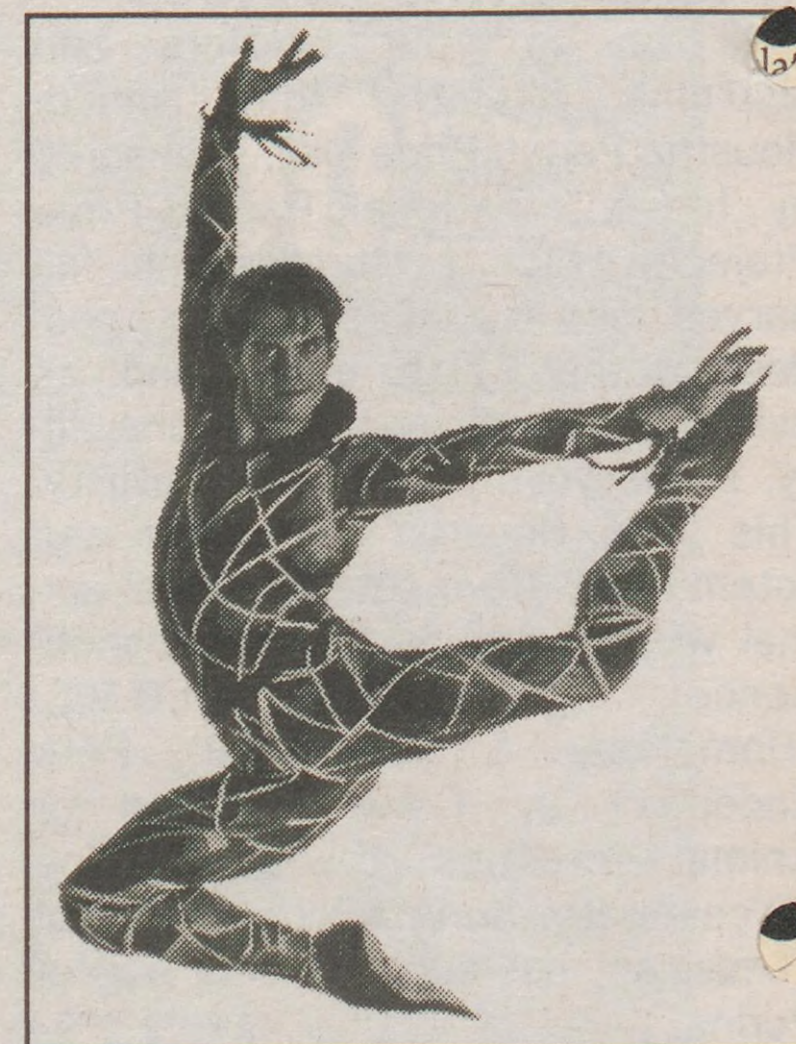
The dancing. Fitting Dominic Walsh like an exceptionally well-tailored gauntlet, the character of the Pied Piper perfectly matched Walsh's theatrical instincts and dramatic dancing. He's off stage for only a moment during this intense 40-minute extended solo, and never stopped moving when on.

There were enough stag leaps and turns for a week's run of "Bambi," but his intensity never wavered. The character foremost, his was a super-charged performance that brought this fairy tale to needed life.

The costumes. Except for a hideously inappropriate costume for the Piper—something the Bolshoi would've instantly rejected for "Spartacus"—Tony award-winner Ann Hould-Ward's designs were over-the-top medieval, just this side of the land of Oz. Colorful and crazed, they were cartoon perfect for this Disney-inspired enterprise of buffoonish burghers and Hamelin vermin.

The sets and lighting. The countless bags of cash spent on projectors, rear process screens, computer generated imagery and animation has been well worth it. What a sumptuously imaginative production this is. From the curtain-up image of a gigantic three-quarter harvest moon racing to bed, to the white-hot blast of sunrise, to the long-shot approach of Hamelin town, to the swathes of shooting stars commanded by the piper's flute, the physicality is breathtaking. When the rats scurried underfoot, they also swarmed all over the background town in silhouette, as if between the very stones. Hats off to Misha Films (projection design), Michaela Zabranska (animation design), Howell Binkley (lighting).

