houston voice

Sing out

Gay countertenor **David Daniels** visits Houston on heels of new CD.

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Episcopalians plot strategy for gay rebuke

Conservative members of the Episcopal Church USA want the church sanctioned by its governing body for two gay-friendly votes in August, said Rev. **David Anderson**, president of the American Anglican Council. (Photo by Jim Mone/AP)

Group may call for stopping donations to national church

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

A schism in the Episcopal Church USA gained more attention this week as a group of conservative Episcopalians met in Texas to discuss how to repudiate recent gay-friendly decisions made by national church leaders.

The meeting of the American Anglican Council, led by Stone Mountain Rev. David Anderson, includes about 2,700 Episcopal clergy and lay leaders. At press time, they were expected to issue a declaration on Thursday calling on participants to withhold money from the national church and dioceses that support the gay-friendly measures that came during the church's General Convention in Minneapolis in August.

The declaration also calls on the archbishop of Canterbury and the 37 other leading bishops in the Anglican Communion to create an undefined "new alignment for Anglicanism in North America," according to the Associated Press.

"We are asking the primates — hand-carrying a petition — asking that they sanction and censure the leadership of the Episcopal Church," Anderson told Southern Voice.

Leaders of the worldwide Anglican Communion gather Oct. 15-16 at an emergency summit in London to discuss the American situation and a similar dispute among Anglicans in Canada.

The Episcopal Church USA has 2.3 million members in 105 dioceses. It is one of 37 branches of the 70 million-member Anglican Communion, which also includes the Church of England.

In August, Episcopalians approved the confirmation of Rev. Gene Robinson as bishop-elect of New Hampshire, making him the church's first-ever openly gay bishop. The church also voted to recognize that its bishops are allowing blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples.

As a result of the votes, the American Anglican Council called for a complete separation of its theological views from the views held by those who would allow a gay bishop or same-sex unions, Anderson said.

Anderson, a retired priest who recently moved to Stone Mountain, said he could not receive a license to practice in the Atlanta diocese over his "orthodox" views.

Atlanta Bishop Neil Alexander denied the claim in an e-mail interview with Houston Voice. Alexander said he had

Please see EPISCOPALIANS on Page 9

Bush backs anti-gay 'Marriage Protection Week'

Event to spearhead effort to make gay marriage issues in '04 campaign; gay church sets response

By JOE CREA

WASHINGTON — President Bush outraged gay activists this week by issuing a proclamation declaring Oct. 12-18, "Marriage Protection Week" and reiterating his position that "marriage is a union between a man and a woman."

The proclamation coincides with a series of events next week organized by 24 religious groups intended to mark the start of a year-long campaign to keep gay marriage in the spotlight through the 2004 elections, conservative groups said.

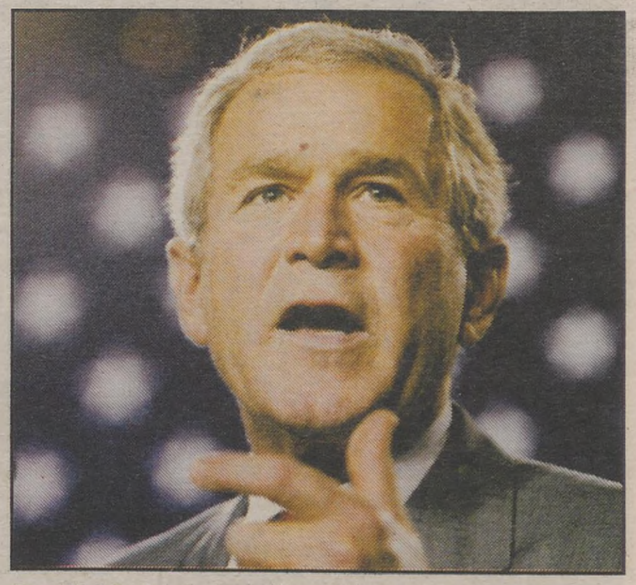
In his proclamation, the president said that the protection of marriage is "essential to the continued strength of our society." He added that the country "must continue our work to create a compassionate, welcoming society, where all people are treated with dignity and respect." He did not specifically reference a proposed constitutional amendment that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"Marriage Protection Week" backers include conservative groups like the Family Research Council and Focus on the Family, which are lobbying members of Congress to sign pledges declaring their support for traditional marriage. The coalition plans to "blanket the airwaves, church media and public venues with messages about the importance of traditional marriage."

"Every once in a while, a great nation has to deal with a great issue," Gary Bauer, president of American Values and one of the marriage week sponsors, told the Washington Times. "We think it's time for the country to deal with the issue of homosexuality and the fundamental question of what is a marriage. Millions of people understand that it's not bigotry to believe that marriage is between a man and a woman, and it's not right-wing to think that children need a mother and a father, not two mothers and two fathers."

The Family Research Council unveiled plans for "Marriage Protection Week" at a press conference last week. FRC president Tony Perkins said that courts "are treating marriage

Please see MARRIAGE on Page 9



President Bush is facing criticism from gay activists for signing a proclamation to honor 'Marriage Protection Week,' while refusing to sign a proclamation to honor Gay Pride month earlier this year. (Photo by AP)

DON'T TELL: Latest report on HIV shows few partners discuss HIV before sex. **Page 3**

DEMOCRATIC PROCESS: The DNC's **Eric Stern** heads effort to target gay voters in 2004 election. **Page 7**

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regional news

Most don't tell sex partners of HIV status

Laws vary on penalties for intentional HIV exposure

By LAUREL FAUST

A new Louisiana-based study found that only one in four people tell their casual sex partners that they are HIV-positive, raising questions about the responsibility for disclosure and the legal ramifications of having sex without disclosing a positive status.

Seventy-four percent of the study participants told their main partner about their positive status; 70 percent told someone in their immediate family; 27 percent told a relative other than their immediate family; and 26 percent told a friend. Eighteen percent of the respondents didn't tell anyone.

People who were older were more likely to disclose the news, as were those who had progressed further along in their illness.

The results of the study by the Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention were published in the September issue of "Sexually Transmitted Diseases."

The researchers surveyed 269 people in two HIV out-patient clinics serving predominantly urban, low-income populations in New Orleans.

Principal author Dr. Patricia Kissinger said the results are consistent with other studies conducted on populations in Los Angeles and San Francisco. She noted that this study is unique because it targets a segment of the population that more accurately reflects the growing face of the HIV epidemic.

Eighty-four percent of the Tulane study participants were African-American. There were an almost equal number of men and women surveyed.

Forty-nine percent of the sample reported in face-to-face interviews that they had contracted the virus through heterosexual contact, while 31 percent were males who reported they had acquired HIV through sex with other men. Eleven percent said they contracted the virus through IV drug use.

Kissinger said she has data on the numbers of the participants who engaged in risky sexual behavior and is compiling the information for another study. She estimated the number at between 60-70 percent.

"This was really dramatic. We didn't expect the numbers to be quite this high," Kissinger said.

She said she believes her data is representative of urban populations in the United States.

Both sex partners responsible for disclosure

Shana Krochmal, director of communications and public affairs for the STOP AIDS Project in San Francisco, insisted that the responsibility for disclosure of HIV status does not rest on the HIV-positive partner alone.

Dan Bruner, associate director for litigation and public advocacy for Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., said there are very few legal cases involving intentional infection with HIV. (Photo by Clint Steib)

"HIV-negatives really have a shared responsibility of asking and insisting on condom usage regardless," she said. STOP AIDS Project staff work with gay, bisexual and transgendered men to prevent the transmission of HIV.

Krochmal said it's important to realize how strong the stigma is for people who are HIV-positive.

She said those who are HIV-positive feel like it doesn't matter how wonderful their personality may be — there's still a sense that relationships won't go any further if they reveal their status to their potential partners.

Ron Simmons, president of Us Helping Us, said it's important not to "get all up in arms" about the numbers. He said that people who adopt a "holier than thou" attitude aren't addressing the problem.

Us Helping Us specializes in HIV/AIDS prevention and care services for gay and bisexual black men.

Simmons said the stigma against gay people and HIV-positive people in particular is strong enough already.

He said he recommends that HIV-positive sex partners reveal their status right away, but he said that coming out as positive is an intensely personal matter and that people have to get there in their own time.

Simmons said often times HIV-positive people engage in non-risky sexual behaviors such as mutual masturbation. He said it's important to look at the instances when HIV-positive people do go ahead with risky behaviors, so that the problem can be addressed with effective risk reduction programs.

Stephen McDonnell, director of G-NET, said that it's important that people feel comfortable not only having sex but also talking about it.

"We live in a culture that doesn't reward loving gay relationships," McDonnell said.

He said many gay men have low self-esteem, abuse drugs and alcohol, and have few healthy places to meet.

"Therefore, sometimes we engage in anonymous sex," McDonnell said.

He noted the CDC strategy for the next five years is to focus on HIV prevention in people who are positive.

"We have to be careful that we're not stigmatizing people who are HIV-positive as if it's only their responsibility to have low risk sexual activity, when in fact it is the responsibility of everyone having sex," McDonnell said.

The report notes that knowledge of a person's HIV status can be a motivating factor in safer sex behavior.

Jail, fines for failing to disclose HIV

Ronald Gene Hill, a former health commissioner in San Francisco recently pleaded innocent to charges that he knowingly and intentionally infected two people, including his boyfriend, with HIV. Hill remains jailed with bail set at $10,000.

His boyfriend, Thomas Lister, sued Hill and was awarded $5 million in 2001 after he discovered Hill taking HIV medications while they were on a cruise together, the Associated Press reported. Lister alleged that Hill had never revealed that he was carrying the AIDS virus.

Dan Bruner, associate director for litigation and advocacy for the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., said that there are very few cases involving intentional infection with HIV. He said D.C. has no law on the books that specifically addresses exposing someone to HIV with or without disclosure. Bruner said a person would have to be charged with assault with a deadly weapon, reckless endangerment, attempted murder or some other general criminal law charge.

"I think the real question is what is the best way to get people to behave responsibly and to practice safe sex. Some people argue that by criminalizing this behavior, all you're doing is driving people underground or giving them an incentive to not know that they're HIV-positive."

Bruner said lawmakers often pass laws because it looks good politically, but the laws are very rarely used.

"The same legislative bodies that pass these laws don't give funding for HIV education and prevention," Bruner said.

MORE INFO

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SO LONG: Human Rights Campaign director **Elizabeth Birch** made good on her promise to leave the organization to spend more time with her partner and children. **Page 5**

OTHER WORKS: Known for 'Two Mommies,' author **Leslea Newman** explores more gay ground in her recently released short fiction anthology. **Page 19**

SHE'S BACK: Rosie O'Donnell is back in the spotlight as the case against her magazine heads to court and she moves on to other interesting projects. **Page 20**

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006.
Houston Voice is published weekly, on Friday, by Window Media LLC. Subscriptions are $92/year for 52 issues (only $1.77 per issue).

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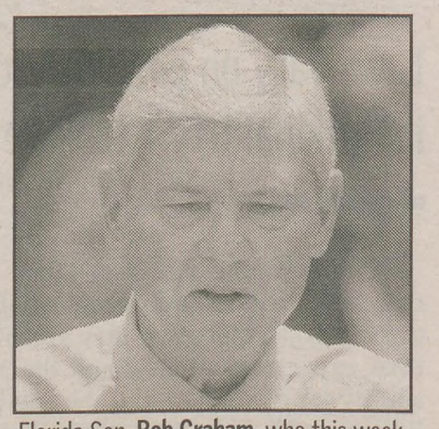
national news

Senate considers ENDA, DP benefits bills

WASHINGTHON — The U.S. Senate will consider two landmark gay rights bills introduced last week, one to prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and the other to end the taxability of domestic partner health insurance benefits for spouses and legal dependents, the Gay Financial Network reported. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, or ENDA, was first introduced in June of 1996. The other bill, the Domestic Partner Health Benefits Equity Act, would end the taxability of domestic partner health insurance benefits and treat them the same as health insurance benefits for spouses and legal dependents, according to media reports. "Currently, 194 Fortune 500 companies including General Motors, Chevron, Texaco, Boeing, Hewlett-Packard and Citigroup, as well as 161 state and local governments nationwide, provide health insurance benefits to the domestic partners of their employees," wrote Senators Gordon H. Smith and Bob Graham in the original bill.



Florida Sen. **Bob Graham**, who this week dropped out of the race for the 2004 Democratic nomination for president, helped introduce a Senate measure that would end the taxability of domestic partner health benefits. (Photo by AP)

Non-binding same-sex DP registry opens in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — Mona Noriega wanted it to be a festive occasion, so she handed out tiny bottles of bubble soap to workers at the Cook County Clerk's office. As bubbles floated through the air, Noriega, 48, and her partner of eight years, Evette Cardona, 41, entered their names in Cook County's new domestic partnership registry. The registration carries no legal rights, but Noriega, who is the Midwest regional director of Lambda Legal, a gay legal group, said it is at least a symbolic victory for same-sex couples. "The main benefits are the affirmation and the emotional commitment," she said. Noriega and Cardona, a senior project officer with the Polk Brothers Foundation, were among nearly 50 couples who signed the registry by noon on the first day the opportunity was offered. While applauding the Cook County move, Democratic Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich said there were no plans to imitate it on a statewide basis.

Former partners take custody battle to Wash. appeals court

SEATTLE (AP) — A woman who raised a child from birth to age 6 while dating the girl's biological mother asked the state Court of Appeals to recognize her rights as a parent. If the court agrees, it could create a new class of parent in the state. The three judges who heard the arguments gave no indication when they would rule. Sue Ellen Carvin, who goes by "Mian," sued her former partner, Page Britain, in King County Superior Court last November, alleging that Britain had unfairly cut off access to Britain's biological daughter, identified in court papers as L.B. The two had been together for about six years when they decided to raise a child together. Britain was artificially inseminated and gave birth in 1995. For the next several years, Carvin stayed home to raise the girl. But a year and a half ago, Britain and Carvin split. Britain married the sperm donor and subsequently barred Carvin from seeing L.B. In appealing, Carvin is asking the judges to acknowledge her rights as a parent, which would enable her to go back to King County Superior Court and press her claim there by showing that she should be allowed to see the child.

