



HOUSTON

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Lillies Bloom
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Gonzalez named co-chair of national AIDS Action board

First Texan to lead national AIDS group

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Houston businessman and AIDS fund-raiser John M. Gonzalez has been named co-chair of the national AIDS Action

Daniel T. Bross, a Washington, D.C. consultant.

"We stand at the most pivotal moment since the first years of the epidemic," Gonzalez said. "New hope has given way to complacency and a false sense that AIDS is over. I look forward to helping lead the fight so that we can one day legitimately say 'AIDS is over.' I am proud that the people of Houston will finally have a voice in the leadership of the national AIDS advocacy community."

Gonzalez, an insurance consultant with Settlement Associates & Insurance Services, Inc., also is a principal of Benefit Consultants & Actuaries.

In Houston, he chairs the Bering Community Service Foundation, which provides dental care, adult day care, psycho-social and direct financial aid to more than 10,000 HIV-positive people. He also has held leadership roles in several other Texas environmental and human rights organizations.

In his capacity as AIDS Action Foundation board co-chair, he will travel to Washington, D.C. six times a year for Foundation business.

The AIDS Action Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that raises money to fund efforts to influence public policy to prevent new HIV infections, provide care for PWAs, defend the civil rights of PWAs and search for a cure.

It works in partnership with the AIDS Action Council, which lobbies aggressively on behalf of its member AIDS service organizations.



John M. Gonzalez

Foundation's board of directors.

He is the first Houstonian, and the first Texan, to chair the board of a national AIDS organization.

Gonzalez, who serves as the board chair for Houston's Bering Community Service Foundation, has been a member of the AIDS Action Foundation board for two years, one as treasurer. He was elected to a one-year term and will co-chair with

Judge hears arguments in anti-gay challenge to mayor's authority

Decision expected next week

by TERRY MURPHY

HOUSTON—A decision is expected next week in a lawsuit challenging Houston Mayor Lee Brown's authority to issue an executive order protecting gay city workers.

In a hearing Tuesday before State District Court Judge Patrick W. Mizell, attorneys for religious right Republican activist Richard Hotze and Republican City Councilmember Rob Todd argued that the executive order exceeded the mayor's powers. City attorneys responded that the suit is politically motivated and baseless. Judge Mizell said he would issue a ruling next week.

If he rules in favor of the plaintiffs, Brown's executive order would be suspended as the city attorneys defend the executive order in a trial; a process that could drag out for two or

three years.

Legal advocates for gay civil rights expressed confidence that the case was baseless, yet also voiced concerns that Judge Mizell might be swayed by the Hotze family's substantial political power.

In this month's Republican primary election, the Conservative Republicans of Harris County, an ultra-conservative church-based political organization controlled by Richard Hotze and his brother, Dr. Steven Hotze, sent three respected incumbent Republican judges to defeat in favor of challengers it had endorsed. Following the decisive success of many of the Hotzes' candidates, the *Houston Chronicle* dubbed the Hotze organization a "kingmaker."

See JUDGE/ page 16

Murderer of gay man and straight roommate gets death penalty

After 10 years, high-tech evidence leads to conviction.

by TERRY MURPHY

HOUSTON—A full decade after a trick-gone-bad murdered two Houston Grand opera singers, a jury has sent the murderer to death row.

After 12 hours of deliberation, on Tues., March 17, a Houston jury sentenced Derrick Leon Jackson, 29, to death for the bludgeoning murder of Forrest G. Henderson, a gay man who had picked up Jackson in Montrose on the night of the murder, and Richard Alan Wrotenbery, a straight friend of Henderson's who was temporarily staying at his apartment.

According to friends of Henderson,

the gruesome double murder shocked both the gay community and the Houston fine arts community when it occurred in September 1988.

"It was horrible," said Richard Bado, chorus master for the Houston Grand Opera then and now, who knew both men. "It was such a violent crime and they were both really nice, fun-loving guys."

Henderson and other members of the chorus had returned to Houston a few weeks before the murders, having presented an HGO production of

See MURDER/ page 5

Chastity speaks about being media spokesperson burned by the media

by LAURA BROWN

Special to the Houston Voice

As the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation prepares to give "Ellen" star Ellen DeGeneres a major award, it has spent two weeks furiously issuing press releases refuting a *Variety* article in which its own celebrity spokesperson was quoted as saying the show was "too gay."

Throughout this messy ordeal of undoing an anti-gay media spin job, Chastity Bono has spoken only through prepared quotes in GLAAD press releases. In an interview with a *Houston Voice* reporter this week, the celebrity daughter and lesbian media personality reveals what it's like to hold a losing hand in a high-stakes game of journalistic "gotcha."

"It was an interview for the *San Jose Mercury News*, and he asked me to speculate on various reasons the ratings could be going down, and I mentioned several reasons, and the next thing I know there's an article in *Variety* that basically makes it look like I called up *Variety* and got them to do a story about me criticizing 'Ellen,'" Bono told *Houston Voice*.

"For clarity's sake, *Variety* did not interview Chastity," GLAAD Executive Director Joan Garry said. "I find it completely and utterly ludicrous, and what you have to do in my mind is look at all of GLAAD's work on 'Ellen' and Chastity's central role in that. It is completely ironic that this would

paint her as anything other than completely supportive of the show."

GLAAD's support for "Ellen" began before its star and lead character came out, when Bono said the organization urged viewers to send baking mixes and recipes to ABC to protest how it "waffled" on the issue. That support has continued through GLAAD's "Come Out With Ellen" house parties, "Ellen Watch" web-page and current "Save Ellen" campaign.

"This really points to exactly the type of work GLAAD does," Garry said. "The media can shape what people think, and here the media is shaping what Chastity thinks about 'Ellen,' and she is devastated."

In press releases on March 9 and March 10, GLAAD said Lovell took Bono's remarks "out of context," and Garry criticized *Variety* for "failing to mention" that "Ms. Bono and GLAAD strongly believe that the program contains themes that transcend issues of sexual orientation, and are entertaining and appealing to audiences gay and straight alike."

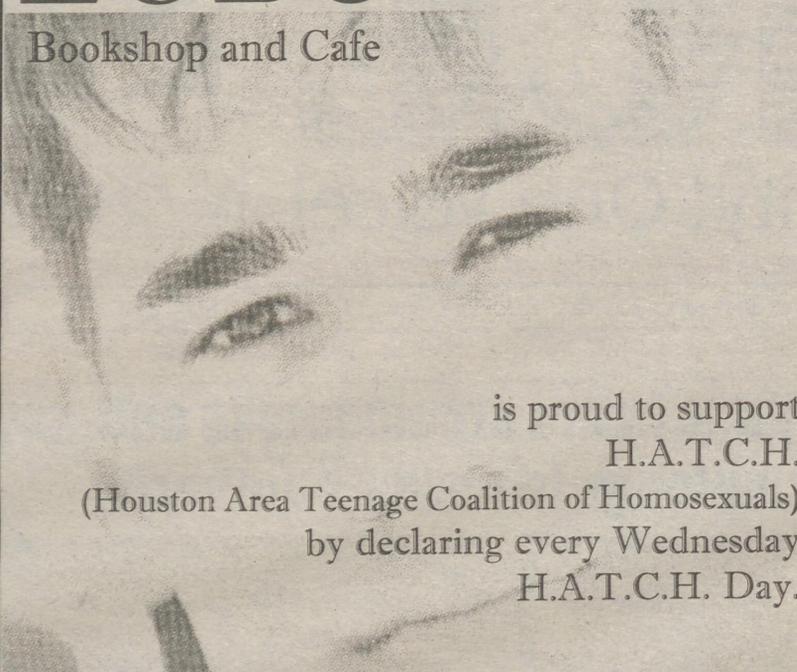
Bono said the article unfairly portrayed her as a critic of the show. "I think what was taken out of context was, here I was trying to do an interview about why GLAAD feels that 'Ellen'



See BONO/ page 16 GLAAD's Chastity Bono

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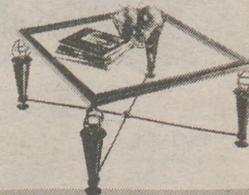
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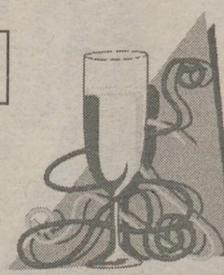
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Charter Member



Houston HRC dinner sweeps national awards

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Houston Winter Gala, a local fund-raiser for the national Human Rights Campaign, won six achievement awards at the annual HRC Leadership Conference last weekend.

The event, which was held Feb. 14 at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel, drew 400 guests and raised more than \$80,000 for HRC.

Representing Houston's Winter Gala organizing committee in Washington were Federal Club Co-Chairs Dr. Rod Frazier and S. Hall, 1999 Winter Gala Co-Chair George Hawkins and Underwriting Co-Chair John Waizel.

Houston AIDS Walk names beneficiaries

AIDS Foundation Houston, producers of the Southwestern Bell Houston AIDS Walk, have announced the 17

AIDS service organizations that will share the net proceeds of the annual metro-wide fund-raiser, scheduled for May 17.

About 3,000 walkers participated last year, raising approximately \$200,000 and 1998 Walk organizers are hoping for a dramatic increase this year.

Harold T. Shultz III, Walk chairman, pointed out that many smaller cities raise far more than Houston through their AIDS Walks. Atlanta, for example, had 15,000 walkers last year who raised \$1.46 million, he said. "We need the entire Houston community to stand behind this effort and make a difference," he said.

The organizations are: AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area., Inc. (AABA), AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, Inc.; AIDS Foundation Houston; The Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA); The B.L.O.C.K. (Building Lives Offering Community Knowledge); Body Positive Houston Wellness Center; Casa, A Special Hospital; Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR); Milam House; Montrose Clinic; Mother's Voices of Texas Gulf Coast Chapter; New Hope Counseling Center, Inc.; Omega House; People With AIDS Coalition—Houston; The Southeast Texas Legal Clinic; Steven's House and The Assistance Fund.

OBITUARY

Stephen Umoff, quiet community leader

An overflow crowd attended a March 14 memorial service for Steve Umoff, one of the Houston community's hardest-working leaders, who died Monday, March 9, after a short illness.

Umoff, 51, has been described as one of the gay community's least-visible leaders. "He never took credit, but he was always in the background seeing that the right thing got done," said fellow social worker Harry Livesay.



Umoff was president of University of Houston's Student Association in 1970. He was, said long-time friend, state Rep. Debra Danburg, "a fraternity type back then, and was even engaged to the president of the Panhellenic." The engagement ended, Stephen discovered he was gay, and soon put his contacts and organizational talents to work in the newly emerging gay community in Houston.

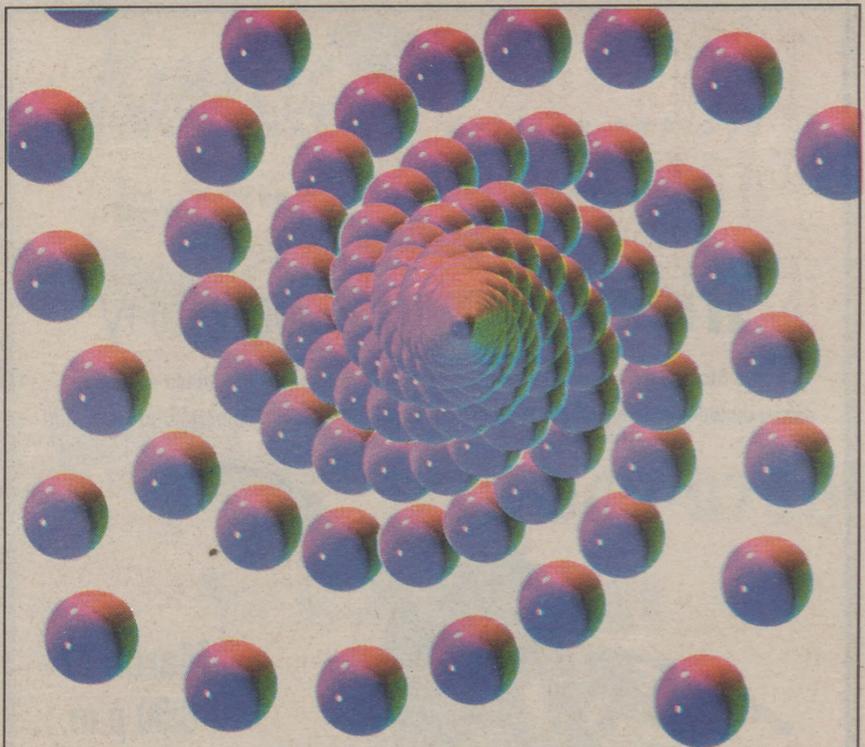
He worked with Montrose Counseling Center, E.P.A.H., Montrose Clinic, Montrose Activity Center, G.P.C. (now G.L.P.C.) Montrose Clinic and H.A.T.C.H. in their infancy. He was often joined in this volunteer activity by the late Glen Razek, his companion of 22 years. E.P.A.H. named Stephen its Outstanding Member and gave him its Lifetime Achievement Award. He was honored with the Stella Scott Community Service Award by Montrose Counseling Center.

He earned a master's degree in Social Work from University of Houston in 1980 and was named its Outstanding Social Work Graduate. He had worked for Judge Hannah Chow for the past 12 years. At the memorial service, Chow recalled Steve's efficiency, loyalty, independence and the beautifully decorated and lettered name tags he made for her fund-raisers.

Stephen is survived by his father and step-mother, four brothers and sisters and their spouses, and numerous nieces and nephews.



LOBO Grand Opening: Larry Lingle (left), owner of LOBO Bookstore, and City Councilwoman Annise Parker cut the ribbon at the grand opening of LOBO Cafe last week. LOBO is also celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. The event drew a standing room only crowd.



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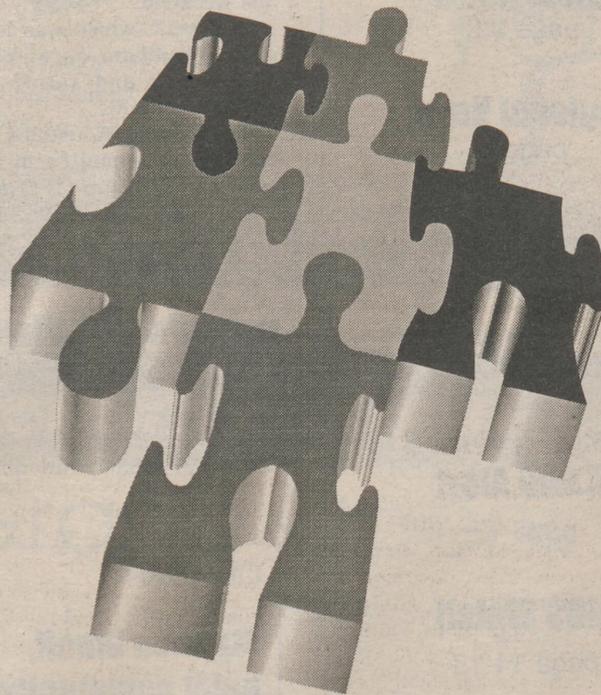
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Supporters of Montrose Counseling Center gathering in the kitchen during a recent gala celebrating the organization's 20th Anniversary. The event raised much needed money for the Center, which has been a staple for gay and lesbians seeking counseling on many fronts.

Greg Louganis visits Houston March 26

Olympic gold medal diver Greg Louganis will visit Houston March 26 promoting a new video documentary of his life as an openly gay, HIV-positive, former champion athlete. Louganis will appear at 7 p.m. March 26 at Crossroads Market Bookstore &

Cafe, 1111 Westheimer.

His new video, "Looking to the Light," presents an intimate behind-the-scenes look at the personal life of the diving legend. For the first time on home video, viewers will get a visual diary of Louganis' life since his best-selling book, "Breaking The Surface," was turned into a television movie for the USA Network.

MURDER/ from page 1

in China" at a festival in Scotland. Henderson, who was known to be gay, apparently picked up Jackson in Montrose on a Saturday night and brought him back to his Summit-area apartment, according to prosecutors.

Once inside the apartment, Jackson attacked Henderson beat him to death with a pipe and then cut his throat with a knife, prosecutors charged.

Wrotenbery, a friend of Henderson's who was married but separated from his wife, had been staying in Henderson's apartment. He was sleeping at the time Henderson and Jackson came to the apartment that night, according to police.

Police said they believe Wrotenbery was awakened by noise during the murder of Henderson and that Jackson then killed the accidental witness.

The motive, according to prosecutor Bill Hawkins, was robbery. He said that after the murders Jackson ransacked the apartment, took both men's wallets and fled in Henderson's car.

In the sentencing hearing earlier this week, Jackson's defense attorney implied that Henderson's homosexuality prompted the brutal crime. Arguing that Jackson, formerly of Missouri City, had no record until he was 20 and displayed good conduct while in prison the last six years, attorney Alvin Nunnery told the jury, "We don't know what happened in that apartment that made [Jackson] go off like he did."

Having been jailed since 1992 on a string of armed robberies, Jackson was linked to the murders by high-tech computer analysis of DNA and fingerprint evidence left at the scene. Such analysis only became possible in recent years, according to Hawkins. "It's unusual for a capital murder to remain unsolved for so long," said Hawkins. "They call it digital justice."

Ten years ago, on the morning after the two bodies were found, Jackson narrowly escaped capture by Houston police. A police patrol radar unit clocked Henderson's car going 90 m.p.h. on the Gulf Freeway. Jackson, who prosecutor's say was driving the car that day, crashed the car during the police chase and escaped on foot.

"It's incredible that so many years

after the fact he was caught," said Bob Manchester, organist at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, where Henderson served as choir director for two years. "Forrest was extremely gifted at working with choirs, a superb rehearsal technician...He was very sociable and I guess one would call him gregarious, but he was also one who could be deep in thought and could concentrate intensely on the music. He was very serious when it came to rehearsal time or performance time. He took his role as choir director very seriously."

Like most members of the Houston Grand Opera, Henderson held outside employment. Besides his post as choir director for Bering Church, he had worked in the admissions office of Prairie View A&M, at local music shops and for a collection agency.

Wrotenbery was a school teacher in Deer Park.

Henderson, who was originally from Washington, D.C., and Wrotenbery were expected for a Houston Grand Opera rehearsal of a production of "Carmen" the day after the murder, said chorus master Bado. "I remember calling and leaving a message on the answering machine, wondering where they were. On Monday, I got a call here at the Opera from the police, because when they went into the apartment [and discovered the murders], my message was on the machine."

"That Monday night we had a chorus rehearsal and everyone was in a major state of shock...it was heart-wrenching. Right now, there are probably only a handful of people in the Chorus who were in the Chorus back then, but everyone knows about it and has talked about it...the odd thing is we are rehearsing 'Carmen,' which was the show we were doing at the time [of the murders]."

Doug Threeton, chairman of the chorus and a member for 35 years, also knew both victims. He was called to testify in Jackson's trial last week, specifically to identify both men from photographs taken at the scene of the crime. "It was awful what they showed me," he said. "I was just told I had to appear and they shoved these photos in my hands."

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Lesbian mom loses child in Alabama Supreme Court

by DAVID GOLDMAN

In a 5-2 decision, the Alabama Supreme Court has ruled that the Court of Civil Appeals was wrong when it removed child visitation restrictions from a lesbian mother. The high court sided with a circuit judge who had previously awarded custody of two children to their father, identified only as D.W.W., and stipulated that they could visit their mother, R.W., only at her parents' home and only in their presence.

Chief Justice Perry Hooper Sr. and Justice Mark Kennedy clashed over the outcome, with Kennedy charging in a lengthy dissent that the decision, written by Hooper, "mischaracterized much of the evidence." Kennedy described the children's father as violent, abusive and a frequent DUI offender.

Laura Alfano, an attorney for the mother, told Southern Voice that the father received another DUI with the children in the car while the case was pending.

Jay Stover, an attorney for the father, disputed this and countered that his client has sought treatment for his alcohol problems while the mother has not, "though she had the same problems." Stover also said testimony was presented indicating that the mother had broken into the marital home with an ax, and that her lesbian partner had threatened to deprive the children of visits with their father.

"Case law in Alabama is clear: that if co-habitation harms the children in a manner that causes psychiatric counseling or that is not in their best interest, the trial court can restrict the kids from seeing the live-in partner," Stover said. He added that a judge can enforce such restrictions regardless of the parent's sexual orientation. "The emphasis on homosexuality is misplaced in this scenario," he said.

But homosexuality seems to have weighed heavily in the majority's opinion.

"Both women are active in the homosexual community," wrote Chief Justice Hooper. "They frequent gay bars and have discussed taking the children to a homosexual church. Although they do not engage in intimate sexual contact in front of the children, they openly display affection in the children's presence. Already, the children appear to have been detrimentally affected by their mother's relationship and by their contacts with her sexual partner. Evidence was presented indicating that after moving in with [their mother] and [her partner], the children began using inappropriate and vulgar language and required psychological counseling."

Though she declined to comment on the particulars of the Alabama case, Atlanta domestic relations attorney Joyce Colmar scoffed at the idea that, absent an obvious danger, such restrictive visitation arrangements can be best for children. She said such restrictions tend to be used against gays more in the South than elsewhere in the nation, and more in rural towns than in metropolitan areas.

