

HeatStroke



Practicing in Pride

From Thailand to Phoenix: Dr. Thanes Vanig, HIV specialist, is sharp, determined, and uncompromisingly uncloseted

By Kelly Reidhead, Managing Editor

"It seems I was born a good student," says Dr. Thanes Vanig, M.D., "I always enjoyed learning — I never had to force myself to study."

Dr. Vanig (whose first name is pronounced "tennis") recently opened Spectrum Medical Group in the Valley. He is one of a handful of openly gay physicians in Phoenix; a specialist in HIV, he's not afraid to "put the issue on the table," in establishing his practice here.

Vanig was born half a world away — in Bangkok, Thailand — 35 years ago. The second of three children, his father was a police officer at the time of his birth, and his mother, a pharmacist.

Dr. Vanig became aware of his sexual orientation at the age of five. "Thai people are generally indifferent about the sexual preference of others," he explains. "When I was growing up, for example, Thailand had two Prime Ministers who were widely known to be gay."

Despite the gay public officials and tolerant

attitudes, Vanig's parents were like most: they expected him to marry and produce grandchildren.

"As a teenager, being gay it wasn't a primary issue because I was studying so hard to get into medical school." He now recognizes that one of the reasons he studied so hard might have been to avoid thinking about his sexuality.

After graduating from high school, Vanig was invited, along with other top-ranking graduates, to compete for Thailand's coveted King's Scholarship — the nation's most prestigious endowment awarded to high school graduates. The winners of the competition are sponsored by the King to attend their choice of university anywhere in the world.

The sublimation during high school must have paid off: Vanig was one of three winners of the King's scholarship that year. To receive the prize, he was invited to an audience with the King of Thailand. As part of the ceremony, the King bestowed a Buddhist blessing on Dr. Vanig. (It is a

See "Out Doc," page 6

Pride Committee: "We heard you, Phoenix"

Relocated to downtown, April '98 festival will include parade & party on same day

by Allen Kalchik, Editor

The complaining began even before the 1997 Phoenix Pride Festival was over. "It's too hot in June." "Why do they have to hide it away in Tempe?" "Why can't the parade and the festival be held on the same day?" "The Pride Committee is out of touch with what our community wants."

In answer to such complaints and other suggestions from Phoenix's gay and lesbian community at large, Arizona Central Pride (ACP), the all-volunteer committee that produces the annual gay pride events in the Valley of the Sun, will completely revamp the festival for next year.

At a public meeting on August 3, the ACP Board announced plans to hold the event on Saturday, April 18

1998, to move the festival to downtown Phoenix, and to hold a Pride Parade on the same day as the festival. The parade will be held in the morning and the festival will last until midnight.

"We listened to the community, looked at what we could do to change things and we are going to act," said Ernie Mendoza, ACP's newly-elected president. "Now, it is up to the community to show up and support what they asked for."

Mendoza was elected to the organization's top spot at an ACP Board meeting that immediately followed the public meeting on August 3. He replaces Beth Verity, whose term as president ended. Verity served as ACP chief for a number of years and will remain on the Board as head of

ACP's fundraising efforts. Linda Hoffman has replaced Mendoza as Vice President.

"We can definitely make this work,"

Mendoza said of the one-day festival and parade slated for April. "If all the people who came to the parade in March come out for this, joined by people who came to the Tempe festival but missed the parade, it will be a success."

The 1998 festival will be held at the Margaret T. Hance Deck Park, site

of a rally after the parade down Central Avenue last Spring. The March 29 parade was the first march held in Phoenix in eight years in celebration of gay pride and was deemed a success by many attendees and by the organizers. The 1997 festival was held May 30 - June 1 at the Tempe

Diablo Stadium Soccer Fields.

Stadium Soccer Fields.

"Having a festival in June worked for several years, and we had a good working relationship with the City of

See "Pride Festival," page 4

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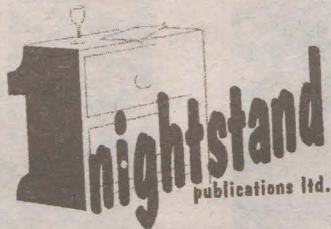
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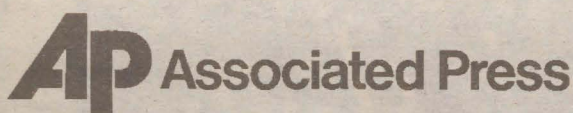
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from our readers . . .

Editors:

I read with interest the articles about about Dr. Fisher and the following letter from Doug Klinge at Unique on Central. Following that letter, I also noticed that his business no longer is listed on the back page of your publication where the businesses serving the community are listed.

I am wondering if this omission is deliberate on your part because of his letter or his choosing to no longer distribute your paper at his business or if this is an oversight on your part.

The answer to this question is very important in our continuing decision to offer HeatStroke here at Community Church of Hope and our continuing deliberations concerning publicizing in your publication.

Thank you.

Rev. Patrick Stout
Community Church of Hope
Phoenix

The Editors respond:

Dear Rev. Stout:

Thank you for reading the series of articles about Dr. Ken Fisher, and the follow-up letter to the Editors by Doug Klinge from Unique on Central.

To answer your question: yes, we intentionally removed Doug Klinge's business from HeatStroke's "Finding it in Phoenix" guide.

In creating the "Finding it in Phoenix" guide, we had three objectives in mind.

First, we wanted to provide a quick resource for visitors and newcomers to Phoenix that listed not only gay and gay-friendly businesses, but also a selection of Valley cultural amenities.

Second, we saw the "Finding it in Phoenix" guide as a natural opportunity to give additional exposure to HeatStroke's many fine advertisers. As I'm sure you are aware, HeatStroke is a complimentary publication that is entirely supported from advertising revenues. A listing in the "Finding it in Phoenix" guide, then, is simply another tool to market our advertisers, and to thank them for their continued support — without which, we could not continue publishing.

Third, there are many gay and lesbian businesses listed in the "Finding it in Phoenix" guide that do not advertise in HeatStroke at this time. We have included these businesses, however, because

they are significant distribution points for HeatStroke. Listing these "distribution partners" in the guide — essentially a free advertisement — is our way of thanking these businesses for this privilege.

Until last month, we included Doug Klinge's business in the "Finding it in Phoenix" guide with in every HeatStroke issue. Mr. Klinge took exception — in a letter that we reprinted in its entirety — to our report about the investigation of Dr. Ken Fisher by the Board of Medical Examiners. Consequently, he banned HeatStroke from his shop. Mr. Klinge's decision to forbid the distribution of our publication on his property is his right, and we respect it.

We are not, however, obligated to continue listing his business in the "Finding it in Phoenix" guide. Mr. Klinge's shop is neither an advertiser nor a point of distribution for HeatStroke.

The bottom line is this: without advertising revenue, we could not continue to produce HeatStroke. There are many gay and lesbian businesses in the Valley that are not included in the "Finding it in Phoenix" guide. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to provide free advertising to businesses that do not, in turn, support our publication in some manner — either through advertising or distribution.

Your letter implies that you will not continue to distribute HeatStroke from the Community Church of Hope if we do not reinstate Mr. Klinge's business to the "Finding it in Phoenix" guide. Again, this is your right, although we are disappointed.

We will however, continue to list your organization in our non-profit "Directory of Community Services," unless you object. The only requirement for a listing is that the non-profit offer some legitimate service to the gay and lesbian community of Metropolitan Phoenix.

We thank you for the opportunity to distribute from your church in the past, and we hope the members of your congregation will continue to pick up HeatStroke from the other many distribution points throughout the Valley.

Editors:

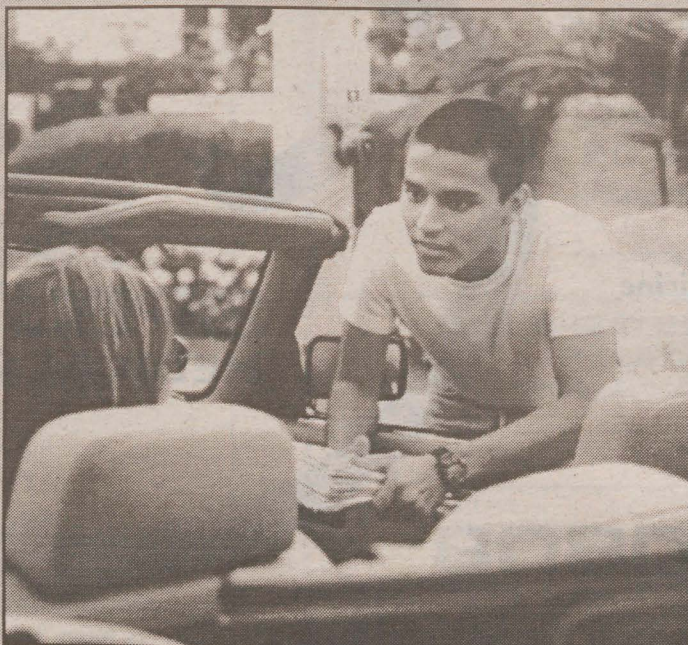
I was out recently, saw your newspaper for the first time, and was duly impressed. A big difference from the Echo. . .

Congrats on a fine effort.

Patrick Harvan
Mesa

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Pride Festival '98 moves to April

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Tempe," Mendoza said. "But we know there are problems with the weather and so we are going to try this earlier in the year at the deck park, mainly because of the success of the 1997 parade."

Mendoza admitted he and other board members were frustrated by the poor turnout for the Town Hall portion of the August meeting. "You hear all these complaints, and you ask people to come and voice their opinion in an open forum. You publicize it everywhere and then five or ten people show up," he said. "But it's okay, we are used to that by now."

The ACP board has much work to do between now and April, he said, including planning a series of fundraisers in an attempt to retire the organization's nearly \$20,000 debt. ACP went into the red following the 1997 festival, largely because of poor attendance on the festival's last day when temperatures reached 108, Mendoza said.

Beth Verity said people should be reminded that the last time the Pride Committee went into debt, the deficit was paid off by the following year's festival. "We are not so deeply in debt that we can't handle it," she said. "And we are thankful to a number of vendors who are willing to work with us, and to roll their deposits over instead of asking for them back right now." The 1997 festival cost nearly \$140,000 to produce.

Monetary worries aside, Mendoza said he and other board members are hopeful the community will get behind the April 18 event. "We will

have entertainment, beverages and food, vendor booths, dancing and all the other things that draw people to the festival. Plus, a parade—which really went over well this year," he said. "There will be something for everyone."

"It sounds great to me," said Kris Samel, a Phoenix graphic artist who admitted she didn't attend the 1997 festival because of the June heat. "I thought about going but I didn't want to deal with the stickiness and the dust," Samel said. Samel also said she didn't like the fact that the festival was held in a fenced-in, suburban area.

Samel did, however, attend and enjoy the March 29 parade. "The parade downtown felt so much more open, it made a more visible statement and the weather was so much nicer. If they get that kind of weather for the 1998 parade and they expand the follow-up rally into a full-blown festival, I personally think it will be a big hit," added Samel.

"I think that's a great idea," said Ron Wilcox, manager of NuTowne Saloon in Phoenix. NuTowne won the Presidential award for the bar's entry in the March 29 parade, when Wilcox and his staff rode down Central Avenue in an antique trolley they had covered with gold and rainbow decorations.

"Unity should start within the community," Wilcox said. "And I think the most positive thing about this move is Pride will be where it should be, which is right in the city." Wilcox said he "had a hard time

with" the way the festival was handled for the last few years because he doesn't believe Pride should be inside a fenced off area.

"Who are you showing your pride to that way?" Wilcox asked. "The theme was Equality through visibility, but it (the June festival) was not visible. Holding Pride at the deck park and including a parade is going to be a huge improvement, in many people's minds. This is very good news."

might not work there." Mendoza said the ACP board is ready for the challenge.

In addition to electing Mendoza as president and Hoffman as vice president, the ACP Executive Board for 1997-98 includes Treasurer Bill Wilbur and Secretary Gary Magnum. Re-elected were members Slade Grove, Jeff Lane and Verity. Eric Ciolina's term was not up for renewal and he remains on the board. Newly elected



Party planning: ACP's new president, Ernie Mendoza, inspects the site of the 1998 Pride Festival — Margaret T. Hance Park in downtown Phoenix.

Mendoza stressed the need for help from the community in order to produce a successful event. "We can always use volunteers," he said. He also said he is glad ACP was able to announce the plans for the 1998 event this early.

"Now we have plenty of time to plan, to adjust things and to deal with the logistics of the park. It will be a new space for us and there will be things that worked in Tempe that

members are Fran Givens and Danny Day, and Roger Rice was appointed to the board.

Former Treasurer Mary Wooden, whose term ended, declined re-election. Slade Grove, the new PR/media spokesperson for ACP, said the board wishes to express, "our great appreciation for Mary's unending commitment to the continued progress of the Arizona Central Pride Committee."



