

## A girl fling

Elle Macpherson and Kate Capshaw share steamy scenes in Showtime's 'A Girl Thing'

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Houston GLBT groups in for financial win from upcoming 'Human Race'

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Pro skater Rudy Galindo says being out about his sexuality, HIV-status has only helped his career

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Psychologist visiting Houston to research book on children of GLBTs

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# Hate crimes bills filed

State House pledges support of protection for GLBTs, Perry waffles on response to legislation

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN—Texas House members on Wednesday relaunched their campaign to strengthen Texas' hate crimes law, pledging support for enhanced penalties and protections for gays and lesbians, the same provisions that doomed a similar effort two years ago.

About 30 representatives stood behind Rep. Senfronia Thompson as she announced filing of the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, named for the black man who was dragged to death behind a pickup truck in East Texas in 1998.

"This bill is more than just James Byrd Jr.," said Thompson, D-Houston. "It is

> Continued on Page 6



Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, speaks at a press conference announcing the reintroduction of the Hate Crimes Bill at the Capitol in Austin Wednesday. At foreground left is Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin, with mustache is Rep. Domingo Garcia, D-Dallas, Rep. Dora Olivo, D-Rosenberg, at right of Sen. West is Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, and Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston.

DEBORAH CANNON/AP

# Gay groups join growing opposition to Ashcroft

Conservative, anti-gay record moves civil rights groups to challenge Bush's pick for attorney general

WASHINGTON—Opposition among gay and other civil rights groups began to develop to the nomination of former Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft to be George W. Bush's attorney general, and their message seemed to be getting through to Democratic senators who will vote on Ashcroft's confirmation.

Among the groups lining up to oppose the nomination are the country's two largest national gay rights groups: the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director, and Elizabeth Toledo, executive director of NGLTF, said their groups would be prominent among those opposing Ashcroft, the New York Times reported.

"Ashcroft's dismal record for racial, gender, and sexual orientation civil rights issues," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director, "raises serious concerns about his ability to enforce our nation's civil rights laws."

Other civil rights lobbyists opposing the nomination include the National Abortion Rights Action League, People for the American Way, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the NAACP, and other advocates of gun control and abortion rights.

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Former Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft, George W. Bush's choice for attorney general, is coming under heavy fire for a conservative record that includes anti-gay votes and an honorary diploma from Bob Jones University.

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## Issue 1055

# houston voice

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# Major merger

## Montrose Clinic, Body Positive Wellness center join forces

by ELLA TYLER

The new year brought about several changes for two prominent organizations in Houston's gay community. Body Positive Wellness Center and Montrose Clinic merged on Jan. 1, 2001.

The combined organization will be called Montrose Clinic, but the wellness center will continue to be called the Body Positive Wellness Center and will remain at 3400 Montrose.

Katy Caldwell, executive director of Montrose Clinic, will be the executive director of the organization. Sean Carter, former executive director of Body Positive left the organization several months ago to take a position with the Children's Chorus.

The staff for each agency will be retained, according to Todd Foster of Montrose Clinic.

Pete Sharpe, formerly chair of the Body Positive board of directors, has been elected chairman of the board and John Michael Gonzalez, formerly chairman of the board of Montrose Clinic will be the vice-chairman of the new board.

"We are very excited about this merger," said Foster. "We can now provide a complete range of care, from primary care for HIV, to research, to wellness programs. In addition, the Body Positive board will provide excellent leadership. It is a very involved and committed board."

Sharpe said that Body Positive had been talking about merging with a primary care or researched based entity for some time.

"There is a lot of synergy in this merger, for example, we both participate in the Houston Clinic Research Network," he said.

Sharpe said one of the benefits to Body Positive from the merger is a access to a greater range of funding sources.

"We have been lobbying for Ryan White



Montrose Clinic Vice Chairman John Michael Gonzalez signs the merger agreement denoting the joining of the clinic with Body Positive Wellness Center, as Pete Sharpe, former chairman of BPW and current chairman of the clinic, watches.

Funding for rehabilitation services, and got our first grant of \$75,000 to provide these services, but for a small agency like Body Positive, setting up the infrastructure to receive federal funds is very expensive.

"Several years ago, we applied for Ryan White funds to provide nutritional supplements, but it would have cost more to set up than we would have gotten. Montrose Clinic got those funds."

The new board will spend the next year planning how the new organization can serve the community, Foster said.

"One of the issues that we will be looking at is whether Body Positive will provide services for chronic illnesses besides HIV/AIDS," Sharpe said. "We are beginning to do some outreach to women with HIV and would like to add physical therapy."

Sharpe said that the services that have been offered by each group will continue to be offered for the next year.

"I doubt we will be dropping any services. Our goal is to provide more services," he said.

Body Positive was established in 1988 to provide HIV-positive individuals in managing their illness and improving their quality of live with programs such as resistance weight training, nutritional counseling,

massage and chiropractic programs and peer counseling and other support services. It had a budget of approximately \$300,000.

Montrose Clinic was founded in 1981 to provide free or low-cost health, social, educational and research services. It now provides extensive services to those living with HIV including access to primary health care, specialty clinics, experimental HIV therapies, HIV education, nutritional counseling, disease prevention and a variety of wellness programs to enhance the treatment of chronic disease.

The boards of each organization voted in December to merge the organizations. In addition to Sharpe and Gonzalez, the members of the new board are: Ellen Hahn, treasurer; Kathryn McNeil, secretary; Chris Jimmerson, Mary Anne Bobinski, Grant Martin, Rusty Mueller, Jim Vokoun, Laurie Johnson, Nelson Vergil, Matthew Soileau, Mark Wood, Todd Ramos and Marian Coleman.

## INFO

## Montrose Clinic

713-830-3000

<http://www.montrose-clinic.org><http://www.bodypositivehouston.org>

## Queer community winner of 'Human Race'

### Houston GLBT organizations to financially benefit from upcoming 5K/1K race/walk

by D.L. MURPHY

Houston's GLBT community will be a winner at an upcoming 5K/1K walk/run by receiving substantial funding from Holocaust Museum Houston's "Come Join...The Human Race." The event is scheduled for Feb. 4.

The museum held its official kickoff for the race on Jan. 8. The event was attended



Proceeds from 'The Human Race,' an annual 5K/1K race/walk, will be distributed to several charities, including AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

by Mayor Brown and other city officials, Bob Devlin, American Generals' CEO; Ken Lay, Enron board chairman; Linda Lay,

executive committee member, Holocaust Museum Houston; and Susan Scalpini of Houston ISD.

All proceeds from participants' pledges will be distributed to community groups that work to developed programs designed to increase understanding and respect for the diverse communities present in Houston.

Although the final amounts of funds to be distributed will not be known until after the race, contributions to individual organizations will be in the four- to five-figure range.

This year's Human Race Beneficiaries include AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc., Fifth Ward Enrichment Program, Communities in Schools, Inc., Child Advocates, Houston Lesbian and Gay

➤ Continued on Page 13

# Mission Accomplished!

Introducing  
New Videx **EC**




Ask Your  
Doctor!

# VIDEX<sup>®</sup> EC

(didanosine) delayed-release capsules  
enteric-coated beads

Please see following page for brief summary of prescribing information, including boxed warnings.

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## VIDEX<sup>®</sup> EC (didanosine)

VIDEX<sup>®</sup> EC (didanosine) Delayed-Release Capsules  
Enteric-Coated Beadlets

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information, 11/00. For complete prescribing information, please consult official package circular.

**WARNING**  
FATAL AND NONFATAL PANCREATITIS HAVE OCCURRED DURING THERAPY WITH DIDANOSINE USED ALONE OR IN COMBINATION REGIMENS IN BOTH TREATMENT-NAIVE AND TREATMENT-EXPERIENCED PATIENTS, REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSION. VIDEX EC SHOULD BE SUSPENDED IN PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED PANCREATITIS AND DISCONTINUED IN PATIENTS WITH CONFIRMED PANCREATITIS (SEE WARNINGS).  
LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING DIDANOSINE AND OTHER ANTIRETROVIRALS (SEE WARNINGS).

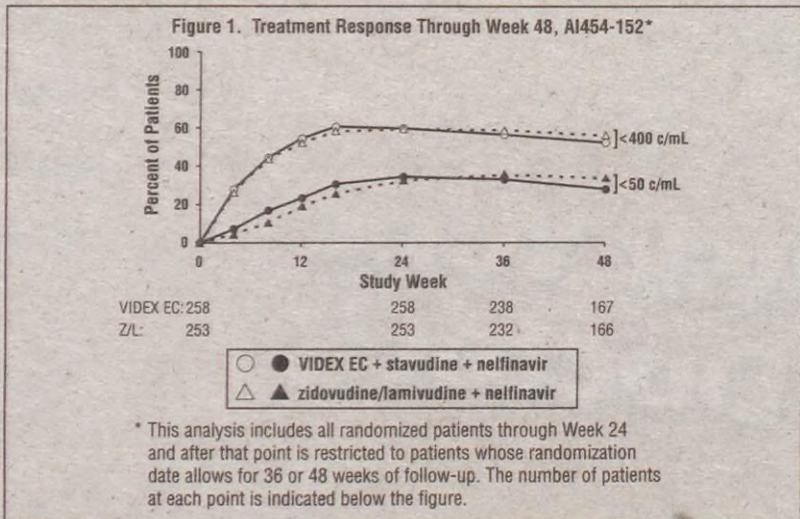
### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

VIDEX EC in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults whose management requires once-daily administration of didanosine or an alternative didanosine formulation. (See CLINICAL STUDIES, PRECAUTIONS: Frequency of Dosing, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

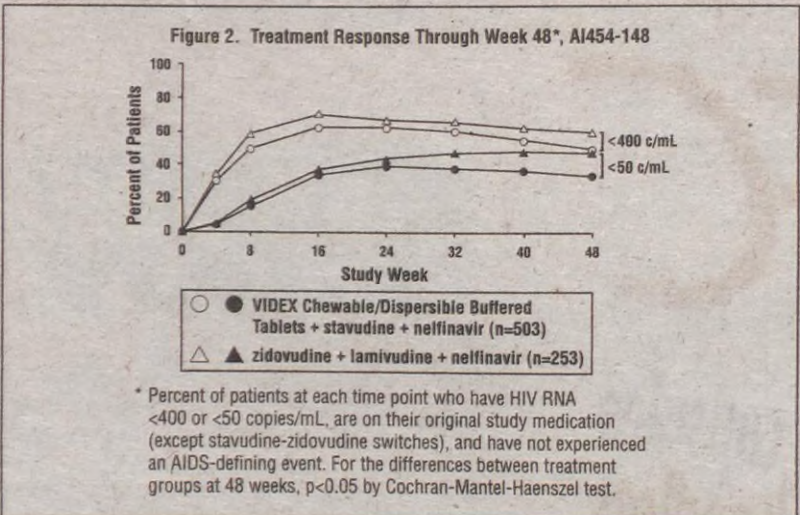
There are limited data to date to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily dosing regimen of didanosine.

**Clinical Studies:** Once-daily dosing of didanosine produces a pharmacokinetic profile that is substantially different from that observed with twice-daily dosing of didanosine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information). Further, VIDEX EC and the VIDEX (didanosine) buffered formulation produce substantially different pharmacokinetic profiles when dosed once daily. Therefore, controlled clinical trials were conducted with both formulations to evaluate the safety and efficacy of once-daily dosing of didanosine. There is no evaluable long-term clinical information that directly compares the efficacy of the two once-daily didanosine formulations. A small clinical study that was conducted to address this issue was not interpretable due to the small number of patients who completed the study.

**Once-Daily VIDEX EC Study:** Study AI454-152 is an ongoing, 48-week, randomized, open-label study comparing VIDEX EC (400 mg once daily) plus stavudine (40 mg twice daily) plus nevirapin (750 mg three times daily) to zidovudine (200 mg twice daily) plus lamivudine (150 mg twice daily) combination tablets plus nevirapin (750 mg three times daily) in 511 treatment-naive patients, with a mean CD4 cell count of 411 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (range 39 to 1105 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) and a mean plasma HIV-1 RNA of 4.71 log<sub>10</sub> copies/mL (range 2.8 to 5.9 log<sub>10</sub> copies/mL) at baseline. Patients were primarily males (72%) and Caucasian (53%) with a mean age of 35 years (range 18 to 73 years). The percentages of patients with HIV RNA <400 and <50 copies/mL and not meeting any criteria for treatment failure (eg, virologic failure, discontinuation for any reason, or AIDS-defining event) through 48 weeks are shown in Figure 1.



**Once-Daily VIDEX Buffered Tablet Study:** Study AI454-148 was a randomized, open-label, multicenter study comparing treatment with VIDEX Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets (400 mg once daily) plus stavudine (40 mg twice daily) and nevirapin (750 mg three times daily) versus zidovudine (300 mg twice daily) plus lamivudine (150 mg twice daily) and nevirapin (750 mg three times daily) in 756 treatment-naive patients, with a mean CD4 cell count of 368 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (range 80 to 1568 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) and a mean plasma HIV-1 RNA of 4.69 log<sub>10</sub> copies/mL (range 2.6 to 5.9 log<sub>10</sub> copies/mL) at baseline. The percentages of patients with HIV RNA <400 and <50 copies/mL and not meeting any criteria for treatment failure through 48 weeks are shown in Figure 2.



### CONTRAINDICATION

VIDEX EC is contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any component of the formulation.

### WARNINGS

#### 1. Pancreatitis

FATAL AND NONFATAL PANCREATITIS HAVE OCCURRED DURING THERAPY WITH DIDANOSINE USED ALONE OR IN COMBINATION REGIMENS IN BOTH TREATMENT-NAIVE AND TREATMENT-EXPERIENCED PATIENTS, REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSION. VIDEX EC SHOULD BE SUSPENDED IN PATIENTS WITH SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF PANCREATITIS AND DISCONTINUED IN PATIENTS WITH CONFIRMED PANCREATITIS. PATIENTS TREATED WITH VIDEX EC IN COMBINATION WITH STAVUDINE, WITH OR WITHOUT HYDROXYUREA, MAY BE AT INCREASED RISK FOR PANCREATITIS.

When treatment with life-sustaining drugs known to cause pancreatic toxicity is required, suspension of VIDEX EC therapy is recommended. In patients with risk factors for pancreatitis, VIDEX EC should be used with extreme caution and only if clearly indicated. Patients with advanced HIV infection, especially the elderly, are at increased risk of pancreatitis and should be followed closely. Patients with renal impairment may be at greater risk for pancreatitis if treated without dose adjustment.

The frequency of pancreatitis is dose related. In phase 3 studies with buffered formulations of didanosine, incidence ranged from 1% to 10% with doses higher than are currently recommended and 1% to 7% with recommended dose.

Rx ONLY

#### 2. Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis

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

#### 3. Retinal Changes and Optic Neuritis

Retinal changes and optic neuritis have been reported in patients taking didanosine. Periodic retinal examinations should be considered for patients receiving VIDEX EC. (See ADVERSE REACTIONS.)

### PRECAUTIONS

**Frequency of Dosing:** VIDEX EC should only be administered once daily. There are no data on the use of VIDEX EC dosed more frequently than once daily.

There are limited data to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily dosing regimen of didanosine. Therefore, the preferred didanosine dosing regimen is twice daily with a VIDEX (didanosine) buffered formulation. Once-daily dosing with VIDEX EC should be considered only for adult patients whose management requires once-daily administration of didanosine or an alternative didanosine formulation (see CLINICAL STUDIES). Consult the prescribing information for VIDEX buffered formulations and Pediatric Powder for Oral Solution for information on twice-daily dosing.

VIDEX EC should be taken on an empty stomach.

