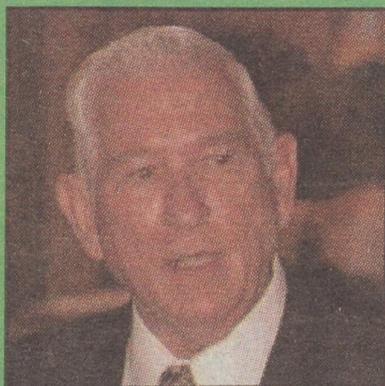


Award-winning musical talent adds his own twist to score for Houston Ballet's 'Pied Piper.'



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### INSIDE



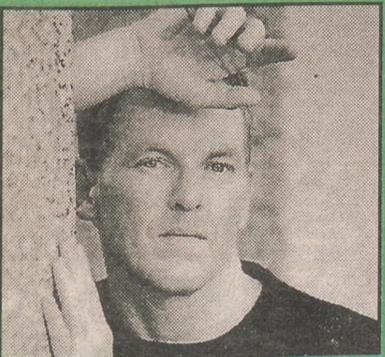
Federal Judge James Lawrence King said married heterosexuals provide children with more stable homes as he upheld Florida's ban on adoption by gays.

Page 3



An openly gay judge who once worked as a campaign aide for the retiring Sen. Jesse Helms announces his candidacy for the ultra-conservative Helms' Senate seat.

Page 3



Lone Star state author William Jack Sibley offers up a look at gay life in small-town Texas with 'Any Kind of Luck.'

Pages 18, 19

## Two charged after Montrose murder

Cesar Antonio Vela, 70, was strangled Aug. 29, police say

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON—Investigators at the Houston Police Department are still delving into the murder last week of a man who lived in the heavily gay Montrose neighborhood.

Whether or not the sexual orientation of Cesar Antonio Vela, 70, was a factor in the crime is unclear, according to officials at the HPD and Harris County District Attorney's Office.

"At this point, I'm waiting for the Houston Police Department to send me their complete investigation," said Warren Diepraam, assistant district attorney.

Lead police investigators in the case could not be reached for comment by press time.

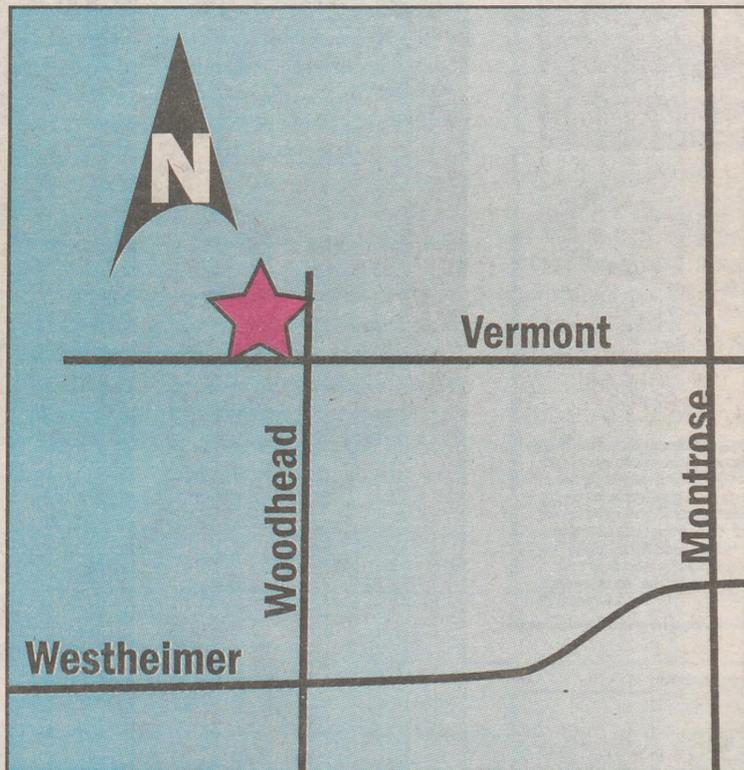
According to a press release from the HPD, two men have been charged in connection with the incident. Vela was murdered at his residence, 1940 Vermont St., about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29.

Troy Lee Bailey, 31, is charged with capital murder in the 339th State District Court. Curley Charles Simien, 43, is charged with felony theft in the 179th State District Court, according to police.

Vela, a retired airline executive, was found dead in his home after friends became concerned about his welfare and checked on him, police said. Investigators discovered that two of Vela's vehicles had been stolen.

With the help of a stolen vehicle tracking device, officials tracked down Vela's Infiniti. Austin police officers, Travis

>Continued on Page 8



According to Houston Police Department officials, friends found the body of murder victim Cesar Antonio Vela, 70, in his home at 1940 Vermont St., which is located in the heavily gay Montrose neighborhood.

## Political season heats up

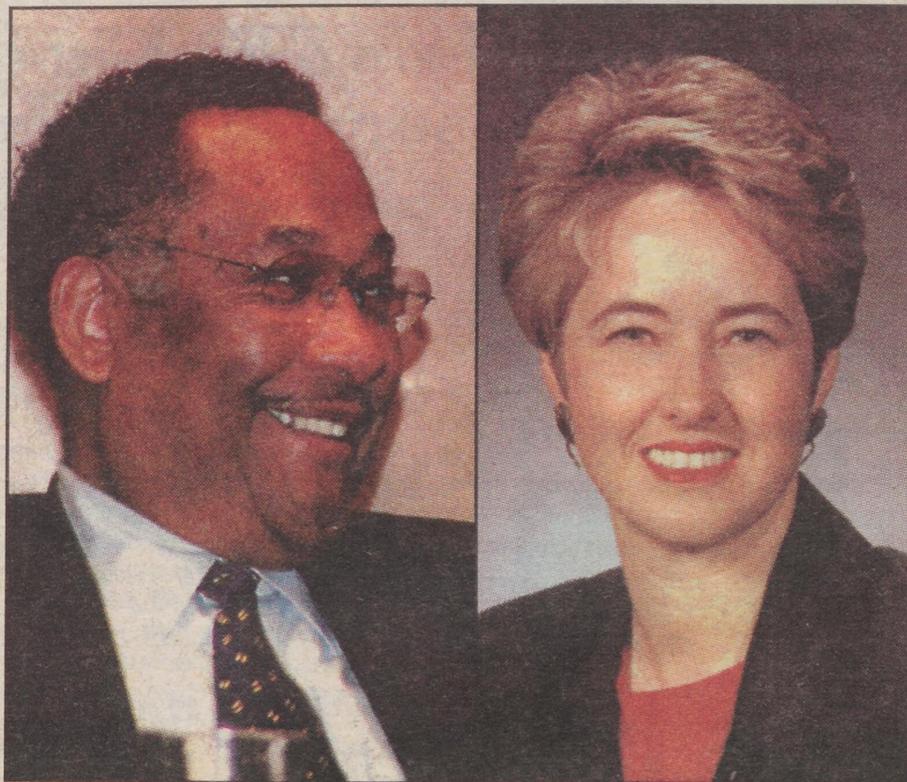
Houston ballot likely to include races key to gay voters who want to make their voices heard

by ELLA TYLER

HOUSTON—Tuesday, Nov. 6, will be Election Day, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered voters might have special incentives to go to the polls—both through a proposed anti-gay ballot measure and an increase political candidates who are conscious of the power of gay voters.

If the Charter Amendment prohibiting the City of Houston from offering domestic partner

>Continued on Page 8



Both current Mayor Lee Brown and openly gay City Council member Annise Parker have been endorsed in their re-election bids by Houston's Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

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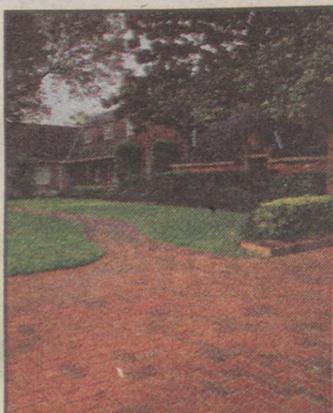
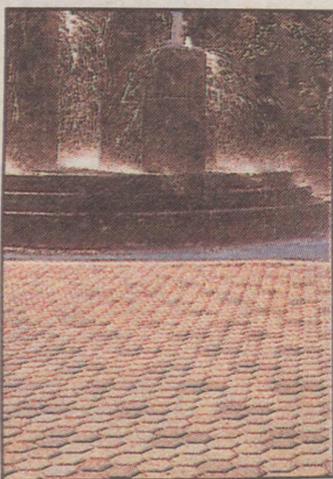
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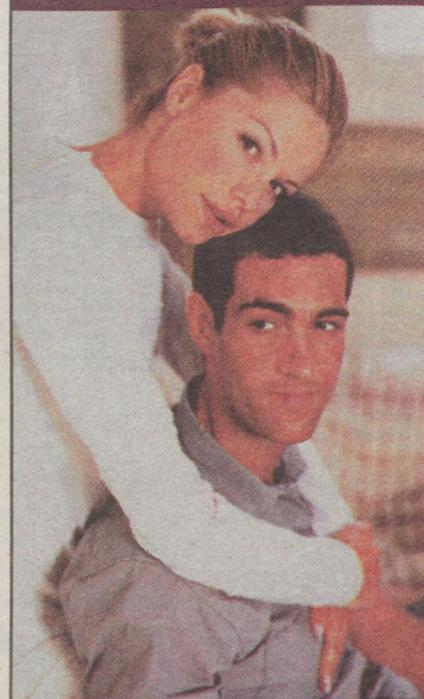
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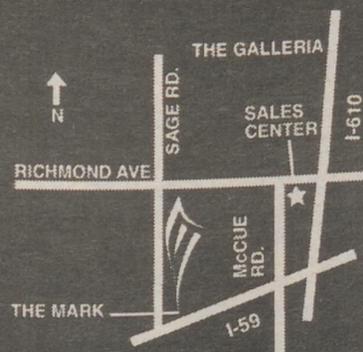


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# Judge upholds FL anti-gay adoption law

## ACLU vows to keep fighting nation's toughest law banning adoption by all lesbians and gay men

by MIKE FLEMING

MIAMI—U.S. Judge James Lawrence King ruled Aug. 30 that Florida's 24-year-old law banning child adoption by gay men and lesbians is valid, preventing the case from reaching a full-blown trial.

"State-sanctioned discrimination has been upheld in Florida," said Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida, a gay lobby group that helped round up the plaintiffs for the case. "It is a truly sad day when the federal court will not even see such an important issue through to trial."

King, senior judge for the Miami-based U.S. Southern District of Florida, accepted the state's motion to dismiss the case, asserting that married heterosexuals provide children with more stable homes than gays, according to his written statement.

"Plaintiffs have not asserted that they can demonstrate that homosexual families are equivalently stable, are able to provide proper gender identification or are no more



Federal court Judge James Lawrence King upheld Florida's ban on adoptions by gays, saying married heterosexuals provide children with more stable homes.

socially stigmatizing than married heterosexual families," King said.

By throwing out the case at this stage, the judge will not hear evidence including "mountains and mountains" of research that shows sexual orientation is not a factor in good parenting, said Eric Ferrero, spokesperson for the ACLU Gay & Lesbian Rights Project.

The ACLU took the case in 1999 on behalf of five gay men who contend that the state law is unconstitutional because it discriminates against the civil rights of gay men and lesbians.

King's ruling, however, said that "given there is no fundamental right to adopt or be

adopted, there can be no fundamental right to apply for adoption."

King's statement notes that the Florida Department of Children & Families gives "primary consideration" to adoptions by married parents.

But the DCF Web site contradicts that assertion. "Married couples, single parents, working mothers, parents who already have children, people who live in apartments, and people of any religious faith, race, and education level will be considered [as possible parents]," the Web site states.

Some 25 percent of foster children adopted in Florida end up with single parents, and that number rises to 40 percent in Dade County, where the lawsuit is rooted, said Leslie Cooper, lead ACLU attorney in the case.

In one nod toward gay acceptance, the judge did reject the state's argument that the law is legitimate because it reflects the disapproval of homosexuality by a majority of state residents.

"The Court cannot accept that moral disapproval of homosexuals or homosexuality serves a legitimate state interest," King wrote.