Ind. official to defend law banning same-sex unions

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A lawsuit seeking to ease Indiana's ban on same-sex unions could go to the Indiana Court of Appeals for a decision later this month. The attorney general's office filed a brief last week asking the court to uphold a judge's ruling that the state law clearly defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The Indiana Civil Liberties Union, which represents three same-sex couples, has 15 days to respond. The case then goes to the Court of Appeals for a decision. Marion County Superior Court Judge S.K. Reid ruled in May that the Indiana law "promotes the state's interest in encouraging procreation to occur in a context where both biological parents are present to raise the child." In the appeal, ICLU attorney Ken Falk disputed that contention, arguing that the 1986 law is unconstitutional because it violates the rights of "autonomy, self-determination and personal privacy, which encompass the marriage decision."

Hemingway grandchildren settle dispute over writer's estate

MIAMI (AP) — Eight grandchildren of Ernest Hemingway settled a dispute over the $7.5 million estate of the writer's transsexual child, Gloria, averting a ruling from a judge on whether the heir, whose birth name was Gregory, died a man or a woman. Lawyers from both sides disclosed the settlement but said details were confidential. The dispute was between the grandchildren and Gloria Hemingway's widow, Ida, and stemmed from her assertion that she was entitled to the estate because she had remarried Hemingway in 1997, after Hemingway underwent sex-change surgery and began going by the name Gloria. The grandchildren contested the validity of the marriage, since Florida law does not recognize same-sex marriage. Gloria Hemingway died of cardiovascular disease in a cell in a Miami women's jail after being arrested for indecent exposure in 2001.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Elizabeth Birch prepares to bid farewell

HRC head praised for gay gains, faulted for Hill failures

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

In 1995, when Elizabeth Birch began her job as executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, she vowed to apply professional marketing and business practices to the gay rights organization, promising to aggressively promote the group's legislative and political objectives through public relations and the mass media.

Now, as Birch prepares to step down from her HRC post, gay leaders from throughout the country were expected to remember her eight-year tenure at the helm of HRC during the organization's national, black-tie dinner in Washington this weekend.

When she arrived at HRC, Birch had just left her post as chief of global litigation for the Apple Computer Corporation. It was at a time when the high tech industry was booming and firms like Apple rushed to adopt gay-friendly employment policies, such as domestic partner benefits. The Clinton administration, gearing up for the 1996 election, offered vocal support for gay civil rights causes.

Birch, building on this momentum, is credited with greatly expanding HRC's operations. When she came on board, the organization had about 100,000 members, a staff of about 40, and a budget of $6 million. Today, according to figures released by the group, HRC has more than 500,000 members, a budget exceeding $22 million, and a staff of 100. The group is about to officially dedicate its new headquarters building, which it purchased and renovated through a $25 million capital campaign.

Under Birch's direction, HRC built a Web site that has been praised as one of the best among civil rights organizations, with its online "action center" prompting thousands of HRC members and supporters to send messages to members of Congress about gay- and AIDS-related issues.

The group's political action committee, or PAC, contributed $1.1 million to candidates supportive of gay civil rights in the last election cycle, and its field operation and educational foundation are said to be expanding at a rapid pace.

Yet despite these accomplishments, critics say that under Birch's helm, HRC has not been able to secure passage by Congress of two of the gay movement's most sought after bills — the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and a hate crimes bill known as the Law Enforcement Enhancement Act. The first measure, referred to as ENDA, calls for banning private sector employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. The second bill would authorize the federal government to prosecute anti-gay hate crimes in cases where state and local prosecutors refuse or are unable to prosecute such crimes.

Elizabeth Birch will officiate at one of her last major events as executive director of the Human Rights Campaign on Oct. 11, when the group holds its 7th annual national dinner. (Photo by Luis Gomez)

"The only major gay-related bill that passed under her term in office was an anti-gay bill," said a gay congressional staff member, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The staffer was referring to the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage under federal law as a union only between a man and woman.

Most congressional staff members contacted for this article — both Democrats and Republicans — dispute this criticism, saying Birch and other gay civil rights leaders aligned with her have laid the groundwork for the eventual passage of the two bills.

"When you count heads, you see that we have a solid majority in the House and Senate to pass these bills," said gay Democratic activist Jeff Trammell, who is working with Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) to boost gay support for Democratic candidates for the Senate next year.

Trammell noted that Republican leaders in the House have blocked a vote on both bills, even though there are enough moderate Republicans and Democrats to pass the measure. In the Senate, Trammell said Daschle and other supporters of ENDA and the hate crimes bill are certain more than 50 of the 100-member Senate would vote for the two bills. However, Daschle has said supporters have yet to line up the 60 senators needed to overcome a filibuster, which conservative Republicans have vowed to wage to block the bills.

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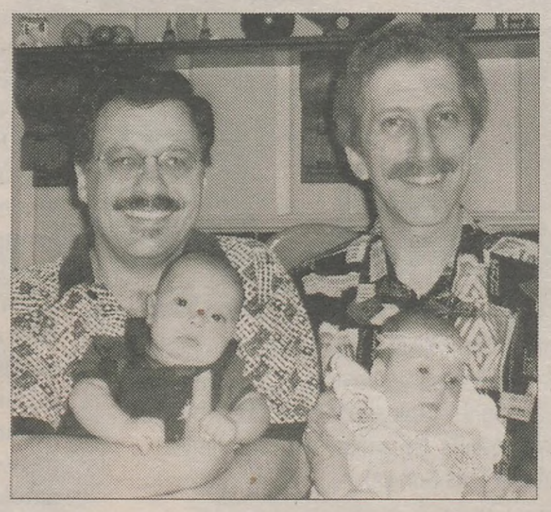

On May 15th, 2003, Frank and Bob's life changed forever as they welcomed their children, Lucas and Leah, to their family.

The Houston couple achieved their dreams of becoming parents through the assistance of Growing Generations, the nation's oldest and largest surrogacy and egg donation agency serving the gay community.

"We had been trying for years to start a family," said Frank. "With the help of Growing Generations, our dream has finally come true!"

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N.C. executes man who alleged anti-gay bias at trial

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Edward Hartman, 38, convicted in a 1993 shooting death, was executed by injection Oct. 3 at Central Prison in Raleigh despite allegations that his sentence was a result of anti-gay sentiment. Hartman was sentenced to die for the slaying of 77-year-old Herman Smith Jr., a former boyfriend of Hartman's mother. Hartman was living at Smith's house. Hartman attorney Heather Wells argued that Hartman was sentenced to death because of anti-gay bias by prosecutors during his trial. A prosecutor repeatedly referred to Hartman's sexual orientation during his original trial, even though it had nothing to do with Smith's death, Wells said. "From jury selection through the cross-examination of several penalty phase witnesses, the prosecution repeatedly made references to Eddie's homosexuality," Wells said. "Eddie's homosexuality has no relevance to the crime or the circumstances surrounding the crime and no relevance to whether he should live or die."

Convicted for killing his mother's former boyfriend, **Edward Hartman** was executed last week after his appeal alleging anti-gay bias at his trial was denied. (Photo by AP)

Ky. officials move trial in gay man's murder case

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. (AP) — Joshua W. Cottrell, charged with killing a Hardin County man whose body was stuffed into a suitcase, will be tried on murder charges in Hardin County instead of Breckinridge County. The case was moved because the victim, 36-year-old Guinn Richard "Richie" Phillips, likely died in an Elizabethtown motel room, according to forensics. Cottrell, 22, was originally indicted for the June killing in Breckinridge Circuit Court. Court records show police believe Cottrell killed Phillips in an Elizabethtown motel room after inviting him there. According to court records, police allege Phillips was killed because he was gay. Cottrell's aunt and cousin told state police that Cottrell told them he planned to kill Phillips because of his sexual orientation. Phillips' body was found stuffed inside a suitcase floating in Rough River Lake in Breckinridge County on June 25, eight days after his family reported him missing. Cottrell is scheduled to be arraigned in Hardin Circuit Court on Oct. 28.

Gender identity possible motive in killing of Calif. trans woman

SAN PABLO, Calif. — Police investigating the death of a local transgendered woman are looking at the victim's gender identity as a possible motive in the killing. Friends said Ricardo Cuarda, 24, rarely left home without wearing women's clothes, the Contra Costa Times of Walnut Creek, Calif., reported. According to Sgt. Doug Hearn, San Pablo detectives are investigating whether that contributed to Cuarda's death. Cuarda was known locally as "Sindy" and worked as a prostitute, police officials told the Times. Officers found Cuarda, wearing a blouse and pants, bleeding heavily from several gunshot wounds in the driveway of a business, the newspaper reported. Cuarda died a short time later at Doctors Medical Center. Cuarda's roommate said her friend was also shot in the genitals. Police would not specify the location of the wounds, other than to say the killing shots were in the upper torso, the Times reported.

Parole denied for Texas pair convicted in gay slaying

HOUSTON (AP) — A state parole panel decided that two men convicted in the 1991 slaying of a gay banker in the city's heavily gay Montrose neighborhood will spend at least two more years in prison. Parole for Jon Buice, sentenced to 45 years in prison for his role in the killing of Paul Broussard, was denied last week for at least two years. Jaime Aguirre, serving a 15-year sentence, will have to wait at least three more years for parole after his denial by a different panel, officials said. Buice and Aguirre were among 10 teens from the Woodlands convicted in the death of Broussard, who was 27 when he and two friends were attacked as they left a gay nightclub in Montrose. Broussard's friends escaped with minor injuries, but Broussard was beaten, kicked and stabbed to death. Buice's parole bid was championed by Houston gay rights advocate Ray Hill, who also is active in prisoners' rights. Nancy Rodriguez, Broussard's mother, appeared before the parole panel to oppose Buice's parole, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Protesters decry plea agreements for accused killers of Calif. activist

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Plea agreements for three gang members charged in connection with a gay activist's killing sparked demonstrations last week by supporters and friends of the victim, the Riverside Press Enterprise reported. Slain gay activist Jeffery Owens was stabbed to death outside a gay bar in June 2002. Corrales, 28, said he had known Owens for 10 years. Last week, Viviano Cruz Marin, 26, and David Leal Martinez, 29, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the attack. Marin was sentenced to nine years in state prison; Martinez is scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 31, according to the Enterprise. Miguel Angel Ramos, 29, pleaded guilty to being an accessory to murder and was sentenced to serve three years in state prison. A fourth suspect, Dorian Lee Gutierrez, 20, is suspected of wielding the knife during the attack and faces a trial on murder and attempted murder charges.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Democrats to target gay Bush supporters in '04

Party plans effort at attracting gay voters to support its candidate on Election Day

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — Saying the 2004 presidential election is likely to be as close as the 2000 race, members of the Democratic National Committee's Gay & Lesbian American Caucus last week vowed to help their party win over some of the estimated 1.1 million gay men and lesbians who voted for President Bush.

"We really need to reach out to the GLBT folks who cast their vote for George W. Bush," said Eric Stern, the DNC's national GLBT outreach director.

Stern, speaking at an Oct. 2 meeting in Washington of the 14-member Gay & Lesbian American Caucus, said the DNC plans to work closely with gay Democratic clubs and activists across the country to cut into the gay vote that backed Bush in the 2000 presidential contest.

A joint exit poll conducted by the Voter News Service, ABC News and CNN showed gay voters made up 4 percent of the electorate in the 2000 presidential race. The exit poll showed that 70 percent of gay voters backed Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore, 25 percent backed Bush, and about 4 percent supported Green Party candidate Ralph Nader.

According to Stern and Traci Siegel, the DNC's political director, the DNC plans to identify a record number of gay voters in the 2004 election. The two said that similar to other constituency groups, the DNC would enter the names of gay Democrats into its get-out-the-vote database.

Terrance McAuliffe, the Democratic Party chair, told gay caucus members during the group's February meeting that the database would enable the DNC to contact an unprecedented number of gay voters by e-mail, postal mail, and possibly by phone. He said the DNC, through local and national leaders, would encourage gay men and lesbians it contacts to vote for the Democratic presidential candidate as well as other Democratic candidates.

Eric Stern, gay outreach director for the Democratic National Committee, said Democrats need to do a better job of outreach to turn out the gay vote and defeat President Bush in the 2004 election.

"Our message will be strong and convincing," Stern said last week. "We will tell them why Democrats are good for GLBT people and why Bush has been bad."

Nine members of the 14-member gay caucus attended the Oct. 2 meeting, which was held one day before the full, 440-member DNC met. Attendees at the meeting included lesbian Mirian Saez of D.C., Andrew Tobias, the DNC's gay treasurer; Emily Giske of New York, Sue Lovel of Houston, Raymond Buckley of New Hampshire, Garry Shay and Jeremy Bernard of Los Angeles, and Gloria Nieto of Santa Fe, N.M.

Giske called on the caucus to encourage gay Democrats to become candidates for delegate positions for each of the 10 Democratic presidential contenders. Giske noted that more than 220 gays secured positions as delegates, alternate delegates, or standing committee members at the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

In 2004, Giske said she fears that far fewer gays would likely win delegate positions because there are 10 Democratic candidates vying for the party nomination rather than the two who ran in 2000.

In 2000, most gays ran as Gore delegates, with a smaller number running as delegates for Gore's sole challenger, former Sen. Bill Bradley. Giske and other gay caucus members said that if gays in 2004 limit their support for one or two candidates who eventually lose in the primaries and party caucuses, gays may largely be "shut out" as delegates at the 2004 convention in Boston.

