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JUNE 23, 2006



no place like home
Lesbian comedian-actress
Lily Tomlin stars in
'A Prairie Home Companion'
with noted co-stars.
Page 21

Pride as big as Texas

Pride Houston
festivities are in full
swing this weekend

By **DEBORAH MONCRIEF BELL**

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Houstonians—as well as visitors to the city—will celebrate 27 years of Gay Pride this weekend. Officials expect large crowds to converge on Houston's Montrose area, an historically and predominately gay section of the city.

"It will be hot," said Jack Valinski, executive director of Pride Houston Inc., the organization that sponsors the annual parade and many events throughout the month of June. This is in a response to being asked what can be expected for this year's celebration, including the pre-parade festival.

But Valinski adds more seriously that the festival is a good way to prepare for the parade.

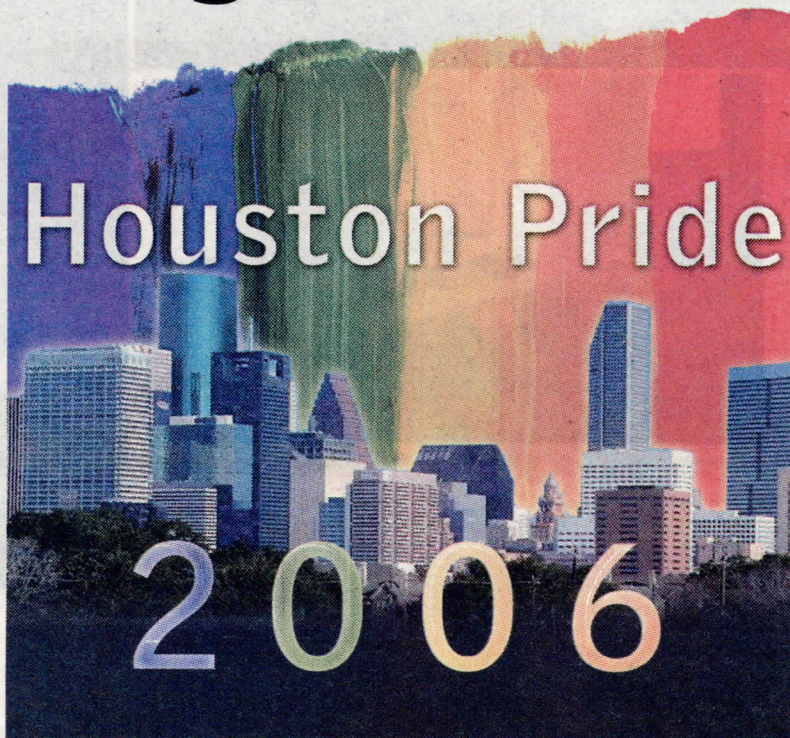
"Go to the festival first for a full day of Pride," he said.

Valinski also applauds the folks that are working so hard to put on this year's events and activities.

"It will be a really good festival that is the result of a really great group of people working very hard," he said. "They are bringing the festival to a new level from festival's past. It will surpass last year's event. This is the first time for us to have a festival of this nature on this scale."

However, the executive director said a bigger and better festival means organizers sought more volunteers than in previous years.

Richard Proto and Peter Chaivre, fes-



tival co-chairs, said volunteering with the organization is a great way to get involved with Pride events and activities. In fact they were both first time volunteers for last year's festival.

"I wanted to get more involved in the community, so I went to the Pride offices on a Saturday in March 2005 to help stuff envelopes," Chaivre said. "That's where I met Matt Stone and Todd Amdor, the 2005 festival co-chairs. Next thing I knew, I was arranging sound, lighting and electricity for the festival."

The non-profit organization Bunnies on the Bayou will be sponsoring the Pride Houston's non-profit tent. A combined 45 non-profit organizations

are involved in Pride this year.

Proto said the tent provides the organizations a unique opportunity to let others know about their group's mission. He said it also allows members a chance to recruit.

This year's festival area is twice as large as last year.

There are more exhibitors, and this year will include food vendors selling hamburgers, hot dogs and baked potatoes. Ben and Jerry's will be there with ice cream, a fact Proto is personally excited about.

"We have so many exhibitors coming, we're expecting well over



With a new CD and sound, gay couple **Jason & DeMarco** could be destined for pop music stardom.

Answered prayers

Gay duo Jason & deMarco bring
their talents to Houston

By **JOEY GUERRA**

JASON & DEMARCO ARE ABOUT TO TAKE A SONIC, stylistic leap. And they've been ready for several years.

The singing duo and real-life gay couple is on the cusp of potential pop stardom, buoyed by "Till the End of Time," a crisp collection of romantic, rock-flavored songs. The 12-track CD hits stores June 27 and was produced by Houston whiz Alan Lett.

It's a departure in several respects. The duo's music first gained fame among Christian music fans with its

Please see **PRIDE** on **Page 3**

Please see **JASON & DEMARCO** on **Page 32**

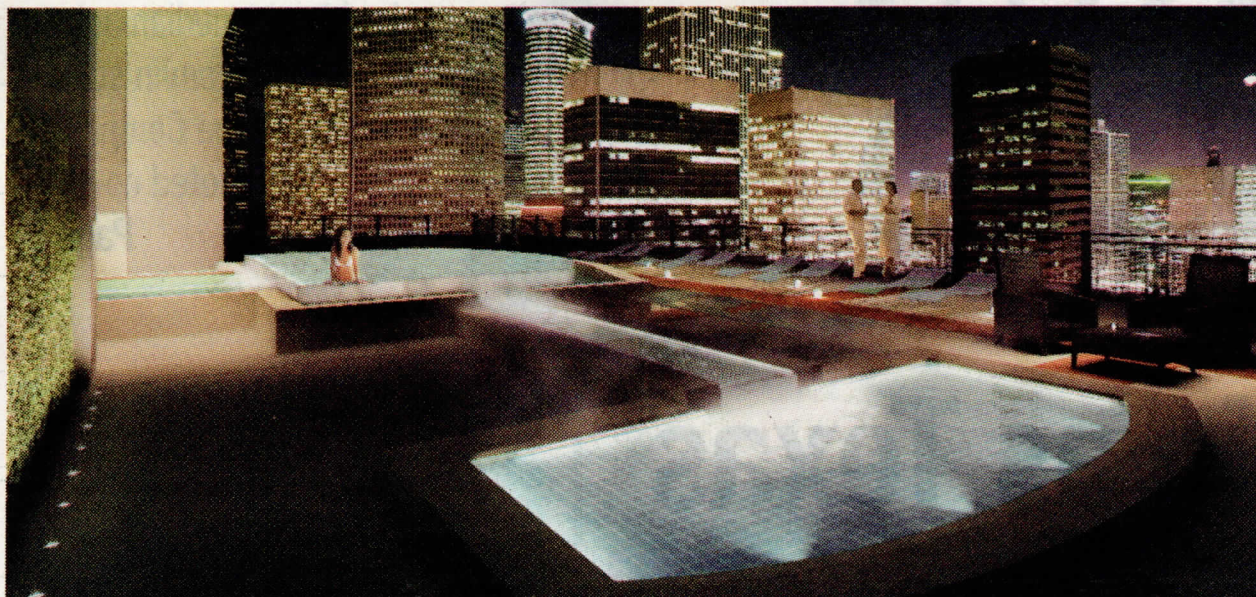


Cyndi Lauper straps
one on and takes to the
stage for HIV/AIDS charity.
Dish, Page 34

Lesbian Democrat Cynthia
Matthews surprises in
congressional seat race.
News, page 4

Rev. **Marilyn Meeker-Williams** among Pride
parade grand marshals.
Local Life, Page 14





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local news

Pride Houston organizers expect big crowds

PRIDE, continued from Page 3

100 booths hosted by different companies and organizations that support our community," Chaivre said. "I think people are going to really enjoy all the shopping and give-aways."

"HGTV will be there giving out backpacks, we'll have folks selling Pride apparel, there will be Honduran jewelry for sale, people can get Henna tattoos and Sprint is going to have a lot of give-aways. There will be plenty to keep everyone entertained all afternoon."

An oasis tent will act as kind of a food court, providing a place for folks to gather and chat with friends.

Larger crowds

Attendance is expected to exceed last year's turnout, so everyone was encouraged to get their tickets early.

The festival is more family friendly than ever before with a moonwalk, interactive gaming tent and mechanical bull ride, which are expected to be a big hit with young and old people.

"Everyone gets a big kick out of laughing at their friends on it," Proto said.

Folks with Puppet Pizzazz will be on hand to mingle with the crowd, and bring additional entertainment to adults as well as the children.

There will be a history tent that will feature gay archives from Resurrection

Metropolitan Community Church. The tent will also feature speakers discussing gay history.

This year's Pride performers, including local groups Relaxx and skyblue, will join singers Taylor Dayne, famous for her string of '80s pop hits, and Casey Stratton, the handsome singer-songwriter with a Norah Jones-like groove, to entertain the crowds on two stages at the Pride festival.

Headliner Danye is noted as a gay-friendly entertainer.

"She's really great," Proto said. "She has been around awhile, and some of her stuff is classic material in the pop scene at this point but is constantly coming out with new stuff."

MORE INFO

Pride Houston Festival
June 24, 2 p.m.-8 p.m.
Westheimer Road at Commonwealth
\$10

Pride Houston Parade
June 24, 8:45 p.m.
Lower Westheimer, between Woodhead and Whitney
Free

HERA organization officials mark one-year anniversary

The Houston Equal Rights Alliance is pleased to announce the one year anniversary of the organization's official launch.

During the past year, the alliance has worked with a wide variety of other gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender organizations; met with political leaders at the national, state, and local level; and worked to create a database of voters supportive of gay rights.

"In just one short year, HERA has seen tremendous growth," said April Ayers, vice president. "We hired our first staff person, engaged youth leaders and volunteers, and rolled-out our Community Database Project."

"We are preparing our largest action of 2006, identifying supporters and registering voters, at the Pride Parade and Festival. Our work, which began with our predecessor project, Equality Knocks-Houston in 2004, continues to make a difference locally in the fight for GLBT equal rights. We have educated thousands of voters about the harmful impact of anti-gay legislation. We know that our work touches lives and changes minds."

Over the coming year, some of the initiatives the Alliance will focus on include further development of infrastructure, hiring an executive director, planning for the 2007 session of the Texas Legislature and additional growth of youth leadership to name a few examples.

"When we decided last year to create a formal organization to re-

house our work; we knew that it was not optional," said Tammi Wallace, president. "Our community is part of the fourth largest city in the nation. We absolutely need an organization like HERA that is focused on advocacy,



Tammi Wallace, president of the Houston Equal Rights Alliance, said the gay rights organization is needed for advocacy, education, and legislative accountability.

education, and legislative accountability. We have the talent and resources in Houston to support this type of work and we realize that in order to achieve full and equal civil rights this type of work is essential. We see HERA as part of a larger social justice and civil rights movement that we will win if we are willing to support that work over the long run."

Organization officials are seeking volunteers, and/or new members. For more information, www.HoustonERA.org, e-mail info@HoustonERA.org or call 713-522-HERA—staff report.

Fort Bend County officials looking for suspects in gay man's murder

Fort Bend County Sheriff's officials are still not saying if a man murdered there last month was killed because he was gay.

On June 17, Alberto Ramos, 17, was arrested for allegedly taking part in the murder of Arnulfo Quintero Aguilar, 43. Officials said Aguilar met Ramos and two other men at a Houston gay bar and invited them to his Sugar Land home.

Officials said Ramos gave a voluntary statement admitting he and two additional suspects went to a bar in the Houston area and targeted Aguilar with intentions of robbing him of his money and property.

Aguilar's body was found May 28 by friends who went to his home after not hearing from him.

Police officials said Aguilar had been tied up and beaten with an object such as a baseball bat.

His home had been ransacked and a number of items were missing, including his red 1997 Jeep Cherokee sport utility vehicle.

Police stopped the Jeep last weekend during a spot check. While being questioned, police say Ramos admitted to being involved in the man's death. He's been charged with murder and is being held without bond.

Police are looking for the two other men suspected of being involved in the crime, including Luis Carlos Rodriguez and "Alonso." Prosecutors have said they might seek the death penalty because robbery was involved, and might file hate crime charges.

Police are encouraging local gay residents to help with finding the remaining two suspects. They believe other patrons of the bar might have seen them.

They are known to live in the area of Broadway and Loop 610. Anyone with information on their whereabouts is asked to contact the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office at 281-341-4665 or 281-341-4685.



Authorities have arrested Alberto Ramos (top), and are looking for Luis Carlos Rodriguez (above) in connection with the murder of a gay man. 'Alonso,' a third suspect, is also sought.

national news

Activists defend failure of gay congressional hopefuls

Gay state legislators groomed for eventual House election

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

When Wisconsin Democrat Tammy Baldwin became the nation's first openly gay non-incumbent to win election to the U.S. House in 1998, gay activists were hopeful that more out gay politicians soon would follow her to the halls of Congress.

At least nine have tried in the eight years since, but none has won. Most have lost in primaries. This year, one openly gay House candidate lost in a primary and two dropped out for lack of support or sufficient funds to wage a competitive political campaign.

Another three — all from California — won their primaries and will be on the ballot in November. But none has been endorsed or received financial support from the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, the primary organization in the gay rights movement focused on electing openly gay candidates to public office.

Since Baldwin's 1998 landmark victory, openly gay congressmen Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) have continued to win re-election to the House. But they have done so as incumbents who did not disclose their sexual orientation when they first ran for public office and won their seats. Kolbe has announced his retirement this year.

Congressman Gerry Studd, another Massachusetts Democrat, was the nation's first openly gay member of Congress, but came out almost a decade after winning office. He has since retired.

"If you study federal elections, you see that 98 percent of House members and 96 percent of senators won re-election last time," said Chuck Wolfe, the Victory Fund president.

Wolfe and Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, explain the dearth in gays elected to Congress by lamenting the "safe seats" most House incumbents enjoy.

Republican and Democratic Party leaders in state legislatures across the country often strike deals to create safe seats by carving up the nation's 435 congressional districts in a way that assures each party would retain control of certain districts.

"That's the most telling answer," said Wolfe, for why so few open gays win election to Congress. "Those of us who are trying to change election outcomes are looking for open seats," he said.

Wolfe noted that most successful House candidates spend between \$1 and \$1.6 million to fund their campaigns. Raising that kind of money is difficult unless a candidate is well known, Wolfe said. The best way to raise name recognition is have been elected to an important local office, such as state legislator, mayor or city councilmember, he said.

Perhaps due to the challenge of electing



California Democrat Cynthia Matthews says she is 'running as the candidate for the people who live in the district, not for the politicians in Washington.'

non-incumbents, press releases from the Victory Fund after each Election Day tout the success of the group's endorsees, the vast majority of which are incumbents.

But Wolfe argued that the percentage of endorsements does not square with where the Victory Fund spends most of its resources: the campaigns of non-incumbents.

"People get misled because we endorse incumbents," Wolfe said. "But 75 percent to 90 percent of our money goes to non-incumbents."

Robin Brand, Victory Fund's political director who monitors the day-to-day campaigns of openly gay candidates, said a growing number of openly gay political hopefuls have won election to state and local offices. Many are being groomed for higher office, with Congress a likely place for them to land, she said.

Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay group, echoed that hope.

