



LOVE SHACK, BABY!

The B52s are bringing their 'Love Shack' to Houston July 26. Band members talk about the road to stardom.

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The landmark Vermont civil unions law went into effect July 1, lesbian and gay couples lined up to have their relationships recognized by the state.

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Researchers at UTMB say over-the-counter lubricants may offer the best new hope in curbing the spread of HIV.

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Companies vie for the 'pink dollar.'

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Groups to protest 'Dr. Laura' at KSEV

Equality Rally, Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, StopDrLaura.com to picket in front of radio station July 14

by WENDY K. MOHON

With the ultimate goal of preventing her television show from airing this fall, three groups are planning a protest against "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger at KSEV 700 AM, the radio station that currently airs her syndicated call-in program.

Representative from the Equality Rally, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and StopDrLaura.com said they hope to gather 100 people in front of KSEV, 11767 Katy Freeway, on July 14 at 11:30 a.m. to picket against the Dr. Laura show. The station airs the program weekdays from 6 to 10 a.m.

When asked about the planned protest, Dan Patrick, KSEV general manager, said he hadn't heard about it.

"I'm sorry I'll be out of town on the fourteenth on vacation," Patrick said.

"I really don't have a comment," Patrick said, but added, "I think Dr. Laura has the same right as all Americans, and that's to express her opinion."

On her radio program, Schlessinger—whose doctorate is in physiology, not psychology—has termed homosexuals "deviants" and "biological errors."

Dan DiDonato, founder of the Equality Rally, said the July 14 protest



"Dr. Laura" Schlessinger

is intended to create greater awareness of Schlessinger's anti-gay remarks and ultimately, to prevent her television show debuting Sept. 11 on KPRC-TV Channel 2.

"Our goal is just to get people aware of what Dr. Laura is and what she's doing and that this type of inaccurate broadcasting in Houston should not be tolerated," DiDonato > Continued on Page 10

Would the real 'Slim Shady' please stand up?

Rapper Eminem's new album is setting records. It's also dripping with anti-gay lyrics. He says he doesn't mean it.

By PAIGE PARVIN

Pick up a rap album sporting a big red "Explicit Lyrics" sticker, and you may find yourself hearing the "f" even word more than the "n" word, the "mf" word, the "b" word, or even the other "f" word.

That would be "faggot," of course—an anti-gay slur so commonplace in many rap songs, it's almost been stripped of its original meaning. Almost.

"Hate fags? The answer's yes," white rapper Eminem barks cheerfully on his

newest album, "The Marshall Mathers LP," now in its fifth week atop the Billboard magazine chart.

The smash record, which features lyrics drenched in what many read as homophobia, sexism, and dangerous aggression, has drawn fire from gay rights groups and other watchdog organizations.

Yet Eminem, born Marshall Mathers, claims his words melt in his mouth, not in his hands. He has said he's just blowing off steam when he raps about raping his mother, murdering his wife and dumping her body in a river, receiving oral sex from another man, and stabbing gays in the head.

And Eminem isn't the only current artist to attack gays in his music. Rock band the Bloodhound Gang has also been criticized for their song, "I Wish I Was Queer So I Could Pick Up Chicks." That same group featured a gay bashing in the video for their

> Continued on Page 11



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■ HIGHLY EFFECTIVE THERAPY

CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.¹ CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Also, taking CRIXIVAN with any products containing St. John's wort, an herbal supplement, is not recommended because it may decrease the effectiveness of CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹ Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

**Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules



Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
 2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
 3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
 4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
 5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
- Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
 - High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines, herbal products including St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), or dietary supplements.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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003421(5)(51)-CRX-C0N -

Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

9024511

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| SELDANE® (terfenadine) | HISMANAL® (astemizole) |
| VERSED® (midazolam) | HALCION® (triazolam) |
| ORAP® (pimozide) | Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®) |
| PROPULSID® (cisapride) | |

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with the following: Rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®. Taking CRIXIVAN with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Taking St. John's wort has been shown to decrease CRIXIVAN levels and may lead to decreased effectiveness of CRIXIVAN and other HIV-related drugs.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

| | |
|--|--|
| RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT) | EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC) |
| ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T) | isoniazid (INH) |
| BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole) | DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole) |
| BIAXIN® (clarithromycin) | ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive) |
| TAGAMET® (cimetidine) | Methodone |

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.
MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.
NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.
RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.
SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.
SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA™, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is **not** a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

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

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; heart problems including heart attack; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms.

If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°- 86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

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Historic Vermont civil union law goes into effect

BURLINGTON, Vt.—As the landmark Vermont civil unions law went into effect July 1, lesbian and gay couples lined up to have their relationships recognized by the state.

Anti-gay groups, meanwhile, lined up to challenge legislators who passed the law in April, with an eye toward repealing the broadest legal recognition yet for gay couples in the United States.

An estimated 20 to 30 couples took advantage of the law on Saturday, the day it took effect, including out-of-state couples from Massachusetts, Louisiana and Ohio.

The first to "tie the knot" were Carolyn Conrad and Kathleen Peterson of Brattleboro, Vt., who arranged with Town Clerk Annette Cappy to obtain a license at 12:01 a.m., the Rutland Herald reported.

"It seemed like the nice thing to do," said Cappy, who readily agreed to the request. "This office at one point stayed open for 24 hours on the first day of hunting season so out-of-staters could apply for licenses. I figure if we did it for people who come here to shoot at animals, I can do it for two people in love."

At midnight, with friends counting down the seconds, Cappy began. "This is our special couple," she announced. After one quick question, the two women and

then Cappy signed the license. They walked by two silent protests as they left.

In South Burlington, one of the three couples who originally sued the state for the right to marry, Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh, got their license first thing Saturday morning from clerk Margaret Picard.

"I think it's about time after 27-1/2 years," said Farnham. "That's long enough. It's nice after all this time to say Holly is my spouse."

Cappy and Picard were two of only a handful of clerks who held office hours Saturday to serve civil union applicants.

But many clerks opted to close, including offices in some six cities that regularly keep Saturday hours. Some said it was to take advantage of the Independence Day weekend, while others admitted it was in opposition to the new law.



The first to say 'I do': Carolyn Conrad (right) and Kathleen Peterson signed their civil union license at a Vermont town clerks' office at 12:01 a.m., July 1.

TOBY TALBOT/AP

State officials won't know until some time after August 10 how many couples are becoming "civilly united" or "civil unionized" or "C.U.ed," as some couples put it.

> Continued on Page 12

Study: Lubricants may prevent spread of HIV

Researchers at UTMB believe Astroglide, Vagisil may curb transmission of AIDS virus

by GIP PLASTER

Two over-the-counter lubricants already on store shelves may be able to prevent the spread of HIV, according to research conducted at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

The unpublished research was conducted in test tubes and has not been substantiated in real-world studies, but human trials are beginning now and could be complete as early as October.

Researchers and manufacturers have high hopes that the inexpensive, easily available products can help curb the spread of HIV in the U.S. as well as in Third World countries where the virus still spreads uncontrolled.

"It is highly unlikely that the field trials will vary from the test tube trials," said Lynn Merrill, a spokesperson for Vista, Calif. based BioFilm Inc. the makers of the lubricant Astroglide.

A team of researchers led by UTMB professor Dr. Samuel Baron found the best hope in the preventative qualities of BioFilm's Astroglide as well as Vagisil Intimate Moisturizer, manufactured by Combe Inc., over a number of other lubricants studied.

"If we do get FDA approval, our product

can be marketed as an adjunct to condoms," Merrill said.

But unlike condoms, lubricants are something people enjoy using.

"Condoms are not a by-choice product, but lubricants are," she said. "Dr. Baron was looking for something people will want to use."

If we do get FDA approval, our product can be marketed as an adjunct to condoms.
 —Lynn Merrill, Astroglide company spokesman

The discovery was a byproduct of research to determine why HIV is rarely spread through oral contact, even when blood is present.

A year and a half ago, researchers at UTMB, led by Baron, showed that saliva explodes and kills blood cells, including those that harbor HIV. Saliva has that effect on the cells because, unlike other body fluids, it is not salty.

"Saliva is low salt," Baron said in a February interview with *Houston Voice*. "If you taste it, it's sweet. But if you tear from your eye into your mouth, it tastes salty."

The saliva of infected people usually contains only the noninfectious components of HIV, which Baron said suggested to him that some element of saliva was breaking down the virus.

When blood cells come in contact with the lower salt saliva, they suck in water through osmosis and burst, according to the team's research first reported in the February 1999 issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*. That phenomenon is part of what makes casual contact with people infected with HIV, including kissing, safe.

Baron said then that the research could represent "a paradigm shift for some people" in understanding how the AIDS virus causes infection.

"We think there are a couple of erroneous conceptions about the transmission of HIV," Baron said.

Most physicians believe that HIV is transmitted by free pieces of the virus floating in substances like semen and breast milk. But very few free pieces are present, Baron said, probably because the HIV carrier makes enough antibodies to bind the virus and make it unable to infect other cells.

Baron said in February that some products being sold as lubricants could help prevent the spread of HIV by mimicking the protective effects of saliva, but he would not say then which products.

"If the mouth is so powerful that under normal circumstances it can kill, can we adapt this to the very vulnerable vagina and rectum?" Baron said.

