

## AIDS activists target Forbes

Steve Forbes, one of the candidates for the Republican presidential nomination, has run a single-minded, single-issue campaign. His answer to everything has been the "flat tax." This refusal to speak on other issues, specifically AIDS, has angered members of ACT UP. A group of ACT UP demonstrators descended on Forbes' New Hampshire headquarters on Jan. 22 demanding information on the candidate's AIDS positions. There were no AIDS position papers at Forbes' headquarters.



Steve Forbes

The Forbes campaign said that they "know Steve [Forbes] has a position on AIDS but [they] don't know what it is." The Associated Press reports that the candidate's staff is "looking into the issue."

Forbes' father, the late Malcolm S. Forbes Sr., was outed in 1990 by gay columnist Michelangelo Signorile. Reports of the "secret gay life" of the senior Forbes appeared in a number of publications.

## Black gay men and lesbians have new magazine

A new monthly magazine tailored specifically to the African American gay and lesbian community hit the streets in January, according to the *Chicago Tribune*. *Blacklines* will publish stories



and articles written predominantly by, for and about African Americans.

*Blacklines* is the newest offering from Lambda Publications, a Chicago company that publishes

several periodicals geared to lesbian and gay readers. Included in Lambda's roster of publications are the monthly newspaper *Outlines*, the *Clout! Business Report* and the *Out! Resource Guide*.

## Lesbian makes commander in SFPD

Melinda Pengel's career with the San Francisco Police Department has been a series of firsts, reports the San Francisco *Examiner*. Her police academy class, 21 years ago, was the first to have female cadets. When Pengel and two other women were promoted to the rank of captain two years ago, they became the highest-ranking women ever to serve on the force. Now, Pengel is both the first woman and the first open lesbian to be appointed to the rank of commander in the 2,000-member department.

She was promoted to her new position by Police Chief Fred Lau, who is also new to his current job. Lau was appointed chief of police by newly elected San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. Pengel's appointment is part of the sweeping changes Lau has instituted in the command staff.

Pengel's new assignment puts her in charge of special operations, including Muni police and the tactical squad.



## New AIDS drug results promising

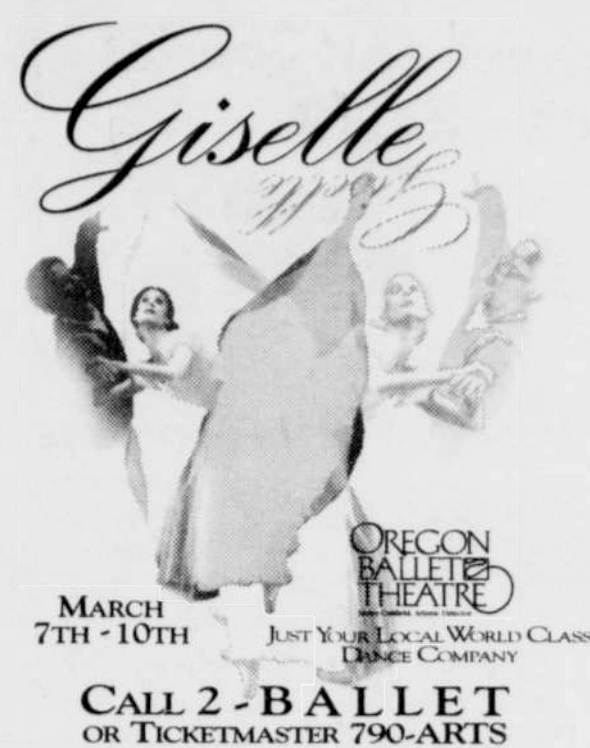
The preliminary findings of a new Phase II study were presented early this month at the Third Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. The study involved the use of Merck's investigational protease inhibitor Crixivan in triple combination with two other AIDS medications, AZT and 3TC.

The preliminary results from the ongoing study showed that levels of HIV in the bloodstream were reduced to levels below the limit of detection of the assay used in six of the seven patients who have completed six months of treatment. The triple combination reduced median virus levels by more than 99 percent.

Among patients taking only Crixivan, 44 percent had HIV reduced to these levels after six months of treatment. None of the patients taking the other two AIDS drugs, AZT plus 3TC, had similarly reduced HIV levels.

Merck is currently continuing Phase III clinical endpoint trials.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood



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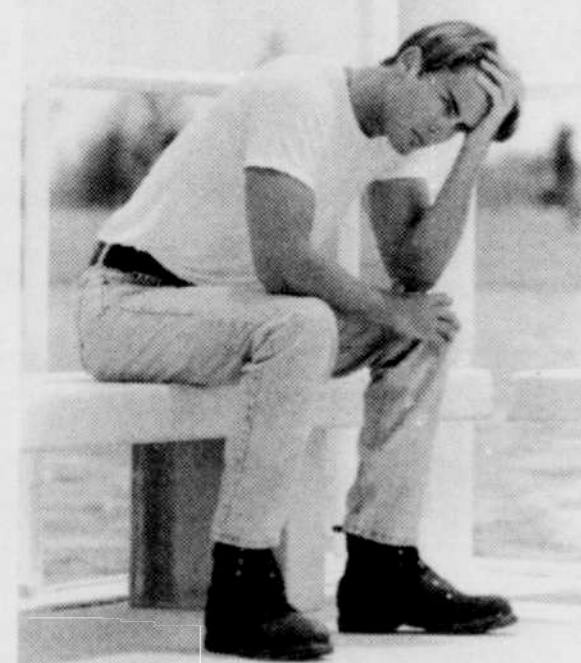
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