

HeatStroke

Volume 1, No. 4

Phoenix, Arizona

January 16-29, 1997

Ride 'em Cowboy: A Roadrunner Regional Rodeo contestant profile



Original photo image: J. W. Vaughn © 1996

Mike Montoya competes in the Texas Gay Rodeo

Ever wonder what kind of insane person would climb aboard a 2,000 pound bull? The rider to the left is Mike Montoya, who grew up in the tiny town of Hagerman, NM. A handsome, small-framed guy, Mike now lives in Minneapolis, where he works in the financial industry. 1996 was his first year of serious rodeo competition, and many of his weekends were devoted to the IGRA circuit. He is a member of the North Star Regional Rodeo Association.

Age: 27

Events: calf roping on foot, camp events (goat dressing, steer decorating, wild drag) and rough stock events (steer riding, broncs, chute dogging, and bull riding).

Proudest Rodeo Accomplishment:

Qualifying for the 1996 finals in chute dogging. "I only entered it to add an event, and ended up fourth going into the finals. But

I'm done with that. I'll leave it to the big boys to wrestle 'em— I'll just ride 'em."

Favorite events: Bull riding and wild drag. "I like the events where I have control. It's my mistake if I screw up in bull riding; there are more people paying attention, the scoring is tougher and there's no one else to blame. And wild drag is about timing, knowing just when to jump on the steer and how to stay on. I love that."

What his family thinks: "They know I'm gay, and they know I'm involved in rodeoing, but I don't think they really have a concept of gay rodeo. We don't talk about it."

Most anticipated event in Phoenix: "Bronc riding! It will be my first time competing in this event. I had to add an event to replace chute dogging. I'm kind of nervous about it, but I'm ready."

Polish your buckle, dust off your boots and scoot on over to the Corona Rodeo Grounds at 29th Avenue and Baseline in Phoenix. The 12th annual Roadrunner Regional Rodeo gets underway this weekend, January 17, 18, and 19.

The rodeo events will begin at 8am on Saturday and Sunday, continuing until about 7pm. Admission is \$12 per day. The Grand Entry (parade) on Saturday will begin at noon and will feature Grand

Marshall Artie Michaelis. There will be dancing, entertainment, with food and drink available. There will be dozens of information and vendor booths in the permanent pavilion and the adjacent tent.

Nearly 200 contestants from all over the county are expected to compete. Live entertainers will perform the entire weekend.

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association has sponsored the rodeo every January since 1985. Last year's event raised over \$15,000 that was distributed to statewide charities.

Camera Action:

Lesbian filmmakers shooting gay rodeo documentary in Phoenix

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

With contestants and spectators from around the country pouring into Phoenix this weekend for the 12th annual Roadrunner Regional Rodeo, an encouraging dose of our good January weather will be on everyone's wish list. But two San Diego women in attendance will be looking for more than just a nice weekend.

In addition to the warm sunshine, independent film director Paula Gauthier and her partner, Rebecca West, will be anticipating clear, diffused light and a minimum of wind noise. In short, ideal conditions for shooting and recording on video and film.

The women are in the midst of assembling an as-yet unnamed documentary on gay rodeo and its participants. The AGRA rodeo in Phoenix will be the fifth gay rodeo at which they have shot film and video footage, taken still photos and conducted interviews for their project. If all goes well here, the action shooting will be complete after Sunday.

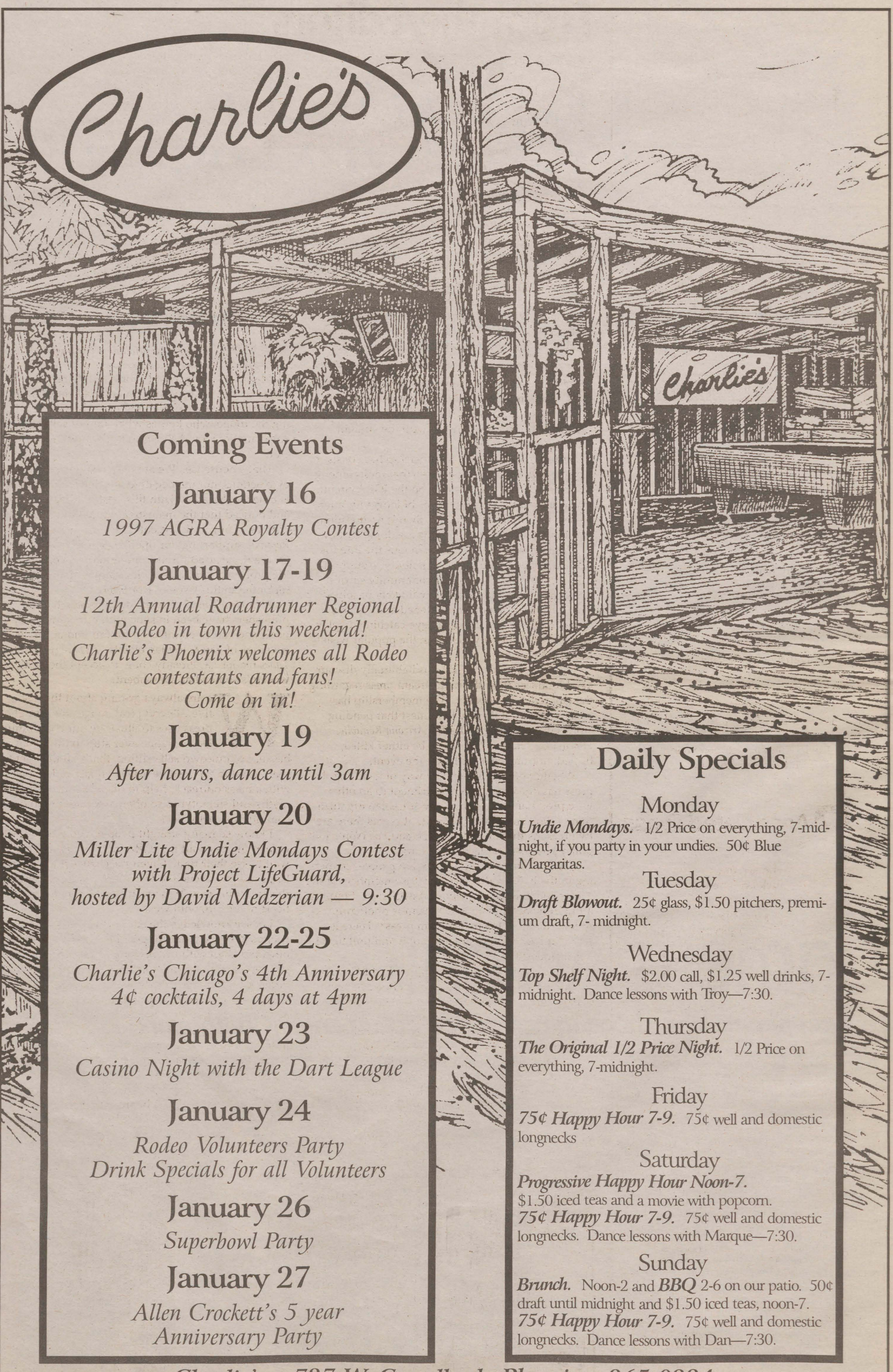
Then, Gauthier will begin editing her work — the most time-consuming and costly phase of independent film



Photo: Rebecca West © 1996

Flag racing still from the rodeo documentary by Paula Gauthier and Rebecca West

Continued at page 6



Charlie's

Coming Events

January 16

1997 AGRA Royalty Contest

January 17-19

*12th Annual Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in town this weekend!
Charlie's Phoenix welcomes all Rodeo contestants and fans!
Come on in!*

January 19

After hours, dance until 3am

January 20

Miller Lite Undie Mondays Contest with Project LifeGuard, hosted by David Medzerian — 9:30

January 22-25

*Charlie's Chicago's 4th Anniversary
4¢ cocktails, 4 days at 4pm*

January 23

Casino Night with the Dart League

January 24

*Rodeo Volunteers Party
Drink Specials for all Volunteers*

January 26

Superbowl Party

January 27

Allen Crockett's 5 year Anniversary Party

Daily Specials

Monday

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

Tuesday

Draft Blowout. 25¢ glass, \$1.50 pitchers, premium draft, 7- midnight.