Baron presented his finding about Astroglide and Vagisil to the 13th International Conference on Anti-Viral Research, held in Baltimore on April 17. But

> Continued on Page 12

Houston's changing face of HIV/AIDS

Houston Area HIV Services
Ryan White Planning Council

invites you to hear Houston public leaders and to voice your care and concerns about the current HIV/AIDS state of emergency affecting our city's African-American community

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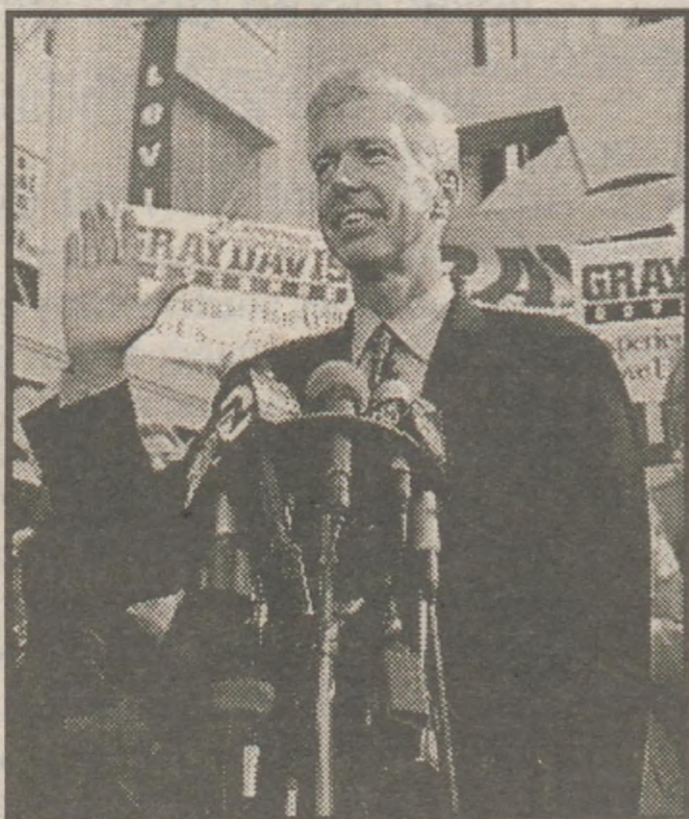
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Around the Nation

Calif. gov. signs law to ban discrimination against gays on juries

SACRAMENTO (AP)—Gov. Gray Davis signed June 27 what supporters said is a first-in-the-nation law banning discrimination against potential jurors because they are gay. The law bars attorneys from removing prospective jurors solely on the basis of their sexual orientation. "That kind of discrimination is wrong. It violates America's notion of justice and fair play," Davis said. The law adds sexual orientation to an existing ban on dismissing jurors based on race, color, occupation, religion, sex, national origin or economic status, and codifies a January state appellate court decision from Orange County. "It's wonderful the governor is going to affirm his support that all people should participate equally in the jury selection process," openly lesbian Democratic Assemblywoman Carole Migden told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The bill is the first of several in the Legislature expanding the rights of gays and lesbians that has reached Davis, who is a Democrat. The biggest bill, pending in the Assembly, increases the rights of domestic partners to include inheriting property and making medical decisions for an incapacitated partner. Davis has said he does not intend to sign any domestic partner legislation this year.



Calif. Gov. Gray Davis signed into law the ban on discrimination in jury selection, but he has vowed not to sign pending legislation that would expand the rights of same-sex couples.

Procter & Gamble pulls ads from MTV shows as well as 'Dr. Laura'

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Procter & Gamble will no longer run advertisements on two racy series on MTV. "The Tom Green Show" and "Undressed" were already on a list of programs on which P&G would not advertise, said P&G spokesperson Gretchen Briscoe, and that the company's commercials aired during those programs by mistake. Her comments come three weeks after P&G officials met with conservative Christian leader James Dobson, who tried to persuade the executives to reverse a decision to pull advertising from the upcoming television talk show "Dr. Laura." Briscoe said pressure by Dobson's Focus on the Family ministry had no bearing on the decision to pull the ads.

Meanwhile, Schlessinger made the rounds in Washington June 28, the *Washington Post* reported. Among the politicians she met with were House Majority Leader Dick Armey, Republican Whip Tom DeLay, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and former Republican presidential candidate Gary Bauer. "I was deeply moved by how much caring and support there was for me."

Gay midshipman, kicked out of Academy, seeks tuition reprieve

BALTIMORE (AP)—A former midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy who resigned after being accused of being gay is appealing a decision by the Navy that he must repay the cost of his education. Tommie Lee Watkins filed the appeal June 29 in U.S. District Court in Baltimore, seeking to avoid paying the federal government \$82,000. He resigned a year before he was to graduate after academy officials began an investigation into allegations of homosexual behavior. The Board for Correction of Naval Records found "error and injustice" in the case and recommended that Watkins not be held liable for the costs. But Assistant Navy Secretary Carolyn H. Becraft rejected the board's recommendation in March, noting that Watkins' resignation did not say he was gay. The board noted that the academy expelled more than two dozen students in 1994 for cheating and another for using drugs, and none of those students was forced to repay the government.

University settles lawsuit alleging discrimination in athletic dept.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The University of Minnesota settled a lawsuit June 27 with an employee who claimed the school's athletic department created a hostile and homophobic working environment. The university agreed to pay Richard Marsden \$80,000 plus other benefits, and admitted no wrongdoing. The agreement came one day after Marsden, who is gay, testified in Hennepin County District Court, that he had a nervous breakdown in 1997 and went on medical leave from his position as academic adviser in the athletic department. Marsden's attorney, Judith Schermer, said the settlement "sends a message that the university discriminated. You don't pay \$80,000 if you didn't discriminate," she said.

Three resign from Indiana agency's board after gays are banned

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP)—Three leaders of a Christian-based counseling agency resigned this week after its directors voted to ban gays from the board. Joy Clark, the executive director of Hope Alive Inc., and two other officials, had opposed the ban. Milli Bishton, director emeritus of Hope Alive and a board member, said engaging in homosexual behavior violates Biblical values, and board members must be held to a higher standard. "Not choosing this woman was not so much her

being a lesbian but it was her perspective of homosexuality that it is normal and acceptable behavior," Bishton told the *Ft. Wayne News-Sentinel*.

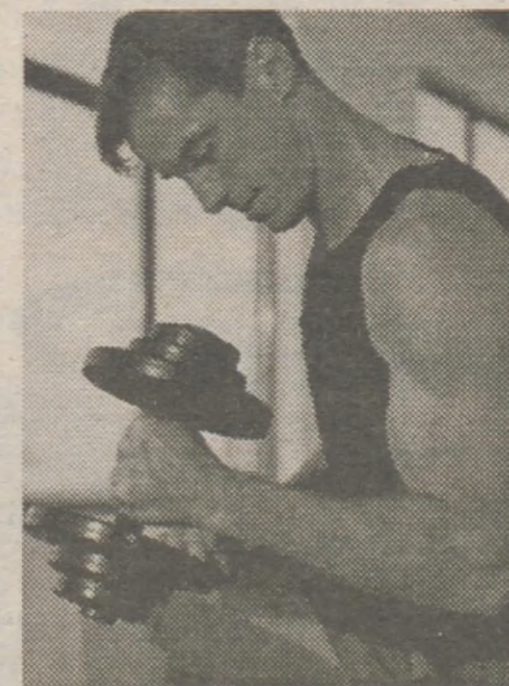
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STAFF

Associate Publisher
Mike Fleming
mike@houstonvoice.com

Editor
Wendy K. Mohon
editor@houstonvoice.com

Production
Natasha Marquez

Contributors
Rich Arenschioldt, Anas Ben-Musa,
Kay Y. Dayus, Trayce Diskin, Earl Dittman,
D.L. Groover, Robert B. Henderson,
Kathreen Lee, Maria E. Minicucci,
Gip Plaster, Ella Tyler

Photographers
Dalton DeHart, Terry Sullivan

Advertising Sales
Ken Burd
Tom Robbins

Administration & Sales Support
Carolyn A. Roberts

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
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SLOUCHING THROUGH SODOM

Why Jesus never found a nice girl and settled down

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

Was Jesus gay? Yes. But depending on whom you talk to, he was also straight, white, black, Jewish, Christian, male and female.

Every group claims Jesus as one of their own.

Hispanics believe Christ was Latino. And they have convincing proof: His first name was Jesus. He was always in trouble with the law, and nobody would hire him.

But Jews also have convincing proof Jesus was one of their own: He went into his father's business, he lived at home till he was 30, and his mother thought he was God.

African-Americans believe Jesus was black: He called everybody brother, had no permanent address and his mother didn't know who his father was.

So why should we gays be any different? Why shouldn't we claim Jesus as one of our own? Think about it: His mom never asked about girls, he was friends with hustlers, and he wore flowing gowns.

Exhibit A in Christ vs. Closet can be found in the most famous meal of all time. In paintings of the Last Supper, the apostle John (the only one of the 12 apostles Jesus referred to as his "beloved") rests his head on Jesus undergarment as they eat, much like two lovers would.

Of course, some gay men insist the loving gesture proves Jesus was *not* gay. "If they were really lovers," said a far-too-bitter friend, "they'd be cruising the other apostles for a three-way."

In John 19:26-28, Jesus is dying on the cross. The Bible says, "When Jesus saw his mother and the beloved disciple [John] standing by, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold thy Son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold thy mother!'"

Some scholars believe Jesus was commanding his mother and lover to take

Was Jesus gay? His mom never asked about girls, he was friends with hustlers, and he wore flowing gowns.

care of each other, much as many gay men dying of AIDS requested this of their mothers and lovers. And in fact, John did take care of Mary into old age.

The only straight scholar courageous enough to go on record about Jesus' sexuality is Dr. Mary Tolbert from the Pacific School of Religion. But even she hedges.

She told *Salon* magazine that sexual relations in biblical culture "weren't based on gender preference. Free men had sex with women, slaves or boys. Homosexuality is a concept that didn't exist then. Sex only happened between dominants and submissives."