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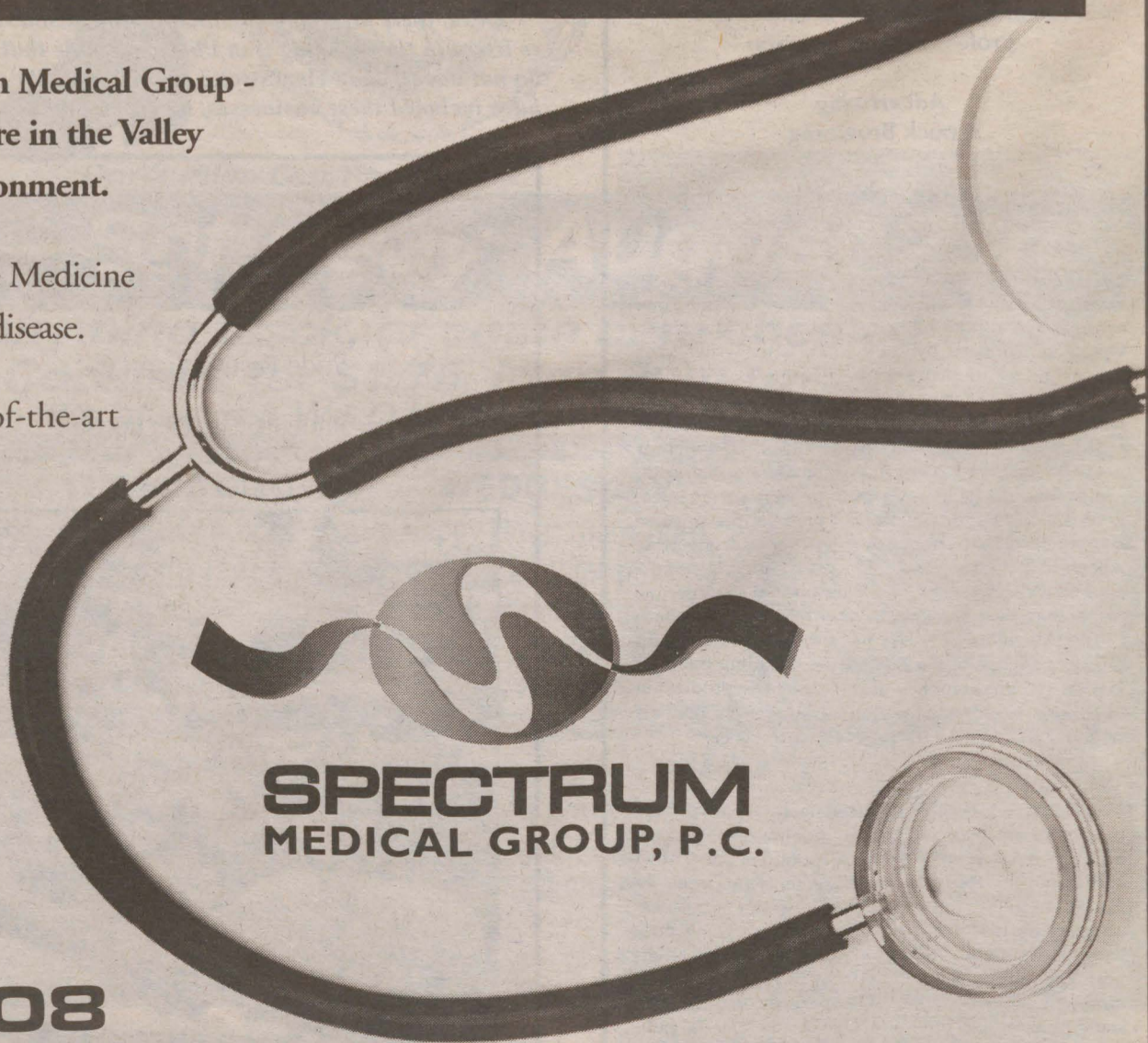
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AHRF releases endorsements for Phoenix City Council

The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), a gay and lesbian political advocacy group based in Phoenix, has announced its recommendations in the 1997 Phoenix City Council Election on September 9. The AHRF endorsements are:

District 2 - Tom Milton or Deborah Shapos

This race is for a full four year city council term. Tom Milton and Deborah Shapos both support equal employment opportunities as well as other issues of importance to AHRF members.

District 2 Recall - Tom Milton

The winner of this recall election will serve the balance of the current term (through early January, 1998

only). The incumbent, Frances Emma Barwood, has established a record opposing ordinances protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination.

District 4 - Phil Gordon

Phil Gordon is a progressive-minded candidate who is opposed to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Gordon resigned his position as the Mayor's Chief of Staff to run for this position. The District 4 race opened when incumbent Councilman Craig Tribken declined to seek re-election after undergoing heart surgery in June.

Throughout his term, Tribken was an ally on the City Council for Phoenix gays and lesbians. AHRF believes that Phil Gordon will also be an effective advocate for gay issues.

His main opponent is Ron Gawlitta, who had voiced opposition to gay issues and was responsible for anti-gay literature that circulated before the 1993 and 1995 elections.

District 6 - Sal DiCiccio

Incumbent Sal DiCiccio did not respond to the candidate survey. He has, however, always been willing to discuss AHRF issues and is recommended as the only acceptable candidate in this race.

District 7 Recall - Richard Miranda

Richard Miranda supports extending Phoenix's current anti-discrimination ordinance (which includes sexual orientation) to include all employers, not just those that contract with the city. Miranda also supports increased

efforts by Phoenix police to identify and arrest perpetrators of hate crimes.

District 8 - Cody Williams

Williams, the incumbent, has worked as an affirmative action and workplace diversity officer, and was employed in Phoenix's equal opportunity department from 1991 to 1993. He has always fought discrimination and believes in equal rights for all people.

Propositions 1 & 2

AHRF does not advocate a position on the mass transit propositions on the ballot. For information, call Keep Phoenix Moving at 258-3113 or No Transit Taxes at 494-7983.

Phoenix Body Positive honors volunteers at PAM

On July 30, Phoenix Body Positive (PBP) held its first Volunteer Recognition Program at the Phoenix Art Museum. 164 individuals were honored by the organization for their commitment and support of PBP.


Entitled, "A Time for Life," the afternoon event began with a tour of

the museum and its current exhibit, *Canyonland Visions*. Then, the group moved to the adjoining Eddie's Grill for a buffet dinner and awards presentation.

Oscar Witham, a longtime volunteer in the Phoenix community, was honored with the Randy Rothfus 1997

Volunteer of the Year Award. Witham has been with PBP since August of 1995. He has volunteered in the buyer's club, at the front desk, helped with mailings, worked on the Fire & Ice parties, and helped with special events. The award was presented by Henry Pylman.

Bob Hegyi, PBP Volunteer Coordinator/Office Manager, expressed thanks on behalf of the service agency to Jim Stewart, Henry Pylman, The Phoenix Art Museum and Eddie's Grill for making this event a success.



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The Arizona Human Rights Fund is encouraging the gay and lesbian community and its supporters to vote-by-mail in the September 9, 1997 Phoenix City Council Election. This election is very important for supporters of human rights. Your vote can make the difference! You no longer need a reason to vote an early or vote-by-mail ballot. To request a mail ballot simply follow these steps:

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Out Doc builds a gay & lesbian practice in the Valley

Continued from page 1

common custom in Thailand for older people — who are deeply respected in Thai culture — to give blessings to younger people.)

After receiving the scholarship, Vanig's first choice was Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His father, however, disagreed: he believed it was more important for Vanig to remain in Bangkok. The social structure of Thailand is centered on one's family and neighborhood. Thais typically live with their extended families for their entire lives: they have no concept of American-style retirement communities, and it is common for three generations to live under the same roof, regardless of class or economic standing.

Dr. Vanig heeded his father's advice and stayed in Thailand to attend medical school — a decision he is now thankful for. "I might not be alive today if I had come to the U.S. immediately after high school," he says. "My first year of medical school was in 1979-80; I could have been one of the many that contracted HIV during that early phase of the epidemic in this country."

In medical school, Vanig came to terms with his sexuality. "I really came out to myself. I thought 'okay, I'm gay, nothing is going to change . . . this is how I'm going to be, and I'm not going to get married.'"

At the university, he dated men for the first time, had his first gay sexual experience, and began a steady relationship. "My boyfriend at the time was determined that he would marry and have children — but still continue our relationship. I didn't want that."

After finishing medical school, Vanig was accepted to Harvard to complete his internship and residency. In 1987, Dr. Vanig left Thailand for Cambridge to begin the program.

Dr. Vanig began treating HIV patients during his first year at Harvard. "One of the major reasons I was drawn to HIV is because I'm a gay man," he says. "My patients were dealing not only with being gay, but also with being HIV positive; I understood how difficult it was to handle these two major issues at the same time."

In 1989, at the end of his second year in the U.S., Vanig met his life partner, Peter Taylor. Taylor, at the time a sales manager for a large computer company based in San José, was in Boston for a convention. The two met in Chaps, a Boston dance bar. "It was a Monday night, and there wasn't much to choose from," Taylor jokes.

"Actually, it was love at first sight. We saw each other three times that week before I had to go back to California," he recalls. "The week after I met Thanes, I visited my brother in New York. I remember picking up the newspaper at 9 o'clock in the morning, and realizing, an hour later, that I was still on the same paragraph — my mind was totally on Thanes."

The two began a long-distance relationship — Vanig in Cambridge and Taylor in Los Gatos — that continued for two years.

Upon completing his residency at Harvard, Dr. Vanig was awarded a research fellowship in

"Immigration in this country is a huge obstacle for gay people," Taylor says. Gay couples don't have option of getting married to obtain citizenship for the non-citizen spouse — unlike heterosexual couples. Taylor says he was willing to return to Bangkok to remain with Vanig, if necessary, but, as he describes it, "we got lucky."

The two consulted an immigration attorney, who told them about a federal program that allowed foreign physicians to receive green cards — permanent U.S. residency and work permits. Under the program, foreign doctors were required to practice medicine in an under-served

region of the United States for a period of three years.

Things then fell into place for the couple. Dr. Vanig was assigned to practice medicine in rural Alabama with the Appalachian Regional Commission. Taylor, in turn, received a promotion that transferred him to Atlanta.

So the two left California for the isolated woods of Western Georgia, each commuting an hour to work — in the opposite direction. For three years, Taylor worked in Atlanta's corporate world. Dr. Vanig, meanwhile, treated the impoverished residents of rural Alabama — several of whom he suspects were members of the local chapter of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Klan is very active in that part of the Deep South. "The year before I arrived, the Klan was credited with burning down a high school in the same coun-

ty as my clinic," Vanig says. "Apparently, the arson was the Klan's response to an interracial teen-aged couple who had attended the school's prom."

During his years at the Alabama clinic, Vanig had his own encounter with the white-sheeted ones. One evening he was driving to his clinic along the country road that was part of his regular commute. Suddenly, the usually deserted road filled with cars, and he slowed to a crawl.

As he made his way to the source of the traffic snarl, Dr. Vanig eventually found himself face to face with a figure in full KKK drag — pointed hood and all — directing the cars to that night's meeting of the Klan. His response to this unnerving situation was simple and effective: "I just turned the other way," he says with a smile.

His experience in Alabama was ironic. Under different circumstances, Vanig — a gay, foreign-born man — would have been an obvious target for the Klan's enmity. Instead, despite this seemingly hostile atmosphere, Dr. Vanig won acceptance and respect from his patients. "I never had any problems in Alabama, not even from the Klansmen I treated," Vanig remarks.

"They absolutely loved Thanes, and didn't want him to leave when his commitment was over," Taylor adds.

But after three years in the Deep South, the couple looked forward to returning to California's Bay Area. Peter had received another promotion — this time to national sales manager — and Thanes, in return for his service in Alabama, finally received the essential green card — his ticket to live and work in the U.S. as long as he wished.



Life partners: Peter Taylor, left, and Dr. Thanes Vanig.

infectious diseases at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. The fellowship enabled him to continue his HIV research and clinical studies. Located on the same coast, the couple set up housekeeping together.

At the end of the year-long Stanford fellowship, Vanig's schooling was complete. And since he was in the country on a student visa, the two were facing a major problem: unless they could arrange for a permanent visa, Dr. Vanig would be required to return to Thailand.

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In 1994, the couple moved back to Los Gatos. Dr. Vanig accepted a position with an HIV clinic in the South Bay Area, although his long-term goal was to join a practice — with other openly gay physicians — that specialized in serving the gay, lesbian, and transgender community.

Vanig had been practicing at the South Bay HIV clinic for two years when he started to investigate the possibility of joining, or starting, an openly gay medical group. The couple considered a number of locations, including the South Bay, San Diego, and Atlanta.

But when they arrived in the Valley, they realized Phoenix would be the place to start the next chapter of their lives. Last month, Dr. Vanig realized his dream: he opened Spectrum Medical Group, P.C., with Dr. Chad Schroer, a local — and openly gay — physician.

Being open about their sexuality is important for Vanig and Taylor. "Except for the period in Alabama, I've been out of the closet since medical school," Vanig says. "In California I was open to everyone: to patients, to drug reps, to other physicians . . . and I've never had a negative experience. I don't necessarily tell everyone I meet that I'm gay, but if the issue comes up, I don't lie to them," he adds.

