

Gay flicks

Check out the schedule for this year's Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Fest in our special pullout section

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Many of Houston's larger companies sponsor gay employee groups that do much more than network
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Dr. Helene Gayle steps down after six years of leading CDC in fight against HIV

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'Betty' takes a bizarre vacation, some naked boys have a 'Party!'

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House passes DOMA amendment

For third time this session Texas House attaches bill rider prohibiting recognition of same-sex civil unions

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Texas House took a third run at a defense of marriage act Wednesday by tacking the provision on a bill related to the Employee Retirement System of Texas.

The amendment offered by Rep. Dianne Delisi, R-Temple prohibits the state from recognizing same-sex civil unions. The bill and the amendment passed on a voice vote.

"It's important for this state to define civil union," Delisi said. "And it's important for those of us in this House to say that marriage is between a man and a woman."

Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, said among other problems, the provision was poorly worded, because it used the term "any relationship."

"It's hateful. It's also ineffective," Danburg said. Children who care for sick or elderly parents could be unintentionally hurt by the provision, for example, she said, adding that the amendment likely will spark lawsuits.

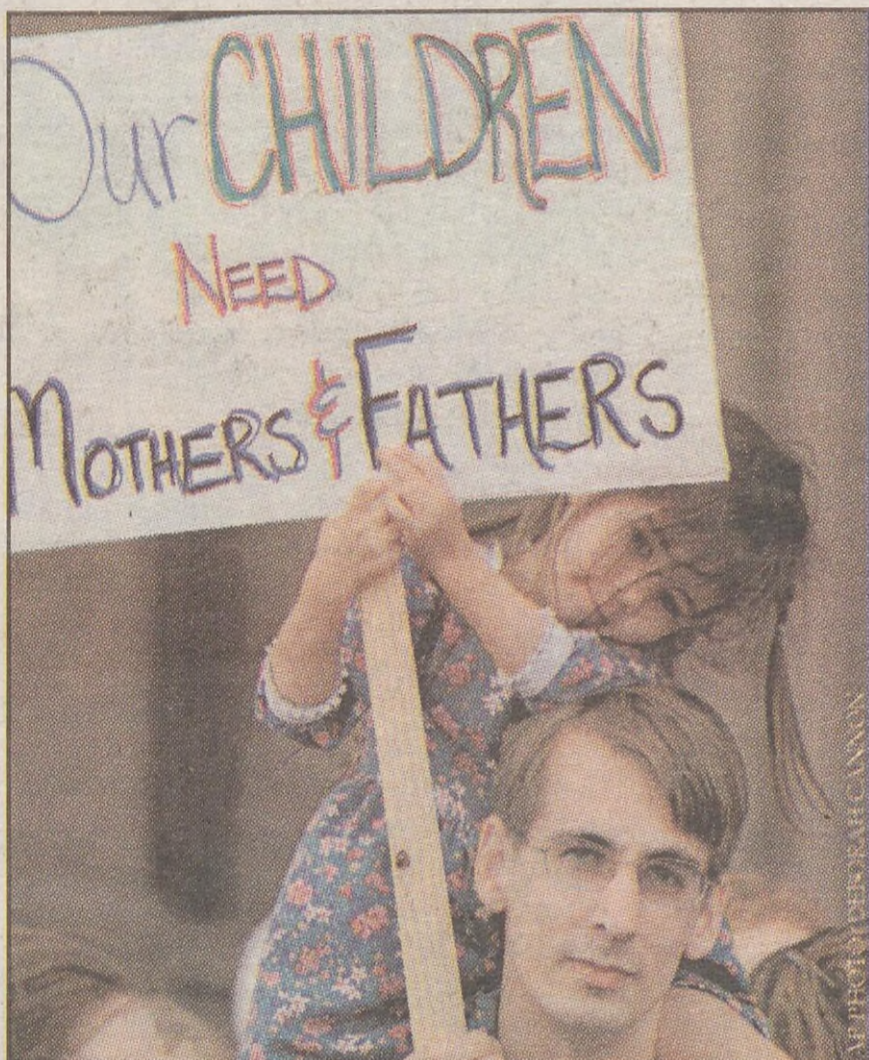
"I hope Ms. Delisi feels really good about her gay bashing," Danburg said. "It's going to cause a lot of problems in this state."

Rep. Suzanna Hupp, R-Lampass, said she was offended by Danburg's comments, calling them "a personal attack" against Delisi.

"This amendment is going to be acceptable to me because I happen to agree with the basic tenant in the Defense of Marriage Act," said bill sponsor Rep. Barry Telford, D-De Kalb. "I happen to agree that a marriage should be between a man and a woman."

Rep. Glen Maxey, who is openly gay, has repeatedly asked that the civil union votes this session be nonrecord, to prevent the divisive issue from

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John Adams and his daughter, Sage, 3, both of Austin, join dozens of others at a rally Feb. 14 at the Capitol in Austin, in support of the Defense of Marriage Act bill, which would limit marriages to heterosexual unions. Wednesday, for the third time this session, the Texas House attached a defense of marriage act amendment to an unrelated bill.

Task force taps new director

Long-time activist takes helm as national gay political organization shifts its power center from Washington to new Los Angeles office

by ERIC ERICKSON

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force announced on Monday the selection of longtime activist Lorri Jean as the group's new executive director, only three days after former head Elizabeth Toledo stepped down following less than a year at the group's helm.

Jean, former executive director of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, will begin her duties as head of the national gay political advocacy group next month.

"They hired me because I've got the best record in the country when it comes to running and building and

stabilizing organizations and having some vision about what's good for the organization and its growth," Jean said.

Toledo, who has said she is leaving NGLTF for personal reasons, faced criticism from some gay activists because she was the sixth lesbian in a row to lead the group, and because she had been out of the closet for less than a year when she was tapped to head the national organization.

Gay freelance journalist Rex Wockner claimed Toledo was "wearing gay diapers" and unprepared for the job.

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Lorri Jean, the new executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, was the lead plaintiff in a landmark 1980 lawsuit against Georgetown University that charged discrimination based on sexual orientation.

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Corporate sponsorship

Most large Houston companies have organizations for gay employees

by ELLA TYLER

Ten, and perhaps even five years ago, corporate-sponsored groups for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered employees were rare. Today, they are organizing and multiplying faster than you can add cards to your Rolodex. Just as large corporations merge, acquire smaller companies and spin off subsidiaries; existing employee groups merge, spin off, and form local chapters.

Compaq PLUS is the result of a merger between the employee groups at Compaq and two companies it acquired, Digital Equipment and Tandem companies, according to Jen Meklenburg.

"We were the Rainbow Social List, and they were DEC PLUS (People Like Us) and Tandem GALA. I think we all thought Compaq PLUS sounded best," she said.

When Shell Oil formed a joint venture with several other companies, its employees who had been a member of the Shell gay employee group, SEA Shell, formed a new group, Prism. Jeff Louallen, a co-chair of the group, explained the name. "We didn't want an acronym, and like the symbolism of what prisms do, make rainbows."

Prism and SEA Shell members meet for lunch and have some joint activities. Last



Compaq and Shell were just two of the many Houston companies whose gay employee groups participated in last year's Gay Pride Parade. Compaq's group is preparing its first 'Out at Compaq' event June 8, which will include speakers educating employees on issues related to the gay community.

year, they shared a float at the Pride Parade, but this year, Prism will have its own float, Louallen said.

The oldest local group, the Chase P.R.I.D.E. Team, began in the mid-80's when a group of gay and lesbian employees of Texas Commerce Bank began to meet for monthly lunches, according to its secretary, Frank York. The group called themselves the Q-Lunch Group and met to socialize and network, he said.

York said that T.C.B. and Chemical Bank affiliated in 1987 and in about 1993, members of the Q-Lunch Group approached T.C.B. management to ask that gays and les-

bians be included in the T.C.B. non-discrimination policy since Chemical's non-discrimination policy included sexual orientation. The change was made almost immediately.

In 1995, the Q-Lunch Group began meeting more formally and chose the name The P.R.I.D.E. Team and was recognized at the bank's first official affinity group in 1996. P.R.I.D.E. stands for People Recognizing Individual Differences Equally.

Chevron's employee group, CLGEA (Lesbian and Gay Employee Association) is

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Is non-compliance creating a stronger strain of HIV?

Doctors fear non-compliance to medication schedules could result in a drug-resistant virus

by D.L. MURPHY

"AIDS Battle Fatigue" often makes it difficult for many HIV-positive individuals to comply with their medication schedules. Both newer HIV drugs and different combinations of existing drugs can make it easier for patients to fully comply with their prescribed regimens, often with few or no side effects.

Full compliance with the prescribed regimens is critically important, says Natalie Vanek, MD, a physician at Thomas Street Clinic.

"In reality, people have to be completely compliant or they should not be taking medications at all."

Failure to be fully compliant (take at least 95 percent of all medications on schedule and as prescribed) results in deleterious

Our main concern is the development of resistant virus in the individual and the future transmission of resistant strains

—Dr. Natalie Vanek, Thomas Street Clinic

effects both to the individual and to the community at large.

For the individual, "some of the medications can cause cross resistance in other medications of the same family," said Vanek. For the individual, this means that failure to comply with a given regimen could mean that future treatment with drugs in the same class might not be effective.

Vanek says non-compliance to medication schedules can strengthen a virus strain.

"Our main concern is the development of resistant virus in the individual and the future transmission of resistant strains," Vanek said.

There is serious concern that the HIV virus will become resistant to drug treatments in much the same fashion that some bacteria have become resistant to antibiotics.

So, why don't patients take their med-

ication? This is not a simple issue.

A recent survey conducted by Savitz Research and underwritten by GlaxoSmithKline lists "side effects, too many pills, food restrictions, interferes with daily life, pills are a reminder that I'm sick, pills are too large, interferes with lifestyle, taking pills in public, complexity of the routine, interferes with job, keeping the pills cold, water restrictions, and mixing the drugs according to directions" among the reasons people find it difficult to take all of their medications, all of the time.

This survey is born out by what Vanek sees at the clinic.

"People don't want anyone else to know they're HIV. They won't take drugs in front of others. For a lot of patients, it's also psychological... it is a constant daily reminder that they are ill."

Vanek estimates that only 25 to 30 per-

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Because where I go
from here is up to me.

**Think Ahead.
Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.**

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.

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit 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.

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

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

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. 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.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as
Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex, and others
Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
Halcion® (triazolam)
Versed® (midazolam)
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)
Epivir® (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 Virmune® (nevirapine) The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Virmune.

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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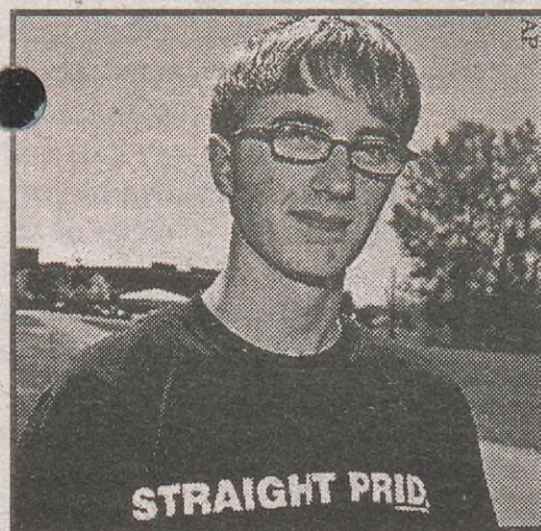
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around the nation

MN judge orders school to okay 'Straight Pride' T-shirt for student

WOODBURY, Minn. (AP)—A Minnesota high school student wore his "Straight



A federal judge last week ordered a Minnesota high school to allow Elliott Chambers to wear his 'Straight Pride' T-shirt to campus.

Pride" T-shirt to school May 18, a day after a judge ruled that the principal's ban on the message was probably unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Donovan Frank issued a preliminary injunction that allowed Elliott Chambers, 16, to wear a shirt with the slogan "Straight Pride" on the front and displays a man and a woman holding hands on the back. He first wore a sweatshirt with the same message to school in January to protest the school's designation of some rooms as "safe zones" for gay students. The Tupelo, Miss.-based American Family Association filed a lawsuit in St. Paul last month on behalf of Chambers, a Christian who believes homosexuality is immoral and unhealthy. "A small percentage would scowl at me in the hallway and show their disgust, but overall it wasn't a bad day," Chambers said last week.

Vermont House passes reciprocal partnership bill

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—The Vermont House passed a reciprocal partnership bill Thursday that would repeal civil unions even as it endorses same-sex relationships. The bill, which would confer marriage benefits on all couples who cannot otherwise marry, passed 72-69. Civil unions applied only to gay and lesbian couples, but the replacement reciprocal partnerships would apply to same-sex couples and to pairs of blood relatives. Thursday's debate on final passage was marked by sharp exchanges over homosexuality. Ironically, it required many people who find homosexuality morally repugnant to endorse relationships between two men and two women. "It's difficult because it still gives the same benefits to same-sex individuals, couples as the traditional marriage couple," said Rep. Nancy Sheltra, R-Derby, one of the leading opponents of civil unions. She voted for the bill. The state Senate will get the bill next, but leaders have said they don't intend to address it. And Gov. Howard Dean has said he would not sign any legislation changing the civil unions law.

