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Growing old together

Retirement communities under development for older gays

by GIP PLASTER

Everyone needs somewhere to retire, but for many gay and lesbian seniors, the traditional options simply don't work.

Couples who have been together for years could be forced to go into the closet if they enter traditional retirement communities, and if nursing home care is needed for either of the partners, the couple could be forced to separate or lie about their relationship.

Since a baby boomer turns 50 every 7.6 seconds, according to government statistics, more and more gay and lesbian people face aging issues every day. Older gays and lesbians face challenges that younger gays don't have to face — and gay and lesbian seniors face challenges that older straight people don't face, either.

Gay and lesbian seniors are finding that society is ageist, that they have few places to meet each other and that as they age, there may be no place for them to go that understands the value of their relationships and respects their desire to still be part of the gay community.

See **RETIRE/** page 4A



Old lesbians: Houston residents Charlotte Avery and partner Arden Eversmeyer, members of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, work to empower lesbians to confront ageism. —Photo by Matthew A. Hennig

Working to empower aging lesbians

by GIP PLASTER

Houston's Arden Eversmeyer is an old lesbian.

Eversmeyer and her partner, Charlotte Avery, like other members of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC), prefer to be called old rather than older.

"Our concern is not aging, it's ageism," said Eversmeyer, the organization's co-coordinator. "Old has come to mean such dreadful things."

Through other organizations like the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the President's Commission on Aging, OLOC works to confront ageism in society. It doesn't have meetings or social gatherings, although local groups of the Houston-based organization exist in Florida,

New York, Minnesota, California and Texas, among other places.

The group says its goal is to empower old lesbians to confront ageism and to make themselves a visible force within their own community and a shaping force for women's issues.

Members of OLOC like to be called old because they are attempting to reclaim the term in much the same way some have tried to reclaim the pink triangle, once a symbol of Nazi oppression, as a symbol for the lesbian and gay community, organizers said.

"Society calls us old behind our backs while it calls us older to our faces,"

See **OLD/** page 4A

Frances slams AIDS shelter

Donations needed to reopen emergency shelter for HIV-positive men

by MATTHEW A. HENNIG

Some \$10,000 may be needed to reopen one of the city's only AIDS emergency shelters after heavy damage inflicted by Tropical Storm Frances caved in the roof and closed the facility last week.

Heavy rains collapsed part of the roof and flooded much of the two-story house early on Sept. 11 as Frances pummeled Houston, causing severe flooding and an estimated \$23 million in damage in Harris County, officials said.

"The house was creaking and groaning," said Matt Locklin, executive director and one of the founders of the facility at 117 Tuam. "We were up

at 4 o'clock in the morning with buckets trying to minimize the damage."

The facility can house six, HIV-positive males for up to 90 days as Houston's only same-day-entry AIDS emergency shelter, Locklin said. But the storm damage has forced him to close the doors for several weeks.

Heavy rain flooded a second-floor bedroom and office and ruined some furniture and equipment, Locklin said. Insurance may pay some of the repair costs, which could stretch to \$10,000, but the shelter needs immediate assistance to relocate residents and begin repairs, he said.

A plastic tarp covers the damaged roof while yellow caution tape is draped across parts of the facility to warn of the damage. The rain caved in a flat portion of the house's

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Closed: Heavy rains pounded the city's only same-day-entry AIDS emergency shelter, forcing executive director Matt Locklin to close the facility until up to \$10,000 in repairs can be completed. —Photo by Matthew A. Hennig

Tip cards to help police with hate crimes

by MATTHEW A. HENNIG

Houston's 5,300 police officers will soon be armed with blue resource cards in another step in the city's fight against hate crimes, officials said Thursday.

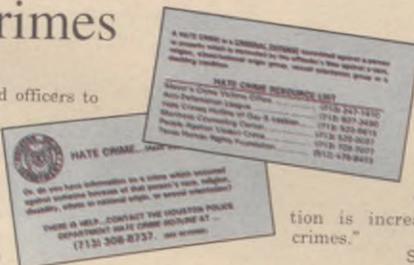
The four inch by two inch cards — titled "Hate Crime ... Have you been a victim?" — list the police department's 24-hour Hate Crimes Hotline

and resources for victims, such as the Montrose Counseling Center and Texas Human Rights Foundation.

Some 10,000 cards are being distributed to police officers, substations and community outlets throughout Houston, including the police storefront on Westheimer near Montrose, said Lt. Mark Eisenman, hate crimes coordinator for the Houston Police

Department.

"We wanted officers to readily have access to resources that would be of importance to the special needs of hate crime



victims," Eisenman said Thursday. "Crime victims are certainly traumatized, but the traumatization is increased with hate crimes."

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Police chief follows through on improvements.
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Avoiding the 'G' word in Hawaii.
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Warming up key to success in workouts.
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AIDS leaders to be honored

Three Houston leaders in the fight against AIDS will be honored by a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy and policy group on Sept. 24.

Businessman Jackson Hicks, state Rep. Garnet Coleman and Chase Bank of Texas will be honored by AIDS Action, a group that represents some 3,200 AIDS service providers across the country.

"As Houston has become a tragic new epicenter of the AIDS epidemic, local leadership responded swiftly and effectively," said Daniel Zingale, AIDS Action's executive director. "We are proud to honor these three leaders not only for their fight against AIDS in Houston, but for setting a national example for individual and corporate responsibility."

The AIDS Action Houston Leadership Awards will be held Sept. 24 at the Houston Junior League, 1811 Briar Oak Lane, at 8 p.m.

can't happen to them," said event organizer Samantha Wilcox of Senator Gravity. "With all the publicity surrounding treatment advances, there is a very dangerous and growing perception that HIV is controllable and for some, even curable. We have to counter this perception, or we stand to lose another generation to this disease."

For more information, call 713-524-8494.



Benefit: More than \$4,100 was raised for the Houston Buyers Club during a benefit at Brick's II on Sept. 6, organizers said. Fred Walters (left), executive director of the Buyers Club, accepts the proceeds from Don Gill of Don Gill Productions, which organized the event, along with Buddy Buckley. The Buyers Club provides nutritional supplements at wholesale prices to assist people with chronic illnesses, such as AIDS.



Anniversary: Dozens of people were on hand for the 10th anniversary celebration of The Assistance Fund, which helps guarantee medical care for HIV-positive patients through its offices at 1116 Jackson Blvd. A 10th anniversary gala is planned for Oct. 18. For more information, call 713-529-4788. —Photo by Dalton DeHart

Birthday bash planned for state House member

Retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, one of a handful of openly lesbian candidates for Congress, is scheduled to appear at the annual birthday bash for state Rep. Debra Danburg (D-Houston), whose District 137 includes parts of heavily gay Montrose. State House Speaker Tom Laney is also scheduled to attend. The Sept. 24 event will be held at Amazon 2050 A.D., 3745 Greenbriar at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 713-523-3272.



Cammermeyer: Congressional candidate to visit Houston Sept. 24.

Local musicians host AIDS benefit for Bering

Several live bands will perform during a benefit for the Bering Community Service Foundation on Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. Performers include Chlorine, Rose Bud, Senator Gravity, Trippstroke and Shelia Marshall Band. The benefit will be held at Instant Karma, 1617 Richmond. Tickets are \$7.

"This event is designed to take the prevention message where it is most needed — to young adults who think it

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www.texrenfest.com

OBITUARY

Clifton Hazelwood Bradley Jr.

Clifton Bradley Hazelwood Jr., died on Sept. 12 from complications due to AIDS. He was 36.

A native of Fort Dix, New Jersey, Hazelwood, a thespian, art promoter and volunteer, lived in Houston for 10 years. He was best known for his involvement in the arts and Day Without Art/World AIDS Day.

Clifton is survived by partner Robert Barber; grandmother Ethel G. Thompson of Panama; father Clifton B. Hazelwood Sr. of San Antonio; and siblings the Rev. Carmen Sullemun-Stubbs of New York City, Isaias A. Hazelwood of Clear Lake, James A. Hazelwood of San Diego, and Maria Williams of San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, donations are accepted at The Center for AIDS, P.O. Box 66306, Houston, Texas 77266.

A memorial service will be planned at Rothko Chapel. For more information, call 713-527-8219.



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treating **HIV**

Will what makes sense

today...

still make sense

tomorrow?

As we enter a new era in the treatment of **HIV** infection, the focus is shifting toward managing the disease over the long term. While early, aggressive therapy with a combination of potent antiretrovirals makes sense virologically, it poses serious questions for patients living with the disease.

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Some answers will come from new, **potent therapies** that are more convenient to take, easier to tolerate, and can be readily combined with other antiretroviral drugs.

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HIV002R0

June 1998

RETIRE/ from page 1A

Heterosexuals can turn to a variety of retirement communities — groups of houses, apartments and nursing home facilities that offer aging people the services they need as they grow older — but until recently, nothing like that has existed for older gays and lesbians.

Traditional communities and their staffs may not be sensitive to gay and lesbian issues, and they certainly aren't likely to encourage residents to be open and honest about their orientation. In addition, seniors, like everyone else, often want to be around others who are like them.

Several organizations are now working to create retirement centers for our often-overlooked elders.

Our own town

"We've all sat with friends and talked about what we are going to do when we get older," said Peter Lundberg, a San Francisco-based financial planner who is planning two communities called Our Town in California.

Lundberg is also considering two options for the design of the community. One would be made up of urban residential buildings with an incorporated assisted-living facility and would be either newly built or a renovation of an existing property.

The other would be more of a resort-like community with a commercial core and a pedestrian-oriented square. Townhouses and detached homes would radiate from this central business area. Balconies and patios would overlook the activity.

But Lundberg said it could be five years or more before one of his projects is ready for use.

"The development process is a very lengthy and time-consuming one," he said. California regulations require zoning and environmental reviews, among other things. He said the project could be accelerated if existing facilities are found that can be converted.

Aging gays respond

More than 1,200 people have responded to Lundberg's survey to determine the exact needs within the community. From that input, he has developed some conclusions about what gays and lesbians considering retirement want.

He is not surprised to find that although most want a community that is gay developed and gay managed, some don't want an exclusively gay retirement community — more than 90 percent of the people he surveyed do not want an exclusively gay community.

He says this is probably because of the "Stonewall factor." Seniors who grew up before the riot at Stonewall Inn that began the openness of the lesbian and gay rights movement are less likely to be out than those who have grown up since. Living in an all gay retirement community would mean everyone would know they are gay.

In addition, some older people who grew up in times when there was no gay community enjoy interaction with straight people. Surveys have also shown that many seniors would prefer a community that also includes younger people.

Lundberg said that while our community, like society as a whole, does



Lundberg:
Planning two retirement communities in California for gays, lesbians



Home sweet home: Retired psychology professor Bill Laing has invested some \$650,000 in a Palmetto, Florida retirement community for gays and lesbians. The three-phase, 22 acre project already includes five homes.

sometimes discriminate against its older members, gays and lesbians have a unique perspective on end-of-life issues.

"Within the general population, there is a great deal of denial about the aging and dying process," he said. "In contrast, the gay population has dealt with death. Many of us have been caretakers for friends in their dying process."

That means that, in general, gays and lesbians have faced the issues of failing health and aging at an earlier age.

"Younger gay populations — age 45 to 55 — overwhelmingly embrace having assisted living and nursing home facilities. They're concerned about who will be there for them during this inevitable life process," he said.

Under construction

Lundberg was inspired to begin working to create Our Town about five years ago when he read a brief paragraph in the *Wall Street Journal* about Bill Laing, a Florida man who was already working to create a gay and lesbian retirement community.

Laing, a retired psychology professor, recently opened the Palms of Manasota. He has invested about \$650,000 of his own money, partly inherited from an aunt. Work has now started on the fifth home of the three-phase project. Plans call for the community to accommodate 240 people on 22 acres.

"I had planned to have ten homes in by the first of the year, and so far we're on schedule," Laing said. "We're just doing great. The sites are finished and ready for more homes."

Phase one of Laing's project calls for 21 homes built upon purchase and designed primarily for younger retirees. Later, phase two will include 44 apartments, and phase three will be an assisted-living facility that can accommodate 45 people.

Associating retiring gays

In California, Veronica St. Claire and her partner Mary Thorndal began the Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons (GLARP) two and a half years ago as the gay version of the American Association of Retired Persons, a powerful group that offers consumer discounts for older people and is a strong lobbying force in government.

GLARP now has more than 1,000 members



Thorndal: Helped start the Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons, which includes more than 1,000 members

members, and, in response to its members, the organization is focusing on creating a retirement facility.

St. Claire said that many people she has encountered since co-founding GLARP are people in their 40s and 50s who are concerned about growing older, especially given the current conservative shift in the political climate and the mixing of religious zealots with conservative politicians. They also want a community where they can feel safe.

GLARP's research, like Lundberg's, shows that the community should not be 100 percent gay.

In addition, St. Claire said many gay and lesbian people are concerned about their future since they don't have children or relationships with their family.

"The whole idea is that when mom starts to feel she can't take care of the house anymore, then the kids make the decisions about what will happen to her," she said. But people with no children are afraid no one will be there to make the decisions for them, and they would rather be in control of their own fate anyway, she said.

St. Claire and Thorndal are considering a project in Cathedral City, near Palm Springs, among other locations in California.

More options

Other options for gay and lesbian retirees are developing, too.

St. Claire says that while they are focusing on creating a community in California first, they have already been approached by a west Texas landowner. And most of the organization's Texas members say they are not planning to leave the Lone Star State when they retire.

"We have a good number of Texan members and they all want to retire in Texas, so there will certainly be something happening there in the future since there is that amount of interest," St. Claire said.

Other retirement communities are planned in Boston, Provincetown and New York City, as well as additional projects in California and Florida. Some lesbian seniors are finding a home in Apache Junction, Arizona.

Amsterdam, Holland has seven one-bedroom, city-subsidized apartments for older gays and lesbians, according to Lundberg, that adjoin an assisted-living facility. Those apartments already have a long waiting list. Other European options also exist.

OLD/ from page 1A

OLOC's brochure says. "We refute the lie that it is shameful to be an old lesbian."

"We name ourselves old lesbians because we no longer will accommodate language that implies in any way that old means inferior," the brochure continues. "We call ourselves old with pride. In doing so, we challenge the stereotypes directly. Thus, we empower and change ourselves, each other and the world."

OLOC publishes a quarterly newsletter available by subscription. Membership is limited to lesbians age 60 and over, although they have supporters who are younger, Eversmeyer said. The group also publishes a book called "Facilitator's Handbook: Confronting Ageism for Lesbians 60 and Over." The group's next conference is in San Francisco in the summer of 1999.

Eversmeyer said the group wants to change the belief within the lesbian community that young is good and old is bad. She says that might help society mirror others around the world.

"We're the only civilized culture in the world that doesn't revere old people," Eversmeyer said.

For more information about Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, write P.O. Box 980422, Houston, Texas 77089.

Resources

Our Town
415-566-4100
www.ourtownvillages.com

Palms of Manasota
941-722-5858
www.prideworks.com/palms.htm

Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons
310-966-1500
www.glarp.org

American Society on Aging's Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network
www.asaging.org/lgain.html

Pride Senior Network
www.pridesenior.org

Other communities

HerLand Development
212-989-3573
(Planning a community for lesbian seniors.)

Metropolitan Community Homes Betty Pederson
P.O. Box 642153
San Francisco, Calif. 94109
(Non-profit organization planning to build affordable senior housing in northern California.)

Rainbow Gardens Assisted Living Homes
970-385-4090
www.rainbow-gardens.com
(A planned assisted-living community.)

The Resort on Carefree Boulevard
Fort Meyers, Fla.
800-326-0364
www.resortoncb.com
(A vacation and retirement community for lesbians. Now open. Homes and RV sites for sale and rental. Clubhouse, tennis courts, putting greens and lakes.)

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Expanded Access Program for Ziagen



SHELTER/ from page 1A

roof.
Some 300 residents have lived in the 3,500-square-foot shelter since it opened in August 1994, Locklin said. The AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston sponsors the house.
"This is three years of hard work down the tubes," Locklin said.

Media coverage of the damage has already brought in a \$500 donation, which covered the cost of covering the exposed damage, he said.



The facility provides gay-positive transitional housing and helps residents locate assistance and mentoring, Locklin said.

"Everyone can come here and be comfortable. The alternatives aren't very pretty," he said. "We are a helping hand, not a hand-out."

The HIV-positive residents are homeless and often face threats and discrimination in other city shelters, Locklin said. Residents pay some costs, though much of the facility's operational tab is funded through private grants, street fairs and rummage sales.