"There are a record number of openly gay and lesbian Americans running for and serving in office," he said. "And they are doing it exactly the right way by getting elected to local offices, mayoral seats, state legislatures. They are the farm team for future federal and statewide candidates."

Three out gay hopefuls lack Victory Fund backing

Supporters for the three out gays running for Congress in California say they are hopeful that the Victory Fund and other local and national gay groups would consider endorsing them as their campaigns progress this summer toward the fall election.

One of the candidates, Democrat Cynthia Matthews, surprised political observers when she received 42.8 percent of the vote in 2004 in her race against Republican incumbent David Dreier in a district located northeast of Los Angeles. Dreier, who had been in office nearly 25 years, received 53.6 percent, and a Libertarian Party candidate received 3.6 percent.

In prior races, Dreier had breezed to re-election with close to 70 percent of the vote, according to media reports in California. Leaders of both parties said Matthews, a political newcomer, benefited from a backlash against Dreier from conservative voters who blamed him for not taking a harder line on immigration.

This year, Matthews defeated two challengers in the Democratic primary on June 6 to once earn the right to challenge Dreier. The Los Angeles County Democratic Party backed one of her opponents in the primary, Russ Warner. Warner boasted about his son serving in the Army in Iraq, while Matthews expressed opposition to the Iraq war.

Democratic Party leaders in the District, believing Warner had a better chance of defeating Dreier in a Republican-leaning district, were befuddled over Matthew's decisive primary victory.

Matthews said she was confident that political sentiment expressed by voters in public opinion polls against Republicans would boost her vote totals in November, enabling her to defeat Dreier. She said her status as an out lesbian does not appear to have hurt her.

"I'm running as the candidate for the people who live in the district, not for the politicians in Washington," she said.

One reason the issue has not surfaced may be that Dreier himself has long been the sub-

ject of rumors about his sexual orientation, fueled by his own refusal to answer direct questions about whether he is gay.

In San Diego, Democrat John Rinaldi, another political newcomer, also defeated a prominent Democrat in the June 6 primary, after receiving the endorsement of two key labor unions. He is running against incumbent Republican Duncan Hunter, who is considered a strong favorite in November.

But Rinaldi's communications director, Brian van de Mark, said the candidate's background as a military chaplain, former police officer and current business owner make him an attractive alternative to the politically entrenched Hunter, who is chair of the powerful House Armed Services Committee.

Van de Mark said that Hunter is a long-time political ally of former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, who resigned from office after being indicted and later pleading guilty on a bribery charge.

In a suburban Los Angeles district, gay Republican Peter Hankwitz, an entertainment industry talent agent and producer, is running against Democratic incumbent Brad Sherman, who has a strong, pro-gay record. Hankwitz backs same-sex marriage and would strongly oppose his party's effort to pass a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

Guerriero said Log Cabin Republicans would consider endorsing Hankwitz this summer.

The Victory Fund endorsements are a greater surprise, especially considering Matthews' strong run against Dreier two years earlier.

Brand said the Victory Fund never comments on why the group decides not to endorse a specific candidate. However, she said there is a longstanding policy of not endorsing congressional candidates who have not won election to another office. None of the three openly gay hopefuls in California has won previous elective office.

Brand said the Victory Fund, in weighing which candidates to endorse, also takes into account whether a candidate is "viable" based on such factors as ability to raise money, the strength of the opponent and the demographic make of the district.

HRC often weighs incumbency over electing openly gay candidates, and has on several occasions angered local activists by endorsing a straight incumbent even when challenged by an openly gay hopeful.

So far this election cycle, HRC has endorsed 177 House candidates, with 166 of them incumbents. None of the endorsed candidates is openly gay or lesbian. HRC said it will consider endorsing other candidates later in the year.

"In this election, most of our resources will be devoted to pro-GLBT challengers and open seat candidates in the House of Senate," said Solmonese, who worked to elect pro-choice female Democrats in his previous position as head of Emily's List. "In fact, we have endorsed 10 pro-GLBT challengers in U.S. House races and four pro-GLBT challengers in Senate races in 2006."

David Emerson & Michael Buckley
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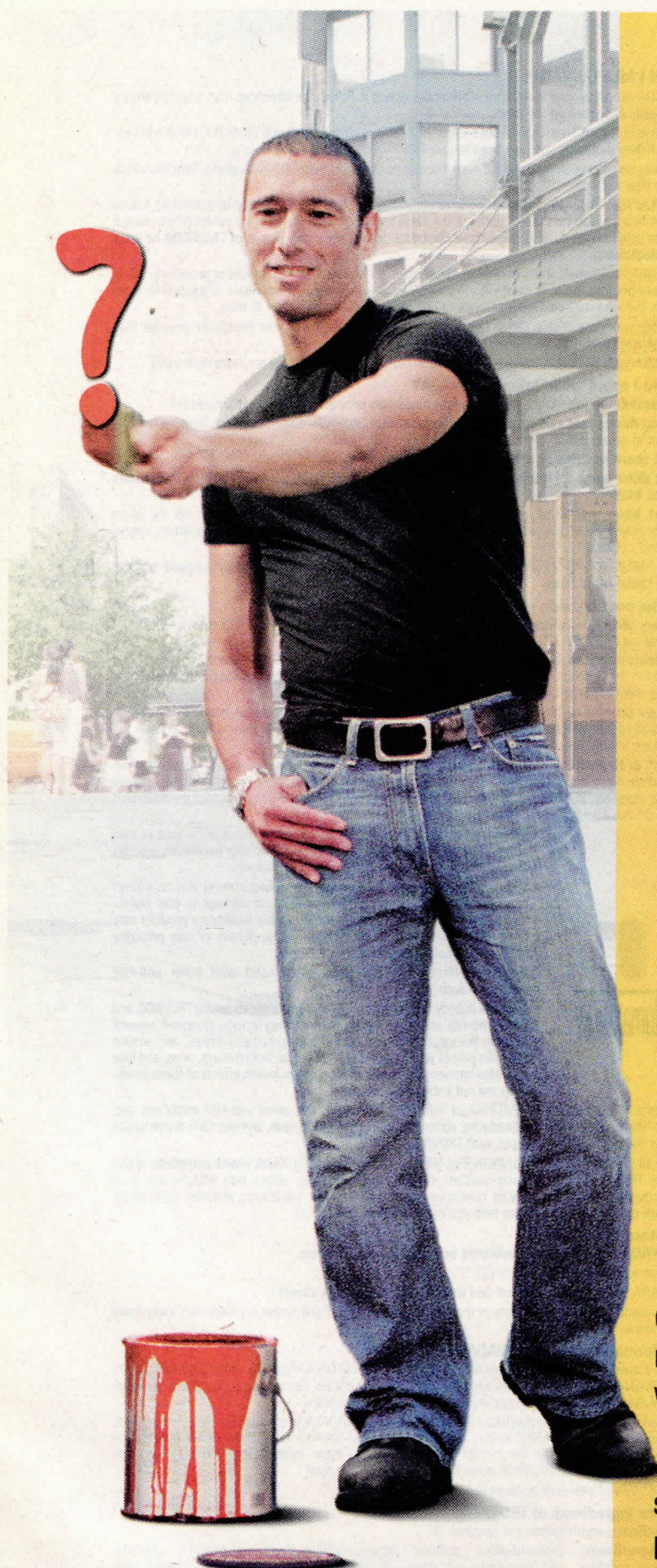
- Because **TRUVADA** combines **VIREAD** and **EMTRIVA** in one pill that you take just once a day
- Since **EMTRIVA** and **Epivir** (3TC) are similar medicines, studies using **VIREAD**+**Epivir** (3TC) support the use of **TRUVADA**

So, if you are currently taking **VIREAD** and **EMTRIVA** or **VIREAD** and **Epivir**, you should ask your doctor if **TRUVADA**, as part of combination therapy, may be an appropriate choice to simplify your HIV regimen.


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Please see important safety information on the following pages.

For more information, please visit www.truvada.com, or call 1-800-GILEAD-5 (1-800-445-3235) and select option 2.



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TRUVADA and VIREAD do not cure HIV infection or lower your chance of passing HIV-1 to others and must be used as part of combination therapy. **TRUVADA should not be used with VIREAD, Combivir®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom™, or Trizivir®.**

USE OF TRUVADA:

TRUVADA is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents (such as non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors or protease inhibitors) for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults.

USE OF VIREAD:

VIREAD is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Lactic acidosis** (a buildup of acid in the blood) can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away** if you have nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness
- **Serious liver problems** (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis), may occur. **Call your healthcare provider right away** if you have light colored stools, dark colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow
- **Flare-ups of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection:** If you have HIV and HBV, your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA or VIREAD. Do not stop taking TRUVADA or VIREAD unless directed by your healthcare provider
- **Kidney problems:** If you have had kidney problems or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys
- **Bone changes:** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA or VIREAD causes damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, talk to your healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA or VIREAD

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV medicines. The most common side effects of TRUVADA when taken with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (spots and freckles) may also occur. The most common side effects of VIREAD are diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and gas.

Discuss all medicines you take with your healthcare provider and be aware:

- Your healthcare provider may need to follow you more closely or adjust your therapy if you are taking Videx®, Videx® EC, Reyataz®, or Kaletra® with TRUVADA or VIREAD

Patient Information

TRUVADA® (tru-VAH-dah) Tablets

Generic name: emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
(em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU-mar-ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with TRUVADA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about TRUVADA.

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

- **Some people who have taken medicine like TRUVADA (nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis.**

- You feel very weak or tired.
- You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
- You have trouble breathing.
- You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
- You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
- You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
- You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.

- **Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems.**

- Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- Your urine turns dark.
- Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
- You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
- You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
- You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.

- **TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.** Patients infected with both HBV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who take TRUVADA need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow-up includes medical exams and blood tests to check for HBV that could be getting worse. **Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.**

What is TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older. TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infection. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.**

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take TRUVADA?

Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you use TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **have bone problems.**
- **have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection.**

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA®, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM™, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with those medicines.**
- Drugs that contain didanosine (VIDEX®, VIDEX EC®). Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of VIDEX in your blood. **You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and VIDEX together.**
- REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and REYATAZ or KALETRA together.

Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacist **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription.

How should I take TRUVADA?

- Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.
- TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.
- If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. **Do not** take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. **Do not** take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.**
- When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.
- If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

- **Do not breast-feed.** See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"
- **Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection** since TRUVADA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
 - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
 - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.**
 - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- COMBIVIR, EMTRIVA, EPIVIR, EPIVIR-HBV, EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.**

What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"):

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity)**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **"Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.

- **Kidney problems.** If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

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

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are: dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is **not complete** at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store TRUVADA?

- **Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store at room temperature up to 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA that is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at www.TRUVADA.com.

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active Ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir DF

Inactive Ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opadry II Blue Y-30-10701 containing FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

Rx Only

January 2005

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VIREAD®

(tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets

Patient Information**VIREAD (VEER ee ad)**

Generic Name: tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU-mar-ate)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking VIREAD. Also, read it each time you get your VIREAD prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider when you start this medicine and at checkups. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking VIREAD. Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have any questions about VIREAD.

What is VIREAD and how does it work?

VIREAD is a type of medicine called an HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleotide analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). VIREAD is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. VIREAD is for adults age 18 and older. HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops. VIREAD helps to block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. VIREAD lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (called viral load) and may help to increase the number of T cells (called CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does VIREAD cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

VIREAD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIREAD are not known at this time. People taking VIREAD may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1 infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does VIREAD reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others?

VIREAD does not reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take VIREAD?

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether VIREAD is right for you. Do not take VIREAD if

- you are allergic to VIREAD or any of its ingredients

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking VIREAD?

Tell your healthcare provider

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of VIREAD on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking VIREAD. Do not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby. If your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that the baby can get HIV through breast-feeding.

• If you have kidney or bone problems**• If you have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection****• Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions**

• TELL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT ALL THE MEDICINES YOU TAKE, INCLUDING PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS. VIREAD MAY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF VIDEX® (DIDANOSINE) IN YOUR BLOOD. YOU MAY NEED TO BE FOLLOWED MORE CAREFULLY IF YOU ARE TAKING THESE TWO DRUGS TOGETHER. IF YOU ARE TAKING VIDEX (DIDANOSINE) AND VIREAD TOGETHER YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER MAY NEED TO REDUCE YOUR DOSE OF VIDEX (DIDANOSINE).

VIREAD MAY DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF REYATAZ® (ATAZANAVIR) IN YOUR BLOOD. IF YOU ARE TAKING VIREAD AND REYATAZ (ATAZANAVIR) TOGETHER YOU SHOULD ALSO BE TAKING NORVIR® (RITONAVIR).

IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL THE MEDICINES THAT YOU TAKE. MAKE A NEW LIST WHEN MEDICINES ARE ADDED OR STOPPED. GIVE COPIES OF THIS LIST TO ALL OF YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS EVERY TIME YOU VISIT YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OR FILL A PRESCRIPTION.

How should I take VIREAD?

- Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking VIREAD. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- Take VIREAD every day exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label. Set up a dosing schedule and follow it carefully.
- The usual dose of VIREAD is 1 tablet once a day, in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, your healthcare provider may recommend that you take VIREAD less frequently.
- VIREAD may be taken with or without a meal.

- When your VIREAD supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to VIREAD and become harder to treat.

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

What should I do if I miss a dose of VIREAD?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of VIREAD, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much VIREAD?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of VIREAD, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

As with all medicines, VIREAD should be kept out of reach of children.

What should I avoid while taking VIREAD?

- Do not breast-feed. See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking VIREAD?"

What are the possible side effects of VIREAD?

- Clinical studies: The most common side effects of VIREAD are: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and flatulence (intestinal gas).
- Marketing experience: Other side effects reported since VIREAD has been marketed include: weakness, inflammation of the pancreas, low blood phosphate, dizziness, shortness of breath, and rash.
- Some patients treated with VIREAD have had kidney problems. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another drug that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to perform additional blood tests.
- Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with VIREAD. It is not known whether long-term use of VIREAD will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to perform additional tests or may suggest additional medication.
- Some patients taking antiviral drugs like VIREAD have developed a condition called lactic acidosis (a buildup in the blood of lactic acid, the same substance that causes your muscles to burn during heavy exercise). Symptoms of lactic acidosis include nausea, vomiting, unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort, and weakness. If you notice these symptoms or if your medical condition changes suddenly, call your healthcare provider right away.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- If you have hepatitis B-virus (HBV) infection, you may have a "flare-up" of hepatitis B, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before if you stop taking VIREAD. VIREAD is not for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection.

- There have been other side effects in patients taking VIREAD. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

- This list of side effects is **not** complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store VIREAD?

- Keep VIREAD and all other medications out of reach of children.
- Store VIREAD at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C). It should remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label.
- Do not keep your medicine in places that are too hot or cold.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw away medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General advice about prescription medicines:

TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MEDICINE OR YOUR CONDITION. MEDICINES ARE SOMETIMES PRESCRIBED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED IN A PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET. IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THIS MEDICINE, ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER. YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OR PHARMACIST CAN GIVE YOU INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEDICINE THAT WAS WRITTEN FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS. DO NOT USE THIS MEDICINE FOR A CONDITION FOR WHICH IT WAS NOT PRESCRIBED. DO NOT SHARE THIS MEDICINE WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

DO NOT USE IF SEAL OVER BOTTLE OPENING IS BROKEN OR MISSING.