Wednesday

Top Shelf Night. \$2.00 call, \$1.25 well drinks, 7-midnight. Dance lessons with Troy—7:30.

Thursday

The Original 1/2 Price Night. 1/2 Price on everything, 7-midnight.

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.

Sunday

Brunch. Noon-2 and *BBQ* 2-6 on our patio. 50¢ draft until midnight and \$1.50 iced teas, noon-7.
75¢ Happy Hour 7-9. 75¢ well and domestic longnecks. Dance lessons with Dan—7:30.

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A production of 1 nightstand publications, ltd.

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From the Editors

In the first issue of *HeatStroke*, I wrote about the favorite excuse of local homos for justifying their individual and collective invisibility in this town. Yes, it's that incessant whine we all know and love: "Phoenix is just too conservative."

I'm happy to report that it's now a little harder to emit this disingenuous lament with a straight face.

On January 2, *The Arizona Republic* published an unsigned editorial that blasted Mark Killian and Karen Johnson, two right-wing Representatives from Mesa, and their legislative agenda to increase the criminal penalties for sodomy, and to ban gay and lesbian groups from Arizona high schools and colleges.

The significance of this editorial for our community cannot, in my opinion, be overstated. *The Arizona Republic* has always been the only daily newspaper with state-wide circulation: it was delivered every day of my childhood and adolescence in rural, north-eastern Arizona. And it's the paper

that, for years in its editorial pages, consistently spewed vehemently conservative and homophobic rhetoric for consumption by its state-wide readers.

The *Republic's* editorial board not only published this remarkably positive editorial, they also granted us another huge favor. Virtually all of the letters to the editor that the *Republic* ran about this hateful legislation were strongly critical of the proposed laws and of their wacko Republican sponsors. I couldn't find a single letter that supported Johnson and Killian. It seems that Arizona's largest purveyor of print news is finally on our side. It's almost too good to be true.

For everyone that missed this piece in the *Republic*, we've reprinted it on page 4. Read it. It's a tonic for our battered souls. And celebrate that yet another feeble excuse has been eliminated from the arsenals of Phoenix's closeted and cowering whiners.

Kelly J. Reidhead — Managing Editor

This year, the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association here in Phoenix took a giant leap into the present by dramatically changing that organization's relationship with the straight press. It's about time.

Since 1985, the AGRA membership has consistently produced an annual rodeo that ranks among the most successful and stable on the IGRA circuit. If you look at the event in terms of longevity, attendance and community impact, there's no question that these folks know what they are doing by now.

Huge crowds of gay & lesbian fans file into the Corona Rodeo Grounds every January to support this event and to share in the community spirit it promotes. This weekend, we will likely be joined by a greater number of enlightened and curious straight supporters, due to an eye-catching display ad the AGRA recently placed in the popular weekly tabloid, *New Times*.

In years prior, the AGRA has habitually discouraged inquiries from the mainstream press regarding the gay rodeo in Phoenix. The membership has even gone out of its way to request that pending stories in local papers like *The Arizona Republic*, *Phoenix Gazette* and *New Times* be either killed, buried, or published well after the event.

Whether official or not, this way of handling the press has, for years, been a detriment to an otherwise proud and exemplary gay & lesbian organization. I did some asking around. It seems there are two reasons that this "Don't Ask and We Won't Tell" policy has been in place for so long.

For one thing, I'm told, there are people competing in the IGRA rodeos who are also members of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Suppose a PRCA member at an IGRA event is photographed or mentioned in the mainstream press? There is a fear that the PRCA might learn of it and pull his or her membership.

That's just not true, according to the PRCA representative I spoke with. The PRCA allows its members to compete for money in any other rodeo association; it once was forbidden, but that policy was changed in 1991. Also, the PRCA has established no guidelines or rules regarding the sexual orientation of its members. A competitor could not be kicked out, I have been assured, for being homosexual.

But the other reason the AGRA has diligently worked to keep its big event hidden from the outside world is taken much more seriously by all its members, those who labor behind the scenes as well as contestants: They are worried about homophobic

backlash. It's a big, nasty, world out there, they believe. And isn't Arizona an anti-gay state? If the straight press were promoting or even acknowledging the rodeo, who knows what kind of self-righteous fanatics would show up to disrupt the weekend?

That's nonsense. We are only responsible for our own actions, not the negative reactions of others. It is time we did away with this "anti-gay state" idea, and noticed that the mainstream press in Phoenix is with us. Look at the recent editorials in *The Arizona Republic* supporting our openly gay elected officials. Or the *Republic* editorial from January 2, condemning proposed homophobic legislation, that we've reprinted in this issue of *HeatStroke*.

And *New Times*? There's no question that the publishers have been in sync with our community's goals and can be counted on for fair and accurate coverage of gay & lesbian events. Any regular *New Times* reader has already come to accept the hefty weekly's somewhat liberal bent.

We are always griping about the negative, stereotypical images the straight press uses to illustrate our community. Does anyone ever stop to think that, because of our own self-editing, that's all they get to see? Wouldn't a positive article on gay rodeo, one with a mass outreach, help to dispel some of the myths and stereotypes so often associated with our community's activities?

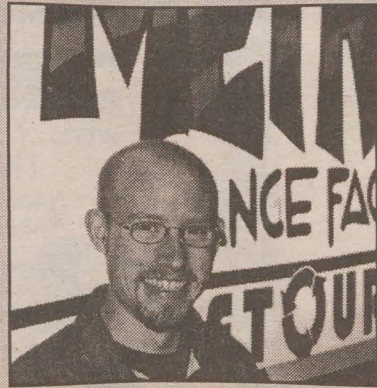
I know so many straight people who would love to learn more about the IGRA gay rodeos, and can't wait to see their first. Given the chance, they would be proud and excited to learn that we are continuing this tradition as well as we are, right here in the heart of the old, wild west.

Let's acknowledge the support of our straight friends at every public opportunity and encourage others to align with us. As long as the struggle for gay rights remains an Us against Them proposition, nothing will change. When we dismiss this notion of an "anti-gay state" and realize that Arizona is actually a pro-gay state where a select few are making the wrong decisions, we will make great strides in many arenas. But we need our friends in the stands beside us to accomplish that.

The placement of this advertisement in *New Times* was a small but significant step in the right direction, and the AGRA board members should be congratulated for their pride and their forward-thinking. They made a wise decision.

Allen Kalchik — Editor

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Rodeo documentary, p. 6-7

Photo: Rebecca West

Arizona Republic editorial denounces proposed homophobic legislation

Conservative Mesa Republican Reps blasted by state-wide daily

Readers of *The Arizona Republic* discovered on the morning of Christmas Eve that a group of conservative Republican Representatives were hatching a legislative plan to further repress and stigmatize Arizona's gay and lesbian population.

The last edition of *HeatStroke* carried the Associated Press version of the story. Newly-elected

Republican Representative Karen Johnson and retiring Speaker of the House Mark Killian have proposed increasing the criminal penalties for sodomy, and prohibiting gay associations at Arizona colleges and high schools.

The Republic followed up its report a week later with an unsigned editorial that strongly

condemned this homophobic legislative agenda.

We believe that the *Republic's* pro-gay editorial response is a newsworthy event for Arizona's gays and lesbians. Phoenix-based *Arizona Republic* is the only daily newspaper with state-wide circulation. And, until recently, the editorial board of the *Republic* has his-

torically been staunchly conservative and homophobic.

We congratulate the *Republic's* editorial board for its enlightened approach to this mean-spirited attack on Arizona's gays and lesbians. We hope that this editorial posture will become a permanent feature of *The Arizona Republic*.

The editorial follows, reprinted in its entirety. — *The Editors.*

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QUEER BEHAVIOR Lawmaker's hidden agenda

The morality militia at the Legislature has formally declared a cultural war by loading up on legislation that targets gay citizens. What a waste of time, political capital and public service. To say nothing of what a sad political trick it is to start a divisive fight among the people for no better reason than short-term political gain.

