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Everything from nakedness to children's fairy tales take to theater stages across Houston this month.

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# Mayor runoff pivotal for gays

Some Houston gay political leaders fear the future if gay-friendly Lee Brown loses contest to conservative Orlando Sanchez

by PENNY WEAVER

On the eve of the Houston mayoral runoff election, one local political expert called the gay vote "critical" as more than one gay activist expressed concern about the too-close-to-call race.

Political observers also said incumbent Mayor Lee Brown's opposition to the anti-gay City Prop. 2 may have hurt his bid for re-election.

"He wouldn't be in a race this tight without his opposition to Prop. 2, without that surge of conservative voters," said Annise Parker, the only openly gay member of the Houston City Council.

Parker recently won re-election to the Council but barely avoided a runoff, garnering 51 percent of the vote in At-Large Position 1. A runoff is automatic in Houston if a candidate does not earn at least 50 percent of the vote.

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The runoff election battle between mayoral candidate Orlando Sanchez (right) and incumbent Mayor Lee Brown may be key to the future of gay political influence in Houston, local gay activists say.

DALTON DEHART

### NEWS ANALYSIS

# Religion under attack from gays?



'Old school' objections to gay rights have grown very familiar, especially since 1977, when entertainer Anita Bryant said 'the Lord' called on her to 'save our children' from the 'sin of homosexuality.' But a new approach switches gears, arguing that measures for gay rights step on the First Amendment rights of religious conservatives.

Recent legal and political gay rights battles pit gays against the religious freedoms of those who would discriminate

by LISA KEEN

In the early days of the gay civil rights movement, conservative opposition came in the form of appeals to religion, particularly Christianity, and its traditional rejection of homosexuality.

While some anti-gay pressure is still based on similar claims, a new type of faith-based objection to gay rights is gaining currency.

According to these new challenges to gay civil rights, legal protections and demands for equal treatment of gay couples trample the religious freedom of those who discriminate against gays based upon deeply held theological beliefs.

The "old school" objections to gay rights have grown very familiar, especially since 1977, when entertainer Anita Bryant said "the Lord" called on her to "save our children" from the "sin of homosexuality."

Bryant managed to overturn laws in four jurisdictions before her

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# Panel approves district lines that divide TX gays

Republican-drawn boundaries take Heights, most of Montrose away from gay-friendly Debra Danburg (D-Houston)

by PENNY WEAVER

Gay voting clout at the state level appears to have taken a severe blow with a Wednesday decision by a three-judge federal panel.

The officials adopted a redistricting plan drawn by Republicans that takes control of the Texas Legislature away from Democrats.

Gay-friendly representatives like Debra Danburg (D-Houston), whose 137th district had included the Heights and heavily gay Montrose neighborhoods, now face tough — if not impossible — bids for re-election next year in newly drawn areas.

"When [State Attorney General] John Cornyn drafted this plan, he did it in a way that ... he thought would ensure that there would not be a gay voice," Danburg said. "He worked very hard to purge those who are openly and proactively helpful on gay issues."

The new 134th district leaves Danburg representing almost none of the Heights and only half of Montrose, she said. Gay-friendly state Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston) will now represent the other portion of Montrose, Danburg noted.

Most of the Heights area will go to Rep. Jessica Farrar, whom Danburg said also is open minded on gay issues.

The new boundaries for Texas House and Senate districts are designed to secure substantial Republican majorities in both



Gay-friendly state Rep. Debra Danburg (D-Houston) said she will win re-election to the newly drawn 134th district, but that the 2002 election will be 'the most expensive, hardest-fought race I've ever had.'

chambers, since the process was led by the GOP-controlled Texas Legislative Redistricting Board. Democrats had challenged the plan, which now is likely to be in effect for elections next year with approval from the federal panel, Danburg noted.

Gay-friendly Democrat Scott Hochberg shares the same district as Danburg and conservative Republican Kyle Janek, according to the new lines. That area now is more than 60 percent Republican.

Danburg said this week that Hochberg is considering options including running for the newly drawn 137th district seat, where he once lived.

Having represented Montrose and the Heights for 20 years, Danburg now will fight for a district that includes the western part of Montrose, River Oaks, the Rice area, West University and parts of Bellaire and the Braeswood area.

She said Republican efforts to put her in a district where she cannot win are efforts that will fail.

"It is only because [Cornyn] does not know Houston and this area as well as I do that he's not going to be successful," Danburg said. "134 is a district that I can win and will win, but it is not because he wanted it to be that way.

"I grew up in River Oaks," she added. "I have some very good connections to some of the areas that are traditionally Republican but that I should be able to do well in."

Under the new lines, Glenn Maxey of Austin, the state's only openly gay legislator, now shares a district with two of his liberal colleagues, Elliot Naishtat and Ann Kitchen. Danburg said those three lawmakers will have to "play musical chairs" to decide who may run in that district or

I am definitely going to have to get my gay friends and supporters in precincts that I will no longer be representing to be helping me even though I won't be their representative. I'll continue fighting for them.

— State Rep. Debra Danburg (D-Houston)

another.

She also noted that Harryette Ehrhardt of Dallas — another gay-friendly legislator — has lost much of her base of voting support.

According to Danburg, Republicans specifically targeted gay-friendly state lawmakers as part of redistricting.

"It's very tough. Obviously, the most highly identified spokespeople on gay rights issues are Glenn and me and Harryette," Danburg said.

The newly drawn districts will make efforts to pass pro-gay legislation more difficult, said the representative, whose attempts in the legislature include authorship of a bill that would end the Texas law that makes homosexual acts illegal.

In Austin, Danburg noted, representation has gone from four pro-gay lawmakers to only one. Many pieces of those districts have now been divided into nearby Republican areas.

"It's going to reduce our numbers as well as shift everything toward the right by a significant chunk," she said.

The state's legislative redistricting board

consists of five state officials: the lieutenant governor, House speaker, attorney general, comptroller and land commissioner. House Speaker Pete Laney is the only Democrat on that panel.

Normally, districts for the state House and Senate and the U.S. House are drawn by the legislature, but this year, the Republican-powered Senate refused to pass the plan approved by the Democratic-controlled House.

Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, refused earlier this year to call a special session of the legislature for redistricting, so the board took over the task.

Danburg said despite the shift in district lines, she will need the assistance of long-time Montrose area supporters to win election next year.

"I am definitely going to have to get my gay friends and supporters in precincts that I will no longer be representing to be helping me even though I won't be their representative," she said. "I will still be needing to recruit volunteers and money from ... people who know that I'll continue fighting for them."

## Obituary

### Martin, 44, banker/accountant

Ronnie G Martin, 44, died Nov. 17, 2001, at the Omega House in Houston.

A native of Grand Prairie, he grew up in Plano, attending Plano High School. During the years, he lived in many places around the country, including Detroit and St. Petersburg, Fla., where he discovered his love of the beach, ocean and palm trees, friends recall.

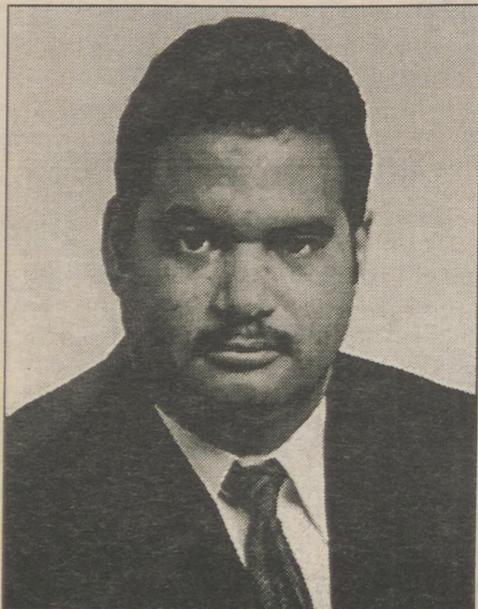
Martin returned to Dallas in the early 1990s, building a successful career working for major banks and accounting firms in north Texas. He later moved to Houston.

Survivors include Tom, his partner of four years; his parents; a twin brother and a younger brother; a niece; three nephews; countless friends and his dog, Max.

Donations maybe made to Bering Omega House, 602 Branard, Houston, TX



Ronnie Martin



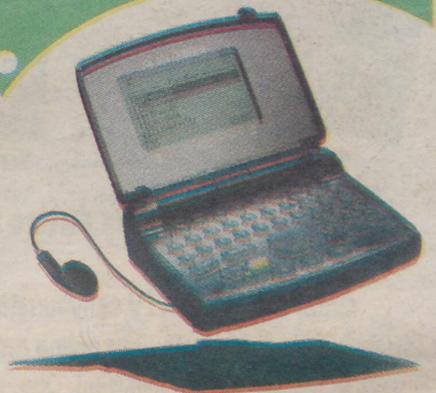
State Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston) will represent the portion of heavily gay Montrose that Danburg is losing thanks to Republican-powered redistricting of the state legislature. Coleman is known to be gay-friendly, as is his colleague Danburg, who accuses the GOP of purposely dividing gays with new district lines.



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## Community event at Bering UMC marks World AIDS Day

Houston Buyers Club will host a World AIDS Day Health Fair on Saturday at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Keynote speaker will be Lark Lands, Ph.D., science editor for POZ Magazine and an internationally known treatment expert. Also scheduled to address participants are Patricia Salvato, M.D., who

will discuss "New Drugs in the Pipeline," and Nelson Vergel, who will lead a survivor forum titled "How to Build Lean Body Mass and Manage Side Effects." In addition, items available for giveaway will include body composition measurement, massages, refreshments, back adjustments, door prizes and giveaways from the Houston Buyers Club. The organization strives to provide nutritional education and affordable nutritional supplements to persons living with HIV/AIDS and chronic illnesses, allowing them to manage

side effects resulting from their illness and/or medications. Club leaders note that proper side effects management is proven to promote adherence to medication regimens resulting in wellness and an improved quality of life.



INFO

### World AIDS Day Health Fair

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday  
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church  
 1440 Harold  
 RSVP required for free lunch and/or free child care  
 Houston Buyers Club  
 713-520-5288  
 www.houstonbuyersclub.com

## Lesbian & Gay Community Center to observe World AIDS Day

The Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center will remain open all day Saturday in recognition of World AIDS Day. Individuals can stop by during the day to view the ongoing exhibition of photographs by artists living with HIV/AIDS who participate in the Positive Art Workshop program. In addition, the center will soon begin selling greeting cards with designs created by the Positive Art Workshop artists. These cards will be available in early December. Proceeds will benefit the Center, with a portion of the proceeds dedicated to funding the Positive Art Workshop at the center.

The center will also have on display a sculpture created by artist Christine Olejniczak in collaboration with Artist Book Works Houston to commemorate World AIDS Day 1998. The sculpture is now in the collection of the Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender History, which has loaned the work to the center. Beginning in early 2002, the Center will begin hosting the Positive Art Workshop on Friday afternoons and will present future exhibitions by the talented workshop artists.

INFO

### World AIDS Day observance

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday  
 Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center  
 803 Hawthorne  
 713-524-3818

## Other World AIDS Day events include free HIV testing

A local clinic will provide free HIV tests to Houstonians on Saturday as part of the observance of World AIDS Day. The Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation will host Dr. Joseph Gathe, whose clinic is one of 18 participating in the free nationwide HIV testing and counseling initiative this World AIDS Day. Rapid HIV tests that produce results on the spot will be used and counseling will be provided. The CDC reports that about 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year in this country but one-third of the estimated 850,000 U.S. residents living with the virus are unaware of their infection. AIDS is now the fifth leading cause of death in the U.S. among people ages 25 to 44 and is the leading cause of death for black men in this age group. The first World AIDS Day was commemorated on Dec. 1, 1988, and was the result

of a call from the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programs for AIDS Prevention in January that same year. It is the only international day of coordinated action against AIDS.

INFO

### Free HIV testing

Saturday  
 Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation  
 4900 Frannin Street  
 Contact Erica Macy or Bernadette LaBorne  
 212-453-2459 or 212-453-2462

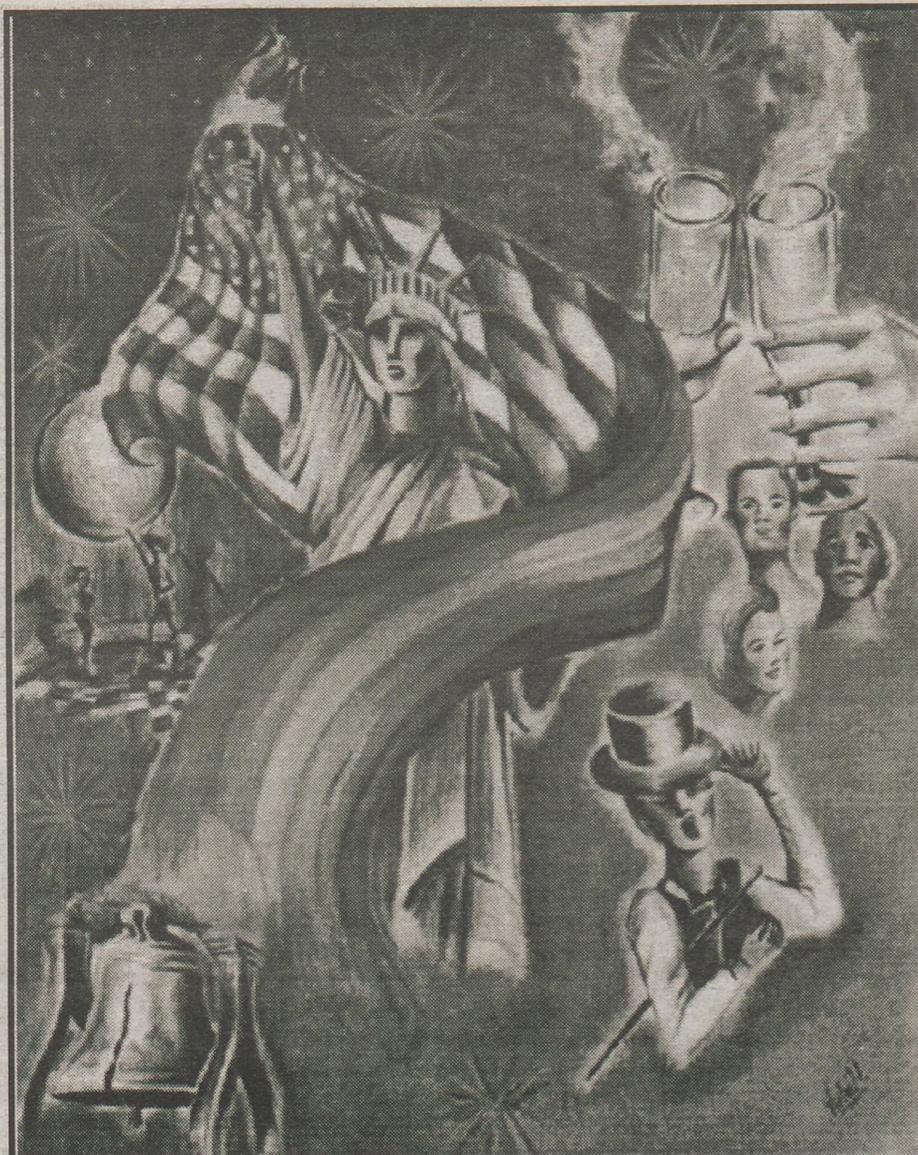
## Christmas fest raises funds to assist people with AIDS

Organizers are gearing up for the annual PWA Christmas Show, which raises money for the benefit of people with AIDS. Co-hosts of the event are Bob Bouton and Don Gill. Bouton admitted the annual fund-raiser has been held for more years than he can remember. "It's been many years, starting with Marvin Davis, a.k.a. 'Lady Victoria Lust,' when she was still alive," he said. At the event, the PWA Holiday Charities raises funds to send cash directly to people on the non-profit Colt 45's AIDS trouble fund list. Last year, the event garnered slightly more than \$10,000, enabling each person on the list to receive \$100, Bouton noted. "This year we're going to need a lot more help," he said, adding that donations prior to the event are less than usual for 2001. The show includes both live and show tune performances by several individuals plus groups such as the Miss Camp America Foundation and Crew of Olympus. "There are a lot of people that are going to be performing," Bouton said. There is no cost of admission to the event; those who attend can give as they wish to the fund as a whole or based on individual volunteers' performances on stage.