**Peripheral Neuropathy:** Peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, has been reported in patients receiving didanosine therapy. Peripheral neuropathy has occurred more frequently in patients with advanced HIV disease, in patients with a history of neuropathy, or in patients being treated with neurotoxic drug therapy, including stavudine (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

#### General:

**Patients with Renal Impairment:** Patients with renal impairment (creatinine clearance <60 mL/min) may be at greater risk of toxicity from didanosine due to decreased drug clearance (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information). A dose reduction is recommended in these patients (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

**Patients with Hepatic Impairment:** It is unknown if hepatic impairment significantly affects didanosine pharmacokinetics. Therefore, these patients should be monitored closely for evidence of didanosine toxicity.

**Hyperuricemia:** Didanosine has been associated with asymptomatic hyperuricemia; treatment suspension may be necessary if clinical measures aimed at reducing uric acid levels fail.

**Information for Patients (see Patient Information Leaflet in full prescribing information):** Patients should be informed that a serious toxicity of didanosine, used alone and in combination regimens, is pancreatitis, which may be fatal.

Patients should also be aware that peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in hands or feet, may develop during therapy with VIDEX EC. Patients should be counseled that peripheral neuropathy occurs with greatest frequency in patients with advanced HIV disease or a history of peripheral neuropathy, and that dose modification and/or discontinuation of VIDEX EC may be required if toxicity develops.

Patients should be informed that when didanosine is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when didanosine is used alone. These patients should be followed closely.

Patients should be cautioned about the use of medications or other substances, including alcohol, that may exacerbate VIDEX EC toxicities.

Patients should be informed that the preferred didanosine dosing regimen is twice daily with a VIDEX buffered formulation because there are limited data to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily regimen.

VIDEX EC is not a cure for HIV infection, and patients may continue to develop HIV-associated illnesses, including opportunistic infection. Therefore, patients should remain under the care of a physician when using VIDEX EC. Patients should be advised that VIDEX EC therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIDEX EC are unknown at this time.

**Drug Interactions (see also CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions in full prescribing information):**

Drug interactions that have been established based on drug interaction studies are listed with the pharmacokinetic results in CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions (Tables 3-5) in full prescribing information. The clinical recommendations based on the results of these studies are listed in Table 1.

Drug	Effect	Clinical Comment
allopurinol	↑ didanosine concentration	Coadministration not recommended.
ganciclovir	↑ didanosine concentration	Appropriate doses for this combination, with respect to efficacy and safety, have not been established.
methadone	↓ didanosine concentration	Appropriate doses for this combination, with respect to efficacy and safety, have not been established.

↑ Indicates increase.  
↓ Indicates decrease.

Coadministration of VIDEX EC with drugs that are known to cause pancreatitis may increase the risk of this toxicity (see WARNINGS: Pancreatitis). Predicted drug interactions with VIDEX EC are listed in Table 2.

### Table 2 Predicted Drug Interactions with VIDEX EC

Drug Class	Effect	Clinical Comment
Drugs that may cause pancreatic toxicity	↑ risk of pancreatitis	Use only with extreme caution. <sup>a</sup>
Neurotoxic drugs	↑ risk of neuropathy	Use with caution. <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Indicates increase.  
<sup>b</sup> Only if other drugs are not available and if clearly indicated. If treatment with life-sustaining drugs that cause pancreatic toxicity is required, suspension of VIDEX EC is recommended (see WARNINGS: Pancreatitis).  
<sup>c</sup> See PRECAUTIONS: Peripheral Neuropathy.

**Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis:** Lifetime carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice and rats for 22 and 24 months, respectively. In the mouse study, initial doses of 120, 800, and 1200 mg/kg/day for each sex were lowered after 8 months to 120, 210, and 210 mg/kg/day for females and 120, 300, and 600 mg/kg/day for males. The two higher doses exceeded the maximally tolerated dose in females and the high dose exceeded the maximally tolerated dose in males. The low dose in females represented 0.68-fold maximum human exposure and the intermediate dose in males represented 1.7-fold maximum human exposure based on relative AUC comparisons. In the rat study, initial doses were 100, 250, and 1000 mg/kg/day, and the high dose was lowered to 500 mg/kg/day after 18 months. The upper dose in male and female rats represented 3-fold maximum human exposure.

Didanosine induced no significant increase in neoplastic lesions in mice or rats at maximally tolerated doses.

Didanosine was positive in the following genetic toxicology assays: 1) the *Escherichia coli* tester strain WP2 uvrA bacterial mutagenicity assay; 2) the L5178Y/TK+/- mouse lymphoma mammalian cell gene mutation assay; 3) the *in vitro* chromosomal aberrations assay in cultured

human peripheral lymphocytes; 4) the *in vitro* chromosomal aberrations assay in Chinese Hamster Lung cells; and 5) the BALB/c 3T3 *in vitro* transformation assay. No evidence of mutagenicity was observed in an Ames *Salmonella* bacterial mutagenicity assay or in rat and mouse *in vivo* micronucleus assays.

**Pregnancy, Reproduction and Fertility:** Pregnancy "Category B". Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits at doses up to 12 and 14.2 times the estimated human exposure (based upon plasma levels), respectively, and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to didanosine. At approximately 12 times the estimated human exposure, didanosine was slightly toxic to female rats and their pups during mid and late lactation. These rats showed reduced food intake and body weight gains, but the physical and functional development of the offspring was not impaired and there were no major changes in the F2 generation. A study in rats showed that didanosine and/or its metabolites are transferred to the fetus through the placenta. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

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

**Nursing Mothers:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV. A study in rats showed that following oral administration, didanosine and/or its metabolites were excreted into the milk of lactating rats. It is not known if didanosine is excreted in human milk. Because of both the potential for HIV transmission and the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, mothers should be instructed not to breast-feed if they are receiving VIDEX EC (didanosine).

**Pediatric Use:** The safety and efficacy of VIDEX EC in pediatric patients have not been established. Please consult the complete prescribing information for VIDEX (didanosine) buffered formulations and Pediatric Powder for Oral Solution for dosage and administration of didanosine to pediatric patients.

**Geriatric Use:** In an Expanded Access Program using a buffered formulation of didanosine for the treatment of advanced HIV infection, patients aged 65 years and older had a higher frequency of pancreatitis (10%) than younger patients (5%) (see WARNINGS). Clinical studies of didanosine, including those for VIDEX EC, did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 years and over to determine whether they respond differently than younger subjects. Didanosine is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney, and the risk of toxic reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection. In addition, renal function should be monitored and dosage adjustments should be made accordingly (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Dose Adjustment).

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

A SERIOUS TOXICITY OF DIDANOSINE IS PANCREATITIS, WHICH MAY BE FATAL (see WARNINGS). OTHER IMPORTANT TOXICITIES INCLUDE LACTIC ACIDOSIS/SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS; RETINAL CHANGES AND OPTIC NEURITIS; AND PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY (see WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS).

When didanosine is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of these toxicities may be higher than when didanosine is used alone. Thus, patients treated with VIDEX EC in combination with stavudine, with or without hydroxyurea, may be at increased risk for pancreatitis, which may be fatal, and hepatotoxicity (see WARNINGS). Patients treated with VIDEX EC in combination with stavudine may also be at increased risk for peripheral neuropathy (see PRECAUTIONS).

Studies of VIDEX EC and a buffered didanosine formulation yielded comparable safety profiles for both formulations. Selected clinical adverse events that occurred in clinical studies of didanosine dosed once daily in combination with other antiretroviral agents are provided in Table 3.

Adverse Events	Percent of Patients*			
	VIDEX EC+ stavudine+ nevirapin n=255	zidovudine/lamivudine+ nevirapin n=250	VIDEX Buffered Tablet+ stavudine+ nevirapin n=482	zidovudine/lamivudine+ nevirapin n=248
Diarrhea	54	56	70	60
Nausea	21	35	28	40
Headache	20	16	21	30
Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy	20	8	26	6
Vomiting	13	18	12	14
Rash	10	10	13	16
Pancreatitis (see below)	<1	*	1	*

\* Percentages based on treated patients.  
\* Median duration of treatment 43 weeks in the VIDEX EC+stavudine+nevirapin group and 39 weeks in the zidovudine/lamivudine+nevirapin group.  
\* Median duration of treatment 48 weeks.  
\* Zidovudine/lamivudine combination tablet.  
\* This event was not observed in this study arm.

In clinical trials using a buffered formulation of didanosine, pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in one patient who received didanosine plus stavudine plus nevirapin, one patient who received didanosine plus stavudine plus indinavir, and 2 of 68 patients who received didanosine plus stavudine plus indinavir plus hydroxyurea. In an early access program, pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in one patient who received VIDEX EC plus stavudine plus hydroxyurea plus ritonavir plus indinavir plus efavirenz (see WARNINGS).

The frequency of pancreatitis is dose related. In phase 3 studies with buffered formulations of didanosine, incidence ranged from 1% to 10% with doses higher than are currently recommended and 1% to 7% with recommended dose.

Selected laboratory abnormalities that occurred in clinical studies of didanosine dosed once daily in combination with other antiretroviral agents are shown in Table 4.

Parameter	Percent of Patients*							
	VIDEX EC+ stavudine+ nevirapin n=255		zidovudine/lamivudine+ nevirapin n=250		VIDEX Buffered Tablet+ stavudine+ nevirapin n=482		zidovudine/lamivudine+ nevirapin n=248	
	Grades 3-4 <sup>a</sup>	All Grades	Grades 3-4 <sup>a</sup>	All Grades	Grades 3-4 <sup>a</sup>	All Grades	Grades 3-4 <sup>a</sup>	All Grades
SGOT (AST)	4	40	4	17	3	42	2	23
SGPT (ALT)	4	39	4	20	3	37	3	24
Lipase	3	18	<1	8	7	17	2	11
Bilirubin	<1	7	<1	3	<1	7	<1	3

\* Percentages based on treated patients.  
\* Median duration of treatment 43 weeks in the VIDEX EC+stavudine+nevirapin group and 39 weeks in the zidovudine/lamivudine+nevirapin group.  
\* Median duration of treatment 48 weeks.  
\* Zidovudine/lamivudine combination tablet.  
\* >5 x ULN for SGOT and SGPT, ≥2.1 x ULN for lipase, and ≥2.6 x ULN for bilirubin (ULN = upper limit of normal).

### Observed during Clinical Practice:

The following events have been identified during postapproval use of didanosine buffered formulations. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to didanosine, or a combination of these factors.

**Body as a Whole:** abdominal pain, alopecia, anaphylactoid reaction, asthenia, fever, and pain.

**Digestive Disorders:** anorexia, dyspepsia, and flatulence.

**Exocrine Gland Disorders:** pancreatitis (including fatal cases) (see WARNINGS), sialadenitis, parotid gland enlargement, dry mouth, and dry eyes.

**Hematologic Disorders:** anemia, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia.

**Liver:** lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS); hepatitis and liver failure.

**Metabolic Disorders:** diabetes mellitus, elevated serum alkaline phosphatase level, elevated serum amylase level, elevated serum gamma-glutamyltransferase level, elevated serum uric acid level, hypoglycemia, and hyperglycemia.

**Musculoskeletal Disorders**- myalgia (with or without increases in creatine kinase), rhabdomyolysis including acute renal failure and hemodialysis, arthralgia, and myopathy.  
**Ophthalmologic Disorders**- Retinal depigmentation and optic neuritis (see **WARNINGS**).

#### OVERDOSAGE

There is no known antidote for didanosine overdosage. In phase 1 studies, in which buffered formulations of didanosine were initially administered at doses ten times the currently recommended dose, toxicities included: pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, diarrhea, hyperuricemia, and hepatic dysfunction. Didanosine is not dialyzable by peritoneal dialysis, although there is some clearance by hemodialysis (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics** in full prescribing information.)

#### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

##### Dosage:

**Adults- VIDEX EC (didanosine) should be administered on an empty stomach. VIDEX EC Delayed-Release Capsules should be swallowed intact.**

The recommended daily dose is dependent on body weight and is administered as one capsule given on a once-daily schedule as outlined in Table 5.

Patient Weight	Dosage
≥60 kg	400 mg once daily
<60 kg	250 mg once daily

**Pediatric Patients**- VIDEX EC has not been studied in pediatric patients. Please consult the complete prescribing information for VIDEX (didanosine) buffered formulations and Pediatric Powder for Oral Solution for dosage and administration of didanosine to pediatric patients.

##### Dose Adjustment:

**Clinical and laboratory signs suggestive of pancreatitis should prompt dose suspension and careful evaluation of the possibility of pancreatitis. VIDEX EC use should be discontinued in patients with confirmed pancreatitis (see **WARNINGS**).**

Based on data with buffered didanosine formulations, patients with symptoms of peripheral neuropathy may tolerate a reduced dose of VIDEX EC after resolution of the symptoms of peripheral neuropathy upon drug interruption. If neuropathy recurs after resumption of VIDEX EC, permanent discontinuation of VIDEX EC should be considered.

**Renal Impairment**- Dosing recommendations for VIDEX EC and VIDEX buffered formulations are different for patients with renal impairment. Please consult the complete prescribing information on administration of VIDEX buffered formulations to patients with renal impairment.

In adult patients with impaired renal function, the dose of VIDEX EC should be adjusted to compensate for the slower rate of elimination. The recommended doses and dosing intervals of VIDEX EC in adult patients with renal insufficiency are presented in Table 6.

Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)	Dosage	
	≥60 kg	<60 kg
≥60	400 once daily	250 once daily
30-59	200 once daily	125 once daily
10-29	125 once daily	125 once daily
<10	125 once daily	b

\* Based on studies using a buffered formulation of didanosine.  
 † Not suitable for use in patients <60 kg with CL<sub>CR</sub> <10 mL/min.  
 An alternate formulation of didanosine should be used.

**Patients Requiring Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) or Hemodialysis**- For patients requiring CAPD or hemodialysis, follow dosing recommendations for patients with creatinine clearance less than 10 mL/min, shown in Table 6. It is not necessary to administer a supplemental dose of didanosine following hemodialysis.

**Hepatic Impairment**- (See **WARNINGS** and **PRECAUTIONS**.)

#### HOW SUPPLIED

VIDEX<sup>®</sup> EC (didanosine) Delayed-Release Capsules are white, opaque capsules that are packaged in bottles with child-resistant closures as described in Table 7.

<b>125 mg capsule imprinted with BMS 125 mg 6671 in Tan</b>	
NDC No. 0087-6671-17	30 capsules/bottle
NDC No. 0087-6671-12	60 capsules/bottle
<b>200 mg capsule imprinted with BMS 200 mg 6672 in Green</b>	
NDC No. 0087-6672-17	30 capsules/bottle
NDC No. 0087-6672-12	60 capsules/bottle
<b>250 mg capsule imprinted with BMS 250 mg 6673 in Blue</b>	
NDC No. 0087-6673-17	30 capsules/bottle
NDC No. 0087-6673-12	60 capsules/bottle
<b>400 mg capsule imprinted with BMS 400 mg 6674 in Red</b>	
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NDC No. 0087-6674-12	60 capsules/bottle

The capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at 25°C (77°F). Excursions between 15° and 30°C (59° and 86°F) are permitted [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

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US Patent Nos: 4,861,759 and 5,616,566 (didanosine). Patent also Pending (didanosine capsules).



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# Thompson, Ellis file hate crimes legislation

> Continued from Page 1

about all of the persons who are victims of hate and violence within our state."

So far, 64 House members have vowed to support the measure and more were expected to by Monday, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and a national holiday, said Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin.

Prior to the start of the state legislative session, State Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, whose district includes the heavily gay Montrose area, said she thinks the hate crimes bill has a good chance of passage within the first few weeks of the session.