When schools are falling down around our children and bursting at the seams in some high-growth areas, when there's a tax structure that needs to be reorganized, when the horizon is as clear as pea soup, a cadre of law-

makers want to focus on improving the quality of life in Arizona by tinkering with the criminal code on sodomy and banning gay groups from high school and college campuses.

Now those are a couple of burning issues that need immediate attention. Why focus on school finance and air quality when we can mess with a group's right to assemble or legislate sexual behaviors of consenting adults?

Does anyone else think there's been some major problem involving these two fringe issues?

We can thank our conservative Republican lawmakers from Mesa for

whipping up these dandy pieces of legislation: Freshman Karen Johnson, who we suspected was capable of such things but who we hoped would focus her talents on more substantive issues, and outgoing House Speaker Mark Killian, who we thought knew better, and who, frankly, disappoints us for leaving the Legislature on this note.

Both Johnson and Killian suggested in comments to *The Republic's* Kris Mayes that these bills are not meant to be so divisive. And even if it does take up some valuable time that could be used on more important matters, goes

their contention, won't the discussion be enlightening?

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

Mr. Speaker, there's a reason for deploying that phrase, especially on actions like this. It's the truth.

Arizona does not need this discussion. It doesn't need this fight. Surely there are at least three or four issues more important to the state's citizens. Find them. Then move on to the central reasons voters elected you to office and move off this tangent on gay people.

AZ Psychologist Association opposes proposed ban on gay groups.

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)

Gay high school students need support groups, and school officials should adopt anti-discrimination policies that include homosexual students, a statewide group says.

In letters sent Wednesday to 360 high school counselors across the state, the Arizona Psychological Association urged school officials to allow gay student support groups.

"Even if students do not attend support groups, just the knowledge that there is support for them is a benefit," said Tucson psychologist Jean Baker, a member of the association's Gay and Lesbian Issues Task Force.

The letters were sent one day after Republican Rep. Dan Schottel announced he intends to sponsor legislation requiring public schools to ban gay support groups from access to campuses. The veteran Tucson legislator said his bill would apply to kindergarten through university levels.

The proposal is expected to be patterned after legislation approved in Utah last year. The law allows districts to deny access to clubs that "materially or substantially encourage criminal or delinquent conduct, promote big-

otry or involve human sexuality."

Baker said banning gay support groups effectively sanctions harassment against homosexuals.

"It could take away the one place where gay students can talk to someone," she said. Gay teens are at high risk of depression and suicide because they feel isolated, the association said.

"The purpose of the support group is to provide a safe place—a place to be who you are," said Tam De Witt, a Tucson High School nurse. "It's a group for people to gain support and friends."

Schottel's proposal targets groups like those at Desert View High School in Sunnyside Unified School District and Tucson High Magnet School in Tucson Unified School District. Both groups were student-initiated.

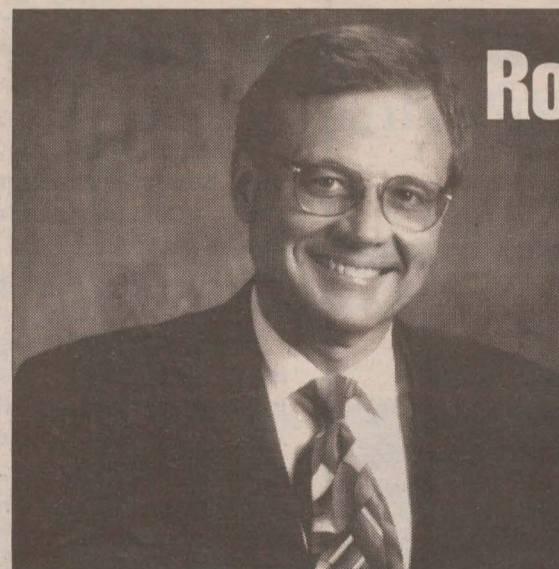
Tucson High started a group called The Pink Triangle three years ago. This year, about 17 students have attended meetings. Discussions include how to talk to parents about sexuality and how to handle disparaging remarks at school. At Desert View High, a group of about 10 students that formed this year holds regular meetings.

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Horowitz:

Thank God for Drag Queens

Years ago, while still in the closet, I attended a self-empowerment workshop. An extremely effeminate young man annoyed the hell out of me. He didn't say or do anything patently offensive; he was just young and queeny. I hated him. I hated him for all the times I was called a sissy and for the ammunition he gave a mainstream media already bent on stereotyping our community as a bunch of fairies and freaks.

In a fit of self-righteous anger, I proclaimed that the sissies and drag queens didn't represent the gay community. People see them in the media and think we all act that way! The majority of us live normal, unobtrusive lives.

The workshop leader opened my eyes in more ways than one. First, he

said, "If they don't represent you, you have two choices: either shut up, or go represent yourself." It took a while, but I came out and started representing myself. I believed that I represented the gay community better than a bunch of drag queens.

Today I realize that the drag queens symbolize the best elements of our community: creativity, talent, passion, compassion, tolerance and activism. I'm only a better representative of me and me alone.

The second thing the workshop leader told me was to learn the history of the gay rights movement. The first people with the courage to stand up to oppression, bigotry and hatred wore drag to the Stonewall Inn in New York City. Their refusal to give in to police brutality began our community's quest for equal rights. They

fought back when the rest of us wouldn't even show up.

Karaoke Queens at the St. James — the outrageous new musical comedy written by and starring Leo Cortez — celebrates the lives of Tonya, Nan and Larry, performers in a gay bathhouse's drag show. The power of the show lies in Cortez's performance as Tonya and his remarkable script. People who remember the seventies will reminisce. People who don't remember will laugh, cry, and — I hope — learn something.

Cortez says he wrote the play in response to a young man's disparaging remarks about a San Francisco Gay Pride Parade. Drag queens, leather queens, topless women, dykes on bikes and a host of others fill San Francisco's Gay Pride Celebration.

When I first saw the spectacle, I hated the fact that the TV cameras focused on them instead of the tens of thousands of "normal" people lining the street.

I didn't get it. They are our pioneers and our teachers. Until we all receive the respect we deserve, none of us will.

In Karaoke's program, Cortez writes: "as you watch Karaoke Queens, listen and remember. And go home and remember them some more. And tomorrow, sing their songs to others so they will not be forgotten."

See both of these shows for their entertainment value. But carry the lessons home.

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

WA Governor will seek same-sex marriage rights

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)

As one of his final acts, outgoing Governor Mike Lowry is sponsoring legislation to authorize same-sex marriages.

The bill is doomed in the Legislature, where majority Republicans intend to pass a ban on same-gender unions. But a Lowry spokesman said the governor considers the ban blatant bias and hopes to begin a dialogue that will eventually

end discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Rep. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, the only self-identified homosexual in the Legislature, will introduce the Lowry bill in the House. The senator from his district, Democrat Pat Thibaudeau, will sponsor an identical bill in the Senate. Their 43rd District includes Seattle's Capitol Hill, which has the state's heaviest concentration of gay couples.

Murray and Thibaudeau also will sponsor legislation aimed at barring discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. Lowry also has given his endorsement to the bill, which is a portion of a perennial anti-discrimination bill that gay rights activists long have sought.

Rep. Bill Thompson, R-Everett, will again sponsor a bill to ban same-gender marriages. His plan would simply declare marriage to be a union between a man and a woman, mirror-

ing both new federal legislation and a 20-year-old state court ruling.

The issue was the No. 1 priority of religious conservatives in the Legislature last year, but Thompson's bill died in the Senate, where Democrats held a one-seat majority. Republicans took over the Senate in the November elections, and Majority Leader Dan McDonald, R-Bellevue, says passage of the legislation is certain.

Network exec says outing episode in the works for Ellen

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

A much-rumored episode about the TV character Ellen letting her audience know she's a lesbian is in the works.

So, Ellen is ready to come out' but will the episode ever air?

Jamie Tarses, president of ABC Entertainment, said Thursday that an episode outing Ellen Degeneres's character as a lesbian is being worked on. But she said it's "wait-and-see" whether the episode will be shown.

