Gay & Lesbian Life, Commentary and Culture

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Families Valued:

Arizona couple producing groundbreaking lesbian art book.

By Karyn Riedell, Staff Writer

or the past year, two Arizona women have been traveling throughout the United States raising money, taking photographs and documenting the lives of lesbian mothers, grandmothers and their families.

The end result of their effort will be a book, From the Heart: Portraits of Lesbian Mothers and Their Families, which is scheduled for release on Mother's Day, 1998.

The project will be a literary first- the first ever lesbian coffee table book.

The two women, Barbara Seyda and her partner, Diana Herrera, undertook the project to call attention to and celebrate the lesbian family, a group that is still largely unrecognized in American society. "There The book, which will consist of 75-82 photographs accompanied by text telling the stories of the subject's lives, is designed to fill in the type."

according to Seyda. "The mainstream media is supposed to

gap of available materials about lesbians,

reflect back the story of our lives, but it doesn't," Seyda observes.

She notes that, while gay men have many beautiful photography books and films, women usually have photocopied newsletters. Her intent is to create the first book to focus on the beauty of lesbians.

"This is not a Diane Arbus book," says Seyda. "I'm not photographing women in their underwear throwing eggs across the kitchen." "There is a politically correct belief that women will not value material things. I'm really trying with the book to break that stereotype."

Her book will be available in hard cover for \$50 and in soft cover for \$25 to \$35, Seyda says.

Another goal in writing the book is to show the diversity within lesbian families.

Of the 25 families documented so far, many ethnicities are represented, including Asians, Pacific Islanders, Latinas, African Americans and Native Americans.

Originally, Seyda was photographing the extended family group which, in some cases, included the man who fathered the child as well as other relatives.



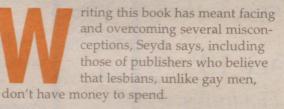
Using Sedona as their home base, Seyda and Herrera have interviewed women from all over the United States in an effort to fully explore and document the lives of lesbian mothers.

The couple started working oh the book full time in December 1995 when they were able to gather \$30,000 in funds while in Santa Fe.

Herrera, who also works as an acupuncturist and doctor of Chinese medicine in Sedona, works with Seyda on the project by raising funds and helping with interviews.

Seyda, a former assistant photo editor for Elle magazine and photojournalist and writer for the gay magazine *Outweek*, said she decided to undertake the huge project to tell the story of a group whose lives are often ignored.

"Part of this project is to create a new standard, a visual legacy that will be meaningful to women now and, hopefully, for generations to come," Seyda says.



"That's a tragedy to me. I think it's a myth, that lesbians will not spend money on a beautiful book. There is a belief that gay men have a lot to spend, while women wear Birkenstocks and flannel shirts."

Despite the difficulty in overcoming this bias, Seyda says it looks "very favorable" that she will have a book contract and an advance in hand by January.

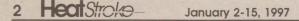
Another bias Seyda has observed is one held by some lesbians, who believe that it is "taboo for women to embrace material or financial values," she says. But, as she got into the project, she realized that she needed a tighter focus, one that featured just mothers and grandmothers, with their children and/or grandchildren.

"Visually, it got very confusing. I really wanted to keep the images simple. The Madonna and Child is one of the most primal icons. I really want to keep that visual bond, that primal bond between mother and child, in the foreground.

"The stories will tell the intricacies and subtleties of the relationship."

he stories told are various and multifaceted. Some of the families portrayed consist of two parents while others are one-parent families. In some cases, both women in the family have children from previous relationships, There's also the classic, "yours, mine and ours" family. And there are

See "Book," Page 5



Coming Events

harlies

Friday, January 3 Mr. Charlie's Calendar Autograph Party

Sunday, January 5 AGRA Fundraiser and Show

Wednesday, January 8 AGRA Last Chance Volunteer Party

Thursday, January 9 Charlie's Knights Casino Night

Sunday, January 12 AGRA Meeting and

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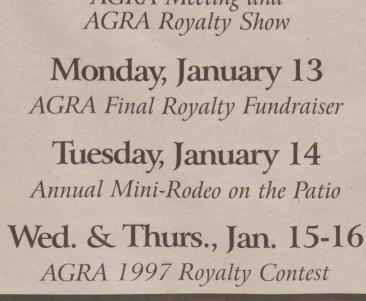
Monday Undie Mondays. 1/2 Price on everything, 7-midnight, if you party in your undies. 50¢ Blue

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Friday 75¢ Happy Hour 7-9. 75¢ well and domestic longnecks

Saturday Progressive Happy Hour Noon-7. \$1.50 iced teas and a movie with popcorn. 75¢ Happy Hour 7-9. 75¢ well and domestic longnecks. Dance lessons with Marque—7:30.

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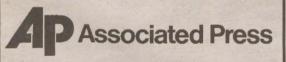
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Horowitz:

A Christmas Eve headline in the Arizona Republic declared: Lawmakers Targeting Gay Groups. According to Republic staff writer Kris Mayes, the legislation the lawmakers are planning would make sodomy a class 6 felony in Arizona. Today, sodomy constitutes a misdemeanor offense. Additional proposals seek to forbid teachers, administrators, counselors and other school personnel from supporting or encouraging criminal conduct on Arizona's college, university and high school campuses.

This legislation smacks of anti-gay sentiment. The major players include Representative-elect, Karen Johnson, R-Mesa- a newly elected Mormon activist; Frank Meliti, of the Traditional Values Coalition; and departing House Speaker Mark Killian. All three indicate that the proposed legislation targets gay and lesbian support groups sanctioned at Arizona State and the University of Arizona.

Ms. Johnson says this is all about protecting our children and protecting society. Bullshit. The legislation showcases bigotry, hatred, homophobia and intolerance.

I like it.

Yes, that's right: I like it.

As a gay rights activist, I am grateful that Arizona's religious, right-wing zealots will give the gay and lesbian community- as well as progressive, fair-minded Arizonans- a forum for dialog on these important issues. Ultimately, our enemies' efforts will result in an affirmation of human and civil rights in this state and across the country. I'm not just a cockeyed optimist; it make sense.