INFO

### PWA Christmas Show

8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9  
 Brazos River Bottom  
 2400 Brazos  
 713-528-9192



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— From staff reports



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 ONE TABLET TWICE A DAY

#### Details on use of TRIZIVIR

TRIZIVIR treats HIV infection alone or in combination with other HIV medicines. There is little information about its use in patients with large amounts (>100,000 copies) of virus in their blood. At this time, it's not known whether taking TRIZIVIR will slow the progress of HIV disease or help you live longer.

TRIZIVIR does not cure HIV infection/AIDS or prevent passing HIV to others.

#### Important safety information

TRIZIVIR contains abacavir, which is also called ZIAGEN. About 1 in 20 patients (5%) who take abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) will have a **serious allergic reaction** (hypersensitivity reaction) that **may cause death if the drug is not stopped right away.**

*You may be having this reaction if:*

**(1) you get a skin rash, or**

**(2) you get 1 or more symptoms from at least 2 of the following groups:**

- Fever
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
- Extreme tiredness, achiness, generally ill feeling
- Sore throat, shortness of breath, cough

If you think you may be having a reaction, **STOP taking TRIZIVIR and call your doctor right away.**

For **HIV**  
(see details below)



1 tablet



2 times a day



3 medicines

### 3 HIV medicines in 1 tablet

- One tablet, two times a day, with or without food
- TRIZIVIR contains ZIAGEN® (abacavir sulfate 300 mg), EPIVIR® (lamivudine 150 mg), and RETROVIR® (zidovudine 300 mg) in a single tablet

### 3-in-1 therapy

Talk to your healthcare professional about whether TRIZIVIR may be right for you. For more information, call 1-888-825-5249 and see details below.

If you stop treatment with TRIZIVIR because of this serious reaction, **NEVER take abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) again.** If you take any of these medicines again after you have had this serious reaction, **you could die within hours.**

Some patients who have stopped taking abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) and who have then started taking abacavir again have had serious or life-threatening allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions. If you must stop treatment with TRIZIVIR for reasons other than symptoms of hypersensitivity, do not begin taking it again without talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider decides that you may begin taking abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) again, you should do so only in a setting with other people to get access to a doctor, if needed.

A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

**Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and/or white blood cells, especially in patients with advanced HIV disease or AIDS.**

**A buildup of lactic acid and severe liver problems, including fatal cases, have been reported with HIV drugs of this type, including the medicines in TRIZIVIR and other antiretrovirals.**

The most common side effects of taking the medicines in TRIZIVIR together are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness or tiredness, headache, dizziness, pain or tingling of the hands or feet, and muscle and joint pain.

Please see important information for TRIZIVIR on adjacent page.

[www.TRIZIVIR.com](http://www.TRIZIVIR.com)



GlaxoSmithKline

**MEDICATION GUIDE****TRIZIVIR® (TRY-zih-veer) Tablets**

Generic name: abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine

**Read the Medication Guide you get each time you fill your prescription for Trizivir. There may be new information since you filled your last prescription.**

**What is the most important information I should know about Trizivir?**

Trizivir contains abacavir, which is also called Ziagen®. About 1 in 20 patients (5%) who take abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) will have a **serious allergic reaction** (hypersensitivity reaction) that **may cause death if the drug is not stopped right away.**

You may be having this reaction if:

- (1) you get a skin rash, or
- (2) you get 1 or more symptoms from at least 2 of the following groups:
  - Fever
  - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
  - Extreme tiredness, achiness, generally ill feeling
  - Sore throat, shortness of breath, cough

If you think you may be having a reaction, **STOP taking Trizivir and call your doctor right away.**

If you stop treatment with Trizivir because of this serious reaction, **NEVER take abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) again.** If you take any of these medicines again after you have had this serious reaction, **you could die within hours.**

Some patients who have stopped taking abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) and who have then started taking abacavir again have had serious or life-threatening allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions. If you must stop treatment with Trizivir for reasons other than symptoms of hypersensitivity, do not begin taking it again without talking to your health care provider. If your health care provider decides that you may begin taking abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) again, you should do so only in a setting with other people to get access to a doctor if needed.

A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

Trizivir can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read the section below entitled "What are the possible side effects of Trizivir?"

**What is Trizivir?**

Trizivir is a medicine used to treat HIV infection. Trizivir includes 3 medicines: Ziagen (abacavir), Epivir® (lamivudine or 3TC®), and Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT, or ZDV).

All 3 of these medicines are called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). When used together, they help lower the amount of HIV in your blood. This helps to keep your immune system as healthy as possible so it can fight infection.

Different combinations of medicines are used to treat HIV infection. You and your doctor should discuss which combination of medicines is best for you.

Trizivir does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. Trizivir has not been studied long enough to know if it will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that are associated with HIV infection or AIDS. Therefore, you must see your health care provider regularly.

**Who should not take Trizivir?**

Do not take Trizivir if you have ever had a serious allergic reaction (a hypersensitivity reaction) to any of the medicines that make up Trizivir, especially Ziagen (abacavir). If you have had such a reaction, return all of your unused Trizivir to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take Trizivir if you weigh less than 90 pounds.

**How should I take Trizivir?**

To help make sure that your anti-HIV therapy is as effective as possible, take your Trizivir exactly as your doctor prescribes it. Do not skip any doses.

The usual dosage is 1 tablet twice a day. You can take Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine) with food or on an empty stomach.

If you miss a dose of Trizivir, take the missed dose right away. Then, take the next dose at the usual scheduled time. Do not let your Trizivir run out. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if your anti-HIV drugs are stopped, even for a short time. Also, the virus in your body may become harder to treat.

**What should I avoid while taking Trizivir?**

Do not take Epivir, Retrovir, Combivir®, or Ziagen while taking Trizivir. These medicines are already in Trizivir.

You should avoid taking stavudine (Zerit®) while taking Trizivir. If your doctor prescribes doxorubicin or ribavirin, tell your doctor that you are taking Trizivir.

Practice safe sex while using Trizivir. Do not use or share dirty needles. Trizivir does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking Trizivir. Trizivir has not been studied in pregnant women. It is not known whether Trizivir will harm the unborn child.

Mothers with HIV should not breastfeed their babies because HIV is passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, Trizivir can be passed to babies in breast milk and could cause the child to have side effects.

**What are the possible side effects of Trizivir?**

**Life-threatening allergic reaction.** Trizivir contains abacavir, which is also called Ziagen. Abacavir has caused some people to have a life-threatening allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death. How to recognize a possible reaction and what to do are discussed in "What is the most important information I should know about Trizivir?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.

**Lactic acidosis and severe liver problems.** The medicines in Trizivir can cause a serious condition called lactic acidosis and, in some cases, this condition can cause death. Nausea and tiredness that don't get better may be symptoms of lactic acidosis. Women are more likely than men to get this serious side effect.

**Blood problems.** Retrovir, one of the medicines in Trizivir, can cause serious blood cell problems. These include reduced numbers of white blood cells (neutropenia) and extremely reduced numbers of red blood cells (anemia). These blood cell problems are especially likely to happen in patients with advanced HIV disease or AIDS.

Your doctor should be checking your blood cell counts regularly while you are taking Trizivir. This is especially important if you have advanced HIV or AIDS. This is to make sure that any blood cell problems are found quickly.

**Muscle weakness.** Retrovir, one of the medicines in Trizivir, can cause muscle weakness. This can be a serious problem.

**Other side effects.** Trizivir can cause other side effects. The most common side effects of taking the medicines in Trizivir together are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness or tiredness, headache, dizziness, pain or tingling of the hands or feet, and muscle and joint pain.

This listing of side effects is not complete. Your doctor or pharmacist can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects with Trizivir.

Ask a health care professional about any concerns about Trizivir. If you want more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist for the labeling for Trizivir that was written for health care professionals.

Do not use Trizivir for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give Trizivir to other persons.

**GlaxoWellcome**

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

April 2001

MG-013

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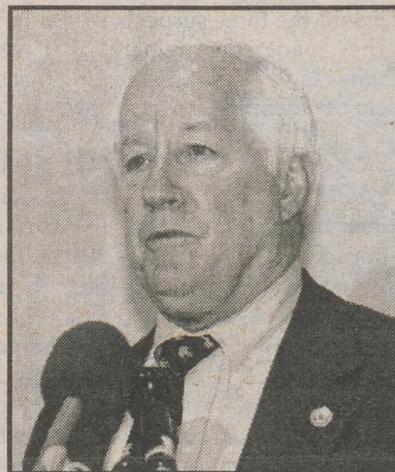
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August 2001

## Gay lawmaker invited to shelter that once rejected him

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.), who is gay, was welcomed back as a Thanksgiving volunteer to a shelter that had refused his help last year because of his sexual orientation. "It's a great opportunity to feel you're doing something for people not as fortunate as I am," Kolbe said. "It's a great way to spend the day giving something back to the community that's given so much to me." Kolbe had volunteered to help serve the homeless and others who can't afford a Thanksgiving dinner at the Gospel Rescue Mission five or six previous times, but last year the board asked him not to show up. The board said its decision was "based on your publicly announced sexual orientation that is diametrically opposite to admonitions in the Bible." But when the issue gained public attention, the group quickly recanted, apologized and invited him to this year's dinner.



**U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, who is gay, volunteered to help with Thanksgiving dinner at the same shelter that refused his help last year because of his sexual orientation.**

## Gay leaders call second Miss. summit a success

OVETT, Miss. — Gay leaders in Mississippi called their second summit in less than a year another success. Held Nov. 16-18, the meeting brought about 30 gay activists from across the state together to talk about issues facing gays in the conservative state. Representatives from the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund and the Human Rights Campaign were on hand conducting workshops about a range of topics from legal issues to improving outreach to gay-friendly clergy in Mississippi churches. "As one of the elder attendees, for me it was so good to see the next generation with so much enthusiasm and hope," said Brenda Hinson of Camp Sister Spirit, which hosted the summit. "Most everyone came to each meeting with interest and commitment to help in some way." Jeremy Dobbins, president of the GLBA of Ole Miss and an organizer of the event, said the participants also set the state's first Gay Pride celebration for next April and scheduled another summit for October.

## Judge says gays in Alaska not entitled to benefits

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A Superior Court judge has ruled that the city of Anchorage and the state of Alaska do not have to offer benefits to gay or lesbian partners of employees and retirees. According to Judge Stephanie Joannides, same-sex couples fall into the same legal category of unmarried heterosexual couples and neither is entitled to city or state benefits. The ruling stems from a lawsuit filed in 1999 by nine same-sex couples — eight lesbian couples and another couple of two gay men — demanding health insurance and pension benefits. At least one partner within each couple is a state or city employee. The state argued that denying the benefits was intended to save money. "[The judge] never explains why we're similarly situated with people that could get married if they wanted to," said Allison Mendel, an attorney with the Alaska Civil Liberties Union.

"Clearly, when you make it illegal for same-sex couples to marry, what does that have to do with unmarried heterosexual couples? Nothing." The group plans to appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court.

## Neb. gay rights activist dies in apparent suicide

OMAHA, Neb. — Brad Matthew Fuglei, a 19-year-old gay rights activist, died in an apparent suicide Nov. 16. Fuglei's mother found her son unconscious in the driver's seat of his car, which was parked and running, in the garage of the family's home, according to the Omaha World-Herald. Fuglei came out at the young age of 14 and began organizing gay rights rallies and helping out with gay-straight alliances at area schools. He was also part of an unsuccessful drive to change the non-discrimination policy in the Millard school district to address issues related to gay youth. Fuglei was also the subject of a 1998 World-Herald article after he organized a vigil to memorialize the murder of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard.

## Calif. court clarifies language on adoptions

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP) — A state appellate court has decided to clarify its language from a ruling last month that suggested gay adoptions by a second parent are illegal. On Oct. 25, a 2-to-1 ruling found no legal authority for second-parent adoptions that allow unmarried partners to legally gain equal status as a parent. Gay rights groups had estimated that the ruling could affect 10,000 to 20,000 adoptions over the past 15 years. The court declined to reconsider its ruling, but did decide to delete some of the language suggesting the adoptions were illegal, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. "The issue of the validity of such adoptions is not presented in this case and has not been briefed by the parties and we do not address it here," the justices said in an added passage. The ACLU has denounced the ruling, saying it jeopardizes the well-being of children adopted through such procedures.

— From staff and wire reports



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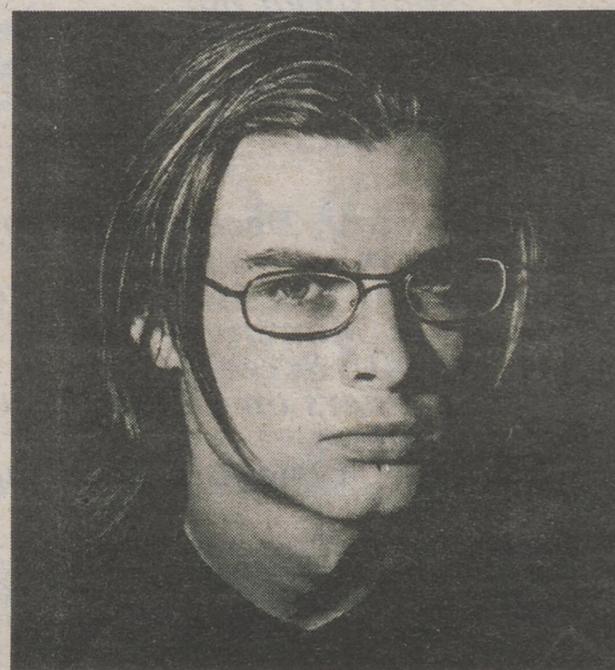
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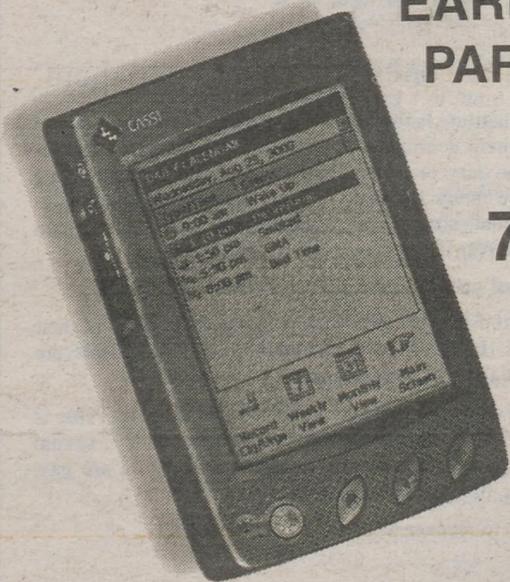
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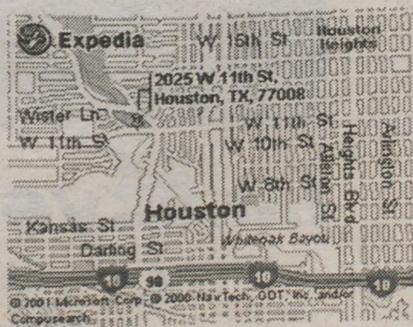
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### Police say Calif. student paid for attack on gay classmate

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — Three 15-year-old high school students were arrested for an investigation into the attack of a fellow student because he is gay. The apparent leader of the assault allegedly paid two friends \$10 each to beat up the 17-year-old victim. According to Sgt. Tom Combs, the victim was not seriously injured in the attack. The officer said the three suspects would be charged with battery, conspiracy and a hate crime. "They made some remarks that were definitely directed toward his homosexuality," Combs said. "They taunted him, then two of them kind of jumped him." Police have withheld the identities of the suspects because they are minors.