Gays cautious about Bush's 'staunchly conservative' judicial picks

WASHINGTON—Gay civil rights attorneys joined mainline civil rights organizations in expressing concern about the conservative records of President Bush's first judicial nominees, announced earlier this month. The Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund said it has yet to take a position for or against any of the 11 candidates nominated by Bush. "We are very concerned over what appears to be an organized effort by President Bush to stack the court with conservative ideologues," said Michael Adams, Lambda's deputy legal director. Marcia Kuntz, an official with the Alliance for Justice, said a preliminary review shows that none of the nominees have specific anti-gay records, but several have taken positions that "could roll back civil rights or women's rights." The most problematic for some gays is University of Utah law professor Michael McConnell, who was among the attorneys who represented the Boy Scouts of America before the U.S. Supreme Court in its successful effort to ban openly gay scoutmasters. Moderates in the initial picks include U.S. Appeals Court Judge Roger Gregory of Virginia and U.S. District Court Judge Barrington Parker of New York, activists said.

Elected officials in AK don't RSVP invitation to attend Gay Pride

ANCHORAGE—No politicians have yet said they will be present at Anchorage's first Gay Pride parade in more than a decade, the *Anchorage Daily News* reported. Identity, Inc., is planning the event for June 23, and organizers have said they've invited every elected official in Anchorage, state legislators and the Alaska congressional delegation, with no firm commitments to attend. That wariness doesn't surprise former politicians who lost elections after supporting pro-gay bills. "I think I'm Exhibit One why you're not seeing any elected officials... doing it," said Jim Barnett, who lost a re-election bid to the Assembly in 1993 after supporting an ordinance that protected gay city workers from job discrimination. Anchorage's last Gay Pride parade was in the late 1980s. Organizers said they hope more than 500 people attend.

All regional Scout council asks national group to reconsider gay ban

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—The Boy Scouts Council serving six Wisconsin counties has formally asked the Boy Scouts of America to change its policy banning openly gay scoutmasters. "We are asking them to understand that the policy is a problem in this community and they need to help communities like this find a resolution," said Chuck Dobbins, Scout executive for the Four Lakes Council. The council took its stand in a resolution adopted May 16. "A fundamental difference many of us would like to see is a policy having to do with behavior and behavior with youth members, rather than membership in any group," said Larry Kahan, a member of the Council's executive board. The United Way of Dane County, one of the counties served by the Four Lakes Council, approved in March \$136,240

in annual funding to the council. United Way said it was best to work with the organization to make it more tolerant of gays.

—From staff and wire reports

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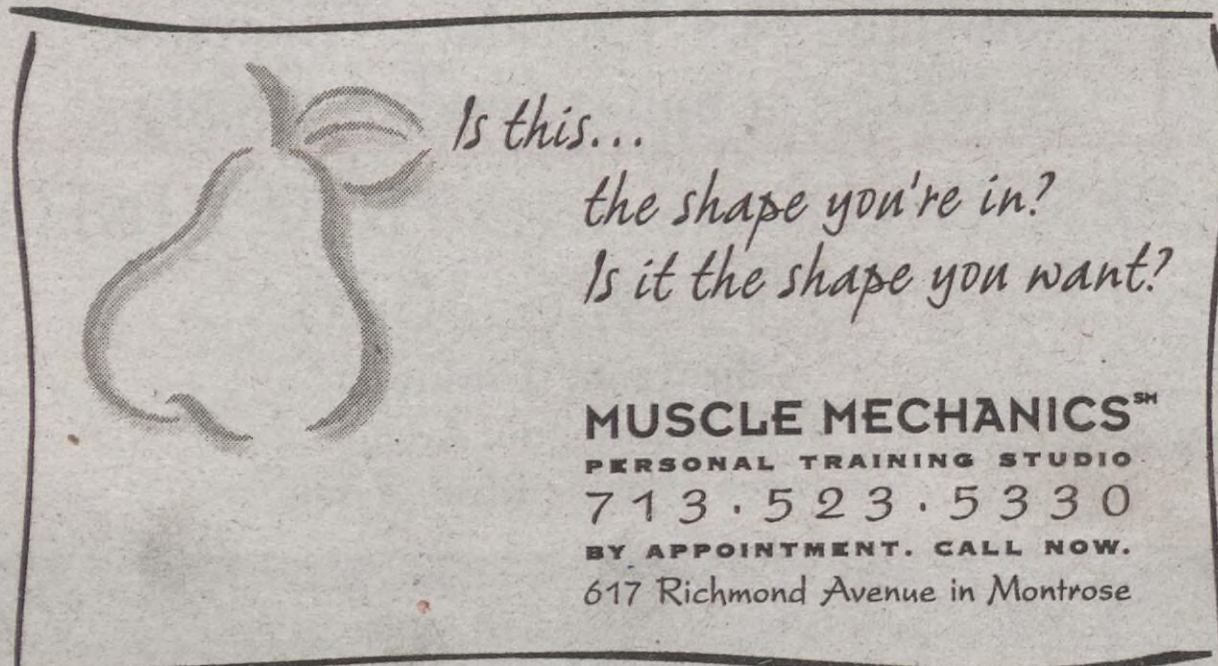
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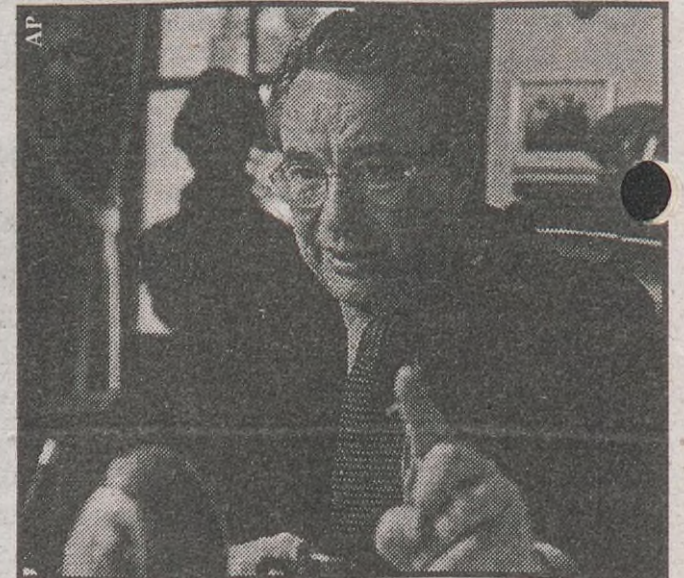
health news

Meningitis deaths linked to gay bathhouses in Toronto, officials warn

TORONTO—Public health officials in Toronto are warning gay men about a meningitis outbreak that may be linked to gay bathhouses, the *Toronto Sun* reported. Two men, ages 27 and 38, recently died from the disease, which surfaces with symptoms of fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and a rash. "Both of these two men were very active in gay bars and bathhouses. If you were at a Toronto bathhouse or nightclub and you had saliva contact, you need to see a physician," said medical health officer Dr. Elizabeth Rea. Neither of the men's identities nor the specific area of town they frequented was released. Meningitis can be spread through saliva or secretions from an infected person's nose or throat, as well as through kissing on the mouth or by sharing food, utensils, drinks and cigarettes. The scare has become a major concern for gay men in the city. "The meningitis scare is quite terrifying to me," Peter Haw told the *Ottawa Sun*. Haw, 33, is a cashier at The Spa on Maitland bathhouse and has hepatitis C, which he contracted while working at a bathhouse.

U.S. government issues first treatment manual for women with HIV

WASHINGTON—The U.S. government has released the first manual specifically written for the medical treatment of women with HIV. Announced May 15 by Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, the manual provides practical, experience-based advice and authoritative treatment guidelines for clinicians treating women with HIV. "This new manual could not be more timely. Information in this guide will help clinicians improve treatment and save the lives of HIV-positive women and their babies," Thompson said. HIV infection among women is the fifth leading cause of death among women between the ages of 25 and 44. Some 24 percent of new cases of HIV were among women, according to health officials. In 1985, by contrast, women represented just 6 percent of those cases. The full text of the guide is available at <http://hab.hrsa.gov/womencare.htm>.



Tommy Thompson, secretary of the U.S. Health & Human Services Department, said a new manual for women with HIV will help physicians improve their treatment.

Gays know health risks of smoking, but still light up, poll shows

WASHINGTON—Gay men and lesbians are more likely to smoke, even though they understand the health implications of smoking, Harris Interactive Health Care News reported. The study, conducted as a poll of 137 self-identified gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered adults, found that 36 percent smoke, while only 25 percent of all adults are smokers. Three quarters of gay smokers said they have tried to quit, compared with 80 percent of all adults. And more than 90 percent of gay smokers said they believe smoking increases their risk of lung cancer and heart disease and that it "will probably shorten" their lives.

Gaining weight, exercising can help people with AIDS, studies say

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Two recently-released reports indicate that people with AIDS can fight the disease by gaining weight and exercising. The first study, published in the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome* and reported in *AIDS Weekly*, said that overweight patients tend to have lower viral loads and do not progress as quickly to a diagnosis of full-blown AIDS. Even though weight does not affect the number of T-cells a person has, just a few extra pounds can slow the replication of HIV and keep the patient healthier. A second study, performed at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, indicates that regular aerobic exercise helps PWAs with common problems like fatigue and lipodystrophy. The study looked at 60 HIV-positive adults and how 12 weeks of aerobic exercise affected their health. Those who exercised showed greater endurance, exhibited less fatigue and shed more body fat than those who did not follow the exercise program.

HHS grants for HIV outreach among religious groups raises concerns

WASHINGTON (AP)—Concerns continue about President Bush's faith-based charity initiative after an advocacy group discovered a grant for HIV prevention efforts in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services budget for which only religious agencies are eligible. The grants would provide \$4 million to organizations that work with young people in black and Hispanic communities to address drug abuse and HIV prevention. The program was put in place before Bush took office, and is part of a \$16.6 million program, only one part of which is restricted. The purpose of Bush's faith-based initiative is to give religious agencies access equal to secular agencies for federal funds. "It's totally inconsistent with this administration's constant claim that everybody should be on equal footing," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church & State. Lynn promised to file suit by July, when applications are due, if HHS does not change its rules for who can apply.



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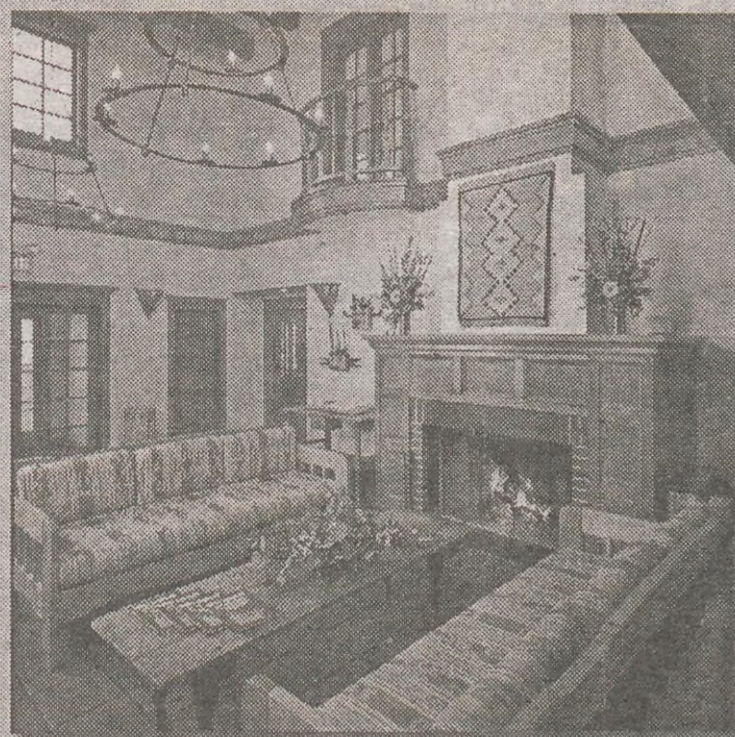


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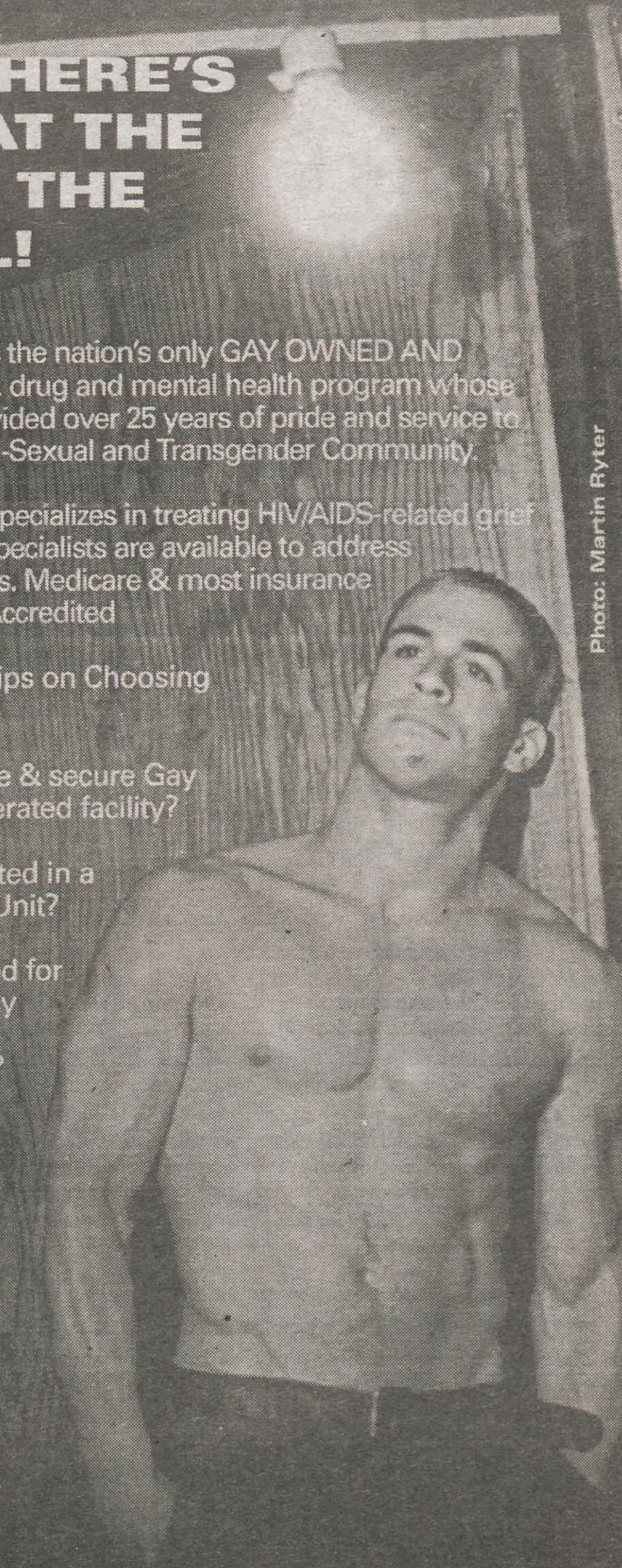


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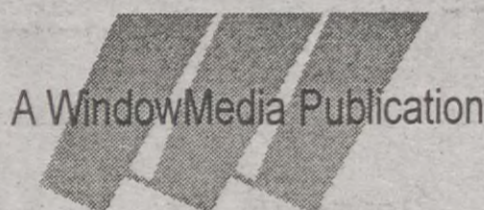
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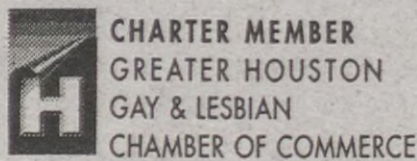
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VIEWPOINT

For gays, the law is a ass

by CHRIS CRAIN

Charles Dickens said it, and Tom Cruise, of all people, has once and for all proven it: "The law is a ass, a idiot."

