



HOUSTON

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Weitzer on 'Phantom' role page 20

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Murder on Montrose



Call for change: Gloria and Edward Swidriski, mother and stepfather of Marc Daniel Kajs, said city police could have done more to prevent the March 29 shooting murder of their son. —Photos by Dalton DeHart

'You didn't do anything to protect him'

Victim's family confronts police chief

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

The family of a slain 28-year-old gay waiter confronted Houston Police Chief C.O. Bradford as he tried to unveil new measures to better protect the victims of domestic violence on Wednesday.

Upset that city police allegedly mishandled complaints of violence leading up to the March 29 shooting death of Marc Daniel Kajs, his mother and stepfather said officers in the Westheimer storefront station turned their son away only hours before his former boyfriend chased him down on Montrose and shot him several times near Urbana restaurant.

Ilhan Yilmaz, a pizza deliverer,

then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide.

"My son is dead and you didn't do anything to protect him," said Gloria Swidriski, Kajs' mother. "He cried out on Sunday. Why didn't you listen to him?"

Bradford said results from an internal review of the department's handling of the case will change the



Bradford

See MURDER/ page 3

GOP lobbyist criticized

Log Cabin to raise \$25,000 for new position

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Gay Republicans will have someone lobbying legislators in the state capital next year, but some activists charge that the move by Log Cabin Republicans of Texas will duplicate services and deplete resources in the gay community.

Log Cabin is moving ahead with plans to hire a lobbyist to work with Republicans when lawmakers return to Austin in January and hopes to raise the \$25,000 needed to fund the first-of-its-kind position by summer's end, in part through two fund-raisers later this month.

Gay Republicans say there is a strong need to pursue conservative but gay-friendly lawmakers to block expected legislation that would ban

Log Cabin plans protest, page 7

adoptions by gays and other anti-gay initiatives.

"If you are going to educate people and change people's minds, you are going to have to spend some time and focus on Republican decision makers," said Steve Labinski, president of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas. "Things have changed over the last five years with politics in Texas."

With the state Senate and govern- See LOBBY/ page 7



Hardy-Garcia

The world according to Kyle Henry

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

At the not-so-tender age of 27, filmmaker Kyle Henry gets his kicks dishing a country engulfed in pop culture jingoism.

"I'm always interested in subverting stereotypical representations, because stereotypes never match any sort of reality that I know," Henry said, rattling off the world according to Kyle. "Reality is 10 times more interesting than any stereotype, so it's absolute laziness to depend on them."

Deconstructing stereotypes in film makes this lively Scorpio tick. A strong example of that is his documentary "American Cowboy," a sell-out last January at the Museum of Fine Arts, which shows again this

weekend as a feature highlight of the Second Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

For sure, Henry gave the world a reality check with "American Cowboy" by reversing traditional stereotypes about masculinity, homo-

sexuality and cowboys. Discontent with America's home shopping network style of personal interaction, Henry read an *Out Magazine* feature on Houstonian Gene Mikulenko, a

See HENRY/ page 6



Henry

PRIDE '98

'Diversified' Pride prepares for 60 Houston events, night parade

by ELLA TYLER

Unified, Diversified, Electrified is the theme for Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998, which kicks off on June 12. Add "fun" and you have a description of 60 special events celebrating the gay community for the more than two weeks of the festival.

There will be only one parade, though, on June 28 from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. More than 60 groups, including one from Des Moines, Iowa, have registered for the parade, according to Jack Valinski of the Pride board of directors.

"Last years nighttime parade created a lot of synergy and excitement in the community and that shows up in the diversity of the events this year," Valinski said. "The city is now so easy

to deal with about the parade that we can spend energy on the

events."

A variety of fund-raisers, parties, performances and seminars are scheduled. Unusual events include deep sea fishing trips, a billiard open, a Magic Card tournament and an evening of participatory gospel

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Vandals strike banners for Austin's Texas Pride Festival

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Despite vandalism to banners and a jump in prank phone calls, organizers of Sunday's Texas Gay Pride in Austin are hoping for pleasant weather and more than 5,000 people to visit the third annual event.

The day-long Texas Gay Pride — which helps to kick off pride events across the state this month — was heavily promoted throughout Austin, including radio spots, newspaper advertisement and flyers in local restaurants.

That may be feeding a backlash that has included dozens of prank phone calls a day to organizers and recent vandalism and theft of a large banner

with details of the event, said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, which helps organize the event.

"The fact that someone went to this much trouble is disturbing," Hardy-Garcia said. "But we know that this is very unusual for Austin, since so many people are supportive of this event."

Two colorful banners promoting the pride event, each one about 40 feet long and 3 feet wide, were placed above thoroughfares in Austin late last month. Vandals stole one of the signs May 27 and tried to remove the second two days later, Hardy-Garcia

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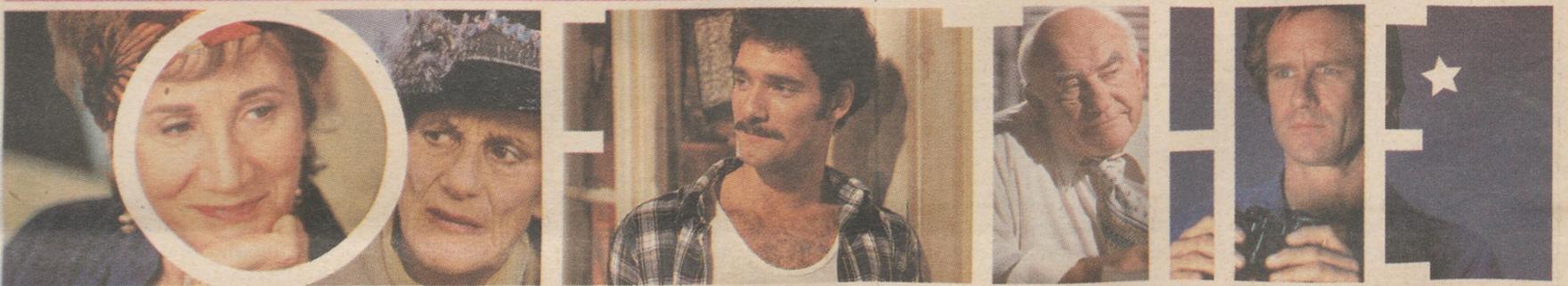
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GREATER HOUSTON
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Teens prepare for Houston's gay prom

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

The city's gay teen-agers will gather for their prom on June 13, designed to provide a shelter from anti-gay sentiments often seen at their high school events, organizers said.

Prom Night '98 also helps raise funds for the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH), a group that meets twice a week and sponsors activities for gay teens throughout the year. About 50 teens attended last year.

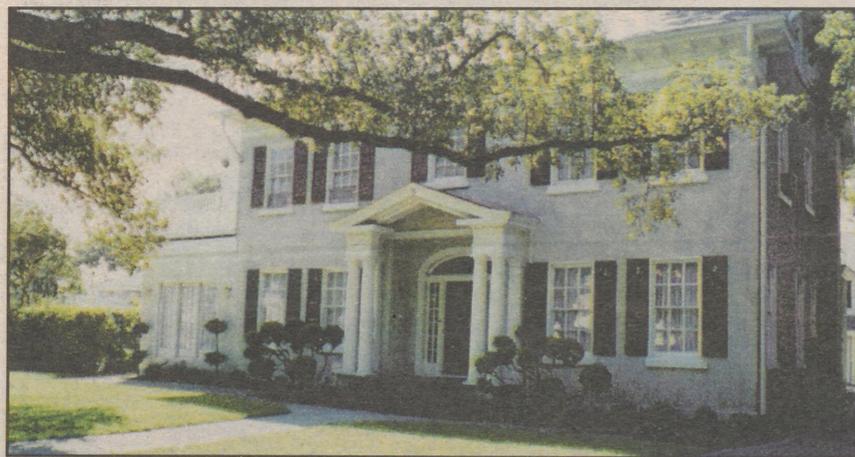
"They come, they are themselves, they dance and have the best times," said Ron Dalton, a HATCH board member. "They can come to this and not worry about anybody being prejudiced. They can come with their partner and not feel out of place."

Teen-agers plan entertainment and decorations for the event, held for the second time at the Lovett Inn at 501 Lovett Blvd. in Montrose. Organizers have held the annual event for five years, Dalton said.

The public is welcome and organizers are hoping to raise \$5,000 through sponsorships of the event, Dalton said.

About 50 youths and 20 protesters arrived May 30 for the first teen prom in Dallas. Inside a hotel, teens in a semiformal mishmash of long gowns, short dresses, tuxes and plaid pants gathered, according to the *Dallas Morning News*.

Outside, a group of protesters held signs and told the youths they were



Gay prom: More than 50 teen-agers are expected for Houston's gay prom on June 13, held at the Lovett Inn at 501 Lovett Blvd. —Photo by Dalton DeHart

bound for hell. Police officers and security guards were nearby.

The protest "makes no difference," a tuxedo-clad Casey Murphy told the *Morning News*. "They're hot and sweaty, and they're out there in nappy clothes, and we're in here, looking good, so they can do whatever they want."

Gay teens in Houston are looking forward to the event.

"It's the prom that gay teens never had," said Nathan Bayless, 18, a member of the HATCH board of directors. "We can dance together and it doesn't feel weird."

Bayless said he had to take a lesbian

friend as a date to his high school prom, which required attendees to sign cards pledging they would only bring opposite-sex partners, he said.

"Whoever you came with had to be of the opposite sex. (Prom Night '98) is a setting in which we can be very natural. I can look around and everything is perfect and I can pretend that the rest of the world is perfect, too," Bayless said.

What: Prom Night '98

When: June 13 at Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd.

Cost: Free for teens, \$20 for adults

Contact: 713-942-7002

MURDER/

from page 1

way in which police respond to reports of stalking and domestic violence.

Kajs was murdered on a Sunday afternoon, some 11 hours after filing a complaint with police alleging Yilmaz had threatened him. An officer filed a detailed report, Bradford said, but a police unit equipped to handle domestic violence cases was closed over the weekend.

Because of the murder-suicide, that will change, Bradford announced Wednesday to about three-dozen gays during a meeting of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

"When a case unfolds, it is most important that the officers in the field, on the streets, are in tune with the seriousness of the offense and are sensitive to the needs of the victim," he said. "We are trying to get the officers to stop and listen very carefully. It may be the only time."

Bradford repeatedly called Kajs' murder "a most unfortunate tragedy."

A critical incident review launched after Kajs' murder helped develop a plan to decentralize the police department's domestic violence unit, the police chief said.

The department will soon hire a domestic violence coordinator to oversee a pilot program that will put investigators and counselors in units in north, southeast and downtown Houston. The program will operate through January 1999 before officials decide how to staff and expand it throughout the city, Bradford said.

"We are going to decentralize the unit. The goal is to put it in all quadrants of the city," he said.

The city's 5,300 police officers will also receive increased sensitivity training and will hear from domestic violence victims to help them better understand how to respond and write more thorough incident reports, Bradford said.

"The police officers are not watching the facts close enough to know when to flag a case as domestic violence or stalking. (We need) officers in tune and more friendly to victims," he said.

Patrol officers will be provided with information about shelters and counseling centers for domestic violence victims — including ones designed for gays and lesbians — to handout when they respond to calls. Three counseling centers and 11 shelters cater to gays and lesbians in the area.

"The information is out there and I have to get it to the police officers," Bradford said.

Officers trained in domestic or family violence will be available 24 hours a day, he said.

The police chief also plugged the department's Hate Crime Hotline (713-308-8737), which opened in April so gays and lesbians can more easily report crimes targeted against them. The hotline was part of a three-pronged effort announced by Mayor Lee Brown to battle crimes motivated by race, religion, disability, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

"There is a serious underreporting going on in the community. In some incidents, people don't trust the police to get involved in their cases," Bradford said.

But the hotline is staffed only on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A recorded message greets callers at other times. Bradford said if callers are the victims of domestic violence, stalking or need immediate help, they should call 911 and ask for a police officer.

Staffing for the hotline may be expanded, he said.

Though they sometimes encounter "die hard homophobia," police officials have made progress in teaching officers how to better interact with gays, Bradford said.

"We told the 5,300 officers in Houston when we say the gay and lesbian population, you aren't talking about a geographic location," he said. "We've got to keep working, keep pushing forward."

The murder of their son shows that police still have a long way to go, Kajs' parents said Wednesday. Kajs talked with police at least four times and no officers ever followed up, Swidriski said.

Bradford said police records show only two incidents: once in which Kajs and Yilmaz arrived at the Westheimer storefront together, resolved a problem and left, and another on the day before the shooting when an officer filed a report and told Kajs to go to a shelter and avoid locations — including his job at Urbana's — in which he might encounter his former boyfriend.

Police records also show that Yilmaz twice contacted police to file complaints about Kajs, Bradford said.

"I extend my utmost apologies to you," Bradford told the parents.

The victim's parents said when their son complained to police the day before he was murdered, an officer allegedly told him police need to see signs of violence or abuse before they act.

"My son came to file reports and he was turned away. Nobody listened to him. They didn't listen to him. And y'all didn't do a thing," Swidriski said.

Bradford said Kajs' complaint, filed shortly before the weekend shooting, would have been turned over to the domestic violence unit early Monday to receive immediate attention.

"That's pretty distressing to the people of Houston that the Houston Police Department is taking the weekend off," said Edward Swidriski, Kajs' stepfather.

City Councilwoman Annise Parker, who has taught sensitivity classes to city police, said changes to the department in the wake of the murder-suicide may help prevent a repeat of the March 29 incident.

"While we all wish the department could have handled it differently, maybe these changes can prevent it," Parker said. "These are important changes that will make a difference."

Bradford, who has spoken to the caucus three times in nearly a year, said the shooting will have a lasting impact on city police.

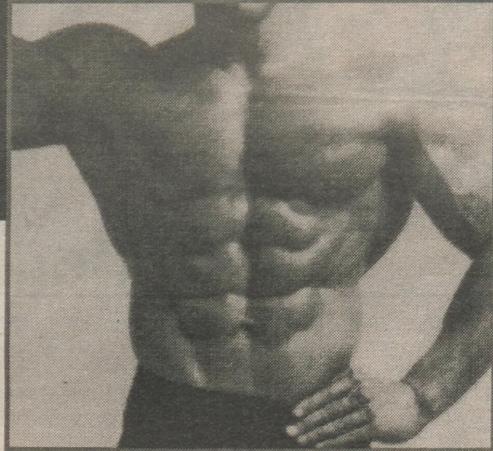
"This was simply an unfortunate tragedy that caused a lot of grief in all of our hearts. It has been a tremendous learning incident for the Houston Police Department," he said.

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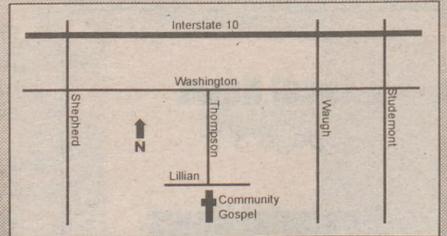
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Heated discussion tackles gays and the religious right

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

A local panel discussing Houston's gay and lesbian history at DiverseWorks May 31 spiraled into a tit-for-tat about the religious right when a heterosexual audience member took issue with panelist Joe Watts' support of Terrence McNally's play "Corpus Christi."

The play, which depicts a Christ-like figure who has sex with his disciples, was canceled by the Manhattan Theater Club in New York when the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights and other religious groups mounted strong protests, but was reinstated last week despite heated objections and bomb threats.

"Apparently it's about a gay Jesus wanting to screw his disciples or something," said the unidentified man in the audience. "It may be just a whole assault and insult to the Christian community. Is that the gay thrust now, an assault on the Christian community?"

The panel discussion came as part of the ongoing Second Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

"No, I don't think," said Joe Watts, director of the Group Theatre Workshop, a gay and lesbian production company. "I think the (issue) is should it be censored? ... I just happen to favor Terrence as a playwright ... it doesn't have anything to do with Christian values."

As the audience signaled its approval with applause, longtime community activist Ray Hill, who was not on the panel, also responded.

ed. "What Christian community?" Hill asked. "In reality, for there to be a community you need to have something in common, and the only common factor I see in the alleged



Leave us alone: Former newspaper editor Deborah Bell (right) told a panel discussion on May 31 that gays want to be left alone by the "radical right." —Photo by Dalton DeHart

Christian community is their desire to oppress everybody else. There are exceptions, of course."

"Well, gosh, let's make God something other than white and straight," responded an African American woman in the audience. "I think seeing Jesus as gay would certainly increase my faith in Jesus, and it would help a lot of young people for sure."

"I am reminded of the situation

with Salmon Rushdie and the book that he wrote," said Jackie Thorne, a transvestite panelist and editor of *Gulf Coast Transgender Community*. "He's been in hiding for many years because there's a contract out on



Civil rights: Angela Williams, an African American lesbian panelist and videozine director, said comparisons between the civil rights struggles of blacks and gays are inaccurate. —Photo by Dalton DeHart

him by the Muslims. Are we gonna get into this kind of situation in the Christian community? I hope not."

"Which gay community are you talking about?" asked Angela Williams, an African American lesbian panelist and director of the videozine "Blowin' Up a Spot!"

"When you look at black gays and white gays, I have a problem when I hear white gay people relate their struggles to the civil rights move-

ment because the struggle is not the same," Williams said. "You don't know if I'm gay unless I tell you I'm gay, but you know I'm black because you see I'm black."

"I'll tell you what we want, we want to be left the f--- alone," said Deborah Bell of the Lesbian Health Outreach Project, and a former editor of the *Houston Voice*. "I am assaulted and insulted and oppressed by that radical right. Personally, I am not a Christian. I am a Christian in the sense that I believe in the teachings of Christ."

"But you know what? He may have been a gay boy. He may have been the biggest fag on earth. He did hang out with a bunch of guys," she said.

As the panelists and the audience exchanged points of order and opinions, DiverseWorks' communications coordinator Laura Kellner restored order.

"This has been a wonderful dialogue, and it has illustrated vividly what a diverse group we are," said Anita Renteria, an audience member and president of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

Renteria invited attendees to the Community Partnerships quarterly meeting at 803 Hawthorne in Montrose on June 11. The meeting, which begins at 6:30 p.m., will discuss similar issues with local gay and lesbian groups.

The panel discussion came after a showing of "Pride Divide," a 57-minute film on the philosophical divisions between gays and lesbians.

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HENRY/ from page 1

world-class champion rodeo competitor who is gay, and jumped at the chance to put the story on film.

"Here was the perfect opportunity to subvert the cowboy imagery and the whole western genre of filmmaking through this one person, who incorporates enough of the imagery, but yet is not totally not like that world," he said about Mikulénka. "(Cowboy imagery is) all about solidifying the heterosexual family through the homestead, and taming any of the male outback urges through domestication. This radical personality is in many ways very traditional, but in many ways, just by the very fact he is gay, a subversion of that tradition."

Analyzing his reality one step at a time, Henry finds it particularly difficult connecting with the stereotypical gay white male who's surrendered personal authenticity to become a pop culture incarnation. Sure, Henry's a media hound at the University of Texas' Graduate School of Film, but he blames society's dependence on commercial mediums for a ho hum selection of potential partners, personal as well as business.

"I know the media's damaging when I go out on a date and I feel like I'm

having a conversation out of a sitcom," he pointed out smartly. "Guys talking about their house, or their car, or their gym doesn't tell me anything about who they are, and being commodified as a product isn't particularly liberating."

Interestingly, Henry thinks that today's dating pool of gays and straights compare each other with checklists created with what people see on TV. If that's true, he said, that explains a lot of the culture's reality problems.

"People are so disconnected from reality that they're constantly having these freak-outs at three in the morning," he said, musing on the degenerative state of contemporary pop culture. "They're like, 'Oh my God. My life is not like the television. There must be something wrong with me.'"

As for his diagnosis about the state of TV programming, Henry goes electric when he gets the chance to take a stab at the boob tube. And here's some good advice: don't invite him over to your house to watch "Seinfeld."

"TV's really a strange little thing," he said. "For most people, it's so incorporated into their homes they don't realize how weird it is. It's a carnival of freak shows and lies 24 hours a day, jammed down your throat to sell prod-

ucts. People think it's there as a baby-sitter for crying out loud, like it's a substitute aunt or something."

The prospect of the American family defined through TV rubs Henry the wrong way. "The talk shows are like our families now," he said. "We have to go on the air to be part of our families, and talk about our problems for 10 seconds or beat up on somebody on the 'Jerry Springer Show.' Suddenly, we're incorporated into TV Land and we're real. We're not real unless we're on TV."

It's not only television that bothers Henry, but today's commercial films as well. "I don't like those films, you can always smell one a mile away," he said. "They're the ones with no plot, no contact, nothing inventive happening."

Yet his favorite film era is the 70s; admittedly, it's his obsession. That time "showed a real range of characters, and people didn't have to be glamorous, people could be people," he said. "Somebody like Jack Nicholson didn't have to be Matt Damon with perfect teeth and all. You may see people like that at nightclubs, but I don't know people like that."

After a while, you might begin to think that Henry is to the film world what Dennis Rodman is to basketball. But like Spike Lee, he makes it a point to diss white folks, and he seems to have a lot of fun at it. "The Shining," which stars Jack Nicholson, sums up what Henry describes as the white man's histrionic cop-out.

"(A waiter in the movie) comes to Jack Nicholson and says, 'You're not gonna let a woman, a child ... get the best of you; here's this ax,'" he said. "That's like f— American history right there: the white man not allowing minorities, children, and women from getting power, and the way that they show it to them is by f— them up."

With that rich opinion, Henry finds



Sassy: Director Kyle Henry and cowboy Gene Mikulénka with horse Sassy.

gay films to be stereotypical and lazy, but he has a prescription.