Oh, oh. I can just hear the fringe groups in gay life lining up to put their two cents in. "See?" all the leather guys will cluck, "I told you Jesus was a top."

Well, actually, if anything, Jesus was a bot— Oh, right, like I'm going to say it and burn in Hell for eternity. I'm in enough trouble already.

The truth is Jesus turned traditional behavior upside down. He did things that were passive, womanly and gentle. He threatened the male power structure by advocating feminine approaches to life—namely, love, kindness and compassion.

Was Jesus gay? To Tolbert, the question is ridiculous. The concept of heterosexuality or homosexuality didn't exist. It's like asking if Jesus preferred land lines or cell phones.

A more important question than Jesus' human sexuality 2,000 years ago is his current view of gay life. What would Jesus say if he saw gay culture? Probably the same thing God would say: "I gave



these guys the gift of loving other men and the best they could come up with is techno, drag, and show tunes?"

I'm not sure what Jesus would say about drag—other than "go, and sin no more"—but his silence on homosexuality in general is proof of his acceptance. Jesus only spoke out about things that were important. Apparently, he thought who you loved was so inconsequential it wasn't even worth mentioning.

The admonishments against homosexual sex came before Jesus lived (in the Old Testament) and half a century after he died (the New Testament books were written between 50 to 70 A.D.).

Surely, if there was something wrong with homosexuality, Jesus would have spoken out against it, but he didn't. We're fruits all right, but we're the fruits of God's labor.

Michael Alvear is going straight to hell. You can wish him a bon voyage at mikelvear@aol.com.

LETTER

Editor's note: The following letter was addressed to Houston Voice columnist Michael Alvear regarding his column, "March for the right reasons," (June 23).

Event failed to evoke pride

To the Editor:

Michael, thank you for expressing so many ideas that fail to surface during pride month, week, and day festivities. I left my home Saturday evening with my head held high, walked to the pride parade with an extra bounce in my step, almost skipping to the opportunity of celebrating with thousands of others.

It did not take long for my enthusiasm drain from my body, much like the last few

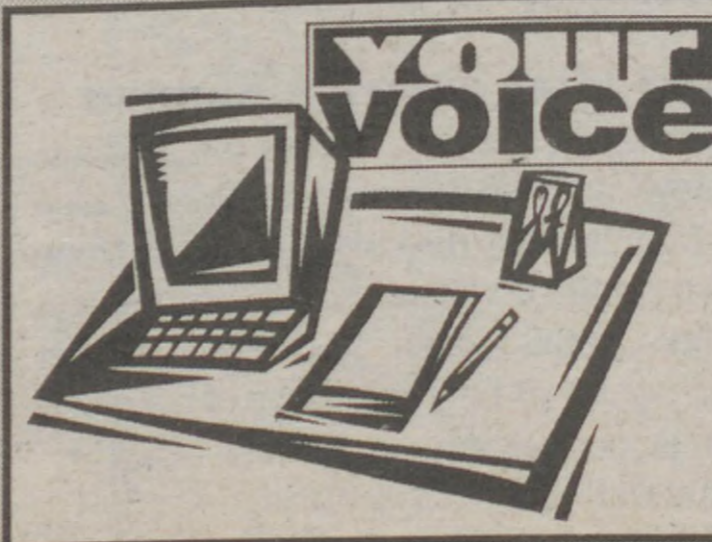
ounces of beer running out of every glass beer bottle littering so much of the Westheimer real estate. I did not receive one ounce of pride watching "our herd" crowd onto the street, not allowing enough room for the parade entries to pass, to the point of causing one motorcycle rider to wreck his bike.

Each minute, I watched "our herd" create a bigger toxic waste site of broken glass and everything else that failed to reach a trash receptacle.

Like you, I really want to see more of the human, creative qualities we see in our brothers and sisters throughout the year. Where was the pride for 2000? I missed it. It was not at the parade.

As you can read, I enjoyed your thoughts so much, I had to share a few of my own. Hope your article reaches into the future and maybe there will be hope for 2001.

*Shirley Chappell
Houston*



Let us know what you think!

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FAIR GAME

Corporate America goes ga-ga for the pink dollar

by RANDY FAIR

It used to be easy to pick which businesses are deserving of our gay dollars, but it's getting increasingly difficult. The Big Three automakers have now announced that they will offer domestic partner benefits to their gay employees. In doing so, they join 3,400 other companies.

The announcement by the Big Three is being heralded as another sign that the battle for lesbian and gay equality is finally being won. While this is a momentous announcement hardly imaginable 20 years ago, it still raises some interesting questions.

Like, why are the Big Three inspired to add DP benefits now? While we can hope they were inspired by a desire to do the right thing, the truth is that dollars were probably at least as important.

In today's competitive economy, it makes sense for the Big Three to make this move. The fact is they can't afford to alienate prospective gay employees and consumers. While offering DP benefits may alienate some conservative consumers, Disney's courageous stand against the Baptist boycott has already proven that losses will be small ones.

Another, more difficult question is what this means to gay consumers. When I get ready to buy my next car, should I give Daimler Chrysler, GM, or Ford more consideration because of the DP benefits issue?

Or should I reward Volkswagen or Subaru, which have much more aggressively targeted gay consumers with their marketing and advertising dollars?

The decision doesn't get any easier in other industries. I know I shouldn't buy

While profit motive has some companies competing to be pro-gay, others flout our interests and still get gay bucks.

gas from Exxon/Mobil, which cancelled DP benefits after its merger. But what about the other major oil companies?

I used research published in Southern Voice to choose a gay company for my home, but even then was a tough choice. For the most part, the companies varied only in degrees on how friendly they were on gay issues.

As mainstream corporate America goes gay-friendly, every purchase gets complicated. For instance, I'm sure it's always better to buy books at Charis Books & More or Outwrite Bookstore. But if I never buy gay-themed books at Chapter 11 or Barnes & Noble, what incentive do they have for including a lesbian and gay book section or hiring people knowledgeable about gay books?

And do we forgive companies that have been our enemies in the past. Take Coors Brewing Co.—the name alone used to be enough to anger gays. Now the company sponsors Gay Pride festivals and countless other gay events.

The same is true to a lesser degree of companies like Denny's and Nike. Both have given offense to the gays in the past. Has enough time passed to forgive them?



We will increasingly be asked to make these choices as companies become more receptive.

In the past we've been very unforgiving at times. Donna Summer, who still denies ever slurring gays, is but one example. People still argue over whether she said it and adequately apologized or not. But we are very forgiving with companies.

It is easy to see why some might forgive Coors. The company has attempted to right past wrongs, even while the Coors family foundation continues to give money to right-wing groups.

But it's more difficult to understand how readers of this newspaper would make Chick Fil-A, who's founder and president has said he wouldn't hire gay workers, their fast food choice.

While it might be tough to divine where some companies are on gay issues, others proudly trumpet their far right connections. And still some of the same people who continue to despise Donna Summer, can't stand to hear Jerry Falwell

mentioned, and actively protest against "Dr." Laura, apparently have no trouble giving their money to Chick-Fil-A.

As it becomes harder to decide who should get our money, the choice is all the more important. The past few months have proven that boycotts are still powerful tools.

South Carolina finally lowered its Confederate Flag from the state capital because the NAACP had the courage to boycott. Sponsors have dropped their ads from Dr. Laura's offensive program.

Unfortunately, as the world becomes increasingly controlled by mega-corporations, it will be more important to make wise decisions about how to spend our money. These consumer choices will have almost as much influence over what happens to the movement for gay equality as the fight for civil rights legislation.

Randy Fair is an Atlanta school teacher and past president of the Atlanta chapter of the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



'Dr. Laura' protest at KSEV

➤ Continued from Page 1

said. "The government does not guarantee you a bully pulpit."

In May, DiDonato, along with Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays board members Jim Null, Sue Null, Pat Rickey and PFLAG past president Don Sinclair, met with KPRC general manager Steve Wasserman to urge him not to air the television show.

Wasserman told the group KPRC has purchased a two-year commitment to the Paramount-produced show and the station isn't willing to lose the investment by canceling the program before it airs. Wasserman refused to divulge the cost of the syndication contract.

Last month, Procter & Gamble announced they were pulling planned advertising from the show, citing public protests over Schlessinger's negative remarks "on a number of topics."

"The focus of the show was supposed to be responsible parenting," P&G spokeswoman Gretchen Briscoe told the Associated Press. "It's become impossible to separate Dr. Laura's opinions on a broad range of topics from the specific focus of this (TV) program."

Asked if the groups will stage a protest in front on KPRC before the television program airs, DiDonato said he hopes it won't be necessary.

"We're going to play it by ear. I have a feeling that it won't even make the TV airing," DiDonato said. "I think there is so much static



Dan DiDonato

involved in this that Paramount is looking for a way out of airing it."

The groups have planned an organizational meeting about the protest Monday at 7 p.m. at Santa Fe Bar, 801 Pacific.

Editor's note: Co-founding StopDrLaura.com is William Waybourn, a partner in Window Media, the publishing company that owns this newspaper.

INFO

The Equality Rally Team

equality@wt.net
P.O.Box 667221
Houston, TX 77266-7221

Time in hot water over 'Dr. Laura' interview

An article in the current issue of Time reads "as if it went directly from [Laura] Schlessinger's press officer to the pages of Time with no journalistic inquiry," according to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

GLAAD is encouraging gays to write the magazine to protest the interview, published in question-and-answer form. No other sources were consulted for the piece.

In answering questions put by writer Jeanne McDowell, "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger, the radio talk show host whose upcoming TV show has caused GLAAD to launch a national campaign to keep her off the air, gets a chance to defend her stated positions on homosexuality.