At this point, the case could only be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, said Alfano, attorney for the lesbian mom.

AUSTIN AREA UPDATE

DJ Mark Tarbox from LA will be in Austin for 'Circuit Night' on March 28th starting at 11 p.m. at The Forum, 408 Congress. Info at: <http://www.partyaustin.com/cn.htm>

The Log Cabin Republicans of Austin have their monthly dinner-meeting on Thursday, March 26, at Tres Amigos Restaurant at 38th St. & Medical. Speaker at 7 p.m. and dinner at 8 p.m.

Cornerstone Activities this week include free HIV testing Wed., March 25, 4-7 p.m. Cornerstone's Poetry Reading Series features Sharon Bridgforth Wed., March 25, 7-9 p.m.

Lesbian Moms Support Group meets at Cornerstone Community Center Thu., March 26, from 6-9 p.m.

Due to the overwhelming success of Cornerstone's Anniversary Skirt, Club Skirt is being moved to Fiesta Gardens permanently. It's bigger, better and more fun than ever before. Upcoming dates include March 26, April 16, May 31 and June 12. Mark your calendars, and check out the website for times and directions.

Sun Dragon Women's Martial Arts is offering workshops in Men's Self-Defense and in Women's Self-Defense. The workshop is aimed to decrease vulnerability to gay bashing and other violence against gays and lesbians. Includes simple verbal and physical strategies for coping with emergencies. For schedule and registration call 416-9735.

OBITUARIES

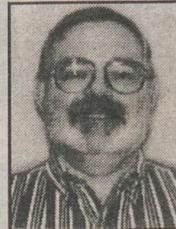
Bill Pearse, Basic Brothers employee

William C. "Bill" Pearse, former vice president and general manager of Basic Brothers Clothing Store in Houston, died March 12 at Omega House after a long illness.

A native of Auburn, Indiana, Pearse, 52, retired from his post with the popular Montrose clothing store in 1996. He is survived by his life mate, Scott Metzger; his mother, Margaret Ornelas, and stepfather, Fred Ornelas, of Henderson, Nev.; and special Houston friends, David Garza, Tom Vinton and Richard Wiederholt.

Ken Claude, current general manager of Basic Brothers, said: "Bill wanted to add this to his obituary, 'Anyone who reads this is entitled to a 15 percent, one-time discount at Basic Brothers!' He was a dedicated Basic Brothers employee to the end. I, for one, will miss him and his incredible creative endeavors."

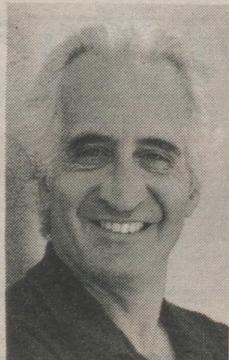
Lyle Eugene Barrett, area Bear leader



Memorial services will be held March 22 for Lyle Eugene Barrett a well-known member of the Houston Bear community, who died Tues., March 3.

A gentle, loving spirit whose creative energy will be missed by friends and family, Barrett was involved with community organizations and was on the Houston Area Bears Triad. Most recently an employee of Continental Airlines, he had mastered many careers, working as display director at Marshall Fields, Christmas Store designer, head of corporate purchasing for Gordon's Jewelers and was creator of a rubber stamp company.

Barrett is survived by his mother, Vera Barrett, and his two partners, James Ozga and Bill Wooton. Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Sun., March 22 at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr.



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Neb. Methodist minister wins anti-gay trial

Houston's Rev. Meeker on hand for pro-gray verdict

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Churchgoers gave a standing ovation Sunday to a Methodist minister found innocent of disobeying church rules for performing a lesbian unity ceremony.

"This is a real gift to me," the Rev. Jimmy Creech said as he returned to the pulpit at First United Methodist Church. "I'm very grateful for the strong witness that you have given me."

The case was the first challenge to United Methodist policy on homosexual marriage. The jury's decision could shape how the 9.5 million-member denomination interprets rules governing its treatment of gays.

Creech had been suspended from his post at Omaha's largest United Methodist church since Nov. 10.

In his sermon, Creech thanked the 13-member jury—made up of Nebraska Methodist ministers—for its verdict Friday. Even though he fell only one vote shy of losing his minis-

terial credentials, Creech described it as a victory for the entire church.

"I don't know the implications of their decision," Creech said. "But I believe it's the beginning of a reversal of growing hostility and exclusion of gay and lesbians in the United Methodist Church."

In all, Creech preached to about 600 people at three different services Sunday.

About 10 protesters stood outside the building denouncing what they called the church's gay agenda. Some others carried signs like one that read "Gay & Proud."

Creech said not all members of the church were there to welcome him back. He told reporters that many people who were unhappy with the jury's decision did not attend any of the services.

The embattled minister lost a fair number of his own congregants during the controversy, according to Bering pastor Rev. Marilyn Meeker, who was in Omaha for the decision last Friday.

She had met Creech when he traveled to Houston with his wife Dec. 12-14 and attended services with the con-

gregation at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. The Houston church made a special collection for Creech's church, resulting in several thousand dollars, to help the embattled pastor make up for collections



The Rev. Jimmy Creech, facing, hugs his counselman, Douglas Williamson, March 13, 1998, after Creech was found innocent of disobeying church rules for performing a lesbian unity ceremony at the United Methodist Church in Omaha, Neb., in September 1997. (AP Photo/Brad Norton)

withdrawn by disapproving congregants in his own church. A number of other Methodist churches around the country did the same thing, Meeker said, "and I understand from Jimmy that the church finished 1997 with everything paid up."

While Meeker said there was "a whole lot of whooping and hollering" among Creech's supporters when the verdict was announced, not everyone connected with the Methodist church is happy with the decision.

The Nebraska bishop of the United Methodist Church, Joel Martinez, wrote Monday in a letter to Methodist pastors in Nebraska that the church jury's decision "speaks only for this particular case."

Martinez wrote that if a pastor performed a similar same-sex covenanting service and a complaint was brought forward, he would process it in the same manner as before.

In Monday's letter, Martinez said he will seek a ruling by the denomination's Judicial Council, which serves as a supreme court for the 9.5 million member church. Martinez wants the following cleared up:

- The status of the prohibition on homosexual unions contained in the church's Social Principles.

- The question of whether ministers are allowed to develop same-sex "covenanting rituals" not authorized by the church's General Conference.

Creech said he backed the bishop's attempt to clarify church law.

Creech's counsel had argued that the Methodist Book of Discipline's Social Principles are pastoral guidelines, not binding rules. Included in those principles is a ban on "homosexual unions." The church had maintained that the ban was worded strongly enough to make it law.

North Carolina Bishop Marion M. Edwards said the United Methodist Church's General Conference, the worldwide body which speaks for the denomination, has clearly stated that the practice of homosexuality "is considered incompatible with Christian teachings."

"I agree with that teaching," Edwards said in a written statement. "In fact, recent actions by the General Conference indicate that the vast majority of United Methodists agree with that teaching."

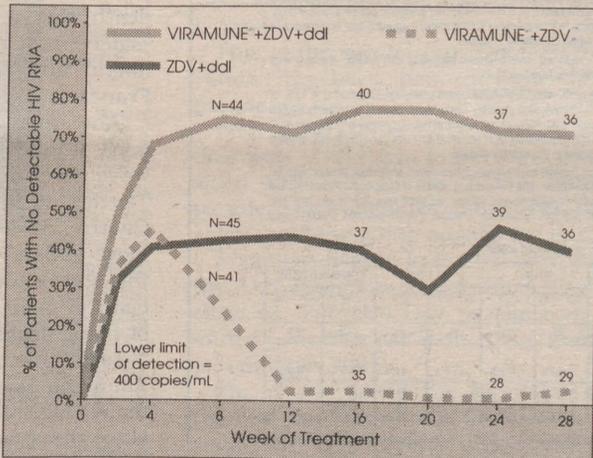
Edwards did say he agrees with a stated church position that, "Homosexual persons, no less than heterosexual persons, are individuals of sacred worth."

The Rev. Dale Lambert, a juror from Plymouth, Neb., said the 13 Nebraska ministers on the jury turned to a sentence in a preface of the Social Principles. It states the principles are "intended to be instructive and persuasive." According to Lambert, "that sentence is key."

But jurors also said the decision was not authorization for more United Methodist pastors to perform same-sex commitment services. Future juries could find differently in future cases, one juror said.

■ VIRAMUNE® plus two nucleosides (ZDV+ddl) significantly increased the number of treatment-naïve patients achieving undetectable viral loads, compared to dual therapy (P=0.017).

% OF PATIENTS ACHIEVING UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOADS



Randomized, double-blind study comparing VIRAMUNE+ZDV+ddl, VIRAMUNE+ZDV, and ZDV+ddl. The study enrolled 151 HIV+ treatment-naïve patients with CD4+ cell counts of 200-600 cells/mm³ (mean 376 cells/mm³) and a mean baseline plasma HIV RNA concentration of 4.41 log₁₀ copies/mL (25,704 copies/mL). At 20-28 weeks, more than 70% of VIRAMUNE-triple therapy patients had HIV RNA levels below the limit of detection. The clinical significance of these findings is unknown.

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■ Generally well tolerated — most commonly reported adverse events were rash, fever, nausea, and headache. **Associated with severe rash, which in some cases has been life-threatening. Discontinue when severe rash occurs.**

* Recommended dose: one 200 mg tablet q.d. for first 14 days; then one 200 mg tablet b.i.d. This lead-in period should be used because it has been found to lessen the frequency of rash.

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Clinton's AIDS advisors accuse him of 'playing politics with lives'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton's AIDS advisors unanimously expressed no confidence in the administration's commitment to reducing the spread of AIDS, accusing officials of playing politics with people's lives.

"The administration's current policy on needle-exchange programs threatens the public health, and directly contradicts current scientific evidence," said the resolution approved Tuesday by the Presidential Council

See NAT'L page 8

NAT'L from page 7
on HIV/AIDS.

It was the harshest criticism yet from the panel, whose members are furious that the administration has not allowed federal funding for programs giving drug addicts clean needles in exchange for dirty ones that may be contaminated with the deadly HIV virus.

"Our patience is exhausted," said the panel's chairman, Dr. Scott Hitt, who treats patients with HIV and AIDS in Los Angeles.

Hitt estimated that tens of thousands of new HIV infections could be prevented through needle-exchange programs. More than half of all people who become infected with HIV catch the deadly virus through contaminated needles or sex with injecting drug users—or are children born to infected addicts.

"Tragically, we must conclude that it is a lack of political will, not scientific evidence, that is creating this failure to act," the council said Tuesday in a letter to Clinton.

Using taxpayer money to buy needles for addicts has become a politi-

cally touchy issue, with conservatives arguing that these programs send the wrong message.

One council member, Terje Anderson of Colorado Springs, Colo., spoke of his past heroin use and argued that availability of needles is no more likely to cause drug use than matches are to cause smoking.

"The question should be, 'Do you care about the lives of people like me?'" said Anderson, who no longer uses drugs but is HIV positive. "Are you willing to take steps—perhaps politically risky or unpopular steps—in order to save lives?"

Federal law allows funding of needle-exchange programs, but only if the Department of Health and Human Services concludes that they are effective in reducing the spread of HIV without increasing drug use.

HHS Secretary Donna Shalala has already agreed with leading scientists that the programs are effective in fighting HIV. But she says she is still reviewing drug use data, promising to make the decision on good science.

"We will operate on the best information available," agency spokeswoman Laurie Boeder said Tuesday.

Council members say the proof is already there, citing six government-funded reports, including an independent group of experts convened by the National Institutes of Health.

"Does needle exchange promote drug use? A preponderance of evidence shows either no change or decreased drug use," the NIH concluded more than a year ago, saying the ban on funding for these programs will lead to "many thousands of unnecessary deaths."

But Shalala is still waiting for studies by drug abuse experts and is still reviewing the data already available, Boeder said. The results of studies will not be available for several months, she said, adding, "There is no timetable" for announcing a decision.

Council members accused Shalala of letting politics dictate policy, but they stopped short of calling for her resignation, as some members have suggested. They have also rejected suggestions that they resign in protest.

More than 80 needle exchanges, paid for by private, state or local money, already operate in the United States, but AIDS activists say expand-

ing them will require federal funding. More importantly, Hitt said, more private money would be generated if the government gave its endorsement.

"Many people in this country and the world are looking to the secretary to say the science is there," he said. "It's time for her to come out and say where she stands."

Beating death of SF man brings tragic reminder to Castro

SAN FRANCISCO—A pall hangs over the Castro District, a cloud that even the day's sunny weather couldn't dispel—a random street attack had taken the life of another gay man.

On Friday night, 45-year-old San Francisco resident Brian Wilmes was viciously beaten outside the Loading Dock, a Mission Street leather bar, by a man who was reportedly intoxicated and screamed gay epithets. The attack was described as a classic hate crime by investigators.

Wilmes fell into a coma after he struck the pavement. He died from his injuries Saturday afternoon at California Pacific Medical Center. The suspect fled in a car with a woman, but police were able to trace the vehicle with information obtained from a homeless man who also had been assaulted.

Early Saturday morning, police arrested South San Francisco resident Edgar Mora, 25, for the attack. He is expected to be arraigned on murder charges.

For the city's gay community, Wilmes' beating and subsequent death was a chilling reminder that "safety" is a relative term—even in a liberal and accepting city like San Francisco.

"Any time anything like this happens, it just reminds (gay) people that we're never really secure," said Steven Tierney as he ate a late lunch at a Castro Street restaurant. "People move to San Francisco to be safe, but this shows how tentative it all is, especially at night, when people are drunk or doing drugs and feeling crazy."

San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano said he has fielded a great many calls from outraged constituents since the attack. "There's a deep, visceral reaction (from gay men and lesbians) any time attacks like this occur, said Ammiano. "That's because bigotry against gays is pervasive, and all of us have had traumatic experiences to one degree or another. I remember once when I was pursued in my car (by a gay basher). These things stay with you."

Carroll is no relation to Wilmes' companion, also named Tim Carroll, who was with Wilmes at the time of the attack.

CT school says gay teacher's claims unfounded

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (AP)—Attorneys for the school district claim the lawsuit filed by a gay teacher claiming discrimination is completely unfounded.

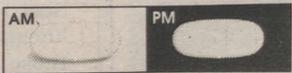
Beth Kavy, a special education teacher, claims she has been harassed by the district and a school nurse because she is gay.

But two school principals and school nurse Maria Garcia say that Kavy and her partner Lynn Kowalczyk, also a teacher, assaulted and harassed Garcia.

"For over six months, Miss Garcia has been the victim of constant physical and emotional harassment, including fear for her life from these women," Attorney Paul McQuillan,

Viramune
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one 200 mg tablet twice daily



BRIEF SUMMARY

WARNING:
VIRAMUNE (NEVIRAPINE) IS INDICATED FOR USE IN COMBINATION WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV-1 INFECTED ADULTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CLINICAL AND/OR IMMUNOLOGIC DETERIORATION. THIS INDICATION IS BASED ON ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN SURROGATE ENDPOINTS IN STUDIES OF UP TO 48 WEEKS DURATION. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO RESULTS FROM CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIALS EVALUATING THE EFFECT OF VIRAMUNE WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ON THE CLINICAL PROGRESSION OF HIV-1 INFECTION, SUCH AS THE INCIDENCE OF OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS OR SURVIVAL.

THE DURATION OF BENEFIT FROM ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY MAY BE LIMITED. ALTERATION OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IF DISEASE PROGRESSION OCCURS WHILE PATIENTS ARE RECEIVING VIRAMUNE.

RESISTANT VIRUS EMERGES RAPIDLY AND UNIFORMLY WHEN VIRAMUNE IS ADMINISTERED AS MONOTHERAPY. THEREFORE, VIRAMUNE SHOULD ALWAYS BE ADMINISTERED IN COMBINATION WITH AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENT.

VIRAMUNE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERE RASH, WHICH IN SOME CASES HAVE BEEN LIFE-THREATENING. WHEN SEVERE RASH OCCURS, VIRAMUNE MUST BE DISCONTINUED.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: VIRAMUNE is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components contained in the tablet.

WARNINGS: Severe and life-threatening skin reactions have occurred in patients treated with VIRAMUNE, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS). VIRAMUNE must be discontinued in patients developing a severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise. (See PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients; ADVERSE REACTIONS)

VIRAMUNE therapy must be initiated with a 14-day lead-in period of 200 mg/day, which has been shown to reduce the frequency of rash. Dose escalation should not occur if rash is observed during this lead-in period until the rash has resolved. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

PRECAUTIONS: General: When administering VIRAMUNE as part of an antiretroviral treatment regimen, the complete product information for each therapeutic component should be consulted before initiation of treatment.

While nevirapine is extensively metabolized by the liver and nevirapine metabolites are extensively eliminated by the kidney, the pharmacokinetics of nevirapine have not been evaluated in patients with either hepatic or renal dysfunction. Therefore, VIRAMUNE should be used with caution in these patient populations.

Abnormal liver function tests have been reported with VIRAMUNE, some in the first few weeks of therapy, including cases of hepatitis. VIRAMUNE administration should be interrupted in patients experiencing moderate or severe liver function test abnormalities until liver function tests return to baseline values. VIRAMUNE treatment should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities recur on re-administration.

Drug Interactions: Although clinical studies have not been conducted, induction of CYP3A by nevirapine may result in lower plasma concentrations of other concomitantly administered drugs that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A. (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY) Thus, if a patient has been stabilized on a dosage regimen for a drug metabolized by CYP3A, and begins treatment with VIRAMUNE, dose adjustments may be necessary.

Rifampin/Rifabutin: There are insufficient data to assess whether dose adjustments are necessary when nevirapine and rifampin or rifabutin are coadministered. Therefore, these drugs should only be used in combination if clearly indicated and with careful monitoring.

Protease Inhibitors: Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of protease inhibitors. Therefore, until clinical data are available that evaluate the need for dose adjustments, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE.

Oral Contraceptives: There are no clinical data on the effects of nevirapine on the pharmacokinetics of oral contraceptives. Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of oral contraceptives (also other hormonal contraceptives); therefore, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE.

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that VIRAMUNE is not a cure for HIV-1 infection, and that they may continue to experience illnesses associated with advanced HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. Treatment with VIRAMUNE has not been shown to reduce the incidence or frequency of such illnesses, and patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using VIRAMUNE.

Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIRAMUNE are unknown at this time. They should also be informed that VIRAMUNE therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be instructed that the major toxicity of VIRAMUNE is rash and should be advised to promptly notify their physician of any rash. The majority of rashes associated with VIRAMUNE occur within the first 6 weeks of initiation of therapy. Therefore, patients should be monitored carefully for the appearance of rash during this period. Patients should be instructed that dose escalation is not to occur if any rash occurs during the two-week lead-in dosing period, until the rash resolves. Any patient experiencing severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise should discontinue medication and consult a physician.

Patients should be informed to take VIRAMUNE every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose without consulting their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

VIRAMUNE may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications.

Patients should be instructed that oral contraceptives and other hormonal methods of birth control should not be used as a method of contraception in women taking VIRAMUNE.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of nevirapine in animals are currently in progress. In genetic toxicology assays, nevirapine showed no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including microbial assays for gene mutation (Ames; Salmonella strains and *E. coli*), mammalian cell gene mutation assays (CHO/HGPRT), cytogenetic assays using a Chinese hamster ovary cell line and a mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay following oral administration. In reproductive toxicology studies, evidence of impaired fertility was seen in female rats at doses providing systemic exposure, based on AUC, approximately equivalent to that provided with the recommended clinical dose of VIRAMUNE.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. No observable teratogenicity was detected in reproductive studies performed in pregnant rats and rabbits. In rats, a significant decrease in fetal body weight occurred at doses providing systemic exposure approximately 50% higher, based on AUC, than that seen at the recommended human clinical dose. The maternal and developmental no-observable-effect level dosages in rats and rabbits produced systemic exposures approximately equivalent to or approximately 50% higher, respectively, than those seen at the recommended daily human dose, based on AUC. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. VIRAMUNE should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Preliminary results from an ongoing pharmacokinetic study (ACTG 250) of 10 HIV-1-infected pregnant women who were administered a single oral dose of 100 or 200 mg VIRAMUNE at a median of 5.8 hours before delivery, indicate that nevirapine readily crosses the placenta and is found in breast milk. Consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV, mothers should discontinue nursing if they are receiving VIRAMUNE.

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

VIRAMUNE has been studied in two open-label, uncontrolled trials (BI 882, BI 892) in 37 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients with a median age of 0.9 years (range: 0.1 to 15 years) who were treated for a median duration of 20.7 months. Seven patients developed rashes while receiving VIRAMUNE. In an ongoing, controlled trial of VIRAMUNE combination therapy in HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (ACTG 245), one of approximately 288 patients treated with VIRAMUNE experienced Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

Because there are no data on multi-dose pharmacokinetics in children, no recommendation on dosing can be made. Based on single-dose pharmacokinetics in 9 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (age 9 mos. to 14 years) who were administered nevirapine in a suspension formulation, it appears that oral clearance is approximately 2-fold greater in children when compared to adults.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: The most frequently reported adverse events related to VIRAMUNE therapy were rash, fever, nausea, headache, and abnormal liver function tests.