### Gay activists want hate crime added in Wis. killing

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Friends and relatives of Juana Vega, 36, who was allegedly killed by the brother of her girlfriend, are pressuring the Milwaukee County district attorney's office to charge the brother with a hate crime, according to the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. On Wednesday, the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization also urged officials to file hate crime charges in the murder case. The call for a hate crime charge is viable since Wisconsin is one of few states that has a gay-inclusive hate crime law. According to a criminal complaint, Pablo Parrilla repeatedly shot Vega after she went to her girlfriend's family home to try a reconciliation. About two dozen supporters showed up at a recent press conference saying that Parrilla killed Vega specifically because she was a lesbian. "On numerous occasions, Pablo said, 'I am going to kill you because you are gay,' and quote, 'You turned my sister gay,'" said Carmen Murguia, a close friend of Vega and a community activist. Murguia has called on the district attorney's office to charge Parrilla with a hate crime, but was told that he was already receiving charges of the highest possible degree.

### Pa. mom wants new trial for son allegedly outed

POTTSVILLE, Pa. (AP) — Madonna Sterling, the mother of a Schuylkill County teen who committed suicide in 1997 after an encounter with police, has asked for a new trial against the officer she blames for the death. In April 1997, Officer Scott Willinsky caught Marcus Wayman, 18, sitting in a car with a male friend, and then according to reports, threatened to label Wayman as gay. Sterling had accused Willinsky in a federal civil rights suit of violating the constitutional rights of her son when the officer threatened to out him, but a federal jury cleared the officer of any wrongdoing. "In light of the evidence and credibility of the witnesses, the jury's verdict is truly inexplicable," Sterling's lawyer, David Rudovsky, wrote to the court. U.S. Magistrate Judge Arnold Rapoport will rule on the request.



FRANK WIESE/AP

Pennsylvania police officer Scott Willinsky was cleared of any wrongdoing in a civil trial over accusations that his alleged threats led to a teen he accused of being gay to commit suicide. The teen's mother has appealed.

### Calif. AIDS activists hit with more restraining orders

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Two ACT UP San Francisco AIDS activists, Michael Petrelis and David Pasquarelli, have been ordered by a judge to stay away from Eileen Shields, a spokesperson for the state Department of Public Health, according to the San Francisco Examiner. This latest order brings the number of restraining orders that city employees have against the two men to three. Earlier this month, Petrelis and Pasquarelli were also given orders to stay away from Mike Shriver, Mayor Willie Brown's AIDS adviser, and Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, a public health official. The two were also given restraining orders to stay away from reporters and editors at the San Francisco Chronicle, after the two activists had made threatening phone calls. According to the Examiner, the two activists believe that reports about the increase in syphilis cases among San Francisco gay men as well as an increase in unsafe sex among gay men are inaccurate.

### Publicity over Fiji murders may complicate trial

SUVA, Fiji — Sexual motive has been ruled out in the murder trial of New Zealanders Gregory Scrivener and his partner, Fiji Red Cross Director John Scott, according to New Zealand's Sunday Star Times. Prosecutor Vilisoni Kurisaqila is also reportedly worried that public speculation about the murders made by Fiji police will make a fair trial almost impossible. The couple was hacked to their deaths with a knife in their Suva home on July 1. Apete Kaisau, 23, has been charged with the murders. Kaisau had told police, who then made the story public, that he killed the couple because they had been sexually exploiting him. "We have no proof that there was a relationship like what was alluded to by police, like a homosexual relationship," said Kurisaqila. The Times also reported that Kaisau's lawyer has applied for a psychiatric report, which might indicate an insanity defense.

— From staff and wire reports

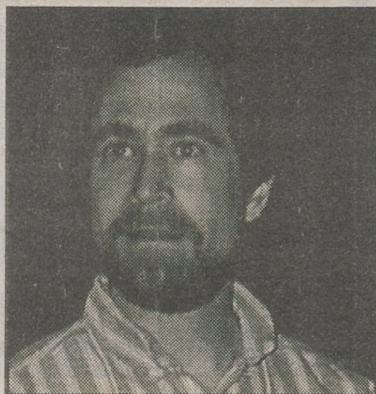
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## Cholesterol helps AIDS virus, new study says

WASHINGTON (AP) — When HIV invades a cell, it picks a place on the cell's membrane that is rich in cholesterol, according to a new study at the National Institutes of Health. Researchers at the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, a part of NIH, found that HIV attaches to a semi-solid patch on the cell's membrane that is loaded with cholesterol. These patches, which move around on the cell membrane, are called rafts. In laboratory studies, the researchers found that when they removed cholesterol from the cells targeted by HIV, the virus' ability to make new viral particles or to infect additional cells was crippled. The study proves that an HIV protein, called Gag, targets the cholesterol-loaded rafts at a site where it attaches to the inner cell membrane surface. Eric O. Freed of NIAID said the new work shows that the connection between Gag and the rafts is a critical step in making new HIV particles. This finding might one day lead to new drugs against AIDS, he said.



Eric O. Freed, a researcher with the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, said a new study on HIV and cholesterol may lead to new drugs to combat the disease.

## Early blood tests can improve HIV drug regimen

LONDON (AP) — New research indicates that performing a blood test after six days of new medication, instead of the typical four weeks, could get HIV patients onto the best drug cocktail more quickly, sparing them unnecessary side effects and reducing the virus' ability to become resistant to the pills. The approach, described in the *Lancet*, a medical journal, accurately predicted 99 percent of the time when specific medications would not work for a particular patient in the long term. The researchers, from the U.S. National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases and the National Cancer Institute, analyzed medical information on 124 HIV patients that was collected during previous studies conducted between 1997 and 2000. The findings indicated that the speed at which the virus disappeared from the blood during the first week of therapy predicted how effective a certain drug regimen would be for an individual. The results of the study are preliminary, said Dr. Martin Hirsch, director of clinical AIDS research at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and a professor at the Harvard School of Medicine.

## FDA to examine possible HIV drug side effect

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Food & Drug Administration is planning a joint study with the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine whether newer HIV drugs might be contributing to a serious side effect not previously associated with AIDS, Reuters reported. The study will look into the cause of avascular necrosis, the destruction of bone cells due to a deficient blood supply. Judy Staffa of the FDA's Office of Postmarketing Drug Risk Assessment, told Reuters that the study would determine whether the side effect is a natural consequence of HIV infection or can be linked to certain drugs. "It's a retrospective study," Staffa told Reuters. "But we are going to have to gather additional data."

## New process may help cancer patients

CHICAGO (AP) — A single, concentrated dose of radiation may be as effective as six straight weeks of treatment for women who have had a cancerous lump removed from a breast, preliminary research suggests. The experimental treatment could make lumpectomy — a breast-saving type of cancer surgery in which only the lump is removed — available to many more women. Many women who are diagnosed with early breast cancer cannot spend six weeks receiving daily radiation treatments, said Dr. Jayant Vaidya, a surgeon at University College London in England who led the study. An experimental technique called intra-operative radiotherapy uses a miniature radiation probe right after a lumpectomy. The probe is inserted inside the cavity created by removal of the tumor, and radiation equivalent to six weeks of doses is emitted for about 25 minutes. Since peak time for cancer recurrence is two to four years after treatment, it is too soon to call the technique a success, said Dr. LaMar McGinnis, senior medical consultant for the American Cancer Society. But "so far, so good," Vaidya said.

## Grant to study end-of-life treatments for PWAs

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center, part of the Yale University School of Medicine, received a two-year nearly \$200,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the benefits of meditation and massage therapy for end-of-life AIDS patients, *AIDS Weekly* reported. The study, to be conducted jointly with Leeway Inc., an AIDS nursing facility, and researchers from the Yale University School of Nursing, will attempt to determine the effectiveness of meditation and massage in improving patients' perceived quality of life. "In terminal illness, quality of life remains important, as does the quality of peacefulness of the person's death," said lead investigator David Katz. "This study will be valuable for finding ways to improve quality of life, particularly in the spiritual domain, for patients dying of AIDS. Meditation and massage interventions make intuitive sense as complementary care at the end of life."

— From staff and wire reports



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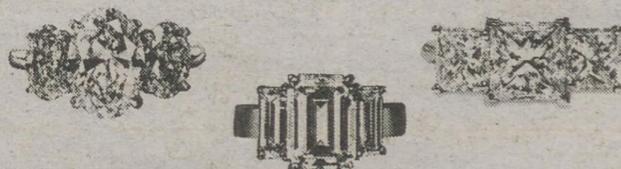
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# National group reaches out to Spanish-speaking gays

HRC plans to distribute thousands of Spanish-language editions of guide to coming out

by RHONDA SMITH

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation plans this year to distribute across the United States at least 5,000 revised Spanish-language editions of a pocket guide to coming out. The foundation arm of the national gay political organization first made English and Spanish versions of the Resource Guide to Coming Out available in 1996.

"We've been trying for a while to take our National Coming Out Project and expand it to other communities," said Kim Mills, HRC's director of education.

The National Coming Out Project is designed to promote honesty and openness about being gay, organizers said. Two of the project's key goals are to inform society about the lives of gay people and dispel myths and misconceptions about homosexuality.

Candace Gingrich, manager of HRC's National Coming Out Project, said people nationwide have told HRC that their coming-out journey would have been easier to navigate if they had had somewhere to go for accurate, supportive information. HRC

hopes the resource guides are "a good starting point for that journey," she said.

"Certainly, we've just known for a long time there are lots of Spanish-speaking GLBT Americans," Mills said, "and we wanted to provide a service to those folks."

Mills added that HRC has been looking to develop partnerships with gay people and organizations in Asian American and African American communities to offer similar coming-out resources.

The revised versions of the Spanish- and English-language guides include new information about coming out online as well as in the workplace. There also is new information in the guides about coming out as transgender, as a parent, or to a health care provider. In addition, the guides include discussions about religion, immigration and the military.

"A number of health care providers still mistakenly presume all patients are heterosexual. As a result, it can be awkward when a doctor or nurse asks whether you are sexually active and what kind of birth control you use," the guide states. "Their ignorance encourages many GLBT people to delay or avoid getting the care they need. And it keeps many from talking with their providers about promoting good health and preventing disease in an informed, open way."

The 46-page Spanish-language guide, titled "Guía de Recursos Para Salir del Closet," includes parts of personal coming-out stories by Wilson Cruz, a Puerto Rican



Kim Mills of HRC noted that the organization has been trying to expand its coming out resource materials to a broader range of communities.

actor, Christopher Rice, the son of novelist Anne Rice, and Linda Villarosa, a former editor at Essence magazine and a contributing writer to the New York Times.

"I was taught from early on that Latinos and people of color are looked down on," said Cruz, who appeared in television's "My So-Called Life," "Party of Five" and the Broadway production of "Rent." "To be homosexual on top of that is one more thing people can look down on us for."

"There are certain expectations of what a man is supposed to be, and when you don't fit into those molds, you're seen as less than

worthy of your race," he added. "But I've learned there are certain expectations you will never live up to, and you have to get to the point where that's OK."

Other gay people included in the Spanish language guide include Marisa Demeo, a lawyer raised in a Roman Catholic household who works at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund in Washington, D.C., Suzanne Westenhoerfer, a comedienne, and Dana Rivers, a transgendered activist from California.

The Spanish-language guide also includes a list of Latino organizations and a resource list to link readers with gay-supportive religious organizations. In addition, it includes a list of gay reading material and telephone numbers for national hotlines that address issues related to homosexuality and HIV/AIDS.

Mills said the guides serve as an important tool for parents, guidance counselors, health care professionals and student groups on high school and college campuses. They can be obtained on HRC's Web site or by contacting the organization.

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Photo: Martin Ryter

# Feds say syphilis rate drops to new low

**But in Houston and a handful of other cities, gay men drive increase in infections**

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA — While the number of reported syphilis cases in the U.S. hit an all-time low last year, outbreaks of the disease have been seen among gay men in Houston and a handful of other large cities, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

And Harris County, Texas ranks among the top 15 areas in the U.S. with the highest syphilis rates, though local and federal health officials stressed that that ranking isn't necessarily driven by infections among gay men.

"It is true that nationally we are seeing declines in syphilis," said Dr. Ronald Valdisseri, the deputy director for the National Center of HIV, STD & TB Prevention at the CDC.

"But we also understand that in communities like Miami, like Los Angeles, like Chicago, where there have been outbreaks among men who have sex with men, that we really have to intensify our efforts," he added.

Infections are on the rise among gay and bisexual men, particularly in large cities, the CDC said. That concerns experts because they suspect it reflects more risky sexual behavior, which could lead to a spike in HIV infections.

Valdisseri joined Dr. George Counts, the CDC's assistant director for the Syphilis Elimination Activities, on Wednesday in a teleconference briefing with the media to announce that fewer than 6,000 cases of STDs were reported nationwide last year, a drop of nearly 10 percent from 1999.

Syphilis appears first as a sore, usually on the genitals, then develops as a rash. It can be cured with penicillin, but left untreated it can damage the heart, eyes, brain and other body parts.

The CDC reported that half of all the

syphilis cases in 2000 were concentrated in only 22 counties and one city. Harris County, which includes the city of Houston, ranked 14 with 70 cases.

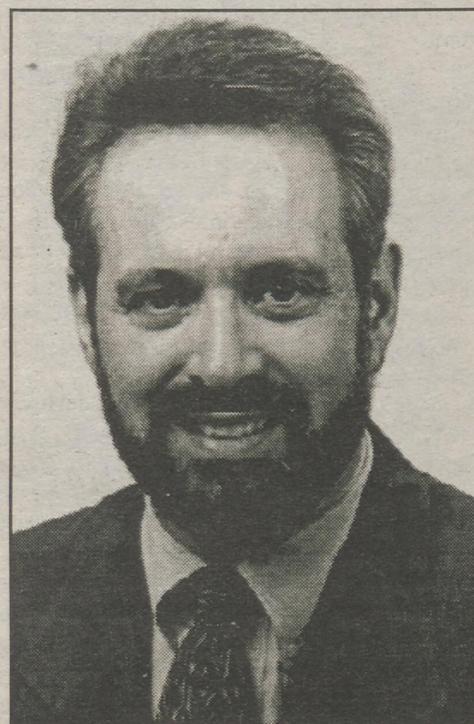
Despite an 85 percent drop in syphilis cases since 1991, health officials in Houston are concerned about infections increasing, said John Paffel, STD prevention program manager for the city's health department.

"What we're starting to see now are increases once again," Paffel said. "After about 10 years of leveling off and decreases, we're starting to see increases."

But he noted that even recent increases can be misleading. The CDC records syphilis cases at a rate per 100,000 people. Because Harris County encompasses the entire city of Houston and its 3.4 million residents, it has a rate of 2.2 cases per 100,000 people, putting the city at the bottom of the list of counties when ranked by rates of infections.

But when only new cases are considered, Harris County ranks sixth for 2000.

"What we're concerned about now is some of the dramatic increases among men who have sex with men. It's a relatively alarming trend and we're seeing it here in Houston. That's a situation that we're really concerned about," Paffel said.