First of all, Arizona's current sodomy statute is never enforced. No police or prosecutorial agency wants to touch it. Any enforcement attempt opens the door to a costly (and potentially successful) legal challenge- the last thing its proponents want. The legislature will face harsh criticism for spending hundreds of thousands of dollars defending legislation that most Arizonans don't care about while our children's education remains a secondtier issue.

Second, we will finally educate people regarding our present sodomy statute's contents. You see, most Arizonans don't know they likely already violate the archaic law's provisions. It doesn't just apply to gay people. Any sexual activity other than man-on-top-of-woman, missionaryposition-sex-for-the-sake-of-procreation-withinthe-co nfines-of-marriage, violates the law. Oral sex between married, heterosexual couples is currently illegal. *Any* sex involving unmarried people is illegal. I have no doubt that many of the legislators themselves have broken the letter, if not the spirit of the law. Even the staunchest anti-gay,

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Our homophobic legislators are doing us a favor — really

right-wing redneck would complain if he couldn't get a blowjob on a regular basis.

More fundamentally, however, most folks won't like people telling them what they can and cannot do inside their bedrooms. Gays have lived with it for years, but when they make it a felony... and when it applies to heterosexuals, too... Arizona remains a state full of sensible, conservative people who don't believe in excessive government intrusion and who do believe in fundamental fairness.

As a community, we must educate ourselves abut the legal process. Arizona's sodomy statue remains unchallenged in the courts because no one has been arrested and charged with its violation. Our legal system requires that anyone seeking to challenge a law's constitutionality must have actually suffered harm as a result of its enforcement. Arizona hasn't denied anyone's constitutional rights because no one has been arrested, charged, fined or jailed. The proposed legislative series, however, may actually cause constitutional harm by its mere presence in the legal books. Rights of free assembly, free speech and privacy become endangered with this legislation. We'll have legal scholars and activists waiting in line for a chance to challenge these poorly written, ill-conceived measures.

But wait, it gets better! The last time a sodomy statute got tested was in the mid-1980s with the case of *Bowers v. Hardwick* which challenged Georgia's sodomy law. Michael Hardwick was convicted for violating the statute. The United States Supreme Court found that the Constitution did not provide a right to homosexual sodomy and upheld the Georgia law. The justices divided five to four.

Before he died, Justice Powell —the majority's swing vote — said he probably made a mistake.. Another challenge to a sodomy statute today might yield different results. This Supreme Court has already struck down Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2. By the time a challenge to Arizona's proposed new law reaches the high court, President Clinton might appoint one or two more forward-thinking judges.

So let them spend their time, effort, energy and money on this mean-spirited, frivolous legislation. Our community will respond reasonably and rationally, with grace and dignity. The people of Arizona will see that we're right and that Johnson, Killian, Meliti and their ilk are wrong. Even if they win, they'll lose.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and Vice President of the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project.

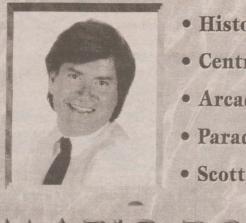
Note: the AP version of the *R* & *G* article that Horowitz references appears on p. 4. — Editors

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AZ lawmakers targeting gay

PHOENIX (AP)

State lawmakers past and present are proposing legislation to ban gay organizations from high school and university campuses and make sodomy a felony.

Under a plan patterned after Utah legislation, the Arizona Board of Regents would be required to bar any group that encourages "criminal or delinquent behavior" or "involves human sexuality." School boards would be required to keep such organizations from meeting or having faculty sponsors.

Under a second proposal, sodomy would be raised from a misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony.

Rep.-elect Karen Johnson, R-Mesa, one of the supporters of the proposals, said she has a problem with having tax dollars in effect sponsoring such groups.

`They (gays) ``want to sodomize, and I don't want them recruiting (on campuses) for that," Johnson said.

"I can work with a homosexual person —queers in the legislature on other issues, but when it comes to that issue I have my feelings."

In a special session in April, the Utah Legislature passed legislation enabling school districts to deny access to clubs that "materially or substantially encourage criminal or delinquent conduct, promote bigotry or involve human sexuality."

The legislative action followed several months of discussion about a proposed gay and lesbian student club within the Salt Lake City School District.

Among those backing the Arizona proposal are the state chapter of the Traditional Values Coalition, a handful of conservative lawmakers, and departing House Speaker Mark Killian.

Opponents of the measures called the bills an attempt to discriminate against gays and said the proposals

could disrupt the Legislature as it tries to deal with such issues as educational finance.

I just think these are religious zealots who are trying to push their views on everyone else," said Rep. Ken Cheuvront, D-Phoenix. "We're not dealing with America 1996. We're dealing with America 1950."

Conservative activists tried to get the gay-ban legislation introduced last year. Instead, the Legislature dealt with a bill banning same-sex marriages. It passed and was signed into law by Gov. Fife Symington.

Coalition Chairman Frank Meliti and others have been giving Republican legislators copies of a video, "Gay Rights, Special Rights."

'I'm not trying to persecute them but they do not deserve special treatment," Johnson said. "Members of faculty have abused their positions to help these people (gays) push their agenda," Meliti said. "It's no different than any other criminal activity."

Killian, who has been convening meetings of lawmakers and the social activists who wrote the bills, said he expects "a lot of discussion" but that the bills shouldn't be labeled automatically

"Today, if you are against something, you use the old, tired out phrase that it's hateful," Killian said. 'It's typical rhetoric by the opposition.

Republican Rep. Mike Gardner, whose Tempe district takes in Arizona State University, said he attended a bizarre meeting on the bills with Meliti and three other lawmakers in Killian's office.

I don't like any of the bills," said Gardner, arguing they target a problem that doesn't exist.

Identify the problem," he said. "If there's not a problem, then why create one?"

Judge endorses **Denver's gay benefits**

DENVER (AP)

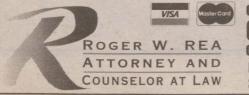
A Denver judge has endorsed Denver's plan to provide benefits to partners of homosexual employees, rejecting claims that the city improperly redefined the role of ``family" and ``marriage."

Forty-six people have signed up for the benefits, which begin Jan. 1. The program was set up by city officials this year. Assistant City Attorney Stan Sharoff told the judge

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Denver residents Paul Schaefer and Irene Tader had sought to block the benefits, saying the use of tax dollars for the benefit of homosexual partners was illegal.