"I personally don't think Bush would have vetoed it last session had it not been killed in committee," Danburg said. "I don't think he would have signed it, but I think he would allowed it to go into law without signing."

Danburg said she does not believe Gov. Rick Perry will be a stumbling block for the bill, although she said she considers Perry more conservative than Bush.

"Rick Perry is more closely aligned with the right-wing," she said. "Back when he was a Democrat, he was not that bad on civil rights issues, although he was certainly a conservative Democrat."

While newspapers and wire services reported Tuesday that Perry said he would oppose passage of hate crimes legislation, a spokeswoman for Perry said Wednesday that the governor wouldn't necessarily veto a bill that offered specific protections to homosexuals.

"He is not going to speak on the specific language, because it's up to the Legislature to reach some kind of compromise on that bill," spokeswoman Kathy Walt said.

"Gov. Perry will give careful consideration to any hate-crimes bill that the Legislature might send him, even if it includes specific protections for homosexuals," she added.

On Tuesday, the Houston Chronicle asked Perry in a published interview if he believed gays should be offered specific protections against hate crimes.

"I would rather see us focus on legislation that clearly enhances punishments, not getting tied up with creation of classes, causing more division between citizens of this state. I would rather see us passing legislation that helps bring Texans together rather than creating more divisions," Perry told the paper.

Thompson's bill and another filed in the Senate by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, would make crimes motivated by the victim's race, ethnicity, sex, disability, religion or sexual preference a hate crime.

The House passed the measure in 1999 but it died in the Senate in the last days of the session when critics complained it created unnecessary distinctions for homosexuals.

GLBT groups are also hopeful of the

passage of the legislation during this session.

"Stronger hate crime laws have always been one of our top priorities, especially since gays and lesbians are the second most targeted group for hate crimes," Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby Executive Director Dianne Hardy-Garcia said. "We will all continue to work fast and furiously on the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crime Act this session. With 64 legislators co-signing the bill as it was filed, it was a powerful and moving start for the legislation."

Thompson and Ellis say the current law which punishes crimes committed with bias or prejudice as a motive is not strong enough.

Two years ago, former Gov. George W. Bush refused to offer his support for the bill, saying instead that all crimes are hate crimes.

Perry has not offered his support of the new bill, saying that current Texas law adequately protects all victims of crime.

"I don't support just passing a piece of legislation for the sake of passing a piece of legislation that creates new classes of citizens," Perry said Monday in an interview with the Associated Press. "What I don't want to do in Texas is create law that continues to pull us apart."

On Wednesday, Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said the governor would carefully consider the bill if it makes it to his desk.

Ellis, who sponsored the measure in 1999, Texas law already protects several "classes" of victims.

"We crossed that juncture a hundred years ago," Ellis said. "I don't think anybody would encourage us to go and repeal all of the distinctions... such as the enhanced penalty you get for attacking a public official or a police officer."

Ellis said he and Thompson planned to speak with Perry about his stance on the bill.

Ellis said he hopes legislators would approach the provisions in the bill meant to protect homosexuals and bisexuals with an open mind.

Both Ellis' and Thompson's proposals would enhance penalties for hate-motivated crimes, assign a hate crimes prosecutor in the attorney general's office and assist counties with prosecution.

Thompson said her version differs slightly in that it requires a jury to find beyond a reasonable doubt that crime was motivated by hate before extra punishment is handed down.

In addition, Thompson's bill allows counties with populations of less than 125,000, rather than 50,000 in Ellis' bill, to receive state aid in prosecuting hate crimes. To help track case data, the bill requires counties to report hate crime prosecution to the Office of Court Administration.



AP PHOTO/DEBORAH C. JON

Rep. Senfronia Thompson, right, announces the reintroduction of the Hate Crimes Bill for the 77th Texas Legislative Session at the Capitol in Austin on Wednesday. At left is Rep. Domingo Garcia, D-Dallas and at center is Rep. Dora Olivo, D-Rosenberg.

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# HRC, NGLTF oppose Ashcroft as attorney general

> Continued from Page 1

Black groups are particularly angry at Ashcroft for his successful efforts to block the appointment of black Missouri Supreme Court judge, Ronnie White to a U.S. District Court judgeship.

Ralph Neas, president of the liberal advocacy group PFAW, called Ashcroft "the worst executive branch nominee I have ever seen."

Neas noted Ashcroft accepted an honorary degree and gave the commencement speech at Bob Jones University, which expels openly gay students and until recently opposed interracial dating.

"George W. Bush apologized for going to Bob Jones," Neas told the Times. "John Ashcroft sent a Christmas card saying it was one of the highlights of his year."

Ashcroft's voting record is among the most anti-gay in the Senate, including support for the Defense of Marriage Act, opposition to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and to adding sexual orientation to the federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

He also led the opposition to President Clinton's nomination of openly gay James Hormel to be U.S.

ambassador to Luxembourg.

But an Ashcroft associate told the Times that Ashcroft, while Missouri governor, never inquired about sexual orientation and did not discriminate in hiring and promotion.

His views on gays, though, did come through in September 1996 when the Senate was debating the Defense of Marriage Act.

"While I served as the governor of the State of Missouri, I learned that several individuals in the administration were homosexuals and had done outstanding work," he said in a floor speech, according to the Times. "Unfortunately, several of those individuals with whom I worked and whom I respected met a very early death, in part as a result of the practice of their lifestyle, and it is a tragedy."

The Senate Judiciary Committee expects to begin hearings early next week. Tough questioning awaits Ashcroft, said Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

"In his case, it's primarily a question of whether Senator Ashcroft is able to enforce laws that he has publicly disagreed with," Daschle said.

Another senator who expressed concern about the nomination is

Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry, who highlighted Ashcroft's opposition to the Hormel nomination.

"Nobody raised any questions about Mr. Hormel's business experience," Kerry said, "his legal qualifications or his contributions to the community. It was only his being gay that led to Ashcroft joining those who sought to block the nomination."

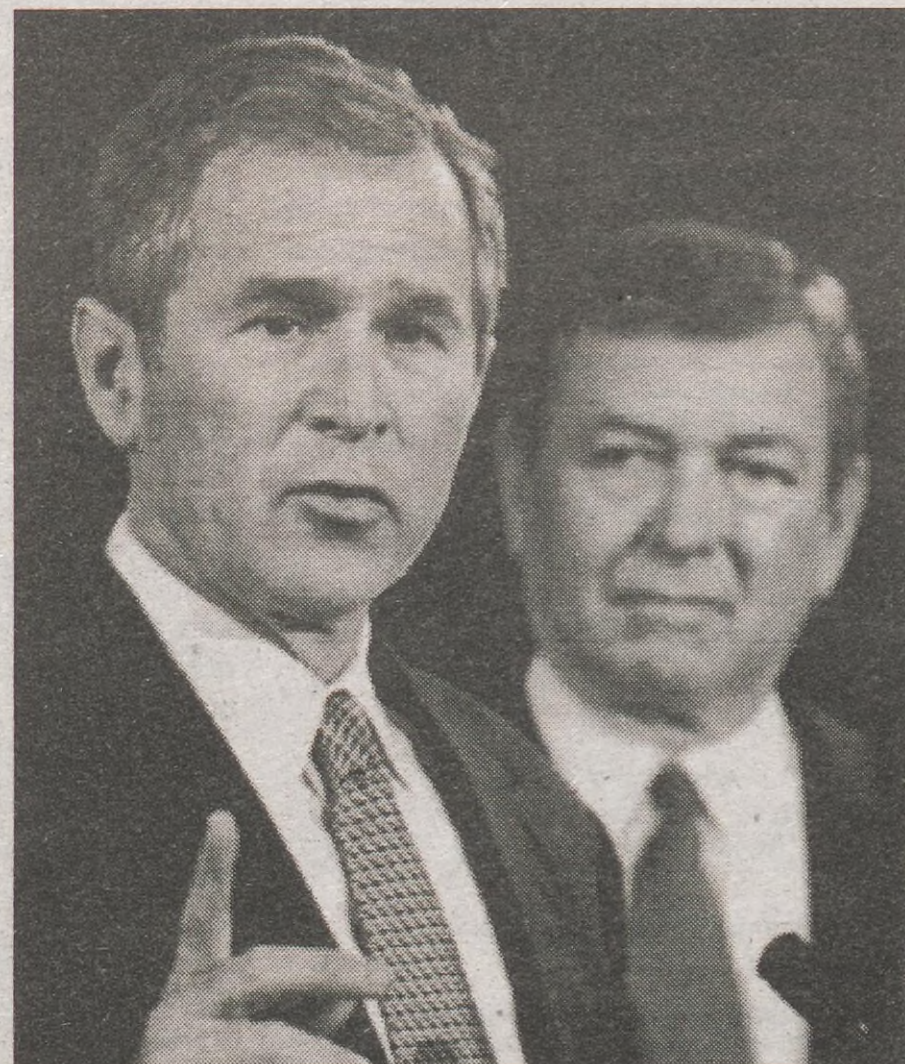
The pro-gay record of Montana Gov. Marc Racicot seems to have played a role in his failure to get the nod from Bush, the Washington Post reported.

Indeed, one report said that Karl Rove, a senior Bush aide, had declared that Racicot was a done deal for attorney general and the conservative groups would have to live with the decision.

Bush named Ashcroft just days after Racicot withdrew his name from the list of potential nominees for the post. Racicot's withdrawal followed threats by social conservatives to publicly attack Bush for appointing too many moderates to his Cabinet.

Racicot had previously backed efforts to repeal his state's sodomy law and helped kill an anti-gay bill in the Montana legislature.

—From staff and wire reports



President-elect Bush speaks during a conference announcing his choice for attorney general, former senator and governor of Missouri John Ashcroft, right, in Austin, Dec. 22, 2000. Ashcroft, 58, has come under fire from GLBT activist groups, including the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, for his anti-gay votes and beliefs that homosexuality is a choice.

J. SCOTT APPELWHITE/AP

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## GUEST VIEWPOINT

# Bush picks anti-gay right-winger to enforce civil rights laws

by JOHN ARAVOSIS

WASHINGTON—George W. Bush has tried to avoid controversial Cabinet nominations.

When former Senator Dan Coats (R-Ind.) said that as secretary of Defense he would roll back "accommodations" made to women and gays, Bush canned his nomination.

When the Christian right complained that Montana Gov. Marc Racicot supported including gays in hate crimes legislation, Bush decided against making him attorney general. And while Bush did nominate moderate New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman to head the Environmental Protection Agency, it's not a Cabinet-level post, nor is it one in which her liberal views on gays and abortion will find any outlet.

So what's up with Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft, slated to be attorney general?

If Charlton Heston is the NRA, John Ashcroft is the Christian right. The staunchly pro-life, anti-gay Republican was the Christian Coalition's candidate of choice for last year's presidential election, getting a \$10,000 donation from Pat Robertson—and last year he got an honorary degree from Bob Jones University, which expels known homosexuals and until recently prohibited interracial dating.

Not surprisingly, Ashcroft is being called an "ideal attorney general" by the very anti-gay American Family Association.

Ashcroft is as much a conservative as Christie Whitman is a liberal. But while Whitman's liberalism will be neutralized by her new job, Ashcroft's conservatism will be amplified. As attorney general of the United States, John Ashcroft will be the chief enforcer of this nation's civil rights laws.

But Ashcroft is a man with a checkered past on civil rights that raises the question of whether he is simply a conservative, or a religious fanatic who is too extreme to be in the Cabinet.

Ashcroft has been called a racist for torpedoing the nomination of black Missouri Supreme Court Justice Ronnie White to the federal bench in 1999, and for expressing sympathies with the Confederacy (he calls Generals Lee, Jackson and Davis "patriots").

He also recently praised a magazine, the *Southern Patriot*, that calls African-Americans "Negroes," David Duke "a Populist spokesperson for a recapturing of the American ideal," gays "the most repulsive desecration in the sexual order," and AIDS "a sign of God's wrath."

Ashcroft's own views are little better.

John Ashcroft believes homosexuality is a sin, and "clearly a choice—a choice that can be made and unmade." He opposes "special rights" for homosexuals. "The Democratic Party has an agenda of providing a special setting and special rights for homosexuals," he was quoted as saying. "I don't believe we should have special rights there." He believes that schools should be allowed to not hire gay men and lesbians.



John Ashcroft, the president-elect's pick for attorney general, believes homosexuality is a choice and schools should be able to fire gay teachers, and that's just the beginning.

Ashcroft also had a few choice words James Hormel, a Clinton appointee as ambassador to Luxembourg: "He has been a leader in promoting a lifestyle... likely to be offensive to... individuals in the setting to which he will be assigned."

In view of all this, it's more than ironic that Racicot, the Montana governor, lost the attorney general's job because Bush thought his pro-gay views too controversial. Racicot was simply reflecting the values of a state recently wracked by racist violence.

Over the past 10 years, Montana has had the dubious distinction, along with Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming and Washington, of being designated a "white homeland" by the Aryan Nation and other lovelies such as the Klan, skinheads and white supremacists. The increasing power of those movements has led to greater threats against minorities in the region.

In 1993, Billings, Montana was hit by a series of increasingly violent hate crimes. Tombstones were overturned in a Jewish cemetery, a local Native American woman's home was covered with swastikas and graffiti reading "Die, Indian, Die," a brick was thrown through the Menorah-engraved bedroom window of a Jewish boy, and bullets were fired at a Catholic High School for posting a sign reading "Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish Friends."

This is the Montana that Governor Marc Racicot inherited. In view of the state's recent hate-filled history, Racicot's support for hate crime laws was about ensuring that all citizens of Montana have an equal shot at not becoming victims of violence simply because of who they are, a proposition Montanans supported in the polls.

Senator John Ashcroft, on the other hand, has opposed black judicial nominees under questionable circumstances, praised a magazine that views "Negroes," Latinos, "Orientals," and Eastern Europeans as being ethnically incapable of supporting democracy, accepted an honorary degree from Bob Jones University, and has suggested that gays be fired from civilian jobs simply because of who they are.

George W. Bush believes one man is an extremist and the other represents good 'ole American values. And he's right. Unfortunately, he picked the wrong one to be attorney general.

John Aravosis runs an Washington, D.C.-based Internet consulting firm called *Wired Strategies* and co-founded *StopDrLaura.com*. He can be reached at john@wiredstrategies.com.





# PLANT LIFE Cocktails at Drew's anyone? And other resolutions for 2001

by DREW PLANT

A former boss had a lot of idiosyncrasies, most of which annoyed me. After all, he was a retired military man and couldn't understand why all of us civilians were so damned undisciplined. He wondered aloud about that every day.

But old Hugo had one habit that I just loved. Upon arriving home from work, he would change into more casual attire (I see a cardigan) and go out and raise a flag on a flagpole in front of his home. Actually, it was some conglomeration of flags, including Old Glory, some family crest and maybe something a ship raises when it is at rest.

In any case, this ceremony signaled that it was cocktail time in Hugo's household.

Well, I may not throw up a flagpole in front of my house, but I do plan to start having an official cocktail hour. A time when my friends know they can come by for a Cosmopolitan or a glass of wine or maybe just a good, stout Diet Coke. We'll have nuts and other nibbly things while we talk dirty about celebrities, run down our bosses or husbands or clients, and generally accomplish relaxation.

In this grand New Year, I also plan for many of my ongoing evening cocktail salons to languidly turn into dinner. That means I'll have to grocery shop on a regular basis—which I hate more than cleaning toilets—but I will surely rise to the occasion. I'll keep more take-out menus on hand too, for those nights when the lettuce or the host are just too wilted to cook.