"I want gay characters in films who aren't somebody's best friend, or some entertaining drag queen who becomes this fairy godmother," he said. "I want a boozing, alcoholic drag queen who barely has her last two pennies to rub together, who's trying to find a man."

Henry has no reservations about the sad state of today's films. Most of them "coddle audiences and tell them that the world is this little dream factory where you get everything you've ever wanted," he said.

Yet as a young filmmaker, "American Cowboy" tested Henry's mettle, he said, because "the most difficult part was discovering what I wanted to say with the film." For Henry, films are "about what you value in life. Every film has got to fit into that somehow because it takes up so much time and energy," he said.

Until he hits his pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, Henry plans to finish his graduate degree and weigh his options later. In the meantime, he hopes to reinvent a few more of the myths that make people intellectually stagnant. "Myths are very powerful," he said. "That's why it's important to create new ones — like about gay rodeo cowboys."

Who: Director Kyle Henry and film protagonist Gene Mikulénka will attend both screenings.

What: "American Cowboy"

When: June 6 at 7:30 p.m. and June 7 at 5 p.m.

Where: Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet Tickets: \$5

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LOBBY/ from page 1

nor's mansion already controlled by Republicans, it's time for gays to lobby for their place in conservative politics, Labinski said from Austin.

"My goal is to make a difference in the next Legislature. Sometimes two heads are better than one," he said.

Hiring a Republican lobbyist will double the number of lobbyists for gays in Austin, but will duplicate slim resources in the gay community, said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, a lobbyist and executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

Gays would be better served by working together to fight anti-gay measures, like legislation promised by State Rep. Warren Chisum (R-Pampa), who wants to ban gays from adopting or becoming foster parents.

"We have lobbying efforts targeting the whole legislature, whether you are Republican, Democrat or Independent," Hardy-Garcia said. "Our community can not afford to be split into two. We don't have that many resources in the community."

Hardy-Garcia said the move by Log Cabin is an attempt to undermine the lobby at a time when gay Republicans won't join their efforts.

"They clearly don't want to work together and that is unfortunate. All we get back, usually, is hostility. That is real hard to work with," Hardy-Garcia said.

Gay Republicans said current efforts to lobby GOP lawmakers need to be bolstered.

"There is no credible effort toward Republicans in Austin," said Dale Carpenter, a spokesman for Houston's chapter of Log Cabin. "It is absolutely

essential for the gay civil rights movement to have somebody on the ground in Austin to work with the Republican party."

Hiring a lobbyist marks a first for Log Cabin, which has 50 chapters in 30 states, said Carpenter, who also serves on the group's national board of directors. The organization wants to make Texas an example of how gays can lobby Republicans, he said.

"Texas is the front-line for the battle on gay civil rights. We believe that it is essential for us to defeat anti-gay initiatives in Texas so we can show the rest of the country that these initiatives are not effective. We intend to take this battle to the backyard of religious right," Carpenter said.

Log Cabin officials said its lobbyist can work with the gay rights lobby. Hardy-Garcia said gay Republicans will get the group's backing if they can convince GOP lawmakers to support legislation beneficial to gays.

"What matters most to us is getting ready for the legislative session and fighting the things that are really important. If they can get some Republicans to carry our legislation, I will support them," Hardy-Garcia said.

Log Cabin hopes to hire a lobbyist later this year to begin working with legislators before the session opens, Carpenter said.

Two fund-raisers — in Ft. Worth on June 13 and Houston on June 19 — will help raise the \$25,000 needed to fund the position.

"We've got to find someone that can talk in Republican terms to Republican legislators," Carpenter said.

State GOP bans gays from convention Log Cabin to protest booth exclusion

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Gay Republicans will protest their exclusion from the upcoming GOP state convention in Fort Worth, officials with Log Cabin Republicans said late Thursday.

Banned again from setting up a booth during the convention June 12-13, the group was hammering out details of the planned protest late Thursday, said Gary Van Ooteghem, Houston chapter president.

Organizers hope to attract a large crowd June 13 for the rally, which will take place near the convention center, Van Ooteghem said.

Log Cabin Republicans, along with the Texas Freedom Network, were spurned in attempts to set up booths during the convention. The state GOP also denied Log Cabin's request for a booth in 1996.

"The party's decision to deny a Republican group a display booth at the state convention is an unwarranted act of exclusion," said Steve Labinski, Log Cabin state president. "We're not asking for special rights. We're Republicans asking for the same opportunity to be heard that other Republicans have. Are party leaders afraid of a debate among Republicans?"

In May, Log Cabin applied for an exhibit booth at the state convention. State GOP officials rejected the request without an explanation.

"I believe the party's decision will not sit well with fair-minded Republicans across this state, including some party officials and delegates

and alternates to the state convention," Labinski said.

More than three-dozen Log Cabin members and supporters were elected to GOP precinct chair positions in March, Labinski said. Some 40 group members were elected as delegates or alternates to the state convention.

The Texas Freedom Network, which includes both Democrats and Republicans and works to counteract the political clout of the religious right, joined with the Americans United for the Separation of Church and State in seeking a convention booth.

"Our exclusion by the Republican Party shows that the party really isn't a 'big tent' at all," Cecile Richards of Austin, executive director of the Texas Freedom Network and daughter of Democratic former Gov. Ann Richards, told *The Austin American-Statesman*.

GOP officials said the network is too much of a front for the Democratic Party.

"I turned them down because the material they attached was full of a lot of pretty strong language against people of faith in general," Wayne Hamilton, executive director of the Texas GOP, told the *American-Statesman*. "We just didn't feel like that type of hate speech was appropriate at our convention."

Log Cabin officials said it's time to force the GOP to be inclusive.

"We are going to call them on the issue of the 'big tent.' Either you are in favor of inclusion or you are not. It is time to call them on it."

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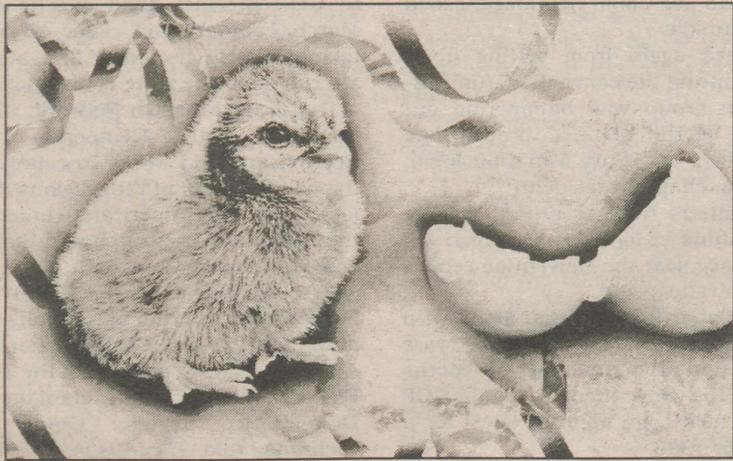


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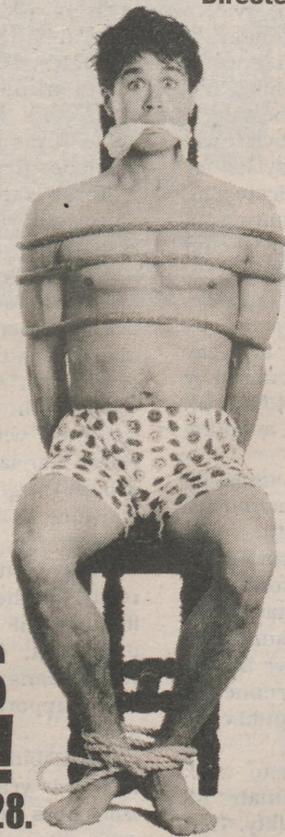
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Pumped Up On Art Friday, June 26th, 7pm
711 William Street Gallery
Footwear of the rich and famous is coming out of the closet for this unique social and fundraising event. Local artists provide their time, talents, and materials to create works of art using celebrities' shoes or "pumps" as the centerpiece.

1998 Pride Parade Saturday, June 27th, 9pm
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Some 200 lesbians received 'guided tour' of issues at conference

by TAMMYE NASH
Dallas Voice

SAN ANTONIO — Some 200 women attended the 11th annual Texas Lesbian Conference here last weekend, participating in a variety of workshops on topics ranging from creative writing to organizing around social justice issues.

"We are very happy with the attendance," said Maria Salazar, who helped organize the event. "We had set of goal of 200, and we met our goal."

Salazar said organizers received evaluation forms filled out by conference participants that indicated "the women who attended really enjoyed the speakers. They particularly appreciated the fact that the keynote speakers also participated in the workshops, which gave (participants) the chance to engage in some real dialog with them."

"Overall, everyone said they were very impressed with the quality of the speakers and the quality of the workshops," Salazar said Tuesday.

She added that participants seemed "energized and challenged" by opening and closing keynotes Suzanne Pharr and Carmen Vasquez, both of whom issued the call for lesbians to widen their focus to include other social justice issues. And, Salazar continued, Sharon Bridgforth's presentation at the Saturday lunch gathering "really complimented the theme of the whole conference," which was "Creating Balance."

Bridgforth, a writer and performance artist who founded root womyn theater in Austin, and her colleague Teri Varner performed highlights from Bridgforth's work, including segments

on her character "Bull-jean," who has become a black lesbian folk hero.

"The fact that (Bridgforth) gave more of an artistic presentation instead of just a speech allowed the issues she addressed to be very compelling to all the women there," Salazar said. "Everyone could find something in her work to identify with. And the fact that she used such a multi-faceted approach helped bring everyone together in a way that really helped develop a quick sense of community among the women there."

Workshop topics included queer activism on campus, lesbians and substance abuse, bisexuality, race and class issues, legal issues, relationship issues, massage and holistic healing and lesbians on the internet.

Among workshop presenters was Katherine Forrest, the "grande dame" of lesbian mystery novelists, who took participants on a guided tour of the history of lesbian fiction, discussing how changes in lesbian fiction over the years have reflected changes in the community.

Forrest identified what she described as "the five milestone novels" in lesbian fiction, starting in 1928 with the publication of Radclyffe Hall's "The Well of Loneliness." Despite the book's flaws — including an unhappy ending in which one woman gives up her beloved to a man because she thinks her lover would be better off that way — it was, Forrest said, an important and extraordinary call for tolerance.

In 1952, Forrest noted, Patricia Highsmith, working under the pen name of Claire Morgan, published "The Price of Salt," notable as the first lesbian novel with a happy ending. The "Beebo Brinker" series, published

from the late 1950s to the early 1960s and written by Ann Bannon, were set in Greenwich Village and "conveyed the bar scene of those years," Forrest said.

"These books were important because they were the first books about our visible community which, back then, was the bar scene. These were the first books to really talk about who some of us were, and how some of us really lived," she said.

Isabelle Miller's "Patience and Sarah," published in 1969, remains "one of the best books our community has. It is just beautifully written," Forrest said, adding that an opera based on the book recently opened in New York City. The last in Forrest's list of milestones came in 1972 when Rita Mae Brown published "Rubyfruit Jungle."

"There's just no overstating how important this book has been and still is to our community. This book taught us what gay pride was before we ever had the words for it," Forrest said.

Forrest also talked about those works of lesbian fiction which have won Lambda Literary Awards since the awards began in 1989, and about how while the majority of early lesbian fiction centered on coming out, being out is now "just kind of taken for granted" in most lesbian novels.

The emphasis these days seems to have switched, Forrest suggested, to

'There's just no overstating how important this book ('Rubyfruit Jungle') has been and still is to our community. This book taught us what gay pride was before we ever had the words for it.'

—Katherine Forrest

issues of personal identity and lesbians' internal and external searches for themselves.

But Forrest is perhaps best known for her mystery series featuring Los Angeles Police homicide detective Kate Delafield, who was, Forrest said she has been told, the first fictional lesbian police officer to appear in print. That series started with "Amateur City," and includes "Murder at the Nightwood Bar," "The Beverly Malibu" which has been optioned by the Alliance Production Company and is headed for the big screen, "Murder by Tradition" which was based on a real hate crime murder in Wisconsin, her most recent effort Liberty Square and the soon-to-be-released "Apparition Alley."

"I try to write the truth about our lives," she continued. "I do not tailor my work to appeal to mainstream audience. My idea of a crossover audience is gay men. But I think it is very important that lesbian writers be published in the mainstream, because it is time for our literature to be accorded the recognition and respect it deserves."

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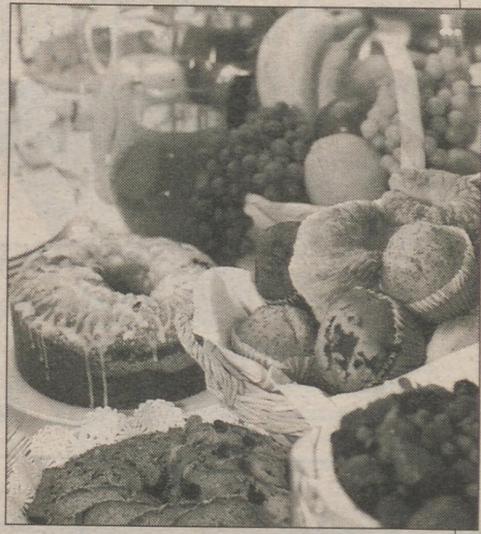
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Protest: Operation Rescue member Melissa Cantley (center) tries to regain her composure after arguing with a group of gay rights advocates on Monday. —Photo by Scott Audette

Abortion Opponents Challenge Gays in Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. — Flush from violating a court order prohibiting protests outside an Orlando abortion clinic, Operation Rescue activists attended a city council meeting on Monday to object to a plan to fly rainbow-colored flags around the city to commemorate Gay Pride month in June. Protesters carried signs that said "America Remember Sodom" outside City Hall and inside told commissioners they shouldn't promote homosexuality. Gay activist Bob Kunst said the gay community wouldn't tolerate discrimination anymore.

"We are tired of being misrepresented by people who are so emotionally and sexually hung up that they exploit God, they exploit gays and they exploit the country," Kunst said. Council members decided to let the flags fly.

Operation Rescue plans protests

this weekend at Walt Disney World, when gays from around the country will be flocking to the theme park for annual Gay Days festivities. Spokesmen for the Dallas-based anti-abortion group say that activists will approach gays at the park and encourage them to turn away from homosexuality.

"We'll be there. We'll be inside the park and we'll make ourselves known," Rev. Philip "Flip" Benham said. "If they think they're going to just drive by us at the gate, they're wrong. They'll get the same thing inside the park that they get when they show up at the abortion clinics."

More than 100,000 gay and lesbian tourists plan to visit Orlando this weekend for a three-day celebration at several of the area's theme parks, including Disney World.

Methodists Keep Open Discussion of Homosexuality

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — United Methodists will continue to study how the church should handle homosexuality, but affirmed their stance against same-sex marriages. The votes came May 27 after delegates at the annual meeting heard tearful pleas and personal stories.

"We need the time for both sides to recognize the love of God goes along both sides," said Claude Evans, a retired North Carolina minister whose late sister was a lesbian. Evans spoke in support of a resolution promoting dialogue among people with different sexual orientations. But the Rev. David Brown of Duncan Acres United Methodist Church in Union said he believes the church already has a satisfactory position. They also decided to ask the Judicial Council, the equivalent of the denomination's U.S. Supreme Court, to rule that ministers cannot perform same-sex marriage ceremonies. The council will consider the matter in August.

Pope Okayed Gay Ministry by Catholics in Northeast Florida

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Catholic Church in Northeast Florida has launched a new ministry last week for gay men and women, according to the *Florida Times-Union*. About 300 gays and lesbians attended Mass inside Jacksonville's Assumption Catholic Church. The Diocese of St. Augustine became the second Catholic diocese in Florida, and the

36th in the nation, to start a gay and lesbian ministry. The move doesn't mean the church has changed its stance: it still doesn't condone homosexual activity. The new ministry is simply an outreach program, Bishop John J. Snyder said during a Mass to start the new ministry.

Anti-gay Lutherans Meet 'Tremendous Rejection' in Atlanta

ATLANTA — Delegates to the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America soundly beat down two anti-gay measures in their annual meeting in Atlanta last month. The resolutions, proposed by representatives from a church in Warner Robins, Ga., included one that would have declared that "practicing homosexuality is a sin," while another would have prohibited any group advocating homosexuality from appearing at national church youth gatherings.

This second proposal was seen as a reaction to "some very progressive, pro-gay statements" passed at a national gathering of Lutheran youth, according to Bob Gibeling, program executive for Lutherans Concerned of North America. After the synod's Reference and Counsel committee came out against the proposals, delegates voted 416 to 10 not even to consider them. Last year, after the Southeastern Synod led the way, the denomination's national body approved, by an 80 percent margin, a statement supporting passage of the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

—From staff and wire reports

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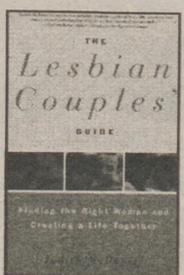
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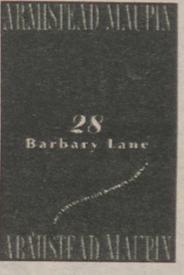
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Barry Goldwater, 89: Pro-gay founder of modern conservatism

by RICHARD SHUMATE

When he accepted the Republican nomination for president in 1964, Barry Goldwater said he had "a single resolve, and that is freedom."

"Those who seek absolute power, even though they seek it to do what they regard as good, are simply demanding the right to enforce their own version of heaven on earth," he said. "And let me remind you, they are the very ones who always create the most hellish tyranny."

Goldwater died on May 29 of natural causes at his home in suburban Paradise Valley. He was 89.

Ordinary Arizonans joined the nation's political elite Wednesday to bid farewell to Barry Goldwater, the straight-talking senator whose failed 1964 run for president launched the modern conservative movement.

Thousands lined up in the desert heat to fill Gammage Auditorium at Arizona State University, where speakers honored Goldwater's public service and remembered, often with laughter, his heartfelt opinions and colorful language.

It should have come as no surprise that 30 years later, Goldwater — known as "Mr. Republican" and "Mr. Conservative," the pivotal political figure who paved the way for the power Republicans enjoy today — became a champion of gay rights. But it did come as a surprise to the GOP's right wing, which accused the Arizona senator of apostasy.

They whispered he must be getting senile. They intimated that he might have come under the undue influence of his much younger wife, Susan, whom he married at the spry old age of 83. There was even a movement at

one point to strip Goldwater's name off of the Republican Party's state headquarters building in Phoenix, which had been named in his honor.

But in a 1994 essay he wrote for the *Arizona Republic*, Goldwater insisted that he hadn't changed. It was the Republican Party, he said, that had become captive of a "radical right" that had "nearly ruined" it.

"The conservative movement is founded on the simple tenet that people have the right to live life as they please, as long as they don't hurt anyone else in the process," he said.

And while he left a broad legacy during four decades of political life, Goldwater's libertarian strain of conservatism is perhaps the potentially greatest legacy he left to gay and lesbian America — even though it is widely shunned today by both straight conservatives and gays and lesbians locked tightly in the embrace of the political left.

Born on the Arizona frontier in territorial days, Barry Goldwater grew up with the spirit of fierce individualism that so shapes Western politics. He went to the U.S. Senate in 1952 as a strident anti-Communist and as an opponent of the intrusive power of government. There, he bumped up against Eastern moderates within the GOP, whom he saw as too willing to accommodate the Democrats' erection of the welfare state.

His strong views on limited government often led him into the political wilderness. His blunt, take-no-prisoners approach made him the champion of the conservative wing of the Republican Party, enabling him to push aside New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller for the GOP presidential

nomination in 1964. He was buried in a landslide that November by President Lyndon Johnson. But he carried five Southern states, including Georgia, a breakthrough that started the Democrat-to-Republican shift in power in the South.

Goldwater, who is survived in part by a lesbian grandniece and a gay grandson, Ty Ross, made his first public foray into the gay rights arena in 1992, when he came out in favor of a Phoenix ordinance that would have protected gays and lesbians from employment and housing discrimination. The measure eventually passed in a watered-down form that outlawed only employment discrimination and only among large companies doing business with the city.

But what really set off his party's anti-gay wing was Goldwater's support in 1993 for ending the ban on openly gay and lesbian people serving in the U.S. military. His advocacy was particularly forceful given his background — he had been a pilot in World War II, helped found the Arizona Air National Guard and retired from the military reserves with the rank of general.

Those against lifting the ban insisted it would hurt morale and destroy unit cohesion. Nonsense, said Gen. Goldwater. A person doesn't have to be straight to shoot straight, he said.

In an interview with the *Advocate*, Goldwater — speaking in the frequently politically-incorrect Goldwater style — said the Republican party should stand for "freedom and only freedom."

"Don't raise hell about the gays, the blacks and the Mexicans. Free people have a right to do as they damn well please," he said.

In an essay he wrote after Goldwater's



Pro gay: Barry Goldwater, founder of modern-day conservatism, was also an ally of gays.

death, U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, an openly gay Arizona Republican, recalled being with Goldwater at a public engagement the day after Kolbe publicly revealed he was gay. Goldwater was his political mentor, and Kolbe said he had "some trepidation about what Barry would say or think."

"He just took my hand in his still strong grip and said, 'Good for you. Doesn't make a damn bit of difference to me,'" Kolbe said.

And yet, ironically, the man who spent the last years of his life pushing for gay equality was the same man who unleashed the forces that made the anti-gay religious right a power in American politics.

In the end, then, Barry Goldwater set off a political revolution that he couldn't control, that swung so far beyond him that it began advocating ideas, in the name of Goldwater-style conservatism, that he himself found appalling.

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More Americans favor gay rights, survey shows

by LAURA BROWN

A majority of Americans still say they believe same-sex sexual relations between two adults are "always wrong," but trends show increasing approval for gay civil rights issues over time, according to a new study released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Titled "From Wrongs to Rights," the study by Alan S. Yang analyzed data from national opinion polls from the 1970s through 1997, examining attitudes towards issues like gays in the military, same-sex marriage, domestic partnership benefits, adoptions by gays and employment discrimination.