Their attorney, James Rouse, said the state, not Denver, should determine the definition of a family and a marriage. And by creating benefits for the homosexual partners _ a class called ``spousal equivalents" _ the city usurped that state function and violated the law.

But Denver District Judge Larry Naves said the city ordinance providing the benefits ``doesn't even attempt to define what a family or marriage is, but simply extends the benefits" to additional people.

that ``this type of coverage is long overdue."

The ordinance was enacted to remove a barrier for a valued and important segment of Denver's work force," said Sharoff.

But Schaefer, 74, testified he opposed his tax dollars being used to bring new people into the city insurance coverage.

'I have different reasons for my opposition, primarily using my tax dollars for something I'm not receiving benefits for," said Schaefer.

Rouse, president of the Rocky Mountain Family Legal Foundation, rejected charges that he and his clients were attacking the homosexual community." That is pretty much the stock allegation if you oppose anything they do," said Rouse.

Arizona book to celebrate alternative families

those couples who go their separate ways after having a child together. This includes one couple who achieved pregnancy through artificial insemination and have since broken up.

Seyda says it is important for her to tell all the stories, including those of couples who have parted ways, and the legal and personal difficulties they face in dealing with the judicial system.

One organization that attempts to help these women is the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which provides legal assistance for women fighting for custody of their children.

"There aren't legal structures in place that allow the women to negotiate through the legal system. It's a troubling area because there isn't enough information out there for lesbian families," Seyda says.

In telling the stories of lesbian families, Seyda says it is important to include the difficulties.

"I don't want to paint an idealized, Hallmark version of motherhood. We really want to document the daily realities — getting up at 3am or fighting for custody from ex-husbands and parents." Another common difficulty stems from different ideas about disciplining children.

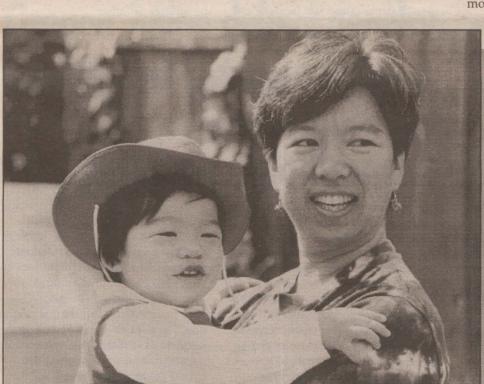
"There are built-in challenges when you bring two families together. Often, two mothers end up not getting along because they have different ways of disciplining."

Another problem is that "women can fall prey to the belief that they will be together forever. After 12 years together, they think that nothing will split them up," Seyda says.

It is often difficult to find a couple willing to talk to her after they have broken up, the writer explains.

"I have tried to con-

vince women who have broken up that they could be of tremendous help to other women. It's hard for people to discuss the painful aspects and the unraveling of a relationship."





Karen Schoonmaker with Josh, Zach, and Miriam - New Mexico

Because not much has been written about lesbian families, only time will tell the story of what is quickly becoming a new type of American family.

"There are 10 million lesbian mothers in the United States — and I can't speak for all of them. And the numbers are growing every day," Seyda observes.

> The stories in the book are as diverse as the women who tell them.

They include Miki Adachi, a Japanese American woman living in California who gave birth to a son through artificial insemination. Miki, a single parent, specifically requested an Asian American sperm donor because of cultural, religious and philosophical reasons related to her Buddhist beliefs. She also requested that the donor be both musically talented and extroverted in contrast to her own introverted personality.

Barbara Seyda © 1996

ö

does appear to have musical talent, Seyda says with a smile.

Another family is that of Linda Villarosa, the executive editor of *Essence* magazine; her partner, Vickie Starr; and their child, Kali Starr Villarosa, who was fathered by a gay friend of the couple.

The families are very different in many cases, but they also share values held by families everywhere, Seyda says.

The purpose of the book is to tell their stories and to "show the timeless and universal values that run throughout all families and all time."

In contrast to the "*Redbook*" version of family life, Seyda says that her book adheres to the photo journalistic tradition of taking a real look at life, rather than producing a sanitized version.

"That may be a little raw and unconventional for some people but that's life.

"These families are part if the American landscape, and they're not invisible. I hope this book will paint a very vivid and compelling portrait of American families as they really are."

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Her son, Michael, who is half Chinese and half Japanese, is still young, but

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LAPD ordered to review treatment of gays & lesbians

LOS ANGELES (AP)

The vice president of Police Commission, a gay man, directed the department to review officers' conduct toward gay men and women and report back within 30 days.

Witnesses testified before the commission Tuesday that the gay community is rife with rumors of heightened LAPD vice enforcement. Some complained that officers are parking outside gay bars to scare off potential customers and harass patrons with epithets.

The LAPD, like many other police departments across the country, has a history of conflict with the gay community. The department resisted hiring gay officers for decades, fueling the department's reputation for hostility toward gays and lesbians.

Art Mattox, the commission's vice president and the only gay member on the civilian board, said he was concerned to hear that police officers may be targeting gay bars for vice enforcement and harassing gay men and women.

"I'm very angry at the reports I'm getting," Mattox said after the board's meeting Tuesday. "We're missing a lot of information, and I want to see us look into this."

Mattox directed the LAPD to study arrest and raid records.During the session, a top LAPD official told commissioners that there was no drive underway to target gays in vice enforcement. But some members of the gay community also testified at the hearing about what they felt to be suspicious behavior by the department.

"The perception now is that they're hitting gay bars," said Richard Zaldivar, president of a Los Angelesbased AIDS project. "That's clearly the perception.

"Cmdr. Dan Watson, assistant commanding officer of the LAPD's Central Bureau, said he could find no evidence in department files to support that perception.Rumors that the LAPD has focused inappropriate attention on gay bars are ``absolutely not true," Watson said. ``No one has been directed to ... attack the gay bars."

The report requested by Mattox will be presented in closed session to protect privacy interests of owners or patrons of the raided bars. But Mattox said an edited version will later be made public, in a move he said he hoped would reassure citizens that the police are acting fairly.

