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Find out about
Ambassador Hormel
on page 3 and
Agent Powers on
page 19.



The Lesbian lazy-boy?



KIM THOMPSON

Kristine Wood (left) and Sharon Hayes (right) hoist a chair belonging to Andrea Lazar and Monica Pope into an awaiting truck, June 3. Hayes, a performance artist from New York, spent a day last week collecting furniture from Houston lesbian homes for an installation at DiverseWorks called—what else—'The Lesbian Living Room.' See more on Hayes' work, page 20.

GAY PRIDE

Celebration of diversity starts today

by TAAVI MARK

When Judy Garland died 30 years ago the term "Gay Pride," was virtually non-existent.

Her death led to the now famous riot at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York, where drag queens and other patrons were in mourning over the loss of one of their idols. They were already emotionally vulnerable and when the police began to harass them they fought back with a fury never seen before. They didn't run away in shame as in years past. Fueled by their emotions from mourning and suppressed anger from years of harassment, the crowd's sense of survival took over and a sense of pride prevailed for years to come.

This year's theme for the Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration in Houston is "Pride, Power and Pizzazz." Tonight (June 11) is the official Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride 1999 Kickoff Party at Club Picasso, 2151 Richmond Ave. The party starts at 8 p.m. and continues till dawn but in actuality, the Gay Pride party keeps going until June 26 with the climatic Gay Pride Parade.

"An amazing number of organizations have joined with the Pride Committee of Houston in 1999 to ensure a jam-packed schedule of activities from June 11 until June 26," said 1999 Pride Co-Chair Michelle Franke, "Events ranging from a softball tournament, to a mass commitment ceremony, to Pride Day at Astroworld on Sunday, June 20, ensure that there is something for everyone during Houston Pride 1999."

Houston had its first Gay Pride parade 21 years ago and it is now a year-round operation. "Plans start now for next year," explains

Clarence Bagby, the media coordinator for this year's event.

"There's a general meeting, open to the public, every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray Avenue. Co-chairs for the event are elected in September and everything gets into high gear at the beginning of the year (January)."

Bagby is one of 27 executive committee members who volunteer their time to help organize this event. They have a nine member board of directors with two co-chairs that meet once a month with the executive committee members to help with fund-raising and event coordinating. There are also hundreds of other volunteers who commit their time during the weeks of Gay Pride. As a reminder, Clarence adds, "There's a mandatory June 15th meeting to administer the guideline of the city permits."

The City of Houston has been very supportive of the Gay and Lesbian Pride events. "We have a great working relationship with the city," says Bagby. "The Police Advisory Committee has two

> See Pride Page 18



The benefits of the Houston arts found lacking for gay performers

► Only Houston Symphony offers insurance benefits to gay couples

by D.L. GROOVER

If you're unmarried, gay, involved in a long-term relationship, and work in any of the arts organizations here in Houston, your chances of receiving any form of health insurance benefits for your "domestic partner," are fairly nil, unless you work at the Houston Symphony.

Only the symphony—unique among all the arts businesses in Houston—recog-



nize such unions and offer what they call "arranged partner coverage."

"Yes, we've just recently started making it available to the staff and employees," said Suzanne McArdle, director of human resources for the Houston Symphony.

"It took a while to actually put the poli-

cy together, but we're really happy with the reaction. We have about 150 full-time employees, and a handful of people signed up for coverage. We have open enrollment so we continue to get people added for domestic partners."

She said, "I've had some same-sex partners and others who are oppo-

site-sex domestic partners. Actually it's split down the middle, which is nice."

To take advantage of the symphony's DP plan, applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

- Must share a sole, committed relationship that is expected to last

indefinitely

- Must be jointly responsible for each other's welfare and financial obligations
- Must share a place of residence
- Both partners have to be at least 18-years-old and mentally competent
- Must not be married to anyone else
- Must not be related to each other
- Must satisfied all of the above for at least six months

What has truly enabled the symphony to make it "a little bit easier," to extend their coverage to unmarried partners, said McArdle, is the fact that their organization is self-insured.

Renee Teel, payroll benefits officer at the Alley Theatre, explained how that works.

"Self-insured is the fact that you're not

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Issue 972

Houston Voice

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Forum to focus on HIV/AIDS service in Houston area

by RICH ARENSCHIELDT

One of the most important committees influencing HIV/AIDS funding holds an open meeting on June 14, 6 p.m., at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray.

The Ryan White Planning Council's HIV/AIDS Committee public forum offers a unique opportunity for individuals to express their concerns about HIV-related service delivery in the Houston area.

The HIV/AIDS Planning Committee is one of several committees that receive public input, review current programs and make suggestions to the full Ryan White Planning Council. The council controls \$15 million of HIV/AIDS funding for Houston and surrounding counties.

It is specifically mandated to assess community needs regarding HIV/AIDS, to complete a comprehensive care plan and to develop standards of care for service providers—insuring the quality of services offered.

'In fact, when people are involved they give us information and additionally, they learn information about new services and eligibility requirements. It is a win-win situation.'

—DeCorte

Steve DeCorte, a gay, HIV-positive activist who is co-chair of the HIV Planning Committee, oversees many of these tasks.

"There is a lot to do on this committee," DeCorte said. "We try to get as much information as possible through public input. Over the past months we have conducted numerous focus groups polling more than 350 HIV-positive people and those affected by the disease. Our committee has worked hard to take all of their views into consideration."

"Our committee is needs-based," DeCorte said, "We determine what the needs are (as a result of community input); the feasibility of delivering the services required to meet those needs; what is the best method to deliver the services and how to distribute the services in the most equitable manner, where they do the most good for the largest number of people."

In addition to the significant number of "consumers," who are involved in this planning process, DeCorte feels that open public forums are vital.

"There may have been people who did not participate in previous groups or surveys. This public forum is a method by which people not previously involved in the process can give us their view," he said.

One of DeCorte's principle concerns is that the public feels their views are not taken seriously by decision-makers—a gross misconception. "There are many people who are very serious about making their concerns known (to us) and the committee thanks each of them for participating in surveys, work groups and focus groups. However, many folks think their

opinions don't matter. In fact, when people are involved they give us information and additionally, they learn information about new services and eligibility requirements. It is a win-win situation."

The HIV/AIDS Planning Committee is not a bureaucracy that exists alone in an ivory tower. Information from the public has a direct impact on people with HIV/AIDS. Comments from any "grass roots" involvement (such as this public forum) go to the steering committee for the Ryan White Planning Council (composed of all of the committee chairs of the planning council). After approval by the steering committee, recommendations are presented to a meeting of the full 34-member Ryan White Planning Council, and are

usually adopted as policy.

"There have been numerous situations where individuals have presented information to our committee and, as a direct result, significant changes have been made. The input of those affected by HIV/AIDS has changed the way services are delivered to this community. We listen and act."

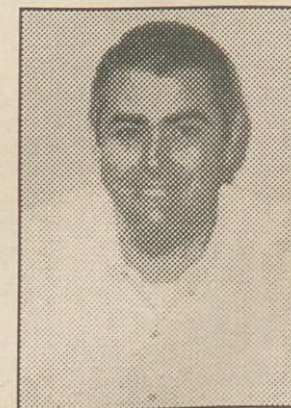
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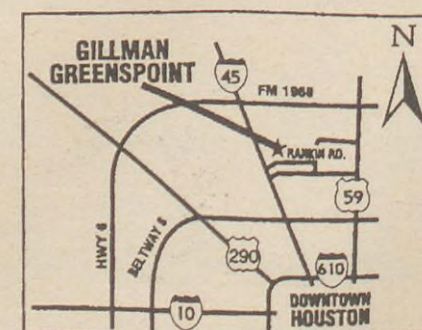
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Clinton appoints gay ambassador while Congress is out

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In a move that defied Senate Republican leaders, President Clinton last week offered a “recess appointment” to James Hormel, the openly gay philanthropist who may now serve as ambassador to Luxembourg until January 2001.

The appointment was made through a provision in the Constitution that allows a president to bypass the regular confirmation process during a congressional recess. Congress returned from a 10-day Memorial Day recess on Monday.

But conservative Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) threatened Tuesday to hold up “every single presidential nomination” to protest the appointment. By custom, any senator can block a presidential nomination by placing a parliamentary “hold” on the matter. Inhofe said he was acting on a precedent set by Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), who in 1985 placed holds on President Reagan’s appointments until Reagan agreed to stop making recess appointments. Reagan made some 270 recess appointments while in office, compared to about 80 by George Bush and 70 by Jimmy Carter, according to the *Washington Post*. Clinton has made 57 to date. With no formal rule in place on such “holds,” Lott indicated he is unlikely to go along with Inhofe’s blanket objection to presidential nominations. But he conceded



James Hormel

that Inhofe can use delaying tactics to slow down nominations on a case-by-case basis.

Inhofe called Clinton’s appointment “highly inappropriate,” saying he wasn’t opposed to Hormel just because he is gay.

“It is the fact that he is a gay activist that puts his agenda ahead of the agenda of America,” he said.

A recess appointment is effective until the end of the next session of Congress, in January 2001.

Long road to Luxembourg

Hormel, a San Francisco philanthropist and heir to a meat packing fortune bearing the same name, will be the first openly gay U.S. ambassador.

“This is a clearly qualified ambassadorial candidate who enjoyed strong support from the foreign policy community,” said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart. “This came down to a couple of senators who thought that he shouldn’t be ambassador to Luxembourg because he’s gay.

And the president thinks that’s wrong and discriminatory and that’s why he moved ahead and did the recess appointment.” Hormel was first nominated to the post by Clinton in October 1997 and again this past January.

But Senate conservatives have continually opposed the nomination, complaining of Hormel’s advocacy of gay rights and financial support for gay rights causes. Lott refused to move the nomination last year, even though it had been approved in 1997 by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and had the support of as many as 60 senators.

“The fact of the matter was that (Hormel’s) nomination was not permitted to be brought to the floor of the Senate for a vote. Because of that, the president did what I think was the honorable thing to do to break that logjam, that was to make that recess appointment and I say hallelujah,” said Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Violent opposition from the right

A spokesman for Lott, who has compared gays to kleptomaniacs and alcoholics, told the *New York Times* Friday that he opposed the appointment “of someone who has supported an extremist, anti-Catholic group to represent the United States.” “Hormel’s refusal to condemn this brand of religious intolerance makes his

appointment by the Clinton-Gore administration a slap in the face to Catholics everywhere,” said John Czwartacki, Lott’s spokesman.

Czwartacki was referring to Hormel’s refusal to condemn the activities of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a San Francisco performance troupe featuring men who wear nuns’ habits, according to the *Times* story. Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP board of directors, issued a scathing statement in direct response to Lott. “Of course, Mr. Lott is a hypocrite twice over,” Bond said, citing Lott’s affiliation with an extremist group, the Council of Conservative Citizens, which Bond called anti-Semitic and anti-black. Bond said Lott has lied about his participation in this group.

“Senator Lott’s opposition to Mr. Hormel—is simple homophobia,” Bond said. “Senator Lott’s refusal to condemn the CCC’s intolerance makes his leadership of the Senate a slap in the face to decent Americans everywhere. Is there no shame?”

Hormel, 66, has been a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva and had previously been confirmed by the Senate to serve on the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly in 1996. He is a former dean at the University of Chicago Law School.

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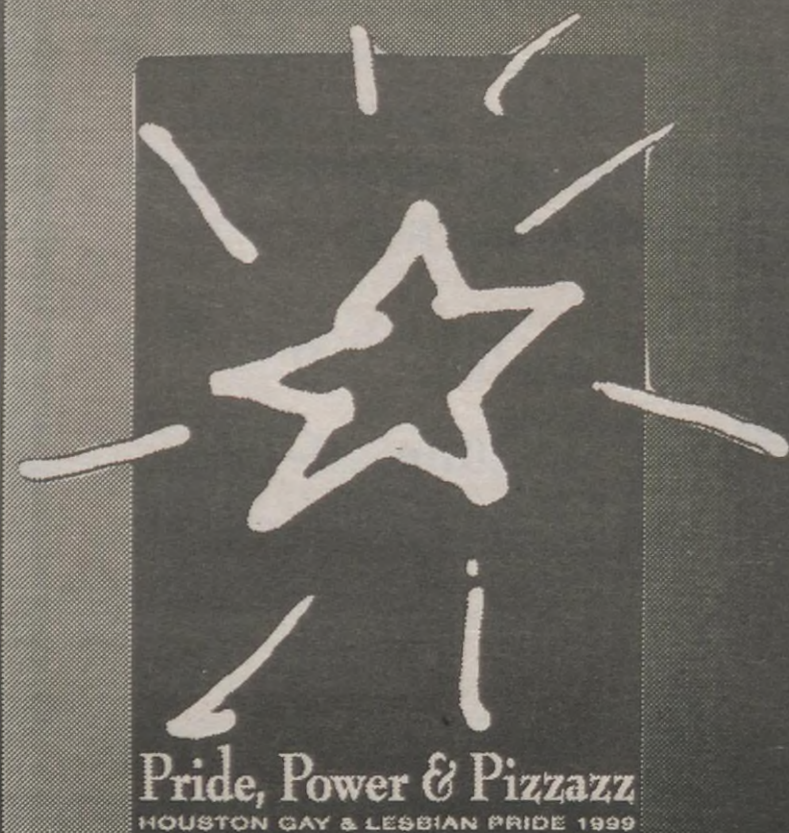
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Fading youth: Gays facing midlife only after battling with stereotypes

"See the one sitting across from you? The frumpy middle-aged one with the haggard look and the slumped shoulders? That's what you look like."

—New Yorker cartoon

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

Midlife, the staging area between youth and old age, can be tricky business for gay men and women. They don't hit midlife as much as midlife hits them right between the eyes.

Fading youth and beauty can be frightening. But for some, it's the most exciting time of their lives. The stereotypes of older men as bitter queens and older women as dried-up prunes remain, but research and anecdotal evidence reveal a thriving community of wiser, more mature, insightful people.

But the wisdom and maturity don't come easily. The first stop on the road to the higher midlife plane is the mirror. And few people like what they see. Lee Potts, author of "Falling Flesh Just Ahead," speaks for many when she writes, "Name a body part and I will not only be glad to show it to you, I'll even show you where it used to be." Midlife is marked by physiological changes, but it's the visible physical changes that most men and some women have the hardest time reconciling:

Weight gain, wrinkles, gray hair, changes in vision, puffy eyes and drooping libidos. The physical changes that mark the slide between youth and old age are particularly hard on gay men, according to Rik Isensee, a licensed clinical social worker and author of "Are You Ready? The Gay Man's Guide to Thriving at Midlife."

"I have to let go of viewing myself as physically attractive, of being less physically appealing than I used to be. It's a loss of social power and a loss of self-esteem," said Kevin, one of Isensee's patients. Al Stewart,

50, understands Kevin's wistfulness. "When I walk into a room full of younger guys, I'd be lying if I said my ego doesn't occasionally get nicked," Stewart said. But if you're bright and intuitive, you realize early on that beauty and youth will end, and you plan for something more substantive to take its place your career, leadership in the community, developing your own company, etc."

Shelly Robbins, 53, disagrees. "In a lot of ways I feel more beautiful and more powerful now than I ever did," she said. "I may not stand a chance with the young pretty girls, but so what? I don't care." Ann Saucier, 44, said anybody who mourns for their physical beauty isn't thinking right. Beauty in older women fades as much as it takes on a different patina, she said. "When I was younger I couldn't see the internal beauty I see now," Saucier said. "Today, I'm

attracted to older women. Back then, I wasn't."

Some gay midlifers try to avoid the inevitable by running amok, dumping long-term boyfriends to party all night in a quest to hang on to their youth. "The most tragic sight in the world is walking into a bar and seeing a middle-aged man with a tank top and a baseball cap on backwards, hanging on to the last vestige of his past," Stewart said.

The attempt of the middle-aged to curry favor

with the young strike some as odd. Is it backwards? Shouldn't the young be asking approval of the older?

Shelly Robbins thinks so. "We have more experience, we've learned so much that they could use," Robbins said. Saucier said it's just downright shallow, "not to mention sad," that the older would try so hard for



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find wisdom and maturity, but and few positive role models

the approval of the younger. "What does that say about you, your depth?" she said.

But not every gay man sees their fading youth in the same light. Victor, another of Isensee's patients, said, "It's distressing that I'm not as sexually charged as I used to be, but it's a relief more than anything because that energy used to run me. Now it's an ally instead of this wild beast I need to tame." The biggest hurdle gay men have in facing midlife is overcoming the relentless negative stereotypes and the lack of positive role models, according to Isensee. The stereotype of older gay men as "chicken hawks" obsessed with chasing younger guys is reinforced in both the straight and gay communities.