And unlike the many gay people that retreat to the closet after moving to Phoenix, Vanig and Taylor have continued to live as an openly gay couple. Taylor routinely accompanies Dr. Vanig at professional and social functions — along with his colleagues and their spouses. And, during the process of opening Spectrum Medical Group, the two have enjoyed educating the various businesses they deal with about gay issues.

"It's been great here," Taylor says. "Before we agree to spend money with a business — accountants, attorneys, bankers, or anyone — we tell them Spectrum Medical Group is a gay practice, and we ask them to explain to us how they treat gay people in their company. We make it very clear that we won't do business with homophobes, and that we'll with take

our business elsewhere if this is a problem."

"So far, businesses have been very happy to take our money," Taylor laughs. "It's been a lot of fun putting the gay issue right on the table; we've found that people don't really care about our sexuality — but discussing it raises their awareness level."

The extent to which openly gay physicians are accepted by the larger medical community mirrors the rest of society, according to Dr. Vanig. "Medicine is, in many ways, a very conservative profession," he says.

Dr. Vanig notes that a group of 40-50 gay physicians from around the Valley meets on a regular basis. "It's a really nice group of people, and is a great way to meet gay specialists, because most of my gay patients would rather see a gay specialist than a non-gay doctor," he explains. But most of these physicians are very closeted.

Dr. Vanig is quick to point out that he's not faulting gay specialists for their reluctance to emerge from the closet. "I think it's easier for primary care physicians to be openly gay than for specialists," he says. "Specialists must rely on other doctors — who may be homophobic — for patient referrals." Primary care physicians, on the other hand, are directly accessible to their patients.

Over the past eight years, both Vanig's and Taylor's families have grown to accept and respect their union. Last year the couple traveled to Thailand for the wedding of Vanig's brother — Taylor's fifth trip to Bangkok.

In Thailand, Taylor's status as a full member of Vanig's extended family was made official. He was given the honor of negotiating a price for the bride — a symbolic ritual that is part of the elaborate Buddhist wedding ceremony.

And in an even more touching — and symbolic — gesture, Dr. Vanig's father gave each his son and Taylor a small gift box. Inside the boxes, the couple found matching wedding rings.



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Sunday, August 24

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Wednesday, August 27

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Friday—Sunday, August 29-31

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Limbo contest, Saturday
shrimp boil with after hours, Sunday*

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Goings On

AHRF says: Vote by Mail

The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), a gay and lesbian political advocacy organization in Phoenix, is encouraging Phoenix gays and lesbians (and gay-rights supporters) to vote by mail in the upcoming Phoenix City Council Election.

The election will take place on September 3. To request a mail-in ballot, contact AHRF at PO Box 25044, Phoenix, AZ 85002-5044 or clip and mail in the form on page 5 of this issue of *HeatStroke*. Also check page 5 to see a list of AHRF's candidate endorsements in the city election.

Team Arizona news: golf tourney in Tucson

Team Arizona will host its Third Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 30 at the Westin La Paloma Country Club in Tucson. The tournament affords an opportunity to play a course usually open only to hotel guests and members.

Proceeds from the tournament will support Team Arizona's participation in the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam. Registration is \$75 per player, with sign up on either an

individual basis or in foursomes. Overnight accommodations are available at special rates by calling the Westin at 1-800-228-300.

Team Arizona's next general membership meeting will be held at the Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center in Phoenix on Wednesday, August 20, at 8pm. The Center is located at 3136 N. 3rd Avenue.

Registration procedures and travel options for the 1998 Amsterdam Gay Games will be discussed. Plans will also be made for upcoming fundraisers. With the Gay Games only one year away, Team Arizona will be meeting the third Wednesday of every month for the rest of this year. Meetings will also be held in Tucson at times and locations to be announced.

Contact Team Arizona for more information, or call Colette in Tucson at 520-327-3591 or Kevin in Phoenix at 602-274-9729 to register for the golf tournament. Registration forms are available through members, or send your fees with a letter to Team Arizona, PO Box 36431, Phoenix, AZ 85067.

IGRA headin' to AZ for finals

The International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) will hold the 1997 IGRA Finals Rodeo in Phoenix this year, October 23 - 27 at the



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Corona Ranch Rodeo Grounds in South Phoenix.

The IGRA finals return to Phoenix after six years rotating through other cities across the country, including the 1996 finals held last October in Albuquerque. The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) has been selected to host the finals in Phoenix this fall and also in 1998.

The Corona Ranch location, at 29th Avenue and Baseline Road, has ample facilities for vendor booths, dancing and live entertainment, as well as an expanded arena. These factors, as well as the weather and a large, supportive gay and lesbian country/western and rodeo community, factored into the IGRA's decision to hold finals in Phoenix again, according to AGRA organizers.

In other IGRA news, the organization has elected its first woman president. Linda Frazier of the Kansas Gay Rodeo Association was voted to the IGRA's top office at the association's annual convention, held this year in Salt Lake City July 25 - 27. Also elected to the 1997-98 board were:

Robb Sisneros, Vice President; David Hill, Treasurer and Phoenix's Ron Trusley as IGRA Secretary.

The International association also voted to sanction 20 gay rodeos throughout the US and Canada for the upcoming season, including the Road Runner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix, January 16 - 18 1998; and

the Saguaro Regional Rodeo in Tucson, March 20 - 22.

Join the LifeGuards on the river

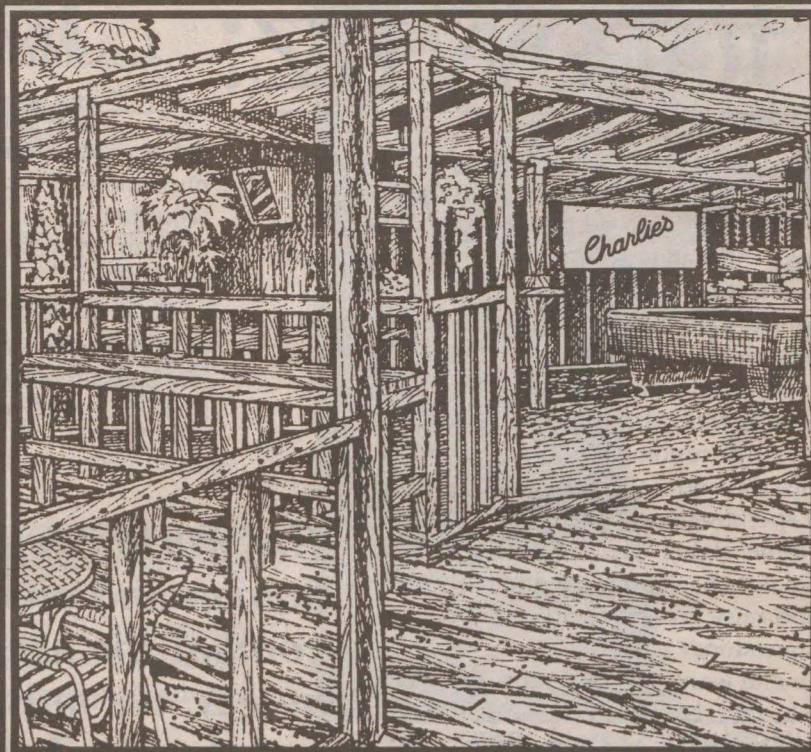
Project LifeGuard is planning a tubing trip down the Salt River on Saturday morning, August 23. To join the carpool over to the river, meet the boys at 10am at the LifeGuard offices at 4700 North Central Avenue, #204. Call Jack at 266-SAFE (7233) for details.

Project LifeGuard is an HIV education and risk reduction program of AIDS Project Arizona serving gay and bisexual men. Their summer rafting trips have proven to be a great way to meet friends, both new and old, in a fun atmosphere.

APAZ planning annual AIDS Walk

The 10th Annual AIDS Walk Arizona, known as the Walk For Life, will be held on Sunday, October 19. The fundraising AIDS walk, presented by AIDS Project Arizona, will be one-and-a-half miles longer this year.

Many Valley agencies and other volunteers join APAZ for this annual fall event. To sign up for the walk, or for more information, call 265-WALK (9255).



Daily Specials

Monday-Friday 12-7pm

\$1.25 Well/Longnecks, 75¢ Schnapps, 75¢ draft beer

Friday-Saturday 7-9pm

75¢ Well/Longnecks

Weekly Specials

Monday

Undie Mondays, 7-12. Party in your underwear & drink anything in the house 1/2 price. Pinball Tournament, 9:30pm; Renegades practice night.

Tuesday

Draft Blowout, 7-12: Miller Lite/Genuine Draft pitchers \$1.50. Sunburst Squares practice night. Volleyball with Michael at 8pm. Pony Express Night—an exciting way to meet new friends. Dart League night & Open Dart Tournament, 9:30pm.

Wednesday

Top Shelf Night, 7-12. \$2 Top Shelf, \$1.25 well drinks. Dance lessons with Troy at 7:30pm.

Thursday

The Original 1/2 Price Night, 7-12. 1/2 Price on everything. Renegades practice night. Dart Tournament, 9:30pm.

Friday

Start your weekend at Charlies. Sunburst Squares practice night.

Saturday

\$1 well drinks, 12-7pm. Free pool/darts, 3pm. Dance lessons with Marque at 7:30pm.

Sunday

BBQ, 12-6pm for \$3. \$1.50 Long Island Iced Teas until 9pm. \$1.50 Frozen Strawberry Daquiris on the patio noon to 7pm. \$2.50 pitchers noon to midnight. Tea Dance 3-7pm. Cricket Dart Tournament, 9pm. 75¢ well drinks 9-11pm.

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Horowitz: *Lessons on budgeting*

President Clinton recently signed sweeping legislation balancing the federal budget by 2002. A balanced budget is a laudable goal that will ultimately strengthen our national economy and international stature.

Considering the size of the deficit and the huge national debt, balancing the budget requires considerable compromise and sacrifice. Americans have consistently been unwilling to do what it takes. Any economist will tell you that in order to balance the budget, you must cut government spending and raise tax revenues.

Simple, right? The last presidential candidate who campaigned to cut spending and raise taxes was Bruce Babbitt. Any questions?

No one wants the programs they rely on to be cut. No one wants to pay more taxes. Democrats and Republicans disagree on ways to balance the budget and manage our economy. Yet the Clinton administration managed to orchestrate a series of compromises previously thought impossible.

Ideologically, the White House and Congressional leaders remain miles apart. Out of political necessity, however, they had to work things out. They came up with a less-than-perfect, yet plausible and workable, budget deal.

For years, I have participated in The Experience, an organization dedicated to the vision that **By the year 2000, it will be absolutely okay to be gay or lesbian and that diversity will be valued and celebrated.** If we want to achieve this vision, we can learn a lot from the recent electoral and budgeting process.

Six or seven years ago, I didn't believe that the year 2000 was a realistic time-frame to work within.

Yet our community's progress since then gives me much hope. Not too long ago, *The New York Times* wouldn't use the word "gay". After Clinton's 1992 election, the word "gay" made the front page above the fold.

Gays in the military, same-sex marriage, employment non-discrimination, *Ellen*, and openly gay legislators have made national and international news. Today, the battle against AIDS feels winnable.

The world needs to hear our message of human and civil rights. If we want to combat the argument that it's not okay to be gay, we must engage in dialog with the people who hold that view. We must follow Clinton's example and purposefully—albeit cautiously—work with those who oppose us.

In early 1992 George Bush's approval ratings were soaring and my spirits were not. In October 1992, when I marched past the White House in a candlelight vigil shouting, "Four more weeks!", I knew great things were going to happen.

The world needs to hear our message of human and civil rights. If we want to combat the argument that it's not okay to be gay, we must engage in dialog with the people who hold that view. We must follow Clinton's example and purposefully—albeit cautiously—work with those who oppose us.

The list of influential people who oppose gay and lesbian civil rights is still long. Changing the views of right-wing zealots is a difficult task. But it is not impossible! Throughout this decade, more people have come out and more people have come around.

Representative Bob Dornan from California was one of the most virulent anti-gay voices in Congress during his tenure. When his long-time staff member came out of the closet, his position softened considerably. I'm still not willing to put my life in the hands of someone like Dornan, but I've seen significant progress in a very short time.

Each year, daytime television presents its "Day of Compassion" to emphasize AIDS-related issues. An incredibly powerful appeal came from one of *Oprah's* guests. A man whose gay son died of AIDS regretted that he could not fully accept his son while he was alive. Now his view toward gays and lesbians has changed completely.

You see, we will change the world by one mind and one heart at time—even if those minds and hearts belong

to the likes of Newt Gingrich, Jesse Helms, Anita Bryant and Fred Phelps.

When I watched the White House budget signing ceremony, with its unlikely conglomeration of characters, I envisioned the same group present for the signing of sweeping civil rights legislation.

It will happen.

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



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Dr. Kaiser's HIV seminar draws healthy response

Nearly 150 interested persons turned out for Dr. Jon Kaiser's Health Fair, a free seminar held at the Phoenix Little Theatre on August 7. Dr. Kaiser's discussion was hosted in Phoenix by Being Alive, the early-intervention program of AIDS Project Arizona.