"The gay community is not asking for special treatment," Mattox said. "We are just asking for equal treatment."

Bisexual mother wins custody battle in Illinois Appellate Court

WRITERPEKIN, Illinois (AP)

Taking two healthy, happy children away from their bisexual mother and her female lover would violate Illinois law, a state appeals court ruled.

The 3rd District Appellate Court refused to remove custody from the mother and award it to her ex-husband, noting that state laws treat homosexual and heterosexual parents the same in custody matters.

"There was no evidence that the mother's living arrangements were unstable or that the children lacked a familial relationship where they were," Justice Peg Breslin wrote. "On the contrary, the evidence established that the mother provided a nurturing home environment for the children." The father's lawyer, William Anderson IV, said his client planned to appeal, calling the ruling ``more of a political decision than a legal decision."

Rebecca Schroeder first won custody of her children in 1991 when her seven-year marriage ended. Two years later, she moved in with a woman. Ex-husband Stuart Schroeder remarried and then filed for custody.

A Tazewell County judge granted custody to the father last January, citing ``the burden of social condemnation" he believed the children might face.

But the appeals court noted that two psychologists examined the children and found the arrangement was not causing emotional problems. Teachers testified the boy, 9, and girl, 11, were doing well in school.

Other children may tease or shun the two because their mother is bisexual, the court acknowledged, but they may do that whether they live with the mother or father.



Israelis call for President to resign after homophobic remarks

JERUSALEM (AP)

Israeli President Ezer Weizman apologized Monday to gays and lesbians for his statements about homosexuality that prompted calls for his resignation, his chief aide said.

Last week, the outspoken president told high school students that homosexuality ``disgusted" him and was ``completely deviant." He Liberal Meretz Party leader Yossi Sarid, who mediated the 90-minute meeting, told Israel TV that Weizman's comments amounted to ``incitement" against homosexuals. ``He has caused a call for discrimination," he said.Tal Yaros Hakak, a gay rights activist, said while Weizman's retraction was a good sign, ``his biased comments were representa-

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added that ``like alcoholism, I don't think we need to encourage it or say it is something wonderful.

"The remarks drew harsh criticism. Liberal parliament members called for Weizman's resignation, and several hundred people held a candlelight demonstration outside the president's home Saturday night in protest.

On Monday, Weizman met with about 10 representatives from gay and lesbian groups. "He asked to apologize for any public statement that might have offended anyone," said Arieh Shumer, Weizman's spokesman. tive of a homophobic society."

In Israel, consenting adults have the right to engage in homosexual relations and, under a landmark Supreme Court ruling in 1994, to get married. But many gays complain society still lags behind the West in accepting them.

The 73-year-old Weizman, who plays a largely ceremonial but highprofile role, frequently courts controversy with his off-the-cuff pronouncements. A former air force commander, he outraged feminists by suggesting women were unfit for combat. Last year he conceded that ``perhaps'' he was a chauvinist.

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SF domestic partnership law: businesses worried about costs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

San Francisco is about to make a unique demand on thousands of U.S. companies — extend health insurance and other benefits to same-sex couples, or forget about doing business with the city.

The ordinance, in a city with one of the nation's largest gay populations, affects many of the roughly 10,000 U.S. companies contracting with San Francisco to provide everything from banking services to office supplies.

Critics call the policy ill-conceived and costly, approved without ample study or public notice. Supporters say it's a basic anti-discrimination measure that encourages companies to grant unmarried domestic partners most of whom are same-sex couples — the same rights enjoyed by wedded couples.

"It would be important to me even if I didn't have a partner, simply as a moral matter," said Joe Leslie, a 52-year-old assistant vice president at Bank of America who, with his partner Michael, stands to benefit from the policy.Leslie said he and Michael are "as loving as any married couple that ever walked this Earth," and for co-workers' spouses to receive better benefits is simply unfair .``We do the same work, our spousal status is virtually the same. (Yet) they get benefits I don't get," Leslie said.

Whether or not to extend health insurance and other benefits, like bereavement or medical leave, to a worker's domestic partner has been debated by private industry for years. In San Francisco, Bank of America officials have discussed the policy, but have not enacted it. The Gap, Levi Strauss & Co. and the Walt Disney Co. are some that have such policies.

"If it's good enough for Mickey Mouse, it's good enough for San Francisco," said city Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who co-authored the measure.

Yet despite unanimous approval from the Board of Supervisors and an endorsement from Mayor Willie Brown, the policy has its detractors.

"We really feel the supervisors did not do their homework," said Carol Piasente, a spokeswoman for the city's 1,950-member Chamber of Commerce. "They're not prepared to answer all the questions that come up because they didn't think of all the details."

According to Piasente, confusion abounds. Who precisely is affected, and what is a contract? Does the legislation apply, for example, to hundreds of airlines that technically do business with the city every time they pay a gate tax at San Francisco International Airport? Or to nonprofit agencies that provide services for the city's homeless? Most importantly, how much will it cost?

"We don't have a clue about the costs. That's the problem. Nobody knows," Piasente said.

She also said the local business community failed to complain about the legislation earlier because it was in the dark.

"This thing moved ahead very quickly and kind of caught people unaware," she said.City officials, still tinkering with some wording of the legislation, don't expect it to take effect for six months. But some companies are scrambling to plan.

"We're continuing to look at how the ordinance affects us and our relationship with the city. No decisions have yet been made on our part," said Dennis Wyss, a spokesman for Bank of America, the nation's thirdlargest. The bank, which employs 10,000 of its 93,000 workers in San Francisco, provides the city with checking services, among other things. But, Wyss added, ``We don't think it's good public policy for the city to tie its hands in the way this ordinance mandates. We think San Francisco taxpayers get the highest quality services for their money when the city keeps its options open."

Others complain the ordinance demands extension of benefits only to "registered" domestic partners. While many cities have such registries — including San Francisco, where some 3,500 couples are on the books — most cities do not.

"When you do this kind of legislation at a local level, you're imposing costs on local companies that make them not competitive in the bigger marketplace," Piasente said. "It's the kind of thing that, if done on a national level, some of the unfairness issues would be taken away."

Toward that end, Ammiano hopes the measure spreads. Already, politicians in some cities, including New York, Seattle and West Hollywood, Calif., have inquired about the measure, he said.