Despite a rise in syphilis among gay men in large cities, incidences of the sexually transmitted disease have dropped to an all-time low, said Dr. Ronald Valdisseri, the deputy director for the National Center of HIV, STD & TB Prevention at the CDC.

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# Gay vote 'critical' for Brown in Saturday's runoff

➤ Continued from Page 1

"The fact that Brown has been so consistently supportive of the gay and lesbian community has hurt him with conservatives," Parker said.

Brown faces former City Council member Orlando Sanchez in Saturday's runoff election. Each earned enough votes on Nov. 6 to compete in the contest: Brown with 43 percent of the vote and Sanchez with 40 percent.

The third leading contender, Chris Bell, earned 16 percent of the November vote and has since endorsed Brown.

Gay political consultant Grant Martin — who has served as Parker's campaign manager and was among leaders in the fight against City Prop. 2 — said the gay vote is as pivotal to Brown as his supportive stance is to gay voters.

"Our community's votes are critical to provide the swing," said Martin, who has been retained by Brown's campaign during the runoff to reach gay Houstonians. "I think [gay support in the runoff is] huge. Gay people formed a very core constituency for both the Brown and the Bell campaigns.

"As everybody has been saying, a lot of this election is going to hinge on two things," Martin added. "No. 1, which way Chris Bell voters decide to vote, and No. 2, the turnout, meaning: Can Brown and Sanchez get their core voters to come out?"

## Did City Prop. 2 hurt Brown?

Dr. Richard Murray, University of Houston political science professor, said any damage to Brown's campaign because of anti-gay City Prop. 2 already has been done. The proposition — which voters approved by a slim margin — prevents the City of Houston from providing health and other benefits to same-sex domestic partners of city employees.

Brown and Bell both opposed City Prop. 2, while Sanchez supported the measure.

Vocal opposition to City Prop. 2 probably had more effect on Brown in the first vote than it might have this week, according to Murray.

"It probably hurt Brown a bit in the Nov. 6 vote because there was relatively high turnout by older white conservatives, who were strongly opposed to same-sex benefits for city employees," he said. "I think most of the negative impact was in the first round



**Annise Parker, the only openly lesbian member of the Houston City Council, said it is important that gay Houstonians vote Saturday, and she said gay voters should support incumbent Mayor Lee Brown.**

where it hurt Brown and Chris Bell.

"In the Dec. 1 contest, I don't think it will hurt Brown," Murray added.

Parker said she experienced firsthand what opposition to the anti-gay proposal could do to a political candidate in Houston. And she said City Prop. 2 may have not only hurt Brown, but helped Sanchez.

"That surge of conservative vote on Prop. 2 helped propel Orlando up," Parker said. "It almost threw me into a runoff.

"That [anti-gay and pro-Sanchez] momentum is affecting how these last couple of weeks have been in the runoff election," she added. "That surge of conservative support for Orlando has made him look like he's got more support than he ... has a right to."

## Gay vote this week 'critical'

The latest Houston media polls reflect a mayoral contest that still is too close to call, as both Sanchez and Brown racked up several last-minute endorsements.

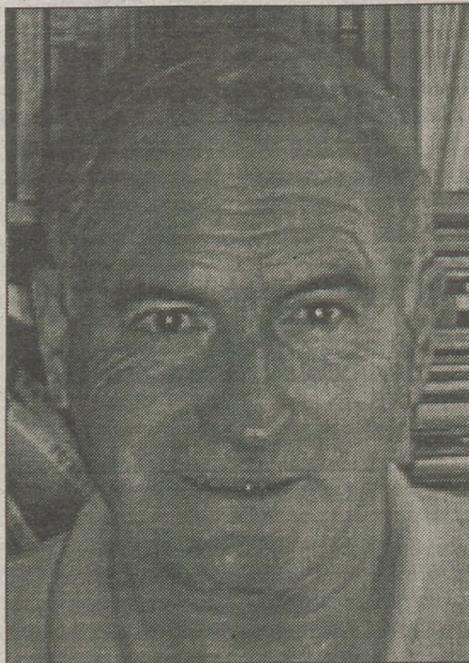
The closeness of the race makes each vote more important, particularly the votes of gay Houstonians, according to Murray.

"With polls showing a dead heat, the gay vote — which I estimate is in the 4-5 percent range — is critical," he said. "Brown needs 80 percent or so of this vote to pull ahead of Sanchez."

Parker said gay voters need to head to the polls Saturday to help Brown "get over this hurdle."

"Orlando has had a consistent anti-gay voting record," she said.

While Brown opposed City Prop. 2 and helped draft anti-discrimination legislation that the city adopted this summer, Sanchez stood on the anti-gay sides of both issues.



**Political science professor Dr. Richard Murray said mayoral candidate Sanchez's 'initial lack of support for current gay issues' does not make it easy to predict what a city government with a Mayor Sanchez might mean for gays.**

He also voted against a Council measure that voiced support for this year's state hate crimes bill, which included enhanced penalties for victims targeted because of their sexual orientation.

But Murray said it is hard to predict what a Sanchez-led city government might mean for gay Houstonians. He did note that Sanchez shows "an initial lack of support for current gay issues."

Endorsements for both mayoral candi-

dates came from high political places this week. Sanchez received vocal support from former President George Bush and his wife Barbara, as well as their son, current President George W. Bush. New York Mayor Rudy Guiliani — who has criticized some of Brown's actions as former New York City police chief — also endorsed Sanchez.

Brown's endorsements include the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, Parker and former Mayor Bob Lanier, who also voiced opposition to City Prop. 2. Late this week, it was rumored that former President Bill Clinton was lending support to Brown's campaign to get voters to the polls.

Spokesmen for Brown's campaign could not be reached for comment on that issue by press time.

Despite the clear split of support for both candidates — mostly with Republicans backing Sanchez and Democrats lining up with Brown — political author and observer Murray said even high-profile supporters may have little effect for either candidate.

"Endorsements are usually overrated as most voters have a) made up their minds by this late in a campaign, and b) the undecided voters rely on multiple cues in making late decisions," Murray said. "Still, you don't want the other side to get a string of endorsements with none coming for your side, so you get counter endorsements to lessen the effect, especially in media coverage."

He said support from the embattled Clinton is not likely to be either a huge positive or negative for Brown.

"Bill Clinton's endorsement, like the Bushes, is only moderately helpful to the candidate he is supporting," Murray said.

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# Gay-supportive political leaders split on District D

Womack, Edwards both boast strong gay support; other Council races also to be decided in Saturday runoff

by PENNY WEAVER

Gay Houston political leaders and gay-supportive local and state figures took every last minute this week to announce support for one of two City Council candidates in District D, which includes heavily gay Montrose.

The courting of the gay vote became a focal point of that race just a week after anti-gay tactics surfaced in the district.

Candidates Ada Edwards and Gerald Womack face off Saturday after earning enough votes in the Nov. 6 election to continue to the runoff. The competition between the two has garnered input from more than one gay-friendly state legislator.

Last week, state Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston), who is active with the Edwards campaign, said Womack's campaign is responsible for distributing a flier that warns District D residents of the growing influence of gay residents and against voting for Edwards.

Womack denied involvement in the anti-



Ada Edwards, a candidate for Houston City Council District D, has received a number of endorsements from local gay political leaders, including Annise Parker, the only openly gay member of the Council.

gay document.

Gay-friendly U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat, stood by her endorsement of Womack both in the midst of Coleman's allegations and this week, when Womack backers held a press conference to show their support of his campaign.

"Gerald Womack is the kind of candidate who knows this district," said Lee,

emphasizing her belief that Womack would represent all residents of the area, including gays.

This week, Womack announced the endorsement of his campaign by national political figure Rev. Jesse Jackson. Also supporting Womack are Sen. Rodney Ellis and former District D Council member Jew Don Boney Jr.

Ellis, a Houston Democrat, fought for the passage of the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, which became law earlier this year. The measure strengthens penalties for crimes motivated by the victim's race, religion, color, sex, disability, sexual preference, age or national origin.

Edwards counts among her supporters Coleman; the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus; Janine Brunjes, Mayor Lee Brown's liaison to gay Houstonians; Chris Bell, former Council member and mayoral candidate; and Annise Parker, currently the only lesbian on the Council.

Parker announced her endorsement of Edwards after the anti-gay flier surfaced.

"I have been reluctant to make endorsements in previous years because I have to work with whoever gets elected, but in the District D race: I live in District D and feel that Ada Edwards is just a clearly superior candidate," Parker said. "I've known Ada for a long time."

Parker also lends her support to Claudia Williamson, who opposes Michael Berry for



U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee voices support for District D candidate Gerald Womack as he listens during a press conference this week at Houston City Hall.

the At-Large Position 4 slot.

"[I] think that she would be an excellent Council member," Parker said. "I have been extremely concerned about some of the positions taken by her opponent."

## A Word from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

### An open letter to the Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Community:

Thank you for the honor of representing you in the United States Congress. Our history together is a long one, from the early days of fighting for political empowerment and against hatred, to the past six years as your Congresswoman. During this time, I have never found better friends than you. The center of my political philosophy has always been the unifying of people, regardless of their differences.

I am writing today to further promote unity and healing in our community, and I ask you to help me in this effort to bring us all together. We have a tough election that will take place in the next 24 hours, and our attentions should be focused on electing progressive candidates who are committed to public service. Gerald Womack is a friend to all of us, and if given the opportunity, will demonstrate to you how effectively he rises above the pitfalls of life, never forgets his friends, and reaches out to the entire District D. Gerald Womack has supported same-sex health benefits, the Texas Hate Crimes legislation, and the Mayor's Non-discrimination Executive Order, and will support efforts to expand funding for HIV and Hepatitis C testing and treatment.

Elections generate controversy—this is nothing new. However, as we dig deep into our souls, recognizing that no controversy can deny our own personal human dignity; and if we further recognize that we can overcome such controversy, we can then move forward together! I thank you for your continued support of me, and I urge your support and vote for a person committed to public service and to District D—Gerald Womack for Houston City Council.

In continued unity and friendship,

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

p.s. I look forward to seeing you tonight at the Names Project dedication, commemorating our mission in the fight against AIDS, at 1515 Sul Ross, The Menil Collection.

Paid for by the Sheila Jackson Lee for Congress Campaign Committee

# Opposing gay rights dubbed 'religious freedom'

➤ Continued from Page 1

before her message faltered two years later. Ultimately, her religious indignation inspired ridicule and disdain for her campaign and her singing career, and three of the four cities subsequently re-enacted their laws.

Others have taken up Bryant's call, from religious broadcasters like Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, to the Southern Baptist Convention and Pope John Paul II.

But their efforts have been stymied, like Bryant's before, by growing public tolerance toward gays. Polls show that over time, fewer and fewer Americans consider homosexuality "a sin."

A Gallup poll, released in June, showed a continuation of a gradual, and to some degree steady, increase in the liberalization of American public opinion about homosexuality.

In this atmosphere, gay rights opponents' new approach does not appeal to the public to reject gay rights as offensive to religion, but switches gears, claiming the need for similar civil rights protection for "religious freedom" — in this instance, the freedom of conservative Christians and other individuals, groups and institutions, to practice their faith by discriminating against gays.

At least three legal challenges are making their way through the federal court system based upon this sort of demand for protection of religious freedom. Congress is also expected very soon to again take up consideration of President Bush's faith-based initiative, which contains an exemption permitting funding to religious groups that do not adhere to state and local gay civil rights laws in the name of religion freedom.

The faith-based initiative faces substantial opposition in the Democratic-controlled Senate over concerns that it undermines state and local civil rights laws. The outcome of the court cases is more difficult to predict, but their potential impact, noted one civil rights attorney, could "knock out gay rights laws nationwide."

## Gays v. First Amendment?

In two cases, *Hyman v. Louisville* and *Hyman v. Jefferson County*, a Baptist gynecologist named J. Barrett Hyman is challenging the constitutionality of human rights ordinances in Louisville and Jefferson County, Ky., because the ordinances prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Hyman is arguing his anti-gay religious beliefs leave him vulnerable to prosecution under the local ordinances because he won't hire gay employees.

The ordinances already exempt religious institutions from the law, but Hyman wants the court to rely on his First Amendment right to free exercise of religion to extend the exemption to include individuals with religious beliefs opposing homosexuality.

Chief Judge Charles Simpson of the U.S. District Court for Western Kentucky rejected Hyman's plea, saying that, "while discrimination against individuals on account of their sexual orientation or gender identity may be a religious practice for Dr.

Hyman, the ordinances' prohibitions are textually and contextually secular."

Simpson pointed to a 1982 U.S. Supreme Court decision rejecting a challenge brought by an Amish employer who did not withhold Social Security taxes from his employee wages, saying that payment of taxes violated his faith.

The high court noted then that not every burden on a person's religious beliefs is unconstitutional if it is "essential to accomplish an overriding governmental interest."

The human rights ordinances "may not, and do not, regulate the beliefs of Dr. Hyman," Simpson wrote in his March 21 decision. "Rather," Simpson said, the ordinances "merely seek to regulate the conduct of all individuals who are engaged in the employment of others."

Hyman has appealed his case to the conservative 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which several years ago upheld a ballot referendum repealing Cincinnati's gay civil rights ordinance. That decision came despite an earlier U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down a statewide anti-gay ballot initiative in Colorado.

The Hyman appeal puts the 6th Circuit in another race to the Supreme Court on a gay-related issue, this time with the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit Court.

In the 11th Circuit case, *Weiss v. REN*, a Florida man has claimed his employer violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964 when he was fired for, among other things, expressing anti-gay religious beliefs to a lesbian co-worker.

The federal Civil Rights Act makes it unlawful to discriminate in the workplace based on religion, as well as race, color, sex and national origin; it does not include sexual orientation as a protected category, so Weiss' lawsuit does not directly jeopardize a gay civil rights law.

But Weiss' employer, REN Laboratories, said Weiss was not fired because of his religious beliefs; instead because his behavior created a "religiously hostile work environment."

The Supreme Court refused on Oct. 29 to review the case, but it will still go back to federal district court in Florida for a jury trial to determine whether Weiss' religious expressions on the job did, in fact, create a hostile work environment.

Another Kentucky case in federal court also pits gay rights against religious freedom.

Alicia Pedreira and seven others have sued a Baptist-run home for at-risk youth for violating the U.S. Constitution when Pedreira was fired over the Baptist "core value" that homosexuality is wrong.

The lawsuit argues that the agency's firing of Pedreira constituted religious-based discrimination. Pedreira also charges that the agency violated the First Amendment's prohibition against establishing an official religion because the facility used government funding to support its religious beliefs in firing gay employees and in instilling Baptist tenets on at-risk youth.

## Religion in the workplace

Much like in the Weiss case in Florida, the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children claims it did not discriminate against



In its original form, President Bush's faith-based initiative included an exemption that permits federal funding to religious groups like the Salvation Army that discriminate in ways that may run afoul of state and local gay rights laws. A revised version, to be introduced in the Senate, likely will not include the controversial exemption.

Pedreira because of religious beliefs on homosexuality. Instead, said the agency, Pedreira was fired because the facility needed to ensure that its public image did not convey any message that the Baptist agency accepted homosexuality.

"By employing people who assert their own homosexual behavior, we would be sending a message of approval of that lifestyle to our youth," President Bill Smithwick said.

So far, the home has had the upper hand in the legal battle.

"KBHC does not condition employment on the acceptance or practice of its religious beliefs," wrote Chief Judge Charles Simpson of the U.S. District Court for Western Kentucky. "Employees need not embrace the religion-based moral code which the KBHC espouses in order to comply with the conduct requirement. The code of conduct, although requiring behavior which is consistent with KBHC's values, leaves the religious freedoms of employees and potential employees unfettered."