But the limited research available doesn't bear that out. A San Francisco survey of age preferences in sexual partners by gay men in their 50s revealed that almost half preferred men in their same age bracket. Another stereotype about older gay men and lesbians is that loneliness is their destiny. A recent *New York Times* Magazine article by gay author Andrew Holleran perpetuated this stereotype.

"Gay geezers are condemned to live out their days as forlorn relics taunted by memories of splendor," he wrote.

That sentiment shocks Shelly Robbins. "Oh, my God," she said "the author may as well grab the lily and lay down!" Robbins said Holleran's idea that loneliness is the destiny of gay people is the saddest thing she's heard about growing older. She rarely looks back in her life because she's got so much in front of her. "I was a lot lonelier in my 20s," she said. "Today, my life is filled with love and friends and lots of things I look forward to."

But Stewart said men can only look to

the past. "Gay society would just as soon lock older men away," he said. Then, mocking the consciousness of the youth-obsessed, he added, "If they're not pretty, they're of no use to us, so take them away."

It may be true, as Potts said in her book, that "London Bridge isn't the only thing falling around here," but for many gay midlifers there's a lot rising: Their self-esteem, life perspective, self-acceptance, humor and healing.

Men and women approaching their 40s and 50s go through a second stage in their gay and lesbian identity. If the first is coming out, then for many, the second is arriving. Isensee has observed the renaissance that many experience: Reaping the rewards of hard work, greater influence and respect in their communities, stable, long-term relationships and a sense of peace. Isensee writes that gay and lesbian middle-aged folks are really the ones driving the progress of gay civil rights. "At midlife, we feel just as strong about social issues we cared about when we were younger. But we are able to enlist more skillful means to make our point partly because we no longer have the need to prove ourselves," he wrote.



INFO

Falling Flesh Just Ahead: And Other Signs on the Road Towards Midlife

By Lee Potts
Longstreet Press, 192 pages, \$12.95

Are You Ready?: The Gay Man's Guide to Thriving at Midlife

by Rik Isensee
Alyson, 232 pages, \$10.95

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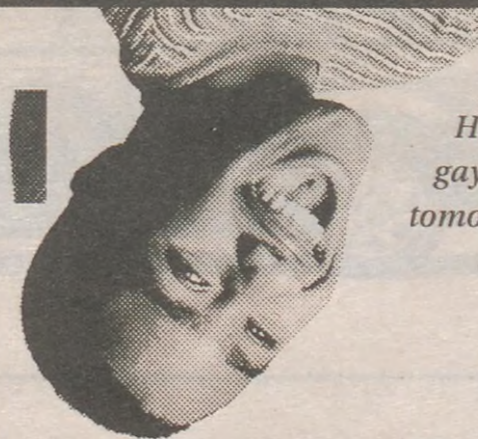
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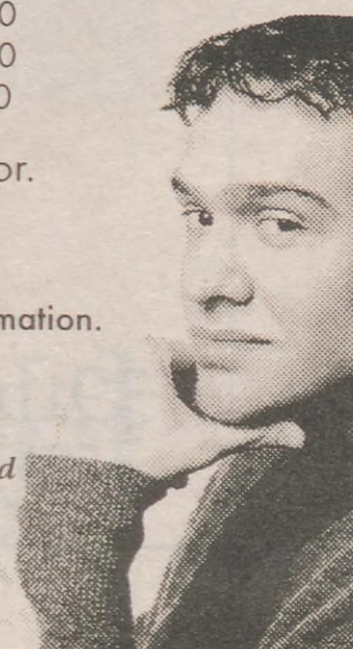


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Free exams and lesbian relationship forums part of health event

Breaking the Silence: Battering and Abuse in Lesbian Relationships will be presented at 11:30 on Saturday, June

19 at Montrose Clinic. The talk is one of seven free presentations on women's health issues at Women with Pride, Power, and Pizzazz: A Day of Empowerment and Health.

19 at Montrose Clinic. The talk is one of seven free presentations on women's health issues at Women with Pride, Power, and Pizzazz: A Day of Empowerment and Health.

"This is an issue that is never talked about," said Barbara Walker, an organizer of the event. Other topics to be discussed include hormone replacement therapy, HIV and Hepatitis C, and



healthy breasts. Free dental consultations and blood pressure screening will be available. "Well Woman Exams," which include a pap smear, and a blood test that which screens for four sexually-transmitted diseases, (Hepatitis B and C, syphilis and HIV) will be offered throughout the day for \$15 each. Several women's resource groups will have exhibits and poet Donna Garrett will sign copies of her new book of poetry "The Spoken Touch."

Appointments for the exams must be made by calling Walker at 713/830-3075.

The event is a project of the Lesbian Health Outreach program and is sponsored by Montrose Clinic and Montrose Counseling Center.

INFO

Women with Pride, Power and Pizzazz

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Panretin[®] gel does not prevent the appearance of new lesions or the increased growth of KS lesions not treated with Panretin[®] gel. Patients using Panretin[®] gel should avoid prolonged exposure of the treated area to sunlight or other ultraviolet light. While using Panretin[®] gel, you may experience some local effects such as redness, discomfort, itching, and skin peeling or flaking at the area

A new KS treatment that you can apply at home.



of application. Other possible local skin effects include: rawness, surface or deep cracking, scabbing, crusting, drainage, oozing, or infection. Consult your health care provider for more information on how to manage these effects. Do not use Panretin[®] gel if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

Your doctor can tell you more about Panretin[®] gel, how to use it and what results you may expect. For more information, call 1-800-964-5836.



Panretin[®] gel
(alitretinoin) 0.1%

 **LIGAND[®]**
PHARMACEUTICALS

Panretin[®] gel

(alitretinoin) 0.1%

FOR TOPICAL USE ONLY

BRIEF SUMMARY

The following is a brief summary. Before prescribing, please consult full prescribing information.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Panretin[®] gel is indicated for topical treatment of cutaneous lesions in patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma. Panretin[®] gel is not indicated when systemic anti-KS therapy is required (e.g., more than 10 new KS lesions in the prior month, symptomatic lymphedema, symptomatic pulmonary KS, or symptomatic visceral involvement). There is no experience to date using Panretin[®] gel with systemic anti-KS treatment.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Panretin[®] gel is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to retinoids or to any of the ingredients of the product.

WARNINGS

Pregnancy: Panretin[®] gel could cause fetal harm if significant absorption were to occur in a pregnant woman. 9-*cis*-Retinoic acid has been shown to be teratogenic in rabbits and mice. An increased incidence of fused sternebrae and limb and craniofacial defects occurred in rabbits given oral doses of 0.5 mg/kg/day (about five times the estimated daily human topical dose on a mg/m² basis, assuming complete systemic absorption of 9-*cis*-retinoic acid, when Panretin[®] gel is administered as a 60 g tube over 1 month in a 60 kg human) during the period of organogenesis. Limb and craniofacial defects also occurred in mice given a single oral dose of 50 mg/kg on day eleven of gestation (about 127 times the estimated daily human topical dose on a mg/m² basis). Oral 9-*cis*-retinoic acid was also embryocidal, as indicated by early resorptions and post-implantation loss when it was given during the period of organogenesis to rabbits at doses of 1.5 mg/kg/day (about 15 times the estimated daily human topical dose on a mg/m² basis) and to rats at doses of 5 mg/kg/day (about 25 times the estimated daily human topical dose on a mg/m² basis). Animal reproduction studies with topical 9-*cis*-retinoic acid have not been conducted. It is not known whether topical Panretin[®] gel can modulate endogenous 9-*cis*-retinoic acid levels in a pregnant woman nor whether systemic exposure is increased by application to ulcerated lesions or by duration of treatment. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. If Panretin[®] gel is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking it, the patient should be apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus. Women of child-bearing potential should be advised to avoid becoming pregnant.

PRECAUTIONS

Panretin[®] gel is indicated for topical treatment of Kaposi's sarcoma. Patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma were less tolerant of topical Panretin[®] gel; five of seven patients had 6 episodes of treatment-limiting toxicities—grade 3 dermal irritation—with Panretin[®] gel (0.01% or 0.05%).

Photosensitivity: Retinoids as a class have been associated with photosensitivity. There were no reports of photosensitivity associated with the use of Panretin[®] gel in the clinical studies. Nonetheless, because *in vitro* data indicate that 9-*cis*-retinoic acid may have a weak photosensitizing effect, patients should be advised to minimize exposure of treated areas to sunlight and sunlamps during the use of Panretin[®] gel.

Drug Interactions: Patients who are applying Panretin[®] gel should not concurrently use products that contain DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), a common component of insect repellent products. Animal toxicology studies showed increased DEET toxicity when DEET was included as part of the formulation.

Although there was no clinical evidence in the vehicle-controlled studies of drug interactions with systemic antiretroviral agents, including protease inhibitors, macrolide antibiotics, and azole antifungals, the effect of Panretin[®] gel on the steady-state concentrations of these drugs is not known. No drug interaction data are available on concomitant administration of Panretin[®] gel and systemic anti-KS agents.

Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions: No interference with laboratory tests has been observed.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term studies in animals to assess the carcinogenic potential of 9-*cis*-retinoic acid have not been conducted.

9-*cis*-Retinoic acid was not mutagenic *in vitro* (bacterial assays, Chinese hamster ovary cell HGPRT mutation assay) and was not clastogenic *in vitro* (chromosome aberration test in human lymphocytes) nor *in vivo* (mouse micronucleus test).

Pregnancy Category D (see "Warnings" section)

Nursing Mothers: It is not known whether alitretinoin or its metabolites are excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for adverse reactions from Panretin[®] gel in nursing infants, mothers should discontinue nursing prior to using the drug.

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

Geriatric Use: Inadequate information is available to assess safety and efficacy in patients age 65 years or older.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The safety of Panretin[®] gel has been assessed in clinical studies of 385 patients with

AIDS-related KS. Adverse events associated with the use of Panretin[®] gel in patients with AIDS-related KS occurred almost exclusively at the site of application. The dermal toxicity begins as erythema; with continued application of Panretin[®] gel, erythema may increase and edema may develop. Dermal toxicity may become treatment-limiting, with intense erythema, edema, and vesiculation. Usually, however, adverse events are mild to moderate in severity; they led to withdrawal from the study in only 7% of the patients. Severe local (application site) skin adverse events occurred in about 10% of patients in the U.S. study (versus 0% in the vehicle control). Table 1 lists the adverse events that occurred at the application site with an incidence of at least 5% during the double-blind phase in the Panretin[®] gel-treated group and in the vehicle control group in either of the two controlled studies. Adverse events were reported at other sites but generally were similar in the two groups.

TABLE 1

Adverse Events with an Incidence of at Least 5% at the Application Site in Either Controlled Study in Patients Receiving Panretin[®] Gel or Vehicle Control

Adverse Event Term	Study 1		Study 2	
	Panretin [®] Gel N=134 Pts. %	Vehicle Gel N=134 Pts. %	Panretin [®] Gel N=36 Pts. %	Vehicle Gel N=46 Pts. %
Rash ¹	77	11	25	4
Pain ²	34	7	0	4
Pruritus ³	11	4	8	4
Exfoliative dermatitis ⁴	9	2	3	0
Skin disorder ⁵	8	1	0	0
Paresthesia ⁶	3	0	22	7
Edema ⁷	8	3	3	0

Includes Investigator terms:

¹ Erythema, scaling, irritation, redness, rash, dermatitis

² Burning, pain

³ Itching, pruritus

⁴ Flaking, peeling, desquamation, exfoliation

⁵ Excoriation, cracking, scab, crusting, drainage, eschar, fissure or oozing

⁶ Stinging, tingling

⁷ Edema, swelling, inflammation

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Panretin[®] gel should initially be applied two (2) times a day to cutaneous KS lesions. The application frequency can be gradually increased to three (3) or four (4) times a day according to individual lesion tolerance. If application site toxicity occurs, the application frequency can be reduced. Should severe irritation occur, application of drug can be temporarily discontinued for a few days until the symptoms subside.

Sufficient gel should be applied to cover the lesion with a generous coating. The gel should be allowed to dry for three to five minutes before covering with clothing. Because unaffected skin may become irritated, application of the gel to normal skin surrounding the lesions should be avoided. In addition, do not apply the gel on or near mucosal surfaces of the body.

A response of KS lesions may be seen as soon as two weeks after initiation of therapy but most patients require longer application. With continued application, further benefit may be attained. Some patients have required over 14 weeks to respond. In clinical trials, Panretin[®] gel was applied for up to 96 weeks. Panretin[®] gel should be continued as long as the patient is deriving benefit.

Occlusive dressings should not be used with Panretin[®] gel.

OVERDOSAGE

There has been no experience with acute overdose of Panretin[®] gel in humans. Systemic toxicity following acute overdose with topical application of Panretin[®] gel is unlikely because of limited systemic plasma levels observed with normal therapeutic doses. There is no specific antidote for overdose.

Manufactured for:
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San Diego, CA 92121

by:
Stiefel Laboratories, Inc.
Coral Gables, FL 33134



10275 Science Center Drive
San Diego, California 92121

“Quote unquote”



“So-called gay folks just as soon kill you as look at you.”
 —Rev. Jerry Falwell, 20 years ago this week, in an interview with Newsweek magazine.

“We’re not interested in going back to becoming a ghetto magazine. We are not a news magazine. We do not compete with the Advocate. We are not a magazine for poor people.”

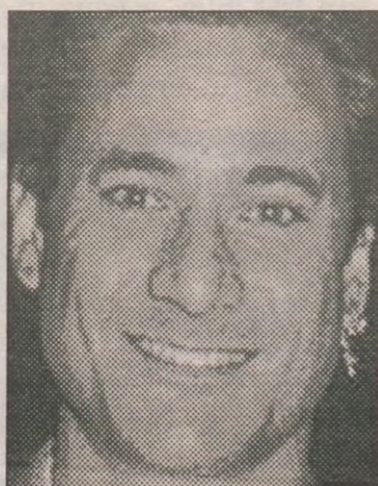
—Henry Scott, editorial director of *Out* magazine, to the *New York Observer* May 24, after Editor James Collard quit on May 17.

“Hero is for guys in committed relationships, for gay men who want to raise kids, and it’s for people who are single and looking for love and interested in spirituality. It’s not for guys living an

urban party lifestyle or for guys leading sex-centered lives.”
 —*Hero* magazine co-founder Paul Horne to *Out* magazine, June issue.

“I joke that had I been more emotionally and psychologically stable, I would have won just one gold medal. To win four was compulsive, but diving was what I thought was acceptance and love. A lot of gays are incredibly successful, from the outside looking in, because they are driven.”

—Greg Louganis to the *Chicago Tribune*, May 25.



“The problem with Pride is that most media outlets look for the extreme to portray the gay community as a bunch of sexual deviants, and boy, do we give them the ammunition they need to do it. The drag-queen hosts, half-naked men, leather boys and parties with drugs and promiscuous sex following is exactly what a redneck sitting at home needs to solidify in his mind that gays and lesbians are exactly what his Bible says they are.”

—Columnist Steve Yuhas in the San Diego gay newspaper *Update*.

“I am not now, nor have I ever been, a heterosexual. Not that there’s anything wrong with that.”

—Consultant Wayne Kowadler to the *New York Post* May 21 in response to rumors that he and openly lesbian New York City Council member Christine Quinn are having a secret affair.

“I don’t think their condition is beyond change. There’s ample evidence to show change can occur. I think it has occurred. ... My heart reaches out to these people. A lot of wonderful, fine people among this group. I have nothing but love for them and concern for them, and we want to help them. But can we do so? It’s when they violate their moral standards, which are the same for them as they are for everybody else, that we take some disciplinary action. Now, that’s all there is to it, just that simple.”

—Mormon church President Gordon B. Hinckley to the *Los Angeles Times*, May 9.



“Don’t expect anyone to love you. In fact, they will despise you. Unless you pay them in some way. No one simply volunteers their affection. And I’ve never loved anyone as much as I love money.”

—Gay writer and performer Quentin Crisp, to Toronto’s *Xtra!*, May 6.

“I am often sneered at by hateful gay men. I’m very unpopular. I get letters along the lines of: ‘Finish it up already! Drop dead!’”

—Quentin Crisp, 91, to Toronto’s *Xtra!*, May 6.

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EDITORIAL

It's time to open some 'complicated closets'

It was a historic day just two months ago in Hartford, Connecticut, when the rainbow flag flew over the state capital, and the crowd of 250 that gathered to witness the event was energized by the symbolic sanction Gay Pride had received.

Brian Flaherty, a four-term Democrat in the Connecticut House, gave a short speech about freedom and equality and the significance of the rainbow flag. When the 37-year-old, bank economist had finished, he stepped away from the microphone and found himself in the tight grip of the rally emcee, 6-foot, 3-inch Rick Stillson.

Stillson pulled Flaherty back up to the microphone and asked what brought him to the rally that day. "My car brought me here," came Flaherty's weak reply.

Reaction from the largely gay crowd was mixed. Some shouted, "Leave him alone!" Others chanted, "Say it! Say it!"