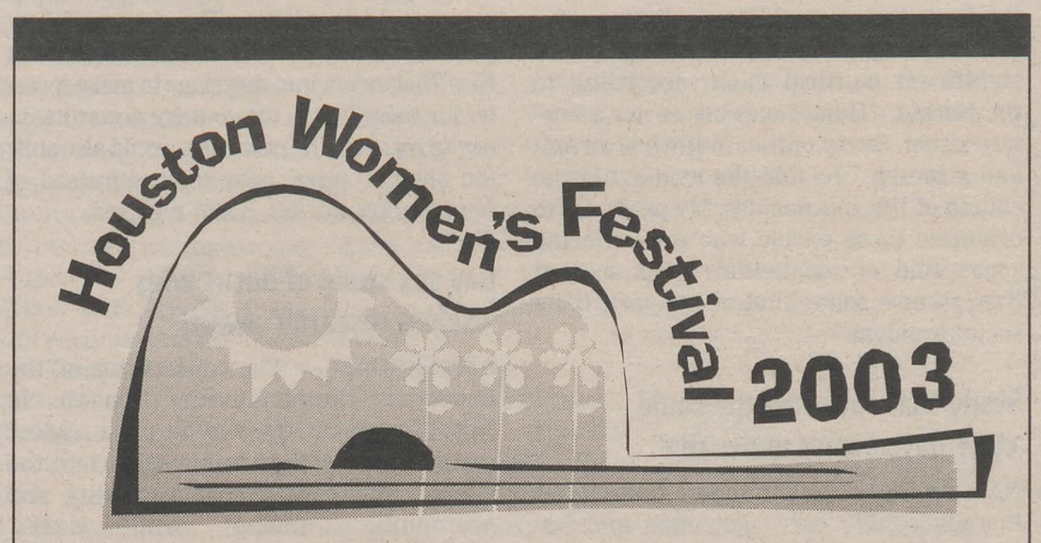
"We have to make an effort to run for delegates for all 10 candidates," said Giske, who is backing Sen. Joseph Lieberman. Lieberman ran in 2000 as Gore's vice presidential running mate.

Bernard, who said he's leaning toward backing former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, called Giske's strategy helpful but uncertain.

"People are going to support the candidate they like best on the issues," he said, not someone they pick out of a duty to increase the number of gay delegates.

According to Bernard, Dean appears to be attracting the most support among gay Democrats in Southern California.

Other prominent gay Democrats are backing Rep. Richard Gephardt, whose lesbian daughter, Chrissy Gephardt, attended last week's gay caucus meeting.



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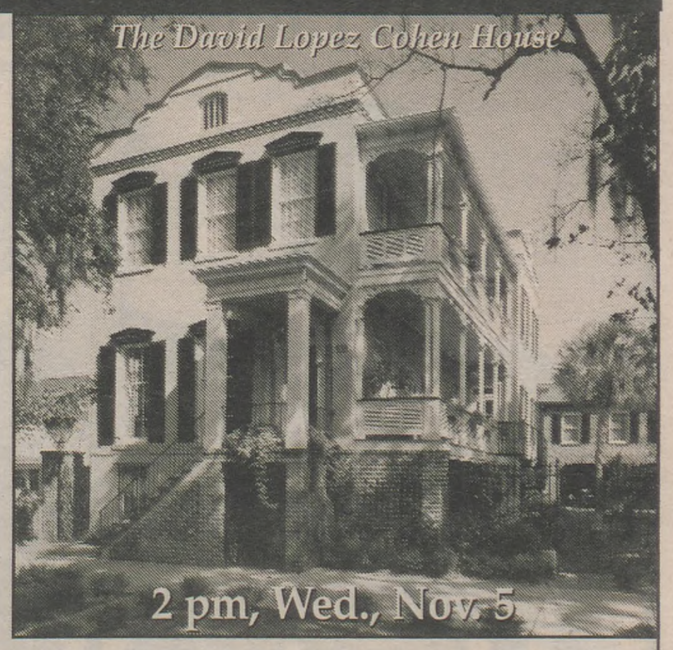

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international news

Gay actor back on Korean TV after banishment

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Three years ago, Hong Suk-chon was banished from television after he revealed he is gay. This week, the 32-year-old entertainer reappears on a television soap, playing a gay designer, in a sign that South Korea is slowly opening up to homosexuality. "I don't know about the older generation but there seems to be less abhorrence against homosexuals compared to the past," said Jung Yol, who runs the Seoul-based Lesbian & Gay Human Rights Federation. In 2000, Hong's coming out caused a sensation in South Korea, a deeply Confucian society with a strong Catholic church that even refused to acknowledge the existence of homosexuality, branding it as a Western malaise. In the past few years, however, South Korea became much more open to the issue with transsexual entertainer Ha Ri-soo making it to the top in the industry. Last year, a South Korean court declared Ha to be a woman and allowed her to change her name.

Hong Suk-chon said that a younger generation of Koreans is more accepting of homosexuality. (Photo by AP)

Rio leaders consider funding gay 'conversions'

RIO DE JANEIRO — Controversial plans to provide state support to "convert" gays to heterosexuality are raising fears that gay rights will be damaged by branding homosexuality an illness, according to the Sunday Herald. Proposals put to the legislative assembly by State Deputy Edino Fonseca suggest providing psychological support to homosexuals, the Herald reported. Gay rights activists reacted angrily and last week staged a protest against the proposals at a debate on laws relating to civil unions. Fonseca is a pastor from the Assembléia de Deus movement, a massive evangelical church with significant political clout, according to the Herald. "Homosexuality is not a one-way street. Every option in life has an exit and a return," he told the media. "In the course of life, one decides. My project is to orientate those people who are suffering some kind of existential crisis so that they receive some kind of support. It's a social problem."

Study that says therapy could 'cure' gays comes under fire

NEW YORK — A new report that claims therapy could "cure" gay men and lesbians and make them straight has come under fire from both scientists and gay rights groups, according to media reports. The research, published in the respected Archives of Sexual Behaviour journal, claims that of the gay people who underwent "reparative therapy," 78 percent of men and 95 percent of women turned straight. According to author Robert Spitzer, the study "questions the politically correct view that once you're gay, that's it and suggests that there is more flexibility than many people have assumed." But other researchers attacked the study, saying the information was gathered from "patients" that were part of ex-gay ministries and reparation organizations in America, according to media reports. Spitzer also is known because he was central to the American Psychiatric Association's decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in 1973.

Married, same-sex couples now treated the same in New Zealand immigration

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Married, de facto and same-sex couples who seek New Zealand residency will be treated the same under new immigration rules announced by Immigration Minister Lianne Dalziel, NZPA reported. Under the rules, all couples will have to prove they have lived together in a genuine and stable partnership for 12 months or more when they apply for permanent residency, according to NZPA. Previously, de facto couples had to have lived together for two years to qualify for residency. Couples that were legally married had their relationship recognized immediately. The changes follow publicity about some individuals deceiving New Zealanders into marriage to make it easier for them live in the country, according to media reports. The new rules would also shift the onus of proof onto couples instead of immigration officials, NZPA reported.

Gay sex study of ducks wins 'useless research' award

AMSTERDAM — The conservator of the Rotterdam Natuurmuseum won an "Ig Nobel Prize" for the world's most useless research in response to his study into the alleged first case of homosexuality and necrophilia among wild ducks, Expatica.com reported. Kees Moeliker's article described a rare occurrence that began when a wild duck was killed when it flew against the glass façade of the museum in 1995, according to media reports. The duck was pursued by another male duck, which then raped the dead duck almost continuously for 75 minutes. The conservator wrote about the event based on three remarkable topics: the homosexuality, the necrophilia and the extended sexual contact, a Radio Netherlands report said. Moeliker — who claims that his 2001 paper documents the first reported case of homosexual necrophilia in mallards — was pleased to have won the prize, Expatica.com reported. Originated in 1991, the "Ig Nobel Prize" is presented every year by the U.S. periodical Annals of Improbable Research to 10 academics whose research makes people laugh and think.

From staff and wire reports

national news

MCC counters anti-gay event with 'Marriage Equality Week'

MARRIAGE, continued from Page 1

as if it were a Mr. Potato Head where individual preferences govern its makeup," and urged all religious groups to stand up for traditional marriage.

"[Gay marriage] is not happening because the American people want it," Perkins said. "It is not happening because state legislators are voting for it. It is happening because of the black plague ... unelected judges in black robes are not only ruling against the wishes of the American people, they are overturning laws passed by the elected representatives of the people."

'Smart strategy'

Jonathan Rauch, a gay writer for the National Journal and a writer in residence at the Brookings Institution, said that there is not a controversial statement in the presidential proclamation that hasn't been uttered by Republicans and Democrats. He called the proclamation "a smart strategy" and said that the White House has managed to successfully convince conservatives that the Bush administration is defending marriage.

"He's managed to persuade the religious right that he's done something about gay marriage while saying nothing committal about the actual debate, which is the constitutional amendment," said Rauch, who has written a book on gay marriage due out next spring.

"It's another three-point basket right through the net. If I were Gary Bauer, I would be very unhappy with this proclamation. I would want more. 'You're giving me 10 words and a bunch of boilerplates from your 2000 campaign and subsequent press releases" Rauch added.

Rauch said the White House's proclamation reminded him of the way President Ronald Reagan used to address religious conservatives.

"Reagan was against the religious right on abortion and gay issues but appeared to be with them on school prayer," Rauch said. "He would talk about school prayer, call for it and the ACLU would say that he was an extremist. Basically, he did enough to convince them that he was on their side but in the end didn't do squat."

'Marginalizing' gays

But Dave Noble, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats, a gay partisan group, said that the president, by signing such a proclamation, endorsed a lobbying campaign of the "far-right extremist groups whose agenda is to make gay marriage" the No. 1 political issue of the 2004 elections.

"Karl Rove constantly notes that four million of the 19 million evangelical Christians stayed home on election day and Rove is eager to get this voting block to the polls next November to prevent another tight presidential race," Noble said. "The strategy is not to win by a broad agenda but by trying to get out the vote of the many far right Christians."

Rauch disagreed with Noble's assessment, saying that Rove is "playing it smart" by having the White House seem tolerant and compassionate while recognizing the GOP's conservative base.

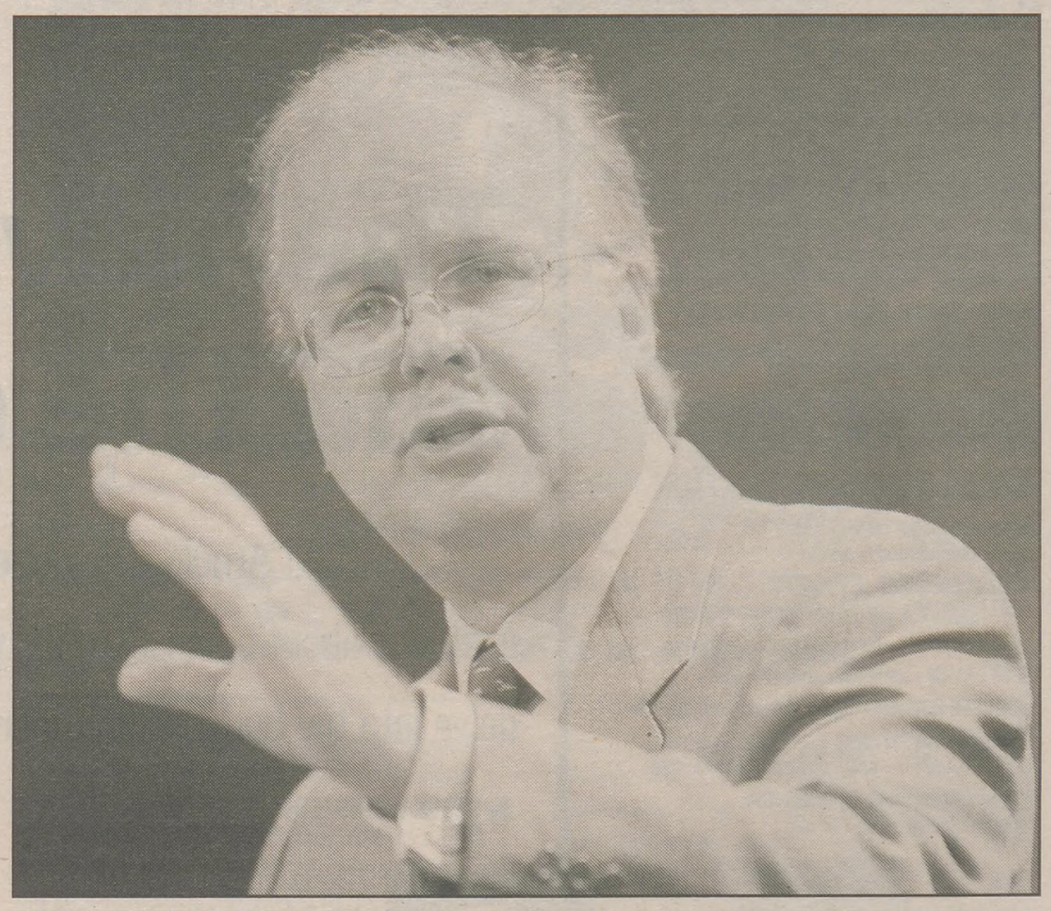
"It's important to note what the constitutional amendment says, which is a ban on same-sex marriage," Rauch said. "Such an endorsement from the president would start a cultural war and if I'm Karl Rove, starting a cultural war is not a good thing. When it begins to look like a campaign of intolerance, then it could get messy for the White House for they could lose a lot of voters in the center."

Noble also criticized Bush for failing to proclaim June "Gay & Lesbian Pride Month."

"Bush says he doesn't want to politicize gay people, but he's doing just that when he signed this proclamation that seeks to marginalize gays and lesbians," Noble said.

Mark Mead, political director for Log Cabin Republicans, a gay GOP group, noted that Democratic presidential hopefuls Joe Lieberman and John Kerry have said that marriage is the union of a man and woman. Mead emphasized that what is missing from the proclamation is any mention of the federal marriage amendment.

"The FMA is a road to disaster for the GOP and will come back to bite us if people pursue it," Mead said. "Look at the [election] results in California's governor's race. A culture war will not win votes."



Gay activists are speculating on how President Bush's top political adviser, **Karl Rove**, will use gay marriage in the 2004 campaign. (AP photo)

MCC launches 'Equality Week'

The Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), a worldwide fellowship of Christian for gay men and lesbians, is launching a "Marriage Equality Week," designed to counteract "Marriage Protection Week." Roman Cardenas, associate director of communications for MCC, said that the goal of the event is to inform MCC congregations of the gay marriage debate.

The organization is providing congregations with resource kits designed to help them contact their respective lawmakers and other officials in their communities.

The Federal Marriage Amendment, which is bottled up in a U.S. House of Representatives committee, currently has 90 co-sponsors.

MORE INFO

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Episcopalians meet in Texas to plot strategy

EPISCOPALIANS, continued from Page 1

"reservations" but Anderson never pursued the matter.

"It has nothing to do with being orthodox," Alexander said. "I can't think of a priest in this diocese who would fail to meet any traditional test of orthodoxy. Unfortunately, in the present context, those who claim orthodoxy for themselves simply mean that those who are 'unorthodox' disagree with them on matters of human sexuality."