In a preliminary ruling on July 23, Simpson said there was no evidence that the facility fired Pedreira based on her own religious beliefs.

Still, Simpson said that Pedreira has a chance of succeeding on the claim that the facility violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause.

Still, Supreme Court history does not bode well for the gay rights supporters in these cases. Laws prohibiting anti-gay discrimination have been hit hard by U.S. Supreme Court rulings that have given greater weight to the First Amendment rights of opponents than to the local or state government's pro-gay ordinance.

In 1995, the Supreme Court said the First

Amendment free speech rights of parade organizers of Boston's annual St. Patrick's Day outweighed a Massachusetts law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Last year, the court ruled the Boy Scouts' First Amendment right to express its "core values" against homosexuality outweighed New Jersey's law against anti-gay discrimination.

## Faith-based discrimination?

Gay rights advocates may fare better in the fight over President Bush's faith-based initiatives, also known as the Community Solutions Act. After the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress scaled back its legislative agenda, and the Bush administration likewise scaled back its efforts to pass the initiative.

The main thrust of the legislation is to encourage Americans to give to charitable organizations by extending greater tax incentives for such donations. But the original version of the bill also sought to expand an existing federal program called "Charitable Choice" to make it easier for religious-based charities to win federal funding for their social service activities.

The Charitable Choice Act, passed in 1996, allows religious organizations to receive federal funding even if they do discriminate based on religion in hiring.

But opponents of expanding this law are concerned that some organizations, like the Salvation Army, will invoke religious beliefs as a cover for discrimination that is really based on other grounds, such as sexual orientation, race, or marital status.

In a case decided by a California appeals court in July, for instance, a Catholic Charities group sought to evade a state law requiring that all employers in the state pro-

➤ Continued on Page 17

## Bias laws face tough test before Supreme Court

➤ Continued from Page 16

vide health benefits that covered prescriptions for contraceptives.

Catholic Charities said that state law violated the group's First Amendment right to free exercise of religion. The court rejected the challenge, ruling that the law is "neutral."

An attorney with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund said the California ruling could be particularly helpful because it upheld the state law with regard to the delivery of non-religious services.

Opponents of Bush's original faith-based initiative argued it would fund religious charities that discriminate against gays and others in the delivery of their services. They said the legislation would have allowed federal funding for charitable activities even when those activities were delivered in conjunction with religious beliefs.

Despite an aggressive White House effort, the faith-based initiative was hobbled in the Senate over widespread and loud opposition to the exemption that was seen as evading state and local civil rights laws.

The NAACP's annual convention voted

in July to oppose "any and all faith-based and charitable choice initiatives which do not include traditional and well established employment rights, civil rights and anti-discrimination protections that can be enforced by the nation's court system."

A key co-sponsor of the legislation, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), made clear that he would withdraw from the legislation, and he apparently convinced the president to at least say the federal government should honor civil rights laws.

In October, it was apparent Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle would not move on the legislation until the bill said that, too.

President Bush sent Daschle a letter on Nov. 7, saying that Lieberman and its co-sponsor, Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Penn.), had made "great strides" on some version of the bill, which he has now dubbed the "Armies of Compassion Bill."

According to some reports, that "progress" includes omitting the controversial provision to allow religious-based groups, such as the Salvation Army, to breeze around local and state civil rights laws.

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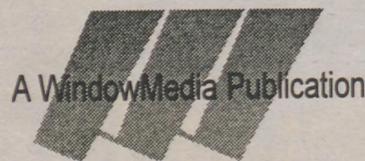
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Issue 1101

## GUEST VIEWPOINT

# Your tax dollars at work against you

By MICHAEL ADAMS

We can thank the Salvation Army for putting the Bush administration's so-called "faith-based initiative" on the gay community's radar screen last summer.

It was then that we learned that the "Army" was promising to support the Bush plan if the administration would in return enact a regulation giving religious groups receiving public funds carte blanche to ignore local laws prohibiting employment discrimination against gay people. So in a perverse way, perhaps we should be grateful to our bell-ringing friends for waking us up to the fact that the "faith-based initiative" could result in our own tax dollars being used to pay for employment discrimination against us.

At the same time, we must remember that we have more at stake in the "faith-based initiative" than fairness in the workplace. In fact, much more central to the debate is the question of how government-funded services are going to be delivered in this country.

And since gays need government services just like everybody else, and large numbers of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth, as well as people with HIV, rely on public services for their very survival, any effort to turn over those services to religious groups inevitably sets off alarm bells.

This is not because we are reflexively anti-religious, but instead because we know all too well that many religious groups remain virulently anti-gay, and the Bush administration has demonstrated no commitment to prohibit government-funded religious groups from acting on those biases.

It's not that government contracting with religious organizations is a completely new thing. Groups like Lutheran Social Services, United Jewish Communities, and Catholic Charities have received government funding for social services for many years.

What makes the Bush plan different is that it seeks to change the rules to allow religious groups to use government funding to proselytize, and we know from experience that religious moralizing is often hostile to gays. Historically, religious groups have been required to abide by the same rules as every other government contractor. In return for public dollars, they've agreed not to discriminate against their employees and not to use government money to preach.

Now, in a radical shift in federal policy, the president wants to allow churches and religious groups to receive taxpayer dollars without the strings that historically have been attached. We are right to be alarmed.

Let's look at how such a move would weaken our struggle to stem the spread of HIV and to protect and empower gay youth.

Last summer the federal Centers for

Even after excising language that gives tax dollars directly for anti-gay discrimination, the Bush 'faith-based initiative' allows religious groups to use government funding for moralizing hostile to gays.

Disease Control announced that young African-American men who have sex with men have an annual infection rate of nearly 15 percent, and that one third of them are already infected with HIV. These numbers rival those found in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the same time they were being announced, it was revealed that the federal Department of Health & Human Services was planning on funneling millions of HIV prevention dollars for minority communities exclusively to religious groups because "these groups have access to the young people we are trying to reach." The program is being re-tooled because of political protest, but it is a warning sign of things to come.

While churches might indeed be effective at reaching some young people, most of them can't effectively reach gay youth. Even those churches that don't continue to cling to anti-gay beliefs are unlikely to be able or willing to provide the frank and open sex education that gay youth need to avoid HIV infection.

Another powerful illustration of what we have at stake is found in the controversy swirling around the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. KBHC is the largest provider of state-funded services to "at-risk" youth in Kentucky, receiving about two-thirds of its budget from the State. While KBHC claims that it does not discriminate against gays, it has made public statements supporting reparative therapy and announcing its belief that anybody can be "converted" to heterosexuality with prayer and counseling.

The agency's HIV education program, to the extent it exists at all, provides no information to gay youth on safer sex practices. In order to make sure that kids at KBHC have only Christian heterosexual role models, the agency refuses to hire gay employees and fired Alicia Pedreira when it discovered she is a lesbian. (Lambda has joined an ACLU lawsuit challenging public funding of KBHC.)

And KBHC is not unique, as became evident earlier this month when news broke that a publicly-funded Methodist children's home is following strikingly similar practices.

Nor can we forget about the employment discrimination issue that the Salvation Army brought to our attention. While it is heartening to see that language in earlier versions of the Bush plan that practically invited religious groups to use public dollars to discriminate has been eliminated, that doesn't end the workplace fairness problem.

Every gay rights law enacted thus far in this country has included a provision exempting religious groups from coverage. While Lambda believes that a publicly-funded religious group cannot legally qualify for such an exemption, that won't stop local governments from granting those exemptions to politically popular religious programs.

So, if religious groups take over publicly funded jobs and are not required to maintain a discrimination-free workplace in return for receiving taxpayer dollars, we will lose ground in our fight for equal treatment in employment.

As potential compromises on the "faith-based initiative" emerge in Congress, our community must watch closely and speak up against publicly-funded discrimination against us in either services or employment. We must make sure that our concerns are not ignored in the misguided rush to turn over government services to churches and religious organizations.

To be fair to all Americans — including lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered Americans — tax dollars must go only to organizations that will provide all clients with appropriate services, not religious moralizing, and that will treat all employees fairly.

Michael Adams is the deputy legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund and can be reached at [lambdalegal@lambdalegal.org](mailto:lambdalegal@lambdalegal.org).

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Brown the candidate for gay Houstonians in mayoral race

To the Editor:

In the recent "non-partisan" city election, Orlando Sanchez was the de facto choice of the Republican Party. From my observation of literature that was circulated in our community, many gay Republicans chose to ignore the leanings of their party and back Chris Bell. As we all know, Bell came in third place and has now endorsed Mayor Lee Brown.

The record shows that on issues of equal rights for, and inclusion of, the GLBT community, Mayor Brown stands head and shoulders above Sanchez.

What is obvious to former candidate Mr. Bell now eludes some of these same gay Republicans, who choose to ignore his recommendation and instead continue to back Sanchez, the only one of the three candidates that supported the anti-gay City Prop. 2.

During his tenure, Mayor Brown issued an executive order barring discrimination based on sexual orientation within city government. Mayor Brown appointed a liaison specifically to the GLBT community and has appointed two openly gay judges.

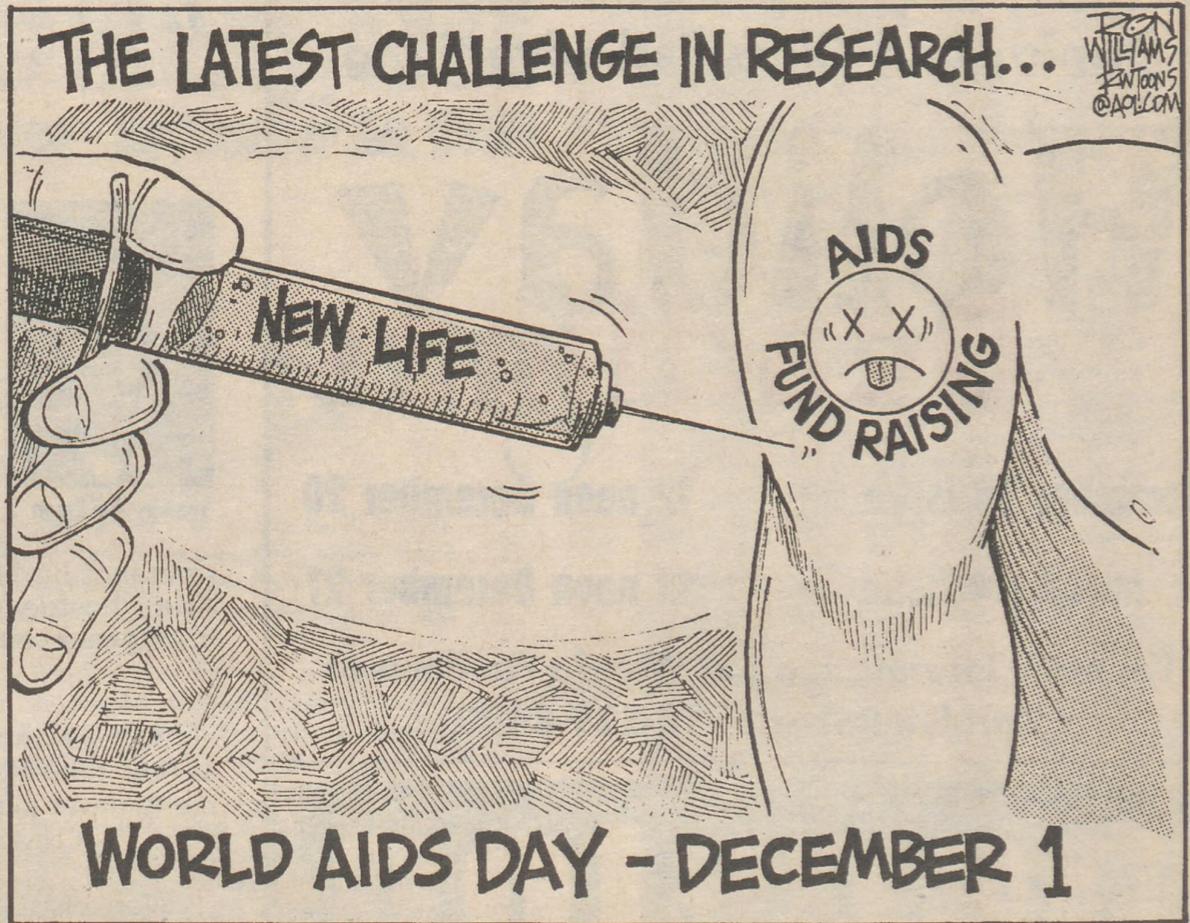
He addressed the Houston Black Tie Dinner and rode in the 2001 Pride Parade. Over the past four years, Mayor Brown has worked closely with Council member Annise Parker on issues important to our city and our community.

On the other hand, Sanchez, along with the ever-homophobic Robb Todd, spoke against the mayor's executive order barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within city government. Sanchez also voted against supporting the state hate crimes legislation, and, as mentioned before, supported the anti-gay Prop. 2.

Since these gay Republicans certainly do not serve the interests of equal rights for gays, I have to ask: What or whose interests do they serve?

If you supported Chris Bell on Nov. 6, the choice now is clearly Mayor Brown. Vote for Lee Brown and against right-wing bigotry.

Louis E. Vanech  
Houston



### Let us know what you think!



Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Include a name and phone number for verification.

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Thomas Von Essen

"I actually knew about his homosexuality when I was in the Uniformed Firefighters Association. I kept the secret, but then he told me when I became commissioner five years ago. He and I often laughed about it, because we knew how difficult it would have been for the other firefighters to accept it as easily as I had."

—New York Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen on Father Mychal Judge, the Fire Department chaplain killed in the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center, to New York Magazine, Nov. 12

"World Trade Center terrorist Mohamed Atta and several of his bloody henchmen led secret gay lives for years — and Atta's 'boyfriend' died with him in his Sept. 11 suicide mission, reveal intelligence sources in Germany and the U.S."

—National Enquirer, Nov. 6

"As a gay man I've dealt with the fear of a deadly virus for as long as I can remember. Asking me to freak out over anthrax is like telling me to never mind HIV, it's anthrax and it's terrorism!"

—Columnist Paulo Murillo in the Los Angeles gay newspaper Fab, Nov. 23

"[Terrorists] can't take away our creativity, our striving for excellence, our joy. Only network executives can do that."

—Ellen DeGeneres at the Emmy awards. Her new sitcom has been renewed for the second half of the season despite some of the lowest ratings in primetime.

"Ally McBeal star Portia de Rossi is having a lesbian affair with former Beatle Ringo Starr's stepdaughter. ... The Australian-born actress and singer Francesca Gregorini, daughter of Starr's wife Barbara Bach, were spotted kissing passionately in a Hollywood restaurant."

—Australian Associated Press, Nov. 4



Portia De Rossi

"The Salvation Army has not changed its position on marriage and the family, homosexuality or other position statements, nor have we changed any of our basic doctrines or moral positions. In rescinding the policy and establishing a national policy on health care benefit access to spouses and dependent children only, we must stand united in the battle that will undoubtedly follow from those who would now challenge our biblical and traditional position."

—Salvation Army Commissioner Lawrence Moretz announcing on Nov. 12 that the charity had repealed a decision by its Western division to offer health benefits to employees' domestic partners

"This year's version of the annual homosexual grassroots conference 'Creating Change' features such workshops as 'Drag 101' for youth; sado-masochism (S&M) advocacy under the guise of 'sexual freedom'; a 'polyamory' (multiple sex partners) workshop; and a discussion led by an S&M activist that will include a look at laws regulating 'intergenerational sex' (pedophilia)."