With the TV cameras rolling, Flaherty let it spill. "I don't think this is going to come as a surprise," he said, "but, yes, I am gay."

Afterward, Flaherty was understandably resentful that those organizing a Gay Pride rally would use strong-arm tactics on a politician who was, after all, there to lend his support.

But he also told reporters that he didn't feel he'd been "outed." Flaherty said that outing was "kind of redundant," for him, since he told his family and friends when he was 19 that he was gay.

Flaherty's story is noteworthy only for its unusual ending. There are dozens of politicians and other public figures in every state, including our own, who manage what have to be called "complicated closets."

He had been out to family, friends and within the local gay community even many of his constituents already knew.

But Flaherty had never talked publicly about his sexual orientation, and the local press had "respected his privacy" and reported only that he was single, leaving the presumption that he was heterosexual.

In an age when the media treat almost no other area of a public figure's private life as "off limits," the reporting of sexual orientation still sends cold shivers down the spine of editors everywhere.

In the '80s, a time of ACT UP rallies and the launch of Outweek magazine, the media engaged in a thoughtful

the primary mouthpiece for the governmental body that most directly discriminates against gays. Williams survived the "outing," and works today, ironically enough, as a network news reporter for NBC.

But the climate for gays today is far different than it was 10 or 15 years ago, and public figures, especially those with complicated closets, are asking too much of the press to manage the public/private distinctions for them, especially when the closet seems more self-serving than self-preserving.

Just weeks ago, our sister newspaper in Atlanta published a front-page story about a lesbian psychologist whose life work is to publish research demonstrating that children raised by gay parents turn out no different and sometimes better than those raised by heterosexuals. The article mentioned that the psychologist was herself a mother, a fact that the subject later complained was private.

It was fine with her that *Southern Voice*, the sister paper to the *Houston Voice*, printed that she is gay, but the newspaper had improperly "outed" her as a mother, an issue she claimed to have successfully "navigated," with gay and straight news outlets across the country.

Maybe so, but in the process she had also successfully shielded her work which includes testifying as an expert in custody disputes from the additional scrutiny that would naturally come her way when her own stake in her research was made plain.

It has never been the job of the media to manage the private lives of public figures, and the press should get out of the business of shielding facts, like someone's sexual orientation, that are no more private than whether someone is married or a parent.

Too often, journalists worry that revealing sexual orientation is talking about a person's sexual life, which everyone agrees should remain private.

But not revealing a public figure's homosexual orientation is to leave the presumption that the person is straight. Presuming someone is straight says as much about that person's private sexual conduct as knowing the person is gay.

The difference, when reporting on a public figure who is gay, is that leaving an impression of heterosexuality is inaccurate and reporting the figure's homosexuality is the truth. Journalists should be in the business of telling the truth, not facilitating lies.

It's a matter of journalism, not activism, that we begin to tell the basic facts about the private lives of gay public figures.

If Brian Flaherty's family, friends and community knew he was gay, then the media fell down on its job by waiting so long to report it.



Brian Flaherty

debate about when it was appropriate to report the sexual orientation of public figures. The uneasy, and largely unspoken, resolution was to only "out," the hypocrites.

The pioneer of "outing," was, appropriately enough, a gossip columnist turned advocate journalist by the name of Michelangelo Signorile, who grabbed headlines when he "outed," the Pentagon's press spokesman, Pete Williams. Signorile argued that Williams was a hypocrite for agreeing to be





STRAIGHTJACKET

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the nation of Montsegur

by ANTHONY
CONNOLLY

In the annals of Montesegurian history, David Jordan and James Moore will shine.

National holidays will be named in their honor; school children will recount with pride how these two gay men dared to dream the impossible.

Whenever we stand in honor of this great nation, to the strains of "Fanfare for the Common Man," or perhaps, "The Planets," we will remember their steadfastness and their courage.

A patriotic tear may roll down our cheeks as we glance out over the verdant island paradise these men helped create.

They ventured, where few would dare go. They believed enough to sally forth, to be brave enough to even consider such a place as Montsegur.

It all started with a few e-mail misadventures for the two computer compadres. In one of a myriad of chat rooms James Moore, of Charlotte, North Carolina and David Jordan of Livingston, Texas found each other, and a common vision.

"I had always wondered what it would be like for gays to live in a country where they could be free from oppression, in fact, where all people could live free from oppression and with their civil liberties intact. This was intensified by the murder of Matthew Shepard and increasing encroachments on individual liberties. I posted my ideas about such a

country to a news group, and soon afterward received a reply from David Jordan, which began an exchange of ideas, and from that, Montsegur was born," said Moore.

Jordan has had the same thoughts for the past decade. "I was getting tired of the BS that you find in the world nowadays," he said from his Livingston home.

Moore and Jordan saw one solution to ensure liberty for all, to rid themselves of the religious right and conservatives of all ilk is to form their own country.

Montsegur would be its own sovereign nation, governed by a libertarian government which shall be the servant of the people, and not their master, Jordan said.

And the first guarantee of Montsegur, granted to every one of its citizenry, would be, "the right to be left alone."

The name of the country was chosen in honor of the Cathars, a religious sect of the Middle Ages who established their own civilization in southern France. The Cathars, history tells us, were fond of freedom, tolerance, equality for both sexes, all classes, religions, creed and sexual orientations.

Jordan says the best place to house this new nation is an island. "It prevents the problem of borders with a neighbor or neighbors that could prove bothersome, if not hostile." He also said the isolation would help to ensure the ideals of Montsegur could incubate en route to fruition.

Presently members are voting on sites for possible staking, they include: the Island of Verjoe near Denmark and a few of the Caribbean Islands.

A government and society, based on "libertarian an objectivist principles and the right of individuals to be left in peace and to enjoy their own fulfillment," would be the rule of the sovereignty.

Jordan and Moore have it all figured out. They know what they want to do about taxes, about housing, international relations and a national flag; they even have a plan for invasion.

"We pretty much would stay out of other people's business," said Jordan.

To fund such an endeavor, Montsegur would, like many island nations, turn to Internet banking and gambling for currency.

But is it all for real?

"I wouldn't be doing this, if I didn't think it could happen. It will," said Jordan.

"Why should it not work? Bear in mind that the U.S. and Canada and many other countries had their beginnings with misfits. Indeed, every city and nation on Earth had its earliest beginnings with groups of people breaking away from the norm and venturing to new lands and new opportunities over the horizon."

While it would be easy to discount the measures these two men are willing to go for their own Robinson Crusoe lifestyle, it does sound appealing.

Who wouldn't want to live on an island and be whomever they wanted to be, without repercussions?

I am reminded that surely no man is an island unto himself, but also that sometimes the best thing we can do is create a space for ourselves in which to grow and meet our needs.

Frankly, labeling Jordan and Moore as subversives, or worse, a cult, would be the easy route to go here, but what's scary is that they're are level-headed men.

Is saddening to think that isolation is the only way to ensure freedom. And, when you think of it, don't we all really live on our own islands now?

We all have flags we hang outside our door to signify who we are. We all have songs we sing to rouse the patriot. There are battles we ensue and win, and lose. We write it all up in history books.

But the beauty of the struggle, the substance of things hoped for, is right here, right now.

The utopia we seek is not on some island far away in the seas of exclusion, but inside each and every one of us. We all have the ability to be proud, to hold our heads high within the maelstrom of the maddening crowd.

Wish Montsegur well and go if you must. But always remember, wherever you go, there you are. And the whole messy thing we call humanity will be here waiting for you.

To contact David Jordan and James Moore use e-mail: tritech@geocities.com



LETTERS



Renee Byrd Mullins and President Clinton

Gay community owes African-American community a huge thanks

Editor:

Although the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act didn't quite pass the legislature this session, sponsors say they will try again. Meanwhile, the gay community and its supporters owe the black community, and the Byrd family in particular, a large thank you for insisting that sexual orientation continue to be included even when that seemed to be the largest stumbling block.

In return, we must remember to support the causes of peoples of color and others who supported our cause.

Irv Smith
Missouri City
via e-mail

We need to stand up for Mike Keller

Editor:

(Re: "Was Mike Keller murdered?"
Houston Voice, May 28, front page)

If you kill a straight person who is ill it's murder. But not if he's gay. To say that the men who robbed and beat Mike Keller aren't responsible for his subsequent death, is to say that if you beat a straight person to death with a piece of their tacky furniture, then it was their bad taste that killed them. Wake up gay people.

Until we march on the medical examiner's office and the Houston Police Department and vent our outrage, we deserve what injustice we get. Unless we demand our rights, we will continue to be treated like the scum of the earth. Another gay murder swept under the carpet. How



Mike Keller

many is that so far this year? When will we wake up?

Lou Smith
via e-mail



VIEWPOINT

School violence and harassment nothing new for gay and lesbian kids

by GARY NORMAN

With the U.S.

Supreme Court

deciding that a school board can be held libel under federal law for not acknowledging sexual harassment of students by other students, the gates are opened for discussion about overall harassment in our schools.

This landmark decision, *Davis vs. Monroe County Board of Education*, will draw praise from many groups around the country who see that the learning environment needs to be comfortable and affirming in order for growth and development of students to occur. We know that this is not the only case of this type that has occurred, however it is receiving needed and overdue attention and will force us to look at other cases and situations of harassment.

This sexual harassment case also allows us to expand the discussion of harassment and violence to include gay and lesbian students, who very often have no resources available to them, either at school, and often times, at home.

Imagine you are 16 years old and you

get to school to find the words, "get out dyke," spray painted on your locker. Imagine you get to class and feel everyone staring at you. Imagine you go to lunch and sit alone and don't talk with anyone. After lunch you walk to class and you hear a soft voice whisper, "there's the queer." You don't turn

'After lunch you walk to class and you hear a soft voice whisper, 'there's the queer,' You don't turn around, you just keep walking'

around, you just keep walking. Imagine you walk to your car after school, hoping that the harassment is over, only to find your car has been keyed.

Imagine all of these things happened to you and there is no one to tell. You can't tell the teachers, counselors, staff, administrators, principal; no one wants to hear about it. Then you go home and you can't tell your parents because they

don't know you're attracted to individuals of your own gender. It is difficult for any student to report harassment; no one wants to be called a "snitch," or feel like an outsider. Most students would not know how to report a verbal or physical assault and would wonder if they would even be taken seriously if they did report it. Students who are a part of a marginalized group, whether it is gender or sexual orientation, will be less likely to report.

Anecdotal information has been provided for years that it's not safe to be out as a lesbian or gay student in most middle and high schools. In fact, it's not safe for teachers, staff or administrators to be out either. If a teacher, regardless of their sexual orientation, advocates for a lesbian or gay student, that teacher may come under the microscope and be questioned regarding their "interest," in this issue. In some cases, the children of lesbian or gay parents feel they cannot share their family stories with others for fear of being ridiculed and shamed because they have a "different" family.

It is important to acknowledge the significance of this sexual harassment case. It is essential that we take notice

of the day-to-day, often very subtle forms of violence and harassment that is happening in our schools and pay close attention to the resources available to students. Lesbian and gay students continue to be marginalized and isolated in school and this will not stop until we look critically at the way our school policies are discriminating against certain groups. The higher administration and school boards need to set a good example for the rest of us and create inclusive policies that do not discriminate on the basis of gender or sexual orientation, whether actual or implied. When a young student is harassed or assaulted, it reflects on all of us the lack of awareness and compassion given to our children.

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Presbyterians gear up for Texas GBLT debate over conversion

by GIP PLASTER

Gay and lesbian Presbyterians in Texas will have a unique opportunity to impact their denomination later this month when the church's governing body and many of its members gather in Fort Worth for their national convention and consider whether they will fund so-called "ex-gay" ministries. The 1999 Presbyterian General Assembly, the governing body of the church, will meet in Fort Worth, June 19-26.

More Light Presbyterians, a group that works within the Presbyterian Church (USA) to gain full and open participation for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, is gearing up to offer the denomination testimony about the destructive outcomes of ex-gay ministries. The Presbyterian Church (USA) is one of several denominations bearing the Presbyterian name, but is the one most commonly associated with the label.

More Light has also planned a peaceful protest because of the denomination's stance against ordaining gays and lesbians and has scheduled a special inclusive worship service.

While the issue of gay and lesbian ordination—perhaps the most divisive in the church—will not be considered by this conference, the issue of whether the Presbyterian denomination will provide funding to ex-gay ministries is important

enough to demand the attention of More Light, according to Jean Martin, a member of the steering committee of the group's Dallas/Fort Worth chapter. Martin is also an active member of the Fort Worth chapter of Parents and Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). "There has been a lot of controversy over the issue of ordination," she said. "Right now, we have in the Book of Order a statement saying, you can't be a 'practicing homosexual' and ordained."

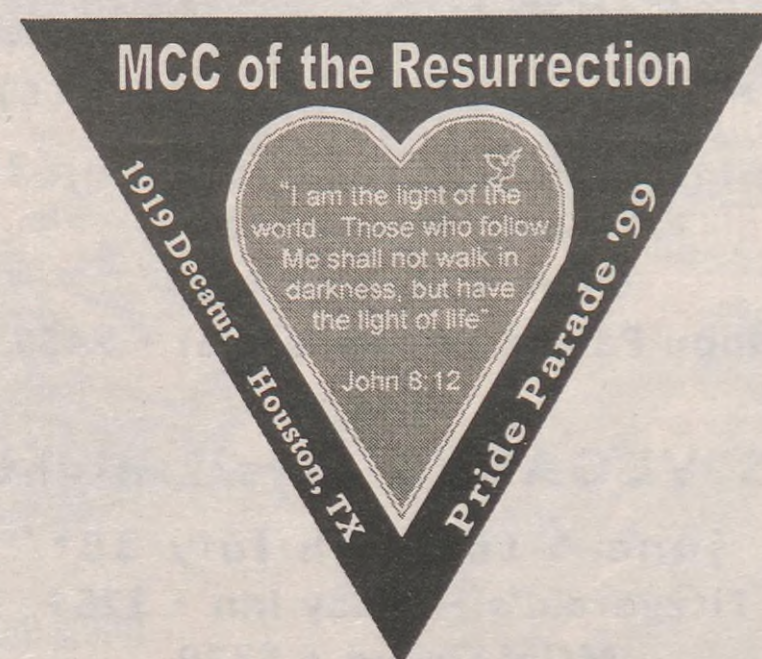
That issue created so much emotion in previous conferences from both those who supported the amendment and those who opposed it that Martin said the church is simply exhausted regarding gay and lesbian issues. "Those issues took a great toll on the Presbyterian church," she said.

While efforts may be made to make some changes in the language of certain prohibitions toward gays and lesbians in church leadership, they stand little chance of passing, she said. The real issue at this conference will be whether the church will fund ministries that claim to "rescue," gay and lesbian people and change them into heterosexuals.

An overture—similar to a bill—has been presented to the conference to stop the church from talking with or supporting change ministries. A group called, One by One, has approached the denomination in

>See GBLT page 15

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Q: "We are instructed to give 10% of our time, talent, and money to the Lord. Does this include every moment of prayer, reading the Bible, listening to tapes or programs, speaking to others, and our own thoughts as time given to the Lord?" A: The many things we do for ourselves is great and wonderful, but it is not the same as working together as a part of a body. God not only wants us to engage in a great self-care program, but God also wants us to invest ourselves in the life of the church of which we are a vital member. God has set forth the local church (a living organism) as the relationship (it is not a building) through which you and I invest and express our talents, time and financial treasures. The illustration given to us in Malachi 3:10 tell us to "Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn so there will be food in my house. Test me in this, says the LORD All-Powerful. I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need." The "storehouse" is considered the local church. God has given us the principle of multiplication. What we can do as a body (collectively) is far greater than what you and I can do as individuals. If we are to bring a tenth of our earnings to the local church, so it would also hold that our time and talents would be invested there as well. The question is how are these talents through time to be expressed? YOU are a valuable asset to God through the church. Part of our readiness to be used by God involves self-care: daily quiet time with God, prayer, study in God's Word, and Christian fellowship. Once we are cared for and ready in our body, mind and spirit, THEN we begin our ministry as unto the Lord. Defining ministry is another important aspect. It is important for the church to define it's mission, and how this is going to be expressed in the local church. Each member is to find their place to work so that this mission can be carried out. It is through this endeavor of mission, working together as a body, that our time, talents and tithe are used to further the dominion of God. When each person does their part, the whole body benefits and the Great Commission is enhanced.



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Arts lacking in gay benefits

Arts from page 1
going to a policy that is regulated by the state," she said. "A lot of companies do that, just because they want the freedom to be able to pick and choose what their plan is. You buy insurance individually as a company."

But the freedom of choice brings risk. One of the reasons most companies shy away from self-insurance is that the institution itself becomes liable. Therefore, the members of the board have to carry extra insurance to protect the organization—themselves—and that means higher premiums for the insured.