"I never called homosexual human beings deviants. I have pointed out that homosexuality deviates from the norm of heterosexuality and is forbidden by the Scriptures," said Schlessinger, a convert to Orthodox Judaism.

Schlessinger claimed she has defended "basic civil rights" for gays, but objects to their having families of their own, because families that don't have a mother and father are harmful to children.

Responding to a question about gays being "biological errors," Schlessinger said, "We have vaginas and penises. We were biologically meant to give birth to more people. Not being able to relate nor-

mally to a member of the opposite sex is some kind of error. I do not see that as insulting at all. It is a statement of biological fact."

During the interview, Schlessinger said she believes married men who realize they are gay should stay in their marriage for the sake of their children. Asked if such a "double life" might actually be detrimental to the family, Schlessinger replied, "It's not bad for children when someone does it for honor."

Near the close of the interview, McDowell asked about the toll the gay community's protest has taken on Schlessinger.

"I've cried more at times than I would like to admit because to see my name, my character, my person come under attack... It's astonishing to have your name smeared with such vitriol... It's been agonizing," she answered.

INFO

Time

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Rapper says he's not anti-gay

> Continued from Page 1

hit, "Discovery Channel (Ain't Nothin' But Mammals)."

Rap group Insane Clown Posse has taken a bad rap for their anti-gay lyrics as well.

But Eminem is certainly the most prominent example, with a record dripping the word "faggot" and dominating the pop charts. Hailed by music critics as nothing short of brilliant, "The Marshall Mathers LP" toppled Britney Spears' CD in short order after its May release, selling a record 1.7 million copies in one week.

And in the midst of a storm of media attention, perhaps most notably, he's the first white rapper ever to grace the cover of *The Source*, a leading rap magazine.

Eminem's blatant gay-bashing isn't exactly a new trend in the rap and hip-hop arena, an art form whose short history is steeped in violence, misogyny, racism and homophobia.

"I think this is certainly a high-profile example, but I don't know that I would see a general trend," said Alan Light, editor-in-chief of *Spin* magazine.

"Unfortunately, there has been a strain of homophobia that has cropped up in hip-hop lyrics over the years. I think this is also a product of the communities this music comes from. But I don't know that I would say there's any particular increase," said

Light, who is also editor of "The Vibe History of Hip-Hop" (Three Rivers Press, 1999).

"Does Eminem actually hate gay folks? I have no idea. Does he actually hate his wife? Probably not, but he says it and sometimes he thinks it. His whole m.o. is, if it's crossed through my mind, it's fair to say."

'Relax, guy, I like gay men'

My words are like a dagger with a jagged edge

That'll stab you in the head whether you're a fag or les

Or the homosex, or a trans-a-ves, pants or dress

Hate fags? The answer's yes

Homophobic? Nah, you're just heterophobic ...

Hey, it's me, Versace

Whoops, somebody shot me, and I was just checking the mail

Get it, checking the male?"

These oft-quoted lyrics from the song "Criminal," on the "Marshall Mathers" CD, have sparked outcry from a wide range of gay activists. But at the end of this cut, "Criminal," Eminem laughs, "Relax, guy! I like gay men."

Eminem often straddles the fence when he's criticized for his troubling lyrics. He told MTV's Kurt Loder in an interview that

his repeated use of the word "faggot" doesn't necessarily refer to gays.

"'Faggot' is like taking away your manhood—you're a sissy, you're a coward," he said. "It's like you might be sitting around in your living room and say, 'Hey, man, stop it, you're being a faggot, dude.' It doesn't necessarily mean you're being a gay person. It just means you're being a fag, an asshole, whatever."

Light, a former staff member for the American Civil Liberties Union, said ultimately it's up to the listener, not the artist or the record company, to decide what's acceptable artistic material.

"So I guess my response is, if there is any lesson, it's that people do need to respond and do need to make their voice heard when people say stuff that is offensive and problematic, rather than just wishing it didn't get expressed."

INFO

Interscope Records

10900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1230
Los Angeles, CA 90024
fax:310-865-7906

Paul Rosenberg

Eminem's Manager
Shady Goliath Records
270 Lafayette, Suite 805
New York, NY 10012
fax: 212-324-2415

From the mouth of SLIM SHADY

From "Killing"

You faggots keep eggin me on
til I have you at knifepoint, then you beg
me to stop?

I said SHUT UP when I'm talkin to you
YOU HEAR ME? ANSWER ME!

From "Who Knew"

You want me to fix up lyrics
while the President gets his dick sucked?
ewwww Fuck that, take drugs, rape
sluts

Make fun of gay clubs, men who wear
make-up

From "Skit: Steve Berman"

Steve: Tower Records told me to shove
this record up my ass! Do you know
what it feels like to be told to have a
record shoved up your ass?

Eminem: But, I-

Steve: I'm gonna lose my fuckin' job
over this. You know why Dre's record
was so successful?

He's rappin' about big-screen TVs,
blunts, 40's and bitches. You're rappin'
about homosexuals and Vicadin.

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Couples C.U.ed in Vermont

> Continued from Page 5

Town clerks are required on the 10th of each month to provide the state with information about marriages and civil unions they performed during the previous month.

Before the law went into effect, it had to survive a June 26 lawsuit that challenged the law on the ground that 14 Vermont legislators had a \$1 betting pool on the outcome of the vote.

Judge Stephen Martin did not rule on their charge that the pool gave legislators an illicit interest in the bill's outcome, but he did conclude that the law's opponents had not shown any irreparable harm if the law were to go into effect.

Several conservative grassroots groups placed ads in local newspapers protesting the law. An ad placed in several Vermont newspapers by a group called the GPS (or, Geopolitical Strategist) featured a thick black border, and began with the words: "In Memoriam. United States of America. 1776-2000."

Among other charges, the ad blamed the April drop in the stock markets on the passage of the civil unions bill.

"The unassailable arrogance of the gay rights movement shou'd be evident to all as now it boldly and frontally assaults America's cherished core founding principle—majority rule," the ad stated. "Evidently gays will dissolve the

Constitution itself if it stands in the way of their pursuit of personal pleasure."

The atmosphere became tense enough for Vermont Gov. Howard Dean to write a letter to Catholic Bishop Kenneth Angell June 27 to enlist his support and "moral suasion" to ensure "that hatred and intolerance will have no place in this debate."

I think it's about time after 27-1/2 years. That's long enough. It's nice after all this time to say Holly is my spouse.

—Lois Farnham

Angell responded to the governor's request with a prayer. "I will be praying... that we will not allow our disappointment and opposition to civil unions to deteriorate into disrespect and disdain for our gay brothers and lesbian sisters," he said. "Divided as we may be on this issue, we are all God's children, all one family in God."

About 130 opponents of civil unions also rallied on the Vermont statehouse lawn July 1, protesting the law and vowing to repeal it, the Rutland Herald reported.

—From staff and wire reports

Lubricants may prevent HIV

> Continued from Page 5

no reporters were allowed at the conference, and word of the finding has not spread.

"Ideally, we hoped for something easy to use, usable by men and women, safe, inexpensive and available in the Third World as well as Western markets," Baron said in a statement issued by BioFilm. "Because HIV is usually sexually transmitted, we began our search for products used for sexual purposes that are sold over the counter."

The research showed that the low saltiness of the lubricants allowed them to penetrate 90 percent of the infected leukocytes, exploding them and reducing by 10,000-fold the ability of the virus to multiply.

Baron would not agree to be interviewed by *Houston Voice* for this story because discussing unpublished research could jeopardize his ability to get it published. Publication is an important step toward acceptance of the research by the scientific community.

Previously available over-the-counter HIV prevention products have included a substance called nonoxynol-9, which was found in research to prevent transmission of the virus. But nonoxynol-9 caused irritation in the rectum and vagina that could have actually increased the likelihood of transmission, Baron said.

Combe, the makers of Vagisil, issued a statement about Baron's findings to the *Houston Voice* but would not agree to be interviewed.



Researchers and manufacturers have high hopes that Astroglide and Vagisil can help curb the spread of HIV in the U.S. as well as in Third World countries where the virus still spreads uncontrolled.

A spokeswoman said HIV is too serious a disease to discuss their product's potentially preventative qualities without further research. She said the company does not want to present false hope.

Baron stressed that the positive findings in his research will have to be repeated in clinical trials before either product can be considered effective in preventing HIV transmission.