The major clinical toxicity of VIRAMUNE is rash, with VIRAMUNE-attributable rash occurring in 17% of patients in combination regimens in Phase III controlled studies. Thirty-seven percent of patients treated with VIRAMUNE experienced rash compared with 20% of patients treated in control groups of either ZDV+ddI or ZDV alone (Table 1). Severe or life-threatening rash occurred in 7.6% of VIRAMUNE-treated patients compared with 1.2% of patients treated in the control groups.

Rashes are usually mild to moderate, maculopapular erythematous cutaneous eruptions, with or without pruritus, located on the trunk, face and extremities. The majority of severe rashes occurred within the first 28 days of treatment; 25% of patients with severe rashes required hospitalization; and one patient required surgical intervention. All patients recovered. Overall, 7% of patients discontinued VIRAMUNE due to rash.

Table 1: Percentage of patients with rashes in controlled trials^a

	ACTG 241 ^b		BI 1037		BI 1011		COMBINED DATA	
	NVP+ZDV+ddI	ZDV+ddI	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP	CONTROL
n	197	201	30	30	25	24	252	255
Rash events of all Grades and all causality	39.6%	23.9%	26.7%	6.7%	32.0%	4.2%	37.3%	20.0%
Grade 3 or 4 rash events, all causality	8.1%	1.5%	3.3%	0%	8.0%	0%	7.6%	1.2%

^a At recommended dose of one 200 mg tablet daily for the first 14 days followed by one 200 mg tablet twice daily.

^b Trial ACTG 241 was designed to report Grade 3/4 (severe or life-threatening) events; except for several pre-specified events including rash for which all grades are reported.

Table 2 lists treatment-related clinical adverse events that occurred in patients receiving VIRAMUNE in ACTG 241 and in Trials BI 1037 and BI 1011.

Table 2: Comparative Incidence of Selected Drug-Related Events in Controlled Trials

	ACTG 241		Trial BI 1037 and BI 1011	
	NVP+ZDV+ddI	ZDV+ddI	NVP+ZDV	ZDV alone
Number of patients	197	201	55	30
Overall incidence of related adverse events	31%	23%	42%	33%
Rash	8	2	20	3
Fever	3	3	11	3
Nausea	5	4	9	3
Headache	3	3	11	0
Diarrhea	2	2	0	0
Abdominal pain	1	2	2	0
Ulcerative stomatitis	0	0	4	0
Peripheral neuropathy	0	2	0	0
Paresthesia	1	0	2	0
Myalgia	1	0	2	7
Hepatitis	1	0	4	0

Table 3 summarizes marked laboratory abnormalities occurring in three controlled studies.

Table 3: Percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities

	Data combined for controlled trials ACTG 241, BI 1037 & BI 1011	
	VIRAMUNE n=252	Control n=255
Hematology		
Decreased Hg (<8.0 g/dL)	1.2%	2.0%
Decreased platelets (<50,000/mm ³)	0.8	0.8
Decreased neutrophils (<750/mm ³)	11.1	10.2
Blood chemistry		
Increased ALT (>250 U/L)	3.4	3.5
Increased AST (>250 U/L)	2.0	2.4
Increased GGT (>450 U/L)	2.4	1.2
Increased total bilirubin (>2.5 mg/dL)	0.4	1.2

Asymptomatic elevations in GGT levels are more frequent in VIRAMUNE recipients than in controls. Because hepatitis has occasionally been reported in VIRAMUNE-treated patients, monitoring of liver function tests should be considered.

OVERDOSAGE: There is no known antidote for VIRAMUNE overdosage. No acute toxicities or sequelae were reported for one patient who ingested 800 mg of VIRAMUNE for one day.

CAUTION FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

Reference: 1. Data on file, Roxane Laboratories, Inc.



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lawyer for the nurse, said Monday.

School board attorney Scott McDonald said Monday night that Kavy's claims that she was transferred and that the school neglected to protect her from harassment based on her sexual orientation are without merit.

Kavy's attorney filed documents Friday claiming her client was improperly transferred from DiLoreto Magnet School to another school last year after she was harassed by way of interschool e-mail and assaulted.

Attorney Doris B. D'Ambrosio said last week that after the assault, Kavy was physically escorted out of the school.

Pioneering patient dies

OCALA, Fla. (AP)—Charles Edward Hall, the AIDS patient who battled unsuccessfully to the Florida Supreme Court for the right to assisted suicide, died Monday. He was 36.

Hall contracted AIDS in 1984. He went to court in 1996 with two other terminally ill men, challenging the state's 128-year-old law which classifies assisted suicide as manslaughter.

By the time the case went to trial in January 1997, the other plaintiffs had died.

Hall gave impassioned testimony from his wheelchair about his deteriorating health. A lower court judge said a doctor could help Hall only in Palm Beach County. Hall appealed to the Supreme Court to extend the rights to Citrus County, where he lived, and to other terminally ill patients.

The court refused in July, saying a privacy clause in the state's constitution did not extend to physician-assisted suicides.

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Minn. gay bars settle het discrimination suits

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Two lawsuits accusing the Gay 90s nightclub of discriminating against heterosexual customers have been settled.

The six customers said the gay nightclub denied them admittance or gave them poor service because they are straight. They said they were told they were not gay enough to be inside the bar.

The settlement came Saturday after voluntary mediation.

"It was the kind of case that was really begging for the parties to sit down and just put some semblance of reason on it," said Timothy Hickman, attorney for the plaintiffs.

The club's owner had denied the claims but apologized and agreed to uphold the bar's policy allowing admittance regardless of sexual orientation.

Savannah, Ga., bars gays from St. Pat's parade

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A gay and lesbian group was barred from partic-

ipating in Tuesday's St. Patrick's Day parade—the second largest such celebration in the country.

Parade officials said the group did not file its entry application before the deadline, and probably wouldn't have been allowed to participate anyway because of its political nature.

First City Network, a nonprofit social services organization with gay and lesbian members, said the St. Patrick's Day parade committee did not allow them to even fill out an application to be in the parade.

First City board member Kevin Clark said he started calling the committee in December and visited the committee's office in January seeking an application.

"The receptionist assured me someone would be getting back to me or mailing an application," Clark said. "... I still haven't talked to anybody from the parade committee."

Parade organizers said they never heard from anyone with First City until February.

"When they came in here, the parade was already full," said Jim Ray, parade committee chairman. "The only thing we've added to the parade since then is the (state championship) Savannah High basketball team marching in front of the Savannah High band."

First City, which holds social functions and supports a number of charity organizations, violates a parade ban on "political, social or advocacy groups," Ray said.

"We don't allow people who come in to make statements," Ray said. "That's not the purpose of St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick's Day is to celebrate a Catholic man bringing Christianity to Ireland."

This is the second time the organization has been banned from the parade.

First City planned on entering a float with a "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" theme in the 1995 parade. The committee, citing lack of space, said the group applied too late.

A similar dispute in Boston went to the U.S. Supreme Court when that city's St. Patrick's Day parade committee banned a gay Irish group from marching in 1995.

The court upheld the committee's right to ban the group because the committee is a private organization. Ray said a similar situation applies in Savannah.

"It's a private party," he said. "You've got to be invited."

Gay Episcopal priest up for bishop

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—An openly gay minister is on a formal list of nominees to lead an Episcopal diocese.

The Rev. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire is one of five candidates nominated Friday to succeed Bishop John S. Spong of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

"He knows there will probably be more focus on him than we would like, but he's committed and we're committed to his nomination," said Marge Christie, co-chairwoman of the nominating committee.

Spong, due to retire Jan. 31, 2000, has actively supported the ordination of women and homosexuals.

If elected by diocesan leaders in June, Robinson, 50, would still need approval by a majority of the church's 200 bishops and the governing bodies of its 100 U.S. dioceses.

The Rev. Todd H. Wetzel, executive director of the conservative Episcopalians United, said his group would oppose Robinson.

Meet Olympic Gold Medalist

Greg Louganis



Greg Louganis requires no introduction.

In his new video, *Looking to the Light*, he intimately details the events that changed his life since disclosing his HIV status. It is an inspirational documentary about and by Greg Louganis which reveals in vivid detail his continuing battle against AIDS...confronting homophobia and bigotry...coming to terms with his own compulsive behavior, and discussing his personal philosophy on the direction he believes the gay community should be taking.

Looking to the Light takes you behind the scenes in making the movie version of *Breaking the Surface*. It explores Greg's acting career with excerpts from his stage career to his current co-starring role in the soon to be released theatrical movie *Touch Me*.

Looking to the Light is the last time Greg will share his private life with his public audience. Don't miss the chance to meet this extraordinary man!

Please note that according to Mr. Louganis' wishes, no books or other items will be signed unless a copy of *Looking to the Light* is purchased.

Looking to the Light

Thursday, March 26
at 7 p.m.

Crossroads Market BOOKSTORE & CAFE

1111 Westheimer Road, Houston (713) 942-0147

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EDITORIAL

Chastity Bono was right the first time about 'Ellen'

by CHRIS CRAIN

The spectacular media circus that has surrounded the coming out of Ellen DeGeneres and Ellen Morgan now has a third ring in operation.



This one features lesbian celeb Chastity Bono, who works as entertainment media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). It seems Bono granted an interview with the *San Jose Mercury News*, and gave her pitch on why ABC shouldn't cancel "Ellen," which has suffered from lagging ratings in the season after The Coming Out Episode. *Variety* magazine picked up the story, zeroed in on a few comments Bono made about how the "Ellen" show is, in her view, too "gay specific" for some viewers, and created a nice little controversy just weeks before GLAAD is to present DeGeneres with its Stephen F. Kolzak Award for her "outstanding contribution in combating homophobia."

This issue of whether Ellen is "too

gay" is only the latest example of how the very public coming out of the actress/comedienne has mirrored the very private coming out most of us endured.

Remember Ellen's initial interviews with *Time* magazine and Diane Sawyer? She winced at the word "lesbian" (she preferred "gay woman") and voiced her discomfort at being anyone's activist. She "just happened to be gay."

We've all been there, Ellen.

Then, in a blazing media triumph, the character Ellen Morgan came out, and the ratings were through the roof, along with most of our spirits. Her character's highs and lows in those first two coming-out episodes touched many of us, and America was riveted by just how genuine the portrayal was.

Flush with success, Ellen came out with a vengeance. Leaving behind her initial reticence over being labelled a "lesbian," Ellen found herself a girlfriend and declared her undying, everlasting love by the third date.

We've all been there, Ellen.

When "Ellen" the show emerged again last fall, the situation comedy had found its situation—being gay—and never thought twice about venturing outside its comfortable gay TV ghetto.

At times, it has seemed like every conversation, every joke, every plot has revolved entirely around Ellen's sexual orientation. Like many of us, Ellen became submerged in the gay subculture, single-minded and narrowly focused.

And like many fairweather straight friends, Ellen's backers at ABC soon tired of Ellen's new-found emphasis on being gay, to the exclusion of everything else in her life. Fearing peer pressure from the political right and worrying too much about turning off close-minded viewers, the network cronies have all but abandoned Ellen to her new lifestyle.

It's too bad that ABC didn't stick around for the next stage of Ellen's coming out. Over the next months and years, she will begin the challenging but rewarding process of finding a proper place in her life and her self for her sexual orientation.

Maybe her new relationship will survive this maturation and maybe it won't. But Ellen will survive, professionally and personally—content that her courage has inspired millions, and her story has educated many millions more.

Chastity was right the first time about Ellen. She may be too gay, but she's definitely one of us.

LETTERS

A son's reflections on his parents' love and life

Regarding your Valentine article "Lesbian couple celebrates 27 years of oneness" (*Houston Voice*, Feb. 13): I am their son and this is my response to your article.

I applaud Jeanette for her answers about relationships, both gay and straight. I was proud of her statements; but making 27 years was even tougher than they give mention to.

The difficulties don't discriminate against gender or color, against the gay or the straight. While the gay community has its own set of problems with discrimination and acceptance that any gay person must face, there are also the problems of handling the blows that ordinary life can deal our way: death of a family member, taking in a father or a grandparent due to ailing health, rebellion from children; balancing a budget to pay the bills and support a family. All of these and many more can compound many tribulations upon a couple.

My parents, Dot and Jeanette, have faced all these and more. Yet, their love and dedication held them together. They have always given more out than they ever received. If you measure their success by the standards we rate and judge others, then they don't show hardly any success. They have most often put others' needs, including mine, before their own. Once I was in need of money and I recall Jeanette borrowed it from a co-worker to help me.

Materially, they don't score high, but heavenly rewards are being added to their accounts everyday.

As a teenager I was rebellious. I felt cheated by not having my natural father and mother together raising me. I have loved Jeanette all my life. She has always shown me love and given me gifts to spoil me. As an adult, I can look back and examine my teenage life. I realize that even if my

natural mother and father had been together, I would have had another issue focusing my rebellion. It wasn't that I was being raised by a gay couple; it was me just being the difficult teenager that most of us once were.

Today, I am a parent and a grandparent. Now over and over, as things happen with my role as a parent, I have to stop and phone my mother and Jeanette and apologize for some new insight on something I did against them as a kid.

Dot and Jeanette have taken in an ailing father and grandmother and nursed them until they each passed. They have been care givers, by choice maybe, but also by demand.

There were no other options. They were forced to take the blows pushed upon them. Later, they had a close friend dying of AIDS. They moved into his home and tended to his deteriorating condition.

Mother and Jeanette, already dealing with aging effects upon their own bodies, again put themselves last. Many times while lifting Shawn into

the bathtub or to the toilet, Dot strained her back and would be down and hurting for days—several times completely bedridden for days at a time. This couple have been volunteers with local fund-raiser efforts for AIDS, children's hospitals and many more.

As Dot and Jeanette continue to age and suffer the pains of poor health, someone new will come along and become active in fund-raising events. Dot and Jeanette will slow down from their participation and eventually be only a memory to a few.

History will not record any great accomplishments they made. Folks won't remember exactly how many years they were together. Life will seem to just pass them by.

One thing is certain, though, they both have made a lasting and positive impression on me. I am proud to say I am their son.

Thank you Houston Voice for your recognition of my parents.

Bill Thompson
Memphis, Tenn.

Where's the GLAMA?

As a gay music lover, a big event for me last week was listening (via the internet) to the GLAMA awards (Gay & Lesbian American Music Awards) show on Mon., March 9. Maybe the date didn't match your news deadline, but I was surprised to see no coverage of the event.

My personal highlights were hearing a very candid, open and funny k.d.lang and a humble RuPaul.

An e-mail friend of mine who was there, Jay McLaren of Amsterdam, described RuPaul's acceptance speech (for the OutMusic award) this way:

"Rupaul's reception was especially noteworthy. An immediate and lengthy standing ovation, then another. Appearing out of drag, the shy, tender person that lurks behind the violently-coloured frocks, was so nervous after Larry Flick's tribute and the warm reception of a very mixed audience that he stumbled through his acceptance speech, winning new admirers with each hesitation."

Your readers can get more info at the GLAMA website www.glama.com.

JD Doyle
Houston

AS I SEE IT

With my ear to the ground

by KAREN SHOFFNER



Karen Shoffner writes for various gay and lesbian publications. She lives in Northampton, Mass.

I have just started a new relationship, but you would never have known it, dear reader, if you hadn't heard it from me. Unless, of course, I happened to be the star of my own sitcom or a movie actress. For if I were in either of those situations (or dating someone in either of those situations), you would hear a great deal about my personal life.

Ever since Ellen DeGeneres and her TV alter ego came out last year, her life, particularly her personal life, has been an open book. Of course, by appearing on "Oprah" with her inamorata Anne Heche and consenting to a prime time TV interview, the case could be made that DeGeneres invited the close scrutiny provided by tabloids and other media outlets. Witness the tale told of Heche's philandering in a recent issue of the *Globe*, a weekly tabloid.

According to "sources" and "pals," Heche has been making time with Vince Vaughn, her co-star in the movie "Force Majeure." While making the movie, sources say, the chemistry between Heche and Vaughn was "electric." DeGeneres is angry and upset and determined to win Heche back, according to the *Globe*. But a "pal," unnamed of course, says she doesn't stand a chance against a man. (I'm not so sure about that. DeGeneres may be more like a man than previously thought. More on that later.)

Let's accept for a moment that the story is true. We can pity DeGeneres and vilify Heche if we want. Indeed, DeGeneres' gay pals reportedly believe that Heche only used the TV star to get

on Hollywood's A-List. Another DeGeneres pal said that Ellen's friends never believed Heche to be a lesbian through-and-through. Her alleged fling with Vaughn is proof that "she's really straight."

Imagine how embarrassing this must be for DeGeneres, and perhaps for Heche as well. When us little people have difficulties in relationships, we cry on a friend's shoulder. We can be fairly certain that our agonies won't end up as fodder for supermarket tabloids.

But believe it or not, this is progress. Not too long ago, it was only high-profile heterosexuals done wrong by waywards mates who were deemed ripe for public humiliation.

We've come a long way, baby.

DeGeneres could have avoided this humiliation if she knew then what we know now about lesbians, straight women and the inner ear. University of Texas-Austin researchers recently said they have found that the inner ears of lesbians function more like those of straight and gay men than straight women. Some say this supports the theory that lesbianism is biologically based.

Whatever.

I say someone should take advantage of this research for the good of lesbians everywhere and invent a small device that would help the wary lesbian ascertain early on whether the potential object of her affection is a lesbian or not. On their first date, between the *pate de foie gras* and the soup, DeGeneres could have slipped the device into Heche's ear in an unguard-

ed moment and known in an instant which team Heche was really on.

Any discomfort the unsuspecting Heche might have felt when the detection device was inserted into her ear would have been momentary compared to the lasting humiliation DeGeneres may now feel.

If the *Globe* story is indeed true, of course.

This inner ear thing has my girlfriend concerned and irked. Irked because she hates the idea that people think that lesbians just want to be men. Concerned because she wonders if now the race for a "cure" for lesbianism will step into high gear.

In giddier, more sardonic moments, I imagine that if the difference between the inner ears of lesbians and straight women can be detected during infancy, and it can be apparently, baby dykes will be made to wear corrective ears in an attempt to correct their lesbianism in the same way that some children had to wear corrective shoes to correct foot problems.

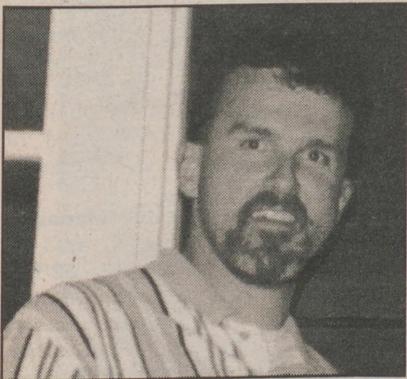
My younger brother had to wear a bar shoe at night because he was pigeon-toed. A bar shoe is exactly that — a pair of shoes pointing outward and attached to a bar. He hated it. He's less pigeon-toed now.

Incidentally, he's gay.

I wonder, with all this research into the origins of homosexuality, if that's what lesbianism will be reduced to—a condition in need of correction. For me, and many other women, it is simply a way of being.

Millennium March: Houston Caucus urges local action first

by CLARENCE BAGBY



Clarence Bagby is president of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

Houston has taken a critical step forward in our struggle for equality for Gay women and men. We have become the largest city in the country to elect an openly Gay candidate to citywide office. The next step is to continue to develop and expand upon the coalitions and partnerships that must exist if our progress is to continue. We must also work for the same at the state and national level.

We must all come to the understanding that we are basically on the same side and that we must work with each other, not against each other, if we are to be successful.

We must recognize that equality is not a partisan issue. There are Democrats, Republicans and others who support equality for Gay people and there are Democrats, Republicans and others who oppose it.

We must recognize that equality is not a religious issue. There are Christians, Jews, Hindus and others who support equality for Gay people and there are Christians, Jews, Hindus and others who oppose it. Gay people of faith are often ostracized by the Gay political establishment.

America's African-American community built coalitions with numerous segments of society, as well as within the Black community itself, in their struggle for civil rights legislation. Without the development of such partnerships, the civil rights legislation of the 1960s would never have been passed.

By the same token, the Gay community must build coalitions and develop partnerships in order to achieve our goal of equal treatment under the law.

We all read with dismay recently about the chaos that ensued after the Human Rights Campaign and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches announced plans last month for a Millennium March on Washington in the year 2000 and the subsequent agreement to 'pause' march planning.

The word 'coalesce' immediately comes to mind; we must come together as a community if we are to attain

our goal of equality.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force brought forward its proposal for a 50-state march in 1999 for discussion at a National Policy Roundtable held in Washington last September. Task Force Executive Director Kerry Lobel, amidst the Millennium March controversy, said, "I feel no one group has the unilateral right to call a national march on Washington without an open, substantive process of discussion."

To her credit, HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch said on Feb. 12, after HRC and UFMCC agreed to put the march on 'pause', that "We decided a much larger group of Gay people will come together to talk about both a national march and a 50-state march."

