Volume 2, No. 21

nix, Arizona

August 28 — September 10, 1997

By Karyn Riedell, Staff Writer

hen Phoenix native Eric Knott first arrived at Arizona State University in Tempe three years ago, he was just a scared freshman who wasn't out to anyone, including himself.

"I came from a pretty conservative family. I knew I was gay, but I didn't want to deal with it. It was too stressful for me. All I knew was it was

When he saw ads for Lambda League's gay discussion group, Knott was so nervous that he just paced outside the meeting his first two tries. On his third visit, he finally mustered up enough courage to actually go inside.

"And now, I'm not just a member. I'm the president," Knott says with a laugh.

Knott also credits Lambda with pushing him out of the closet and into the media spotlight. Although he initially resisted coming out, he found it unavoidable once he became Lambda co-president last year and found himself in the role of media spokesperson. Now, he's out to everyone, Knott

His positive experience has convinced Knott that ASU is a progressive campus, where the administration has done everything possible to create a gay friendly atmosphere.

Kris Ewing, program coordinator for Student Advocacy, is an out lesbian on campus who also



group at ASU.

finds ASU to be a good place to be gay. Compared to other universities, ASU is "at least walking the walk" when it comes to gay and lesbian issues, she says. President Lattie Coor, who added sexual orientation to the school's anti-discrimination policy, is the one who set the tone for creating a gayfriendly environment, she says. "At least we're headed in the right direction."

Although the school provides an overall gayfriendly environment, opennness varies from department to department. For example, the engineering department is closeted, but the social work department is definitely out, Ewing says.

Ewing believes that it is important for her and other school employees to be out so that students can see that being gay is acceptable. Although some faculty and staff are open about being gay, Ewing says that she would like to see more administrators come out. "We have a lot of gay and lesbian professors, but not a lot of administrators are out. We'd like to see an out person in administration. I think that would set a tone."

In addition, she would like ASU to provide domestic partnership benefits for employees. Ubiquity, ASU's organization for gay faculty and

See "Lambda," page 8

Allocation council clips AIDS services to help State's drug program

With Ryan White stretched beyond limits, AZ must pitch in to combat pandemic, advocates say

by Allen Kalchik, Editor

Phoenix AIDS activists say there is a financial crisis brewing locally in the fight against AIDS, and it was solidified on August 21, 1997. That's when the Ryan White Planning Council met in Phoenix and voted to allocate money the State receivesthrough a major federal grant—for the next grant cycle, March 1998 through February 1999.

The Council, known officially as the Ryan White Title I Health Services Planning Council, meets annually to disburse between \$3 and \$4 million in funds available via the Ryan White Health Care Act.

The Council's job is to allocate Title I money, which is aimed at metropolitan areas and provides help to many AIDS services in Phoenix and

Maricopa County, in addition to helping fund drugs.

Ryan White Title II funding is intended to assist at the state level and is allocated by community consortia throughout Arizona. In the grant's six-year history, a larger portion of Title II money has always gone to pharmaceuticals. That way, Ryan White funds help to ensure subsidized drug availability for AIDS/HIV

patients in rural areas. This year, all Title II money is going to drugs.

And in allocating the next round of Title I funds, the Council (a diverse group of men and women culled from affected/infected communities, private and public health organizations, governmental agencies, and concerned businesspersons) was forced to approve allocating the money in a way that slashes Ryan

See "Drugs" page 4

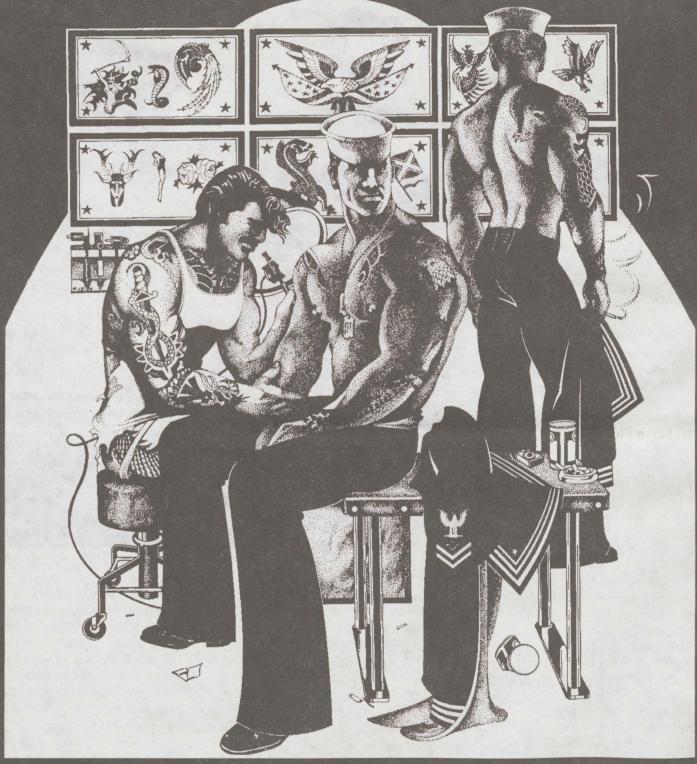
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Horowitz:

We're in the funnies

omic strip artist Lynn Johnson recently featured a gay relationship in For Better or For Worse, her syndicated strip.
Nationwide, several newspapers refused to print the comic and elected to run previous strips instead.

The Arizona Republic ran the series as Johnson wrote and illustrated it. The strip featured the characters Lawrence and Ben, and their angst over Ben's leaving town to study piano in Paris.

Papers unwilling to run the storyline blame their refusal on the strip's purported inconsistency with "community standards." I specifically picked up the comics to read one of the offensive strips. From the strip that ran on Friday, August 22:

"You have to be prepared to feel pain if you're gonna fall in love... that's part of the process! You both let down all of your defenses, you allow someone to enter your heart, and you take the risk of losing each other. But it's the joy of having had all that time together that makes it all worthwhile! It's the laughs, the memories and all the good stuff you've shared that make falling in love worth that risk!"

Horrifying, isn't it? The names John and Jane wouldn't endanger community standards like the names Lawrence and Ben. Yet the community standard-bearers believe that any mention of homosexual relationships appeals to prurient interests. The comic strip I saw wasn't sexual at all, but about relationships.

I just attended a seminar exploring "The Art of Powerful and Empowering Relationships" sponsored by The Experience, Inc. Approximately 45 people attended, Of those, around 40 self-identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual.

Although the topic was relationships, the discussion often centered around— and kept coming back to— the concept of coming out. Anyone reading *HeatStroke* probably knows what coming out means, but many straight people don't have a clue. Several straight people present couldn't hide the discomfort that came from being in the minority.

Conversly, many gay people showed the extreme comfort associated with being in the majority for a

change. The grander reality is that all human beings have coming out issues— items related to telling the truth about who we are and what we want in any given relationship.

Every human being can benefit from coming out, yet the benefits for the straight people—because they felt different—were unapparent to them.

The Experience Weekend is a two-and-a-half day workshop about living life more lovingly, effectively and powerfully. The Experience differs from other empowerment tools and workshops because of its birth in the gay community.

Rob Eichberg, the author of Coming Out: an Act of Love and a co-founder of National Coming Out Day created the workshop in the 1970s. More than 30,000 people across the country have participated, the vast majority of them gay or lesbian.

Graduates of the workshop have gone on to found and participate in community organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign, The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, The Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project, AIDS Project Los Angeles, and more

The Experience Weekend will return to Phoenix September 26 - 28 for the first time in more than three years. For people who choose to participate, including myself, the workshop has proven invaluable and life-altering. I shamelessly recommend everyone's participation in this empowering program in the space of my column because I believe each person who participates directly impacts our community in a positive way.

We have the power to change the face of Phoenix and the face of the world one heart at a time. That's what Lawrence and Ben are doing this week in the comics. That's what we can do every moment of our lives.

As I write this, there are 56 spaces available in the Phoenix Experience Weekend. For our community's sake, I hope the workshop is full before the end of September.

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

Editors:

The Pastor of the Community Church of Hope is considering not distributing your paper because you have chosen not to list Unique on Central on your map? (Letters, issue #20, August 14-27) Can't we see that we will never grow as a "Community" until we can work together as a community?

People have the right to run their businesses as they see fit. But I still can't understand what Unique on Central (or now the Community Church of Hope) has to do with the Board of Medical Examiners investigating Dr. Fisher.

Examiners investigating Dr. Fisher.

If Doug Klinge wants to disagree with your articles he can write a letter to the editors and voice his opinion, but what does he gain by showing his immaturity and non-support for our community by banishing *HeatStroke* from his place of business? It really disappoints me when we, as a community, act

To overuse a quote that nobody seems to take seriously, "Can't we all just get along?"
Steve Calenzo
Phoenix

P.S. Congratulations to the Pride Committee for realizing that in order to have a successful, wellattended gay pride event they needed to make some drastic changes. Bravo to an organization dedicated to building a community rather than tearing it down.

Dear Steve:

Thanks for your timely letter— it gives us the opportunity to explain in print (for yourself as well as other readers who have been following these developments) that the Community Church of Hope in Phoenix has not banned HeatStroke from their premises, and will continue to distribute our newspaper there.

We presumed, because of the letter we received (and printed with an editorial response) from Rev. Stout, that he was asking us to either reinstate the Phoenix gift shop to our listing, or to remove his Church from our delivery route. His letter appeared to say that, and now your letter indicates that we were not the only ones who read it that way.

But a friendly call to our office from Rev. Stout on August 26 confirmed that he was only asking for an explanation as to how Unique on Central came to be removed from the HeatStroke map. Rev. Stout said he realized from our response that his letter had left us with an impression he had not intended.

We appreciate the many facets of the Community Church of Hope's ongoing commitment to the local community and are very pleased that HeatStroke will still be available there.



Out on Film, page 14-15

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Drugs get a larger slice of Ryan White pie

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White funding of local services and gives the State much more of the federal money to help pay for pharmaceuticals.

"It's a crisis because they (the Council) are recommending cuts in popular programs that many HIV

affected people are using regularly," said Audrey Broner, Director of Grant Development and Compliance at **AIDS Project** Arizona (APAZ) in Phoenix. "We are talking about big hits in a state that has never directly allocated even one dollar to treat AIDS," she

According to Broner, the problem the Council faced stems from the Arizona Drug

Assistance Program, known as ADAP. In years past, ADAP made do with less money because prescriptions were responsible for a smaller portion of patient care.