"The terminology of the church has been hijacked for their political purposes," Alexander said.

Alexander voted in favor of the gay-friendly measures during the General Convention and did not attend the Plano meeting.

Anderson remains confident that the worldwide Anglican leader, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, will side with conservatives and either cut off communication with the Episcopal Church or "throw them out entirely," he said.

Removal cannot happen because no one person has the authority to boot a province, but Williams could ceremoniously stop extending communion to the U.S. church, said Rev. Susan Russell, newly elected president of Integrity, a 2,500-member gay-friendly Episcopal group.

"Cooler heads will prevail," she said.

But the primates in London may oppose the consecration of Robinson as bishop on Nov. 2, conservative Episcopalians told the AP. If it occurs anyway, they said, Robinson would not be recognized as an Anglican bishop.

"My concern is that [American Anglican Council is] representing themselves as speaking for the mainstream 'silent majority,'" Russell said. "They are not silent and they are not in the majority. It's a small group of militant voices here trying to draw a line in the sand and I don't think they will prevail."

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Issue 1198

editorial

The 'guvernator' and the gays

To understand **Arnold Schwarzenegger**'s attitudes about homosexuality, you have to delve into the bodybuilding scene.

By STEVE WEINSTEIN

SO NOW IT'S GOVERNOR Arnold. There has been much spilling of ink and wringing of hands over Schwarzenegger's stance on gay issues and how he feels in general about homosexuality.

Much has been made about an interview he gave while in his 20s in which he casually used the word "fags." A closer look at what he said, however, rather than the locker-room language in which he phrased it, displays a rather enlightened outlook for a professional athlete in the 1970s.

All through the California gubernatorial campaign, Schwarzenegger has stated his bona fides about gay rights (despite opposing gay marriage per se). In his own way, he's probably right.

On some level, I believe that Schwarzenegger does have a profound tolerance for homosexuality.

In order to understand where he's coming from, though, it's more important to explore the world that shaped him rather than his Republican politics.

Schwarzenegger rose to fame as a pro bodybuilder. He arrived in this country a rough Austrian provincial — and, as anyone who has been to the Austrian countryside can tell you, no one is as provincial as the Austrians, who remained isolated in their valleys well into the 1960s.

He came here with little more than a great body and a huge ambition. Soon enough, he was taken under the wing of Joe Weider. It was a fortuitous meeting.

Weider was in the process of transforming bodybuilding from a freakazoid fest of muscle heads into a national obsession — and along with it, his own empire of gyms, supplements, competitions, equipment and magazines.

Weider saw the Austrian strongman as the perfect media-genic personality to take the sport to the next level. In the film "Pumping Iron," Schwarzenegger came across as a brash, amiable super-sex-charged hyper competitor.

One aspect of the bodybuilding world ignored in the film (and in Weider's publications) is the role of hustling. Sam Fussell, in his book "Muscle: Confessions of an Unlikely Bodybuilder," was the first to discuss openly this well-known (if only whispered about) phenomenon.

As Fussell explains, in the bodybuilding world, you could count on a few hands and have fingers left over the number of people who actually make money from competing and endorsements. This was even more true when Schwarzenegger was starting out.

In most cases, a "benefactor" takes a bodybuilder under his wing. In return for the pleasure of his company, he receives enough money so that he can spend time at the gym and afford expensive supplements and steroids.

The sex, if there is any, is usually of the "look but don't touch variety." The bodybuilder stands around and is admired. The bodybuilder also consents to hang around at parties and is a treasured object d'art at poolside when friends drop by.

Some of these guys do porn (solos only). Some, especially on the lower rung, do actual hustling, at sky-high rates.

I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN TO PARTIES IN the Hollywood Hills where some of these guys were lounging about, looking vaguely uncomfortable. If all of this sounds too weird — hey, we're talking about Los Angeles (although a few of these rent boys can be spotted occasionally on the East Coast at Fire Island).

Schwarzenegger himself is reported to have had a benefactor, first in Austria and then in the States, when he was starting out. Whether or not the rumors are true, it's obvious that he had to be familiar with the system and with the players.

At the same time, another aspect of homosexuality was at work in the subculture of Southern California bodybuilding.

For years, bodybuilders understood that gay men constituted a big part of their fan base. It wasn't something usually openly acknowledged, or if it was, it was done with bemused disdain.

But as bodybuilding took off in the late 1970s and early 1980s, gay men became some of the biggest devotees of the sport. Schwarzenegger's relaxed attitude about sex and recreational drugs (he's seen toking on a joint in "Pumping Iron") appealed to the hard-living dance crowd that was gravitating to the gym at the time.

Schwarzenegger played up to this group. In a well-known Village Voice piece, he posed for out-gay columnist Arthur Bell and flirted with him. Bell was, as they say, smitten.

It's no accident that the ad campaign for Chelsea Gym, the first real gay "circuit" gym in New York, centered around Arnold Schwarzenegger. He was an icon, a role model and, it was understood, very gay friendly.

(Joe Weider was much less so; when Bob Paris came out to him, he expected the man who had acted as a father to be sympathetic. Instead, Weider cut Paris off from any of his endorsements and competitions.)

The third cog in the wheel of the Terminator's brain is the culture of Hollywood. Despite the entertainment industry's intense ambivalence about gay themes and out-gay executives, show business has always been a safe haven for gay men.

So where does that leave Ah-nuld? Somewhere squarely in the middle, I suspect.

The man who loved to have the boys ogle him in the briefest of briefs obviously has a high comfort level around gay men. (Of lesbians, it must be admitted, his experience is probably akin to his opinion of women in general — sex slaves to his bidding. Schwarzenegger's unfortunate views about women are another outgrowth of the sexually charged bodybuilding scene.)

Certainly, Gray Davis went out of his way to institute several landmark policies. Most recently, he signed a domestic-partner bill that puts California nearly on the same status as Vermont and paves the way for a national referendum on civil unions.

Will Schwarzenegger let his GOP label influence his policies? Or will he simply cast aside the right-wing's anti-gay stridency and forge his own path?

The next few months should prove as fascinating as the wild election ride preceding them. But one thing's for sure: Unlike some liberal high-toned Democratic politicians, Schwarzenegger has had plenty of first-hand experience with us.

@ **Steve Weinstein** is editor of the New York Blade and can be reached at **sweinstein@nyblade.com**.

viewpoint STEPHEN FALLON

HIV-positive guys owe more to sex partners than assumptions about HIV status. If you know you're positive, you have an **obligation to tell**.

Don't ask? Still tell

A FORMER SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH commissioner was recently jailed for hiding his HIV status from his boyfriend, who became infected with the AIDS virus.

Ronald Hill's arrest has already triggered debates about who is to "blame" for HIV rates, which have risen among gay and bisexual men by 17 percent in the past three years, more than for any other group.

For months now, the mainstream press has paid disproportionate attention to supposedly pathological HIV-negative gay men who are said to haunt chat rooms and sex parties in a perverse quest to become "pozzed up."

Publicity about a former public health official who deliberately withheld his status will only give the media new gay demons.

In the early days of AIDS, gay activists chanted "Silence = Death." Well, too many gay men still aren't talking much today.

More HIV-positive gay men (42 percent) fail to disclose their HIV status to sex partners than do members of any other group. Two large studies have found that 13 to 16 percent even fail to disclose before having *unprotected* sex.

Non-disclosure rates with casual sex partners are six times higher than with primary partners, according to the Centers for Disease Control; in casual encounters, straights fail to disclose at similar rates.

HIV-positive men sometimes ask why they should have to shoulder the responsibility for bringing up HIV, when they're already forced to live with its negative consequences every day. They say that any guy who has sex without asking his partner's status (or without insisting on condoms even after asking) has willingly entered a risk arena. Caveat emptor.

I don't buy it. An HIV-negative man's duty to ask is *not* equal to an HIV-positive man's duty to disclose. Consider the odds.

The guy who doesn't ask is gambling that his partner is probably HIV-negative. It may be a foolish gamble, but even in most urban gay ghettos, the chances are pretty good that he'll be correct.

On the other hand, the diagnosed HIV-positive man knows with 100-percent certainty that he's infected. So not disclosing amounts to failing to protect a fellow human being.

Someone else's foolishness does not negate the universal human responsibility each of us has to protect one another. If someone steps off a curb without looking first, we don't watch the approaching bus knock him down and say, "Tough luck; he should have looked." We pull him back to the curb.

HIV-POSITIVE MEN HAVE THEIR reasons; they recognize that their desire to protect partners can come back to bite them. HIV-negative guys, including me, are notoriously hypocritical in dealing with positive guys.

When someone discloses that he's HIV-positive, too often we smile, say it doesn't matter, and then politely extricate ourselves from the sexual encounter, relationship, or even friendship. Until we stop imposing social excommunication on men who disclose, they will continue to hide their status.

Somewhere between full disclosure and premeditated denial, many HIV-positive men admit to non-disclosure by omission, rather than by commission. In one early study, men said that they wouldn't lie, but that if a partner does not ask their status, they felt no obligation to disclose because "in this day and age, they should know."

Others described giving hints to partners, but not declaring their status outright. The location for sex also influences non-disclosure. Guys told one researcher they feel less responsible if they go to a sauna, "because people go there to have sex so they should know."

How HIV-positive men perceive responsibility dictates how they will act. University of Washington researcher Rosemary Ryan asked 325 poz guys about their perceived responsibility for protecting a partner from HIV and other STDs.

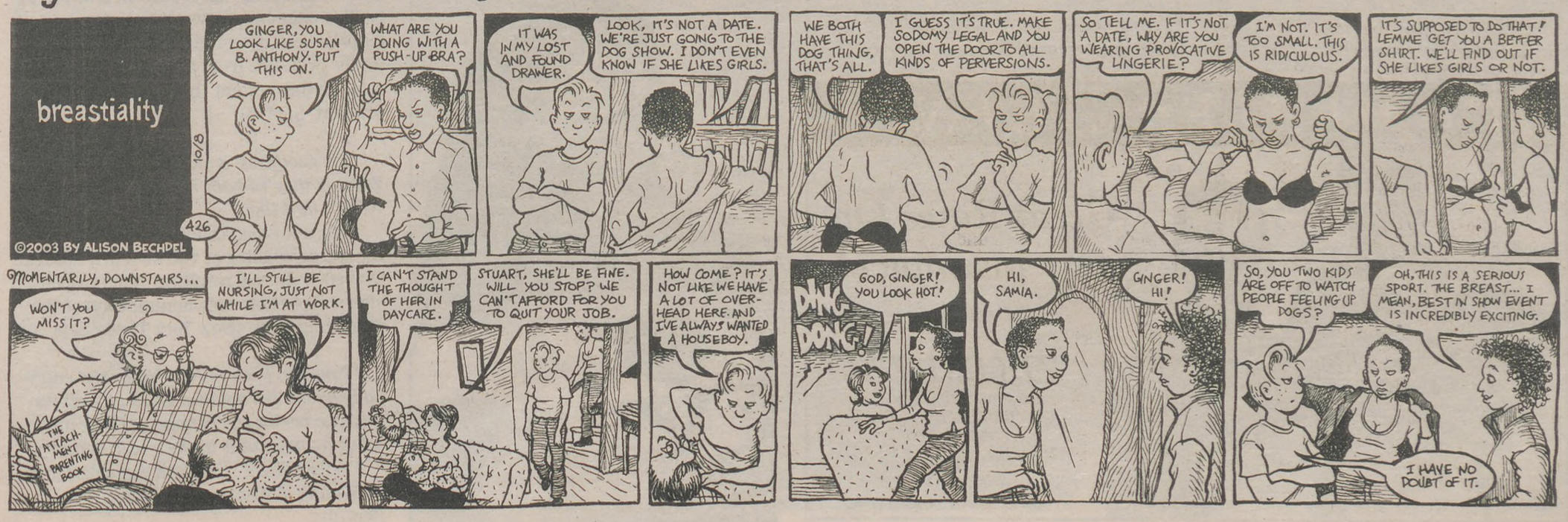
Those who felt high levels of responsibility were highly unlikely to put a partner at risk. Those expressing medium responsibility were eight times more likely to have unprotected sex. Guys who felt low responsibility — who believed that it was up to the other partner to protect himself — were 59 times more likely to put their partner at risk through unprotected sex without disclosure.

Somehow, in rejecting the narrow and punitive moral laws that constrict mainstream America, we seem to have forgotten to build our own standards of conduct to guide us through gay life. Disclosure should be expected, and people who bravely disclose their status deserve respect.

@ **Stephen Fallon**, Ph.D., runs a Florida-based consulting firm and can be reached at **sfallon@skills4.org**.

"OH, I PRESENT GAY *HISTORY MONTH* MATERIAL TO MY STUDENTS, BUT I DON'T *TEST* THEM ON IT. I'VE FOUND THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF PRESSURE ON 13-YEAR-OLD BOYS *NOT* TO GET A GOOD GRADE."

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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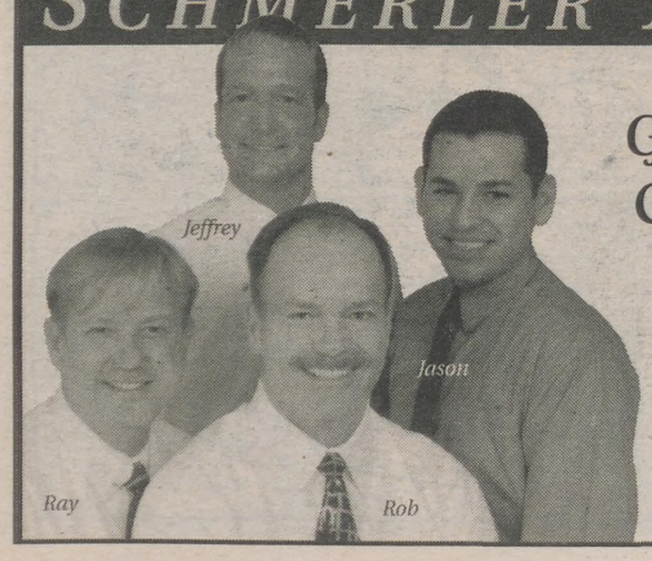

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"For more than four decades, I have had the great privilege of standing at the side of this remarkable man, and I will continue to do so during this very challenging time."