Still, other of my evenings will see the guests drift out and me drift into fuzzy slippers. I'll pop in an old movie or, better yet, curl up with a good book. For going on two years, a house has taken up most of my free reading time, and I am re-staking my claim on good, solid books and trashy entertainment magazines.

My indulgence will include the purchase of a lot of hardback books. Yes, I love

My New Year's resolution is to start having an official cocktail hour—a time when my friends know they can come by for a Cosmopolitan or a glass of wine or maybe just a good, stout Diet Coke.

getting the more cost-effective softer versions, but there is just something wonderfully tactile about a hardbound book.

And, one of the perks of book buying, is that I'll get to spend more time standing in bookstores. Yeah, I've ordered them online and I may still cheat on my favorite gay bookstores from time to time, but the majority of my books will be chosen while inhaling the scent of other books and maybe, just maybe, looking over the top of the shelf at some handsome book shopper.

I'm also going to use more quiet evenings and weekends to meander through my writing tasks. Instead of dashing off half-thought-out notes, I'm going to take the time to ensure I've really said what I need to to that individual.

For no reason at all, I am going to plop down occasionally and commit to paper whatever it is I like about someone I really like. Why they are fun to be around. Why I imagine them to be particularly gracious or giving or healing.

I'm not going to just think about these things, I'm going to write them down. And just to keep me honest, I'm going to call one or two of these admired souls and tell them I am thinking about them and just how grand they are, in my humble opinion.

I plan to make some specific invitations to people; I want them to come visit me in the comfy nest I am feathering. We'll pick dates, plan their trips and introduce them to people over dinner while they are visiting.

I want to see Paul and Michael from Pasadena. Fabio from L.A. Mom. Larry from New Jersey. Jim from Nebraska. Mom again. My sister—with or without her precious progeny. Cheryl from Washington. Mom again. Jay from Soap Opera Digest. And Jeff from Dallas,

whether or not he lets me sleep with his husband again.

Early spring will find me putting out bulbs and sprucing up the yard. I've been here long enough that the old sewing machines (no kidding) have been dug out

of the ground and the kudzu beaten back, so I plan to start doing more fun, frivolous and colorful planting.

I hope you've given some thought to new vices and new resolve for the New Year. After all, there's no better place and time to start than here and now. Best yet, there are no rules and there are no limits.

*Drew Plant is taking the phone off the hook and logging off the computer a little bit more in 2001. Write him at [drewbob@mindspring.com](mailto:drewbob@mindspring.com) and tell him what you'll be doing in this brand new year.*

## PFLAG Houston encourages support of Years Book

Dear Editor,

Kudos to D.L. Groover for his excellent article on PFLAG Reno's National Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Years Book ("Go to the Head of the Class," *Houston Voice*, Jan. 5, 2001).

I believe the *Houston Voice* was the first newspaper to report on the Years Book. The effort you put into this article has set a high standard for the other journalists who inevitably will follow.

PFLAG would like to have as many junior high school and high school pictures in the Years Book as possible. We agree wholeheartedly with Holly Wilson that for many adults who weren't able to be open about their sexual orientation when they were in high school, this is their opportunity to be out.

However, everybody (even those who aren't able to send in their picture) can help promote the Years Book by telling their friends about it, and by working within their organizations to provide links to the PFLAG Reno Web site ([www.pflagreno.org/safeschools/yearsbook.html](http://www.pflagreno.org/safeschools/yearsbook.html)).

The National GLBT Years Book is an important project with nearly unlimited potential. While we cannot predict how big an impact the Years Book will have, I have faith that it will change people's lives.

As I write this letter, thanks in part to the *Houston Voice's* coverage, the Years Book has reached an important milestone—there are now 50 role models in the Years Book.

Roger Donley  
PFLAG Houston

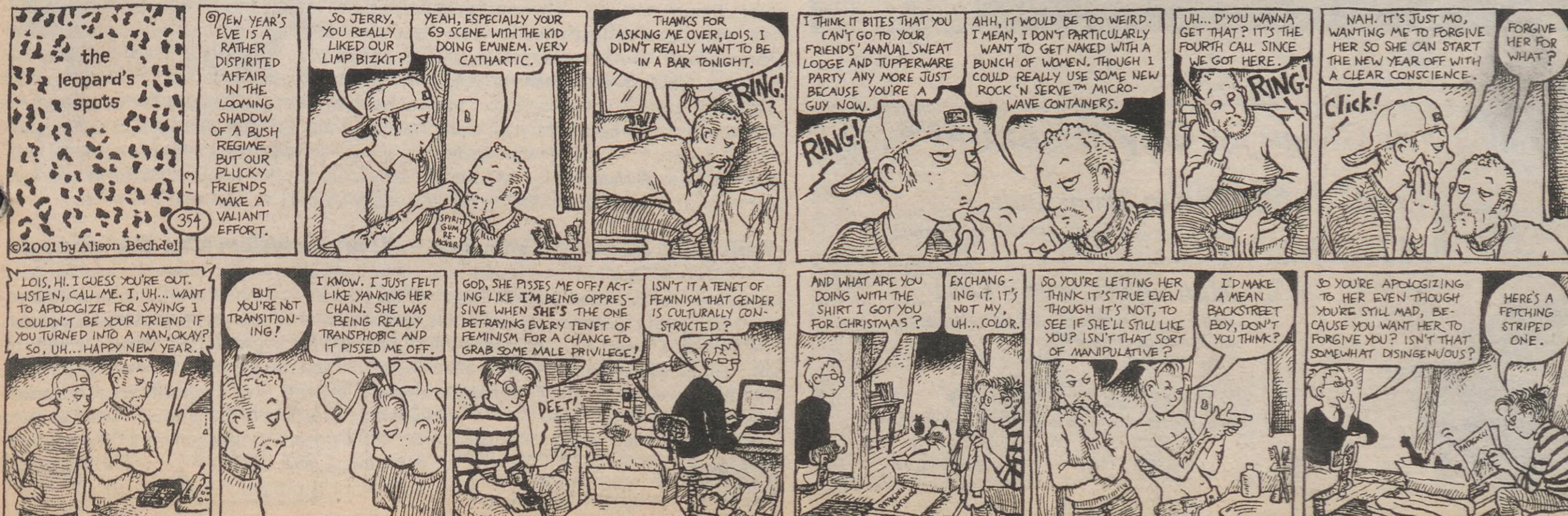


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## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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## around the nation

### Nebraska high court to hear case stemming from 'Boys Don't Cry'

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—The Nebraska Supreme Court has been asked to decide if a county sheriff should have done more to prevent a 1993 murder which became the subject of the movie "Boys Don't Cry." Teena Brandon, who often dressed as a man, was killed in retaliation for telling police two men raped her after learning Brandon's true gender. The men also killed two others who witnessed Brandon's death. In a lawsuit, mother Joann Brandon argues that former Richardson County Sheriff Charles Laux should have arrested John Lotter and Marvin Nissen for rape before they had the chance to kill her daughter. The high court was to hear arguments today in the case, which has outraged gay and transgender activists.

### Baltimore housing commish seeks treatment after drunken anti-gay rant



ROBERTO BOREA/AP

**Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley has been criticized for not firing his housing commissioner after a drunken, anti-gay rant in a bar last month.**

BALTIMORE (AP)—Mayor Martin O'Malley said he has given his housing commissioner a 30-day leave of absence to check into an in-patient program for alcohol abuse, following a drunken homophobic rant in a local bar. Paul T. Graziano, 47, was arrested Dec. 29 after he refused to leave a bar after making disparaging remarks about people there who he said were gay. "You guys are fags," and "this whole place is full of fags" Graziano said to two patrons, according to police reports. Graziano said later that he had too much to drink and doesn't remember the incident. O'Malley, who met with gay community leaders and apologized, said Graziano "has a long way to go" to deal with his outburst. But the mayor said he still supports Graziano and welcomes his return. An editorial in The (Baltimore) Sun called on Graziano to "do the right thing and resign." "There's really no other option," the editorial said. Graziano, a senior adviser and former general manager of the New York City Housing Authority, was appointed in October.

### Temple student sues over treatment after protesting play production

PHILADELPHIA—A junior at Temple University is suing university officials for allegedly having him involuntarily committed to a psychiatric ward following a dispute over a play, WorldNetDaily.com reported. According to his attorney, Brian Fahling, Michael A. Marcavage was detained after he "initiated a Christian response" to a university production of "Corpus Christi," Terrence McNally's 1998 Broadway play that depicts Jesus as a gay man who has sex with his disciples. Marcavage complained about the play when theater officials announced it in the fall of 1999, and pamphleted the school "so that all Christians on campus would be aware of this horrible play." At a December meeting in which an offer of a space for a Christian outreach was revoked, Marcavage excused himself to pray. He then claimed campus police handcuffed him, and had him involuntarily committed for a psychological evaluation as "a clear threat to himself or a clear threat to others." Marcavage was released by the hospital three hours later. "This is a good Christian kid who wanted to stand up for Jesus, and instead was handcuffed and dragged to a mental hospital as if he'd been seeing pink elephants," Fahling said. School officials could not be reached for comment.

### Iowa governor wants to codify overturned order that protected gay state employees

DES MOINES—Now that a court has overturned his executive order protecting gays employed by the state, Gov. Tom Vilsack says he will ask legislators add gay civil rights protection to state law. "The court decision will not change this administration's philosophy with regard to discrimination. Our department directors know we will not tolerate discrimination," Vilsack spokesperson Joe Shannahan said. Vilsack had issued the order last summer, which included bans on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. A group of GOP legislators sued, arguing he didn't have the authority to issue the order, and won. "Republicans all along have said this was not about discrimination. We look forward to working with them to pass an amendment to the civil rights law," Shannahan said. Meanwhile, Iowa Republican House Speaker Brent Siegrist said he's "giving very serious consideration" to running against Vilsack in next year's election.

### Trans jailed claims discrimination in NJ prison system after changing sex

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A transsexual corrections officer who claims she was harassed by co-workers has filed a lawsuit against the state corrections department and nine co-workers. Donna Memmer, 36, of Trenton was a man when she began working as a corrections officer 15 years ago. She claimed the discrimination began in 1998, when she told colleagues and supervisors at Trenton State Prison that she was planning to have a sex change, and then received different job assignments and benefits than other officers. Co-workers were also "rude, crude and abusive" toward her, according to the lawsuit. Memmer seeks unspecified damages, and continues to work at the prison. Spokesmen from the corrections department and attorney general's office said they do not comment on pending litigation.

—From staff and wire reports

# police beat

## Alleged Brazilian car thieves drink HIV-infected blood found in stolen car

RIO DE JANEIRO—Two members of a gang of Brazilian car thieves may have drunk vials of HIV-infected blood, thinking it was a yogurt drink, found in a stolen car, Reuters reported. Over New Year's weekend, six armed bandits overpowered a worker at a medical laboratory in a remote western state and stole his car while he was on the way to the airport to ship samples to a laboratory, authorities said. "The blood samples came from AIDS patients and were being shipped for further tests," a spokesman for Rondonia's security secretariat said. The thieves sped out of town, but made a brief stop at a bar on their way. After a few stiff drinks, two members of the gang uncovered the vials and gulped them down: "I don't know how it happened, but the culprits told reporters here that they were drunk and confused and didn't know what they were doing," the spokesperson said.

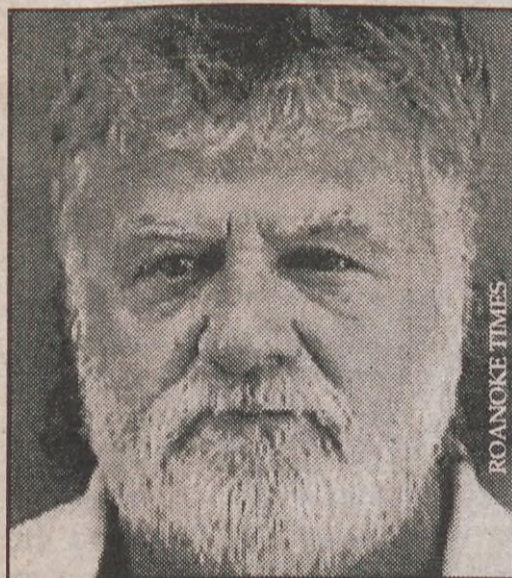
## High bonds set for IL lesbian couple charged in abuse of 11-month-old child

CHICAGO—An 11-month-old girl who was found with more than 400 scars and two broken arms was hospitalized while her mother and female partner were held on \$2 million bonds, the Chicago Tribune reported. Doctors called police after finding evidence of abuse that included a broken left leg and broken ribs, missing fingernails, a cigarette burn and signs of sexual abuse, police said. Mozelle Brown, 36, the child's mother, and her lesbian partner, Terry Stockley, 38, were charged with multiple counts of aggravated battery to a child. Brown had three other children, ages 7, 9 and 11, and Stockley had two, ages 12 and 7, said a spokesperson for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Twice in the last two years, police had come to the home to deal with charges of child neglect and with a domestic quarrel. No arrests were made. Brown and Stockley are scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 19.

## FL judge refused prison for 'thin, white' drug offender for fear of sexual assault

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A judge refused to send a drug offender to prison, saying that because he is thin and white he would be a target for sexual assault. Instead, Hillsborough County Judge Florence Foster sent Paul Hamill, 41, to a treatment center and put him on two years probation for violating probation on a previous cocaine conviction. "He's a small, thin, white man with curly dark hair, and I suspect he would certainly become a sexual target in the Florida state prison system," Foster said, according to a transcript of the November sentencing hearing. "That is cruel and unusual punishment in my book." Prosecutors have complained in the past about the light sentences they said Foster imposes. Foster declined to discuss Hamill's case. Bruce Rogow, a law professor at Nova Southeastern University, praised her decision as having great sensitivity, but said "I recognize there might be an issue."

## Murder trials in WV, VA cases postponed from January start dates



The murder trial of Ronald Gay, suspected in a Virginia bar shooting that killed one man, was postponed and may not begin until June.

FAIRMONT, W.Va. (AP)—The trials of two West Virginia teens charged with the July murder of a gay black man have been postponed until at least mid-February. Circuit Judge David Janes agreed earlier this month to delay the trials until the next term, which begins Feb. 16 and ends June 11. The postponement will allow a newly appointed special prosecutor and an expert witness to prepare their cases. David Allen Parker and Jared Wilson, both 18, are accused of beating Arthur "J.R." Warren to death in a vacant house in Grant Town, W.V., last July.

In Roanoke, Va., the trial of Ronald E. Gay, who shot up a gay bar last year, will also likely be postponed, the Roanoke Times reported. Gay's trial had been set for Jan. 22, but may not begin until June. Police said Gay, angry about years of taunting over his last name, walked into Backstreet Cafe on Sept. 22 and began shooting, killing Danny Lee Overstreet and wounding six others.

## Malaysian factory owner allegedly slain by partner upset over second boyfriend

KUALA LUMPUR—Jealous that his partner left cash and property to another man, a computer programmer allegedly killed his lover by stabbing him more than 20 times with a knife, the Star reported. The 25-year-old suspect was enraged when he learned that his 41-year-old partner, who owns an electronics factory, continued having an affair with the other man even after starting a relationship with him. On Dec 28, the factory owner was found in a pool of blood by his friends who went to his apartment at about 2 a.m. to meet him, authorities said. The victim had transferred his entire fortune to a man he met through the Internet two years ago. On the day of the killing, he was about to leave his apartment to see his other lover when the computer programmer allegedly attacked him.

—From staff and wire reports



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# Book designed to help children of GLBTs cope

Author to visit Houston, conduct research, interviews

by ELLA TYLER

Judith Snow, a psychologist in Michigan, is seeking children to interview for a book tentatively called "How It Feels to Have a Gay Parent, A Book By Kids For Kids of All Ages."