Now, protease inhibitors and other expensive new drugs are keeping

patients alive longer. These drugs have become the top priority in treatment. "Nearly everyone with HIV is being prescribed the drugs," Broner said. "And people need to stay on them once they begin the program." So the drug assistance program needs

> more money. ADAP, a State program, currently gets 99% of its funding from only one source: the Federally mandated Ryan White Health Care Act, which is aimed at helping to fund many AIDS services, not just pharmaceuticals.

And so the Ryan White Council's official decision was handed down at a late afternoon meeting on August 21. 29 voting members and many observers

were present that Thursday, filling a conference room inside the Maricopa County Department of Public Health Services complex in Phoenix.

A Council sub-committee recommended allocating the Ryan White federal funds in a way that will hand more money— more than ever in the past— to the State's drug assistance program while reducing funds available to service agencies in Maricopa County.

The planning committee recommended zero funding for some services. As Council members studied the sub-committee's figures, spokesman Brett Larson explained

that planning

committee member's hands were effectively tied by ADAP's request for over \$1 million in combined Title I and Title II Ryan White money.

Services slated to get nothing in the sub-committee's budget included Targeted Early Intervention, **Family Support** Coordination, Day Care, and Ethnic Community Services. The combined total for these services in the previous—and

present— allocation of Ryan White money (April 1997 - February, 1998) was \$108,000.

Joseph Feldman, Ryan White Council

and a continuum of care

Chair, says the council tries to strike a bal-

ance between allocating money for drugs

Council Chair Joseph Feldman, who works at Planned Parenthood in Phoenix, told members just prior to

voting on the budget before them that cutting some services completely from Ryan White monies does not mean the absolute end of those services. "Agencies that provide these services are receiving funds from sources other than Ryan White," said Feldman. "We need to have faith that the gaps will be covered with money from somewhere else, hopefully from

the State.'

Brian Spicker of Phoenix **Body Positive** chaired the planning committee for the Council. He said his group came up with their budget recommendations using a list of categories divided into Core and Secondary Services as requested by the federal agency. The priorities for allocation in Arizona were established at Council meetings earlier this

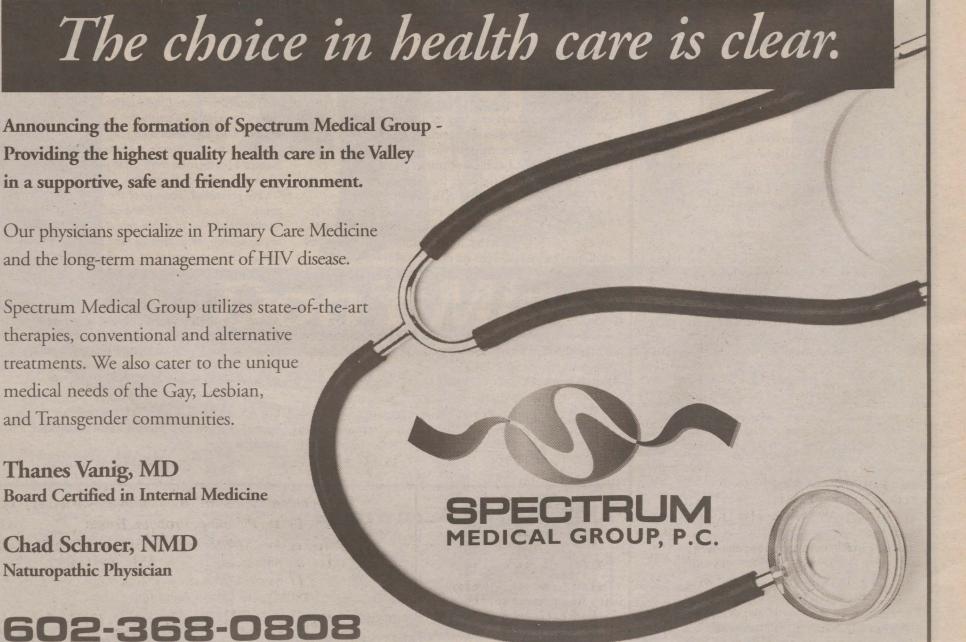
Spicker also said the series

of planning committee meetings, held in June and July, were emotionally charged. He stressed to the Council body that his sub-committee's job of cutting and eliminating funding to AIDS services was not easy.



Audrey Broner, APAZ's grant expert, says the State must be convinced to fund its own drug program — and soon

7125 E. Lincoln Dr., Ste. B-109, Scottsdale, AZ 85253



"It was very hard and highly emotional," said Mark Miller, who served on the sub-committee. "Believe me, every planning committee member wanted to fund everything that was on the list."

"The problem is obvious," Spicker said. "The problem is the request from ADAP. Their piece of this pie gets bigger and bigger. And the problem of ADAP is bigger than what Ryan White can solve."

Chris Brown, Director of ADAP, was present at the August meeting. Brown told the assembly that ADAP expects to need \$4.3 million in the 1998 budget year to fund AIDS drugs statewide.

Spicker then pointed out that the entire proposed Ryan White grant—for drugs, services, and everything else—is just \$3.2 million, so ADAP's upcoming request will be over \$1 million more than the Council is even able to dispense.

"You can all see how that kind of money (\$4.3 million for drugs) is going to have to come from somewhere else, so the best thing we can do is to approve the committee's recommendation now, allocating what we can to ADAP, and knowing the State will finally be forced to spend its own money to support AIDS in the very near future," Spicker said.

Some Council members asked why the Planning Committee couldn't have given less to ADAP and kept more money for services in place. "Mr. Brown asked for \$1.6 million, but we are only giving ADAP \$678,000," said Feldman. "We also put \$350,000 into pharmaceuticals through other Title I programs." Feldman explained that money for medications must appear as a big part of the grant for it to be approved.

"The feds (those approving Ryan White grant allocations) want to see the provisions for Pharmaceuticals and Out Patient Care at the top of the Core Services list of categories," Feldman said. "Those are the areas

that make the biggest difference in people's lives, that's where the money sees results. Without showing them that's where the money they give us will go, they won't approve our grant at all."

"We know what we have to do," said Council member Randy Baca as she moved to accept the budget. Baca is a local businesswoman and co-

New AIDS Alliance

formed: you can help

about an effective public policy

in Arizona to support statewide

ing, contact AZAPA, the Arizona

This alliance was founded in

May of this year. AZAPA's goals

appropriations for ADAP and to

funding for a full continuum of

AZAPA members say the

alliance will have a visible pres-

October 19. Organizers are also

planning to endorse some type

of statewide action for National

AIDS Awareness Day, December

1 at the Capital in Phoenix. Call

Brian Spicker at Phoenix Body

Positive, (602)955-4673 for more

ence at the AIDS Walk on

include working to achieve

convince the State to provide

AIDS/HIV services and fund-

AIDS Policy Alliance.

HIV care services.

information.

To assist in the effort to bring

owner of Young **Buck Country** radio station in Casa Grande. "We have to approve this as it stands, so we can get things moving and get the money on its way in the first place," she said. "Then, we have to go out-not as Council members, but as citizens— and use our influence in every circle to get State money to fund ADAP in the future."

Baca said she hoped that when the Council reconvenes the news will be better. "We have to believe we'll be meeting under different circumstances in just a

few months," she said. "I hope that by then there will be more money coming in and the legislature will have acted. If they'll fund ADAP, then we can re-allocate part of that \$1 million back into services," she said.

After much discussion, the question was called. The majority then voted 25-4 in favor of the budget. The move allocated over \$1 million of the \$3.2 million incoming Ryan White

monies into pharmaceuticals, bringing to bear what many service providers had feared.

As the Council adjourned, many members commented that the vote itself was not a joyous one. They knew that the affected AIDS/HIV service agencies would be forced to look for other funding sources as soon as possible, they said.

"What this means now," said APAZ's early intervention program director Dr. Steve Karpiak, "Is that it is time for the State of Arizona to step up to the bat and start funding AIDS programs. We need improved advocacy to the legislature and to the governor."

"It's a scandal that the state has put none of its own money into ADAP, or any other AIDS program," said Broner. "The money we are talking about (\$3-4 million) is small compared to Arizona's huge financial surplus, a portion of

which came from the tobacco tax. That money (tobacco tax funds) is supposed to cover health care, anyway. So we all have to demand that some of the tobacco tax surplus be channeled into AIDS," she added.

"The Ryan White Act does not require states to match funding," Feldman said after the meeting. "And frankly, I'm glad it doesn't. Our legislature has traditionally been so unsupportive of funding for AIDS that I'm afraid we wouldn't get any Ryan White money at all if the state had to match it," he said. But Feldman said the legislature's tradition now has to change. "People living with AIDS and those who care about them must finally make their voices heard."

APAZ's Broner agreed. She said the State of Arizona must be convinced—through heavy legislative lobbying—to chip in some of its reported \$500 million in surplus funds to fight the disease, or city and county service providers could be facing major cuts in programs as early as this November.

One effective argument, said Broner, is to show legislators that preventative care is still less expensive than hospitalization. "If people are forced off protease inhibitors because ADAP can't get State money, then AHCCCS will end up footing the bill for them when they end up sick and in the hospital," she said, adding, "we need to show the legislature that funding ADAP is a financial issue as well as a humanitarian issue."

"Now, because of the Ryan White Council's decision to spend more on drugs," said Karpiak. "We are looking at wiping out a lot of the money for local service programs, unless the community can coalesce and convince the State Legislature to act."

Aunt Rita's announces current grant totals

Aunt Rita's Foundation, a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization based in Phoenix, has awarded \$68,500 in grants to 13 agencies in Maricopa and Yavapai Counties for the grant period July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998.

The foundation is dedicated to providing direct client assistance to people infected/affected by HIV. Aunt Rita's also funded approximately \$12,000 individual assistance requests in the first six months of 1997, for a total of over \$73,000 in service assistance.

Individual assistance may be in the form of helping to pay for rent and utilities, getting prescriptions filled or aiding in other stress-relieving situations. Requests are made through a case manager by individuals in financial need.

The grants to service agencies help make it possible for critical services to take place and help people living with AIDS. These services range from meal services, to emergency transportation vouchers, nutritional supplements and a method for clients to get health and medical information.