The study is the most comprehensive analysis of public opinion about gays in the last two decades, according to the task force.

According to NGLTF Policy Institute Director Urvashi Vaid, editor of the survey, its results demonstrate "the paradox of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender life in America."

"The public's feelings toward gay men and lesbians have moved in a significantly positive direction during the last 20 years," said Urvashi Vaid, director of the task force's policy institute. "However, when compared to other social groups, gay men and lesbians are still one of the most disliked groups in the nation."

Vaid said some survey results were startlingly positive.

"The most surprising thing we saw in the report was that in the 11-year period between 1987 and 1998, we saw a drop of 19 percent when people were asked whether they disapprove

of same-sex practices. ... That's a stunning movement in public opinion in a relatively short time.

"Another major conclusion is that with nearly every question that has been asked over time, the trend is toward greater acceptance of gay and lesbian equality," she said.

The report also included data from national polls by Gallop and Princeton Survey Research Associates showing that the percentage of Americans saying they have a gay friend or acquaintance

rose from 24 percent in 1983 to 50 percent in 1997.

The parallel increases in support for gay issues and personal contact with gays demonstrate the importance of coming out and the need for greater visibility for the gay community, Vaid said.

The study also showed differences in positions on gay issues based on political party affiliations, with Republicans showing the least acceptance, followed by independents and then Democrats. In 1996, 49 percent of Republicans said they favor "laws to protect homosexuals against job dis-

crimination," compared to 65 percent of independents and 74 percent of Democrats.

"This report empirically and objectively proves that while the voice of the anti-gay right wing may be loud in its opposition to equal rights, its claim to majority public opinion is unjustified," said Kerry Lobel, the task force's executive director.

But Robert Knight, director of cultural studies for the conservative Family Research Council, disagreed.

"This sounds like the ultimate homosexual fantasy, that the public is craving leaders who promote and legitimize

bizarre sexual acts," he told *The New York Times*.

Previous task force studies of gay-related bills introduced in state legislatures suggested a trend towards focusing on family issues like gay marriage and adoption rights-issues in which the "From Wrongs to Rights" report showed much less support.

Although 84 percent of Americans said they support equal employment rights for gays and lesbians, only 40

percent said they support adoptions by gay couples, and only 35 percent supported same-sex marriage.

"I think we have to look at this and say, 'We have a lot of work to do,'" Vaid said of the family data.

"But I do interpret this more optimistically, because marriage and gay and lesbian parenting issues are very new in the public image. They aren't the things we've been talking about for all of the decades since the movement appeared.

"I take heart from the fact that we have a third of the population already with us on the marriage issue, although we have a lot of educational work to do."

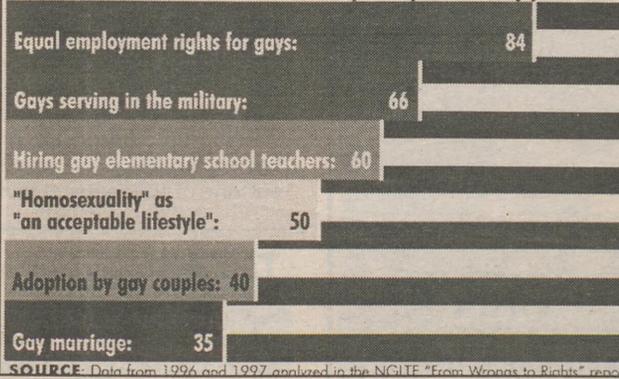
Education will help improve the poll numbers for gays, Vaid said.

"My interpretation (of this report) is that we need to take heart from this," Vaid said. "Even though we are losing some battles on local initiatives, we need to take heart that the movement that starts by us coming out of the closet and educating others — and all of our campaigns for legal equality — is successful over time. That's the most significant message the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community can take from this," she said.



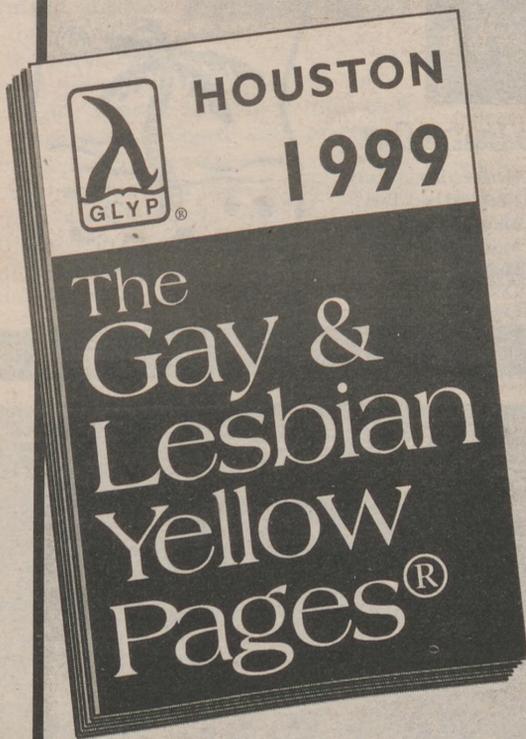
Vaid: On some issues, improved tolerance was "stunning."

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SOURCE: Data from 1996 and 1997 analyzed in the NGLTF "From Wrongs to Rights" report.

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Events that children (of any age) will enjoy are Pride Day at Astroworld on June 14, and Pride Jamboree '98 at Memorial Park on June 13 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Advance tickets for Astroworld are \$20, a more than 40 percent discount over the gate price, and are available at Crossroads, Walgreens, Lobo and Basic Brothers.

Pride 98 officially begins June 12 with a kick off party at Riva's at 8 p.m. Don't party too late, as there is a Fun Run that sets out from Fonde Recreation Center at 7:45 a.m. on June 13. Late risers can mosey over to Memorial Park for the Pride Jamboree. Games, skating, picnics and the EZ Bake Oven Invitational Bake-off are featured.

June 13 events also include the fundraisers "Wigs on Fire is Back" at Rich's and Prom Night '98 at Lovett Inn.

If you are concerned about mental health, finances, or safer sex, check out one of the many seminars offered

or the "Glowing With Health" on June 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hornberger Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe.

Valinski is delighted with the diverse venues for the events.

"Bars are hosting many special events, but also I'm glad that we have so many events that are not in bars" he said. Stages, Theatre Lab, and the Wortham Theatre are also hosting Pride events.

The pride committee meets year-round to organize Pride events. General meetings are held monthly and anyone who attends two meetings becomes a voting member.

"We have a really cohesive group all working together and I'm very proud of them," Valinski said.

Some 10,000 Pride Guides were mailed. Pride merchandise is available at several locations, including Walgreens and Kroger.

For more information about Pride events, access the festival's website at www.pridehouston.org or call 713-529-6979.

TEXAS/

said.

"We wanted to do the same as of the rest of the festivals in town (with banners). It shows a lot of community spirit," she said.

Flyers with details of the event were placed in restaurants around the city, which may have led to increased prank calls to the lobby's office, Hardy-Garcia said.

The office fielded nearly 60 calls on Monday and about 30 on Tuesday, she said. The lobby's telephone number is being entered into pagers and when owners return the calls, they are surprised at who they called and sometimes react poorly, organizers said.

Because of the prank calls and van-

dalism, security will be tightened at the all-day event, which features a variety of bands and 7 hours of non-stop music. Some 4,000 people attended the festival last year.

The added security will have company: The city's fire, police and sheriff departments plan to join the expected 100 booths during the event to recruit personnel.

Authorities are investigating the vandalism and banner theft.

"Everything else about the festival has been so good," Hardy-Garcia said. "We are hoping for a better turnout (than last year). The heat is my only worry."

The festival runs June 7 from noon to 7 p.m. at the Fiesta Gardens In Austin.

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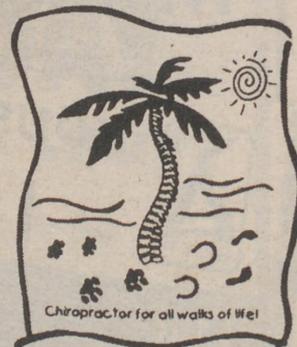
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Apology Issued for Sex Questions

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The Illinois Board of Education apologized Wednesday for sending out a test that asked hundreds of 11th-graders explicit questions about sex. The health education test, sent to 61 high schools as part of a statewide pilot project, contained questions about the AIDS virus that referred to anal and oral sex. The test also asked students the most effective way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases but did not list abstinence as an option.

"I am as shocked and dismayed as anyone that questions as insensitive as these would be used on any kind of assessment of Illinois students," state Superintendent Joseph Spagnolo said in a letter of apology to affected schools.

The Rev. Robert Vanden Bosch, director of Concerned Christian Americans, said an apology cannot repair the harm done.

The questions came from a national bank of test items used in other states. Illinois officials recalled the tests last month after a parent alerted them to the questions, but almost all the schools had given the exam already, Spagnolo said.

Off-Broadway Theater Will Produce 'Gay Jesus'

NEW YORK — An off-Broadway theater has reversed itself and agreed to produce a controversial play about a gay Christlike figure, despite several anonymous death threats. "In our 25-year history, we have never censored a play nor turned a play down because of content," Lynne Meadow, Manhattan Theater Club's artistic director, said last Thursday. "The only issue for us has been safety and security."

The theater had canceled the production of Terrence McNally's "Corpus Christi" in the face of anonymous threats made against the building, its audience and the playwright. Meadow said the theater club reversed its decision after New York City Police Commissioner Howard Safir promised to ensure safety if the play was produced. Theater officials refused to discuss the play's subject matter, which, according to accounts in the *New York Post*, deals with a Christlike young man who has sex with his disciples. McNally is the openly gay author of the Tony Award-winning "Love! Valour! Compassion!" and "Master Class."



McNally

Calif. Moves to Criminalize Hate Crimes Against Transgendered

SACRAMENTO — Legislation to strengthen prosecution of gender-related hate crimes has been passed by the California Assembly. Lawmakers sent the bill, authored by openly-lesbian Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) to the Senate on a 49-11 vote on May 29. It would clarify that hate crimes include those aimed at victims who dress like or behave like the opposite sex. Kuehl says few district attorneys outside Los Angeles and San Francisco are pursuing charges related to attacks on transgender victims under existing hate crimes law. The Assembly also passed another hate crimes bill, by

Assemblyman Wally Knox (D-Los Angeles) on a 53-6 vote. It would require mandatory life imprisonment without parole in murders related to victims' gender, sexual orientation or disability. Knox says existing law allows such murderers to be paroled after 17 years. The bill is sponsored by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, which says anti-gay hate crimes have increased in recent years, and tend to be more violent than those against others.

Conservatives Target New York City's Domestic Partner Plan

NEW YORK — Ministers from Brooklyn, Harlem and Philadelphia united together in a call to urge families to attend "Blessing '98" as a means to save families from divorce and immorality. "Blessing '98", a pro-family rally and marriage rededication ceremony at Madison Square Garden on June 13 will feature a 1,000-voice gospel choir and a one-hour pro-family rally featuring Pat Boone among others. The ministers and organizers of the event called for all New Yorkers to oppose the domestic partners legislation proposed by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani that would give unmarried and same-sex partners many of the same rights and benefits as traditionally married couples.



Giuliani

Meanwhile, two of New York's most powerful Roman Catholics, the mayor and the cardinal, are clashing over the rights of unmarried couples. At Mass last Sunday, Cardinal John O'Connor spoke out against Giuliani's domestic partner proposal. The cardinal, the spiritual leader for the nearly 2 million Catholics in the New York archdiocese, said that while the church will fight to protect human rights, it will do so only through actions "that do not abrogate the sanctity of marriage." Giuliani countered that his position was "a healthy one." "The cardinal has every right to preach and to argue for his moral point of view," Giuliani said. "But I think that my analysis of it is that this is a human rights issue." A vote on his legislative proposal is expected in the City Council by late June.

Lambda Legal Defense Challenges Arkansas Anti-Sodomy Law

LITTLE ROCK — An Arkansas court heard arguments last week in a suit filed by a gay rights group challenging the state's sodomy law. The law prohibits gay anal and oral sex — while permitting similar activity among consenting heterosexuals — and carries maximum penalties of one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Suzanne Goldberg, of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, argued that the courts would never tolerate such a law if it applied only to sex between people of different races instead of only to gays.

The state argued that no one has been taken to court in Arkansas for such conduct in 70 years and that the law doesn't need to be struck from the books because it isn't being enforced. Pulaski County Chancellor Collins Kilgore took the motion gave no indication when he might rule on the request for dismissal.

—From staff and wire reports

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CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday, June 5

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

Saturday, June 6

- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday, June 7

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 10:30 am at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service "Preaching the Gospel" at 11 am. 713-528-6756.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am .861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. (A Study in the Book of Joshua.) 4305 Lillian 880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm. 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.
- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet;

- <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Faith and Hope Fellowship Service at 11:00 am. 713-520-7847.

Monday, June 8

- Low impact aerobics done to Christian Music for body, soul, and spirit at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 880-9235 or www.community-gospel.org.

- Catholic Mass at 7:00 pm at the Kolbe Project. 861-1800

Tuesday, June 9

- MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm Orchestra rehearsal at 7:30 pm. 861-9149.
- PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- Maranatha Fellowship MCC has groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Women & Spiritually Series at 7 pm. At the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800.

Wednesday, June 10

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

Thursday, June 11

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

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Survey: AIDS Care Lacking for Some

WASHINGTON — One in four people beginning treatment for AIDS gets substandard care, and women and minorities are particularly at risk, according to a survey of doctors. The government published national guidelines last year setting the standard for HIV treatment: a three-drug cocktail of anti-AIDS medicines, including one type of drug called a protease inhibitor.

The survey of 476 doctors who treat AIDS found 25 percent of patients just beginning HIV treatment don't get that care. Instead, doctors prescribed one or two AIDS drugs, and did not include a protease inhibitor, said the survey, which was released Wednesday.

"That means patients are more likely to experience symptoms," said Dr. John Bartlett of Johns Hopkins University, who co-chaired the government panel that issued the guidelines.

Doctors more experienced in treating AIDS were more likely to follow federal treatment guidelines, the survey found. Women and minorities were more at risk of substandard care, said Dr. Paul Volberding of the University of California, San Francisco.

FDA Grants AIDS Vaccine Trial

NEW YORK — The Food and Drug Administration has granted permission to VaxGen Inc. for the nation's first large-scale trial for an AIDS pre-

vention vaccine. *The Wall Street Journal* reported Wednesday.

Headed by virologist Donald Francis, who successfully battled the Ebola virus in the Sudan and smallpox in India, the three-year trial of Aidsvax will include 5,000 U.S. volunteers and 2,500 volunteers in Thailand. Tests in the United States were expected to begin this month, the *Journal* said, and in Thailand by the end of the year.

An ideal AIDS vaccine would train the human immune system to ward off infection by creating antibodies, though critics say a vaccine alone is unlikely to provide immunity against HIV. Some 30 million people worldwide have AIDS.

There are other AIDS vaccines in early trials. But Seth Berkley, president of the nonprofit International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, called the Aidsvax trial was a "watershed event in the AIDS crisis." FDA permission does not mean the government endorses Aidsvax, but merely that trials would conform to a certain standard of safety and that prior testing showed indications of biological activity.

Study: HIV Can Still Resist All Treatments

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Stanford University researchers announced the results of a study showing that patients previously treated with multiple HIV drugs can still develop full resistance to all currently available treatment combinations. The findings were published in the June 1 issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*. "This study confirms many of our worst

fears about the long-term ability to control HIV with currently available treatments," said Derék Gordon, director of communications for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "For those of us living with HIV, and those of us fighting to end HIV/AIDS, this is a wake-up call: the epidemic is not over." Researchers, led by Dr. Robert Shafer of Stanford University Medical Center, say the new results suggest the AIDS epidemic has split, with patients falling into two distinct groups: the newly infected, who benefit tremendously from powerful new drug combinations, and those who started with earlier classes of HIV drugs and now have HIV strains resistant to one or more drugs.

HIV in Semen May Be Unaffected by 'Cocktail' Drug Therapy

WASHINGTON — Even though HIV levels in the blood may be undetectable, there still may be high levels of the virus in the semen, according to an article in the journal *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses*. And just because protease inhibitors are successful in suppressing replication in the bloodstream doesn't mean they do so in virus in the genital tract. In fact, HIV appears to be able to sustain a reservoir in the male genital tract and reproduce itself there independently of HIV in the bloodstream and without interference from protease inhibitors. The report, from Harvard Medical School researcher Ann Kiessling and colleagues at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in

Boston, indicates that HIV infects the semen-producing organs such as the testes, prostate, and urethra, early on and replicates separately from the virus in the circulating blood. This finding, noted Kiessling, should have a "profound significance for evaluating viral load measurements and for making decisions concerning changing, or withdrawing" patients from drug combination therapy.

FDA Licenses First-Ever Urine Test for HIV

BERKELEY, Calif. — The FDA has approved use of the first-ever urine test for HIV, the Calypte Biomedical Corporation announced on Monday. Clinical studies have shown this urine diagnostic test system to be a highly accurate alternative, and less expensive to blood testing, the company said. The new test is also expected to appeal to many who have avoided being tested in the past because they dislike having their blood drawn. Keith Waterbrook, Director of Health Services at the Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic in Los Angeles, hailed the announcement as an important development in the fight against HIV and AIDS. "We operate the largest gay and lesbian clinic in the country, and every day we take phone calls from people who want to be tested but don't want to have their blood drawn. Now that it's possible to reliably test for HIV-1 infection with a simple urine specimen, we have a new testing option that will be greatly welcomed by many in our community."

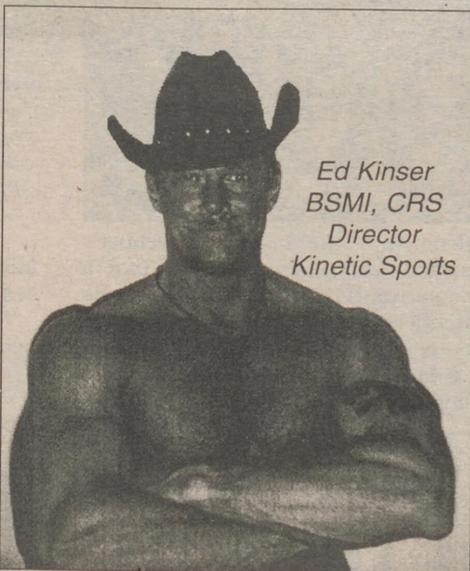
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June 5 - June 7

Today begins the third week of the Second Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The following features show at the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, and cost \$5 each.

"Out of the Past" (USA, 1997, 64 minutes): Director Jeff Dupre probes the development of American's gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Beginning his civics lesson with the 17th century diary of Puritan Cleric Michael Wigglesworth, Dupre weaves a chronological adventure of immense historical importance and gives gays and lesbians a broader perspective on their future. June 5 at 7:30 p.m. and June 6 at 1 p.m.

"The Silver Screen/Color Me Lavender" (USA, 1997, 102 minutes): A short time ago, in an era not too far away, Hollywood reeked with gay overtones self-evident to "friends of Dorothy." But Tinsel Town got as freaky as Toot Town when mainstream moviegoers frowned on homo innuendo. Now that gay is cool again, director Mark Rappaport plunges into the world of classic moviedom to unveil queer tendencies in films from the 30's to the 60's. "Frasier" regular Dan Butler narrates the comical collage. June 5 at 8:45 p.m. and June 6 at 2:15 p.m.

"American Cowboy" (USA, 1997, 52 minutes): Houstonian Kyle Henry directs his docudrama about Houstonian Gene Mikulenska's cowboy odyssey in gay and straight rodeo circuits. Henry and company follow Mikulenska's trek to the 1996 International Gay Rodeo Association finals in Albuquerque. Along the way, Mikulenska experiences tragedy and triumph, but he manages to come out smelling like a rose. Another local gem, "Horse Dreams in BBQ Country" follows "American Cowboy." June 6 at 7:30 p.m. and June 7 at 5 p.m.

"Latin Boys Go To Hell" (USA, 1997, 78 minutes): Cocooned in a childhood fantasy world, 20 something Justin spends his days glomming over pop culture icons and watching the Mexican telenovela "Dos Vidos." Earning his club-trotting cash as a photography assistant to a curator of erotic Latino images, Justin's world goes topsy-turvy when his sex-magnet cousin Angel turns him on. But Angel turns his charms on Andrea, aggravating Justin and Andrea's friend Braulio. Locked in an obsessive loop with his boyfriend Carlos, Braulio explodes when Carlos and Justin hook up. What erupts later is a machismo inferno that would make Dante proud. June 6 at 8:45 p.m. and June 7 at 6:15 p.m.

"The Delta" (USA, 1997, 85 minutes): Lincoln Bloom (Shayne Gray) picks up Minh Nguyen (Thang Chan), a mixed race Vietnamese twenty-something, and wastes in performing oral sex. Afterwards, Bloom joins his girlfriend to drink beer and get stoned. After Mihn and Bloom get reacquainted at a local adult bookstore, the pair takes off down the Mississippi in Bloom's family yacht. What lies ahead is a tell-all near-monologue of Mihn's obsession for Bloom. The film's fatal ending is a surprise, and Sachs leaves us yearning for another ride with a stranger in the night. June 7 at 8 p.m.

OUT ON THE BAYOU



HOUSTON VOICE • JUNE 5, 1998
A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

INTERVIEW: JIM WEITZER

Young actor takes lead in 'Phantom'

Weitzer tells Houston Voice of his road to success with hit musical

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

In 1990, Milwaukee born actor Jim Weitzer was a wide-eyed 16 year-old when his parents took him to see the Chicago tour of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award winning musical "The Phantom of the Opera." Back then, he was clueless that eight years later he would be a principal actor in a national tour of the history making drama, which opens Wednesday at Jones Hall.