The book will be a collection of interviews of children who have parents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered.

Snow is planning to be in Houston later this month to interview local children.

"I've talked to some people from the Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents group and some of their children want to talk to me," she said. "I've talked to kids in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and New York but want to talk to kids from Southern states, too."

"When I leave Houston, I'm going to Tulsa. I've talked to two gay men there who between them have six children, and four of

them have agreed to talk to me."

Snow says she's never written a book before.

"Books help children normalize their experience," Snow said, so I was looking for a book to help the children of two good friends who are gay men. Each of them had been married, and when they were divorced the children were in the middle."

Her search was fruitless.

"I couldn't find any. There are books for children whose parents are getting divorced, but nothing about gay or lesbian parents," she said.

"I went to the local gay bookstore and asked the owner to check his sources on the West Coast. In about a month he called me back, and said 'there aren't any. I guess you'll have to write one.' So here I am, writing a book." Snow laughed. "I have to give the kids credit, they're doing all the work."

So far, Snow has interviewed "children" aged 7 to 32.

"I have a series of 16 interview questions and then ask what else they want to say. I am not editing the interviews; they will be

just as they are told to me," she said. "I'm really enjoying talking to the children. They are such a joy."

"They're remarkable and there are some wonderful success stories. I talked to one girl whose mother kidnapped her and went to jail for it, and another who was adopted by her mother's lover after her mother died."

Snow has been a psychologist for nearly 20 years.

"I work with a variety of clients and see a lot of children, especially since I did child custody work for a long time," she said. "I've seen the damage that these fights can do to a child. It's real torture for a child to have a parent being disparaged."

The book is being considered for publication and Snow is optimistic about its potential.

Snow is still seeking interview subjects. If the child is a minor, the parent must agree. She may be reached at: Judith E. Snow, 3501 Lake Eastbrook Blvd., Suite 120, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49546, or by calling 616-954-9850 and toll free 1-888-303-9790. Her e-mail address is JSPsychological@aol.com.



Judith Snow, a Michigan psychologist, will visit Houston later this month to conduct interview with children of GLBT parents. Snow is doing research for a book tentatively called 'How It Feels to Have a Gay Parent, A Book By Kids For Kids of All Ages.'

# Movies, football and chocolate

HLG Community Center plans events for everyone

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center has kept some of last year's favorite activities and programs and added some new ones for the New Year. The following is a listing of events over the next few weeks.

Deb Murphy has begun the second year of facilitating a very successful and sought after **LESBIAN COMING OUT GROUP**. She welcomes all women at any stage of coming out every Tuesday evening at 7 for a consciousness-raising-style discussion/support group.

The legacy of Jessica and Robin Wicks' **LESBIAN FILM NIGHT** is being continued by Lynn Huffer, professor at Rice University Women and Gender Studies Department and Adriane Bowie, vice president of S.I.S.T.E.R.S. They will be there, as scheduled, on the fourth Friday of the month, Jan. 26, to welcome you and surprise you with a lesbian-theme movie. Drop by around 7 for a social hour and bring a bite to share if you are so inclined. Movietime is at 8 p.m.

**THE HAWTHORNE MEN'S GROUP** is a follow up from the very well received presentation by Hal Kooden, Ph.D., author of: "Golden Men: The Power Of Gay Mid-Life." This will be an ongoing discussion group based on the book and the guidance of Kooden. The group will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. All men, including men outside the loop, are welcome to participate!

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT** is happening every first Friday of the month and is geared towards those TGIF kind of weeks where you just want to be entertained without much

effort. The popcorn machine will be poppin' and the movies will be to your liking. Drop in, grab a seat and make yourself at home. Movies begin at 7 p.m. The doors open at 6 p.m. All "family" is welcome!

Speaking of "family," Lifetime's premier movie, **WHAT MAKES A FAMILY**, starring Brooke Shields and based a real-life custody situation will be aired on Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m. LIA (Lesbians in Action) and the board of directors of the Community Center will co-host the evening's viewing at the center. Snacks and the opportunity to discuss the content of the movie will be available.



'What Makes a Family'

LIA (Lesbians in Action) is a support/social/activist group for women between the ages of 19-30. Kim Ortiz and Kristie Maldonado are the organizers/facilitators extraordinaire and invite all women to check this group out. They have a monthly meeting on the first Friday of every month at the Community Center at 7 p.m. This meeting is to plan events, social activities, field trips or just take care of business.

If you are interested in more information, please leave a message for Kim or Kristie by calling the community center, 713-524-3818.

**WOMEN'S GAME NIGHT** is quickly becoming more and more popular as more and more women are coming by every second Friday of the month with different games to play, different snacks to try and different women to meet. Nancy McCarty organizes the evening. The games begin at 7 p.m., tonight, Jan. 12.

**POWER DATING FOR MEN** will meet again this month. Calling all single gay men on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m., come and find out if this new, millennium-age method of finding Mr. Right is right for you!

**MILLENNIA DANCE NIGHT** is on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 8 p.m. until the neighbors complain! The is an evening designed to let your hair down and enjoy the music provided by a local DJ.

**COMMUNITY POT LUCK DINNER NIGHT** will be a monthly happening beginning on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Come and have a family-style dinner and share your favorite recipes and rumors.

**RACIST RAINBOW** meetings and discussion groups are held on the first and third Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this group is to acknowledge the prevalence and impact of racism in the GLBT communities, continue to unlearn racism, heal wounds and relationships caused by racism. This is open to everyone.

There will be a **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY** on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. This is an opportunity to recognize the invaluable contributions of the center's steadfast volunteer group and to welcome any new people interested in joining the "community team." There will be refreshments,

door prizes, good will and good company.

For Football Fans or just Super Bowl Queens, plan to rally for your favorite team, munch on your favorite junk food among a roomful of other "queer folk." The community center will have the big screen TV on and ready to roll from 3 p.m. to that final winning play. Drop by, stay awhile, yell, scream, holler and get crumbs on the floor without guilt or recriminations from those few, yet feisty, anti-super bowl people. That's on **SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**, Jan. 28

Still single and Valentine's Day is around the corner? Don't plan a pity party. Stop by the community center and enjoy a love life vicariously through mushy movies and chocolate, chocolate, chocolate and chocolate. In case you don't know when it is, it's on Wednesday, Feb. 14. Doors open at 6 p.m.

**PASSION, POETRY AND POLITICS 3** will be held on Friday, Feb. 16. If you missed the other two evenings, try to attend this one. If you did attend the others, you are likely looking forward to another. You may also be ready to take the plunge yourself and share some of your work alongside Donna Garrett, Simone Cunningham, Michael Locke, Aaron Coleman and others. It is open mic.

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center is a nonprofit organization. A \$3-5 donation is appreciated when attending any center activity, but it is not required.

INFO

**Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center**

803 Hawthorne  
713-524-3818

# Proceeds from Human Race funneled to GLBT groups

> Continued from Page 2

Community Center, KIPP academy, SEARCH, Asia Society Texas, Crisis Intervention of Houston, Inc.

Local GLBT organizations will make good use of this funding. Tim Brookover, board president at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center said.

"We are thrilled to be a beneficiary," Brookover said. "These funds will allow us to fully develop and make available a new and exciting curriculum called 'Power and Diversity.' I encourage everyone to volunteer, participate or pledge."

Come join...  
**The Human Race**

The race is a non-competitive 5K walk/run for adults and a 1K for children. At least 5,000 people are expected to participate.

The route is designed to feature a slice of Houston's diverse neighborhoods. Of special interest will be the fact boards and trivia markers along the course featuring people who "stood up rather than stand by" A

post race party will be provided.

The purpose of this event is to bring together the city's ethnic and cultural groups to stand up for what is right, to stand up for each other, and to pledge to make a difference.

Also developed and presented at the kickoff was a "Human Race" educational curriculum developed for use in classrooms and designed to help inspire students to embrace diversity.

There is no entry fee to join The Human Race, but entrants must register to participate. Entry forms are available at the Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline Street, at all Houston Parks and Recreation Department Community Centers, and the usual outlets for race entry forms.

Participants who raise \$15 in pledges, get a T-shirt, those who raise \$50 or more get a cap. Participants raising \$100 or more receive a sports bag.

INFO

## Human Race

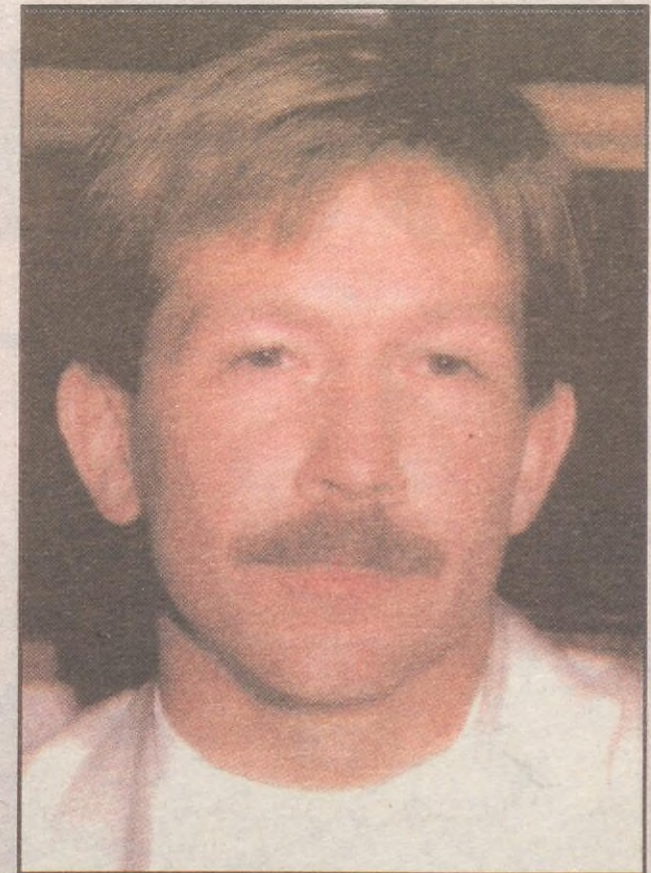
Feb. 4, 2:30 p.m.

Starting at The Park Shops, 1200 McKinney

713.942.8000, Ext. 124.

## Obituary

### Charles "Chuck" Drake



Charles "Chuck" Drake

Charles "Chuck" Drake died Jan. 2, 2001, just 47 days short of his 16th annual 30th birthday celebration.

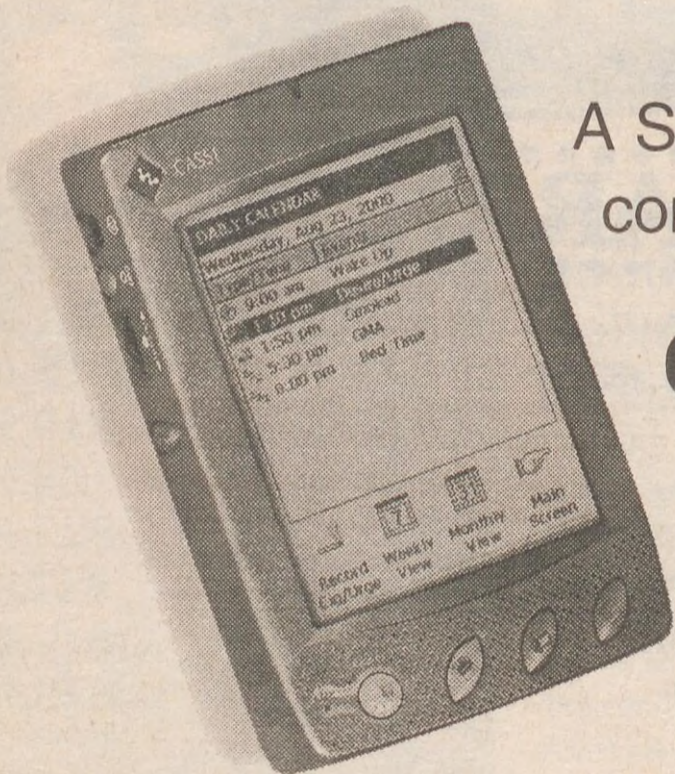
Chuck, who died of AIDS complications, was originally from New Holland, Ohio. He was a longtime Houston and Austin resident, philanthropist, owner of the Ripcord in Houston and a business entrepreneur.

He is survived by his companion, Solomon "Jae" Arkeen of Austin and Houston. He is also survived by his parents, Shirley and Dean Drake of New Holland, Ohio; his sisters, Betsy Schach of Birmingham, Ala., Denise Eldridge of Amelia, Ohio, and Lynn Anderson of Knolensville, Tenn. Other survivors include Alan, Joyce, Caitlin and Austin Batchellor of Austin, and, of course, Flossie. The myriad of friends left behind are far too many for mention in print.

A memorial service will be held at 12 noon, Saturday, Jan. 13 at Sonoma, 1415 California. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Houston Buyers Club, 3400 Montrose, Houston, Texas 77006 in memory of Charles Drake.

Chuck's friends and family wish to thank doctors Salvato and Hart of Houston and doctors Wright, Werntz and Eichner of Austin, as well as Sona Nast of Austin and the staff of Nast, Arkeen and Associates in Austin.

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'97 Catera • stk #8238P	\$16,900	'97 Suburban • stk #8439P	\$22,900
'96 Seville • stk #2303B	\$19,900	'00 Venture • stk #8458PA	\$17,900
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# Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • JANUARY 12, 2001

## You go, girl!

Showtime provides femme alternative to its 'Queer As Folk' with 'A Girl Thing'

by LAWRENCE FERBER

Showtime certainly deserves its pats on the back for gay programming.

Many, many pats in fact. And the latest entry in what's proving to be Queer as Showtime territory is "It Don't Mean a Thing if it Don't Got That Swing," the premiere episode of *A GIRL THING*, their four-part miniseries chronicling the experiences of a Manhattan psychiatrist and her female patients. The first two segments air Saturday, Jan. 20 with parts three and four airing a week later on Jan. 27.

Stockard Channing plays espresso-addicted Dr. Noonan, whose patient, Lauren (Elle Macpherson) strides in with groundbreaking news one day. Incapable of maintaining—or even jumping into—a relationship, lawyer Lauren took part in a double blind date that weekend with jabber-jawed twit Bob (Brent Spiner), uptight Frank (Bruce Greenwood), and sassy commercial artist Casey (Kate Capshaw).

The groundbreaking part? Rather than fall for her appointed date, Frank, she found herself attracted to Casey! Unfortunately, when a tentative romance blossoms between the pair, it's threatened by Lauren's homophobic best friend and law firm partner Claire (Kelly Rowan), Lauren's discomfort with suddenly being identified as lesbian, and of course her relationship issues.

Can Dr. Noonan's mental ministrations save the day... and convince Lauren to stay in the pool of love?

> Continued on Page 16



Elle Macpherson and Kate Capshaw star in the first segment of the Showtime miniseries 'A Girl Thing,' airing Jan. 20.

DOANE GREGORY/SHOWTIME



Professional skater Rudy Galindo, in town promoting the Feb. 3 Houston show of *Champions on Ice*, says publicizing his HIV status last April has garnered him more fans and greater acceptance.

## Freestyle on and off the ice

Openly gay, openly HIV-positive pro skater Rudy Galindo finds acceptance in honesty

by D.L. MURPHY

While in town Tuesday promoting the *Champions on Ice* show scheduled here for Feb. 3 at Compaq Center, Rudy Galindo took time to talk with the *Houston Voice* about his life in professional skating as both an openly gay and openly HIV-positive man.

Being an openly gay professional athlete has always been difficult. Being a professional athlete who is openly gay and open about his HIV positive status would seem to be impossible. Galindo says that being out about everything has had a positive affect

on his life.