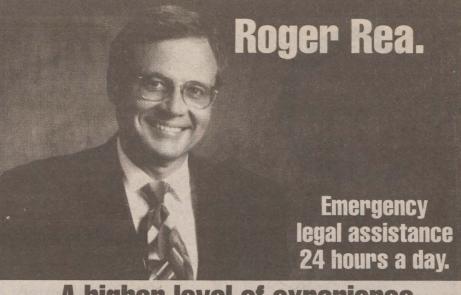
Among the organizations aided by Aunt Rita's funding are: A Place

Called Home; AIDS Project Arizona; AGAPE Network; Arizona AIDS Information Line; Concilio Latino de Salud; HIV Care Directions; Hospice of the Valley; Joshua Tree Feeding Program; Malta Center; Southwest Women's Resource; Phoenix Body Positive; Phoenix Shanti group; Yavapai HIV/AIDS Action.

Following is the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Fund Balances for the year ending December 31, 1996:

Total UI	1-restricted	nestricteu
Revenue \$102,811	\$101,511	\$ 1,300
Bd. of Directors Transfers	(66,580)	66,580
Expenses	THE PARTY A	
Program Services		
73,656	3,353	70,333
Fundraising		
16,175	15,975	200
General and Administrative		
4,694	4,694	
Total Expenses		
94,555	24,022	70,533
Excess of Revenue over Expenses		
8,256	10,909	(2,653)
Fund Balances - 1/01/96		
76,205	41,347	34,858
Fund Balances - 12/31/96		
\$84,461	\$52,256	\$32,205
Restricted funds	have eith	er been

Restricted funds have either been restricted by donors or by the Board of Directors for grants approved but not yet funded or to ensure funds will be available throughout the year for certain programs.



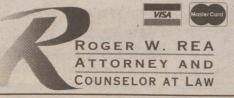
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Country bears' iamboree

Phoenix Bears is sponsoring a community fundraiser at Charlie's on Sunday, September 16. The event will be hosted by Myers Jacobsen, owner of Wolf's in San Diego.

Charlie's traditional BBQ will be available from 6:30-8:30pm with beef or chicken for \$3. There will also be drink discounts for all Tucson and Phoenix Bears showing membership cards. There will be a drawing for a Teddy bear and a 50/50 raffle.

The special event of the evening will be the Bears on Parade, which will be a Phoenix Bears auction. The volunteers to be auctioned will be wearing numbers and will carry a card advertising what their package will consist of, such as a lunch date, dinner date, home-cooked meal, etc.

The proceeds of the auction will be donated by the Phoenix Bears to a community agency, so all are invited to take part in a night of food and festivities while getting to know the Bears. Charlie's is located at 727 W. Camelback Rd. in Phoenix.

Womyn 2 Womyn connects moms, too

In September, Womyn 2 Womyn's featured activity is a trip to the Arizona Science Center. The Center is a great place for kids of all ages, so

the group suggests that if you don't have one, borrow one (or just be one) and join the fun.

To participate, meet on Saturday, September 20 at 10am at the Arizona Science Center, 147 E. Adams in Phoenix. Admission is \$11 for adults and \$9 for children. The price includes activities as well as exhibits.

Other September events for the organization include Phoenix Breakfast Club meetings on September 13 and 27 at 9am. Womyn 2 Womyn will also attend the Night of Music and Comedy to benefit the Community Center on September 13 at Phoenix College. Meet at 6:15 outside the hall.

Womyn 2 Womyn is open to everyone in the community with no membership fees or obligations. For information call 941-3513. Or send email to w2wc@aol.com.

DA plans September activities

Desert Adventures has a number of outdoor activities planned for September, beginning with a Grand Canyon Campout the weekend of September 4-7.

On this trip, the DA group will be staying in the Mather Group Campground on the South Rim. The trip includes camping, hiking and a full Saturday night dinner with dessert. The cost for members is \$20 for two nights and \$25 for three

nights. For guests, the cost is \$10

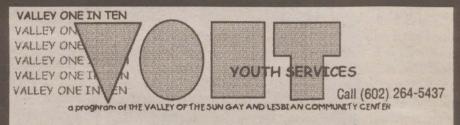
Also in September, DA will head out on a day hike to the Palatke & Boynton Ruins in the Red Rock area near Sedona. The hike is slated for Sunday, September 21. Meet the group at the K-Mart sign on the west side of I-17 off Northern Ave. at 7:30am to carpool from there. The trip fee is \$3 for members, \$5 for

Desert Adventures is a Phoenixbased social group for gay men and lesbians geared toward outdoor activities throughout the state. To join or to get more information on the trips mentioned here, call 266-CAMP.

APAZ: don't forget the AIDS Walk

APAZ wants to remind everyone that 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).



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Brooke Glaefke HRC President's Council

10 years for Healing Waters

On Sunday, September 21, 1997, Tempe's only non-denominational church for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community will

celebrate ten years of ministry.

"Our tenth anniversary is indeed a landmark for us and the community," said Rev. Jim Simpson, founding pastor of Healing Waters Ministries. "We first met in 1987 in a private home with twelve people, and now we are in the process of finding our own permanent church home in the East Valley."

Congregation members say they have been called to remain

in Tempe to act as a resource for the suburban areas of Phoenix. Associate Pastor Jodi Gahagan said, "We have people from as far away as Apache



Rev. Lois Southerly, left, with Rev. Jim Simpson, and Rev. Jodi Gahagan

Junction and even North Phoenix attending our worship services. And there are hundreds— if not thousands— of gays and lesbians in the suburbs whom we can serve."

Healing Waters began as an outgrowth from a former church affiliated with UFMCC, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. "Our first church building, for almost three years, was the former Wax Museum space on Van Buren. We worshipped in the old Egyptian display room, which we felt was very appropriate," joked Rev. Simpson.

Rev. Gahagan added, "Then circumstances— meaning God— made us relocate to Tempe, where we have been in the heart of the ASU community for six years."

Growth for the church has been steady over the past decade. Simpson said, "We've had our ups and downs

lust like any organization, but we've been able to maintain remarkable stability with God at the helm. There is indeed something to be said for quality, not quantity. We've been blessed in so many ways."

According to assistant pastor Rev. Lois Southerly, some people have called Healing Waters one of the bestkept secrets in the Valley. "We hope to change that by extending an invitation to the communities residing particularly in the metro area suburbs of Tempe, Mesa, Gilbert, Apache Junction, Chandler, Ahwatukee, and Scottsdale to visit us," she said.

Healing Waters Ministries meets Sundays at 10am for worship services at 225 W. University Dr., Suite 105, in the University Square complex in Tempe. For more information, e-mail the church at HWatersM@aol.com, or contact Healing Waters at 894-8681.

Local drummers played in Denver

The Phoenix leather community was represented at the Rocky Mountain Mr. Drummer Contest in Denver by Buster and John on Saturday, August 2. Buster ran for the Mr. Drummer title and John competed as Drummer Boy. Both were sponsored by Tuff Stuff Custom Leatherware.

The Phoenix area is part of the Southwest Drummer Region, but due to the current inactive status of the Southwest Region, contestants were allowed to compete in the Rocky Mountain Region. Also representing the Southwest were Brad and Rohno from Tucson, sponsored by the Venture-N.

Phoenix's Buster was named First Runner-Up, missing the title of Mr. Rocky Mountain Drummer by just a few points to Oree Thompson of Denver. Brad was Second Runner-Up and Rhono won the title of Rocky Mountain Drummer Boy First Runner-Up. The Drummer Boy winner was Dave Martin of Denver.

Members of the Southwest contingent said they will work to further unite and reactivate the local leather communities upon returning to Phoenix and Tucson. A September "meet and greet" social event will be held in the area prior to the Mr. Drummer Finals in San Francisco.

MLK's niece denounces gay rights proposal

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

A niece of civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the state Capitol against two bills that would crack down on discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Alveda Celeste King told about 100 people gathered on the Capitol steps August 19 that she opposed the legislation because sexual behavior does not deserve the same legal protections as race and gender.

To equate homosexuality with race is to give a death sentence to civil rights," Ms. King said. "No one is enslaving homosexuals ... or making them sit in the back of the bus."

Ms. King said her uncle would not have approved of current laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

'I'm here because an injustice is being done against family values," Ms. King said.

Ms. King criticized openly gay Assemblywomen Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, and Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, and charged the California Legislature with harboring "forces that want to steal away the civil rights from under our very noses."

In a statement released August 19, Ms. Kuehl criticized Ms. King for trying to "make it appear that civil

rights leaders feel it is inappropriate to compare the struggles of the gay and lesbian community with the African-American civil rights move-

"Both the Rev. Jesse Jackson and King's widow, Coretta Scott King, have spoken on behalf of gay and lesbian civil rights, said Ms. Kuehl, the speaker pro tem of the Assembly.

Gay rights activists who watched the rally on the Capitol steps defended pending legislation by Ms. Kuehl and Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles.

No one has the right to a monopoly over what civil rights are. about," said Eric Astacaan, a spokesman for LIFE, a gay and lesbian lobbying group.

Ms. King's comments "pretty much sanction hatred and discrimination against homosexuals," Astacaan said. "I'm gay and I deserve equal treatment as every other citizen in the U.S.A."

Ms. Kuehl's bill would expand current equal job and housing laws to afford greater protections with respect to sexual orientation and gender.

Both bills have passed the Assembly and are awaiting action in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

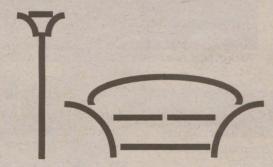
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Lambda League

Continued from page 1

staff, is currently working with University of Arizona employees to create a domestic partnership proposal.

Student Staci Tucker agrees that ASU is a comfortable place to be gay. This friendliness is due in large measure to the high number of out faculty, she says.

"You can walk around wearing stickers and buttons and even hold your girlfriend's hand and not feel too threatened," Tucker says. " Some people will look at you, but no one has ever called me derogatory names or threatened me."

One change she would like to see is more communication between gay men and women on campus. That's why she was glad to see all the gay organizations working together on the Community Pride Day held last spring. She'd also like to increase campus awareness with more flyers, more articles and letters in the *State Press*, and more people coming out. Straight students need to know that the person they meet at a party or sit-

ting next to them in class is gay, she says.

art of the education process also means helping gay students accept their sexual orientation, Knott says.

Each semester, Knott sees students suffering from culture shock. Many of these students have been taught that being gay is evil, and when they come to ASU, they learn the exact opposite, Knott says. The conflict in values can lead to struggle and confusion.

"A lot of times, you'll see someone at one meeting. They'll have a lot of fun. And then they'll shut down. Then they won't show up for a few months," he says.