Leslie, too, hopes the policy spreads to other cities. ``Not to do it is simply discrimination. It's really stupid," he said.

Oregon Judge delays penalty for killer of lesbian couple

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP)

Prosecutors are troubled by a judge's decision to delay for six months the penalty phase of the trial for a man who admits he killed a lesbian couple and says he wants to die for the crime.

Defense attorneys sought the delay so Robert Acremant, 27, could undergo more psychiatric evaluations to determine if he has a brain disorder.

The trial to determine whether Acremant should be sentenced to life in prison or put to death had been set to begin in February. But after Circuit Judge Mitchell Karaman granted the delay Thursday, it appears likely that jury selection won't begin until late August. ``I'm unhappy because this has been hard on the victims' families," said John Bondurant, chief deputy district attorney for Jackson County. "They wanted some closure, and having this trial could give some closure. Now they're going to have to wait another six months. "Acremant pleaded guilty to killing Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill, prominent members of the Medford-area gay community. They were bound and gagged, then shot execution style. Their bodies were found in early December 1995 in the back of a pickup truck abandoned in an apartment parking lot.

ty as an option. Defense attorneys had presented testimony that it is impossible for a jury to determine whether someone is a future threat to society, one condition of sentencing someone to die in Oregon.

The judge also turned down a request for a change of venue.

Initially, Acremant told detectives and reporters he killed the women after a plan to rob them fell apart. Later, he wrote a letter to his hometown newspaper saying he had made up the robbery motive and the killings were really a hate crime against homosexuals.

One of Acremant's attorneys, Joel Alexander, said Acremant's background, statements and extreme behavior changes indicate a possible organic brain problem. 1997 Bill of Fare DETOUR

Hours: Monday — Thursday, 6pm - 3am Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 3pm - 3am

Happy Hour: 2 for 1 Fridays until 12 am;

Karaman rejected a defense motion to throw out the death penalThe defense attorneys want Joel Alexander, a 32-year-old assistant professor of psychology at Western Oregon State College, to use an unconventional method to monitor Acremant's brain waves.

But in February, the state Board of Psychologist Examiners ordered Alexander to stop practicing psychology without a license. Since then, Alexander has declined to examine anyone facing murder charges.

Alexander says he is a researcher and consultant and has no need for a license to practice psychology. The dispute between he and the board has not been resolved.

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A Wave of Weekly Events

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Monday* - Men's Night out Strip Show Tuesday - After League 301 Dart Tournament Wednesday* - 9 pm Comedy Show Thursday - 8 pm Blind Draw Cricket Tournament Friday* - 5-8 pm Happy Hour Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres 6 - 7:30 pm Cocktail Show 9 pm Variety Show Saturday - Blind Draw Cricket Tournament Variety Show 9 pm Sunday* - 3 pm Amateur Strip/ Wet Jockey Short Contest \$100 First Prize 8 pm Gotcha Dart Tournament in the Tide Pool 9 pm Magic / Comedy Show This week's Guest Coordinator*: Pussy Le Hoot *All Shows are Amateur, please see Chris or Bill to sign up.

Sunday:* 3pm Amateur Strip Contest / Wet Jockey Short Contest 10 am -3 pm Bloody Mary Bar and \$1.75 Well

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Monday - 8 to close All "Our Gang" Bowlers 1/2 price on anything in the house. (Wear your shirts!) Tuesday - 8 to close All "GLAD" dart league members 1/2 price on anything in the house. (Wear your shirts!) Sunday - 8 to close All bar employees 1/2 price on anything in the house. (Bring your I.D.!)

To get your organization a special night, please see Chris or Bill.

Call for more information – 266-5640 Catch Your New Year's Party Place at 998 E. Indian School Road

January 2-15, 1997

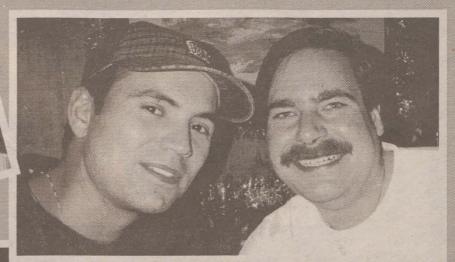
Heat Stroke 9

Seeing / being scene Photos by Bill Throckmorton

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January 2-15, 1997

Heat Stroke 11

Arizona Theatre Company presents Swinging on a Star

Swing Off on a Musical Journey Through Time With ATC

Arizona Theatre Company's third production of the 1996-97 Thirtieth Anniversary season sizzles with the timeless songs of one of America's most popular and prolific lyricists in an irresistible, dance-filled, musical treat for the entire family.

Writer and director Michael Leeds will stage the Southwest premiere of *Swinging on a Star: The Johnny Burke Musical* in its first presentation since Broadway where it was nominated for a 1996 Tony Award for Best Musical. *Swinging on a Star* will preview January 2 and 3, open to the press January 4, and run through January 26 at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe in Phoenix.

"When Mary Burke Kramer, Johnny's widow, asked me to write a musical about his work, I started listening and was blown away by his variety and scope," commented Leeds. "Since Johnny wrote over a 50-year time span, it seemed logical to me to use his career as a guidepost to take the audience on a musical journey through time."

Leeds has created a chronological showcase featuring seven distinct



Dennis Stowe and Renee Morgan Brooks

Trailer Trash Barbie and Drag Queen Barbie a hit with holiday shoppers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

Trailer Trash Barbie, with her bad dye job and a cigarette dangling from her lips, may not be as giggly as Tickle Me Elmo, but holiday shoppers clamored for her just the same.

Thanks to Christmas publicity, gift givers nationwide also asked for nose-pierced Big Dyke Barbie, Drag Queen Barbie (Ken in a wig and gown) and Hooker Barbie complete with negligee and condom.

"If I had 2,000 of them in stock, I would have sold them all," said Bill Tull, owner of the In-jean-ious store on Castro Street, which sells the dolls. "I am awe-struck by how this has taken off." Nationwide news coverage about the counterculture Barbies has brought Tull more orders than he could fill and calls from Rush Limbaugh and *People* magazine.

He's also fielded suggestions from fans across the country, including ideas for a Mormon Ken that comes with four Barbie wives and a Homeless Barbie that comes with nothing at all.