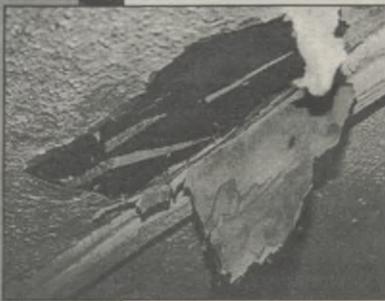
"We did this the hard way — with lots of elbow grease," Locklin said.

It may take several weeks for the shelter to finish repairs and reopen, he said.

"Our doors are shut for right now. The bottom line is we are going to need money to fix this crisis," Locklin said.

For more information about TLC House, call 713-521-1613.

Damaged: Rain collapsed a portion of the roof at the TLC House on Tuam last week.



HATE/ from page 1A

The cards come on the heels of a slight increase in reported hate crimes for the first six months of 1998, despite an eight percent drop in overall violent crime in Houston.

Police reported 20 crimes motivated by race, religion, disability, ethnicity or sexual orientation during the first half of the year, compared to 16 during the same period last year.

Four of the 20 hate crimes targeted gays and lesbians, compared to five last year, officials said. But even with small numbers of reported hate crimes, activists and counselors have said most go unreported. And violent attacks are still common in Houston, they said.

In April, Mayor Lee Brown opened a 24-hour hotline (713-308-8737), appointed a hate crimes coordinator and pledged more training for the city's police force to increase awareness about hate crimes.

Because of the effort and the hotline, reports of hate crimes have increased 13 percent, Eisenman said.

"We are trying to elevate that reporting," he said.

Officials want police officers to refer to the blue card when they respond to calls and write incident reports, as well as hand them out to victims, Eisenman said. The cards define a hate crime and list six telephone numbers as resources.

Often, police or victims don't realize a crime should be classified as a hate crime or victims are afraid to reveal their sexual orientation to authorities, officials said.

The blue card should help remedy that, Eisenman said. The tip cards are

printed in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.

"This information can go to everybody. We want to get it in everybody's hands," Eisenman said.

Victims of hate crimes or witnesses can anonymously report information to police through the hotline, he said.

"Underreporting of hate crimes traditionally has been a problem that we are continuing to address. HPD has a 'zero tolerance' regarding all offenses which are motivated by bias or prejudice," Eisenman said.

The slight increase in hate crimes comes as local activists and politicians are attempting to jump-start grassroots support for the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, legislation stalled in Congress that would expand federal hate crimes statute to offenses based on sexual orientation and disability.

Parker and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee called for passage of the measure during a July 25 town hall meeting.

Current federal law applies only to crimes motivated by race, color, religion or national origin and instances in which the victim is taking part in one of six federally-protected activities, such as voting.

That sometimes ties the hands of federal prosecutors and keeps them from fighting some of the most brutal hate crimes, officials said.

In a July 9 hearing, Houston City Councilman Jew Don Boney and state Sen. Rodney Ellis called on Texas legislators to strengthen state law to include protection for gays and tougher penalties for hate crimes when they return to session in January.

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Park Central Hotel	\$359	\$405
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Police improve response to domestic violence case

Killing of gay waiter in March prompted changes

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

The appointment of Houston's first family violence coordinator this week completes a months-long push by city officials to improve its response to the 30,000 cases of domestic violence reported each year.

Arthuryne Dailey, a former management analyst in the Department of Health and Human Services, will help coordinate city efforts in domestic violence and work with the Houston Police Department, which was severely criticized earlier this year for its handling of a case that ended in a murder-suicide on Montrose Boulevard.



Bradford: New position will provide comprehensive approach to police handling of domestic violence cases

In late March, the estranged boyfriend of Marc Daniel Kajs, a 28-year-old waiter, chased him down outside a trendy Montrose restaurant and shot him before committing suicide. Hours before the killing, Kajs told police he was being threatened. Family members say he was turned away by officers; police argue they filed a report and warned Kajs to avoid his boyfriend.

The murder-suicide prompted an

internal review by Police Chief C.O. Bradford, who later proposed decentralizing the family violence unit by opening substations, making officers available 24-hours-a-day, hiring a domestic violence coordinator and increasing sensitivity training.

Dailey's appointment by Mayor Lee Brown on Monday completed the last step in revamping the police department's approach to domestic violence cases, which leads to about 60 homicides a year, some 20 percent of Houston's total.

"There are many, many resources out there, but one of the problems is people don't know about them," Dailey said.

Through the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, comprised of law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates and service providers, Dailey wants to better coordinate and increase community outreach.

Members of some communities, such as gays and lesbians, may need better representation on the council, she said. About 1,900 of the city's 30,000 domestic violence cases each year are same-sex, though that could mean a boyfriend attacking his gay mate, a mother beating her daughter or a son striking his father. Police don't track domestic violence by sexual orientation.

"If there is no representation from the gay and lesbian community, I will make every effort to ensure that there is," Dailey said.

The council may also boost its ties with religious groups, business sector and media to help increase awareness, she said.

"I want to establish links between those groups to make sure everyone knows what is available. We'll be trying

'There are many, many resources out there, but one of the problems is people don't know about them. I want to establish links between those groups to make sure everyone knows what is available. We'll be trying to involve more people.'

—Arthuryne Dailey

to involve more people," Dailey said.

In decentralizing the police department's family violence unit, victims can now go to three substations for help — Central at 1200 Travis, North at 9455 W. Montgomery and South at 8300 Mykawa. The Central substation will operate 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily; the other two substations are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"It provides greater accessibility to victims when they come in for service," said Lt. Tom Roman, commander of the family violence unit. "I would hope we have more people coming in."

Opening one of the substations seven days a week meets a pledge Bradford made in June when he announced the results of the internal review to about three-dozen gays and lesbians during a meeting of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

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.

Patrol officers are also provided

with information about shelters and counseling centers for domestic violence victims, including ones designed for gays and lesbians, Bradford said.

Police officials said in July that officers sometimes don't understand how gay males can become victims of domestic violence, though attitudes among rank and file officers are improving.

"Ms. Dailey will be able to assist in providing a comprehensive approach in how we can better deal with domestic violence and come up with workable solutions to reduce these types of acts," Bradford said.

The police chief has also added seven positions to the family violence unit, increasing personnel to 53. More staff could be added after officials review changes to the unit in January, Roman said. If more victims seek help and report violence, the department may need additional staff, he said.

"We will look at getting three months under our belt so we can make an assessment. That will give us a good ability to analyze what impact this has had and what direction we need to go," Roman said.

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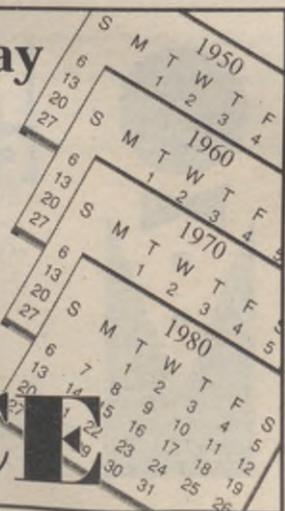
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CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday, September 18

- Communion and Prayer Service at 10:00 am; at the Kolbe Project. 713-522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday, September 19

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

Sunday, September 20

- 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. 713-528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service "Preaching the Gospel" at 11 am. 713-528-6756.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am. 713-861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 713-528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 713-526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 713-880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. 4305 Lillian 713-880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 713-529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm. 713-668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 713-526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 713-861-9149.
- 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>.

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

Monday, September 21

- Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm at the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800

Tuesday, September 22

- 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. 713-861-9149.
- 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 713-528-6756.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Wednesday, September 23

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 713-861-9149.
- 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>.
- 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 713-528-6756.

Thursday, September 24

- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847.
 - Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 - Choir Practice at 6:30 pm. Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 - The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>
- If you want an event listed in this section, please call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490 by 12 Noon Mondays.

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

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

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



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

One way to know for sure if your treatment has restored LBM is to ask your doctor about BIA or Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis. BIA measures body composition so changes in LBM can be monitored. It takes just 5 minutes and is completely painless. If your physician cannot provide

BIA testing, ask him/her to call Serono at 800-714-2437 and a representative will help your physician gain access to a BIA system on your behalf.

People on SEROSTIM may observe side effects. In clinical trials, patients treated with SEROSTIM noticed muscle and joint soreness (53.7% vs. 33.3% for placebo) and swelling in the hands and feet (27.3% vs. 2.7% for placebo). Physicians rated these symptoms as mild-to-moderate, and in most cases they will subside with continued treatment. Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. SEROSTIM use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Also, SEROSTIM must be used along with anti-HIV drug therapy. Data related to interactions between SEROSTIM and anti-HIV treatments are not yet available.

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

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

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BRIEF SUMMARY. SEE FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION BEFORE PRESCRIBING.

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

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Serostim is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to growth hormone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 2: Controlled Trials Adverse Events

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

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

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

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

OVERDOSAGE

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

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

In patients who weigh less than 35 kg, Serostim should be administered at a dose of 0.1 mg/kg subcutaneously daily at bedtime.

Dose reductions for side effects felt to be related to treatment with Serostim, which are unresponsive to symptomatic treatment, may be effected by reducing the total daily dose or the number of doses given per week.

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

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

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

STABILITY AND STORAGE

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

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

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

HOW SUPPLIED

Serostim is available in the following forms:

- Serostim vials containing 4 mg (approximately 12 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP. Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0004-7
- Serostim vials containing 5 mg (approximately 15 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP. Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0005-7
- Serostim vials containing 6 mg (approximately 18 IU) somatropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP. Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0006-7

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

Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

February 1998



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SLI 98-8113

Stealth agenda in Hawaii

Activists avoid 'gay' to defend state's constitution against change

by KAREN M. GOULART

The nation's largest gay political organization is raising more than \$1 million to win the biggest gay rights victory ever, but the strategy is to de-emphasize homosexuality.

The battleground is the beautiful state of Hawaii, and the fight is over a November referendum that would amend that state's constitution to prevent the Supreme Court of Hawaii from forcing the recognition of same-sex marriages.

But the Human Rights Campaign — joined by a coalition of national and Hawaiian organizations — has looked at the polls and decided that a head-to-head fight on the issue of gay marriage is a losing proposition. Instead, HRC and its allies are urging Hawaii voters to "protect their constitution" from amendment.

HRC officials maintain this unlikely strategy will work. Recent poll results seem to confirm that the organization's "stealth" campaign appeals to the voters' instincts. When asked about same-sex marriage, a majority of Hawaiian voters showed disapproval.

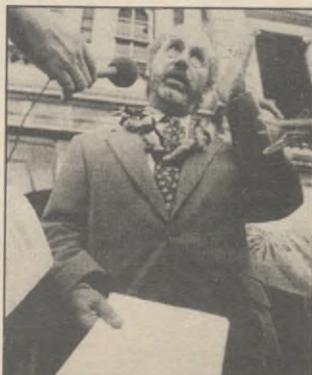
But when Hawaiians were asked if they would want to change their constitution — the step required to ban same-sex marriage — a majority said no.

"The polls show that voters are opposed to same-sex marriage," said David M. Smith, HRC communications director. "When we start talking about the issue in terms of what it does to the constitution, it creates a different response. ... So we are going to focus like a laser beam on those issues. So, we are focused very tightly on the message of protecting the constitution. That is strategic and purposeful."

Smith, who's overseeing HRC's efforts in Hawaii, acknowledges the Hawaiian strategy is unique.

"This is definitely a very focused, very ambitious effort, and it is probably not something that HRC has engaged in the past, and I'm not entirely sure would engage in, in the future," he said. "I think it is a result of the HRC board and staff understanding the importance of this issue and what is at stake."

Lawrie Demorest, an Atlanta attorney and gay rights advocate who serves as southern regional co-chair of HRC's board of governors, said she supports HRC's decision to frame the Hawaii issue in terms of protecting



Foley: Attorney for plaintiffs agrees with HRC strategy. —Photo by Tony Cheng

the state constitution instead of as a direct appeal for gay rights.

"I think we need to be pragmatic about it," she said. "Who else is going to run this campaign? Who else but an organization interested in assuring civil rights for gay and lesbian people is going to invest the resources, both human and fiscal, to do it? So I'm not sure what would be the alternative. ..."

"I absolutely think it is a very well researched campaign in terms of the polling data and different demographic groups that are being marketed to with different messages that will resonate with them."

If the referendum amendment passes, the state's legislature will have the power to make moot any decision by the Hawaii Supreme Court in *Baehr vs. Muike*, the historic lawsuit filed in 1990 by three gay couples seeking licenses to marry.

The state's high court has already held that excluding gay couples violates the guarantee of equal protection, unless the state can prove a compelling justification for doing so. In a 1996 trial, the state failed. That lower court verdict in favor of the gay plaintiffs is now on appeal back before the Hawaii Supreme Court, which has not even scheduled oral arguments on the matter, though it does not always do so.

"Obviously, same-sex relationships should be recognized in the same way opposite-sex relationships are — there is no question about that," said HRC's Smith. "But there is something else at stake here: Changing the constitution to exclude us is quite frightening. ... The whole notion of changing a constitution to exclude rights is something we are going to make every effort to stop."

HRC is willing to commit \$1.1 million to ensure that Hawaiians won't change their constitution to preempt the Hawaii Supreme Court. Protect Our Constitution/Human Rights

See HAWAII/ page 12A

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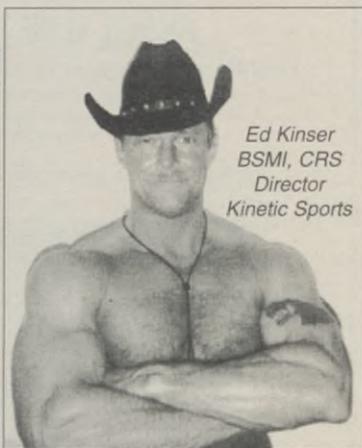


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NATIONAL



Plaintiffs: Genora Dancel and Ninia Baehr were one of three gay couples seeking licenses to marry in Hawaii, an idea that sparked a historic lawsuit filed in 1990 that is now pending before the state's Supreme Court. —Photo by Dennis Oda

HAWAII/ from page 11A
Campaign, an HRC group formed in January, is working closely with Protect Our Constitution — a Hawaiian alliance of community leaders, clergy, civil-rights activists and citizens — to fund grass-roots voter education, and wage a blow-for-blow media battle with far-right Christian organizations raising funds to campaign for the amendment.

Opponents of gay marriage — including the Save Traditional Marriage '98, the Alliance for Traditional Marriage, and the Rev. James Dobson's Focus on the Family — have initiated a multi-media advertising campaign to promote the anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment.

HRC had already raised more than \$700,000 for the Hawaii battle; and a coalition of civil-rights groups led by HRC, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the national American Civil Liberties Union is attempting to raise the remaining \$400,000 by late September.

Dan Foley, the Hawaii attorney representing the three couples in Baehr vs. Miike, has no question that HRC has selected the best strategy. He has been with the case from the beginning.

"We would consider a 'yes' vote a devastating defeat," Foley said. "We didn't start this looking for second-class citizenship. ... A 'no' vote is the only way there will be equal protection and equal opportunity."

Evan Wolfson, the staff attorney at Lambda Legal who has led the Freedom to Marry Project, a coalition of gay rights organization, is also working with Foley on the Hawaii case, and said the most important goal of HRC's Protect Our Constitution campaign is to "beat back this discriminatory stab at our movement."

"This is a civil-rights advance being attacked by a broad coalition of opposition. If they succeed, there is much more at stake than the right to marry. People need to help at this critical period," Wolfson said.

Another national advocacy group, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, endorses this approach.

"We're not going to second-guess the people on the front line," said Tracy Conaty, task force media director. "The most important thing that all people coordinating campaigns have to be mindful of is there is the battle and there is the war. Sometimes winning or losing the particular vote isn't the most important thing. The most

important thing in these campaigns is if we as a gay and lesbian community come out stronger and more organized.

But must gay rights advocates stop talking about the freedom to marry in order to win it?

Activist and author Michelangelo Signorile, who analyzed the Hawaii situation early on, says no, claiming the rush for action now could have been avoided.

"One thing I will say is HRC was very late coming to this issue," he said. "Early on, they didn't see it as something 'winnable.' It wasn't until a grass-roots movement of marriage activists and the media really came into it — but, you can't cry over spilled milk, and I wish them well."

Signorile believes a stronger focus on visibility might have made a significant difference in the evolution of Hawaii's case for same-sex marriage.

"What we could have done early on was a visibility campaign, and could have framed this as it affects people's lives, people's families," Signorile said. "Hawaii is a very familial culture. ... We needed to appeal to people that way, show people that they know gay people who would be affected by this. That really needed to be done early on, before the religious right's campaigning."