"We are very excited by the number of people that attended," said Dr. Steve Karpiak, Director of Being Alive. "This was the first time we hosted Dr. Kaiser, so we weren't sure what the response would be. The fact that so many people showed up tells us we can support more events like this in the Phoenix community, which is very good news," he said.

Dr. Kaiser is the author of the popular book, *Immune Power*. He travels the country presenting this seminar, which discusses the integration of holistic and alternative therapies with traditional medicine in treating HIV. The cost of the seminar in Phoenix

was underwritten by a pharmaceutical company, so the lecture was offered by Being Alive free of charge.

Mark Hoffman, buyer's club director for Being Alive, said he was surprised and very happy with the attendance. He said APAZ will very likely be sponsoring more such events in the future. "This really encourages us, and we hope we can draw on this seminar's success to get a great turnout for the Fall Plus Weekend," he added.

PLUS Weekend is an educational event, presented twice a year by Being Alive, that explores naturopathic and holistic treatments for treating HIV and discusses other issues of interest to the HIV community. It will be held this Fall at the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Tempe on September 27 and 28.



Alternative expert: Dr. Jon Kaiser, left, is greeted by APAZ's Mark Hoffman

Managed Medicaid in NM limits HIV drug access

ALBUQUERQUE (AP)

Some doctors say they've run into trouble getting HIV drugs for their patients since the state's Medicaid program was turned over to managed care organizations a month ago.

Doctors at the University of New Mexico's Health Sciences Center seeing Medicaid patients under the Cimarron HMO said there have been problems.

Some of Dr. Bruce Williams' HIV-positive patients were unable to get all of their prescribed drugs for several days.

Dr. Sarah Allen had to fill out 11 special drug requests for one patient because the drugs in a potent combination used to control HIV weren't included in Cimarron's approved list of prescription drugs.

Garrey Carruthers, president and chief executive officer of Cimarron, said the glitches resulted from doctors who aren't used to dealing with the rules of managed care organizations. Amy Boule, administrator of professional services for University Hospital in Albuquerque, said Cimarron could have done a better job of educating doctors and on a for-

mulary — a list of drugs doctors can prescribe without pre-authorization from an HMO.

"It got people pretty hysterical," Boule said of a flurry of drug denials this month. "I don't think it was a rotten plot to deprive somebody." Medicaid is a state and federally funded program that pays medical bills for those with low incomes.

Medicaid managed care in Albuquerque started July 1, with participants enrolling in one of three organizations contracted to oversee their care.

The formulary was unrestricted for a one-month grace period, but prescription restrictions began Aug. 1, Williams said. Spokeswomen for Lovelace Health Systems and Presbyterian Healthcare Services, the other two managed care organizations under contract with Medicaid in the Albuquerque area, said they haven't received similar complaints regarding availability of drugs for HIV patients.

Carruthers stressed that access to the drugs was possible, but that it requires some paperwork.



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VOIT formal attracts small—but happy—crowd

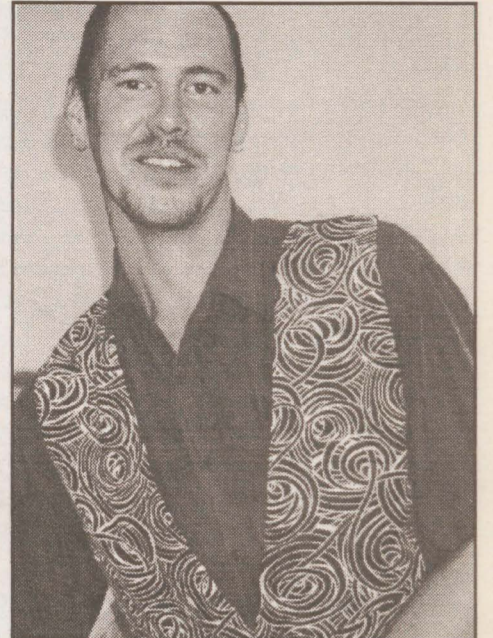
About 50 people attended Taste the Rainbow, the formal dance presented by the Valley One in Ten gay, lesbian and bisexual youth group (VOIT) in Phoenix. The event was held on Saturday, August 9 at the Community Church of Hope on Central Avenue.

Lyle Miller, Director of VOIT, said he had hoped for a better turnout. He was pleased, however, that the dance came off successfully considering the August heat and the fact that this was the organization's first attempt at such an event, he said.

With a live deejay playing to a floor decorated with a rainbow of

balloons and ringed with conversation tables, VOIT members and guests enjoyed a night of dancing from 7 to 11pm. There was a professional photographer available for portraits, and a deli-style buffet.

The event was open to the general public, with discounts given for youth couples attending. "Yes, we were hoping for more people," said Donna McHenry, coordinator of the youth program as the evening's festivities drew to a close. "But," she added, "the kids are all having fun, and that's the important thing."



Rainbow dance: Director Lyle Miller, right, and members of VOIT, above, held their first formal at Phoenix's Community Church of Hope

Aetna to offer benefits to partners of gay employees

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)

Aetna Inc. will begin offering health care benefits to domestic partners of its gay employees, making it one of the largest insurance companies in the country to offer such benefits.

About 30,000 employees will be eligible for the benefits when the package begins in January, said

Patricia Seif, company spokeswoman. Details of the offer will be ready in September.

"We decided to do it because our employees wanted it and to remain competitive in recruiting," Seif said.

The benefits do not extend to unmarried heterosexual couples. Gay and lesbian employees approved of the offer, but few are likely to take

them, said Marybeth Shay, a member of the Aetna Network of Gay and Lesbian Employees.

These health care benefits will be treated as income for the employee, meaning they are subject to federal taxes, Shay said.

Also, Aetna will require applicants for the benefits to sign an affidavit swearing they are committed to their

partners. Shay said some gay workers might forego the benefits, since they will have to come out of the closet to their bosses.

Aetna joins The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., Xerox and the city of Hartford as some of the major Connecticut employers to offer same-sex benefits.

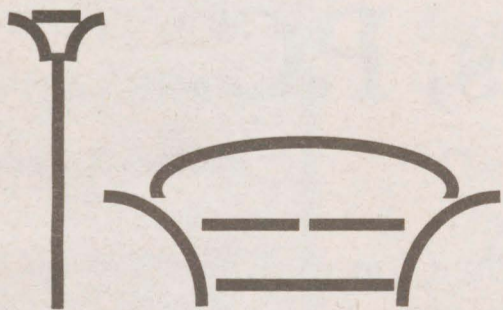
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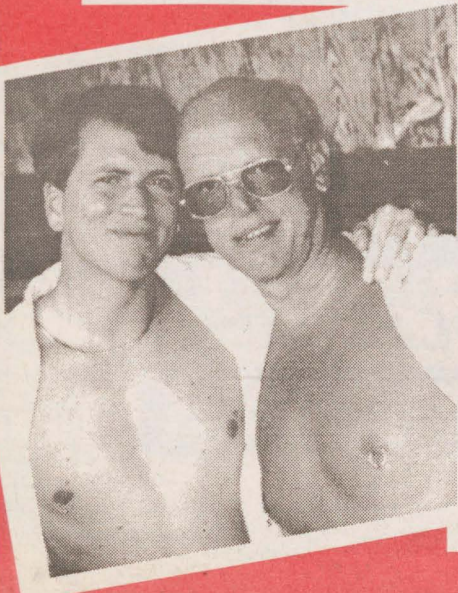
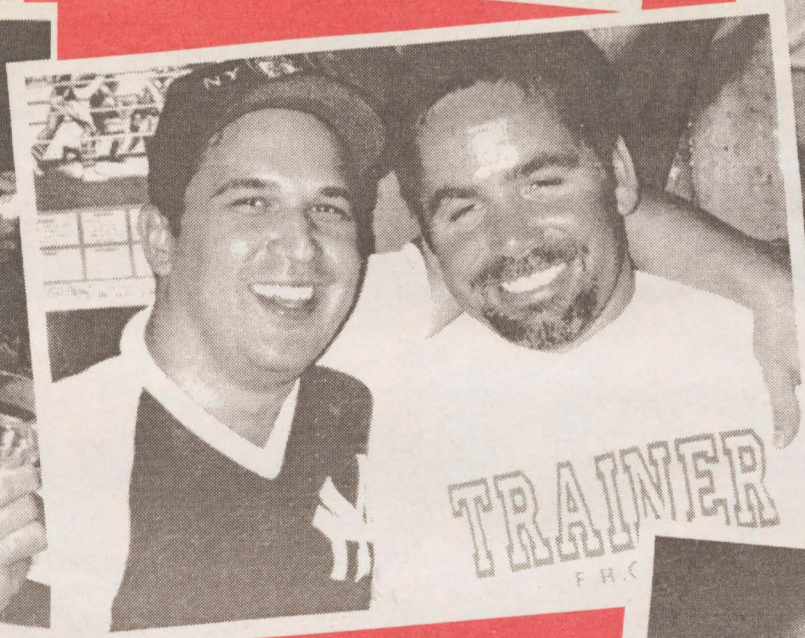
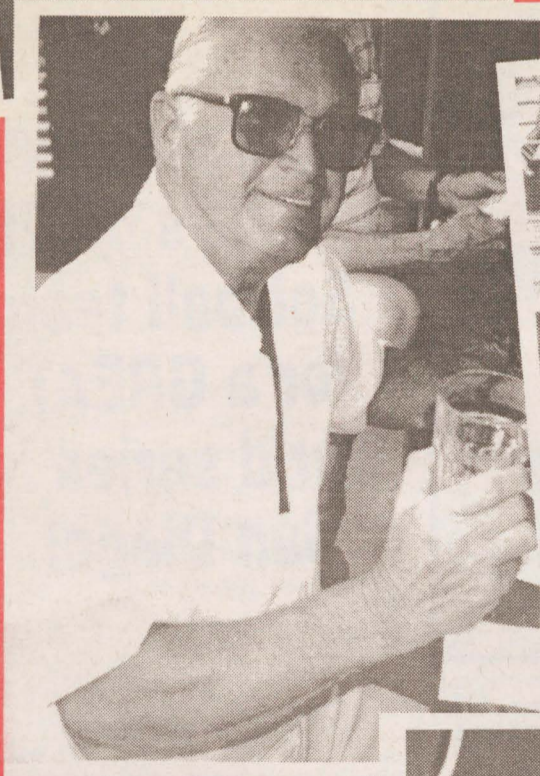
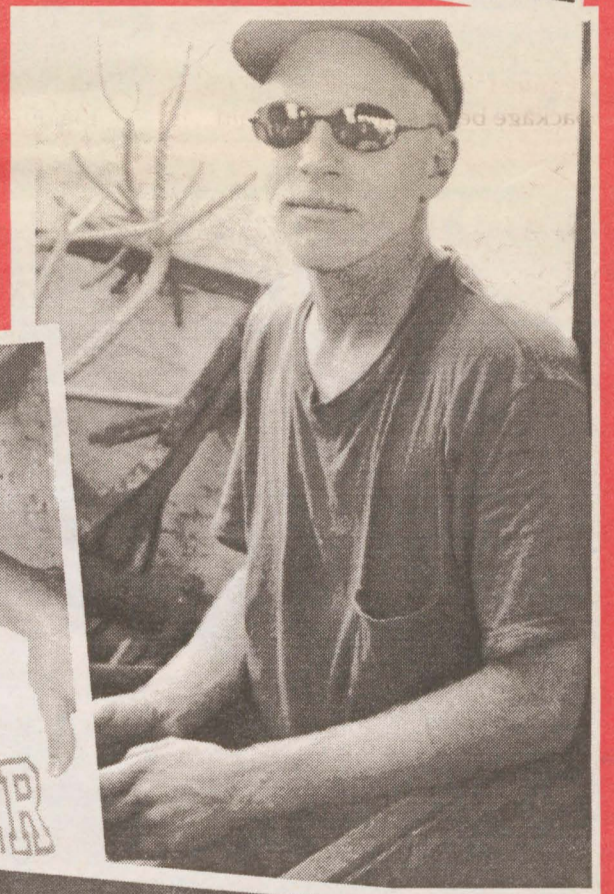
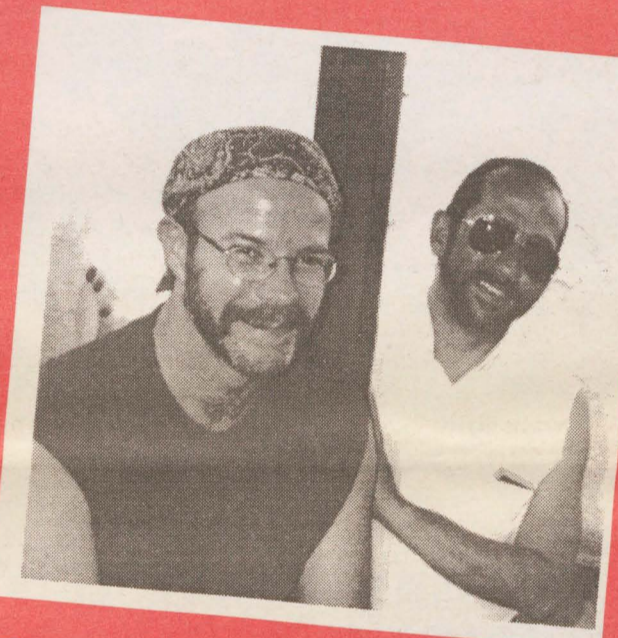
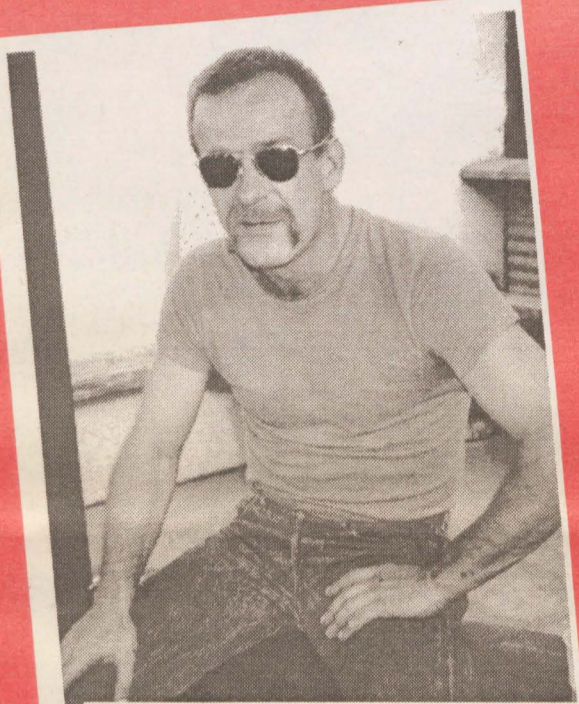
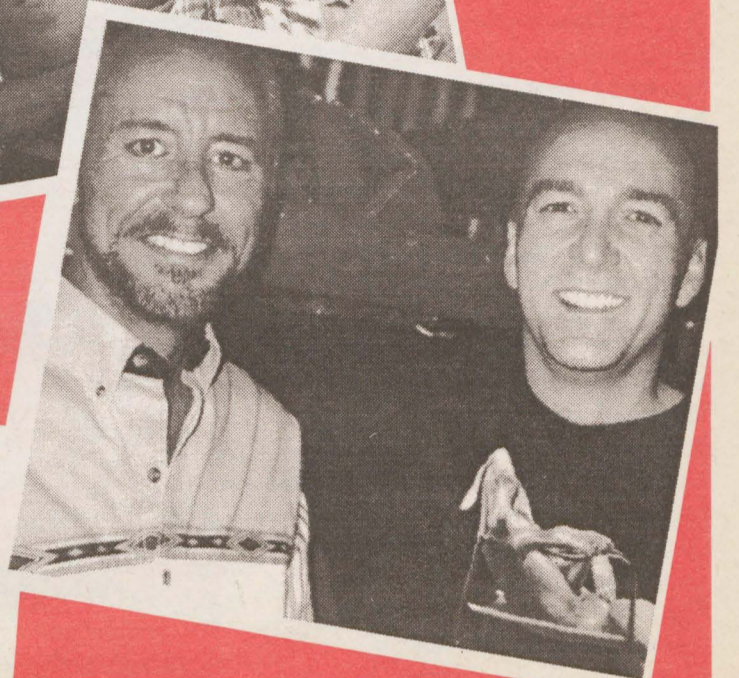
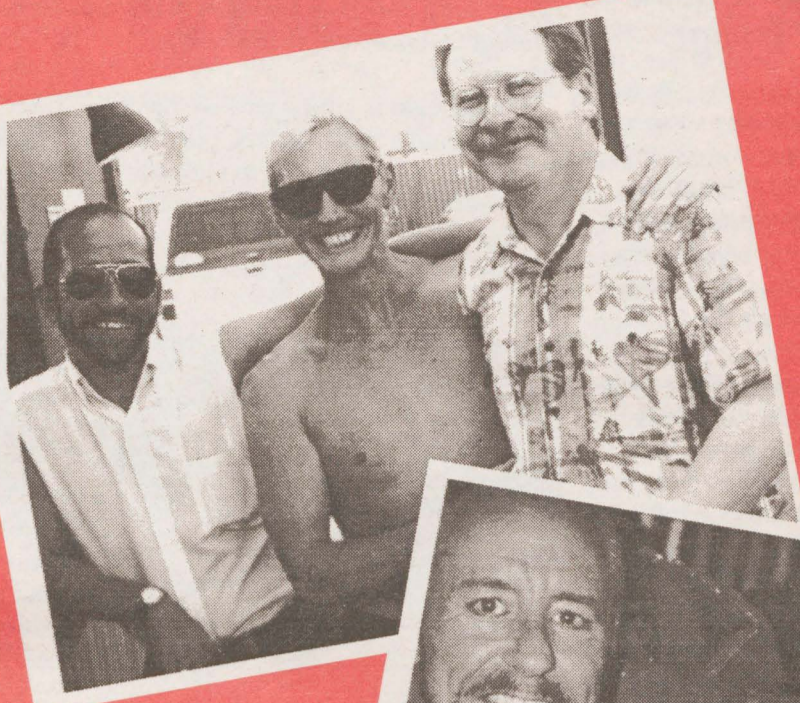
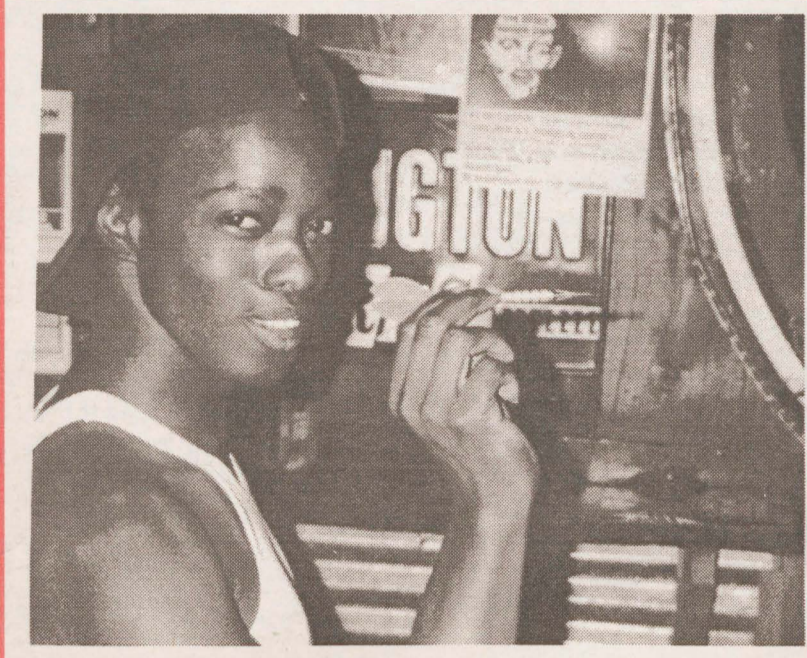