The only call he hasn't gotten is one from Mattel. But just in case he's musical vignettes- each with its own set of characters, time period and storyline. *Swinging on a Star* highlights the best of Burke's stellar career with 40 of his greatest songs.

Act One will transport audience members to a 1920s Speakeasy for such musical gems as Ain't it a Shame About Mame, and a Bowery Street corner in Depression era 1930s for Pennies From Heaven, one of Burke's most poignant and famous songs. A 1940s radio broadcast called The Whoopsie Radio Hour will feature a dazzling young starlet singing Apples for the Teacher and a World War II USO Show in the Pacific Islands glistens with Polka Dots and Moonbeams.

Act Two opens in the glittering ballroom of the Hotel Roosevelt highlighted by *Imagination* and other showstoppers. Then it's a recreation of the Bob Hope/Bing Crosby/Dorothy Lamour Road To...films, with classics such as *The Road to Morocco, You Don't Have to Know the Language* and *Going My Way.*

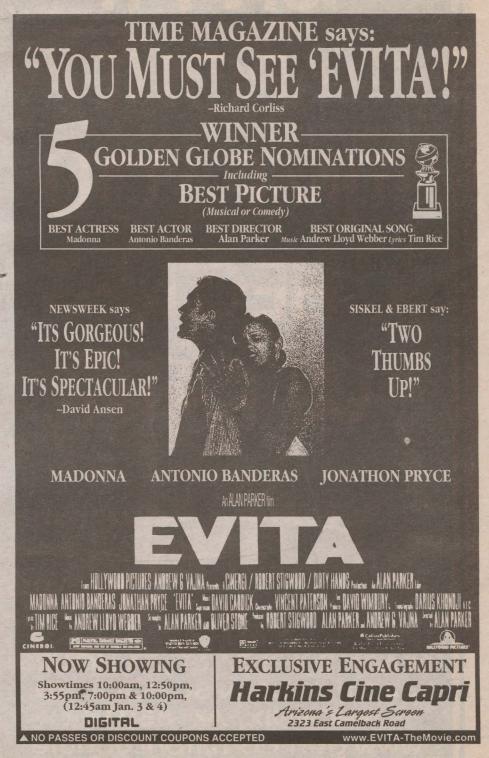
The final segment is set in the elegant Starlight Supper Club, high atop a New York City skyscraper, where the cast will perform *But*, *Beautiful*, *Like Someone in Love*, *Moonlight Becomes You*, *Misty* and the joyous



Matthew Shepard in Swingin' on a Star

Swinging on a Star, winner of a 1944 Academy Award.

Tickets, ranging in price from \$24 to \$42, are available at the Herberger Theater Center, ATC Box Office and at all Dillard's ticket outlets with discounts for seniors, students and the military. Half price Rush Hour tickets are available for all performances one hour prior to curtain at the Herberger Box Office only. For more information or to charge tickets, call 252-8497 (Herberger), 678-2222 (Dillard's) or 256-6995 (ATC).



Tull and a computer graphics designer created the ``anti-Barbies" this year as an alternative to the Mattel classic.

Their dolls share the same impossible measurements as Mattel's Barbie, but they've added a few accessories. Carrie Barbie, inspired by the Stephen King thriller, is decked out in a blood-drenched prom dress. And Trailer Trash Barbie also comes with a baby bouncing on her hip and a bubble that reads: ``My Daddy Swears I'm the Best Kisser in the County." accused of trademark infringement, Tull says he's going to drop direct use of the ``Barbie'' name and approach the doll maker directly about purchasing her in volume for ``renovation.''

Mattel, based in El Segundo, has said it doesn't object to having Baibie re-dressed and re-accessorized, as long as she's not repackaged.

"The reality is that Barbie has become a cultural icon and she has been adapted to all different aspects of society," Sean Fitzgerald, Mattel vice president for corporate communications, said earlier this month. "We're a very diverse society — Barbie respects that."

NOW IN OUR 3rd GREAT GREAT YEAR!

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU CHECKED

Goings On

Tax expert to hold free seminar at Gay & Lesbian Community Center

A free, no obligation presentation on Tax Savings for Gay or Lesbian Couples will be offered in Phoenix on Saturday, January 25 at 7pm. The seminar will be held at The Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center and will be presented by Bob Lind, EA, A.T. A., proprietor of Camelwest Tax Service.

Lind is a degreed tax consultant with 18 years of experience in all areas of taxation. He has been quoted as a tax expert in dozens of national magazines and newspapers. Lind is in his third year of providing tax information and advice nationally for users of America Online, the internet access giant.

The topic of this presentation has been a specialty area of Lind's, and he has lectured on Gay and Lesbian tax advice before in several cities, as well as been quoted by the national gay and lesbian publication, The Advocate.

"Last year, we had over one hundred and twenty five participants," Lind says, "and we're hoping for another success this year. We'll take as many people as the room will hold."

In addition to the scheduled presentation, Lind will be available to answer any other tax-related questions following the seminar. Refreshments will be available and a door-prize raffle will be held to benefit the Valley of the Sun Lesbian & Gay Community Center and its programs.

The Center is located at 3136 North 3rd Avenue, 1/2 mile north of Thomas, in Phoenix.

AGRA getting ready to Rodeo

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association will hold its monthly general membership meeting on January 5 at Charlie's, beginning at 5pm. This will be the last meeting held before the annual Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix, January 17-19. Volunteer sign up has already begun and will be emphasized during and following this meeting.

Volunteers are heavily relied upon to produce this very successful rodeo, and a wide variety of positions are available. To find out more, or to add your name to the list, call the AGRA rodeo hotline at 265-0618, or contact Slade Groves, Volunteer Coordinator, at 465-3568.

Chorale to hold auditions

The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale will hold their spring auditions on Tuesday, January 7 and Thursday, January 9 at First United Methodist Church, 5510 North Central Avenue in Phoenix. Interested singers should contact Craig Westendorf, Artistic Director, at 263-5013 or 331-8218 to schedule an appointment.

The Chorale was founded in 1990, and currently features 45 singing members. Its mission is to present music performances of the highest artistic excellence for the entertainment and education of the broadest possible audiences. The GCMC has a spring concert scheduled for May 23, 1997 at the Orpheum Theater in downtown Phoenix.