While polls show a resistance among Hawaiian voters to changing the state's constitution, Signorile says too much faith could be placed in poll responses.

Signorile said that, unlike other states, Hawaii is still developing politically. He notes that the nation's youngest state has made changes to its constitution in the past 30 years, and that amending it again may not be as unthinkable as many portray it to be.

"A better strategy would be to have really visible and vocal people showing who they are," Signorile said. "I think they really have to challenge people's ideas about gay relationships and gay families and really try to change people's minds."

A decision is expected soon, and despite what could have or should have been done, attention must be given to the issue, and money must be raised, Conaty said.



Signorile: Show real gay people to sway public opinion in Hawaii

State agency pulls AIDS conference money

COLUMBIA, S.C. — An annual conference on sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS prevention will have a high-profile speaker, but it will go on without \$40,000 in state money. The head of the Department of Health and Environmental Control says the state cannot approve of former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders' participation in next month's conference. Elders' controversial views on disease prevention and sexual practices might do South Carolina's efforts more harm than good, Commissioner Doug Bryant said. Allen Wutzdorff, chairman of the committee that invited Elders, said organizers initially were surprised and frustrated that DHEC pulled its sponsorship, but they quickly recovered and proceeded with the planning.



Elders: Visit by former Surgeon General causes controversy in South Carolina

him. He later told police he was humiliated by the surprise on-camera announcement. He was convicted in 1996 of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 25 to 50 years. Amedure's family has also sued Jones and distributor Warner Bros. for \$50 million, claiming they were at least partly responsible for Amedure's death.

Red Lobster ordered to pay in discrimination case

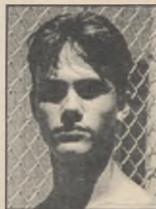
CHICAGO — The Cook County Commission on Human Rights awarded a gay man who sued Red Lobster a \$95,000 victory, according to a report in the Chicago Tribune. The six-member panel unanimously agreed Sept. 10 that Red Lobster violated the county's civil rights laws when, in 1996, it dismissed Dale Hall because of his sexual orientation from its outlet in Lincolnwood. In a first under the 1993 ordinance extending employment protection to gays and lesbians, the panel ordered the company to reinstate Hall as an associate manager. Red Lobster, which withdrew an initial challenge to the



legality of the civil rights ordinance, was also ordered to conduct diversity training at all six of its Cook County restaurants.

Manslaughter plea in 'gay panic' murder case

SAN FRANCISCO — Joshua Puckett, an 18-year-old model accused of killing a San Francisco businessman, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter in a plea bargain reached Sept. 11, according to a report in the San Francisco Examiner. The case had been closely watched because Puckett said he had killed the businessman, 29-year-old Vitaly Poliakov, because the victim had made unwanted homosexual advances toward him. Some feared that Puckett would rely on a "gay panic"



Puckett: Teenager pleaded guilty in death of man who made unwanted sexual advances toward him

defense, meaning that he struck Poliakov out of panic to prevent what he found to be a repugnant act. Puckett, a model who once appeared on the cover of XY magazine for young gays, told police that he was fending off Poliakov's sexual advances during an Aug. 31, 1997, party at an Orinda home when he bashed Poliakov in the head with a glass cider bottle. Puckett was sentenced to 13 years and 8 months in state prison, said his attorney, Mark Liss.

New drugs may offer help in AIDS fight

WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — Two new drugs may be entering the battle against AIDS in the near future. U.S. Bioscience, Inc. announced Sept. 10 that the company's drug lodenose has been cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to proceed to clinical trials. Lodenose is a protease inhibitor reported to have an encouraging resistance profile. Medical Discoveries, Inc. announced the same day that additional testing of its Novel Drug MDI-P has confirmed and extended its anti-HIV activity. Experiments using a more concentrated version of the drug resulted in up to 90-percent killing of the HIV virus in cell culture with no toxicity to the cells.

Stabbing of retired gay educator bewilders police

MIAMI — The stabbing of a retired assistant principal in his South Beach apartment has puzzled Miami Beach detectives, according to a report in the Miami Herald. Kenneth Siegel, 71, had no apparent enemies or financial problems. Siegel was found on the afternoon of Sept. 5 after his neighbors contacted their condo board about an odor coming from his apartment. The Bayview Terrace condominium association called police, who found Siegel stabbed several times. He had been dead for up to two days. "He was a very nice guy. He made a point to say hello to everybody," David Chodrow said. "Nobody in their right mind would do that to him. ... Two deadbolt locks were locked, so if it was a stranger, it wasn't a complete stranger." Siegel's death brings to three the number of unsolved murders of gay men in Miami Beach.

Appeals court overturns 'Jenny Jones' murder conviction

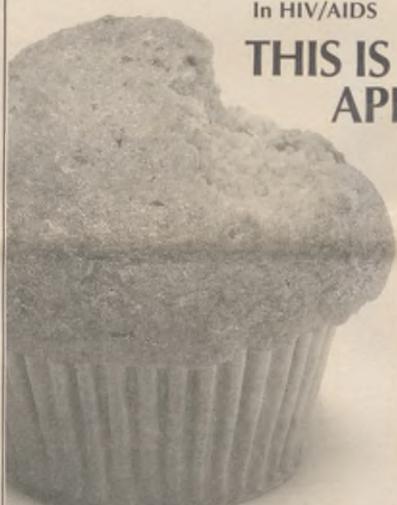
DETROIT — A state appeals court has overturned the murder conviction of a man who shot another man who revealed a secret crush on him during a taping of "The Jenny Jones Show." The Michigan Court of Appeals said Jonathan Schmitz should have been allowed to remove a juror before the trial began. The three-judge panel said the error was harmful enough to warrant overturning his conviction on second-degree murder. Prosecutors must now decide whether to retry Schmitz, who was accused of shooting Scott Amedure, a gay man, in March 1995 after Amedure revealed on the show that he was attracted to him. Schmitz, who has said he is heterosexual, appeared on the show, believing a woman was going to reveal a crush on



Schmitz: Michigan murder conviction overturned by state appeals court

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Research shows how AIDS 'erupts' after years of lurking

DENVER — Molecular biologists may have discovered how AIDS can suddenly erupt into a catastrophic illness after lurking for years as a low-grade infection. New research by a nationwide team of scientists suggests that HIV eventually attacks a class of disease-fighting cells produced by the immune system that were thought to be impervious to attack by the virus. The results, which have been limited so far to test-tube experiments, could provide drug makers with a new target for drugs designed to keep the virus in check, as well as vaccines aimed at preventing infection. Researchers said the attack on this different group of immune cells, known as CD8 T cells, triggers an explosion of cell death that exhausts the immune system and leaves the body vulnerable to pneumonia and other secondary infections that typically kill most AIDS patients. Exactly how AIDS affects the CD8 cells remains unclear, though. The cell death process is complex, and quickly involves an array of other cell types that soon may subvert the

entire immune system and lead to full-blown AIDS symptoms, said lead author Georges Herbein of the Picower Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, N.Y. "Because CD8 cells are thought to limit the spread of the infection, the failure of CD8 function could contribute to the development of AIDS," he said.

Push on for Hormel vote

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright urged the Senate last week to schedule a vote on James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg. Senate Republican leaders have blocked a vote to protest what some have called Hormel's promotion of a "gay lifestyle."

"Jim has served his country well and will be an outstanding ambassador," Albright said in a statement accompanied by a picture of her with

Hormel, both of them smiling. "He is entitled to an up-or-down vote on his nomination. I urge the Senate to schedule a vote as soon as possible."

Hormel has been part of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva and was confirmed by the Senate last year to serve on the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly session. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee recommended Hormel's nomination to the full Senate last October, but four senators have placed "holds" on it, blocking action.

Feds may charge bombing suspect

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Federal investigators believe they have enough evidence to charge abortion clinic bombing suspect Eric Rudolph with the deadly blast at the 1996 Olympics, *The Asheville Citizen-Times* reported.

The newspaper, which cited several anonymous law enforcement sources, said investigators have found more evidence linking Rudolph to three bombings in Atlanta — including the one at Centennial Olympic Park. Investigators have

been trying to learn if Rudolph was in Atlanta when bombs exploded at Centennial Park in July 1996, at an abortion clinic in



Rudolph: May be charged with bombing Atlanta gay club

January 1997 and at a gay nightclub in February 1997. Agents hypothesize that the same person or people were behind all three. Rudolph, a 31-year-old part-time carpenter, is a fugitive charged with the Jan. 29 bombing of Birmingham, Ala., women's clinic that killed an off-duty police officer who was working there as a security guard. There is a \$1 million reward for information leading to Rudolph's capture. He is one of the FBI's 10 most wanted suspects.

Lesbian takes Democratic Congressional primary

SEATTLE — Retired Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, who made national headlines when she was kicked out of the military for admitting to being a lesbian, is challenging Rep. Jack Metcalf, R-Wash., for his congressional seat in November after winning the Democratic spot in Tuesday's state primary.

Cammermeyer, a 31-year military veteran and mother of four, easily won the primary and the right to challenge the 71-year-old Metcalf, one of the state's senior congressmen. A movie starring actress Glenn Close was made about Cammermeyer's legal battle to remain as chief nurse of the Washington National Guard after telling a security official that she was homosexual.

Metcalf was criticized for a letter sent to his constituents during the campaign that condemned Cammermeyer's homosexual lifestyle, but the two camps were scheduled to meet earlier this week to sign a pledge to run clean campaigns in the November election.



Shindle: Miss America used crown to talk AIDS prevention across country

Miss America's reign ending

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Miss America Kate Shindle took a lot of heat for her controversial AIDS prevention message. Still, as her reign nears its end, Shindle has no regrets.

"I wouldn't have handled anything differently, especially with regards to the HIV-AIDS platform," she said last week. "Controversy is something that gets people talking, if nothing else. And one of the best methods we can employ to combat the AIDS epidemic is dialogue."

The 21-year-old earned both praise and criticism for her blunt advocacy for condom distribution and needle exchanges to prevent AIDS. Miss America 1994 Venus Ramey called Shindle's platform "lunacy."

The Miss America pageant will crown a new winner on Sept. 19.



Shindle: Miss America used crown to talk AIDS prevention across country

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Marinol (dronabinol) is indicated for the treatment of:

1. anorexia associated with weight loss in patients with AIDS; and

2. nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conventional antiemetic treatments.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

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

WARNINGS

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

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

PRECAUTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONCOMITANT DRUG

Amphetamine, cocaine, other sympathomimetic agents

Atropine, scopolamine, anticholinergics, other anticholinergic agents

Amphetamine, amphetamine, desipramine, other tricyclic antidepressants

Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, ethanol, lithium, opiates, desipramine, anticholinergics, muscle relaxants, other CNS depressants

Desflurane

Riociclovir

Antipyrine, barbiturates

Theophylline

CLINICAL EFFECT(S)

Additive hypertension, tachycardia, possibly cardiotoxicity

Additive or super-additive tachycardia, drowsiness

Additive tachycardia, hypertension, drowsiness

Additive drowsiness and CNS depression

A reversible hypotensive reaction was reported in a 39 year old male who smoked marijuana, combined by desflurane and metoprolol

A 21 year female with depression and bulimia receiving 20 mg/day fluoxetine X 4 wks became hypotensive after smoking marijuana; symptoms resolved after 4 days

Decreased clearance of these agents; primarily via competitive inhibition of metabolism

Increased theophylline metabolism reported with smoking of marijuana; effect similar to that following smoking tobacco

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity studies have not been performed with dronabinol. Mutagenicity testing of dronabinol was negative in an Ames test. In a long-term study (77 days) in rats, and administration of dronabinol at doses of 30 to 150 mg/kg, equivalent to 0.2 to 1.5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m² in cancer patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m² in AIDS patients, induced ventral prostatic, seminal vesicle and epididymal weights and caused a decrease in seminal fluid volume. Decreases in sperm motility, number of developing germ cells, and number of Leydig cells in the testes were also observed. However, sperm count, mating success and testosterone levels were not affected. The significance of these animal findings in humans is not known.

Pregnancy Category C: Reproduction studies with dronabinol have been performed in mice at 15 to 450 mg/kg, equivalent to 0.2 to 3 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m² in cancer patients or 1 to 30 times MRHD of 15 mg/m² in AIDS patients, and in rats at 14 to 250 mg/kg (equivalent to 0.3 to 3 times MRHD of 90 mg/m² in cancer patients or 5 to 20 times MRHD of 15 mg/m² in AIDS patients). These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity due to dronabinol. At these dosages in mice and rats, dronabinol decreased maternal weight gain and number of viable pups and increased fetal mortality and early resorptions. Such effects were dose dependent and less apparent at lower doses which produced less maternal toxicity. There is no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Dronabinol should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

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

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse experiences information summarized in the tables below was derived from well-controlled clinical trials conducted in the US and US territories involving 474 patients exposed to Marinol (dronabinol). Studies of AIDS-related weight loss included 157 patients receiving dronabinol at a dose of 2.5 mg/kg twice daily and 87 receiving placebo. Studies of different dosages were combined by considering the first occurrence of events during the first 28 days. Studies of nausea and vomiting related to cancer chemotherapy included 317 patients receiving dronabinol and 68 receiving placebo.

patients receiving Marinol in both the antiemetic (24%) and the lower dose appetite stimulant clinical trials (2%) (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

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

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence greater than 1%.

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

Body as a whole: Aches.

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, vasodilation/facial flush.

Digestive: Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting.

Nervous system: (Anorexia, anorexia/nervousness, ataxia, confusion, depersonalization, dizziness, euphoria, hallucinations, paranoid reaction, somnolence, thinking abnormal).

"Incidence of events 7% to 10%."

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence less than 1%.

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

Cardiovascular: Congestive heart failure, hypertension.

Digestive: Diarrhea, fecal incontinence.

Musculoskeletal: Myalgias.

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

Skin and Appendages: Flushing.

Special senses: Vision abnormal.

"Incidence of events 0.3% to 1%."

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN: Incidence less than 1%.

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

Body as a whole: Chills, headache, malaise.

Digestive: Anorexia, hepatic enzyme elevation.

Respiratory: Cough, rhinitis, sinusitis.

Skin and Appendages: Swelling.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

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

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

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

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

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

OVERDOSSAGE

Signs and symptoms following mild Marinol (dronabinol) intoxication include drowsiness, euphoria, heightened sensory awareness, altered time perception, redness conjunctiva, dry mouth and tachycardia; following moderate to severe intoxication include memory impairment, depersonalization, mood alteration, urinary retention, and reduced bowel motility; and following severe intoxication include decreased motor coordination, lethargy, slurred speech, and profound hypotension. Agitated patients may experience panic reactions and seizures may occur in patients with existing seizure disorders.

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

Management: A potentially serious oral ingestion, if recent, should be managed with gut decontamination. In conscious patients with a secure airway, orally activated charcoal (50 to 100 g in adults, 1 to 2 g/kg in infants) via a nasogastric tube. A saline cathartic or sorbitol may be added to the first dose of activated charcoal. Patients experiencing depressive, hallucinatory or psychotic reactions should be placed in a quiet area and offered reassurance. Decontamination (e.g. 1 to 2 mg/kg) of the drug may be used for treatment of extreme agitation. Hypotension usually responds to Trendelenburg position and IV fluids. Pressors are rarely required.

DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

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

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

SAFETY AND HANDLING

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

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

HOW SUPPLIED

MARINOL® CAPSULES (dronabinol solution in sesame oil in soft gelatin capsules)

2.5 mg white capsules (identified RL)

NDC 0054-2602-11: Bottles of 25 capsules.

NDC 0054-2601-21: Bottles of 60 capsules.

NDC 0054-2601-25: Bottles of 100 capsules.

5 mg dark brown capsules (identified RL)

NDC 0054-2603-11: Bottles of 25 capsules.

NDC 0054-2603-25: Bottles of 60 capsules.

NDC 0054-2603-25: Bottles of 100 capsules.

10 mg orange capsules (identified RL)

NDC 0054-2602-11: Bottles of 25 capsules.

NDC 0054-2602-21: Bottles of 60 capsules.

MARINOL® is a registered trademark of United Pharmaceutical, Inc. and is marketed by Roxane Laboratories, Inc. under license from United Pharmaceutical, Inc.

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USE ORDER FORM REQUIRED

Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

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Roxane Laboratories, Inc.

Revised June 1996

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References: 1. Beal, J., Olson R, Lefkowitz L, et al. *J Pain Symptom Manage* 1991;14(1):7-14. 2. Beal, J.E., Olson R, Laubenstein L, et al. *J Pain Symptom Manage* 1995;10(2):89-91.