Viread®
(tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

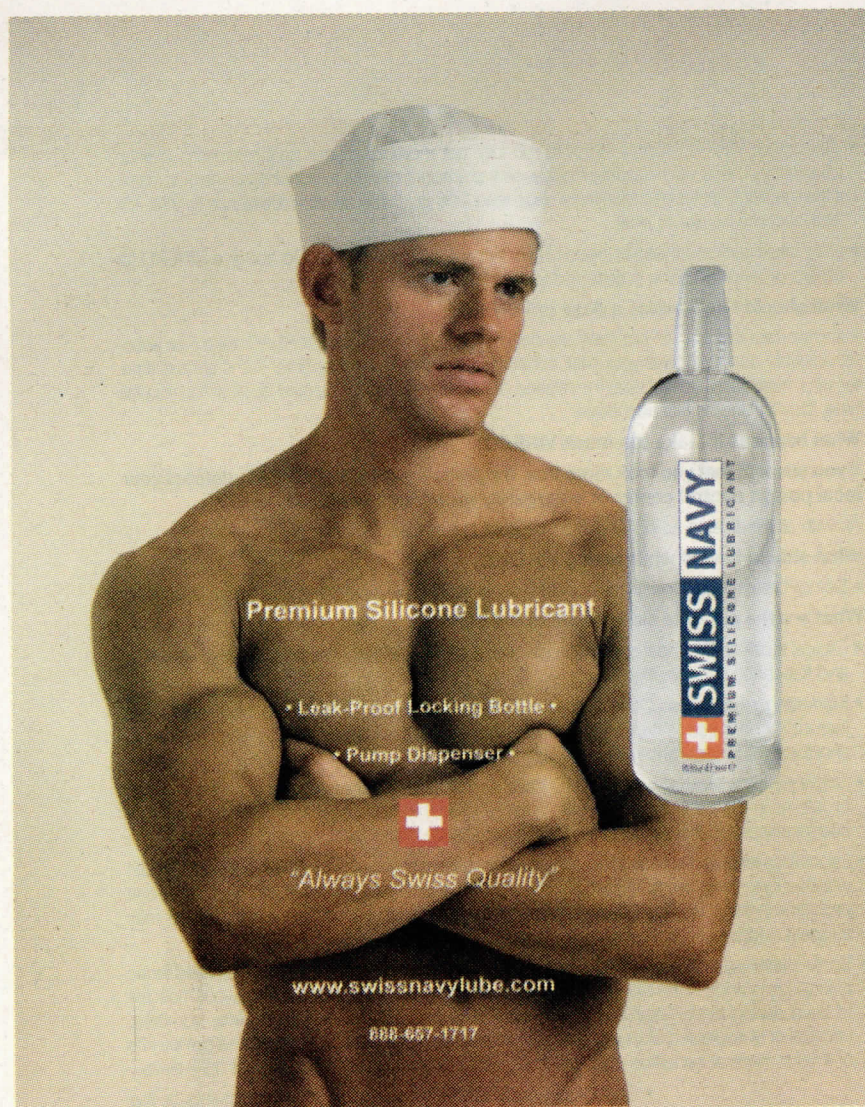
news in brief

São Paulo Pride draws 2.4 million gays, supporters

SÃO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — More than 2 million gays and their supporters waving rainbow flags and dressed in lavish Carnival costumes paraded June 17 to celebrate Gay Pride and demand an end to homophobia. The 10th annual São Paulo Gay Pride Parade saw go-go boys and drag queens dancing on the roofs of sound trucks blasting music as they rolled down the skyscraper-lined Avenida Paulista — the financial heart of Brazil's biggest city, and the world's fourth largest. It also turned into a cheering festival for Brazil's World Cup soccer team, with many paraders dressed in the country's yellow, green and blue. Organizers boast São Paulo's Pride parade is the largest of its kind on the planet. Police said the parade drew 2.4 million people, far more than last year's official crowd count of 1.8 million. The theme of this year's event was to halt hate crimes against gays in the nation of more than 185 million people. But in typical Brazilian style, participants turned a somber topic into a huge street party, dancing, drinking beer and kissing as they marched several kilometers. The event came just days after an even larger rally, as much as 3 million, of conservative evangelicals, a growing political force in this traditionally Roman Catholic country.



More than 2 million crowded Avenida Paulista, the main thoroughfare in São Paulo, Brazil, to celebrate Gay Pride and call for an end to anti-gay hate crimes.
(Photo by Andre Penner/AP)



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Pentagon lists homosexuality as a mental disorder

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pentagon document classifies homosexuality as a mental disorder, decades after mental health experts abandoned that position. The document outlines retirement or other discharge policies for service members with physical disabilities, and in a section on defects lists homosexuality alongside mental retardation and personality disorders. Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Jeremy M. Martin said the policy document is under review. The Pentagon has a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that prohibits the military from inquiring about the sex lives of service members but requires discharges of those who openly acknowledge being gay. The Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, at the University of California at Santa Barbara, uncovered the document and pointed to it as further proof of the military's "continued misunderstanding of homosexuality."

Macy's CEO admits 'mistake' over pulling Gay Pride display

BOSTON — Macy's CEO admitted last week the department store made a "mistake, unquestionably" when employees removed two male mannequins from a Gay Pride display at its downtown Boston location last week. In Newsweek reported June 14. In a letter to the New-England gay newspaper, Macy's East CEO Ron Klein stated, "Am I regretful that Macy's made a mis-step in this instance? Yes." He blamed "an internal breakdown in communication," and declared that the controversial mannequins "were not removed because of pressure." One of the mannequins was wearing a rainbow flag around his waist, next to a list of Boston Pride Week events. MassResistance, a group that has campaigned against gay marriage and gay-themed textbooks, objected to the display; the Boston Herald reported. Klein said the mannequins were removed because Macy's "traditionally does not feature mannequins in these 'community windows' because the introduction of merchandise has no role in our tributes."

Feds probe Miami gay adult video producer for fraud

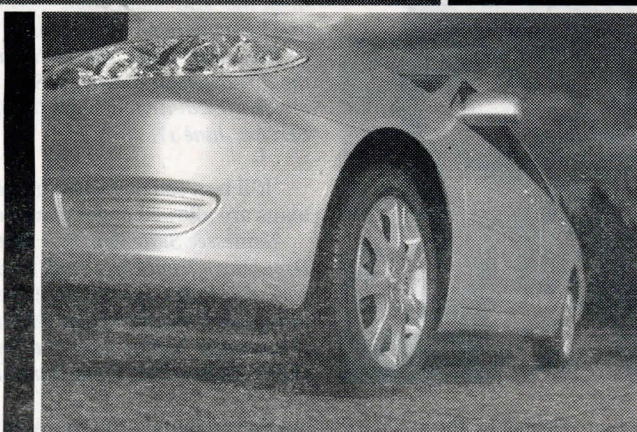
MIAMI — The owner of a Miami-based company that produces gay adult videos and lifestyle magazines is the target of a federal investigation for allegedly defrauding public schools out of millions in a scheme involving a nonprofit student organization. Flava Life, a gay entertainment magazine for black and Latino men, is owned by Phillip Bleicher. Another company he founded, the Student Leadership Network, is under federal investigation for allegedly defrauding schools out of millions. Bleicher allegedly cashed bogus checks after persuading school officials to sign up for his program, which was promoted as offering leadership programs for students, according to Harpreet Khara of the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Bleicher adamantly denied any wrongdoing and said a competitor in the adult video business was spreading lies about him and his company. "The allegations against me are absolutely false," he said.

New HIV 'doorway drugs' may carry serious risks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The excitement over a novel class of drugs being developed to fight HIV has been dampened by fears they could pose serious safety risks, including the possibility they might actually speed the progression of AIDS. The new drugs, called CCR5 receptor antagonists, block a secondary but crucial doorway typically used by the HIV to enter cells. Researchers have known for more than a decade that people who lack a working version of that doorway, called a receptor, are, at best, highly resistant to infection by HIV and, at worst, slow to develop AIDS once infected. But researchers are worried that the drugs could accelerate a shift from one variant of HIV to a second, which is most often seen in the sickest AIDS patients. It also is unclear whether the drug would provide the same protection as occurs naturally in some people.

From staff and wire reports

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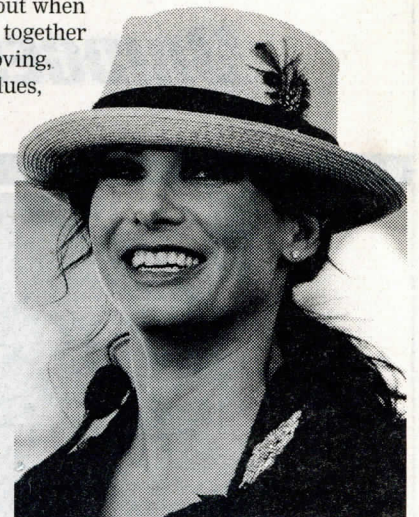


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on the record

"Somehow it's OK when you bomb people, but when you have divorced parents who take vacations together with their kids or same-sex parents who are loving, great parents, raising their kids with great values, why is this at all on the top of anyone's list to talk about?"

Actress **Sandra Bullock**, responding to a question about her close relationship with her new husband's ex-wife and children (*Vanity Fair*, July issue)



"There is a better than 50-50 chance this man will be the governor of California for the next four years, and for the gay community to label somebody based on one veto is shortsighted."

Outgoing Log Cabin Republicans President **Patrick Guerriero**, announcing that California Gov. **Arnold Schwarzenegger** (R) would headline a fundraiser for the gay GOP group next week (*Associated Press*, June 19)

"I believe that God creates us with different gifts. Each one of us comes into this world with a different collection of things that challenge us and things that give us joy and allow us to bless the world around us. Some people come into this world with affections ordered toward other people of the same gender and some people come into this world with affections directed at people of the other gender."

Newly elected Episcopal Church leader **Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori**, after telling reporters that she doesn't believe homosexuality is a sin (*Reuters*, June 19)



"I don't feel homosexuality is God's will for creation. It's uncomfortable feeling that way, but I'm comfortable being uncomfortable until the 'still small voice' speaks to my soul and I'm convicted otherwise."

Rev. **Joan Gray**, elected this week to lead the Presbyterian Church (USA), on why she opposes ordination of gays (*Presbyterian News Service*, June 17)

"It'll be a sad day when queers and lesbians are allowed to get married."

Tennessee State Rep. **Eric Watson**, a Republican from Cleveland, on a rally in support of a state constitutional amendment banning gays from marrying; Watson later refused to apologize saying queer is a "name they claim" (*Associated Press*, June 15)

"Here I am, elected by the students — all the students — to represent them, while I'm openly gay. I'm trying to find my balance, trying not to overstep my bounds."

Ryan Fournier, 21, who was elected Ohio State University's first openly gay undergraduate student government president (*Columbus Dispatch*, June 19)

"Am I regretful that Macy's made a mis-step in this instance? Yes."

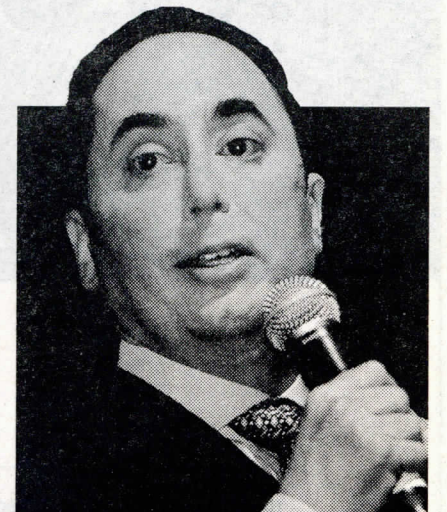
Macy's East CEO **Ron Klein**, apologizing for his company's decision to remove a Gay Pride display from a storefront window in Boston after a conservative group complained about its content (*In Newsweekly*, June 14)

"I reject any proposal that would endanger family unity."

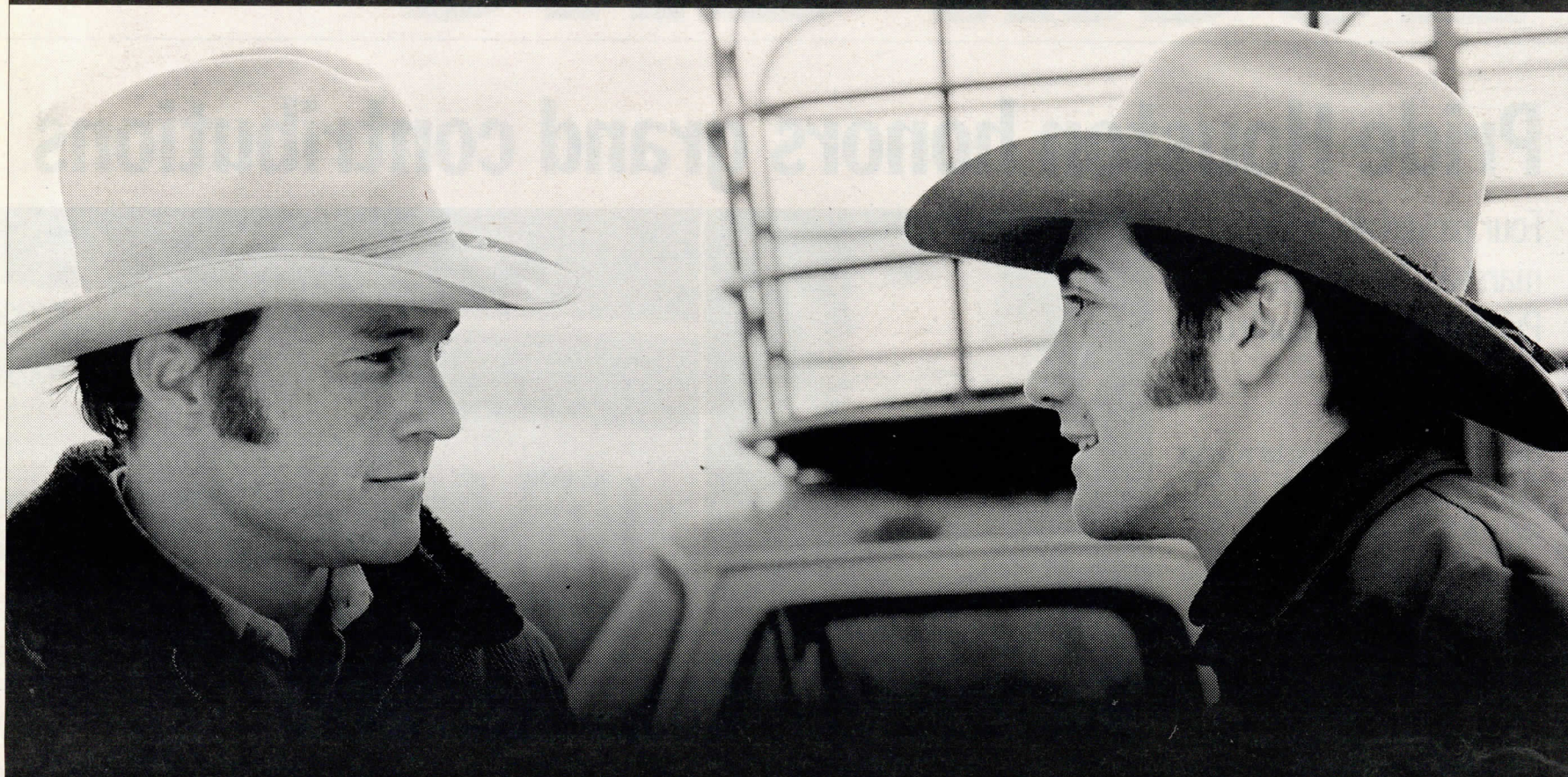
Elisabetta Gardini, spokesperson for Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, reacting to news that Italian cabinet minister **Barbara Pollastrini** would attend a Gay Pride parade and favors legal rights for gay couples (*Associated Press*, June 19)

"**David A. Gest** made sexual comments, touched plaintiff in a sexual nature, wrote sexual comments in plaintiff's calendar, paid another employee to touch plaintiff."