DA plans January Activities

Desert Adventures is kicking off the new year with a number of fun events planned for the month of January. On January 7, the annual members meeting and White Elephant Gift Exchange will be held.

Then, on January 12, the annual Winter Bike Ride will tour downtown Phoenix. Interested riders should meet at 8:30am at Margaret T. Hance Park. The activity level for the ride is easy to moderate and the fee is \$2 for members, \$4 for non-members.

There is a DA superbowl party scheduled for super-Sunday, January 26. This event costs \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members, seating is limited to 30 so make reservations early.

At the end of the month, on January 29, a pizza party fun night is planned at a private home. This event will give members a chance to introduce a guest to DA for free. The cost to members is \$8. For information regarding any of the above events, call DA at 266-CAMP

DECUTIONIX, AZ 85014 WWW.Gen.com/tronix/chute any of the above events, can britat 200 ernin.

VALLEY ONE IN TEN VALLEY ONE VALLEY ONE VALLEY ONE VALLEY ONE VALLEY ONE IN VALLEY ONE IN A groophrom of THE VALLEY OF THE SUN GAY AND LESBEAN COMMUNITY CENTER For Youth...By Youth...About Youth... As a queer youth in our society, we are forced into systems that not only deny our existence, but which silences us for being different. Fortunately, that is why VOII Youth Services offers peer lead discussion groups that assists us to break the silence and build self-esteem. Call us, because, you're not alone.

we are everywhere!

call (602) 264-5437 for Volunteering Opportunities.

JEAR COUVE ADVICE



Dear Cowboy,

My boyfriend does something that drives me crazy. He celebrates every minor "anniversary" we have. He hasn't just been reminding me of these dates, but has run around telling everyone we know that it's been "1 month" or "6 weeks" or "4 months". He buys me gifts and makes sure we go out to dinner for all of these events. A year I could understand, or maybe even 6 months. I told him if he wants to make it 6 months, he'd better cut it out. It's like too many people are paying attention to our business. He says I'm not being romantic. Do you think he's right?

Signed, Who's Counting?

Back when Arizona was still a territory and cattle ranged all over the high desert, the big ranches were worked by real cowboys. In those days, a man out on the plains had a lot of time to himself. He'd use that time to sing, write poetry and reflect on nature and life; to study his place in the society he was so far removed from. When he finally returned to the ranch, his cohorts found him to be calmer and wiser. If they ran into trouble, they'd seek out the lone cowboy's advice. Thus started a fine western tradition.

We continue that tradition here with our regular advice column. We've rounded up a real cowboy who's tough as rawhide but gentle as a poet. Ask him anything. Calmer and wiser than most of us, he's full of strong coffee and good advice. And he never squints into the sun.

Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ. Watch for our "Dear Cowboy" e-mail address, available soon.

Dear Countdown,

Dear Cowboy,

No, I don't think you're lacking in the romance department just for forgetting your seven-week anniversary. You and your partner do need to discuss this further and find some middle ground. Try roping him in with a firm (but loving) request to "whoa" on the weekly and monthly announcements. Then let him know that quarterly celebrations will be okayed, as long as they are kept simple; say, a quiet campfire for two. After that, explain to him that your whole passel of friends really don't give a darn about your mini-milestones, and that yearly updates are fine by most folks.

Why do all gay men have to act so feminine? I have been to gay bars twice and the people there made me sick. If I wanted a girl, I would have stayed straight. I have met some guys I liked through the internet, but they only wanted a one night stand. I don't know where to find other normal, straight acting guys who just want another dude like me for an ongoing thing. I am 24 and very good looking.

Signed, Blade

Dear Gay Blade,

You're branding all your cattle with the same iron and that's a no-no where I come from. It takes a lot of

A REGULAR

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stock to make up the herd, buddyand that includes heifers and bulls, longhorn and polled, and everything in between. You're at an age where you'll need to come to some acceptance on this subject and realize that not all effeminate men are gay and not all gay men are effeminate.

You might have some internalized homophobia to work through. Take a longer look in that mirror and try to see past your looks. You'll have to ask yourself if it's really your own fear of appearing effeminate to others that's bothering you. Right now, you're only ready for one small part of a relationship with a man and that's the sex part. When you're ready to accept all sides of someone, you'll move beyond the one night stand.

When you're ready to accept all sides of someone, you'll move beyond the one night stand

Talk to a few cowboys who have been out on the trail a little longer than you and discuss your reactions to all the different types of men who are out there. And don't be so quick with your criticism and judgments.

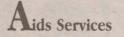


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Aunt Rita's Foundation 5501 N. 7th Ave#215 Phoenix, AZ 85013 279-0716

Coalition of Meal Providers 922-6593

HIV Care Directions 1366 E. Thomas#105 Phoenix, AZ 85014 264-2273

Indian Community Health Services 1427 N. 3rd St. #100 Phoenix, AZ 85004 254-0456

Joshua Tree Feeding Program P.O. Box 7056 Phoenix, AZ 85011 264-0223

MALTA Center 2000 N. 7th St. Phoenix, AZ 85006 340-1881

Maricopa County Health Dept. 1825 E. Roosevelt Phoenix, AZ 85006 506-6900

Planned Parenthood 5651 N. 7th St. Phoenix, AZ 85016 277-7526

Phx. Body Positive 4021 N. 30th St. #2 Phoenix, AZ 85016 955-4673

Phx. Shanti Group 2020 W. Indian School Rd. #53 Phoenix, AZ 85015 279-0008

Project Lifeguard 3136 N. 3rd Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85013 266-7233

Project Q 3136 N. 3rd Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85013 266-7233

Terros, Inc. 320 E. Virginia Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004 234-8900

Volunteers in Direct Aid P.O. Box 40476 Phoenix, AZ 85067 279-8432

Lolitical Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union P.O. Box 17148 Phoenix, AZ 85011 650-1967

Arizona Central Pride P.O. Box 26139 Tempe, AZ 85285 279-1771

Arizona Human **Rights Fund** P.O. Box 25044 Phoenix, AZ 85002 530-1660

Arizonans for Fairness P.O. Box 34766 Phoenix, AZ 85067 265-7283

Feminist Lesbian Activist Coalition P.O. Box 26031 Tempe, AZ 85285 966-4521

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project P.O. Box 60881 Phoenix, AZ 85082 351-3080