In some cases, Knott will recommend that the student seek counseling. All of ASU's counselors are very gay-friendly, Knott adds.

Through education, Knott hopes that Lambda can help to reduce the suicides and suicide attempts related to sexual identity. "That's one of our goals," Knott says. "I have no doubt that 33 percent of all suicides are gay-related. That's high. It should be 10 percent—if we go with the statistic that gays are 10 percent of the public."

"It will be a wonderful day when we no longer have kids committing suicide because they're gay."

But Lambda isn't all seriousness. It's also about having fun, Knott says. On Tuesdays, there's a coming out discussion group, and on Wednesdays, as many as 50 or 60 students go out to dinner with the Rainbow Alliance social group.

Knott estimates that about 400 to 500 students are involved in Lambda. Considering that ASU's student and staff population is more than 50,000, this number really isn't high, Knott says.

LUNION

Tucker and Hill clown around outside ASU's Memorial Union

"The vast majority of our membership—75 percent—is gay men. It's kind of disheartening because I'd like to see an even distribution," Knott says. "We're doing our best to get gay and bisexual women involved." When he asked gay women what Lambda could do to get more women involved, they told him to let them know if he figured it out—because they hadn't.

Last year, Lambda sponsored two dances, held a sexual diversity confer-

"The University of Arizona gay community is struggling there. The administration is supportive, but it has a long way to go before it equals ASU. They definitely fall short."

ence, and organized events for ASU Pride, National Coming Out Day, and AIDS Awareness Week. There's also Blue Jeans Day, a day when everyone who is gay or gay friendly wears blue jeans to school.

Lambda also offers students a place to hang for lunch or a stoppingoff point between classes. "Our office

is a zoo," Knott says. "We probably have about 20 to 30 people here everyday for lunch. We have volunteer staffing from 8 to 5 because there are so many people who stop by."

One reason why the Lambda office has more visitors than any other campus group is the library of more than 350 books and magazines, most of which can be checked out, Knott says. But the biggest draw is the people. "A lot of people in Lambda League are very entertaining. The entire third floor gets a comedy routine during the lunch hour. A lot of straight people come up here because it's fun."

lthough ASU is a gay-friendly campus, Knott believes there is one gay tradition that the school is not yet ready for—drag shows. "Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to have a huge drag show on campus, showing that this is one aspect of the community. But I'd be concerned about the safety of the participants."

At the University of Arizona in Tucson, two drag queens and others were hit with rocks during a drag show held on campus, Knott says. When campus police arrived, they decided not to do anything, Knott adds. "The University of Arizona gay community is struggling there. The administration is supportive, but it has a long way to go before it equals ASU. They definitely fall short."

ASU's administration is far more open than other universities, includ-

ing UofA, Knott says. And that openness is not something he wants to jeopardize. "That is not something that most schools enjoy. I feel that offering the extreme might compromise that situation. As long as we have the present chemistry, we feel that

(drag shows) might be too much. This is not something that ASU is ready to accept."

hen Knott became copresident last year, one of his first actions was to dissolve Legal, Lambda's more controversial arm known for holding sitins at the college president's office. According to Knott, Legal was unnecessary given ASU's strong support of gay rights. "That's one aspect of Lambda League that's dead. I don't know exactly what their problem was. I honestly cannot think what it could be. Occasionally, we have hate crimes on campus.I don't think (ASU) could do anything at all to be more supportive of us. I honestly don't know what Legal was doing.

The decision to dissolve Legal was not without conflict. "There was a little animosity on the part of the other board members," Knott concedes, "but it was very, very limited because (Legal) was giving Lambda League such a bad reputation."

Because of Lambda's potentially controversial nature, Knott says that the group is careful about its public image. For example, the club sponsors only two dances a year because its members wish to avoid the charge of being frivolous.

"It's become very clear from several of the (state) representatives in Mesa that we're going to be watched. The administration here is very friendly. They will call us if someone makes them uncomfortable with their questions."

Knott says that his thinking has come a long way since he first arrived on the Tempe campus three years ago. From his involvement in Lambda, he learned that being gay isn't one's whole identity and that "mainstream" people are also gay. "One thing Lambda taught me is the diversity of the gay community, which is what the rainbow is all about."

In addition to Lambda, ASU also has several other gay organizations.

Another alternative for women is the Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Discussion Group that meets on Wednesdays. The group is not officially recognized by ASU because it does not allow men and thus violates discrimination policy, but it does meet regularly and sometimes works with Lambda in organizing campus events. The group is open to all lesbian and bisexual women, not just students.

According to facilitator Staci Tucker, the discussions focus on different topics every week. About 60 women participate in the group throughout the year. "It can be such an educational group because we get such a huge background. It provides a safe space for students who might not be out," says Tucker.

Other campus groups include a lesbian and bisexual discussion group for women graduate students; Progression, a discussion group for gay graduate students; and Ubiquity, a group for gay faculty and staff.

This fall, ASU will also start a new mentoring program in which gay faculty and staff will serve as mentors for gay and bisexual students. Kris Ewing, program coordinator for Student Advocacy, says that the program will help students with career planning and other issues. Although some campuses offer peer mentoring for gay students, ASU's program is unique in that it will pair students with faculty mentors, Ewing says. For more information about gay organizations at ASU, call the Lambda office at 965-9756.

HIV-positive doctors fight for right to practice

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

It's been more than six years since Dr. Paul Scoles was diagnosed as HIV-positive. It's been almost as long since he's picked up a scalpel to cut a patient.

The orthopedic surgeon blames vague federal guidelines and patient fear for keeping him and other health care workers with the AIDS virus from doing their jobs, despite numerous studies that say the risk to patients is minimal.

"Good people, talented people — people who want to work — are being kept from working," says Scoles, one of the speakers at the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association conference that opened August 21 in San Erancisco

The topic has even been tackled on the television show "ER," in which character Jeanie Boulet, a physician's assistant, finds out that her husband has infected her with the virus.

Jeanie hasn't had to deal with some of the harsher consequences facing HIV-positive doctors in real life, including having malpractice insurance yanked or dealing with employers who are skittish about liability.

"It's not a medical issue, it's a PR issue and a legal issue," said Naphtali Offen, who coordinates a retention

program for HIV-positive health care workers for the gay medical association, a national professional organization for homosexual doctors and health care workers.

For example, a physician's assistant in Utah was relegated to a secretarial position, while a medical student in the Northeast was prohibited from doing basic things like drawing blood, Offen said.

"I am hard-pressed to know what to tell them," Offen says. "They are basically treated like pariahs."

At the heart of the issue are guidelines set up by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1991, formulated after a Florida dentist infected patients with the AIDS virus. Since then, there has been only one other documented case of doctor-to-patient transmission, in France in 1996, according to the CDC.

While the guidelines are currently under review, the CDC recommends that health care workers with HIV or hepatitis not perform "exposure-prone procedures."

But medical organizations and even the CDC admit that defining "exposure-prone procedure" is all but impossible. As a result, state policies, which Congress says must either match or be comparable to the CDC guidelines, vary.

Still, most agree that the chance of a health care worker transmitting the AIDS virus to a patient is extremely low. In fact, CDC statistics show that health care officials are much more likely to be infected by patients than vice versa.

Scoles, 47, learned he was HIV positive in 1991. The hospital soon found out and gave him a choice of telling his patients, or they would intervene. He refused, and found himself without a job.

"Largely as a result of what happened to me, most physicians who are HIV-positive stay very, very quiet. And that's my advice," says Scoles, who settled a lawsuit with his former employer in 1995 for disclosing his HIV status to his patients.

Keeping quiet would, however, be illegal in states such as Minnesota, which requires HIV-positive health care workers to register with the state.

California, on the other hand, has no such reporting requirement.

People shouldn't assume that HIV transmission to a patient would never happen, said Dr. Julie Gerberding, an associate professor of medicine and

infectious diseases at the University of California-San Francisco.

"But if we have restrictive policies, we just drive this problem underground. And that's just really a self-defeating approach," she said.

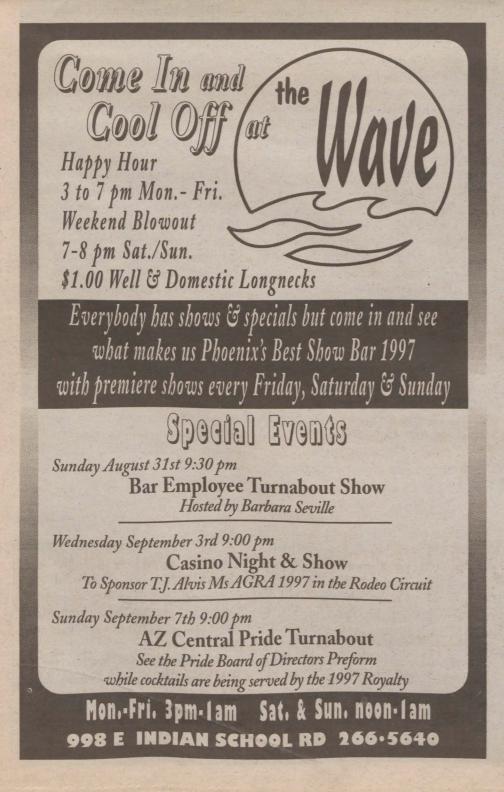
The solution, she said, is taking extra precautions, including wearing two pairs of gloves during surgery and other invasive procedures.

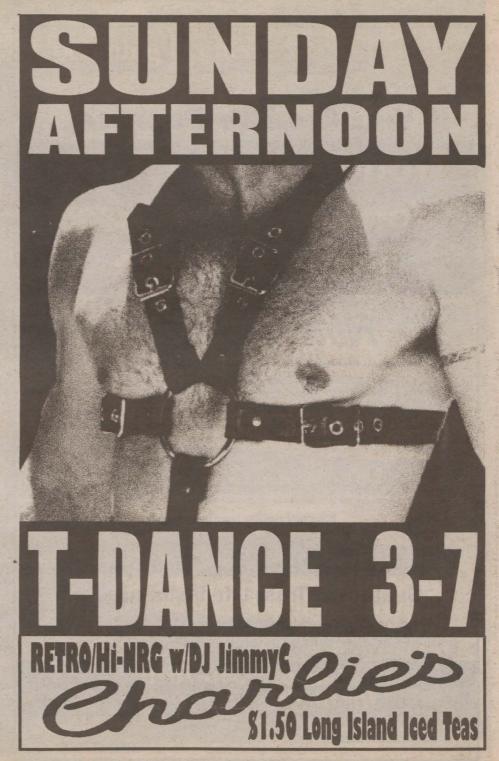
Some patient advocates and hospitals — including Scoles' former hospital — say people have a right to know if the health care workers who treat them are infected, regardless of the risk.