"The Phantom of the Opera was the first big show I saw," said Weitzer, 24, who plays Raoul, the dashing paramour caught in an arduous love triangle with the wily Phantom (Brad Little), and the mildly possessed Christine Daaé (Amy Jo Arrington).

After one and half years with the touring company, Weitzer was promoted to the role of Raoul in January. "I was one of the youngest people of the cast, and the directors took me under their wing," he said. "It's been really fun to be a part of this."

Since opening at Her Majesty's Theater in London in 1986, "The Phantom of the Opera" has grossed \$1.6 billion in ticket sales worldwide, and has played to an estimated audience of 52 million. That tremendous amount of success generates a unique kind of pressure for the actors.

"It's kind of humorous sometimes," said Weitzer, reflecting on the fanaticism of hardcore "Phantom" fans. "Somebody might forget a line, or something will be a little different, and there will be somebody at the stage door that night who says, 'Have they changed the script?'"

Currently in the U.S., "The Phantom

of the Opera" plays at New York and San Francisco, and two national productions are touring the country. "Phantom" fans are a sophisticated lot, and many use the Internet to critique performances at the anchored theaters and both national tours.

"We have a large group of audience members who actually go online and discuss the Broadway show, versus the national tours, versus San Francisco," said Weitzer. "They get down to the nitty gritty, and some know 'Phantom' better than I do. Many are experts who have seen the show in excess of 100 times," he said.

unrequited love," he said. "There's part of Christine that will never be the Phantom's, but she has a mystical orgasmic feeling when she sings with him that Raoul can never share with her."

Students attend special "Phantom" matinees, and Weitzer said he enjoys post-performance feedback sessions with them the most. "It's a blast with the kids because the energy is so high. There's a lot more clapping and a lot more gasping. You'd think there would be a problem with keeping their



A fan: Jim Weitzer, (above) who first saw Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award winning musical as an 8-year-old in Chicago, takes the lead when the production opens in Houston on June 10. The company performs "Hannibal" (left) in a scene from "The Phantom of the Opera."



Along with the magic of Webber's haunting score, Weitzer thinks that a large part of "Phantom's" success is its centerpiece love allegory between the Phantom, Raoul and Christine. "I think it's a story we can all relate to, those feelings and emotions involved with

interests, but they're with you 100 percent," he said.

The interactive energy between the performers and the audience amazes

See WEITZER/page 25

TELEVISION

'MORE TALES OF THE CITY'

Upcoming mini-series returns popular but controversial show to TV

by ANDREW ALEXANDER

Will Mrs. Madrigal reveal that she's Mona's father? Will Beauchamp come out to his wife? Will life in the city be everything that Mary Ann had hoped for? Will Michael find the man of his dreams? And more importantly, will he be able to keep him?

Those who watched the television mini-series "Tales of the City" when it first aired on Public Broadcasting System stations have waited four long years for the answers to those questions. Like the happy devotees of a good soap opera, viewers grew to care about writer Armistead Maupin's

quirky characters and loved every deliciously suspenseful moment.

On June 7-8, the next installment "More Tales of the City" will air on Showtime. The new mini-series picks up where "Tales" left off. (If you haven't seen the first series, hurry down to the video store and rent the tapes.)

"More Tales" brings back Olympia Dukakis as Mrs. Madrigal and Laura Linney as Mary Ann Singleton. New to the cast are Paul Hopkins as Michael Tolliver and Nina Siemascko as Mona Ramsey. Swoosie Kurtz will play Betty Ramsey, and Armistead Maupin himself

See TALES/page 25



Mrs. Madrigal: Olympia Dukakis returns as Mrs. Madrigal in "More Tales of the City" on Showtime June 7.



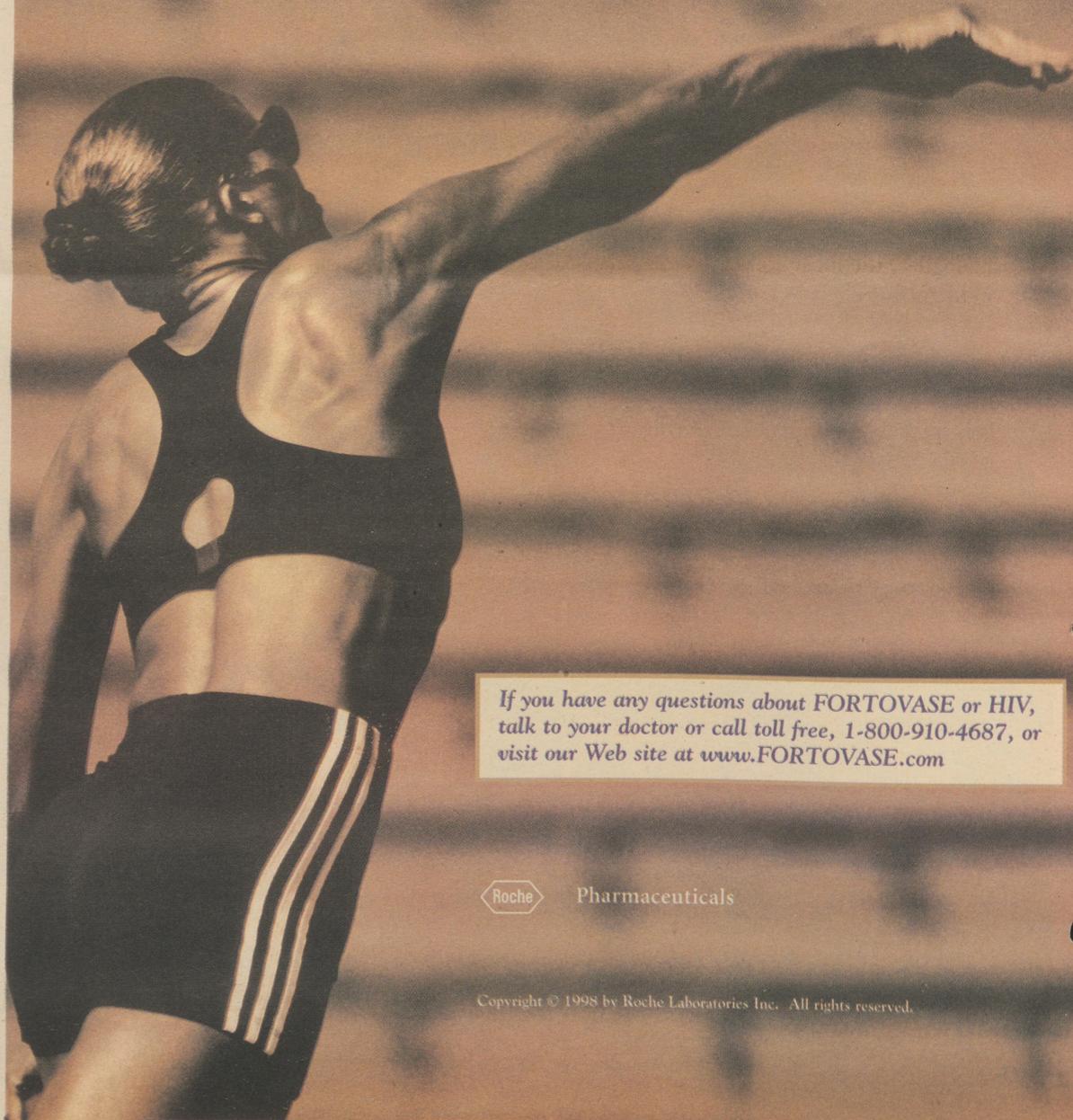
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KEEP SIDE EFFECTS LOW

FORTOVASE, like INVIRASE, is generally well tolerated. The majority of side effects are mild. In patients taking FORTOVASE with two nucleoside analogues, the most common side effects were nausea, diarrhea, upset stomach and heartburn.

ACHIEVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT

The recommended dosage of FORTOVASE is convenient and easy to remember—six capsules, taken three times a day with meals or within 2 hours after a meal. It is important to take your medication every day, as prescribed.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR

There are some medications that should not be taken with FORTOVASE. Be sure to tell your doctor all of the medicines that you are now taking or plan to take. There have also been reports of worsening liver problems in patients taking FORTOVASE. Additional side effects reported with protease inhibitors include increased blood sugar levels, new onset or worsening of diabetes and increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia. Talk to your doctor for more information regarding side effects that may accompany this medication.

NOTE: FORTOVASE and INVIRASE are not the same and should not be used interchangeably.
*Below the amount that could be found using a standard test.

Please see product information about FORTOVASE on the adjacent pages.

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FORTOVASE™ (saquinavir)

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: FORTOVASE is indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. This indication is based on a study that showed a reduction in both mortality and AIDS-defining clinical events for patients who received INVIRASE™ (saquinavir mesylate) in combination with HIVD™ (zalcitabine) compared to patients who received either HIVD or INVIRASE alone. This indication is also based on studies that showed increased saquinavir concentrations and improved antiviral activity for FORTOVASE 1200 mg tid compared to INVIRASE 600 mg tid.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: FORTOVASE is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to saquinavir or to any of the components contained in the capsule.

FORTOVASE should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine, cisapride, astemizole, triazolam, midazolam or ergot derivatives, because competition for CYP3A by saquinavir could result in inhibition of the metabolism of these drugs and create the potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions such as cardiac arrhythmias or prolonged sedation (see PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions).

WARNINGS: New onset diabetes mellitus, exacerbation of pre-existing diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia have been reported during postmarketing surveillance in HIV-infected patients receiving protease-inhibitor therapy. Some patients required either initiation or dose adjustments of insulin or oral hypoglycemic agents for the treatment of these events. In some cases diabetic ketoacidosis has occurred. In those patients who discontinued protease-inhibitor therapy, hyperglycemia persisted in some cases. Because these events have been reported voluntarily during clinical practice, estimates of frequency cannot be made and a causal relationship between protease-inhibitor therapy and these events has not been established.

PRECAUTIONS: General: If a serious or severe toxicity occurs during treatment with FORTOVASE, FORTOVASE should be interrupted until the etiology of the event is identified or the toxicity resolves. At that time, resumption of treatment with full-dose FORTOVASE may be considered.

Preliminary results from a pharmacokinetic substudy of NV15182 from patients sampled between weeks 61 to 69 of treatment showed that the mean saquinavir AUC was lower than the week 3 mean AUC from study NV15107. However, the mean AUC of saquinavir at week 61 to 69 remained higher than the mean AUC of INVIRASE in study NV15107 (see complete product information, CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics). The clinical significance of this finding is unknown.

Hepatic Insufficiency: Saquinavir is principally metabolized by the liver. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering FORTOVASE to patients with hepatic insufficiency since patients with baseline liver function tests >5 times the upper limit of normal were not included in clinical studies. Although a causal relationship has not been established, there have been reports of exacerbation of chronic liver dysfunction, including portal hypertension, in patients with underlying hepatitis B or C, cirrhosis or other underlying liver abnormalities.

Hemophilia: There have been reports of spontaneous bleeding in patients with hemophilia A and B treated with protease inhibitors. In some patients additional factor VIII was required. In the majority of reported cases treatment with protease inhibitors was continued or restarted. A causal relationship between protease-inhibitor therapy and these episodes has not been established.

Resistance/Cross-resistance: Varying degrees of cross-resistance among protease inhibitors have been observed. Continued administration of saquinavir therapy following loss of viral suppression may increase the likelihood of cross-resistance to other protease inhibitors (see complete product information, MICROBIOLOGY).

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed: (1) Any change from INVIRASE to FORTOVASE should be made only under the supervision of a physician; (2) FORTOVASE is not a cure for HIV infection and they may continue to contract illnesses associated with advanced HIV infection, including opportunistic infections; (3) FORTOVASE therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination; (4) FORTOVASE may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their physician the use of any other prescription or nonprescription medication; (5) FORTOVASE should be taken within 2 hours after a full meal (see complete product information, CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics); (6) Of the importance of taking their medication every day, as prescribed, to achieve maximum benefit. Patients should not alter the dose or discontinue therapy without consulting their physician. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, the patient should not double the next dose; (7) The long-term effects of FORTOVASE are unknown at this time; (8) Refrigerated (36° to 46°F, 2° to 8°C) capsules of FORTOVASE remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. Once brought to room temperature [at or below 77°F (25°C)], capsules should be used within 3 months.

Laboratory Tests: Clinical chemistry tests should be performed prior to initiating FORTOVASE therapy and at appropriate intervals thereafter. Elevated nonfasting triglyceride levels have been observed in patients in saquinavir trials. Triglyceride levels should be periodically monitored during therapy. For comprehensive information concerning laboratory test alterations associated with use of other antiretroviral therapies, physicians should refer to the complete product information for these drugs.

Drug Interactions: Several drug interaction studies have been completed with both INVIRASE and FORTOVASE. Observations from drug interaction studies with INVIRASE may not be predictive for FORTOVASE.

ANTIBIOTICS: Clarithromycin: Coadministration of clarithromycin with FORTOVASE resulted in a 177% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC, a 45% increase in clarithromycin AUC and a 24% decrease in clarithromycin 14-OH metabolite AUC.

ANTIHISTAMINES: Terfenadine: Coadministration of terfenadine with FORTOVASE resulted in increased terfenadine plasma levels; therefore, FORTOVASE should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine because of the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias. **Astemizole:** Because a similar interaction to that seen with terfenadine is likely from the coadministration of FORTOVASE and astemizole, FORTOVASE should not be administered concurrently with astemizole.

HIV PROTEASE INHIBITORS: Indinavir: Coadministration of indinavir with FORTOVASE (1200-mg single dose) resulted in a 364% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination. **Nelfinavir:** Coadministration of nelfinavir with FORTOVASE resulted in an 18% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 392% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination. **Ritonavir:** Following approximately 4 weeks of a combination regimen of saquinavir (400 mg or 600 mg bid) and ritonavir (400 mg or 600 mg bid) in HIV-infected patients, saquinavir AUC values were at least 17-fold greater than historical AUC values from patients who received saquinavir 600 mg tid without ritonavir. When used in combination therapy for up to 24 weeks, doses greater than 400 mg bid of either ritonavir or saquinavir were associated with an increase in adverse events. Plasma exposures achieved with INVIRASE (400 mg bid) and ritonavir (400 mg bid) are similar to those achieved with FORTOVASE (400 mg bid) and ritonavir (400 mg bid).

HIV REVERSE-TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITORS: No interaction with saquinavir is expected.

HIV NON-NUCLEOSIDE REVERSE-TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITORS: Delavirdine: Coadministration of delavirdine with INVIRASE resulted in a 5-fold increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently there are limited safety and no efficacy data available from the use of this combination. In a small, preliminary study, hepatocellular enzyme elevations occurred in 13% of subjects during the first several weeks of the delavirdine and saquinavir combination (6% Grade 3 or 4). Hepatocellular changes should be monitored frequently if this combination is prescribed. **Nevirapine:** Coadministration of nevirapine with INVIRASE resulted in a 24% decrease in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

ANTIFUNGAL AGENTS: Ketoconazole: Coadministration of ketoconazole with INVIRASE resulted in a 130% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC.

ANTIMYCOBACTERIAL AGENTS: Rifabutin: Coadministration of rifabutin with INVIRASE (saquinavir mesylate) resulted in a 43% decrease in saquinavir plasma AUC. Physicians should consider using an alternative to rifabutin when a patient is taking FORTOVASE. **Rifampin:** Coadministration of rifampin with INVIRASE resulted in an 84% decrease in saquinavir plasma AUC. Physicians should consider using an alternative to rifampin when a patient is taking FORTOVASE.

H₂ ANTAGONISTS: Ranitidine: Little or no change in the pharmacokinetics of INVIRASE was observed when coadministered with ranitidine. No significant interaction would be expected between FORTOVASE and ranitidine.

GI MOTILITY AGENTS: Cisapride: Cisapride should not be administered concurrently with FORTOVASE because of the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias.

Other potential drug interactions that may decrease saquinavir plasma concentrations include: anticonvulsants — carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin; corticosteroids — dexamethasone.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenesis: Carcinogenicity studies in rats and mice have not yet been completed.

Mutagenesis: Mutagenicity and genotoxicity studies, with and without metabolic activation where appropriate, have shown that saquinavir has no mutagenic activity in vitro in either bacterial (Ames test) or mammalian cells (Chinese hamster lung V79/HPRT test). Saquinavir does not induce chromosomal damage in vivo in the mouse micronucleus assay or in vitro in human peripheral blood lymphocytes and does not induce primary DNA damage in vitro in the unscheduled DNA synthesis test.

Impairment of Fertility: Fertility and reproductive performance were not affected in rats at plasma exposures (AUC values) approximately 50% of those achieved in humans at the recommended dose.

Pregnancy: Teratogenic Effects: Category B. Reproduction studies conducted with saquinavir in rats have shown no embryotoxicity or teratogenicity at plasma exposures (AUC values) approximately 50% of those achieved in humans at the recommended dose or in rabbits at plasma exposures approximately 40% of those achieved at the recommended clinical dose of FORTOVASE. Distribution studies in these species showed that placental transfer of saquinavir is low (less than 5% of maternal plasma concentrations).

Studies in rats indicated that exposure to saquinavir from late pregnancy through lactation at plasma concentrations (AUC values) approximately 50% of those achieved in humans at the recommended dose of FORTOVASE had no effect on the survival, growth and development of offspring to weaning. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, FORTOVASE should only be used during pregnancy after taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. Presently, there are no reports of women receiving FORTOVASE in clinical trials who became pregnant.

Nursing Mothers: The US Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breastfeed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not be infected. It is not known whether saquinavir is excreted in human milk.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of FORTOVASE in HIV-infected pediatric patients younger than 16 years of age have not been established.

Geriatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of FORTOVASE in HIV-infected geriatric patients older than 65 years of age have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS (see PRECAUTIONS): The safety of FORTOVASE was studied in more than 500 patients who received the drug either alone or in combination with other antiretroviral agents. The majority of treatment-related adverse events were of mild intensity. The most frequently reported treatment-emergent adverse events among patients receiving FORTOVASE in combination with other antiretroviral agents were diarrhea, nausea, abdominal discomfort and dyspepsia.

Clinical adverse events of at least moderate intensity which occurred in ≥2% of patients in studies NV15182 and NV15355 are summarized in Table A. The median duration of treatment in studies NV15182 and NV15355 were 52 and 18 weeks, respectively. In NV15182, more than 300 patients were on treatment for approximately 1 year.

Table A. Percent of Patients With Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events* of at Least Moderate Intensity, Occurring in ≥2% of Patients

ADVERSE EVENT	NV15182 (48 weeks)	NV15355 (16 weeks) Naive Patients	
	FORTOVASE + TOC ¹ N=442	INVIRASE + 2 RTIs ² N=81	FORTOVASE + 2 RTIs ² N=90
Diarrhea	19.9	12.3	15.6
Nausea	10.6	13.6	17.8
Abdominal Discomfort	8.6	4.9	13.3
Dyspepsia	8.4	—	8.9
Flatulence	5.7	7.4	12.2
Vomiting	2.9	1.2	4.4
Abdominal Pain	2.3	1.2	7.8
Constipation	—	—	3.3
Fatigue	4.8	6.2	6.7
Headaches	5.0	4.9	8.9
Depression	2.7	—	—
Insomnia	—	1.2	5.6
Anxiety	—	2.5	2.2
Libido Disorder	—	—	2.2
Taste Alteration	—	1.2	4.4
Pain	—	3.7	3.3
Eczema	—	2.5	—
Rash	—	2.5	—
Verruca	—	—	2.2

* Includes adverse events at least possibly related to study drug or of unknown intensity and/or relationship to treatment (corresponding to ACTG Grade 3 and 4). ¹Antiretroviral Treatment of Choice. ²Reverse-Transcriptase Inhibitor.

FORTOVASE did not appear to alter the pattern, frequency or severity of known major toxicities associated with the use of nucleoside analogues. Physicians should refer to the complete product information for other antiretroviral agents as appropriate for drug-associated adverse reactions to these other agents.

Rare occurrences of the following serious adverse experiences have been reported during clinical trials of FORTOVASE and/or INVIRASE and were considered at least possibly related to use of study drugs: confusion, ataxia and weakness; seizures; headache; acute myeloblastic leukemia; hemolytic anemia; thrombocytopenia; thrombocytopenia and intracranial hemorrhage leading to death; attempted suicide; Stevens-Johnson syndrome; bullous skin eruption and polyarthrits; severe cutaneous reaction associated with increased liver function tests; isolated elevation of transaminases; exacerbation of chronic liver disease with Grade 4 elevated liver function tests, jaundice, ascites, and right and left upper quadrant abdominal pain; pancreatitis leading to death; intestinal obstruction; portal hypertension; thrombophlebitis; peripheral vasoconstriction; drug fever; nephrolithiasis; and acute renal insufficiency.

Table B summarizes the percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities in study NV15182 and NV15355 (median duration of treatment was 52 and 18 weeks, respectively). In study NV15182, by 48 weeks <1% of patients discontinued treatment due to laboratory abnormalities.

WEITZER/from page 20

Weitzer, who feels that each performance is a spiritual offering shared mutually by all involved. "The Phantom of the Opera" is a phantasmic journey, and more times than not, the audience is ready to go where the actors want to take them, he said.

There are some draw backs in touring with the national show, Weitzer said.

"We have a no tanning clause in our contract," he said, noting the producer's desire to have the cast reflect characters relevant to 19th century France. "You never really think about that until you get to California or Texas."

Yet if that's the price to pay to be a young principal in a major tour, that suits Weitzer just fine. Feeling he's found his lot in life, Weitzer believes that theater is where he belongs. He has a simple, yet profound philosophy: "This is it for me," he said.