In a seeming contradiction to the adoption ban, Florida does allow gays as foster parents. But a recent law dictates that children younger than 14 cannot remain in long-term foster care and must be put up for adoption.

—Associated Press contributed to this report

# Gay judge faces skeptics in NC race

## Warren, now openly gay and a Democrat, wants to fill Senate seat of the man he once worked for as campaign aide

by LOU CHIBBARO Jr.

CHARLOTTE—Conventional wisdom dictates that Ray Warren—a North Carolina judge who nearly three years ago disclosed he's gay and last year switched parties from Republican to Democrat—faces an uphill fight in his expected race for the U.S. Senate seat held by anti-gay Republican Jesse Helms.

But Warren, 44, a former GOP member of the North Carolina legislature, said he has a good shot at raising enough money and building the political support necessary to win the Senate seat that the retiring Helms will give up in January 2003.

Warren is expected to officially declare his candidacy for the Senate race next month, after he resigns from his post as a Superior Court judge.

"If I worried too much about conventional wisdom I would not have been in the state legislature at the age of 27 or on the Superior Court bench at the age of 32," Warren said. "I've always exceeded expectations in past elections, so I don't worry too

much when pundits express their doubts."

Warren said that, if elected to the Senate, he "absolutely" would vote for the gay civil rights bill known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and a pending hate crimes prevention bill that gives the federal government authority to prosecute anti-gay hate crimes.

He said he favors the repeal of anti-gay sodomy laws and supports the concept of domestic partner legislation and civil union legislation similar to the law adopted by Vermont.

But Warren said he would not push for the legalization of gay marriage, saying the majority of the electorate is not supportive of it.

Noting that Lieberman and U.S. Senator and former First Lady Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) favor civil unions over gay marriage, Warren said he believes in the principle that "politics is the art of the possible."

At least some gay activists in the state say Warren's status as an openly gay ex-Republican presents a dilemma he may be unable to overcome. Despite his credentials as a conservative-turned moderate, Warren is likely to be dismissed by a significant block of voters who continue to view a gay candidate as unacceptable.

At the same time, gay activists note, a sizable block of liberal to moderate Democrats—including gay Democrats—are likely to be mistrustful of Warren's recent



Ray Warren, an openly gay Superior Court judge in Charlotte, is facing skeptics among gay Democrats as he prepares a bid for the seat of the retiring U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms.

conversion from Republican to Democrat

"I wish him well, and I think his candidacy will break some new ground in this state," said Mandy Carter, an openly gay member of the Democratic National Committee from Durham, N.C. "But I frankly don't think he can win a statewide race for the Senate at this time."

Carter is a supporter Democratic contender Elaine Marshall, the North Carolina Secretary of State.

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## Gay volleyball league to begin fall season, invites participants

HOUSTON—The Lone Star Volleyball Association will launch its fall 2001 season on Sept. 16, and new members are welcome. The LSVA serves Houston gay men and lesbians and their friends, according to group President Jim Ritter. "We have all different levels, and depending on the level of play, place [new members] in the appropriate division," Ritter said. "We have a lot of fun. I've made some of my best friends through the volleyball league." The Sunday sessions are held at the Jerabeck Center, 4000 Mount Vernon, on the campus of the University of St. Thomas in the Montrose neighborhood. All league groups except the Women's Division are open to co-ed play. The Women's Division and Intermediate Division play from 4:30 to 7 p.m., and the Competitive and Power divisions play from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Open play will be Sept. 16 and 30, and league play begins Oct. 7. The league tournament is set for Dec. 2 and 9. The first night of play for new players is free, Ritter noted, and a fee is charged for those who join. The LSVA is part of the network of leagues supported by the North American Gay Volleyball Association.

—Penny Weaver

**INFO**

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## around houston

### Workshop to focus on fighting anti-gay ballot measure

HOUSTON—Progressive Voters in Action and People for a Fair Houston—both groups organizing a campaign against an anti-gay ballot measure proposed for the city's fall ballot—will host a two-day workshop Sept. 15 and 16. According to Alejandro Morua, executive director of PVA, the workshop will focus on training community leaders to raise funds and identify donors for the fight against the proposal by the conservative Houstonians For Family Values. That measure would prevent the City of Houston from providing domestic partner benefits to same-sex couples. HFFV has submitted petitions with voter signatures in an attempt to put the question before all city voters in November. "If you're willing to give us some time to save domestic partner benefits, we'll give you the training you need to become an effective fund-raiser," said Grant Martin of PFFH, also a co-founder of PVA. Two national fund-raising consultants will lead the workshop.

—Penny Weaver



Alejandro Morua, executive director of Progressive Voters in Action, is among those leading a battle against a proposed ballot amendment by the conservative Houstonians For Family Values.

**INFO**

**Progressive Voters in Action**  
 2700 Albany, Suite 205  
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 www.votePVA.org

### Davis known as friend to all

Jerry Clarke Davis, Jr., 42, of Houston, known to his family and friends as "Clarke," died Aug. 29, 2001, at Park Plaza Hospital in Houston.

Mr. Davis was born in Shreveport, La., and resided in Monroe, La., for a number of years during his youth. He attended the University of Houston and was a graduate of Waltrip High School.

Friends recall that anyone who met Clarke met a friend for life. No one who ever met Clarke had a bad word to say about him. He was liked by everyone he met, according to friends and family members.

Mr. Davis was a member of numerous charity organizations throughout the community which raised thousands of dollars to help the disadvantaged, the handicapped and persons with terminal illnesses. He was a member of an a cappella singing group in the 1980s for entertainment and charity work. He loved music of all types from gospel to classic to rock 'n' roll and country. He cherished songs regarding the positive side of the love of his life and hope for the future.

Jerry Clarke Davis, Jr. was an inspiration to many people due to his positive attitude and his willingness to find the good side in everyone and everything, his friends recall. He enjoyed living life and had a great capacity for loving others as they were regardless of their personality, lifestyle or the choices that they made for themselves. He was a rare individual. Clarke will truly be missed by all that knew him.

Mr. Davis is survived by his life partner, Jim Bartko; mother, Mrs. Peggy Davis of Houston, brother and friend, Steven W. Davis and Katrina Gnader of Chicago; and sister, Lisa C. Cooper, and niece, Lily Jordan Cooper, both of Houston. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and several hundreds of friends in the Greater Houston Area and throughout the United States. His father was the late Mr. Jerry Clarke Davis, Sr. of Houston.



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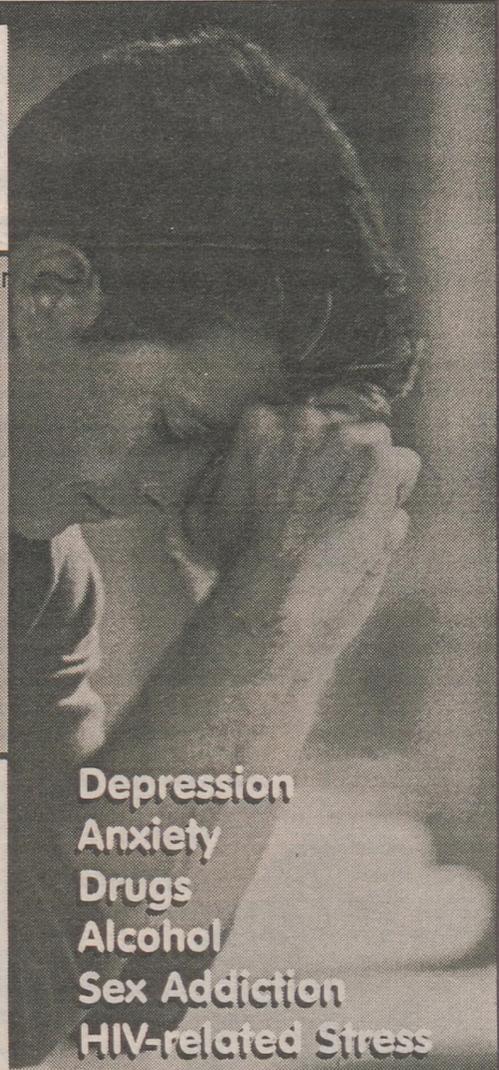
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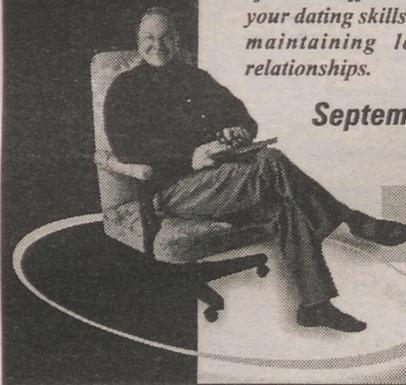
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## Heche weds, says dating DeGeneres came while 'insane'

NEW YORK—Actress Anne Heche on Saturday married the cameraman she met while working on a documentary about her ex-lover, comedian Ellen DeGeneres, according to *USA Today*. Heche, 32, and Coleman "Coley" Laffoon, 27, were married in a villa near L.A. in a ceremony attended by 75 friends and family members, her publicist said Sunday. Heche's wedding comes just days before the release of her memoir, "Call Me Crazy," and an interview with Barbara Walters, which was scheduled for broadcast Wednesday on ABC's "20/20." On Monday, ABC released excerpts, including Heche's revelation that she spent the first 31 years of her life suffering from mental illness and concerns she would die from AIDS, triggered by sexual abuse by her father. Heche says she was "insane" and believed she was two people. Heche says she was sexually abused by her father—who died of AIDS in 1983—from the time she was a toddler until she was 12. The actress says she was insane during her three-year relationship with DeGeneres, which ended last year. She says she regained her sanity about a year ago, after she was found wandering in Fresno, Calif., in a confused state, shortly after her breakup with DeGeneres.



Actress Anne Heche said in an interview with Barbara Walters that she was 'insane' during her three-year relationship with Ellen DeGeneres.

## Man beaten outside New York City gay bar dies of injuries

NEW YORK (AP)—A man who was savagely beaten after leaving a gay bar in New York City three weeks ago has died from severe head injuries, authorities said. Police were investigating the fatal attack on Edgar Garzon as a possible hate crime. But Mary de Bourbon, spokeswoman for Queens District Attorney Richard Brown, said Thursday that investigators had not ruled out robbery as a motive. No suspects have been identified. Garzon, 35, died Tuesday at Elmhurst Hospital Center in the New York borough of Queens. Gay activists have raised nearly \$3,000 in reward money for tips leading to an arrest. A candlelight march was scheduled for Thursday night from the bar to the scene of the attack.

## Variety editor suspended over anti-gay comments

LOS ANGELES (AP)—*Variety* Editor Peter Bart will return to work Sept. 10 after a 21-day suspension and mandatory diversity training, ordered after anti-gay and other discriminatory comments were attributed to him in a magazine article. "Peter understands the distress which such comments can cause and he knows that he made a mistake," said Tad Smith, president of the media division at Cahners Business Information, which publishes the influential entertainment trade publication. The former studio executive was suspended Aug. 17 pending the outcome of the Cahners investigation. The salary he would have earned during his time off will be donated to organizations that promote diversity, and Cahners said it, too, would make a donation. Bart, *Variety* editor since 1989, was described in an article in *Los Angeles* magazine as often speaking bluntly. It quoted one former *Variety* reporter it did not name as saying the editor once stated he wouldn't hire gay men "because they get sick and die."

## Fight against DP benefits raises concerns at U of CO

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Some University of Colorado regents are concerned that a regent has mounted a fund-raising campaign aimed at defeating a proposal, which he will vote on, to offer same-sex health benefits to CU employees. Regent Tom Lucero of Johnstown sent a letter on official-looking "University of Colorado Board of Regents" letterhead to thousands of people, asking for help defeating the proposal with money and petitions. The letter is accompanied by another letter written in part by Christian Coalition of Colorado President Chuck Gosnell. The package asks recipients to sign and send a postcard to undecided Regent Maureen Ediger urging her to vote against the proposal. She likely represents the deciding vote on the nine-member Board of Regents. Ediger said the campaign won't affect her vote. "They don't need to waste their time, because whether I get 100 or 100,000 postcards, that's not how I'm going to be making my decision," Ediger said.