—Scandalized Concerned Women for America, on the annual conference organized by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Nov. 10

"I felt like I won the lottery for a second — without the money."

—Jennifer Jay, who is lesbian, after being selected homecoming queen at Sweetwater High School in National City, Calif., Nov. 2, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. National City is a blue-collar town just south of San Diego.

"Yoko Ono, ferocious keeper of the John Lennon flame, is said to be furious about a book proposal currently doing the rounds of publishers in London and New York. The outline, written by the sister of 'Lost Beatle' Stuart Sutcliffe, claims Lennon had a gay affair with the young man and, in a drunken brawl, kicked him in the head and killed him."



John Lennon and Stuart Sutcliffe

—New York Post, Nov. 2

# Out on the Bayou

houston voice • november 30, 2001

## 'Jubilation' in song

Houston Gay Men's Chorus  
warms up for annual  
holiday concert series

by ELLA TYLER

As James Knapp, the new artistic director for the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, talks about the chorus and its upcoming Christmas concert, he exudes the energy and exuberance of a character in an old-fashioned musical. It wouldn't be a surprise if he broke into a song and dance.

The concert, titled "Jubilation," will have Broadway moments, Knapp says.

"One of the sets we're doing is called the 'What If? Carols.' "These," he explains, "take five classic carols and ask 'what if?' someone else wrote them."

You'll hear "I Saw Mamma Kissing Santa Claus" as if it were written by Stephen Sondheim and "We Three Kings" a la Jerry Herman, who wrote "Hello Dolly," Knapp promises.

The concert opens with "Gloria," by Randol Bass, a gay composer from Dallas. It also includes "A Cup of Christmas Tea," narrated by Alley Theatre's Annalee Jeffries.

"She rehearsed with us last night and it was the first time all the guys had heard it. We had to pass the box of tissues around," Knapp says.

Hankies may also be needed for "Am I Welcome Here?," Knapp warns.

"It's about a man on the steps of his childhood church on Christmas Eve, wondering if the church he had always loved would accept him," the director relates.

"I picked 'Am I

Welcome?,' which isn't as sappy as it sounds, because we wanted to do something to say 'thank you' to the members of Clergy For a Fair Houston for their support during the referendum, and always," Knapp explains.

This is the first time the tune has been performed in Houston. Members of the clergy group — as well as PFLAG and HATCH members — will be special guests at the Dec. 11 "Jubilation" performance.

The audience will be asked to burst into song for one segment of the concert, Knapp says.

"I think people want to hear Christmas music at Christmas, not something else, and they love to sing carols," he says. "The finale is a surprise. I can't tell you anything about it except it will be fabulous and worth the admission and time all by itself."

This group is not new to entertaining during the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

"This will be the 23rd season for the chorus," says Jerry Aucoin, the group's secretary. "We're the oldest GLBT chorus in Texas and one of the oldest in the world."

Aucoin said a member of the original chorus, Tracy Clark, will sing in this concert.

"He was a member in 1978 when it was called the Montrose Singers, and has sung with us on and off since then," Aucoin recalls.

This concert is the first Knapp has directed for the chorus, and Aucoin pronounces him, "Wonderful!"

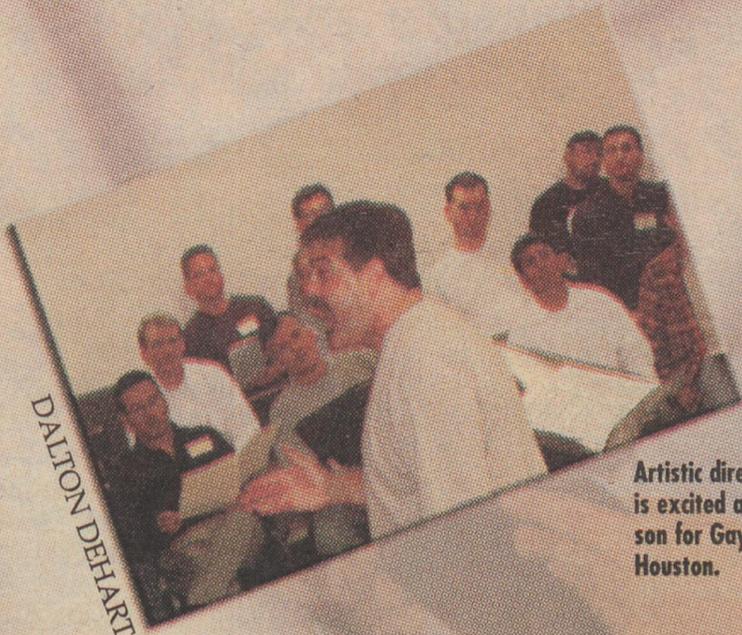
"We also have a new accompanist, the fabulous Beth McConnell," he notes.

Knapp and the chorus have ambitious plans for the group. "We'll be doing a concert in March, which will include the Houston premiere of selections from Robert Seeley's 'Nakedman,'" Knapp says. There will be a concert in June as well.

In 2003, Knapp is hoping to do a piece for both men and women.

There are currently 51

Continued on Page 22 >



Artistic director James Knapp is excited about the new season for Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.

## appts

friday, nov. 30, and  
saturday, dec. 1

Houston Heights Association hosts the 2001 Holiday in the Heights annual home tour. The event features both new and old homes with varying exterior and interior styles, plus holiday decorations. 6-9 p.m. Friday, 3-9 p.m. Saturday. Tickets: \$15, available at each featured home and at St. Andrew's House, 1811 Heights Blvd. [www.houstonheights.org](http://www.houstonheights.org) or e-mail: [holidaytour@houstonheights.org](mailto:holidaytour@houstonheights.org).

saturday, dec. 1

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, presents "Down from the Mountain," a movie documentary which documents the backstage preparations and rehearsals and the concert performance that was given by the eclectic group of musicians who made up the film soundtrack to Joel and Ethan Coen's "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" 7 p.m. Saturday. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet. 713-639-7515. [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org).



Archway Gallery begins a new show by Sandra Sherrod this Sunday. Working in both acrylic and watercolor, Sherrod is known for creating urban scenes using people as the center of the picture.

starting sunday,  
dec 2

A new show by artist Sandra Sherrod runs from Dec. 2-29 at Archway Gallery. Sherrod shows "New Works" in acrylics. An opening reception for the artist will be 5:30-8 p.m. Dec. 8. Archway Gallery, 2013 W. Gray. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday. 713-522-2409. [www.archwaygallery.com](http://www.archwaygallery.com).

sunday, dec. 2

The movie "The Mystery of Picasso" will be shown at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Director Henri-Georges Clouzot joined with Pablo Picasso to make an entirely new kind of art film to preserve the moment and mystery of creativity. The filmmaker placed his camera behind a semi-transparent surface onto which the artist drew. The lyrical scenes are set to music without dialogue and interspersed with conversations between the two. 7 p.m. Sunday. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet. 713-639-7515. [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org).

# New artistic director has high hopes for group

Continued from Page 21 >

men who sing with the group, and Knapp is looking for new talents to join the chorus.

"People don't really audition. What we have is a voice assessment. We have voice lessons for people who need them for an hour before rehearsals," Knapp explains. "People who aren't singers can help in other

ways," he adds.

The group rehearses nearly every Monday evening from September to June, then takes the summer off.

Knapp's experience includes a background in church music. He has been the music director of churches in New York, Austria, Illinois and Texas and directed several award-winning choirs. After working in the field for 10 years, he recently went to work as artistic director of Intropa, a company that arranges, produces and promotes international concert tours.

"The work is exciting, but there was an artistic void in myself," Knapp relates. "I'd heard the Houston Gay Men's Chorus sing, and also used to listen to the Chicago chorus, and this summer, because of my work, went to the international conference of GLBT choruses in San Jose. It was phenomenal.

"There were 8,000 singers gathered together for 10 days," he continues. "I was so fired up by the energy and transformative power of this movement that I told myself that I'd apply for the artistic director of the Houston Chorus if it ever became open. When the former director resigned, a



A total of 51 men currently participate in Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.

friend called me and told me to apply. So I did."

Knapp is excited about his first concert with the group.

"Monday was the first time I didn't let them use music, and it was like riding a bike

with the training wheels off," he says. "But I keep telling them, 'Keep the words in your head, a smile on your face, the movements in your body and the confidence in your heart.'

"They will be wonderful."

## INFO

### 'Jubilation'

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9

8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church

1440 Harold St.

Tickets: \$15 on the Web; \$18 at the door

Group discounts: \$10 per ticket for groups of 10 or more

\$10 tickets for seniors, over age 60, and juniors, under age 20, available only at the door

www.gmch.org

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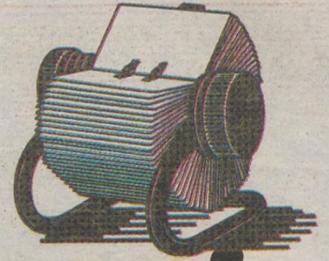
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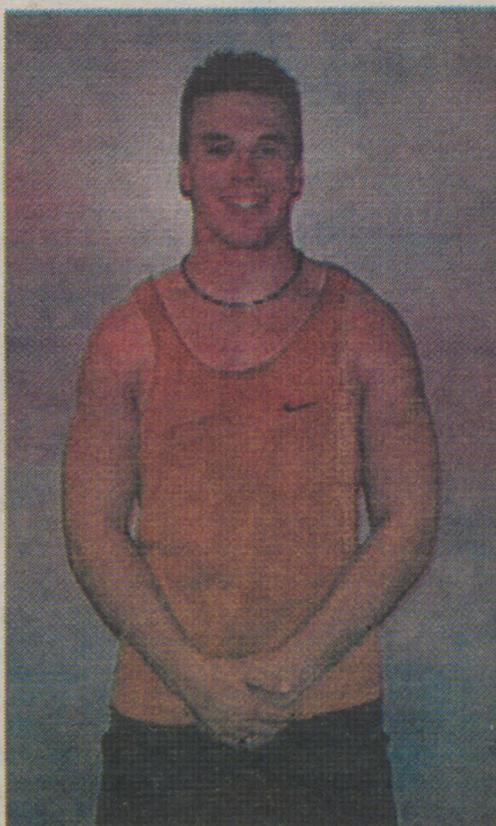


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# out on the aisle

THEATER CALENDAR

## December debuts new plays

Several Houston theaters host premieres with new productions on stage this month

by PENNY WEAVER

### 'St. Nicholas'

Theater LaB Houston presents the Southwest premier of Conor McPherson's 'St. Nicholas,' featuring William Hardy. A jaded Irish theater critic falls for a beautiful young actress in one of the plays he is reviewing. Then follows a funny and chilling story of lust, entrapment and blood, directed locally by Jim Phillips. The New York Times says this play is "a delectably rollicking celebration of storytelling as striptease. The narrative swings through so many forms of storytelling — from self-serving lies born of drunkenness to a proper Brothers Grimm-like fable. McPherson's ear for detail is devastating.

### 'St. Nicholas'

8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays through Dec. 22  
4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16  
Tickets: \$22  
Theater LaB Houston  
1706 Alamo  
713-868-7516

### 'No Exit'

Dos chicas Productions presents Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit" starting Saturday. The play features three damned souls caught together in a one-room hell, where their actions take on a twisted system of judging and being judged by one another. This scenario illustrates what can and does happen when people refuse to make choices and take responsibility for them. As each character attempts to accept and understand their own fate, each is in a constant battle between how they see themselves and how the other two damned souls see them — and also how they wish to be seen. The continued imbalance and irritation leads to the conclusion that "hell is other people."

### 'No Exit'

8:30 p.m. Dec. 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15  
Theatrope  
11 Westheimer  
Tickets: \$10 or \$6 for seniors and students  
713-201-0193

### 'The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told'

The Houston premier of "The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told" by Paul Rudnick takes the stage at Theatre New West starting next week. Rudnick — best known for "Jeffrey" and "I Hate Hamlet" — has been called one of the best comedy writers of his generation. This unique comedy begins



'Jane' and 'Mabel' join 'Adam' and 'Steve' in Theatre New West's upcoming production of 'The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told' by Paul Rudnick. A special benefit performance will be at 8 p.m. Thursday.

with the recounting of major episodes of the Old Testament with a twist: instead of Adam and Eve, lead characters are Adam and Steve, and Jane and Mabel, a lesbian couple. The four decide to start a civilization. The story line then jumps to modern day Manhattan on Christmas Eve. "The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told" comes from a successful 1999 off-Broadway production. The play contains nudity and is for mature audiences only. A special performance this Thursday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m. benefits Projects Inc., a non-profit organization, with tickets at \$25 or \$50. For reservations for that performance, call 713-426-5314.

'The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told'  
Dec. 7-Feb. 2 (no performances Dec. 21, 22)  
8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays  
Tickets: \$20  
Theatre New West  
1415 California  
713-394-0464

### 'Into the Woods'

Starting Tuesday, Theatre Under The Stars presents Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and other fairy tale favorites in "Into the Woods," written by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine. The production intertwines familiar fairy tales with an original story, creating a show that gives a new definition to "happily ever after."

### 'Into the Woods'

Dec. 4-16  
8 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays  
2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays  
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- COMBIVIR does not cure HIV infection/AIDS or prevent passing HIV to others
- COMBIVIR should be used with other HIV medicines
- Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and white blood cells
- A buildup of lactic acid in the blood and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been seen
- Low risk of fat wasting, tingling or burning in the hands or feet, or problems with the pancreas
- The most frequent side effects are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose

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Please see Brief Summary for COMBIVIR on the following page.

## BRIEF SUMMARY

**COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)**

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

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

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

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE: COMBIVIR in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.**

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

**Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine:** The NUCB3007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy (zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)) to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bone Marrow Suppression:** COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR. For HIV-infected individuals and patients with asymptomatic or early HIV disease, periodic blood counts are recommended.

**Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis:** Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including lamivudine, zidovudine, and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Particular caution should be exercised when administering COMBIVIR to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with COMBIVIR should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations).

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

**PRECAUTIONS:**

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

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

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

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

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity:**

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

**Zidovudine:** Zidovudine was administered orally at 3 dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

In mice, 7 late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (5 nonmetastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, 1 squamous cell papilloma, and 1 squamous polyp) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle-dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose.

In rats, 2 late-appearing (after 20 months), nonmetastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately 3 times (mouse) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately 3 times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung or any other organ in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (~1000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or ~450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine.

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

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

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

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

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

**Pregnancy:** Pregnancy Category C.

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

**Lamivudine:** Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at

**COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)**

doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

**Zidovudine:** Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryo/fetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility).

**Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry:** To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-258-4263.

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

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

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

**Geriatric Use:** Clinical studies of COMBIVIR did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy. COMBIVIR is not recommended for patients with impaired renal function (i.e., creatinine clearance ≤50 mL/min; see PRECAUTIONS: Patients with Impaired Renal Function and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

**ADVERSE REACTIONS:**

**Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations:** In 4 randomized, controlled trials of EPIVIR 300 mg per day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (≥5% Frequency) in 4 Controlled Clinical Trials With EPIVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day

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

Pancreatitis was observed in 3 of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPIVIR in controlled clinical trials.

Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in 4 Controlled Clinical Trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day\*

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

ULN = Upper limit of normal. ANC = Absolute neutrophil count. n = Number of patients assessed.

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

**Observed During Clinical Practice:** In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during post-approval use of EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to a combination of their seriousness, frequency of reporting, or potential causal connection to EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR.