"It's changed my life by making me realize that I'm in it for the love of the sport. People back me more now just being open about my HIV status. I've gotten more fans and more support than ever. Everyone's accepted me in the skating world."

There has also been a personal liberation, Galindo says.

"It's easier to live my life in the open. The decision to be open was the best decision I ever made. Everyone has stood by my side."

Galindo credits much of his personal success to his sister. She encouraged him to remain in the sport when he was ready to quit, coached him at her own expense, and never lost faith in him.

When asked about his sister's response to him being HIV positive, he tells how his sister, 8-months pregnant at the time and with a 1-year-old at home, spent every

minute with him, 24/7, while he was hospitalized. They are still "attached at the hip."

Galindo's former skating partner, Kristi Yamaguchi, was one of the first people to call and offer support after Galindo made his HIV diagnosis public last April. Galindo's continuing affection for Yamaguchi is obvious.

"It's like we're brother and sister again."

So far as his career is concerned, skating as a professional is an entirely different thing from skating as an amateur. Galindo credits his more flamboyant routines as a direct result of being a professional because "you can let your hair down, skate naked if you want. When I turned professional I got to be myself."

The professional schedule is grueling; next year's winter tour includes 50 stops, the summer tour 80.

> Continued on Page 17

# 'Girl Thing' offers all-star cast, lesbian-themed segment

> Continued from Page 15

Obviously no prudish network, Showtime certainly doesn't hold back the action when the girls reach the bedroom (or couch, or kitchen, etc.).

Indeed, the episode features what could be the longest, sauciest lesbian sex scene (clocked at more than 2 mins. 30 secs.!) in non-Playboy Channel cable history.

Plus Capshaw and MacPherson lock lips constantly. Big pats on the back, Showtime and company.

But now for the spanks.

Writer/director Lee Rose's script self-consciously attempts to be wry, but usually ends up cardboard and trite. The direction leans towards TV/cable movie bland. And little realities often seems absent.

To wit, when the two girls visit a lesbian bar, they don't pay the bartender (who wears a "BITCH" T-shirt) for their shots of tequila, simply slamming them down and strolling off, leaving their jackets unattended on a table as they dance 20 feet away. Manhattan ways of living? Not in the Manhattan I've known.

The awkward couple also slug down strong alcoholic libations in every scene, usually to "loosen up,"

without betraying outward signs of inebriation like slurring, stumbling or having to pee every 5 minutes.

And Capshaw's first appearance at the blind date borders on farcical: she struts into the restaurant in full Gina Gershon/Shelley Mars drag, replete with leather jacket and DeGeneres hair. Couture for Lea DeLaria or Melissa Ethridge's latest engagement or hetero dinner affair? You tell me.

However, more proud pats are due to Capshaw, who gracefully and coolly plays the most believable and likable character in the show. Her Casey knows when to keep her mouth shut, how much information to divulge, and barring a few hideous garments of clothing, is a fetching pleasure to watch.

As for MacPherson, her character's hang-ups make her not only unattractive, but idiotic, as she plays out the flipside of, say, Lianna from John Sayles' straight-woman-gone-dyke film of the same name. But as such, she's brilliant.

Thankfully, the episodes are capped off by Channing's balanced observations, which provide a Jerry Springer-esque breath of relief when her clients continue to act stupid or barely overcome their issues.

And in that way the series is



DOANE GREGORY/SHOWTIME

Elle Macpherson plays Lauren, a career-driven woman surprised by her immediate attraction to Casey, portrayed by Kate Capshaw in the Showtime original miniseries 'A Girl Thing,' airing Jan. 20.

most, sadly, realistic. After all, not all emotional problems can be cured within a few hours with the doc... or an episode of a miniseries.

**INFO**

**A Girl Thing**

Showtime

Episodes 1 & 2 premiere 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20

## Bayou Calendar

**The Blue Room**

David Hare's sexual round-robin of a play, freely adapted from Arthur Schnitzler's art nouveau "La Ronde," could never live up to all the hype generated when Mrs. Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, starred in its premiere and took off all her clothes. Her toned body got the reviews, and the poor play was forgotten. Now, see the production without distractions or unnecessary yellow journalism. Sex, sex, sex. Is that all you British playwrights think about? Apparently, so.

Jan. 13—Feb. 24

Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo  
713-868-7516

**Equus**

Just who or what is normal? If you remove someone's passion, however over the top, do you also then remove that person's individuality and uniqueness? Such are the conundrums swirling through Peter Shaffer's 1973 drama, written prior to his most recognized play "Amadeus." A young stable boy has blinded six horses. It is up to the court-

appointed psychiatrist to find out why. Shaffer has filled up his emotion-laded drama with homoeroticism and some boxtop psychobabble, but it's an intense evening in the theater, nonetheless, and the Alley should give this a boffo reading.

Jan. 17—Feb. 10

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue  
713-228-8421

**Old Wicked Songs**

No, don't be confused, this isn't the straight version of "Dirty Little Showtunes." This is Jon Marans' exploration of youth vs. old age, guilt vs. nonchalance, self-revelation vs. stoic pride. Music calms the savage beast in contemporary Vienna when a young songwriter plagued by writer's block butts heads with an elderly music teacher. Heart warming and tinged with soft humor, you might, at the very least, leave the theater humming something from the heart.

Jan. 17—Feb. 11

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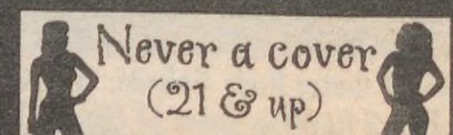


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# Galindo: 'People back me more now just being open about my HIV status'

Continued from Page 15

How does Galindo manage such a grueling schedule? He says he naps as much as he can, whenever he can. This is important given that Galindo is "always on the ice, even when I'm not touring."

"You have to work hard to stay ahead."

And work hard he does, while a professional skater doesn't have to work on a quadruple jump to impress judges, he keeps his triple axle in good form to entertain fans. He sees himself as a showman, going so far as to design his own costumes.

Performing at so many back-to-back shows requires constant conditioning and preparation, Galindo says.

"I always make sure I'm warmed up, properly stretched and ready to go. I tend not to listen to other people before I skate," Galindo said. "Instead I visualize my program in my head before I step on the ice."

When not touring, Galindo lives in Reno, Nev., training for professional competitions. He believes this has helped his skating. He is able to concentrate on skating and working out rather than going out to the hot nightspots.

Galindo is active in many AIDS-relat-

ed and family assistance charities, and was recently named spokesperson and co-chair for the National Minority AIDS Counsel. Galindo says he thinks of himself as a role model.

"I can tell people out there that you can live a long and productive life, you can continue with your dreams. I can help more people out there to be aware and to be safe."

What advice would Galindo give younger people?

"Anything can happen to you, don't be dumb about your decisions, make the right choices," he said.

When asked about his hopes for the future, Galindo talks about training harder every year, reinventing his style on the ice as time goes on. He is aiming at the world professional championship while being sure he takes the time to enjoy his family and do everything he can to live a long, healthy and productive life.

Galindo also has a plan for his eventual retirement from the competitive side of the sport.

"In the future, when my body gets too old and I can't jump any more, I am definitely going to try and go into commentary. I think that's an exciting field to go



DALTON DEHART

On the first people to contact Rudy Galindo and offer support after he made public his HIV positive status last spring was his former skating partner, Kristi Yamaguchi. 'It's like we're brother and sister again,' Galindo says.

into. An openly gay man in commentary, can you imagine?!"

He also would like to coach and "have the number one training facility in California."

And what message would he like to deliver to the public and his fans?

"Never give up on your friends, hold onto love."

## MTV goes dark in drive against hate crimes

As part of its yearlong drive against hate crimes, cable channel MTV blacked out programming for 17 hours Jan. 10.

The blackout began Wednesday evening immediately following the commercial-free premiere of "Anatomy of a Hate Crime," the story of the murder of college student Matthew Shepard, and a half-hour news special after the movie.

In place of MTV's usual programming, a scroll listing the names of hundreds of hate crime victims ran continuously until 2:30 p.m. Thursday.



Ian Somerhalder, left, plays Russell Henderson, and Brenden Fletcher is Aaron McKinney in this scene from the MTV movie 'Anatomy of a Hate Crime.' Following the Wednesday night premiere of the movie, MTV scrapped its regular programming to run a 17-hour scroll featuring the names of victims of hate crimes. (AP Photo/MTV, Dan Powell)

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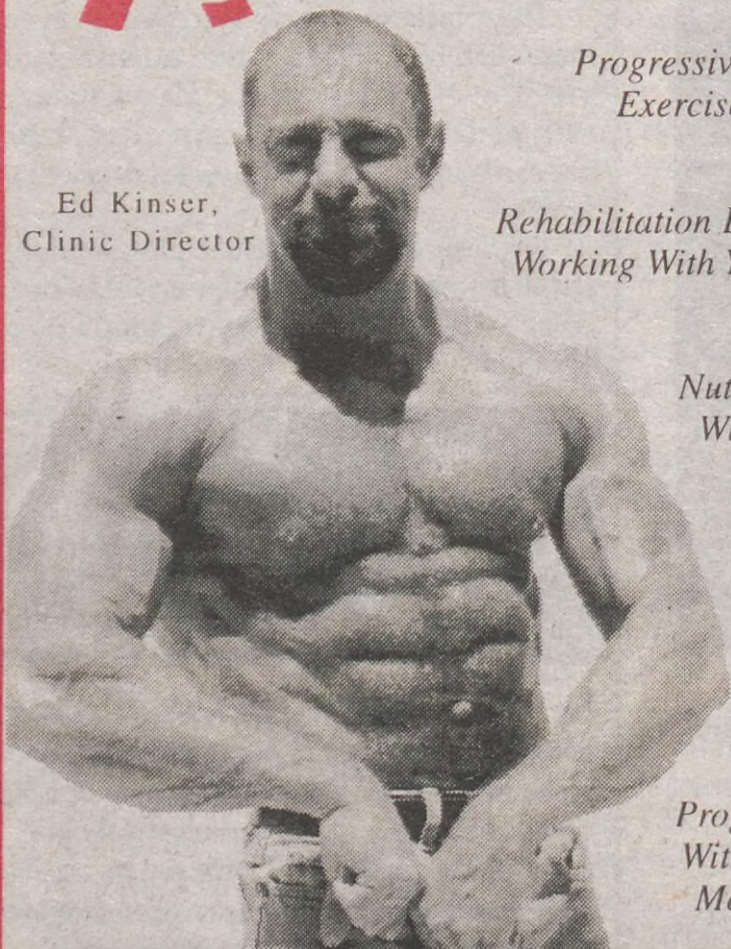
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# health news

## Psychological factors key in determining increased risk for STDs, research shows

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—University of Virginia researchers have found that psychological evaluations can predict the likelihood of a person contracting a sexually transmitted disease. The study focused on 188 adolescents and young adults, who had an average age of 25. Forty-five percent of them had at least one STD, and 10 percent had two, including pubic lice, genital warts and gonorrhea. The study found that the subjects who reported feeling good about themselves after having sex only "half of the time or less" were three times more likely to have an STD. People who reported feeling angry after having sex are twice as likely to have an STD, as were people who reported feeling comfortable while having sex "half the time or less." Behavioral studies have often shown that specific behaviors, like condom use, can be good predictors of STD infection. Kathleen Whitten, who led the research, said that, for the first time, a study has shown that "psychological factors can be as important as behavioral factors in determining who has an STD or who is at risk for one."

## Scientists grow sperm in lab, innovation which could help gay men have children

TOKYO—Scientists have succeeded in growing sperm in a laboratory for the first time, the London Sunday Times reported. The team, from the Machida district of Tokyo, also believes they will be able to reprogram male cells into producing eggs, an innovation which could pave the way for infertile men to produce their own genetic offspring, or for gay men to be both genetic parents of a child. Currently, the technique, which clones embryo cells and turns them into sperm, has been attempted only with mice, but researchers plan to try the techniques on adult men. The development was condemned by medical ethics groups as one more step in the "brutalization" of modern science.

## Research links breast, ovarian cancer to gene that fights tumors

SEATTLE—Genetic research has uncovered a gene that helps women fight off breast and ovarian cancer, and another gene that regulates its activity, the Wall Street Journal reported. In a normal, active state, the gene known as BRCA1 prevents the tumors from developing. A defective BRCA1 gene has been known for several years as a genetic marker for the cancers. If a woman with a normal gene has one of the cancers, the gene is often found to be inactive. Another gene, known as Id4, has been discovered to be a regulator of BRCA1; if it turns the gene off inappropriately, tumors can develop. The discovery makes new treatments possible, said Flossie Wong-Staal, a vice president at Immusol, Inc., a San Diego biotechnology firm. By making drugs that "inhibit the inhibitors," science could prevent or even reduce tumors, she said.

## Serious side effects reported with AIDS drug intended to prevent HIV infection

ATLANTA (AP)—At least 22 people have suffered serious side effects, including liver failure, from taking an AIDS drug intended to prevent HIV infection after accidental exposure to the virus. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention documented two cases in health care workers and found that 20 similar cases have been reported to the Food & Drug Administration. The problems occurred after people took nevirapine, a widely used AIDS drug sold under the name of viramune, after a variety of accidental exposures to HIV. Reported side effects included liver damage and skin rashes. The Roxanne Laboratories Web site warns that fatal liver damage has been reported in some people who have taken the drug, and recommends liver tests before and during treatment. "This makes it very clear that this is a real risk factor," said Dr. Helene Gayle, the CDC's AIDS chief. The people, mostly health care workers, suffered the side effects between 1997 and 2000, after taking the drug an average of two weeks. None eventually contracted HIV, Gayle said.



Dr. Helene Gayle, AIDS chief at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, said there is a "real risk factor" for side effects from taking nevirapine.

## Many Americans fed up with diet advice, government dictates, study finds

WASHINGTON—A new study has found that Americans may have become fed up with dietary advice and have stopped listening, the New York Times reported. A random survey of 1,750 adults found that 70 percent said Americans were obsessed with the subject of fat in their diet. They also agreed that the government should not tell people what to eat. More than 25 percent felt that eating low-fat food was less enjoyable, and 40 percent said they were tired of hearing which foods they should and shouldn't eat. Men between the ages of 18 and 35, the elderly, and those in lower socioeconomic groups were most likely to agree that dietary suggestions "should be taken with a grain of salt." "The majority of the public still care about their diet and health, but there are definitely some subgroups that have just plain had it," said Ruth E. Patterson, who led the study. She suggested that Americans adopt the first recommendation from the French Dietary Guidelines: "Enjoy your food."

—From staff and wire reports

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<b>Monday • Jan 15</b> Eucharist 7:30pm	<b>Friday • Jan 26</b> Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "My Best Friend's Wedding"
<b>Tuesday • Jan 16</b> Women's Group 7pm "The Story of Ruth- Dealing with Loss"	



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# On Screen

## Martial arts for art's sake

MOVIE REVIEWS

'Crouching Tiger' shows how films should be made, while 'State and Main' shows the making of a movie

by STEVE WARREN

**CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON** puts the "art" in martial arts with a sweeping historical romance punctuated by several of the most incredible fight scenes ever filmed. People float, fly, leap, skitter up walls and perform other physical impossibilities with amazing grace (Talk about being light in the loafers) while exhibiting a variety of fighting styles.

If Jean-Claude Van Damme is the Gene Kelly of martial arts movies and Jackie Chan is Donald O'Connor or Ray Bolger, this is a Fred Astaire film. Chow Yun-Fat is no Astaire, but he shares the fighting duties with several co-stars, mostly women.