"I think that we are very seriously considering about going in the direction that everyone's speculating on," she told reporters at the semiannual Television Critics Association meeting.

There has been much hype since the start of the fall season when it was leaked that her quirky character, Ellen Morgan, may come out.

The decision to air the episode, Tarses said, would be based on creative content and made by several people, including herself. She said

discussions would be held to determine what direction the show would evolve once the character comes out.

"We are all taking this pretty seriously and if we're going to do it, we need to do it well," Tarses said.

Ellen is produced by Disney, which also owns ABC, but Tarses said that wouldn't be a factor in any decision.

Ellen will go off the air in March and April so the show's 8:30 p.m. slot on Wednesday can be used to introduce the as-yet-untitled romantic sitcom starring Arsenio Hall on March 5.

Tarses denied that Ellen was being taken off the air while the lesbian episode is being considered. She said it would have been all Ellen repeats during those two months anyway.

Ellen will return for the May sweeps period and Hall's show, if it does well, will be moved to another time slot, Tarses said. Tarses said she didn't know if the Ellen lesbian episode would air in May.

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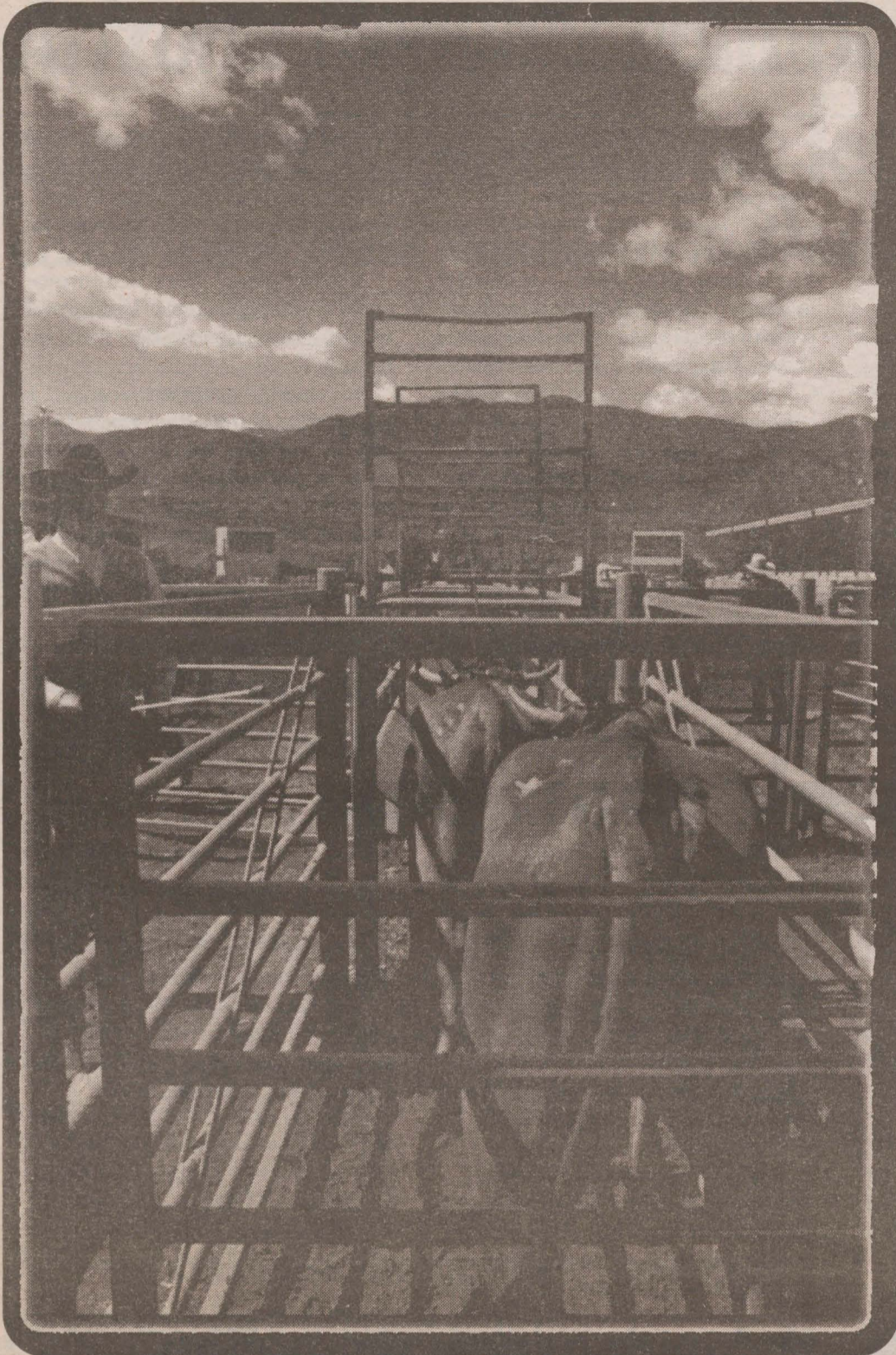
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Continued from page 1

production, she says. She expects to complete the documentary sometime this spring, in time to be released at a number of gay and lesbian film festivals later in 1997.



Filmmaker Paula Gauthier (r) at work

We spoke with Gauthier about her project and her developing fondness for the gay & lesbian rodeo community.

What made you choose gay rodeo as a topic for this documentary?

I have a friend who is in a clogging group. I went to see him perform at a rodeo in California. I was impressed and captivated by the whole spectacle. Especially by the athleticism. I remember watching a very small woman attempt to ride this enormous bull; I was blown away by the guts it must take to do that! And I have to say that I find the rodeo contestants very sexy; they are the sexiest people I've ever come across, both the men and the women. There's this incredible aesthetic about rodeoing that just speaks to the camera, it's visually very beautiful—just begging to be captured on film. I had never tried a documentary and decided to go for it.

Your previous film experience is with drama?

Right. I have directed and produced a couple of short films that have been shown at film festivals. My first movie is called *Which is Scary*. Then, I made *Le Poisson d'Amour* (the Fish of Love), which played several gay and lesbian film festivals throughout the country and was shown on public TV in Australia.

How does Rebecca, your partner of over four years, support your film making?

Rebecca was the one who really urged me to do this documentary. She has always been a consultant and has also performed in my previous





work. At the rodeos, she helps with the equipment and interviews, and shoots all the still photos. We are generally a two-person crew. Sometimes we get another person to help with the video camera we use for the interviews. I run the 16mm camera myself.

How do you envision the final product, and why doesn't the movie have a name yet?