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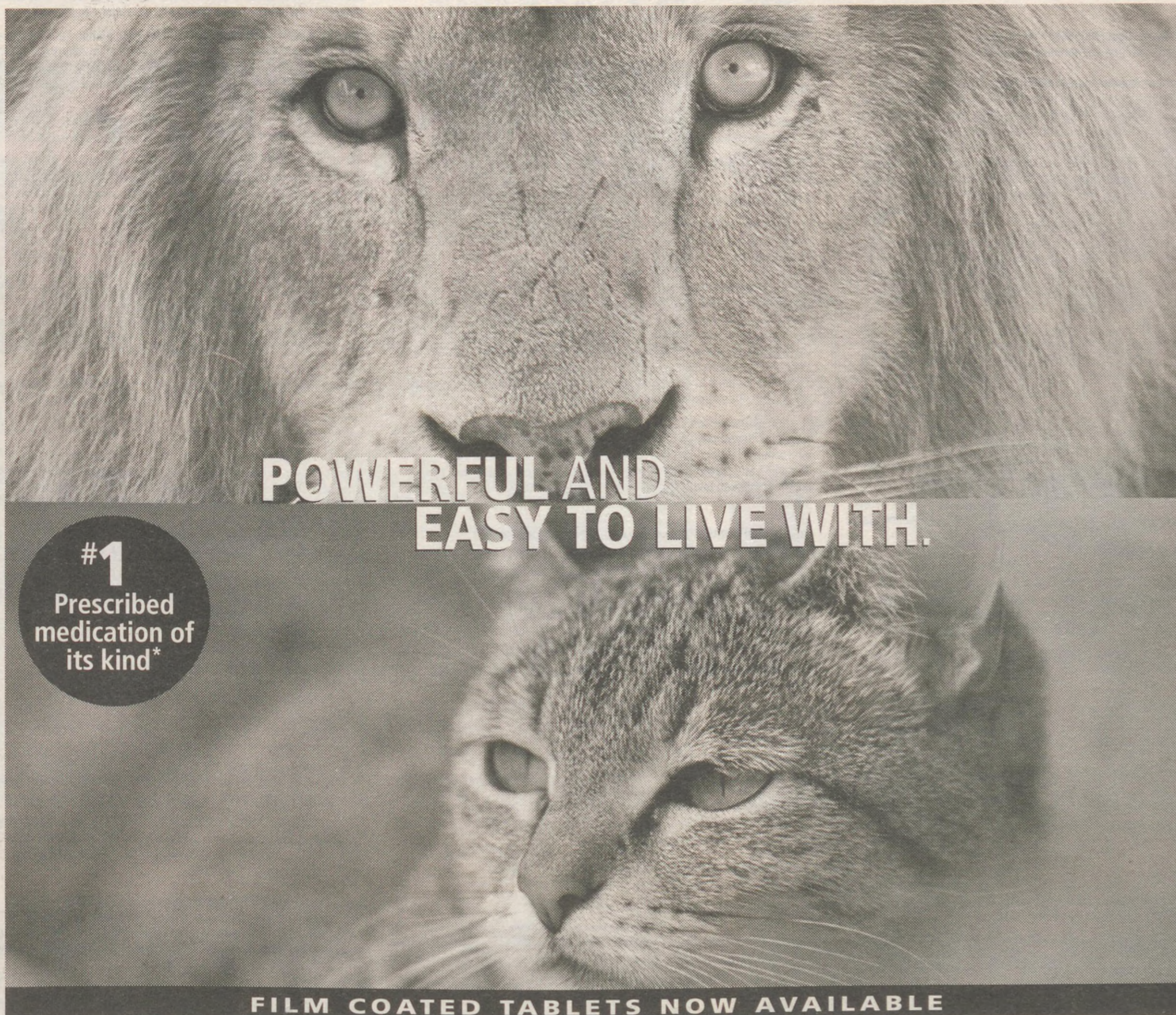
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Things you should know about VIRACEPT VIRACEPT is generally well tolerated. People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea. Diarrhea of moderate or severe

intensity occurred in about one out of five people in clinical trials.

Some common medications and some HIV-related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. Protease inhibitors, including VIRACEPT, may interact with cholesterol-lowering drugs. Talk to your doctor about any prescription or non-prescription drugs you are

taking. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in the distribution or accumulation of body fat, and increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

*IMS Health National Prescription Audit™ data for PIs and NNRTIs, 01/00–03/00.

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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

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

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

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 the number of 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.

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

Can VIRACEPT be taken with other medications?

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

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- 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.

Special considerations

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

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

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.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

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

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

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

Norvir® (ritonavir)

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

Invirase® (saquinavir)

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

What are the side effects of VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 14-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include 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. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack.

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

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

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

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

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

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

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

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

| Pediatric Dose to be Administered Three Times Daily | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Body Weight Kg | Lb | Number of Level Scoops* | Number of Level Teaspoons† | Number of Tablets |
| | | | | |
| 8.5 to <10.5 | 18.5 to <23 | 5 | 1 1/4 | — |
| 10.5 to <12 | 23 to <26.5 | 6 | 1 1/2 | — |
| 12 to <14 | 26.5 to <31 | 7 | 1 3/4 | — |
| 14 to <16 | 31 to <35 | 8 | 2 | — |
| 16 to <18 | 35 to <39.5 | 9 | 2 1/4 | — |
| 18 to <23 | 39.5 to <50.5 | 10 | 2 1/2 | 2 |
| ≥ 23 | ≥50.5 | 15 | 3 3/4 | 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 foods 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 stored at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

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

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

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • JULY 7, 2000

B52s back on the road

Perennial '80s band playing at Woodlands with Go-Go's, P-Furs, July 26

by DAVID GOLDMAN

They hardly seemed like the people to lead a musical revolution, this pack of arty-misfits.

At the disco in Athens, Ga. they made themselves deliberately ridiculous, falling all over the floor as those around them stepped carefully through complicated line dances and looked on in horror.

But with the release of their self-titled debut album in 1979, the B-52's were well on their way to becoming one of the most influential bands in the emerging new wave genre. By rebelling simultaneously against the pointless enthusiasm of disco and the self-important gloom of rock, they helped send music spinning off in an entirely new direction.

They made it cool to be clowns.

"Our underlying message, I always felt, was that it's okay to be different and celebrate that. Don't think selfishly, but think for yourself. And let's celebrate our differences," band member Keith Strickland said last week from his home in Woodstock, N.Y.

This summer the B-52's are back on the road on a tour that brings them to Houston with the Go-Go's and the Psychedelic Furs at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion on July 26.

Athens' very first love shack

To mention the B-52's simply as part of "the Athens music scene" is to miss their sig-

nificance. "The scene back then wasn't even a scene," Schneider said recently from his New Orleans hotel room. "It did not have the scene it has now, with a band on every corner and bars and coffeehouses and all that."

"I remember when I went over to his house the first time," Strickland said of high school pal Ricky Wilson, also a founding member.

"He had a collection of songs he had written on his own. They were really wonderful, so well-written, and I was just blown away. He and I began writing songs together." Sometimes Ricky's parents and sister Cindy were brought in to harmonize on the boys' quirky compositions.

Eventually, Strickland and the Wilsons (all Athens natives) hooked up with Schneider and Kate Pierson, who both hail from New Jersey. The gang of friends bounced around Athens, "terrorizing" people at the town's only disco.

"It was typical youthful angst, expressed at the disco," Strickland said. "For our own entertainment, for something to do, we started the band. Before you knew it, we had a half-hour of music, and we started playing friends' parties and things like that."

"At the first party we played in Athens, so many people were dancing and it got so wild the floor started coming off the hinges—there was a crack between the wall and the floor from the bouncing," Strickland said.

> Continued on Page 17

Love Shack!



Clockwise from top: Fred Schneider, Kate Pierson, Keith Strickland, and Cindy Wilson

Southerner John Stowe among winners at Lambda Literary Awards

by ANDREW ALEXANDER

Lamit Warrior," was among the winners of this year's annual Lambda Literary Awards, designed to honor the best works in gay and lesbian publishing.

"Gay Spirit Warrior," Stowe's first book, is a nonfiction work which examines gay men's spirituality.

"I wrote it partly to share some of the things I'd been exploring, examining how you can be gay and spiritual in this world," he says. The book took two years of writing plus a year's worth of work-

shops and fine-tuning before publication.

Overall, the book advises gay men to look inward for answers to questions about who they are.

"One of the main points is that it advises you to find your own knowing, to trust what you know internally as opposed to what anybody tells you," he says. "People will tell you things that are all over the spectrum. You have to have an internal truth meter. From there, it's up to you to look at what it means to you personally to be gay and then start bringing that forth."

Stowe grew up in Philadelphia, but

moved south to attend graduate school at FSU, eventually settling in Atlanta where he's been since 1976. He says that discovering his homosexuality was a key part in the development of his interest in spirituality.

"It's an on-going search," he says. "Being gay was part of it, trying to find a reason for that. Even growing up in our little Presbyterian church, I had a feeling that something was wrong with me. At first I was looking for answers about how to fix myself. Then it started to get deeper: How do I live in the world and find some satisfaction?"

A sense of spirituality is especially important for gay men, he says, due to society's pressures and obstacles.

"One of the things we're doing right now is redefining who we are in the world," he says. "A lot of gay men, when we're growing up, get a lot of wounding, in terms of self-doubt and not really feeling, we could show all of ourselves. We have a lot of important gifts to share with the world, but we don't do that. A lot of times we're not really aware of it, we just kind of limit ourselves. This is a way to

> Continued on Page 17



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compiled by REX WOCKNER



“When I write I don’t do anything except smoke pot, eat, drink and write. I become this completely hedonistic, bohemian, out-of-control, raging, abusive writer.”

—Singer k.d. lang (left) in an interview with Reuters news service, June 12

“The gay scene is like a port in a storm where you dock for a while. As it’s grown bigger and bolder, more body-oriented and looks-oriented, it’s become more mercenary. I don’t feel that it has much to offer me, but I try not to be too judgmental, because I do feel it has things to give to a younger generation. It’s just sad that it can’t be a scene that can encompass more shapes and sizes.”

—Singer Jimmy Somerville to the *Advocate*, June 20

“I probably have more sex with young men now that I did when I was younger, because either I can buy them now, which I couldn’t afford when I was younger, or they’re attracted to me because I’m a famous writer, which I wasn’t when I was younger.”

—Famed gay author Edmund White to *Genre* magazine, July issue

“Why, as adults, do transsexuals mutilate their bodies in order to make them conform to the fashionable version of the opposite sex and gender? That only reinforces oppressive stereotypes every bit as much as liposuction or a bimbo’s boob job. If you’re a man in a woman’s body, then live androgynously if you’re such a revolutionary. Don’t conform.”

—*Advocate* columnist Norah Vincent, June 20



“I don’t look like anyone else on TV. I’m bald, and I have a beard—how often do you see that? And I think they like my theatrics—my devilish sense of fun.”