What's a Pied Piper without great rats? The ballet's infestation was above reproach:



The Houston Ballet's performance of David Parsons' 'Pied Piper' was a mix of hits and misses.

hordes of red-eyed critters peeking out from under a festive banquet spread (literally a blanket that's unfurled with the feast appliquéd on it), viciously attacking the piper or nibbling to the bones a little pet dog, or big mean fellows like the one whose giant tail flops in from the wings. Handled on sticks, Japanese style, the little ones converge and swarm with deadly precision, while the big beasts are more "Nutcracker" friendly. I doff another hat to Michael Curry's clever puppets.

For all the ingenious visual pyrotechnics, though, my hat goes back on, because "Pied Piper" ultimately didn't work. The ballet rests squarely on modern dance choreographer Parsons, whose vocabulary here is sorely limited and basically unvaried. The story is muddled and overstuffed with extraneous characters who don't develop within the story or have nothing to do with it.

Take the townspeople. Although characteristically danced with actorly bombast, especially the lead roles of the Mayor (Phillip Broomhead), his Wife (Tyann Clement), and Councilor (Parren Ballard), once their pompous intro is over, they never do anything else, except the Mayor's Wife, who uncharacteristically throws herself seductively into the Piper's arms. The folk clomp and stamp their hands while the orchestra's percussion beats in threes, repeating the pattern without variation, subtlety, or character. As danced, the townsfolk are so self-involved and comically stupid, they wouldn't even notice, nor care, that their children have been piped away.

Nine minutes have been added by Corigliano to his concerto to match the newly written story, so every scene droned on too long. The ballet was padded, all filler and not much dancing. The "Pied Piper" has a magnificent look and a powerful score; what it lacked was a coherent story told through dancing, and a piper who's pied.

eating out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Tex-Ital mixed just right

Barn-based Italian restaurant earns high marks for atmosphere, less praise for menu choices

By TRAYCE DISKIN

Step past the foyer walls lined with straw wrapped bottles of Chianti, dried flowers, and photos of old world Italians laughing and living it up, and you'll quickly find yourself at home at Cavatore.

Which home, however, is an amusing mystery at this northwest Italian haunt housed in a barn from Bastrop, Texas. The menu affably asks the very question on its inner cover—"Why house an Italian restaurant in a barn from Bastrop?" The answer, of course, reflects the cultural richness promised by taking two distinct cultures, and literally dropping on down on top of the other.

It's no surprise, then, that when it comes to environment, Cavatore is a down-home Italian delight. Covered wall to wall, floor to rafters, with Italian movie memorabilia and other kitschy Tex-Ital notions, the barn creates an intimate and adventurous atmosphere. The paneled wood beams and angular nooks, along with the customary red and white checkered table cloths, lend a rustic, romantic vibe, as if you just wandered off the Tuscan hills into the capacious neighborhood gathering hall.

The service similarly reflects this mixture of authenticity and biculturalism. When I arrived with three female friends on a weekend evening, the waiter immediately taunted. "What is this? I must call the police. Four beautiful ladies should not be eating alone. In Italy, if beautiful ladies like you are eating alone it is a crime. Someone call the police." Only an eccentric place like Cavatore, where the Italian pianist switches seamlessly from Louie di Prima to Clapton or Billy Joel, can pull this banter off without a trace of smarminess.

These successful collisions of culture, however, seem to end there, as the food certainly isn't much of a draw. Marinara, which appear as appetizer sauces, and on pastas, fish, and meats, could be better blended to eliminate clumps of chewy, tangled stewed tomatoes. The only seasons that announce themselves—black pepper and garlic—do so strongly. But other ingredients like basil, oregano, or wine are barely detectable.