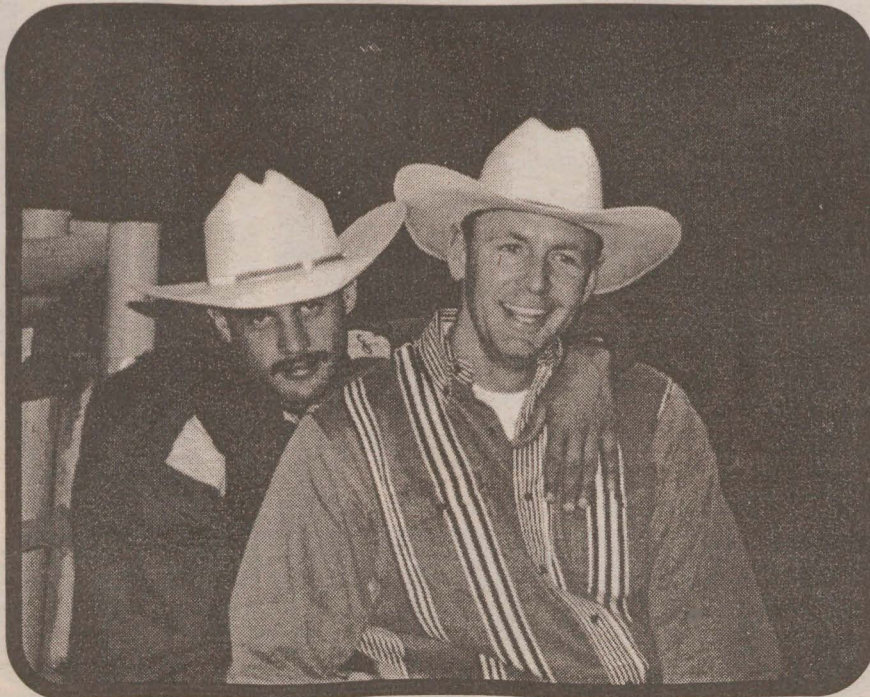
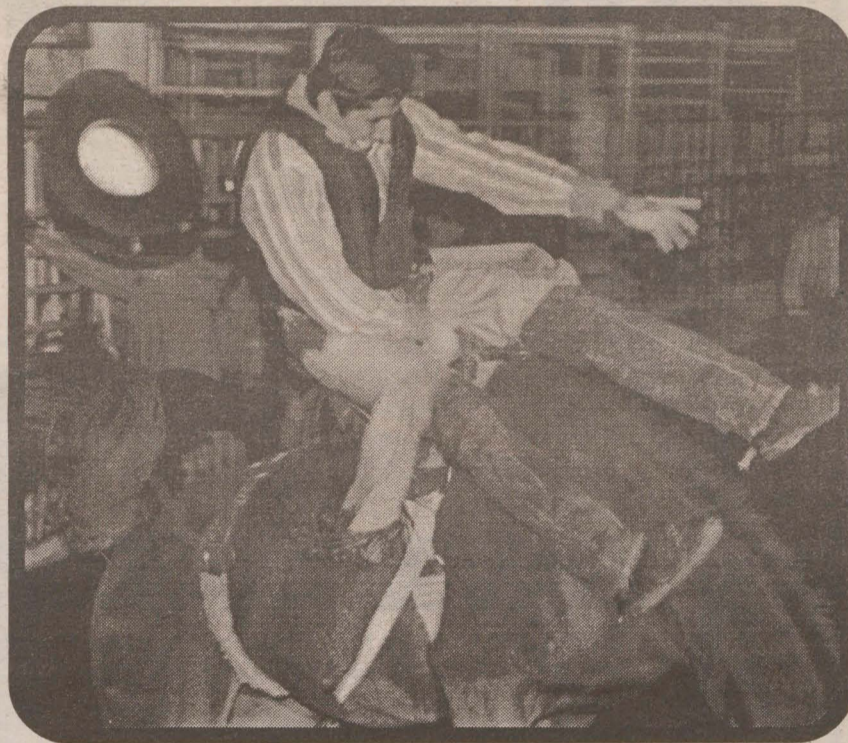
I am looking to bring it in at just under an hour, so that it will fit the PBS format. If PBS doesn't pick it up, there is still a possibility of it being shown on television abroad. I plan to take it to several film festivals as well. Normally, I don't name my films until they are finished. It really isn't a movie yet until it's all done. The right title just sort of comes to me at that time.

Have you learned anything new about rodeo or gay life during the shoot?

Everything! I am from Boston originally, and had no concept of what the rodeo was like or what to expect of the participants. Rebecca and I at first thought that Wild Drag meant dressing a steer up in a dress and wig. We have learned a lot and met so many great people. I want this film to help dispel some of the myths about gay rodeo and really present the beauty and fun that we've discovered.

Who is funding you and what do you hope to accomplish this weekend in Phoenix?

So far, we are pretty much self-funded. I was fortunate to be awarded a great deal of film stock as a prize when I showed *Le Poisson d'Amour* at a festival in New England. We have used most of it already. The editing process will be much more costly than the filming has been, and we are always accepting donations. We've been to rodeos in California and Colorado, and we were shooting at the 1996 finals in Albuquerque. We noticed a number of other film crews, both large and small, at finals. We are both excited to be coming to Phoenix, where we expect to see a lot of familiar faces. We may actually be able to complete the filming at this rodeo. At this point, a lot really depends on the weather and lighting.



All Photos on pages 6-7: Rebecca West © 1996



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Tuesday: *Top shelf night*
\$1.75 Drinks and Shots

Wednesday:* *9:00 Comedy Show*
\$1.25 Miller longnecks
\$1.50 Cuervo

Thursday: *8:00 Blind Draw Cricket Tournament*
\$1 Well Vodka & \$.50 Draft

The Wave's "Rodeo Specials"

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9:00 pm **Variety Shows**

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1st Runner Up - **Sheba McIntyred**
2nd Runner Up - **Beverly De Marco**
Hosted by Stepping Down
Miss AGRA **Pussy Le Hoot** (also 3rd Runner Up)

Sunday **Rodeo Recovery Party**
3:00 pm **Amateur Strip Contest** 1st prize \$100
10 am -3 pm **Bloody Mary Bar & \$1.75 Well**
\$1.75 Well & 1/2 price drinks with
Contestant or Volunteer badge

Monday* **Men's Night Out**
\$2.50 shot with a beer
9:00 pm Strip Show
Show Contestant badge for 1/2 price drinks

the
Wave

Hours 10am - 1am Daily

A Wave of Weekly Events

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

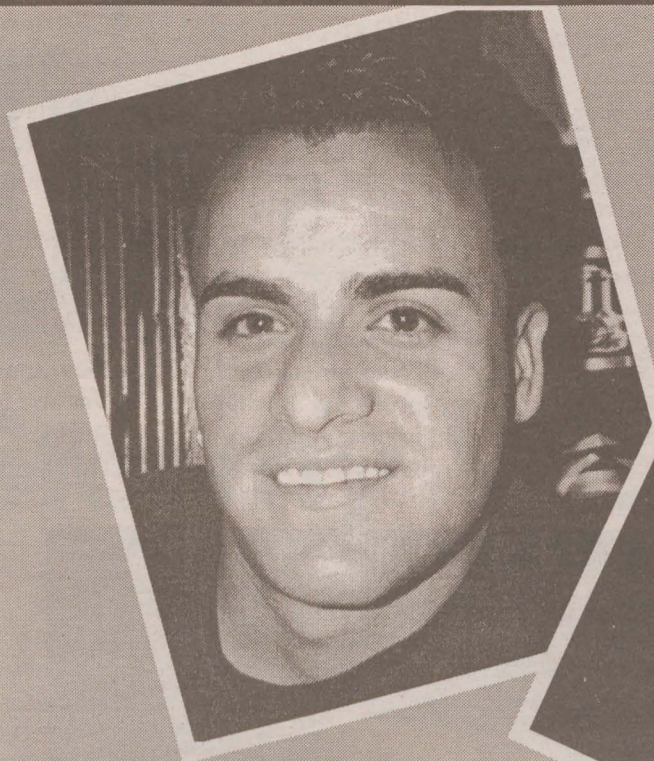
**All Shows are Amateur, see Chris or Bill to sign up.*