"When in doubt, disclose," says Minneapolis attorney James Wicka, who represented a woman who won an undisclosed settlement after her gynecologist died of AIDS. Although he wore gloves while examining her, the doctor told patients that open sores on his hands were from a bad sunburn, Wicka said.

Scoles now works for an AIDS foundation and teaches part-time at Case Western Reserve Medical School in Cleveland. He says his skills are so rusty that it would be all but impossible for him to work as a surgeon.

"Would I like to go back to practice? Sure, I'd go back tomorrow," Scoles said. "Is that likely? No."





Pope's designer sought unity with rainbow, but church on defensive

PARIS (AP)

Superstars love couturier Jean-Charles de Castelbajac for his playful approach to fashion, and even the Catholic Church hired him to clothe Pope John Paul II, his cardinals and his bishops. But on the day their world youth festival opened in this fashion mecca, church officials were pressed to explain why conservative faithful were upset: Castelbajac's rainbow design resembled a symbol of the gay rights movement.

After Elton John, Lauren Bacall and Grace Jones, the devout Catholic designer was asked by the archdiocese of Paris early this year to design the church's ceremonial robes for the 12th World Youth Day, which ended August 24 with a Mass led by the

"The color is the arch of unity.

After the flood, the universal flag,"

Castelbajac told Madame Figaro magazine. "It seems to me to be the right path: language for all and the instrument of sharing."

Castelbajac hopes the event will bring a renaissance of Church art he dubs `pope-art."

But conservative Catholics were up in arms that the gay rights movement also uses a rainbow. At the festival's daily news briefing, officials were put on the defensive. The leftist daily Liberation had grinned with the headline "La Catho Pride," alluding to the gay Europride parade last month.

"I am happy homosexuals have chosen for colors a biblical and a human sign," said Monsignor Michel Dubost, the chief organizer of World Youth Day. "But they didn't invent the rainbow. I don't see why you have to be ugly to be Christian," he added. Dubost also noted the Olympics had used the rainbow symbol for its events.

Best-known for his graceful animal designs, Castelbajac is no newcomer to religious fashion. In 1985 he was tapped to design the ecclesiastic clothing for the France's Abbey of Epau.

Castelbajac's signature rainbow design has stripes of green, blue, red, orange and yellow. Each color is to represent a continent. Of the 5,000 priests attending the final Mass, each 1,000 wore a different color cross on their sleeves.

De Castelbajac also used his rainbow design for the festival's T-shirts, bandanas, hats, umbrellas and a crucifix. The sale of the items is expected to cover one-fifth of the festival's budget.

A major force in the fashion world since 1968, de Castelbajac has also dressed the likes of Rod Stewart, Farrah Fawcett, Isabelle Adjani and Vanessa Paradis.

De Castelbajac received no fee to work for the church. The French conglomerate Les Chargeurs was donating the 2,000 yards of fabric needed for the robes.

"Dressing the pope coincides with my faith, my Judeo-Christian upbringing," de Castelbajac told Le Monde. "The idea of a group, of celebration and this harmonious mass of people, really inspired me."

Oregon AIDS hospice closes for lack of patients

EUGENE, Ore. (AP)

Acorn House, Lane County's only hospice for people dying of AIDS, has gone out of business for lack of patients.

But nobody is mourning the loss of the hospice because the closure is a sign of a turning point in the AIDS struggle: Death rates have plunged so dramatically over the past year that the nonprofit organization HIV Alliance could no longer justify running a dedicated AIDS hospice.

By October, Acorn House will be reborn as a place to prepare for living, not dying.

HIV Alliance is converting the hospice into a transitional home to help people with AIDS stabilize their health and their lives.

Since 1992, Acorn House has helped hundreds of dying patients through their last months. Starting last year, however, some half dozen patients who took advantage of new treatments started recovering enough to check out.

"I was ecstatic when I realized that maybe a hospice might no longer be needed," said Valerie Haynes, longtime nursing director of Acorn House.

The last patient at the hospice died July 19, and no new patients had sought admission for the previous six months.

Facing the expense of maintaining 24-hour staffing capability, declining fee reimbursements from the state and a questionable need, HIV Alliance decided to find a new mission for Acorn House.

Executive Director Sharlene Simon said she and others agonized about what to do.

"The disease is changing so much, so quickly for many people and we want to be responsive to that. But at the same time we don't want to let go of something we may need in the future," she said.

Haynes's main concern is that the organization maintain its focus.

"There's still lots of work to do," she said. "I have a lot of people who have a long-term chronic illness that need to follow an extremely complicated medical regimen to stay healthy. I'm really concerned that people are going to start thinking the epidemic is over."

Nationwide, AIDS deaths fell for the first time last year, after rising steadily every year through 1994, and leveling off in 1995.

The federal Centers for Disease Control says that people infected with HIV are living longer because of refinements in treatment, especially "combination therapy" with several antiviral agents at once, wider use of drugs that prevent secondary infections, and most recently, the introduction of so-called protease inhibitors, approved by the government in 1996.

HIV infection remains, however, the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. The rate of new AIDS cases remains unchanged. And with so many previously infected people living longer, the prevalence of the disease continues to increase nationally. It shot up 65 percent from 1993 to 1996.

The shifting nature of the epidemic is forcing HIV Alliance and similar agencies across the country to grapple with a new set of problems. People who fully expected to die now need help adjusting to the fact that they will live for years.

"In many ways it's more complicated to help people live," Haynes said.

Many of the people who seek help from HIV Alliance have lost their jobs, their homes and all of their assets, including life insurance policies. But because of the effectiveness of the new treatments, they often won't qualify for Social Security benefits for the disabled.

"You're taking three or four medications in a complicated rotation, some with severe side effects, and you have to come up with a self-supporting income," Haynes said.

In the new program, residents will be able to live at the house for three to four months. They will get help finding their own apartments and rental assistance, sticking with elaborate medication schedules and keeping a healthy diet.

Haynes has taken on the new job of health care director helping to coordinate these and other services for people with HIV.

"A few years ago, we set up a place for people to die. It was hand-

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Monday Sept 15

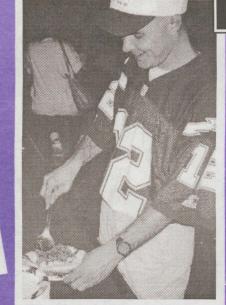
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Multi-talented songstress to headline at AmWest Arena

Vanessa Williams will perform with Luther Vandross in Phoenix for one show only at the America West Arena, September 3. Williams has had two #1 singles, Save the Best for Last and Love Is, and has performed the Oscar-winning Colors of the Wind from the Disney feature Pocahontas.

She has nine Grammy nominations to her credit, and her newest album, *Next*, was released August 19. She stars in the upcoming United Artists film *Hoodlum*, with Laurence Fishburne and Tim Roth. Williams has also performed on Broadway, where she took over for Chita Rivera in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* in 1994.

Tickets for the Luther Vandross/Vanessa Williams concert are available at all Dillards outlets and at the America West Arena Box Office. Reserved seats are \$20, \$35 and \$50.

Show Boat sailing into Gammage

Tote that barge and lift that bale—the new, award-winning, epic production of *Show Boat* will make its Arizona premiere at ASU's Gammage Auditorium Tuesday, October 7.

Tickets for the Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II musical are on sale now. This production will run in Tempe throughout the month of October, and is directed by Harold Prince and produced by Garth H. Drabinsky and Toronto-based Livent, Inc.

Livent is touring the \$10 million production in its entirety, exactly as it

appeared on Broadway, according to producers. The Broadway production grossed over \$100 million, playing 951 performances before more than 1.5 million theatergoers before ending its 27-month New York run last January.

Show Boat was the most honored show of

the 1994-95 Broadway season, winning five Tony Awards including Best Revival of a Musical and five New York Drama Desk Awards including Outstanding Revival of a Musical and the Astaire Award for choreography. Tickets range in price from \$15 to \$65.

Call the Gammage Box Office at (602) 965-6678 or call Dillards at (602) 503-5555 to order.





Pizza Boy Delivers

by Allen Kalchik, Editor

Seasoned independent film producer Christine Vachon and freshman director Tony Vitale made a wise choice when they cast Nick Scotti as the lead in their new "gay" film, Kiss Me Guido. Their casting decision redeems the comedy with a constant— and sorely needed— dose of good acting.

In addition, the former model and current soap star delivers a pouting sexuality (particularly well-photographed in the film's promo posters and print ads) that will no doubt prove a box-office draw.

But if achieving a measure of equality for gay and lesbian films in America means that gay folks get relationship movies with plots as fluffy, weak and stereotyped as this, then *Kiss Me Guido* at best proves we're closing a gap. Finally, it says, there are Gay Stories as lifeless as the stuff Hollywood has churned out for decades spoofing those wacky heterosexuals.

Released nationally by Paramount Pictures, Kiss Me Guido is a silly, often plodding and sometimes mean-spirited look at the clash of cultures surrounding two mismatched roommates in Manhattan. The odd-couple premise asks us to join the crazy hijinks that ensue when a Manhattan thespian named Warren (Anthony Barrile) places a roommate-wanted ad

and finds it answered by Frankie (Scotti).

Frankie is a stunning young stud from the Bronx— an Italian-American pizza chef with simple tastes and a lot of shiny gunk in his hair. He's simple and innocent, the kind of guy some people in Eastern parts of this country might derogatorily call a "Guido."

Warren, on the other hand, is a sharp-witted, West Village boy-man living in a world of avant-garde plays, power brunching and clubhopping. Warren is nursing his recently broken heart by watching old Julie Andrews films. He's also looking for an inventive way to cover the rent he's just become solely responsible for.

Warren is gay, Frankie is straight. Frankie thinks "GWM" in a classified ad stands for "Guy With Money." If you think that's funny (or at least believable), you should head out to see *Kiss Me Guido* right away. If you like gay comedies with a tad more substance, there are other factors to consider before getting in the ticket line.

The story leans toward wooden, the characters break no new ground, and the editing is a bit jumpy. The minor characters— especially the sexcrazed landlady played by Molly Price and Warren's acid-tongued, nellie best friend played with much vigor by Craig Chester— are painted with offensively broad strokes.