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"I don't know if I'll ever have the intensity for sex with women that the average man on the street has. I had no sexual interest in women at all. But when you begin a relationship with a woman that you believe God has led you to, then you develop attraction to that person. To say that we've arrived at this place of total heterosexuality — that we're totally healed — is misleading.

— "Ex-gay" poster boy John Paulk, in a 1993 interview with the Wall Street Journal.

"(Anne Paulk) conceded that her ties to women in college were 'more emotional than sexual.'"

— From a Time magazine story, July 27 edition, after "ex-gay" Anne Paulk refused to name a single lesbian lover from her past.



"He seems to be more obsessed with homosexuality than most homosexuals."

— Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) (left), in a Sept. 9 Boston Globe story about a statement by Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.), who told a group of prostate cancer patients, in describing a rectal procedure Cunningham underwent, "That's just not natural, unless maybe you're Barney Frank."

"President Clinton, television, abortion and homosexuality — all (have) contributed to the moral decline of people."

— Rev. Stephen Thurston, in a Sept. 8 speech to the National Baptist Convention of America, a 4.5 million-member church and the country's second-largest group of African-American Baptists

"I believe that personal conduct and integrity does matter. ... Where do you stand, Dan?"

— Conservative Rep. Helen Chenoweth (R-Idaho) (right), in a campaign advertisement challenging her Democratic opponent, Dan Williams, to respond to the Clinton sex scandal.



"Fourteen years ago, when I was a private citizen and a single woman, I was involved in a relationship that I came to regret, that I'm not proud of. I've asked for God's forgiveness, and I've received it."

— Rep. Chenoweth, less than a week later, after The Idaho Statesman revealed that she carried on a six-year affair with a married man in the 1980s. The man's wife called the newspaper after seeing Chenoweth's campaign ad.

"I will come out in support of recognized relationships. But no, I'm sorry, I will tonight come out in favor of DOMA."

— Geraldine Ferraro, one of three Democrats competing for the right to challenge Sen. Al D'Amato (R-N.Y.) in November, at a forum sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian Bi & Transgender Coalition of New York City. Despite groans of displeasure, according to the Capital Hill newspaper Roll Call, the crowd joined the moderator in singing "Happy Birthday" to Ferraro, who turned 63 the day before.

"Odious lectures by Stephen Jay Gould on evolution at the American Museum of Natural History will lead to cherub-size hail in the early evening in New York City. Continued homosexual activity in the large cities of the East Coast and, of course, San Francisco, will initiate a severe low-pressure front with associated torrentially heavy rains late in the day. Look for heavy flooding, especially in theater districts.

Because of some isolated pockets of freethinking, the Midwest will see a 90 percent chance of frogs this afternoon with vermin, especially in low-lying regions, so please drive with the low beams on. Frogs diminishing toward dusk, followed by scattered murrain. Putting the map in motion now, we see that general sinfulness across the country will bring darkness after sundown."

— A suggested Pat Robertson (left) weather forecast, since the televangelist predicted hurricanes would hit Orlando over the city's decision to fly gay pride flags in June, as hypothesized by Steve Mirsky in the September issue of Scientific American.

"The bi-level, the regulation lesbian haircut, is the ultimate non-do. ... This haircut was not designed to be flattering. It was designed to make the following statement: 'We don't conform to whole white-male-dominated ideal of beauty.' This is an offshoot of the 'We are a bitter people' philosophy that many lesbians have. These are the women who think people like me are too happy to be gay."

— Chrissy Cada writing in the Washington Post, Aug. 9.

"That's just angry queens. I should only play flamboyant gay roles? I have no desire to be a role model for anybody. But in a sense I feel like I have been because I've played a wide variety of gay characters. ... There are two gay characters on (NBC's "Will & Grace") — plenty for one network. They don't need me prancing around."

— Actor Nathan Lane ("The Birdcage") (right), who recently acknowledged that he's gay, to Entertainment Weekly, over criticism that his new role on NBC's "Encore! Encore!" features Lane as a washed-up opera singer who is a womanizer.



"Right now I can't see how a gay kid can feel safe in sports. I think they're terrified of their teammates, they're terrified of their opponents and they're terrified at what could happen to them if someone finds out. And the vast majority of gay student athletes on the male side are definitely closeted because they just don't feel safe."

— Mike Muska, athletic director for Oberlin (Ohio) College, an NCAA Division III school, in the Aug. 28 issue of USA Today. Muska is the first-ever openly gay athletic director at any U.S. college or university.



"George doesn't want to let his fans down, but he just can't cope with touring at the moment."

— A friend of George Michael (left), quoted in the Sept. 4 tabloid the Sun, on Michael's decision to cancel a world tour planned for next year because he is still trying to cope with a string of recent traumas, including his Los Angeles arrest for lewd behavior in a public toilet, his decision to come out of the closet, and the deaths of his mother last year and his Brazilian lover in 1994.



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- Helps you live a longer, healthier life^{1,2}

The safety profile of Combivir should be the same as that of Epivir® (lamivudine; 3TC) + Retrovir® (zidovudine; AZT). The most frequent side effects associated with Epivir + Retrovir taken together are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose. A buildup of lactic acid and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported rarely with some HIV drugs, including AZT and 3TC.

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

References: 1. CAESAR Coordinating Committee. Randomised trial of addition of lamivudine or lamivudine plus zalcitabine to zidovudine-containing regimens for patients with HIV-1 infection: the CAESAR trial. *Lancet*. 1997;349:1413-1421. 2. Hammer SM, Squires KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus didanosine in persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection and CD4 cell counts of 200 per cubic millimeter or less. *N Engl J Med*. 1997;337:725-733.

Please see brief summary for Combivir on following page.

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HIV**
A division of Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Web site: www.glaxowellcome.com

BRIEF SUMMARY
COMBIVIR™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

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

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

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

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

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

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine: The NUCB3007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg l.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy (zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)) to the addition of EPVIR or EPVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1,816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm³ at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration of study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Patients (%) With At Least One HIV Disease-Progression Event or Death

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

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

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

WARNINGS: COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine.

The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated.

Bone Marrow Suppression: COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1,000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR.

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

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

PRECAUTIONS:

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

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

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

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

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

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C.

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

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

Zidovudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryo/fetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3,000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3,683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility).

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets) and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 722-9292, ext. 39437.

Nursing Mothers: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

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

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

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

n = Number of patients assessed.

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

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

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

OVERDOSAGE:

COMBIVIR: There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

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

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

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

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

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

GlaxoWellcome

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Stealth Strategy

Effort to beat Hawaii referendum isn't how to win



Birch: HRC's leader wants to raise \$1 million for Hawaii media campaign

The folks who run the nation's largest gay political organization are a particularly savvy bunch. Sometimes they're too savvy for their own good, or the good of the movement.

In Hawaii, the Human Rights Campaign has committed to raising more than \$1 million to fund a media campaign there. The aim is to prevent passage of a ballot referendum that would amend the Aloha State's constitution to prevent the state supreme court from recognizing gay marriage. (Story, Page 11A.)

The HRC-led fund-raising effort is an enormous and laudable undertaking, and worthy of the gay community's support. There are few personal freedoms more central than the freedom to marry, and Hawaii offers an historic opportunity—the first but not the last—to guarantee that freedom for ourselves and those who follow.

Always politically astute, the HRC has conducted polling on the referendum and learned an important lesson that has become central to its Hawaii strategy. The voters in Hawaii aren't ready for gay marriage, but they don't like the idea of changing their state constitution.

The resulting HRC strategy is something like the stealth "gay agenda" that conservative groups are always conjuring up. The pro-gay groups have names like "Protect Our Constitution," while the anti-gay coalitions have names like "Save Traditional Marriage."

Our stealth strategy may appear more practical, but it's actually quite dangerous.

The Hawaii Supreme Court has already demonstrated that it's unwilling to move too far ahead of the public on the issue of gay marriage.

It's been five years since that court decided that denying gays the freedom to marry each other violates the constitution's promise of equal protection. But even two years after the state failed to prove a compelling justification for treating gays differently, the high court hasn't acted on the appeal.

The Hawaii Supreme Court isn't alone. In more than 30 states, laws have been enacted to prohibit the recognition of gay marriages, from Hawaii or any-

where else. To win recognition, gays in many of those states will be going to court one day, and those judges, presented with a "public policy exception" that permits one state to ignore another state's law, will also be hard-pressed to move too far ahead of public opinion.

The same could be said for the Big Court in Washington,

The first priority must be to tell our stories and educate the public about our lives. Even today, most Americans haven't taken the time to consider fairly our case for marriage. A civil rights movement has to be about making a case for equality to the public and the courts. When we look for shortcuts that hide our real agenda, we're too clever for our own good.

D.C. The U.S. Supreme Court will likely decide once and for all whether it is constitutional for states to allow heterosexuals, but not gays, to marry. The nine justices on that court may be sworn to uphold the Constitution, but gays know all too well that they are humans with prejudices first.

That means, in Hawaii and Texas and Washington, D.C.,

the first priority must be to tell our stories and educate the public about our lives. Even today, most Americans haven't taken the time to consider fairly our case for marriage.

A civil rights movement has to be about making a case for equality to the public and the courts. When we look for shortcuts that hide our real agenda, we're too clever for our own good.

In our movement, there should be no such thing as a battle not worth fighting—whether it's public hearings on removing the state's sodomy law when the votes aren't there to pass it, or whether it's educating voters in Hawaii about the fundamental fair-

ness of allowing gay couples to pursue their own happiness as married couples.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't allow Gallup surveys and focus groups to determine the basic claim to fairness he so eloquently advocated, and neither should our leaders.



Plaintiffs: Genora Dancel and Ninia Baehner were one of three gay couples seeking licenses to marry in Hawaii, an idea that sparked a historic lawsuit filed in 1990 that is now pending before the state's Supreme Court. —Photo by Dennis Oda

Plant Life

Trendy container garden proves to be urban therapy



by DREW PLANT

It started during the four-and-a-half years I worked at home. My home office — my former dining room — backed up to a wall of windows, and I wanted something green on the balcony outside.

So I hit Home Depot and several nurseries and came home to plant a nice, big

evergreen bush with various herbs scattered about the base. The combination of permanent greenery and good-smelling, utilitarian tiny things seemed to make my real work go easier.

Not long after, my apartment complex manager was perplexed when another resident (a kindred soul, no less) moved out, leaving behind a huge concrete container. I asked if I could have it, assuming I was able to move the bronzed and antiqued (no kidding) monstrosity to my own balcony; she readily agreed.

The container garden bug had hit. I was on a roll that would alternately delight and bewilder my friends and clients. I went along for two-plus years obsessively over-protecting my urban gardens.

I learned more than I wanted to about aphids, fungus, watering schedules and appropriate fertilizers. I also learned where to go to find answers to questions like, "Why do the leaves look perforated?"

When I left town on business, it wasn't just my cat that would need a sitter. Who would tend Stately Plant Gardens?

Unwittingly, I had become part of a trend. Every publication or cable show (I can't watch movies and profiles on Lifetime — "Television for Women" — all of the time) seemed to feature rooftop gardens, urban green houses and container fruit trees that would support Mrs. Smith's apple pie factory.

More than that, I had discovered a new form of therapy. I've known the joy of digging in the dirt

and watching things grow before, but I've been yardless for all of my 10 years back in Atlanta.

I nearly bought a yard — oh, yeah, a house would have come with it — earlier this year but postponed, with a nod toward a new job. But with a new, get-out-of-the-house job and the realization that a new job and a new house in the same, short time period were too much, I opted for three more large containers and no mortgage.

In went Mexican heather, lantana, more herbs,

through the addition of some all-important missing element.

I know my neighbors must wonder what body I am burying at midnight or beyond. At least one nocturnal neighbor has glimpsed me gardening in my underwear. Well, he should have been in bed anyway.

Luckily, the pitfalls of my new hobby are few. The all-day exposure to the sun was my first and seemed to be my biggest challenge. Not many plants can adapt to life in a container and near-constant daytime sun. Then came the wasps.

I didn't know why my dianthus was dying. After all, it was one of the oldest and best-established plants in my garden. It was with great angst that I started cutting out the dead spots one day. Out flew many, many, many wasps.

I screamed like a girl, which I know will surprise no one. As I struggled to get the door open and fall into the dining room, three wasps found their target — unfortunately, two of those targets were up my pants.

One wasp got the inside of my thigh; another got the base of my pristine backside. Needless to say, I'm just happy I was wearing tighter-fitting briefs with my baggy shorts. (The third sting was on my less-exciting, less-enticing upper arm.)

The swelling has long since faded and now summer is as well. I'm in the midst of planting the fall garden and wondering how my containers will weather the move to a house.

In the meantime, I'm eyeing a corner in my office and wondering how much greenery I can install before my boss notices the loamy odor and increasing water bills. Couldn't we just include the cost in our employee wellness plan?

Drew Plant is an Atlanta-based writer who had to use a dictionary to spell the names of his beloved plants. His column takes a human-interest focus and often shares his obsessions.

Before company comes, I fuss over my container garden like a parent trying to get the kids in just the right outfit. When I couldn't figure out why my dianthus was dying, I started cutting out the dead spots and out flew many, many wasps. I screamed like a girl, which I know will surprise no one.

cannas, Carolina jasmine and a huge butterfly bush that has become my pride and joy. I am so proud of my little row of mismatched containers, sitting one floor up from a parking garage and spilling over carelessly with different heights, textures, colors, smells, diseases and bugs.

Before company comes, I fuss over these containers like a parent trying to get the kids in just the right outfit. Last night I proudly served guests a meal that included several of my fresh herbs. We ate looking out over my little patches of moveable earth.

It's not cruising I'm up to when I hit the 24-hour Home Depot now (OK, I do put on fresh cologne and fix the hair). No, occasionally stress can only be erased by late-night clipping, digging or maybe

Cigar Aficionado

Effect of scandal may harm Clinton's push for gay tolerance



by KAREN SHOFFNER

I have learned more about President Clinton's illicit sex life than I have wanted to. With the release of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report on the Clinton-Lewinsky affair on the Internet, the details of the president's furtive sexual liaison with the then 21-year-old White House intern are available

to anyone in the world who has a computer and a modem. It's rather absurd.

I've read enough of Starr's report to know that I don't want to know anymore. The report, while purporting to show that Clinton committed 11 impeachable offenses, is actually state-sanctioned soft core pornography. Starr was appointed by the attorney general originally to investigate the Whitewater land deal and a Republican-controlled Congress voted overwhelmingly to allow the report to be made available online.

While conservative, family values types, some of them members of Congress, get the vapors at the thought of pornography — soft, hard and anything in between — they seemed to have little difficulty unleashing the narrative of the Clinton-Lewinsky assignments. The same people who are revolted at not just the sight, but also the thought of lesbians and gays being the least bit affectionate towards each other will probably be jostling their way into the web sites where the report is available just like the rest of us. They won't have difficulty finding it since the report is accessible from any number of local, regional and national newspaper web sites.

When the information about what went on between Bill and Monica had only been leaked to the press, the author of a column I read somewhere suggested that the entanglement could be a good opportunity to talk honestly with one's child about sex.

Now I'd love to be a fly on the wall when an intrepid and sincere parent endeavors to explain to his or her rapt seven-year-old the uses of a cigar in clandestine sexual encounters.

I wonder how many parents seized the opportunity to talk honestly with their children about homosexuality when Ellen DeGeneres came out or about the options available to lesbians who want to bear children when the news of Melissa Etheridge's partner's pregnancy broke. I don't recall anyone in the

Starr's irresponsibility and zealotry, we are now experiencing the Republican ideal of less government. My friend Emily said that politicians are so preoccupied with Starr's report and its ramifications that they have ceased to govern. Russian, Asian and South American economies are on the verge of collapse. Yet our fearless leaders are mute and extraordinarily inactive on the world stage. And forget about any discussion of domestic issues like education, crime and poverty. But that's the hard stuff. Much easier to moralize and contemplate oral sex, lies and cigars.

It's not just politicians, though. A friend who lives in southern California said that the day after the report went online, the entire front page of the Los Angeles Times, along with a special section, was devoted to the scandal. (Of course, I'm no better really since I'm writing about it.)

Because he can't run for re-election, Clinton was a lame duck anyway. But even if he isn't impeached or doesn't resign, I'm afraid his effectiveness as a leader will be greatly diminished. At one time, he did deserve kudos for being the first U.S. president who could say the words lesbian and gay without it being visibly painful for him. But that isn't enough. Speaking at a national lesbian organization's dinner or inviting openly gay celebrities is useful symbolically, I suppose, but it effects little real change.