The multi-millionaire action star filed a lawsuit earlier this month seeking \$100 million from a gay porn star who allegedly told a French magazine the two men had a sexual affair.

The suit claimed defamation because, Cruise insists, he is not gay. And "while [Cruise] believes in the right of others to follow their own sexual preference," his lawsuit attests, "vast numbers of the public throughout the world do not share that view."

His concern is that these homophobes, upon hearing the news that their movie hero might be homosexual, "will be less inclined to patronize Cruise's films, particularly since he tends to play parts calling for heterosexual romance and action adventure."

Tom Cruise is probably right about that, though it's hard to see how rumors of his homosexuality, which have been the stuff of tabloid headlines for years, were truly bolstered by an interview that Kyle Bradford, a gay porn star who specializes in "erotic wrestling," gave to an obscure French magazine called *Actustar*. (Bradford, a.k.a. Chad Slater, has since denied ever meeting Cruise or talking with the magazine.)

In fact, Cruise's suit did more to spread Bradford's allegations about a relationship than did *Actustar's* circulation.

But even if we accept, for the moment, that enough *Actustar* readers planned to boycott Tom Cruise movies to cost him in the neighborhood of \$100 million, there is a painful irony to the fact that a movie star obsessed with being heterosexual can sue for anti-gay discrimination—and most gay people can't.

In all but 12 states—Maryland adopted a gay rights law this month—gay men and lesbians cannot sue for discrimination in employment, even if they have clear and convincing evidence they were fired, or not hired, because of their sexual orientation.

But Tom Cruise can, and so can any other self-professed heterosexuals labeled gay.

And while a gay or lesbian plaintiff could arguably bring a sexual harassment claim against a boss of the same gender, a court—and almost certainly, a jury—is far more likely to view such lawsuits as really about anti-gay discrimination, which is legal almost everywhere.

To make matters more perverse, straight workers are most likely to succeed in bring-

What kind of legal system says Tom Cruise can sue for anti-gay discrimination but not you and me?

Cruise's attorney insisted his client wasn't suggesting it's slanderous to label someone gay. That's an improvement over the days when a heterosexual was automatically assumed to have been defamed through association with such a "loathsome disease," as one court memorably put it.

The suit also points out Cruise was married, though he had filed for divorce, making allegations of homosexuality a suggestion the marriage was a sham, and the affair adulterous.

True enough, but not even a Hollywood lawyer would attempt a \$100 defamation suit arguing that an action/adventure star can't get work if his fans think he's a womanizer.

Straights suing for slander aren't the only ones who can recover for anti-gay discrimination. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1998 that Joseph Oncale, an avowed heterosexual, could bring a sexual harassment lawsuit against male coworkers who teased him with jokes and innuendo suggesting he was gay.

The decision broke new ground by extending sexual harassment law to cover situations in which the harasser and victim are of the same sex, opening the door for straight workers everywhere to bring suit for what amounts to anti-gay harassment.

ing same-sex sexual harassment suits when the alleged harasser is gay or lesbian. A court—and almost certainly, a jury—is far more likely to believe that a gay boss is sexually harassing an employee of the same gender than they would if the same accusations were brought against a straight supervisor.

These inequities are partly the product of a law and society in flux, recognizing that homosexuality is wrongly the subject of scorn and ridicule in many corners, but lacking the broad consensus necessary to extend civil rights laws to cover "sexual orientation" as a protected category.

As a result, long-standing legal claims like slander and sexual harassment are being stretched to deal with wrongful conduct that fair-minded people want to prevent, even as the very people most victimized by that conduct lack the legal tools they need to protect themselves.

If Tom Cruise succeeds in his quixotic quest to recover \$100 million from a gay porn star, he ought to donate his winnings to a gay rights group, on the principle that the little people who are actually gay ought to also have the legal tools to protect themselves from a homophobic world.

A gay marriage written in ink

Last week, the company that owns this publication and three others, added two more to the fold. But these weren't just any gay publications.

Window Media LLC, which purchased the *Southern Voice* in 1997 and the *Houston Voice* in 1998, last week acquired the nation's oldest and most respected gay newspaper, the *Washington Blade*, and the weekly gay paper for the city with the world's largest gay community, the *New York Blade News*.

As the company proudly announces in its press release on the acquisition, Window Media is now the largest gay newspaper group in the country, and probably anywhere.

So what does that mean for regular readers of *Houston Voice*? In this case, bigger should mean better.

- Better national and international news coverage, brought to you by a pool of professional journalists that is unmatched in gay media.

- Better local news coverage, as reporters in different cities who would otherwise all be reporting on the same event happening

on the other side of the country can instead focus on what's happening next door.

- Better entertainment coverage, as press agents make talent available for interviews to a newspaper group that will now reach as many as 400,000 people every week.

- There are those who've raised concerns that bigger isn't necessarily better, if content gets homogenized and the range of voices gets narrowed. The concern is a valid one.

But anyone who reads *Houston Voice*, or visits the forum on www.houstonvoice.com, already knows that the paper's philosophy is that a broader variety of voices makes for a better newspaper. That mission is shared, as well, by the immensely talented professionals who produce the *Washington* and *New York* papers.

A shared philosophy and a respect for accurate, aggressive journalism should make this gay marriage a long and fruitful one for our newspapers and our readers.

The growth of Window Media would not have been possible without the enormous

commitment and dedication of the men and women who work here, as well as the contributors who fill our pages every week. All of us owe them a debt of gratitude for their important role in reaching this milestone.

Dear Editor:

A big thank you to Carolyn, Wendy and the entire staff at the *Houston Voice* for helping me find my lost dog. It's an example of a community newspaper at its best.

In addition, I might add that the *Houston Voice* has always been a big help with The Christmas Box project I head every year for the Blaffer Gallery, The Art Museum of the University of Houston, benefiting the Bering Omega Center.

These are but two examples of what a wonderful resource your staff provides to the community and the city.

Thanks again.
Davis Northcutt

VIEWPOINT

Looking for love in lesbian places

by PENNY J. WHITE

Okay, girls. Gather 'round. I have a story to tell and I'll just bet it sounds familiar. Maybe I'm looking for a little affirmation and validation.

Here's the scenario: I met a straight woman, and we became good friends. We had good times together, laughed a lot, shared a lot.

She begins expressing "curiosity" about the "lesbian life." She even worked up the nerve to tell me she liked me. And then she kissed me!

It never went past that. She teased me a lot and led me on for a few months. She was terrified her husband would find out. Then, suddenly, she begins treating me like dirt. Stops calling me and kidding around with me.

I'm pretty much lost and confused. Until I figured out she was just playing head games.

It turned into a real nasty case of sexual harassment, since she was my boss and everything.

I'll admit, I wasn't too bright about that situation. But I thought we were friends. I liked her. And I thought I could trust her.

Needless to say, we are no longer friends. Sound familiar?

Maybe the circumstances weren't the same for you, but I just know I'm not the only dyke to get duped by a straight woman looking to satisfy some "curiosity."

I'd like to know what the deal is with these straight women. Since not a single one of them would admit to their curiosi-

ty, it is impossible to tell just how many of them are out there seeking a little "lesbian romance."

But I'd be willing to bet it's more than we could imagine and I'd further

straight ones.

There are instances of complete and total equality in our relationships, but there are also instances of inequality, abuse, alcoholism. In other words, we

Why do so many straight women want lesbian sex? Is it a power trip—to know they can use someone else the way the man in their life uses them?

bet the numbers would shock the pristine hetero world.

What do these women want from us? If they are content to abide by society's rules and regulations, why the curiosity about lesbians and lesbian sex? What is it about us that turns 'em on?

Maybe it is the fact that society considers lesbian sex such a taboo. Maybe these women think they can use us to satisfy their curiosity and actually get away with using someone—a power trip, if you will, since these women feel they are being used by men and they can feel superior just knowing they can use someone else.

Or maybe I'm just a putz.

Perhaps these women are under the illusion that a lesbian relationship is better than a heterosexual one. As much as we would all like to believe that fantasy, the reality is that lesbian relationships are not better and no worse than

face the same problems within our relationships, and then some, as do our straight counterparts.

None of this, however, explains the audacity of some of these straight women. If they are in committed relationships with men, they have no right to go and play around with someone else's feelings.

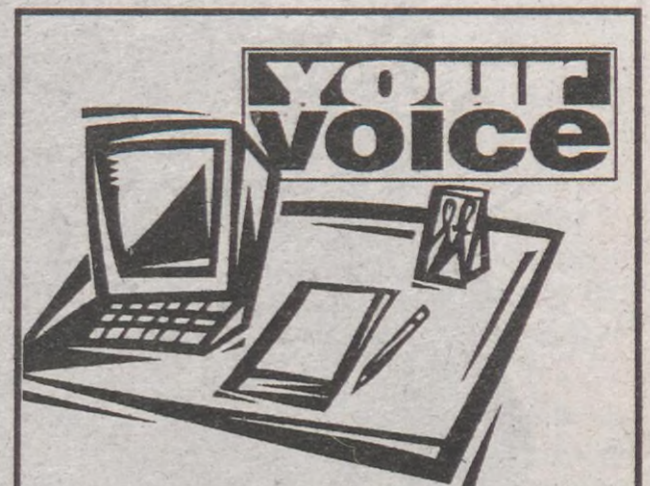
And if these women are woman enough to come onto us, then, dammit, they need to be woman enough to admit, at least to themselves, that they have these feelings. They need to be woman enough to deal with these feelings.

After all, some of us have been woman enough to deal with these feelings almost our whole lives.

Am I bitter? Well, hell, yeah.

Will I get over it? I'm doing my damndest.

P.J. White works as a data entry operator to support her writing habit and her cat. She can be reached at plj719@aol.com



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The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Ormer

GAY GUYS TALK TATTOOS

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THIS SYMBOL REPRESENTS A DISTILLATION OF MY ESSENCE, AND ALSO OF MY INNER LIGHT, WHICH IS KIND OF ANCIENT & CELTIC, AND ALSO SOMEWHAT MAYAN.. EVEN THOUGH I'M A KOREAN GUY FROM TEXAS..

WELL, THIS TATTOO IS FROM WHEN MY BOYFRIEND DUMPED ME, THE BASTARD.

Dude, that is like SO NEGATIVE.

Yep.

ABACROZOMBIE-IZATION: RESISTANCE IS FUTILE..

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CDC loses top AIDS, STD officials

Dr. Helene Gayle steps down after 6 years leading the CDC in the fight against HIV

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—Two women who helped shape the government's fight against AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases in the last decade are leaving their posts at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

Dr. Helene Gayle, the current director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention, will move to Seattle to become the senior adviser on HIV/AIDS for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the country's largest private foundation.

Dr. Judy Wasserheit is also stepping down as director of the CDC's Division of STD Prevention. Wasserheit will join the University of Washington to direct the HIV Vaccine Trials Network Coordinating Center.

The Gates Foundation "has made an incredible commitment to global health issues," Gayle said. While she'll be overseeing the Gates Foundation's portfolio on HIV and AIDS, an administrative arrangement allows her to maintain her affiliation with the CDC while working with the foundation.

Gayle was the first director of the National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention when it formed in 1995, bringing

the CDC's HIV and STD treatment and prevention programs together under one umbrella department.

"I'm pleased that we have made the transition organizationally to better integrate science and programs for HIV, and better integrate [them] with STD and TB activities," Gayle said.

Many of Gayle's peers in AIDS organizations across the country praised her accomplishments.

"Helene is an intelligent and committed authority in the HIV/AIDS community," said Claudia French, executive director of AIDS Action, a Washington D.C.-based AIDS advocacy organization. "We are losing an incredible talent at the federal level."

Local Atlanta AIDS organizations also worked closely with Gayle on prevention and treatment issues, often bringing national attention to the city's fight against the disease.

"Because she's so well known across the country and yet she's right here in our backyard, ... she gives us plenty of attention in the Southeast," said Tony Braswell, executive director of AID Atlanta, the city's largest non-profit HIV agency.