Chow stars as Li Mu Bai, a great warrior in ancient China who has become a pacifist. He hangs up his legendary Green Destiny sword but it's stolen by Jen (Zhang Ziyi), who's about to enter an arranged marriage and envies the freedom of Li's friend Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh). When young Jen declares they will be "like sisters" you may read a lesbian subtext into their developing relationship, but it's very sub.

Li and Shu Lien have been in love for many years but haven't acted on it because of his work and other complications. Now that he's retiring it may not be too late for them.

A flashback tells of Jen's desert romance with bandit chief Lo (major hottie Chang Chen), who wants her back. Without being too graphic for the PG-13 rating—their fighting-as-foreplay may be the sexiest

sequence of any 2000 release.

It takes several skirmishes to resolve the two love stories and restore the sword to its rightful place. In one scene Jen travels in drag as "Master Long," which must be Chinese for Yentl.

The slow parts between fights may make this beautifully photographed film more popular on video, where you can bypass them, but you owe it to yourself to see "Crouching Tiger" at least once on a big screen.

If David Mamet had produced **STATE AND MAIN** he would have had writer David Mamet take another pass at the script before allowing director David Mamet to shoot it. As a spoof of filmmaking it's enormously entertaining for an hour or so, but next to Robert Altman's "The Player" and the TV series "Action" it's as edgy as Alan Alda's "Sweet Liberty."

Like that forgettable fluff "S&M" deals with a film company taking over a New England town ("Waterford, Vermont") to shoot a historical drama. In the week before filming director William H. Macy tries to keep stars Sarah Jessica Parker and Alec Baldwin happy, but Sarah decides she'll be happier if she doesn't have to bare her breasts.

Told that 14-year-old girls make Alec happy Macy tries to compromise: "Get him half a 28-year-old girl." Baldwin eventually works out his own compromise: about two thirds of Julia Stiles.

Producer David Paymer arrives and asks Macy, "How are you getting on with these fine people?"

"Like dykes and dogs," the director replies.

When the costume designer inquires about putting moleskin collars on the movies' firemen Macy approves: "It's faggy without being homosexual."

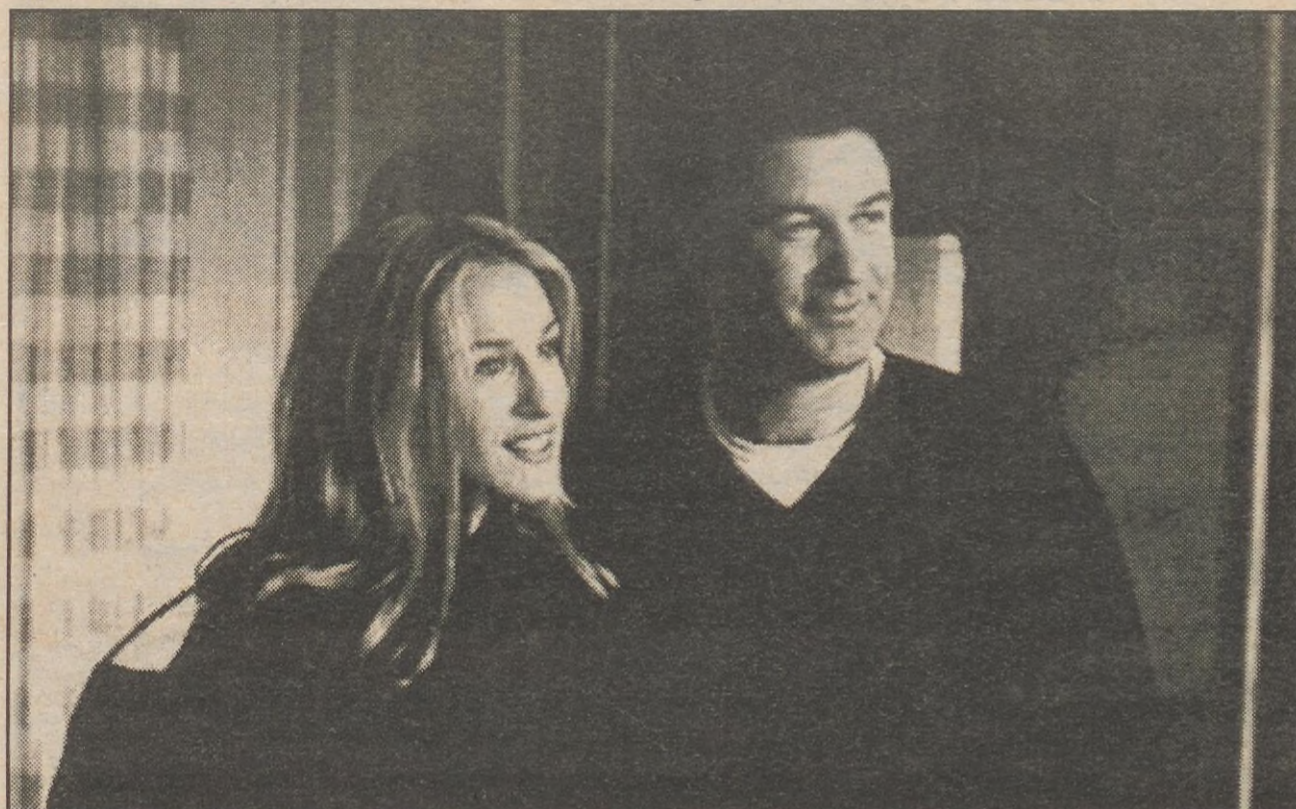
Screenwriter Philip Seymour Hoffman, the story's moral center (i.e., the boring guy), is drawn to local bookstore owner Rebecca

Pidgeon (Mrs. Mamet). Macy is hilarious, but as the focus shifts from him to Hoffman "S&M" grows increasingly unsatisfying.

References to some 1960 fires set us up for a payoff that never comes, the most obvious of

the script's loose ends. Mamet seems to be following the credo on Macy's "lucky pillow": "Shoot first. Ask questions afterward."

Unfortunately he's left us to ask the questions.



Sarah Jessica Parker and Alec Baldwin play difficult actors on location in New England in 'State and Main.'



Zhang Zi-Yi and Chow Yun Fat star in 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.'

### 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon'

Directed by Ang Lee

Starring Chow Yun-Fat, Michelle Yeoh, Zhang Ziyi, Chang Chen

Queer Quotient: The lesbian undertones in the plot don't amount to anything, but the women kick major ass in the fight scenes.

\*\*\* (out of 4)

### 'State and Main'

Directed by David Mamet

Starring Alec Baldwin, Philip Seymour Hoffman, William H. Macy, Sarah Jessica Parker

Queer Quotient: The showbiz atmosphere cues nonjudgmental gay/lesbian references in the dialogue, but the major characters are apparently all straight.

\*\* 1/2 (out of 4)

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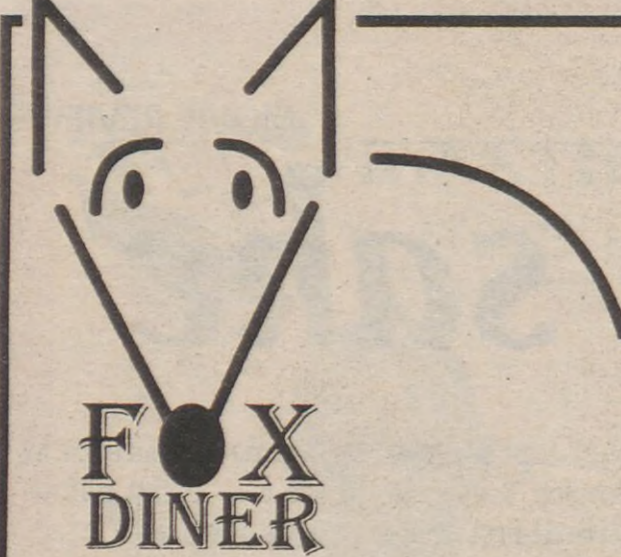
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# Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Hidden gem

Travis Cafe well-worth the drive, hassels of downtown

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Part of what I love most about urban life is the element of surprise, of finding those hidden gems of cafes, restaurants or bookshops, as you meander around a bustling corner or emerge from a subway station in the rain.

Although Houston is making a rather trendy stab at transforming itself into an urban center, let's face it—in downtown Houston, its difficult to stumble onto anything.

We hear about a new club or restaurant, and drive our SUVs up to the standard overpriced valet.

Or with a purposefulness to match the troops descending on Normandy, we land as close as possible to our pinpointed city block, and march up to the reservation table with nothing but our mission in mind.

It's too bad, because a place like the TRAVIS CAFE is exactly the kind of establishment meant for discovering unawares—a tiny, cavernous, and quietly impressive spot in the middle of the most hipified section of downtown. The gray slate walls and pine hardwoods lend a sleek, but casual atmosphere.

The stone tabletops add to the smart and funky feel with random designs moons, stars and other jazzy shapes.

The most effective touch, perhaps, are the bronze, four-canded lamps that hang long and low, imbuing the room with a cozy, but stylish glow.

On Friday and Saturday nights, the tables disappear to make room for live bands, and Tuesday night features a thriving open mike.

As Travis Cafe is a combination restaurant, cafe, bar and music venue, and the dual bakery and bar counter stuffed with scones, cakes and liquor bottles doesn't hint at the extensive, diverse menu available for diners.

Although it offers Asian-inspired dishes such as Sushi Tuna Wrap (\$7.95) and Italian standbys like Crostini (\$5.95) and Pasta Florentine (\$8.95) with a garlic and olive oil sauce, it's best to stick with numerous Southern, Southwest or Tex-Mex dishes.

The Fire Roasted Onion and Bacon Dip (\$5.95) with apple-smoked bacon, sour cream, and cream cheese offered too many decadent-sounding ingredients for one of my friends to pass up.

Served with pita bread that could have been a notch toastier, this appetizer dip was perfectly savory in its thick, velvety texture.

The Texas Pot Stickers (\$6.95) were tantalizing. Filled with a plush mixture of tender, smoked trout, black beans and roasted corn, the cilantro and poblano peppers add a spicy bite to the hearty trout stuffing.

FOOD FILE



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Food:

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Scene:

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OK, if you really must

Fine for most

Worth the drive, so live a little

As good as it gets

The Homemade Guacamole and Roasted Corn Dip (\$6.50) further demonstrates that Travis Cafe knows what to do with corn, chili powder, peppers and a broiler. The roasted corn combination, minus the avocados, made another successful appearance in one friend's entree of Mimi's Meatloaf (\$8.95).

While the meatloaf itself paralleled the by-now infamous corn, the mashed potatoes were hardly as delectable. The meat was well-blended and yielded a deep, tomatoey punch and although the potatoes were homemade, their gluey texture and lack of seasoning disappointed a bit.

My Jorge's Enchiladas (\$8.95) offered a choice of chicken or spinach. The spinach inside my three, small roll-up-like enchiladas was fresh and flavorful. I appreciated that fact that the tomato, onion and rancho mixture didn't drown my dish, but I would have preferred the enchiladas to be a little more moist and saucy.

I was looking forward to the black beans and brown rice as a perfect vegetarian side, but the beans tasted of bacon and grease, either due to some undetectable traces of the meat itself or lard.

These minor glitches disappeared from our thoughts, however, with one bite of a lucky friend's El Diablo (\$9.95), penne pasta and chicken served in a tangy, but light tequila lime cilantro butter and topped with feta cheese. The smoked jalapenos, black beans, and tomatoes, and you guessed it!—roasted corn, all combined to give this dish a delicious southwestern kick.


Even as the crowd trickled in on a particular Friday evening, the service was efficient and unhurried.

Admittedly, there are plenty of places in Montrose or the Heights that provide a similar scene and comparable menu without the hassle of downtown.

But it may be time to follow the example of the clubbers and theater-goers that fill Travis Cafe on the weekends and explore this worthy, hidden gem.

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# "quote/unquote"

compiled from staff reports



"I suppose I sometimes used to act like I wasn't a human being. It takes time to handle things more gracefully. ... Sometimes I look back at myself and remember things I used to say, or my hairstyle, and I cringe—but that's life. I wish I knew then what I know now. But you can't spend all your life worrying about that—and then you die!"

—Madonna to Britain's *The Sun*, Nov. 26

"Ellen is going to be a gay woman, but it's not going to hit it over the head."

—CBS Television President Leslie Moonves on the network's upcoming, unnamed sitcom starring Ellen DeGeneres, to Reuters, Nov. 27

"I can't sleep for two weeks before I do [the 'Jay Leno' and 'David Letterman' shows.] [I'm afraid] that I'm going to bomb. Being the funny guy on the show, there's always an expectation to be that—and that sucks a little because there's always that pressure. Especially when you have this statue in your house for being the funniest guy on TV."

—"Will & Grace's" Sean Hayes to the *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 24

"A president-elect who lost the nation's popular vote and won the electoral college vote only by blocking the free and fair count in Florida, Bush prepares for inauguration under a dark cloud of electoral scandal and voter disfranchisement."

—National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Elizabeth Toledo in a Dec. 18 statement



"Some liberal people are calling for a breathing space for President not-elect, George W. Bush. They think it is fair to let him have a 'honeymoon' period to see what he will do. Somebody is entitled to a honeymoon when the marriage is consensual. When they have just fucked you, without consent, there is no honeymoon. Rape is a crime, not a relationship."

—Gay activist Robin Tyler in a Dec. 14 interview

"We offer more gay-friendly programming than any other cable network. If you're a gay person in America and don't subscribe to Showtime, you're going to be missing something."

—Jerry Offsay, Showtime Networks' president of programming, to *Variety*, Dec. 6

"Four years was about as long as I ever stayed with anybody, except for my 15 years with Iris [Love]. And Iris became like my child, and she still is. She has very a childlike nature. And we are still companions and friends. We travel and so forth. Sex was the least of it."

—Gossip columnist Liz Smith to *The Advocate*, Dec. 5.



"Even my parents don't believe how sexual this is going to be. I've been trying to prepare them, but I don't think they can really fathom what I'm saying. I may tell my dad to skip the [first episode] because I'm not sure that he's ready to see that."

—Openly gay actor Randy Harrison who plays 17-year-old Justin on Showtime's "Queer As Folk," to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov. 26

"Kissing a man wasn't easy. But by the end of the day it was no big deal."