What: "The Phantom of the Opera"

When: June 10 — July 12. Shows

Tuesday to Saturday at 8 p.m.;

Saturday and Sunday matinees at

2 p.m.

Where: Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana

Tickets: \$16 — \$66,

713-629-3700. Group sales for 20

or more, call 800-889-8457.

FORTOVASE™ (saquinavir)

Table B. Percent of Patients With Marked Laboratory Abnormalities*

Biochemistry/Hematology	Limit	NV15355 (16 weeks) Naive Patients		
		FORTOVASE + TOC† N=442	INVIRASE + 2 RTIs‡ N=81	FORTOVASE + 2 RTIs‡ N=80
Alk Phos	>5 x ULN§	0.5	0.0	0.0
Calcium (high)	>12.5 mg/dL	0.2	0.0	0.0
Creatine Kinase	>4 x ULN§	7.8	0.0	4.8
Gamma GT	>5 x ULN§	5.7	2.6	7.1
Glucose (low)	<40 mg/dL	6.4	2.5	3.5
Glucose (high)	>250 mg/dL	1.4	1.3	1.2
Phosphate	<1.5 mg/dL	0.5	0.0	0.0
Potassium (high)	>6.5 mEq/L	2.7	0.0	1.2
Serum Amylase	>2 x ULN§	1.9	Not Done	Not Done
SGOT (AST)	>5 x ULN§	4.1	0.0	1.2
SGPT (ALT)	>5 x ULN§	5.7	1.3	2.3
Sodium (high)	>157 mEq/L	0.7	0.0	0.0
Total Bilirubin	>2.5 x ULN§	1.6	0.0	0.0
Hemoglobin	<7.0 gm/dL	0.7	0.0	1.2
ANC	<750 mm³	2.9	2.9	1.2
Platelets	<50,000 mm³	0.9	2.5	0.0

*ACTG Grade 3 or above. †Antiretroviral Treatment of Choice. ‡Reverse-Transcriptase Inhibitor. §ULN = Upper limit of normal range.

Additional marked lab abnormalities have been observed with INVIRASE (saquinavir mesylate). These include: calcium (low), phosphate (low), potassium (low), sodium (low).

Monotherapy and Combination Studies: Other clinical adverse experiences of any intensity, at least remotely related to FORTOVASE and INVIRASE, including those in <2% of patients, are listed below by body system.

Autonomic Nervous System: Mouth dry, night sweats, sweating increased

Body as a Whole: Allergic reaction, anorexia, appetite decreased, appetite disturbances, asthenia, chest pain, edema, fever, intoxication, malaise, olfactory disorder, pain body, pain pelvic, retrosternal pain, shivering, trauma, wasting syndrome, weakness generalized, weight decrease

Cardiovascular/Cerebrovascular: Cyanosis, heart murmur, heart rate disorder, heart valve disorder, hypertension, hypotension, stroke, syncope, vein distended

Central and Peripheral Nervous System: Ataxia, cerebral hemorrhage, confusion, convulsions, dizziness, dysarthria, dysesthesia, hyperesthesia, hyperreflexia, hyporeflexia, light-headed feeling, myelopolyradiculoneuritis, neuropathy, numbness extremities, numbness face, paresis, paresthesia, peripheral neuropathy, poliomyelitis, prickly sensation, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, spasms, tremor, unconsciousness

Dermatological: Acne, alopecia, chalazion, dermatitis, dermatitis seborrheic, erythema, folliculitis, furunculosis, hair changes, hot flushes, nail disorder, papillomatosis, papular rash, photosensitivity reaction, pigment changes skin, parasites external, pruritus, psoriasis, rash maculopapular, rash pruritic, red face, skin disorder, skin nodule, skin syndrome, skin ulceration, urticaria, verruca, xeroderma

Endocrine/Metabolic: Dehydration, diabetes mellitus, hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia, hypothyroidism, thirst, triglyceride increase, weight increase

Gastrointestinal: Abdominal distention, bowel movements frequent, buccal mucosa ulceration, canker sores oral, cheilitis, colic abdominal, dysphagia, esophageal ulceration, esophagitis, eructation, fecal incontinence, feces bloodstained, feces discolored, gastralgia, gastritis, gastroesophageal reflux, gastrointestinal inflammation, gingivitis, glossitis, hemorrhage rectum, hemorrhoids, infectious diarrhea, melena, painful defecation, parotid disorder, pruritus ani, pyrosis, salivary glands disorder, stomach upset, stomatitis, taste unpleasant, toothache, tooth disorder, ulcer gastrointestinal

Hematologic: Anemia, neutropenia, pancytopenia, splenomegaly

Liver and Biliary: Cholangitis sclerosing, cholelithiasis, hepatitis, hepatomegaly, hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, liver enzyme disorder, pancreatitis

Musculoskeletal: Arthralgia, arthritis, back pain, cramps leg, cramps muscle, lumbago, musculoskeletal disorders, myalgia, myopathy, pain facial, pain jaw, pain leg, pain musculoskeletal, stiffness, tissue changes

Neoplasm: Kaposi's sarcoma, tumor

Platelet, Bleeding, Clotting: Bleeding dermal, hemorrhage, microhemorrhages, thrombocytopenia

Psychiatric: Agitation, amnesia, anxiety attack, behavior disturbances, dreaming excessive, euphoria, hallucination, intellectual ability reduced, irritability, lethargy, overdose effect, psychic disorder, psychosis, somnolence, speech disorder

Reproductive System: Epididymitis, erectile impotence, impotence, menstrual disorder, menstrual irregularity, penis disorder, prostate enlarged, vaginal discharge

Resistance Mechanism: Abscess, angina tonsillar, candidiasis, cellulitis, herpes simplex, herpes zoster, infection bacterial, infection mycotic, infection staphylococcal, infestation parasitic, influenza, lymphadenopathy, molluscum contagiosum, moniliasis

Respiratory: Asthma bronchial, bronchitis, cough, dyspnea, epistaxis, hemoptysis, laryngitis, pharyngitis, pneumonia, pulmonary disease, respiratory disorder, rhinitis, rhinitis allergic atopic, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection

Special Senses: Blepharitis, conjunctivitis, cytomegalovirus retinitis, dry eye syndrome, earache, ear pressure, eye irritation, hearing decreased, otitis, taste unpleasant, tinnitus, visual disturbance, xerophthalmia

Urinary System: Micturition disorder, nocturia, renal calculus, renal colic, urinary tract bleeding, urinary tract infection

OVERDOSAGE: Overdosage with FORTOVASE has not been reported. There were 2 patients who had overdoses with INVIRASE. No sequelae were noted in the first patient after ingesting 8 grams of INVIRASE as a single dose. The patient was treated with induction of emesis within 2 to 4 hours after ingestion. The second patient ingested 2.4 grams of INVIRASE in combination with 600 mg of ritonavir and experienced pain in the throat that lasted for 6 hours and then resolved.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: The recommended dose of FORTOVASE is six 200-mg capsules orally, three times a day (1200 mg tid). FORTOVASE should be taken with a meal or up to 2 hours after a meal (see complete product information).

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F Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., Basel, Switzerland
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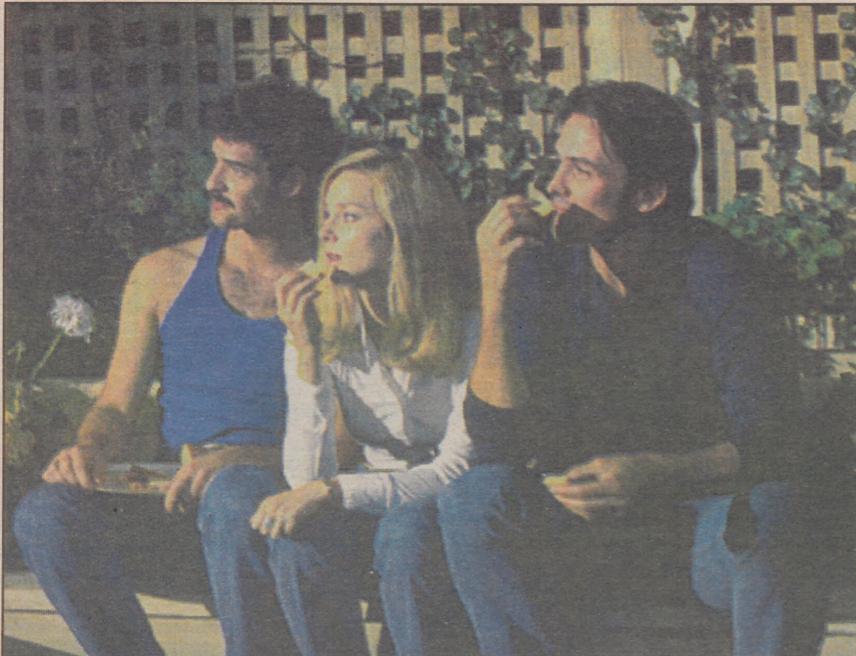


Pharmaceuticals

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Issued: November 1997
FOR0080



Unanswered questions: A new cast debuts in "More Tales to the City," the television mini-series that caused a stir when it aired on PBS. Laura Linney (center) returns as Mary Ann Singleton, along with newcomers Paul Hopkins (left) as Michael Tolliver and Whip Hubley as Brian Hawkins. Photos by Eric Liebowitz

TALES/from page 20

makes a cameo appearance as a priest.

Unlike many soap operas and mini-series, the show depicts the lives of its gay characters as being every bit as worthwhile and important as the lives of its straight characters.

When "Tales of the City" first aired on public television, the drama that occurred off-screen was every bit as nail-biting as the action on screen. In addition to depicting the lives of gay characters (including a romantic gay kiss), the original series, set in 1970s San Francisco, showed some drug use and contained partial nudity. Conservatives flipped.

Legislatures in Georgia and Oklahoma passed resolutions condemning the show. The future of PBS funding seemed to hang in the balance. Politicians tried to stop broadcast of the series. The show was blacked out by a small handful of affiliates in the South, including South Carolina and Tennessee. Bomb threats in Chattanooga shut down the television station there the night the series was meant to air. The American Family Association launched an all-out attack on the series.

Armistead Maupin, the writer who created the characters and the novels on which the series is based, seems to consider the uproar much ado about nothing.

"I don't think very many people were offended in the first place," Maupin says. "The American Family Association was offended, and it seems to be their job to be offended. But I heard from a lot of conservatives and people who you wouldn't normally imagine to be the demographics of our viewership, and they simply loved the story and were

delighted to find something that good on television. The usual small coterie of people who gripe about everything were griping about 'Tales,' and they had a louder voice because they had government bodies they could complain to."

Although the series was one of the highest rated shows ever to appear on public television, PBS decided not to air the sequel.

"The thing about public television," says Maupin, "is that it really does seem to bear out the old adage: government funding means government control. ... GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) was certainly useful to us when 'Tales' was scuttled the first time because they helped to get the word out to the press."

Maupin first began writing "Tales" in 1976 as a daily serial in the San Francisco Chronicle. The author weaved diverse characters into an ongoing story about lives in San Francisco. The serial became a huge international hit when he published it as a novel, and he followed it with five others, all dealing with the lives of the same characters. "From the very beginning," says Maupin. "I resolved to create a tapestry large enough to encompass all of humanity."



'Tales': Bill Campbell (left) as Jon Fielding and Paul Hopkins star in "More Tales of the City."

'Harvey Milk'

Opera with Houston ties now on compact disc

by HARRIET L. SCHWARTZ

While much of the opera world continues to be consumed with century-old tales of life and death, collaborators Michael Korie and Stewart Wallace chose a more contemporary topic for their most recent work.

The triumphant rise and brutal slaying of gay civil-rights leader Harvey Milk has been told several times in print and on film since his death in 1978.

The stories document Milk's ascent from neighborhood activist to San Francisco's first openly gay supervisor, and his and Mayor George Moscone's assassinations by another supervisor, Dan White.

Twenty years after his death, Milk's legendary life story reached another medium when Korie and Wallace's fourth opera, "Harvey Milk: An Opera in Three Acts," debuted in January 1995 in Houston. Teldec Records recently released "Harvey Milk," a two-CD recording based on their opera.

"I personally have never been interested in writing an opera about some Greek myth," says Korie, 43. "I'd rather write one about a contemporary myth." Wallace, who composed the music for "Harvey Milk," was also drawn to the project immediately.

"My first thought was, 'Why hasn't anyone done this before?' It felt like such a natural idea and so suited to the operatic treatment," says Wallace, 37. "The tragic dimensions are phenomenal, and so poignant and contemporary. The story is also very relevant to our times.

"I found in Harvey Milk a real heroic figure. The chance to do an opera about a man who began in very ordinary circumstances and then did very extraordinary things — it was very compelling. For me personally, it allowed me to go back to that time and experience that feeling that everyone could make a difference."

Operatic beginnings

The idea originated with John Dew, a British opera director, who mentioned it to David Gockley, the general director of the Houston Grand Opera. Gockley suggested Korie and Wallace for the project, and the two, who had worked together several times, got started.

"For me, 'Harvey Milk' was an opportunity to go back and take a look at what I had been doing with my life

up until then," Korie says. "I used to be a journalist. I wrote about Stonewall for *The Village Voice* — you know, I was a kid then. I went back to all those memories and places and people, and spoke to them again.

"From all that research and the talking and thinking that Stewart and I do together, we evolved the structure. It was the three-act structure that divided this man's life into three eras: the closet, the Castro and City Hall. That helped decide the musical shape of the piece. We felt we wanted to rise to a climax at the end of each act so we picked the three climaxes of the Stonewall riots, the pride parade coinciding with his election, and the elegy, the requiem of mourning at the end. Early on in the process, we made the decision not to go beyond that, not to cover the Dan White trial."

Early controversy

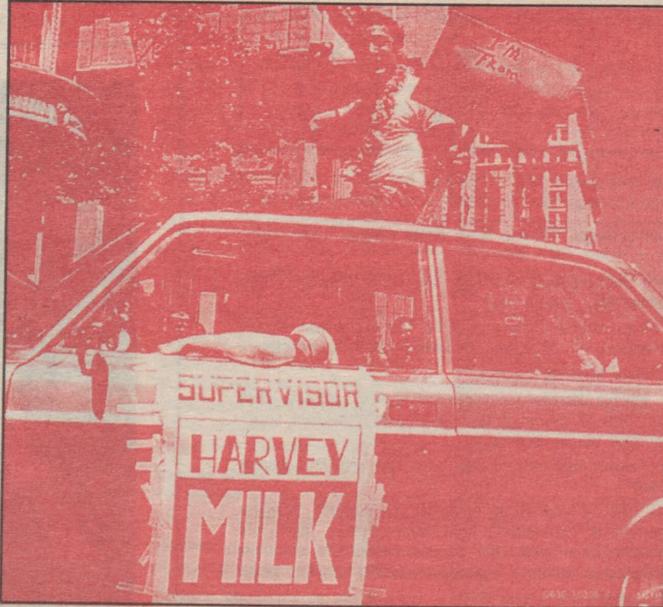
While an opera about Milk may have seemed natural to Korie and Wallace, the idea was met with negative anticipation by others. Many closeted gay men who frequent the opera were angered that such an openly gay story would be told in their domain, while others were turned off by scenes in the production that take place in various opera houses.

"Those kinds of star worshipers of the opera world, they're like baseball fans in some way," Korie says. "They know every statistic about a singer. They might have been angered or annoyed at our portrayal. But we felt that we showed a change of the world through the three scenes at the opera. The first was in the '40s where men are closeted and being harassed by police. It comes back in the '60s, and it's no different, then finally, we come back to the opera in San Francisco in '78, right before the assassination, and people are openly gay and lesbian. Harvey Milk has helped to change the world, it has come full circle."

Wallace and Korie agree that devel-

oping the character of Dan White — Milk's killer — was one of the biggest challenges they faced in creating the opera. They feared that conservative opera fans would identify with Dan White more quickly than with Milk.

"They would relate to Dan White



"Pride to Hope": Harvey Milk in San Francisco's Gay and Lesbian Pride celebration in June 1978

strongly — 'I support the right to decide who's going to live in my neighborhood and who's not. I'm not prejudiced, but that's the way it is' — and they would not relate to Harvey Milk with his hippie ponytail and his outspoken left values," Korie says.

"We said it would be better for the character of Harvey Milk and for the point of the opera not to present a raving lunatic Dan White, but Dan White as someone with a point of view these people could empathize with at first. And then show the twisted thinking of what that point of view ultimately means and what it leads to — the murder of two men — and in a way to subvert the thinking of that sector of the audience."

Balancing act

Korie also faced many decisions as he tried to balance covering the personal and political aspects of Milk's life.

"There were certain political battles that I was fascinated by, such as the fight that he got into about the educational proposition that would ban the



rights of gay schoolteachers," Korie says. "That was an important victory.

There was no way we could fit it dramatically into the structure, it was too technical, it didn't sing. There were other aspects of pure politicking that just didn't sing. We had to find more expressionistic measures to explore the man's growth, one of them was through the eyes of others."

While Korie had to edit history, Wallace was able to experiment musically. He sampled historical recordings, including Diane Feinstein's announcement of the assassination, and a reading of Milk's last will and testament, into the musical score.

Ultimately, "Harvey Milk" was received favorably by most who saw the show, even the early skeptics. Korie and Wallace say the San Francisco performances were particularly meaningful as they were attended by some people who were in the Bay Area during Milk's rise and assassination. This presented yet another challenge about telling a modern story.

"There's a trap in doing something so contemporary," Wallace says. "You come against everyone's musical expectations of the period. We have enough memory to know what the tunes were then, how they sounded and what they were influenced by.

"It was designed to take people out of their expectations of hearing the tunes and the things they associated with that era, and to allow us to create a clean slate on which we could present our musical vision of this man and his life."

What: A CD release party for the opera based on the life of Harvey Milk.

When: June 26 at 6 p.m.

Where: Crossroads Market Bookstore and Cafe, 1111 Westheimer

Contact: 713-546-0230

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

www.visi.com/~oprairie/



INTERVIEW: DAVID SEDARIS

'Naked' author to visit Houston

By STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD



Have all those self-help books left you estranged from your inner child? Then do what David Sedaris did: shack up in a trailer park full of politically conservative nudists as a prescription for self-transformation.

"When I first got there, I was talking to a woman, and I noticed a tampon string hanging from between her legs," he said matter-of-factly. "And by the end of the week, I didn't notice things like that at all."

Sedaris is an openly gay contributor for National Public Radio and author of the *New York Times* Best Seller "Naked," an autobiographical collection of 17 humorous essays laced with wit and sarcasm. Sedaris never wanted to make the best seller list because he "had always thought those were books to avoid," but after he made the grade, best selling authors didn't seem that bad after all, he said.

If anything, Sedaris seems bent on experiencing the bizarre. His gist is to do the scariest things he can think of. Yet more times than not, he discovers those scary things become "really boring."

"I just spent ten days at the medical examiner's office in Phoenix because I wanted see a lot of dead people," he said. "I was just terrified of dead people. The ones in caskets are more frightening because those are the tamed dead."

Sedaris considers the untamed dead (such as victims of murder and suicide) less frightening. He remembers watching examiners eat lunch in the morgue's observation deck during autopsies because the air conditioning was better. But after two days, Sedaris got bored and told the examiners to call him only if they got a good dismemberment.

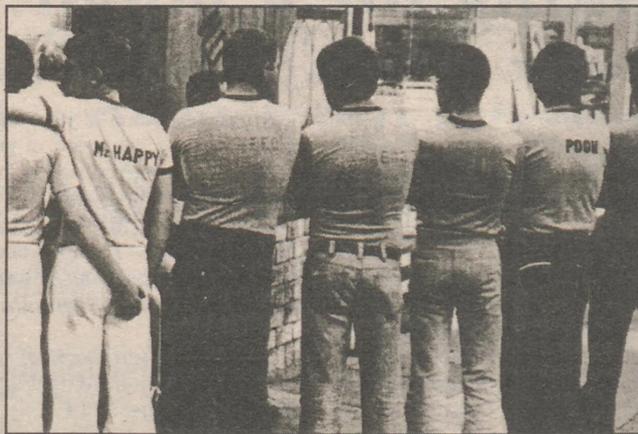
The trailer parks' nudists are "really family oriented; it's family, family, family," Sedaris said. And their views on gays?

"They're still caught up in the idea that if you are gay, then all you want to do is have sex," he said. "But most people would think that if you're going to a nudist colony, a nudist colony is all about sex, which it is not at all."

Yet Sedaris found nudity boring, too, and once he got comfortable with his own, it was no big deal. Nudists frown on anything that says hey, look at me. That wasn't a problem for Sedaris — he just didn't want them looking at him. "But it wasn't their nudity that I was uncomfortable with, it was my own," he said. "And once I was OK with my own, then I didn't notice it in them. I had no idea it'd be that easy."

Who: David Sedaris, openly gay author of "Naked"
What: Book signing and reading at Brazos Book Store, 2421 Bissonnet. Book must be purchased to attend reading.
When: June 11, 7 p.m.

The Castro



'Castro': Director Peter Stein's chronicles how a quiet corner in San Francisco became the cornerstone of a movement and a symbol of gay liberation in "The Castro," a 90-minute PBS special on June 12 at 9 p.m. "The Castro Clone" look (top) became a distinguishing feature of gay liberation in the 1970s, as gay men created a brash street culture with openness. A corner in the quiet, (bottom) working-class Eureka Valley neighborhood was transformed into the gay mecca of "The Castro" in the 1970s.

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Saturday, June 13, 3pm

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Paul Monette:

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Short: *The Cost of Love*

and *Proust's Favorite Fantasy*

Saturday, June 13, 7:30pm

Sunday, June 14, 7:30pm

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Graphic Design by Ryan Schomburg

BOOK REVIEWS

Looking for a laugh?