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Queer Sporting News

Sponsored by Roscoe's on 7th

World Series under-way in San Diego

As this issue of *HeatStroke* hits the stands, several of the Valley's top gay and lesbian softball teams are battling for trophies, prizes and titles at the Gay World Series of Softball in San Diego. The tournament began with round robin play on Tuesday, August 12 and continues through the finals on Saturday, August 16.

Jacob Escalante, coach of Roscoe's Expansion team, said he is excited to be playing in the World Series this year. "When it was held last year in the Twin Cities, my team—Wink's Juniors—went but I didn't get to go," Escalante said. "This year I'm taking the whole week off. We have a great team and it's in San Diego, so that's even better."

Escalante plays second base in addition to coaching the team, which came in second in regular season play in the Recreational Division of the Cactus Cities Softball League in the Spring of this year. Roscoe's Expansion also took second place honors in the season-ending playoffs held on June 8 in Scottsdale.

"We've definitely earned our place at the World Series," said the coach. "But how we do will depend on the competition, among other things." Escalante said the division in which his team is playing in San Diego—the C Division—is not divided further into "open" and "competitive",

so the competition is particularly stiff. There are 31 teams from all over the United States in contention in the C bracket.

"Our team is strong and we have seven of our regular season players in San Diego," he said. He explained that work and other commitments made it impossible for everyone who played on Roscoe's Expansion team



during the season to take part in the week-long World Series. So the team has been rounded out by three players from the Extreme and one player from Pookie's team.

Escalante said his team's sponsor has been very helpful and supportive, and pointed out that Roscoe's on 7th has three teams playing at the World Series, including his team, a Competitive Division team, and a Women's Division team. "It'll be a big party for Roscoe's, that's for sure," he said.

"The Women's Division can be the toughest at these national tournaments," Escalante added. "Our Phoenix ladies have to go up against some of those midwestern women who totally live for softball. They grow them very big—and very competitive—back there." He said the Women's Division is further divided

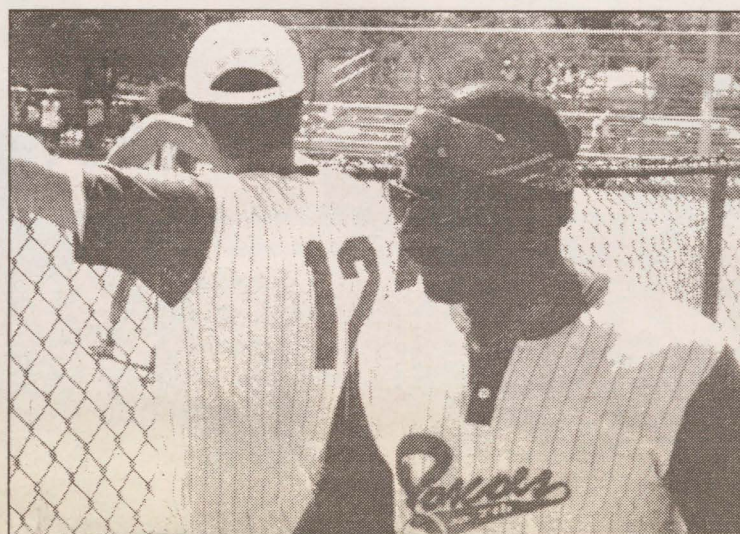
into Competitive and Alternative, so more of the female squads have a chance at placing in the World Series.

"It's hard to say how our team will do," he said, "because CCSL is a young league and we (the Expansion) should probably really be in a D Division. But since there is no D, we will have to take our chances in the C Division." But the coach had to laugh as he admitted the national competition was not his biggest worry as to how his team would fare at the out of town event.

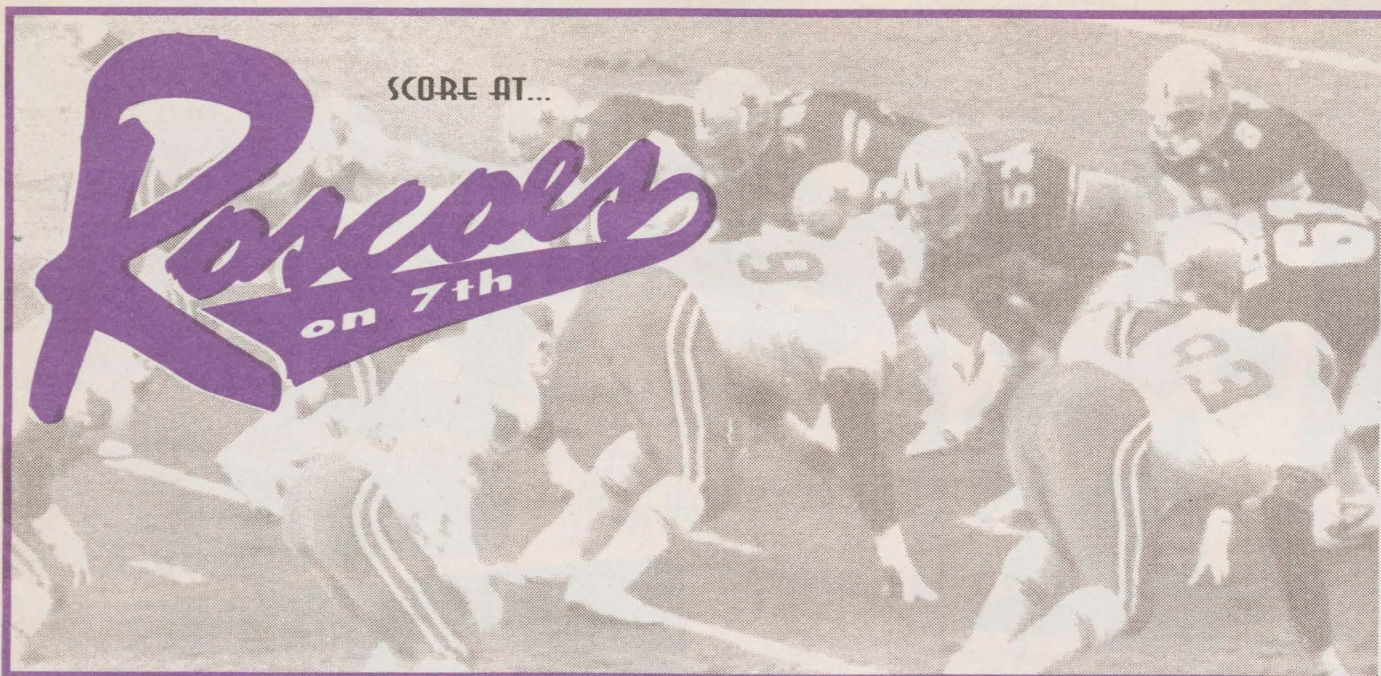
"It really depends on how much the guys party," he said. "We have a great team playing, and if they keep their mind on the game, we have a chance. But we are going there to have fun, too. 'How much fun?' is really the question."