Nevertheless, there's a sweet message here. The original story was written by former location manager Vitale as well as directed by him (see accompanying story). It's his first effort, and Vitale fought hard to get Kiss Me Guido made and distributed.

Vitale's movie tells both gay and

straight audiences that all different kinds of people can get just along fine if given the chance, and that we are wrong when we write each other off as nothing more than the products of our various environments.

His theme hits home in a way that's touching without cloying. And Kiss Me Guido has a couple of other good qualities that manage to make up for the movie's awkward moments, including a script peppered throughout with the kind of witty put-downs and delicious gay one-liners we tend to appreciate.

But nothing onscreen is more delicious and appreciated than Nick Scotti as the Guido. He's sung for

Outonfilm

Madonna, modeled underwear (and otherwear) for New York's fashion gurus, and recently nabbed a recurring role on the daytime soap *The Young and the Restless*.

Without Scotti, Kiss Me Guido would be a lame attempt at forcing humor out of an overly contrived situation. Instead, it's one young actor's big chance to prove he's more than just abs and an accent. And Nick Scotti succeeds, for himself and the betterment of this film.

Director says, "Kiss Me, Hollywood"

It's his movie, so first-time writer/director Tony Vitale shows up as an actor, too. He's in an early scene playing a one-dimensional, homophobic, track-suit-and-gold-chain-wearing Italian American ordering pizza by the slice in a Bronx restaurant.

When the closing credits roll, we see Vitale's minor character labeled simply, "Guido #1". It's a little inside joke, one that tells us the hot new indie

filmaker is capable of poking fun at

And it's a good thing— the way he liberally sprinkles other Italian-American and gay stereotypes throughout his new film, *Kiss Me Guido*, which was just released nationwide by Paramount Pictures.

"Yeah, I had fun playing that homophobic guy," Vitale said of his minor role. He spoke to *HeatStroke* from Los Angeles. The Bronx boy has moved to LA, where he is wading through the stacks of scripts now coming his way through the studio system, and trying to settle on his next project.

"I played that part myself on purpose," he continued, "because I wanted to show how much you can't judge a book by it's cover. That's a phrase that has not only been a part of my life, but it's what I've now put up on screen. People hear my name and think they know what to expect out of 'Tony Vitale, that Italian guy from the Bronx'— and then they meet me and maybe I'm not what they thought. I enjoy playing around with people's perceptions and compartmentalizations of what people are."

And yet the writer concedes that characters we recognize as stereotypes are based in reality. "Dear friends I have come to see the film, and they don't recognize themselves," he said.

"I have a friend named Gino, that I grew up with," continued Vitale.
"Gino wears a running suit just like Pino (a relatively un-sympathetic Italian-American character in KMG), drives a car like Pino's, and talks just like him. Our other friends all said, 'oh my God, you put Gino in the film.' So of course Gino asked, 'is that me?' And I lied and told him, 'no, come on,



Writer/director Tony Vitale, left, makes a point to star Nick Scotti on the set of *Kiss me Guido*

Vitale said the film is supposed to be a farce and moviegoers who only see stereotypes aren't really looking. "I dare anyone to call either Frankie or Warren sterotypes," he said. "I put three different young, Italian-American males up on screen. And Frankie is the one who gets out of that environment, where we realize he's a much more three-dimensional character. And now he doesn't fit that stereotype that was perceived in the very beginning.

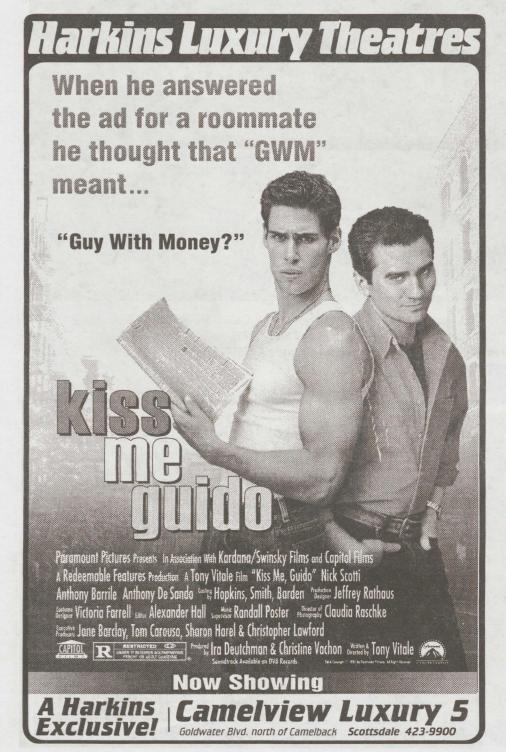
he's nothing like you.' And Gino said,

'Yeah, I didn't think so. Just thought

"It's the same thing with Warren," he continued. "I've given him enough screen time to make a portrayal of him as a normal gay man. Unfortunately, I didn't have a chance to give Terry or the playwright more screen time. But if the story revolved around them, I would have made their characters more three-dimensional."

One pleasant surprise for fans of low budget features comes near the end of the film, when Guinevere Turner turns up in a party scene. Turner wrote and directed *Go Fish*, an independent film that was picked up for wide release after showing at a number of gay and lesbian festivals a few seasons back.

Vitale explained how Turner became involved with his project. "Christine Vachon, the producer, also produced *Go Fish,*" he said. "So Gwen was only one phone call away. She loved the idea of doing a cameo for us at the end. Gwen plays herself in that scene on the roof. When she tells off the guy who can't believe she's a lesbian, she wrote her own lines for that. It was funnier than anything I would have written."



Bad Karma

By Kelly Reidhead, Managing Editor

// t's a simple story: boys meet girl, boys crush girl, boys giggle," says writer/director Neil LaBute about his first feature film. He says the screenplay was inspired by a single line of dialogue: "Let's hurt somebody." "You can kill characters only once, but you can hurt them every day," LaBute explains.

Filmed in eleven days with a total budget of just \$250,000, In the Company of Men won the Filmmakers' Trophy for best dramatic feature at Sundance last January. It's a prime example of why independent films are becoming increasingly successful in this country. Unfettered by the need to return a huge investment in performance fees or special effects, LaBute had the freedom to make the movie exactly the way he envisioned. And his vision has made for a terrific film.

In the Company of Men violates some of Hollywood's most sacred cows. The script is brazenly non-politically correct. Nearly everyone - straight women, straight men, gays, African Americans, deaf people — will find something offensive in its raw and stinging dialogue. Perhaps most notable, however, is LaBute's refusal to resolve In the Company of Men with a typical Hollywood ending.

The film follows Chad and Howard, two college buddies who now work for the same company, during the six-week period they are posted to a remote branch office. Chad (Aaron Eckhart) confides to Howard (Matt Malloy) that his girlfriend has left him, cleaning out their apartment in the process. Chad finds a sympathetic ear in Howard, who has also just suffered a break-up.

After an evening of drinking and female bashing "inside women are all the same. . . meat and gristle and hatred" — Chad suggests a plan of

action to Howard that will restore their battered male egos.

The two agree that they will find a woman in the branch office — preferably someone who has abandoned all hope of ever having a healthy sexual relationship. Once they've identified their mark, each will lavish attention and affection upon her during the six weeks they are in town. And at the end of their stay, they will each drop her hard the same treatment they've received from women.

"Trust me," Chad snickers, "She'll be reaching for the sleeping pills in a week. And we'll be laughing about this till we are very old men."

he two meet Christine (Stacy Edwards), a beautiful, deaf, office temp who speaks and read lips. Chad and Howard's scheme proceeds as planned, with each taking turns at courting the flattered Christine. The balance of the film documents the web of manipulation that Chad and

Howard spin around the unsuspecting Christine — and around each other.

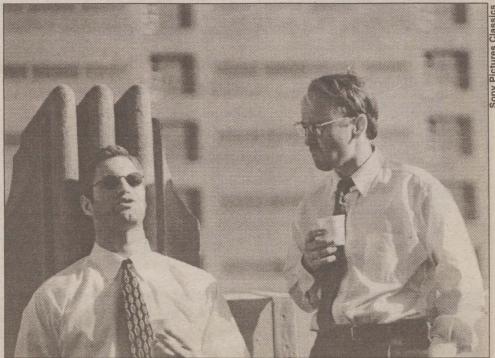
All of the actors put in fine performances. Aaron Eckhart's charming but duplicitous Chad is particularly notable. The chameleon-like Chad will leave you queasy with recognition: he's the icon for every sleazy manipulator you've ever known.

Stacy Edwards also does a splendid turn as Christine. Although not hearing-impaired, Edwards has done

her homework. Christine's speaking voice is strikingly similar to the tone and manner in which deaf people speak. Despite the quality of Edwards' performance, however, it's disappointing that the producers didn't cast a deaf actress in the role.

Ultimately, the tight script is the brightest star of In the Company of Men. Writer/Director LaBute was raised a Mormon, and has a degree from Brigham Young University (where he met Aaron Eckhart). These twin bastions of right-wing patriarchy have served LaBute well: he's incorporated both the drive for material success and the sexist attitudes of Latter-Day Saints in his tale.

In the end, this film isn't really about angry white men getting revenge on women — that's just the frame. Instead, In the Company of Men is a classic tragedy about universal flaws of humanity: greed, cruelty, and the quest for power. But the ending to this tragedy isn't classic Hollywood it's more like reality.



Aaron Eckhart, left, and Matt Malloy compare notes in In the Company of Men.

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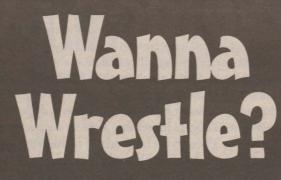


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Wrestling Club gets underway

Haul out the mats, it's time for the Spartan Wrestling Club's third season to begin. The Phoenix-based athletic organization will kick things off with an exhibition match planned for August 31 at Trax.

The Club's regular practice schedule will begin on September 7. The Spartans meet at the Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center on Sundays from 6-9pm. The Center is located at 3136 North 3rd Avenue in Phoenix.

The Club began primarily as a recreational sports organization, but some members hope to compete in tournaments and other events such as the Gay games taking place next August in Amsterdam.

"It's a great sport and the Spartans are a great group of guys," said member John O'Connor of Phoenix. "And Dennis is an excellent coach," he added.

The Club was organized three years ago by Dennis Spillman, to create an outlet for gay men in Phoenix who share an interest in the sport of amateur and freestyle wrestling. Spillman moved to the Valley from Philadelphia. He was a co-founder of the Spartan Wrestling Club there seven years ago.