"If somebody's negligent," Teel said, "or it's not been administered properly, you're taking on all of the liability, all of the responsibility to do the insurance. It gets you a little bit more naked, for lack of a better word."

In choosing the right health insurance carrier, especially with DP benefits added, it's either a rock or a hard place. The Alley is no different than any other arts organization when dealing with their insurers.

"I asked our broker specifically," said Teel, "Look we want to do this. And he said, 'I'm sorry, you can't; your policy will not allow you.' I'm figuring it's got to our HMO that won't let us do it."

"As far as any kind of health insurance, there's nothing that we can do, unless we change plans. He didn't even make that option, to be honest with you. Over the course of 10 years that I've been doing this job," said Teel, "you swing a dead cat and you hit a different agent. They keep switching us around."

"I think it's ridiculous that we don't have a DP policy. It's getting to the point where insurance companies are melding like the banks into one big monster. Pretty soon Aetna is going to be everything, like Soylent Green."

"When we start re-looking at health insurance next year, DP is something we're going to have to push for."

In most cases, especially for the smaller arts organizations that have less than 100 employees, the lack of DP benefits boils down to the reality of economics. It's just too expensive to add another person's health insurance onto the existing HMO's policy, if that carrier even offers DP benefits.

"Part of that has to do with the insur-

ance company," said Cheryl Zane, chief financial officer at the Houston Ballet.

"We have such a difficult time keeping our policy to begin with that the expansion of the definition of a family would probably take us completely out of range, unfortunately."

"We're just so small. Our staff is about 55 people, and we've had so much trouble in the past just with coverage; it's so cost prohibitive. At one point we had no 'family coverage' at all because it was so expensive."

When the ballet switched to an HMO, the expenses went down, but no DP policies were involved.

Houston Grand Opera doesn't offer DP benefits, either, but it's an issue they'll be looking into in the future, said James Ireland, its general manager.

"Oh, if we did it for straight unmarried people, we would certainly do it for gay unmarried people," he said, "but we don't do that, either."

"There are a lot of us, including me, who are gay in the organization, and very few of us have partners." He laughed when he said this.

"There are one or two persons who are in long-term happy relationships here of the many gay persons who work for the opera, but those couples are in a professional context and employed, so there hasn't been a need for DP benefits."

As of next year, the employees' health insurance costs will be covered 75 percent by the opera company, and 25 percent paid by the employee.

"However, there are some new employees who have come in who have expressed an interest in benefits for their partners, and we'll be looking at that again," Ireland said. "God knows, I have no problem with it, and our board is certainly comfortable in looking at the situation. There are many companies represented on our board where DP benefits are offered—Vincent and Elkins, 'big' law firm—so it's not a new concept."

Again, it's a question of economics.

"We could probably find cheaper insurance which would incorporate DP benefits," Ireland said, "but I don't know how we would balance the trade-off: of going to, say, a clinic versus a doctor of your own choice."

➤ See Arts Page 18

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Presbyterian controversy

GBLT from page 13
 active at previous assemblies. They have sponsored lunches, counseling sessions and displayed booths at previous conferences. If passed, the overture would likely be added to a policy statement rather than to the more important Book of Worship.

"The denomination is being asked to say that these groups are not neutral but harmful," Martin said. More Light is looking for people experienced with ex-gay movements to testify at the Monday hearing. "We need to get witnesses who have been through a change ministry experience or their parents, preferably Presbyterian folks, though that is not essential," said More Light co-chair Mitzi Henderson, former national president of PFLAG. "We know there will be lots of testimony from 'rescued' gays and lesbians. So we need testimony from the other side. We also need highly-credentialed therapists who will testify against ex-gay ministries."

A bill may also be presented asking the church to go on record against hate crimes. More Light Presbyterians will hold their annual Celebration Dinner in conjunction with the conference on June 19. The keynote speaker will be Mel White, a former ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell who now works for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church. White advocates

peaceful justice based on the principles of Martin Luther King, Jr. On Sunday morning, More Light Presbyterians will gather with their supporters in the community at 8:30 a.m. outside the Fort Worth Convention Center for what they call a "public witness." Those gathered will wear T-shirts identifying themselves as More Light Presbyterians or as members of groups that support the cause and will be visible to the thousands of Presbyterians from across the country gathering for worship in center.

"It will be a peaceful demonstration," Martin said. "We would appreciate solidarity from any supportive groups." A worship service featuring Henderson will be held Sunday evening at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church. The hearing on ex-gay ministries will be held the morning of June 21.

INFO

More Light Presbyterians

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Sodomy case's next hurdle July 7

by ELLA TYLER

Texas activists have gotten unexpected help in their quest to repeal Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, which criminalizes same-sex sexual activity.

Arrests under the statute are so infrequent that a prior challenge to the statute failed, because the parties had not been arrested.

However, last September, a false report of an armed intruder in an apartment resulted in the arrest of Tyrone Garner and John Geddes Lawrence, who were engaging in anal sex as sheriff's deputies entered the apartment. They agreed to challenge the law's constitutionality.

No contest pleas by Garner and

Lawrence in Justice of the Peace Court and then in County Criminal Court have resulted in convictions and fines of \$200 each.

The case is now on to the 14th Court of Appeals. The defendants' briefs and an amicus (friend of the court) brief from Andres Pereira and Neil McCabe have been filed, according to David Jones, one of the attorneys for Garner and Lawrence.

Briefs for the State are due July 7, Jones said. Suzanne Goldberg of Lambda Legal Defense Fund is the lead attorney. Jones and Mitchell Katine, with the Houston firm of Williams, Birnburg and Anderson, are assisting with the case.

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Flexology

A GUIDE TO BETTER HEALTH

When there's no results

by GREG HERREN

Getting in shape is not an easy thing to do. It's hard work that requires sweat, time and energy. After a month, friends might notice a difference in your body, and offer some positive comments. They make you feel good, sending you back to the gym even more determined to chisel your body into something spectacular.

But it has been several months now, and you aren't seeing new results. What came so quickly in the beginning has begun to taper off. Your weight hasn't changed, muscles aren't growing, and you aren't getting any stronger.

Swimsuit season is coming up, and you tried your suit from last year. Not bad, but not quite what you had hoped. So, what's the point in going to the gym if nothing is going to happen?

Everyone feels this way at some point, even professional body builders.

What's important is to remember to stay upbeat and not get discouraged and demoralized and stop your fitness regimen. What you are experiencing is perfectly normal. It's called a plateau, and it happens to most of us.

The trick is to stay motivated. Plateaus are responsible for most people dropping their workout routines. It is understandable. A plateau is a natural occurrence and you have to work through it, despite the obvious frustrations.

Here are some easy ways to stay motivated:

- Recognize the plateau for what it is. Check your workout log and see just how long you have been stuck on the same weights. If you aren't getting any stronger, muscles have reached a plateau.

Take measurements, weigh yourself, and get your body fat levels tested. Have the muscles grown? Has body fat level decreased? Are clothes fitting differently than they were a month ago? If everything has remained the same, you've reached a plateau.

- Re-evaluate goals. Once you've determined that you've reached a plateau, it is an excellent time to reevaluate your original fitness goals.

Are the goals you set in the beginning still what you are looking for? Reassess your entire body as well. Stand nude in front of a full-length mirror and determine your problem areas. Have your legs developed at the same pace as upper body? Has your tummy gotten smaller? Are your thighs still thick and dimpled? Are your breasts drooping?

- Redesign your program. After reassessing your body, it's time to redesign your fitness regimen. Has working with weights significantly decreased the amounts of body fat in your chest, arms, and legs, but you still have a gut? Maybe you should increase the cardiovascular component of your workouts.

If your thighs and butt are still not what you would like, increase the intensity of your leg workouts. Women have a tendency to be afraid of weights, and will replace it with cardiovascular exercise.

But as fat drops off, the skin will start to sag. The only way to firm that up is to use weights.

Even if your goals haven't changed, redesigning your program is essential to continued success in getting fit. Muscles are lazy by nature, which is why strength training works. The muscles send a message to the brain, "Hey, this is hard work, I need to be

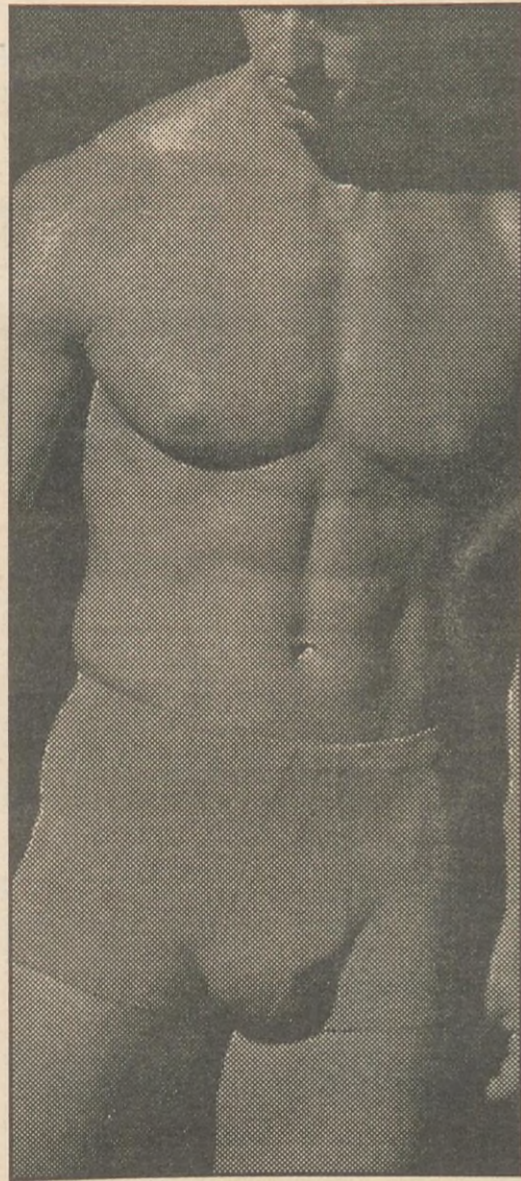
stronger so that next time this won't be as hard, do something."

But if your exercise program becomes routine, the muscles will adapt to it and results won't come as quickly. If you keep changing your workout every few months, the muscles will remain in a constant state of shock. And shock equals results.

Reaching a plateau doesn't have to be bad. It's your body's way of saying it's bored and ready for a new challenge. The more you demand of your body, the more it will respond. Set new goals. You just have to keep giving it direction.

But above all else, keep a positive mindset.

Greg Herren can be reached at alexuikr@aol.com.

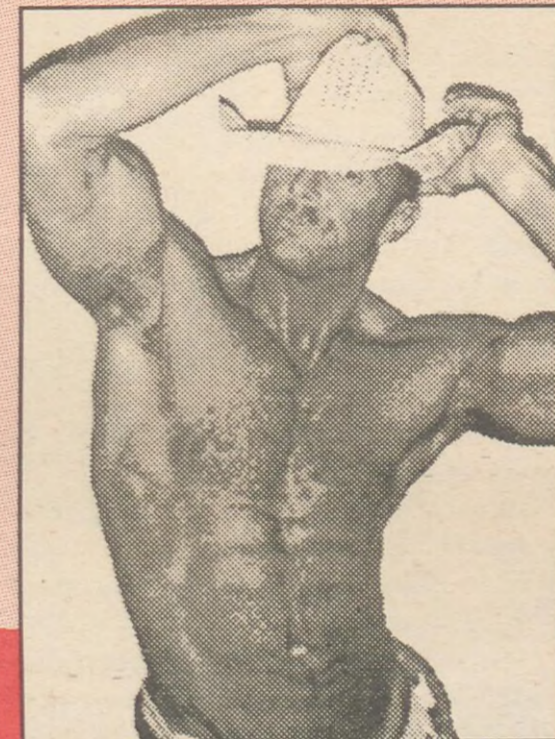


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Insurance for partners?

Arts from page 14

"It's certainly coming. I just don't know when it's going to be affordable. That's something where democracy will play a part, but ultimately it has to be a business decision."

Sometimes, DP benefits aren't offered because no one has asked for them.

"It's never come up," said Cheryl Zane at Houston Ballet. "To my knowledge nobody has ever pushed us to make that available. It's never been an issue."

"I've been here going on 20 years," said Toby Mattox, executive director of the Society for the Performing Arts, "and never had anyone ask me for it. Being a small non-profit, we have pretty good employee benefits, but we're not as good as corporations. We provide medical coverage for all of our employees, but if they want their spouse or family covered, they pay for that themselves."

Theater Under the Stars is in the same situation.

"I've been with TUTS for ten years, and relatively new in this position," answered John Breckenridge, producer and chief operating officer, "but nothing has come up in the time I've been dealing with it in terms of anybody asking for it, and I don't believe in the past that anyone has. I don't think it's an issue that we've ever been faced with."

"We don't provide benefits even for spouses, much less unmarried partners. We cover a portion of the employee's

premiums; the employee pays the balance. And that's the way our policy's set up."

The Menil Collection does not have a DP benefits policy in effect at present, but it's definitely under discussion.

"There're certain boiler-plate issues that arts organizations and performing arts businesses do have to be leaders on. And this is one of them." So said Vance Muse, the Menil's director of communications, referring to DP benefits.

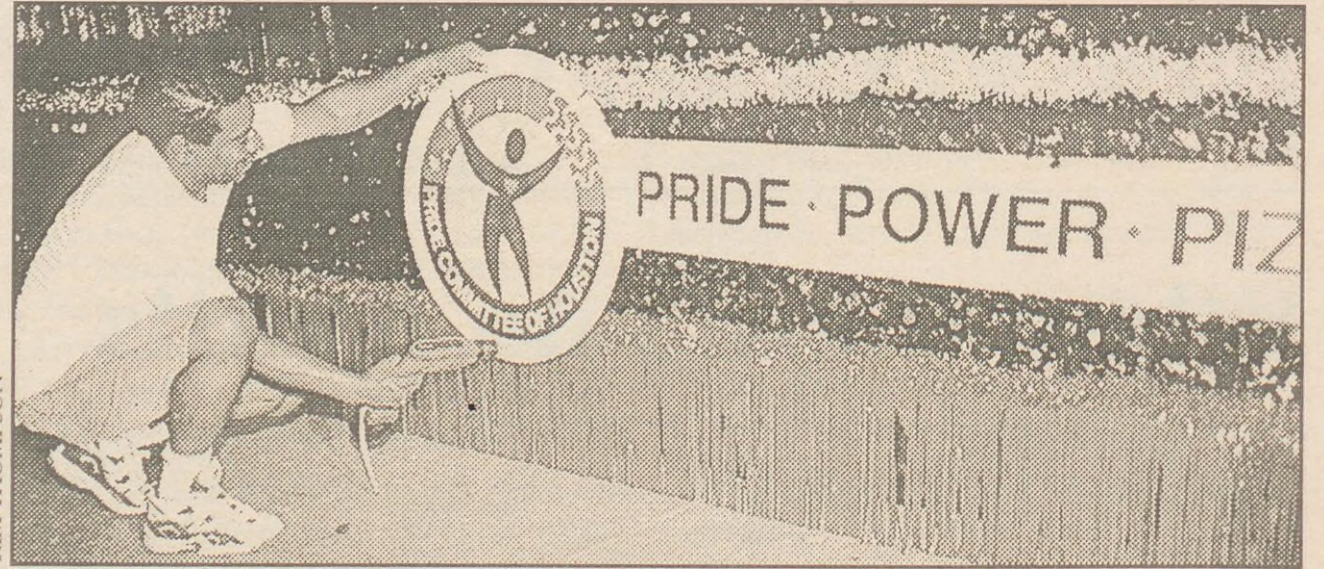
"I came here from New York, from Time-Life and Simon and Schuster, places that if they haven't gotten them are getting them. Corporate America really is leading in a surprising way, especially the younger, more forward thinking groups. So Houston has to keep pace. And I bet it will."

He said, "It's tricky, in a way. My longtime companion of 20 years lives in New York; I live here. Is that fair? Can I claim that? I've really got to think about this."

"We do have a marriage. We aren't 'domestic partners' in the sense that we're not sharing a roof right now, but I don't think that matters. If he were my girlfriend or my wife, and we were in separate states we would be included."

"I feel strongly about recognizing the legitimacy of couples. How else better to mainstream us and give dignity to our partnerships."

"It is a rich debate."



KIM THOMPSON

Parades Etc., works on the Houston Pride committee float

Over 70,000 expected at parade

Pride from page 1

permanent seats for the gay community, appointed by the mayor."

There are also several elected officials participating in the parade, including Congress Member Sheila Jackson Lee, State Representative Debra Danburg, Harris County Democratic Party Chair Sue Schechter, HISD Trustee and School Board Member Gabriel Vasquez along with numerous other state and local elected officials.