Escalante said he knows his players are going to want to go out at

night and, since the tournament is nearly a week long, it is the partying that will most affect the Expansion's chances. "After all," he said with a chuckle, "we are talking about San Diego."



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New Mexico: Santa Fe and Taos by Day

By Andrew Collins, HeatStroke Contributor

If you've never been to New Mexico, you might be tempted to lump together Santa Fe and Taos, its two most gay-popular destinations.

Both are set in the high desert, popular with New Agers and alternative thinkers, revered by artists and painters, notable for skiing and hiking, littered with great Southwestern restaurants, abundant with shops and galleries, and made up of a tricultural Hispanic, Native American, and Anglo population.

Although they're also within 90 miles of each other, these two communities are quite different.

Taos has traditionally been strongest with New Agers, outdoors enthusiasts, hippies, and those without the funding to ensure a good time in Santa Fe, which is stronger in high-end shopping and gallery going, dining, spas, and other cosmopolitan endeavors (including a magnificent outdoor opera, whose season runs from July through August).

Taos is perfect if you have an insatiable frontier spirit; Santa Fe is perfect if you have an insatiable frontier spirit and a weakness for espresso and European sports cars.

Earlier in this century, Santa Fe was a place where wealthy families sent their homosexual sons to dabble in the arts, to write, and, ideally, to stay as far from proper society as possible. Early transplants discovered a splendid climate, magnificent natural scenery, miles of uninterrupted seclusion—in short, a natural artist's studio.

Today, few dilettantes settle in Santa Fe. Real estate is expensive, and the arts community is fiercely competitive. Some of the world's premier photographers, painters, and sculptors live here. As with any paradise, there is considerable debate in Santa Fe as to how to keep this city of 60,000 both a desirable home and a popular destination for years to come.

Nearly 400 years ago, Santa Fe's glorious, tree-shaded Plaza was where Spanish settlers held their military and religious ceremonies; today it's a good spot to catch your breath between shopping and museum hopping.

At the northern end of the Plaza is the Palace of Governors, which now houses the main branch of the Museum of New Mexico, a state system that includes five Santa Fe museums.

Highlights include the History Museum, within the walls of the Palace; the adjacent Museum of Fine Arts, which concentrates on Southwestern, Mexican, and Native American art; and the new Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, which celebrates the

artist's tremendous contribution to the Santa Fe art world. (Framed prints of O'Keeffe's suggestive floral paintings hang in many a lesbian's bedroom.)

As you wander out from the Plaza, you'll pass through a maze of narrow streets, mostly lined with boutiques and upscale chain stores, restaurants, and hotels.

Taos is a small (population 5,000) slow-paced community where tolerance and diversity are cherished but rarely articulated; Taosenos promote individualism by leaving each other alone.

extends for miles before giving way gradually to gentle mountains.

As in Santa Fe, activity in Taos centers around the Plaza, in this case a smaller, dustier, but more personable plot of grass surrounded by galleries and shops.

Anywhere within a few hundred yards of the Plaza are lanes of more shops, galleries, and restaurants—most of them hawking Native American and Southwestern wares and fares. Though Taos has been rapidly commercialized, the shopping is still of high caliber.

Near the Plaza is the Kit Carson Home and Museum, the 12-room adobe residence of the mountain man who defended Taos from Confederate sympathizers during the Civil War. Not far from the Plaza, the Blumenschein Home and the Harwood Foundation Museum both contain fine collections of art dating to the town's early years as an artists colony.

The most engrossing museum in Taos is the Millicent Rogers Museum, which contains more than 5,000 pieces—not just paintings but kachina dolls, rugs, jewelry, and local crafts as well.

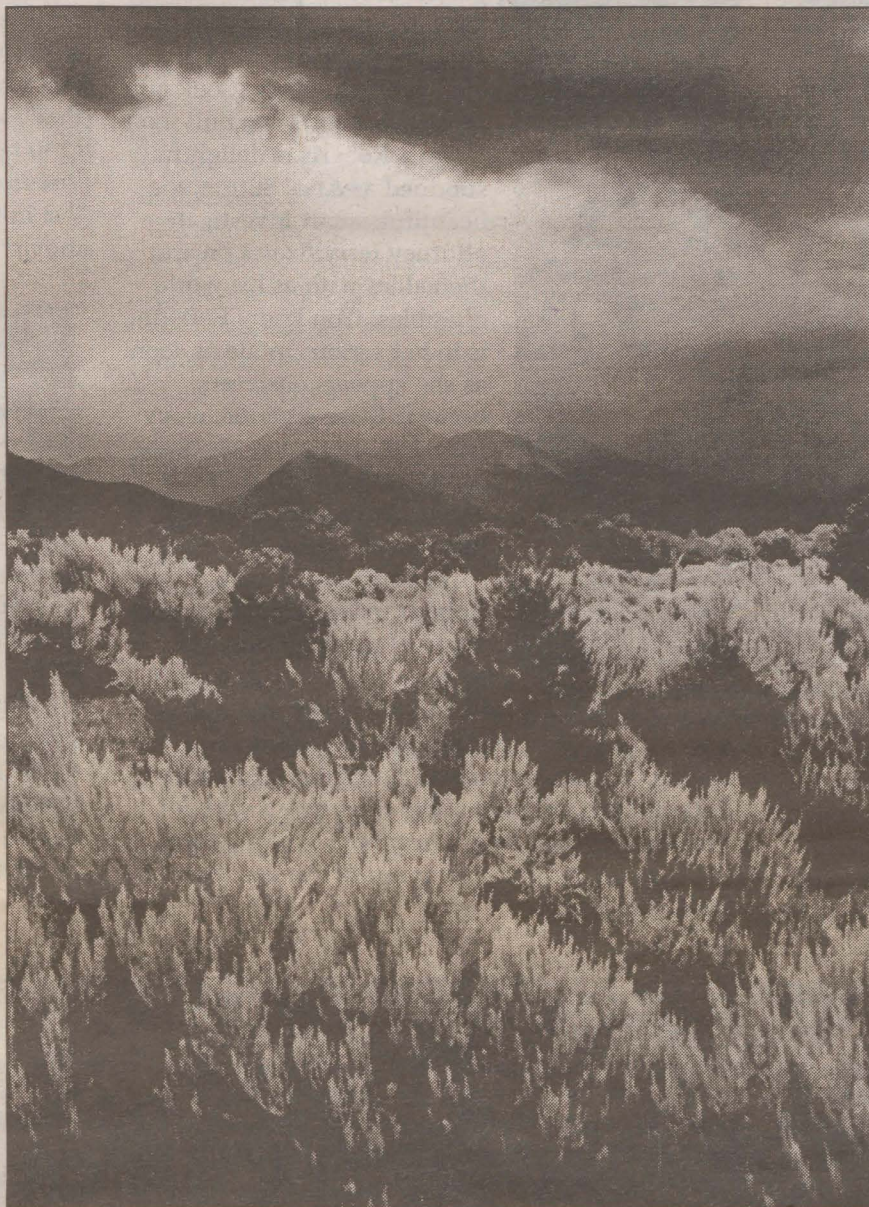
Three miles north of town is Taos's most revered site, the Taos Pueblo, the center of a 95,000-acre tract that is now the full-time home of roughly 2,000 Native Americans. Visitors shouldn't leave Taos without at least a brief visit.

After gallery scouring and museum hopping, the leading activities in Taos and, to a lesser extent, Santa Fe, are pursued outdoors. The Taos Outdoor Recreation Association and Bureau of Land Management have plenty of information on places to go and outfitters to contact. This is a four-season region with a temperate climate year-round, yet still enough snow in winter to make Taos Ski Valley one of the world's premier such facilities. Hiking, cycling, horseback riding, llama trekking, snowmobiling, and white-water rafting are also popular diversions.

Most tourists identify more with one or the other of these cities, but if you're visiting for the first time, try to spend some time in both of these communities. Santa Fe and Taos represent two slightly similar but stubbornly opposing visions

of paradise.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA, three recently released gay guides covering the West Coast, and forthcoming gay guides on New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam. He can be reached care of HeatStroke or at OutofTown9@aol.com.



A stormy view of the spectacular Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which rise dramatically above Taos, New Mexico.

Unlike Santa Fe, here there is a stronger awareness that local artisans create in order to support themselves—often barely.

The town is snuggled in at the base of the Sangre de Cristo range, the southernmost extension of the Continental Divide, which splits Colorado, just 40 miles to the north. Looming almost directly above town is 13,161-foot Wheeler Peak, the tallest in the state. To the west, a flat mesa, interrupted only by the sharp gorge of the Rio Grande River,

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The Grand Collusion

by Allen Kalchik, Editor

Mel Gibson. Julia Roberts. Together, at last. In a Richard Donner film produced by Joel Silver.

Now that's the stuff Hollywood dreams are made of. That's also the kind of movie-promotion posterspeak that— to me, at least— usually means "steer clear of any screen near you to which this predictable, formulaic dreck might be coming."

But not always. *Conspiracy Theory*, the new major-studio release featuring the much-hyped combo of four of The Industry's Biggest Players, is one Hollywood heavy worth checking out. I venture to say that the first 90 minutes of this comic-drama are flat-out wonderful.

The film is well acted, but it isn't the acting that makes it work. What clicks here is the wise script by Brian Helgeland. Helgeland weaves an intriguing, original tale that's part mystery, part love story with a healthy dose of action thriller thrown in. Director Donner unwinds all these elements with humor and without letting Hollywood convention (like the kind he and producer Silver applied to those superfluous *Lethal Weapon* sequels) get in the way.

In this entertaining flick, Donner wisely withholds the urge to spell everything out early in the

film. Instead, the movie's opening scenes shine with genuine wit and the story reveals itself subtly, a rarity among big-money, big-studio releases like this.

Gibson plays Jerry, a New York cabby whose babbling, stream-of-consciousness promotion of wacky conspiracy theories lands him in very hot water with a mysterious federal agency. Jerry publishes a small newsletter detailing his theories, and now someone— or some group— wants him dead. He has hit a nerve, but he doesn't know how or with whom.

As jittery Jerry, Gibson gets to try on a role so well-written even a bland, aging screen idol with an irrepressible Australian accent and a limited emotional range (witness the Three Faces of Mel: 1) eyes glazed over = "please believe me", 2) eyes rolled back = "you don't believe me", 3) eyes opened wide = "look out, he's got a gun!") can pull it off.



Andrew Cooper

Conspiracy Theory, the first onscreen pairing of Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts

Julia Roberts is delightfully subdued as Alice Sutton, the beautiful, smart investigative attorney Jerry fixates on and then allies with as his world crumbles. You know Roberts is in her serious mode as soon as she appears onscreen, because those gigantic, wavy locks she sported in *My Best Friend's Wedding* and *Pretty Woman* have been trimmed into a neat, businesslike bob.

In *Conspiracy Theory*, Roberts' Alice faces Jerry with a mix of righteous interest, bemused curiosity and can't-be-bothered anger that mirrors exactly what the audience is

feeling. Gibson's character holds the cards, and Roberts reacts to each of his crazy ploys without ever chewing her hair, biting her lip, or giggling. She may get another Oscar nod if she keeps up this kind of restraint.

Outonfilm

Conspiracy Theory's plot is so convoluted, maniacally paced and wildly improbable that it's nearly impossible to further synopsise. To his credit, Donner manages to push the dozens of twists and turns along quickly without the story feeling forced— that is until the final third.

Patrick Stewart does a nice turn as the film's villain, and the supporting cast is perfectly adequate, but the story itself is the film's true star. There are so many camera tricks and unexpected plot shifts employed in this film, especially at the beginning, that you find yourself laughing at your own inability to figure out what's going on. Because Donner insists on toying with his audience, it's hard to get lost in the story and forget you are watching a movie.

Perhaps the experienced director recognizes that, with stars of this magnitude, no one can completely suspend their disbelief anyway— so why not have fun with it? Of course, it doesn't last forever. Heck, it doesn't even last two hours. *Conspiracy Theory's* all-too-familiar ending is the film's biggest disappointment— so cheesy, you'll wish you'd brought crackers. Even Roberts manages to lose her hard-won dignity.

If you're looking for that wonderful combination of humor and suspense, or are a fan of Julia, Mel or both, then don't skip *Conspiracy Theory*. It's a good time and an enjoyable ride. Just do yourself a favor, and shut your eyes tight right after Julia Roberts gallops her white horse across the Connecticut countryside. That way, you'll miss the third— and final— ending. And you'll have seen a better movie.