Text of a lawsuit filed against Gest, a music promoter and ex-husband of **Liza Minnelli**, by his former personal assistant **Charles Beyer**, who claims Gest sexually



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Pride Houston honors grand contributions

Four picked as grand marshals for nighttime Pride parade in Montrose

By JOEY GUERRA

COMMUNITY SERVICE, CALLS TO GOD and history-making activism are hallmarks of this year's Pride Houston parade grand marshals.

The quartet includes Ray Ramirez, Phyllis Randolph Frye, Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams and honorary organization Bunnies on the Bayou.

This year's honorees will preside over the nighttime parade, which is set for June 24 at 8:45 p.m. in lower Westheimer between Woodhead and Whitney streets.

Grand marshals were voted on locally from a pool of several nominees. About 300 people participated in this year's vote during four polling dates in February.

Ray Ramirez

Ramirez, this year's male grand marshal, has an endless stream of civic, cultural, charitable and political organizations to his credit. It's a non-stop job throughout the year.

"We as lesbians and gays have a higher calling, and that is to do non-profit work in our community," Ramirez says in between listing off his accomplishments with equal amounts of pride and duty.

They include, but are not limited to, his work as founder and first president of the Lambda Roller Skating Club, during which he represented Houston at the 1994 Gay Games and received the bronze medal in speed skating.

Ramirez was also an active member of Pride Houston for many years and spent time co-chairing the parade committee.

"I've done the grunt work before," he says. "After the parade, I was down on Westheimer, picking up trash that was knee deep. It's paid off."

Ramirez was also a Bunnies on the Bayou board member for 17 years, and even coined the organization's name. He has organized, and participated in, fundraising for several political campaigns, including those for then Houston Councilmember Annise Parker and newly elected Councilmember Sue Lovell. And there has also been stints assisting the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

During his downtime, Ramirez is an active member of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church and a



Transgender attorney and activist **Phyllis Randolph Frye**; and Rev. **Marilyn Meeker-Williams** are the female and honorary female grand marshals for this year's Pride Houston parade. Ray Ramirez is male grand marshal and Bunnies on the Bayou is organizational grand marshal.



professional hairstylist.

Ramirez balances it all "with friends and family," but says he is continually inspired by being a survivor. Two of his sisters were killed separately in car accidents several years ago, and he says he was also motivated by the onslaught of the early 1980s HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"I had to get out there and do something," Ramirez says. "I knew that I had to put my skills to work, and that's what really propelled me to do quality, quantified work in our community."

Phyllis Randolph Frye

Female grand marshal Frye was similarly inspired by specific events in her life. She is a prominent transgender lawyer who, for nearly 30 years, has worked tirelessly to change discriminatory laws, including a Houston ordinance outlawing cross-dressing. She was a founding member of the Transgender Law Conference and the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston.

In another life, Frye was an Eagle Boy Scout, her high school's ROTC commander, a member of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets, a military officer and a civil engineer.

Most recently, Frye has helped veteran Houston police officer Sgt. Julia (Jack) Oliver, who has made headlines with her decision to undergo sexual re-assignment surgery.

"I am flattered and humbled both as a transgender and as a long time GLBTI activist to have been elected by popular vote to receive this honor," Frye says. "I have been

out since 1974 and have been full-time as a TG for 30 years this September. I was there when Ray Hill was trying to get Pride started in the late 1970's. I have seen much and been in the thick of much change for the better in the GLBTI freedom movement."

Marilyn Meeker-Williams

Honorary grand marshal Meeker-Williams is not a lesbian, but she does have strong ties to gay rights causes. Her son, Nathan, came out to her in 1996, and it triggered something inside both her head and heart.

"It began to focus some of my ministry," says Meeker-Williams, who was appointed to St. Marks United Methodist Church in the Heights area this month. She previously spent 10 years serving at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.

"It occurred to me, 'That could be a direction God was calling me to go,' which was confirmed a year later when I was appointed to Bering Memorial," she says.

Though her son lives in Boston and will not be here to see her waving to parade onlookers, Meeker-Williams says he was amused at the honorary marshal appointment.

"He thought that was fun," she says.

In 1999, Meeker-Williams took a public stance on gay marriage by refusing to marry any couples in her church until same-sex couples could also be married there. Beyond being a polarizing political statement, it simply seems an extension of her gentle, knowing grace.

"I have been very supportive—all of my life, really—of people who are denied full human rights for some reason, who are

MORE INFO

Pride Houston Parade

June 24, 8:45 p.m.

Lower Westheimer

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www.pridehouston.org

oppressed in any way, who are treated as the 'other,' rather than one of us," she says.

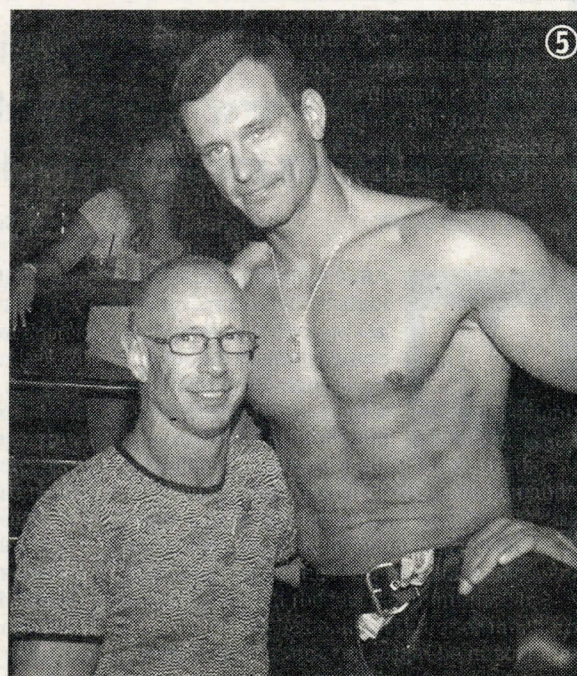
On Saturday, she'll be ready to celebrate all walks of life.

Bunnies on the Bayou

Organization grand marshal Bunnies on the Bayou has produced an annual Easter Sunday fundraiser for the past 26 years. In the process, the group has donated more than \$500,000 to a slew of non-profit organizations, including AIDS Foundation Houston, Bering Omega Community Services, Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH) and the local chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

"Being named grand marshal is one of our community's highest honors, and the list of past grand marshals is a who's-who of GLBT community leaders," says Nick Brines, Pride Houston president. "This year's awardees definitely belong on that list."

Previous grand marshals include activist Ray Hill, nightlife entrepreneur Charles Armstrong, Houston City Councilmember Annise Parker, former Houston Voice Editor Nancy Ford, the Texas Gay Rodeo Association and Bayou City Boys Club.



out in houston

Black Tie dinner

Events were recently held for Houston's annual Black Tie Dinner, which raises money for local gay charities. (1.) Johan Everstijn, Stefan Gabler, Carol Peyton, Tamara Olivares, Roland Strobel and Richard Hill at a VIP reception. (2.) Richard Hill, Sandy Clough, Randy Mitchmore and Sydnee White attend a kickoff party.

3. Gay Journalism Association

Tim Brookover, editor of OutSmart magazine; Jenifer Poole; Ellen Cohen; Houston City Councilmember Sue Lovell; Oliver Dyke and Yvonne Feece attend a recent National Lesbian & Gay Journalist Association meeting.

4. Expressions of Hope

Kermit Eisenhower, Skip Willet and Michael Olson at an art opening for the 'Expression of Hope' art exhibit, which features HIV-positive artists.

5. Colt Man at Rich's

Don Achord and Colt Man video star Chris Wide say 'how do' at Rich's nightclub.

(All photos by Dalton DeHart)

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Forum

editorial

Are we sexual deviants intolerant, too?

The First Amendment would be turning over in its Constitution if it knew how conservatives are twisting religious freedom into an excuse to discriminate.

By CHRIS CRAIN

MARYLAND GOV. ROBERT Ehrlich raised a lot of eyebrows last week when he sacked his own appointee to the Metro transit authority board for an obscure anti-gay remark made on a cable access program.

Robert Smith, a longtime Republican Party activist in Montgomery County, called gays "sexual deviants" in a televised discussion about same-sex marriage and later refused to apologize because he said he was simply expressing his Roman Catholic beliefs on the subject.

A scant four hours after Washington, D.C., Councilmember Jim Graham, a gay Democrat, first raised the issue publicly at a Metro board meeting, Smith was history.

The swift reaction from the Maryland governor, who faces a tough re-election this fall in a Democrat-leaning state, comes as something of a surprise because Ehrlich has a very checkered record on gay issues, most recently having backed an amendment to the state's constitution that would ban gays from marrying.

Last legislative session, Ehrlich vetoed a lesser form of legal recognition for gay couples, a domestic partner registry of sorts, though his staff later worked with gay rights activists to enact a watered-down version. He also signed into law this session hate crimes legislation that includes sexual orientation as a protected category.

Ehrlich explained his decision to dismiss Smith in a brief prepared statement that condemned the remarks as "highly inappropriate, insensitive and unacceptable."

Graham, who is no Ehrlich ally, nonetheless praised the quick decision, even as he slammed Smith for being unrepentant.

"Governor Ehrlich got it. He recognized the seriousness of the situation," said Graham. "Smith, on the other hand, remained clueless."

NOT EVERYONE WAS SO IMPRESSED with Governor Ehrlich's rapid-fire decision, not even every homosexual. Gay author and blogger Andrew Sullivan, who has done a fair amount of time of his own on TV talk shows, bemoaned Graham's campaign to have Smith dismissed as "gay intolerance."

"The gay rights movement needs to practice the same tolerance it is asking

for," Sullivan wrote on his eponymous blog. "Leave orthodox Catholics [like Smith] — and Protestants — alone in their expression of their own faith, and their own politics."

True enough, the gay movement at times, rather than concentrating on the core examples of inequality, seems all too adept at picking battles that are at the margins of gay life, and even worse which impinge on the freedoms of others.

The ill-advised lawsuit challenging the exclusion of an Irish gay group from Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade comes to mind. It was one of the first gay rights cases ever to be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, but its importance to the lives of gay Americans belied that level of importance. How many of us are dying to march unwelcome in someone else's parade?

The gay Irish group lost anyway, 9-0, and conservatives, especially orthodox Catholics, were handed a prime example of how "the gay agenda" is really about using government to force people to change their views on homosexuality, which are often formed by religious teachings.

To hear Sullivan tell it, that's what happened to Robert Smith, too. He expressed his Roman Catholic belief that gays are "sexual deviants," and those religious beliefs got him fired, even though his responsibilities overseeing Metro's bus and subway system bear no relation to his thoughts on human sexuality.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT GUARANTEES Smith's right to freely practice his religious beliefs, of course, and to express them in almost any forum. But it's the other third of that amendment — the one against the establishment of an official religion — that justifies Smith's dismissal.

You can have zero patience with political correctness and how it stifles debate by chilling "insensitive" speech and still support the sacking of a public official who argues that his own religious beliefs should have the force of law.

That was, after all, what Smith was doing when he used such extreme language about gays. Another panelist on the TV program, "21 This Week," had apparently been talking about Mary Cheney, the vice president's lesbian daughter, and how she wanted the government not to interfere with her life.

"That's fine. that's fine." Smith inter-

jected, according to a recounting published in the *Washington Post*. "But that doesn't mean that government should proffer a special place of entitlement within the laws of the United States for persons of sexual deviancy."

Like so many conservatives, Smith allowed his personal religious views to decide a question of public policy. Gay couples shouldn't be permitted to marry, or have any other "entitlement within the laws," because the Vatican teaches that they're "sexual deviants" (a questionable theological claim in itself).

Smith wasn't fired for opposing gay marriage, of course, since we know Ehrlich does as well. He was fired because he allowed his own orthodox Catholic beliefs to define as "deviant" a class of citizens who are supposed to be protected from discrimination under the laws of Maryland, the District and the written policy of the Metro transit system itself.

It's one thing for Smith's private religious beliefs to run counter to Metro policy, state law and the governor's stated support for equal treatment and inclusion (however unevenly Ehrlich lives up to that standard). It's altogether another for Smith to tell the public so, and in such extreme terms.

Political appointees are sacked every day for not following their patron's party line, and that's all that happened here.

His remarks were "in direct conflict to my administration's commitment to inclusiveness, tolerance and opportunity," Ehrlich said in his statement.

Smith should not get a free pass to diverge in public so radically from the governor's views by pulling the "it's my religion!" card. That turns the First Amendment on its head, protecting public officials who would enshrine their religious beliefs into the law of the land because to prevent them from doing so somehow impinges on their religious liberties.

Almost no one buys that cry of victimhood by conservative Christians, whose political allies control most of the U.S. government. Orthodox Catholics are hardly impinged in the practice of their faith and expression of their beliefs by an insistence that orthodox Catholic public officials keep those views out of public policy debates.

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viewpoint REV. IRENE MONROE



Should Gay Pride be a political rally
or a weekend of fun and community?

The answer is 'all of the above.'

Pride is diversity not division

PRIDE PARADES WILL BE TAKING place all over the country this month. But as we all rev up for this year's festivities, the fault lines of race and class emerge as well. In addition to Gay Pride events, there will be a segment of our population attending Black Gay Pride and Hispanic Gay Pride events.

And oddly enough, the racial divide that is always evident at Pride events across the country shows us something troubling and broken about ourselves as we strive to be a community and movement.

It shows us that the spiritual and political life of our movement cannot afford to be fraught with or stymied by bigotry, but instead it demands inclusion and constant growth. Our movement and communities call for the varied expressions of the life, gifts and talents of the entire LGBTQ community.

We are a diverse people, and that is our gift as well as our struggle. Our diversity should not dilute our commitment, but rather should teach us more about its complexity, and by extension teach the larger society.

For many heterosexuals, Gay Pride is viewed as a conspicuous parade of unbridled hedonism, spawning moral condemnation and homophobia.

For example, World Pride 2005 in Jerusalem was postponed. Why? As the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Religious Leadership Roundtable stated in

a news release, it was because, "Homophobia has marginalized people throughout the world, creating places of tyranny and violence toward people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. This event in Jerusalem will be a testament of the solidarity in the movement toward equality, justice and full inclusion for LGBT persons across the globe."

JUST LAST WEEK, THE NEWS WAS about how the mayor of Moscow flatly refused protection for the city's first Gay Pride march, leading to violent attacks on marchers by nationalists and skinheads.

But let us not forget our homeboy, right-wing televangelist Jerry Falwell, who shared his views about Gay Pride with the Associated Press in 2000, "There's a lot of talk these days about homosexuals coming out of the closet," Rev. Falwell said then. "I didn't know they'd been in the closet. I do know they've always been in the gutter."