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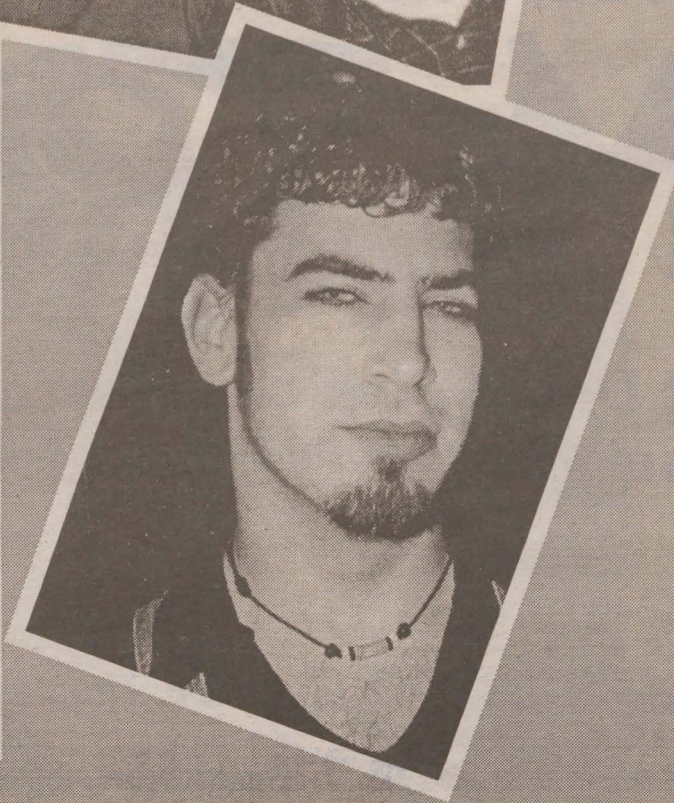
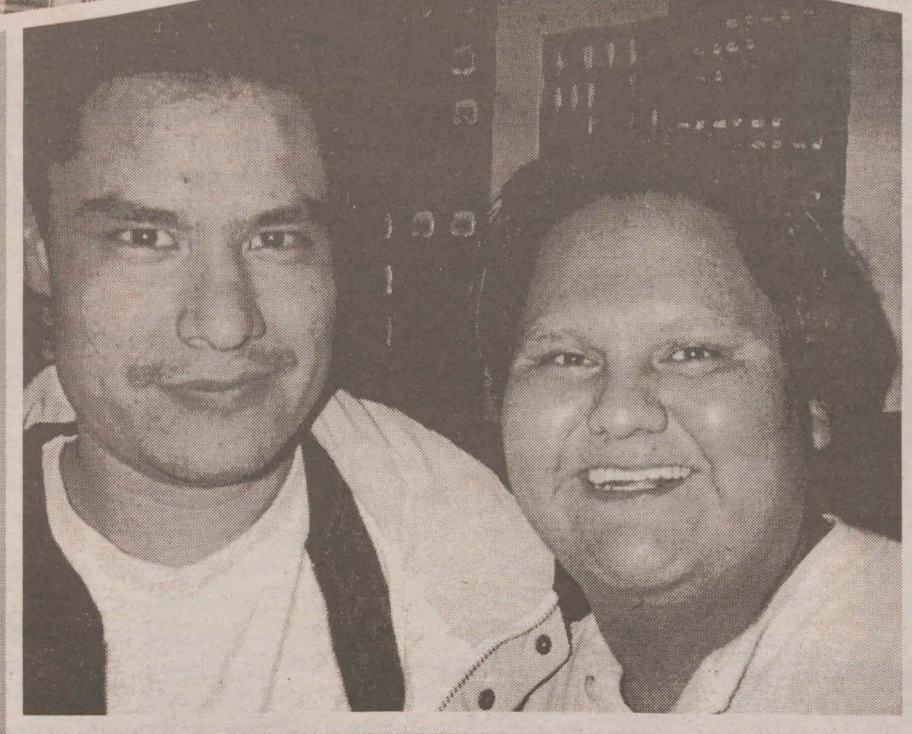
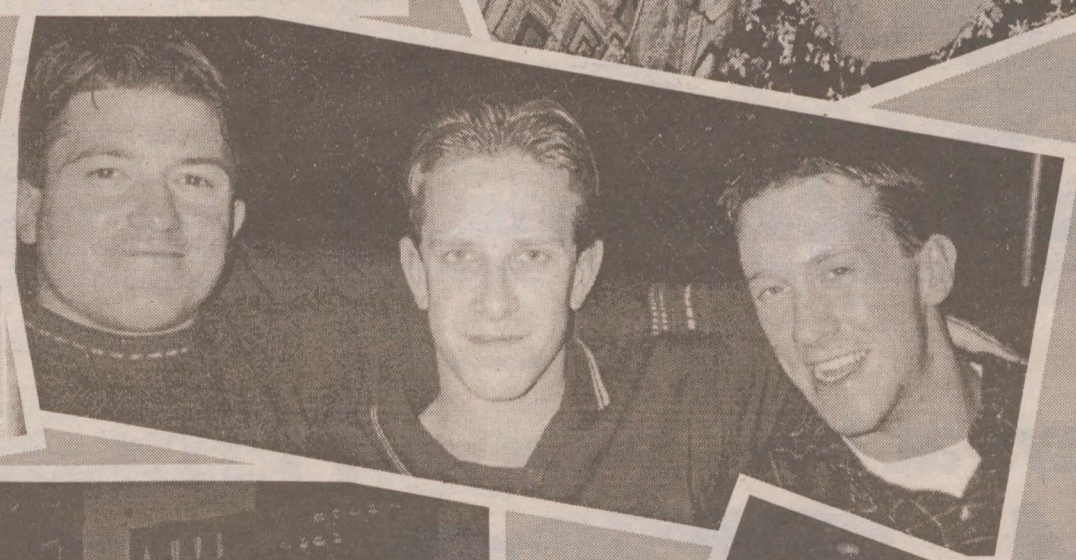
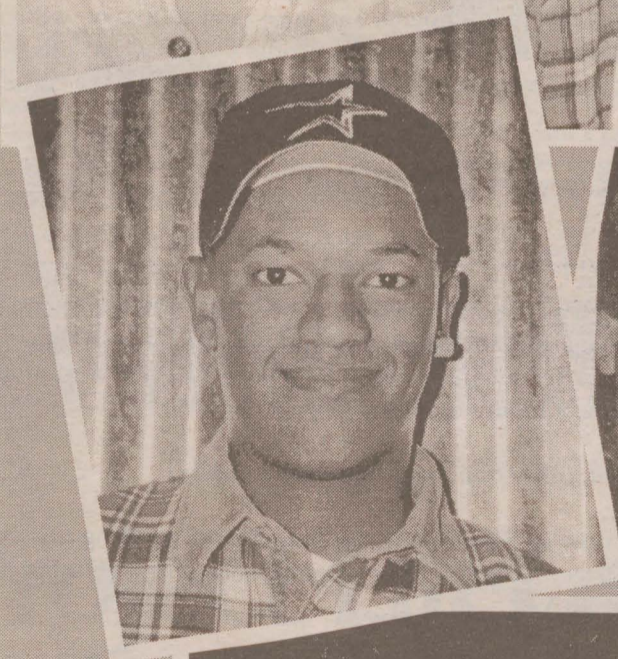
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Photos by Bill Throckmorton



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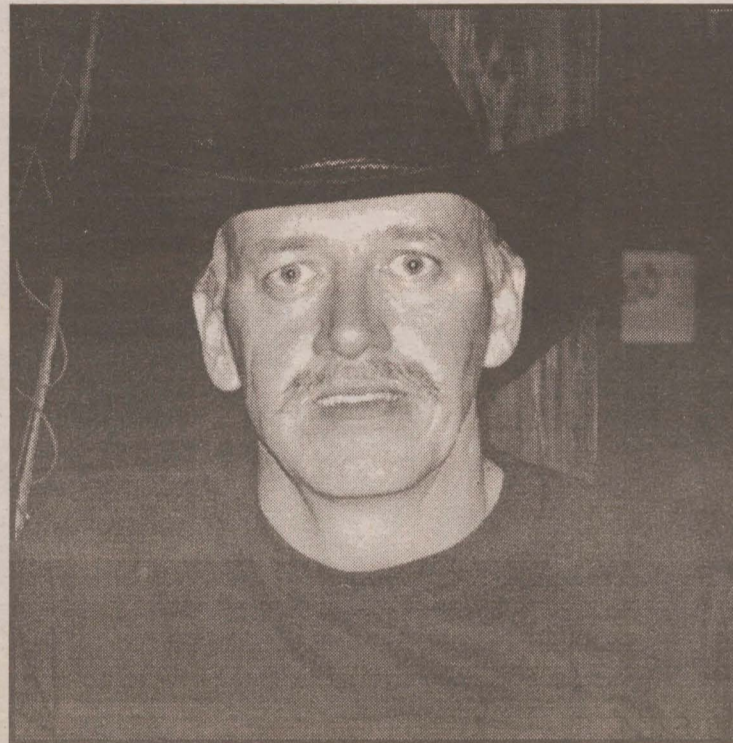
Focus: Dan Iverson, AGRA State President

By Thom Rowley, Staff Writer

Dan Iverson has been a member of the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association right from the start — and he's still heavily involved, twelve years later. It's not surprising, then, to find his life, and the life of the AGRA, thoroughly entwined.