"We anticipate that this year's parade crowds will exceed last year's count of 70,000," says Guy Burns, the other Pride co-chair. "Tens of thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Houstonians along with their friends, families and supporters will come out to see America's first and foremost night time Pride Parade."

Bagby said that the purpose of Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride 1999 is, "to create a world that celebrates the diversity of human expression. We're not trying to convince the world that we're just like everybody else. We allow each other to express who we are and not to judge (others)."

Most of the funding for this event comes from corporate underwriters.

The Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade will begin at 9 p.m., June 26. It will start at Woodhead Street and proceed East along Westheimer Road to Taft Street. The grand marshals this year are Nancy Ford and Sean Carter.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12

Midnight to 3 a.m. **After Hours** on KPFT (90.1 FM) offers a special program aimed at transgendered, gay, lesbian and bisexual youth. This segment will be hosted by Jimmy Carver, a radio regular, and Sarah DePalma, a longtime transgender rights activist.

Genye Allen Softball tournament, held for woman and co-ed teams benefiting People With Aids Coalition-Houston, Memorial Park all day. Teams may join for \$100, 713-861-9149.

June 16

Theater LaB Houston's Houston Fringe Festival 1999 (June 3-July 11) continues at 8:30 p.m. with Tim Miller's *My Queer Body* at the LaB, 1706 Alamo. Tickets \$20, 713-868-7516.



Gay Pride Follies, talent search auditions at 6 p.m., at Chances, 1100 Westheimer. Try out for the first-ever Pride Parade Day event. Information, 713-528-4172.

June 17

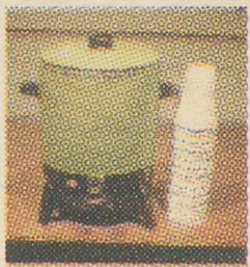
Fourth annual An Uncommon Legacy "brunch," 6 p.m., Mo Mong Restaurant, 1201 Westheimer. Fifteen percent of all proceeds will be donated to An Uncommon Legacy, an organization which hands out scholarships to lesbian students. Information, 713-918-2855.

Riverdance, a celebration of Irish culture and the cultures which influenced it, is at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana, beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets \$40-69, 713-227-3974.



Now & Until

An exhibition of work by artists, Conrad Bakker and Robert Yoder, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at **Rudolph Poissant Gallery**, 5102 Center Street, until July 23.



Titus Andronicus, 8 p.m., now and every Friday and Saturday night until June 26. The dos chicas production is at Templo Amphitheater, 5217 Fegan. Tickets \$10, proceeds going to Steven's House, 713-862-1626.

Daytimer alert—June 20

Pride Day at Astroworld, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., 9001 Kirby Drive at Loop 610. Tickets are \$20, 713-529-6979.

Ongoing:

Lesbians In Business (or LiB) meets the third Friday of each month. Networking begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. Call 713-529-0077 or visit www.libhouston.org for more information.

MEDIA DIET

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— John R. Sweeney

Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE • JUNE 11, 1999

A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME



by EARL DITTMAN

Although "Austin Powers: International Man Of Mystery" would go on to become a modest box office hit after its release in the spring of '97, almost no one in Hollywood, especially its star and creator, Mike Myers, believed a sequel was in the cards.

"Austin Powers' made something like \$54 million, which was pretty good, considering it only cost \$18 million—I mean, it made money," Myers said. "But, it wasn't a gargantuan hit. What it did in the theaters certainly didn't indicate that there was a great demand for a second one."

Maybe not, then, but once the hilarious spy spoof featuring the hip, mod, British secret agent found its way onto home video, Austin Power's cinematic mojo really kicked in: selling an unprecedented two million units and dominating home video Top Ten rental charts for over four months.

"It became an even bigger hit on home video than it did in the theaters, and we were completely blown away by that," said "Austin Powers: International Man Of Mystery," director Jay Roach. "That's when Mike and I started to get calls from the studio (New Line), going, 'We want another 'Austin Powers!' When can you have it ready?' I called up Mike and asked him, and he said, 'As soon as you can get over to my house and help me figure out how we are going to do it.'"

The result of their frenzied meetings (which also included former "Saturday Night Live" writer Michael McCullers) would eventually become "Austin Powers, The Spy Who Shagged Me."

In a business where sequels usually pale in comparison to the original, with "The Spy Who Shagged Me," this dynamic duo of comedy have created a film that's twice as funny, twice as witty and twice as original as the first "Austin Powers."

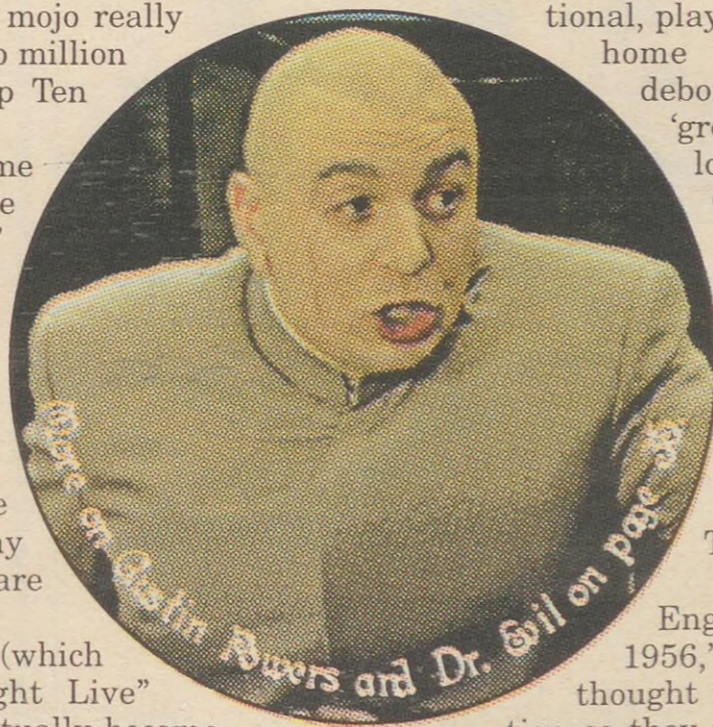
Surprisingly, the idea for "Austin Powers: International Man Of Mystery" sprang into the head of the native Canadian while performing one of the most mundane of tasks.

"I was driving to hockey practice," the "Saturday Night Live" alumus said. "It's something I do a lot, and nothing creative usually comes out of the 15-minute drive."

But, on the particular day in question, Myers had his car radio tuned to an oldies station. "I'm just driving along, and the song 'The Look Of Love,' by Dusty Springfield, came on," he remembered. "I thought, 'I want to be in a movie about everything that this song implies.' To me, 'The Look Of Love' is the embodiment of tasteful, swinger, money, international, playboy sexuality." So, after practice, I went home and created Austin Powers, this debonair, English super-spy who still thinks 'groovy' is a cool word to use and that 'free love' is still the order of the day. He's a Carnaby Street refugee who has his own style, vocabulary and view of life that resonates '60s London. It all came to me pretty easy, especially the fashion side of him."

The comic genius reveals he was no stranger to skin-tight, crushed velvet bell-bottoms or black, patent-leather Beatles boots while growing up in Toronto.

"My parents are from Liverpool, England, and they moved to Canada in 1956," Myers said. "I think my relatives thought we were going to the uncivilized frontier, so they used to send us clothes all the time. I used to get the kind of suits and boots the Beatles wore. I was the hippest kid in Toronto. So, dressing-up like Austin Powers was like back to how I used to dress when I was a little kid. It was kind of like comfort food for me. I felt kinda comfortable looking like Austin. I felt smashing."



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On Stage

THEATER NEWS & REVIEWS

Baffling search for "The Lesbian"

by MIKE FLEMING

This weekend is the last opportunity for Houstonians to see the one-woman show "The Lesbian," by the dynamic New York performance artist Sharon Hayes at DiverseWorks.

While the title of her performance may have all the makings of a cut and dry exposition of lesbianism, the work speaks otherwise. It ends up being about many things lesbian. It is part anthropological, always personal and sometimes hilarious. But it shouldn't be confused as definitive. "The Lesbian" sets out to chronicle Hayes' real life trip across country to discover some all-encompassing truths about lesbians.

The intent is definitely there to acquire and impart some of this knowledge. But it never happens. For all the references around the lesbians and non-lesbians Hayes meets on her journey, she rarely hits a nerve of truth about lesbian life.

In one exception, Hayes discusses the way lesbians label themselves. One woman may be offended by the term "dyke," instead of "lesbian," while another resents "lesbian" in favor of "dyke." Hayes' solution is to use all possible designations interchangeably.

The show is most successful as a description of Hayes' own life and way of thinking. She speaks powerfully, intelligently, and often humorously without glitch or hesitation throughout the 70-minute performance. The whole piece is full of great snippets on life in general that showcase Hayes as a real talent. Even though she has trouble weaving a common thread through the production, her natural stage presence and her smart but self-effacing personality keeps the audience on her side, waiting for the all the confusion to make sense.

The show itself, "The Lesbian," plays an unexpected role in Hayes' production. Throughout the evening, the audience becomes privy to backstage happenings, and lines of direction from Hayes to herself. She makes us aware that we are watching a performance piece by "suddenly" deciding to forego a scene, or an entire group of scenes. She often tells the audience how to react, or asks us to just "play amongst yourselves," while she sets



KIM THOMPSON

Performance artist Sharon Hayes sits in the living room of a Houston lesbian, gathering material for her show and installation at DiverseWorks.

up the next scene. Surprisingly, these intimate moments where Hayes makes fun of the process are the most successful of the show.

Performance art, as opposed to traditional theater, leaves room for creative interpretation, and Hayes takes that ball and runs. Far. The story line jumps radically back and forth from narrative, to video, to slides, then from present to past, then all of the above at once. Without warning, she does quirky moves and jumps that serve not to clarify a point, but exist just for themselves as physical comedy. There are many obscure references that come without warning and go nowhere.

Finally, "The Lesbian" really does refer to Hayes herself. The thought process that brings this show together is mind-boggling, and there is little doubt that effort and gumption went into the final product. The audience peeks into an imaginative mind that will no doubt return to entertain us in the future.

INFO

The Lesbian
June 11-12, 8 p.m.
DiverseWorks
1117 East Freeway
Tickets, \$8-\$15
713-228-0914

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

A place with heart, and mussels

by ANTHONY CONNOLLY and MIKE FLEMING

Within the context of Houston's overabundance of restaurants, cafés, and nosheries, Café Montrose isn't what you'd call a culinary masterpiece—but it's not your mother's liver and onions, either.

The new eatery at 1609 Westheimer instead presents itself with a lot of heart, make that Belgian heart, since its specialties and its spirit hail from that country by the North Sea.

This isn't a place you go for the ambiance; Café Montrose's bailiwick is its mussels and its desserts. If you can ignore the Wal-Mart-bought French prints on the wall and the sounds of a badly-tuned AM radio as your dining soundtrack, then you're in for a treat.

The new Montrose-area establishment is worth a try for lunch or dinner. The service this day was very informative, heck instructive at times, but too cloying.

We tried two entrees, the steak aux Poivres (\$10.75) and Ham Roulade (\$8.25). Vegetarians might order the onion soup (\$2.95) and Caesar salad (\$4.50). Be sure to sample the eatery's specialty—Le complet Belge (\$12.95), which are Belgian-style steamed mussels in a bath of white wine.

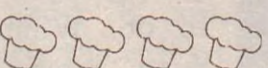
The steaks greenpepper sauce is light and flavorful, the steak is cooked to specification. In the end, the steak wasn't exactly a melt in your mouth experience, but we'd give it a seven. While the ribeye and fries were standard, diners will gush about the Ham Roulade. "Wow that's pretty damn delicious..." said Mike on his first bite. "Good sharp cheese flavor and the vegetable is crispy." The dish is ham wrapped around Belgian endive, smothered in a creamy béchamel sauce which carries hints of citrus. A few wedges of "natural" potatoes on the side seemed like a bit of an afterthought, even though they were tasty.

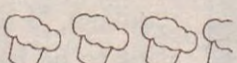
Most selections are fairly pedestrian, save only the mussels. The Belgian-style steamed mussels are tender, subtly spicy and very enjoyable. The white wine

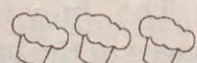
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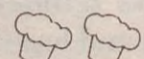
Café Montrose






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Food: 

Service: 

Value: 

Scene: 

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-  OK, if you really must
-  Fine for most
-  Worth the drive, so live a little
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sauce, or rather soup, is not overbearing. For those who have never eaten mussels, this dish is a great introduction.

One of the owners, Belgian Catherine Klarman gave a quick lesson on how to eat the mussels. Using one empty shell as prongs, dig into mussel and pull. The only downfall of the Café Montrose's chief dish is that it does not come with some lemon water or moist towlette to rid your hands of that dreaded "fish" smell afterwards.

We finished our midday meal with French roast coffee and desserts: Profiteroles (\$4.25) and Dame Blanche (\$3.25). Both featured Belgian Calbaut chocolate sauce to die for. Both had a scoop of vanilla ice cream. The Profiteroles came with tiny, cream-filled pastries made at the café by chef and baker, Andrew Klarman. The tiny pastries were exquisite. The chocolate sauce could have been served in a trough and would have still seemed terribly delicious.

What Café Montrose lacks in atmosphere they make up in the food. And, remember, to bring your own moist towlettes.



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Out In Print

BOOK NEWS

The politics of choosing the right party

by ELLA TYLER

Rich Tafel, the executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, could be called the consummate Washington outsider. He's a gay, Republican, liberal Baptist minister with a masters degree in Divinity from Harvard. His undergraduate degree, in philosophy and speech communications, comes from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania.

In a culture where it takes years to learn the ropes, make contacts, and establish reputations, he's a newcomer. Tafel wasn't involved in politics until 1990. Why did *Newsweek* name him one of the 30 most influential gay leaders in the United States? Why was Tafel tied with David Mixner as the highest ranking gay male leaders in a poll of *Advocate* readers? Read "Party Crasher" and find out.

Tafel begins the book with a look at the history of gay politics since the '50s, dividing participants in the process into assimilationists, liberationists and libertarians. Assimilationists want to be liked, liberationists want to fight back and libertarians want to be who they are. Tafel says that the assimilationists or liberationists tend to be Democrats and libertarians tend to be Republicans.

It is the "wanting to be liked," that

leads gay leaders to support homophobic Democrats over gay Republicans, Tafel claims. Tafel lost his political virginity in 1990, when, while managing the campaign of a gay Republican friend who was running for the state house, he became involved with Republican William Weld's winning campaign for governor of Massachusetts. He was dismayed to find most gay politicians and political groups

supporting John Silber, who, according to Tafel, had while president of Boston College, likened homosexuality to bestiality. Their only apparent reason for supporting Silber seemed to be that Silber was a Democrat and Weld was not. This section of the book is the one that will get the most attention and stir the most debate. Democrats will protest and Republican's will be proud.

It is not the most important message of



the book. If you're a Democrat, ask if Tafel might be a little bit right. If you're a Republican, feel good, you have work to do. Whatever your party, remember Tafel's mantra, "I am not in politics to be liked."

The important messages in the book include Tafel's reminder that all gays and lesbians are not alike. Tafel believes that it is important to be what you are and "be comfortable in your complexity."

Tafel's encounters with the religious right are entertaining and informative. His education allows him to challenge people like Jerry Falwell on equal ground. Tafel believes that the call for gay rights must include a moral component. He says "The gay life is not inherently good or evil, neither moral nor immoral, but to lie about who you are and to discriminate against people because they are different, that is immoral, and the gay movement needs to articulate that point."

Tafel suggests that no one presented the debate on gays in the military on the moral grounds that it is wrong to force people to lie so they can defend their country. He also suggests that tolerance is an important virtue for gays, also, to practice.

Tafel believes that the fight for gay rights must occur at the grass-roots level, not in Washington, "where it feels good." He practices what he preaches, spending a lot of time outside Washington.

The most powerful message of the book is the non-cynical belief that individual action does have political power. Tafel gives examples of such action by members of Log Cabin Republicans, and also notes that it was the work of gay Democrats working in campaigns who educated their political colleagues that, "gays were not depraved sexual predators, but members of the community and very much a reflection of the rest of the Democratic Party. The greatest legacy of gays toiling in the Democratic party was the beginning of the process of breaking down the stereotypes that had been persistent barriers to any advancement in society."

This is, of course, why openly gay Republicans must work within their own party.

What your neighbors are reading . . .