Even among gays, views on Gay Pride are mixed. For many, Pride represents a bone of contention. Once many thought the celebration was too political and had lost its vision of what it means for people to just have a good time. But others now think of it as a weekend bacchanalia of drugs, alcohol and unprotected sex, desecrating the memo-



rial of the Stonewall Riots and the chance to make a political statement.

AT ITS CORE, GAY PRIDE EVENTS ARE about remembrance, thanksgiving and an invitation for community.

So let's not forget the "reparative therapies" to cure our homosexuality, like testicular castration, electroshock therapy and lobotomies. Today we have so-called "ex-gay" ministries, which aim to "cure" us of our "perversion" with the right spiritual dosages of God and damnation.

And let us not forget the summer months of 1998 when the country was hit with an explosion of "ex-gay" ministry ads that appeared in major newspapers like the New York Times, the Washington Post, and USA Today. The ad stated: "Please, if you, or someone you know or love, is struggling with homosexuality, show them this story. If you truly love someone, you'll tell them the truth. And, the truth that God loves them could just be the truth that sets them free."

Pride is an act of thanksgiving. It

allows us and our heterosexual allies to commemorate the Stonewall Riots of June 27-29, 1969, in New York City's Greenwich Village, an event that sparked our modern queer liberation movement.

Gay Pride is also an invitation for community. It is one of the loci of the ongoing battle in the LGBTQ community for inclusion into mainstream society. Because of the ongoing struggle, Pride challenges society's exclusion of us by inviting everyone to join in the parade.

Pride need not be viewed as either a political statement or a senseless non-stop orgy. Such an either/or approach artificially divides the integral connection between political action and celebratory acts in our fight for our civil rights.

Gay Pride events are a reminder to us all of how far we have come down the road as a people, but it is also a reminder of how far down the road we still must go.

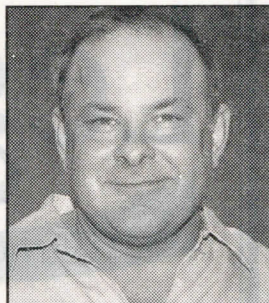
@ Rev. Irene Monroe is a Boston-based freelance writer and can be reached at revimonroe@earthlink.net.

THE
Q
Do you think most gay people are aware of the historical significance of Stonewall and Gay Pride parades?



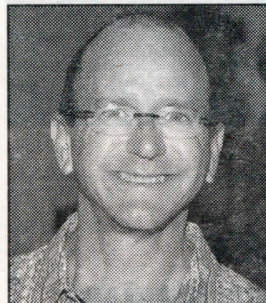
No. We do not put enough emphasis on our history and how we got where we are today.

LOUIS ALVA, 50
Spring
Artist



Probably not. However, I think that the Pride parade makes the general population more aware of the gay community.

TOM LOTYCZ, 48
Houston
Tax accounting



Probably not, but that's all right. That's why we have this parade to teach ourselves our history. I'm glad our kids don't have the same level of oppression, and I'm excited to see them pushing forward.

STEVEN KIRKLAND, 45
Houston
Judge



No. Most people aren't aware of the discrimination that gays and lesbians face because we don't teach them. Public schools textbooks are better about explaining discrimination other groups faced, but we are silent on homosexual discrimination.

PEGGY BITTICK, 41
Houston
Attorney



Absolutely not. Unfortunately, society as a whole has moved away from the times of activism, community involvement and truly sacrificing for a cause. Our world is very narcissistic and materialistic. We live in the age of "I will march, but what is in it for me?"

PATRISSE SHUTTLESWORTH, 39
Houston
Human resources director



Individual results may vary.

INDICATION: REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). REYATAZ has been studied in 48-week trials in both patients who have taken or have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

REYATAZ does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take REYATAZ if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra®, Levitra®, Cialis®, Vfend®, Advair®, Flonase®, or Flovent® while you are taking REYATAZ without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.

- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate).
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Other side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take REYATAZ once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Once Daily REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

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- ◆ Two pills taken once a day (with a snack or meal)[‡]

* Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL (depending on the test used).

[†] REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

[‡] People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

REYATAZ does not cure HIV, a serious disease, or help prevent passing HIV to others.

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Please see Important Patient Information about REYATAZ on the next page.

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March 2006 F1-K0271M

PATIENT INFORMATION

Rx ONLY

REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)

(generic name = atazanavir sulfate) Capsules

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate). Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- **are taking certain medicines.** (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- **are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.** The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?

Tell your healthcare provider:

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have diabetes.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have hemophilia.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **About all the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
 - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
 - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
 Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or VIDEX® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, or Enteric-Coated Tablets,** take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPICID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine),** talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is **not** complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- **rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **If you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIERANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIVIAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIVIAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood.

This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILLOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together.

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (ADVAIR®, FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- FORTOVASE®, INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- Antacids or buffered medicines.
- VIDEX® (didanosine).
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil), and others.
- BIAxin® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPICID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.**

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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This Patient Information Leaflet has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

1193697A1

Revised January 2006



Lily of the prairie

Lily Tomlin returns to the big screen in 'A Prairie Home Companion'

By **ANDY ZEFFER**

THERE AREN'T TOO MANY COMEDIANS who are as comfortable cracking a joke onstage as they are acting in front of a camera.

But lesbian entertainer Lily Tomlin has excelled at both during a career that has spanned three decades. And now she's holding her own opposite Meryl Streep in the film "A Prairie Home Companion," based on the popular and long-running radio show of the same name.

As Rhonda Johnson, one half of the singing Johnson sisters, Tomlin brings her warm and off-kilter humor to the screen. Other big names joining Tomlin and Streep in director Robert Altman's latest flick include Lindsay Lohan, Woody Harrelson, Kevin Kline, Virginia Madsen and "Prairie" creator Garrison Keillor.

Tomlin first captured the attention of audiences on the popular prime time sketch comedy show "Laugh-In," which ran from 1969 to 1973. Her characters like Ernestine the telephone operator and precocious child Edith Ann became instant favorites.

Tomlin's first film role came in another Altman film, 1975's "Nashville." As Linnea Reese, Tomlin earned an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress.

Yet it wasn't her TV fame that brought her to Altman's attention — both shared the same agent. In 1971 Tomlin optioned a book titled "Maiden," and by 1974 had a screenplay version written as a vehicle to launch her film career.

"I found out earlier how hard it was to cross over from television to movies in those days, especially if you did characters and stuff," Tomlin explains. "Most everyone thought I was Ernestine. Well, Bob [Altman] had never seen 'Laugh-In.' So our agent got us together, and he read the script with the intention of producing it. He told me to come down to Nashville and appear in his other film, and we could talk about it some more. Columbia bought the film rights from me once they found out Bob was attached. One of the

guys from Columbia came to Nashville and asked him to cut six minutes from a film he directed. Altman punched him in the nose. So we never got to do 'Maiden' but I got to do 'Nashville.'"

Other popular films like "9 to 5," "The Incredible Shrinking Woman," and "All of Me" followed. In 1986 she won the Tony Award for best actress for "The Search For Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe."

STANDING BY HER SIDE THROUGH her career is her frequent co-writer and collaborator, Jane Wagner, also Tomlin's life partner.

Tomlin met Wagner through a mutual friend. She happened to see Wagner's acclaimed 1969 film "J.T." prior to recording an Edith Ann album. Tomlin told a friend how much she adored "J.T.," and that friend happened to know Wagner as well. Tomlin approached Wagner to help her write material for the Edith Ann album.

"I hadn't heard from her in days, and the record company was pressuring me to record," Tomlin recalls. "Five days before I was about to record Jane sent me a bunch of material. It was notated on onionskin, some was typed, and there were lines through it with all kinds of scribble. I didn't know at the time I was going to become an expert at reading that. I became a typist really."

Tomlin says that when she and Wagner met, they had the same sense of humor and saw the world in the same way. The same things moved them, and they found the same things tender and funny.

"She is from Tennessee, and my parents are from Kentucky," Tomlin says. "We had the same sensibility. She used to be an actress, too, when she started out, but she doesn't have thick enough skin to be an actress. She is very, very, very sensitive. That's what makes her such a wonderful writer."

TOMLIN ALSO APPRECIATES THE sensibilities of Robert Altman and

Lily Tomlin has achieved success on the big screen, on television and on the stage.

Garrison Keillor, and that is why she is so happy to be part of "A Prairie Home Companion."

She says the film is something more human than what has saturated popular culture in recent years, and says that part of what draws Altman and Keillor together is their sense of humanity.

In Tomlin's opinion, a sense of humanity is what is missing from our culture today, especially in television entertainment. She is not a fan of the new breed of what she calls "humiliation TV."

"I find it disappointing and a little depressing that people can live with that and think it's entertainment," Tomlin says. "It is like survival of the fittest in the absolute worst way. The fitness comes from very questionable sources. It is not like you are fit because you are evolved or have some expansive mind or vision. It is really how small and narrow minded you can be in that competitive way. It doesn't make for human happiness, and is very external and materialistic."

Though other performers including Linda Ronstadt and the Dixie Chicks have taken hits for criticizing the Bush administration, Tomlin does not shy away from addressing politics.

"I talk about it anyway," she says. "I do it all the time, and for some reason, whatever it is about me, nothing ever happens to me."

A veteran of promotional tours, Tomlin says the American media, unlike the foreign press, tend to ask soft questions. Tomlin ranted about the war in Iraq and the U.S. government, because she can't understand Americans' lack of rage.

"When are we going to wake up?" Tomlin exclaims. "Have we become so numb and beaten down, or over-scheduled and over-extended trying to get ahead and get a dollar? Because the values out there right now, that's all they foster. We don't have a sense of social responsibility to other people."

Tomlin says she plans to continue speaking out, while still making audiences laugh, as she has for more than 30 years.



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It's the most wonderful time of the year — not Christmas, but Gay Pride

PRIDE 2006 HAS FINALLY ARRIVED AND brought with it the torrential rains that had Houston looking more like NOLA than our beloved home of late. Fear not the massive amount of parties and events, not to mention a certain parade will not be undone! We will be "**Saying it Loud**" all weekend long and HotGG cannot wait! First up dear readers, we have been thinking about this crazy mixed up world we live in and some of the happenings involving us queers. It's all about expectations, isn't it?

IN NEW YORK CITY, NOW CONSIDERED an island of tolerance, which was also home to the riots that began Gay Pride in 1969, was shocked recently, by the brutal attack on drag performance artist and singer **Kevin Aviance**. You might expect an attack in say, Houston, but New York? Then we learn the **Pentagon** still considers homosexuality a "deviance" in 2006! Don't ask, don't tell, deviant! Yet what does HotGG see here in Houston, a town with a less than stellar reputation when it comes to all things gay? A renaissance!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO NOTICE THE **Montrose** is back with more queer-friendly boutiques and gay-owned stores like Male U Wear, Leather Forever (and the total domination by Hollywood of all things!) than we have seen in decades! Chic must see bistros? Check out Dolce Vita, Indika and Rouge, all open recently in the heart of Montrose.

HOW ABOUT THE PIGGY-BACKING OF straight events this weekend due to the massive influx of in and out-of-town guests coming for the original, and largest nighttime queer parade in the nation? Just a couple of those include the amazing "**Rent**" party on Saturday, June 24 at the Meridian, 1503 Chartres Ave. and the giant DJ fest, **City Of Spin!** This D.J. duel features 13 different disc jockeys and takes place over three nights, June 23 to 25 at three different hotspots: Hue, 202 Tuam St., The G.R.A.B (Game Room And Bar) 809 Pierce St. and 702 Lounge, 702 Dallas St. Why even the Village People are performing here at **Freedom Fest**, the country's largest fireworks spectacular for July 4th! Be proud and say it loud Houston because we are worth it!

SAYING IT LOUD! EVERYONE HAS A favorite bar or club that they consider home and all of them — from the oldest, **Mary's...** Naturally to the biggest, **Rich's**, to the techno-coolest, **SOBE**, to the newest **Blur Bar** and **George's Country**



Performer **Kofi** will be one of the emcees for this year's Pride Houston parade.

— will be celebrating this weekend.

Decades, **Vivianna's**, **Meteor**, the **BRB**, **Guava Lamp**, **JR's**, the **Mine**, the **Ripcord**, newly renovated **EJ's** and the **611**, **Decades**, **Inergy**, **Keys West**, **Throb**, **Michaels Outpost** and the girls at **Chances** will all be out in force welcoming the curious and the proud. Support your fave or take a cab for a club crawl, just make sure you get ready for friendly faces old and new, internationally known entertainers and more!

SPECIAL PRIDE PARTIES for this weekend only will make for a mighty mean Monday, so here's hoping you have the day off! Saturday begins at the **Pride Festival**, taking place from 2-8 p.m. at Westheimer Rd. and Commonwealth St. There you and thousands of your nearest and dearest will find the Oasis, Pride's one-of-a-kind play area, an air-conditioned Energy Tent filled with video games, dozens of vendors selling fashions, jewelry and all your Pride merch, over 40 booths hosted by local companies (like the Voice!) featuring give-aways, items for sale and volunteer opportunities, a GLBT



History Tent, and even a gay mechanical bull, where you can "get bucked!"

Did we mention fabulous entertainment throughout the day on two stages featuring the headliner, pop diva **Taylor Dayne**, singer-songwriter **Casey Stratton**, urban folk and jazz artist **KJ Denhart** and rocker **Dylan Rice** and a variety of local performers? All this for only \$10! The parade starts at 8:45 p.m. on Westheimer Rd. at Woodhead St. and runs to Whitney St. You'll hear **Maria Todd**, **Ernie Manouse** and Houston's own, drag performer extraordinaire, **Kofi** as they emcee.

Afterwards choose the massive street party on **Pacific St.**, or head to **Converge!** Pride Houston's official After-Parade Party with circuit D.J. **Scotty K.**, and **Debby Holiday** as she performs, live at **Rich's**, 2401 San Jacinto St.

Then celebrate the dawn with the **Spoiled Boyz** at **SHOUT!** at Next, 2020 McKinney St. at Chartres St. This official Pride After Hours party benefits Pride Houston and stars producer-remixer-D.J. **Angelo Korte** from Miami and runs from 3:30 until 9 a.m. Sunday morning. And scene!

Pop diva **Taylor Dayne** is one of many headliners for this year's Pride Houston festival this weekend.



Dominic Molon

FRIDAY JUNE 23

THE 8TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN GIRLS CONVENTION begins tonight and runs through Sunday, June 25 at the Artery, 5401 Jackson and the University of Houston's UC Underground building on the U of H central campus. A full weekend of events including workshops "Drag King 101" and "Radical Ladies and the Media" are included as list of activities. www.southerngirlsconvention.org.

SATURDAY JUNE 24

Lawndale Art Center's "**THE BIG SHOW**," their annual open-call, juried exhibition is seeking artists. Final two weeks to submit begins today. The exhibition is open to all artists living within 100 miles of Houston. A \$15 submission fee for all non-Lawndale Art Center members is required. Works in all media completed during 2004-2006 will be accepted. **Dominic Molon** will serve as juror. Lawndale Art Center, 4912 Main St. 713-528-5858 or visit www.lawndaleartcenter.org.