Gayle's position as head of one of the most prominent government voices against



Dr. Helene Gayle will leave the CDC to represent the private Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

AIDS began in 1995 when she assumed the role of acting director of the Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention. Her career with the CDC, however, spans another decade.

In 1984, Gayle joined the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service as a "disease detective." The EIS researches new diseases that crop up around the world and was one of the first groups to investigate the initial onslaught of AIDS in the early 1980s.

"After six years in her job, the HIV pre-

vention world is much different than when she started," said Paul Kawata, executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council. "There are many more programs being funded, the range of populations and activities being funded by the CDC is much broader, and we could never think of HIV prevention in the same way we used to."

Gayle said the CDC will conduct a national search to find her replacement, with qualified candidates from inside the CDC also considered. The search could take months, she said.

Gayle will have company in Seattle, as Wasserheit's move to the University of Washington's HIV Vaccine Trials Network Coordinating Center will also bring her to the Emerald City.

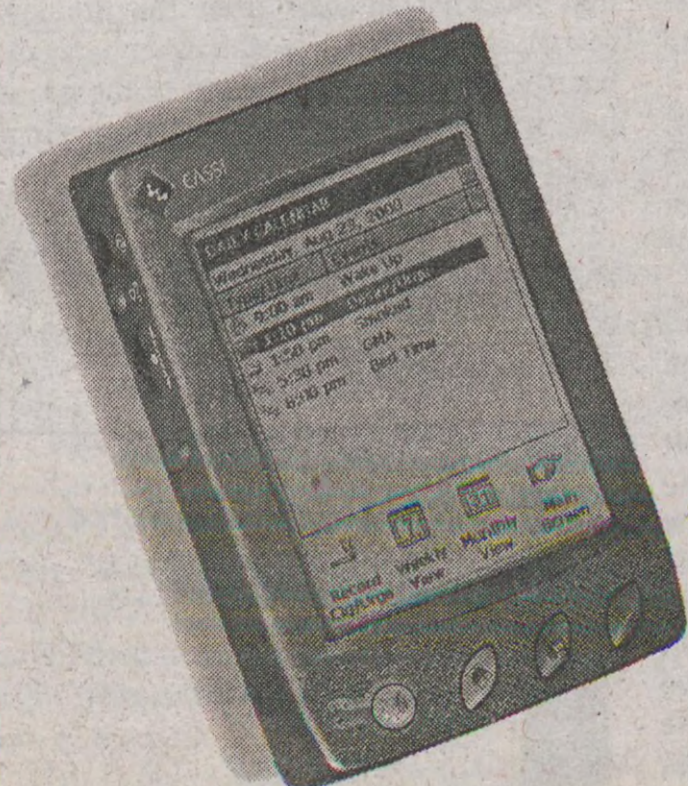
"This was a very difficult decision for me because I have truly loved my current position," said Wasserheit, who joined the CDC in 1992. "It's a position in which there's a wonderful ability to connect... science with the development of both policies and prevention efforts or prevention programs across the country."

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Medicaid, property-related bills passed with DOMA provisions

➤ Continued from Page 1

being used against members in elections.

"Gosh, I wish over the last eight years I would have been able to put my domestic partner on my state insurance," Maxey said. He said he did not believe legislators would ever change the law preventing him from doing so.

Earlier this week, the House Calendars Committee blocked the proposed Senate Defense of Marriage Act from the House floor.

Sponsor Sen. Chris Harris, R-Arlington, and supporters said the bill would have protected the traditional definition of marriage by prohibiting the state from recognizing same-sex civil unions, such as those created in Vermont.

Because Texas doesn't recognize gay marriages, the amendments this session were nothing more than political statements by Defense of Marriage supporters who are frustrated by the bill's failure, said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

"It's ridiculous to spend this much energy on it," Hardy-Garcia said.

The Free Market Foundation, which describes itself as a group dedicated to strengthening families, criticized House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, saying he worked to keep the bill from a House vote.

But calendars Chairman Telford said again Wednesday that Laney did not interfere in his committee's business.

Earlier this session, two other amendments were attached to approved Medicaid and property-related bills by Reps. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, and Will Hartnett, R-Irving, respectively.

"The speaker has sat in that chair three times while this body" approved civil union amendments, said Telford, who said he supports the amendments.

House approves Medicaid restructuring bill

The state's Medicaid program would



Rep. Diane Delisi, R-Temple added an amendment to a state employee retirement bill that would prohibit the state from recognizing same-sex civil unions. The bill and the amendment passed on a voice vote.

be structured, with much of it moving from the Texas Department of Health to the state Health and Human Services Commission, under a bill given preliminary House approval Tuesday.

After final approval, the bill will go back to the Senate, where the measure is sponsored by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo.

The legislation also would consolidate the administrative tasks of Medicaid that are spread among several state agencies.

House sponsor Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, said the state could save \$105.2 million in the next two years by

eliminating repetitive paperwork, streamlining staff and services and gaining better control of the budget process.

"These are the types of things that I think will make a big difference," Coleman said.

Not everyone agreed.

"There are still a lot of things in this particular piece of legislation that I do not like," said Rep. Arlene Wohlgenuth, R-Burleson.

In a marathon House session that began Monday and stretched into the early hours of Tuesday, much of the debate centered around a provision that

would establish a pilot program expanding women's health care services. An estimated 1 million of the state's 1.5 million uninsured women would be eligible.

The House also tacked on a provision prohibiting the state from recognizing same-sex civil unions, such as those created in Vermont.

The amendment by Chisum, R-Pampa, passed on a voice vote after Maxey, who's openly gay, asked that there not be a record vote that could be used against some members in elections.

"I believe that Rep. Chisum and Rep. Wohlgenuth and other people who have led on this issue believe as strongly as they can," said Maxey, D-Austin. "And I, as a gay man, believe as deeply as I can that it is no business of the government and of this state who I chose to love."

LA Senate defeats gay anti-discrimination bill

Legislation outlawing employment discrimination against homosexuals was defeated in the Louisiana Senate after a polite but sometimes emotional debate Wednesday.

"If we fail today we'll be back again in the next session," the bill's sponsor, state Sen. Don Cravins, said just before Wednesday's 14-21 vote against the measure.

Cravins' bill would have outlawed discrimination in hiring, firing or promoting anyone on the basis of "actual or perceived sexual orientation."

Cravins said some lawmakers supported the idea but admitted to him they could not vote for it because it would cost them political support.

While Senate committee debate included views from religious opponents of the bill, opposition on the floor centered around the practicality of the bill.

State Sen. Bill Jones said the bill was unworkable since it created a protected class and proving someone is a member of that class would be based solely on that person's claim.

Studies not meant as weapons in political battles, APA says

➤ Continued from Page 1

While Jean, who came out in 1979, has an extensive background in gay rights activism, the selection of yet another woman to head NGLTF again drew fire.

"Lorri Jean is certainly qualified to head up NGLTF and I wish her the best," Wockner said. "I will add this, however. Given that she's the seventh female NGLTF head in a row, one can only conclude that the NGLTF is allergic to male executive directors."

"Statistically, given an equal applicant pool of males and females, the odds of the best candidate being female seven times in a row are astronomical," Wockner said. "Discrimination against males is crass."

Jean dismissed Wockner's comments, and said it is possible that the best man for the job is a woman—even

seven times in a row.

"There are a lot of organizations in our community that have only male executive directors," Jean said. "The task force has in its long history, of course, had both. But what I can say is that I don't think there can be much doubt that I have some of the strongest qualifications in our movement regardless of my gender. As far as I know, none of the men that were in the mix could compete with that."

While Jean will be spending most of her time this summer in Washington getting familiar with NGLTF, she will maintain her home in Los Angeles.

This fall, NGLTF will open an office in L.A., where Jean will be based.

Jean served as executive director of the city's Gay & Lesbian Center from 1993 to 1999. During her tenure, the center's budget

quadrupled to \$32 million, while private donor giving went from \$1 million to more than \$9 million annually.

Also during Jean's time at the center, it launched Lambda Medical Group, an HMO and managed care practice, opened three medical facilities and created the center's first endowment fund of \$10 million.

After leaving the center in 1999 to spend time with her ailing father, Jean became a partner in an e-commerce advertising company. A reorganization of the company left Jean out of a job around the same time Toledo announced she would be leaving the task force.

Rachel Rosen, NGLTF board co-chair, said the organization spent about \$50,000 on the five-month search for a new executive director that ended with hiring Toledo. The group dipped into the pool of candidates

that included finalists from the previous search, senior NGLTF staff members and board members. As a member of the board, Jean was recruited and offered the position in a matter of weeks.

She plans to encourage gay activism.

"We can come out and be very direct about what we think we deserve, and that is complete equality, and not be apologetic about it," Jean said.

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As companies merge, so do gay employee groups

➤ Continued from Page 2

10 years old this year, according to Houstonian Susan Guererro, a co-chair of the international group.

"The group was an unofficial group until last year, when Chevron formally recognized employee networks. We formed to work for a non-discrimination policy, which we now have, and domestic partnership benefits," she said. "Chevron became the first oil company to offer domestic partner benefits, and they are offered to homosexual and heterosexual couples.

"We also allow our contractors to join as non-voting members and employee groups are required to be open to anyone who wants to join," Guererro said.

Formal recognition of employee groups has been fueled by increasing corporate awareness of diversity issues in the workplace. Many large companies have "affinity" groups, which are essentially associations of minority employees.

SEA Shell's mission statement is typical of such groups. It says: "The mission of SEA Shell (Support, Equality and Awareness at Shell) is to provide support for members and co-workers, promote equality for employees regardless of sexual orientation, and create awareness in management of issues and concerns affecting people in a diverse workplace inclusive of sexual orientation."

Typically, employee group leadership meet with management regularly and work closely with human resource departments. For example, Guererro said that the Chevron group has a educational presentation for different group about gays and lesbians.

"I don't want to say they're issues, it's more like a discussion about how to relate and avoid offending. Like don't call it an agenda or lifestyle," Guererro said.

Compaq Plus is preparing for its first "Out at Compaq" event on June 8. "There will be speakers, including Lynn Conway, a famous computer engineer who is transgendered, and literature from a variety of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender groups. Many of our members and employees don't know much about the GLBT community," Meklenburg said.

Some groups are very visible in the community. The Chase PRIDE team sponsored the AIDS Walk this year, and the bank has sponsored a team in the AIDS Walk since 1993.

"Since then, we have always had the largest corporate team, both in number of walkers and dollars raised. This year, as an entire bank, we raised over \$146,000," York said. "We also have a float in the parade, sponsor Empower and have a booth, have various speakers and make a lot of charitable contributions."

SEA Shell is also very visible in the community, sending volunteers to work at the Omega House garden, making contributions and participating in the Pride Parade. Louallen thinks Prism will continue that tradition.

"One of the things I'd like to do is find a community service project that all the network groups can do together. The important thing I've learned while working with diversity groups is that just because you are a member of one group that is subordinated to others, it doesn't mean that you understand the other person. These groups are learning experiences for us all."

Employee groups are important to their members, even when the member is isolated from the main group. Mark, a chemical engineer, is a member of DuPont's BGLAD network. The group has members at about 50 sites worldwide.

Mark, works in LaPorte and lives near



Gay employee groups at Shell and Chase Bank participated in last year's Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Empower trade show.



DALTON DEHAAT

the Montrose. He works in a chemical plant and says he is out at work only to the people he works closely with.

"The plant is a homophobic environment," he says. "There are not many gays out here. I can only think of two. When I worked in an office, it was more comfortable."

Mark says that the group is an important way for him to keep in touch with company news and to get information about benefits and other issues.

"We have had a non discrimination policy for four to five years, but don't have domestic partner benefits." "Not yet, anyway."

Mark says DuPont's non-discrimination policy, "doesn't make a difference to me because I'd worked for them on the Conoco side for a long time, but it would if I were looking."

Louallen, a statistician, said that Shell's non-discrimination policy is one of the things that attracted him.

"I was just coming out and had decided to move to a city where there was some gay community, and decided that I would only chose offers from companies with non-discrimination policies.

"I had just gone to Shell when the joint venture was announced and I was concerned, and relieved to hear that the Shell policies would continue."

Guererro said that she is getting calls from employees who are concerned about Chevron's upcoming merger.

"After the Exxon Mobil merger, people are afraid they will lose benefits. It was the best thing they could have done for us in terms of employee relations."

One place where is no organized gay employee group is in local unions.

"We are trying to start a local chapter of a constituent group called Pride at Work," Richard Shaw, secretary treasurer of the Harris County American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, said. "There is one at the local level, but we haven't found enough union members to organize one here."

However, Scott Harbors, an organizer for American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, said, "Even though we don't have local groups, the fact that the model union contract calls for a policy of non-discrimination against gays and lesbians means that anytime the model contract is adopted, they benefit."

Pharmaceutical study: Few patients comply with med schedule

➤ Continued from Page 2

cent of her patients are fully compliant with their existing medication schedules.

Many HIV/AIDS treatment plans can result in patients taking 20-plus pills each day, both anti-HIV drugs and other medications required to treat other health problems and medication side effects. In addition to taking all of the pills, patients must be very careful about what they eat, when they eat it, and make sure that all of the pills are taken on the correct schedule.

This results in what is now being called "AIDS Battle Fatigue." People experiencing such fatigue miss doses of medication, take drug "holidays" and have their quality of life affected by their continual concern about their ability to continue fighting their fight. These missed doses can result in failure of the patient's treatment regimen.

The problem becomes how to help more people become fully compliant with their

People don't want anyone else to know they're HIV. They won't take drugs in front of others. For a lot of patients, it's also psychological... it is a constant daily reminder that they are ill.