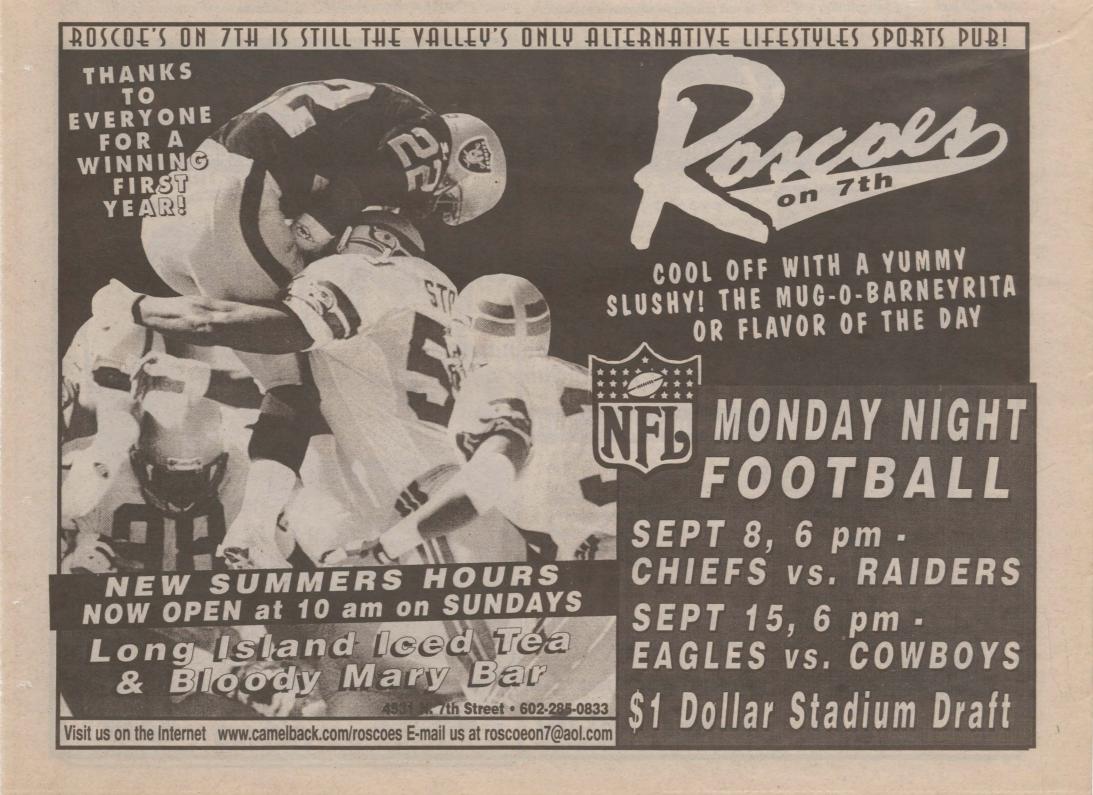
"The Spartans in Philadelphia are much more competitive," said John Marshall, Secretary of the Phoenix Club. "They took several medals at the last Gay Games and are expected to be very competitive in Amsterdam," he said.

Marshall said he just moved to Phoenix in December 1996, and called the wrestling organization a great way to make new friends. "I instantly found a group I had a common interest with," he said, "it gave me something to do with other gay men, away from the bars and the smoke."

O'Connor said this will be his second year participating, although he was unable to attend all of last season's events due to work commitments. "But I wrestled in high school, and also in fraternity intramurals during college," O'Connor said. He explained that many of the men participating in the Phoenix club have similar wrestling backgrounds.

Marshall said the Club currently has about 20 men on the roster and around 12 attend practices regularly. "We hope to have about 16 active members this season," he said.

Men interested in joining the Club should call (602) 340-8070 for more information, or dial 1-888-728-6050. No experience is required.



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Out of Town:

New Mexico: Santa Fe and Taos by Night

By Andrew Collins, HeatStroke Contributor

In recent years, the scenic northern New Mexico communities of Santa Fe and Taos have become increasingly queer-popular destinations. The wealth of gay-friendly B&Bs and nationally acclaimed restaurants accounts largely for the region's popularity.

Although gay nightlife is extremely limited (most of New Mexico's bars are in Albuquerque, a couple hours away), Santa Fe has a gay bar and a

coffeehouse, as well as a few restaurants with moderately queer-popular bars. Taos has a handful of fairly gay-friendly bars, but this is not a town where singles gather with high hopes. Both destinations are couples-oriented.

What you will find in this region is a stellar dining scene, characterized not only by a wealth of authentic New Mexican eateries but a surprising variety of regional American and ethnic cuisines.

Santa Fe earns the highest marks for its abundance of sophisticated menus — prices, however, can be steep. At the high

end, gay-popular Santacafe is one of the most romantic spots in town; here you'll be treated to an exotic blend of Far Eastern and Southwestern cooking.

Celebrities flock to Coyote Cafe, whose chef, Mark Miller, is the man most strongly associated with Santa Fe's brand of New American-inspired Southwestern cuisine. If the somewhat pretentious dining room turns you off, turn on to the festive, open-air rooftop cantina, where the food is half the price and just as good.

Not only will you notice a lot of family hanging around the stylish bar at Geronimo's, you'll discover first-rate Continental food (with the ubiquitous Southwestern influences); try for a table in the enchanting courtyard. A loyal contingent of queers favors Vanessie, where live piano music warms the air and the smell of steak and ribs permeates it.

For inexpensive and authentic New Mexican fare that's spicy enough to make your eyes water, consider the Blue Corn Cafe, whose fiery chipotle pepper and smoked-corn chowder is a specialty. Tesuque Market, an offbeat country-deli-cum-cafe in a picturesque village north of town, also serves wonderful under-\$10 meals, ranging from green chile burgers to heaping salads.

Taos, though not as renowned as Santa Fe for dining, still offers a full range of great restaurants. Marciano's serves sophisticated Northern Italian fare in a cozy, softly lighted dining room. Doc Martin's adobe dining room is one of the region's top nouvelle American and Southwestern venues.

top nouvelle American and Southwestern venues. Straight but gay-menally

A long and winding — but stunning — dirt road leads to the Hummingbird Ranch, one of Santa Fe's most alluring gay-friendly accommodations.

North of town, Tim's Chile Connection has unbeatable mountain views, margaritas in glasses the size of fish bowls, and spicy traditional New Mexican fare. Locals satisfy their hunger for fine but inexpensive California-style cuisine at the art-filled Trading Post Cafe.

And when you crave an authentic hefty taco or enchilada, do as many Taosenos do and drop by the Burrito Wagon, a rusty tan camper behind the Central Taos Motorbank. This place has even fewer frills than no-frills. You dine in your car.

Back in Santa Fe, the gay nightclub (equally popular with men and women), the Drama Club, has different themes depending on the evening, from live music to Wednesday's wildly popular "Trash Disco," which features dance tunes from the '70s and '80s.

Open til the wee hours of the night, nearby Dana's After Dark is funky java house with a predominantly gay following and lots of space for lounging.

In Taos, the bars at both Doc Martin's and Tim's Chile Connection are festive and relaxing, drawing a mostly straight (but groovy) crowd.

You'll learn quickly in these towns that the likeliest place for a hot time is back in your guest room with your partner. Many inns have breathtaking views and in-room fireplaces and hot tubs — northern New Mexico is highly conducive to romance.

For best results, avoid anonymous chain properties in favor of the several gay-friendly B&Bs in both Santa Fe and Taos (some gay-owned, others straight but gay-friendly). Most offer rooms with

private entrances, so seclusion is rarely a problem.

A favorite Santa Fe hideaway, the Hummingbird Ranch, is seven miles west of the downtown Plaza, in a remote and scenic patch of desert — the best room here is the casita with both a kitchen and unique adobe shower that accommodates two.

Another great choice, just north of the city, is the Triangle Inn, a rustic ranch comprising several adobe casitas, each tastefully decorated and with differing layouts.

Of the countless inns near the Plaza, three of the best gay-friendly establishments are the sumptuously decorated Adobe Abode; the cozy Four Kachinas, whose 5 rooms each have a contemporary, clean, uncluttered ambience; and the

relatively new Inn at the Turquoise Bear, a historic Spanish Pueblo Revival home set amid rock terraces and gardens of lilacs and wild roses.

Top B&Bs in Taos are, near the center of town, the cheerful Ruby Slipper, whose rooms have private entrances, tile floors, handcrafted furnishings, and kiva fireplaces; the Little Tree, a smaller guest house set dramatically on a bluff with incredible mountain and mesa views; and the Cottonwood Inn, a sprawling two-story adobe home with elegant furnishings and close proximity to Taos Ski Valley and numerous hiking trails.

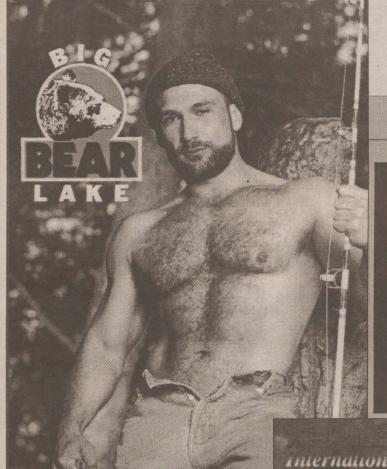
Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA, three recently released gay guides covering the West Coast, and forthcoming gay guides on New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam. He can be reached care of HeatStroke or at OutofTown9@aol.com.





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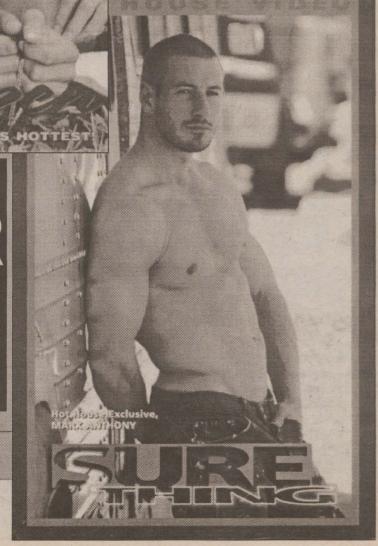
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Provincetown goes after bias in curriculum

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. (AP)

A proposed anti-bias curriculum in the Provincetown schools has sparked national controversy from critics who say it promotes homosexuality.

But school officials say the curriculum is merely an attempt to stamp out prejudice.