SUNDAY JUNE 25

The new 12,000 square-foot **MANKIND CENTER HOUSTON** opens today at 6950 W. 43rd St. According to organization officials, the ManKind Project Houston is a non-profit organization that is designed to help men begin to create new and healthy ways of living. Their group "Rainbow Warriors" is currently planning their first-ever Gateway New Warrior Training, which invites gay, bisexual and transgender men to participate in the program. Contact **Margarito G. Perez** at mperez@mkp-houston.org or call the center at 713-629-1460.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28

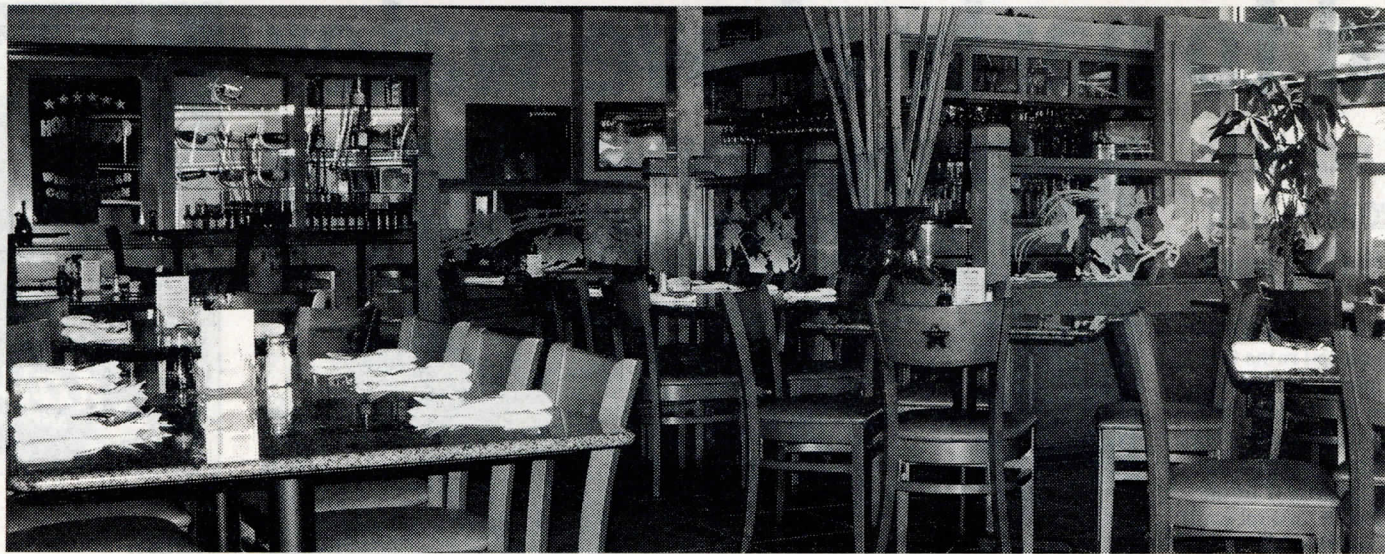
THE HOUSTON EQUAL RIGHTS ALLIANCE (HERA) meets in the conference room at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207 at Hawthorne Avenue from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. HERA is also currently seeking volunteers for a variety of posts. Contact organization officials at 713-522-HERA or at www.houstonera.org.

THURSDAY JUNE 29

THE MONTROSE SOFTBALL LEAGUE meets in the large meeting room, from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207 at Hawthorne Avenue. Contact league members, who are currently in post-tournament play by e-mail at www.montrosesoftballleague.com or voicemail by 713-867-3913.

Missed getting the perfect Pride Parade photo? **THE HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY** presents "Improving Your Photography: A Personal Q&A Class" with **Chuy Benitez** tonight from 7-9 p.m. at the center, which is located at 1441 W. Alabama St. This beginner-level class invites students to ask specific questions about the art craft, and Benitez will provide solutions for common photo-related problems as well as cover many helpful tools that are readily available to photographers. Call 713-529-4755 or visit www.hcponline.org.

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books KATHERINE VOLIN

Tearing down façades

Gay student author's book examines drugs, Detroit and the 'down low'

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A philandering husband? A lover who keeps you hidden in the figurative closet? A man who started molesting you when you were 16?

In the case of the characters of "5 Minutes and 42 Seconds," a novel by gay Princeton student T.J. Williams, you retaliate by stealing the bastard's money and turning him over to the feds.

Set in the home of a wealthy black family in Detroit, the novel's title refers to how long it takes for Cameshia Douglass and her children to flush her husband's drugs and hide his money after the authorities have been called. Her husband, however, has not inspired loyalty in Cameshia or his other nearest and dearest relatives. Their race to destroy him becomes the crux of the novel.

FASHAD, THE DRUG DEALER IN question whose name is often significantly mispronounced Façade, is an attractive

coke dealer who, despite his long marriage to Cameshia, has had sexual relationships with a multitude of men.

Cameshia knows Fashad is cheating, but thinks the offending party is a woman. It's not clear why the street-smart Cameshia wouldn't also be able to discern that the man who never seemed interested in sex with her might not be having sex with another woman.

It's explained that she has previously been with a man, Pie, who was gay and, in her reflections upon that relationship, she says that his lack of desire to have sex with her should have been more of a clue to his sexual orientation.

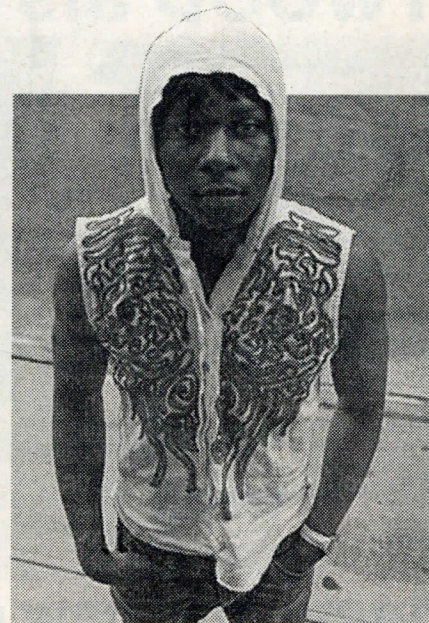
"I should have known then," she says about the time Pie first refused to have sex with her. "It ain't too many niggas that can reject this."

If that is her self-reflection, it seems incongruous that she wouldn't notice the same phenomena with Fashad.

Is Fashad on the "down low," however? He doesn't seem to be a closeted bisexual, but a closeted gay man.

The dialogue-heavy narrative builds quickly toward its surprising, sinuous climax. Williams writes succinctly and insightfully — both rare talents.

But character development is generally



Gay author T.J. Williams, a student at Princeton University, has just published his first book, '5 Minutes and 42 Seconds.'

lacking in the book. Fashad remains a mysterious object of the characters' obsession, but looms as a background figure whose motivations and even personality are obscured.

Although the ambiguity of the character may be an intentional device to illuminate the other players, in some ways it makes them harder to understand. Readers will fail to understand why every-

MORE INFO

'5 Minutes, 42 Seconds'

T.J. Williams

Amistad

\$14.95

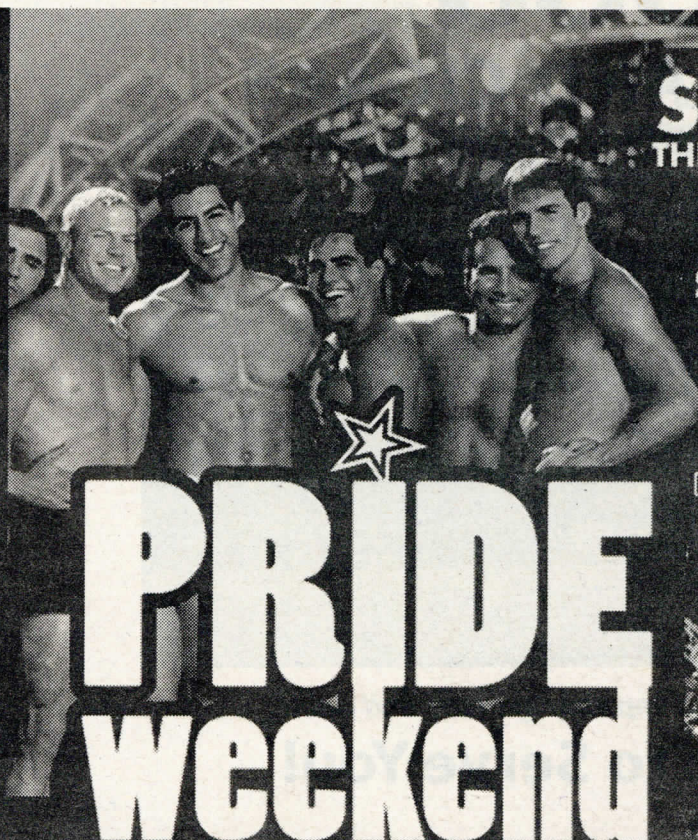
one was so taken with Fashad, who seems mostly like a nasty, but attractive, thug.

IN ADDITION TO THE MAN ON THE down low and his confused wife, the other characters include Xander, a gay hairdresser (imagine) who is Fashad's lover; Dream, Cameshia's daughter who feels so unloved that she'll take any man who appears interested; and Smokey, Fashad's right-hand man who decides to use Dream to obtain her stepfather's money.

Smokey's motivation for stealing Fashad's money, other than the obvious financial gain and the fact that federal officers have asked for Smokey's cooperation, is to retaliate against the man who molested him for years, beginning when Smokey was just 16.

The overall portrayal of sexual orientation in "5 Minutes and 42 Seconds" is stilted and frustrated. No character in the book seems to be in charge of when and with whom they have sex.

Is this a social commentary from Williams on the repression of homosexuality within the black community? It could be. The book doesn't offer much by way of answers, but might be important for the questions it poses.



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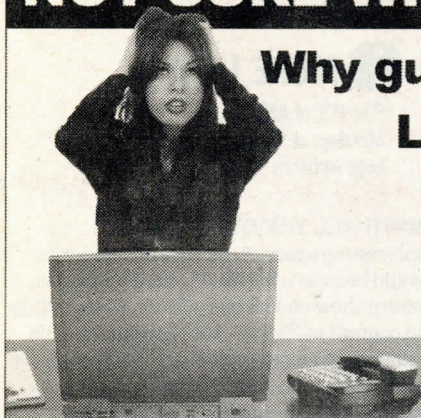
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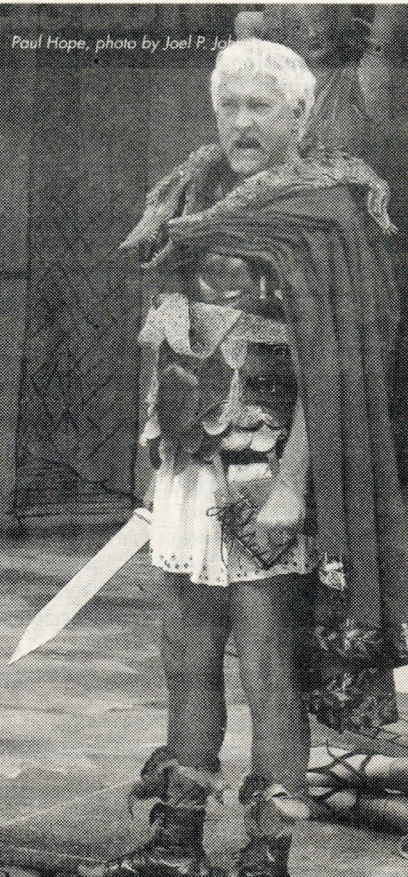
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Paul Hope, photo by Joel P. Johnson



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FOR MANY BIG CITY GAY PEOPLE, the idea of traveling outside the borders of urban development fills them with dread. Add to that the paralyzing fear of the Midwest, and it's a wonder gay people can even locate those areas on a map.

Gay comedian ANT is the force behind the gay cable channel Logo's new series "U.S. of ANT." During the half-hour weekly show, which premiered on June 19, the comic travels into the heartland, searching for signs of intelligent gay life.

"We all seem to rush to the coasts to the big cities," ANT says of gay people. "I wondered what gay life is like in a small town."

Born Anthony Kalloniatis, ANT (who legally changed his name — including the capital letters) grew up in Londonderry, N.H., a small New England town, where he says he felt isolated from any gay experience. ANT's professional career has taken off in recent years with regular appearances on NBC "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno," all three seasons of NBC's

"Last Comic Standing" and as a host for VH1's "Celebrity Fit Club."

IN THE PREMIERE EPISODE, ANT travels to big sky country in Montana. He tools around Butte and Bozeman, Mont., approaching random people and asking where the gay life is. Although you'd expect the small-town westerners to spit, turn their backs or pull out their guns, nothing of the sort happens. Everyone answers politely that they had no idea there was any gay scene within the city limits. That reaction was most of what ANT got while filming, he says.

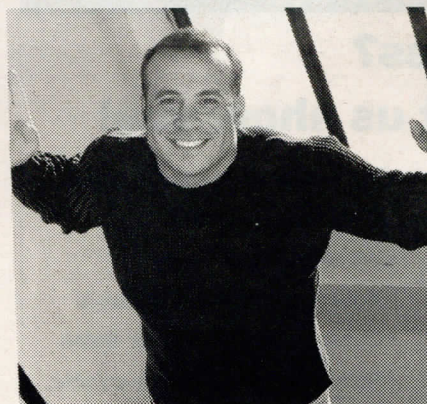
"I'm very disarming," says the comic. "Whether that's my personality or because I'm an Oompa Loompa — I'm five foot one."

During one episode, he decided to walk up to a bunch of hard-core bikers to ask about gay life in town.

"The production crew was like, 'Oh my God, those are Hell's Angels,'" says ANT. When he approached them, one told him that he would call his gay brother and ask him where to find the gay scene.

"It's amazing how we touch so many people's lives," ANT says.

He's traveled all over the country searching out rural-living gay men and



Gay comedian ANT visits the hinterlands of America to search for signs of gay life in the new Logo series, "U.S. of ANT." (Photo courtesy of Logo)

lesbians. He met a lesbian couple in North Carolina adopting children; a lesbian construction worker in Alabama who's out to her friends and family; lesbian witches in Mississippi who did a "queening" ritual for ANT, making him an official queen; also in metaphysical Mississippi was the encounter with the gay haunted house.

"Gay ghosts go 'Boo-ts,'" laughs ANT.

He also met two high school aged twin boys, one gay and one straight, who stuck up for one another through bouts of teasing and bullying in New Hampshire.

"I never really believed there was a gay community," ANT says. "Now, I truly believe there is one. The fabric of it is so strong and so beautiful. We quilt a beautiful fabric."

i MORE INFO

'The U.S. of ANT'
Mondays at 9 p.m.
Logo Network

WITH ALL THE QUIRKY AND interesting experiences in store, the series could become a big hit. It's hard judging an entire show on just one episode, so be willing to commit to "U.S. of ANT" beyond the solid yet underwhelming Montana installment.

Perhaps the comic hasn't yet hit his stride, but the conceit of the big city queen heading out to the hinterlands and being overwrought by country, outdoor activity doesn't seem all that groundbreaking. It's like a fey "Simple Life."

That being said, in the moments when ANT does the unexpected and drops the persona, the show shines. He kisses a woman in one segment, and laughs that he thinks he might have just gotten kicked off the Logo network. Then he kisses a man next to him to get his gay street cred back.