## CA school scraps ban on gay, religious clubs

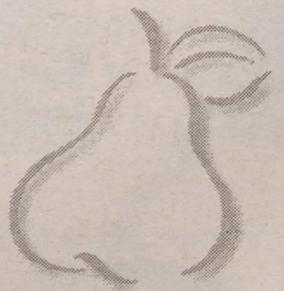
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (AP)—School officials scrapped an 11-year policy that had banned religious and gay student clubs on high school campuses. Capistrano Unified School District Superintendent James Fleming said officials feared possible lawsuits and they didn't want to deprive students of opportunities that could help them get into college. The Orange County district has 45,000 students. The move comes as other districts are taking measures to keep religious and gay clubs off campus. Capistrano's policy will now enable gay and religious clubs to advertise activities and hold meetings on campus. Groups that discriminate or espouse hatred aren't included under the new policy, Fleming said. Capistrano had banned special interest clubs since a 1990 Supreme Court ruling that schools must allow religious clubs if they allow other groups that don't have any academic benefit.

—From staff and wire reports



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# Deadline to register to vote this fall is Oct. 9

>Continued from Page 1

benefits to same-sex couples is placed on the ballot, many activists will be first in line to vote against the measure. But the move by the conservative Houstonians For Family Values to put the proposal on the ballot is not complete.

The City Secretary has until Sept. 19 to review the petitions submitted by HFFV to determine if there are enough valid signatures to allow the measure to be placed on the ballot.

If the proposed amendment is on the ballot, its opponents still have the challenge of convincing gay voters that this proposal matters to them. Like political races between candidates, however, this battle may be one of funding in addition to a fight for votes.

People for a Fair Houston, one group that has formed to fight the ballot proposal, had \$30,000 in the bank as of June 30, according to campaign finance reports filed July 16. HFFV, the group started by David Wilson to gather signatures to put the proposal on the ballot, reported debts of \$35,000.

Among individuals running for office in Houston, the prospects for an interesting election could change overnight. The filing deadline for city office is not until Sept. 24. Candidates can, and do, file for office until then.

Cicily Wynne, aide to lesbian

Councilwoman Annise Parker, recalls that five gay candidates—including Ray Hill, the late Gary Van Ooteghem and Eugene Harrison—all filed to run for city office literally minutes before filing closed in 1993.

Five of Houston's 14 city council members are not running for re-election. Most are casualties of Houston's term limits. Rob Todd, who filed suit to challenge then-newly elected Mayor Lee Brown's executive order banning discrimination because of sexual orientation, is one of them.

It does not appear that any strongly gay-friendly candidate is running for that District E open seat.

Chris Bell and Orlando Sanchez, both at-large council members, are running against Brown, who has announced he will seek a third and final term.

In the race to fill Bell's Position 4 seat, there are at least two well-funded candidates. Houston's Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus endorsed Claudia Williamson in that race. The highest profile candidate for that seat is Michael Berry, the lawyer turned real estate broker, who has an office on lower Westheimer.

In the race to fill Sanchez's seat, the Caucus endorsed Mark Whitehead.

The battle to fill Jew Don Boney Jr.'s open District D spot is shaping up to be the most hotly contested race of the season. At least four candidates are actively campaign-

ing for that slot. The district includes the heavily gay Montrose neighborhood, but the bulk of it is the Third Ward and neighborhoods running south from there into Fort Bend County.

The favorite in Montrose is Ada Edwards, who is getting volunteer help from Progressive Voters in Action and who picked up the Caucus endorsement on Wednesday. Her campaign treasurer is Monica Lamb, the former Comet, and Edwards has an extensive list of traditional contributors to progressive causes such as gay civil rights.

She had raised about \$43,000 and spent \$17,000, leaving what seems to be a healthy bank balance. However, her competition includes lawyer Darryl Carter, who has raised \$48,000 and contributed \$50,000 to his own campaign. His contributors include State Rep. Senfronia Thompson.

Gerald Womack, a real estate broker, has pioneering Black architect John Chase for a treasurer in his bid for the same Council seat. Womack has raised more than \$75,000 and spent a bit more than \$50,000. Homer Clark, who is also in that race, has raised less than \$5,000, but appears to have strong support in the Fort Bend County precincts.

Council member John Castillo will not be returning, and it looks as if the front-runner in that race is former mayoral aide Carol Alvarado. The Caucus endorsed her.

Other Caucus endorsements include Brown, for re-election; and for the re-election of City Council members Parker, Gordon Quan, Carol Galloway and Gabriel Vasquez. At this time, Parker does not have an opponent.

District Council members Bruce Tatro and Mark Ellis, who both voted against the city's non-discrimination ordinance—which included a ban on bias against sexual orientation—so far are unopposed in their bids for re-election. However, about 45 active candidates submitted campaign finance reports on June 16, but as of Tuesday, only six had filed for office.

The filing does not require that a candidate declare which City Council seat he or she is running for.

The other items on the ballot will include some Houston Independent School Board races. The GLPC endorsed Leisure Learning founder Ted Weisgal. The group did not make an endorsement in other races.

There will be about 20 constitutional amendments on the ballot, as well.

The deadline to register to vote in this election is Oct. 9. In-person early voting begins Oct. 22 and runs until Nov. 2. Early voters will use Harris County's new computer voting system. People who plan to absentee vote by mail, which requires a written excuse, must be sure their ballot application is received by Oct. 30.

## Police: Suspect confessed

>Continued from Page 1

County Sheriff's deputies and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers attempted to make a traffic stop early the morning of Aug. 30 with Bailey, who was driving the Infiniti, police said.

The suspect fled from officers, a pursuit followed, and Bailey lost control of the vehicle and crashed, according to the HPD police report. He was then taken into custody.

Vela's Jaguar was located in the parking lot of a motel by Austin police. Simien and an unidentified woman were observed by police as they got into the car and drove away. Austin officers then took the pair into custody and later determined that Simien and the woman were not involved in the murder, according to the HPD.

A number of items from Vela's home were found in the Infiniti, police said. After a confession from Bailey, the district attorney's office accepted charges against the suspects, Houston police said.

The woman was released without charges.

Houston Police spokesman Joe Laud said this week that theft is believed to be the motive behind the

killing. He said investigators believe Vela was strangled.

"From our preliminary investigation, that's what we came up with," said Laud, who added that a final determination on the cause of death will come from the county medical examiner's autopsy results.

Assistant district attorney Diepraam is handling the case against Bailey. He said Thursday that he is waiting to hear from police to determine if Vela's sexual orientation was a factor in the crime.

"They're still working on the case," Diepraam said. "It's certainly a factor to look into."

"[Bailey] could be facing the death penalty for this. Any hate-crime allegation in a death penalty case wouldn't do anything to the case," he added.

Joni Vollman is the assistant district attorney handling the case against Simien. She said Thursday she had just received the case file and had not had time to review it.

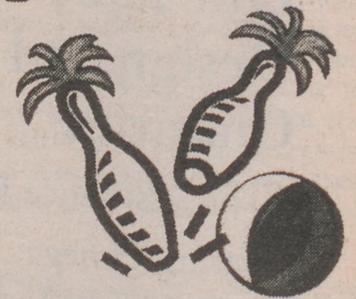
Houston Police spokeswoman Sylvia Travino said she is unsure whether or not the murder had anything to do with Vela's sexual orientation.

"I don't know that that was an issue in the incident," she said.

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### European Boy Scouts vote against anti-gay bias

PRAGUE, Czech Republic—Expressing a more egalitarian sensibility than their American counterparts, Europe's Boy Scouts have passed a resolution that they will not discriminate against gays, according to Scouting For All, a U.S. group challenging the Boy Scouts of America's anti-gay policies. More than 400 delegates representing Boy Scouts and Girl Guides from 41 European countries voted on the resolution during the mid-July European Conference of Scouts & Guides in Prague. The Belgian delegation proposed the resolution, citing the European Union's recognition of the "fundamental rights of the individual," and the role of "youth culture" in the organization. According to Scouting For All, a BSA observer at the conference was "not really happy" with the vote. Of the 41 countries represented at the conference, six voted against the resolution: Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Turkey.

### Couples initiate symbolic London Partnership Register

LONDON—If all went according to plan, Ian Burford and Alexander Cannell became the first same-sex couple to sign the new London Partnership Register, unveiled on Wednesday, according to the *London Times*. The two men are both in their 60s. Mayor Ken Livingstone, who campaigned for votes among gays, created the registry. The registry, open to both same-sex and opposite-sex couples, will provide only symbolic recognition, offering no legal standing for same-sex couples. Burford and Cannell issued a statement, saying, "We have shared everything in life and own our home, but the problem arises when one goes before the other. We would not have the same rights as a married couple and would be taxed heavily, seriously affecting the security of the surviving partner." A lesbian couple, Linda Wilkinson and Carol Budd, were also scheduled to register their relationship Wednesday.



A partnership registry in London, created by Mayor Ken Livingstone, was set to record its first couples on Wednesday.

### British Columbia rules in favor of same-sex parents

VANCOUVER, B.C.—The British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal has ruled that in cases of lesbian couples having children, a non-biological mother may join a biological mother in being listed as a parent on the child's birth certificate, the *Vancouver-Sun* reported. The late-August ruling was the result of a case brought by two lesbian couples with children who argued that not allowing both mothers to be listed on their children's birth certificates violated the British Columbia Human Rights Code. Carol Roberts, who led the tribunal, agreed, saying, "In my view, [the B.C.] Vital Statistics [Agency] has denied same-sex couples the right to register a birth in the same way that opposite sex couples do, based on the director's definition of a 'father,' as well as its practice of allowing males to register as father without any inquiry into a biological relationship with a child." The tribunal's ruling is binding, but it may be appealed in court.

### Gays sue for survivor's benefits in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—The Lesbian & Gay Equality Project, a national group, is suing the government for the right for survivors of same-sex partners to claim pensions on behalf of the deceased, as is standard among married heterosexual couples, Reuters reported. Project representatives announced Aug. 29 that the lawsuit is directed at Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and the state pension funds. The Project's Evert Knoesen told Reuters his group has been trying to win pension rights out of court for nearly two years. "Their lack of change smacks of typical old-guard disrespect for the law, for the constitution and for the people," Knoesen said. The South African constitution prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. "It seems clear that democratic transformation has not yet reached the GEPP (Government Employees Pension Fund)." The case is slated to be heard Sept. 25 in Pretoria's High Court.

### China, Thailand admit crisis; Myanmar denies HIV

BEIJING (AP)—China's government admitted the growing scale of its AIDS epidemic with rare candor Aug. 23, saying HIV cases nationwide had surged and confirming that hundreds of people in a single village were infected by a blood-buying operation. Yin Dakui, a vice minister of health, chided local officials and the public for not recognizing the dangers of AIDS. His ministry said the virus was spreading especially quickly among drug users and in China's flourishing sex trade. The following week, AIDS was declared the leading cause of death in Thailand, rather than heart attack or accidents as previously thought, officials said. Dr. Chanpen Chuprapawan of the Thai Health Ministry, who conducted the research, said 16 percent of all deaths in 1998 are believed to have been caused by AIDS and related complications. In neighboring Myanmar—also known as Burma—the ruling military regime on Monday, Sept. 3, denied a "gloomy picture" of high HIV/AIDS rates, blaming Western media for misrepresenting the country. However, Chris Beyrer, an American researcher who directs an AIDS program at the Johns Hopkins University, told a U.N. conference in June that the military government of Myanmar was falsifying statistics to hide evidence that the disease has reached epidemic levels.

—From staff and wire reports



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## EDITORIAL

# Even gay journalists can be activists

by CHRIS CRAIN

Given the tremendous influence the media have over American politics and culture, you would think that few gay lobby groups would be more important to our movement than the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association.

Boasting almost 1,000 members at mostly "mainstream" newspapers and television stations, these gay journalists report the stories that can shape the nation's social agenda and help make the all-important decisions about "what's news" and what's not.

There's just one problem. Most journalists, at least those who report the news, are professionally allergic to anything that smells like lobbying or activism. So most of them will shy away from newsroom confrontations over coverage of gay issues or even the inclusion of gay angles to general interest stories.