—Dr. Natalie Vanek, Thomas Street Clinic

medication regimens. Vanek said she uses several approaches with patients.

"I try to choose something that will blend in easily with (the patient's) lifestyle," Vanek said. "Education is pivotal. I expect them (the patients) to read, learn and have a little understanding."

Complicated drug regimens do not always have to be the case. Vanek has discovered.

"The easier it is to take, the better the patients do. I have been amazed how well patients do with simpler regimens."

It seems that fear about complicated drugs and the resulting side effects sometimes keep people from starting treatment early.

Allen Schorejs, a local HIV-positive man, delayed starting treatment after watching his roommate deal with a very complicated drug regimen. He was concerned about "having to take so many pills at odd hours of the day and every hour of the day. I was afraid of the side effects, especially the nausea."

Schorejs began medication in Florida

when he found a doctor who started him on a combination of Combivir and Ziagen. This regimen required he take just two pills twice a day. Side effects were minimal.

After moving to Houston, Schorejs enrolled in a clinic study of Trizivir. He now takes one pill twice each day. He experienced mild nausea when he first started the drug, but that disappeared in less than a month.

"Because it is only twice a day I don't get confused about what drugs I have to take and when I have to take them," Schorejs said.

Schorejs reports he is 100 percent compliant with his medication schedule.

"Twice a day is a simple as you can get. I really don't even think about it."

And simplicity is important. The Savitz survey found that people wanted "a reduction in the number of times to take the pills, fewer pills, a single pill rather than multiple pills, and a lower amount of side effects."

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Gay projections

Fifth annual Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Fest gets under way

by D.L. GROOVER

As we promised you, here's the special pullout section devoted to the 2001 Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. This year's fifth go-round of cinematic pre-Pride celebrations yields a crop of winners and must-sees.

There is definitely something for every taste: Hollywood mainstream, avant garde kookiness, date films, movies not to be shared with your girlfriend, Q&A sessions with some of the directors, bizarre shorts, romance, shaky hand-held cinematography, in-your-face sexuality.

It's 24 frames per second of gay flicker. After two weeks and countless hours without sunshine in six diverse screening locations, bare that glazed, bloodshot look with pride. This festival promises to be the best, yet.

Armed with popcorn and an overpriced drink, be prepared to be mesmerized in the dark.

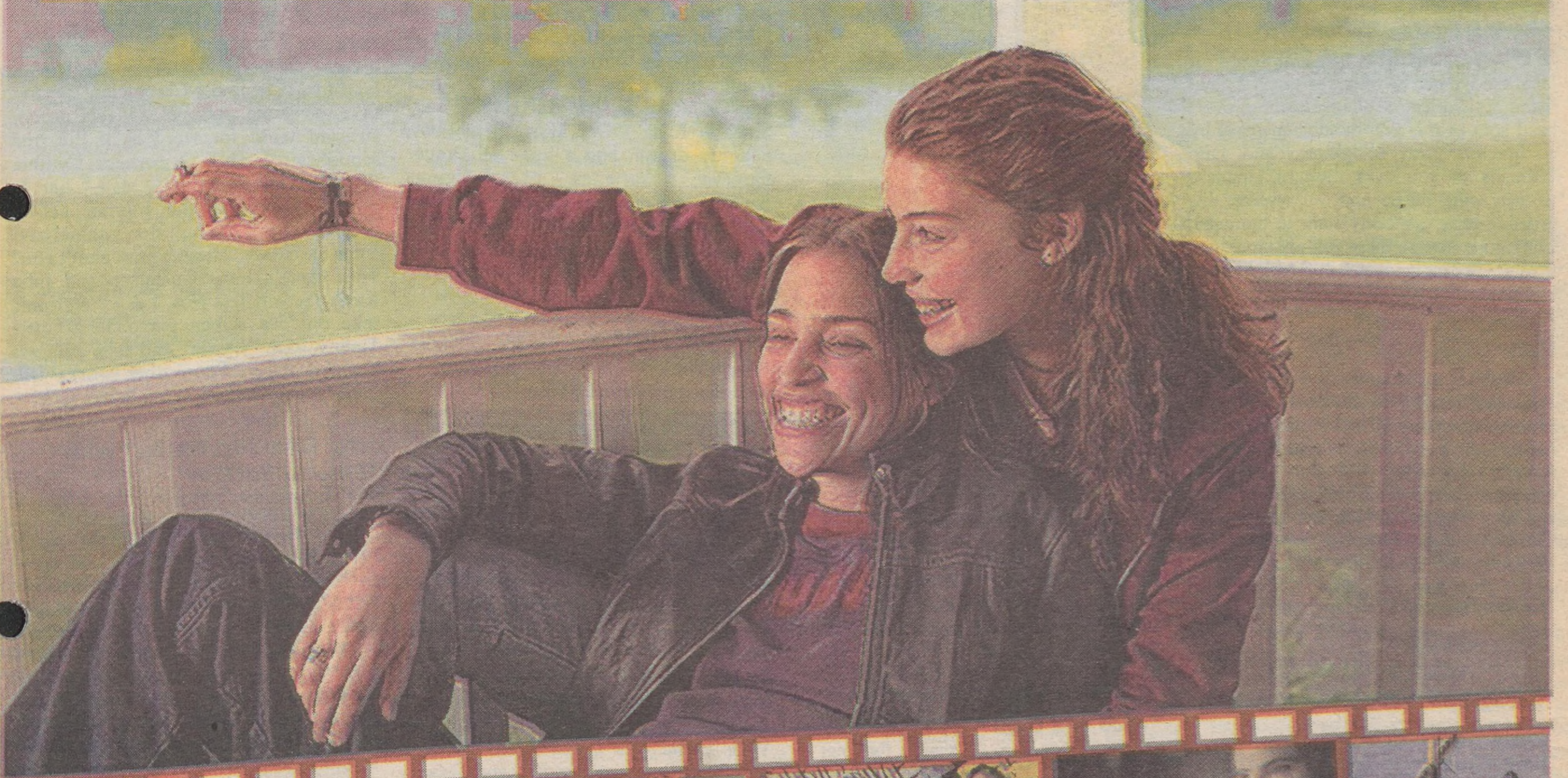
Friday, May 25

"Nico and Dani" ("Krampack")

Landmark Greenway, 7:30 p.m.

Feted highly on the festival circuit, Cesc Gay's gay coming-of-age fable tells the story of two school friends whose mutual masturbation sessions (the "krampack" of the foreign title) lead to self-discoveries. With parents away, Dani invites Nico for a week's vacation with no

> Continued on Page 16



Short films, animation featured at this year's event

> Continued from Page 15

parental supervision. Dani's in love with his friend, but Nico's more interested in losing his virginity to one of the girls of Barcelona. Filled with adolescent longing and desire and an overload of casual conversation, this Spanish film is warm of heart and rich in the angst of burgeoning adulthood. Landmark Greenway. Playing through May 31; call theater for times.

Saturday, May 26

"Nico and Dani"

Landmark Greenway, call theater for times

"Paragraph 175"

Museum of Fine Arts, 5:30 p.m.

Oscar-winning documentarians Jeffrey Freidman and Rob Epstein ("The Celluloid Closet," "The Life and Times of Harvey Milk," "Common Threads") illuminate the fatal consequences implied in paragraph 175 of the German Penal Code: "An unnatural sex act committed between persons of the male sex or by humans with animals is punishable by imprisonment; the loss of civil rights may also be imposed." Narrated by gay icon Rupert Everett, the persecution yet ultimate survival of 10 gay men from the Nazi horrors is laid out, as well as is their incredible determination, hope, and struggle to tell their amazing stories for the younger generation. A must see. Also, May 28, 5:30 p.m.

"Gaea Girls"

Museum of Fine Arts, 7:30 p.m.

Ow, ow, ow! The life and times of Japanese women wrestlers is given a cinematic arm lock and bone-crunching overhead spin in this graphic documentary by co-directors Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams. If you ever thought Japanese women were docile and submissive, this grueling look is a body slam to the head. Cold Stone Austin, these gals are more man than you'll ever be. Watch out! Also May 28, 9:30 p.m.

"Vampire Lovers"

Museum of Fine Arts, 9:30 p.m.

Grade B movie, Grade A laughs. In 1970, Hammer Films, the most successful film studio in England, put its sleazy hands on Le Fanu's classic vampire novella "Camilla" and came up with overlit nudity and an overwrought Peter Cushing in this campy lesbian howler. Can you say hoof and mouth? Also, May 27, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 27

"Nico and Dani"

Landmark Greenway, call theater for times

"Paragraph 175"

Museum of Fine Arts, 5:30 p.m.

"The Wolves of Kromer" with "Something Close to Heaven"

Museum of Fine Arts, 7:30 p.m.

In a cinematic deconstruction, this 1998 English import, directed by Will Gould, is both parable and fairy tale. It's about time this movie gets a screening over here.

Where have these furry gay lycanthropes been hiding? A small rural town is being overrun by marauding and randy wolves. The perfect scapegoats for a wily maid's murder plot: she'll blame them. That the wild wolfmen are played as gay boys wearing great coats with wolf tails takes this tale to a whole other level. Homophobia and mob frenzy sometime go hand in hand. Off to grandma's house we go. Also May 28, 7:30 p.m.

In "Something Close to Heaven," set in a small Texas town, a boy fantasizes about capturing an elusive, mysterious winged woman. This 28-minute enigmatic film seems to be about struggling with sexual awakening, while suppressing hidden desires. It could also be about trying to capture an elusive mysterious winged woman. Who can say? Directed by Texan Dustin Lance Black.

"Vampire Lovers"

Museum of Fine Arts, 9:30 p.m.

Monday, May 28

"Nico and Dani"

Landmark Greenway, call theater for times

"Paragraph 175"

Museum of Fine Arts, 5:30 p.m.

"The Wolves of Kromer"

Museum of Fine Arts, 7:30 p.m.

"Gaea Girls"

Museum of Fine Arts, 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 29

"Nico and Dani"

Landmark Greenway, call theater

"Bi All Means"

Aurora Picture Show, 9 p.m.

Sponsored by the Bisexual Network of Houston, this compilation of five short films showcases the bi life. There is Wil Lin's "Guileless Guile," a 3 1/2 minute cartoon musical featuring a woman, her suitor, and a Tom of Finland naked cowboy whose trio of desire is played against Lotte Lenya's scratchy chanteuse.

"Beauty is the Beast" is Annie Wright's 10-minute hagiography to cinema's peerless gender bender, Marlene Dietrich. A brief harrowing look at fame and the price of age. "A Summer Dress" is Francis Ozon's short tale of teenage sexual ambivalence; Lea Rekow's "Peep" is a meditation on sex/fashion or fashion/sex; and Tobing Rony's "Everything In Between" revolves around a girl, her guardian, her gay best friend, and the strong feelings she has for both of them.

Wednesday, May 30

"Nico and Dani"

Landmark Greenway, call theater for times

"All Over the Guy"

Museum of Fine Arts, 7 p.m.

Directed by Julie Davis and written by co-star Dan Bucatinsky, this contempo romantic comedy receives its theatrical premiere at the HGLFF. Two opposite gen X-ers



meet cute, quarrel, then see the error of their ways for the final liplock at fade out. How can it go wrong with support from ethereal Lisa Kudrow, scary Christina Ricci, and our favorite SCTV-alumnus Andrea Martin?

Thursday, May 31

"Nico and Dani"

Landmark Greenway, call theater for times

"Huge"

DiverseWorks, 8 p.m.

Ah, here's something original and cutting edge, too, found by the creative brains at DiverseWorks. In NYC, a place that's original and cutting edge, also, Broome St. Media gave digital cameras to 20 artists for one day (editing room facilities for two) and then told them to interpret the word "huge" in 3 minutes or less.

The shorts, needless to say, present 20 quite different definitions. Among the frantic filmers are Ira Sachs ("5th and 8th:" a father, a son, and coming out) Stephan Kijak ("Oh, Mary:" cute boy, naughty dream, and a huge...), Draper Shreeve ("Varieties of Religious Experience:" religion, sex, and construction), and Diana Dawson ("Mess With the Bull:" Swee-pea discovers her inner bullhorn.) We are warned that viewer discretion is advised. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Friday, June 1

"Big Eden"

Angelika, call theater for times



Here's the feel good movie of the festival. A comedy/drama heart-on-its-sleeve romance by first-time director Thomas Bezucha, starring Arye Gross (the roommate from "Ellen"), Eric Schweig ("Last of the Mohicans"), Tim DeKay ("If These Walls Could Talk"), and screen veterans Nan Martin, Louise Fletcher, and George Coe. This pleasant valentine of a movie, wherein the ordinary duckling gets his prince charming although he's the last to know, of course, is a whimsical fairy tale of love: lost, unrequited, too shy, too bold, finally just right.

The small Montana town of Big Eden is like nowhere on earth that I know, but it's firmly located in Frank Capra-land. Everyone in town roots for Henry to finally realize that the painfully shy (yet dazzling screen presence) native-American prince or a general store owner is the one for him, even though Henry pines cinematically and wastes way too much time on his straight high school buddy. After this, you'll want to pack your bags and head for that general store somewhere off in the sunset.

"Sleep in a Nest of Flames"

Rice Media Center, 7 p.m.

One of the unsung architects of modern American gay life, Charles Henri Ford now has a film documentary to chronicle his life and times and bring his story out of the historical closet. A life-long friend of Parker Tyler's, they collaborated on the 1933 landmark gay novel "The Young and Evil" and their correspondence is a blow by blow description of NYC's gay subculture during the '20s and '30s, Ford was never far from where the artistic action was, whether with beat poet Alan Ginsberg, modern architect Philip Johnson, or the Who's Paul Morrissey. Directors James Dowell and John Kolomvakis hold a Q&A after the screening.