Three books to provide some chuckles

by ELLA TYLER

My recent reading binge included three funny books, at least one of which should match your sense of humor.

"Naked," by David Sedaris; Back Bay Books, 291 pages, \$12.95.

If you're bored with memoirs, try this one. Sedaris respects the formula — something about the family, school days, and first jobs — but doesn't let sentiment, political correctness, or facts get in the way of a good story. His collection of stories is about events and personalities that might just be real and make you laugh out loud.

"Naked," the story that gave the book its name, is one of the funniest. After his lover calls him a "big, fat, hairy pig" Sedaris decides to achieve body acceptance through nudism. Send one committed snob to a nudist trailer park and the results are funny. Sedaris' mother was a chain-smoking, scotch-drinking, unsentimental soul who, until one of her daughters finally married, told people "I've taken the money we've saved on weddings and I'm using it to build my daughters a whorehouse."

The Sedaris children wondered if any of their father's friends had intact bodies. He told stories of friends who had been disfigured by cherry bombs, struck by lightning and lost feet to lawn mowers. His father's predictions of the dire things that could happen while driving made Sedaris give up driving in favor hitchhiking. It sounded safer. Later, the father

complained: "None of you kids have got so much as a teaspoon of gumption. I don't know where you got it from, but in the end it's going to kill you."

Some stories are funnier than others, and the humor occasionally approaches meanness, but this is satire. It needs an edge.

"The California Book of the Dead," by Tim Harrington; Washington Square Press, 340 pages, \$14



This amusing book follows the lives of four housemates in San Francisco as they mourn the loss of friends, look for lasting love, and search for spiritual enlightenment. I lingered over it for days so it wouldn't end.

Marlowe, an artist, and her lover Daa, need a roommate for their house in the Mission District after their friend Jackson dies of AIDS. Applicants include a breatharian, a cocaine dealer, channelers, and someone who wondered if UFOS could land on the roof. Fortunately, or maybe not, Marlowe's cousin from Virginia wants to join them. She wants to be enlightened.

The house changes with Sheba's arrival. She attracts lots of young men who want to guide her awakenings, spiritual and otherwise, and her ex-boyfriend comes to take her home, and then refuses to leave town. Marlowe, whose com-

mitment to lesbianism is mainly political, accidentally becomes pregnant by the fourth roommate, Jack Goodhands.

Marlowe spends her pregnancy reading Jackson's diaries, painting pictures of mops, trying to work out a relationship with Daa, and rejecting a variety of male suitors. In the meantime, more friends die, Sheba's Tibetan guru is revealed as a fraud, and the crystals in Sheba's room set the curtains on fire. Marlowe finds less and less comfort in New Age rituals.

Marlowe, following a California-appropriate delivery, brings her baby girl home to live with Sheba, Jack, and Daa and her new lover, each in their own rooms. Even though everyone has changed, life goes on.

Tim Farrington, the author, has lived in California since the 1980's and has thrown in all the elements of New Age culture, which is why the book is so funny. I don't know if Californian's will be amused, but I think readers will be.

"Don't Get Me Started," by Kate Clinton; Ballantine Books, 208 pages, \$22.



Before Kate Clinton, lesbian and/or feminist humor consisted of one joke: "Do you know lesbians/feminists have no sense of humor?" "No, but if you hum a few bars, I'll try to sing along."

Clinton became a stand up comic in

1981 and humor has never been the same. Until Clinton, women had never thought their own stuff — coming out stories, dating rituals, fashion — was funny.

"Don't Get Me Started", Clinton's first book, is a collection of essays applying Clinton's multiple points of view and experience to a variety of current topics, such as the Pope, safe sex, ice skating, gays in the military, computers and gays being discovered by the media.

The essay about politicians loosing weight has something for everyone. It begins: "Jean Harris was an early hero of mine. Who hasn't wanted to blow away a diet doctor?" It zips through Clinton's experiences shopping in the chubette departments; hearing that if she were fat, she's never get a boyfriend; and tosses in a few thoughts on fake foods. The chapter with the statement that if all politics is lo-cal (her pun), she has a few suggestions.

A favorite bit is from Kate's nominee for the trial of the century — the obscenity trial of Two Live Crew. Reading about the lawyers reciting the lyrics and the court reporter reading them back brings laughs. Imagine the poor jury.

Best of all, Kate Clinton isn't afraid to tell the truth about her life. She is lesbian, feminist, curmudgeonly and political.

Read this alone or with someone who doesn't mind being interrupted when you want to read parts aloud.

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Sensitive, thoughtful, considerate GWM, 50, 5'11", 150lbs, gray hair, HIV positive, very healthy, looking for LTR with someone over 40. ☎1151

BLUE COLLAR GUY

Healthy, masculine, attractive GWM, 36, 6'4", 205lbs, swimmer's build, brown/brown, goatee, HIV positive, seeks masculine, muscular GH/WM, 30-40, HIV positive, with a nice build, who enjoys working out. ☎1153

ATTRACTIVE HISPANIC

GHM, 32, 5'6", 145lbs, dark/brown, employed and stable, enjoys quiet times, long drives, sports. Seeking good-looking, straight-acting W/HM, 23-35, slim-muscular build, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎1152

CONROE

WM, 38, 5'10", 170lbs, short black with gray streaks/green, moderately hairy, seeks hairy male, 38-45, N/S, D/D-free. Conroe/woodland area, please. ☎1154

DANCING COWBOY

Attractive GWM, 40, 6'2", 170lbs, HIV-, moustache. Seeking masculine, honest, dependable man who enjoys the country, C&W dancing, romance, home life, etc. H/W proportionate. ☎1155

PROFESSIONAL BM...

early 50s, intelligent, self-directed, and serious with a playful side. Interests include travel, reading, quiet times at home. Seeking meaningful relationship with secure other. ☎1125

TOP MAN

Very assertive, sensual, prime timer PWM, 5'10", 170lbs, HIV-, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, seeks submissive bottom man, 5'10", HIV-, N/S, no facial hair, for possible dating. ☎1050

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Wilde: From Great Britain's most famous playwright to convict

by DAVID BIANCO

In the space of a few years in the 1890s, Oscar Wilde went from being Great Britain's most famous playwright to being its most famous convict. With the loss of his family, his money and his freedom, Wilde's life turned into a drama all its own.

Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854 to an aristocratic family. At Oxford, his taste and wit stood out as much as

his aptitude as a student. "I find it harder and harder every day to live up to my blue china," Wilde observed about the elegant furnishings he chose for his room at Oxford, and the droll comment circulated outside the university and throughout England.

By age 30, Wilde was famous in Europe for the snappy, highly-quotable epigrams that filled his published essays and peppered his speech. "I have nothing to declare but my genius," he told a customs officer in New York City, following a 1882 U.S. lecture tour that made him a celebrity on this side of the Atlantic, too.

But Wilde was equally well-known for his unorthodox clothing—velvet jackets with a green carnation in the button-hole—and his effeminate mannerisms. The British paper, *Punch*, pronounced him a "Maryanne," a derogatory word for homosexual, and the *New York Times* labeled him "epicene," another word for unmanly. To silence the gossip, Wilde married in 1884 and quickly fathered two children.

Still, he couldn't suppress his sexual impulses. At 32, he began having sex with men, and over the next few years became more openly homosexual, a risky business in England at that time. Though sodomy was no longer a capital offense, Parliament passed the Labouchere Amendment in 1885, widening the definition of illegal homosexual acts to include "gross indecency"—oral sex—a crime punishable with up to two years in prison.

Wilde at first seemed oblivious to the repressive political climate. His 1891 homoerotic novel, "The Picture of Dorian Gray," was attacked in the press for dealing with "matters only fitted for the Criminal Investigation

Department." Wilde created an epigram in his own defense: "There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all." Still, he changed gears, writing a number of comedic plays for general audiences

such as "The Importance of Being Earnest," which brought him popularity and financial success.

When Wilde fell for the 21-year-old Lord Alfred Douglas (nicknamed

"Bosie") in 1892, their affair proved Wilde's undoing. Bosie's father, the powerful Marquess of Queensberry, decided that Wilde had corrupted his son, and began harassing the playwright. Egged on by Bosie, Wilde unwisely sued Queensberry for libel in 1895.

Wilde lost the civil suit and was immediately arrested on criminal charges of sodomy and gross indecency. Bosie quickly escaped to France. The theaters where Wilde's plays were running immediately deleted his name from their programs.

During Wilde's first criminal trial, 10 male prostitutes whom Wilde had solicited testified against him. Wilde's eloquence alone saved him, when the prosecutor demanded his definition of a phrase in one of Bosie's poems: the "Love that dare not speak its name." Wilde's powerful speech on the noble, innocent nature of love between men met with applause from the spectators. Because the jury couldn't reach a verdict, another trial was scheduled.

Wilde resisted his friend's efforts to get him to flee the country, and he was convicted in a second trial and sentenced to the maximum of two years at hard labor. In prison, Wilde composed a passionate letter to Bosie, later published as "De Profundis," in which he blamed himself for what was in fact a social injustice. "Desire, at the end, was a malady, or a madness, or both," he wrote. "I allowed pleasure to dominate me. I ended in horrible disgrace."

After his release, Wilde went abroad. Drained and bankrupt, he spent three years genteelly begging from friends until his death in Paris in 1900.

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Wilde: Stephen Fry (top photo) found a positive gay role model in Oscar Wilde, the man he portrays in 'Wilde,' which opens in Houston today. Fry (bottom photo) joins Zoe Wanamaker, Michael Sheen and Jennifer Ehle.

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QUOTE UNQUOTE



"My mother is gay, and she's been living with a woman for a long, long time. So when somebody says 'lesbian chic' to me, it's like, when did it become chic? I was growing up with it all the time."

—Ally Sheedy (left) to *Out* magazine, June issue.

"At 70, I guess he figures he's going to party 'til he goes."

—Roberta Burke, a 63-year-old woman who is suing her common-law husband for ending their 10-year relationship after he experienced success with the impotency drug Viagra, to UPI.

"I saw some major homosexual activity outside my friend's balcony when I was five. To this day it's an imprint on my mind."

—Leonardo DiCaprio (right) from "Gay Sex Quotes," edited by John Erich and Gerry Kroll.



"We have recently abandoned the (Bible's) tyranny over women, as we abandoned its justification for slavery, and soon we'll abandon its ignorant misunderstanding of homosexuality."

"The real moral issue here ought to be not the meaning of the texts themselves, but the appalling way they have been used as justification for the persecution and abandonment of God's children."

—Bishop Richard Holloway of Edinburgh, primus to the Scottish Episcopal Church, to a recent conference of the United Kingdom's Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement in London.

"We're going to take this fight to the gates of hell. Orlando, for whatever reason, you are the gates of hell."

—National director of Operation Rescue Flip Benham, to Associated Press, on the group's plans to protest in Orlando at abortion clinics, bookstores and Walt Disney World.



"To break that barrier, to change the face of Congress, will mean the gay and lesbian community will have advanced another huge step in attaining our full civil rights."

—Christine Kehoe, (left) one of five gay candidates for U.S. Congress who, if elected, would become the first to enter the House as openly gay.

"It pisses me off ... The Lilith players deny that independent women's music festivals like Michigan and National (Women's Music Festival) had any influence on Lilith at all, when we planted the seed. I'll tell you what it comes down to: they're afraid of being seen as dykes."

—Lisa Vogel, producer of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, June issue of *Girlfriends* magazine.

"My best friend, Jason Beghe, and I, used to think that we had a chance with the lower-school teachers because they were always relatively young."

"So we used to sit in the lounge area of the cafeteria, and Jason used to take his down jacket off, the kind you could crush into a pretty small shape, and he used to stuff it down his pants, so it looked like his penis went down to his ankle, and was the size of an elephant cock. We'd sit there as they went by. And his expression when he was doing it was: 'It's not a coat.'"



—David Duchovny (right) of "The X-Files" on his Princeton days, June issue *Vanity Fair*.

"Everything he set out to do, he did. And if I loved him, why wouldn't everyone else?"

—Actor Jason Beghe ("Thelma & Louise," "G.I. Jane") on his friend David Duchovny, June issue, *Vanity Fair*.

"They hope to achieve a 'shot' of masculinity in the homosexual act. Like the addict, (the homosexual) must have his 'fix.'"

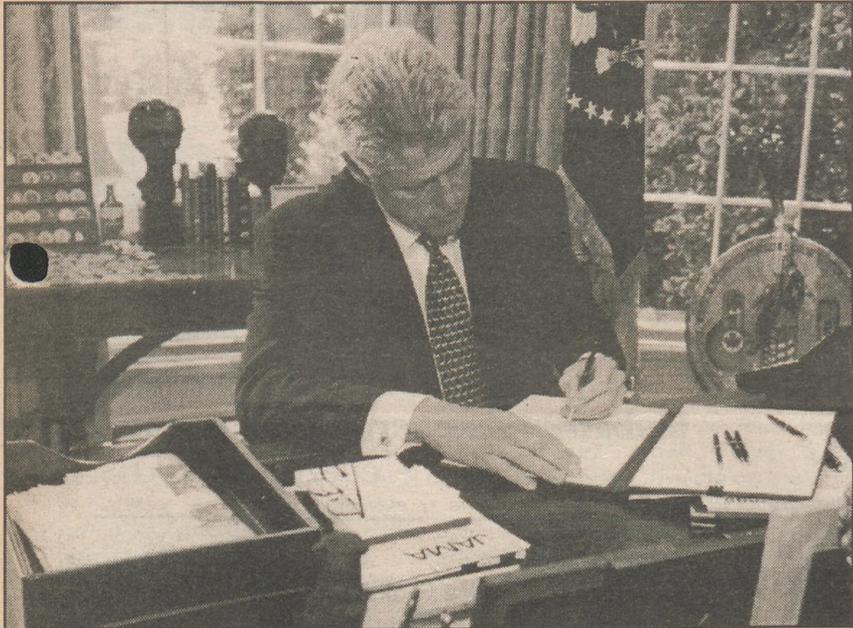
—Anti-gay psychoanalyst Dr. Charles Socarides in the 1960s, father of Richard Socarides, the openly gay White House liaison to the gay community, from "The Gay Quote Book," edited by Brandon Judell.

"The conservative movement is founded on the simple tenet that people have the right to live life as they please, as long as they don't hurt anyone else in the process."

—Barry Goldwater, the former Arizona senator and founder of modern-day conservatism who later became an ally of gays, in a 1994 essay for the *Arizona Republic*. He died May 29 at age 89.

"I don't think very many people were offended in the first place. The American Family Association was offended, and it seems to be their job to be offended. But I heard from a lot of conservatives and people who you wouldn't normally imagine to be the demographics of our viewership, and they simply loved the story and were delighted to find something that good on television."

—Armistead Maupin, the writer of "More Tales of the City," which airs June 7 on Showtime.



President Clinton signed an executive order in the Oval Office May 28 banning federal job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Clinton bans federal job discrimination against gays

by LAURA BROWN

All federal employees are now protected against job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, thanks to an executive order signed by President Bill Clinton on May 28.

The executive order applies only to the nation's estimated 1.8 million civilian employees and will have no effect on the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that permits gays to serve in the armed forces only so long as they do not reveal their sexual orientation or engage in "homosexual conduct."

The order, known officially as Further Amendment to Executive Order 11478, Equal Employment Opportunity in the Federal Government, adds "sexual orientation" to the list of categories against which the federal government can't discriminate in hiring, firing and promotions. The other protected categories are race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, and age.

While it sets policy for all federal agencies, the executive order "does not and cannot create any new enforcement rights (such as the ability to proceed before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)," Clinton said in a statement issued with the order.

"Those rights can be granted only by legislation passed by the Congress, such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act," Clinton said, calling on the legislative branch to "pass this important piece of civil rights legislation."

"Individuals should not be denied a job on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work," the president said.

Although many federal agencies already had gay-inclusive non-discrimination statements, Clinton's order "sends a powerful public message to other employers, and it puts the power and prestige of the presidency more directly behind this policy," said Richard Socarides, Senior Assistant to the President and White House liaison to the gay and lesbian community.

Notwithstanding Clinton's caveat about the unavailability of EEOC complaints, federal employees do have avenues of recourse if they feel they have been discriminated against based on their sexuality, Socarides said.

The administration is now "in the process of getting out to every federal employee in writing" an explanation of their rights and recourses under the executive order, Socarides added.

According to Socarides, the Clinton

administration has long had a policy of prohibiting discrimination against gays, and the president would have issued the executive order in his first term if not for the disastrous "gays in the military" debate.

Socarides acknowledged the irony of having an official policy banning discrimination against gays for federal civilian jobs, while the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" compromise essentially legislates discrimination for military jobs, but he said the president had no plans to issue an executive order covering the armed forces.

The executive order has drawn praise from gay rights activists and gay employees, but raised the ire of at least one well-known conservative, Socarides said.

"I'm happy to say that the only negative response has been from the extreme right — the Gary Bauers of the world. Bauer put out a statement completely misrepresenting what the administration did, but that's to be expected. As significant and important as I think this is, thankfully this is now a step that most Americans will support, or certainly most fair-minded Americans," he said.

Bauer, president of the conservative Family Research Council, issued a statement claiming the executive order demands "that all federal employees pretend that personal conduct is meaningless, that character is irrelevant, and that homosexuality is a plus for getting a job."

"President Clinton's order mandating affirmative action on the basis of homosexuality should be rescinded by an act of Congress," Bauer said. "It discriminates against people with traditional views of sexual morality, and lends the prestige of the U.S. Government to promotion of homosexuality. ...

"This creates a special advantage in employment for people who are defined solely by engaging in behavior that most people and all major religions declare to be immoral and destructive."

Gay employees and organizations disagreed.



Richard Socarides, White House gay community liaison.

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Graduation Advice

Don't be afraid to be your whole self

by JAY VANASCO

Around this time of year, columnists everywhere write advice to graduating students. But not many address the young gays and lesbians who are stepping into a wide, straight world. Here's what I wish someone had said to me.

Let people surprise you. More have open minds than you know — or even than they know, sometimes. Expect them to rise to understanding and acceptance and most will.

Don't be afraid to be your whole self, but quit rebelling just for rebellion's sake. For years, I didn't wear pink because I thought it bought into a female stereotype. Now even my bedroom's pink.

Put a rainbow sticker on your car.

Have straight friends and gay friends and introduce them all to each other. Don't hide yourself in a ghetto, but don't cut yourself off from your brothers and sisters, either. They need you and you need them.

Your life will not revolve around your queerness and that's a good thing. Not everything you do in life needs to be about being gay.

Compromise more — but only on things that don't eat away at your heart. Stand by your passions, believe in them even if no one else does.

Watch a lot of black and white movies until you know all the lines. You never know when that information will come in handy.

Come out, come out, come out. Don't betray yourself by passing. Every time you come out, it will get easier. Sure, it hurts sometimes, but all good things do.

Risk your heart, risk your honor, risk your pride. Risk more than you think is safe. Push beyond your boundaries. You know more and are capable of more than you know.

But don't risk your life. Wear a seatbelt, wear a helmet, wear a condom or use a dental dam. Numbers count in the gay and lesbian movement, and we need every one of us.

Love is the answer. It is a contradiction for conservatives to simultaneously rail against infidelity and not support same-sex marriage. Give yourself time to have fun, but if your heart thinks you should settle down, obey it. There is work, growth and peace in a long term relationship. If you don't have one, you'll miss out on a fundamental joy of life.

Get involved in politics at the local level. It's where you can make the most change.

Find a few older gay and lesbian friends—much older, not just in their 30s. Listen to their stories, their triumphs, their heartbreaks. Find a way to keep their tales alive in your community.

Read everything you can about gay life and history. Learn about gays and lesbians who are from different ethnic communities. We don't all have the same experience, but there are common problems, hopes and dreams. Find them.

Try to stay friends with your old lovers. We live in a small community, and you never know what kind of support you'll need.

Rabbi Hillel said, "I am only one, but I am one." Your voice is important. You will affect people every day by the things you say and do. Speak and act with care.

Learn how to laugh at yourself (and others) from gay men. Learn to be socially responsible from lesbians. Learn how to wear make-up from drag queens.

Learn to dance and frequent the clubs, even if you're shy or it's not your scene. You'll meet a lot

Don't risk your life. Wear a seatbelt, wear a helmet, wear a condom or use a dental dam.

Numbers count in the gay and lesbian movement, and we need every one of us.

more of us that way.

Patronize gay-owned bookstores and other gay and lesbian businesses. Read your local gay paper. Write a letter to the editor (or your favorite columnist. We usually write back).

If you're in a relationship as you graduate, make a commitment to hang on through that tough first year after graduation. If it's miserable, part as friends. But he could be the man you'll marry and spend 50 years with. You'll never know if you don't hang tight your first year on your own.

Don't be afraid to criticize things gay or lesbian. You're not a lemming. The gay and lesbian community doesn't do everything right.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "You must do the thing you think you cannot do." She's right.

Here's a controversial one: don't use gay to also mean lesbians. I know, it's convenient (I'm guilty of doing it myself). But just like "men" has never been and will never be inclusive of women, "gay" will never mean lesbians. Queer is an alternative (so to speak). Better, invent a word we'll all feel comfortable using.

Don't take a stranger home with you.

Hold hands with your lover. All the time. Everywhere.

Don't be a four-year lesbian or gay man. If you experimented in college, give it at least a year outside the ivory tower before you decide it's easier just to be straight. Trust me, you'll be happier in the long run. If you're straight, you'll know you made the right decision. If you're gay or lesbian, then you're saving your potential opposite-sex spouse a lot of heartache.

Volunteer for gay and lesbian organizations. There are so many types and they need so many different skills. Also, work at least once for a gay and lesbian organization or business. It will do your heart good — and you'll understand what it feels like when everyone at your workplace accepts you.