For some, the line between activism and journalism reinforces and rationalizes their decision to stay in the closet, leaving the decision-making process to others with less information and their own prejudices and ignorance.

Most journalists who've taken the step of joining NLGJA (or "negligee," as it is referred to colloquially) and who attend its annual conferences, like the one this weekend in Dallas, are out at work. But that doesn't necessarily translate into a stronger voice for us in newsrooms across the country because many still fear that editors and producers will label them as activists. That's a "CLM" (as in "Career Limiting Move") in the media biz.

The flipside of their reticence is that those in charge of coverage can read tacit approval from the silence, even as the gay journalists grumble among themselves and to friends about poor story choices and outmoded policies. Some newsroom execs will even tell outside activists and gay media watchdogs like those at GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) that the gays on staff agree with their decisions, when in reality the gay journalists are just laying low.

NLGJA could do more to prod its members into lobbying for better (as in fairer, not more favorable or one-sided) coverage of gay issues and, perhaps more importantly, integrating gay lives into general interest stories. (When was the last time you saw a report about layoffs or tax cuts that just happened to include a gay family among the real-life examples in the story?) Sometimes NLGJA meetings are focused much more on networking, job-hunting and lobbying for DP benefits; and while those areas are certainly important, they have little impact outside the organization's membership rolls. More could be done.

In D.C. this year, the *Washington Post* forgot to include anything in the newspaper about the annual Gay Pride festival. The same ball got dropped at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* two years earlier. How does that happen in a newsroom with out gay journalists? A closeted journalist on staff at the *Atlanta* paper even defended the lapse in coverage on a local TV talk show, arguing that tens of thousands of queers parading through the city was no longer newsworthy. This from the same publication that devotes a special section each year featuring photos and stories about a popular local 5-K road race?

Sometimes the battles where these gay journalists can have the most impact aren't even on coverage decisions where the reporter could fear being branded with the scarlet letter "A" for activism. Even as NLGJA members convene this weekend in Dallas, there are two hot controversies right now just starved for their attention.

One might strike some as silly, but it can have a tremendous long-term impact. Eight years ago, a comic strip called "For Better or Worse" beat even *Ellen* to the punch by introducing an openly gay character named Lawrence. More than 100 papers either pulled the strip or asked for alternative storylines to run on days when Lawrence's sexual orientation was referenced.

After something of a hiatus, Lawrence made a return appearance this week, as the best man in the wedding of one of the strip's main characters. The mother of the bride objects, telling her daughter, "But this is a church!" This time around, several dozen papers have already requested alternatives strips.

Gay journalists working at those several dozen papers do not risk their objectivity if they approach the editors responsible for the comic pages and ask that the paper not join in censoring gay characters or storylines from "For Better or Worse" or any other strip. They can also approach other editors and ask for support in pressuring the comics editor to do the fair and right thing.

Another, more serious inequity is the continued refusal at most mainstream newspapers, including the *New York Times*, to include same-sex commitment ceremony announcements alongside wedding and engagement announcements. At most papers, including the *Times*, wedding announcements are small news stories, not advertisements, but the coverage refusal is still indefensible.

At the *Times* and elsewhere, editors have hidden behind the lack of "legal recognition" for gay relationships. Usually, editors are particularly loathe to let government policy-makers decide what's news and what's not. Their willingness to do so here speaks more to their timidity than a trend toward abdicating editorial responsibility to state legislatures.

Even taken at face value, drawing a line at "legal recognition" should not exclude same-sex couples from the same pages as wedding announcements. Many major cities, including New York, have domestic partner registries, and

## INFO

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at least for newspapers in those cities, that should be enough "legal recognition" for the couples who sign up to let us ride at the front of the bus.

For papers in cities without DP registries, editors who insist on "legal recognition" are still obliged to at least publish announcements for gay couples who obtain "civil union" certificates from Vermont. These documents carry very real legal authority in Vermont and at least some legal recognition elsewhere, though just how much is untested, even in states with laws that purport to ignore "gay marriages" from other jurisdictions.

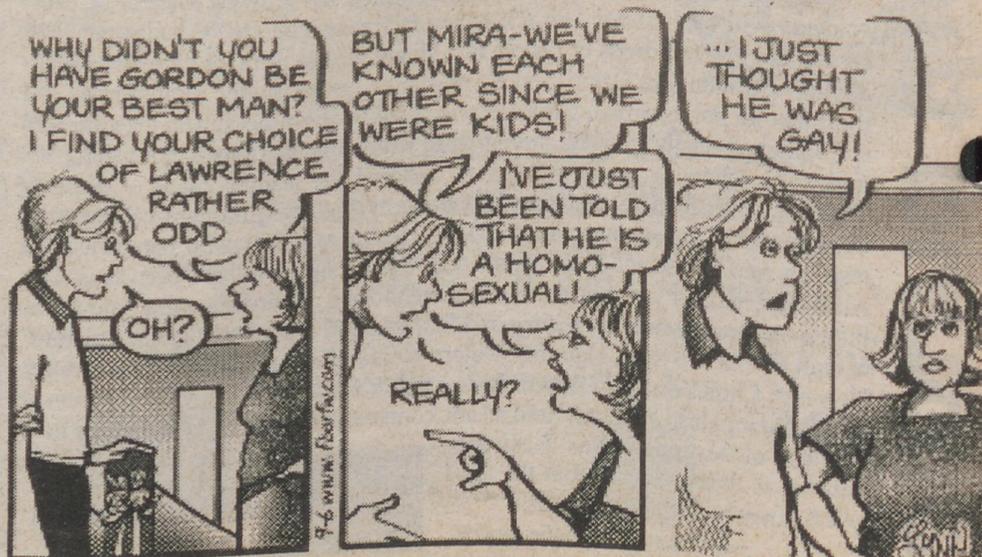
Editors, like those at the *New York Times*, who jump the gun and decide before the courts even can that a Vermont civil union carries no "legal recognition" locally are guilty of exactly the sin they claim to be avoiding: deciding a political question before the system does.

Including same-sex couples on weddings pages isn't just about giving these families the coverage they merit, though that it is reason enough and the fair thing to do. It's also important that straight readers be exposed to our lives in the same way we are exposed to theirs. That's how we learn about each other, and it's an important role for newspapers to play. It's not picking sides to report on our lives; it's doing their job.

Gay journalists can argue these points just as effectively as the watchdogs at GLAAD, but the gay folks inside the newsroom have a major advantage over the activists on the outside: access. Plus, it's a lot harder for an editor to explain his timidity to a colleague who is personally affected by the issue. And with good reason.

If NLGJA is to meet its potential as an organization, it ought to launch something of a campaign among its members to rid their newspapers of such outdated and discriminatory policies. Gay journalists may need an ol' queers job network to replace the ol' boy job network, but there's so much more good work that could be done.

Chris Crain is the executive editor of the *Houston Voice* and can be reached at [crcrain@window-media.com](mailto:crcrain@window-media.com).





### SLOUCHING THROUGH SODOM

# Here's to Rosie for finally coming out

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

Dear Rosie:

I picked up the September issue of your new magazine and I want to congratulate you for coming out. On the cover no less.

Your words were inspiring: "I am hoping maybe I will be a reference point for someone. ... I have been there, too. You can survive it. You will survive it."

It was touching to see you acknowledge that people suffer when others—especially public figures with lots of influence—don't speak out. I loved what you said: "I believe that one person's story does help another. You think, 'Okay, maybe I'm not so alone, not so abnormal.'"

That is so true. "One person's story" does give people struggling with the same issue a sense of hope, a sense that it's possible to come to terms with themselves.

Take Mike Wallace from "60 Minutes." When he came out, he helped people realize it was possible to be open and still have a great career.

Or William Styron, the author of "Sophie's Choice." When he came out, he helped people realize it was possible to share what seemed like a terrible secret and still be respected.

You, Mike Wallace and William Styron are courageous people for revealing your struggles with depression. But Mike Wallace and William Styron aren't gay, and that makes your coming out about depression a little puzzling to people who are.

You see, there are lots of celebrities who've revealed their struggle with depression, but there are only a small

Rosie herself said it best: 'I am convinced that of the many damaging things that happened to me, [silence] was the worst. Shame surrounds silence, infecting the already wounded part.'

number of celebrities who've revealed their struggle over sexual orientation.

With so few role models for lesbian teenagers and gay women, why not come out on the issue needing the most visibility?

It just doesn't seem fair, Rosie. My girlfriends can get your support if they're depressed, but not if they're lesbian.

You devoted almost the entire September issue of your magazine to depression. You said you did it because you could no longer be silent, that you had to speak out. You said, "I am convinced that of the many damaging things that happened to me, [silence] was the worst. Shame surrounds silence, infecting the already wounded part."

Here's the part I don't understand, Rosie, and I was hoping you could explain it to me. You said the only way to break free is to break the silence. If that's true for depression, why isn't it true for sexual orientation?

Silence and shame surround both depression and homosexuality. Both can destroy family relationships, both can result in suicide. Help me understand, Rosie, why you chose to break the silence about one intensely personal issue you've struggled with and not the other.

I have a lesbian friend whose parents won't call her at home because they're too afraid her girlfriend will answer.

I have another friend whose parents

pretty much disowned him after he came out. He stopped by their house recently, just to say hello, just to re-establish some degree of normalcy.

After he knocked, his mother looked through the window and saw that her son's boyfriend was waiting in the car. She never opened the door, Rosie. She never opened the door to her own son. She told him to come back when he was alone.

The irony is that my friend's mother watches your show all the time. She loves you. She won't let her own son in the house, but she'll let you into her living

room every day at 4 p.m. There is something so sad about that. So very sad.

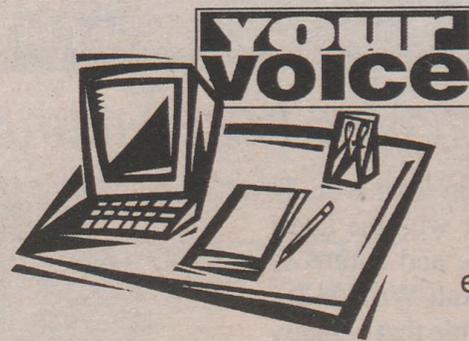
You could help change people's minds, Rosie. You could help my friends get their families back, just like you're helping people with depression get theirs back.

Remember how good it felt when someone you looked up to—like Mike Wallace or William Styron—acknowledged that they suffered from depression? Remember how relieved you felt that you weren't the only one going through it? Remember how it filled you with hope? Remember how grateful you were that they took risks to speak their truth?

That's all I'm asking in this letter, Rosie. That you remember.

Michael Alvear lives in Atlanta with his lesbian Labrador and girlie-boy vischla and can be reached at michaelalvear@mediaone.net.

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## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel





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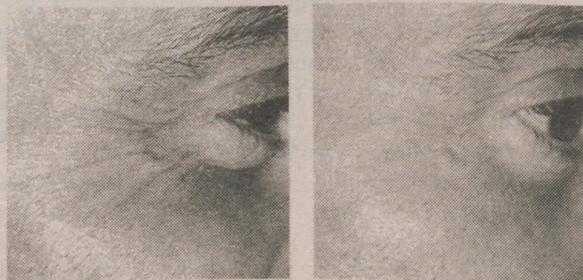
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**Because it's strong and effective.** Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.\* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

**Because it's easy to live with.** VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

**Because it saves future options.** When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

**VIRACEPT®**  
nelfinavir mesylate  
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit [www.viracept.com](http://www.viracept.com).

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## VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

### Information for Patients

about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human  
Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

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

**Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT.** Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

#### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

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

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

#### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

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

#### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

#### Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)  
Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)  
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others  
Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)  
Halcion® (triazolam)  
Versed® (midazolam)  
Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)  
Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

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

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

**Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:** Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

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

Phenobarbital  
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)  
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

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

#### Special considerations

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

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

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

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

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

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

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

**If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:**

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

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

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

#### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

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

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

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

Invirase® (saquinavir)

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

#### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

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

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

#### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

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

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

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

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

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

#### Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

#### Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Rev. 01/25/01

# Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

## Piping up a ballet

### Renowned composer adds his unique musical touch to Houston Ballet production

by D.L. GROOVER

HOUSTON—Pulitzer-prize, Oscar and Grammy award-winning composer John Corigliano is having problems with excavation.