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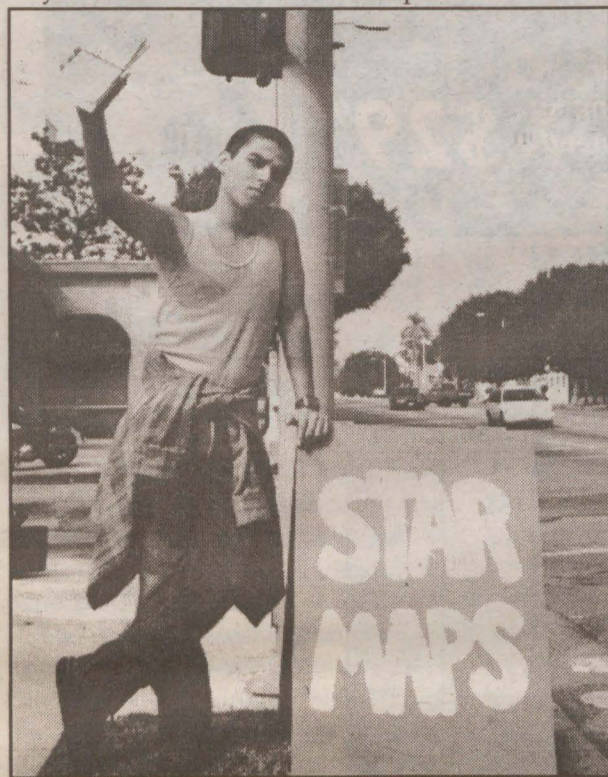
Street urgin'

by Karyn Riedell, Staff Writer

"Who do you want me to be?" This is the question asked by Carlos (Douglas Spain) whenever he meets a new trick. As the question suggests, working as a prostitute is good training for an 18-year-old who dreams of becoming a movie star.

Carlos gets to hone his acting skills while having sex with some rather unsavory customers— male and female— and pretending to like it. Not a small feat.

Star Maps, an audience favorite at the Sundance Film Festival, is a movie that takes on some tough material: the gritty world of teenage prostitution LA-style and a family so warped that the term "dysfunctional" would be a compliment.



Douglas Spain gives a winning performance as Carlos, an abused teenage hustler, in *Star Maps*

© Fox Searchlight Pictures

It also draws some strong, often comic parallels between the Hollywood dream factory and the world of the streets, where everyone's a hustler.

If you liked *Pretty Woman*, you probably won't like *Star Maps*. The world of hustling depicted here in graphic detail is a far cry from the Cinderella version presented in the Julia Roberts fantasy. And, unlike Roberts, Carlos is not rescued by a Prince—or Princess—Charming.

As Carlos discovers, it's not wise to depend on the kindness of strangers—or on family members, for that matter, especially if your father is also your pimp.

If the film is not the romanticized view of tricking presented in *Pretty Woman*, it's not all dirt and depravity either. It's also about coming to terms with the past and pursuing dreams. And it's definitely about love.

Somehow, the bond between Carlos, his sister and their mother manages to survive despite the sordid, pervasive influence of Pepe, Carlos' twisted, manipulative father and Juancito, Carlos' brutish, slow-witted brother who is obsessed with professional wrestling.

The mother's guilt over betraying her children has driven her into insane obsessions focused on "la luna" and the ghost of Mexican movie actor Cantinflas. As she tells Carlos, everyone needs "something to do, someone to love, and something to look forward to."

The movie even features a sweet love story, the sister's romance with the neighborhood pharmacist, who continues his attentions despite having to deal with the family from hell. The darkly humorous scene in which he comes to dinner is a brilliant piece of nightmarish comedy. The scene in *Annie Hall*, in which the Woody Allen character meets Annie's family for the first time looks tame in comparison.

The film's black humor creates an edginess and complexity that is far too rare in the movie industry. For the most part, *Star Maps* does not rely on safe Hollywood platitudes or easy answers.

The complicated family dynamics is deftly portrayed in a tonally complex mingling of drama, tenderness, violence and humor. Eugene O'Neill's family dramas seem like scenes from *The Brady Bunch* compared to this post-Freudian portrayal.

The movie's major weakness is the contrived ending, which is wrapped up a little too neatly and seems out of sync with the film's earlier defiance of Hollywood formulas. Why do so many movies, even the best independent films, succumb to Hollywood's pernicious influence in the end?

Despite this failing, *Star Maps* is a film well worth seeing. It marks the directorial debut of writer/director Miguel Arteta. Arteta and producer Matthew Greenfield made the film on a shoestring budget, raising funds on a day-to-day basis. The film features a cast of relative unknowns with a sensitive portrayal by Douglas Spain in his feature film debut, a powerful performance by Martha Velez as Carlos' insane, but weirdly insightful mother and Efrain Figueroa as Carlos' violent and exploitive father (Figueroa has appeared in several films, including *Pretty Woman* and television shows, including the recurring role of Jesse Rodriguez on *Walker, Texas Ranger*).

Also noteworthy is Lysa Flores as Carlos's sister. A rock musician, Flores was also the film's music director and helped compile the "rock en Espanol" soundtrack. Also known as "Chicano Alternative," the music is a blend of traditional mariachi music and American rock 'n roll.

Considering the limited budget, Arteta and Greenfield took several risks in making the film. "Everybody tells you to make a low budget film on Super 16 in black and white with two characters in one room," says Arteta. "Instead we make it in color with more than forty locations, nine main characters and a story that goes back and forth between drama and comedy. At times we thought we were insane."

For the sake of audiences who like something spicier than the usual Hollywood Pablum, let's hope the insanity continues.

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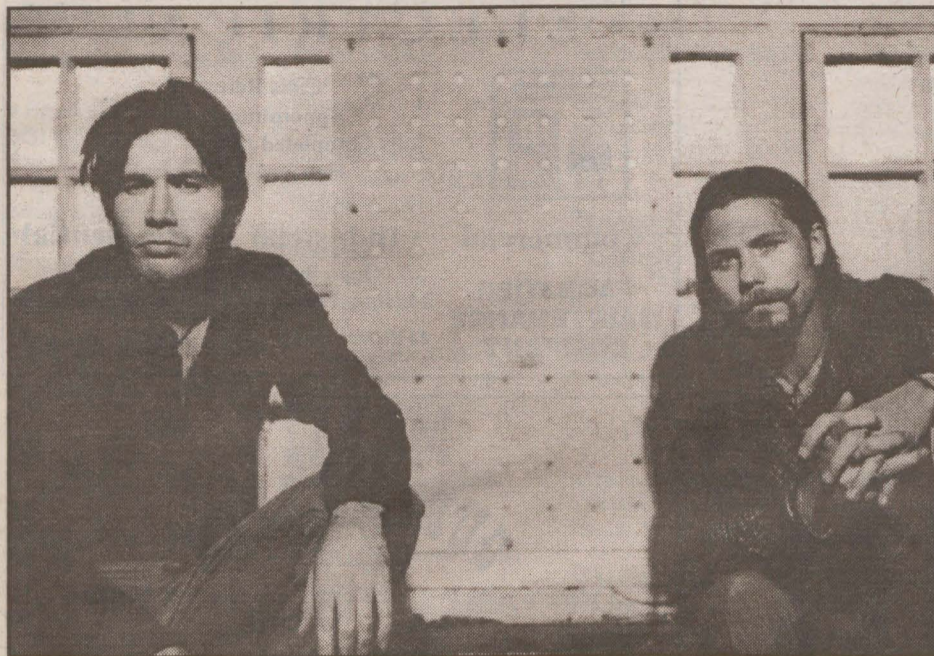
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Glasgow meets Tempe: Del Amitri in town August 27



The Scottish band Del Amitri will play Tempe's Electric Ballroom on Wednesday, August 27. Opening the 8pm show will be the LA-based band Dog's Eye View.

Del Amitri's latest album (their fourth) is called *Some Other Sucker's Parade*. The first single, "Not Where It's At," has received steady play on many US stations. The Scots scored a top ten single with "Roll To Me," off their last release, *Twisted*.

Vocalist/guitarist Peter Stuart and Dog's Eye View are touring in support of their new record, *Daisy*. Their last release, *happy nowhere*, featured the single "everything falls apart."

Tickets for the show are \$15 in advance and \$17 day of show. Call Ticketmaster to reserve advance tickets and the Electric Ballroom day of show only.

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Dear Cowboy,
My problem sounds like something from ten years ago but it is still very real to me. I don't have the nerve to get an HIV test even though I know I should. All my friends (some single like me and some couples) have been tested and they talk freely about their status. I have lied to them more than once, saying I know I am negative when I am not really sure. I am 32 and I have been around the block a few times, but never as promiscuous as a lot of gay men I know. When I am with a partner, I always have safe sex. What should I do?
Signed, Never Did Well on Tests

Dear Tests,
Quite frankly, buckaroo, you're scaring me. You could be sitting on a powder keg with a short fuse and you don't even know it. We all learned a long time ago that you don't need to be promiscuous to come into contact with HIV. With the recent advances in treatment, every cowpoke needs to know his status so he can get whatever doctoring he may require as soon as possible in order to stay healthy.
True cowboys never lie. Get on down to a testing facility and make an honest man of yourself. It's just a little prick, not much worse than a horsefly bite. That's a small price to

pay for some piece of mind or a call to action, whatever the result may be. Cowboy up and get with the program.

Dear Cowboy,
I am a 26-year old woman, divorced for two years (no kids!). I feel that a relationship with a woman is what I want to try right now. It is something I fantasized about for years, but I never thought of myself as a lesbian and I still don't. I have gone to different women's bars lately and I always leave alone and confused. I don't seem to fit in anywhere I go. Are there any other women out there who are not a part of the scene? If there are, where can I find them?

Signed, Ready and Willing

Dear Ready,
There are plenty of places a gal can meet other cowgirls and explore the feelings you're talking about. You just need to gain some self-confidence. I've been up and down a few

chutes in this part of the country and I've seen plenty of women with stranger pasts than yours. Being 26 and having been married to a man is no big deal to the gals you are about to meet. They really won't care—trust me on that. A fresh lamb in the flock is generally a turn-on among the more seasoned ewes. So stop worry-

True cowboys never lie. Get on down to a testing facility and make an honest man of yourself.

ing about what you call yourself or whether you fit in, and get on deck.
Call the local gay & lesbian switchboard or check this publication for info on groups and activities in your neck of the woods. There are many "scenes"—the saloon is only one of them. If you are looking for something more one-on-one, try responding to a personal ad that catches your eye, or place your own.

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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

Copperstate Leathemen
P.O. Box 40472
Phoenix, AZ 85067

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

Entre Nosotros
546 E. Osborn, #22
Phoenix 85012 285-0970

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

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

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

Lesbian Resource Project
3136 N. 3rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85013 266-5542

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
P.O. Box 37525
Phoenix, AZ 85069 843-1404

The Phoenix Bears
PO Box 25951
Tempe, AZ 85285 345-8755

Project LifeGuard
Project Q
TRIBE
4700 N. Central, #204
Phoenix, AZ 85012 266-7233

Valley One in Ten
3136 N. 3rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85013 264-5437

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

Womyn 2 Womyn Connection
singles & couples 941-3513

Professional Organizations

Camelback Business & Professional Association
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

Asbury United Methodist Church
1601W Indian School
Phoenix, AZ 85015 279-2369

AVIV of Arizona
4704 E. Paradise Village Pkwy N. #314
Phoenix, AZ 85032 996-8622

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

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

Dignity and Integrity
P.O. Box 60953
Phoenix, AZ 85082 222-8664

First Unitarian Universalist Ch.
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

Phoenix Light of the Lamb
Christian Church
PO Box 16332
Phoenix, AZ 85011 274-5202

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
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
P.O. Box 17602
Phoenix, AZ 85011 277-9142

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-340-8070
e-mail: mattbims@aol.com

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

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

Valley of the Sun Comm'y Band
Jayne: 947-0907; Terry: 954-9244

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

www.visi.com/~oprairie/

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner

SO NOW IT'S OVER.. BUT PERVERSELY I AM SAD FOR HIM. INCORRECTLY, I KNOW. OBSCENELY EVEN..

THINKING ABOUT ANDREW

I SHOULD BE SAD. BUT FOR THE GUY MINDING HIS OWN BUSINESS, GUNNED DOWN AT HIS GORGEOUS FRONT DOOR. THE ONE WHO'S LION'S SHARE OF GOOD FORTUNE FAN OUT ALL AT ONCE, AND FOR THE OTHERS.

WHAT CAUSED A PERSON YOU OR I MIGHT'VE KNOWN, TO GO HAYWIRE IN SUCH FANTASTICALLY VIOLENT FASHION?

9:04 abc 79

MAYBE IT WAS INFATUATION (WITH A FRIEND WHO MOVED TO MINNEAPOLIS) OR ITS UGLY COLLEAGUE, OBSESSION, VISITORS WHO'VE MADE UNHAPPY ACQUAINTANCE WITH MANY OF US...