—Christopher Lowell (left), the swishy host of the Discovery channel’s home-decorating show, “The Christopher Lowell Show,” to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, June 14

“Every day is my dream job. That I get acknowledged and respected and get to completely express myself in a marketplace where that’s almost unheard of. The reward and the goal is what you get to do every single day.”

—Actress and performer Sandra Bernhard to Cleveland’s *Gay People’s Chronicle*, June 9

“I do resent very much that he took away Marilyn’s song and gave it to Diana. Fickle son of a bitch.”

—Author John Rechy on Elton John to *Genre* magazine, July issue

“I am astonished to be told by Cardinal [Thomas] Winning that my sexuality is not good for me. He argues that homosexuality ‘ensnares them in a lifestyle that can never respond to the deepest longings of the human heart.’ From what practical perspective does he form this point of view? As a Cardinal and presumably a celibate and solitary individual, how can he possibly be in a position to judge? As a gay man I am perfectly happy with my sexuality and my life. I can honestly say that the deepest longings of my heart are satisfied.”

—Elton John (right) in Britain’s the *Spectator*, June 15



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photo: Tim Schultze

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Love Shack!

Continued from Page 15

The new band, which took as its name a slang term for towering bouffant hairdos, traveled to New York, which they found taking itself way too seriously.

"Everybody was dressed in black, being very New York and snooty. We brought in this whole kitsch element-kind of a pop art element-and a sense of fun and dancing, that whole party atmosphere. Then on our second trip, there was a buzz and people were totally into it. Everybody started dancing, and the scene started to change," Strickland said.

Proving they intended to be a force in music for some time to come, the band followed their first album with "Wild Planet" (1980), "Mesopotamia" (produced by Talking Heads' David Byrne in 1982) and "Whammy" (1983). But in 1985, just after they completed work on "Bouncing Off the Satellites," a colossal tragedy grounded the B-52's: Ricky Wilson died of AIDS.

A tragedy inspires a triumph

Fifteen years later, Strickland's voice is still heavy with sorrow when he talks about

the death of his boyhood buddy.

"I lost my best friend. We all did. Cindy lost her brother, who she loved dearly. I didn't see how we could do it without him. He and I wrote the music together. I didn't feel confident that I could do it on my own," Strickland said.

Out of respect for his family, initial reports of Wilson's death did not acknowledge AIDS as the cause.

"You have to put it in the context of the times," Strickland said. "The country just didn't know much about AIDS. ... Ricky died the same month as Rock Hudson, and you know how things changed after that."

Strickland left the New York apartment he'd shared with Ricky, Cindy and her husband and moved to Woodstock, where, slowly, he returned to writing.

Back together with no end in sight

Today the B-52's are a far-flung group, reuniting as necessary for tours and projects. Wilson lives in Atlanta; Schneider lives in New York City and Pierson, like Strickland, lives in Woodstock.

They recently co-wrote and recorded a track for the new "Pokemon" movie. "It's a very strange song," Strickland said, adding that the band didn't write the Pokemon-inspired lyrics.

But will there ever be a new B-52's studio album? "It could happen," Strickland said, though currently he's writing a solo album he hopes to have released next year.

Still, don't expect the B-52's to head for the hangar anytime soon. "There hasn't



been any talk of it," Schneider said. "Maybe when we're 80."

Concurrent with the release of 1992's "Good Stuff," Strickland came out in a gay magazine interview.

"I came out and it was like, nothing. Nothing happened. It was fine," he said. "I think everybody knew anyway, but I felt good being able to talk about it and not be afraid."

Recently, Strickland said, a lesbian employee in a video store informed him she'd always like the B-52's because "I never knew if you guys were gay or not, but you made me feel good about being gay."

"I felt like, God, that's a badge. To me, that's as good as a gold record."

INFO

The B-52's with the Go-Go's and Psychedelic Furs

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John Stowe

Continued from Page 15

move beyond that. We've been defining ourselves by what the world says about us. It's time to go inside and see beyond that."

Stowe sees gay people as having an innate and powerful form of spirituality, one which is often disregarded.

"I think we as gay people have certain sensibilities that help us to bridge parts of human interaction that tend to polarize, like male and female," he says. "We sort of walk a middle path. We've tended to be on the outside of mainstream society. We can observe it from the outside and see things that aren't so obvious to people who are enmeshed in the mainstream. We bridge between spirit and matter. We're more intuitive, I think. That breaks down a little bit if you look at one individual versus another. But as a group we have this bridging capacity, this ability to see things differently."

The Washington, DC-based Lambda Literary Foundation, which awarded Stowe's book, was established to honor the best in lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender publishing. Its 12th annual Lambda awards were distributed last month in Chicago, a gala event affectionately referred to as the "Lammies."

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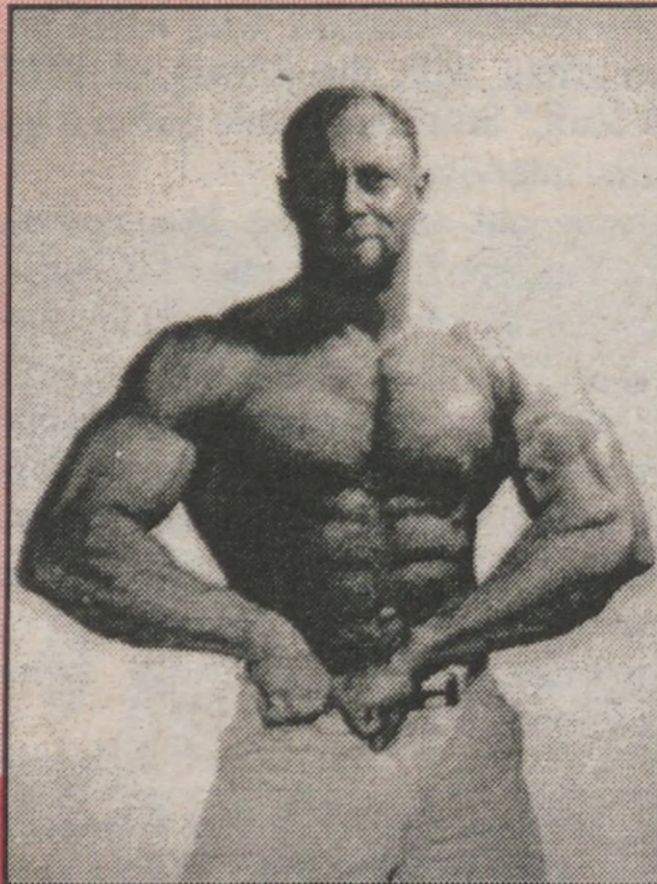


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Health News

New HIV rates on the rise among S.F. gay men, alarming officials

SAN FRANCISCO—New HIV infections among gay and bisexual men in San Francisco more than doubled over the past two years, but remained unchanged among other groups. "We think this needs to be a wakeup call for the rest of the nation," said CDC researcher Dr. Ronald Valdiserri. In 1997, the rate of HIV cases among gay and bisexual men was 1.3 percent, rising to 2.6 percent in 1998 and 3.7 percent last year, according to the San Francisco Department of Public Health. "I think there's a sense that the drugs have taken care of the problem," AIDS researcher Dr. Tom Coates said. "And I think within the community itself there has been an erosion of the safe-sex norm. I think all of that has eroded the community's resolve for prevention." The figures were released in advance of the International AIDS Conference, set for July 9-14 in Durban, South Africa. "This is among people who should know better!" said Jeff Getty, an activist for the group Survive AIDS. "Should I scream and rant and rave about how angry I am about this?"

Study warns gay men may be on verge of anal cancer epidemic

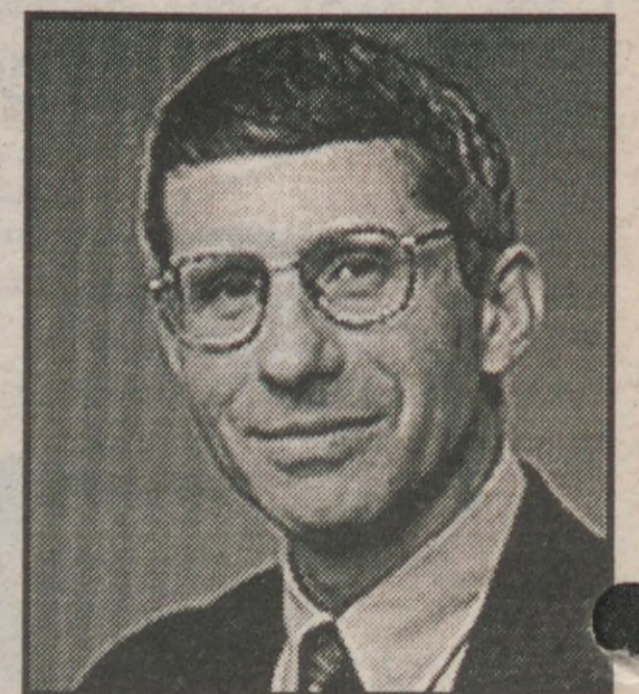
NEW YORK CITY—A study suggests that gay men may be on the brink of an epidemic of anal cancer. Conducted by Dr. Stephen E. Goldstone, co-founder of GayHealth.com, the study shows an increase in anal cancer in gay men attributable to the human Papillomavirus. That same sexually transmitted virus also causes cervical cancer in women and is found in nearly 100 percent of HIV-positive gay men and in approximately 65 percent of HIV-negative gay men. Goldstone studied more than 200 men referred to his surgical practice for anorectal diseases, including anal warts, hemorrhoids, fissures, fistulas and anal itch. Dr. Goldstone found that 68 percent of HIV-positive men had an abnormal and sometimes pre-cancerous growth of cells, as did 45 percent of HIV-negative men. "The alarming rise in anal cancer in gay men is a wakeup call to the gay community and to health care providers worldwide," said Goldstone. "We cannot afford to ignore the signs of this impending epidemic nor can gay men or their physicians ignore even the slightest anal abnormality simply because they may be too embarrassed to discuss it."