He's in the middle of overseeing work at his Putnam County home, 50 miles north of New York City, where he shares his life with his partner, musician Mark Adamo, composer of Houston Grand Opera's world premiere "Little Women," recently seen on PBS' "Great Performances."

But the renowned music man still finds time to discuss his contribution to a performance about to debut locally.

Corigliano's 1981 concert piece, "Pied Piper Fantasy: Concerto for Flute and Orchestra," has been reworked by him as the score for David Parsons' ballet "The Piped Piper," having its Houston Ballet premiere this week on the opening program of the Ballet's 2001 season. It's a splashy special effects-laden multi-media production of the classic medieval German folk tale, immortalized by Robert Browning in his 1842 poem.

It's the story of a mysterious man who rids the town of Hamelin of its rat infestation by playing his flute and leading the vermin to drown in the river. When the stuffy burghers stiff him of his fee, the Piper plays another tune that mesmerizes all the village children, leading them out of town and into a mountain, never to return. The moral—keep your promises—is aptly visualized.

Parsons' demanding choreography for the dancing Piper is surpassed by Corigliano's technically treacherous music.

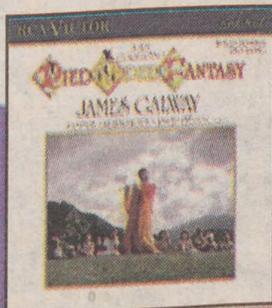
"It's a killer part, the solo," Corigliano says bluntly, "and you have to play the tin whistle, too. During the Children's March, the Piper switches to the whistle and plays it as a child's instrument. It sounds much more folk-like and much less symphonic."

> Continued on Page 16



Award-winning composer John Corigliano's score debuts with the Houston Ballet's performance of 'The Pied Piper.'

Houston Ballet's 'Pied Piper' is part of its mixed fall program now on stage.



Houston Ballet offers up performances of 'The Pied Piper' beginning this week.

# Corigliano's 'Pied Piper' adds to original folk tale



Composer John Corigliano calls his work for Houston Ballet's 'Pied Piper' 'one of the hardest pieces for orchestra I've written.'

> Continued from Page 15

"It works beautifully, and I thought of it because of Galway [James Galway, the internationally acclaimed flutist, for whom Corigliano wrote his concerto.] You can do it on a piccolo, but it's not as much fun. You want to get a different sound for the last section, that's the main thing."

As one of the most respected composers of his generation, Corigliano's music is highly dramatic and immensely listenable. Eclectic in style, perhaps his greatest influence was Leonard Bernstein, under whom he worked when Bernstein led his Young People's Concerts.

In whatever musical form he works, though, Corigliano's music is unlike anyone else's: idiosyncratic, lean, crafted with intelligence. His "Symphony No. 1," written in 1990 as a response to the AIDS crisis, has been called "angry, lyrical, and mournful," and is a repertory staple of orchestras around the world.

"This is one of the hardest pieces for orchestra I've written," he says of "Pied Piper." "There are a lot of new techniques and sounds that the orchestra has never done before, ways of being cued than strict beat time. It's a very adventurous score and at the same time, very tuneful."

"There's a lot of cue notation and aleatoric playing [sounds to be chosen by the performer or left to chance] that an orchestra does not feel comfortable with

and they have to play their instruments in ways that they have to learn," he adds. "Like the trombone players have to produce a sound by holding their hand over a Harmon mute and opening it. It doesn't just change the color, but there are pitches and overtone series if you do it right."

He explains the difference between his concerto and the finished ballet score.

"In the piece itself I had a scenario to make it work as a concerto. If you just did a "Pied Piper" according to the Browning poem, you basically have the burghers, the rats, then this man comes in, plays a tune, gets rid of the rats, comes back, asks for money, doesn't get it, plays another tune, takes the kids away. The soloist plays two tunes; it isn't really a concerto. A concerto has to have lyrical passages, virtuoso passages, orchestral tuttis, a cadenza. All those things have to be built into the story, so I changed the premise a little bit."

Even though his flute concerto had its own story, it needed to be adapted into a dramatic dance story.

"Other things had to happen. It evolved, as all things do. We did add some to it, about nine minutes to the original length of the concert piece."

The "we" he refers to is his partner Adamo, who worked on the ballet scenario with choreographer Parsons. They met six years ago and it's the best thing to have happened to Corigliano, he says.

Both were in Washington at the same time, Corigliano supervising a CD recording of his symphony, and Adamo premiering his "Late Victorians," his chamber piece on AIDS.

They've been together six years this December.

"It's been the best ever. He's a terrific guy. We both really understand each other. Being musicians helps," Corigliano says. "I constantly show him stuff, and he shows me stuff. It's a very nice relationship. He understands why I'm troubled with this part I'm working on or whatever, and [is] able to talk to me about it. It's a combination of my best friend, collaborative colleague, and lover. It just doesn't get any better than that."

## Houston Ballet Fall Mixed Rep Program

David Parsons' "Pied Piper," Stanton Welch's "Indigo," and Ben Stevenson's "Dusk" and "Esmeralda Pas de Deux"

Sept. 6-16

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# BAYOU CALENDAR

SEPT 7  
THROUGH  
SEPT 13

## THE FABRIC OF A MAN

The preternaturally handsome Shemar Moore, Emmy Award-winner for his daytime hunk on "The Young and the Restless," is showcased in David E. Talbert and Brent Jones' semi-gospel musical about the independence and empowerment of women when faced with the juggling of career vs. love. Whether the show is as pretty as Moore doesn't mean much when the screaming begins. Cheryl "Pepsi" Riley, a fashion designer trying to have it all, has the enviable task of choosing between Shemar and Clifton Powell, co-star of "Rush Hour," "Dead Presidents," and "Why Do Fools Fall in Love." After Shemar's shower scene, whom would you choose?

Sept. 7-9

Aerial Theatre  
520 Texas  
713-629-3700

## THIRD ANNUAL PRO-AM ART JAM

Who says NY's U.S. Open has all the fun? Nor does its product placement and shameless commercialism benefit any art gallery that we're aware of. Ours does. So there, Flushing. The cutting-edge, sometimes

grunge, all times intriguing art space, DiverseWorks, in cahoots with the tony Downtown Club, is giving the tennis scene a run around the baseline with its round-robin tournament of Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles. This being the Downtown Club, everything stops for lunch at 11:30 and play resumes at noon. Eat fast. All proceeds go to DiverseWorks, and that's a good enough racket for anyone.

Sept. 8, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Downtown Club at the Met  
One Allen Center  
713-223-8346

## THE LEGEND OF ORPHEUS

OrchestraX goes for Baroque when the Mercury Baroque Ensemble, all members of OrchestraX, presents a free concert by the likes of celebrated composers Henry Purcell, Jean-Phillipe Rameau and Isabella Leonarda, all played on period instruments. I can hear you say, "Isabella who?" Signora Leonarda was the Madre of the Collegio Sant'Orsola Novara, her hometown, circa 1680. It seems as if her entire family was ensconced in the church hierarchy. What differentiates the Ursalines was that they were not monas-

tic communities. They didn't live cloistered, sheltered lives, nor did they take the veil, nor were they necessarily virgins. We don't know all that much about Isabella, except that she was a prolific composer of vocal music. Whether it was liturgical or not no one can tell. We do know that she wasn't alone in her musical abilities. During the Baroque in northern Italy, there were more women musicians than at any other time—or place—in history, then or now. Impressive.

Sept. 8; 2 p.m.

Pascal/Robinson Gallery  
2307 W. Alabama  
713-225-6729

## BEYOND NUMISMATICS AND PHILATELICS

Leave it to the Orange Show to come up with a name that none of their aficionados could pronounce, let alone spell, but this local tour always highlights Houston's weirder collections, be they folk, ephemera, or junk. This year's Alice in Wonderland-like travels will take you to the incredible House of Plastics, an historic Heights house with fantastic garden art, and an "architecturally puzzling industrial strength dwelling." It's some-

thing you've got to experience to believe. Definitely beyond coins and stamps.

Sept. 9

713-926-6368

## SALMAN RUSHDIE

There's the distinct possibility that if the Evil One himself, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, had not sentenced this author to death in absentia in 1989 for his novel "Satanic Verses," we might not have heard much more about him. The near-sighted Ayatollah was not a very good literary critic; he issued his Fatwa against Rushdie's best book. His other works—sententious, uneven, and over-written to impress—are highly over-praised, and their magic realism palls quickly. On a whirlwind press junket, Rushdie makes a rare appearance in Houston through the auspices of Inprint, Inc. and the University of Houston Creative Writing Program to read from his latest tome, "Fury." If you spot anyone in the audience wearing a keffiyeh or carrying the Quran, run away as fast as possible.

Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m.

Alley Theatre  
615 Texas Avenue  
713-521-2026

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# Out in Print

BOOK REVIEW

## Big fun in a small TX town

Sibley offers a look at modern gay life outside of metropolitan Texas

by ELLA TYLER

If you've forgotten what it's like to read just for fun, pick up "Any Kind of Luck" by William Jack Sibley.

It's the story of Manhattan actor/director/hand model Clu Latimore's return to his hometown of Grit, Texas, accompanied by his lover Chris. It turns out to be a funny and surprisingly sweet story about modern gay life in a Texas small town.

It was not Clu's idea of a good time to come home, but his mother is dying and neither of his siblings are up to taking care of her. His sister lives in New Mexico but can't leave because she's pregnant and her husband is on probation; his brother lives in Grit, but doesn't do anything requiring emotions.

Besides, there are the dogs. Clu's mother breeds prize-winning Chihuahuas and they need even more tending than she does. So Clu comes home, because he has to, and Chris comes because he loves Clu; and then both of them try to adjust to life in small town Texas.

And that life is much more entertaining than either of them expect. Chris makes a friend out of Clu's brother and they engage themselves in excavating Grit's old grist mill. He also becomes friendly with the good looking young man who is the grandson of Miss Oveta, Grit's richest woman. Too friendly, in fact.

Clu, between his time at the hospital taking care of his mother and at the house, taking care of dogs, reacquaints himself

with his high school friends. Mainly women. To his surprise, they're glad to see him. Here and there he delivers the obligatory gay rights lecture, but for the most part they accept him as is.

Then Miss Oveta decides that she wants the town to have a theater group, and she wants Clu to direct. She's not the type of woman one says no to, especially since she will pay Clu. And only a decent paycheck could induce him to carry on. She wants to do the Greek tragedy "Agamemnon," updated. So it gets moved to a cow barn and restyled as a country-western musical.

"How?" you ask. Like this. Call it "Agamemnon, Ya'll." The main character is the county judge, 'Ag' Memon, a good ol' boy. He and his half-brother go off to the deer lease to figure out what to do about Hele who is Ag's wife's sister and also his brother's wife. She has run off with some guy from Paris. Anyhow, while drunk, Ag shoots his daughter, who has come looking for them. Add some country swing tunes and a few Cotton-eyed Joe numbers, and you get it.

There are times when the relationships between the characters resemble a soap opera, and sometimes the plot stops seconds before it goes over the top, but that just adds to the fun.

This is a very affectionate look at life in a small Texas town, and Sibley captures it so well, you might feel as though you've been home again.

INFO

### "Any Kind of Luck"

by William Jack Sibley

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William Jack Sibley's 'Any Kind of Luck' makes for an enjoyable read.

# Fact mixes with fiction for 'Any Kind of Luck'

Texas native draws from real-life observances in his home state for book on gays in a small town

by ELLA TYLER

It's as much fun to talk to Bill (William Jack) Sibley as it is to read his new book, "Any Kind of Luck."

He is now beginning a book tour that begins in San Antonio, brings him to Houston's Crossroads Market Bookstore & Cafe on Thursday, Sept 13, and takes him to Dallas, Fort Worth, Marfa and New York City.

Seven generations of Sibley's family have lived in the same Texas county, but he moved to from Texas to Syracuse, New York, after his parents divorced when he was in grade school.