"We've decided we're going to take the rainbow perspective," Provincetown School Superintendent Susan N. Fleming told the *Boston Herald*.

"We're going to look at color, we're going to look at race, we're going to look at gender — and sexual orientation is one of those things."

The school committee voted to review the curriculum from kindergarten through grade 12 to eliminate bias, and to encourage teachers to be open to all lifestyles in classroom discussions.

Provincetown has a large gay community, and signs of affection between same-sex couples are a common sight. Town Manager Keith Bergman was among those who pushed for the changes. He said the change was needed because Provincetown is more diverse than most towns in Massachusetts.

"Not all of our students are white, not all of our students are straight," said Bergman, who is married and has two daughters in the public schools. "In this community it's not going to come as a revelation that we have gay and lesbian parents."

Bergman said there have been many inquiries from the media since an article appeared in the Washington Times.

"Unfortunately the media has zeroed in on issues dealing with sexual orientation, when the anti-bias program is about equipping the community with tools to fight racism, sexism, classism, bias against people with disabilities and homophobia," he told *The Boston Globe*.

The school committee will hold a public hearing so residents can discuss the proposed changes.





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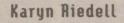
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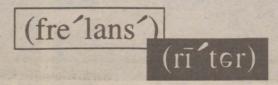
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Dear Cowboy,

How long is too long to wait for someone? I waited for a date for over half an hour in a bar. So I left and went to another bar. Later, he said he showed up after I left.

I thought "fashionably late" meant ten minutes. But when I told him how long I waited he said that in Bar Time, 30-45 minutes is fashionably late and then he got mad at me! What do you think?

Signed, On Time

Dear Timely,

30-45 minutes late is just plain rude in these parts. The rules of "fashionably late" do not apply at all when you are meeting someone in a public place— even if it is a bar— and the date was set up somewhat casual-

Suppose you get invited to a fancy BBQ or hoedown at someone's ranch and you pull in about ten minutes after the appointed hour (to give the host a couple extra minutes to gussy up the place and grab a breather and a shot of whiskey before showtime). Now that is arriving fashionably late, and there's nothing rude about it.

But leaving someone to wait alone in a bar is downright inconsiderate, even if it's for only ten minutes. Send this one back to his Mamma for some finishing lessons.



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Dear Cowboy,

How can I tell if a guy I am in love with is gay? I am 24 and I met this guy at work. We started hanging out, so I came out to him and he was freaked at first.

Then he said he wanted to stay friends, so we continued to hang out

and party. I got even more attracted to him and now I am in love with him even though he considers himself my "best straight friend".

The thing is, we have messed around. Actually, he wanted to try anal sex— on the receiving end— so

we did that. Do you think he will turn out to be gay, or should I get over it? He is only 18.

Signed, Now I'm Confused

Dear Confused,

Remember that being

whole orientation and

nearly always involves

gay is more than a

sexual act. It is a

personal cultural

changes.

Hang in there, but try lowering your expectations. Your greenhorn cowpoke will be gay when he says he's gay, so let it be and he will "turn out" just fine— without any pressure for more experimenting from you.

> Remember that being gay is more than a sexual act. It is a whole orientation and nearly always involves personal cultural changes.

Could be this young'un was just exploring some sexual feelings and will

find that he is not gay. Continue to be his best friend and ride it out.

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

www.visi.com/~oprairie/

ABOUT SOME NICE, COLD APPLE JUICE?

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

265-7283

mythology ot everyday lite

OKAY. HERE'S A THOUGHT. MAY-BE IF I GO OUT AND COME BACK IN, YOU'LL TELL ME YOU FOUND A JOB TODAY, THERE'LL BE SOMETHING TO EAT, AND STANLEY KOWALSK! HERE WILL BE GONE.















HOW NICE FOR YOU. IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT I DID TODAY, I WON AN INJUNCTION AGAINST A NITRIC ACID PLANT, THEM I FALLED TO PREVENT 300 ACRES OF WETLAND; FROM BEING TURNED INTO A LANDFILL, THEN MY CASE AGAINST A PESTICIDE COMPANY GOT DISMISSED ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS.



HEAD AN' DEN IT GWEW MOW HEADS!



The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

LUNCH AND A MATINE NEXT THURSDAY.. I

by Eric Orner





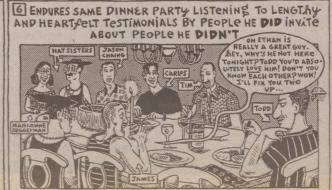
finds out the Sneaky old witch (Todd's Term, Not MINE) SENT IT ANYWAY.

OH,TODD, Hi...
YOUR MOM SENT
ME THE MUCOLOAT
CARD! I WAS SO
TOUCHED!
TRULY...









ericsorner@aol



The Barn Adult Shop

Phoenix's #1 Safer Sex Store

5021 W. Indian School 245-3008

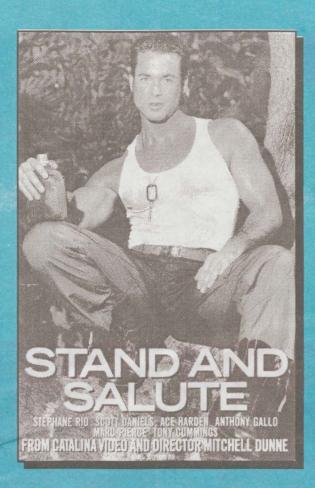
> Adult Video Rental & Sales Adult Books • Magazines Toys & Novelties • Lingerie Greeting Cards

Arcade—Private Preview Booths

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

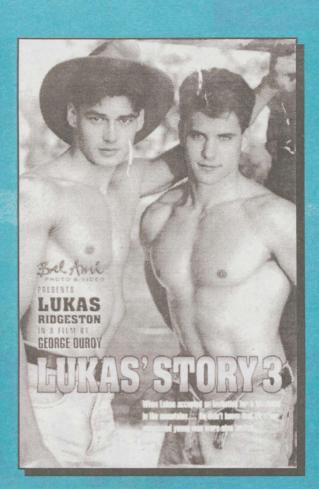
\$10 Video Membership **★** with this Coupon **★**

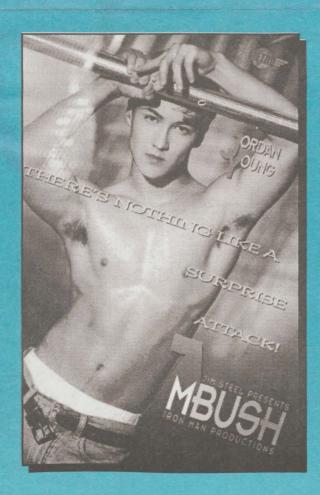
Hundreds of New Videos Arriving Weekly!

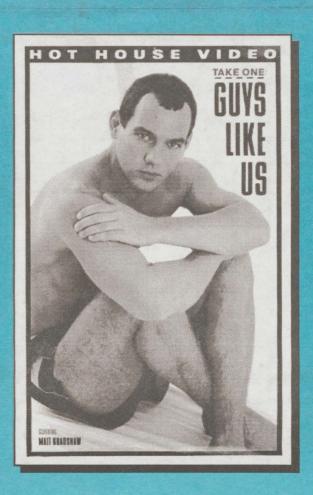




New Titles include: Rock Solid **Maximum Cruise** The Pornographer **Hot Tamales Learning Latin** Raw and Uncut Shockingly Shameless Rookie Patrol **One Hot Summer** Boy, Oh Boy







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

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dibles

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

ibations

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

- Desert Rose 44301 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix 265-3233
- 4343 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix 263-8313
- 15601 N. Cave Creek Phoenix 493-5123
- Harley's Club 155 Harley's Too! 155 & 125 W. Camelback
- 2424 E. Thomas Phoenix 955-9805
- JC's Fun One 5542 N. 43rd Ave. Glendale 939-0528
- 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
- NuTowne 5002 E. Van Buren Phoenix 267-9959
- 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

- 307 Lounge 222 E. Roosevelt Phoenix 252-0001
- 1724 E. McDowell Phoenix 254-0231
- 998 E. Indian School Phoenix 266-5640
- 5707 N. 7th St.
 Phoenix 265-9002 Phoenix

taples

- The Adult Shoppe 111 S. 24th Street 306-1130
- Astro Vintage Modern 2403 E. Osborn Phoenix 957-8770
- The Barn Adult Shop 5021 W Indian School Phoenix 245-3008
- 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
- Castle Boutique-4 locations 5501 E. Washington 300 E. Camelback Rd. 8802 N. Black Canyon 8315 E. Apache Trail
- Dwellings 24 W. Camelback Phoenix 248-4959

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

ubs

- 1440 E. Indian School Phoenix 234-1654
- 1517 S. Black Canyon

ulture

- 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
- AZ Mining & Mineral 1502 W. Washington Phoenix 255-3791
- 64. AZ Science Center 600 E. Washington

- 65. AZ State Capitol Museum 1700 W. Washington Phoenix
- 66. ASU Art Museum Nelson Fine Arts Center Mill Ave. & 10th Street Tempe 965-2787
- ASU Gammage Center Apache & Mill Ave. Tempe
- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky Pavillion 2121 N. 83rd Ave. Phoenix 254-7499
- Celebrity Theater 440 N. 32nd Street Phoenix 267-9373
- 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
- Phoenix Civic Plaza 225 E. Adams St. Phoenix 262-6225
- Phoenix Symphony Hall 225 E. Adams Phoenix 262-6225
- Phoenix Museum of History 105 N. 5th Street Phoenix 253-2734

- 78. Phoenix Theatre 100 E. McDowell Phoenix 254-2151
- 79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural Theatre 909 N. 3rd Street Phoenix 241-1821
- 80. Union Hall 512 E. Van Buren Phoenix 253-7100

utdoors

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

Finding it in Phoenix

Flagstaff 4 North Mountain & Sedona Park & Preserve 83 Shea Blvd Peoria 83 Dunlap 29 Squaw Northern Paradise Peak Park Glendale Valley Glendale Bethany Home McDonald 13 Scottsdale (24) 143032 29 Camelback Camelback (5) 33 6 B 20 3 Indian School 23 34 Indian School 18 26 (51) Thomas (C) (17) McDowell 22 Galvin Pkuy 10 Van Buren Van Buren 85 84 63 Curry Ro 65 61 (202) Sky Harbor (143) 10 International Airport Tempe 28 10 60 10 Mesa Ahwatukee City of Phoenix South Mountain Park & Preserve Tucson