Yes, Clinton is a womanizer, a liar, a scoundrel, but we're all imperfect and I believe he's being tarred and feathered unnecessarily. But hey, there's nothing quite like the spectacle of the self-righteous casting those first stones, right?

While many Americans might be able to tolerate Clinton in all his weakness, I doubt they'll allow him to push for tolerance, even affirmation of us, after the dust has settled. That's just one of the sorry things about this tawdry little scandal.

Karen Shoffner is a freelance writer in Northampton, Mass.

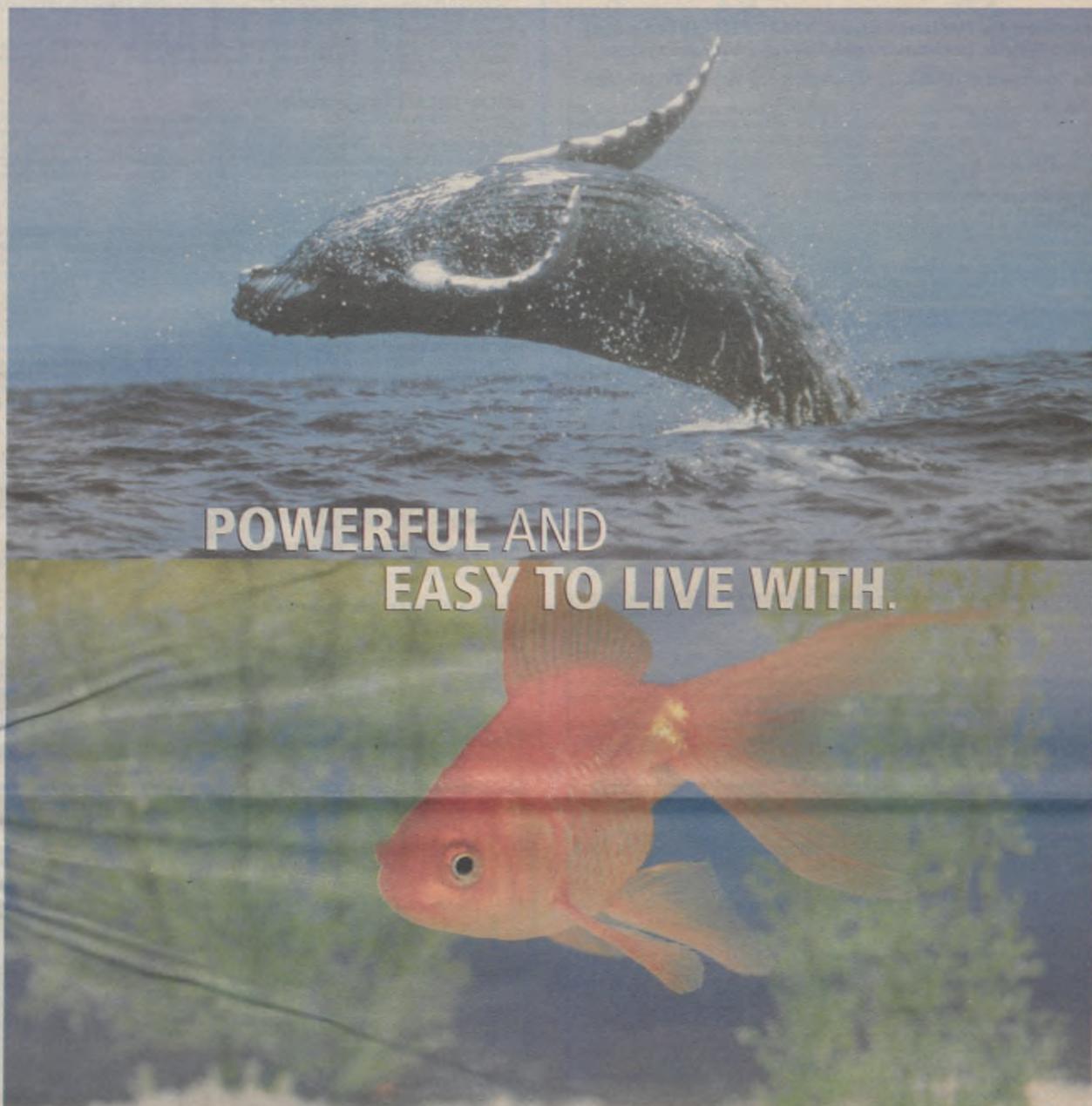
At one time, (Clinton) did deserve kudos for being the first U.S. president who could say the words lesbian and gay without it being visibly painful for him. But that isn't enough. While many Americans might be able to tolerate Clinton in all his weakness, I doubt they'll allow him to push for tolerance, even affirmation of us, after the dust has settled.

mainstream media suggesting parents should do so. If any parents did, they were on their own.

Cigars have been very popular in recent years. At almost any newsstand, one can ogle copies of "Cigar Aficionado," a pretentious glossy magazine devoted to stogies and their appurtenances. A celebrity with this phallus-shaped symbol of power adorns practically every cover of the magazine. Now that Monica's escapade with Bill's cigar is widespread knowledge, will straight, middle class couples eager to spice up their sex lives rush to buy a Cohiba or Davidoff? The prospect of a Monica-inspired rise in cigar sales is undoubtedly a tobaccoist's wet dream, so to speak.

Thanks to Clinton's stupidity and recklessness and

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clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit www.agouron.com. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

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nelfinavir mesylate


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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

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

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

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

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

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

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

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

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

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

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

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

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

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

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

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

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

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

- Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)

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

- Norvir® (ritonavir)

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

- Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

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

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

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily						
Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets		
Kg	Lb					
7	to < 8.5	15.5	to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5	to <10.5	18.5	to <23	5	1½	-
10.5	to <12	23	to <26.5	6	1¾	-
12	to <14	26.5	to <31	7	2	-
14	to <16	31	to <35	8	2½	-
16	to <18	35	to <39.5	9	2¾	-
18	to <23	39.5	to <50.5	10	2½	2
	≥23	≥50.5		15	3¾	3

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

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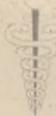


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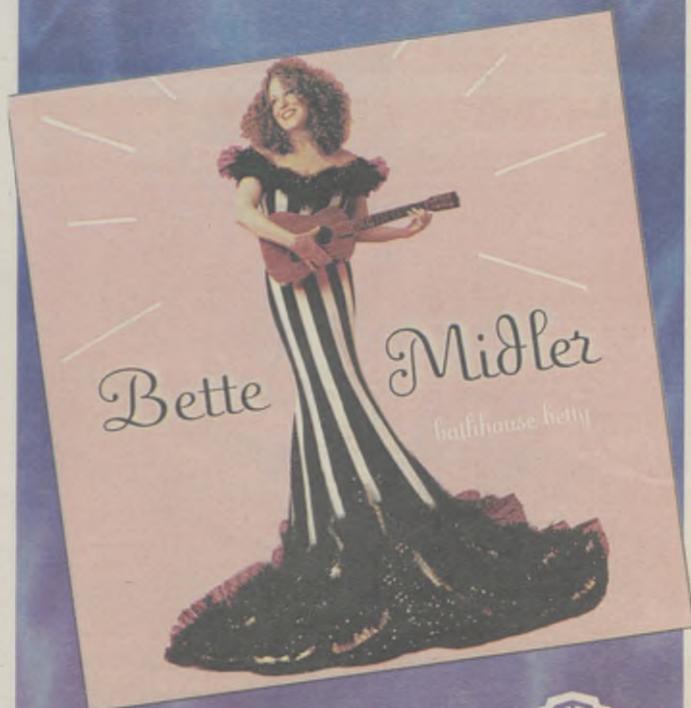


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UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 9

Stages Repertory Theatre opens its season with "The Pitchfork Disney," a look into the world of a couple of chocaholics who uncover a new world beyond their room. The Houston premiere of Philip Ridley's work is directed by Stages' artistic director Rob Bundy. It's a story of 28-year-twins who sequester themselves in their London flat after the death of their parents. Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets to \$30, 713-527-8243. Through Nov. 1.

Oct. 10

In the first of three subpace shows curated by the Gay and Lesbian Committee of the DiverseWorks Artist Board, "full frontal, exhibited, hung" will attempt to bring a genre of queer art out of the closet. As gays and lesbians try to debunk the myth that sex is all we're about, the committee confronts the issue of keeping sex in the bedroom and lets the viewer decide whether to look. Artists include Houstonian Ray Ogar and Elizabeth Zhe of Austin. An opening reception is Oct. 9, DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway (off North Main at Naylor). Admission is free, 713-223-8346. Through Oct. 31.

Ongoing

Mae West's "Sex" continues at the Little Room Downstairs, part of the fourth season at the 50-seat venue. The 1926 production features local personality Kelly Lauren. Little Room Downstairs, 2326 Bissonnet (between Greenbriar and Kirby). Tickets are \$15, 713-523-0791. Through Sept. 26.

The coming out comedy of Del Shores, "Sordid Lives," is a tale of small-town Texas life. The theme of unconditional love, acceptance and coming out, along with wicked comedy, struck a nerve with mainstream and gay audiences in Fort Worth and Los Angeles. Paradox Theatre, 3722 Washington Ave. Tickets are \$17, call 713-522-2204. Through Sept. 27.

Hoping for an emotional, rather than historical, reality, the Alley Theatre's Broadway-bound "Civil War" continues to provide a musical look at the war. The work includes the stories of the anonymous faces of the war, as well as significant players, such as a powerful speech by ex-slave and freedom fighter Frederick Douglass. The production opens on Broadway in April 1999. Alley Theatre, 615 Texas. Tickets to \$46, 713-228-8421. Through Oct. 11.

New Heights Theatre opens its season with a revival of Mart Crowley's "The Boys in the Band," the first critically and commercially successful play in America to deal openly with issues critical to gays and lesbians. The work, initially performed off-Broadway in 1968, is a darkly comic tale of the lives of nine men, eight of them gay and one straight and homophobic, who gather to celebrate the birthday of one of their own. The Sept. 16 opening benefits Bering and Friends, an AIDS support group. New Heights Theatre, 339 W. 19th St. Tickets are \$15, 713-869-8927. Through Oct. 24.

"Ray Hill, The Prison Years," the story of the native Houstonian turned activist, talk show host and general rabble rouser, has changed venues. The play features Hill reminiscing about his prison life, the "system," being gay and his run-ins with city police. Performances are on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Actors Workshop of Houston, 1009 Chartres. Tickets up to \$10, 713-236-1844.

OUT ON THE BAYOU



HOUSTON VOICE • SEPTEMBER 18, 1998

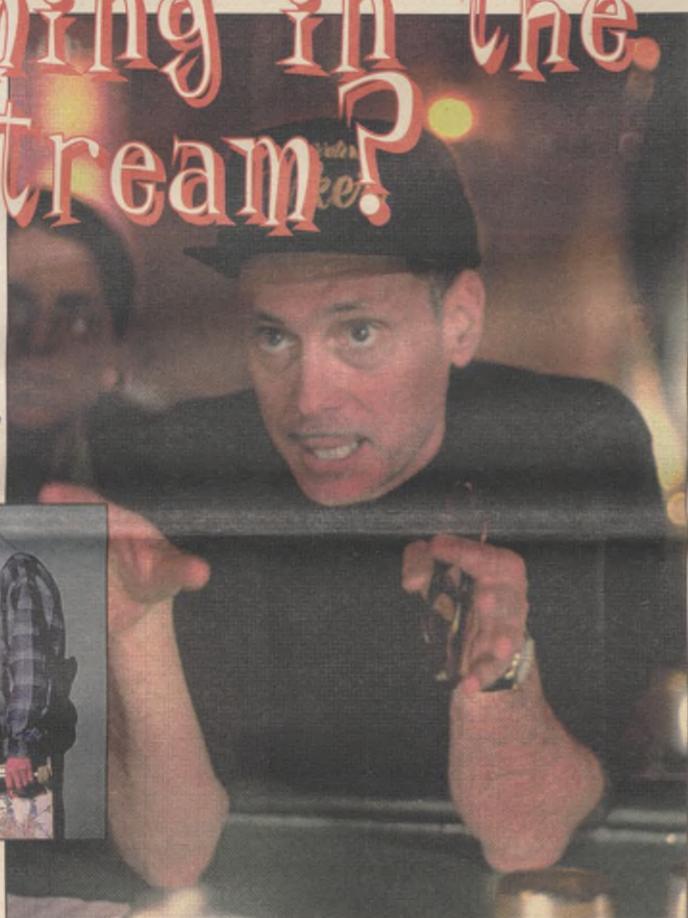
A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

Swimming in the mainstream?

Sordid past left behind with 'Pecker'



Forey (Lili Taylor), Pecker (Edward Furlong), Shelly (Christina Ricci), Matt (Brendon Sexton III) and Tina (Martha Plimpton) in "Pecker."



After 25 years of directing, John Waters is moving toward the mainstream with "Pecker," which opens in Houston on Sept. 25 — Photo by M. Ginsburg

INTERVIEW: JOHN WATERS

by MARK J. HUISMAN

It's a little surreal sitting with 52-year-old film legend John Waters in his neatly appointed West Village apartment, the pied-a-terre to his Baltimore digs. Famed for his early outrageousness and the fiercely irreverent streak which remains in his work today, despite constant talk he's swimming in the mainstream, Waters looks the picture of normalcy.

His iconic face, with its high brow and swept back ebony hair, is framed by almost bookish black eyeglass frames. He wears a neat black suit, white shirt and black tie with a thick silver stripe cascading from the knot. On his feet are black sneakers, their white laces knotted and re-knotted.

The furnishings have plush upholstery and are stacked with pillows; the walls are lined with novels and huge tomes about art and sculpture. Filthy though his films may be, his home harbors nary a speck of dust. As he recalls decades gone by with obvious fondness, Waters has no desire whatsoever to experience them again.

"I function a lot better when I can park my car legally next to the camera truck and there is actually food you can eat," says openly gay Waters, the director of "Pecker," which opens in Houston on Sept. 25.

"And after I yell 'cut,' I don't want to have to scream at the actors 'run, run.' I don't want to have to flee the police. I paid my dues. I did that," he said.

Not only did Waters flee the police, but he was also arrested countless times on obscenity charges for screening his work publicly. "Every time we went before a jury, we thought it would help that the Museum of Modern Art bought one of the original Pink Flamingos prints. And every time we'd get convicted. It was like, "Oh, it's art. It's bad."

Some 25 years later, Waters tussled with the Motion Picture Association of America, which rates all films released by the studios, over the title of his new film.

"They flagged it because of the word, though they didn't know what the film was about. I had to fly to L.A. and go to

See **WATERS/** page 9B

INSIDE:

Gentle Work
Writer scores hit with new novel.
Page 2B



'Sordid Group'
Production shows why comedy can be tough.
Page 5B



Unlikely Fans
Tucker does his best for surprising gay following.
Page 8B



BOOK REVIEW

'Writer's writer' scores another hit with new novel

"Gertrude of Stony Island Avenue," by James Purdy; William Morrow and Co., 182 pages, \$19.95.

by ELLA TYLER

James Purdy comes with impressive references.

Purdy, now 75, is a writer's writer, and his admirers include many of this century's literary heroes: Gore Vidal, Tennessee Williams, Dorothy Parker, Marianne Moore and John Waters are a few of his fans. Purdy's 1959 book "Malcolm" is discussed in "The Gay Cannon," Robert Drake's soon-to-be-released (November) briefing of 100 great gay books. His 1978 "Narrow Rooms," described as gay-horror-porn was seized by police in Berlin, and sent Purdy to the hospital.

But he produced a gentle work in "Gertrude of Stony Island Avenue," his first in 10 years.

Gertrude is the deceased daughter of Carrie Kinsella, the book's narrator. Carrie had been estranged emotionally from Gertrude since the child was three and knew little about her adult life. She is now spending time reading Gertrude's diaries, hoping to come to terms with Gertrude's death.

Her husband, who she calls Daddy, is distressed about Carrie's preoccupation with their daughter and keeps trying to distract her. He fears that Carrie is not strong enough to discover the truth — that Gertrude, a well-known artist, engaged in numerous affairs with men and drank herself to death. He invites his sister to visit, but she encourages Carrie's quest. When he discovers that Carrie has been eating at each of Gertrude's favorite restaurants, he sends her to stay with a friend.

Carrie meets the man who was her daughter's last lover and he takes her slumming to the jazz clubs she loved and then, when he thinks she is strong enough, to Gertrude's house, unchanged since she died two years ago. Carrie collapses.

She is taken back to the house where she was staying and to be

nursed back to health by a woman doctor who tells her about her own estrangement from her son. Eventually Carrie is well enough to return home.