- 1 **Early Embraces Part 2**
by Lindsay Elder, \$12.95
- 2 **Finding The Boyfriend Within**
by Brad Gooch, \$21
- 3 **Drop Dead**
by Mark Richard Zubro, \$22.95
- 4 **Ins And Outs Of Gay Sex**
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- 6 **Capital Queers**
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- 7 **Party Crasher**
by Rich Tafel, \$25
- 8 **Birds Of A Feather**
by Jackie Calhoun, \$11.95
- 9 **Every Man For Himself**
by Orland Outland, \$22
- 10 **Mammoth Book Of Lesbian Short Stories**
editor, Emma Donoghue, \$10.95

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by E. Lynn Harris, \$24.95
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INFO

Party Crasher: A Gay Republican Challenges Politics As Usual

by Richard Tafel
Simon & Schuster, 253 pages, \$25

HPD organizes against hate crimes, enlists HISD

By ROBERT B. HENDERSON

Tolerance of diversity begins with the young, a new Houston Police/Houston Independent School District program is finding.

Late last year, the hate crimes unit of the Houston Police Department approached the superintendent's office of the HISD to enlist its support in approaching tolerance awareness education in the schools.

The goal was to assist students, at every level in the system, to become aware of the diversity contributing to the fabric of Houston.

"The idea behind that would be to start the thought process in the schools of diversity, tolerance, understanding others—other cultures and other people's perspectives on their way of life," said Ralph D. Marsh of the Hate Crimes unit. "We put together a Hate Crimes Slogan Contest. Over 200 schools participated."

Kate Ferguson of T. H. Rogers Elementary School won first place for elementary schools. Her slogan was "Learn to Relate, Not to Hate." Shormari Griffith of Fondren Middle School won first place among the middle schools. Griffith's slogan was "Hate Crime is Like a Tornado — It Destroys Everything in its Path." Among high school contestants, Pheadra Walker of the Barbara Jordan High School for Careers took the top prize with "Hate: The Route of All Evil."

Irving Martinez was the Grand Prize winner among all the HISD slogan contestants. He is a second grade student at DeZavala Elementary School. His winning slogan is "Slam Dunk Hate Crimes."

"We have plans to run a poster contest the first part of the next school year (the later part of 1999). The poster contest will be run similarly where it will be all different levels of the schools. They'll have an opportunity to draw posters depicting what they feel might be important from a community perspective to deal and become aware of hate crimes and tolerance of diversity in the community. The intent is, after the winners have been selected, to try to integrate the posters and the slogans into a public awareness campaign that would involve television spots, billboards, handouts and that type of thing," Marsh said.

Gayle Revis and Carlton Land of HISD are part of the district's team on the program.

"What we do particularly is to work with the kinds of traits and attributes that help youngsters understand about getting along well with others. We have certain celebrations at various times of the year. In addition to that, we have curriculum material and activities, and books the teachers have to address the issue," Revis said.

She said the use of "the N-word," is not tolerated in HISD schools. With

regard to terms such as "queer," or "fag," or "dyke," Revis said they are moving to a new policy including all derogatory terms in an "umbrella" policy. She said they are moving in that direction but nothing has been done yet. They want to do the slogan and poster processes before codifying unacceptable hate behavior in a written policy.

"At least this year we got people thinking about it (hate crimes), discussing it and teachers bringing it up in a different kind of way, where they ordinarily might not have. Whatever we do next year, we want to build on that," Revis said.

Revis said it often takes some particularly offensive act to energize public outcry for remedial action. In the case of hate crimes, it would be the brutal murders of James Byrd and Matthew Shepard.

"In the early part of 1998—before the Jasper incident—the mayor and the (police) chief designated Lt. Mark Eisenmann to be the department's Hate Crime Coordinator. He was charged with increasing awareness regarding hate crimes, increasing education both of the police officers in the department and the public. He would also try to develop prevention techniques, better reporting procedures and other types of strategic initiatives," Marsh said.

Since then mandatory in-service training classes have trained all 5,400 active Houston police officers concerning indicators of hate crime, how to report such crimes and the priority given to hate crime cases. Marsh said hate crimes are given the highest investigative priority possible.

In addition, to training all officers, HPD has also presented the Positive Interaction Program all over the city. The program is put on for civic groups and involves the opportunity to have experience with those most likely to be targets of hate crimes.

Marsh said, in 1998 there were 40 crimes, up 11 from the year previous, where there was a factor qualifying it as a hate crime. He said the frequency of each of the categories of hate crimes pretty much followed the national pattern for such crimes—race being the most frequent, sexual orientation being the second most frequent.


INFO

HPD Hate Crimes hot line

tip line and information source
713-308-8737

Houston Police

www.ci.houston.tx.us/departme/police
follow directions to Hate Crimes unit



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Project CAESAR's *Think Negative* is a free 5 week series group that starts June 21st at 7:00p.m. For more information, give the CAESAR staff a call at 713.623.6796 or e-mail us at: projectcaesar@hotmail.com

Project CAESAR is the Gay Men's Health Initiative at AIDS Foundation, Houston.

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Community Calendar

►Friday, June 11

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Rich's 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Midtowne Spa 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.

Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.

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

Lesbian Avengers. Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama at 7 p.m.

Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

Kolbe Project. Park Plaza Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.

Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.

Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM, 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

Movie Time at the Kolbe Project. 7:30 p.m. 713-522-8182.

Mishpachat Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.

Co Dependents Anonymous. 7:30 p.m. At MCCR. 713-861-9149.

Healing Eucharist. 7 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral. 1117 Texas Ave. 713-222-2593.

Pride Committee of Houston Kick-off Party. Grand Marshal's reception. Club Picasso, 2151 Richmond. 713-529-6929.

First Friday of Pride Kick-off Party. 6 p.m. JR's 804 Pacific. 713-521-2519.

Gardening and Yard Society. 7 p.m. 713-661-6378.

Astro Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf. General meeting. 7 p.m. 701 Richmond. 713-869-2287.

►Saturday, June 12

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM, 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

Visual Arts Alliance. 10 a.m. 281-583-8408.

Rainbow Fishing Club. meeting 713-526-7070.

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

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

Gulf Coast Transgender Community. Support Group. 713-780-GCTC.

1999 Gay Pride 5K Fun Run. Sabine to Memorial. 713-523-5791.

Genye Allen Fourth Annual Softball Tournament. 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Memorial Park fields 2 & 3. 713-861-9149.

Lesbian Health Fair. 9 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-603-0023.

Texas Association for Transexual Support. 3 p.m. 713-807-1230.

A Night for Lovers with Roberta Flack. 8 p.m. Arena Theatre. 713-988-1020.

Houston Area Bear's Cocktail Social. 9 p.m. 2923 Main. 713-867-9123.

Men's Group Social. 5 p.m. Dinner and Mini-golf. 713-283-0155.

► Sunday, June 13

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

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church. Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I at 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II at 8:55 a.m.; Education hour at 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. "Preaching the Gospel" at 10:30 a.m. Bible study at 9:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sanctuary Choir performs "God for Us." at 11, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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

First Unitarian Universalist Church.

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Commitment Ceremony at 6 p.m. \$25 per couple. 713-526-5200.

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. Sunday School for children. 4305 Lillian. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Houston Mission Church. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.

Covenant Baptist Church. Service at 1:30 p.m.; education hour at 3 p.m. 713-668-8830.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m. Sunday school at 9:40 a.m. 713-526-1017.

MCCR. Handbell Choir rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 402 Church St. in Galveston. Service at 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 11 a.m. 713-520-7847.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

Church of Kindred Spirits (Beaumont). Service at 7 p.m. 409-835-4765.

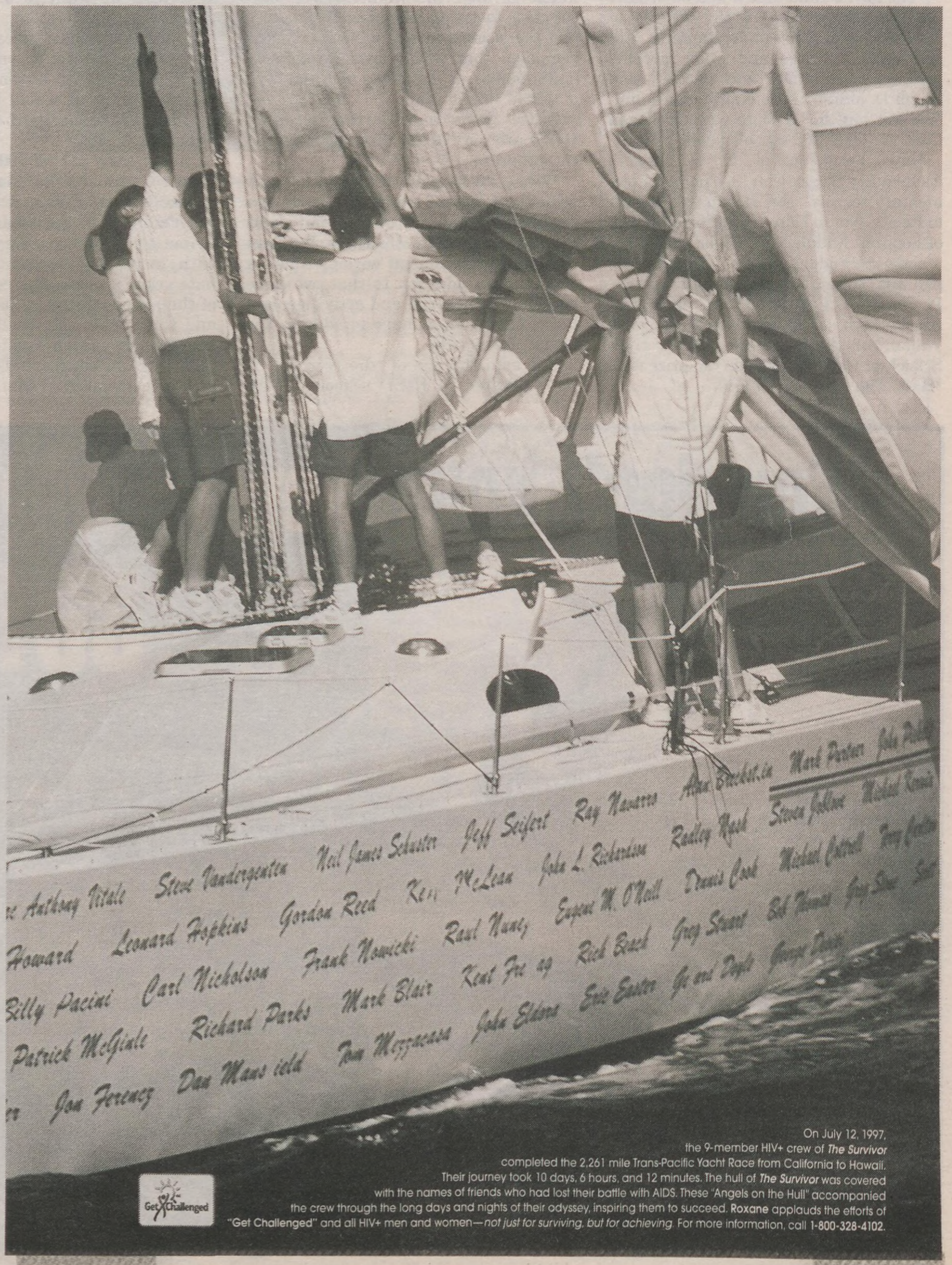
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum at 10 a.m. Service at 11 a.m. and noon. 1504 Wirt. 713-686-5876.

Interfaith Worship Celebration. 7 p.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. 713-528-3601.

Pride Barbecue. 3 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-527-8347.

►Monday, June 14

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose



On July 12, 1997, the 9-member HIV+ crew of *The Survivor* completed the 2,261 mile Trans-Pacific Yacht Race from California to Hawaii. Their journey took 10 days, 6 hours, and 12 minutes. The hull of *The Survivor* was covered with the names of friends who had lost their battle with AIDS. These "Angels on the Hull" accompanied the crew through the long days and nights of their odyssey, inspiring them to succeed. Roxane applauds the efforts of "Get Challenged" and all HIV+ men and women—not just for surviving, but for achieving. For more information, call 1-800-328-4102.



Clinic. Outpost 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group, 8 p.m. 713-861-6181.

Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week, 7 p.m. 713-529-1223.

Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group. 713-526-1017.

Bering Support Network. Grief and Divorce Groups at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

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

AIDS Caregiver's Support Group. 6 p.m. 713-732-4300.

HIV testing. Free from AVES from 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.

AIDS Foundation Houston. Free creative writing class at 3 p.m. 713-623-6796.

FrontRunners. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

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

Texas Medical Center Lambda. 5 p.m. 713-523-5539.

Integrity Houston. For gay and lesbian Episcopalians. 7:30 p.m. Autry House, 6265 Main.

More Light Presbyterians. Meeting. 1110 Lovett. 9:30 p.m. 281-4448861 X309.

Miss Camp America. General meeting. 713-520-STAR.

Houston Area Women's Center.

Volunteer training. 10 a.m. 713-535-6363.

► Tuesday, June 15

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic.

Club Houston 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous.

7 p.m. 239 Westheimer. 713-495-8009.

Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy.

Montrose Counseling Center at 4:30 p.m.

713-529-0037.

Youth-Rap. 6:30 p.m. 713-822-8511.

Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037

AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. 7 p.m. 713-488-4492.

PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse.

Montrose Counseling Center at 6:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.

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

Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. The Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

HIV support group. For men over 50. 7:30 p.m. Center for AIDS, 1407 Hawthorne.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Week.

General meeting for public, mandatory for parade entrance. 713-529-6979.

More on Relationships. Discussion group. 7 p.m. 415 W. Gray. 713-861-9149.

► Wednesday, June 16

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Mary's 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Venture-N 8 p.m. to midnight, Mela's 8 p.m. to midnight and Ripcord 9 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.

Women's Network. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713-529-0037.

HIV survivor support group. 7 p.m. 713-782-4050.

to midnight, Mela's 8 p.m. to midnight. 712-520-2000.

Empower. Kick-off. 5:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-523-7576.

Mind/Body Connection: Alternative Approaches. 7 p.m. 1475 W. Gray. 713-524-2374.

Gay Pride Follies Open Auditions. 6 p.m. 1100 Westheimer. 713-524-8118.

Directing Documentaries. Workshop at 1 p.m. 713-522-8592.

OutVote. General meeting. 713-520-VOTE.

Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Forum. 1601 W. Main. 713-779-8620.

► Thursday, June 17

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Brick's II 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Cousin's 8 p.m. to midnight, and Toyz 9 p.m. to midnight. 713-530-2000.

Art Labs. The Art League at 1 p.m. 713-225-9411.

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal at 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

HIV+ Men Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Relapse Prevention. Montrose Counseling Center, 2 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center. 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Women's Therapy Group. Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 713-738-RACE.

FrontRunners at 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

HIV Art Course Program. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.

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

Faith and Hope Fellowship. Bible study 7 p.m. 713-520-7847.

Community Gospel. Choir practice. 6:30 p.m.; service at 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

BiNet Houston. Discussion group at 7:30 p.m. 713-467-7031.

HIV/AIDS Support Group. 2:30 at Family Service Center. 713-861-4849.

Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group. 7 p.m. Family Service Center. 713-247-3810.

HIV/AIDS Support Group. 7 p.m. Family Service Center in Conroe. 888-247-3810.

Houston Comets' Pride Pre-Game Party. 7 p.m. 713-524-2840.

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.

"WHEN THINGS GOT ROUGH
VIRAMUNE® DIDN'T
GET IN MY WAY."

Mike Schmidt,
HIV+ crew member of *The Survivor*,
on the dosing convenience of VIRAMUNE®

"Sailing the Pacific was both a mental and physical challenge, 24 hours a day. The ocean controlled when I ate and slept. Fortunately, I had to take only one VIRAMUNE® tablet twice a day* as part of my antiretroviral combination.

"Although I chose VIRAMUNE® as part of my combination for its convenience, the goal of my therapy was to reach an undetectable viral load. At the time of the race, I was fitter than ever."

Ask your doctor whether VIRAMUNE® could fit into your treatment strategy. VIRAMUNE® is indicated for use in combination with nucleoside analogues for the treatment of HIV-1 infected adults who have experienced clinical and/or immunologic deterioration. However, there is no cure for HIV infection. Currently, it is not known whether taking VIRAMUNE® in combination will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. You should also be aware that all antiretrovirals can cause side effects. VIRAMUNE® is associated with severe rash, which in some cases has been life-threatening. It should be discontinued when severe rash occurs. Other side effects reported include fever, nausea, and headache. VIRAMUNE® is, however, generally well tolerated by most patients.

* Recommended dose: one 200 mg tablet once a day for first 14 days; then one 200 mg tablet twice a day.

Just two tablets a day
with or without food

Viramune® 200 mg Tablets
(nevirapine)

Please see important information about VIRAMUNE® on adjacent page.

Reimbursement/Patient Assistance: 1-800-274-8651 * Web site: www.Roxane.com Product Information: 1-800-848-0120

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HERE

NEWS FROM HOUSTON AND TEXAS

Advocates say hate crimes are underreported in Texas

SAN ANTONIO—Calling for more hate crime prosecutions, civil rights advocates said racially-motivated attacks and other offenses driven by prejudice are underreported in San Antonio and across Texas. Last year, five hate crimes were reported in San Antonio—a third of the number tallied in either Austin and Fort Worth, according to data collected by the Texas Department Of Public Safety, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported in a recent edition. In 1997, Texas ranked among states a distant third, reporting

333 hate crimes—less than half the number reported in New York and California, but more than triple those reported in Florida, according to the most recent figures from the FBI. The San Antonio-based Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of Texas announced, May 26, an initiative designed to highlight bias crimes.