"G..A..why?"

DiverseWorks, 8 p.m.

Didn't you always want to know the secret of what makes something gay? Here are seven short films with seven diverse answers, like Bryan McHenry's hilarious "Cucumber Chronicles," where-in a gay male personal ad gets deconstructed word for word as if the ripe semiotics was TNT. Or perhaps, Cynthia Birkhead knows all in "Melt," her 5 minute study of the human nether regions (where the sun don't shine) and some ice cubes. Curious, now, aren't you? Then there's Irene Gustafson and Julia Kay's "Screen Test Nos. 1 & 3," an ironic take on '50s screen personae of little Timmy from "Lassie" and teen princess Tuesday Weld. Four other works will have you scratching your head as you, too, try to figure out the gayness in life.

"Not Love Just Frenzy" with "Forever Bottom"

Rice Media Center, 9:45 p.m.

Ah, the Spanish certainly know how to make raunchy gay farce, just ask Almodovar. Following his lead, three directors have their hands full with this one from 1996: Alfonso Albacete, Miguel Barde (cousin to superstar Javier), & David Menkes. Here, we have a homophobic cop chasing a male hustler, a transsexual lesbian pimp, and a trio of drag queens who terrorize the Madrid subway system. Great soundtrack, fabulous costumes, torrid Spaniards: who could ask for anything more? How about a short comedy, "Forever Bottom," about the universal prejudice, the stigma of being slot B instead of Tab A in the gay book of love. Also, June 3, 9 p.m.

> Continued on Page 17

Six venues playing host to HGLFF

> Continued from Page 16

Saturday, June 2

"Big Eden"

Angelika, call theater for times

"Finished" with "The Fall of Communism as Seen in Gay Pornography"

Rice Media Center, 5 p.m.

Experimental filmmaker William E. Jones was obsessed by gay porn star Alan Lambert, a buff bottom boy but terribly troubled man, whose 20 films included "Boot Camp," "Hardball," and "Pool Boy." Haunted by the specter of growing old in an industry whose only concern is preternatural youth and beauty, and no doubt urged on by his numerous private demons, Lambert killed himself in a public suicide when he was only 25 years old, leaving a rambling suicide note that stated he was a messiah into Marx, Mozart, and the Apocalypse, and who would return to usher in a people's paradise. He didn't. But Jones did.

In this atmospheric, "artistic" treatment of Lambert's life and times, Jones takes on the porn industry and the voracious audience as willing accomplices to his golden one's death. We get swathes of Frank Capra's "Meet John Doe," endless shots of river ice, ocean waves, that sort of thing, and nary one good old porn clip. In constructing poor Lambert, Jones' leftist indignation buries him under layers of speculation and way too much import. A porn documentary without porn is akin to a day without sunshine.

"The Fall of Communism as Seen in Gay Pornography" is another William E. Jones introspection. As the title implies, the 20-minute collage focuses on Eastern Europe's infiltration—okay, make that penetration—by the gay porn industry, using adult films shot in the Communistic block as evidence of our evil empire's insidious schemes to dominate the world. A series of audition screen tests for inquiring young hopefuls makes the case without polemics.

"Women"

Rice Media Center, 7 p.m.

In her first feature, gay director Maia Akiva's behind the camera miracles might overshadow the happily-ever-after lesbian couple depicted on screen. Somehow, she made this digital video movie for under \$3,000. Granted, don't expect sweeping Spielbergian camera choreography or DeMille's grandiose production design, just an inventive menage a trois between lesbian Karen, straight best friend Tom, and beautiful third wheel, the bisexual Jennifer.

Cards are stacked in the women's favor, and poor clod Tom gets to bluster and rant like a male chauvinist when he can't get his way. The women get the best lines, the best shots, and each other. Tom, you are the weakest link, goodbye!

"Live Nude Girls Unite!" with "Home For Christmas"

Rice Media Center, 9 p.m.

This documentary from co-directors openly-lesbian Julia Query and Vicki Funari details a bevy of buxom San Francisco strip-



pers in their struggles to organize at the Lusty Lady strip club. Think "Norma Rae" with silicon. The sex industry gets quite a drubbing: it's funny, enlightening, and thoughtful.

Playing off against her mother, a prominent doctor and feminist, Query adds her own layer of playful truth when she comes out: mom isn't as shocked at her disclosure of being a lesbian, as her daughter being a stripper. "Thanks for the six years of ballet lessons, Mom," she says at the beginning of the film. So far, thanks to the lusty ladies, the Lusty Lady strip club is the only unionized club in the country. Also, June 6, 7 p.m.

While her mother stuffs the Christmas turkey, Annie reveals that she is a lesbian in "Home for Christmas." Is her family's loving response a dream, or nightmare waiting to happen. I'd hold off on the cranberry sauce, just yet. This Norwegian 3-minute cutie, directed by Frank Mosvold, won Best Short at Los Angeles' Outfest 2000.

Sunday, June 3

"Big Eden"

Angelika, call theater for times

"Massillon"

Rice Media Center, 5 p.m.

"Seasons change, cars pass by, the wind blows, cows stand in a field—you are there." In Massillon, Ohio, that is, William E. Jones' hometown and love/hate subject of his 1991 debut film about growing up gay in the midwest, defining sexuality, and moving out of there.

It bears his signature style: visual juxtapositions (sometimes ironic, sometimes maddening) against a soothing narration that itself can be ironic and maddening, as the film moves from the personal to the broader aspects of society, law, and government, while forcing you to make the connections among all of them. Here, it works better than most.

"Just One Time"

Rice Media Center, 7 p.m.

In Lane Junger's comedy, enlightenment and consciousness-raising shows a happy smiley face. Amy and her fiancé, macho firefighter Anthony, are about to be married, but gold ol' boy Anthony has a tiny favor beforehand: let's have a three-some. Amy's not amused, and is about to break off the engagement when

she runs into gay neighbor Victor who has a crush on her hot hunk.

A light bulb goes off in her smart pretty head. Okay, Mr. Pig, I'll acquiesce if you go first. This zippy comedy is replete with all the clichés you can think of in such a situation, but Junger gives all these chestnuts a tangy coating by throwing into the mix the steamy lesbian neighbor (where do these folks live, Barbary Lane?) to give Amy's principles a gentle thrashing. This unpretentious movie, taken for what it is, is a delight.

"Not Love Just Frenzy"

Rice Media Center, 9 p.m.

Monday, June 4

"Big Eden"

Angelika, call theater for times

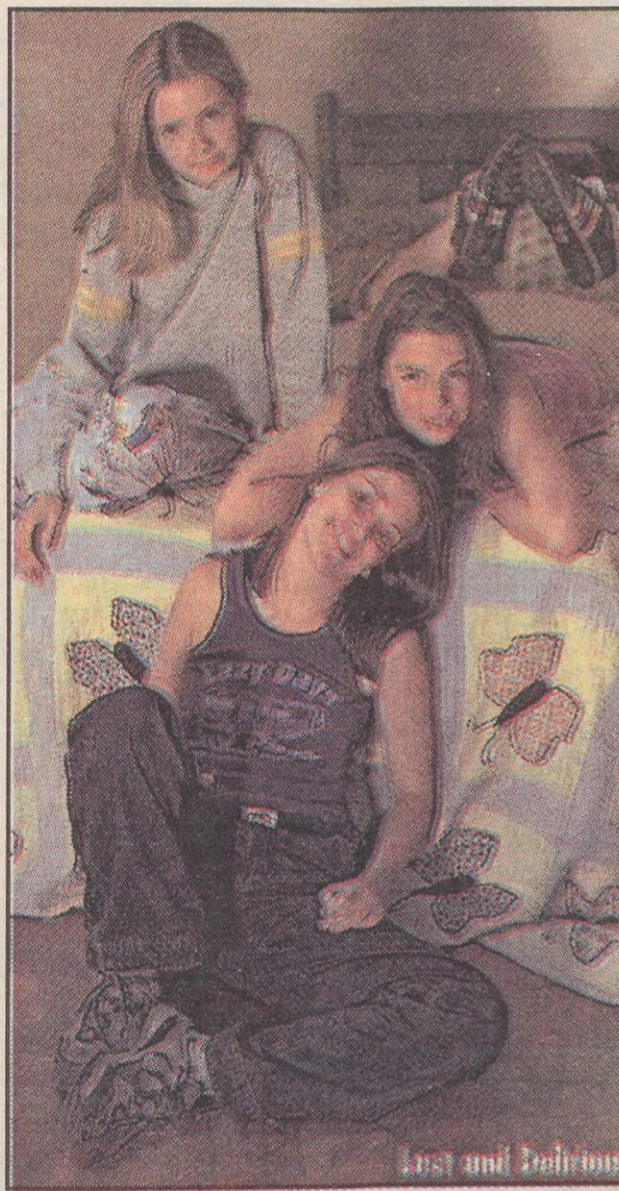
Tuesday, June 5

"Big Eden"

Angelika Call theater for times

"Lost and Delirious"

Rice Media Center, 7 p.m.



If you've ever seen "The Children's Hour," "Madchen in Uniform," or "If," you know what can happen when you're far away at school. Here, in Canadian Lea Poole's sumptuously shot adaptation of Susan Swan's coming-of-age novel "The Wives of Bath," the title refers to main character Pauline (Piper Parabo) an intelligent young girl and free spirit placed in a well-heeled girls' boarding school by her unknown, uncaring mother.

Unbeknownst to new roommate Mouse (Mischa Barton), Pauline and third roommate Tori (Jessica Pare) have formed quite an erotic attachment in their attic dorm room. It's a grand passion; they are soul mates, helped along

by the words of Shakespeare and overly goosed soundtrack. When the two girls are caught all snuggled in their bed, Pauline relishes the romantic, outcast/rebel role, but Tori, unwilling to have any confrontation with her conservative parents, freaks out and quickly becomes involved with a guy. Pauline is devastated at the betrayal, and in a metaphor the size of the Titanic, takes a liking to an injured bald eagle.

The film overheats toward the finale, but the leggy coeds (apparently this school has a strict glossy admissions policy) look great in their short plaid skirts and palpable sexiness. And what did you learn in school today?

Wednesday, June 6

"Big Eden"

Angelika, call theater for times

"Live Nude Girls Unite!"

Rice Media Center, 7 p.m.

"Just One Time"

Rice Media Center, 9 p.m.

Thursday, June 7

"Big Eden"

Angelika, call theater for times

Film Festival Events

After the Thursday, May 31, screening of "Huge," Justin Tan and Byrd McDonald the videoheads who put this collection together will be in answer any questions about the 20 odd films you've just seen. They will be in analog.

While posing nattily in the DiverseWorks' lobby, explore and sample "Cocktails and Appetizers," Michelle Citron's interactive CD-ROM, or part I of her "5 Course Queer Meal." This installation lets you choose the order in which the piece is viewed. The work, a story of a butch/femme relationship, is an homage to '50s lesbian pulp fiction. Ms. Citron, professor of radio/TV and film at Northwestern University, where she is also Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Associate Dean of The Graduate School.

Friday, June 1

Directors James Dowell & John Kolomvakis will present a Q&A at Rice Media Center after the 7 p.m. screening of "Sleep in a Nest of Flames," their documentary about Charles Henri Ford.

Over at DiverseWorks, there will be a panel discussion on "What Makes Something Gay?" after the 8 p.m. screening of "G..A..why?" Described as an exploration of how we define our culture and ourselves in this new millennium, filmmakers Bryan McHenry ("Cucumber Chronicles") and Carolyn Coal ("Tell Me Who Ruby Was") will be there with "folks just like yourself" to answer any questions. Please ask them about the ice cubes.

> Continued on Page 18

Directors participate in Q & A

> Continued from Page 17

Saturday, June 2

Concluding the 5 p.m. showing of "Finished" at Rice Media Center, director William E. Jones will answer questions about his film work and the life and death of porn star Alan Lambert.

After the 7 p.m. screening of "Women," director Maia Akiva will tell you everything you need to know about how to finance your next project on a shoestring budget.

Although there are still five days to go until the wrap, the Film Festival Closing Party takes place Saturday, June 2, at Rice Media Center from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. It's a free party with food, spirits, and a DJ. Bring your digital video camera and start making that great American film you've been talking about for so long.

Thursday, June 7

All right, now that you've sympathized with Hedwig's botched operation, stripped with the lesbian Norma Raes, hissed the evil Nazis, ran with the wolves of Kromer, longed to be a resident of Big Eden not Massillon, and been body slammed by the Gaea girls, it's time to party.

Sadly, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival is over, but the images linger on during the free closing night party at Rice Media Center, 9:30-11:30 p.m. There will be food, spirits, and music with DJ. Bring your digital video camera and start making that great American film you've been whining about for so long.

2001 Gay and Lesbian Film Festival venues:

Angelika Film Center

510 Texas Avenue
713-225-5232
angelikatx@earthlink.net

Aurora Picture Show

800 Aurora Street
713-868-2101
grover@aurorapictureshow.org

Diverse Works

1117 East Freeway I-10 at North Main
713-223-8346
info@diverseworks.org

Landmark Theatres

5 Greenway Plaza
713-626-0402
sarahg@landmark-theatres.com

Museum of Fine Arts-Houston

1001 Bissonnet
713-639-7300
film@mfah.org

Rice Media Center

Rice University
University Boulevard at Stockton Drive
Entrance #8
713-348-4853
media@rice.edu

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On Stage

THEATER REVIEW

'Betty' goes to hell and the 'Party' gets naked

by D.L. GROOVER

Pity poor, unsuspecting innocent Betty. All she wants is a nice quiet summer share near the beach so she can hear the ocean. She dreams of peace and calm. What she gets in Christopher Durang's 1998 phantasmagoric romp, **BETTY'S SUMMER VACATION**, is a time share in hell.