Vacation at gay and lesbian hot-spots when you can. Especially if you are in a repressive job. The freedom that comes from being surrounded by other queers is priceless.

Celebrate being gay or lesbian whenever you can.

Wear a black triangle earring or pink triangle ring. Or a labrys. Help us to identify each other.

Never snap when someone asks you a question about being gay or lesbian. They may be asking because they're closeted and scared; they may be asking because they just want to know. It's people who are curious who have the potential to become allies.

Frequent gay places, but be gay in straight places, too.

Never say, "She's just a friend," when asked about your lover.

Help those gays and lesbians younger than you to feel comfortable with themselves.

It's fun to be gay or lesbian. It's not a curse or a disease. You're blessed. Enjoy.

Jay Vanasco is a freelance writer in Chicago.

Powerful Ally

Goldwater's legacy not forgotten among gays



by MUBARAK S. DAHIR

He was probably most well-known to gays and lesbians for his characteristically sassy quote during the debate on gays in the military.

"You don't need to be straight to fight and die for your country. You just need to shoot straight," proclaimed Barry Goldwater,

the former senator, one-time presidential candidate and a generation's icon of staunch conservatism. But in his later years, Goldwater was as ardent an advocate of gay and lesbian civil rights as he was a communist-hating conservative in his earlier days.

When Goldwater died recently, the gay and lesbian community lost a colorful and powerful friend.

Of course, for most of his political career, Goldwater was not on the list of politicians most likely to love a homosexual. Born to an Arizona family of Polish descendants who had turned a dry-goods business into a chain of department stores, Barry Goldwater started his political career as a member of the Phoenix city council in 1949. He won a Senate seat in 1952, and from there went on to build the foundation for the modern conservative movement.

In the 1950's, he unsuccessfully tried to prevent the Senate from censuring his friend, Sen. Joseph McCarthy. When he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in 1964, he thundered that "extremism in the name of liberty is no vice," cementing fears about his perceived radical nature. As a senator, he voted against the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act, and during the Vietnam War he advocated using "conventional nuclear weapons" to end the conflict.

But despite his history of what most of us now would look at as ultra-conservatism, Goldwater held fast to a central tenet of his beliefs: the libertarian notion that government should stay out of people's

private lives.

In the 1990's, Goldwater held fast to that belief, and used it to fight the religious right of the Republican party, defend abortion rights, and become the nation's most unexpected gay-rights activist. Many observers on both sides of the liberal-conservative divide started calling Goldwater a new liberal. But his real strength and attribute to the gay and lesbian movement was that he fought for gay rights from a moral, conservative philosophy.

When Goldwater did take up the cause for gay and lesbian civil rights — influenced, no doubt, by the fact he had a gay grandson and a lesbian niece — Goldwater did it with his typical zeal.

Like the rest of his political career, his foray into the fight for gay and lesbian civil rights started in his hometown of Phoenix. The city council there chickened out on a bill that would have extended job protection to gays and lesbians. Instead, it was going to opt to let voters decide whether or not gays and lesbians should be protected from discrimination.

The night before the city council was poised to ratify its decision, the 83-year-old Goldwater ended his political retirement. With TV cameras shining on him, Goldwater scolded the council for its lack of backbone. His admonishment was all that was needed. The next day, the council voted not to do business with companies that discriminate against gay and lesbian employees. Goldwater also helped beat back a state-wide anti-gay initiative.

But that was just the beginning for Goldwater's newfound activism. Just a few months later, the former Air Force member entered the national battle on gays in the military. Calling the ban against gays "just plain dumb," Goldwater penned editorials carried across the country in which he blasted the discriminatory policy. In 1996, he took part with Coretta Scott King, New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd

'Just like everyone else who is born in this country, gays are endowed by their creator, God, with inalienable rights.'

—Barry Goldwater

Whitman, and Kathleen Gingrich (Newt's mother) in an ad campaign urging the Senate to pass a law that would prohibit job discrimination against gays and lesbians. He became the honorary co-chair of a national campaign against the plethora of anti-gay ballot initiatives cropping up around the country.

"The Declaration says that all men are created equal, and it doesn't say that all men are created equal except for gays," Goldwater said. "Just like everyone else who is born in this country, gays are endowed by their creator, God, with inalienable rights."

Few others in the Republican party had the will — or the guts — to stand up to the religious right the way Goldwater did. He viewed the religious right as breaking the basic tenets of conservatism — that the government should stay out of the lives of private citizens — and he told them so without hesitation.

He even won an award from the Arizona ACLU, as civil libertarian of the year, for his work for gay and lesbian civil rights.

In his last years, Goldwater would frequently tell friends, "I'm an honorary gay by now."

Indeed, gays and lesbians were honored to have such a staunch ally in the prickly, bellicose, no-nonsense Senator from Arizona, who once said he wanted a pair of ruby red lips tattooed "right on my ass."

The gay and lesbian movement will sorely miss Barry Goldwater.

Mubarak S. Dahir is a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News and is the Philadelphia reporter for Time Magazine.

Mr. Advice

Nothing about being gay requires you to be stupid



by PAUL VARNELL

From time to time I have toyed with the idea of writing an "advice" column for gay newspapers to make a little extra money. It would be called "Ask Mr. Advice Person."

It has to be easy, I told myself. People write in and tell you their problems and all you have to do is tell them

what to do. Simple. And the readers write half the column — a plus right there for us busy writers.

I felt well-qualified to do this since people seem to gravitate toward me and tell me their problems when I go out to gay bars. I will stand around, trying to look hostile and faintly menacing, and people I barely know walk up and start chatting away.

So there I am stuck listening to some guy, trying to sound half interested while still trying to make eye contact with the hot guy in the corner.

Generally, I trot out all those old non-committal phrases we all learned from Carl Rogers. "Uh-huh," I say, or "Yes, go on." "I see" said very slowly and thoughtfully also works. Sometimes I'll ask, "How do you feel about that?" alternating with "What do you hear yourself saying?"

So much for hostile and menacing.

So after all this, I tried sketching out a few sample columns to see what they would look like and to have something to show my editor. I made up some letters and then wrote out how I would answer them.

But it became clear fairly quickly that I would not be good at this after all. For almost every type of issue or problem I could think of, the same few basic answers kept coming up as the appropriate advice. The answers were (in order of frequency).

1. Get a clue.
2. Stop it.

3. Move out.
4. Keep trying.
5. Get over it.
6. Hire a lawyer.
7. Get into therapy.

In fact, once I discovered the typical answers, the letters almost wrote themselves.

For instance, let us say someone writes in and says, "I go out to the bars and drink too much and at closing time I go home with strangers and sometimes have unsafe sex. What should I do?"

The obvious answer? "Stop it." That is all. There is nothing else to say. Oh sure, you could provide explanations about "acting out" and destructive or addictive behavior. But the point is that this person is behaving very imprudently and should stop. There is nothing about being gay that requires you to be stupid.

Or a letter might say, "I have trouble meeting people at bars even though I have many interests, including pre-Colombian pottery and raising hydrangeas. My mother, whom I live with, says I have a nice personality. What do you suggest? P. S. I am 43, weigh 400 pounds, smoke, and have asthma."

And the answer is? "Get a clue." This person has serious problems and is refusing to recognize them. There is nothing about being gay that prevents accurate self-assessment.

Or this third letter: "My lover and I have a warm and caring relationship, and the sex is great, but several times now he has tied me up, threatened me with a knife and tried to strangle me. I think he is stealing money from me too. Please advise."

And the answer is? That's right: "Move out." Simple. Elegant. Unambiguous. Possibly also "Get a clue." There is nothing about being gay that requires you to be paralyzed.

And a last example: "When I was 15 my parents found out I was gay and my father beat me and threw me out of the house. Ever since then I've hated my

parents and hated being gay. I can't sustain a relationship and keep getting fired from jobs because of homophobia. I am now 36. Please help."

You can do this one yourself. (Hint: It's number 5.) This person was treated badly in the past. It happened; it is not going to happen. Just because you are gay does not mean your problems are caused by being gay. They could be caused by you.

I suppose you could probably justify adding "Get into therapy" to each of these answers. Recommending therapy seems like passing the buck, but some people seem to need someone to help them realize how they got where they are and nudge them to take the most obvious steps to solve their problems. Therapy is like "Rent-a-Friend" for people who have no others.

Advice writers sometimes try to encourage people by saying, "You have already taken the first step by writing this letter." False. People who have to write for advice are clueless about what to do or they wouldn't be writing in the first place. The person who falls into a pit and shouts for help has not taken the first step toward getting out of the pit. He has simply publicized his helplessness.

Sometimes writers offer the reassurance that "You are clearly a warm and sensitive person who has a lot to offer the right person." This too is nonsense. The writer could be quivering mass of psychotic symptoms and unquenchable emotional needs. Failing to tell someone that is no service to them. If they are discernibly a mess, they should be told.

Ultimately we have to assert to everyone that they are responsible for what they do and how they react to things, that they can change, that the future is open rather than inevitable, that things will get better only if and when they act. In an interesting sense we create free will by teaching people the concept.

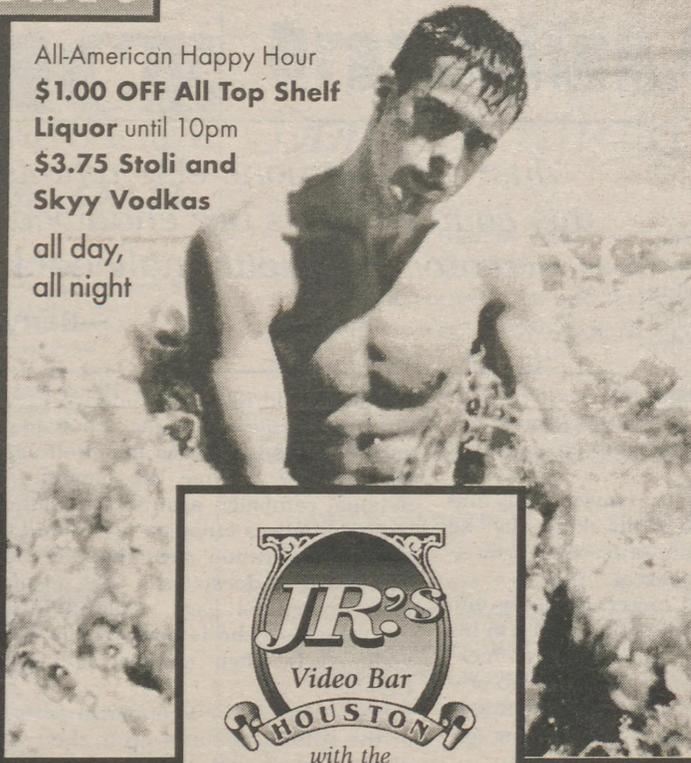
Paul Varnell writes for Chicago's Windy City Times and other gay newspapers. His e-mail address is PVarnell@aol.com.

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Friday, June 12

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SATURDAY, JUNE 6

9-11pm

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China Doll



FRI	6/5	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
SAT	6/6	SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER at 11 pm
SUN	6/7	\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day and All Night
MON	6/8	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
TUE	6/9	Amateur/Talent Night, 11 pm with Dyan Michaels. Burger night with Derald
WED	6/10	Burger night with Grandma
THUR	6/11	Amateur/Talent Night, 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love. Burger night with Grandma

Talent Night

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Week #3 Preliminary

Winners of the Tuesday & Thursday
preliminaries return for finals.

\$500 Cash - Winner Take All

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GALAXY GAYZER

by JOSEPH MOLINA

June 5 — June 11, 1998

On June 10, Saturn, the planet of structure, responsibly, and discipline, moves into the sign of Taurus, restructuring our sense of values concerning personal self-worth, monetary usage and health. Mars and Uranus turn up the heat in a primal dance of passion guaranteed to stimulate everyone on this Wednesday's full moon.



Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

Happy birthday Gemini. A restless vibration encourages spontaneity. Make no promises and set no dates. Single Geminis, Cupid's arrows carry the sweet aroma of love. Sugar and spice is always nice, but remember assertiveness will get you what you want. Sweetness and innocents could take more time than love is willing to wait. Married, clean out your closets, air out your dirty laundry, get your emotions out. Limited ideas stand in the way of the happiness that you so desperately seek.



Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)

Saturn's influence works with Venus to place a heavy spell upon you. Put on your safety belt and get ready, it's a bumpy ride to bliss. Houses are dropping, queens are walking and girl your hair is a mess. Emotional tensions between friends or lovers could overshadow most of this week. Hold your horses and try to not overreact. Venus and Saturn working together have a way of making everything work out.



Leo (JULY 24 — AUGUST 23)

This week, pre Madonna, your going to demand the world pay attention to me you. I see you soaking at a spa, having a session with your masseuse, or getting a chiropractic adjustment. A stifling emotion at the seat of your turmoil will need to be handled with grace. I see driving fast, flying in planes and going to amusement parks.



Virgo (AUGUST 24 — SEPTEMBER 23)

Feeling motivated? Cosmic influences set into motion an itch that just won't seem to quite. Your adrenaline stimulated, the search is on of places to put your attention. A brilliant gay novel, a new tint to your room or revamping the inside of your house? With heights set so high, beware of distractions throwing you off course.



Libra (SEPTEMBER 24 — OCTOBER 23)

The universal influences of Uranus and Mercury bring out your rebellious side. Stress in your environment causes barriers to be built and Mrs. Attitude comes out of hiding. Confrontational situations motivate you to draw lines of force in front of you. Although, the picture I present is hard and true, in the end you will land on your feet wiping the sweat from your brow.



Scorpio (OCTOBER 24 — NOVEMBER 22)

Venus and Uranus combine efforts to draw you out of the cave that you have been in. You will come out of seclusion and have a sudden urge to get motivated in all of your affairs. You will begin a search for stimulation and excitement in all its forms. Hold onto your head and keep aware of cruel manipulators hiding in the crowd.



Sagittarius (NOVEMBER 23 — DECEMBER 22)

The last few months have promoted great internal changes. Changes that only time will soften, allowing healing to occur. You are at the end of the first cycle of changes. Your outer life may only begin to reflect the deep-seated issues that can not longer be avoided, weighing heavily on your mind. Be optimistic and move forward with style and grace.



Capricorn (DECEMBER 23 — JANUARY 20)

What a fairy tale this week's cosmic forces present. Knights in shining armor, fair damsels in distress and courtly creatures to your aid. This week, great opportunities to move your life forward will be placed in front of you — a powerful new job, a family inheritance, ways to draw more wealth. A fulfillment cycle will achieve only what you put into it.



Aquarius (JANUARY 21 — FEBRUARY 19)

You are at the beginning of a new phase of prosperity, wealth and finances. Some insecurity could be at the base of hesitation as you initiate this new phase. Opposition to your goals is well on the way out and you will be given room to breathe. What will come of these potentials to totally up to you. In one blink, a new job offer is before you two, it's gone.



Pisces (FEBRUARY 20 — MARCH 20)

This week, you will constantly be reminded of how slow the world seems to be. Phone calls take longer, projects seem never-ending and appointments simply delayed. The future before you lies in state of becoming and can still manifest in many ways. Keep in mind the virtue of patience, for at this time there is no other way. Remember as the week progresses, you are your greatest enemy. Stay cheerful, hold on to a smile and remember, tomorrow is another day.



Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

At the start of this week, distractions could keep you from a peaceful night sleep. Obnoxious noises in the middle of the night could have you waking on a bed of needles. Overly testy, you'll be wearing your emotions and ripping off heads to be pleased. You will have to rise above these feelings, put this energy into words and stand up for what you believe. If at all possible take a break, go sailing or set off retreat.



Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

A new cycle is underway, and a restructuring of your life has begun. Saturn's influence challenges the instability of your foundation. It is time to clarify your direction. Patch the holes that opportunity falls through and become the victor of your direction. Venus and Uranus demand freedom so you can get on with the things you love. Toward the end of the week things will balance and your life will begin to take on a new form.

Joseph Molina, a practicing psychic for over 15 years can be reached at 713-524-4411. Check out his cool web site at www.Astralwind.com or email him at joemo@swbell.net.

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Announcements

PRIDE KICK-OFF WEEKEND
Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998
 unified diversified electrified

Kick-Off Party: Friday, June 12th, 7pm @ Riva's Italian Restaurant (1117 Missouri St.) *The Pride Committee of Houston invites you to attend the Pride 1998 Kick-Off Party.* Come dance to the music of Apollo, drink from the cask of Dionysus, and feel the magic of Hecate! *Oh, and don't forget your toga!*

Pride Jamboree: Saturday, June 13th, 10am @ Memorial Park. *Come one, come all! Family fun for everyone! Join us for softball, football, volleyball, kickball, frisbee golf, skating, picnics, bake-offs, and more.* This day in the park brought to you by the Pride Committee of Houston and many local organizations. *Vendor and organization booth space available.*

Pride Day In the Park @ AstroWorld: Is that Family or Family? *Join us at AstroWorld to find out! Waiting in those lines has never been so much fun!* Tickets are \$20 in advance through the Pride Committee or \$34.58 at the gate.

The Pride Committee of Houston is proud to announce a schedule of over 60 events for Pride 1998! Pick up a copy of the Pride Guide or contact us @ 713.529.6979 or www.pridehouston.org for more information.

HIV+ ARTISTS WANTED for Arts Festival

Painters, sculptors, ceramists, dancers, chef, photographers, comedians, musicians, etc. Join the ADA Arts Festival to be held Sat., July 25 at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Artists will be able to display, sell or perform their work to a receptive crowd celebrating the 8th anniversary of the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Registration is FREE. The city of Houston Department of Health and Human Services will promote the event for participants. For more information and reservations contact: Nick Cavallaro or Lois Miller at 713.284.1973.

YOU TOO CAN ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE FOR \$15.00 A WEEK
 CALL MARSHALL at 713.529.8490.

CALLING ALL SWBT EMPLOYEES ACTIVE OR RETIRED!!!
 Come OUT! and show your colors by proudly supporting the Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. If you are interested in being a part of the spectrum unit in the parade, please call 713.871.2922 for more information. Spectrum is the organization of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, trans-gendered and gay friendly SWBT employees.

PWA Coalition Needs Volunteers. The People With AIDS Coalition is currently recruiting volunteers to assist in its direct client service volunteer programs. Volunteers are needed at the Coalition's main offices, serving clients in the Warehouse Program, Ticket Program, and assisting with Administrative functions. The Coalition also needs assistance in its volunteer program at Thomas Street Clinic. All volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. To find out more, please contact Jackie Wear at 713.938.1533 or Michael Miller at 713.522.5428.

HOPWA Funds Available for Rural Counties. The PWA Coalition has housing assistance funds for People with HIV or AIDS residing in Austin, Colorado, Walker and Wharton Counties. These

funds are provided by a contract with the Texas Department of Health. Individuals or families residing in these counties in need of rental or utility assistance should contact the Coalition directly at 1.800.999.0325.



Tanqueray's® TEXAS AIDS RIDE® - seven days from Austin through Houston to Dallas. October 5-11 benefiting 44 AIDS service organizations throughout the Lone Star State - is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help spread the word about the ride. For more information call 713.521.RIDE (7433).

!! FREE HIV/AIDS ART WORKSHOP !!
 The Glassell School of Art located at 5101 Montrose Blvd. will be offering FREE Art Courses to those with HIV/AIDS! Classes are offered every Friday until August 1st., from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. All instruction, materials, and even lunch are provided free. Come explore the healing power behind your creativity! For information call 713.639.7500 or 713.526.1118.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998
 The official Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998 merchandise is now available. T-shirts, tank tops, sleeveless muscle T's, caps and commemorative pins all feature the 1998 theme of "Unified, Diversified, Electrified." All proceeds help bring you PRIDE 1998. Call Fred, for more information, at 713.522.9752.

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HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL: Part-time office aide needed afternoons to sell youth hostel memberships, rail passes, ID cards, advise on budget travel tips, and some marketing. \$5.50/hr. Astrodome area. Call 713.869.3255.

RECEPTIONIST/Permanent Part-time: Rapidly growing weekly gay newspaper seeks experienced receptionist. Position requires excellent phone/organizational skill and Microsoft Office '97. JOIN the fastest growing gay media company in the country. We are an equal opportunity employer. Send resume (NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE) to: Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Ste. 105, Houston, TX 77006 or fax it to 713-529-9531.

Furniture Sales - Full or Part-time. Experience a plus. References needed. Call Robert at #1 Quality Furniture 713.914.0666.

The Houston Pride Band, a volunteer, non-profit organization is looking for a conductor/artistic director. Duties will include: providing artistic direction, conducting at weekly rehearsals, and participating at bi-weekly board meetings. For more information, please contact Russell Williams at 713.524.0218, or send email to HousTxBand@aol.com

F/T year round financial manager needed to oversee annual budget of \$750,000. Duties include cash flow management, creation of monthly financial statements, bank deposits, A/P, and weekly payroll. Reports to Managing Director and works with Finance Committee. Peachtree Accounting preferred. Salary mid-twenties. Donald Hightower, Managing Director, Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, #101, Houston, TX 77019 or fax 713.527-8669.

CLUB HOUSTON is now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person. Mon. - Thurs., 10am - 2pm at 2205 Fannin.

Mary's naturally is accepting applications for part-time maintenance. Apply Tues. - Thurs., 9am - 2pm, see Walter or Gaye.

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for management trainees, bartenders, door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits

package, including group health insurance. JR's BAR & GRILL and THE MONTROSE MINING CO. are looking for honest, self-motivated and customer service oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. To join our family of clubs, apply Monday through Friday between 1pm and 5pm at JR's, 808 Pacific. A recent photo is required. No phone calls please.