In light of the defeat in Maine, it is painfully clear that more must be done to bolster our statewide and local Gay political organizations. (Maine legislators passed a bill last spring that added sexual orientation to the protected classifications in Maine's 25-year-old human rights act.)

We most certainly must continue to direct financial resources to groups in Washington. We must, however, be sure that we leave more than just some table scraps for our state and local organizations.

In her speech at the recent HRC 1998 Houston Winter Gala, HRC National Field Director Donna Red Wing cited the importance of supporting national organizations like HRC, while at the same time supporting statewide groups like the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and local groups like the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

"If we are going to elect fair-minded people to public office at all levels of government, we have got to have strong state and local organizations that can provide clout, organization and votes," said Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Executive Director Brian Bond. "The 1999 state-driven march idea will support our effort in the most productive manner. A march in

Washington won't help educate swing voters in Maine, Illinois or Missouri."

Eleven state legislatures, and maybe as many as 22, are considering bills to ban legal recognition of same-sex marriage. Only 10 of 50 states have civil rights laws protecting gay people. Our energy should be focused on organizing and educating at the state and local level. Clearly, more and more of the battles are at the state and local level, not in Washington.

Organizations at every level represent integral components of the overall movement. There are non-profit advocacy groups at the local, state and federal level. The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus is Houston's non-partisan Gay civil rights organization. The state counterpart to the Caucus is LGRL and the national counterparts are the Task Force and HRC.

In addition to its social welfare activities, the Caucus lobbies local, state and federal officials in its efforts to educate the public about Gay equality issues. The Task Force has developed the foremost Gay think tank in the world, the NGLTF Policy Institute, which operates as a non-profit charity.

The Policy Institute created and hosts the National Policy Roundtable. The Caucus also owns a political action committee, just like HRC and LGRL, that endorses candidates based upon their level of support for equal rights for Gay Americans and provides campaign support.

Our efforts must match the tremendous organizational efforts of anti-gay groups like the Christian Coalition. They won in Maine and will try to take that same strategy out to the rest of the country. The religious extremists are already working to repeal Mayor Lee Brown's Executive Order banning city employment and hiring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Support your local, state and national Gay political groups. Your resources and your energy are needed at every level!

Time responds to gay critics

In response to a GLAADAlert item criticizing *Time* magazine for excluding from its 75th Anniversary issue lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues, as well as the AIDS pandemic, the magazine is planning on running a number of letters. This will include a commentary by AIDS activist Larry Kramer and a special box section on issues that were neglected in the 75th Anniversary issue.

In response to a GLAADAlert reader's letter to the editor, Chief of *Time* Letters, Amy Musher said that the magazine "did not consciously eliminate whole subjects," and called the "omission" of "*Time's* extensive coverage of the gay rights movement and

the impact of AIDS on the gay community....[in the special issue were] oversights, pure and simple."

Given their past coverage of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues and HIV/AIDS, GLAAD is pleased with *Time's* rapid and sensitive response. Clearly, the 75th Anniversary issue should not be taken as an all-encompassing analysis of *Time's* coverage of these issues (the magazine is nominated for a number of GLAAD Media Awards this year). Recognizing the omission in an upcoming issue marks *Time's* willingness to admit when an error has been made.

Contact: Walter Isaacson, Managing Editor, *Time* Magazine, Time-Life Building, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, fax: 212.522.8949, e-mail: Letters@time.com

Will Josh Be Significant?

From the creators of "Party of Five" comes "Significant Others" on Fox, which on March 18 features Josh, the gay neighbor to the show's three lead characters. The twentysomething drama follows the lives of Campbell, Henry and Nell, friends living in Los Angeles trying to fulfill their dream and find themselves.

In the episode, Josh invites the three to his birthday party that he and his partner are throwing. While at the party, the trio becomes envious of Josh and his partner's relationship and happiness. "Significant Others" never really addresses Josh's sexual orientation directly, rather it is coded by his witty, slightly bitter banter and his clever reference to ladies footwear. Later at the party, his partner kisses his cheek and gives him a birthday hug.

Contact: Amy Lippman and Christopher Keyser, Executive Producers, Significant Others, c/o Columbia TriStar Television, 9050 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232, fax: 310.202.3797.

GLAAD on Long Island

"Love and Death on Long Island," a feature film based on a novel by Gilbert Adair, stars John Hurt as Giles De'Ath, a British widower who becomes obsessed with young American actor Ronnie Bostock (Jason Priestley). In what can be considered an upbeat alternative to Thomas Mann's tragic "Death in Venice," Kwietniowski skillfully weaves a respectful tale of a heterosexual-identified man who falls head over heels in love with a young teen idol.

This tale of cute obsession could easily have taken an undesirable turn toward creepiness. But the combination of an intelligent script and the director's offbeat sense of humor makes this film a thoughtful exploration of desire in its many forms, and the film challenges conventional concepts of straight and gay identities.

Contact: Mark Urman, President, U.S. Operations, Lion's Gate Releasing, 561 Broadway, Suite 12B, New York, NY 10012, fax: 212.966.2544.

Exploring the Plight of Gay Youth on Both Coasts

Both the *Orlando (Florida) Sentinel* and *Los Angeles' Buzz* magazine recently featured excellent articles looking at the challenges that lesbian, gay and bisexual high school students face.

The March 5 edition of the *Orlando Sentinel* features a commentary by local high school teacher Judy Varblow, which begins by quoting

Emily Dickinson's line, "I'm nobody, who are you?" Varblow continues, "Last month a friend of mine, Mike McKee (a teacher), announced he was gay. He wanted to be a role model for gay students and risked losing his job."

She said people responded by saying it was his business and had nothing to do with being a teacher. "Wrong!" she retorts, "Few [lesbian and gay teenagers] feel comfortable confiding in their parents. If they are harassed at school, they have no one to tell; little support exists for them. These students live their lives in quiet desperation, lonely and isolated. This is what Mike is attempting to change. If more of us, as educators or community members, gay or straight, would take a stand, we might ease, and possibly save, the lives of these students."

The March issue of *Buzz* features a cover story entitled, "The Hot Issue: Teens Take On Homophobia." It looks at two different high school gay/straight alliances and their leaders.

Garrett O'Neal is the openly gay president of the Santa Monica High School group, and Noah Strote is the openly straight president of the one at Harvard-Westlake, an exclusive private school. The article goes far beyond statistics on gay youth suicide and gives an in-depth look at what the clubs are all about, and what life as a gay young man can mean.

"[Garrett and Noah] both hang out with straight and gay friends, and both are president of new official student led [gay-straight] clubs. Essentially rap sessions about gay harassment in and out of school, politics and life, GSA meetings attract an edgy clique of kids, the majority of whom identify as straight or bisexual, when they identify at all," author Evan Forster writes.

Forster attends meetings with the young men, giving a slice of the discussion and some of the people involved. He then follows Garrett to the mall and watches him flirt with one guy of whose sexual orientation he isn't sure. "It gets bothersome that I can't just go through the normal process of dating. Like if a straight guy likes a girl, he can go up to her and ask her on a date, and if she's not into him, it's like, 'Whatever'—and he won't get his ass kicked," Garrett is quoted as saying.

Contact: Jane Healy, Managing Editor, *Orlando Sentinel*, 633 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801-1349, fax: 407.420.5286, e-mail: oinsight@aol.com; and/or Marilyn Bethany, Editor in Chief, *Buzz* Magazine, 11845 West Olympic Blvd., #800, Los Angeles, CA 90064-5014, fax: 310.473.2876, e-mail: scottb@buzzmag.com

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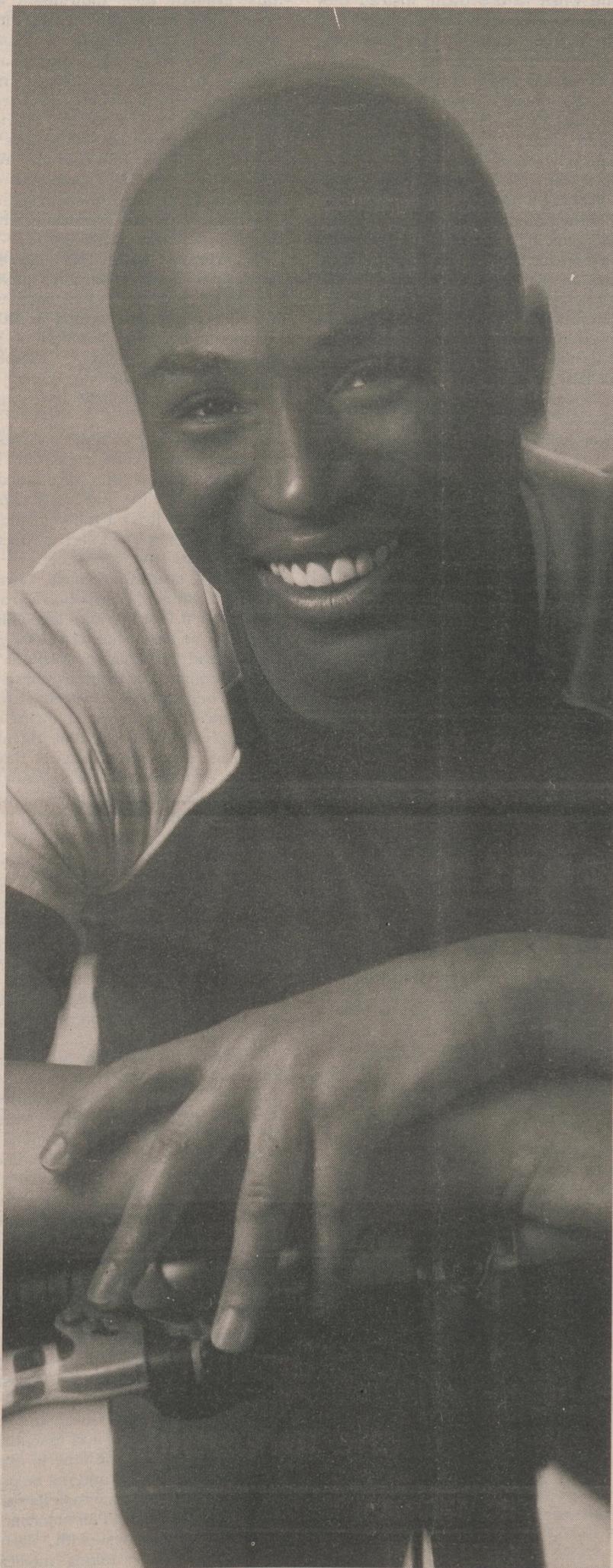
Houston's Gay Playground



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As AIDS changes doctor/patient relationships; make the most of yours

by BRUCE MIRKEN

Medical care is changing and people with AIDS are largely responsible.

In a 1991 study of long-term AIDS survivors (defined as individuals who had lived at least twice as long as the median survival period after being



diagnosed with AIDS), researchers Lew Katoff, Judith Rabkin and Robert Remien made this observation: "While AIDS patients and their physicians recognize that many factors contribute to long-term survival, they single out a strong relationship between patient and physician. Patients repeatedly mention that being treated as an equal by their physician is essential. This means that both patient and physician are jointly

involved in healthcare decisions.

"These patients take responsibility for their own health. They are, overall, superb medical consumers. They are not reluctant to change doctors when they are dissatisfied..."

This description stands in stark contrast to the traditional view of the patient's role. As described by one author in the early 1950s, a patient's obligations were, 1) to be motivated to get well, 2) to seek technically competent help, and 3) to trust the physician. Taking charge of one's care was simply not in the picture.

"I think HIV patients have broken the mold," observes San Francisco HIV specialist Dr. Jon Kaiser. "They have pushed the envelope on patient participation in care way beyond whatever existed before the epidemic."

Indeed, all one has to do is look at the current guidelines for HIV treatment issued by the National Institutes of Health to see why it is so important for people with HIV to be actively

involved in treatment decisions. These guidelines don't give physicians a cookbook-style recipe for what drugs to use and when to use them; instead they outline a complex series of choices and alternatives, explicitly acknowledging that there is no clear "best" approach for everyone and that individual needs and preferences must be taken into account. The days when a patient could simply "trust the doctor" and passively follow instructions—if those days ever truly existed—are over.

Picking a doctor

Many Americans put more time into shopping for a car than into shopping for a doctor, but with an illness as complex as HIV disease, finding the right physician is crucial. A variety of considerations, from limited insurance plans to physical distance, may limit your choice of providers, but most people have at least some options.

"Doctors are just like other professionals," writes long-term AIDS survivor Robert Rimer in his book, "HIV-

positive: Working the System." "Most are adequate, but some are very good and some are very bad," he writes. "You must evaluate them individually and determine if they fit your needs." Rimer advocates taking the time to actually interview prospective physicians, bringing in a list of questions for them to answer. You will probably be charged for an office visit, since the financial pressures on physicians these days are such that few can afford to give away half an hour of office time, but the investment will likely be worth it.

When evaluating physicians, here are some factors to consider:

Experience with HIV disease:

Regardless of the physician's area of specialty, "you want somebody who has a lot of experience caring for AIDS," comments Dr. Meg Newman of San Francisco General Hospital. "Physicians who take care of very few AIDS patients definitely have worse outcomes."

Indeed, a study of HMO patients in Washington state conducted from 1984 to 1994 showed this dramatically: Those seen by the most HIV-experienced doctors lived a full year longer, on average, than those seen by doctors with the least HIV experience.

Keeping current: Medical journals often publish new information a year or more after it first becomes available at meetings or other venues. Does your doctor read treatment newsletters like *AIDS Treatment News* that publish the newest information? Does she attend conferences? In this fast-changing field keeping current is essential. Having a group of HIV-savvy colleagues nearby for consultations also helps greatly.

Openness to, and experience with, your particular circumstances: If you are a gay man, for example, the last thing you want is a homophobic doctor. Rimer—whose personality practically defines the word "chutpah"—suggests an aggressive approach, asking potential doctors if they think that homosexuality is "treatable." You don't necessarily have to be that aggressive, but you do need to know that your doctor isn't basing decisions on prejudices or stereotypes.

Women with HIV face a particular dilemma, notes Rebecca Denison, who founded WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases) in part because of the frustrations she experienced as an HIV-infected woman. Women are often most comfortable getting care from their gynecologist, but most gynecologists have little HIV experience. Many HIV specialists, on the other hand, have little experience with HIV-related gynecological symptoms. One solution is to talk to other HIV-infected women as well as AIDS organizations which might be able to recommend physicians with experience treating HIV-positive women.

Communication: Given the complexities of HIV care, it is essential for the doctor to take the time to explain tests and treatments and not be put off if you express doubts or ask for further explanations. "Search for someone you can really be honest with," Denison advises. "Because taking medication these days is so difficult, and taking them right is so important, that you're going to be in big trouble if you can't have an honest conversation with your doctor about what you are and are not willing and able to do."

Willingness to fight on your behalf: If your HMO wants to limit office visits to 15 minutes but your problem takes half an hour to evaluate, will your doctor insist on taking the time? If your insurer doesn't want to pay for the drug that's best for you, will he fight to

CAUTION: FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION.

ZERIT® (stavudine)

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information, 10/96. For complete prescribing information, please consult official package circular.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A1455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm³ who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing >60 kg, and 30 mg BID for those weighing <60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm³ (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm³), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 88 weeks (range 11 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline. 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic.

Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

	First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	
	ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	14.1%
18 months	18.5%	23.3%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

* Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,784 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two dose levels of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program¹. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients

Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT.

Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may exacerbate peripheral neuropathy.

Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy 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 Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests

Mild to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 2500 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation).

¹ The parallel track program (STUDY A1455-900) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy "Category C." Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 115 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.17 L/m². The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.008 to 0.105 µg/mL at times ranging from 2 to 3 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 16% to 125% (mean ± SD of 59% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 94 mL/min/m². The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m². The percent of the dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 34.5% after oral administration.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).

Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Modest elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

Table 2
Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification

	%			
	Study A1455-019		Parallel Track Program	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=5905)	ZERIT (20 mg BID) (n=5879)
Peripheral Neuropathy				
Grade 1-2	11	3	20	17
Grade 3-4	2	1	4	2
Total	13	4	24	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3
Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials¹

Adverse Events	%	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	38	44
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Insomnia	29	31
Anorexia	19	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pancreatitis	*	*

* This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

¹ Includes all clinical complaints.
² Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Controlled Clinical Trials: Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities^a

Lab Tests (units)	Study A1455-019 ^b	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (<5.0 x ULN ^c)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (<5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Bilirubin (>5.0 x ULN)	2	2
Anemia (<8.0 g/dL)	5	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3
Amylase (>1.4 x ULN)	14	13

^a This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

^b Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

^c ULN = upper limit of normal.

OVERDOSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964 15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965 20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966 30	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967 40	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label. ZERIT for Oral Solution is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water (NDC No. 0003-1968-01). US Patent No.: 4,978,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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A good "fit": This involves not only attitudes towards treatment decisions, but styles of personal interaction as well. Some people are most comfortable with a warm, personal style of relating, while such an approach makes others uncomfortable. If your physician's way of dealing with you feels intimidating or makes you uneasy, it will be hard to communicate openly and honestly.

You also want a physician who is comfortable with your attitudes about treatment. If you are interested in exploring alternative and complementary therapies, for example, you need a doctor who is open-minded enough to work with you in integrating those approaches into your care. There is nothing wrong with having a disagreement with your doctor now and then, but the channels of communication need to be open enough that you can work through them and arrive at a treatment plan with which you both feel comfortable.

Shop around. Ask questions. Remember, you are literally putting your life in this person's hands.

Being an effective patient

The cliché, "knowledge is power" has never been truer than in HIV care. First, no one knows your body better than you: You live in it every day, while your doctor sees it for perhaps half an hour once a month.

That knowledge is important all by itself, but it can be better put to use if you learn about HIV disease and its treatments. Indeed, the one universal piece of advice from doctors, PWAs, and AIDS activists is, "educate yourself." This may seem scary to those with no medical background, but it needn't be. Newsletters, hotlines and AIDS organizations offer plenty of basic information geared for beginners.

Armed with that information, you can ask meaningful questions and better evaluate the choices available. And physicians—especially those with many HIV patients—are becoming increasingly comfortable with answering questions, explaining their thinking and working through disagreements. Patients' increasing willingness to question and challenge physicians and seek out their own information "is really a good thing," observes Dr. Virginia Cafaro, whose patients include a number of San Francisco's most outspoken treatment activists. "The old, paternalistic model... didn't serve the patient well."

Physicians like Cafaro are becoming accustomed to patients bringing them information about drugs, treatment strategies or clinical trials, something that "old school" physicians used to—and sometimes still do—find insulting. "I definitely depend on my patients to bring in information," Cafaro says, acknowledging that new developments come so rapidly that it is nearly impossible for one human being to keep up with them all. Every physician interviewed for this article voiced similar thoughts.

Longtime AIDS activist Matthew Sharp agrees. "It's so important to have that knowledge," he says, ticking off a list of times when he walked into his doctor's office with information the physician hadn't seen yet. "If you don't think you can do it, remember it's your survival," he says.

Sharp says he has found that physicians often know little about ways to access treatments, including "expanded access" programs for new drugs and the various government and private programs for those unable to afford approved treatments. This is one area where an empowered, aggressive patient can really make a difference.

Some practical hints

Being an aggressive, inquisitive advocate on your own behalf doesn't mean being rude or hostile. Because we usually encounter doctors in sterile, clinical

surroundings it's easy to forget that they have human feelings, but they do. Respecting those feelings will make the interaction easier. "If I was rewriting the book today, it would be much more about being nice first," Rimer says.

That doesn't mean ignoring differences. "I like a patient who will fight with me and let me fight with them," comments Dr. Mary Romeyn, author of "Nutrition and HIV: A New Model for Treatment." "I really favor being able to each have strong opinions and bring them together, and out of that have emerge a care plan which is really based on knowledge."

Doctors are under constant time pressure, so one thing they universally appreciate is a patient who makes effective use of the time available in an office visit. That may mean taking some time in advance to organize yourself, perhaps by making a list of items to discuss or questions they need answered. If those questions pertain to an article you've read or an item in a treatment newsletter, by all means bring it with you. It's also useful to keep a list of all medications you are taking—including herbal remedies, vitamins and nutritional supplements—and bring that along as well. Some prefer to bring the actual pill bottles rather than a list so there is no possibility for misunderstanding.

Again, knowledge of your illness and its treatment can help you prioritize so that the most important issues get the most time during your visit. "I hate it when almost as they're leaving they say, 'Oh, by the way, I had a fever of 110 last week. Do you think that's significant?'" one doctor observes.

Being well informed will also make it easier to work through disagreements. Rimer writes, "You must do your homework before discussing treatment decisions with your practitioner. Only then can you compare information and reasoning when the doctor recommends a treatment you feel uncomfortable about. If you have no information of your own, the discussion can grind to a halt or become adversarial. You're not making good use of your practitioner's time or your own."

Change if necessary

Sometimes the relationship just doesn't work. Maybe it's a hopeless clash of personalities and styles or maybe your doctor just doesn't know enough about HIV. There is no hard-and-fast rule about when to fire your doctor, but if your gut is telling you to switch, it's time to at least give the matter serious thought.