Siegfried Fischbacher, in a public statement on his professional and personal partner, **Roy Horn**, who was mauled by a tiger during a Las Vegas performance of the illusionist duo (USA Today, Oct. 6)

"Wish it wasn't illegal to kill fags out of innocent fun."

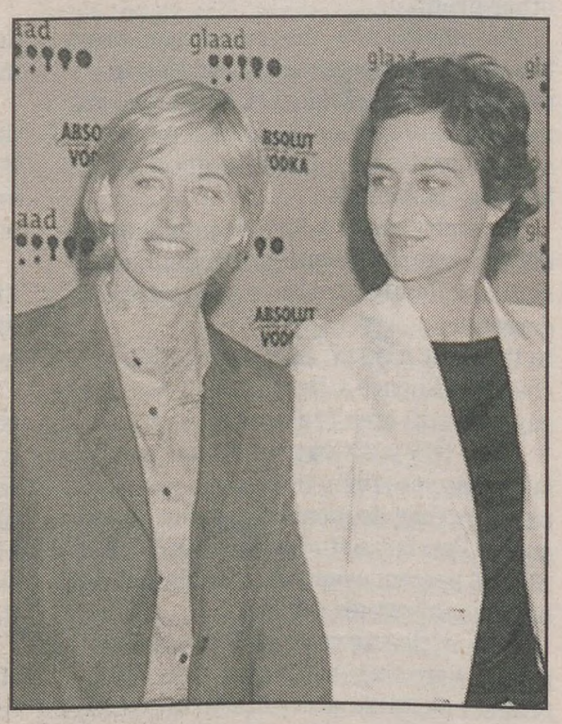
Michael Grissom, 18, of Thermopolis, Wyo., who was arrested for stalking and threatening a gay teenager (Associated Press, Aug. 29)

"Western films idolize sex, violence, murders and wars. Now they permit homosexual practices and accept religious leaders with openly gay lifestyles. They are very angry — especially their reporters, many of whom are homos — when we take legal action against these practices."

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, during a nationally televised speech recognizing the country's national holiday; homosexual acts are punishable by prison terms of up to 20 years in that country (365gay.com, Sept. 3)

"[Don't Ask, Don't Tell is] an injustice that cannot stand forever as a permanent stain on our national life and character. … Sooner or later, whether by court ruling or congressional mandate, this discrimination will end. On that day, America once again will have lived up to its promise — and we will all be the better for it."

Dr. Michael Rankin, a retired Navy captain and Vietnam combat veteran, in a column calling for the end of the U.S. military's discrimination against gays (Navy Times, Sept. 8)



"I'm not putting on a gown anytime soon. I was shopping for one, and the one I picked out Jennifer Lopez had already picked. I can't wear that now."

Ellen DeGeneres on her relationship with **Alexandra Hedison**, to lesbian gossip columnist Liz Smith (New York Post, Aug. 3)

"A reason not to hire homosexuals as teachers is that it puts the fox into the chicken coop. Male homosexuals, at least, like boys and are generally promiscuous. They should not be given the opportunity to satisfy their desires."

Indiana University business professor Eric Rasmusen, expressing on a university Web page his views on anti-gay employment discrimination; he agreed under pressure from administrators to remove the content (Indiana Daily Student, Sept. 5)

"My goodness, a man kissing a man. What if they've both been smoking? What's that like?"

Oleg, a Russian chauffer, when told about the recent wedding of two men in a Russian Orthodox church, resulting in the suspension and possible excommunication of the officiating priest (New York Times, Sept. 9)

"Now I'm back in New York, and everybody knows it's not who is the gay rapper but who isn't a gay rapper. … There are a lot of homosexuals in the music industry."

Controversial New York radio disc jockey **Wendy Williams** (Associated Press, Sept. 9)

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Individual results may vary.

KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

Safety Information

Taking KALETRA with certain drugs could crreate potential for serious and/or life-threatening effects. KALETRA should not be taken with Halcion®, Hismanal®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Rythmol®, Seldane®, Tambocor™, Versed®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, ergot derivatives or products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription, and herbal preparations you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist. KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which can be fatal, have been reported. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity were: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

*Based on IMS HEALTH National Prescription Audit Plus for Protease Inhibitor Class. July 2002–April 2003

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June 2003

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(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

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

Patient Information
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Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
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Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD_4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- **Other Special Considerations:**

  KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

  Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about 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 HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- *If you have liver problems:* If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- *If you have diabetes:* Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- *If you have hemophilia:* Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

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.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Ref.: 03-5239-R8

Revised: January, 2003

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DADDY'S CAR: Fresh crop of sedans show four-door vehicles are no longer middle of the road. **Page 26**

QUIET TYPE: Shy country singer **Shelby Lynne** prefers to let her music speak for itself. **Page 17**

Exploring a new repertoire

Gay countertenor joins Houston Grand Opera for 'Caesar'

By JASON VICTOR SERINUS

DAVID DANIELS BUILT HIS UNPRECEDENTED INTERNATIONAL career as an operatic countertenor on the rare technical assurance and emotional truth that he brings to the rapid coloratura fireworks of Handel, Vivaldi and other baroque composers.

But he is equally prized for the honeyed, round tones that distinguish his introverted, legato singing. Nowhere can the beauty of Daniels' instrument and depth of his interpretations be appreciated more than on his latest CD 'A Quiet Thing,' which features 19 songs that consistently eschew showiness for intimacy.

The internationally recognized gay countertenor — he came out as one of the only openly gay singers in classical music a few years ago — leads the cast of Houston Grand Opera's "Julius Caesar" as the tragic title character in a much anticipated performance Oct. 30 through Nov. 16.

Daniels tours the world showcasing his voice, so the Houston appearance is one of the few U.S. cities on the American's schedule this year.

To prepare for the Houston performance of this sublime talent, listeners can hear the range and emotion Daniels brings to any material on "A Quiet Thing."

On the CD, Daniels Australian guitarist Craig Ogden accompanies Daniels. The pair assays a varied program ranging from contemporary American songs to classic European fare.

In a telephone interview with Houston Voice, Daniels explains the genesis of "A Quiet Thing."

"From the beginning of my career, I've tried to open up the doors of repertoire for my voice type, broadening ideas as to what's possible for the countertenor voice," he says. "Originally, the disc was conceived to consist solely of American songs, but we changed the idea because the Virgin label is based in Paris. The American songs I was really passionate about were the ones I included: "Beautiful Dreamer" and "Shenandoah," which I like especially well with guitar.

It's most important to Daniels to maintain a sense of musical integrity, he says.

Please see **DAVID DANIELS** on **Page 21**

The combination of songs on 'A Quiet Thing,' the latest CD from gay countertenor **David Daniels**, shows off the internationally acclaimed singer's range of tone and emotion.

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music ARJAN TIMMERMANS

Country crooner **embraces gay fans**, wears heart on her sleeve in new album not dependent on mainstream success.

Loving Shelby Lynne

COUNTRY CROONER SHELBY LYNNE doesn't like to discuss her music. She'd much rather just perform while wearing her heart on her sleeve.

"I am not afraid to open myself up in front of an audience and sing about personal things," Lynne says during a recent interview. "I just have to sing. It is something that I love to do."

Last month, Lynne released her new album "Identity Crises," an emotional tour de force that has her sharing some her most personal emotions. Songs such as "I'm Alive" (about an ex-lover), "If I Were Smart" (about a friend with cancer) and "Telephone" (a song about regret) expose the singer's finer feelings with her raspy vocals and acoustic guitar.

The album departs from her previous "Love, Shelby," which failed to find commercial success. Produced by rock producer Glen Ballard, Lynne sounded more mainstream than before, much to the dismay of her loyal fans. "I hate it when people compare records," Lynne says. "I am very proud of 'Love, Shelby.' I have no regrets. It was a product of the moment and at that moment it felt right."

"Identity Crisis" will touch a cord with many for its earnest songwriting and heartfelt emotion. Lynne has been through the high and lows to understand life's complexity. At the age of 17, she witnessed her father shoot her mother and then turn the gun on himself. Lynne took charge of the household, taking care of her younger sister Allison Moorer (who has built a successful music career of her own).

LYNNE EVENTUALLY MOVED TO Nashville to pursue a career in country music. A lofty record deal with Epic and a 1991 coveted CMA Award for Best Emerging Artist was not enough to please the young artist. She wanted more artistic control of her career and moved to several other record companies in the years to follow.

In 2000, she received a big break when she signed with Island Records to work on "I Am Shelby Lynne" with Bill Botrell, mostly know for his work with Sheryl Crowe.

The record was both a commercial and artistic success, winning Lynne a coveted Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 2001.

"That was such a humble experience," Lynne says. "You put your heart out there and if people show appreciation for what you do, it is a great feeling."

Some have argued that Lynne's Grammy win forced her to create a follow-up record that would fit the taste of a mainstream audience. But she denies any such pressure. "People can think whatever. The fact that 'Love, Shelby' was not a big success did not mean I sold out," Lynne says. "That record is very dear to me. Artists should be able to change, progress and evolve."

Shelby Lynne released her new album, 'Identity Crisis,' last month, sharing some of her most personal emotions. (Photo courtesy of Phil Poynter)

LYNNE CHOSE A DIFFERENT APproach when working on "Identity Crisis," released on Capitol Records. She spent a lot of time alone in her house in Palm Springs, Calif., close to relatives. Her appreciation for life, love and family compelled her to write songs and keep things very pure and simple, she says.

"Ideas started to flow by just being alone and being able to be really creative," Lynne says. "I played most of the instruments and we recorded most of the songs in one take with just me, a bassist and a sound engineer in the room."

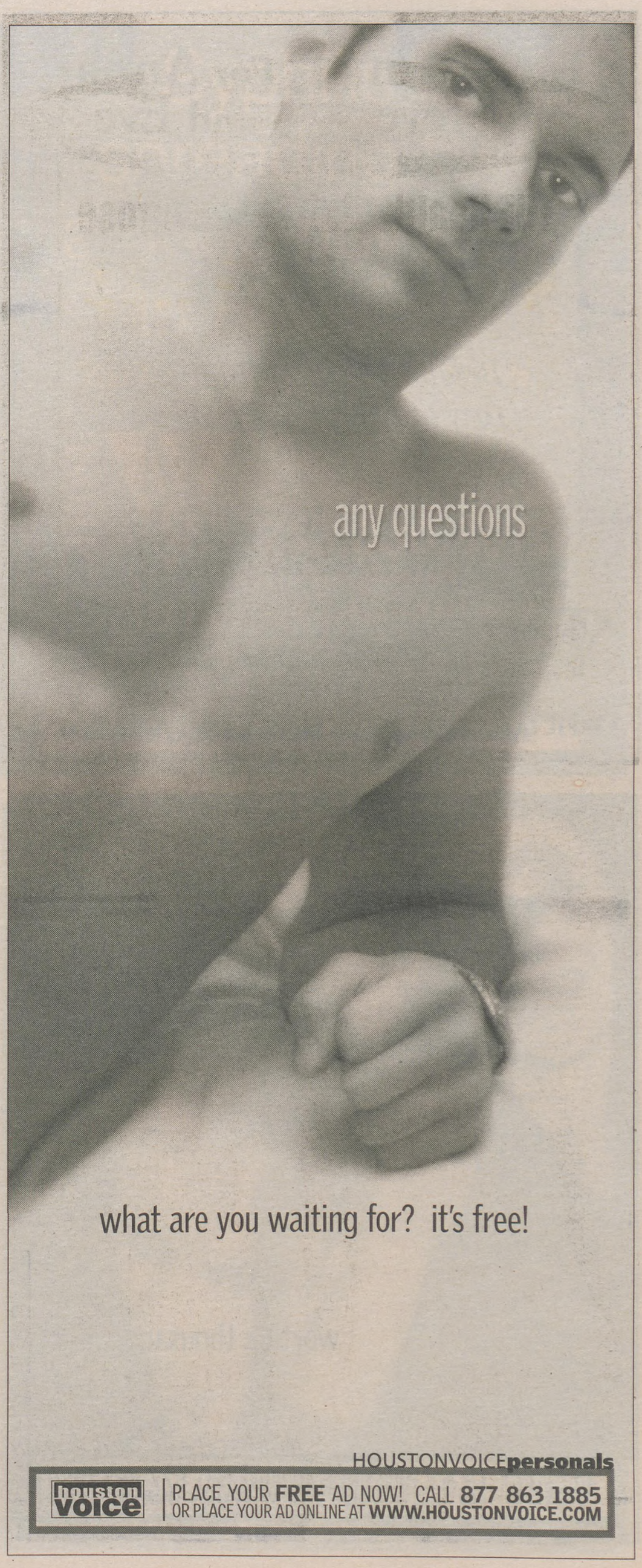
The finished product fulfilled Lynne's expectations, she says.

Over the years, the Alabama-born Lynne has built a strong gay fan base that appreciates her in-your-face lyrics and authentic appearance. Lynne says she is thankful to anybody who listens to her music and comes out to see her perform, including gays.

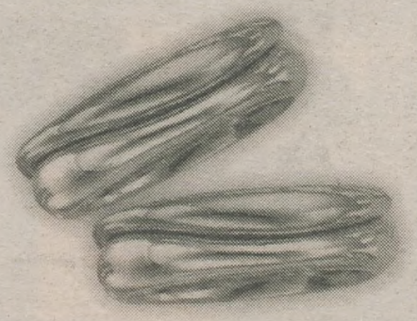
"I appreciate all fans for their support," she says. "I am just doing my thing because I love music and it is great others are feeling it as well."