At the end of the episode, he interviews the mother of a Montana gay couple who own a vacation ranch. ANT's interviewing acumen is impressive, and the emotional vulnerability he's willing to show provides a heart-warming end to an important look at the lives of people who are heroically living the American dream in places that aren't always welcoming, supportive or safe.

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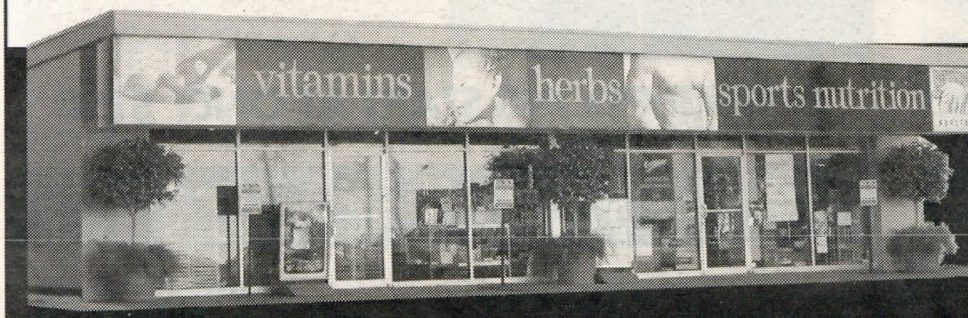
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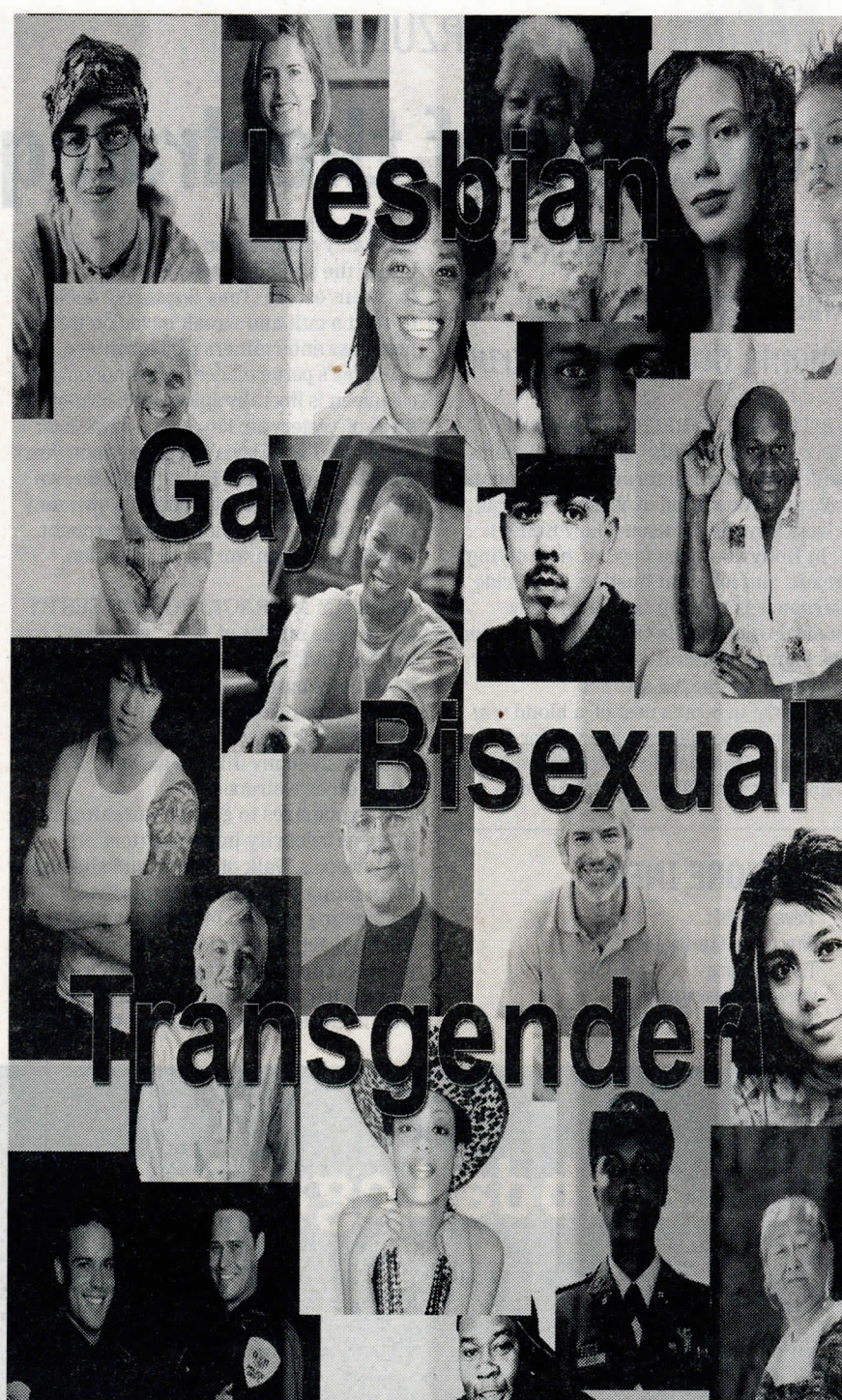
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film GREG MARZULLO

Revenge of the drag queen

Damion Dietz's 'Beverly Kills' is a queer trash cinema dream come true

WRITER AND DIRECTOR DAMION Dietz's "Beverly Kills" is a John Waters-esque riotous romp through the demented and rancorous mind of washed-up drag actress Beverly Jackson (Gary Kelley).

In Hollywood, the town of high-flying dreams and low-rent hustlers, the Pride Playhouse is putting on a brand new musical titled "Balls Out," one of the endless all-nude singing reviews so popular with the undersexed set.

Beverly, in a rat's nest of a blond wig and Baby Jane makeup, arrives for an audition with a hand-written resume and begins her song. The directors under-

standably dismiss her, and later that night under the skilled hands of a masseur/escort (Tony Sora), she decides to start a cult and wreak havoc on the heartless entertainers of Tinseltown.

Kelley's performance as the monomaniacal queen is liberally spiced with crazed divas of yesteryear: Faye Dunaway's Joan Crawford, Bette Davis' suspense camp years and the drag goddess Divine seem thrown into the mix, but he also adds his own zany take on the role, crafting an overwrought, whacked-out icon worthy of adulation.

BEVERLY ATTRACTS FOLLOWERS BY culling the misfits of L.A., who aren't too hard to find. The motley crew consists of a virtually mute hottie named Strip (Craig Lucas), a young blond bombshell who hopes for stardom named Hector (the hilariously loony Jill Pappas) and a handful of other weirdoes.

She manages to get her worshippers hired as celebrity impersonators on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, and she hands them fanny packs full of explosives, instructing them to blow themselves up as the final act of devotion to their grotesque guru. Unfortunately, the faulty wiring trumps her evil plan, but all works out well in the end for everyone involved.

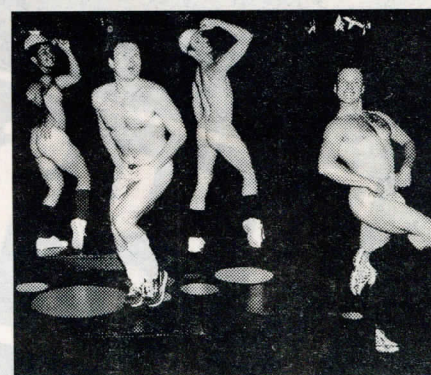
During the terrorist sequence, Beverly dolls herself up as Little Orphan Annie, complete with lip-dangling cigarette and bomb-stuffed fanny pack. In some ways, it's hard not to be disappointed when the explosives fail.

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE MADNESS, Dietz, like any skilled satirist, manages to mock popular social types relevant to the intended audience. With "Beverly Kills," gay relationships, vapid gym bunnies and self-important effete artists all come under farcical fire.

One of "Balls Out's" directors is an artsy queen who is thrilled with his musical theater creation. Burton Rhodes plays the role with a side-splitting mixture of therapy-speak sincerity and gossipy girlfriend. Anyone who has ever stepped foot in a struggling theater company will instantly recognize the character as that old auntie who seemed so nice but turned into an overbearing gadfly.

The film's everyman is Shane (a whiny Rick Sparks) who works and lives at the Pride Playhouse. Shane's gym-stacked boyfriend Barry (Patrick Allen) breaks up with him at the film's start, telling him he's over his twink phase.

Before leaving the building, however, Barry takes off his pants and says that he



Brian Brooks (left), Keith Bearden, Michel Lejeune and Peter Varvel show off their goodies in Damion Dietz's 'Beverly Kills.' (Photo courtesy of TLA Releasing)

wants to have breakup sex right now, so the two can avoid seeing each other ever again. Either Dietz directed Allen perfectly, or the actor radiates a naturally flat affect that is perfectly suited to the hollow beauties of the gay dating pool.

The show's lighting tech, Ray (Matthew Hermann) coaxes Shane out of his misery, and by the film's end, the two decide to move in together. Their wide-eyed innocence and painfully optimistic line readings become a delightful parody of all those gay men who find true love and can't help but shimmer in one another's presence.

There's an equally winsome end for Beverly, but even the sunshine of the film's end doesn't tarnish its willfully wacky setup.

i MORE INFO

'Beverly Kills'
Directed by Damion Dietz
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www.tlareleasing.com
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arts cover story

DeMarco kicked out of band after coming out

JASON & DEMARCO, continued from Page 1

messages of faith, love and acceptance. Since then, the duo has released three discs, including "Spirit of Christmas," "Songs for the Spirit" and the more contemporary "Spirit Pop."

Both performers say the latest disc is just another facet of their musical makeup. From the beginning, they have always insisted that their music is for everyone regardless of sexual orientation, and they do not promote any one religion over another.

"The gay community has been so hurt by the church that most gay people that are familiar with who we are, and like us and like our music, just don't want to come into a church to see us perform," deMarco says. "That's understandable based on a lot of their past and their bad memories of walking into a church and being told that their life is immoral and sinful. We had to find a way to reach these people, and we thought, 'Let's go to them with our music.'"

The duo was recently in Houston to record some new material with Lett.

Over the past year, the group has been open about the process of putting a more secular project together via updates on their website. A camera has also been chronicling their moves, and there are hopes of releasing a documentary in the future.

The group recorded most of the disc at Letthead Productions, their co-venture with Lett. The independent music company is based in Houston and includes a 1,000 square-foot digital studio.

"I think a current fan of Jason & deMarco will be very, very surprised to hear this new CD," Lett says. "It's just way bigger than they've ever been. It's a leap."

The company's main goal is to provide new and established artists—particularly gay ones—a free, welcoming environment to record music.

The disc is being released under the group's RJN Music! banner, with distribution courtesy of Centaur Entertainment, best known for its nonstop series of DJ compilations.

JASON AND DEMARCO ARE CONFIDENT that longtime fans will accompany them on this new musical journey.

"We hate the term 'crossover artist,' because we don't feel like we're crossing over," Jason says. "We're not leaving one to do another. We plan on just expanding—that's the best word we can use—and hopefully growing our music."

The results have been encouraging. Till the End of Time is already generating impressive buzz, thanks to kick-off single "Trying to Get to You." Pulsing remixes of the mid-tempo track by DJ Tracy Young



Gay music duo Jason & DeMarco said their music is for everyone, not just gay men and lesbians. The group, who has been a couple for five years, will perform this weekend at a church.

and L.E.X. are inciting serious hip swiveling under the disco ball.

"We were in Vegas a few weeks ago, and for the first time, we heard our song come on in a club. That was really exciting," deMarco says.

Along with church shows, the duo has been peppering its schedule with late-night club appearances. They both call the come-together, community vibe of clubs "a spiritual experience."

i MORE INFO

Jason & deMarco

June 25, 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
1440 Harold St.
Houston
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713-526-1017
www.jasonanddemarco.com

"We laugh because we say we can go out and party Friday and Saturday, and then we're in church to repent on Sunday," Jason says.

A taste of their new sound was previewed late last year on the Katrina CD, a benefit for hurricane victims that also featured dance diva Jenna Drey and Broadway star Billy Porter. The disc (available at www.katrinacd.com) includes an exclusive dance remix of "Just in Time," featured in its original version on "Till the End of Time."

To be sure, the new sound isn't so much a complete shift as a noticeable modification. There are a number of inspirational moments, most notably during the hopeful "Where the Sun Meets the Sea," the anthemic "Be the Light" and the adventurous title track.

Elsewhere, the mood changes. The rollicking "Stormy Weather" samples pop classic

Please see JASON & DEMARCO on Page 35

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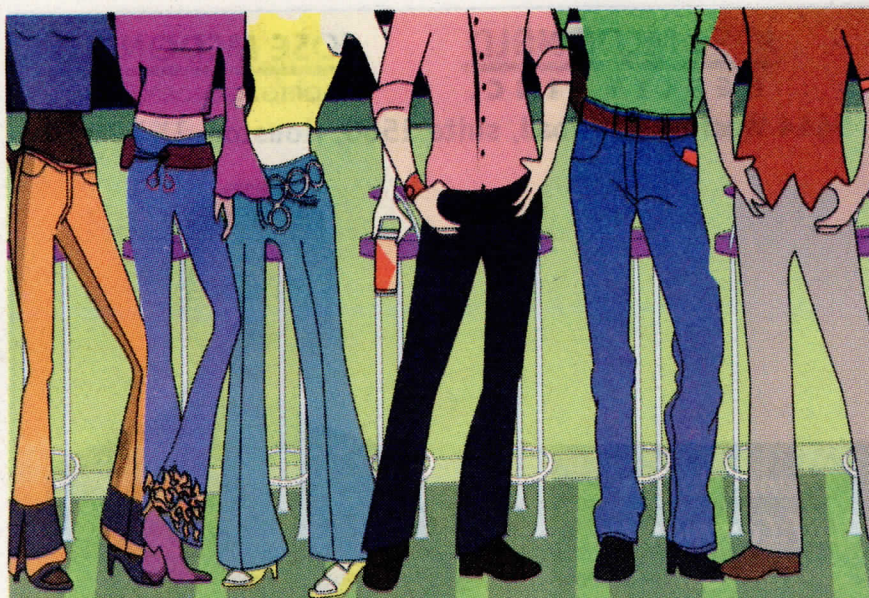


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dish

There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Hitching a ride

'Short Bus' scores at Cannes, Alec Baldwin packs it on and Cyndi Lauper is packing

ONE OF DISH'S FAVORITE GAY ARTISTS is the talented actor, singer, director and writer **JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL**, so she was thrilled to hear that her fantasy boyfriend's new movie "Short Bus" will get its North American distribution through Think Film this fall.

Mitchell's newest directorial work, "Short Bus," premiered in a non-competition category at this year's Cannes Film Festival. The movie follows the love lives of several people — gay, straight, vanilla, hardcore, monogamous and prolific — in Manhattan.

The cast, all making their feature film debuts, created the piece with Mitchell through a series of workshops. More than 500 people sent in videotaped auditions to the open casting call, but only seven were cast as leads in the movie. The film was partly backed by the now-defunct gay television network Q Television.

When Dish was a young princess, she first saw Mitchell performing on Broadway in 1991's beautiful musical "The Secret Garden." He had a fabulous voice, and plus his character's name, "Dickon," provided for some delightfully smutty fantasies in a teenaged mind.