Again, keeping up with treatment information can help you know when to change physicians. Rebecca Denison recalls, "I met a woman at a retreat a couple months ago who was pregnant, and her doctor had her on AZT and d4T"—months after data had been released showing that the two drugs interfere with each other and an alert had gone out telling physicians that they should not be used together. Keeping up with treatment news allowed Denison to sound the alarm.

In her book Romeyn offers two pieces of advice for switching doctors: 1) If you possibly can, do it when you are feeling well, not when you are sick. 2) Find a new doctor before you say good-bye to your old one. It is natural for the physician to feel hurt or disappointed at some level when a patient decides to leave, and having to make a return visit to a doctor you've fired may be uncomfortable for both of you.

Denison offers one final piece of advice: "When you find somebody who's really good, let them know. Thank them. Tell them specifically what they've done that is helpful to you, because if you don't tell them, how do they know? They work day in and day out in this hellish war and we have to support them. Because I don't want the good ones to burn out."

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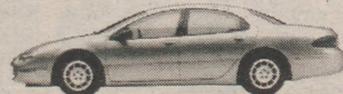
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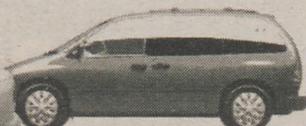
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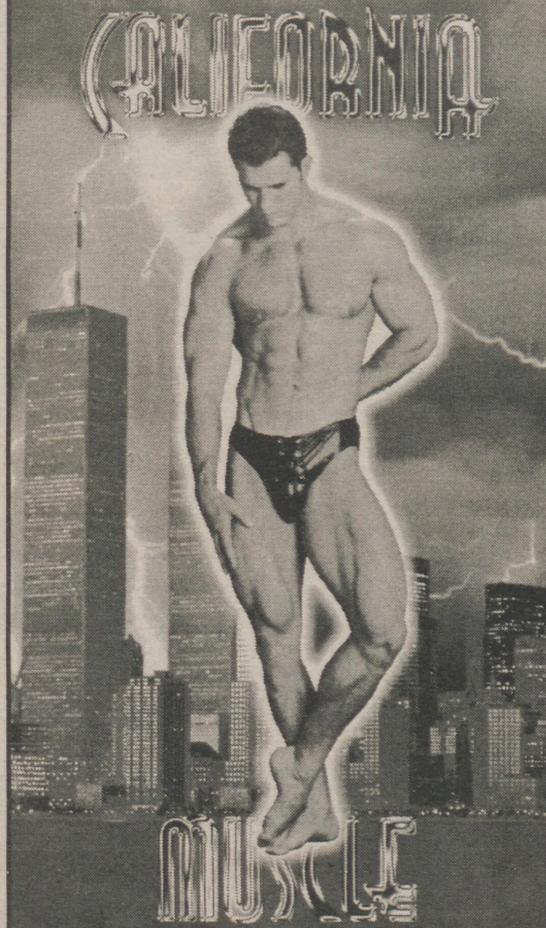


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BONO/from page 1

is such an important show, why we want to save it, all those wonderful things about the show, but out of this whole interview, what was used was only a very small portion where I hypothesized about what some of the problems may have been affecting the ratings," Bono explained in an interview.

"It's a case of me kind of letting my guard down and talking freely about what potential problems might be, and it's not even necessarily my opinion, it's just one of many theories that has been floating around the media for a long time," she said. "But as soon as I said that some material could be too gay-centered for a certain audience, [the reporter] immediately

latched on to that, and that was it for him.

"I heard the light bulb go on in his head, that 'I can get a controversy out of this, because here's the big activist saying Ellen is too gay,' but that's not what I was saying."

Bono said she also discussed other issues that might be affecting the show's ratings, including the "hoopla" surrounding ABC putting parental discretion warnings on the show and a lack of commitment to directing advertising dollars to "Ellen."

"If you look at promos for that night's line-up, it's 'On 'Dharma and Greg,' Dharma and Greg do blah, blah, blah, while 'Drew Carey' finds himself in da, da, da, and an all new 'Ellen,' and that has been pretty consistent," Bono said. "And I also think

probably 'Drew Carey' is probably not the right lead-in for 'Ellen' because it is a very different type of comedy that has a very different audience."

Bono, who visits the "Ellen" set at least once per month and has consulted on scripts, said she immediately contacted the show to explain the *Variety* story, while Garry said she has fielded questions from ABC and other gay and lesbian organizations.

"I called everybody, and they know I've been too supportive of the show to come out and condemn it," Bono said. "I think the consensus was they knew I was taken out of context, but it was really kind of a drag what happened and they felt bad for me."

"From the moment the story appeared, I faxed a letter to ABC to reiterate our position on the show,"

Garry said. "ABC has made no public comment, and leaders of other gay and lesbian organizations have contacted me and expressed their support and understanding that remarks can be taken out of context. ...

"I think people at 'Ellen' are in the tenuous position now of working like

"It's a case of me kind of letting my guard down and talking freely about what potential problems might be"

hell to try and get the show renewed, and clearly this article didn't make them happy, but they know this is neither Chastity nor GLAAD's position."

Bono said ABC will not announce the fate of "Ellen" until it releases its new programming line-up in May, but Ellen Degeneres has repeatedly stated in public that she thinks the show will be canceled, and the sitcom is reportedly being shopped to other networks.

Even if the show is canceled, "for the gay community, it's been a great validating experience ... [and instead of a defeat] I think I'll look at it as just the first one," Bono said. "It will be the first of many [shows with gay leads], and sometimes it doesn't go perfectly the first time out, but that doesn't diminish the fact that it's happened and opened the door for other shows."

JUDGE/from page 1

The judge hearing this case, Judge Mizell, is a Republican serving his first term in office. He would stand for re-election in 2000.

"Any Republican judge in Harris County...would have legitimate cause for concern," said Francisco Sanchez, Jr., an openly gay state Democratic Executive Committee member. "My concern is not with the legal merits of the executive order. At issue will be a test of politics versus policy...A political machine, Steve Hotze, opposes the policy and has great influence over our local judiciary. In the end, it will have to be like flossing his teeth with rusted barbed wire for Judge Mizell to make a concrete legal argument to suspend the order until the lawsuit is resolved."

"The question is, will Judge Mizell be able to overlook the political consequences a ruling in favor of the mayor may have given that Hotze is such an influence in the Republican Party," said Andres Pereira, an attorney representing the Texas Human Rights Foundation, a statewide legal advocate for the lesbian and gay community. "My guess is that it will take a lot of courage on his part to do so, and I look forward to seeing his opinion next week."

Fairy Tales



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by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

"On the Boulevard" is a humorous, gay comedy jam premiering in several Houston nightclubs. The half-hour program debuts with an exclusive cast of gay thespians in an entertaining format mimicking "Kids In The Hall," "Saturday Night Live," and "Mad TV."

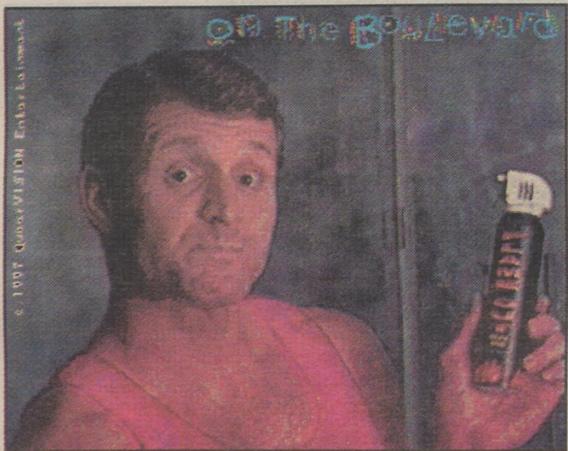
Born and raised in Massachusetts, openly gay producers Kevin Proulx and Gene Masse bumped into each other in Los Angeles and developed

national cable networks HBO and ESPN. He writes screenplays for features, focusing on independent film and video.

Masse is a professional writer and director with material featured on PBS' "In the Life," "CNN Headline News," and "NBC Nightly News." Also residing in L.A., he worked on two award-winning comedy programs, "Please Stand By" and "Tilted Vision," and currently produces feature films and television.

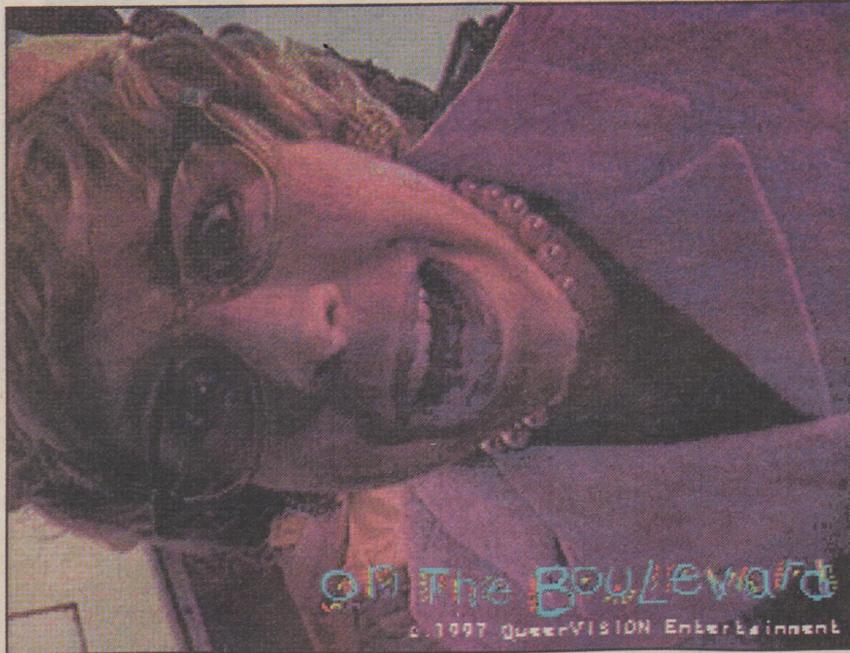
Proulx has always liked comedy and special science fiction effects. While in the military he made movies with a Super 8 camera (like "Attack of the Killer Tumble Weeds") then entered UCLA Film School for four years. After leaving in 1990, Proulx now works professionally as a film editor for Turner Broadcasting and Warner Bros.

"I wanted to do a show like 'Kids In The Hall' except completely gay," Proulx told *Houston Voice* from his offices in Los Angeles. "After putting some skit ideas together, we decided to do this thing on a \$1.98 budget. We shot for three days and edited it for several months in our spare time. We screened the



idea for QueerVISION, an all-gay and lesbian video company intent on entertaining the community primarily through gay nightclubs, resorts, and hotels.

Proulx is a seasoned award-winning producer with works featured on



show at Revolver [a West Hollywood video bar] and the enthusiastic response convinced us to market the concept nationwide."

Proulx and Masse attempted to pitch "OTB" to national cable comedy networks, but were left kicking in the dust. "We submitted it to Comedy Central and Showtime and neither would give us the time of day," says Proulx. "Until we get a national gay cable network, we knew the best route was video nightclubs. We're in about 132 bars and hope to have 200 by the end of the year."

"On The Boulevard" is distributed free to nightclubs willing to agree to two basic requirements. "All they have to do is agree they will show 'OTB' in its entirety twice a month and they must send us their screening times," says Proulx. "We think this is a good deal for them and us."

Several Houston nightclubs are hosting screenings of "On the Boulevard." Here is the current schedule at press time:

- Gentry, 2303 Richmond: Wed., Mar. 25 and Sun, Mar. 29 at 10:30pm
- Pacific Street, 710 Pacific: Fri., Mar. 20 at 8pm and Tues. Mar. 24 at 9pm
- Nighthawks, 2923 Main: Wed., Apr. 1 and Wed., Apr 15 at 4pm
- E.J.'s, 2517 Ralph Street: Wednesday evenings, time unavailable
- The Lovett Inn: special copy on reserve for guests' rooms

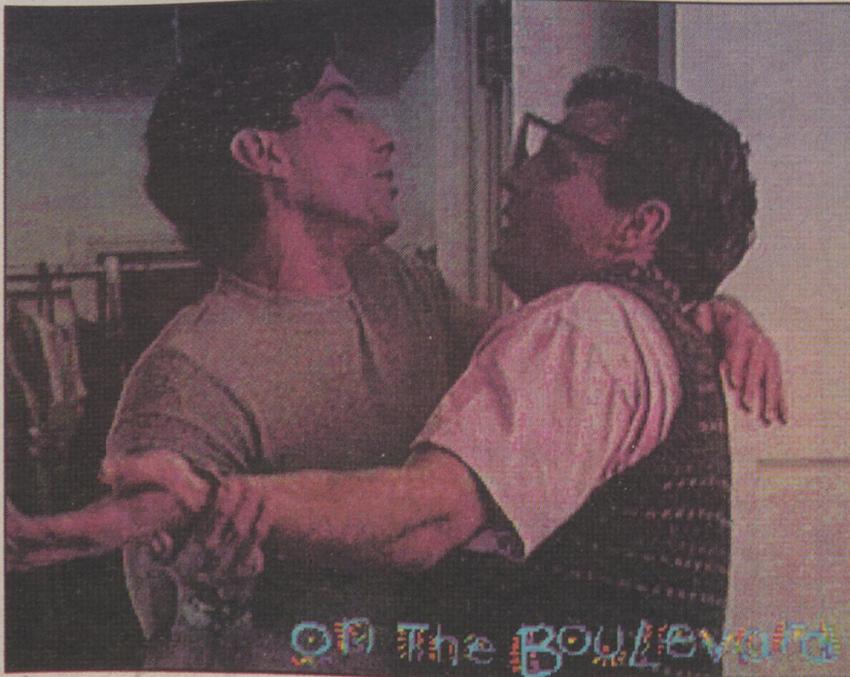
Proulx's intentions for "OTB" are perfectly clear. "We're not hoping this will crossover to the mainstream," he says. "It's not about crossing over into the hetero world. The humor we do will be directly related to the community. If no one straight ever watches, I don't care. That's not who we're making it for."

The show's cast is exclusively gay. "Right now, there's a cast of five, two from New York and three from L.A.," says Proulx. "Our troupe will be rotating and the actors will bring their own characters with them. We want them to come up with their own material as well."

Proulx says that once the show has established its identity, future episodes will become available through gay and lesbian bookstores. Nightclubs, however, remain the primary venues for current releases.

That strategy seems plausible, given the local success of the hit British comedy program "Absolutely Fabulous" which screened Mondays at JR's about 2 years ago to a hip and trendy crowd. Since "Absolutely Fabulous" remained unavailable on Warner Cable, the nightclub was the only venue available for viewing.

"On the Boulevard" maintains a very extensive website at www.onthebld.com. Detailed pages about cast, production, and programming are posted regularly as well as updated screening times in local markets.



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"Lilies": period drama beautifully captures gay love and lust

Winner of Canada's 1996 best picture Oscar, film opens today at Angelika

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Gay cinema has more times than not been sketchy at best. Films frequently skirt a pornographic edge just to attract marginal revenue while plot and casting get relegated to the murky depths.

The oh-so-predictable protagonist is usually a beautiful, muscled, hairless wonder thrust into a precarious crisis where everyone pulls together to save the flawless, "tortured" Adonis

and restore his much-deserved happiness.

So, like a flock of sheep to the slaughter, gay movie buffs waddle their way through senseless scenarios just to get a taste of cinema they can call their own—but with a reserved admittance that the sexy subliminals aren't really all that.

Not so with "Lilies," a film adapted from playwright Michel Marc's "Les

Fleurettes" by openly gay Canadian director John Greyson. The gay love story garnered four Genie Awards (the Canadian Oscars) including Best Motion Picture in 1996, Best Narrative Feature at the 1997 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, and the Grand Jury Prize for Best Narrative Feature 1997 at the 15th Annual Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Opening today at the Angelika Film Center, "Lilies" explores the tattered love story of two 18-year-old boys, Simon (Jason Cadieux) and Vallier (Danny Gilmore), who become romantically intertwined in 1912 while rehearsing theater scenes between Caesar and St. Sebastian in the sanctuary of a Canadian Catholic Church. Bilodeau (Matthew Ferguson), a potential seminary candidate, becomes furiously jealous of the passionate affair and calls down hellfire and brimstone on the paramours whilst lusting himself after the sumptuous Simon.

Thus, the explosive love triangle focuses on the dedicated persistence of Vallier who remains deeply in love with Simon despite his attempts to "change" by engaging Lydie-Anne (Alexander Chapman), a high-class, controlling, black French balloonist overcome by Simon's beauty. All the while, Bilodeau remains entranced by obsessive thoughts of Simon thinly masked by his hypocritical self-right-

eousness. Bilodeau's obsession turns tragic for Simon and Vallier, but revealing more detail would spoil the astonishing conclusion.



From the prologue, those catastrophic events are recreated by prisoners 40 years later for Bilodeau—now a Catholic Bishop (Marcel Sabourin)—who is tricked by the prison's chaplain (Ian D. Clark) into taking the confession of a dying man who turns out to be a much older Simon (Aubert Pallascio). The bishop is forced to watch the love story reenacted by prisoners while locked in the confessional next to Simon who seeks revenge and closure for terrible events the young Bilodeau engendered.

That twisted recounting, ala "This is Your Life," is haunted by monk chants interlaced with beautiful, homoerotic images expertly crafted under director Grey's guidance. Licensing traditional Greek and

See LILIES page 29

TURBULENT ARTS PRESENTS

Lilies

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EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT NOW SHOWING!

Japanese hero director misses American mark with "Fireworks"

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

After completing seven films, Japanese funnyman/director "Beat" Takeshi Kitano was asked the question, "What is film to you?" The not-so-funny matter-of-fact answer seems a predictable cop-out for Japanese antagonists who make America-bashing a national pastime: "I thought at first that film was the puss created when Japan became infected by the disease called Westernization [or to put it to a finer point, Americanization]."

Warmed over puss might be the best way to describe Kitano's latest celluloid venture "Fireworks (Hana-Bi)," a film in desperate need of some dreaded Americanization. Paralleling a professional disposition centered somewhere between Spike Lee and Robert Duvall, Kitano stars and directs and edits and manages to have time to write the screenplay. Perhaps that uni-directional approach ensures Beat gets his way, but splitting power has always worked best on this side of the Pacific. Division has always been a cauldron of creativity—but "Fireworks" fizzles with its monolithic tutelage.

What we have at hand here is a film which could best be described as a biopic filled with splendid images and not much else. Kitano stars as Yoshitaka Nishi, a cop with more and less personality than Jekyll or Hyde. Battling incompetent thugs attempting to collect a delinquent loan payment he owes to the Asian mob *yakuza*, Nishi kills, manes and dismembers his petitioners like a patient rattlesnake coiled for an attacked. Without uttering a word or sporting



anything as potentially lethal as a facial gesture, Nishi's bullets and fists fly with hardly a hint of resistance or consciousness.

But the Asian burlesque in "Fireworks" lacks energy and definition. "Fireworks" might be considered Japanese noir, but it's not at all clear why almost every male-to-male encounter—besides those with the *yakuza*—spirals into needless slapstick violence.

On the other hand, "Fireworks" incorporates some of the most beautiful artwork I have ever seen. The Venetian International Film Festival rewarded "Fireworks" with its Golden Lion award and dubbed Kitano's obsession with the primary color blue "Kitano blue." Moreover, the cinematography and scenery are tremendously beautiful.