MORE INFO

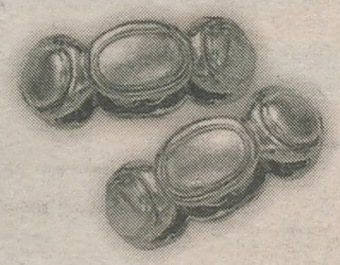
Shelby Lynne
'Identity Crisis'
Capitol Records
www.shelbylynne.com



For Adam and Steve



For Anna and Eve



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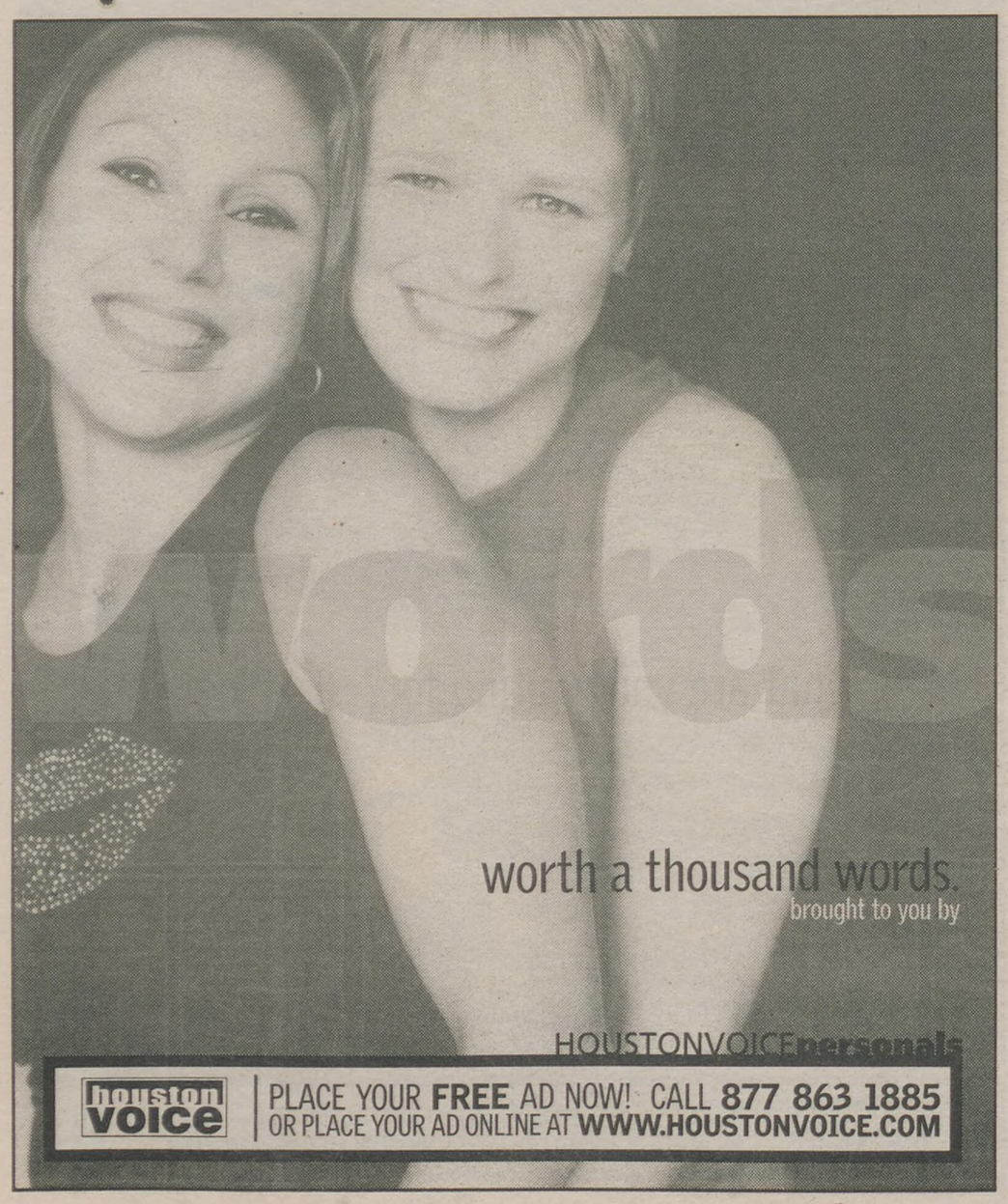

film STEVE WARREN

Audiences looking for **romance, laughs** won't be disappointed by two new releases, as long as they **jettison certain standards.**

Spaniards love, Americans rock

"KM. 0" IS AN ENSEMBLE PIECE involving 14 Spaniards looking for love, sex, marriage or some combination. In the course of an evening they come together in different ways at the same place, Kilometer Zero in the Puerta del Sol in the center of Madrid.

Through coincidences and other twists of fate, many find what they're looking for.

Pedro (Carlos Fuentes), a 21-year-old film student, recently arrived in town where he's supposed to stay with Silvia (Merce Pons), a friend of his sister's and an aspiring actress. Pedro mistakenly goes home with Tatiana (Elisa Matilla), a cheap hooker who is there to meet Sergio (Alberto San Juan), a virgin who wants experience before his wedding.

Left alone, Sergio goes for a drink with Maximo (Armando del Rio), a gay man. Silvia spies Gerardo (Georges Corraface), a theater director who could make her career.

Marga (Concha Velasco), a bored, wealthy housewife, answers an ad for an escort and hooks up with Miguel (Jesus Cabrero), whose gay roommate Benjamin (Miguel Garcia) is mistaken by Bruno (Victor Ullate Jr.), a dancer, for the man he met on the Internet.

Many of them wind up in a bar, waited on by Mario (Tristan Ulloa), who is being pressured to marry by Amor (Silke), whose sister Roma (Cora Tiedra) also loves Mario. A police officer (Roberto Alamo) enters the story late but catches up fast.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A CASE OF SO MANY characters, so little time, but we actually get to know them all pretty well and share whatever happiness they find.

Written and directed by Yolanda Garcia Serrano and Juan Luis Iborra, "Km. 0" is a big improvement over their "Amor de Hombre," which was popular on the festival circuit a few years ago.

Despite the rocky road that leads there, the film's ultimate happiness may be too much for fashionably cynical viewers, but there's enough misery in real life.

In reviewing feel-good movies, certain standards have to be jettisoned as long as one leaves the theater with an ear-to-ear grin.

IN "THE SCHOOL OF ROCK," FOR instance, one must overlook the "artistic license" of impossible (and invisible) soundproofing, a control freak principal who goes weeks without checking on the classroom of an eccentric substitute teacher, and an instantaneous mass wardrobe change for the Big Number.

"The School of Rock" stars Jack Black, a

Victor Ullate Jr. (top) and **Miguel Garcia** in the gay-friendly 'Km. 0.' (Photo courtesy TLA Releasing)

shameless dynamo who is probably the closest thing to John Belushi in entertainment today — right down to the monogram. He carries on outrageously and often inventively, virtually demanding that you love him.

Black plays Dewey Finn, a failed rock musician who poses as a substitute teacher at Horace Green, "the best elementary school in the state," run by uptight Principal Rosalie Mullins (Joan Cusack). There he gets the brainstorm of turning his 10-year-old students into a rock band in time for an upcoming Battle of the Bands (which conveniently takes place during school hours).

Of course rock and roll is only the vehicle for giving these pampered preppies self-esteem, or whatever else they need, and making Dewey grow up just a little bit. Billy (Brian Falduto), who volunteers to be "band stylist," is gayer at 10 than I was at 30. Mike White ("Chuck & Buck"), who also wrote the screenplay, plays Dewey's best friend, who's under the thumb of girlfriend Sarah Silverman. If White is going to play a straight man, it's going to be a whipped straight man.

A rare commercial venture for brilliant but independent director Richard Linklater, "School of Rock" rhymes with "rule of schlock," and you can feel your strings being pulled and your buttons being pushed.

But see if it doesn't send you out smiling and believing, "One good rock show can change the world." Let's hope one good rock movie can do the same.

MORE INFO

'Km. 0'
✪✪✪
Queer Quotient: Co-writer/director Juan Luis Iborra is gay, as are a fair share of his characters.

'The School of Rock'
✪✪✪
Queer Quotient: The gay kid is what he is and learns to use his gifts as his classmates do theirs. He's good for a few laughs but there's not a hint of homophobia.

books KEVIN RIORDAN

Famous for 'Heather Has Two Mommies,' **Leslea Newman** shows diverse talents in new collection of **best short stories**.

Newman's own

IF THERE'S A BOOK ABOUT PROFESsional versatility, Leslea Newman probably wrote it. She's nothing if not prolific: Besides "Heather Has Two Mommies," which helped make her reputation, she's authored or edited 40 other books, including novels, poetry collections, children's fiction, and anthologies.

And she won't turn 50 for another couple years.

Nevertheless, "I think of myself as quite lazy," Newman says. "I don't think I write as much as I should."

Speaking recently from her home in Northampton, Ma., the affable author talked about her latest book, "The Best Short Stories of Leslea Newman." It features an insightfully appreciative introduction by Helene Meyers, a professor of English at Southwestern University, and 20 stories culled from the six books of short fiction Newman has published since 1988.

Among the highlights are the haunting "A Letter To Harvey Milk," the equally haunting "Bashert," and "With Anthony Gone," a story that manages to say something new about the impact of AIDS on the world.

Also included are several wisecrack-packed "Flash" stories (as in Flash, the significant other in wry tales with titles like "A Femme Shops Till Her Butch Drops" and "The Butch That I Marry"), and "The Babka Sisters," in which the author deftly re-creates a lost bit of lesbian life.

Topical, sexy and frequently laugh-out-loud funny, "The Best Short Stories of Leslea Newman" is the work of an artist at the exhilirating peak of her powers.

"It was very joyful, actually, to spend some time going back and rereading everything," Newman said.

Choosing the material wasn't difficult, either. The author, who reads her work regularly before audiences across the country, said she has an intuitive sense of "which stories are the crowd-pleasers."

NEWMAN LIKENS A SHORT STORY TO "dropping in on a character's life."

"It's very immediate — and then you leave," she says.

No wonder readers often ask whether she plans to write sequels for certain stories. "It's not my decision," she explains. "The character decides."

Although the majority of Newman's characters are lesbians, she also creates convincing straight women, gay men, bisexuals and teenagers. "It's always very interesting to write about characters who are different," she says. "What I reach for is an emotional connection with the character."

With wit and compassion, **Leslea Newman** explores topics ranging from lesbian relationships to AIDS and cancer in a new anthology of her short fiction. (Photo courtesy Leslea Newman)

The collection illustrates the ongoing evolution of Newman's work. Newer stories reflect the fact that "I am really reclaiming my Judaism," says Newman, who includes a helpful glossary of Yiddish and Hebrew words in the collection.

And many of the stories offer an almost documentary-like sense of time and place; they're vivid slices of very particular kinds of lesbian lives.

"I do feel like I'm an eyewitness to our community," Newman says.

Readers familiar with her work won't be surprised that the collection is also very funny.

"I have used humor all my life ... mostly as a defense," says Newman, who was "the class wit" at Jericho High School on Long Island in the early 1970s. "I just have always been funny. I actually can make myself laugh out loud."

But wit doesn't simply entertain. Newman notes that it enables her to address "very, very serious things" in her work, and indeed, a welcome dose of humor deepens the impact and the resonance of stories such as "Keeping a Breast."

Currently, Newman keeps busy with what she describes as almost "too many projects," including forthcoming children's books with titles such as "The Boy Who Cried Fabulous" and "A Fire Engine for Ruthie."

Is it difficult for her to juggle books and genres?

"Writing is writing," Newman said. "I really let the writing lead me."

MORE INFO

'The Best Short Stories of Leslea Newman'
Alyson
301 pages, $14.95
www.lesleanewman.com

Syphilis is spreading fast among gay men in Houston!

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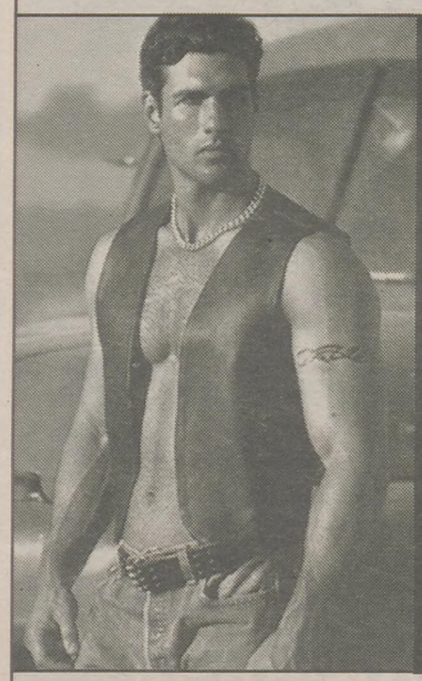

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dish There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

While the famous **talk show host** is giving out her money to charity and Broadway, she may want to save some for **court costs**.

Ring around Rosie

LESBIAN COMEDIAN, ACTIVIST, PRODUCER, and former talk show host **ROSIE O'DONNELL**, famous for her charitable giving, is putting her John Hancock on checks left and right these days.

At the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's 14th annual Leadership Awards ceremony last month, O'Donnell, who received an award, cut a check for $100,000 to the organization.

"What does it take to raise a million dollars? Ten millionaires, who will never know the money is missing from their bank account, to stand up and give $100,000," O'Donnell said from the stage.

"Tonight, in honor of Clapernia, David and Antonio, I'm going to give the first $100,000 and ask if there are nine other people who can, please do it," she said referencing her fellow award winners trans activist **CALPERNIA ADDAMS**, "Frasier" co-creator **DAVID LEE**, and Los Angeles City Council member **ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA**.

O'Donnell shouldn't be counting her pennies before they hatch. She shelled out $10 million producing the Broadway version of **BOY GEORGE**'s hit musical "Taboo," which opens Oct. 24 on Broadway.

O'Donnell is also set to appear in New York court Oct. 28 with Gruner + Jahr, the company that published her magazine "Rosie," according to the Associated Press. O'Donnell left the magazine last year over a lack of editorial control. Now, O'Donnell and G+J are suing each other for breach of contract. If G+J wins, it could put a crimp in O'Donnell's deep pockets.

In related Rosie news, the AP also says that Democratic presidential candidate **JOHN KERRY** is asking for money to fight the sale of racist and antigay t-shirts at a college Republican convention.

One shirt featured a picture of O'Donnell and her partner **KELLI CARPENTER** with the line "Mr. (?) and Mrs. (?) Rosie O'Donnell." Maybe O'Donnell should ask for royalties to help pay her lawyers.

THE BRITISH DON'T LIKE LESBIANS. Okay, that's not true. But they don't like two fictional lesbians who are very dear to Americans' hearts.

Dish is speaking of Willow (**ALYSON HANNIGAN**) the lesbian witch from "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" who hooked up with fellow lesbian witch Tara (**AMBER BENSON**) and later with slayer Kennedy (**IYARI LIMON**).