In lieu of seasonings, the preferred ingredient seems to be butter. Escargots Cavatore (\$5.95) are slathered in milky foam, with barely a trace of garlic. The tomatoes and green onions drown in the



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FOOD FILE

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Service:  4
Value:  4
Scene:  4

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heavy mixture. The Calamari Fritti (\$6.95) was tender and pillowy, and we appreciated the light, evenly distributed coating. However, the thin, batter slid easily off the succulent meat each time it was dunked into the chunky marinara.

The Gamberi con Capesante (\$8.95), on the other hand, lets the piquant garlic and seasonings come through with its sautéed shrimp and sea scallops with garlic, lemon butter sauce and fresh herbs.

The pastas dishes are solid and hearty, although few inspire outburst of arias or applause. The Manicotto Fresco (\$8.95) evenly distributes the gorgeously fresh ricotta, mozzarella, noodles and marinara, and the Fettuccine Giancarlos (\$18.95) offers delicious sautéed squid and shrimp on a bed of butterfly pasta and fresh vegetables. Unfortunately, the pasta sticks together and the veggies congeal at the bottom. Perhaps a dash of oil could help better distribute the ingredients.

Try the Cannellone della Casa (\$10.95), veal-stuffed pasta baked with tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese, or the Ravioli de Mare (\$10.95), but order the cream sauce on the side so you can control how much pasta soaks up the thick, floury sauce.

Even after a rather mediocre meal, you want to linger in the comfort of the barn and sip cappuccino and indulge in something heavy and sweet. The Tiramisu (\$4.95) is rich in flavor, but a bit dry and cakey. A better choice is the Chocolate Mousse (\$4.95), a smooth, sugary concoction in a thin chocolate shell redolent of orange.

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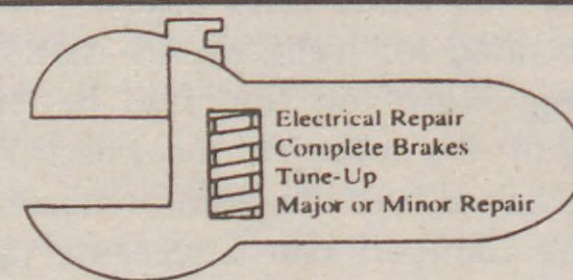
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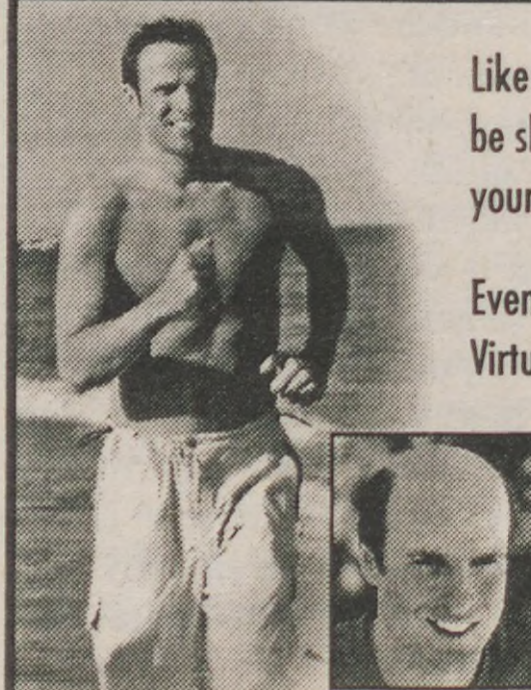
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community calendar

saturday, sept 22

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 to 3 a.m. 713-526-88.

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

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

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

Gulf Coast Archive and Museum. Open Noon to 6 pm. 713-227-5973.

Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Gender Jam 4 p.m. • Texas Association for Transexual Support. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Houston Outdoor Group. Monthly Social 713-526-6963

sunday, sept 23

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

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

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.

Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

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

Menant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

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

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop in Hours 2- 5 p.m. • Queer Informal Play Reading. 2 p.m. • Lesbians Over Fifty. 2 p.m. • Pot Luck Dinner. 6 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Pagan Pride Day. Fall Harvest Celebration. Fundraiser. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. 281-286-8252.

monday, sept 24

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.

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

HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.