It doesn't seem fair to judge a Japanese movie by Western standards. We don't have the benefit of knowing first hand "Beat" Takeshi's revered relevance in Japanese culture

See FIREWORKS page 29

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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 Quinaglute[®], 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 antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium[®] A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include 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	1¼	-
	10.5	to <12	23	to <26.5	6	1½	-
	12	to <14	26.5	to <31	7	1¾	-
	14	to <16	31	to <35	8	2	-
	16	to <18	35	to <39.5	9	2¼	-
	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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Issued 11/13/97

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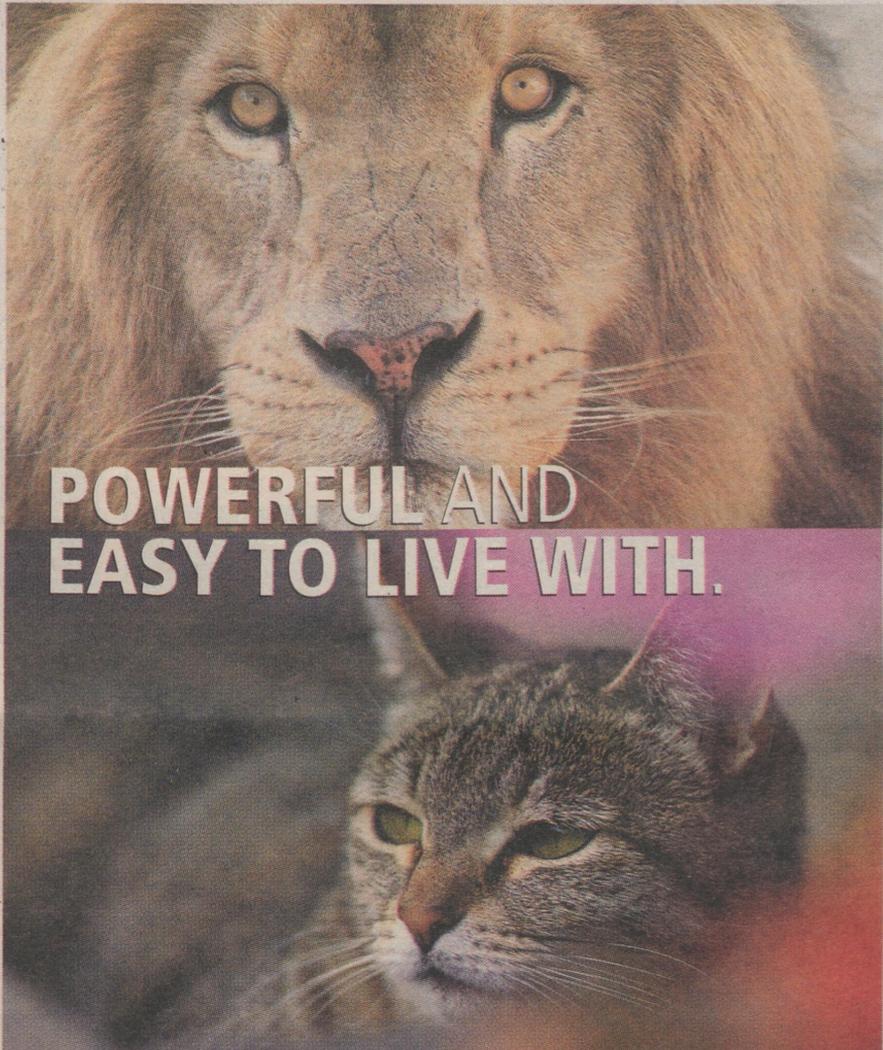
GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in clinical trials.

WHAT YOUR PROTEASE INHIBITOR CAN BE:

VIRACEPT WORKS It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live 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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Friday-March 20

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

Saturday-March 21

• Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.
• The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday-March 22

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

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

Monday-March 23

• Low impact aerobics done to Christian Music for body, soul, and spirit at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
• Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm at the Kolbe Project. 861-1800

Tuesday-March 24

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

Wednesday-March 25

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

Thursday-March 26

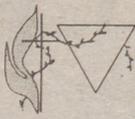
• Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847.
• Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
• Choir Practice at 6:30 pm. Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
• The Church of Good Life on the Internet; 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

If you want an event listed in this section, please call Carolyn Roberts at 529-8490 by 12 Noon Mondays.

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Bible Study: "The Book of James" Wednesdays 7:30 pm

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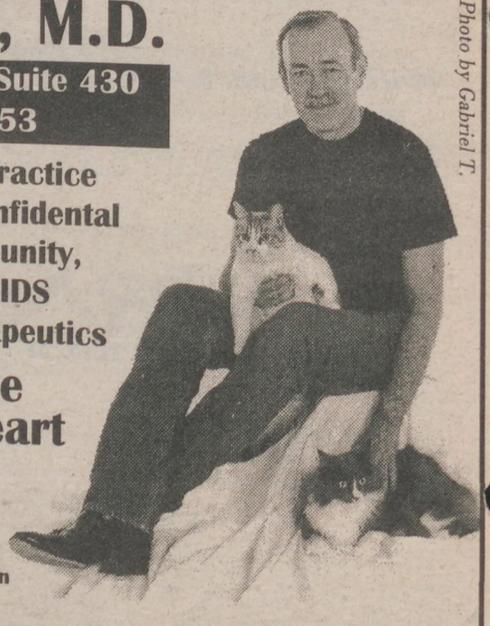


Photo by Gabriel T.

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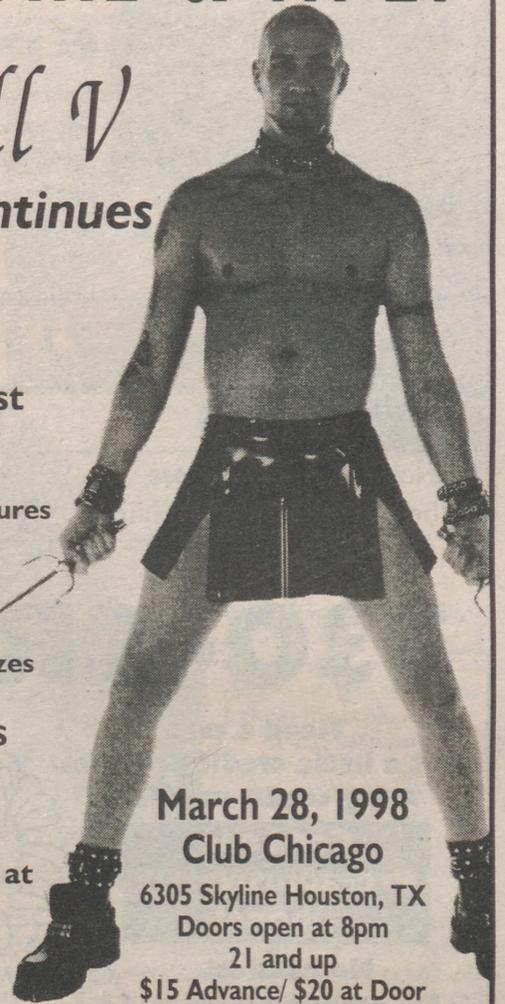
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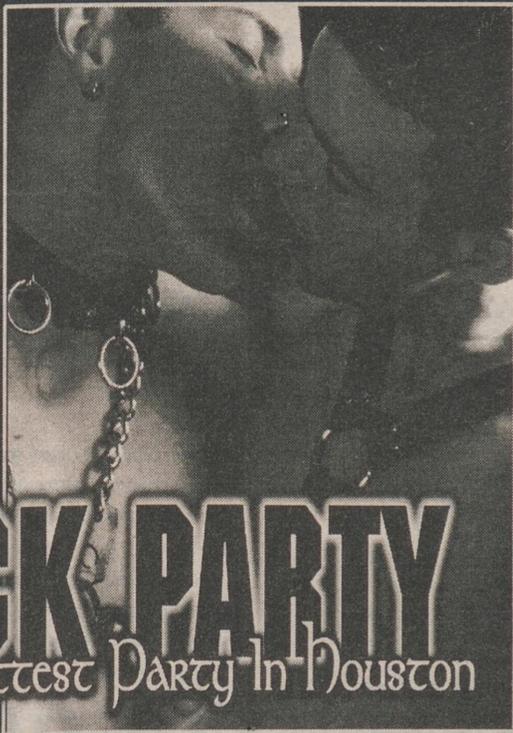
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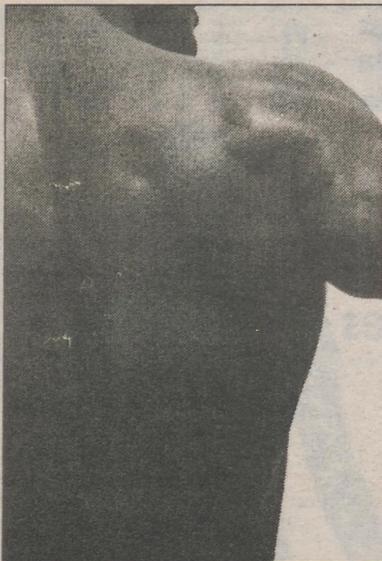
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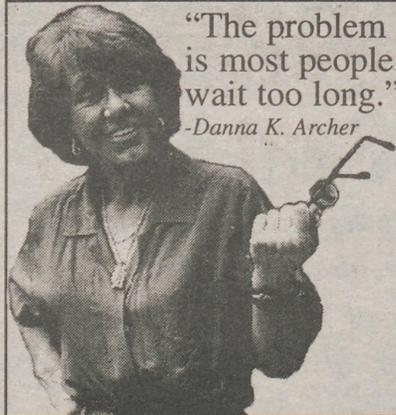
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"Audrey: Her Real Story"

by Alexander Walker
St. Martin's Griffin
\$15.95, 316 pages.

by ELLA TYLER

Audrey Hepburn received one Oscar in her life, in 1954 for her first major film, "Roman Holiday."

"My Fair Lady," the film for which she is most remembered (depending on your age and lust for hats), received 12 nominations, but none were for Audrey. She had, however, been paid \$1 million for the role, an incredible amount in 1964.

Andrew Walker, author of "Audrey: Her Real Story," explains that the omission was a predictably bitchy Hollywood reaction to Hepburn winning the plum film role over sentimental favorite Julie Andrews, who had played Eliza on Broadway.

This very readable book is full of such interesting details about Hepburn's career, which ran from the end of World War II to the start of the '90s. Walker, film critic for the *London Evening Standard* since 1960 and twice the British Press Awards' Critic of the Year, is a knowledgeable source.

Hepburn's serene air was tested at the 1965 Academy Awards when she was asked to fill in for Patricia Neal, who had suffered a stroke, and present the Best Actor Award. Rex Harrison, her "My Fair Lady" co-star, won, and in a moment of generosity suggested that award be split between them. Then, in a moment of gallantry that contributed to the awkwardness of the evening, Harrison turned to Julie Andrews, winner of the Best Actress Award (for Mary Poppins), and thanked "... er, both of you."

Hepburn's only breach of compo-

sure that evening was forgetting to say anything about Neal. Although, when Neal could talk, she said she bore no resentment. The unpleasant publicity over the incident, fueled by Roald Dahl's indignation at the slight to his wife, made Audrey even more determined to build a wall around herself.

Hepburn had, from her first days in film, been determined to keep her private life to herself. She spoke little about her family and childhood, although this, Walker suggests, may have been to protect her reputation.

Hepburn's British father left her mother when Audrey was six, and (unknown to Audrey for years) spent WWII jailed in England because of his Nazi ties. Audrey's mother had written some articles for a fascist newspaper in the '30s, but lost her attraction to fascism when she and Audrey returned home to the Netherlands. Although the Baroness thought they would be safer there than England, they were not. The Netherlands were soon occupied by the Nazis.

Audrey's devoted service to Unicef from 1987 to her death in 93 was in gratitude for help she had received at the end of WWII, when she was malnourished and very ill.

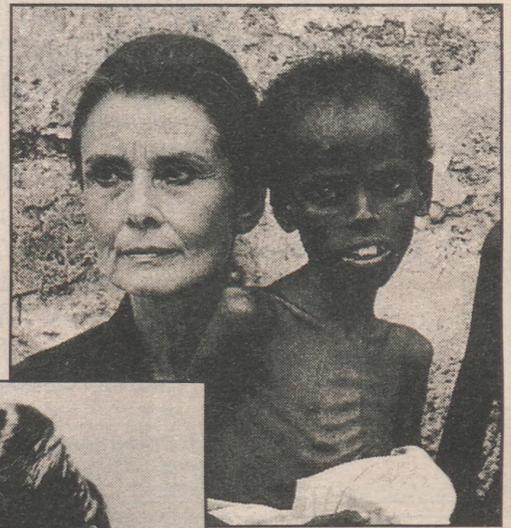
Hepburn's reserve and control, coupled with her youthful appearance and ballet-dancer's grace, allowed her to play roles that would have ruined the reputations of less innocent-appearing actresses.

"Sabrina" (1954), Walker points out, could not have afforded the Givenchy wardrobe she brought back

from Paris from her finishing-school fees. Was she perhaps a 'kept woman'? Only Hepburn, Walker claims, could have managed to play a prostitute in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and an alleged lesbian in "The Loudest Whisper" (a 1962 film version of Hellman's play "The Children's Hour") and retain a pure image.

"Audrey" is a thorough biography, but manages not to tell us more than we want to know. Walker had met and talked with Hepburn at intervals over 35 years and he is clearly a fan. However, he is not uncritical, and appears to be a meticulous researcher. The book includes more than 60 pictures of Hepburn.

Each of Hepburn's films, including the earliest one in which she plays a cigarette girl and has only one line, are discussed. The detail includes information about the actors and directors, the finances, (Hepburn was the best paid actresses of her time) and the critical reaction and box office success.



Hepburn's career, Walker believes, was limited by her refusal to be separated from Mel Ferrer for the 15 years they were married, and her willingness to help his projects.

When Hepburn died, Roger Moore, a fellow Unicef ambassador said, "She was that rare thing in Hollywood, a star who genuinely cared for others before herself."

He was not, as this book makes clear, speaking just of her work for Unicef. The Academy gave her the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in 1993 in recognition of her Unicef work, but Audrey did not live 'til the Oscar ceremonies. She died Jan. 20, 1993, at age 64. Her grave, in Tolochenaz, Switzerland, is continually covered by flowers brought by visitors from around the world.



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Dyan Michaels

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WED 3/25

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THUR 3/26

Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos

LILIES/from page 20

Elizabethan theater methods, Grey casts men in the female roles. Fortunately, the reinvigorated technique lends a blessed effectiveness to the plot without creating an unnecessary distraction to the narrative.

I especially admire the fine acting sensibilities of Alexander Chapman, whose pivotal role as the tempting fiancé Lydie-Anne is intense, energetic and simply flawless. Besides being able to handle a bitchy wardrobe, Chapman weaves a web which almost eclipses the principle co-protagonists. You have to suspect something spectacular and unnatural is in the works once Lydie-Anne arrives in her bright, silent balloon. Only a true diva could pull this role

off—and Chapman does convincingly.

Likewise, Tony Award-winning actor Brent Carver portrays Countess de Tilly, Vallier's mother. Carver enraptured Broadway with his magnificent performance as the prisoner Monlina in "Kiss of the Spider Woman." He reflected on the maternal instincts of his grandmother to make the Countess believable and relative—and he succeeds. The Countess, in fact, has her own tragedy to deal with—the rejection of a lover lodging in London with a younger mistress—and Vallier is thrust to the centrifuge of resolving that complexity.

"Lilies" embodies a full range of complexities—from comic to tragic; from homoerotic to irresistibly sensual. Cadieux and Gilmore are gorgeous—and competent. Any momen-

tary lapses are forgivable given their youth and limited experience. But the love affair they embody is stimulating and believable. I highly recommend this film for its affirming message about homosexual love.

HOUSTON VOICE RATING: ★★★★★^{1/2}

Rated: Not rated

Run Time: 97 minutes

Genre: Drama

Director: John Greyson

Screenplay: Michel Marc Bouchard

Cast: Jason Cadieux, Danny Gilmore, Brent Carver, Marcel Sabourin, Aubert Pallascio, Matthew Ferguson, Alexander Chapman, Remy Girard

Theaters: Opens today at the Angelika Film Center

FIREWORKS/from page 20

or his immense popularity as a "tragicomic" actor. This film, like many independent art films, is personal and autobiographical in content. And for that reason, I would suggest seeing "Fireworks" for a change in culture and style.

HOUSTON VOICE RATING: ★★★

Rated: R

Run Time: 103 minutes

Genre: Noir

Director and Screenplay: Takeshi Kitano

Cast: Takeshi Kitano, Kayoko Kishimoto, Ren Osugi, Susumu Terajima

Theaters: opens today at Landmark Riveroaks 3

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The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Houston will be conducting training for new phone staff volunteers on the following dates: April 3-5, July 10-12, Oct 2-4 of 1998. To volunteer or for more info please call: 713.529.3211 or leave a message at 713.529.9615.

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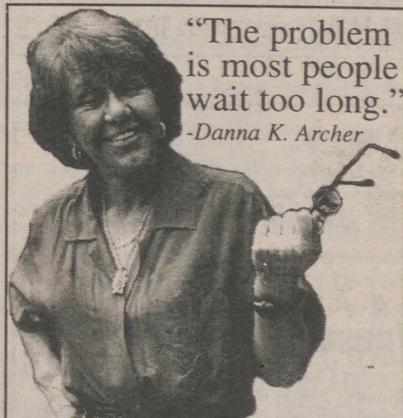
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Friday, March 20

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at E/J's 6-10 pm and at the Midtowne Spa 10 pm to 1 am.
- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713/864-8468
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Free Yoga classes at 6 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Recovery and Beyond-relationship group meets at 8 pm. 713-333-9092.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- Houston Chain Gang Cycling Club meets for dinner. 768-8793.
- SNAP (Spay and Neuter Assistance Program). 713/522-2337.
- Lesbians in Business meets at 7:30 pm. 713-526-5200.

Saturday, March 21

- 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.
- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.

Sunday, March 22

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 am. 713-864-8468.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.

Monday, March 23

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic: Mary's 9 am to 1 pm; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am 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.
- Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30 pm. 713-681-1309.
- "Understanding the New Insurance Laws" free seminar at 6 pm. 713-961-7100.
- Log Cabin Repunlicians meet at 6 pm. 713-529-9100.
- Gay and Lesbian Readers meet Barnes and Noble. 713-349-0050.

Tuesday, March 24

- Project Caesar workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 7pm. 495-8009.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck.

861-9149.

- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Career Recovery/Resources Center 4 to 8 pm and Club Body Center 8pm to Midnight.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Project Caesar at AFH. 713-623-6796.
- HIV + Support group for men over 50 meets at 7:30 pm. 713/527-9106.
- HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer at 7 pm. 713/527-8219.
- Love, Lust, and Intimacy discussion group meets at 7 pm. 713/524-2374.
- AIDS Equity League meets at noon. 713-910-2900.
- HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer at the Center for AIDS. 713-527-8219.
- Chasr Bank of Texas PRIDE Team meets at 6 pm. 713-655-5423.

Wednesday, March 25

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic: Mary's 4-8pm; Chances 6 to 10 pm, Nighthawks/Venture-N 8 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 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 Action Coalition meets at Toopees at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey team recruits at 6:30 pm. 713-802-1248.
- Free Yoga classes at 7 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Rainbow Rangers at 8 pm at the BRB.
- Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. "Shirtless Skate" 281-933-5818.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 623-6796.
- Chain Gang Social at 7 pm. 713/768-8793.
- Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents meet for mail-out at 7 pm. 713-284-4939.
- Gay night at the Alley Theatre 713-228-9341. X 350.

Thursday, March 26

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- FrontRunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.

Galaxy Gayzer

by JOSEPH MOLINA

March 20 - March 26, 1998



Pisces (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Under this cycle, Pisces, you need to be careful in how you blow things out of proportion. You have an usually easy vibration this week and are liable to take chances you normally wouldn't. You could give into your animal instincts, some decadent craving or have a real challenge getting to the gym.



Aries (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Happy birthday Aries, its time to take advantage of the universal forces present. Moving forward means being assertive and speaking the truth. Be certain. Your words will be crisp and sharp; no beating around the bush this week. Truth never had a better salesman than the cynic in you. Pay attention, you'll be cracking faces left and right. But keep in mind that you're standing in front of a mirror and if your not careful, one of those faces is bound to be yours.



Taurus (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

This week, Taurus, you are coming out of your wasteland and grabbing hold of your distractions. The fog is clearing and there is a means to an end. Where there is deception you will find light; where there is confusion, sanity will set in. Power comes to you by learning to discern the truth. Truth in actions, words and deeds.



Gemini (MAY 21 - JUNE 21)

This week you will experience an inner urge motivating an awakening or some form of realization. It is a good week to look for a job, write some thought—provoking letters, or reconcile an almost lost relationship. You could decide to quit smoking, cut back on red meats, or get in touch with Divinity.



Cancer (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

This week you may find a need to let down your hair, splurge on some new cloths or partake of the sacred wine. Life's little challenges will occur, forcing you to actively do some serious organization of your life. But prepare, as this might not be easy. Lock your doors, secure all of your windows and turn off the phone. Residing forces suggest a need to just not deal.



Leo (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Sensitive are we? This week you may notice everything getting on your nerves. What happened to cheery Leo? Not getting enough sleep? Or maybe it's your die? If there is one thing you can bet on, you won't feel like yourself this week. With your head at home resting on a pillow, it will seem like you spend this entire week in a daze.



Virgo (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

All work and no play leads to spurts of insanity. Many days of being good, achieving goals and setting things in motion require a few days off. Let your hair down, rent a few good movies or have a night on the town. Don't think about business, stressful health issues or complicated friendships. Be selfish, love yourself and let the rest of the world deal.



Libra (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

This week pay particular attention to the relationships that you form. Influential relationships will manifest to assist you in your growth process. These situations could occur as conflict or tension, experiences designed to encourage maturity and adulthood. Ultimately you will have to conform, you can go kicking and screaming or you can love yourself and roll with the punches.



Scorpio (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

This week you are given the opportunity to remove chains and bondage. Let go of timidity and the inability to make decisions. Now is the time to set free ties that limit you while taking charge of your life. Accept aid in all forms: a higher power, a best friend or a therapist. Freedom comes from giving into the simple joy of doing and accomplishing.



Sagittarius (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

You are in a complementary cycle to your overall well-being. The wheels of fate are drawing your life in an uphill swing. This week should be experienced as light and easy. Get out into the world and make things happen. Take advantage of this cycle and push yourself a little closer toward success.



Capricorn (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

On top of the world, with both feet firmly planted on the ground, the foundation beneath you will experience a state of equilibrium. You are in a high state of opportunities that will present many options. Options that must be weighed on the scales of success. What will manifest will occur in accordance to the types of attitudes that surround you. You are encouraged to confront legal matters, reconcile relationships or look toward constructive career avenues.