Mass. public health officials move to focus efforts on gay needs

BOSTON (AP)—Boston public health officials agreed June 28 to try to better meet the needs of the city's gay community by collecting data on illnesses, raising awareness of health issues and seeking funding for new programs. Their decision follows the lead of other big cities around the country, where officials have already taken action to address the specific health needs of gay residents. "There is clear data that shows there are health differences between the gay and larger communities," said Stephen Boswell, executive director of the Fenway Community Health Center. "If those problems are addressed, we can make a significant impact." Health departments in New York, Chicago and San Francisco have already created offices to deal specifically with gay health issues. Officials in Seattle have developed a specialized campaign to screen and vaccinate gay men for hepatitis.

Federal agency offers funds to groups searching for AIDS vaccine

WASHINGTON (AP)—Four new partnerships were announced by a federal health agency June 27 to provide funding to groups attempting to bring an AIDS vaccine to market. These partnerships, called HIV vaccine design and development teams, were prompted by a presidential directive to increase public-private cooperation in developing vaccines to major diseases. "Many vaccines in use today resulted from both government-sponsored and private research," said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of NIAID. The awards are incentive-based, aimed at teams that have a vaccine in development but have not yet reached human testing. Three U.S. companies in Maryland, New York and California, as well as a consortium of Australian universities all have different tactics on how to create a serum that will protect humans from HIV infection.



Dr. Anthony S. Fauci said public-private cooperation has produced numerous vaccines, and may do so for HIV.

Nashville, Raleigh among cities targeted for syphilis program

ATLANTA (AP)—Three metropolitan areas with high syphilis rates will be targeted for a pilot project aimed at wiping out the disease in the U.S., health officials said June 28. The \$15 million project will be conducted in Nashville, Indianapolis, and Raleigh, and will focus on forming community coalitions, screening and treating infected jail inmates and launching public education campaigns. Elimination of syphilis "would directly improve the health of many Americans and decrease one of our most glaring racial disparities in health," said CDC director Jeffrey Koplan. In 1998, more than 50 percent of syphilis cases were reported in 28 counties located in Southern states. That concentration makes it easier to target programs, Koplan said.

—From staff and wire reports



For more news, visit
www.houstonvoice.com

Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Beauty without soul

Golden Room's food fails to outshine setting

by TRAYCE DISKIN

It had been a few years since I visited THE GOLDEN ROOM, an elegant, warm Thai restaurant with a smoky-red barn of an exterior on upper Montrose.

My vague recollections all centered on the plush carpets, deep maroon walls stitched with tapestries woven in shimmering golds and iridescent pastels, and the chandeliers emitting soft, romantic light. I remembered little about the food, except for a perfectly cloying Thai Iced Tea, and wanted to re-explore, since usually my taste buds point toward Rice Village anytime they crave Thai.

"If the food's anything like the interior," I assured some friends, "it'll be superb."

We strolled into an empty, though arrestingly pretty dining room. Two of us sat in the couch-like booths, whose tacky, pink floral pattern starkly contrasted the rich, sentient tones of the rest of the room.

The Iced Tea was just as I remembered (\$2.25)—deliciously smooth and candied. The Chicken Spring Rolls (\$2.50) were fresh and tightly packed with thick pieces of meat—a welcome twist on the usual shrimp spring rolls. The peanut dipping sauce used a pinch of vinegar and sugar to achieve a sharp and sweet flavor, which saturated the mild dough perfectly.

I enjoyed my Tom Ka Ga Goong (\$4.95) a spicy, lemony coconut milk soup with shrimp. A medallion of hot, dried ginger floated at the bottom, allowing more flavor to seep out. As a lover of Tom Ka soups, I've never noticed this touch before, but what first seemed to be an error of undissolved spice actually infused the broth.

What I missed in this dish were freshly steamed veggies that usually offset the rich base. As an additional flaw, the shrimp was tough and mealy, and little pieces of white meat seemed to be easily shred with my spoon.

The three entrees we shared reminded us of Woody Allen's joke about two women at a Catskill Mountain buffet who complain that the food is horrible, and in such small portions!

A case in point was the bed of rice on each plate in the shape of the state of Texas. Although this might be a whimsical idea for a pork barbecue or Tex-Mex meal, the juxtaposition was laughable, and the rice was cold and dry. The new Thai Barbecue on Richmond, Budda Bubba, should grab this idea and run with it. Because, other-

wise, who wants to be reminded of Texas while they dine on Thai?

The Green Curry with Shrimp (\$10.95), hardly provided enough to pass around the table and share, and the consistency was thin and gelatinous.

The Karee Gai (\$8.95) features a Malaysian style curry with sliced chicken, potato and coconut milk. Again, we failed to discern the type of curry due to the dish's bland, vacuous identity. The grayish milk simmered plainly, and while the potatoes seemed to be the most successful ingredient—tender and not too starchy—the chicken slices appeared sparsely and soaked up none of the broth.

Almost as embarrassing as the cartographic rice was the accompanying cucumber salad. Unless "side" was a mistranslation for more of a condiment size serving—this strange addition did even less to win us over. Served in a porcelain dish no bigger than three thimbles, the entire serving of green relish rested under a single slice of jalapeno. As for the taste, again, whereas it might make a piquant spread on a drier dish, it served little purpose for a wet curry.

We wanted to end on a positive note with a Coconut Ice Cream (\$2.50) or Ka-Nom-Toey (\$3.50), a mixture of rice, palm sugar, and coconut milk.

"At least," one friend urged when we were tempted to end our meal even sooner, "give them a chance at redemption through desert!"

Unfortunately for The Golden Room, her pleadings were moot, as they were out of both dishes. Although the service was friendly and steady (if a little slow for an empty restaurant!), we left the establishment as we encountered it—as a room with lots of beauty, but little soul.

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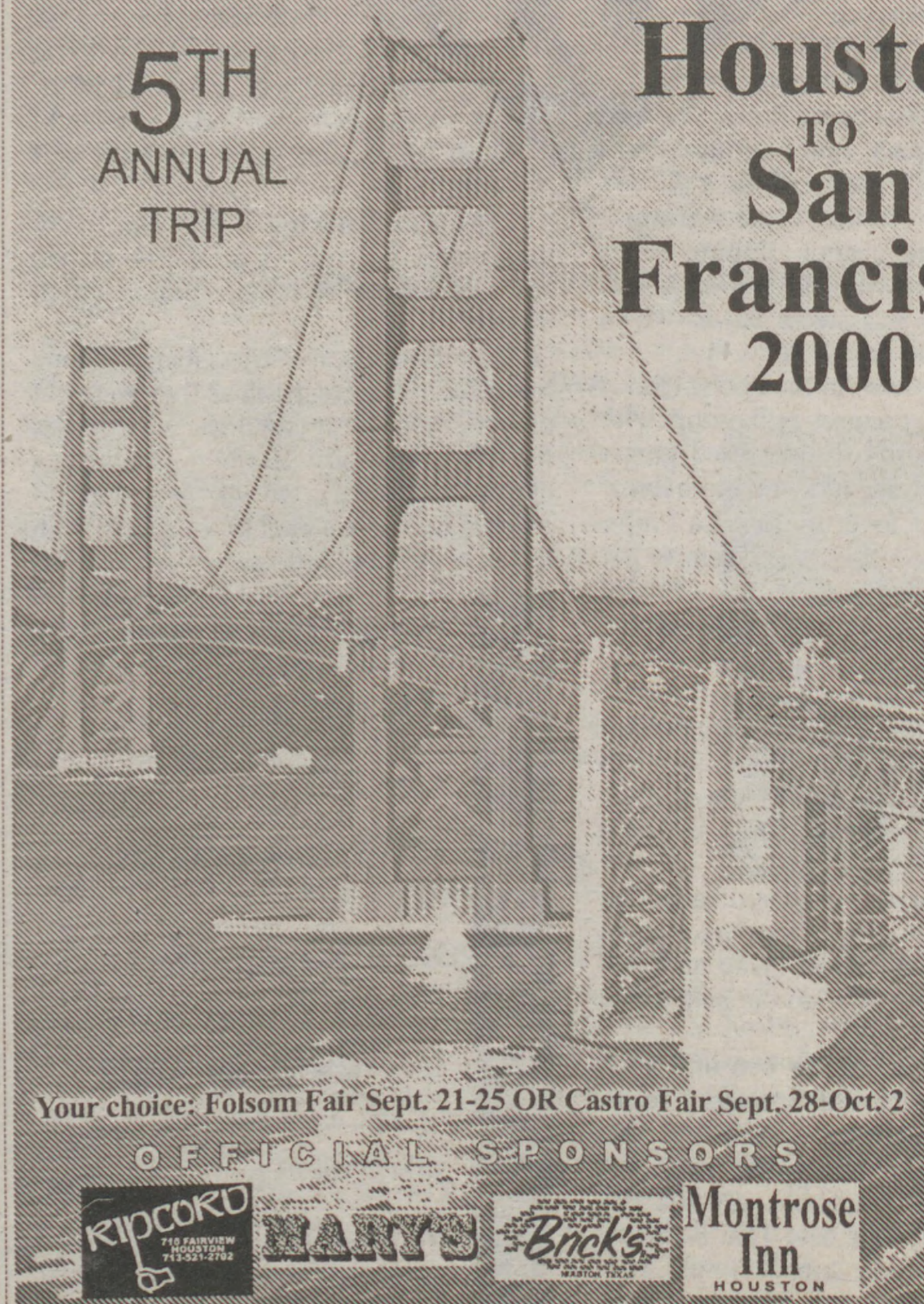
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community calendar

saturday, july 8

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.
Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. 713-528-3818.
Gulf Coast Transgender Community. Meeting. 713-780-4282.
AssistHers. Meeting with guest speaker Susan Turell, PhD. Volunteer Services Coordinator. 713-521-4628.
Houston Outdoor Group. Breakfast. 9 a.m. 281-578-3066.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
FrontRunners. Running Club. 9 a.m. 713-522-8021.
Houston Council of Clubs. Casino Trip. 9 a.m. 713-867-9123.
PFLAG-Houston. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-867-9020.
Lone Star Volleyball Association. Season open. 4:30 p.m. 281-878-4629.