She is also better. At the beginning of the book she is passive, isolated, flat. Walking in Gertrude's steps gives her a life.

It is easy to see why other writers call Purdy a genius. His writing is sparse, yet so powerful. Reading the book leaves you detached from the world, longing to touch something to be grounded again.

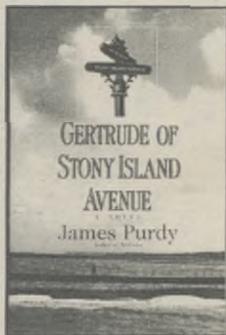
Purdy tells just enough to challenge the imagination. Just what was Gertrude's relationship with her father? What was so debauched about her life? Perhaps nothing, but maybe it was the narrow-mindedness of her family that made her actions unspeakable. The book never tells us.

The author is a prolific novelist, poet and playwright, with 46 published works. His writing has been translated into 30 languages. He is gay, although many of his books do not have gay themes or characters.

Although he was born in Ohio and lives in Brooklyn, he is better known in Great Britain and Europe than the U.S. "Gertrude of Stony Island Avenue," like many of his books, was first published in England. In 1993, he received an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for a writer whose work is "progressive, original, and experimental."

In this work, Purdy is a master of ambiguity. There is the suggestion of a sexual component to Carrie's relationship with her sister-in-law and with her hostess, but nothing explicit. At times Carrie's quest seems like an exercise in necrophilia — at others, a reasonable (though exaggerated) response to grief.

This is an exquisitely written book, but not one for readers who want the writer to do all the work. The book isn't even set in a specific time. But if you want a book that you will think about for weeks, read it. If you read for the sheer pleasure of words well used, read it.



What your neighbors are reading . . .

- 1 The Best Little Boy in the World Grows Up**
by Andrew Tobias (Random House, \$23.95)
- 2 The Window Garden**
by Janet McClellan (Naiad, \$11.95)
- 3 Past Due**
by Claire McNab (Naiad, \$11.95)
- 4 The Brewer Twins: Double Take**
by Paul West/Jason Losser (Universe, \$17.95)
- 5 The Same Embrace**
by Michael Lowenthal (Dutton, \$23.95)
- 6 Gay Metropolis**
by Charles Kaiser (Harcourt Bruce, \$14)
- 7 Shimmer**
by Sarah Schulman (Avon, \$23)
- 8 Apparition Alley**
by Katherine Forrest (Berkley, \$5.99)
- 9 Why Christianity Must Change**
by John Spong (Harper Collins, \$24)
- 10 The Pleasure Principle**
by Michael Bronski (St. Martin's, \$24.94)
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edited by Jack Hart (Alyson, \$11.95)
- 3 Bad Boys on Video**
by Mickey Skee (Companion Press, \$12.95)
- 4 Little Joe Superstar**
by Michael Ferguson (Companion Press, \$18.95)
- 5 Life Outside**
by Michael Signorile (Harper, \$15)
- 6 Pillow Talk**
edited by Leslea Newman (Alyson, \$12.95)
- 7 Sticky Remote Pocket Video Guide**
edited by OLS Publishing (\$11.95)
- 8 Past Due**
by Claire McNab (Naiad, \$11.95)
- 9 Hustlers, Escorts and Porn Stars**
by Matt Adams (Insiders Guide, \$24.95)
- 10 Don't Get Me Started**
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INTERVIEW: LAUREN WOOD

Universal themes dominate eclectic pop tune collection

by EARL DITTMAN

The decision to form her own record label, Bad Art Records, wasn't a difficult one for Lauren Wood. Although she had released four albums on Warner Brothers, the singer, songwriter and producer felt completely under-utilized and totally mis-marketed on the major label.

"I don't think they knew what to do with me," Wood said from her Los Angeles home. "They didn't know where my music belonged. When 'Fallen' (from the 'Pretty Woman' soundtrack) became a hit, they thought, 'OK, maybe we have a pop artist on our hands.' But then I had an Adult Contemporary hit with 'Please Don't Leave' (her duet with Michael McDonald), so that confused them even more. I think at some point, they just gave up on me."

Wood took the money she had earned from the 15 million-selling "Pretty Woman" soundtrack and purchased a 24-track ADAT home studio and began recording what she considered to be the ultimate Lauren Wood album.

"When I was on a big label, I always had people telling me what kinds of songs I should record," Wood recalled. "When I was at home, all by myself, I was able to do anything I wanted, and it felt so good. It was such a freeing experience. When an artist doesn't have any constraints put on them, I believe that's when they come up with their best work. I certainly felt that way doing this album. While doing it, I knew that it would represent the real me."

Appropriately titled "Lauren Wood," her latest release is a finely-packaged, eclectic collection of pop tunes with a rock/folk edge. Imagine Alanis Morissette some 20 years older and wiser.

"It's definitely music that comes from the heart. I've been at this music thing a long time now, and I have a lot of bruises to show for it. But I've also experienced some great things. So, I have a lot of things to sing about," she said.

Although she coyly admits to being a lesbian ("I don't think I'm one, but my girlfriend says I am," she

joked), Wood says she purposely avoided including songs on her new album that focused on her sexual orientation.

"I didn't want it to be seen as strictly a 'gay album,' because the themes on it are so universal. It's an album full of songs that everyone can relate to. But there are certainly some things on it that speak to the gay community. Maybe not loud and clear, but if you listen close enough, you'll hear them," she said.

An avid supporter of AIDS charities, Wood hopes to release a gay-themed album in the near future.

"That's one of the reasons that I wanted to start Bad Arts Records, so that I could do albums that were a little out of the norm," she said. "But to do that, I need to make sure that my albums make it on a mainstream level. I mean, obviously, I'll need money to do all the things that I want to do."

In addition to her recording career, Wood is the proud owner of her own line of greeting cards, "Cat Tricks," which feature her own tribe of felines.

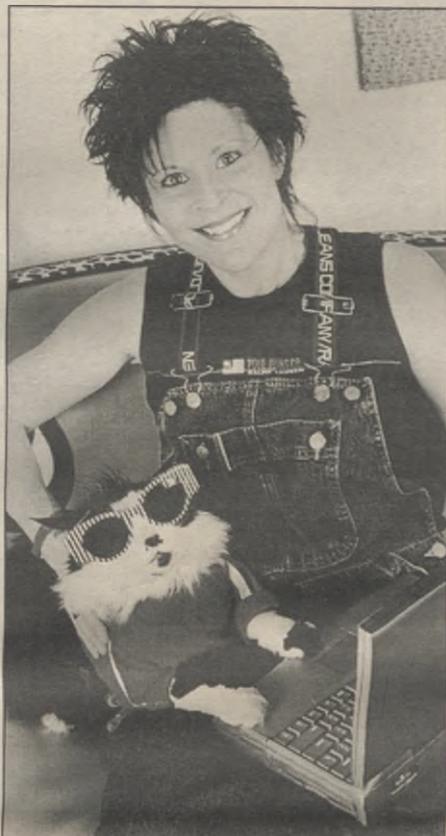
"My cats are the real superstars in the family," Wood joked. "I can be walking through an airport and people recognize them before they do me. But it's neat that people have taken to the cards. What started out as a small, private little thing has blossomed into this really big business."

She's also happy that the greeting cards have brought so much-needed attention to one of her other favorite causes, animal rights.

Educating the public on subjects like animal rights, AIDS charities, her greeting cards and, of course, her music, is one of the reasons Wood has set up her own website (www.laurenwood.com).

"Whether it's through my music, my website or my greeting cards, I will never bore you or waste your time. I think I have too much to say and too much to give to ever let that happen," she said.

Eclectic: Lauren Wood's latest release is a finely-packaged collection of pop tunes with a rock/folk edge.



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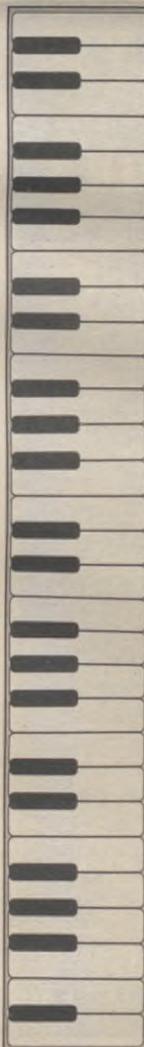
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MUSIC REVIEWS

Culture Club returns, sounding better than ever



"VH1 Storytellers/Greatest Moments," Culture Club: Virgin

Thirteen years ago, everyone's favorite gender-bending pop star, Boy George, proclaimed that his group, Culture Club, was being laid to rest — forever. The outrageous singer was hooked on heroin and the group's final album "From Luxury To Heartache" barely cracked the Top Twenty. The release of his autobiography, "Take It Like A Man," a few years later only confirmed George's determination to keep the platinum-coated group a part of his past.

"We'll never share another stage, there's too much bad blood between me and Jon Moss (the group's drummer and George's onetime lover). Getting back together will never happen," he said at the time.

Before uttering those words, though, George should have consulted Don Henley (of the Eagles) or Stevie Nicks (of Fleetwood Mac), because in the world of rock 'n' roll, "never" almost never means never. And the release of Culture Club's new live/greatest hits two-disc set is ample proof of that. Brought together by VH1's "Storytellers" series, Culture Club is back, and frankly, has never sounded better.

On Disc 1 of the set, Boy George, guitarist Roy Hay, bassist Mikey Craig and Jon Moss demonstrate why Culture Club was the most popular and musically competent groups of the 80's "nu wave" era. Performing most of their Top Ten hits — including "Church Of The Poison Mind," "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me," "Miss Me Blind" and "It's A Miracle" — and three new songs — "I Just Want To Loved," "Some Strange Voodoo" and "What Do You Want" — in front of a live audience, it's clear the magic that propelled Culture Club to the top of the charts hasn't faded. In fact, it's safe to say the group and their music have aged like a fine wine.

If you're not a fan of live records, Disc 2 will be more to your liking. A finely structured package full of the group's finest studio recordings (including most of the above-mentioned Top Ten hits), "Greatest Moments" also contains a handful of Boy George solo gems like "The Crying Game" and "Everything I Own." It's a well-balanced retrospective that should satisfy even the most casual Culture Club fan.

—Earl Dittman

"Blue Planet," Donna Lewis; Atlantic

To the surprise of the music industry and the despair of her millions of fans, after the success of Donna Lewis' 1996 hit, "I Love You Always Forever," and her debut album, "Now In A Minute," the Welsh-born songstress virtually dropped out of sight. Her unexpected disappearing act had many wondering if she had become another casualty of the merciless music industry and would be relegated to nothing more than a footnote in the "One Hit Wonders" sections of pop history books.

Unlike many of her contemporaries,

though, Lewis wasn't anxious to rush out a half-baked sophomore effort. No, the singer/songwriter wisely spent the last two years in her home studio in Dublin crafting an incredible collection of richly diverse songs.

Full of incredible depth and artistry, "Blue Planet" is an album from an artist out to prove there's more to her talent than disposable pop tunes.

From the spacious, seductive sound of the album's title track to the funky disco beat of "Beauty and Wonder," Donna Lewis explores new musical territories and successfully discovers a home in each.

If you're expecting an aural repeat of "Now In A Minute," you'll be disappointed. "Blue Planet" is a wondrous musical departure for Donna Lewis, and it's a journey everyone will enjoy taking with her.

—Earl Dittman

"Ultimate Broadway," Various artists; Arista

Hot on the heels of Ultimate Dance, Ultimate Country, even Ultimate Hip-Hop here comes a collection truly worthy of the title "Ultimate." In Ultimate Broadway, 40 tracks on 2 discs cover 1943-1996 on the Great White Way. That's a lot of history and a lot of noteworthy performances.

You'll find indispensable classics here from Robert Preston singing "76 Trombones" from "The Music Man," Barbra Streisand's "People" from "Funny Girl," to Jennifer Holliday's "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going" in "Dreamgirls." These are songs you can't imagine anyone else performing. Here you don't have to. There's Yul Brynner in "The King and I," Lisa Minnelli in "Cabaret," plus Michael Crawford as "The Phantom of the Opera" along with Richard Burton in "Camelot."

Executive producer Clive Davis has assembled quite a line-up, but argues that easily 40 more could have made the cut. There doesn't seem to be much missing, unless you're partial to Damn Yankees, "Grease" or "Miss Saigon." Everything else is evenly represented, including "West Side Story," "Hello Dolly!," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Gypsy," "Chicago," "A Chorus Line," and even "Rent."

A few odd performances somehow surface here, such as Aretha Franklin singing "I Dreamed a Dream" which lifts the song from its French revolutionary context in "Les Miserables" and applies it to the Civil Rights struggle in America. Has Franklin ever appeared on Broadway? Also, why Elaine Paige singing "As if We Never Said Goodbye" from Sunset Boulevard instead of Glen Close? But that's nitpicking.

As a rewarding journey back through the most memorable Broadway moments of your life or as a primer for the uninitiated into Broadway's glittering legacy, "Ultimate Broadway" is one of those albums so valuable, so full of great music, you'll wonder how you lived with it out.

—Jerry D. Parra

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THEATER REVIEW

'Sordid Lives' proves it's tough to make comedy believable

by RICH ARENSCHILDT
Comedy is difficult.

The greatest actors in the world are not the ones that play 'Lear' or 'Macbeth,' but rather those that possess the subtly and timing required to convey believable humor. Del Shores' "Sordid Lives" requires understatement and carefully articulated movement, something Joe Watts and The Group (Theatre Workshop) aim for in their production at the Paradox Theater. In spite of a well intentioned effort, they missed the center ring in dramatic target practice.

The slightly off-center performance was the result of a convergence of events. While there are some amusing moments in this show, the script these actors had to work with has its shortcomings. This playwright loses sight of one of the central rules of comedic play writing: the jokes serve to propel the show.

This doesn't negate any serious drama from entering a theatrical comedy. Bittersweet honesty is often the most unusually funny part of a work, and in some cases a heartfelt communication with an audience is best accomplished when it is least expected — in the midst of ubiquitous laughter.

"Sordid Lives" is a Texas cornucopia of a dyed-in-the-wool Southern Baptist family forced to deal with the untimely and unseemly death of their mother. The Christian matriarch of this crazy clan has walloped her head on the bathroom sink in a seedy hotel while making whoopee with a legless (and married) disabled veteran.

Her funeral, like all family events, unearths the personalities, preferences and performances of various relations. The chain-smoking sister, the neurotic 'moved away from it all' daughter, the Tammy Wynette transvestite son and the religiously repressed actor grandson all combine to present the most bizarre (or normal) family in the world. Shores has put a lot of good ingredients in this autobiographical stew, but it seems as though he has almost attempted to do too much. He has points to make, but puts an inordinate amount of effort into making them.

The 19-member cast (in a performance last month) may have not had enough time to get a feel for the pace this work requires. The dialogue lagged slightly; not at all representative of how a quick-talking barley trailer trash family would communicate with one another. I envision these folks around a dinner table (the cast does a lot of eating in the show) barely able to let each other finish a sentence before interrupting themselves to proffer opposing points of view.

Though this cast knows what is required, they had some difficulty in propelling the dialogue. Some awkward scene changes and redundant musical interludes between acts served to further dilute the action.

"Sordid Lives" does contain some funny scenes — the 'de-homosexualization' of the mental patient/drag queen by his/her sex crazed therapist is expectedly hysterical. The 'small town' mannerisms by each of the cast



'Sordid': The Group (Theatre Workshop) brings "Sordid Lives" to the Paradox Theatre in Houston for a down-home tale of a questionable death, a Vietnam Veteran and a transvestite and some 16 other characters. —Photo by Joe Watts

denote a certain amount of charm in this play. The mixed audience watching the show was evenly split — those less familiar with a gay lifestyle and more apt to follow gay stereotypes filled the hall with laughter. But some of these same characters were overblown.

"Sordid Lives" is comprised of characters that are over the top, either by

design or interpretation. As a result, the message of this play, one of acceptance and forgiveness, is obscured by action that is far too obvious.

What: Del Shores' "Sordid Lives"
Where: Paradox Theatre, 3722 Washington Ave.
When: Through Sept. 27
Tickets: \$17, 713-522-2204.

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- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at EJ's 6-10 pm and at the Midtowne Spa 10 pm to 1 am, Inergy at 8:30 pm to midnight.
- * 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 Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- * Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 8:45 pm. 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.
- * Center Cinema at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center. 7:00 p.m. 713-737-4538.

Saturday, Sept. 19

- * 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: 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 8:45pm. 713-528-SAFE.
- * Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 281-583-8408.
- * Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- * The Movie Club meets. 281-835-5312.