He grew up in Murdo, South Dakota, on a combination farm/ranch about 50 miles from civilization. After years of driving 10 miles to school on dirt roads and waking up at Oh-God thirty in the morning, Iverson moved to Phoenix in 1980 at the invitation of his grandparents.

Already familiar with the gay rodeo scene via the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association, Iverson met bar owner John King at Charlie's-Denver and his life has never been quite the same. He now works in the hotel industry but devotes the rest of his time to gay rodeo, in the arena as well as behind the scenes.



Why did your grandparent's entice you to leave South Dakota for Phoenix?

They knew I didn't like the chores and other duties of running a farm/ranch growing up and that my attitude had not improved as I'd gotten older. They offered me a chance to come to Phoenix and start over with a new life and a new job, doing something I liked. Now, I've come to regret that I didn't pay more attention to my chores as a child, because they would have come in handy in the rodeo.

How did you become involved in the AGRA?

After I moved here, I heard talk of a Charlie's opening in Phoenix. I knew owner John King from Denver and I went to Charlie's opening night in Phoenix, where King was the only person I knew. People were talking about starting an Arizona Gay Rodeo Association and when they held their first meeting, I attended. After several more meetings and a great deal of work, the association became a reality in 1984.

How have you served, other than as a founding member?

Twice as President, now as President of the State Board entering my second term. I'm also a Trustee. There are four original, founding members who are still involved with AGRA.

Why are you still so into it after all this time?

I've always been interested in rodeos and it's important to me that Phoenix put on a good one. I like the challenges that confront people trying to organize this event. And I like to compete. I entered for the first time in 1986, and I enjoy the challenge rodeo competition throws at me.

What does your future with AGRA hold?

I plan on running for president again next year, as well as trustee. I see myself involved with this organization in one capacity or another for a very long time. I want to see the rodeo become even bigger and for the membership to grow as well.

Is there anything you dislike about the AGRA?

It's hard to answer that without offending anyone. I don't like the way people will volunteer to help and then not follow through. We have over 230 members in this organization but it always seems to be the same 25-30 people doing much of the work. I'll accept some of the blame. As President, I should take a more active role in encouraging people to volunteer and then make sure they come through. I think volunteering should be run like a business; if you commit to a plan, then it's up to you to deliver.

Out on film

Stormy Weather

By Allen Kalchik

By the time filmmaker Doug Pray and his camera crew jumped into the swirling mosh pit of attention surrounding Seattle's music scene in 1992, the cultural phenomenon that grunge had spawned was at its peak.

It isn't surprising, then, that his subsequent film does more than give a history of the music. *Hype* also acknowledges, dissects- and even borrows its title from- the wild media coverage and big-label meddling that swooped in upon the pacific northwest as the scene evolved.

What is surprising is that the director was so well able to land on his feet amid the hysteria. He and producer Steve Helvey have assembled a rock documentary that is comprehensive, funny and engaging. Splicing together four years' worth of interviews, foot-stomping concert footage and gorgeous still photos, the whole of *Hype* packs far more punch than the sum of any of its parts.

Pray makes a wise choice in letting the subjects tell their own story. The lack of narrative gives *Hype* an edge that is as simple, raw and direct as grunge music itself. The film is edited chronologically. It follows the roots of suburban grunge rock from the post-punk seventies, through the madness and badness of the eighties and then on to the nineties, when several bands made it bigger than big and brought worldwide attention to the region.



Photo: Charles Peterson

With the attention came plenty of conflict and Pray doesn't shy away from reflecting the downside of success. Who gets ahead and why? Who gets left behind? Who, like Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, reaches the success he's dreamed of and is then unable to handle it? Rather than attempting to answer these questions, Pray simply lets the key players in the lunacy wonder aloud for his camera. The result lends an intimacy to

his work seldom achieved in documentary form.

The musicians, promoters and producers featured in *Hype* are as brutally funny as they are honest. To many of them, what happened to grunge is a joke. They've learned to take life less seriously and their sardonic wit shines though every segment. It is humor, not music, that keeps this film moving.

Make no mistake; the music in *Hype* is excellent. But you need not

know a Screaming Tree from a Supersucker to enjoy this film. Ultimately, it is less about grunge than it is about art and the way it is promoted. Or more correctly, the way the national media feeds art to us.

So don't be a lamestain. Grab your kickers and wack slacks, make a date with a dish and check out *Hype* before it's gone. It scores, big time. Rock on.

Project LifeGuard chooses Safer Sex Queen and King

Ron Neal was crowned King of Safer Sex and Hollie Woods (aka David Anaya) was named Queen at Foster's on January 11.

The two will reign for one year, promoting Project LifeGuard by appearing in advertisements and at events, spreading the organization's HIV prevention and safer sex message.



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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. e-mail address: dearcowboy@heatstroke.psn.net

Dear Cowboy,

I always end up sleeping with guys on the first date, or leaving from the bar right after I meet someone to go back to my place. Then, they never call or want to go out afterward. I want more of a relationship. How can I get to know somebody without us ending up in bed right away?

Signed, Too Eager

Dear Eager,

Going straight home from a bar for a little (safe) mustang love is not always a bad thing. Sounds to me, though, like you feel you have no control over what happens and when.

If a date is what you really want, set one up for later and take your

chances. Tell yourself you're worth waiting for, Kemosabe, and your potential Tonto will think so, too. Are your partners forcing you into that bunk right away with a .45 between the eyes? Probably not. Take charge. It's up to you to say, "whoa."

I suggest you change your expectations. The reality of single life is that the bars are where you are most likely to find Mr. Right Now, not Mr. Forever and Ever. My grand dad used to say, "If you don't want manure on your boots, then stay out of the barn."

Try joining an activities club or outdoor group and start networking with other singles. Be open to every invitation: movies, cookouts, lunches and dinners, coffee, hiking or biking, whatever comes up. Make yourself available for more than just that late-night quickie and you'll find a lot of other

cowpokes on the trail who want more than that, too.

Dear Cowboy,

I have attended the gay rodeo here in Phoenix every year for about six years. I've also been to rodeos in Tucson, San Diego, Albuquerque and Oklahoma City.

I've met a lot of nice guys, done some dancing and had some interest, but I have never gotten laid at these events. The guys I meet seem to flake out after talking to me for awhile. I always end up alone in my hotel room, or leaving the bars alone.

My friends say, "If you can't get laid at a big rodeo, there's something wrong with you." Is there? I am 29, nice looking and a nice guy.

Signed, Lonely Dancer

Dear Mr Nice Guy,

There is nothing wrong with you, but there may be something wrong with your method if you can't connect with someone at a large, gay event like the rodeo. Those arenas and dance halls are crawling with men from all over the country who are looking to hide their boots under someone's bed for a night or two.

You need to be outgoing, direct and straight shootin'. Don't wait 'till the last waltz plays to rope in the man of your dreams. Keep in mind that nice guys do, too! Pick out your steer, ask the question and move right on if you detect any flakiness or hesitation.

Dress the part: a crisp shirt, cowboy hat and boots will get you plenty of

Make yourself available for more than just a late-night quickie. . .

attention. Then, try dancing with several partners so you look approachable. Relax and have fun but don't be afraid to make your intentions known. It's a big herd, and there is someone in it for you.



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Goings On

Square dancers promenade into Phoenix

Over 100 gay and lesbian square dancers will converge in the valley on January 17, 18 & 19 for the 1997 Swing Thru Arizona dance event. This annual gathering, sponsored by the Desert Valley Squares, will draw dance clubs and couples from all over the United States and even Canada.

The dancers will "square up" on Friday and Saturday nights at Longview Elementary School and also at South Mountain Park on Saturday morning, with a catered lunch to follow. Then, on Sunday, the dancers will meet for brunch and dancing at Charlie's and on Sunday evening, they will dance at Augustana Lutheran Church, home of the Desert Valley Squares.