Aquarius (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Success in life comes through effort and hard work. Joy comes through work that you love. Loving the work that you do and striving for achievement, means creating proper lifestyle habits that feel good to you. Loving yourself isn't just hours in the mirror, it's sticking to your habits and focusing on goals.

Joseph Molina, a student of the psychic sciences for over 15 years can be reached at 713-524-4411 for private appointments or e-mailed at joemo@swbell.net. Look for my upcoming website at www.AstralWind.com and watch for me on MontroseTV at the beginning of the month.

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Women SEEKING Women

SF 25, full figured. I'm an androgynous, sensitive, dreamer. I'm a lesbian & a non-smoker.



I enjoy books, movies, museums, long conversations & romance. I like walking

while holding hands. I collect nostalgic stuff. I'm in search of a beautiful lesbian with similar interests who is between the ages of 21-35. Maybe we will meet and it will be forever. Race is unimportant. Call Ext. 5711

GWF 42, non-smoker. I'm sensitive, thoughtful & considerate. I like dining out, traveling, movies, learning how to dance Country Western. You should have similar interests, be fun-loving, spontaneous, enjoy trying new adventures & have a good sense of humor. Call Ext. 5654

SBF 43, attractive, full figured, curious. Seeking gay or soft butch for discreet friendship. Must be professional, financially stable with a gentle report. Must enjoy movies and quiet evenings at home. Call Ext. 5706

SF Black hair, hazel eyes., 5'1", 36, a little overweight. I like to go out, socialize, go to parties, camping, motorcycles, the beach and going out to quiet dinners. I'm looking for someone who is interested in the same thing for friendship or possible relationship. I am a Pisces and cute. Call Ext. 5546

SBF Attractive. Seeking someone to spend time with. This is my first time that I have gone within this area. If you are interested in meeting me, then please give me a call. Call Ext. 5682

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GHF Medium build, attractive, short black hair. I work & live alone. Looking for somebody for a possible relationship. Friendship at first. Someone to talk to, listen to music with, going out & to the beaches. Call Ext. 5666

SWF Attractive, professional. Seeking someone 38-45, to explore a discreet relationship. Must be feminine. Call Ext. 5672

Men SEEKING Men

GBM HIV+, 150 lbs., healthy. I enjoy walks on the beach, watching basketball & listening to soft music. I would like to meet other Black guys for friendship and some fun. Call Ext. 5692

We are a gay, White male couple, we are 57 & 44 years of age & we have a long term relationship. We are looking for similar couples for companionship. We like movies, dining out, New Orleans, cooking & lot's more. Call Ext. 5680

SHM 5'9", 27, 225 lbs., medium brown hair, goatee. Looking for a companion & someone to hang out with. I'm very fun to be with & good natured. I'm a big guy. I like to go out. I'm pretty grounded & laid back. I would like to meet quality people & I prefer Hispanics who are 25-35 or a little older. Call Ext. 5710

SM I would like to get in touch with guys preferably with blonde hair, blue eyes, or dark hair, blue eyes, any race is welcome. Call Ext. 5684

GWM 5'9", 153 lbs., 38, light brown hair, brown eyes. I like all types of music & movies. I go to the bar on occasions. I'm interested in a gay White or Hispanic male ages 35-45, who likes movies & a hairy chest is a plus. I don't want any man who is feminine acting or cross dresser. Must be sensitive, caring & relationship minded. Must be HIV- because I am. I'm a simple guy & like to go out on dates. Call Ext. 5708

SM I'm a top Greek man. I am a non-smoker, no drugs, HIV-. I'm 5'10", 175 lbs. Seeking a submissive bottom for dating and maybe more. Any age, any race. You must be a non-smoker, no drugs, HIV-, 5'10" or shorter preferred, no mustache. Call Ext. 5685

SM Bisexual, 5'11", 190 lbs. Looking for a masculine, good looking cowboy around ages 22-25, to help me with my business & party with on my nights off. I'm married, but I'm not to my family. You must be honest, faithful, monogamous & HIV-. Possible relationship full time later, but would like to date first. Call Ext. 5707

SM 37, 129 lbs., 5'6", slender. I love sex, but who doesn't. I'm also into music, movies, computers & especially hot, hairy hunks, booze & partying. Let me show you what I'm educated in. Call Ext. 5698

GHM 29, 5'8", 175 lbs., sexy brown eyes, sensuous luscious lips, very attractive. I like to do a variety of things such as movies, walks in the park, romantic dinners, quiet times at home & dancing. Seeking a gay, Hispanic or White male ages 25-35, who is masculine, very attractive, romantic at heart, sincere, honest and fun to be with for friendship and possibly more. Call Ext. 5705

SAM 37. Looking for a person who is searching for a monogamous relationship. You should be top, dominate & financially stable. Age is unlimited. Call Ext. 5701

GWM 48, professional, 6'2", 180 lbs., nudist, good shape, healthy. Attention exhibitionists & voyeurs. I'm an exhibitionist & voyeur myself. I will be in Houston attending a convention. In search of other gay White males, exhibitionists, nudists & or voyeurs for hot, safe encounters. I'm uninhibited, versatile & have lots to exhibit. I have a large collection of erotic toys. You watch or join in - I do the same. You be a gay White male, height/weight proportionate, healthy, under 50 & enjoy having a good time. Serious calls only. Call Ext. 56599

SWM 45, 6'1", 150 lbs. I drink & smoke. My 26 year old White female friend wants to see more than I can just kiss & tell. If you are interested in a little bit of adventure, give us a call. Call Ext. 5355

SWM Tall, slim, 46, brown hair, blue eyes. In search of bi or gay dominate cross dressing men. Call Ext. 5647

GHM 35, 150 lbs., dark eyes, dark hair. I have a 29 inch waist. I love working out. Looking for someone 25-40, who is a non-smoker, likes to go out to dinner & the movies. Call Ext. 5686

SWM Bi, nice looking, trim, tan. I'm interested in meeting men & even women who love lingerie, frilly things, cross dressing and great indoor fun. I'm looking for you. Call Ext. 5697

GWM 47, sandy blonde hair, 6', 205 lbs., hairy, non-smoker. Looking for that special, gay White male 35-50, who is a non-smoker, caring, sincere & likes garage sales, junking, auctions & having friends over for cookouts or just to visit. Someone who likes going to the show or the beach. I'm not into the bar scenes. Call Ext. 5695

SM 55, HIV+, healthy, brown eyes, gray hair, 5'4", 165 lbs. I work out to improve my body. I'm a non-smoker and a non-drinker. Looking for a top, who is well endowed. Call Ext. 5688

SWM 39, 6'1", 170 lbs., HIV-, mustache, hairy body. I live in the country. I enjoy the simple things in life. I'm honest, trustworthy, considerate, understanding, loving & hardworking. I enjoy country dancing & can lead or follow. I drink only in moderation. Looking for a mature, masculine, romantic bottom with the same characteristics I have. Call Ext. 5677

SWM 45, bi. In search of dominate & versatile cross dressers, transvestite or transsexuals. I'm not into pain. I'm willing to serve you in any intimate way. Call Ext. 5528

SM 18, 5'8", 165 lbs. Looking for a biracial person, mostly Black mixed with White or Black mixed with Hispanic or Black mixed with Asian. They have to be masculine & versatile. I'm a very easy going person & fun loving. Looking for the same. Call Ext. 5691

SM 6'1", 33, Anglo, big guy, 275 lbs., medium brown wavy hair, blue eyes, mustache, goatee, pretty smiles. Most people tell me that I'm pleasant to be around & that I'm cute. I'm masculine, down to earth, grounded & laid back. I would like to meet quality people in the Houston area. I prefer Hispanic or White 25-35. Call Ext. 5690

SWM Bi, tall & slender. In search of a passive, feminine, White males 30-45, who are into cross-dressing, role playing & pleasing both men or women. Call Ext. 5366

SM 36, Latin/European, 6', 195 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, very attractive. I would like to meet someone for dating, friendship & possibly more. Someone to go out & have a good time with. I like anything that has to do with water, road trips, good bottles of wine & fine dining. Looking for someone single, height/weight proportionate & well hung. Call Ext. 5689

SWM 37, 170 lbs., height/weight proportionate, moderately hairy, clean shaven. I'm interested in meeting other hairy, White males late 30's-50, from the woodlands are please. You must be height/weight proportionate as well. I'm easy going with average looks. I don't smoke, but if you do that is OK. Call Ext. 5687

GWM 5'11", 150 lbs., grey hair, 50, HIV+, very healthy. Looking for a long term relationship with someone over 40. I'm sensitive, thoughtful & considerate. I enjoy the beach, movies, traveling, entertaining friends at home & quiet evenings at home. Call Ext. 5681

GBM 35, 6'1", 240 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm a competitive body builder. I'm looking for very muscular men, gym rats or athletes, who are interested in extra-curricular activities. I do have a partner & I'm looking to hook up with guys for fun. You have to be very muscular, body builder or a major gym rat. I'm only interested in guys like that. Call Ext. 5679

SWM 40, masculine, 5'10", 185 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, nice looking. I'm seeking a girl between the ages of 21-45, who is really a guy & healthy like myself. I want someone to share both nights out on the town & quiet times at home together. You should be a pre-op transsexual or a feminine looking transvestite or cross dresser. A transgender guy that looks like a girl. Call Ext. 5675

SHM 35, 5'7", 150 lbs. Looking for another Hispanic or White male who is around the ages of 23-33, who is a top for friendship & dating. Someone masculine & straight acting. I have a lot of interests that I want to share with the right person. Call Ext. 5674

SHM 23, 5'10", 200 lbs., dark brown eyes, black hair, mustache, goatee, earrings, sideburns, hairy bottom. In search of tops, for friendship, dating, sex & possibly more. Age, race, looks are unimportant. Cowboy types & body hair are a plus. I've never had any complaints. Call Ext. 5673

SPRING The time to call is now!

GWM Mid-40's, 5'9", 145 lbs., blue eyes, light brown hair, smooth skin, mustache, HIV+. I'm very good looking & athletic. I like fishing, mechanics, outdoors & manly work. I'm honest & lonely. Looking for someone 35-55, who has manly type actions, honest maybe for lifetime. No queens, hairy or overweight people. Call Ext. 5664

HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM - Dear Reader: Enjoy reading the ads in the category of your choice, highlighting the ones you'd like to respond to. Then call 1-900-772-3085 (\$1.69/min. *) and follow the instructions. Ads are kept 8 weeks, replies kept 7 days and then erased. If you need help using the system, call Customer Service at 1-360-636-9267 (Longview, WA). What you see here is only a small portion of the ads currently on our Voice Personals system, so you might wish to call and browse through the newest ads. To record your own FREE voice personal, call 1-800-461-5930. You'll automatically be assigned a voice box number. Remember, we screen our ads daily, but we are not responsible for the advertisers. We urge you to screen people yourself. Talk by phone, and meet first in a public place. Publisher reserves the right to review, revise or refuse any ads. Must be 18 or older to use this system. Touchtone phone required. *Average length of call is 3 minutes, total cost determined by caller. Have fun and good luck! (Houston Voice, Houston, TX)

Friday, March 20

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Buffet at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well; \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Blues Broad Susan Masar sings at 9 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner buffet and drag show until 9 pm.No cover until midnight. BYOB
- Cousin's: Super Friday Night Drag show with fabulous performers at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm; \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Lazy J: Pool tournament
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. \$2.25 well \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis \$& \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Stoli and Skyy. Hard Body Male Dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am. \$ 1 well Vodka Juice Drinks.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, and wine until 7pm \$2.50 Cuervo!
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: "Fuel" 19 and up. DJ Chris Sill and Fusion.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo. 9:00
- Viviana's Nite Club: GRAND OPENING! Doors open at 2 pm. Free buffett and beer bust special tonight! Drag Show at Midnight.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Saturday, March 21

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 9pm. Joanne in the afternoons!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 domestic longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner buffet and drag show until 9 pm. "Rocky Horror Picture Show" at 10:00 pm with costume contest following. BYOB.
- Cousin's: Super Saturday night Drag show with top Houston talent at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm.Super Show at 11pm.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 6 pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, and wine until 7 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo. Night in Black Leather!
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am. Happy

- House 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and domestic longnecks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am.; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$ 1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm. See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard., D.J. J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting, 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Sunday, March 22

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Beer Bust 4 to 8 pm.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 6 pm Dinner buffet 7 pm. BYOB.
- Cousin's: Sinful Sunday Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm. \$2.75 Shiner Bock; SRO Karaoke at 6pm; Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm. 50¢ draft on the patio starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks; \$1.75 well drinks,\$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Nighthawks:\$2 well, beer, & wine. noon to 7 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm;
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps.No cover 7-9 pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; Happy hours noon to 8 pm \$1.75 well drinks and domestic longnecks.; \$1.75 Bloody Mary all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Trash Disco T-Dance. Doors open at 7 pm. DJ Chris Sill. Super cheap drinks!
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo;
- Viviana's: Doors open at noon. Drag show at Midnight.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.

Monday, March 23

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all night 7am-2pm.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLOGIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner buffet and drag show until 9 pm. Free Set ups! BYOB.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open to close; Free Pool Table.
- Incognito: Male Strip night!

- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 4 pm. \$2 well drinks and domestic longnecks. Music by Alex C.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Outpost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am. Happy Hours 11 am to 8 pm.
- QT's: Killer Bee Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Boxer Shorts Night Boxer Shots \$1.25.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.

Tuesday, March 24

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner buffet and drag show until 9 pm. "Wizard of Oz" at 10 pm with costume contest to follow. 75¢ set ups!. BYOB.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Night at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2(x)ist Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, wine, and frozen margaritas. Male strip at 11:00 pm
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$ 1 off all call liquor.
- Mela's Tejano: Free hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 4 pm. Music by Alex C.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colors.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am Happy Hour 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and longnecks.
- QT's : Open at 8 am. Colorado Bulldogs (Kamora) \$3.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo. Dart Tournament at 7 pm.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.

Wednesday, March 25

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm .
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.

- Club Triangle: Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner buffet and drag show until 9 pm. No cover until 11 pm. BYOB.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 premium frozen drinks, \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night .Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & night \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 4 pm; Male Strip contest at 10:00 pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight; Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am Happy Hours all day and all night \$1.75 well and longnecks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Rich's doors open at 9 pm. 18 and up.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

Thursday, March 26

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm.
- BriarPatch: Doors open at 2 pm.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
- Club Triangle: Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner buffet and drag show until 9 pm. \$ 3 cover! BYOB.
- Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Amateur Talent contest @ 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Skyy Vodka open to close.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks \$3.75 all top shelf liquor. \$2.25 Imports and Micro Brews. Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$3 all call vodka.
- Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm, Linda Lou with open mike 9-10:30 pm, 10:30 pm to 1 am Karokee
- Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueray or Absolut) \$3.75
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm. Pool tournament.
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's Club Heddo.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night. 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Viviana's: Doors open at 2 pm.
- Vintage Bar nightly wine tasting. 355-3093

Important Stuff

Night in Black Leather '98! WOW! For details, please turn to page 38!

On Sunday, March 22, The Texas Cowghurls will be performing at Nighthawks starting at 8:30 pm. "The Brides of March" benefits the Steven's House.

The 5th annual S&M Ball will be on March 28 at Club Chicago. This legendary party is sponsored by Dare-Ware and Houston People Exchanging Power. For ticket info, call 713-953-9393.



Stacy Holiday (2nd), Lindsey Love (Winner) Layla La Rue (1st) Miss Gay Houston at Rich's.

Viviana's Nite Club opens their doors this Friday, March 20. This soon to be hot night spot is offering up a huge buffet tonight as well as a really, really, really cheap beer bust! Viviana's is located at 5219 Washington (near TC Jester). For more info, call 713-862-0203.

JR's is having a super foolish April Fool's Day contest starting at 11 pm.

Metroplex has a all male revue on Tuesday nights. Check it out!

Robert DeCola has had to withdraw from the Mr. Prime Choice contest, his scheduled fundraiser at Mary's on Sunday, March 22 goes on a planned at 5 pm. A bunch of former Mr. Prime Choice sash wearers will be guest bartending starting at 2 pm.



Pooh Bear helps The BRB celebrate 20 years.

Club Triangle, the after hours hang out will be serving breakfast starting at 2 am. And remember, Club Triangle is BYOB.

The 8 week long talent search at E/J's starts all over again! Congrats to Shelby Ross on raking in \$500.

Belated Congrats to Dirk, the first Mr. Nighthawks!

Sunday, March 22 @ 9 pm, Mr. and Miss TGRA '99 candidates Jody Travis and Devon DeVasquez host "Reach Out... and Touch Someone," a benefit show for the Montrose Clinic Lesbian Outreach Program. See you at Chances!

The Mr. Texas Drummer Contest is on April 19 at Pacific Street!

The 1998 Slut Ball is at Brick's II on March 27 starting at 8 pm. This benefit show features Thumper Knight Leigh (her last Houston performance for a while 'cuz she is moving to Cal.) and guests. The attire is "Pigs in Wigs!" See you there!

Gentry welcomes back Barry (aka Vanna White Lee Love) Larson back to her station behind the bar. Vanna is there Monday thru Friday 2 to 8 pm.

Milestones

Hugs to Terry Flood (611 Hyde Park Pub) on the loss of your father.

Get well hugs to Lee of the BRB.

Happy birthdays to Rabbit of Rich's, Wilma of



Brain & Ray are in love.

Mary's, Glen K. (in Dallas), Charles formerly of Bachus II, Lloyd (formerly of PS), Val of Gentry, and Kimberly Short.

Rodent Droppings

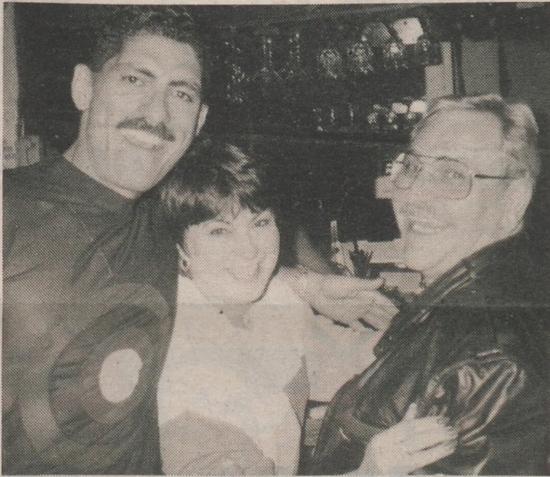
I wanted to bring Rascal to Night in Black Leather, but I could not keep her little leather biker jacket on for more than 1 minute at a time!

My usual disclaimer is in force! Lies, gossip, and trash! If you want real news, please turn to page one and start reading there!

Billie Duncan (former HV Editor): And I quote: "No biting on stage!"

Jon and Raul: Seen any dark bathrooms lately?

Michael Jones (RSICSS): Now why would you drop such lovely hip pads in the toilet?



At Darlene's retirement party.

Devon DeVasquez (Miss TGRA Candidate '99): Oh, like you have never seen my tits before?

Crystal Rae Lee Love (RSICSS): I have a message for you from Buddy Thompson and Maverick: "Remember, it is an Emperor Thing!"

Greg T (Pacific Street Softball Team): Work it out, bitch!

Jackie (the flower lady): Where are you? You fans miss you!

Black Velvett (DQ Deluxe): What goes tap, tap, tap, knock, knock, knock, BANG, BANG, BANG! You looking for a three-way?



Dennis celebrates the 611's anniversary.

Robert (Brick's II): Some one from the BRB sends you a message: "Thanks for your help last Saturday. I know you and I had the only shot we had that day."

Twister (BRB): Do they really have signs on the restroom walls at the whorehouse saying "Employees must wash their hands before returning

to work?" And would you love me more if I tipped better?

Tequila Rose (aka JT formerly of PS, now is Utah, and the biggest, sneakiest, secret keeping, dress wearing man I know): BITCH! BITCH! BITCH! Sneaking in to town, hiding back stage for 2 hours (and I almost went back there before the show) sending me a drink "from an old friend", and making me fall off a barstool when I heard your name called over the microphone! I'm glad I don't have a heart condition! It was great to see you.



Val & Vanna at Gentry.

Larry Arbo (Dallas handsome leatherman and fundrasier): I so enjoyed our Sunday night together! Let's get together again and do the "OJ" glove test!

Mario (BRB): Why does Jeff call you "Dumplin' Buns?" It there something Vera should know?

Vera (BRB): We understand the earth cooled and you were hatched!

Jim Roberts (Nighthawks): So, how do you inspect the first Mr. Nighthawks? A little Touchy Feeler inspection is what I heard?

Lulu (E/J's): Did you really eat the whole thing?

Ben (BRB): Why does JD always strip search your tricks at the top of the stairs... before they go into your apartment?

Kathy (Chances): Why do you like Cafe Noche so much?

Val (Gentry): Who have you been peeing on lately?

Norm (Closet Ball Queen): Is it true that you once spent the night in jail with a preacher?

Marlene (Chances/New Barn): And I almost quote: "I don't F*** men, even if they do wear a dress!"