First, Betty (Julia Krohn) rents the beach house with Trudy (Kelli Cousins), a perpetual mobile of the mouth whose neuroses would give Freud an entire shelf of material. Then Keith (Dwight Clark) slinks in carrying a leather hatbox and shovel. Hmm, mighty suspicious. Next, like a hurricane in pastel chiffon, sweeps in Mrs. Siezmagraff (Ally Edmundson), Trudy's Gorgon of a mother and owner of the property, who has no place else to stay.

Then Buck (Alex Kilgore) struts in, a dumbbell sex stud of indiscriminate taste with loins all afire. Who shuffles on after this but Mr. Vanislaw (Rutherford Cravens), in filthy yellow raincoat and nothing else, a homeless derelict/sex pervert/flasher who Mrs. Siezmagraff picked up earlier in the public toilet and invited into her home.

These horribly mismatched characters might be enough for some playwrights, but not Durang, whose gay sensibilities run amok with horrible fierceness and utter lunacy, aided by Rob Bundy's understated direction.

Throughout the first act, unspecified voices have emanated through the wainscotted turquoise walls, laughing at situations that you wouldn't find funny, like old abuse, rape and decapitation. As this rapier-sharp satire veers over the top, or tumbles into degradation depending upon your vantage point, the voices increase their insistent demands for entertainment.

"Nothing's happening right now," they whine in unison, right before Trudy is raped by Mr. Vanislaw.

But when Buck loses his head after following their advice, the voices, in a delicious slap-in-the-face sendup of Kushner's "Angels in America," crash through the house and become visible. The three couch potatoes (Joey Berner, Kyle Sturdivant, and Rebecca Tindel-Bivens), lumpy and childish, now demand gratification from the live action Jerry Springer show played out before them.

I've saved the best for last: Edmundson's show-stopping star turn as the hideous Mrs. Siezmagraff. In Durang speak, Edmundson seizes this part of parts by the nuts like some demented squirrel. In Andrew Cloud's wicked costume designs of toreador pants and tropical sunset-hued ensembles, she resembles a warmed-over Jack Lemmon in "Some Like It Hot."

With fog horn voice, she's Medusa on a bad day, a steamroller fueled by vodka, Nero's mom. She's radiant, grotesque, and obscenely funny. Edmundson's not the

only reason to see Durang's ribald classic sex farce, but she's a damned good one.

Party!

David Dillon's seven-member comedy deftly answers the questions: (1) can a gay play be written that's light and joyful, that shows gay men as loving and well-adjusted? And (2) how do you write such a play so that all the actors end up naked?

Obviously, having the guys naked is most important. Although Dillon attempts to make us interested in these friends, it's the slow strip teasing for the audience that takes over and becomes all-consuming.

A party card game somewhat like Truth or Dare leads the friends to tell tales that may or may not be true and act out rather tame sexual fantasies. Before long, however, Phillip's in his underwear, Brian's mooned the room and had to remove his dance belt, Andy's licked off whipped cream, Peter and Kevin have had to kiss for 45 seconds, and James must perform 20 jumping jacks (I hope Andy Clements makes it through the run without bruises).

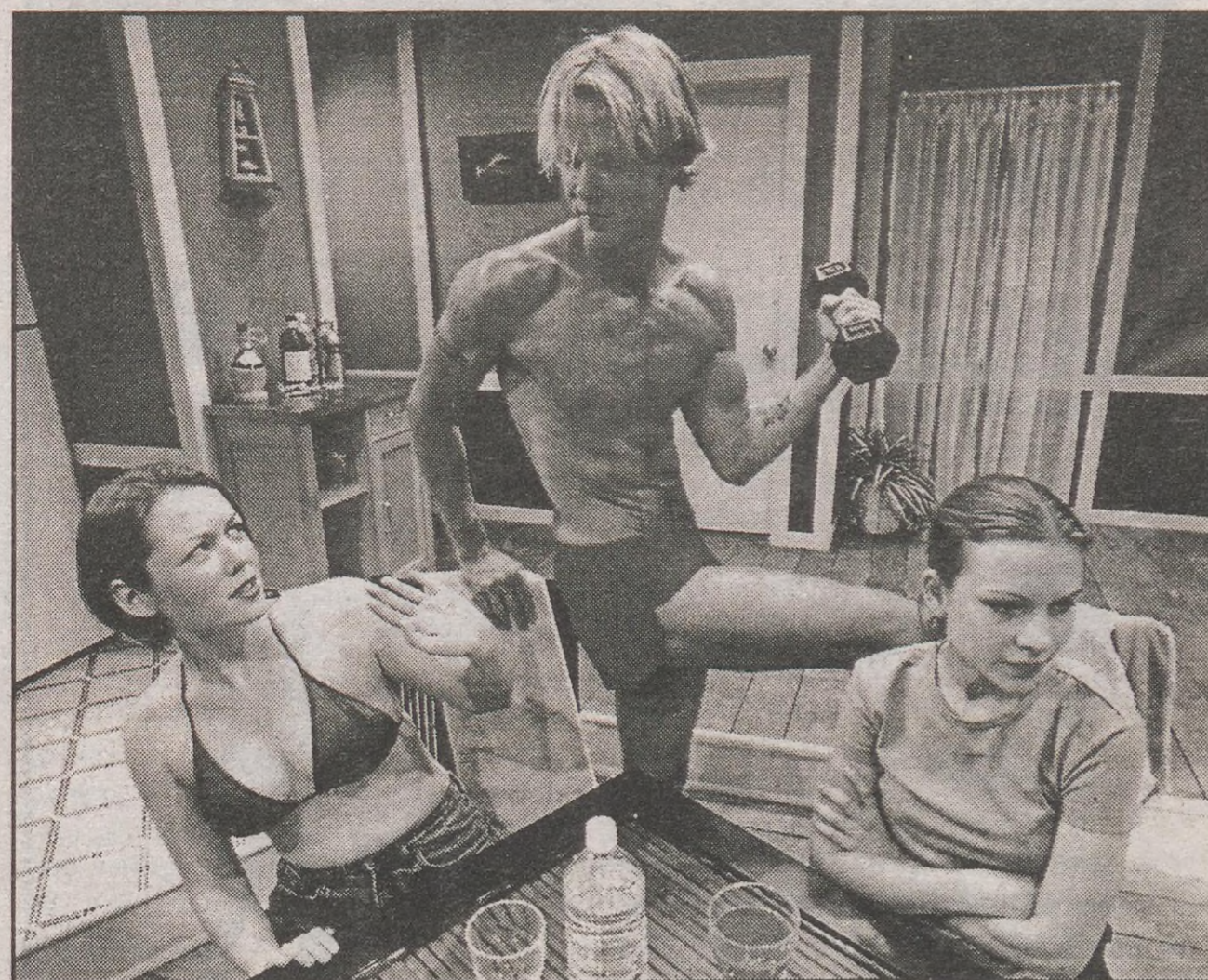
The saving grace is the campy priest, Ray (Ken Williamson), whose barbed tongue keeps the comedic wheels well greased and spinning. Williamson's smart reading of the swishy den mother is full of love and understanding underneath the bitch veneer.

David Brett is very good as Phillip, the cool, no-nonsense, average Joe. He doesn't have much to do (nor does anyone, really) but he does it naturally, without fuss or artifice. He's believable.

Director/actor De Vries is a pro, and here seems content to stay in the background as Kevin, but, as director, he's got a few amateurs in the cast to deal with. Only more time upon the wicked stage can help these novices move, speak, and act without our thinking about their movement, speaking, and acting.

So, yes, this is a light and fluffy entertainment that does manage to show gays as full of life, and yes, Dillon manages to have all the actors naked at the conclusion. The playwright has accomplished just what he set out to do.

Now, where's the play he promised?



Kelli Cousins, Alex Kilgore and Julia Krohn star in Stages' production of 'Betty's Summer Vacation,' playing through this weekend.

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INFO

"Betty's Summer Vacation"

Through May 27

Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201
Allen Parkway (Waugh @
D'Amico)

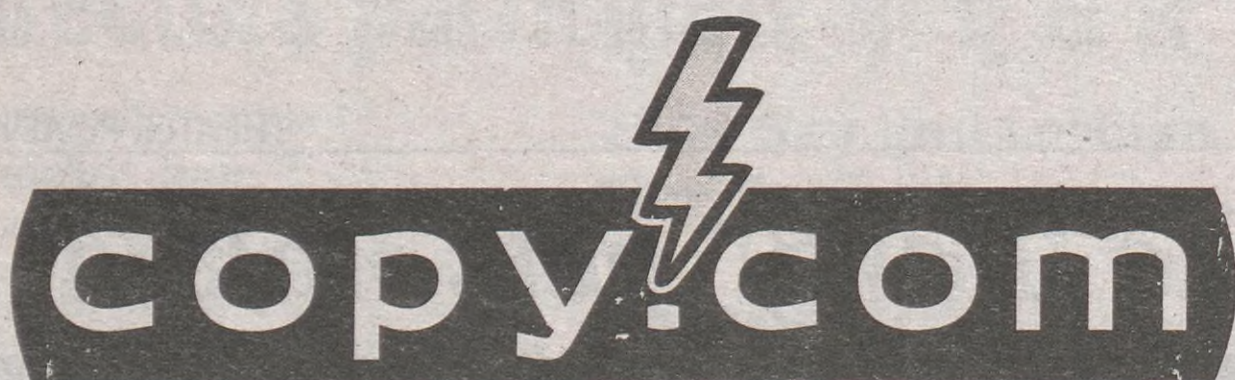
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"Party!"

Through June 24

Bienvenue Theatre, 3722
Washington

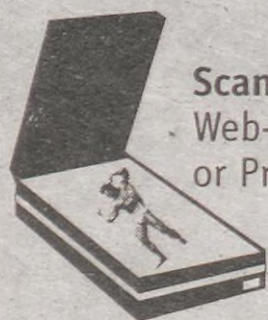
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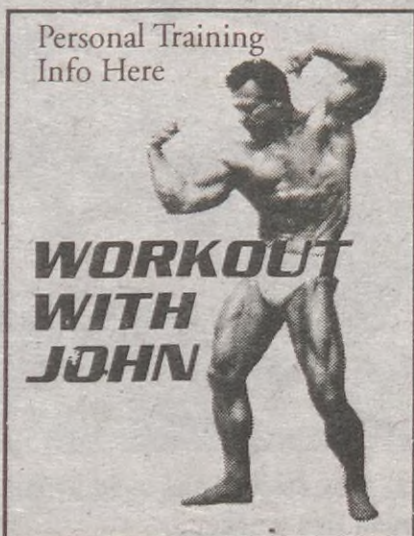
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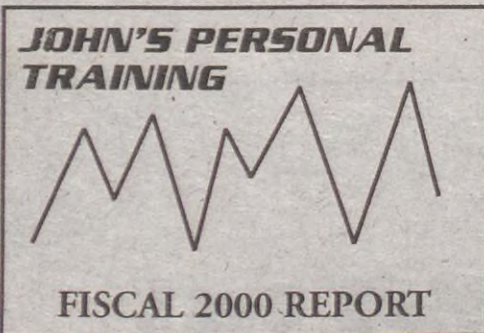
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Bayou Calendar

"Spring Mixed Repertory"

Good dancing for the next two weeks, thanks to Houston Ballet. The curtain raiser is Trey McIntyre's joyous vernal celebration "Second Before the Ground." This certifiable crowd-pleaser wowed the staid, cranky English during the Ballet's recent London stint. It'll wow you, too. Next is Ben Stevenson's "Image," a psychological interpretation on the effects of fame, witnessed in the disturbed life of Marilyn Monroe. It's a grand expressionistic solo, using Mahler's apt, heart-breaking Adagio from his "Tenth Symphony." Barbara Bears, the dancer's dancer par excellence is giving her final performances in the next two programs ("Giselle" will be her last ballet), and her dramatic sensuality—and those sublime legs and feet—should make her a perfect M.M. The program closes with a world premiere by Lila York, former Paul Taylor superstar, whose "All American," set to Beethoven's titanic "Piano Concerto #5" is a tribute to the American male. Look for those trademark Yorkisms: forceful attack, great leaps, dramatic swirls to the floor, and speed, speed, speed.



Through June 3
Houston Ballet, Wortham Theater Center
713-227-ARTS

"Betty's Summer Vacation"

Last chance to see the tour de force performance by Sally Edmundson as the Mother

from Hell, Mrs. Siezmagraff, in Christopher Durang's oh-so-gay black bitter comedy. Innocent, unsuspecting Betty rents a summer cottage and her life will never be the same. I hope she doesn't use what's in the freezer as a swizzle stick.

Through May 27
Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway (Waugh @ D'Amico)
713-527-8243

"Riverdance"

Well, the originator Lord Flatley may be gone from the company that propelled him into a type of stardom, but his pompous spirit haunts this bloated, action comic book version of the Irish experience. "In a primitive and powerful world, our ancestors knew fear and joy and fire." That's Act I. "War, famine, and slavery shattered the ancient bonds... cast out, we learned to belong to the world." Act II. What used to be merely annoying, has taken steroids, but it's still all tapping by little Irish leprechauns with shoes of lead. Some people actually adore this; I'm looking for the potato famine.