With a \$25,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, the committee plans to hire a part-time staff member who will work with community groups and law-enforcement agencies to identify bias-driven assaults from other crimes. "We'd like to see an increase of prosecutions of hate crime perpetrators," said Mary Kenney,

executive director of the committee. A bill targeting hate crimes recently died in the Texas Legislature.

The federal hate crimes law enacted by Congress in 1990 has yet to be used in San Antonio, U.S. Attorney Bill Blagg said last October. Blagg has used it in other parts of Texas, including the 1998 prosecution of three El Paso residents accused of holding deaf immigrants as indentured servants.

Regardless of any statistics, hate crimes are taking place in the Alamo City, said Graciela Sanchez, executive director of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. "I know three blocks from here, gay clubs were reporting those attacks on a daily basis," Sanchez said. Although the federal hate crime law does not include crimes based on sexual orientation, statistics of such attacks are collected by the FBI. Two such incidents in San Antonio were reported in 1997, FBI spokesman Darren Holmes said.

A spokesman for the San Antonio Police Department said officers frequently face victims or witnesses who leave out details that would separate a bias crime from a more common attack.

On the other side, critics accused business leaders and politicians of downplaying racial problems. "It's not economically feasible for the Chamber of Commerce to talk about hate crime because then tourists won't come and spend money on the River Walk," said T.C. Calvert, president of the Neighborhoods First Alliance, a coalition of South and East side community groups.

200 mg Tablets
Viramune
(nevirapine) 

Simple maintenance dose:
one 200 mg tablet twice daily



BRIEF SUMMARY

WARNING:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of VIRAMUNE in pediatric patients have not been established. VIRAMUNE has been studied in two open-label, uncontrolled trials (BI 882, BI 892) in 37 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients with a median age of 0.9 years (range: 0.1 to 15 years) who were treated for a median duration of 20.7 months. Seven patients developed rashes while receiving VIRAMUNE. In an ongoing, controlled trial of VIRAMUNE combination therapy in HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (ACTG 245), one of approximately 288 patients treated with VIRAMUNE experienced Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 3: Percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities

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

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

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

CAUTION FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

 **Roxane**
Laboratories, Inc.

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RX-21408/W (5/98)

A Sense Of Place

▼ a photographic diary of our community ▼



LUCINDA GARCES

"Girls got balls. They're just a little higher up."

—Joan Jett, musician

SEROSTIM™

Because there is no time to waste.

Human Growth Hormone combats the loss of lean body mass in ways other treatments don't.*

SEROSTIM is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia, in combination with antiviral therapy, based on analysis of intermediate effects in studies up to 12 weeks duration.

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

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

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



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

One way to know for sure if your treatment has restored LBM is to ask your doctor about BIA or Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis. BIA measures body composition so changes in LBM can be monitored. It takes just 5 minutes and is completely painless. If your physician cannot provide BIA testing, ask him/her to call Serono at 800-714-2437 and a representative will help your physician gain access to a BIA system on your behalf.

People on SEROSTIM may observe side effects. In clinical trials, patients treated with SEROSTIM noticed muscle and joint soreness (53.7% vs. 33.3% for placebo) and swelling in the hands and feet (27.3% vs. 2.7% for placebo). Physicians rated these symptoms as mild-to-moderate, and in most cases they will subside with continued

treatment. Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. SEROSTIM use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Also, SEROSTIM must be used along with anti-HIV drug therapy. Data related to interactions between SEROSTIM and anti-HIV treatments are not yet available.

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

The power of nature is the science of Serostim.

Serono
PART OF THE ARES-SERONO GROUP

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



Serostim®
[somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection]

SL1 98-8130

Serostim[®]

[somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection]

BRIEF SUMMARY. SEE FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION BEFORE PRESCRIBING.

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

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Growth hormone should not be initiated to treat patients with acute critical illness due to complications following open heart or abdominal surgery, multiple accidental trauma or to patients having acute respiratory failure. Two placebo-controlled clinical trials in non-growth hormone deficient adult patients (n=522) with these conditions revealed a significant increase in mortality (41.9% vs 19.3%) among somatropin treated patients (doses 5.3-8 mg/day) compared to those receiving placebo (see WARNINGS).

Serostim[®] [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection] is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to growth hormone.

WARNINGS: See CONTRAINDICATIONS for information on increased mortality in patients with acute critical illnesses in intensive care units due to complications following open heart or abdominal surgery, multiple accidental trauma or acute respiratory failure. The safety of continuing growth hormone treatment in patients receiving replacement doses for approved indications who concurrently develop these illnesses has not been established. Therefore, the potential benefit of treatment continuation with growth hormone in patients having acute critical illnesses should be weighed against the potential risk.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 2: Controlled Trials Adverse Events

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

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

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

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

OVERDOSAGE

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

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STABILITY AND STORAGE

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

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

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

HOW SUPPLIED

Serostim is available in the following forms:

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

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

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

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

February 1999
 SLI 99-8167



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THERE

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AND THE NATION

Protection for gay students dumped by California Assembly

SACRAMENTO—By one vote, the California State Assembly defeated a bill that would have written into law protection for gay students from discrimination. The Assembly's emotionally wrenching debate included references to racism, the Japanese internment during World War II, an Assemblyman's brother who died of AIDS, and references to bestiality and pedophilia. "It's just people who are cowards. I can't characterize it any other way," said the measure's author, Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica). The debate foreshadows the upcoming March 2000 referendum on same-sex marriage. The eight Democrats who voted against the bill weretargeted by a bilingual radio and newspaper advertising campaign paid for by conservative Christians which showed two men kissing with the caption, "Protect the children against sexual assault." A Field Poll taken in April found that 55 percent of California voters favored the ban on recognizing same-sex marriages, while 39 percent opposed it.



U.S. Rep. Sheila Kuehl

Judge reassigned after trying to block same-sex adoptions

CHICAGO—A three-judge Illinois Court of Appeals panel rebuked a judge for trying to block three uncontested adoptions by lesbian parents, the *Chicago Tribune* reported June 2. During the course of several months, Judge Susan McDunn stalled adoptions, voided adoption decrees entered by other judges, questioned lesbian parents about their sexual history, and divulged confidential family information to the conservative Family Research Council. The three-judge panel called McDunn's actions "an inexcusable injustice." On June 4, McDunn was suspended from the bench and given administrative duties. The transfer was to ensure "that a judge who has decided cases without regard to the law and the facts and based instead on her own personal predilections will not be hearing cases," Cook County Chief Judge Donald O'Connell said. The cases involved lesbians who were adopting their partners' children conceived by artificial insemination.

—From staff and wire reports

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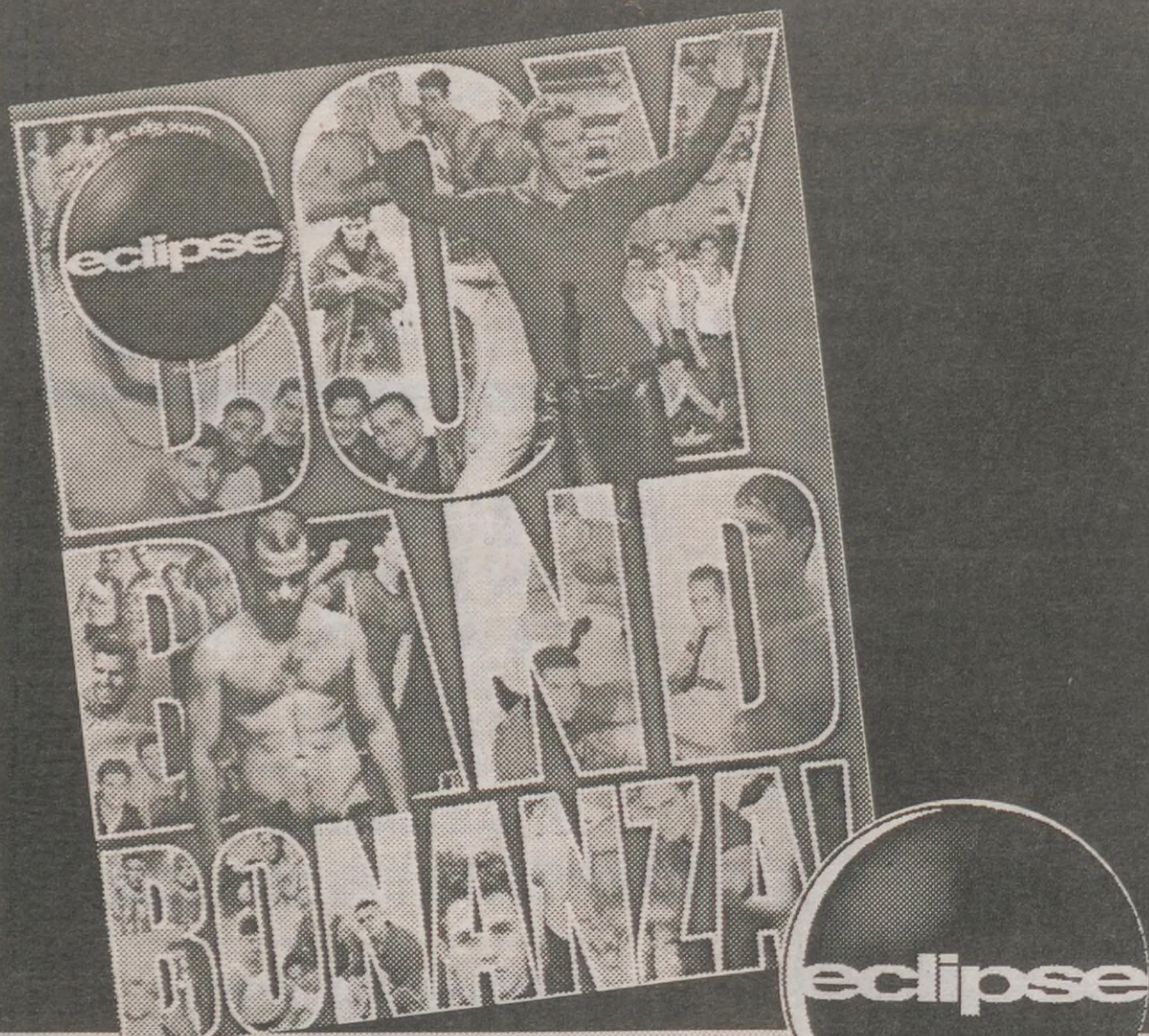
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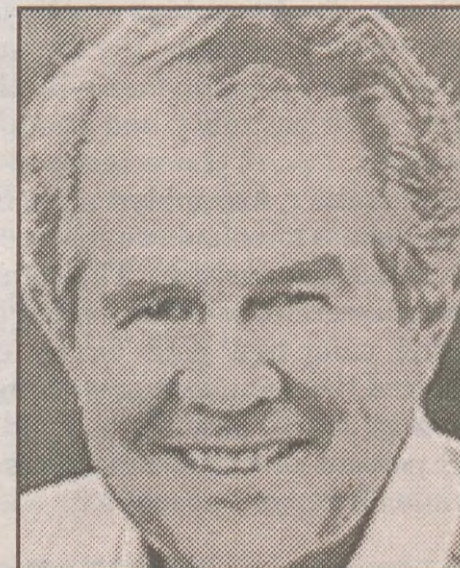
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NEWS OVERSEAS AND AROUND THE GLOBE

Scottish bank dumps Robertson after anti-gay remarks

EDINBURGH (AP)—The Bank of Scotland has canceled its planned launch of a telephone banking service with religious broadcaster Pat Robertson because of derogatory remarks Robertson made about Scotland's tolerance of gays, the bank said June 5. The bank said it will go ahead with its telephone banking subsidiary in the U.S., buying out Robertson's financial stake in the project. Bank executives revisited the deal with Robertson after watching his comments on the May 18 telecast of the "700 Club." Scottish lawmakers threatened to remove the new Parliament's bank account from the Bank of Scotland if the deal went ahead. As many as 500 accounts have been closed by customers since March over the deal. Also, leading shareholders in the Laura Ashley clothing and furnishings chain have demanded the removal of Robertson from the company's board of directors. He survived a vote thanks to the support of a Malaysian shareholder who thought his belief in family values would fit in with Laura Ashley's traditional image.



Pat Robertson

Swiss fund making new payment to gay Holocaust victims

NEW YORK—Gay Holocaust survivors will be among the 20,000 non-Jewish people from 13 countries who receive payments from the Swiss-based Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust, *Reuters* reported June 1. Those who qualify for one-time payments of up to \$1,300 include gypsies, people persecuted for their political beliefs or homosexuality, and Jehovah's witnesses, said Elan Steinberg, World Jewish Congress executive director. "That will be enough to put some food on the table," Steinberg said. The Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust was founded in March 1997 and financed with about \$185 million in donations by major Swiss banks and companies. The fund is separate from the \$1.25 billion settlement that Swiss banks last year agreed to pay Holocaust victims.

Gay ads going on Toronto transit system

TORONTO—After six years, a gay group's effort to advertise with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) has finally succeeded, the *Toronto Sun* reported June 7. In 1993, the Toronto Area Gay and Lesbians group paid \$2,439 to advertise their counseling services on 700,000 bus transfers, which were considered too controversial and were never issued. The group contested the decision. After pressure from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the TTC agreed to refund the money and issued the new transfers for short periods over the next two years. Some TTC drivers reportedly refused to hand out the new transfers, which appeared last weekend with the words "Gay services/Look in the Business White Pages." Transit officials said those employees would be disciplined. The transfer tickets prompted a small protest. "We support TTC drivers against X-rated transfers," said Zak Khan, 41. "Soon they'll be advertising for transsexual services or bondage services."

—From staff and wire reports



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June 11 - June 17



Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

At the start of a new year cosmic forces pull together to jump start your life into change. On the 13th of June the sun/moon combination works with Mars to initiate the next 12 months of your life. In the beginning do not be surprised if at first you're thrown into an odd and funky mood. Luckily, this is only temporary and should let up within the next two weeks.



Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)

Mars and Neptune join efforts and push all of your sensitive buttons. Attitude, attitude, attitude. Watch out world, Cancer is in a mood and if you don't stay out of their way you will suffer. Issues with authority figures are highlighted and you're going to be wearing your honesty right on your sleeve.



Leo (JULY 24 — AUG. 23)

Venus and Neptune combine efforts to stimulate change throughout your life. Romance, sensuality, and opportunity will present its self everywhere. Are you involved in a relationship or looking for love? Well good luck—cosmic influences are to blame but when Fred Astaire feet turn into two left, perhaps this weekend might be better spent at home.



Virgo (AUG. 24 — SEPT. 23)

The new moon in the sign of Gemini stimulates radical change that will run rampant in your life. Combined with the influence of Pluto you will be forced to start a new cycle. Money, wealth, and big business are all possible in your future.



Libra (SEPT. 24 — OCT. 23)

The sun and moon combine efforts to push out stress and give you the optimism to further your life along. This week believe and know that the stress that is in your life currently is only temporary. You may find that a change of scenery is being called for. The universe could be calling you to do some deep soul searching.



Scorpio (OCT. 24 — NOV. 22)

Venus, Saturn, and Neptune play a cosmic game of ping pong and you're caught in the middle. A rebellious air could surround you. If this becomes an issue—pay attention, opportunities will abound and this is something you need to be aware of. New career opportunities could open up, property could become available for your purchase, or you could invest into a new car.



Sagittarius (NOV. 23 — DEC. 22)

The new moon in Gemini send chills traveling up and down your spine. Explosions are likely and you could feel as though life has backed you into a corner. This week you must confront these issues or else you are likely to have a hard time making it through this week. Yoga will be helpful along with some good physical exercise.



Capricorn (DEC. 23 — JAN. 20)

This week you should pay attention to where you find setbacks and delays. Although it may not seem like it, luck is on your side. Timely events will occur though out the week that will signal a new direction. Giving in will bless your life in the months to come.



Aquarius (JAN. 21 — FEB. 19)

Neptune produces a chill wind throughout your life, money issues will become highlighted and you could experience a strong sense of uneasiness. Your future is in the making. It is what you do right now that shapes tomorrow. Keep this in mind as you go about your week.



Pisces (FEB. 20 — MARCH 20)

The sun produces a strong need to spend time reading, meditating, and getting close to spirit. Open your mind to inspiration and you could find all the solutions to your current problems. Going to church can be helpful and so could surrounding yourself in groups of friends.



Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

What does love mean to you Aries? Is sex on the top of your list or communicating and becoming one? Well, get ready Aries, as Mars moves forward through the last part of Libra, confrontations are high as well as the possibility of really good sex. This week, relationships will be put to the test—relations build on trust and honesty will no doubt survive all others will crumble under the pressure.



Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

Is it love, a happy home, or decadent indulgences that the combination of the stars presages for you? Venus touches off with Neptune and puts you in a haze that only time will take away. Aloof, standoffish—make no commitment this week, because promises are made to be broken.

Joseph Molina, a practicing psychic over for 15 years, can be reached at astralwind@astralwind.com

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- Small kitchen appliances
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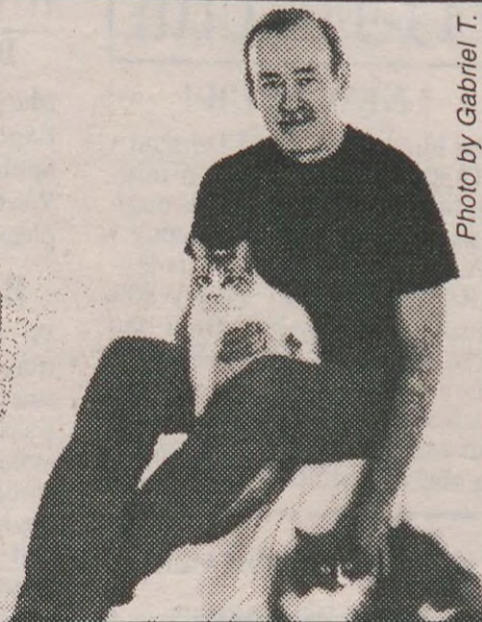


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Classifieds

Announcements

Wigs on Fire is Back! The Inferno!

Join us for a night of fun, dancing, complimentary well drinks, the most outrageous wig contest and entertainment by Bonnie Pointer (of the Pointer Sisters) as we celebrate Pride Week. The event comes to a blaze at 7:00pm and burns on until 11:00pm at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto on Saturday, June 19, 1999. Last year the foundation raised \$70,000 for AIDS related charities. Our success has been due to the hard work of our members and the generosity of people like you! We are asking that you once again help us in underwriting our Wigs on Fire fund raising event. To receive more information on the different underwriting levels or just to donate funds please call 713.940.STAR.

How To Adopt Internationally

Family to Family Adoption Services, an adoption networking agency, is in partnership with several non-profit adoption agencies who are dedicated to finding loving homes for thousands of orphans in many countries. Single men, women, and couples from 25 - 57 years old are eligible to adopt. For more information please call Maxine at 713.219.1472 or email: Fam2fam@aol.com

PWA Coalition desperately needs the following: Dishes, silverware, pots/pans, sheets, towels, dressers, dinettes, coffee tables, sofas, and small appliances. Available for pick-ups. Call Wilson or Kerry at 713.522.5428.

HATCH Seeks Sponsors for Prom Night '99

The 6th Annual Gay and Lesbian Prom Night is planned for June 19th. Sponsored by the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals. Prom Night raises money for activities throughout the year for youth attending HATCH functions. Open to the public, tickets will be available at the door. The event is free for teens; \$20 for adults. You can also be a sponsor of the prom: for \$500 you can be a Superintendent of the event; \$250 get you Principal status; and \$100 names you as a Chaperone. Any donation will be appreciated. For more information, phone HATCH at 713.942.7002.

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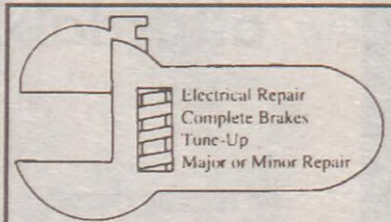
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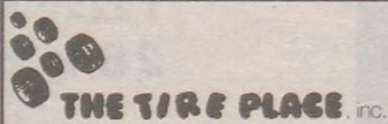


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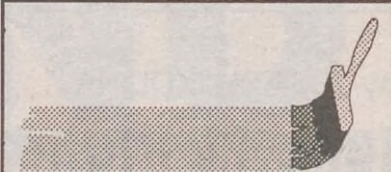
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Court order paves way for student harassment suits

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Three Missouri students filed separate lawsuits in federal court in Kansas City alleging that fellow students sexually harassed them and that school administrators did little to stop it. The lawsuits were filed after a recent Supreme Court ruling opened the door to similar lawsuits. Among the students suing are two girls, one who was sexually assaulted by five classmates in a stairwell, and another who was publicly humiliated by a boy in the school gymnasium. The third suit is by a 14-year-old boy who other students thought to be gay, who endured four years of name-calling, beatings and one incident of nearly being run over by a car. While a school official spoke with some of the students who were harassing the boy, the harassment only worsened, the lawsuit said. "If a student feels she's being harassed, she's got to tell

someone," said Richmond Superintendent Lindell Harrison. Kansas City lawyer Katherine Argent, who is representing the students, said the high court's ruling and the lawsuits will send a message to educators: "It clearly tells the school they can't turn their backs anymore and talk about budget constraints."

Jury finds New York cop guilty in beating of Louima

NEW YORK (AP)—A police officer was convicted June 6 of beating a Haitian immigrant and holding him down while another officer tortured him in a stationhouse bathroom. Three other officers were acquitted of lesser charges. The jury reached the verdict after 18 hours of deliberations over three days in the case of Abner Louima. They heard four weeks of often lurid testimony in Brooklyn federal court. Officer Charles Schwarz, 33, was found guilty of

holding Louima down while another officer, Justin Volpe, tortured him with a broken broom stick. Volpe thought mistakenly that Louima had punched him in a street melee. Volpe interrupted the trial last month and admitted in a guilty plea that he rammed the stick into Louima's rectum, causing severe internal injuries, including a ruptured ladder and colon. In opening statements, Volpe's attorney had suggested Louima, who is married, had been injured during gay sex and that he made up the attack story to get money by suing the city. Volpe and Schwarz face up to life in prison because of the sexual nature of the assault.



Abner Louima

—From staff and wire reports

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'Powers' fallout

Roll in sheets pulled for rating

by EARL DITTMAN

Apparently, the Motion Picture Association Of America (MPAA) finds the depiction of two men in bed together worthy of giving a film an "R" rating. That certainly was the case when "Austin Powers, The Spy Who Shagged Me" was repeatedly shown to the board.

Its decision forced the film's director, Jay Roach, to remove the scene from the finished print. "It was in the film until the very last second, but even after intense negotiations, they wouldn't let us keep it in and keep it 'PG-13.'" Roach said. "I really fought to keep it in, but, if it received an 'R' rating, a lot of younger 'Austin Powers' fans wouldn't get to see it in theaters. So, I relented. Anyway, I'll put it on the DVD version of the film."

The controversial segment in question would have appeared at the end of "Austin Powers, The Spy Who Shagged Me," in between the film's closing credits. It featured actors Robert Wagner, as Dr. Evil's second-in-command, Number Two, and Rob Lowe as a younger version of the same character.

"It's a scene that takes place in Austin's 'Mojo Bed' that's been hidden away in this hallowed volcano lair," former Brat Packer Lowe said. "You see the covers rustling, with the song, 'Let's Get It On,' playing in the background. Then, the covers come down, and it's me. But, you can tell there is still somebody next to me. I say to that person, 'That was fantastic!' and the covers come down and it's R.J. (Wagner). He says, 'And, the best thing is, technically, it's not cheating.'

"That was it, that's all you saw," Lowe said. "There wasn't any explicit sex or even any nudity. But, I was told that the ratings board said, 'It was a scene that implied a hardcore homosexual act was being performed.' I couldn't believe it when I heard that, all I could think was, 'Did they see the same movie I did or are they just a bunch of fucking idiots.'"

Roach was equally as shocked at their perception of what was going on in the scene, but, says the MPAA's decision comes as no surprise to him. "Everyone in Hollywood knows there is really no rhyme or reason as to how they make come up with the ratings they do," Roach said. "To be honest, there are a lot more racier things in the new 'Austin Powers' that I thought would never make it past them, but, they did. You have to remember, though, that the MPAA is made-up of older, more conservative individuals."

Lowe, however, isn't quite as kind or diplomatic to the members of the MPAA, who have made it policy not to publicly discuss their rating decisions.

"They're bigots, period," Lowe said. "I'm a father, I have children, and I wouldn't be ashamed to have my kids see that scene. They would think it was funny. They wouldn't think it was advocating homosexuality or anything. I'm more shocked at the violence and gunplay that's in other 'PG-13' movies, then I am of two guys in the same bed in 'Austin Powers.' I guess the MPAA would rather our kids see people killing each other then having a good time, regardless of their sexuality."

Occasions

Financial wizard Kathy Hubbard (pictured) and Houston City Council member Annise Parker enjoy the company of their Pet of the Week, Dancer.



Holy Union

Ian Leffler and Richard Wiederholt celebrated their holy union on April 24.



Ian and Richard

Anniversaries

Mark and Ken celebrate their anniversary on June 13.

Denay and Norri of the HGLP will add another year together on June 19.

Belated anniversary wishes to Jane R. and Peggy T. who celebrated 17 years together on June 4.

Four years together were celebrated on June 2 by Curtis W. and Ariz R.

Birthdays

Jeff Roberts, the Lazer Wizard will blow out 30, yes 30 candles on his birthday cake on June 13. His mother



Jeff

Sha Roberts nurses in her 55th birthday on June 14. Good luck at the blackjack tables!

Rob W.'s (member of HGLP)

Emree turns nine on June 13.

Glenda R. celebrates her birthday on June 23. Her daughter Dawn turns 23 on June 13.

Happy 13th birthday to Ross, son of Karen E. and Cherry W. on June 17.

HGLP member Karen H. blows out her candles on June 12.

Kayley and Michael C. are putting 14 candles on Chris' birthday cake on June 16.

Maria C.'s Max was the big three on June 3.

Bryan blows out six candles on his birthday cake on June 16.

Tracy L., Selene, Remandra, Phoebe and Ariadne helped Olivia C. celebrate her birthday on June 10.

Carol G. blows out her birthday candles on June 15.

Richard of E/J's fame adds another wrinkle on June 16.

Helen of Sundance Cattle

Company moos in an udder birthday on June 15.

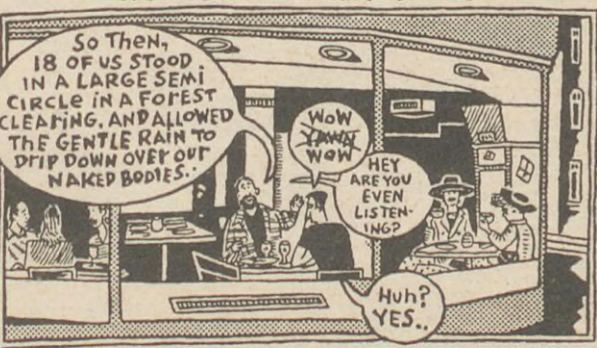
The one and only Debbie Phinney toasts her birthday on June 17.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life Of Ethan Green

By Eric Orner

My Dinner With Slobodan
As told by Ethan Green...

I WAS HAVING DINNER WITH MY CO-WORKER RODNEY THE BEAR, WHO WAS KIND OF BORING ME TO TEARS WITH STORIES ABOUT HIS WEEKEND AT A RADICAL FAIRIES RETREAT IN TENNESSEE..



MY MIND WANDERED A BIT. AFTER A WHILE I NOTICED RODNEY HAD LEFT. HE MUST'VE GOTTEN TICKED CUZ I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.



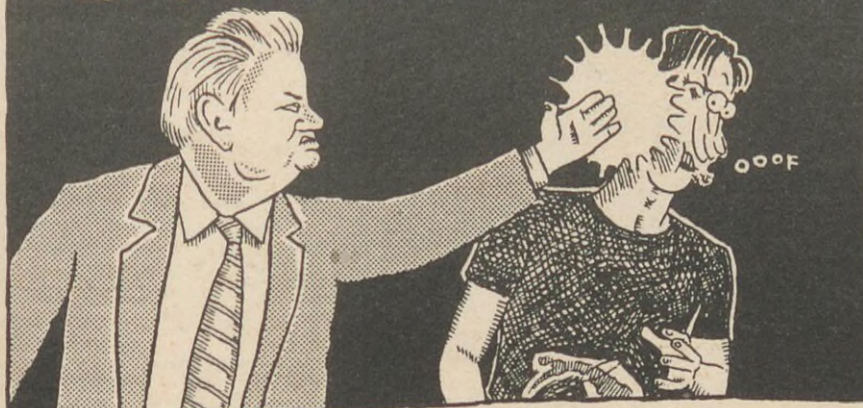
NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS SHARING THE TABLE WITH ACTIVO & PASIVO, FAMED HOT-HEADED PORN STARS. ACTIVO WAS CURSING ME BECAUSE HE SUSPECTS THAT I LOVE PASIVO MORE. PASIVO WAS CRYING & THREATENING TO CUT ACTIVO... LEMMETELYA.. IT WAS A REAL SCENE..



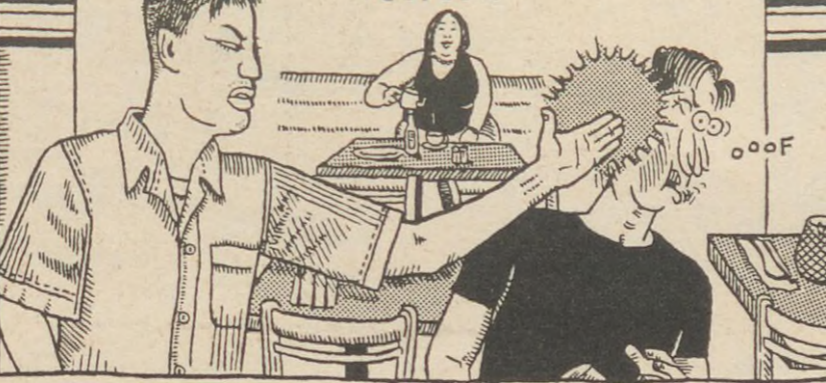
SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC WAS THERE ALSO... I ASKED HIM HOW HE COULD BE SO CRUEL. ACTIVO CALLED HIM A DOG. PASIVO AGREED. "FASCISMO IS SO UNPLUGGED" HE SAID. (WHATEVER THAT MEANS) "ETHNICITY IS IRRELEVANT IN THE INFORMATION AGE"..



I GUESS THE SERBIAN PRESIDENT DIDN'T APPRECIATE BEING LECTURED TO BY A TROIKA OF GAY GUYS, CUZ THE NEXT THING THAT HAPPENED WAS HE SLAPPED ME.



ONLY IT WASN'T REALLY SLOBO. IT WAS JASON CHANG. YIKES! JASON CHANG! LAST WEEK I ACCIDENTLY FORWARDED A DISHY EMAIL ABOUT HIM TO WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE..



"BLABBERMOUTH"! HE SAID FURIOUSLY, AND STALKED OUT THE DOOR. THE OTHER TABLES WERE, OF COURSE, TRANSFIXED BY THE BROVHaha.. WHILE RODNEY, WHO HAD REAPPEARED, DID HIS BEST TO SUPPRESS A GIGGLE.



A Guide to Your



Story and photo suggestions

Fax, mail or e-mail a press release, along with the name of a contact person and phone number.

Occasions

Houston Voice publishes news that chronicles the birthdays, engagements, weddings, commitment ceremonies and deaths of community members. These items are compiled by our editorial staff and include information submitted by readers.

Fax, mail or e-mail the information, along with the name of a contact person and phone number so information can be verified for publication.

Photos will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Upcoming events

Our Upcoming Events is a guide to arts and entertainment happenings. Community Calendar lists the meetings and other events of community organizations.

Fax, mail or e-mail the information. Deadline is noon Friday, seven days prior to publication. Information cannot be taken over the phone.

Voices & Echoes

We welcome your letters and guest opinions. Fax, mail or e-mail submissions, along with a daytime phone number for verification. Letters should be fewer than 400 words; guest commentaries should be fewer than 1,000 words.

Letters and guest commentaries may be edited for style, clarity and space constraints.

Your ideas and input

We encourage your feedback on all aspects of our newspaper. Call or e-mail the associate publisher (mike@houstonvoice.com) or editor (editor@houstonvoice.com). Complaints? Something you love? Let us know.

Sponsorships

Community involvement is part of the *Houston Voice* mission. If your non-profit group or fund-raiser needs support, media sponsorships and in-kind advertising, contributions are available. To have your submission considered, contact the associate publisher, Mike Fleming at mike@houstonvoice.com or by phone or fax.

Subscriptions

Houston Voice is available for home or office delivery for \$45.50 for six months, or \$91 for a year. Send check or money order to subscribe.

Advertisements

Display advertising deadline is noon Thursday, eight days prior to publication.

Classified advertising deadline is noon Monday, four days prior to publication. A convenient form to place your classified ad is included in our Classifieds each week. All classified advertising must be prepaid. Ads may be placed by phone on your Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