Log Cabin Republicans P.O. Box 60994 Phoenix, AZ 85082 837-2936

Social & Support Groups

Alpha Zeta P.O. Box 24459 Tempe, AZ 85285 246-1966

Alternative Young Adult Alliance P.O. Box 40472

202-7973 Arizona 2-somes 905-1898

Phoenix, AZ 85067

AZ Bisexual Network 5501 N. 7th Ave. #1054 Phoenix, AZ 85013 352-4023

Arizona Nude Dudes P.O. Box 32776 Phoenix, AZ 85064

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Concillo Latino Y Alianza Latina 3136 N. 3rd Ave Phoenix, AZ 85014 285-0970

Copperstate Leathermen P.O. Box 40472 Phoenix, AZ 85067 274-8194

Couples of Arizona P.O. Box 7144 Phoenix, AZ 85011 831-6432

Desert Adventures P.O. Box 2008 Phoenix, AZ 85001 266-2267

East Side Social Club P.O. Box 7681 Mesa, AZ 85246 807-9737

Gender Outlaw P.O. Box 55863 Phoenix, AZ 85078 274-9599

Girth and Mirth of AZ P.O. Box 16605 Phoenix, AZ 85011 655-8229

Leatherlords 8036 N. 35th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85051 841-8953

Lesbian&Gay Alanon 2940 E. Thomas Phoenix, AZ 85016 581-8850

Lesbian&Gay Comm. Switchboard 3136 N. 3rd Ave Phoenix, AZ 85013 234-2752

Lesbian & Gay Seniors Group 241-1604

Lesbian Moms 5608 N. 29th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85017 249-4559

Lesbian Resource Project 3136 N. 3rd Ave.

Phoenix, Az 85013 266-5542

Los Amigos del Sol P.O. Box 27335 Phoenix, AZ 85061 843-1329

Parents & Friends of

Lesbians and Gays P.O. Box 37525 Phoenix, AZ 85069 general information and hetero spouse support : 843-1404 gay/straight marriage support: 241-0456

Phoenix Social Couples 391-0085

Valley One in Ten 3136 N. 3rd Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85013 234-2752

Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center 3136 N. 3rd Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85013 265-7283

rofessional Organizations

Camelback Business & Professional Assoc. P.O. Box 2097 Phoenix, AZ 85001

Valley Career Women P.O. Box 33393 Phoenix, AZ 85067 460-4481

Neligious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Mormons) P.O. Box 26601 Tempe, AZ 85285 433-1321

Community Church of Hope 4400 N. Central Phoenix, AZ 85014 234-2180

Conference for Catholic Lesbians 947-8187

Dignity and Integrity P.O. Box 21091 Phoenix, AZ 85036 222-8664

First Unitarian Universalist Church 4027 E. Lincoln Dr. Paradise Valley, AZ 85283 840-8400

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Healing Waters Ministries 225 W.University, 105 Tempe, AZ 85281 894-8681

LutheransConcerned P.O. Box 7519 Phoenix, AZ 85011 870-3611

Mishpachat Am P.O. Box 7731 Phoenix, AZ 85011

Presbyterians for Lesbians & Gays P.O. Box 61162 Phoenix, AZ 85082 275-0506

Southwest Miracles Center 3644 E. McDowell Phoenix, AZ 85008 244-9001

Valley Unitarian Universalist Church 1700 W. Warner Rd. Chandler, AZ 85224

899-4249

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Arizona Lambda Yacht Club 951-9481

Cactus Cities Softball League 254-0648

Charlie's Renegades 727 W. Camelback Phoenix, AZ 85013 265-0224

Desert Valley Squares P.O. Box 34615 Phoenix, AZ 85067 252-0048

Gay League Association of Darts P.O. Box 941 Phoenix, AZ 85013 841-4489

Grand Canvon Men's Chorale P.O. Box 16462 Phoenix, AZ 85011 340-7640

Lambda Car Club P.O. Box 36211 Phoenix, AZ 85067 409-3160

Our Gang Bowling League 2644 E. Birchwood Mesa, AZ 85204 969-4629

Spartan Wrestling Club 508-0199

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Foster's 4343 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix 263-8313

Harley's Club 155 155 W. Camelback Phoenix 274-8505

Harley's Too! 125 W. Camelback Phoenix 274-7117

Incognito 2424 E. Thomas Phoenix 955-9805

JC's Fun One 5542 N. 43rd Ave. Glendale 939-0528

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Nasty Habits 3108 E. McDowell Phoenix 267-8707

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The Park 3002 N. 24th Street Phoenix 957-6055

The Pumphouse 4132 E. McDowell Phoenix 275-3509

Roscoe's 4531 N. 7th St. Phoenix 285-0833

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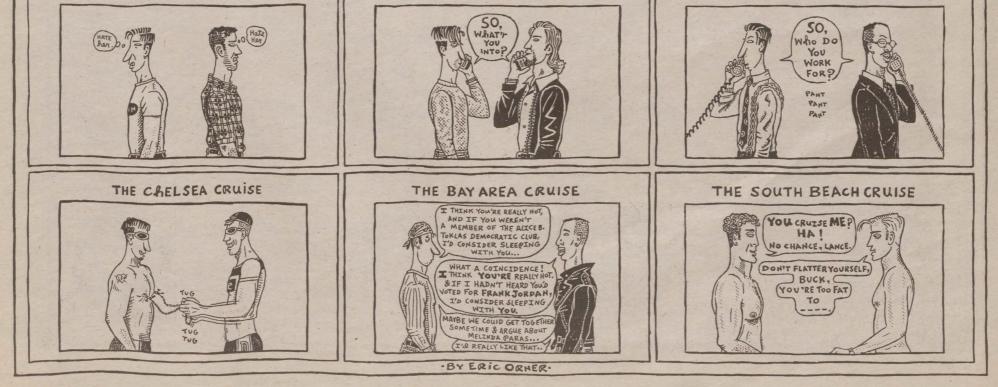
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HeatStroke 16 January 2-15, 1997