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

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.

gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

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

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

"A Christmas Songfest." Kick Off party. 5:30 p.m. Meteor, 2306 Genessee. 5:30 p.m. FREE. 713-729-9662..

tuesday, sept 25

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

HTGA Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

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

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mount Vernon. 713-526-8390.

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

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 2-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

Bi-Net Houston. Men's Social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston Training Class 6 to 10 p.m. • Lesbian Power Dating. 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston Training Class 6 to 10 p.m. • Lesbian Power Dating. 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

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Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston Training Class 6 to 10 p.m. • Lesbian Power Dating. 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

wednesday, sept 26

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.

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

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.

Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for

HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 -9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Blessed Sacrament Church. Workshop Series for Christian Faith and Ecumenical Old Catholicism. 713-476-9776.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing and counseling 6- 9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio. 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing and counseling 6- 9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio. 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.

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thursday, sept 27

Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. 2 hours free Line Dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

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

HIV Art Therapy Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Gay Houston. New social group for all ages. 7 p.m. 713-526-9318.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community. Drop in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

friday, sept 28

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

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

Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. • Movie Night. "Much Ado About Nothing." 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Houston Tennis Club. Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 - 9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

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

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Film Night. 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

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Signed, Terry Potts

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

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

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

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Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
 ___ HIV Services & Education
 ___ Volunteers
 ___ Non-Profit Organizations
 *First 20 words

INDIVIDUAL RATE \$10:
 ___ Announcements
 ___ Auditions
 ___ Employment-Seeking
 ___ Pets-Free or Lost & Found
 ___ Roommates
 ___ Personal Web sites

BUSINESS RATE \$18:
 ___ Auto Repair
 ___ Business Opportunities
 ___ Entertainment
 ___ Help Wanted
 ___ Help Wanted-Seeking
 ___ Home Improvement
 ___ Items For Sale
 ___ Licensed Massage
 ___ Moving Services
 ___ Professional Services
 ___ Real Estate For Rent
 ___ Real Estate For Sale

Call 713-529-8490 for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD

Please print clearly

CATEGORY: _____ # OF ISSUES: _____

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

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

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my AMEX MC VISA

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____

Signature _____

Occasions birthdays

CCCC members Paul M. (9/21) and Mike O. (9/22) turn the birthday odometer over another year on Sept. 21.

Scott K., definitely a Misfit, celebrates his birthday on Sept. 22.

Asians and Friends member Ray R. adds a candle on his birthday cake on Sept. 24.

Really cool and talented artist Rob Baker celebrates his birthday on Sept. 26.

Older than God, Don "The Schnauzer" Dowden will lift his glass (again and again) on Sept. 27. to celebrate his birthday.



"Tessa, from the first moment we met, I fell for you!!" Like a shining star falling down, you hit me hard. All my love, Christina.



Timberly Douglas and Tekeshia Parker celebrate three years together at their party on Sept. 21 at Club Rainbow. "We are soulmates, best friends and we couldn't live our lives without each other. Thanks to all our families and friends for their support."



Houston icon—and *Houston Voice* mainstay—Carolyn 'Cuervolyn' Roberts turns 41 this Friday, Sept. 21. She'll be celebrating with friends, relatives, co-workers, her adorable dog Brandi and her husband Jeff (he's adorable too). A big 'Happy Birthday!' to Carolyn from all of the gang at *HoVo*.

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My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



Sept. 21-27



ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

You are in for a slow and sexy roller coaster ride in your love life, babe. Close your eyes and hold on. It's going to be a bumpy but bountiful night. And that night will last for a month! A Scorpio has the stamina you dream about.



TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

Life is full of stupid irritations and grand pleasures during late September. Ignore the former and indulge in the latter as much as possible. A Virgo is happy if you're happy, so make yourself happy, dammit!



GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Mercury in your dramatic fifth house could inspire you to perform, you closet diva, you. If words are your game, write a book or some hip-hop lyrics. You have a knack for communicating always, but especially during late September. Speak to a Sag like you mean it.



CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

Life is certainly full of subtle mystery these days. Nothing is what it appears to be. You'd do best to stick close to loved ones whom you trust implicitly and whom you can count on. A Libra backs you up whichever way you turn.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

You don't have to be so damn predictable and reliable, sweetie. Throw the world a few curves and let people know how daring you can be. An Aries is thrilled by the way you play to win.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Venus in your sign brings you luck in love and a gift for artistic endeavors during late September. Open up to your own talents, be they on the drawing board or while you've got a Cancer tied to the headboard.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

"You grow, girl"—that should be your motto in late September, dear. The Sun has moved into your sign for a long, luxurious months, which means you can push your own limits quite a bit. A Scorpio knows what you are capable of. Start living up to your potential, wayward Libra.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

The Sun transits your house of the unconscious during the last week of September, so you are going to have take off yet another of your masks. Deceptive facades are dangerous. A Virgo wants to see the vulnerable you, not the guarded one.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Mercury in your house of friends promises that the phone won't stop ringing for you in late September. Just when you thought you could take some time to really concentrate on work! Forget it. An Aquarius wants to play!



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

The Sun and Mercury are squaring you now, so you may want to wait before signing a business deal on the dotted line. Do more research. But in your love life, it's all systems go. An Aries can't wait any longer. Can you?



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

This is a time to be fun, free, and fickle, baby. You call the shots, and if anyone gets too bossy, tell 'em "Nobody puts Baby in a corner." A Sag wants to corner you on the dance floor and keep you moving all night.



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

No one can tell if you're joking or serious these days, including you! This is definitely a cycle when it pays to see both sides of the coin. The shadowy part of your nature is showing itself. Don't be scared of it and it won't be scared of you. A Leo can teach you how to be truly brave.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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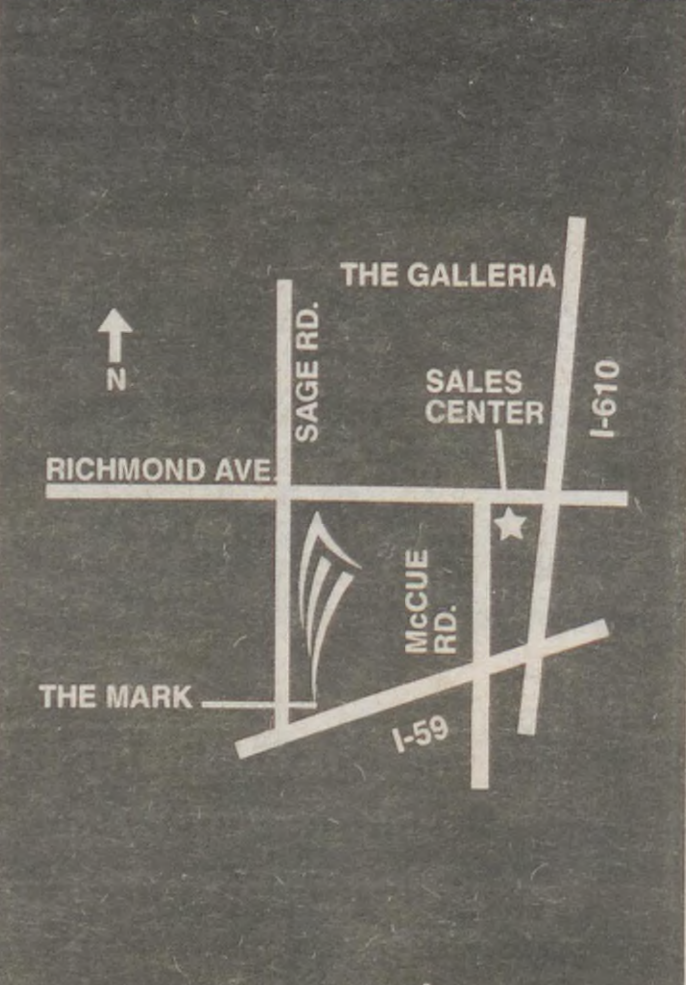
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