"It was January," he recalls, "and the pipes for the steam heat clanked and rattled, and I was convinced someone had come in and killed my entire family, and that I had escaped through some fluke. I spent the night figuring out what to say to the police and planning the funeral."

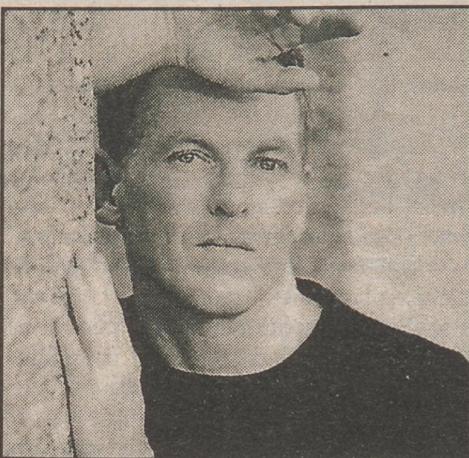
Sibley came back to attend University of Texas, and then worked for Braniff airlines and wrote a play. When Braniff was sold, he decided to go to New York City to be a playwright. He was invited to join the prestigious New Dramatist's Guild, which led to

one of his more interesting writing jobs.

"Proctor and Gamble called and asked the Guild to send over some writers for the 'Guiding Light,'" Sibley said. "I protested, but they said they needed good writers for dialogue."

So Sibley became one of 15 writers who wrote for Thursday. "They would give us a plot and tell us to put words in the characters' mouths," he explains. "It was wacky. Your ego goes out the window."

Although "Guiding Light" paid well, when it was canceled, Sibley decided to come back to Texas. "I love New York, but you can't make a living in New York. I was living in a closet in Greenwich Village, and so pleased that I had a good address, but except for the fact that I got to see plays for



Author William Jack Sibley appears at Crossroads in Houston on Sept. 13.

free, I might as well have been living in Dubuque," he says.

He went to live on his great-grandfather's land in a tiny town southwest of San Antonio, where he ranches, writes, and is active in historic preservation. He divides his time between Texas and Los Angeles.

Asked if Texas really is different from every place else or if Texans just think they're unique, Sibley says, "I sometimes think my true role in life it to explain Texans to Yankees and Yankees to Texans.

"Of course Texans are different. They have a whole different history from the rest of the country, and I think always remember in the back of their heads that they could secede.

"In Texas, there's no sin in showing off," he adds. "New Englanders are self reliant and self effacing, but in Texas there is no virtue in false piety. We really do believe in bigger and better."

Sibley's book is inspired by both Texas and New York. He pointed out that the main character is a hand model.

"There are hundreds of people in New York and LA who make a living modeling body parts. An ear, a hand; you'll see a very masculine hand showing off a Rolex. It does keep you from doing masculine, guy things, though. You might hurt your hand," he says with a laugh.

The Chihuahuas as portrayed in the book are straight out a "every Southwest Texas town," he says.

"If you don't write anything else, say that I put the Chihuahuas in before they did the

Taco Bell Thing," he directs. "All these little towns have someone who has all these dogs that she dresses up in costumes for Christmas, and they have their pictures in the paper. I couldn't make up stuff like that."

The author says gays living in small towns is nothing new. "They've been here before the Bible and the attitude is, 'Well he may be a homosexual, but he's our homosexual,'" Sibley observes.

The one thing in the book that Sibley has not seen done in some small Texas town is "Agamemnon, Ya'll."

"I made it up because it's so loopy, so out there. But wait, this will be a trend," he predicts. "Have you ever seen 'Agamemnon?' I'd rather have my fingernails pulled out than watch it. Theater students do it as a theoretic exercise."

Sibley is working on a second book, but will wait to see how "Any Kind of Luck" does before he finishes the new work.

"My first love is screen writing, and it is very hard and grueling for me to write a book.

"Screenplays are 90 to 120 pages long, and you just write 'Sunrise,'" he points out. "In a book, you have to describe it."

INFO

## William Jack Sibley

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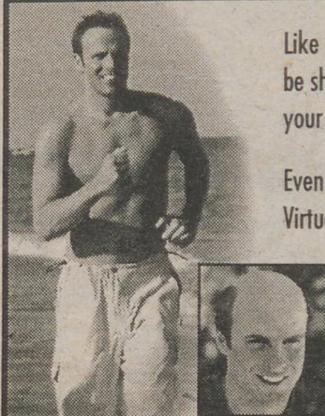


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# Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Dinner at a disco, anyone?

Loud music overwhelms  
dining experience at  
Ruggles Bistro Latino

by TRACYE DISKIN

The dim lighting, dried flowers in copper vases, and golden-washed walls give Ruggles Bistro Latino's spacious dining area a cavernous, sultry vibe. Other touches are upbeat and funky, like the revolving projection of artesanía folk art figures above the bathroom door. While your eyes are drinking in the atmosphere, however, your auditory sense may be in for something far more potent.

Ruggles proudly declares itself a Latin music club and restaurant, and so it may be irrelevant to comment on the noise level. But when, around 9:30 p.m., the already loud and rhythmic foreground music reaches deafening decibels, replete with spotted disco lights spinning over diners' faces, arms and appetizers, even the most passionate music lovers may become unnerved.

If you want to hang around the bar, or dance to a fierce mixture of Latin pop and salsa, Ruggles may be your scene. For those, however, who wish to dine and talk at the same time, heed this caveat, and stay outside a five-mile radius of Main and Capitol streets.

Bistro Latino bills itself as the "hottest place in Houston for everything Latin," but that everything doesn't seem to include, well... the food. Menu items certainly reflect Ruggles' innovative mix of Houston fusion, California, and Continental cuisine. Like the offerings at the original Ruggles in Montrose, while many dishes belt out sheer quality, others trill with mere hype.

Either way, very few dishes remotely contain a trace of Latin influencia, ni sabor. The complementary starters, for instance, would seem like the perfect place to introduce a Latin theme with flatbreads, tortillas, or plantain chips. Instead, each table receives a helping of small, doughy biscuits—predictably golden on top, and chewy inside, with nary a piece of corn, jalapeno, or Latin cuisine baked inside. The accompanying sauce is pineapple-sweet and oniony, but hardly comes close to a fresh, spicy salsa.

The Latino Corn Chowder (\$5.95) is rich and velvety, if a bit heavy on the cheese. The drizzled sour cream not only won points aesthetically, but tempered the sharp aftertaste. The Crispy Coconut Shrimp (\$9.95) features plump, tasty shrimp smothered in a shredded coconut batter. The coconut manages to retain its flavor while transforming its texture into something deliciously crispy.

The curry sauce, however, was deceptively yellow and powdery, and the accompanying mashed potatoes functioned as mere paste to hold together the three six-inch-long plantain chips that stuck out like flat yellow wings on a child's invented spaceship.

Other worthwhile appetizers include Ruggles Famous Crab Cake with Roasted Tomato and Shrimp Butter Sauce (\$8.95)



711 Main

Food:

Service:

Value:

Scene:

Opt for bread, water at home

OK, if you really must

Fine for most

Worth the drive, so live a little

As good as it gets

and Crispy Sautéed Oyster Nachos with Habanero Mayonnaise (\$7.95).

Almost all entrée platters, Latino or not, bear Ruggles' signature heapings of skillfully prepared grilled vegetables, squash purée and corn relish. The sheer abundance of fresh sides on each plate is enough to keep diners happily satiated.

In the "Bistro Latino" department, the Tuna boasts a moist and gorgeously speckled mango salsa, but the meat itself was tough and fatty. The pepper-crust, however, gave each bite a promising start. The chicken was perfectly grilled—crispy and juicy. The sauce was inoffensive and buttery, but loyally fit the unfortunate pattern with barely a trace of the promised tequila. The slices of garlic added much-needed kick.

Like the aesthetic architecture of many dishes, the desserts ooze with artful decadence. The Chocolate Crème Brulee, for instance, delicately balances giant dark and white chocolate grids on its glassy surface. Dig beneath, and each spoonful of caramelized chocolate delights.

Service is friendly, but a bit unreliable because of the noise. For example, when a friend ordered Chardonnay and was served Cabernet, our server offered an expected, "I thought you said..." Staff are friendly and welcoming, with a trace of neo-downtown pretension.

Unless you're up for miming your dinner orders and conversation, Ruggles Bistro Latino may not do much to woo you into its pulsing and beckoning doors. Thankfully, Houston diners have other options for bolder, Latino-inspired cuisine. And, fortunately, we have alternate venues for Ruggles dining as well.

# Homefront

## Rain, rain go away

Extra water mostly makes for extra work to maintain plant life

by ELLA TYLER

It seems a bit churlish to complain about this week's rain, since last week we wanted rain; but we wanted two or three inches, not 10. Really. According to my rain gauge, my rose garden has gotten 10 inches of rain in the past week.

Rain like this gives us a whole new set of outdoor chores. The most important thing to do now is to find everything that holds any water and empty it. Even the smallest amount of water is a breeding place for mosquitoes. I've never seen any mosquito larva in my birdbaths (I have five) but I don't know if it's because the birds eat them or because the birdbaths are emptied and cleaned every few days.

*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelis* is a bacteria that eats mosquito larvae. It is sold as a big tablet called a mosquito dunk that you put anywhere you have standing water that you can't or don't want to empty.

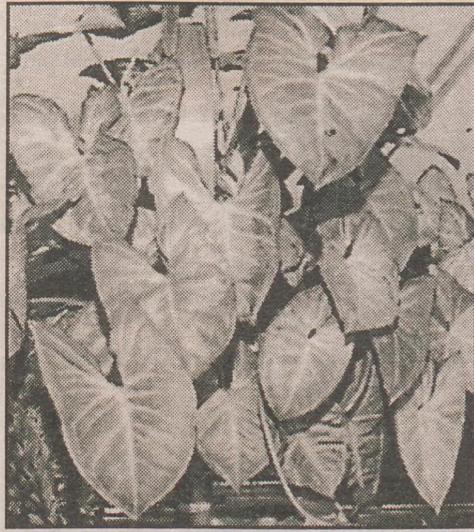
Also, look at your potted plants and be sure they are draining. If they're waterlogged, try to get rid of some of the water. Push the dirt down and tip the pot on its side. A plant that stands in water too long will drown. Plants need oxygen at their roots.

The toad stools and various fungus that have sprouted in the yard aren't harmful; in fact they're a sign of a good, healthy soil. Some of these are really ugly, though, so dig them out or bury them if you want. Some are poisonous, so be sure that young children or pets don't eat them.

While we're on the subject of pets, snail bait, which you might want to apply around your tender ground-hugging plants right now, is very toxic to cats and dogs. There are other ways to deal with slugs and snails, but they are all icky, so I use baits. I don't have pets, but if you do, Carl Pool has come out with a product called Sluggo that is supposed to be nontoxic to pets. I think it's an iron compound.

If you have pets or small children, especially ones that will chew or put anything their mouth, look at every product you use in your house and garden to find out how toxic it is. A lot of these are dangerous. So are some plants.

The hierarchy of toxicity on warning labels is caution, warning and danger. Danger is the most toxic. I went through the house several years ago to childproof when my 3-year-old nephew was coming to spend the week, and was horrified. I got rid of everything with a warning or danger label.



Too much rain has the same effect for gardeners as too little rain: It means extra care for plant life.

Then I discovered that Consan 20 (yes, the same Consan Triple Action 20 they used to talk about on Garden Line) was the best product to get rid of the algae that had grown on my concrete patio and was making it slippery. I had to go buy more. I hope I didn't get rid of it again; all this rain has made the patio very slippery.

If the rain has washed all the mulch away, replace it. Mulch helps cool the soil in the summer, but it helps it stay warmer in the winter too. Weed first. The soil is looser and weeds are easier to pull. The mulch will keep weeds from sprouting and help retain moisture in the soil. Organic products will add organic material to the soil as they decompose.