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Nighthawks is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time is Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

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11670 S.W. Freeway

If your business would like to distribute the Houston Voice at no expense, please contact Marshall Rainwater at: 713-529-8490

Friday, June 5

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at E/J's 6-10 pm and at the Midtown Spa 10 pm to 1 am, Inergy at 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 713-861-6453.
- HATCH meets. 713-942-7002.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713-864-8468
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 713-830-3000
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Tootpe's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 713-528-SAFE.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- Positive Art Workshop 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
- Lesbian and Gay Voices on KPFT 7pm 713-526-5738.
- Houston Professional Men's Association meets. 713-666-4557.
- Houston Outdoor Group "Raft Trip." 713-KAMPOUT.

Saturday, June 6

- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at Brick's II 4 to 8 pm and the 611 Hyde Park Pub 8 pm to midnight, Toyz 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 713-526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 713-528-SAFE.
- Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group meets. 713-526-1017.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- The Movie Club meets. 281-835-5312.

Sunday, June 7

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am. 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 713-942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860

- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 am. 713-864-8468.
- Free Yoga Classes at 9 am. 713-965-9642
- PFLAG meets. (Texas City) 713-867-9020.
- PFLAG meets (Houston) 713-867-9020.
- PWA Holiday Charities meet. 713-521-0911.

Monday, June 8

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 713-529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 713-529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 713-830-3000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 713-732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 1pm to 6:15 pm 713-626-2837
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 713-535-6363.
- Free Yoga Classes at 7 pm 713-965-9642.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 9 am to 1 pm; and Cousin's 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- Miss Camp America meets. 713-520-STAR.

Tuesday, June 9

- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 7pm. 713-495-8009.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 713-529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 713-822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 713-488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 713-861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 713-520-7870.

- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic Club Body Center and Mela's 8pm to Midnight.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 713-529-0037.
- Bering Support Network-Lunch Bunch Gang meets at 7 pm. 713-526-1017.
- HIV + Support group for men over 50 meets at 7:30 pm. 713-527-9106.
- Love, Lust, and Intimacy discussion group meets at 7 pm. 713-524-2374.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents go to the Zoo. 713-284-4939.
- Pride Committee of Houston meets. 713-529-6979.
- Ladies of Laughter at the Laff Stop. 713-524-2333.
- Outrage meets. 713-706-2508.

Wednesday, June 10

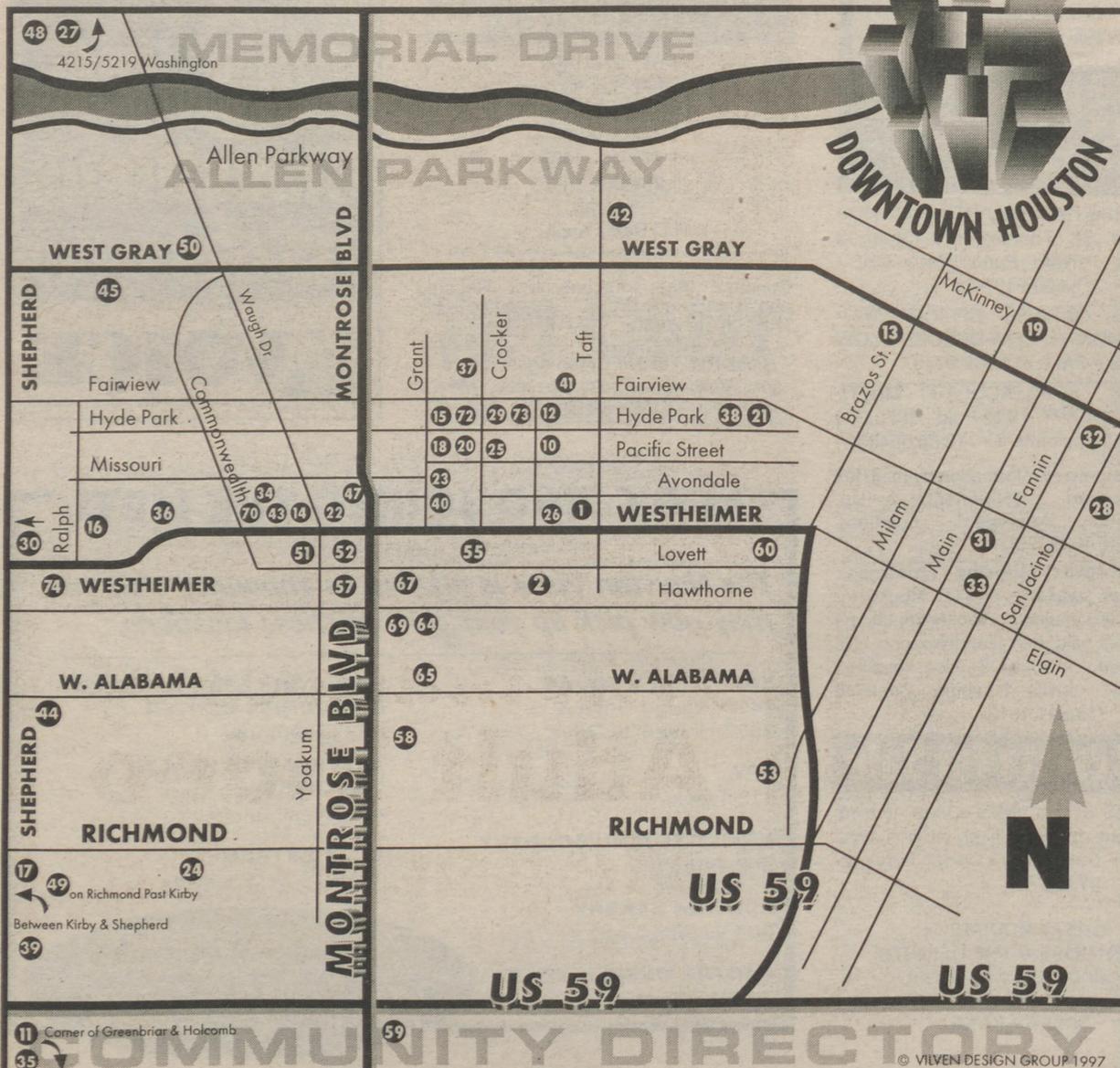
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Chances 6 to 10 pm, Nighthawks pm to midnight and the Ripcord 10 pm to 1 am.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 713-520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 713-524-0218.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713-864-8468.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4:30pm . 713-791-1412.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 713-529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 713-622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 713-782-4050.
- Free Yoga classes at 7 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 713-830-3000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 713-861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 1 to 6:15 pm. 713-626-2837.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Rainbow Ranglers at 8 pm at the BRB.

- Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. Benefit for Lindsey Love! 281-933-5818.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 713-623-6796.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Board meets. 713-521-1000.
- The Mind/Body Connection: Alternative Approaches at 7 pm. 713-524-2374.
- HOPE (HIV Outreach Prevention and Education) meets. 713-521-1000

Thursday, June 11

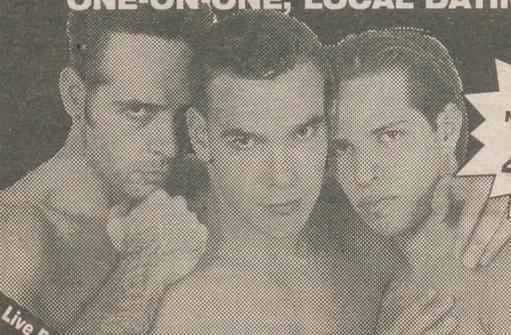
- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at the BRB from 4 to 8 pm and QT's 8 pm to midnight.
- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 713-521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 713-315-6786.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 713-622-7250.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 713-529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 713-529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 713-529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 713-942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 713-796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 713-782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 713-738-RACE.
- FrontRunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Women's Clinic opens at the Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
- Community Partnership's Open house. 803 Hawthorne. 713-526-6668.
- Houston NOW meets. 713-665-8669.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY



ACCOMMODATIONS			
1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale	713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd	713/522-5224
BARS & CLUBS			
10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park	713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview	713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos	713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer	713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview	713/528-9204
16	Ejs	2517 Ralph	713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond	713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific	713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney	713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific	713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Tuam	713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer	713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific	713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond	713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific	713/523-0213
26	QT's	534 Westheimer	713/529-8813
27	Mail Box	4215 Washington	713/864-2977
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto	713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview	713/521-2792
30	Vintage Bar on Midlane	4356 Westheimer	713/355-3093
31	Nighthawks	2923 Main	713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin	713/659-4998
33	Midtowne Spa	3100 Fannin	713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer	713/521-9533
35	PLAZA 9200:		
	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy	713/666-3436
36	Racials	1318 Westheimer	713/942-CLUB
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker	713/522-7366
38	Mela's Tejana Country	302 Tuam	713/523-0747
39	Metroplex	2165 Portsmouth	713/520-5000
48	Viviana's	5219 Washington	713/862-0203
RESTAURANTS			
40	Baba Yega	2607 Grant	713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview	713/522-0106
42	Fox Diner	905 Taft	713/523-5369
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer	713/522-3332
44	Cafe Edi	3102 S. Shepherd	713/520-5221
45	Mesa Grill	1971 W. Gray	713/520-8900
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St.	713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES			
49	Allstate	3467 Kirby	713/526-5553
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray	713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer	713/942-0147
52	Eckerd Drugs	1007 Westheimer	713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam	713/524-9932
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer	713/529-8490
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose	713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939-S Montrose	713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose	713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer	713/520-2000
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne	713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama	713/523-2521
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose	713/520-8000
69	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (AS)	713/522-7373
CLOTHING SHOPS			
31	Black Hawks	2923 Main	713/520-6224
70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer	713/522-1626
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview	713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview	713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer	713/529-6299

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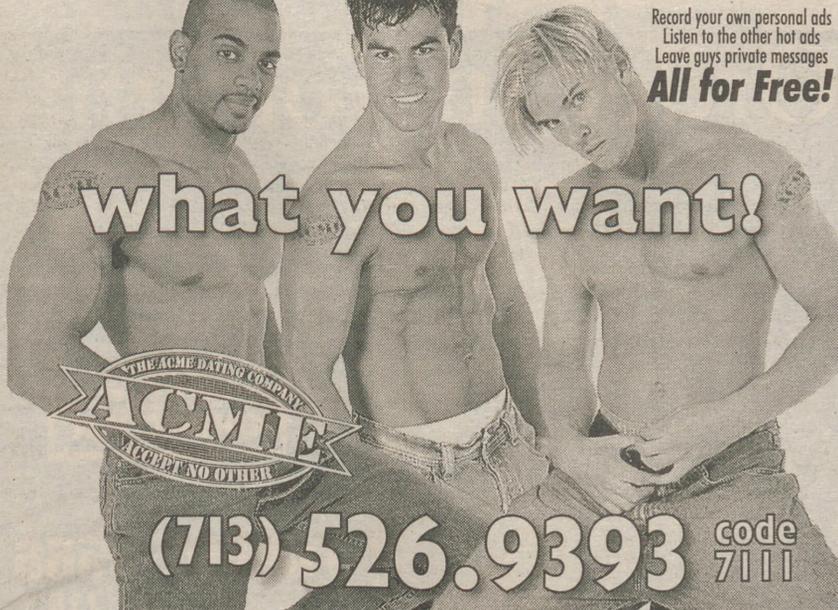
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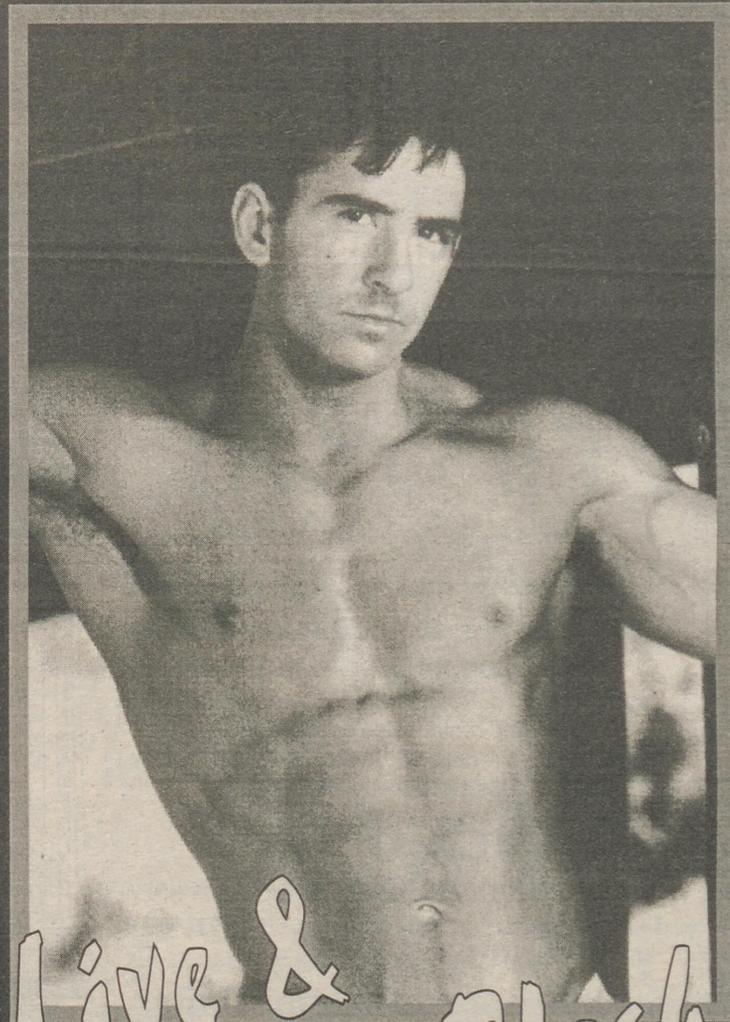
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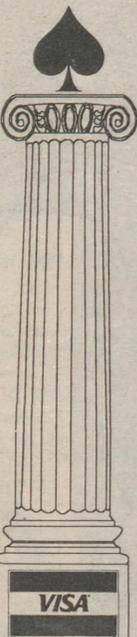
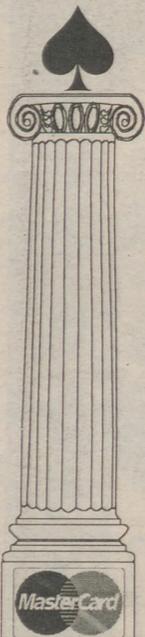
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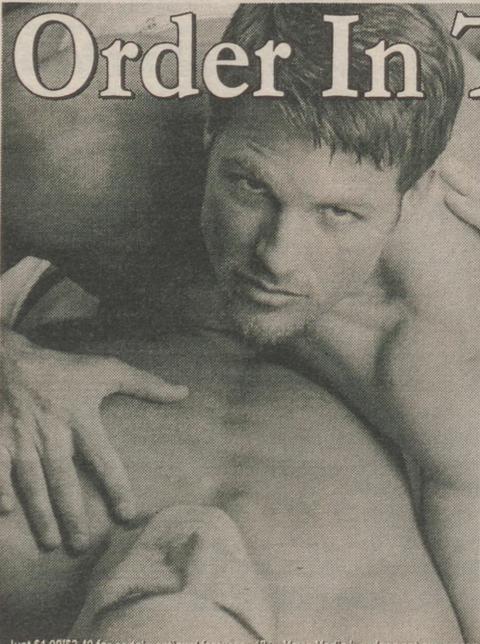
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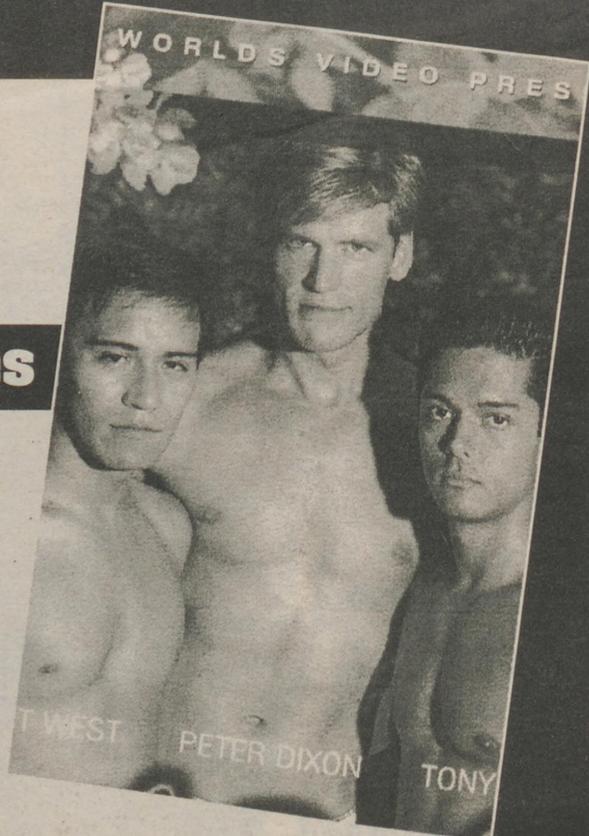
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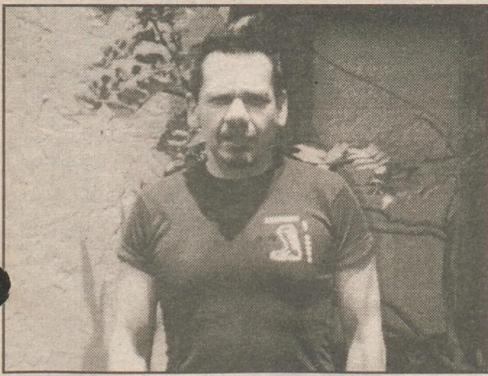
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The newest member of the Ripcord family.

love computers) birthdays to Connie and John (Houston Voice's fabulous production team.) Happy (I sling a mean cocktail) birthday to Boots at Chances. Happy (I love milkbones) birthday to Maverick. Happy anniversary to Mary Todd and the Empress. Happy anniversary to Gentry.

Important Stuff

Want a date? Get a date. Join Chances and *Houston Voice* for our first "Date Night." June 10 you can fill out a free *Houston Voice* Personal ad to find your perfect match. *Houston Voice* staff will be on hand to help you write your dream date ad. See you there at 8 p.m.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the World Famous Gaye Yancy. Happy (I



Sybil and Jane at Club Extreme

Rodent Droppings

Harvey and Rascal are just fine. Rascal has been "hitting the bottle" a lot lately. She butts her little head on the underside of the water bottle so it will fall off the cage. I think she does it when she wants to play or wants attention.

My usual disclaimer is in force. Lies, trash, and gossip. I verify no facts, I name no sources. If you want real news, please turn to page one and start reading there.

Dog Lips (hangs at Mary's): Next time you buy a \$2 pair of pants at the resale, you need check all the seams before you buy.

Jerry Jones (Mary's): How was your trip to Europe?

Rick G. (from Dallas hangs at Gentry): You must have gotten a real early start to make it to Houston and hit all the morning bars before 9 a.m.

Kelly (barback at Rich's): You are such a doll. Thanks for your help this past Sunday.

Twister (BRB): Have you really changed your name to Twisted White Dove?

Kevin (Charlie's): Are you single? Somebody wants to put in an application for your new boyfriend.

Vera (BRB): Why did you leave with 14 shot glasses unwashed? Ricky wants to know.

John (hangs at Gentry): I hear you take really long lunch breaks at Sak's 5th Avenue.



Hanging out at Spy.

Crystal Rae Lee Love (RSIC-SS): Did you almost lose the Colt 45's election for Secretary to Big Bird?

Tino (x-611): Kevin (Charlie's) wants you to finish the rest of that backrub you started.

Del & Darla K. (Gentry): Was that you I spied at QT's on Tuesday for happy hour?

Tamin (E/J's): I found this message for you on a bev nap: "Paybacks are a bitch. I bought you an instamatic to shove up your Kodak Moment."

David W. (JR's): For once, act

like a real man, not a whining little girl.

Marlene (Chances): New van, fully loaded...down to a power bed?

Mike Klare (The loose one): And I quote: "I think pantyhose feel pretty good."

Wiley (Chances): And I quote: "Go hire a DD from AA."

Tony (Club Extreme): And I quote: "Nothing too ugly and nothing too long?"

Sybil (hangs at Club Extreme): It was nice to meet you. I hear you were there two nights in a row.

Michael (Nighthawks): Break any doors lately?

Ron Souix (Cousin's): Did you enjoy your chicken fried steak at Luby's on Monday?

Jane (hangs at Extreme): It was nice to meet you. Funny I did not remember meeting you at Rich's.

Will the person or persons unknown please stop introducing yourself as



Pet of the Week Lady. Owner Lee Perez.

Cuervolyn. Feel free to tell people that you know me or spy for me. If you meet someone who claims to be Cuervolyn, make them show you photos of Harvey, Rascal or the late Radrat!

Keep sending in those "Pets of the Week."

Have a great week.

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In the AIDS crisis any bit of information, whether it was found on the Internet or overheard in a restaurant, can be the start of a rumor.

This potential for misinformation doubles the responsibility of pharmaceutical companies. Not only must we deliver new therapies for people with HIV/AIDS, we have to be careful about raising expectations.

We do not want to kindle false hopes, so let us give you the facts.

Vertex is a new kind of pharmaceutical company. The way we pursue our work is distinctive, efficient, original. We have set out to create more than a new drug therapy. We are creating a model for how drug development can take place.

We do not have the cure. However, we have been working tirelessly to develop a new protease inhibitor.

The hero of this story is not an individual scientist. It is a new drug development method called structure-based drug design. Using our own computer modeling techniques, we sorted through billions of chemical possibilities. Then we actually designed a molecule, atom by atom, that is intended to interfere with HIV protease.

There is an advantage to creating the compound instead of using an existing one: We could make it to precise specifications and try to avoid some of the chemical characteristics that might cause side effects.

Of course, there is still more work to do. But we wanted you to know about our company. The last thing any of us needs is another rumor. If you would like to learn more about this ongoing work, please contact us. Visit our Web site at www.atom-by-atom.com or call 1-888-404-VRTX.

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