monday, july 10

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017 Ext.208.
gayDAR. Wellness community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017 Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. Black Lesbian & Gay Coalition weekly meeting. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, july 9

New Hope Christian Center Worship Service. 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.
Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9:00 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Baptist Church. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

tuesday, july 11

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 281-495-8009.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

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Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
 Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. 713-410-7215.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. Lesbians Island Young Women's Group meets 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.
 GAG-Houston. Meeting. 7:30 p.m. 713-867-9020.

wednesday, july 12

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Midtowne Spa & Ripcord. 713-830-3000.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 713-524-0218.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Grace Lutheran Church. Vacation Bible School. Supper 5:30 p.m. Classes at 6:30 and 8 p.m. Adult & children. 713-528-3269.
 Houston Area Bears. Dine out. 6:39 p.m. 713-867-9123.
 Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Concert. Special gay men's chorus from Germany, Schola Canters. 7:30 p.m. 800-494-8497 or 713-521-7464 or www.gmch.org.


thursday, july 13

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017X211.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer 713-526-1118.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston. (GLOBAL) Meeting. 4 p.m. 713-743-7539.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Positive Singles. Mixer. 7 p.m. 713-807-7304.

friday, july 14

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9:00 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Mishpachah Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Gay & Lesbian Yard Society. Meeting. 7 p.m. 713-661-6378.

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



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Q&A

Is embalming required by law? No. However, the funeral home may require embalming if there is a public viewing

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The Blood Center

Donors, who would like the location and hours of operation of a donor facility close to them, may call the Blood Center at 713.790.1200 or www.giveblood.org.

PWA Coalition

Desperately needs the following items: Dishes, silverware, pots/pans, sheets, towels, dressers, dinettes, coffee tables, sofas, chairs and small appliances. Pick-up available, call 713.522.5428.

Project L.E.A.P.

Are you interested in advocating for funding and services for people living with HIV and AIDS? The PWA Coalition-Houston announces start of Project L.E.A.P., an intensive training program for HIV positive individuals and others who want to become advocates for HIV/AIDS related services and funding. Classes for Project L.E.A.P. will begin in May. Participants must complete an application and a limited number of spaces are available. To receive an application or to obtain more information please call Rich Arenschieldt, Project Coordinator at 713.522.5428, ext. 28 or 800.999.0325.

Body Positive Wellness Center

is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower those with HIV infection, through nutrition chiropractic services, yoga, and peer counseling. If you are interested in participation or volunteering, we want to speak with you! Visit our website at www.bodypositive.org or call 713.524.2374.

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Organizations

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Pets

The Homeless Pet Placement League is a Houston area, non-profit animal welfare organization. HPPL provides for the rehabilitation of stray and abandoned dogs and cats through its unique foster care program. All animals are spayed/neutered and have their first set of shots. For more information call 713.862.7387 or view website at www.HPPL.org

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1419 Hyde Park efficiency apartment. • \$450 Move-In-Special • Call J.D. at 713.942.0399.

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to give four (4) hours per month for in-home care visits to people living with HIV/AIDS • For more information on Bering's Sentry Program call Craig Overstreet at 713.523.7110 EXT 119.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center

is seeking volunteers to staff the facility in more extended hours. If organizations and individuals are interested, please contact Eva Luchak at 713.524.3818 to discuss how you can help.

RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL

is looking for volunteers to serve on the council. The primary responsibility of the council is to determine what services are most needed. Last year's Council received over \$17 million from the federal government for use in the greater Houston area. Your participation DOES make a difference. Contact Tori Williams at 713.572.3724 or email www.rwpc.org.

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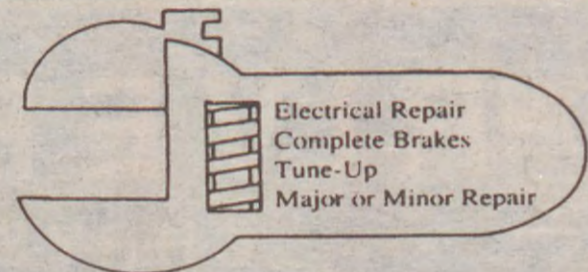
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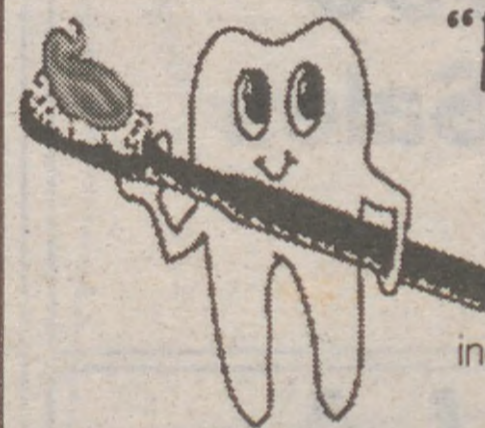
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AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

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 Non-Profit Organizations
 *First 20 words

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Signature _____

Occasions

Birthdays

Belated big hair birthday hugs to Scott Thompson who celebrated his all-star birthday on June 27.

Pet lover Richard has a furry birthday on July 8.

Daryl H. toasts in his birthday on July 11.

Barbara Seville had a crowning birthday on July 12.

Happy birthday to William LaCaze, who'll have a pile of 24 candles behind him on July 9.



Houston Voice's own Rich Arenschioldt celebrates his birthday on July 7.



Fabu photographer for the Houston Voice, Dalton DeHart snaps in his birthday on July 13.



To adopt Dino and Droopy, contact the Houston Humane Society at 713-434-5555 or pr@houstonhumane.org

The Houston Voice welcomes your special occasions. Send e-mail to croberts@houstonvoice.com. Fax: 713-529-9531. Mail: Occasions, Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006. Please include a telephone number so occasions can be verified and considered for publication.

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by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

July 7 - 13

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

The lunar eclipse on July 16 hits the top of your chart and promises a several-month uphill battle that ends with you receiving accolades for all your hard work. The question is how to maintain this elusive sense of security and smugness. Brainstorm in bed with a bawdy and brilliant Taurus.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Take it easy on yourself, kid. The eclipse on the 16th promises you good times and a free ride if you're willing to start having fun. Put some of your ideas down on paper and share 'em with your inner circle of pals. You need to be told just how brilliant you are, doll. Loosen up in the arms of a Scorpio who digs all of you.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Venus moves into the most social sector of your chart on the 14th, so get out of your house and into your car and go where the fun is. You can coast on your good fortune and take some risks in new areas. Expansion is the key. An Aries can lead you in the right direction.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

The lunar eclipse on July 16 falls in your house of love, which means that it's time to act like a humble servant at the sexy altar of your number-one squeeze. Jupiter could be bringing old lovers back into your life for one final confrontation. You need to come face to face with your past, sweetie. A Pisces has not changed one iota since the '80s or '90s.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

When Venus moves into your sign on July 14, you could feel a renewed sense of sensuality. Suddenly sex and love become more than just dreams. It's easy for you to delude yourself into thinking that your life will never change. In fact, major changes are so close, you should be able to taste them. A Libra has been worth the wait.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Stop your sobbing and enjoy the opportunities to stop and smell the roses with the (other) Virgo of your choice. Venus finishes up a stint in your house of friends and large groups on the 13th, so accept all party invitations till then. Several fabulous surprises could well make up for any minor nuisances in your life.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

The lunar eclipse on July 16 triggers a new phase of domesticity in your life. Throw a house party or shop for a new residence. You are way ahead of the pack when it comes to sensing the next trend and moving into the future. Listen to those innovative instincts. A Leo matches your color scheme.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

The lunar eclipse on July 16 widens your social circle in a big way. And you thought you were popular already. You may get pumped up about getting married, getting serious about life, and getting laid on an even more regular basis. Wild sex and your own amoral brand of integrity actually groove well together during this cycle. Just ask a Sag.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Take a proposal of marriage (or a not-legally-recognized same-sex love and lust fest) seriously, honey. A Gemini means business. You may not be able to accept the ultimatum a colleague or boss gives you, but it might actually turn out to be a good deal.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

The lunar eclipse on July 16 falls in your sign, and will you feel it. It's the beginning of a brand new cycle for your love life. Go where your feelings and libido take you. It's all about instinct right now, dear. If your partner's an Aquarius, he or she will help you find your way.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

You can make a lot of spiritual progress and build up a lot of fab karma during mid-July if you veer on the side of emotional generosity every chance you get. You may think your mojo is running low, but it's actually just gearing up for a big late July explosion. A Cancer needs your empathy.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Saturn is winding down its trek through your communication sector, so please do a lot of writing and networking and make something of yourself, dammit! If you follow your heart, you could start to see major success by year's end. Do you have the guts to do what's right for yourself? A Leo thinks you do.

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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