Don (Mr. Wonderful) Gill: I am so honored that you chose little ol' me to receive your highest award for Night in Black Leather. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! And next time you tell me I need a haircut, I'll listen!

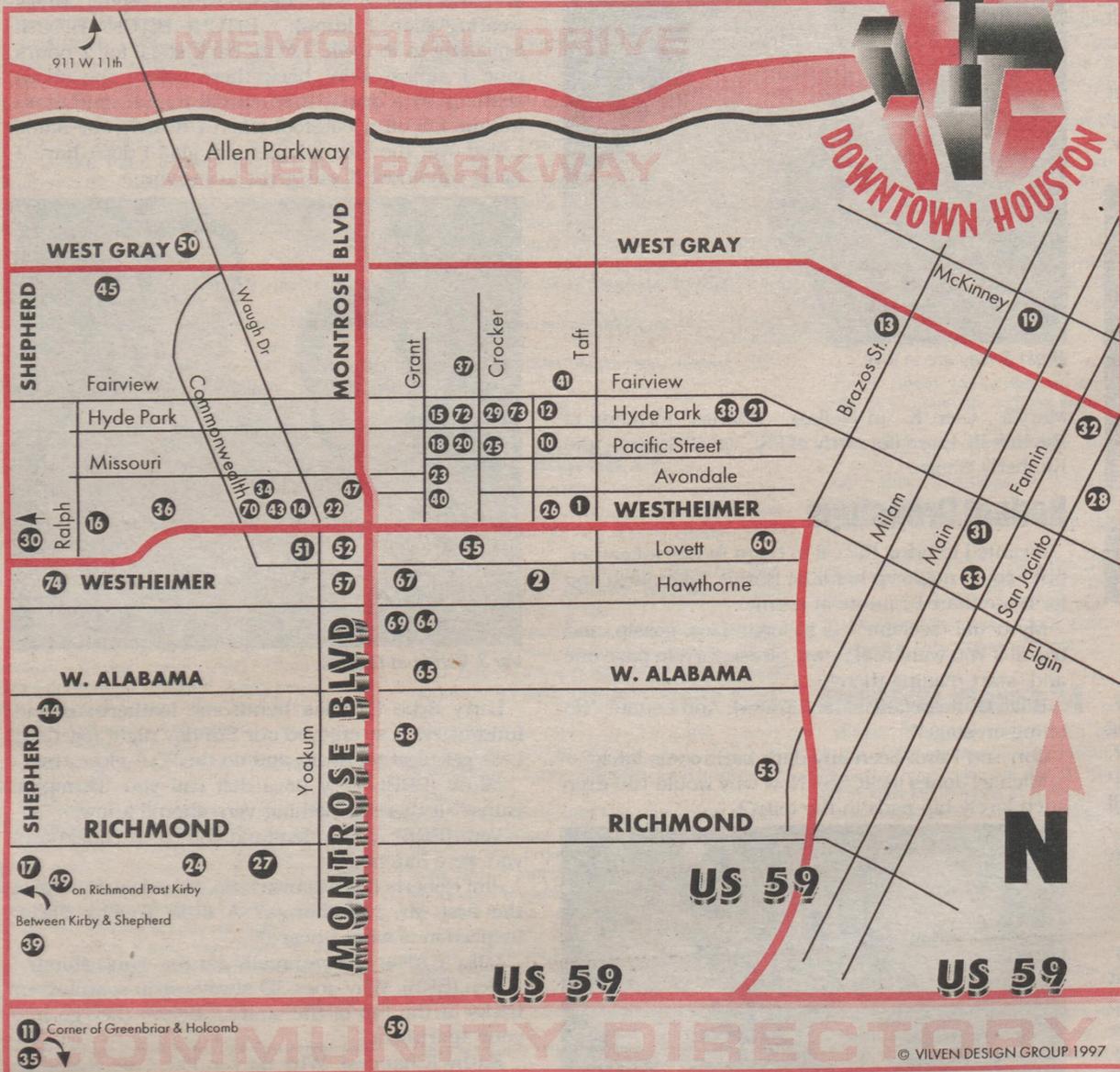
Keep sending in thoses "Pet of the Week" entries!



Owner Ricky Don and Shadow.

Have a great week!

Cuervolyn



ACCOMMODATIONS

1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale	713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd	713/522-5224

BARS & CLUBS			
10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park	713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview	713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos	713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer	713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview	713/528-9204
16	Ejs	2517 Ralph	713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond	713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific	713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney	713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific	713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Tuam	713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer	713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific	713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond	713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific	713/523-0213
26	QT's	534 Westheimer	713/529-8813
27	Club Triangle	1205 Richmond	713/522-0881
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto	713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview	713/521-2792
30	Vintage Bar on Midlane	4356 Westheimer	713/355-3093
31	Venture N Nighthawks	2923 Main	713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin	713/659-4998
33	Midtowne Spa	3100 Fannin	713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer	713/521-9533
35	PLAZA 9200:		
	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy	713/666-3436
36	Rascals	1318 Westheimer	713/942-CLUB
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker	713/522-7366
38	Mela's Tejano Country	302 Tuam	713/523-0747
39	Metropolex	2165 Portsmouth	713/520-5000

RESTAURANTS

40	Baba Yaga	2607 Grant	713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview	713/522-0106
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer	713/522-3332
44	Cafe Edi	3102 S. Shepherd	713/520-5221
45	Mesa Grill	1971 W. Gray	713/520-8900
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St.	713/529-3450

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

49	Allstate	3467 Kirby	713/526-5553
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray	713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer	713/942-0147
52	Eckerd Drugs	1007 Westheimer	713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam	713/524-9932
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer	713/529-8490
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose	713/526-7865
58	Laba Books & Video	3939-S Montrose	713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose	713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer	713/520-2000
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne	713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W. Alabama	713/523-2521
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose	713/520-8000
69	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (A5)	713/522-7373

CLOTHING SHOPS

31	Black Hawks	2923 Main	713/520-6224
70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer	713/522-1626
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview	713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview	713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer	713/529-6299

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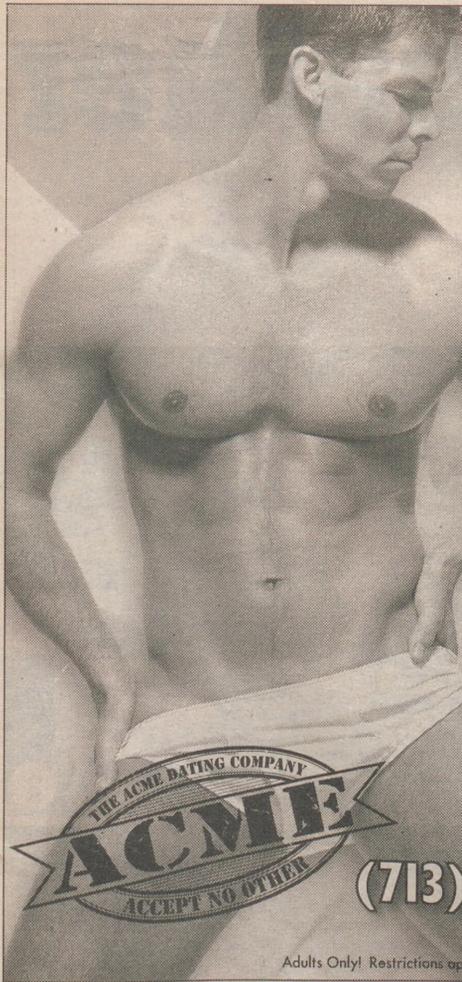
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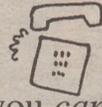
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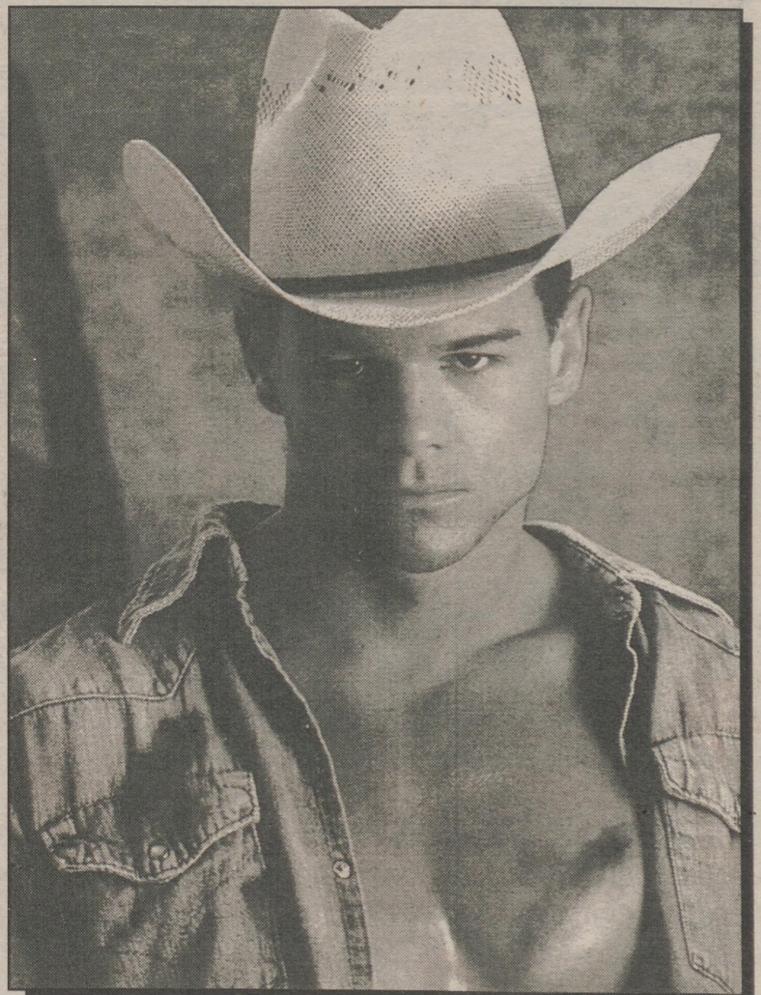
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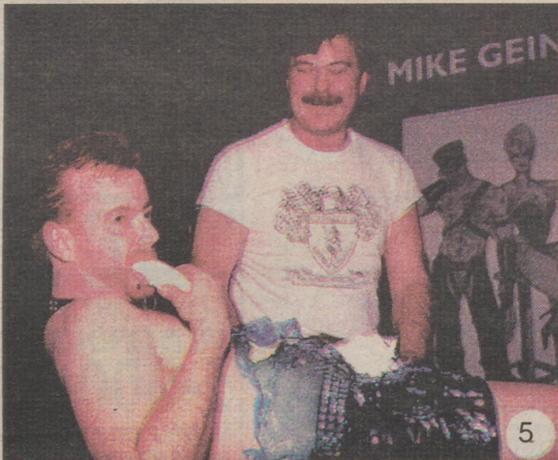
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Night In Black Leather



The wild crowd that turned out at Nighthawk's for last weekend's much-anticipated Night in Black Leather not only had a great time (see above), they managed to generate a whopping \$10,724 to benefit Steven's House.

The event, which was dedicated to the memory of Mike Geinzer, was kicked off Friday night with a deliciously large buffet, followed by a high-energy show by Carmen del Rio. Saturday's festivities included a full evening of titillating and often hilarious entertainment.

Steven's House Executive Director Jim Griffith said, "The Steven's House family is most appreciative of the generosity of all the supporters, entertainers and of the coordination and direction of Don Gill in providing Houston with the fourth annual Night in Black Leather. Thank you one and all."

(1) NIBL Organizer Don Gill, Jeff Alder, Regina Dane, and Lary Arbo; (2) Ken Claude finds Mickey in a very odd place; (3) Tequila Rose came all the way from Utah to perform; (4) The Houston Area Bears sing "The Leather Rose of Texas"; (5) JD from Dallas chomps on the Big Banana; (6) Miss Camp America camps it up!; (7) Empress XIV Jennifer Ellsworth rocks the house; (8) The Dallas Court provided truly tacky talent; (9) *Houston Voice's* own Carolyn Roberts receives the Producers Award; (10) Popcorn will never be the same; (11) The fabulous Carmen Del Rio and her boys; (12) Oh, my night in Black Leather! Photos by Dalton DeHart



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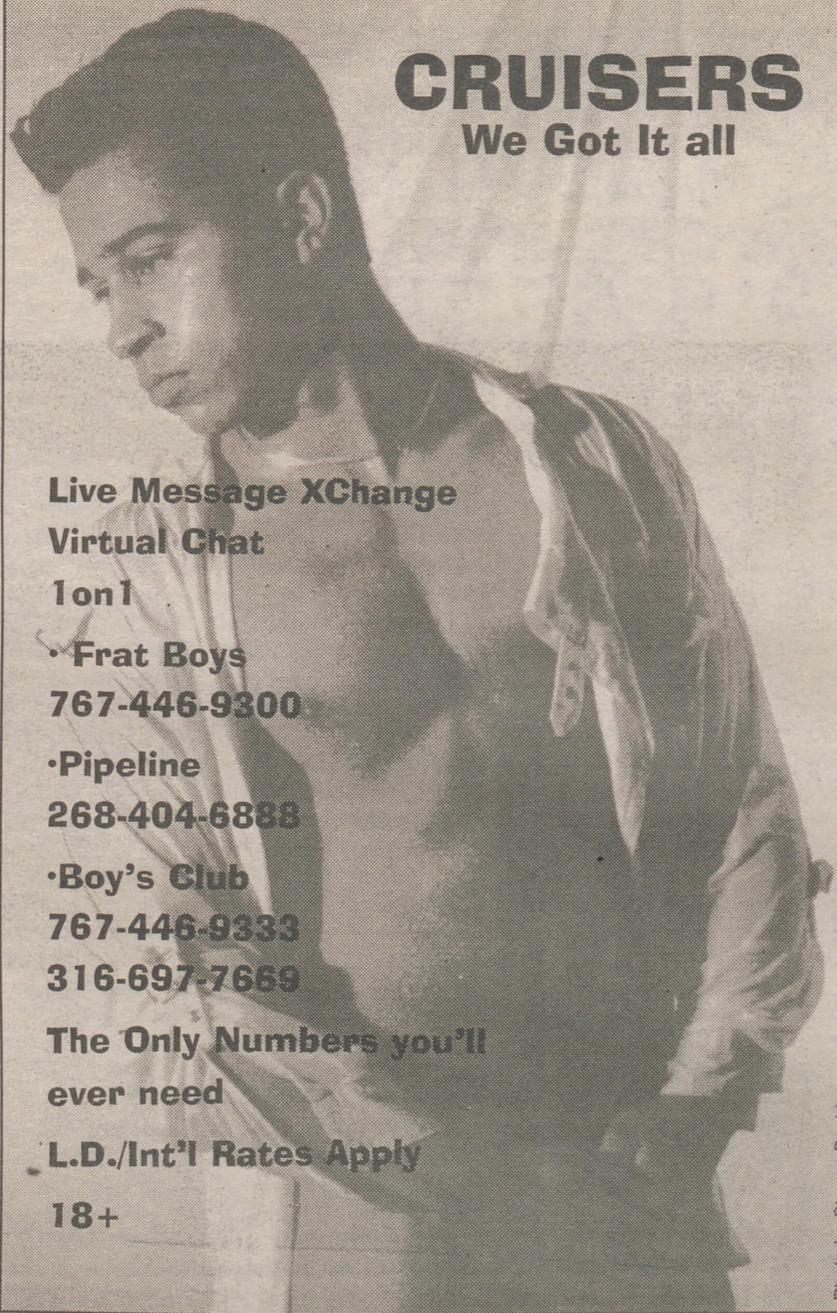
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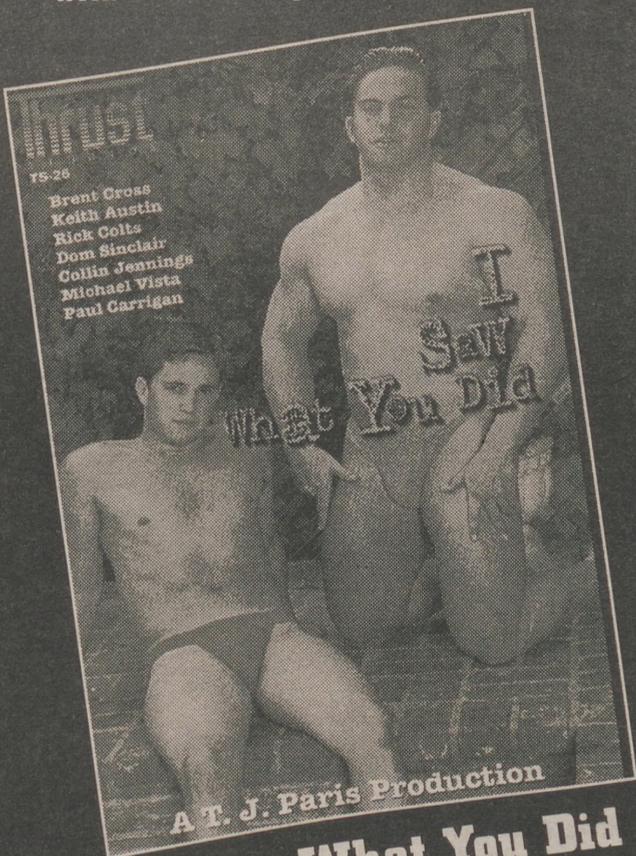
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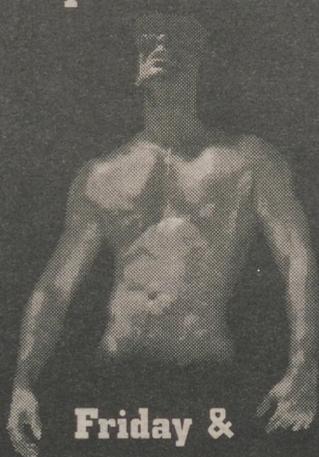
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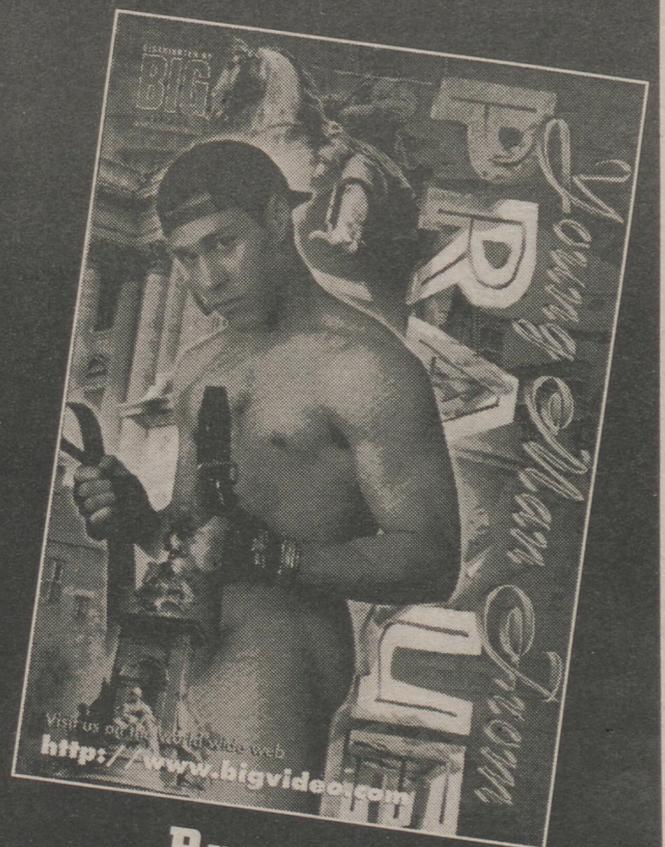
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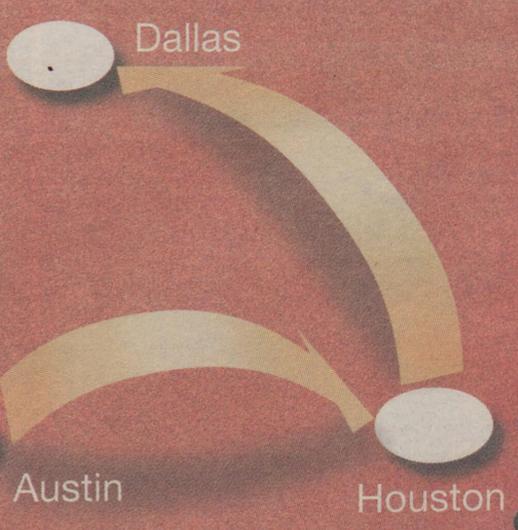
life's predictability. To get into the best shape you've ever been in. To show the world the enormous difference that one individual can make. Our in-depth training manual and organized rides throughout the year will help you develop strength and stamina... and let you meet others who'll be doing this extraordinary event along with you.

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Where does the money go?

Net proceeds go to 40 AIDS service agencies working in the Lone Star State that help Texans who are dealing with the realities of



AIDS. From food and housing to AIDS prevention and education, from vocational needs to helping Texans with AIDS get the drugs they need to stay alive. This is truly about Texas taking care of our own.

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