May 29 through June 3

Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana
713-629-3700

"The Carpetbagger's Children"

Freshly commissioned by the Alley, this Horton Foote drama is a world premiere, so all we have to go on is what they tell us and Mr. Foote's impressive track record. A Confederate Civil War soldier, stationed in Texas, returns to set up house at war's end. A family saga by the master of family sagas, this soldier's tale is told to us by his three daughters (played by the powerhouse trio of Hallie Foote, Roberta Maxwell, and Jean Stapleton). Foote, from Wharton, Texas, has won a Pulitzer Prize ("The Young Man From Atlanta"), a National Medal of the Arts, two Academy awards (his 1962 adaptation of Harper Lee's novel "To Kill A Mockingbird" and his 1983 original screenplay for "Tender Mercies"), an Emmy, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Gold Medal for Drama for a lifetime of accomplishment.

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Authentic style

What Tio Pepe lacks in decor is made up for with great food

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Tucked away on a dark and inconspicuous corner in Bellaire, it's easy to miss TIO PEPE, a small, homestyle Spanish restaurant just off the Bissonnet/Bellaire intersection. And to bypass Tio Pepe, is to miss out on some of the most dizzyingly good Paella Houston has to offer.

Although the interior itself, with its muted pink walls, dun carpet and stucco archways, isn't much cause for fiesta, what Tio Pepe lacks in style it compensates with authenticity. In fact, even the taped-up wall decorations of Spanish villas and flamenco dancers, reminiscent of grade school bulletin boards, take on an eccentric charm as soon after the first sip of Sangria works its magic.

With an abundance of jewel-like triangles of apples and oranges, this heady concoction doesn't suffer from over or under sweetening, and makes a perfect companion to the many varieties of Paella (\$12-15).

These saffron rice dishes, cooked for hours with tender pieces of chicken, pork and seafood, are deliciously moist and savory. Although a heaping, addictive plateful could easily weigh one down in salts and starches, the flavors are so rich and piquant that each bite seems refreshingly light.

The Seafood Paella (\$15.25) deserves particular mention for the perfectly steamed squid rings, clams and mussels. Coated in the saffron and olive oil seasonings, even the smallest pea or pepper slice becomes a delectable detail.

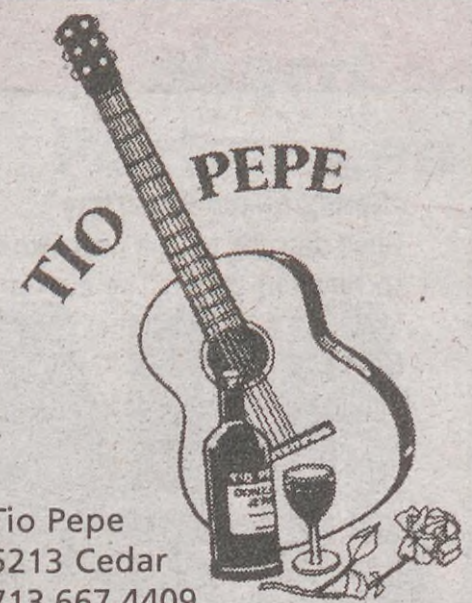
These saffron rice dishes, cooked for hours with tender pieces of chicken, pork and seafood, are deliciously moist and savory.

For those who like their meats and side dishes separated, the Pollo Valenciana (\$9.25) is similar to the Paella, with grilled chicken breast. In fact, chicken lovers are in luck at Tio Pepe with the variety of sauces and preparations. For instance, Pollo al Ajillo (\$9.95) features a light brown garlic sauce, and Pollo Tio Pepe (\$9.95) blends a heavier sauce from mushrooms and sherry.

The Pollo a la Cazuela (\$9.95) yields a more prominent role to grilled and sautéed veggies, like plump, multi-colored peppers.

The Cordero Jardinera (\$11.95), roasted lamb shanks, and Ternera Tio Pepe (\$12.95), veal medallions in the same sauce as the Pollo of the same name, offer meatier choices which seem to lack the exquisite min-

FOOD FILE



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gling of flavors in the Paella.

Before digging in, appetizers like Calamares Fritos (\$5.95) and Camarones in Salsa Verde (\$5.95) offer light, and serendipitous hints of the entrees to come. The Escargot Tio Pepe (\$7) are a bit salty, but as every snail-lover can attest to, half the fun is in the bread dunking, and the buttery garlic sauce, sprinkled generously with flakes of black pepper and other herbs, does the trick.

The Chorizo Tipo Espanol (\$5.25) tends to be a bit greasy, and considering the available entrees, a sausage appetizer might just be overkill. The Sopa de Ajo (\$3) may be quintessentially Spanish, but could have been less watery.

While Flan (\$3) makes an impressive appearance as a dessert, other desserts tend to be more American, and rather unremarkable, except for the cinnamon Bread Pudding (\$2.25).

The size of the restaurant means that even during the busiest hours, the owner, chef, or other Tio Pepe family members can be seen chatting with customers about dishes, special ingredients, and cooking methods. Often, when we asked for an extra wine glass, or a bread refill, two or three servers appeared.

Although our main server was new to Tio Pepe, she happily brought out the host and chef to answer our menu questions.

And with a final nod to authenticity, the flamenco dancer comes to life every Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m. with an "espectaculo" guitar show.

Although there are swankier tapas restaurants abound, diner who favor substance over style will be most at home raising a glass to this hidden gem of Bellaire.

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"quote/unquote"

compiled from staff reports

"What would heterosexual males say when millions of chiseled, buff men with bulging biceps and rock-hard abs march into TG Fridays from coast to coast 'looking for chicks'? ... Would any minister actually want to see Richard Simmons propose to his daughter? Would any conservative activist really welcome the news that her youngest son is dating Rosie O'Donnell?"

—Deroy Murdock, writing for the conservative magazine *National Review*, on the implications of gays actually being converted to heterosexuality

"I like the challenge of gay men. I think, 'I'll turn them.' It's true that all the best men are gay."

—Former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell (a.k.a. Ginger Spice) to BBC Choice's "That Gay Show," May 4

"The press, including the *L.A. Times*, I might add, depicted Rock [Hudson] (below right) as a man who led a deeply secretive life. He didn't lead a deeply secretive life; he was protected by the industry around him and the journalism establishment around him. He wasn't worried that somebody was going to break into one of those all-boy parties he held up



on Beverly Crest. That was simply his entitlement as a movie star. The thing I hate hearing the most is stars and industry people who are still quoted as saying, 'I knew Rock but I didn't know about his private life.' Believe me, if you knew Rock you knew about his private life."

—Tales Of The City author Armistead Maupin (far left) to the *Los Angeles Times*, May 5

"I think sexual boredom plays a huge role in the leather scene. This is probably why you don't see too many freshly sprung chicks donning dog collars and sniffing leather boots. There's a reason why most of the bondage elite are over the hill and have a rundown, tattered look about them."

—Columnist Paulo Murillo in the Los Angeles gay newspaper *Fab!*, May

"Are Popeye and Bluto coming out of the closet? That's the debate over a new Minute Maid orange juice commercial. The ad shows the cartoon sailors, usually rivals, bonding on a seesaw and at the beach. They even ride off together on a bike built for two, leaving romantic interest Olive Oyl in the dust."

—*USA Today*, May 11



"['Queer As Folk' is] more than just watching people get laid. It's not just about dick. You know, I actually went from filming 'QAF' to doing 'The Vagina Monologues' on stage. I've gone from dick to pussy."

—Actress Sharon Gless (Debbie on Showtime's "Queer As Folk") to Britain's *Attitude* magazine

"I think that's just so tired [to criticize Showtime's 'Queer As Folk' because only two of the actors are openly gay]. ... The point of this is not some sort of militaristic approach to making art. The people who got these jobs are the people who are best suited emotionally to carry these characters. And whether they have historically stuck their dicks in places that you or I might like to stick our dicks is of really very little importance to me."

—Openly gay actor Peter Paige ("Emmet" on Showtime's "Queer As Folk") to the Toronto TV program "10%-QTV," March 6

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community

saturday, may 26

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.
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 • Gender Jam. 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Let's Talk About Sex" workshop. 6:30 p.m. 713-880-9235

sunday may 27

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: Bisexuality. 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. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center 713-692-2703.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Maria Minicucci's Celebration of Life. 4 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

monday, may 28

NOTE: Some events may be canceled due to the Memorial holiday.

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

tuesday, may 29

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.

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calendar

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Gay Men's Health. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Houston Outdoor Group. General meeting & newsletter mailout. 713-522-7809

wednesday, may 30

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E.J's. 713-830-3000.
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.
Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 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.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. Dreamweavers: The Craft of writing fiction. 6-9 p.m. • 713-524-3818.

thursday, may 31

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, 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.
HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

friday, June 1

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-5AFE.
Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

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Between Galleria & Greenway Plaza • Shady cottage 2/1 • study • Custom finishes • Hardwoods • Large fenced yard • Central AC • WD Connections • Great location on cul de sac • \$1600 • Leave message @ 713-839-8393.

2/2 duplex • 1918 Forest Hill • Central AC • Deck • Lush landscaping • Garage • Approx. 1200 SF • 713-924-3959 • 713-837-9009.

Office for rent

Second-floor office available immediately at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne at Stanford. Dimensions are 14' x 12'6". Nonprofit glbt organization preferred as tenant partners but all inquiries are welcomed. Contact Tim Brookover for rate and details. 713.524.3818, brookover@ev1.net For Lease • 1700 sq.ft. • Great Heights location • Call 713.443.9494

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Montrose • Share luxury townhome • Private bedroom & bath • Parking • Security • Extras • \$650/mo. • Bill Paid • Steve • 713-201-3921.

2/1 Garage apt • \$350 +1/2 bills • W Grey & Dunlavy • 18-25 yo • Call Mario @ 832-563-5107 • Immediate move in •

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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:** kcooke@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

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST
CALL FOR DIRECTORY AD RATES

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS
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: \$ _____

BUSINESS RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for \$18.00 per week.

Additional words _____ x 75¢ per word (per week): _____

Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) _____

Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues

Total: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my AMEX MC VISA

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____

Signature _____

Occasions

Birthday

Former Houston Voice accountant Ron Pappa will be calculating his birthday interest on May 27.

A smile and a birthday hug to David Szyal (former owner of the Venture-N) on his May 28 happy day.

Erwin B. of Asians and Friends Houston sneaks in a birthday on May 29.

Jimmy Arispie will be "workin'" his "It's my birthday and I'll drink if I want to" routine for his May 30 birthday.

Just how many birthdays has Lucy (the one and only) had? She tallies up another on May 31.

Asians and Friends Houston member Lam N. sends up his birthday flare on June 1.

Pet of the Week



This is Bart, a 3-year-old, male, domestic longhaired, brown tabby. The neat thing about him is he likes to play with feet! He's available for immediate adoption at the Houston Humane Society. Contact HHS at 713.434.5555 or e-mail pr@houstonhumane.org.



Photography by Lorenzo Gomez

Sex It Up

and play it safe.

Syphilis... take action, get tested; it's free and easy.

What You Should Know:

- Syphilis may go unnoticed, and it can be easily spread through unprotected oral and anal sex.
- Syphilis makes it much easier for you to get and give HIV.
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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

May 25 - 31



ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

You may have to cut off a troublesome relationship altogether instead of prolonging the agony. Four planets in your house of ideas could stir up that brain of yours in some exciting ways. You are on the cutting edge of your field and should pursue a single wild ambition in several different ways. A Leo is your knight in shining latex.



TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

Your life takes a sexy turn in early June, and it's up to you to read the writing on the wall. You have this broken record in your head, darling. It's as if you think the same terrible thing is going to happen to you in love that happened before. Stop psyching yourself out. Then move on to the future with a fellow Taurus.



GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

Venus in your house of friends could promote a different kind of closeness between you and a Scorpio pal, who may want to ride the edge or go all the way. Instead of obsessing about the next big thing, be thankful for all the little things that you already have in your hands.



CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

You are going to have to do some work before you can figure out all the secrets to your own private universe, darling. Stop measuring everything in your life as if you are the most lame-ass straight man. If you've got good love (or the chance to get it), what else matters? A Gemini helps you win a victory you thought had been lost weeks ago.



LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

Uranus and Neptune may be spreading confusion and chaos in your love life, but don't worry, doll, this is as freaky as it's going to get. Come early June, you'll really need to put your mouth where your money is and promote yourself. A Libra will help toot your horn.



VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

Take charge of you own destiny while four planets are squaring you, sweetie. Instead of complaining, why not quietly take steps to improve your fate? Tiny steps towards the existence you desire will get you there faster than bold and erratic moves. Another Virgo would like to try some bold and erratic moves on your face...



LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

Make a major life decision in early June, but don't tell anyone about it. You will be better off if you do what you need to do in your most subtle, secretive, Libra way. Anything related to travel and learning could bring you the success that you've been longing for. But first, set some boundaries with an Aquarius who may be holding you back.



SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

Early June is all about finding balance in your most important relationship. If you've been too obsessed with sex or not obsessed enough, switch gears. Uncover your own hidden motivations instead of trying so hard to second guess everyone else's. A Capricorn is not all he or she seems to be.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

While Pluto and Mars are both retrograde in your sign, why not have the hysterical emotional scene you've been wanting to have for months? A Libra will support you in whatever you do. So do something, dammit!



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

You have to keep a lot of balls in the air during this season, sweetie, but you've got the balls to do it, doncha? You need to work on the tiny little details that will either haunt you or thrust you into greater fame when your day in the Sun arrives. A Cancer helps you stay focused with a sexual workout that works your ass—and your attitude.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

You may have to completely embarrass yourself in a social situation in order to get to the person you really want. Who cares? Do something passionate and romantic to let your lover know that you are serious. Kiss some ass for once, darling.



PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Be frugal (as cheap as your mother, sweetie) during this cycle. With Saturn in your home sector, you really need to save money for the things that count. Your vague complaints have gotten annoying. Take a walk on the other side of the tracks and face your old self. A Gemini will meet you there.

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

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