Rosie O'Donnell heads to court Oct. 28 to settle a dispute with her former magazine publisher.

BBC reports that the show got admonished by the British Broadcasting Standards Commission for "Buffy's" lesbian characters and its violence. The show airs on BBC Channel 2 at 6:45 p.m., a time when children are still ensconced in front of the telly.

The network claimed that the violence was "cartoon-like" (it is) and that the lesbian story-line is a long-running one, which doesn't show graphic scenes.

Alyson Hannigan and **Iyari Limon**

Sure there is violence, rape, and gays in reality, but when was the last time a Brit met a red-headed lesbian witch who's best friend is a hot chick who kills demons and beds a vampire?

SINCE ALL THE COFFEE TABLES IN all the dungeons in the world were looking a little sparse, finally there's a new magazine to put on them for your company.

INSTIGATOR features hot photos, erotic stories and drawings, a bit of "how to," and a dash of comedy, all aimed at the gay male whips and chains set.

And for all those who think they don't want a magazine documenting the "BEST body bag scene ever!!!," as one interviewee says, think again. Upon seeing the magazine, all of Dish's (supposedly) prudish gay male coworkers certainly picked it up for a look-see.

@ Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.

out on the bayou

Being gay affects countertenor's work

DAVID DANIELS continued from Page 15

"I wanted it to be a very intimate disc, accessible not only to the people who are fans of mine but also to people who don't necessarily come to opera and classical music," Daniels says.

But it isn't just a collection of easy listening classical songs, he notes.

"There's substance to it," Daniels assures. "I'm not going to sing music that I can't bring something unique to."

DANIELS ACCOMPLISHED HIS GOALS on "A Quiet Thing." John Kander's title track opens the recital and is an ideal vehicle for Daniels' honeyed tone. The song also establishes the feeling of relaxation and peace that deepens with the youthful freshness of Alec Wilder's gorgeous "Blackberry Winter" and Leonard Bernstein's gentle "So Pretty."

To lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, the Bernstein consists of a dialogue between a child and his teacher. The child questions the reasons we war against people far away, being told "they must die for peace, you understand."

"But they're so pretty, so pretty" responds the child. "I don't understand."

The song certainly strikes a chord, but Daniels explains that he chose it before the Iraq invasion scenario unfolded.

Opera singer **David Daniels** set the classical music world on fire when he came out as gay and single-handedly brought the countertenor voice back to opera. Daniels' new CD and upcoming Houston performances are a chance to see what all the fuss is about.

"I didn't have a political subtext in mind," he says. "I thought it was appropriate for the boyish, white quality the countertenor voice can bring to it."

Daniels next sings three Spanish songs from the 15th and 16th Centuries. The high tessitura of Francisco de la Torre's "Pampano verde" especially benefits from the countertenor's soaring soulfulness and perfect legato.

Ogden's well-recorded guitar punctuates vocal phrases with an ideally artful smoothness. And Daniels' high note on Gabriel Mena's "A la cara" is one to remember.

After familiar works by Dowland and Purcell, Daniels sings three gorgeous Bellini songs. I often consider the songs of Bellini and Donizetti inferior to their operatic achievements, but with a singer of Daniels' caliber, these songs shine like gems.

The CD could have done without the treacle of Bernstein's "A Simple Song," and the Bach/Gounod "Ave Maria" should have been sung a half-step higher. But the simple beauty of Foster's "Beautiful Dreamer," the classic "Shenandoah," and Martini's "Plaisir d'amour" provide a welcome conclusion to a gorgeous disc.

DANIELS IS QUITE FORTHCOMING about the direct connection between his coming out as gay and his ability to tap into the heart of the music he sings.

"I think my sexuality and the fact that I'm comfortable with and love who I am allows me to be a deeper, more affecting artist than if I was completely wrecked about my sexuality and deep in the closet," he says. "A big portion of who I am is a gay man ... It is a huge part of what makes me the artist that I am. I think anyone who says that is bullshit is really deceiving themselves.

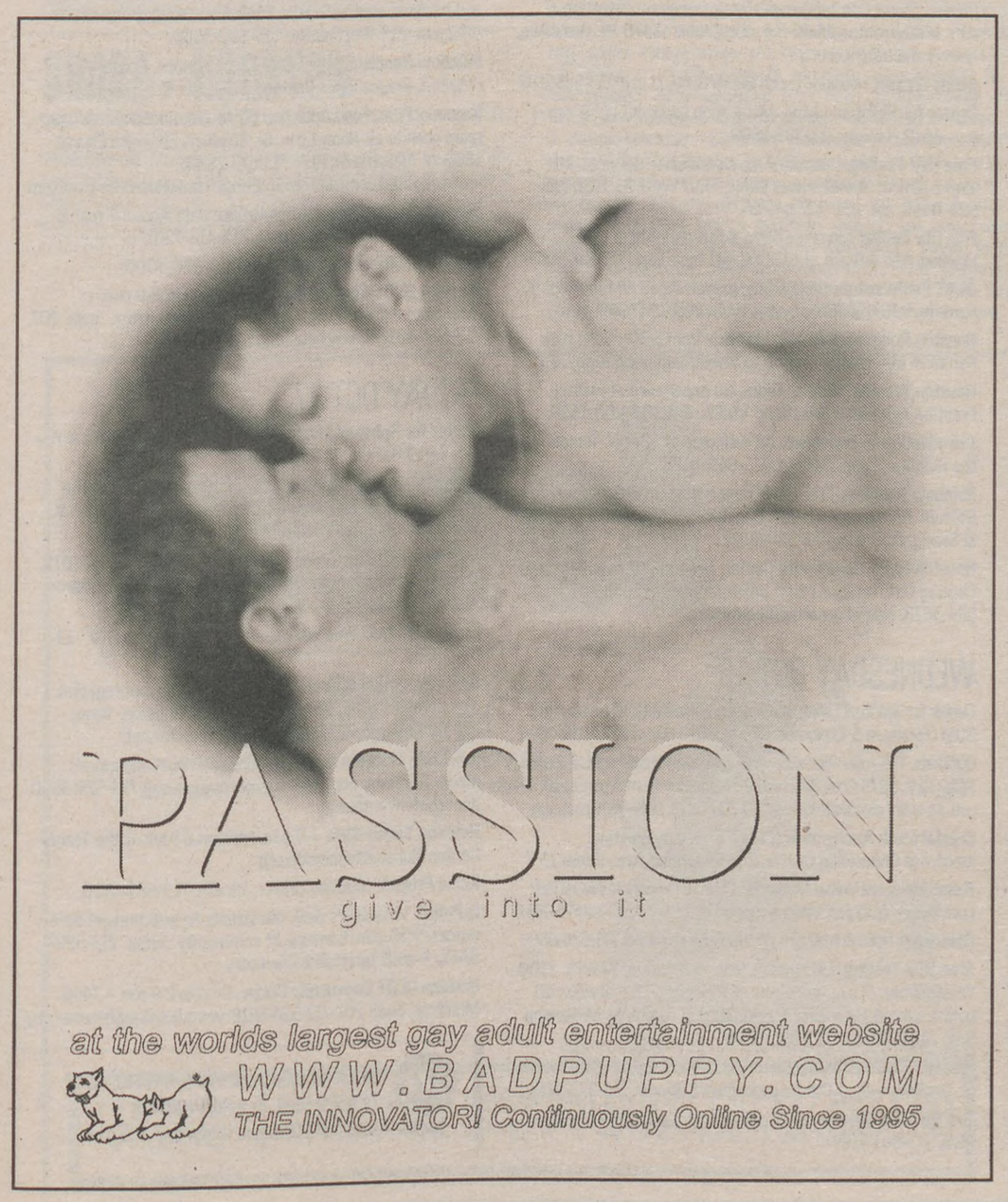
Being able to be comfortable with his sexual orientation allows Daniels to be much more in touch with the emotions in his material, he says.

"If someone is uptight and tensed up, I think the audience sees that in their performing," Daniels says. "Sixty Percent of all operas done today are made possible by gay men. It's just that nobody talks about it."

MORE INFO

'A Quiet Thing'
David Daniels
Virgin Classics 2003
$18.95

David Daniels in 'Julius Caesar'
Oct. 30 - Nov. 16
Houston Grand Opera
713-228-6737
www.houstongrandopera.org



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community calendar

SATURDAY OCT. 11

All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espirtual 7 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-861-9149.

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 1-4 a.m.

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

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. at Viviana's. 713-830-3000.

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

Lambda Center. Alcoholics Anonymous. 11:30 a.m. Eye Opener Group, 8 p.m. Saturday Night Live, 9:30 p.m. Willing Ones Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

Montrose Soccer Club. 10 a.m. practice. Woodrow Wilson School, Fairview and Yupon. New players welcome, but beginners not currently being admitted. 713-862-9491. http://geocities.com/montrosesoccer. E-mail: montrosesoccer@yahoo.com.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com

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

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • CATS (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) board meeting, 2 p.m. 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

SUNDAY OCT. 12

L.O.A.F. Lesbians Over Age Fifty meets every second Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818.

S.I.S.T.E.R.S. Sharing Inner Strength Through Encouragement and Realistic Support is an African-American lesbian support group that meets every second Sunday of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818.

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

Center for Spiritual Living. Services at 11 a.m., for children at 10:50 a.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808. The center also has commitment ceremonies, metaphysical bookstore and classes.

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

Community of Kindred Spirits in Beaumont. Worship at 6 p.m. 1575 Spindletop Ave., Beaumont, Texas. 409-813-2055. E-mail: cksrev3@netzero.net

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

Emerson Unitarian Church. Adult education, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. Lunch at noon. www.emersonhou.org.

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

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch at 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 9 p.m.-midnight at Club Inergy. 713-830-3000.

Gay Bowling Leagues. 7 p.m. Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. 713-861-1187.

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

GLOBAL. Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual Alliance. University of Houston GLBT student group meeting. 2 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.uh.edu/~global. E-mail: global@bayou.uh.edu.

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 11 a.m. service. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leo1@easttex.net.

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

H.A.T.C.H. Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets 6-9 p.m. For meeting information, call 713-529-3590. www.hatchyouth.org.

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

Lambda Center. Alcoholics Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. Came to Believe Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. 10 a.m. service. 3333 Fannin, Suite 106. 713-528-6756.

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 281-298-2780.

Resurrection MCC. Services, 9 and 11 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School, 10 a.m. Children's service, 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.

St. Patrick's Reformed Catholic Mission. Sunday Mass at noon. Holy Unions available. Group meets at the Hair Express, 3310 Delaware, Beaumont, Texas 77703. 409-781-8152. E-mail: bwatson1@gt.RR.com.

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

Sunday Brunch. For HIV-positive men. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul, 713-880-0690. e-mail: PoznBuff@aol.com.

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

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion, 9 a.m. Service, 11:15 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

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

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

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • GLBT Community Church with Rev. Melissa Wood: Bible study, 10-10:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.geocities.com/glbtcc • GLOBAL meeting, 6 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

MONDAY OCT. 13

HRC PAC. The Human Rights Campaign Political Action Committee meets the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m. Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818.

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in),11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

Free HIV Testing. 4-8 p.m. at All Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. Health clinic with free testing for HIV and syphilis. 713-869-7878.

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 9 a.m.-noon at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Bricks, 617 Fairview. 713-830-3000.

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

Gay Bowling Leagues. Women's league. 6:45 p.m. Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarnef Drive. 713-861-1187.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leo1@easttex.net.

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

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

Lambda Center. Alcoholics Anonymous. 8 p.m. Beginners' Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

Montrose Clinic. Offers weekly peer support groups for gay and bisexual men with HIV. Spanish speaking group meets, 6:30 p.m. 215 Westheimer. 713-830-3050. Grupo de Apoyo para Latinos gay y bisexuales VIH positivos. Lunes 6:30. Para mas informacion llama al 713-830-3025.

Queer Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1.

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

TUESDAY OCT. 14

PRIDE. Pride Committee of Houston general meeting, 7 p.m. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray Ave. www.pridehouston.org

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

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in),11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight at Club Houston. Also 4-8 p.m. at 611 Club, 611 Hyde Park. 713-830-3000.

GLBT Pentecostals. Bible study, prayer, 7 p.m. in the Heights. For info: 936-931-3761; e-mail: www.Wgb1947@cs.com.

Houston Roughneck Rugby. Practice from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

Introduction to Buddhism. All welcome at 634 W. Temple in the Heights. 7 p.m. Carlton, 713-862-8129.

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

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

WEDNESDAY OCT. 15

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in),11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; SOM Discussion & Exploration, 7 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

OutSkate. This roller Rink skate club hosts Gay Skate Night at Zenith Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road every Wednesday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. $5 entry plus skate rental. 281-933-5818, Dobie367@aol.com.

Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA). 8:15 p.m. meeting. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond Ave., Room 15.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Support Network Pot Luck Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Various support groups, 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

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

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Mary's, 1100 Westheimer; 9 p.m.-midnight at Ripcord, 715 Fairview; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's, 2517 Ralph; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin. 713-830-3000.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

Gay Bowling Leagues. 6:30 p.m. Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. 713-861-1187.

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leo1@easttex.net.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal, 7:30-9:30 p.m. 1307 Yale. 713-862-1488.

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

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in, 2-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 7-9 p.m. • Houston Pride Band rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

THURSDAY OCT. 16

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in),11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

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

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. Also 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Gallery Medical Clinic, 5900 North Freeway, and Club Toyz from 9 p.m.-midnight. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.- midnight at Brazos River Bottom (BRB), 2400 Brazos, and Cousins, 817 Fairview. 713-830-3000.

Free HIV Testing. 4-8 p.m. at All Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. Health clinic with free testing for HIV and syphilis. 713-869-7878.

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021. Web site: http://home.swbell.net/larathon/houfr.htm. E-mail: larathon@swbell.net.

Gay Bowling Leagues. Luci Duos. 9 p.m. Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarnef Drive. 713-861-1187.

GLOBAL. Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston-Central Campus. Weekly meeting, 6 p.m. e-mail: nguyen0023@hotmail.com.

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

Houston Roughneck Rugby. Practice from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

Lake Livingston GLBT Support Group. 7 p.m. dinner and discussion. Grace Assembly Church, 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leo1@easttex.net.

Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds Skating Rink. www.neosoft.com/~lrsc. 713-523-9620.