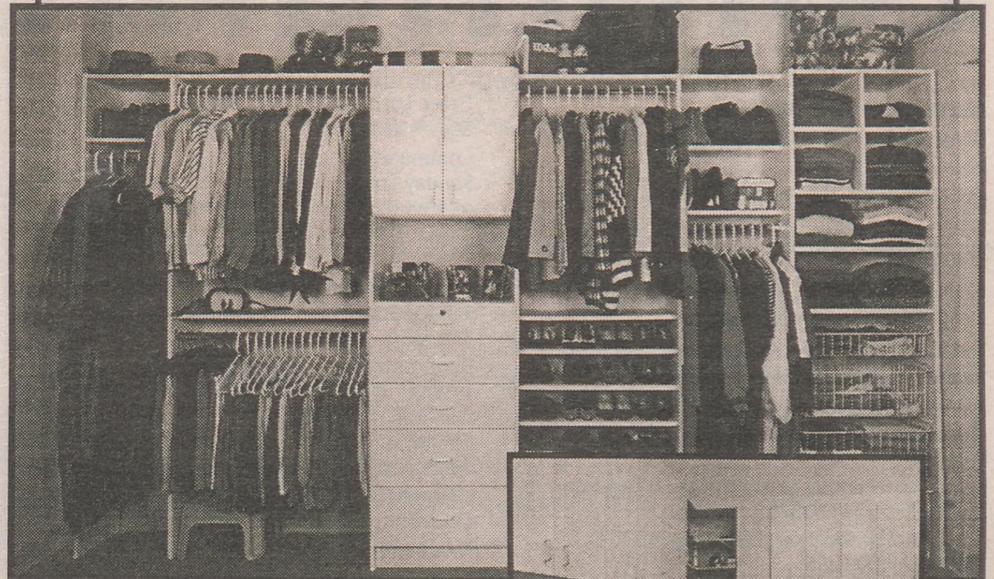
Your lawn will get fed next month, but any other plants that are looking a bit pale might need a shot of nitrogen. Nitrogen is very mobile in the soil and leaches out quickly in this kind of rain. Nitrogen is the first number on a fertilizer label. Don't use anything too strong; in fact, now is an ideal time to try an organic product.

This is one of the few times it is safe to fertilize without watering both before and after you fertilize. Unless the soil is very wet, never fertilize or spray a plant without watering it thoroughly several hours before. If fertilizer is added to dry soil, water is drawn from the plant to equalize the concentration of the chemical in the soil around the root zone, thereby dehydrating the plant so severely it is called fertilizer burn.

Remember that some areas, like those under eaves and overhangs, might not have gotten any water. Don't forget about them. Small pots dry out quickly, so don't forget them either. They can be dry while the ground is still soggy.

Last, go get a rain gauge. You can then brag, or complain, about how much rain you got.

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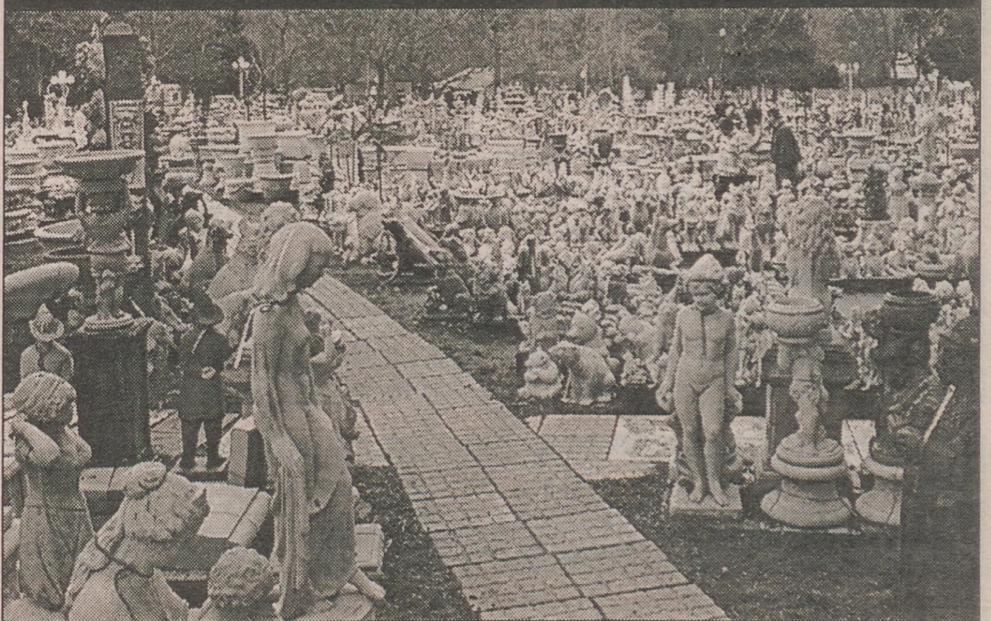
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# community calendar

## saturday, sept. 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gulf Coast Archive and Museum. Open Noon to 6 p.m. 713-227-5973.

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

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

AssistHers. Monthly meeting. 713-521-4628.

"Relationship Workshop for Single Gay Men." Tony Carroll. 713-527-0000.

Strike Against AIDS. Hawaiian Luau Bowl. Fundraiser. 713-522-2674.

## sunday, sept. 9

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

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

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

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

Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269. Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

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

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

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

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

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

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

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

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.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.

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop in Hours 2-5 p.m. • Polyamory Houston Discussion Group. 2 p.m. • People of All Colors Together. 3 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. Houston Outdoor Group. Palo Duro State Park.

713-KAMPOUT.

PFLAG-Houston. Monthly meeting. Guest Speaker Dr. Cheryl Weill. 713-46P-FLAG

## monday, sept. 10

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Mayoral Liaison Community Round table. 5-6:30 p.m. • Houston Employee Affinity Team. 6:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## tuesday, sept. 11

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

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

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

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

Bi-Net Houston. Men's Social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston Training Class 6 to 10 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce. Monthly meeting. Annise Parker as guest speaker. 6 p.m. 713-523-7576.

Classic Chassis Car Club. Board meeting. All welcome. 713-797-8615.

PFLAG-Houston. Monthly meeting. 713-867-9020.

Pride Committee of Houston. Volunteer Interest Session. Lobo @ 3939 B Montrose. 7 p.m. 713-529-6979.

"A Christmas Songfest" kick-off party. 5:30 p.m. Meteor @ Genessee & Fairview.

"A Christmas Songfest" kick-off party. 5:30 p.m. Meteor @ Genessee & Fairview.

## wednesday, sept. 12

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

BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380

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

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.

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

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

Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 -9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Blessed Sacrament Church. Workshop Series for Christian Faith and Ecumenical Old Catholicism. 713-476-9776.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing and 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.

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## thursday, sept. 12

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.

Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

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

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

Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

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

HIV Art Therapy Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

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

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

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

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Generation Sex. 7 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston Training Class 6 to 10 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Gulf Coast Archive and Museum. Open 6 to 9 p.m. 713-227-5973.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston Training Class 6 to 10 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

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Ecumenical • Inclusive • Non-Judgmental



### Bible Study     11:30 AM

### Sunday Mass    12:30 PM

For information, directions or to schedule a Catholic Holy Union, please call us at the number below.

**4606 Mangum (Between W. 43rd & Pinemont)**  
**713-476-9776 • www.blessed-sacrament.net**

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

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## Maranatha Fellowship MCC

1311 Holman  
(across from HCC-Downtown Campus)  
meets in the home of Central Congregational Church

### "Homosexuality and the Bible" Series

Everyone is welcome to join us as we study "Homosexuality and the Bible!"  
These free study/discussion groups will be held on Mondays, from 7:00pm - 9:00pm on September 10, and October 1.  
The discussion groups will meet in the church parlor at 1311 Holman.  
For additional information, please contact the church office at 713.528.6756

Please Join Us For Evening Services And Experience  
The Love That Maranatha Fellowship MCC Has To Offer!

September 9 "What Good News Have You Shared Lately?" Rev. Janet Parker

---

Church Service begins at 6:30pm and nursery is available for small children. Mid-week "Home Group" services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

For more info...  
713-528-6756 or email [maranatha@ev1.net](mailto:maranatha@ev1.net)



**Maranatha Fellowship**  
Metropolitan Community Church  
"Building Community Through Compassion"

Enjoy worship at your home church in the morning and visit us in the evening for an alternate worship experience!

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Mexican Restaurant

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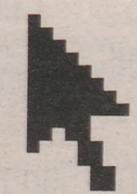
### Frozen Margaritas

Noon 'til 1:30am Sun-Wed  
Noon 'til 7pm Thurs-Sat

<b>Breakfast</b> Huevos Rancheros \$1.99 3am-10am	<b>Lunch Specials &amp; Midnight Specials</b> \$3.95 daily	<b>Dinner Special</b> Fajitas & Enchiladas for two \$11.95
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**Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISFIT'S BALL 3 LOCKDOWN

Benefiting Houston Buyers Club & PWA Coalition • Sunday, Sept 23 • 5 to 10pm • Club Rehab @709 Franklin • 713-880-2628 • HoustonMisfits@aol.com

### HOU. HUMANE SOCIETY 1ST ANNUAL DOG BOWL

FUN FUNDRAISER!! Saturday Sept 8 at Pearland Bowling Center • Sunday, Sept. 9, Dynamic Bowling • 713-433-6421 x5535

### EROTIC MASSAGE WORKSHOP

CELEBRATING THE BODY EROTIC • 2 days of erotic exploration and sexual initiations • For Gay & bisexual men • Experiment with sacred sex rituals based on Tantric and Taoist traditions • Relearn human sexuality as sacred, transcend & healthy • October 27 & 28 • Call 713-426-5196 or visit www.body-electric.org.

### HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY

NO ANIMAL TURNED AWAY!! The HHS relies solely on donations. They receive NO local, state, or federal government funding. Call 713-434-5555 to find out the many ways YOU can help.

### CITIZENS FOR ANIMAL PROTECTION

CAP offers a Pet Yearbook. Your \$25 donation will place your critter's name & photo in the "Class of 2001" pet yearbook • Tickets for the Celebrity PAWS Gala 2001 are available • For more information, call Lyn Robertson • 713-729-9316.

### L.U.E.Y ART CONTEST

Let Us Entertain You is looking for artwork submissions for the Pin & Poster design for LUEY 2002 • For information call 713-880-2628.

### MONTROSE SOCCER CLUB

NEW • Needs players and coach • Local and out-of-town tournaments • montrose5G@soccer.com • 832-489-9004.

## EMPLOYMENT

### MILAM HOUSE PWA COALITION

Housing Assistance needed for Knowledge of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse (recovery) preferred • Fax resume to 713-522-2674

### SOUTH BEACH 800 PACIFIC AVENUE

Taking applications for all positions • High volume • Gay night club • Group health insurance offered • Interviews Monday • 1pm-5 pm

Interior Green Plant Maintenance tech. Xmas decorations • Fabrication & installation personnel Full Time • Greenspace • 713-868-5159.

### MONTROSE

House help wanted • Yard • House • Pool • maintenance work • 713-529-5993

### CLUB HOUSTON

Accepting applications for certified personal trainers. Apply in person @ 2205 Fannin or www.the-clubs.com.

### FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Offering free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals. Including job preparedness, training, resume development, and job searching assistance. For more info call 713-981-1543.

### FOR SALE/RENT

### GARAGE APARTMENT 1604 HUSSION

650 Sq. Ft. • Cool AC • Nice yard • \$325 mo. + \$225 deposit • Houston's East end • Call after 5 pm • 713-926-1777.

### WESTBURY GARDENS

2/1.5 townhouse • Recently upgraded • Berber • tile • W/D • 1206 sq. ft • Lots more • \$52,000.

2/1 upstairs flat • Recently upgraded NEW AC compressor • Lots more • \$33,000

Small 450 sq. ft • 1/1 • \$450/mo.

2/1.5 townhouse • recently upgraded • \$750/mo.

Westbury Gardens Townhomes • Lyn Robertson • 713-729-9316

## CHERRYHURST

Spacious remodeled 2/2/2 • New paint • Berber • Tile • Blinds • Hardwoods • All appliances • Fenced yard • \$1650 + equal deposit • Water included • 281-493-1455

## 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.

## AUSTIN

Live above Hippie Hollow • 3B/2b • Great views • \$1500/mo • Gary @713-522-9077.