THE ONE WAS ROYALTY, THE OTHER WASN'T. OR MAYBE NOT. ANDREW WAS ATTRACTIVE, WHICH IS A KIND OF ROYALTY AMONG US (AND NOT JUST AMONG US, BY THE WAY).

A PART OF ME, A WEAK AND STUPID PART, UNDOUBTEDLY, DIDN'T WANT IT TO FINISH THIS WAY, AN ANIMAL CORNERED. I NEEDED AN EXPLANATION. OR MAYBE I JUST HOPED HE'D DISAPPEAR. NO MORE KILLINGS. AN ENDURING AND SCARY VANISHING. WITH WHISPERED SITINGS AT CANNES AND ASCOT AND VIZCAYA.

★ *Open 24 Hours* ★

The Barn Adult Shop

Phoenix's #1 Safer Sex Store

5021 W. Indian School
245-3008

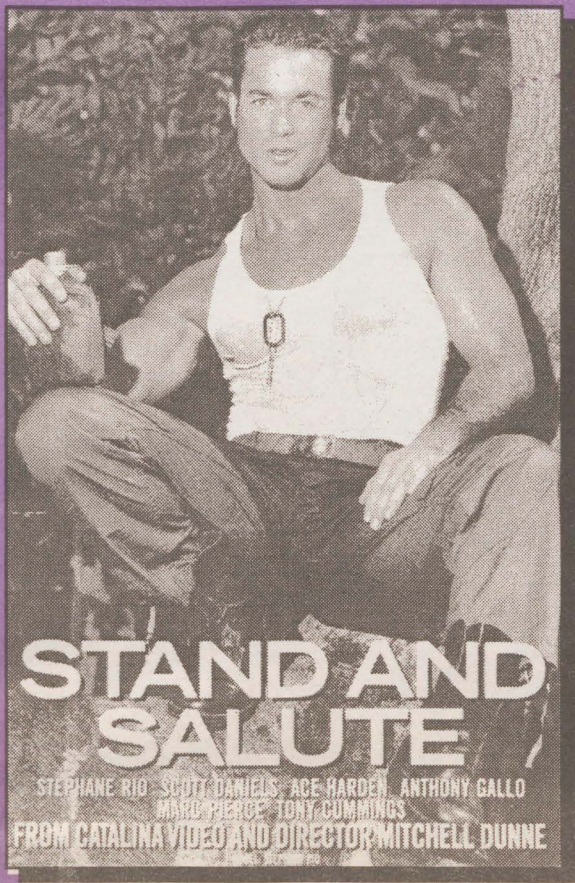
Adult Video Rental & Sales
Adult Books • Magazines
Toys & Novelties • Lingerie
Greeting Cards

Arcade—Private Preview Booths

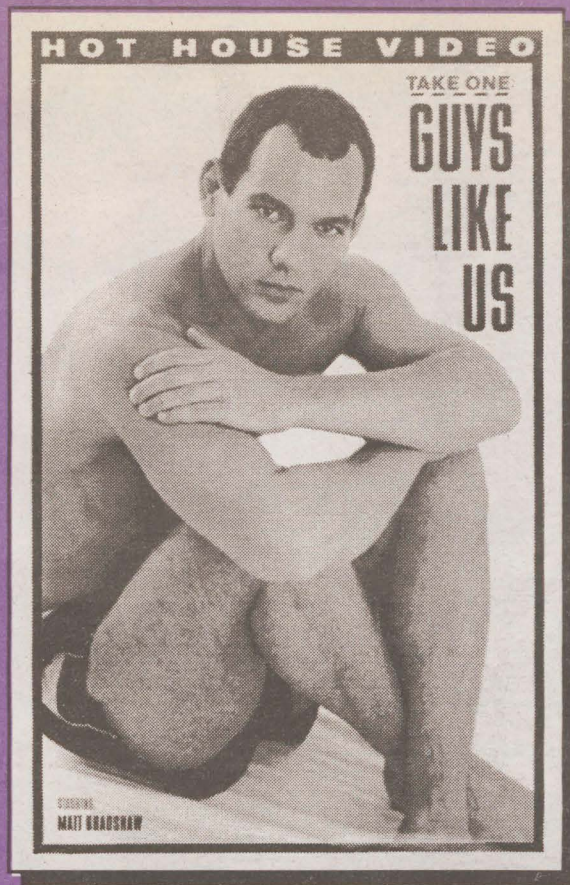
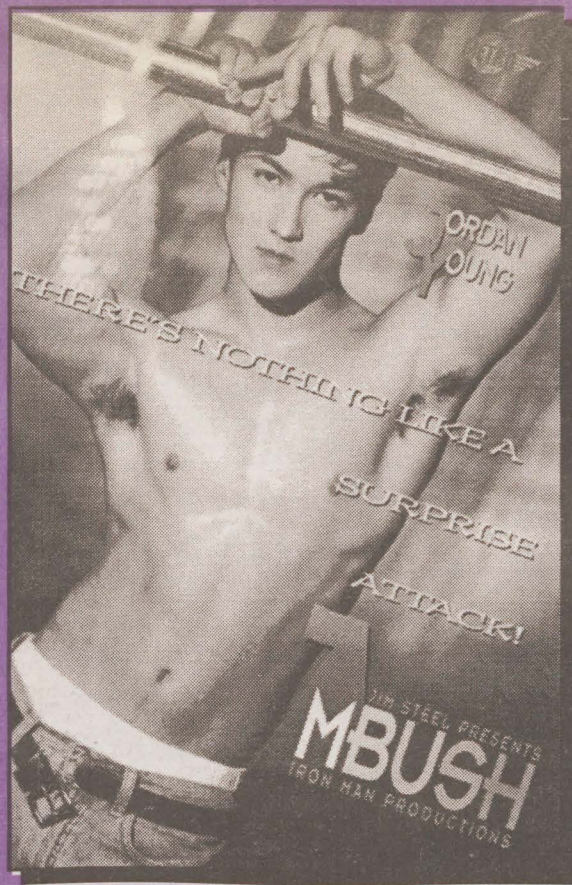
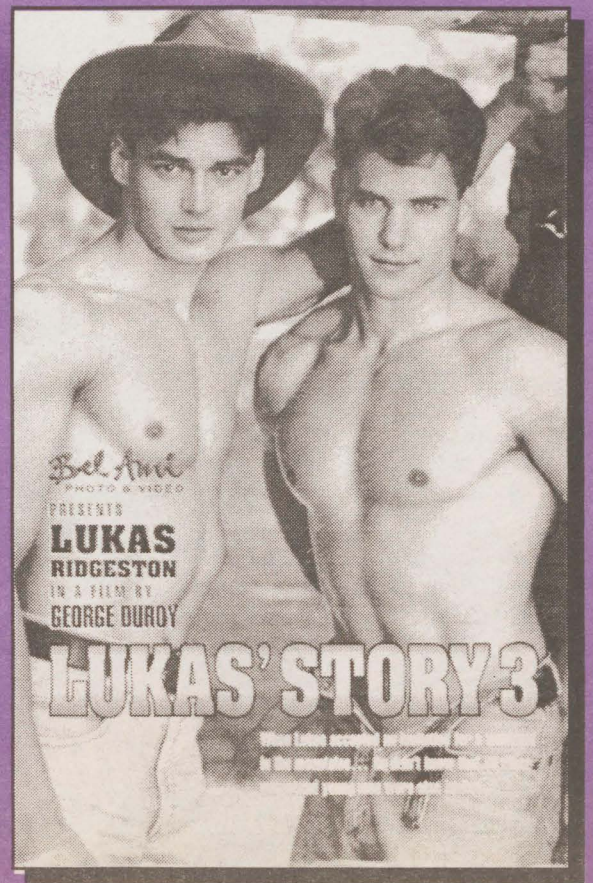
The Barn Adult Shop
Phoenix's #1 Safer Sex Store

\$10 Video Membership
★ with this Coupon ★

Hundreds of New Videos Arriving Weekly!



New Titles include:
Rock Solid
Maximum Cruise
The Pornographer
Hot Tamales
Learning Latin
Raw and Uncut
Shockingly Shameless
Rookie Patrol
One Hot Summer
Boy, Oh Boy



5501 E. Washington St.
231-9837

300 E. Camelback Rd.
266-3348



8802 N. Black Canyon Hwy
995-1641

8315 E. Apache Trail
986-6114

Open 24 Hours • 365 days • www.castle7.com

Edibles

- A. Durant's Fine Foods
2611 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 264-5967
- B. Pookie's
4540 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 277-2121
- C. That's a Wrap!
2022 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 252-5051
2765 N. Scottsdale Rd
Scottsdale 941-0484

Libations

- 1. Ain't Nobody's Bizness
3031 E. Indian School
Phoenix 224-9977
- 2. Apollo's
5749 N. 7th Street
Phoenix 277-9373
- 3. BS West
7125 5th Avenue
Scottsdale 945-9028
- 4. Cash Inn
2140 E. McDowell
Phoenix 244-9943
- 5. Charlie's
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix 265-0224
- 6. Country Club
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 264-4553
- 7. Cruisin' Central
1011 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 253-3376

- 8. Desert Rose
44301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 265-3233
- 9. Foster's
4343 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 263-8313
- 10. Fundy's
15601 N. Cave Creek
Phoenix 493-5123
- 11. Harley's Club 155
Harley's Too!
155 & 125 W. Camelback
Phoenix 274-8505
- 12. Incognito
2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix 955-9805
- 13. JC's Fun One
5542 N. 43rd Ave.
Glendale 939-0528
- 14. Johnny Mc's
138 W. Camelback
Phoenix 266-0875
- 15. Marlys'
15615 Cave Creek
Phoenix 867-2463
- 16. Nasty Habits
3108 E. McDowell
Phoenix 267-8707
- 17. NuTowne
5002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 267-9959
- 18. The Park
3002 N. 24th Street
Phoenix 957-6055
- 19. The Pumphouse
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 275-3509
- 20. Roscoe's on 7th
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 285-0833

- 21. 307 Lounge
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 252-0001
- 22. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 254-0231
- 23. The Wave
998 E. Indian School
Phoenix 266-5640
- 24. Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 265-9002

Staples

- 25. The Adult Shoppe
111 S. 24th Street
Phoenix 306-1130
- 26. Astro — Vintage Modern
Furnishings
2403 E. Osborn
Phoenix 957-8770
- 27. The Barn Adult Shop
5021 W Indian School
Phoenix 245-3008
- 28. Book Cellar - 8 locations
4029 E. Washington
1020 S. 24th Street
1838 Grand Avenue
3420 S. Central Avenue
2103 W. Camelback Rd.
402 W. Hatcher
1421 E. McDowell Rd.
6527 N. 59th Avenue
- 29. Castle Boutique-4 locations
5501 E. Washington
300 E. Camelback Rd.
8802 N. Black Canyon
8315 E. Apache Trail
- 30. Dwellings
24 W. Camelback
Phoenix 248-4959

- 31. In Furnishings
6307 N. 7th Street
Phoenix 263-9003
- 32. Obelisk Books
24 West Camelback
Phoenix 266-Book
- 33. Movies on Central
4700 N. Central, #121
Phoenix 274-0994

Tubs

- 34. Chute
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 234-1654
- 35. Flex
1517 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix 271-9011

Culture

- 60. America West Arena
201 E. Jefferson
Phoenix 379-7800
- 61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum
1101 W. Washington
Phoenix 255-2110
- 62. AZ Historical Society
Museum
1300 N. College
Tempe 929-0292
- 63. AZ Mining & Mineral
Museum
1502 W. Washington
Phoenix 255-3791
- 64. AZ Science Center
600 E. Washington
Phoenix 716-2000

- 65. AZ State Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix 542-4675
- 66. ASU Art Museum
Nelson Fine Arts Center
Mill Ave. & 10th Street
Tempe 965-2787
- 67. ASU Gammage Center
Apache & Mill Ave.
Tempe 965-3434
- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky
Pavillion
2121 N. 83rd Ave.
Phoenix 254-7499
- 69. Celebrity Theater
440 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix 267-9373
- 70. Heard Museum
22 E. Monte Vista
Phoenix 252-8848
- 71. Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
Phoenix 254-7399
- 72. Orpheum Theatre
203 W. Adams
Phoenix 262-7272
- 73. Phoenix Art Museum
1624 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 257-1222
- 74. Phoenix Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 262-4636
- 75. Phoenix Civic Plaza
225 E. Adams St.
Phoenix 262-6225
- 76. Phoenix Symphony Hall
225 E. Adams
Phoenix 262-6225
- 77. Phoenix Museum of History
105 N. 5th Street
Phoenix 253-2734

Outdoors

- 81. Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 941-1217
- 82. Margaret T. Hance Park
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 534-2406
- 83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 262-6696
- 84. Papago Park
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 256-3220
- 85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 273-1431
- 86. Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington
Phoenix 495-0900
- 87. Squaw Peak Park
2701 E SquawPeak Dr
Phoenix 262-6696
- 88. South Mountain Park &
Preserve
10919 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix 495-0222

Finding it in Phoenix