Sunday, Sept. 20

- * The Women's Group meets 10:45am. 713-529-8571.
- * HATCH meets. 713-942-7002.
- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-802-0165.
- * Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- * FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- * Lone Star Volleyball plays. 281-878-4629.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 am. 713-864-8468.

Monday, Sept. 21

- * 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.
- * Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group meets. 713-526-1017.
- * Bering Support Network-Grief and Divorce Groups meets at 7 pm. 713-526-1017.
- * 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. 713-528-6798 X272.
- * 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.
- * Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- * AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- * FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- * TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302

Tuesday, September 22

- * 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. 713-526-1017.

- * 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.
- * Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- * Bering Support Network-Lunch Bunch Gang meets at 11 am. 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.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Chances 6 to 10 pm, Nighthawks 10 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.
- * Bering Spiritual Support Group meets at 6:45 pm. 713-526-1017.
- * 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.
- * Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- * Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- * Rainbow Rangers at 8 pm at the BRB.
- * Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. 281-933-5818.
- * Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 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

Thursday, Sept. 24

- * 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.
- * HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 8:00 am. 713-794-9251.
- * Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 p.m. 713-629-1432.
- * Gulf Coast Transgender Community meets. 713-780-GCTC

GALAXY GAYZER

by JOSEPH MOLINA

Sept. 18 — 24



Aquarius (JAN. 21 — Feb. 19)

Mars influence continues to challenge Aquarius's basic nature. This week, as you are coming out of turmoil and coming back to your senses, the universe will present various choices to liberate and stabilize your life. Rouge baby, sit with your chin high and your back straight, smile, tomorrow is always another day. A Queen can never let them see you sweat. But keep your wits about it all and don't let anyone play you for a fool.



Pisces (FEB. 20 — MARCH 20)

Having a bad day? Does communication seem to be unclear? With all this planetary energy in opposition to your basic nature, how you deal with it measures your success. Learning to communicate and be up front with your emotions is the only way to reconcile what the universe is encouraging. It is time to think about partnerships and what you do for or against them.



Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

Universal influences trigger events that could be challenging and difficult. You must beware in this high state of emotional susceptibility of how you let people affect you. Emotional issues buried deep within could rise to the surface of your consciousness. Emotionally, it is time to release old loves and clean the slate. Setbacks arise only because you choose not to see the truth. Liberation means acknowledging the hand that you have played in molding your current circumstances.



Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

In a whirlwind of emotion, a deep attitude descends over you. You must beware of being negative or persisting in habits that will only serve to limit you. Think of what you can achieve and work toward integrating those missing parts into a workable whole. You are in a prime position to motivate, work through these issues and restructure your life.



Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

This week, as Mars rides in Leo, a sense of relief should fall over you. Yes, rest assured Gemini, you are moving away from your difficulties. The homosexual child within you is gleaming and the whole world will notice. This week completes the solar influence and Gemini is given room to be free. With your directed sense of focus and optimism, you should master the possibilities.



Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)

Turn the page, close the book, chapters come to an end and a new beginning is initiated. Tune into the light of a sacred candle and look to the potential of what the future holds — free of hindrances, limitation and self doubt. Try searching for your homosexual spirituality as you further your life and discover it's meaning.



Leo 4 (JULY 24 — AUG. 23)

Having a problem sitting still? Finding yourself losing interest in everything you doing? Sudden changes are due to manifest throughout your homosexual life. Unexpected events out of nowhere will cause you to reexamine your life. Watch your spending habits and try not to overload your responsibilities.



Virgo (AUG. 24 — SEPT. 23)

Happy birthday Virgo. What a year of potential you have if only you can imagine it. For a moment, let us stop and look at your health and how you love yourself. Emotionally, you may have a need to put up walls and barriers. Close the door of opportunities to any who are trying to use you. True, the pressure may be a challenge. Perhaps a move is indicated or the rearranging of your home.



Libra (SEPT. 24 — OCT. 23)

This week, Mars stimulates reactions and puts you into a space of high tension. Although cosmic forces depict a challenging picture, astrologically, you are in a space to achieve and produce. In the middle of drama, what's a Queen to do? One confrontation after another. What's really going on? In the center of the limelight, you're going to wish nobody knew who you are. Diva for a day, but everyone is going to be digging through your trash.



Scorpio (OCT. 24 — NOV. 22)

Stimulating Mars rides with the offset of Saturn to initiate a cycle in your life. Beginning projects is highlighted and finding a focus is a must. Internally, many moods are stirring, there is a desire for intrigue and excitement and a need to let your hair down and have some good clean fun.



Sagittarius (NOV. 23 — DEC. 22)

Keep in mind over the course of this week that you are your greatest challenge. Your fears for the moment are your largest obstacles. It's all in your attitude and thoughts that make your day go by with ease or with difficulties. You could be called upon to match your wits against another and stand up for your ideas and values.



Capricorn (DEC. 23 — JAN. 20)

In a position power, how are you taking advantage of all that the universe is offering? Astrological influences bestow the gift of altruism, seduction and productivity. Cosmic forces encourage the drive toward achievement and the manifestation of your goals. What gives your life meaning and causes you to feel as though you have a purpose? Now is the time to achieve it, now the time to strive, while the stars are in your favor.

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



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INTERVIEW: CHRIS TUCKER

Doing his best for gay fans

by EARL DITTMAN

No one is more surprised at having amassed such a large gay following than actor/comedian Chris Tucker himself.

With brilliant performances in urban classics such as "Friday," "Dead Presidents" and "Panther," Tucker's popularity within the gay community seems a bit odd to even the most casual observer. He's not homosexual and his films could hardly be classified as gay-friendly. But however unlikely it sounds, there's a huge segment of his fanbase that is gay, and they are fans that are constantly establishing cyberspace chatrooms or holding lavish lookalike drag shows in honor of the versatile performer.

How did it all come to pass? Tucker became something of a gay cult figure based almost entirely on his performance in French director Luc Besson's science fiction comedy/thriller "The Fifth Element." Portraying Ruby Rod, an outrageous, over-the-top, 23rd century superstar deejay (dressed to the nines in gowns designed by world-renowned couture Jean-Paul Gaultier), Tucker created one of the campiest celluloid characters since Dr. Frank-N-Furter from "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Consequently, every gay man who witnessed Tucker's dazzling portrayal saw a little bit of themselves in the irrepressible Ruby.

"When someone told me that there were all these chat rooms on the Internet dedicated to me doing Ruby Rod, I was like, 'You're kidding me, right?'" the 26-year-old, card-carrying heterosexual explained. "Critics were calling him the bastard son of Little Richard and RuPaul, so, I knew that people would really respond to Ruby. I am a little

shocked at how much, though. I mean, I have to admit that it's a little strange to think that a character I've created has become a staple at some drag shows. But I'm happy that so many different people got as much of a kick out of him as I did. That means just one thing: I'm doing my job right."

Within the first few minutes of meeting Tucker, you quickly realize what a difficult vocation it must sometimes be for the Atlanta native. The actor is soft-spoken, highly intelligent and surprisingly humble — a personality a million light years away from the high-volumed, self-absorbed Ruby Rod.

"I know that some people find it hard to believe, but I'm really a pretty shy, introverted guy," the former stand-up comedian admitted. "I'm really nothing like the loud, nasty-talking, obnoxious guys I've played in some of my earlier films."

In fact, Tucker is the polar opposite, and many of his devotees have trouble understanding that.

"It's strange, because once people see you in a movie, they want that person they've seen on the screen to be you," he explained. "So, when fans come up to me to ask for autographs, they always expect me to be this crazy, neurotic guy. It puts a lot of pressure on me, because I don't want the people who really love me to go away not laughing. So, I try to give them what they want when they meet me. I'm not always successful, but at least I try."

Giving a little something back to his fans is one of the reasons Tucker agreed to do his latest film, the hilarious action/adventure "Rush Hour." Viewing himself as a role model and realizing



Ruby: Chris Tucker's role as Ruby Red in the science fiction thriller "The Fifth Element" provided a surprising gay following for the card-carrying heterosexual actor.

that most of his previous performances were contained in R-rated films dominated by constant streams of expletives and overt gun-play, Tucker felt it was time to tone down his image for his younger followers.

And Tucker also doesn't have much use for movie characters shooting each other away with an arsenal of weapons. Of course, when you are co-starring in a buddy action flick with the most popular martial arts actor in the world, Jackie Chan, not many firearms are required to make your movie exciting.

"We could have done this movie with just a kitchen knife and Jackie, and we would have had enough lethal weapons in it," Tucker agreed with a laugh. "But that is what makes the movie work. He's the visual, and I'm the verbal. With his hands and my mouth, you know the bad guys are going to be in trouble."

Although Chan was offered the chance to co-star with bigger-named Hollywood actors, he insisted on working with the up-and-coming Tucker in "Rush Hour."

"His people were really looking for somebody like me, a comedian. They wanted somebody who could keep the audience entertained with words, while Jackie kept them going with the martial arts. Instinctively, he knew we would blend in pretty good together," Tucker said.

After the box office receipts for "Rush Hour's" opening weekend have been counted, Tucker can rest assured he'll also be every Tinseltown executive's new best friend. But for Chris Tucker, it's all about honing his craft.

"As an actor, I still have a lot of growing-up to do," he said. "But when I hear that I'm giving so many different groups of people so much enjoyment by doing roles like Ruby, then I know I'm headed in the right direction. This whole movie star thing is not just about me, it's about the people that spend their hard-earned money to come see me. And like when people come up to me to ask for an autograph, I'm going to do my best to not let them down."

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WATERS/ from page 1B

a hearing with a lawyer. We'd made this two-page list of titles — 'Octopussy,' 'In & Out' and the best one, 'Free Willy.' They listen to your argument and then you have to go outside and wait — just like a court. And when I went back in they were all looking at the floor and I thought 'Oh, no, I'm going to get convicted again.' But it turned out OK for my 'Pecker.'"

Despite that experience, much has changed in those 25 years. All the companies that once made independent films are now owned by Hollywood studios, including "Pecker's" distributor, Fine Line Films, a division of New Line Cinema, which is part of Time Warner. Fecal matter, which he once so infamously digested, lives on in the form of "South Park's" Mr. Hanky, who even gets his own dialogue and close-ups. A thoroughly sanitized New York City has outlawed sex shops. John Waters disdains contemporary club life.

"I'm so happy I'm not 20 any more. If I wanted to stay out all night, where would I go?" he asks with disappointment. "I have to go to my memory. The places I went, the outrageous experiences I had — sipping a cocktail while your best friend got naked in the corner, seeing Angela Lansbury at Hellfire — that's over."

"I never see anybody famous at Blow Buddies or the 82 Club," he says with mock outrage about the famous San Francisco and East Village sex establishments. "Next it'll be prohibition."

Even if there isn't a sex or coffee shop in your neighborhood, there's a theater showing Waters' "Pecker." The film is a departure of sorts for the madcap director, but preserves

the humor fans expect. Like most of his films — from the trashy Linkletters or renegade Johnsons to the socially conscious Turnblatts — "Pecker" is about family, with one

called white trash, Waters howls.

"The family in this movie is not white trash," he insists, shaking his head back and forth as the volume of his voice climbs. "And I have certainly

think they're racist."

Waters credits his own parents with teaching him "to worship good taste." He is also quick to note his family's pivotal role in his career. "My first camera was a little Brownie that my grandmother gave me," he recalls with a smile, his sparkling eyes momentarily staring into the past. "I didn't even know you were supposed to edit the film. I thought you just showed what came out of the camera."

He's traveled a long road since directing and starring in his first short, "Hag in a Black Leather Jacket," made the assistance of a friend who worked in a camera store and stole all the film stock and processed it secretly. "Then, for my next few films, 'Multiple Maniacs' and 'Pink Flamingos,' I stole money from my parents."

Fans in New York are in for a treat with Water's next museum retrospective (he's previously been feted by museums in Baltimore and Los Angeles) at the city's Museum of the Moving Image, which starts Oct. 17 and is an honor previously afforded to the likes of Martin Scorsese and Jean-Luc Godard. MOMI will show virtually all of Waters' films and recent treats like his guest spot from "The Simpsons." How does Waters feel about dusting off the museum piece slip covers?

"I'm old," he quips. "But I'm still impressed."



Edward Furlong and Lili Taylor in "Pecker." — Photos by M. Ginsburg

crucial difference.

"This is by far the most functional, normal family I've ever made a film about," says Waters. "They're peculiar, but they're very lovely, very caring. Pecker's mother genuinely doesn't believe that homeless people should not look as good as the rest of us. For her, it's about self-esteem. Why shouldn't a bag lady own a flowered plastic rain poncho, if she wants one. And she sells to them for half price." When a visitor asks if they could be

made films about those people, but I wouldn't call them that. White trash is the last acceptable racist phrase. It's like saying 'nigger' without saying it. I'm shocked that people use both but don't





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Miss Gay USofA Lauren Taylor hosts our
Amateur Strip Contest 11 P.M. sharp.
Cash prizes to top three winners.

Thursday
The music is Latin. The mix is fierce.
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Giveaways all weekend long!
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Pablo Picasso

2151 Richmond • Houston
In Shepherd Plaza
Information Line: 713.520.8636

MARY'S

SUMMER REVIEW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

8:00PM

featuring

Ruby Barbeaux

Miss Ouisa

Rita Charles

Gimme Pillsen Licker

Lee Chardon

M.J. Sommers

Rainbow De Klown

Demanda Cox

Ree-Psycle

Gus

Rex

plus

SPECIAL GUEST

PERFORMERS

7:00PM

BBQ Plates \$4.00

Benefiting:

Thomas Street Volunteer Program Special Events Fund

SPECIAL GUEST BARTENDER ON THE PATIO:

Wilma "Complete In Drag, Pumps & Panties"

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Commercial Member

EATING OUT

Next Week
in the

HOUSTON

VOICE



SCENE AND HEARD

Important Stuff

Let's try this again. Picasso (the club) opens today. Picasso is located in Shepherd Plaza (in the old VooDoo Lounge Location.) Tons of renovations have been done as well as adding state of the art video and sound equipment. The doors open daily at 4:00 p.m.

Estevan is showing his art "Divas, Legends, Prima Donnas" at Lobo starting Oct. 1. There is a reception on Oct. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The Follyball Fest '98 is Oct. 2 at 4:30 p.m.

Milestones

Happy belated birthday to Sandy (Darlene's wife.)

Happy birthday to my dear friend Billie Duncan. Happy (play me a song) birthday to Teresa Monet. Happy (I loved the Ranch) birthday to Betsy. Happy (I love Cuervo) birthday to Cora and happy birthday to Cuervolyn (oh, that is me!)

Rodent Droppings



Miss Ouisa gets a bone at Mary's Annual Dog Show.

Rumor time: Rumor one: Rich's had a fire over the weekend. FALSE. What is true is that storm Frances knocked out their power and they were unable to open over the weekend. Rumor two:

Decades was raided on Tuesday. FALSE. I was there at the time two uniformed officers came into the bar. They were looking for someone specific. Low and behold he was there and the cops spotted him in less than a minute. Only that "wanted person" was handcuffed and taken away in that pretty blue squad car.

The kids are fine. LW was out of town over the weekend and I was busy trying to help get our office moved over the weekend, so I did not spend any quality time with my kids this weekend.

My usual disclaimer is in force. No truth here. No verified facts.



Bricks II.

Just gossip.

Wilma (Mary's): I hear you sold Teresa Monet an alcoholic cat. And where is the baseball cap and cigarettes?

Jim (Nighthawks): Your sense of timing is perfect. You always seem to call when I have "lubed" up my hands.

Susan Maser (Chances): I hear that you started a "falling" chain."

Mark J. (Lancers): Are you having anonymous sex?

Meg (Mary's): Yes, we all know you are "so cheap, but not easy."

Gimmie Pillsen Licker: I understand that you like to watch straight porno to pick up pointers.

TR (hangs everywhere): Did you really leave Leon (Decades) a 30¢ tip? He must have been having a "bad bartender hair day."

Jerry Jones (Mary's): Is it true your new shiny car is now wrinkled?

Nancy (Bite Me) Ford: Why oh why do you have a squeaky fish on top of your computer.

Tom (Fox Diner): That mango-Haberenro pepper sauce you sent to our office was simply divine. Thanks. It was delicious. I look forward to having my favorite wine in you new Fox Den Private Club.

Dog Lips (Wolf Pack): Did you see the sign on the door during the "Dog Show" at Mary's? "No Dogs in the Bar."

Don Dowden (Brick's II): If you did not wear such tight jeans, you could get your lighter out of your pocket faster.