Nationally known, professional callers Mike DeSisto and Saundra Bryant have been hired for the weekend, but the Sunday dances will be called only by gay and lesbian callers from the various clubs attending.

This is the eighth year the Desert Valley Squares have hosted this national fly-in event. It is always held in conjunction with the Roadrunner Regional Rodeo. Seth Levine, chair of the event, explains, "We call it a 'fly-in' because that's what the participants do; they will be coming in from all over the country to enjoy square dancing as a social activity. We have a great time and look forward to it every year."

Levine says that the dances are open to the public and that anyone can come to watch. He emphasizes that these are clubs who participate in square dancing for the fun of it, rather than to perform.

The Desert Valley Squares are offering a basic class for those interested in learning to square dance. The classes will start on Sunday, February 2. Call the group at 223-3807 for information, or visit their booth at the Roadrunner Regional Rodeo.

AGRA to hold press conference

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association will hold its annual pre-rodeo press conference and sensitivity training on Thursday, January 16 at 9pm at Charlie's, 727 W. Camelback. Any member of the press wishing to cover the rodeo at Corona Rodeo Grounds must attend this conference.

To register, call the rodeo hotline at 265-0618.

Pre-Valentine event at Unique on Central

A pre-Valentine's Day reception will be held at Unique on Central, February 1-2. The theme for the event is Love Will Find You and it will feature two local artists, the visual paper art and poetry of Pam Reinke of Piper rain Press and the recorded music of pianist/songwriter Grady Soine.

There will be a reception on February 2 from 5-8pm. The reception will feature both artists and include a live performance by Soine. There will be appetizers, champagne and Unique on Central will offer a %10 discount on purchases made during the reception. Unique on Central is located at 4700 N. Central, #105.

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Directory of Community Services

Aids Services

AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix, AZ 85064
234-6143

AIDS Project Arizona
265-2437

Arizona AIDS
Information Line
3136 N. 3rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85013
234-2752

Arizona AIDS
Services for the Deaf
4460 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85012
265-9953

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
4700 N. Central #204
Phoenix, AZ 85012
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

Political Action & Education

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
Phoenix, AZ 85067
202-7973

Arizona 2-somes
905-1898

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

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

Battered Lesbians
Support Group
361 N. 4th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85003
258-5344

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:
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

Professional Organizations

Camelback Business
& Professional Assoc.
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix, AZ 85001
225-8444

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

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

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

Casa De Cristo
1029 E. Turney
Phoenix, AZ 85014
265-2831

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

Gentle Shepherd
MCC 285-9020

Goddess Womyn's
Network
P.O. Box 17312
Phoenix, AZ 85011
266-4111

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

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

Mishpachah 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

Western Orthodox
Catholic Church
Fountain of Life
Mission 241-9776
pasisozi@cris.com

Music, Sports & Hobbies

Arizona Gay Rodeo
Association
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix, AZ 85011
265-0618

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 Canyon 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

Sunburst Squares
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85013
265-0224

Team Arizona
P.O. Box 36431
Phoenix, AZ 85067
464-1461

the funnies

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

<http://www.visi.com/~oprairie/>

the retraction

©1996 BY ALISON BECHDEL

Panel 1: "AFTER WORK, MO BRINGS THE NEW INTERN UP TO SPEED. I DON'T WANT TO DISILLUSION YOU, BUT THIS IS NOT A GLAMOROUS JOB. IT'LL BE A LOT OF GRUNT WORK, SHELVING BOOKS, KEEPING THEM DUSTED..."

Panel 2: "OMIGOD! HANDLING BOOKS? CARESSING THEIR SPINES, SMELLING THEIR NEW BOOK SMELL?! IT'LL BE LIKE, TOTALLY ORGIASTIC!"

Panel 3: "YEAH, RIGHT. SO, WHATEVER... MAINLY, I'M A POET. WANNA READ THE Sestina I WROTE AT LUNCH?"

Panel 4: "IT'S CALLED 'SUCK MY LEFT ONE, SLOBODAN MILDOSEVIC.'" "UH..."

Panel 5: "WELL HELLO THERE, MO! IS THIS WHY YOU LEFT ME THAT TERSE LITTLE MESSAGE CANCELING OUR DINNER DATE? IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING SO, YOU COULD BE HER MOTHER." "OH, LIKE THAT WOULD STOP YOU." "ACTUALLY, MY MOM'S MORE THE BUFFED AND COIFFED TYPE..."

Panel 6: "AND ANYWAY, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK. SHE'S OUR NEW INTERN AT THE STORE. ANJALI, SYDNEY..."

Panel 7: "DE-LIGHTED. SO, DO YOU WANT TO RESCHEDULE, OR DID YOU MEAN 'FRY IN HELL' LITERALLY?" "UH... I'M GONNA GO GRAB A SMOKE." "THEY JUST TOLD ME HOW YOU DITCHED HER WHEN SHE GOT DIAGNOSED WITH MS." "OH... UH... YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW?" "ARE YOU NUTS? DO YOU THINK I'D AGREE TO GO OUT WITH THE POND SCUM WHO'D DO A THING LIKE THAT?" "UH..."

Panel 8: "'UH?' SURELY YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT! WHERE'S YOUR SCATHING RIPOSTE? YOUR TWISTED INTELLECTUALIZATION?" "I..."

Panel 9: "OH, JEEZ! DON'T CRY SYDNEY!"

Panel 10: "SHORTLY... ANJALI, I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO GO TO DINNER. I'LL FINISH EXPLAINING THINGS TO YOU TOMORROW." "HONK." "KAY, WHAT EVER. SHOULD BE INTERESTING."

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Phoenix
224-9977

Apollo's
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Phoenix
277-9373

BS West
7125 5th Avenue
Scottsdale
945-9028

Cash Inn
2140 E. McDowell
Phoenix
244-9943

Charlie's
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix
265-0224

Country Club
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Phoenix
264-4553

Cruisin' Central
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Central Ave.
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253-3376

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265-3233

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224-9471

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263-8313

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267-9959

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Phoenix
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254-0231

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274-0994

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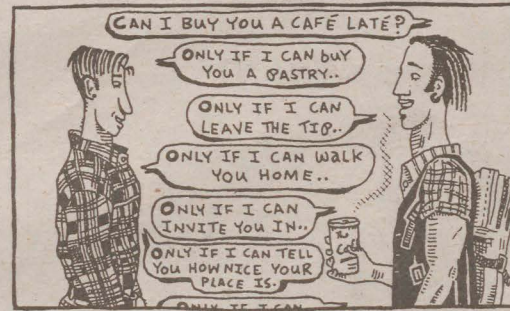
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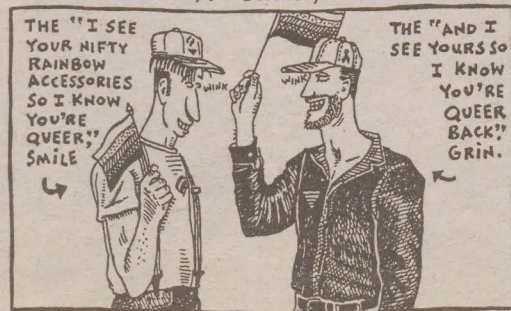
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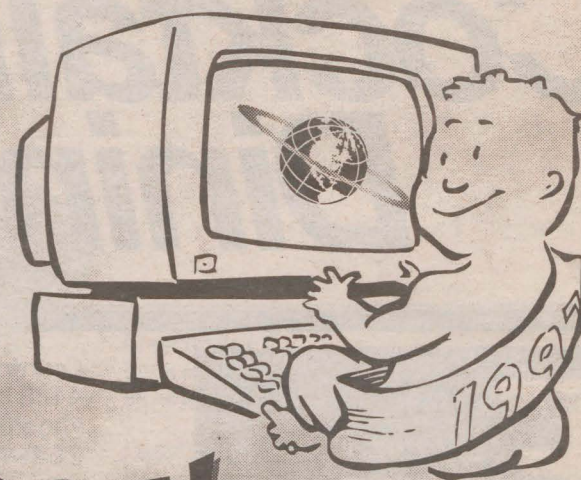


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