Mitchell went on to create and star in the transgender rock musical extravaganza "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," which opened off-Broadway in 1998, and then the film came out in 2001. The show was a huge success, and among independent film fans, gay folks and theater people, the film version, directed by Mitchell, was also a hit.

No pasta for Baldwin

Dish remembers the days when actor **ALEC BALDWIN** was a total heartthrob — great bod, beautiful face and super butch with the chest hair. But now, he's apparently too old and too fat to play legendary gay clothing designer **HALSTON**, according to the New York Post's gossipy Page Six.

Halston was big in the '70s party scene, often seen with **LIZA MINNELLI** and **LIZ TAYLOR**, and he created the famous pillbox hat seen on the ever-glamorous **JACQUELINE KENNEDY**. He died of AIDS in 1990.

Baldwin had long wanted to play the designer, but the role has gone to the dreamy **BRENDAN FRASER**. Perhaps after his performance in 1998's "Gods and Monsters," Fraser has decided to



Alec Baldwin



Multi-talented gay performer **John Cameron Mitchell**'s newest film "Short Bus" moves into theatrical release in the fall. (Photo by Kevork Djansezian/AP)

stretch into a true gay role. If we're lucky, he'll demote himself to cheap gay porn shortly thereafter.

Page Six called Steven Gaines, author of a 1991 Halston biography titled "Simply Halston," and chatted with him about the casting switch supposedly caused by Baldwin's being over-the-hill for the role.

"Too old?" Gaines said to the Post. "What about too fat?"

Gaines was sweet as pie to Fraser, though. Then again, who wouldn't be?

"This movie will do for Brendan Fraser what 'Capote' did for **PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN**," Gaines said.

Cyndi Lauper hangs low

Pop diva **CYNDI LAUPER** showed that she has what it takes to please any gay man who's squeamish about making it with a woman.



Cyndi Lauper

Lauper made a dazzling appearance at Broadway Bares on June 18, an annual fundraising event for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Each year, sexy dancers and Broadway performers strip to raise money

for the organization, which was started in 1998 and has raised more than \$100 million for HIV and AIDS-related causes.

Lauper arrived on stage in a robe, reports the New York Daily News' Rush & Molloy, which she stripped off to reveal glittering pasties and an impressive pink strap-on that would have made the ancient Romans blush. Reportedly, the audience went wild.



Send comments, suggestions to
Dish@houstonvoice.com

Gay duo has new CD

JASON & DEMARCO, continued from Page 32

"You Are My Sunshine for its tale of new love ("So I got wizard cheese/Good crackers, cheap wine"); and "I Found the Number" weaves an angry tale of infidelity that recalls the Backstreet Boys hit "The Call."

"Missing You," is pristine pop love at its best, buoyed by deMarco's persuasive delivery and a gently crashing arrangement.

THE DISC REPRESENTS THE PAIR'S original goals when they met five years ago via a mutual friend at a restaurant in Los Angeles. It's just taken a bit of work—and some difficult moments of realization—to get there, they said.

"We will always do spiritual music. We will always do churches, and we will always provide this kind of music to our following, but we never wanted to make a career at it," deMarco says. "Although that may be what's in our heart, there's no future for us there at this time. We're going to keep pushing the envelope—and maybe one day there will be."

Jason knows about that sense of rejection. Before finding his soul mate in deMarco, he was raised in a fundamental Pentecostal family and toured with contemporary Christian band the Sound until he came out. He was kicked out of the

band, decided to try it on his own and moved to Los Angeles in 2001.

DeMarco was raised in Toronto by Italian-Canadian parents and graduated from York University with a degree in Music and Languages. He released an Italian pop album, *Melodie*, in 1998; and a self-titled English-language project in 2000. He also starred in touring productions of the musicals *West Side Story*, *Grease* and *Carousel*.

Even with the prospect of mainstream success, the group remembers and celebrate their success.

"It was a very powerful thing to see a young, gay couple that were out there doing a positive work, that were representing so many things to so many people," Jason says. "Hope that you could find a partner, hope that you could be spiritual, hope that you could be successful."

The duo welcomes the challenges that lie ahead.

"We're always trying to stretch ourselves as artists. Like actors that want to take on different roles in film, we want to do the same thing as singers," deMarco says. "It's easy to be in your comfort zone, singing songs that you've sung your whole life. Until you do stuff that you're uncomfortable with—that's when it pushes you to really grow as an artist and as a person."

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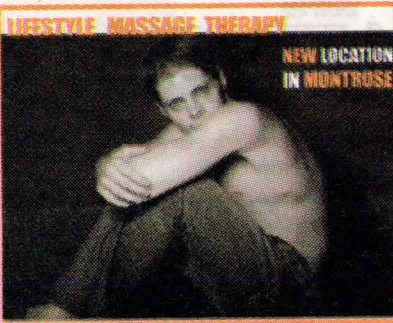
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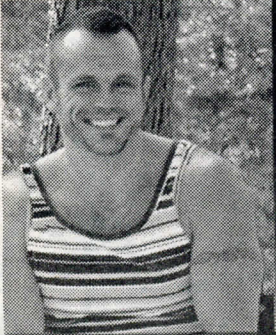
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NATHAN, 44

MY MOM SHEILA IS TOTALLY FABULOUS. WE WERE AT NEIMAN MARCUS WHEN I TOLD HER I WAS GAY -- AND ALL SHE SAID WAS, "OH DARLING, I'VE KNOWN ABOUT THAT SINCE YOU WERE TWO. HOW DOES THIS COLOR LOOK ON ME?"



SEBASTIAN, 32

I WAS ALWAYS OUT. AND SO WAS MY BROTHER STORM... AND MY SISTER RAIN... AND MY BROTHER FOREST. ON THE FARMING COMMUNE WHERE I GREW UP, WE WERE ALL JUST PART OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.



SKY, 25

MY FOLKS ARE OLD SCHOOL KOREAN. THEY ALREADY THINK I'M AN ALIEN FROM ANOTHER PLANET! SO I DON'T TALK ABOUT ME BEING A DYKE, AND NEITHER DO THEY.



ANNIE, 26

OKAY, MAYBE I LIKE TO MESS AROUND WITH DUDES, BUT I'M, LIKE, TOTALLY NOT GAY.



TODD, 17

WE NEVER DISCUSSED IT. MY DAD WAS A CAREER ARMY COLONEL WHO PRIZED DISCIPLINE, ACHIEVEMENT, AND MANLINESS ABOVE ALL ELSE. I WOULD'VE LOVED TO SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE IF HE KNEW I WAS DATING DELROY!



CURTIS, 49

COME OUT? BABY, I CAME OUT AND THEN I WAS KICKED OUT. MAH PARENTS TOLD ME MAH FAGGOTY ASS WAS GOIN' TO HELL -- SO THAT'S WHERE AH TOLD THEM TO GO! WE DIDN'T TALK AGAIN TILL 15 YEARS LATER...



SOIREE, 32

I COME FROM A BIG, CRAZY ITALIAN FAMILY. SURE, THEY FREAKED OUT AT FIRST... BUT, YA KNOW, THEY CAME AROUND EVENTUALLY. NOW THEY LOVE MY PARTNER RICKI LIKE THEIR OWN, AND MY MOM LOVES BABYSITTIN' OUR DAUGHTER LINDSAY.



LUCIE, 38

I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO COME OUT. FUCKING LIZ SMITH TOOK CARE OF THAT IN HER COLUMN BACK IN THE '80S. BITCH.



KELVIN, Age Unknown

AT 22, I HAD EVERYTHING MY UPPER CLASS WASP UPBRINGING TOLD ME I SHOULD HAVE: A HOUSE IN THE 'BURBS, AN INHERITANCE, AND A HUSBAND. BUT I WAS MISERABLE... SO I GAVE IT ALL UP TO COME OUT. NOW I'M POOR, MARRIED TO LUCIE, AND HAVE A BABY GIRL -- BUT I'M HAPPY!



RICKI, 36

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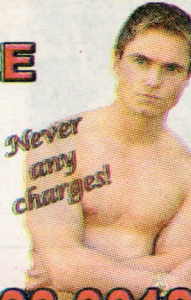
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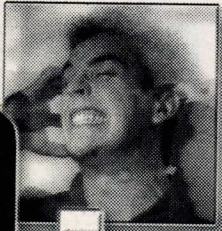
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bitch session

MY CELL-PHONE-IN-THE-BATHROOM photos for the hookup site are hot! Who is this guy complaining about these things?

LIPSTICK LESBIANS INTERESTED IN other lipstick lesbians. They do exist, right? More than the three that we regularly see, I hope.

WHY DO SO MANY INCREDIBLY HOT young guys settle down with frumpy old men who never go out? Because most other young guys are incredibly arrogant and shallow.

I AM A PROFESSIONAL IN MY 40S attracted to young black guys. I really find them the most fun to spend time with, but most are looking for money. Are there any black men looking for something besides the hook-up?

WHY IS IT THAT MOST BEARS ARE so busy trying to be butch that they actually circle their way around the butch/nelly continuum, going all the way around to nelly again, with a leather harness that someone Bedazzled.

IF I HAD KNOWN THAT AFTER THREE years of friendship my straight female so-called friend was going to lay this "hate the sin and not the sinner" crap on me two months after she was "born again," I never would have come out to her in the first place!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE always have to cut each other down. Don't the breeders do enough of that?

TO THE ELECTRICIAN WHO THINKS he's not getting dates because of his line of work. Stop fussing about your occupation and maybe you'd see all the white collar guys who'd love to date you.

IT'S SO RIDICULOUS HOW THESE men think snipping their penis and testicles and putting on a gaudy dress makes them a woman. We women find these wannabes to be parasites. So stay out of our restrooms already, you pretend-Barbies.

YOUR EXCUSE FOR NOT GOING TO church — that conservatives reject gays — is lame. No one should be able to change your beliefs. Next time just say you don't want to go because you're hung over. **Bitch Boy responds:** With proselytizers like that, who needs Mormons?

WHO GIVES A CRAP ABOUT TINA and what it's doing to the gays? Maybe those losers are better off dead anyway.

AN AMOEBA IS A PARASITE, NOT an STD. It can be contracted from another person or from unsanitary conditions, including food not prepared correctly.

BEING GAY SHOULD NOT MEAN limiting yourself to bars and clubs. Where are all the community groups and events that don't involve alcohol, drugs or an STD? **Bitch Boy responds:** "Bitch Session" is proud to provide exactly that! You'll only feel hungover, sketchy and like you have a nasty rash after you finish reading.

LOVE HURTS, BUT NOT SO MUCH that I should have to call the police for a domestic disturbance.

I THINK PUNKS ARE CUTE, BUT damn why are they always messin' with drugs and alcohol.

THE LAST THING I WANT TO SEE IN the showers at the gym is a peephole in a shower curtain.

YOU TITTER LIKE A GIRL AND THINK it's cute when you let your dog pee and crap in my yard when I am gardening. I'm gonna follow you to your house and crap in your yard next time! **Bitch Boy responds:** Will you be bringing your own bitter-picker-up'er?

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, SAY SOMETHING when you're climaxing! Don't act like you're half asleep when you finish. If I wanted that, I'd watch porn!

ESCORTS! PLEASE ACCEPT THAT the age group you will service is over 50, provide a clean, comfortable and safe environment, be punctual and know that there are 60 minutes in an hour, not 15. You might just get generous repeat customers and referrals.

NICE TO MEET YOU. YOU ARE REALLY cute. Very nice, you live in the suburbs? Next!

STOP TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU come from a wealthy family. It's tacky. I'm interested in you, not your money.

YOU SAY STRAIGHT PEOPLE ARE so homophobic because they are against anything gay, yet you refuse to rent your

Dear God, I'm only 23 and already the 18 year olds call me mature! And then you ask why I feel old?!

house to blacks and Hispanics because they do not pay on time and are too loud? Did I miss something, Mr. Equality For All?

WHY DO PEOPLE ONLINE USE words like "sup," "chillin," "peeps" or "chill?" You know that 99.9 percent of you people don't talk like that in real life. Enough with the fakeness.

Bitch Boy responds: Big props for keepin' it real, homey!

FLYING HALFWAY ACROSS THE country to get laid and hang out with some guy you met online reeks of desperation. You're not going to get along face-to-face like you get along monitor-to-monitor.

TO THOSE WHO WHINE ABOUT equality but never even volunteer a couple hours each year trying to make a difference: Please just shut up. It's easier for the rest of us to get work done without your pointless noise.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY BITTER, shallow people complaining about couples that consist of one hot guy and one not? **Bitch Boy responds:** Because it challenges the eternal gay pecking order!

TO THE GUY BITCHING THAT GAY guys form exclusive little cliques like high school girls: Maybe the cliques aren't excluding anybody but you.

TO THE GUY WHOSE BEST FRIEND shows off his tricks: You should know that your best friend has self-esteem issues. Otherwise, why the need for your validation? The fact he is not conscious of your feelings makes me question whether he deserves the title "best friend."

WHY ARE THERE SO FEW "NORMAL" gay men? Most guys I meet should be in a 12-step program, are already in a 12-step program or need a 12-step program to get over the previous 12-step program. Don't get me wrong, therapy can be really helpful. But damn!

IF YOU'RE NOT TELLING YOUR PARENTS you're gay because of your inheritance, then your relationship with them is no better than a twink and his sugar daddy. **Bitch Boy responds:** Um, I think that's where the term comes from.

WHY DO YOU KEEP ON SOILING the guys I want to sleep with?

LOVE IS NOT THE SAME THING AS having a friend you also like to have sex with. Most gay guys have a retarded idea of what a relationship is. I don't think

many of us are ready for anything resembling marriage.

NOW THAT I'M OUT OF YOUR LIFE and you have nothing good to say about me, does the guy who you hang out with all the time know that you used to tell everyone he's creepy and self-absorbed?

WHY DO I NEED TO DEFEND MYSELF for living in a monogamous relationship with my partner for more than seven years? Just because I don't need anonymous sex outside my relationship to feel socially accepted doesn't mean I am less interesting as a friend.

I GOT DUMPED BECAUSE I DON'T look like a boy. Honey, what happened to using a bit of imagination? I've been imagining you to have a hot body and stylish wardrobe for years!

IF YOU LIVE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY to more than one Appleby's, and on purpose, you're just not urban or hip.

I AM A SUCCESSFUL 25-YEAR-OLD engineering college grad with multiple fellowships, scholarships and papers under my belt with sincere looks and personality. So why do I only attract the desperate, depressed and needy guys? **Bitch Boy responds:** Maybe it's your compulsion to talk about how great you are?

WE BOTH KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE enough hair on your head to "pull it off." Otherwise you wouldn't be wearing a baseball cap every time we go out! Do yourself a favor and shave that shit off!

BECAUSE I AM A GAY MAN, I CANNOT donate blood. At first, I thought this was discriminatory. Then I realized there is no way they can guarantee that my blood won't be used to help save a Republican.

MANY PEOPLE WILL NEVER ACCEPT or understand us. If a person is nothing but a thorn in your side, it is better to rid yourself of that relationship than eternally "deal with" the same heart-breaking problem.

WHY DO I HAVE TO BEHAVE WHITE bread to deserve equal rights? Stop trying to qualify yourself as deserving of respect and demand it.

Editors' note: These are real bitches, sent in by real readers, about gay life's little annoyances, and the big ones, too. Got a bitch? Call 1-800-858-8088 or e-mail: bitch@houstonvoice.com

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