—Actor Timothy Olyphant on his role in "Broken Hearts Club" to the *Modesto [California] Bee*, Nov. 27

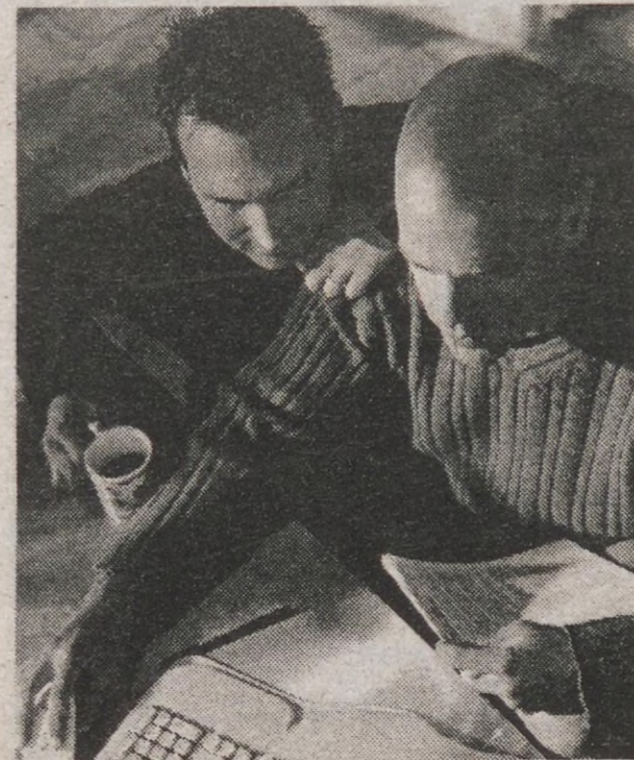
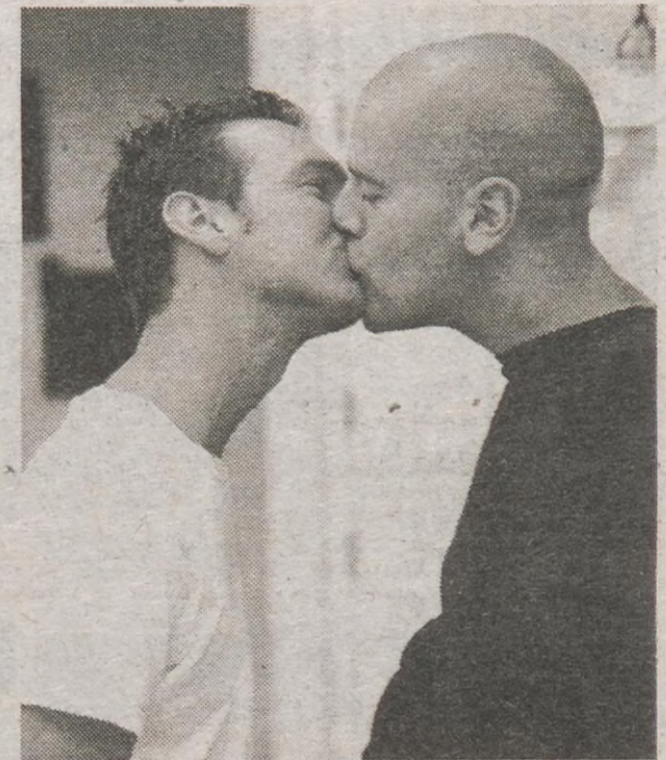
"The experience of being a gay actor who sometimes plays gay roles is a tricky one. Once a casting director has seen you play a gay role and knows you're gay, you're done, you're history. That's it. That's the only thing they'll see you for."

—Peter Paige, who plays Emmet Honeycutt on Showtime's "Queer As Folk," to *Genre* magazine, December issue

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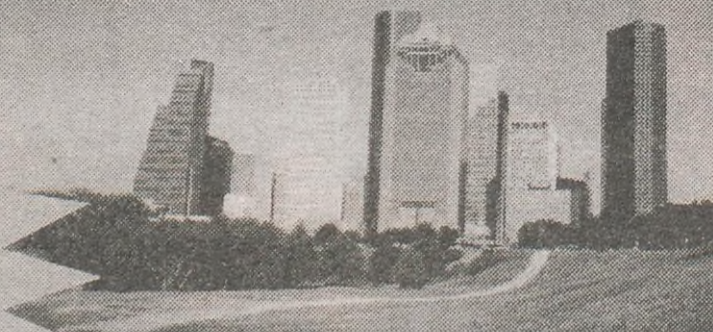
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# community

## saturday, january 13

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.  
 Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
 Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.  
 Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.  
 Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.  
 Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.  
 Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.  
 CPR Classes. Noon. 713-607-7700.  
 Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. \* Volunteer meeting. Noon. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.  
 Kolbe Project. Breakfast. 9:30 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
 Great Wall of China Adoption. Workshop. 3:30 p.m. 713-301-7276.  
 Asians and Friends. Bar Night. Guava Lamp. 8 p.m. [www.AsiansandFriendsHouston.com](http://www.AsiansandFriendsHouston.com). 713-626-6300  
 Gulf Coast Transgender Community. Social. 713-780-4282.

## sunday, january 14

Common Group (formerly New Hope Christian Center) Worship Service. 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.  
 Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.  
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.  
 Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.  
 Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.  
 Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.tuuc.org).  
 First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. [church@firstuu.org](mailto:church@firstuu.org).  
 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. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3418.  
 The Men's Gathering of Houston. Dialogue. "Everything You Always Wanted to About Lesbians, But Was Afraid to Ask." [paulguillory@yahoo.com](mailto:paulguillory@yahoo.com) or 713-538-4461.  
 Family Activity. Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents. Bowling at Palace Lanes. 713-284-4939.

## monday, january 15

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

## tuesday, january 16

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

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# calendar

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.  
 Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
 Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.  
 Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational develop-  
 ment of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling  
 Center. 713-529-0037.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 281-633-2555.  
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink.  
 713-410-7215.  
 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 meeting. 7 p.m. • 803  
 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Classic Chassis Car Club. Officers meeting. 7 p.m. 713-797-8615.  
 Kolbe Project. Women's group meeting. 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.

## wednesday, january 17

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'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.  
 Subject: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.  
 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. •  
 Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • 713-524-3818.

Center for AIDS. Discussion-"Probing HIV's Elusive Activities  
 Within the Host Cell." Reservations for lunch. 713-527-8219.  
 Houston Council of Clubs. Monthly meeting. Mary's. 8 p.m.

## thursday, january 18

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.  
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-524-9530.  
 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. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Bi-Net Houston. Mixed gender social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

## friday, january 19

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-SAFE.  
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center.  
 713-692-2703.  
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.  
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.  
 Mishpachat Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6  
 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Women's Game Night. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne.  
 713-524-3818.

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

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# Classifieds

## Announcements

YOU ARE INVITED  
To a 50th Birthday Party for  
**Bill O'Rourke,**  
AKA Fancy  
Pace-Lawrence,  
AKA Daddy Blade!  
Afternoon of Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>,  
near Wok Bo.  
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Community Resale is becoming "The Whispering Hope" • 515 Richmond • [www.wordgarden@mindspring.com](http://www.wordgarden@mindspring.com)  
Whispering Hope Resale is gathering donations of warm clothes to be sent to Russia.

### Film Making Classes

Hands-on writing, directing & producing a short film in one month • [vr@pdg.net](mailto:vr@pdg.net) • or call 713.942.8320 •

Whispering Hope, the motion picture, coming soon • Filmed in Montrose

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club now forming • Walk Memorial Park 8:00 AM every Saturday morning • 3 Mile Track • Then head to breakfast at Java Java Cafe at 911 11th Street • Call Jimmy at 713.864.7299 or email: [keysweb6@aol.com](mailto:keysweb6@aol.com)

The Spay & Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) will provide FREE spaying, neutering, rabies vaccination and Houston city license for animals belonging to qualifying low income dog & cat guardians • Call 713.522.2337 for qualifications, locations or more information.

### QUIT SMOKING!

Volunteers needed for research study using hand-held computer at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Free nicotine patches! Call 713-792-2265

### BAY AREA GAYS

Is a new social group in the greater Clear Lake, area for "young-ish" gay men (ages 20-40) • Call 281.488.0537

Ryan Idol's Latest Video and Web-Site Premiere at <http://RyanIdol.com>

### PARTY RENTAL HALL

Parties, meeting, ceremonies, fundraising • Montrose location • Big laser/fog dance floor • Mahogany bar • Walk-in cooler • Game room • Free parking • Security • DJ included • Rental proceeds donated to local AIDS charity • 713.521.1613

## Auditions

### CASTING CALLS

• Casting for three transexual roles for a campy "Charlie's Angels" takeoff. • Casting for local gay, lesbian and transgendered talent for an upcoming independent film website. Contact Casting at 713.867.7965

## Employment

### IMMEDIATE OPENINGS **MAJICIO2** ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

One of Houston's most respected and top billing stations is seeking (2) career-oriented sales professionals. Tremendous earning potential/training.

Minimum (3) years broadcast sales; proven track record solving customer needs; excellent written/verbal skills a must.

Send resume to:  
**Tim Davies, GSM**  
Fax: 713-623-0106  
email: [tdavies@krmj.com](mailto:tdavies@krmj.com)  
EOE

### ROMAN HAIR SALON

Independent Cosmetology Barber Stylist with clientele to least space • Montrose area • Frank 713.522.2263 or 713.522.8576 • Very Reasonable The Club Houston is now accepting applications for Certified Personal Trainers • Apply in person at 2205 Fannin or at [www.the-clubs.com](http://www.the-clubs.com)

### MONTROSE BUILDER

Montrose Area Builder seeks general laborer assistance, no skills required • Call 713.529.5993

### HOUSEKEEPER

The Lovett Inn, Houston's Premier Bed and Breakfast, is currently seeking a full/part-time housekeeper • Must be dependable, hardworking and have reliable transportation • Previous experience helpful • Apply in person at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd • Mon-Fri, 9:00am to 4:00pm

## Career Opportunity

Expanding national bar chain has bartender and barback positions for career-minded individuals seeking long-term employment in an interesting field. Also offering full or part-time sales positions with leather clothing chain. Could lead to management positions for the right individual.

We offer a training program, 401K and health insurance. Careers are not limited to one job in one city. We have several openings due to rapid expansion.

We have had great success with individuals from the cosmetology field. Tired of being a beautician? Please call for an appointment.

### VENTURE-N BARS AND LEATHER STORES

In Houston, call Richard at 713-522-0000  
In New Orleans, call Bruce at 504-596-2236

## GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF HOUSTON SEEKING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston is now accepting applications for the salaried part-time position of Artistic Director.

To request an application packet, please visit [www.gmch.org/adsearch](http://www.gmch.org/adsearch)  
Or call 713-927-3129

### 800 PACIFIC

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for managers, management trainees, bartenders door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group health insurance.

### JR.'s BAR & GRILL

Is looking for honest, self-motivated and customer service-oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. To join our family of clubs, apply Wednesday through Friday between 1 pm and 5 pm at 804 & 808 Pacific  
A recent photo is required.  
NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

### BASIC BROTHERS HIRING

Full-time and Part-time Sales Associates • Drug-free environment • Background will be checked • Great benefits and discounts • No phone calls, and please, only the best should apply.

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Cashier • Late night shifts • Start \$6.50 per hour • Apply in person • 3100 Fannin • Midtowne Spa.

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## Products & Services

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### AIDS TREATMENT

New Revolutionary HIV/AIDS Treatment lowers the viral load & increases the T-cell count dramatically! • No side effects from the injectable medication • Be symptom-free of weight loss, body pain, nausea, vomiting & diarrhea • Approximately \$25,000 for treatment • Contact website: [drzimmer.com](http://drzimmer.com)

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## MUSEUM DISTRICT

2 Units available: 2/1 & 1/2 w/study • Completely renovated in historic building • Hardwoods, lots of windows, central A/H, porch/balcony, alarm, controlled access, on-site parking • \$750-\$850 • Call 713.993.9823

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**NORTH LOOP WEST**  
Beautiful offices, North Loop West • Multiple offices in professional suite • Perfect for small business • Includes: phones, conference rooms, copier, fax, reception, etc • Window offices \$750+ • Also ideal set-up for professionals working at home needing formal office to receive mail, calls, meet clients, have meetings, etc • Call Greg 713.812.7817

## Roommates

HOUSE SHARE wanted by quiet, professional, non-smoking GWM new to Houston • Prefer Montrose/Heights/Memorial • Secure, covered parking essential • Allen 281.343.7118

## OAK FOREST

Roommate wanted to share 3/3 home • \$325/all bills paid • Covered parking • 713.812.1198

## MONTROSE

Room in new house, private bath, W/D, kitchen privileges • \$475/mo, bills included • 713.410.7343

37 WM seeks male to share 2/2 house in the Heights area • Hardwoods • \$475/mo includes utils • 713-880-2004

Roommate needs to share "Heights" house • \$500/mo, all bills paid • W/D, satellite TV, off street parking, minutes to downtown • Eves 713.426.2755 • Cell 832.423.4766

Share two bedroom in Montrose area • Totally furnished • \$250/mo includes utilities • 713.521.1712

## Travel

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



# Occasions

## Birthdays

Kris, sister of *Houston Voice* editor, Wendy, celebrates a birthday Jan. 12. Don't count the candles, please.

"When I grow up, I want to be a doctor." Rick Ellsasser analyzes his birthday on Jan. 13.

The *Houston Voice's* own Deborah Duplant designs her birthday Jan. 15.

Jeff A. of CCCC is motoring in a birthday on Jan. 15.

Fancy Pace Lawrence, Bill O'Rourke and his new sexy beard stroke in a birthday on Jan. 15.

Wayne of the Texas Renegades blows out his birthday candles on Jan. 16.

Deborah Bell rings in her birthday on Jan. 16.



Sexy and sultry Kip Granberg of Sonoma sneaks in a birthday on Jan. 13.



Infamous bartender David of the Ripcord whips in his birthday on Jan. 14.



DJ and all around fabu cowboy Bubba Jimmy Dale spins in his birthday on Jan. 15.



Julian aka Felisha Flesheater is looking for a tasty treat on his Jan. 17 birthday.

# Professional Services

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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



January 12 - 18

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**

Career woes may get to you through the 19th as the Sun shines light on all your talents and your shortcomings, but don't sweat it. Head honchos can see the forest for the trees. It's time to choose your partners wisely, you impulsive nut! A Leo is someone you can count on—implicitly.



**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**

Take it easy on the cash flow while Saturn is retrograde in your sign. Come spring, you can splurge in style. Mars in your house of love is making you as hot as you can be, but work one step at a time with a Cancer. Integrity counts for a lot right now, you 'ho.



**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**

Old lovers and old patterns of behavior could come back into your life while Saturn is finishing its stint in retrograde. Resist the urge to be an idiot! A show of force may be needed to get the job done right. Don't be afraid to show how tough you are. Slowly move towards a more mature year, and a delicious fellow Gemini.



**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**

You can easily do what you need to do to make your life more secure and happy while the Sun is in your opposite sign of Capricorn (through the 19th). You may need to escape your usual haunts and check out some new scenes, dear Cancer. You've nurtured enough babes in the woods. Get one to nurture you (like a sweet Gemini).



**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**

You can't control your love life right now, but baby can you enjoy it! When the Sun slips into your house of love on Jan. 20, you can expect many a suitor. If you can get a ton of work done now, you can then concentrate on all the excitement in your love life beginning in late January. Be on the lookout for a determined Aries.



**VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)**

A little friendly competition is lucky for you now, doll. As long as you treat everyone—especially yourself—with respect, you could come out ahead of the game. Walk away from a relationship that has run its course. You deserve better. Like a nice, gentle Pisces.



**LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**

The Sun moves into the big-picture, bombastic, creative sector of your chart, so it's the substance and style of what you're doing that matters most. To hell with minutiae. Try to be true to your nature, sweetie, especially while you are recovering from the eclipse on Jan. 9. A Capricorn can protect you from yourself.



**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**

Be a little gentler on yourself and your family members while the Sun is transiting your homey fourth house (through Jan. 19). Try to take a more balanced approach to your family life, darling. You can't always go to extremes. Let a Taurus be your role model.



**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)**

Why are you acting like your life is a tragedy? If you cut down on the operatic attitude you could find that you are getting exactly what you need. Indulge in the weird little obsessions that drive you. The more artistic and creative the better. To get more advice, consult an old diary (circa the '80s-early '90s) and a Scorpio.



**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)**

Your ruler, Saturn, is retrograde in your creative sector, which can be lucky for you if you dig up an artsy project from the past and finish it now! Don't listen to your neurotic relatives', colleagues' or friends' advice. Trust yourself. A Virgo can spark your creativity in a number of erotic ways.



**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)**

If you can get the concrete part of your life together, Aquarius, you can experience the freedom that you truly, deeply crave. But first things first—get rid of the clutter. The universe could present you with a gift disguised as a tricky challenge. If a Sag is involved, enjoy the chaos!



**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)**

Wait for your money to grow, but don't throw good money after bad. You've got the chance to plan for your future. What you did when you were just a babe can become the subject of your latest memoir or some delish late-night pillow talk with a Leo. Don't hide from your past. Embrace it.



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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