Dana (hangs on any barstool): Do you really want a bone?

Thomas (Miss Camp America): Thanks for the flowers.

Ken Claude (too many titles to list): What is this about you and dog food quiches?

Tim Robinson: Honey, I heard you were in town last weekend.

Brian, Jody & Dennis (NLA:H): I hear you were doing "Cuervolyn impressions" at your last bartending stint at Nighthawks.



Pet of the Week "Cookie." Owner: Rick Lemos.

Keep sending in your Pet of the Week.

Have a great week.

Cuervolyn

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

Announcements

HOUSTON ALAMO CHALLENGE
EVENT: Houston to San Antonio Bike Ride 12th. Annual • **DATE:** October 10-11, 1998 • **START:** Sat., Oct. 10th./Katy High School & Sunday, Oct. 11th./Gonzales, TX - both dates: 7:30am. • **FINISH:** Sat., Independence Park, Gonzales, Sun., Woodlake Country Club, San Antonio • **REGISTRATION:** Discount registration and FREE T-Shirt at all official bike shops until Sept. 15th. After Sept. 15th, or by mail anytime: \$35.00 per person. Registration available. Call 713.629.1600. Minimum pledge per individual is \$150.00 • **CORPORATE/CLUBS TEAMS:** Minimum 4 riders per team, minimum pledge per rider is \$100.00 • **WHAT'S NEW:** Four Starts on Day One; 112 mile, 92 mile, 72 mile, 62 mile. • **BENEFITS:** The 30 million Americans with chronic lung disease or the 14.6 million Americans with asthma through the programs from the American Lung Association.

The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Houston will be conducting training for new phone staff volunteers on the following date. **October 2-4, 1998.** The GLSH is a non-profit, information and referral service, events and matters of interest to and about the Gay and Lesbian community in the Houston area. The Hate Crimes/Incidents Hotline is also maintained by the GLSH. To volunteer or for more information please call 713.529.3211 or leave message at 713.529.9615.

The PWA Coalition desperately needs the following items: Dishes, Silverware, Pots/Pans, Sheets, Towels, Dressers, Dinettes, Coffee Tables, Sofas, Love seats and Small Appliances. We are available for pick-ups. Call Wilson or Kerry at 713.522.5428. Thank you!

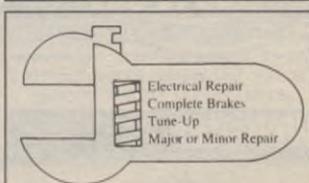
Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club
 Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club is pleased to announce the start of intermediate country western dance lessons, every Thursday at 8:00 PM at the Brazos River Bottom Club, 2400 Brazos. The one-hour weekly class will feature pattern work in two step, waltz, shuffle, and swing, and will be taught by top country western dance professionals and competitors. No partners are required. Rainbow Ranglers continues to offer beginning country western dance every Thursday at 9:00 PM at the BRB. In addition, the Rainbow Ranglers Performing Dance Team is seeking new members. Auditions will be at 8:00 PM every Wednesday in September. Costs include costume, and share of coaching and choreography fees. Contact (for further information) 713.880.0670.

The Glassell School of Art "FREE ART CLASSES"

FREE Art Classes for those with HIV/AIDS are starting up again. Patrick Palmer, in his eighth year of offering art instruction is continuing with three projects this fall; ceramics (hand building), printmaking (greeting cards), and photography (35mm). Through the support of the Museum of Fine Art's educational branch, the Glassell School of Art, our Fall schedule is truly going to be exciting. We are offering classes where everything is free, we even provide lunch! We meet every Friday (1:00-4:00), from September 11th through December 18th, at the Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose Blvd., in room 202. Classes are for all levels, especially beginners, but space is limited. For more information call 713.639.7500 or Patrick Palmer 713.526.1118.

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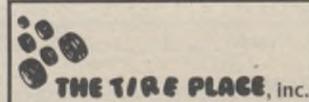
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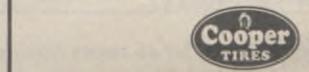
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PROGRAM DIRECTOR, degreed professional, managing gay and lesbian youth program, coordinating volunteer facilitators, initiating and coordinating outreach/speaking engagements with schools and community, performing crisis management, and office administration. Send resume with salary requirements to H.A.T.C.H., c/o Program Director, PO Box 667053, Houston, TX 77266-7053. **Deadline is October 10, 1998.**

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE position for a Houston-based private foundation. Responsibilities include make-ready of vacated commercial and residential spaces, minor plumbing repairs, ground maintenance, minor electrical repairs, A/C maintenance, supplies inventory and improvements as approved by the Foundation. Experience in property maintenance preferred. Call 713.523.6900 or fax resume to 713.520.6300.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR position for a Houston based private Foundation. Responsibilities include commercial and residential property management, coordination of grant process, supervision of a conference center, and general financial operations of the Foundation. Experience in property management and public relations within the Lesbian and Gay communities preferred, but all resumes accepted. For inquiries call 713.523.6902. Send resumes to the Hollyfield Foundation, PO Box 66722, Houston, TX 77266-6722.

FOUR STAR HAIR PRODUCTIONS
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 713.524.7785

Charlie's Restaurant is hiring wait staff, kitchen & busboys. Must be neat in appearance and friendly. Apply in person @ 1100 Westheimer on Wed.-Thurs.-Fri., 3:00 - 5:00 PM. See Marlene or Kody. No phone calls, please.

PERSONAL TRAINER: Seeking individual with an outgoing, friendly personality. • We will train • Experience preferred, but not necessary • Part-time and Full-time positions available • Come by in person to apply, 4040 Milam @ W. Main • 713.524.9932.

General Labor: 713.942.8600

Project CAESAR is Hiring!!!
 Project CAESAR, the Gay Men's Health Initiative at AIDS Foundation Houston, is looking for a P/T Outreach Educator to help educate Houston's gay and bisexual community through street outreach, workshop facilitation and recruitment, etc. Bilingual a plus, and minorities are encouraged to apply. Experience in HIV/AIDS education preferred, but not necessary. TDH grant funded positions, up to 25 hours per week. Great job for a student! Fax or mail resumes to the following: Director of Education, AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc., 3202 Wesleyan Annex, Houston, TX 77027 or fax to: 713.623.4029 (No phone calls, please. AIDS Foundation Houston is an Equal Opportunity Employer.)

Help Wanted Bars & Clubs

The 611 Club is now hiring bartenders & dancers. 713.528.1582.

PICASSO - Opening Soon. All Positions including Bartenders, Happy Hour Bartenders, Barbacks, Doorman, DJ's & Light Tech. We are looking for an attitude that emphasizes customer service in a fast paced team oriented environment. Dependability is a must. Do you possess the ability to integrate professionalism with fun? The we are looking for you! If interested call 713.520.8636.

CLUB HOUSTON is now hiring maintenance and all other positions. Apply in person, 2205 Fannin. Mon.-Fri. 10:00am-Noon. No phone calls, please.

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. Apply Mon thru Fri between 1pm and 5pm at JR's, 808 Pacific. A recent photo is required. No phone calls please.

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

Brazos River Bottom is now accepting applications for a full-time Country Western DJ. Apply in person Mon-Sat, 8:00am-1:00pm.

Help Wanted! Houston-Join the friendly staff at Montrose's favorite men's dance bar. Pacific Street! Applications now being accepted for Bartenders, Door & Floor positions. Recent photo required. Apply Mondays & Fridays, Noon - 4pm. No Phone Inquiries, Please.

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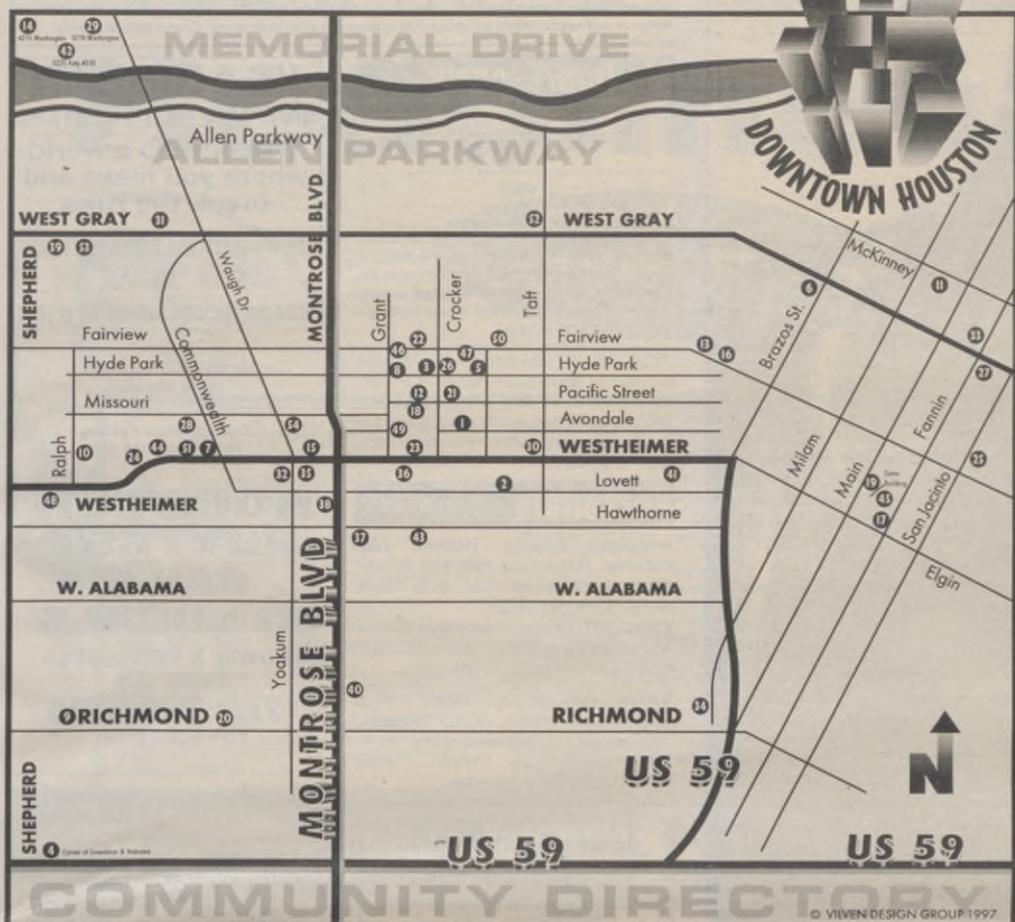
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7	Chances	1100 Westheimer	713/523-7217
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9	Divades	1205 Richmond	713/521-2224
10	Eis	2517 Ralph	713/527-9071
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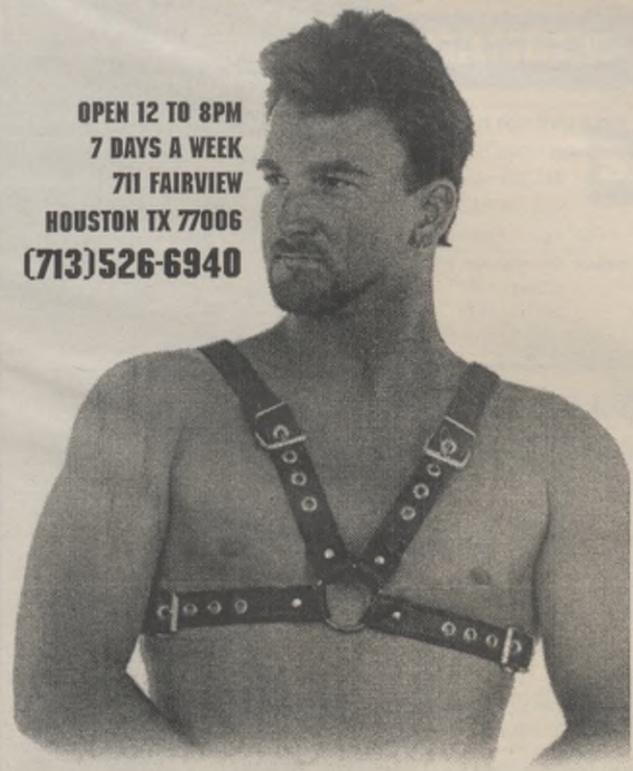
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50	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview	713/522-0106
51	Charlie's	1100 Westheimer	713/522-3332
52	Fox Diner	905 Loh	713/523-5369
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Attractive, shy, quiet, loving, attentive GWM, 5'11", 195lbs, H/W reasonable, some plus, not into clubs. Seeking GHM, 20-38, for LTR. Short/little, stocky a+. ☎2101

FRIENDSHIP AND MORE

Assertive, passionate WM, young 62, 5'10", 170lbs, HIV-, N/S. You are N/S, HIV-, 5'10"-, age unimportant, dating, possible LTR. ☎2052

MUSCLE

Good-looking WM, seeks lean, well-defined hard body. I am at your service. No reciprocation expected. You, relax, enjoy. Hairless body a plus. ☎2050

GAY WHITE/HISPANIC MAN WANTED

GDM, 35, 148lbs, HIV-, not looking for a one-night stand, seeks slender, hygienic GW/HM, HIV-, who is dominant. Must enjoy receiving oral. ☎2051

HEARTS AND MINDS

Handsome GBM, 22, in search of a GBM, 20-38, for friendship, and a possible relationship. ☎1855

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Self-employed GM, 6'2", 155lbs, graying/brown, loves animals. Seeking down-to-earth fellow for afternoons or evenings. ☎1926

GHM

22 year-old, 5'8", 127lbs, seeks W/HM, 24-29, to go out with and go to bars with. ☎1878

FRIENDS

Fit WM, 5'7", 165lbs, artist, seeks an educated, creative male, for friendship, possible relationship. ☎1852

OM

Mature GWM, 58, enjoys nature, sharing quiet moments, being taught and teaching, observing and practicing mind fullness. Seeking GAM, 38+, Buddhist, as Mentor in desire to embrace Buddhism; for possible LTR. ☎1876

DISCO DOWN

Good-looking GWM, 42, H/W proportionate, seeks GM, 25-55, who likes the music at MMC and likes to dance at Pacific Street and/or Rich's, and would rather dance than romance. ☎1875

CATCH A LIBRA

Easygoing, humorous GWPM, 30, 5'11", 170lbs, bottom, HIV-, enjoys British sitcoms, South Park, music, movies, quiet evenings together. Seeking GWM, 25-35, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎1776

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Beautiful, adventurous, fun-loving GWPF, 46, enjoys life, seeks bold GF, to enhance, share, and nurture our lives. ☎1853

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Over 40, but not over the hill, would love to meet someone who enjoys the theater, movies, cooking out, N/S, N/D. Friends first, possible relationship. ☎1850

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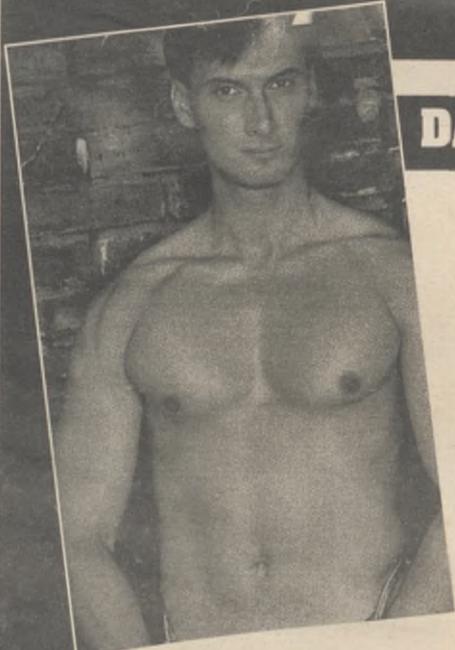
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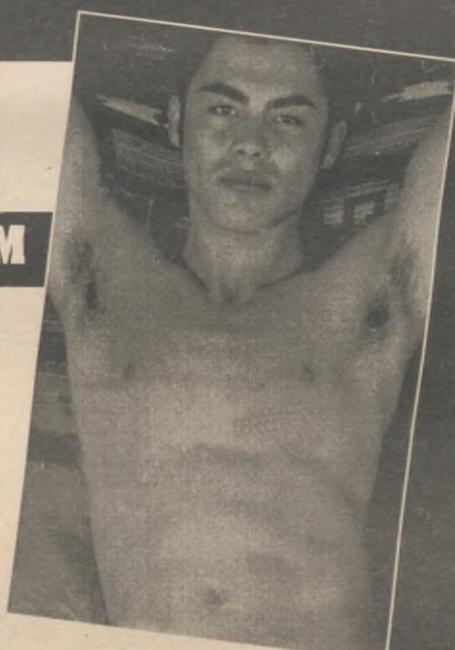
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