Montrose Clinic. Offers weekly peer support groups for gay and bisexual men with HIV. English speaking group meets, 6:30 p.m. 215 Westheimer 713-830-3050.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. No partner required. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Recovery From Food Addiction (RFA). Meeting for 12-step program open to all. Noon-1 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama St. RFA: 713-673-2848. www.geocities.com/rfa77235/. E-mail: rfaworldservice@aol.com.

Spanish Charla Conversation Group. Café Agora, 7 p.m. E-mail charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.

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

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop in 2-9 p.m. • "Mending and Stitching," 2 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

FRIDAY OCT. 17

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in),11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack, 2915 San Jacinto; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's and at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

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

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leo1@easttex.net.

H.A.T.C.H. Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets 7-10 p.m. For meeting information, call 713-529-3590. www.hatchyouth.org.

Houston Tennis Club. 7-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. Houstontennisclub.org

Kolbe Project. Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

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

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WESTBURY $69,000 charming 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath patio townhome in landscaped courtyard. Decorator colors throughout. Call David at (713) 283-0843. Agent.

RENT / HOUSTON

MONTROSE Small quiet complex. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment for $800 overlooking courtyard. 1 bedroom, 1 bath loft style for $650. Call David at (713) 283-0843. Agent.

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WESTBURY 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath patio townhome for $1,100. Many decorator touches throughout. Call David at (713) 283-0843. Agent.

WESTBURY Just outside loop. 1 BR, 1 BA, WD, faces quiet courtyard. $550/mo + elec & dep. Call (713) 721-0763.

SHARE / HOUSTON

MONTROSE (Audobon Pl) Older GWM, NS, no drugs, share furn 2 BR apt, priv patio, clean, quiet, ground flr, Washteria 4 blocks, street prkg only, $275/mo incl utils & local phone use. Interview at local coffee shop before seeing apt. Leave call back (713) 521-1712.

NEAR MED CENTER Priv BR/BA, kit & laundry priv. quiet neighborhood. Mature, stable F preferred. Smoker OK. (713) 291-4255. Murielsplace@aol.com.

WESTHEIMER / OLD FARM GWM, 30's, NS, no drugs, share furn 2 BR/BA. Many amens. $460/mo + utils. (713) 789-0974.

COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

ANNOUNCE YOUR UNION The Houston Voice is proud to announce the addition of a "Commitment Ceremonies" category to our Classified listings. When making arrangements for your Union, don't forget to include the most important aspect of all...announcing the date. Publishing your union is easy & simple. Call (877) 863-1885 ext 223 to put the finishing touches on your ceremony.

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EMPLOYMENT

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE The Houston Voice, the region's GLBT media leader, is seeking an advertising account executive. You'll be responsible for all phases of the sales process: qualifying; cold-calling; prospect development; conceptualizing, planning & delivering sales presentations; writing proposals, negotiating contracts & closing new business. At least one year of print or on-line advertising sales experience preferred, but not necessary. We offer a challenging & exciting opportunity in a fast-paced, goal-oriented (yet fun) environment. We offer competitive compensation; specific training & a comprehensive benefits package including health/dental/life insurance, generous paid holidays, vacation & more. If you have a proven track record in sales, are results-driven & want to help build a newspaper that has a positive impact on your community, we want to hear from you. Send cover letter and resume to: General Manager, The Houston Voice, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006. Fax: (713) 529-9531. E-mail: demerich@houstonvoice.com.

FT / PT OUTREACH WORKER NEEDED Must be able to work nights. Will be recruiting participants for an HIV study on the streets of Montrose, (713) 520-8928.

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PT ADMIN ASSISTANT The Houston Voice, the region's GLBT media leader, is seeking a PT administrative assistant. If you're a self-starter who is organized, accustomed to multi-tasking & proficient in Microsoft Word & Excel, we'd like to hear more about you. We offer a dynamic environment, excellent compensation, flexible part-time hours (minimum 20 hours per week) & the opportunity for advancement. Send cover letter & resume to: General Manager, The Houston Voice, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006. Fax: (713) 529-9531. E-mail: demerich@houstonvoice.com.

SOUTHERN VOICE
seeks a PT graphic designer. The position requires skill in Macintosh systems, Quark 4.0, Photoshop 6.0 and Illustrator. Experience with newspaper/magazine page layout pre-ferred. Must be self-motivated and comfortable with strict deadlines. Southern Voice is an equal opportunity employer. Send resume (no phone calls, please) to: Southern Voice, Human Resources; 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D Atlanta, GA 30306. Fax: 404-876-2709 / e-mail: hr@sovo.com

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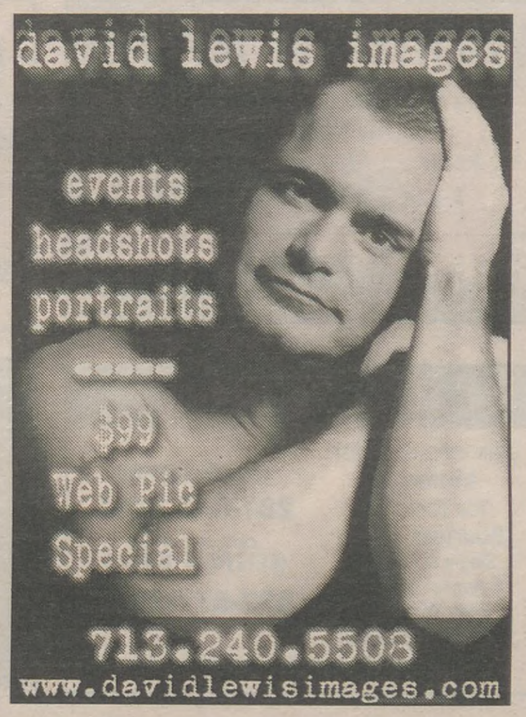

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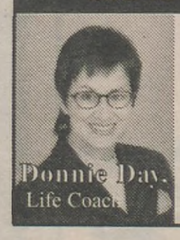
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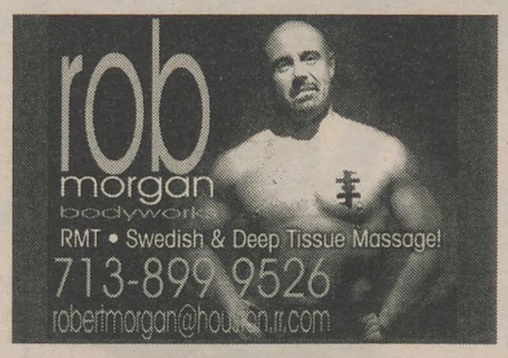

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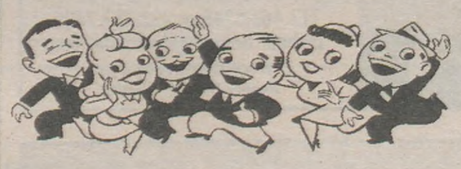

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Sizzling sedans

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Not the ones below. The proof came in the driving, especially in gay ghettoes. Heads turned. Eyebrows rose. And in one case, curiosity about the car (or was it pity when I popped the clutch?) resulted in free valet parking.

While some were faster off the mark than others, none were sluggish or whiny. In fact, most growled. Low and sexy. And I would have spanked them if I could.

Best of all: Like a routine first date that ends up the love of your life (or, perhaps, the week), each sedan held a sensual surprise.

Acura TSX
$26,500-$28,500
Mpg: 26
Airbags: Front, side, head-curtain
Warranty: 4-year/50,000-mile
Sensual surprise: Fast, but not loose

Zippy (200 horsepower) for a four-cylinder, this front-wheel-drive dynamo is feather-light yet solid. Both the 6-speed manual and 5-speed automatic transmission are a blast through twisty curves. Traction control, xenon headlights and turn-signal mirrors are all standard. Optional voice-activated navigation system makes you feel as high-tech as Lara Croft.

BMW 5 Series
$38,000-$57,000
Mpg: 25
Airbags: Front, side, head-curtain
Warranty: 4-year/50,000-mile
Sensual surprise: Mood lighting

Not only do the headlights angle left or right (throwing more light in a corner when turning), the brake lights get brighter during hard stops. Larger, longer and lighter than ever, the new 5 has the same cutting-edge, love-it-or-hate-it styling as its big (7 Series) sister. Three engines — two V-6s and a V-8 — offer plenty of thrust, while an Active Front Steering system allows the driver to parry around sudden potholes and puddles.

Mitsubishi Galant
$18,500-$25,000
Mpg: 24
Airbags: Front
Warranty: 3-year/36,000-mile

Redesigned for 2004, the sporty Galant now has more cabin and cargo room. Two engines — but go for the gutsy V-6. Four body styles, but it gets confusing: the DE model (with A/C and CD player), ES (add cruise control and upgraded trim), LS (throw in traction control and antilock brakes) and GTS (leather, 17-inch alloy wheels, 270-watt audio and side airbags).

Nissan Maxima
$27,000-$29,000
Mpg: 25
Airbags: Front, side, head-curtain
Warranty: 3-year/36,000-mile
Sensual surprise: Tough and tender

An aggressive V-6 helps this year's Maxima redo bolt from 0 to 60 in just 6.5 seconds. Yet handling is quite smooth. Inside awaits a bevy of hedonistic delights: eight-way power driver seat, dual-zone automatic climate control, large display monitor for audio/trip-computer readouts, eight-speaker audio, one-touch power windows and fixed moonroofs above front and rear seats. An Elite Package offers further pampering, with rear heated bucket seats, rear center console and power sunshade.

Saab 9-3
$26,000-$40,000
Mpg: 26
Airbags: Front, side, head-curtain
Warranty: 4-year/50,000-mile
Sensual surprise: Hot stuff

Heated mirrors, rear heating ducts and heated seats keep you and the 9-3 warm all year. Practical yet offbeat (thanks to the quirky, cockpit-like dash and that ignition switch between the seats). Spacious trunk. Premium features are standard: leather seats, OnStar system, stability control, keyless entry. High-end models get an engine boost, power seats, bigger wheels and tire-pressure-monitoring system.

Suzuki Verona
$16,500-$20,000
Mpg: 24
Airbags: Front
Warranty: 3-year/36,000-mile
Sensual surprise: "Italian Stallion" wannabe

This Verona may not be Italian. And a V-6 with only 155 horsepower isn't exactly stallion-esque. But Suzuki's first foray into the mid-sized market is perfect with your Pradas, thanks to sleek yet muscular styling from automotive-design house Italdesign. Also impressive: all the upscale items, such as leather, speed-sensitive power steering, automatic climate control, power windows/locks/mirrors and auto-dimming mirror.

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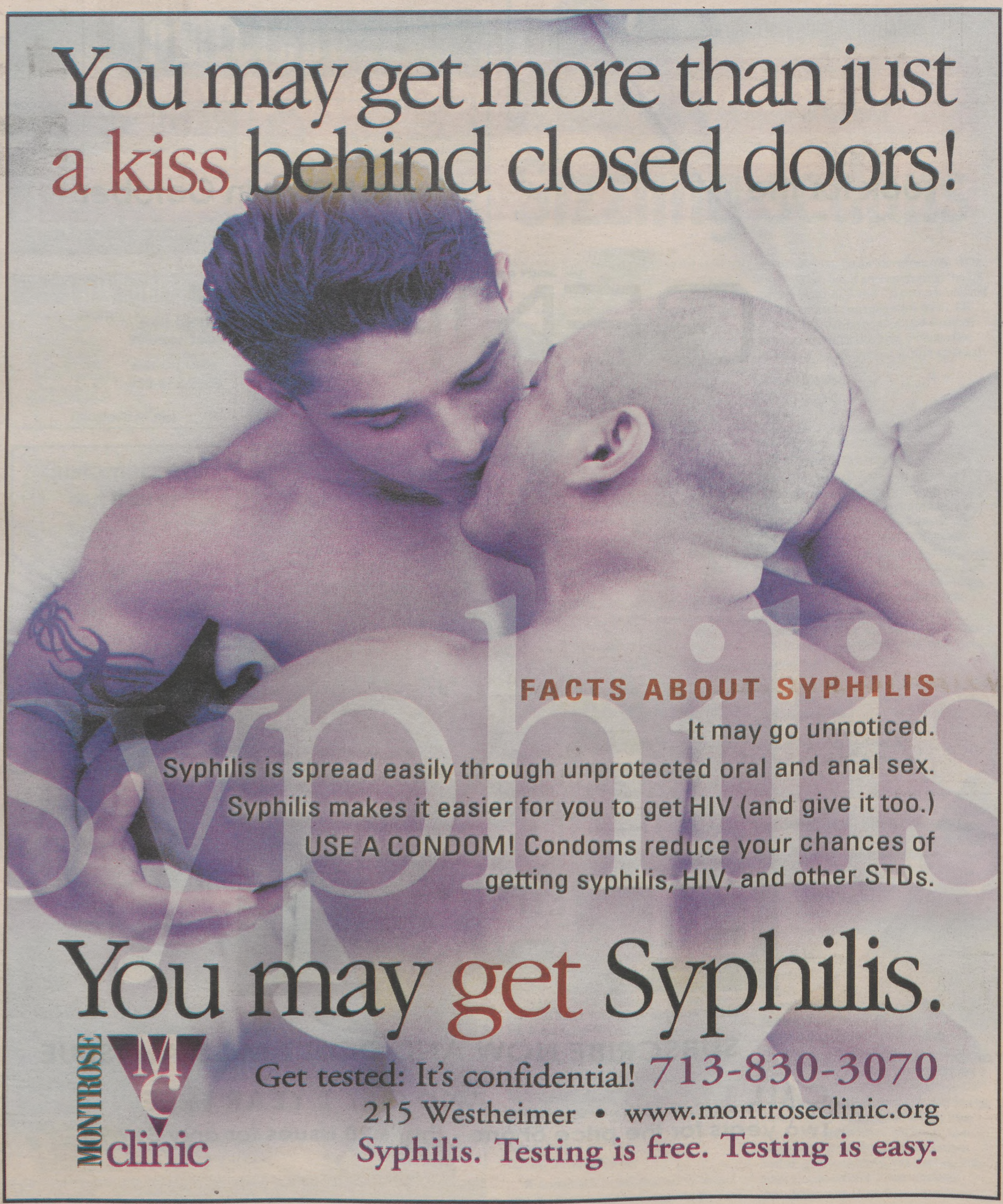
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