**Endocrine and Metabolic:** Hyperglycemia.

**General:** Sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), vasculitis.

**Hepatobiliary Tract and Pancreas:** Lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), pancreatitis.

**Musculoskeletal:** Muscle weakness, CPK elevation, rhabdomyolysis.

**Nervous:** Seizures.

**Skin:** Alopecia, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria.

**OVERDOSAGE:**

**COMBIVIR:** There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

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

**Zidovudine:** Acute overdoses of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, confusion, and 1 report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, GZDV, is enhanced.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:** The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is 1 tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

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

Lamivudine is manufactured under agreement from BioChem Pharma Inc. Laval, Quebec, Canada

US Patent Nos. 5,047,407; 4,818,538; 4,828,838; 4,724,232; 4,833,130; 4,837,208; 5,859,021 and 5,905,082

October 2000/RL-874

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## out in print

### Late bloomer pulls readers in

Psychotherapist tells own story of struggle against being gay in ultra-conservative 1950s America

by KARA FOX

Anyone who has come out knows that the process is a difficult one, from grappling with the sexual orientation issue internally to acknowledging it to friends, family and co-workers. Now, a Los Angeles psychotherapist has chronicled her own coming out journey that spans four decades.

Dr. Joan Denson explores her life in hiding as a lesbian as she struggles with her own coming out and acceptance from others. But, unlike other coming out books, "Except For One Little Problem: A Memoir of a Life in Hiding," provides a historical context along the way that engages readers from the beginning.

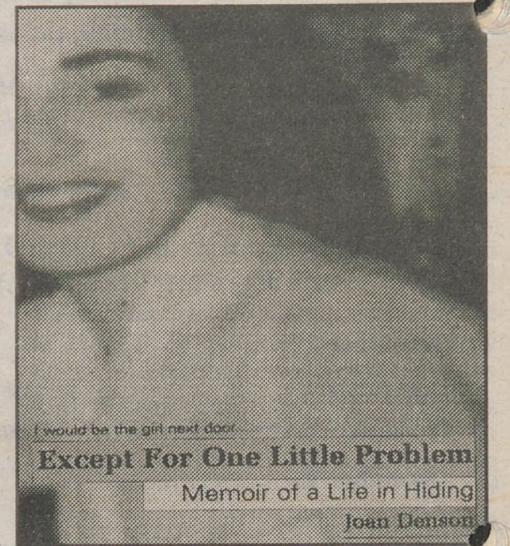
Denson weaves her personal experiences through the sexual revolution of the '60s and '70s, revealing a take on that time that will never be read in any history book. Even though years are never stated in her memoir, historical points of references through a pink lens are included along the way: lesbians dancing to the Bee Gees, California's anti-gay Proposition 6 and spokeswoman Anita Bryant, the murder of San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk, and the passing of Vermont's same-sex marriages, among others.

Denson does a favor to gays by chronicling a history that has often times been lost in mainstream society and even among gay men and lesbians. While chronicling gay history, Denson also shares her own journey, from falling in love with a "dead girl" to her first sexual relationship in college to a failed marriage, pregnancy, acknowledging who she is to herself, committing her life to a woman, and finally coming out to her parents.

Denson begins her journey in 1958, when she is 19 years old, living in a Chicago suburb with her parents. She is obsessed with "The Diary of Anne Frank," and with the girl who wrote it. She gets the opportunity to go to Germany to meet Frank's father. While overseas, Denson meets "a husky New York exchange student" who comes on to her, only to be shot down by Denson. He goes on to accuse her of being in love with the dead Frank, which repulses Denson.

This is her first realization of her homosexuality, and she is disgusted by it, which most gays can relate to.

"Suddenly I felt nauseated. My skin crawled. Maybe I'm a girl who loves girls. Oh God, that's the worst thought in the world. I'm going to throw up. It's repulsive to be in love with a girl. No one can know,



Dr. Joan Denson's autobiographical 'Except for One Little Problem' relates her personal struggle with accepting herself as a lesbian growing up in the '50s.

ever. I'll get over it. I know I will. I have to."

Denson arrives at Harcourt College in Massachusetts and meets Cindy, her first love. The two begin a relationship, only to have the Dean of Women accuse them of "lesbian behavior," with the prospect of permanent expulsion. Denson ultimately leaves Harcourt and moves back home.

Still trying to bury her true lesbian feelings, Denson marries Anton, a Hungarian war hero. The two move to San Francisco and then to Los Angeles, where the real story of Denson's life begins. It is there that she meets, and falls in love with, her soon-to-be life partner, Vicky.

Through this period, Denson truly reveals herself and invites readers as her intimates as she raises her son with Vicky, struggles with feelings of sexual intimacy and infidelity, manages finances while attending school, and finally comes out to her son, her best friend and her parents.

Because the book is Denson's real life view, readers might expect it to be written in a diary format with some mistakes along the way. However, "Except For One Little Thing" is written like a novel and readers will expect it to have the quality of a well-written book. It is instead full of errors from a poor editing job. Misspellings, punctuation errors and misplaced quotation marks become a reader's nightmare after awhile, but these can be overlooked thanks to the engaging story Denson has to tell.

Every gay person will be able to relate to Denson's real life experiences and this work will remind every reader to thank God that it's 2001 and not 1958.

**INFO**

**'Except For One Little Problem: Memoir of a Life in Hiding'**

by Joan Denson, Ph.D.

Barricade Books, 240 pages

\$14.95

# homefront

## Home for the holidays

Take a cooking course or a home tour for ideas to make the most of the holiday season this year

by ELLA TYLER

When I called my mother in the middle of her Thanksgiving cooking, I was amused by her announcement: "I've discovered a new way to tell when things are done. The smoke alarm goes off!"

If I hadn't known that she was making beef stroganoff, which requires sautéing thin strips of beef in butter, and known how easily butter smokes, I'd have been worried about what we were going to eat. However, dinner was wonderful, and, Mother says, much easier than turkey because it can be done the day before.

My mother did not learn to cook until she was married, and then she learned exotic dishes to serve at dinner parties. The beef stroganoff lessons came from a White Russian countess when we lived in Turkey when I was a child. It has been the main course for many family celebrations.

Mother does throw good parties. She used to serve wonderful food like Shish Kebab, Chicken Kiev and 10-Boy Curry. Even at cocktail parties, she always had lots of food and drink. The first time I saw Martha Stewart's hors d'oeuvres book, I was horrified. This woman is holding out a single canapé on a napkin and looked pleased with herself. It seemed decidedly un-kee and decidedly un-ethnic — which is fine, I guess, if you come from up there, and want your guests to go home hungry.

If you get the same kind of cooking hints from your mother as I get from mine, and it's too late to take home ec, you can still learn to cook. Whatever the kind of food you'd like to learn to cook, there is someone in Houston who will teach you. You can even take professional cooking classes at Houston Community College, University of Houston or Art Institute of Houston.

Leisure Learning offers nearly 50 cooking classes each quarter. If you want to learn to cook before Christmas, upcoming offerings include a vegetarian holiday dinner class on Dec. 15 and "Entertaining With Elegance" on Dec. 17. Sur La Table, on West Bay, also has an extensive array of cooking courses. "Holiday Entertaining Like a Pro," a three-session crash course, runs Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Brennan's executive chef, Carl Walker, is teaching a holiday buffet meal course at Rice Epicurean's cooking school on Dec. 4. Walker's first book, "Brennan's of Houston in Your Kitchen," can be bought at a discount at this session.

If it's visions of sugarplums that are dancing in your head, Leisure Learning and Sur La Table offer cookie classes, and there



This holiday season, a cooking course at Houston venues or a local home tour may be fodder for ideas to enhance your own home for December celebrations.

are four more opportunities to take "Ginger Bread House" from Rice Epicurean.

If you don't see any reason to ruin your perfectly good relationship with EatZi's by learning to cook, but are concerned that your holiday décor lacks inspiration, there will be plenty of ideas at a local home tour. More than 20 holiday home tours in the area are planned before the holidays are over, and most of the tours are this weekend and next.

Holiday in the Heights is Saturday, and the Heritage Society's Candlelight Tour in Sam Houston Park is Dec. 6-8. These homes remain decorated through Christmas, if you want to see the decorations and skip the crowds. Bayou Bend is open for a candlelight open house on Dec. 7 and 14. The Blue Triangle Y's home tour, which is Dec. 9, includes three houses in the MacGregor area.

Home tours like this are also a wonderful opportunity to get ideas for furnishing your own home. Look past the trees and swags to see what ideas you can use. Before you go shopping for a tree or on an excursion to an area Christmas tree farm, remember to measure the space you have. Christmas trees take a lot of room.

If you would like to get together with friends and not have a fancy party, what about a Christmas card exchange? Everyone brings boxes of old cards and trades. Or, go out to dinner and then go see a holiday movie.

Food and decorations are the accessories to a good party. It's the people who are important.

INFO	<b>Leisure Learning</b> 713-529-4414
	<b>Sur La Table</b> 713-553-0400
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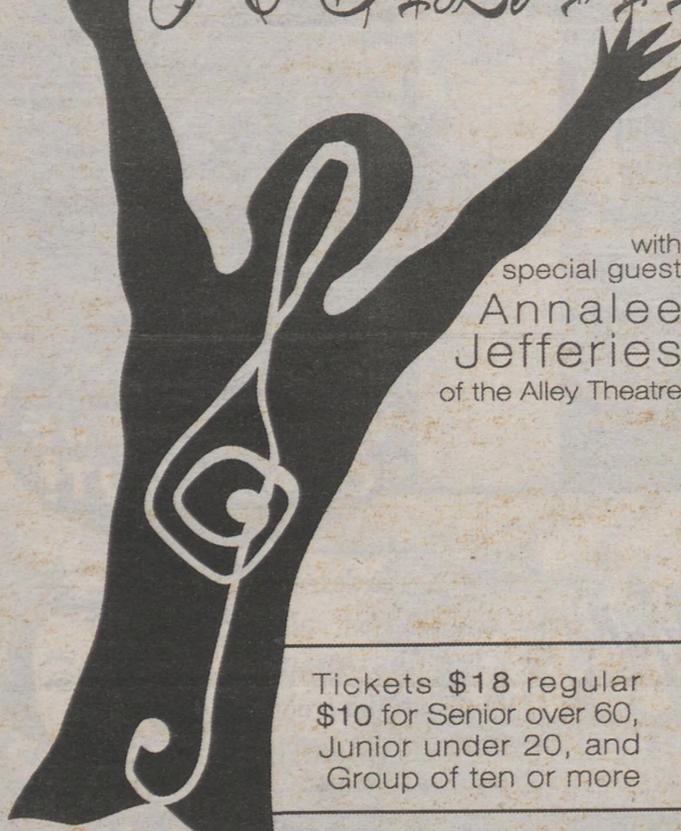
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## out in music

### A CD hit and a DVD miss

Anderson draws in her listeners, while the PetShopBoys make their viewers dizzy

**Jamie Anderson**  
"Listen"

Newcomers to Jamie Anderson's music may be surprised at her frankness and ability to instill humor into her lyrics, but the initiated know that these are her trademarks. Anderson's newest release, "Listen," welcomes the uninitiated into her style with ease.

Touring since the '80s, Anderson is infamous for her stage shows, during which she treats audiences to baton twirling and belly dancing.

Many of the cuts on "Listen" were recorded live, with few overdubs. The authenticity adds to Anderson's music. The feel of the CD draws listeners in, as they become Anderson's intimates.

The electric slide guitar on the opening track, "(I Wanna) Drive," gives the song a blues-rock feel as Anderson sings about love. "Maybe You Miss Me" is about lost love, while the title track is Anderson's lesson about infidelity and how to make a relationship work.

The rest of the CD really captures Anderson's flavor, with a refreshing optimism. Take, for example, Anderson's lusty tribute to potato chips: "I'm hungry with desire, oh my wanting lips/ I breathe heavy thinking of luscious potato chips/ Give me hot barbecue, crinkle or even plain/ I love to bite them, what pleasure I'll gain/ Potato Chips." (The song is the aptly titled, "Potato Chips.")

Anderson also shows her serious side with "Forever Family," a song dealing with different types of families, including a lesbian couple. "Fourteen" tackles the serious issue of gun violence and "A Love This True" is Anderson's plea to legalize same-sex marriages.

"Listen" is a full dose of Anderson, taking listeners on a journey from country to harmony to rocking blues. This disc a refreshing escape from the typical women's music genre and is definitely worth a listen.

—Kara Fox

**Pet Shop Boys**  
"Montage"

There's something about being at a concert that is hard to capture on film. The energy of the crowd, the anticipation of seeing your favorite band, the hot boy who keeps bumping into you, cannot be recaptured by a concert video. Such canned efforts are, generally, really boring to watch.

Knowing this, The Pet Shop Boys, in their new DVD "Montage," a film version of their 1999/2000 "Nightlife" tour, try to solve the problem of showing the footage of the concert while making it as fresh and



exciting as possible for both those who were lucky enough to be there in the first place and those who missed the show.

Their answer is to superimpose various images — looping clips from the band's music videos, swirling graphics, footage of surfers and lightning storms — over the action of the concert. In some instances, these graphics are meant to mirror the graphics that were projected on a giant screen behind the band and dancers during the show, but in other instances the selection seems inconsequential to both the song and the action on stage.

The package of the DVD says, "Different performances are presented simultaneously over layers of backdrop projections and videos, creating a stunning visual experience."

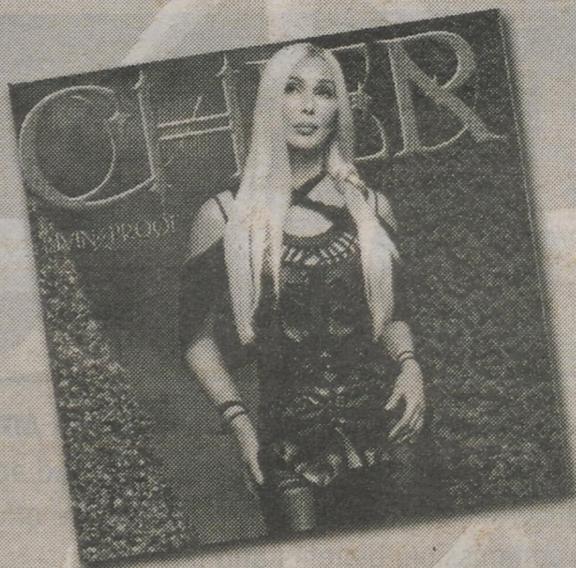
Actually, what the layers of visuals create is a headache. It looks as if the band performing behind a clear screen onto which fast-moving, often-repeating graphics are being projected. This makes it hard to see both the concert and the visuals. Add this to the fact that the concert was not filmed very well. The camera is often far away from the stage, so it is hard to discern exactly what Neil Tennant and his army of dancers and backup singers are doing in the elaborately staged production.

The only time the visual/concert conceit works well is when Dusty Springfield sings and dances, in video clips, along side a live Tennant during the Pet Shop Boys hit, "What Have I Done To Deserve This?"

The best aspect of the DVD is that it offers excellent sound and the selection of songs range the band's career, functioning as a bit of a "Greatest Hits" compilation. The DVD also includes the music videos for "New York City Boy," "You Only Love Me When You're Drunk," and "I Don't Know What You Want But I Can't Give It Anymore," all of which are stunning when seen without the backdrop of the concert.

Unless you are a die-hard Pet Shop Boys fan, it would be wiser to stick with listening to the CDs than watching this dizzying and over stimulating DVD.

—Brian Moylan



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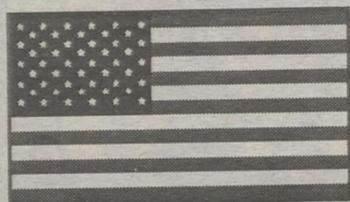


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# community calendar

## saturday, dec 1

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** In observance of World AIDS Day, the center will remain open all day so that people may view the exhibition of photographs by artists living with HIV/AIDS who participate in the Positive Art Workshop. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Rummage-A-Rama.** First Saturday of each month, hosted by AIDS Housing Coalition Houston. Benefit for Montrose Cottages program and AHCH apartment placement program. Concessions, game room, free parking. Booth reservations, \$30. 202 Tuam Ave. 713-521-1613.