## OFFICE FOR RENT

Second floor office available at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center • 803 Hawthorne • 14'X12'6" • Nonprofit GLBT organizations preferred as tenant partners, but all inquires welcomed. Call Tim Brookover @ 713-524-3818.

## PRIDEREALTY.COM SALES/RELOCATION MASSAGE THERAPY



**MASSAGE  
Absolute Let-Go**  
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• Montrose Location  
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Experienced man4man massage • Sports • Swedish • Deep Tissue • Erotic • Mature, strong & tanned In-calls only Mature clients welcomed • \$65 to \$125 • 713-914-0833.

Relax your mind, body and soul with a sensual Swedish massage • RMT# 016479 • Tim • 713-526-3811.

## FOR ACTIVE MEN

Your time for personal attention • Full Body Swedish Massage • Jose RMT#17316 • 713-397-8286.

## MASSAGE

Treat sore, stiff muscles, tension and stress • Renewed flexibility and wellness • RMT #4397 • Tom • 713-520-6018.

## LET YOURSELF GO

Relax to an hour of Swedish massage • RMT# 013700 • Dewayne • 713-521-0654.

## TOCAR

therapeutic touch  
massage for men  
www.inkworkx.com/massage.htm  
**713.802.0439**  
Heights studio • #28496, 28430

## 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.

## MASSAGE

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

## MASSAGE THERAPY AT IT'S FINEST

Swedish • Deep tissue • Sports • Reflexology • Don't settle for less • In/Out • Hotels • 7 day • Nationally certified # 016074 • Jeff • 713-825-4062.

## JOB STRESS? TOUGH WORKOUTS?

Call now for a relaxing therapeutic Swedish massage • Body builder & licensed therapist • RMT#005930 • Randal • 713-529-3348

## MOVING SERVICE

## PLANNING TO MOVE?

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## AFGHAN HOUND PUPPIES

Cyan and Devashunii Kennels • AKC Black • Black & tan • Cream • Blue • Blue & Cream • White • Hand raised • Championship lines • Starting at \$1500 • www.devashunii.com • 202-546-0854

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### BOOK FOR YOUR VACATION

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\$130 • Brand New Mattress Sets • 832-435-2677 • Can Deliver

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### MATTRESS QUEEN SET

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## WWW.EROTIC ATTIRE.COM

Huge variety of sexy wear at Basic Brothers • 1232 Westheimer • 713-522-1626.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### LEGAL PROBLEM?

Call attorney Randy Roll at 713-869-7933 or email him at rroll@houston.rr.com

## M2M BODY GROOMING

Body Waxing • Clippings • Coloring • Personal grooming by Dale. Waxing specialist & licensed Cosmetologist. Private location in Montrose. Call 713-529-5952 for appointment.

## PSYCHIC EDUCATION

### LEARN YOUR CHAKRAS CLEAN YOUR KARMA

8 Taped, guided meditations & much much more!! • Mail \$35 Money Order to:

Bill O'Rourke

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rainbowprod.com/bilbo.

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Share 2/2 remodeled home in the Heights area with 30s WM • Non-smoker • Hardwoods • \$425 + utilities • 832-309-0822

Seeking Gm to share 3/2 house in Timbergrove Manor • Jest west of heights • Neighborhood is quiet and secure • Amenities include: Private bath • DW • Microwave • Cable TV • W/D • Garage Parking • large patio • Seeking Nonsmoker • \$425/mo + deposit • 1/2 utilities • Pets negotiable • 713-868-2750

GWM • 51 yo • seeks GWM to share Westbury Townhouse • Furnished room • No smoking or drugs • Utilities included • 713-283-0258.

Seeking male roommate, non-smoker, to share 3/2 house near Oak Forest in NW Houston • Private fenced-in back yard with pool • Maid service • Cable • Private Bath • microwave • Unfurnished room • All bills paid \$440/mo.+ deposit • Available Sept. 3 • 713-290-0353.

West Memorial • Gentleman to share smoke-free furnished 3b 2/1.5 bath 2 car garage townhouse • Dish TV • Jacuzzi • Fireplace • Deck • Patio • Pool • Must like Schnauzers • \$550/mo. includes all utilities • 713-932-1333

## MONTROSE

Private bedroom & bath • Includes bills & cable • Available 9/1 • \$475/mo • 713-410-7343

GM to share new townhouse • Montrose/Downtown • Nonsmoker • No pets • \$550 + 1/2 utilities + deposit • 281-989-4635

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# Houston to San Francisco 2001

*this year for the Castro Fair!*

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**TO PLACE AN AD:**  
**IN PERSON:** Bring completed order form with payment to Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5:30 pm) 500 Lovett, suite 200. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX., 77006. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 713-529-8490. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 713-529-9531. **BY E-MAIL:** croberts@houstonvoice.com  
**AD POLICY:** Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

**Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON**

- 1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY**
- FREE\***: Call for guidelines  
 \_\_\_ HIV Services & Education  
 \_\_\_ Volunteers  
 \_\_\_ Non-Profit Organizations  
 \*First 20 words
- INDIVIDUAL RATE \$10:**  
 \_\_\_ Announcements  
 \_\_\_ Auditions  
 \_\_\_ Employment-Seeking  
 \_\_\_ Pets-Free or Lost & Found  
 \_\_\_ Roommates  
 \_\_\_ Personal Websites
- BUSINESS RATE \$18:**  
 \_\_\_ Auto Repair  
 \_\_\_ Business Opportunities  
 \_\_\_ Entertainment  
 \_\_\_ Help Wanted  
 \_\_\_ Help Wanted-Seeking  
 \_\_\_ Home Improvement  
 \_\_\_ Items For Sale  
 \_\_\_ Licensed Massage  
 \_\_\_ Moving Services  
 \_\_\_ Professional Services  
 \_\_\_ Real Estate For Rent  
 \_\_\_ Real Estate For Sale
- Call 713-529-8490 for other categories

**2 WRITE YOUR AD**  
Please print clearly

**CATEGORY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# OF ISSUES:** \_\_\_\_\_

Giant or Bold Headline - Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

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**TEXT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**3 TOTAL YOUR COST**  
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Up to 20 words for \$10.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: \$10.00

Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ x 50¢: \_\_\_\_\_

Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_

**Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ # of issues

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Up to 20 words for \$18.00 per week.

Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ x 75¢ per word (per week): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Charge to my  AMEX  MC  VISA  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Occasions

### Birthdays

Andy P. celebrated his birthday on Sept. 4.

"Happy people maker" Tony Carroll celebrates his birthday on Sept. 11.

Houston Area Bears Jack A. (9/7) and Henry (9/9) claw for a bearish piece of birthday cake.

Softball lover and baker of the finest fudge in the world Lee Davis lifts his glass for his Sept. 11 birthday.

Maranatha MCC member Elaine G. rejoices on her Sept. 9 birthday.

Stylist Dwayne (the Canadian) toasts in his birthday on Sept. 12.



The Houston Voice will gladly publish birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives. Simply e-mail your special occasions to the Houston Voice at [editor@houston-voice.com](mailto:editor@houston-voice.com). Call: 713-529-8490. Fax 713-529-9531. Write: Houston Voice/occasions, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006. NOTE: You must include a phone number. All occasions are verified by telephone.

## Professional Services

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 Carpentry • Repairs • Remodeling •  
 936.563.5180 / 281.948.4189  
**Lawrence Gilstrap**  
 Serving Houston's Gay Community for 15 years

if your hair isn't *BECOMING* to you, you should *BE COMING* to me.

**DON GILL**  
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 713-521-0911  
 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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 LOW COST AUTOS  
 LOW COST RENTERS  
 MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS  
**TONY MAY**  
**INSURANCE AGENCY**  
 NATIONWIDE INSURANCE  
 713-807-8264

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Houston's First Gay-Owned and Operated Limo Company



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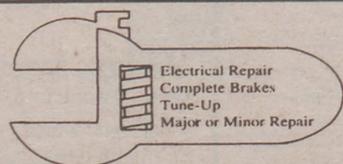
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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

September 7 – 13



**ARIES (March 21 to April 20)**

Detox from something that's bad for you and stop acting like you're indestructible! Pull out all stops and contact everyone you've ever known in your life to see who can help you. Save all your energy for a libidinous Libra.



**TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)**

Your ruler Venus is transiting your home sector now, so bring a new love into your everyday world. Pull out an old idea that now will have universal appeal if you pitch it right. A Gemini will be your sounding board.



**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)**

Money comes easily to you, if you pay off debt and do other responsible adult things, doll. Lay back and mull over the details. You've got more time than you think. Another Gemini will keep you pleasantly occupied while you tell the world to wait.



**CANCER (June 22 to July 22)**

The moon's conjunction to Jupiter in your sign, on Sept. 12, brings you incredible opportunities to advance your career. Don't sabotage your well laid plans at the last minute, please. A Libra is out to get you—in bed.



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

Neptune retrograde in your house of love could make you feel like romantic dreams of getting back together with an ex-lover are just out of reach. They are! Hold onto a Taurus for comfort if someone rocks your boat. He could be the next best thing in your life.



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

No need to be skittish about a flirtatious friendship, babe. You will understand what this union is all about by the time of the new moon in your sign early next week. Instead of hiding behind a Scorp, be willing to operate on instinct.



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

The moon's conjunction to Venus in your friendship house on Sept. 15 could bring you a new and improved relationship, seemingly out of the blue. All you need to do is let go of a romantic pattern or partner that has definitely run its course. A Capricorn awaits.



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

No need to be depressed about a recent rejection. Much more impressive people will seek you out soon. Friends play an important role in your love life as the Sun transits your house of platonic play. A Capricorn wants to enter your inner circle.



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

Mars in your money sector this month could bring you lucrative deals. Don't be so quick to sign without reading the fine print, though. Your job now is to learn how to delegate responsibility. Start by giving orders to a submissive Leo.



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

Life is not as predictable as you may think. With sexy Mars stirring up attractions, it's anyone's guess who will make a pass at you this week. A Leo wants to devote himself to you. Can you handle the attachment?



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

Your pals Uranus and Neptune are keeping you on your toes as they move in retrograde through your sign. You may not understand why a relationship has gotten so complicated, but the truth will come out soon enough. A Pisces likes you. Really likes you.



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

There's no need to panic over work issues, dear. They'll work themselves out. Everyone is sick of you making the same mistakes again and again. Try something new, babe! A Cancer can teach you something about love that you desperately need to learn.

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.

AIDS Foundation Houston Presents

## Living With HIV In The Millennium

Tuesday, September 18, 2001, at 7 p.m.

Program Features:

- Information on Hepatitis, HIV, and other STDs
- Rising rates of infection in Houston and the United States
- Prevention and Safe Sex Awareness

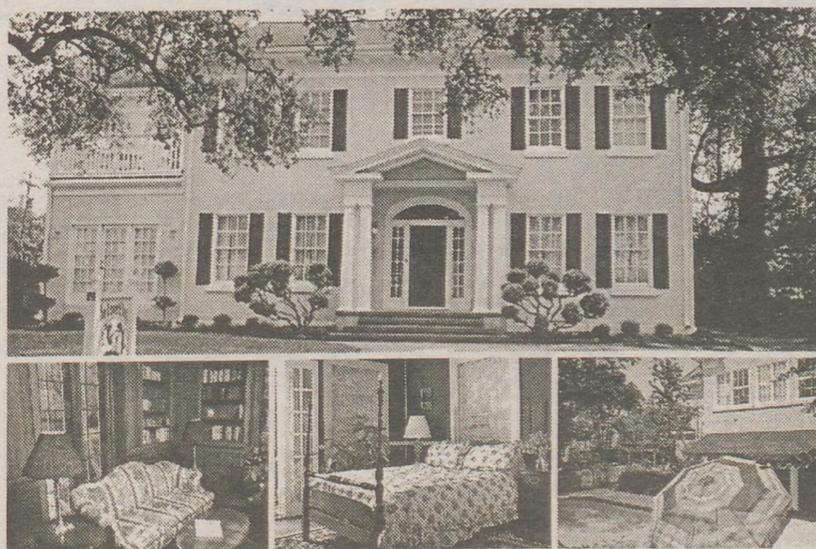
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