## every saturday

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

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

**Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club.** 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

**Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club.** Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.

**Houston Wrestling Club.** Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

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

**Rainbow Fishing Club.** Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston volunteer appreciation reception, 1-4 p.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## sunday, dec 2

**PFLAG-Houston.** Meeting, 2 p.m. 713-867-9020.

## every sunday

**Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group.** 1 p.m. [www.houstonabc.org](http://www.houstonabc.org). 713-595-2103

**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.** Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

**Community Gospel.** Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m.

713-880-9235 or [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).

**Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist.** Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

**First Congregational Church (Memorial).** Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or [fcc-houston.org](http://fcc-houston.org).

**First Unitarian Universalist Church.** Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. [church@firstuu.org](mailto:church@firstuu.org).

**Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston.** 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. [alexcam@wt.net](mailto:alexcam@wt.net). 713-623-0930

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

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com)

**Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church.** Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.

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

**Resurrection MCC. Services.** 9 and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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

**The Women's Group.** Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

**Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. [www.tuuc.org](http://www.tuuc.org).

**Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County.** 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

**Unitarian Fellowship of Houston.** Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in 2- 5 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

## monday, dec 3

### every monday

**AIDS Mastery.** 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

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

**gayDAR.** Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

**Gay Fathers/Fathers First.** Support group. 8 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom: 713-726-8736.

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

**Grief & Divorce Support Groups.** 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.

**HIV testing.** STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

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

**Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show.** 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## tuesday, dec 4

**Lesbian Health Initiative.** Meeting, 7 p.m. Lucy, 713-603-0023.

### every tuesday

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

**CPR Classes.** 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

**For Mature Audiences Only.** Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

**Gay Men's Process Group.** 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.

**Gay youth.** New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.

# community calendar

## Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous.

Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

**HTGA.** Support Group. 7 p.m.  
713-520-0439.

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

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
281-633-2555.

**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

## Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

Noon, Thanksgiving dinner  
• Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian  
Coming-Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803  
Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## wednesday, dec 5

**Classic Chassis Car Club.** Monthly meeting, 7 p.m. Blue Agave Restaurant, 1340 W. Gray. 713-797-8615.

[www.classicchassisclub.org](http://www.classicchassisclub.org).

**Planned Parenthood of Houston & Southeast Texas.** Free pap tests. All women welcome. Call for an appointment. 713-831-6540.

## every wednesday

### Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

**Bible Study.** Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

**Free HIV Testing.** Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.

**Dance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

**Houston Pride Band.** Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931.

[www.houstonprideband.org](http://www.houstonprideband.org).

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30 -9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com)

**Lesbian Literature Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

**Spiritual Uplift service.** 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

**Women's Network.** Montrose Counseling Center discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center.

713-529-0037.

## Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.

## thursday, dec 6

### Gay/lesbian Jewish study group.

Monthly meeting. 7:30-9 p.m. Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 N. Braeswood Blvd. Alan, 713-523-3673, or Rabbi Glickman, 713-771-6221.

**Gulf Coast Transgender Community.**

Meeting. 713-780-4282.

## every thursday

**Community Gospel.** Service. 7:30 p.m.

713-880-9235. [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).

**Free HIV Testing.** By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m.

713-522-8021.

**Gay Houston.** New social group for all ages. 7 p.m. 713-526-9318.

**Hep C Recovery.** Support group. 6:30 p.m.

Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

**HIV Art Therapy Program.** 1-4 p.m.

Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

**Lambda Skating Club.** 8 p.m. Tradewinds.

Skating Rink. [www.lambdaroll.org](http://www.lambdaroll.org).

713-410-7215.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

**STD exams & treatment.** Free. AVES.

713-626-2837.

**Spanish Charla Conversation Group.** 7 p.m., Empire Cafe. Email [charlahouston@msn.com](mailto:charlahouston@msn.com). 713-416-7203.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

713-524-3818.

**Spanish Charla Conversation Group.** 7 p.m., Empire Cafe. Email [charlahouston@msn.com](mailto:charlahouston@msn.com). 713-416-7203.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

713-524-3818.

**Spanish Charla Conversation Group.** 7 p.m., Empire Cafe. Email [charlahouston@msn.com](mailto:charlahouston@msn.com). 713-416-7203.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

713-524-3818.

## friday, dec 7

### every friday

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

**Govinda Yoga Club.** Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com)

**Kolbe Project.** Morning prayer. 10 a.m. • Movie night, "Much Ado About Nothing." 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.

**Lesbian & Gay Voices.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

**Q-Patrol.** Walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Film Night, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

713-524-3818.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com)

**Kolbe Project.** Morning prayer. 10 a.m. • Movie night, "Much Ado About Nothing." 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.

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**Q-Patrol.** Walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Film Night, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

713-524-3818.

## volunteer/self-help

**Gay & Lesbian Help line.** For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Staffed by volunteers of all ages. 6-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 888-340-GLBT.

**Peer Listening Line.** Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.

**Volunteers needed.** Trauma volunteers needed at Memorial Hermann Hospital to comfort and support family members in the emergency and trauma departments. 866-666-6772.

866-666-6772.

To list an event, call 713-529-8490.

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Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Starting Butch-Fem group for Lesbians • If interested call 713-917-8987 Press 4 to leave a message for us.

## EMPLOYMENT

### TELEMARKETERS

Fundraisers/Surveyors needed • Full and part-time available • Starting \$6.50 to \$8.75/hr • GLBT friendly environment • CALL FOR APPOINTMENT • 713-782-0060

## INSURANCE OFFICE

Insurance agency needs part-time customer service assistant • Must be proficient with Microsoft Word • Responsibilities include correspondence, filing, and general clerical duties • Good job for college student • We are looking for strong written and verbal communications plus a stable background and good references • Please call Rob @ 713-661-7700 or www.schmerleragency.com

Guaranteed Money • We are looking for young (18-25 preferred male/shemale) attractive upbeat escorts • All-American, Latin and Asian a plus • Must be reliable and ready to make money in a sage professional environment • No experience necessary • If you are ready for financial security call us today and start today • 11 am to 9 pm 7 days a week • 713-526-1531

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## FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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## PWA COALITION PART-TIME

Warehouse Assistant • Clean driving record required • Fax resume to 713-522-2674

Resurrection MCC is seeking a maintenance specialist/caretaker • Individual will clean and maintain interior and exterior of church properties • Qualification: High School diploma/equivalent • Salary & benefits • Send cover letter with resume to: Resurrection MCC • 2025 West 11th Street • Houston, Texas 77008 • Attn: Maintenance/Caretaker

## FOR SALE/RENT

### MONTROSE COTTAGES

1/1 Garden Cottage • \$300 and up • Reserved for People Living with AIDS • 90 day MAX • Phone, furnished, AC • Maid paid • No deposit • Sliding scale fee • No drugs or Alcohol on property • AIDS Housing Coalition AHCH • 713-521-1613.

## OFFICE FOR RENT

Second floor office available at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center • 803 Hawthorne • 14' X 12'6" • Nonprofit GLBT organizations preferred as tenant partners, but all inquiries welcomed. Call Tim Brookover @ 713-524-3818

Furnished rooms in Montrose from \$295/week • For single, quiet person • Free cable tv, breakfast, parking, maid service • With queen bed, kitchen, & laundry access  
Montrose Inn • 408 Avondale  
713-520-0206

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### FREE YOGA CLASSES

FREE yoga classes every Friday @6:30 p.m. • 3115 West Loop South #21 • No restrictions • No reservations needed • 713-439-0455

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## MASSAGE BY KEN

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by Young Athletic Male • RMT#016479 • Tim • 713-876-3811

Massage by David Rangel • Swedish • Neuro Muscular Therapy • Montrose area • MC/VISA/AMEX welcomed • RMT #8069 • Appointments 713-523-0738

## SWEDISH MASSAGE BY PATRICK

• Relaxation • Myotherapy • Deep tissue • (RMT#024589) 713-807-7109 • 713-501-9852. • 1 1/2 hours for \$50. 1 Hr. \$40.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 37...

# Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
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64						65		66		67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

## "MY FAIR GENTLEMAN"

### ACROSS

- G of PFLAG
- It comes before cum on a diploma
- Event for George Frenn
- "Cat on \_\_\_ Tin Roof"
- Philosopher Locke
- Trucker's rod
- Rob of \_The West Wing\_
- Like Dean Cain in costume
- "\_\_\_ do anything better than you"
- With 22-Across, 1936 Cukor movie
- See 20-Across
- Comes out on the beach
- Makes potent
- With 34-Across, 1933 Cukor movie
- Dam-building agcy.
- Feeling of hitting rock bottom
- New-age composer John
- See 27-Across
- Culture Club's "\_\_\_ Miracle"
- Comics cry
- Felder or Teasdale
- With 60-Across, 1954 Cukor movie
- "\_\_\_! I'm going to live forever"
- Kevin Bacon in \_Footloose\_
- Threesome in "Roma"
- 1939 Cukor movie
- Splinter groups that go either way?
- Glenn Burke, formerly
- 1949 Cukor movie
- See 43-Across
- Canvas covering
- Lover of Henry and June
- \_\_\_ Exchange (advocate.com feature)
- Cho's "I'm the One \_\_\_ I Want"
- Queens in Las Vegas
- Elton John's "\_\_\_ Dancer"
- Niles and Frasier to Martin
- Bone below the waist
- Gets hard

### DOWN

- "Buffalo \_\_\_ won't you come out tonight"
- "Hey, sailor!"
- Caterwaul
- 1993 Lambda Literary Award winner Saylor
- Like "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"
- Home st. of Jim Nabors
- Dental feature of Madonna
- Dorothy, to Em
- Slow, to John Corigliano
- What postal carriers bear
- Do a top job
- Tickle pink
- Pup \_\_\_ (excited responses)
- Las Vegas response
- Shankar of sitar
- You lick it and stick it in
- Cause of Grammer's 1990 sentence
- Sappho's "I"
- Untouchable head
- Activity of sticky fingers
- Injure
- Word with fruit or family
- Takes a crack at
- Madeline of \_Young Frankenstein\_
- "The Brady Bunch" actress \_\_\_ B. Davis
- Curve and others
- Cancel out
- Former partner of Julie
- Hazing props for "baaad" frat boys
- Out-of-this-world paths
- Judge Deborah
- "My Own Private \_\_\_"
- Gay Indian filmmaker Nishit
- Whence Moses went down
- Streisand, for short
- Garfield's canine pal
- Diggs play about leased digs
- "Count me out!" and "Over my dead body!"
- Infamous Amin

Answers on Page 39



# Professional Services Directory

**Penis-Enlargement.net**  
 FDA Approved vacuum pumps/surgical. Gain 1-3". Permanent & safe. Enhance erection. FREE Brochures! Latest enlargement info: (619)295-HUNG or 900-976-PUMP (\$2.95/min.)



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**Dr. Richard W. Fletcher**

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- Medicare/Medicaid

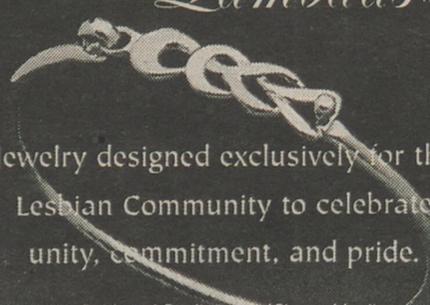
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 Toll Free: 800-765-0576



# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



## Nov. 30–Dec. 6

### ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

Life is full of charming suitors during the early part of December. A Virgo could be your new lover if you could just shut up for five minutes and listen to what the shy one has to say. At work you have many more friends than enemies, so chill out, you paranoid freak!

### TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

Take a page from an Aquarius friend's book, as Uranus and Neptune square your career sector. Do something that makes the public uncomfortable. Shock 'em and rock 'em, babe. You don't always have to be such a smoothie. A Libra likes your rough edges - a lot.

### GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

With four key planets cruising through your romantic sector in December, you're going to have to make love your first, your last ... your everything. If you're into a tough (but tender) Taurus, let down your guard and stop playing so hard to get. You'll find reality much more satisfying than a shallow charade.

### CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

Jupiter's retrograde motion in your sign should make you rethink some of the "good luck" and "bad luck" you've experienced since July. Perhaps you need to reprioritize, love. Let an Aries be your mirror - who won't distort her image of you, the way you always do!

### LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

With Mars and Uranus moving forward in your house of love you could start a new relationship that's radically different from your past ones, or you could radically redefine your present one (if you're already hitched). Stop letting pride dictate your behavior. Another Leo won't let you get away with it.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Half the planets in the sky are squaring you this month, Virgo, which means that compromise is the only path to take. If you can't make the people around you feel safe, respected, and comfortable, don't expect an easy ride with them. A Sag offers you some relief from the seriousness by making you several offers for serious fun. Say yes to them all.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

You may want to change your tactics this month as the planets push you to accentuate the lighter side of your nature. Why are you acting so needy? Out of habit, methinks. You are fine on your own, and if you really get lonesome, a Scorpio will snuggle up against all your erogenous zones.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Feel like purring like a cat as a Cancer makes you feel like the sexiest thing alive? Or perhaps you'd prefer to rub your hands together maniacally and count the dough you haven't even earned yet (though you probably will in early 2002). Choose love over lust for money, honey. Your warm honey means more than cold, hard cash, don't ya know?

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Uranus and Mars in your money and possessions sector could challenge you to try a whole new sideline. If you're present job is a yawn, start building up your own business. Go where no entrepreneur has ever gone before. A Capricorn will help you work out the details and the deals.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

If the people closest to you are accusing you of being removed and unavailable, for goodness' sake, believe them. All it takes to improve relationships right now is a little more of your physical presence. You, live, is much more effective than snappy emails or sultry voice mail messages. A Gemini needs to see you to believe you.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

You may be coming off as stronger and tougher than you realize, while your ruler Uranus dances with dominating Mars this month. Soften your edges a little by practicing the art of diplomacy. In other words, stop making people so bloody defensive! A Virgo wants to love you, not fear you.

### PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

You are on the cusp of a miraculous time in your romantic life. Living with someone could be sweeter than honey, honey, if you are willing to reveal your self, your whole self, and nothing but your self. Stop trying to psycho-analyze another Pisces. Try figuring out your own motivations first.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

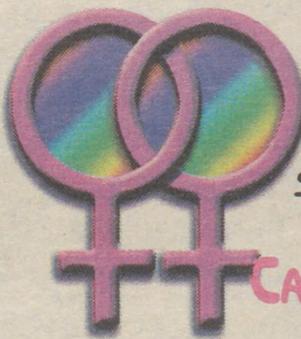
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Answer to Puzzle on Page 36

S	T	S		V	I	B	I	T		S	N	O	S
Y	N	I	T	S	C	A	R	D	S	T	H	A	T
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 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

# Information with for people HIV

**Bristol-Myers Squibb™ is sponsoring the HIV Treatment-Experienced Research Study** for people whose viral load has increased while on a protease inhibitor. If you have a viral load greater than 1,000 copies/mL and are 16 years or older you may be able to take part.

In addition to regular monitoring and medical care during the 48 week study, you will receive:

- an investigational once-daily study drug or an approved protease inhibitor
- pretesting of your virus for sensitivity to drugs that will be used in the study

A doctor in your area may be participating in the study; both you and your doctor will know which drug you are taking.

For information about a study center near you, please call:

**1-888-334-8755.**

HIV Treatment-Experienced Study

