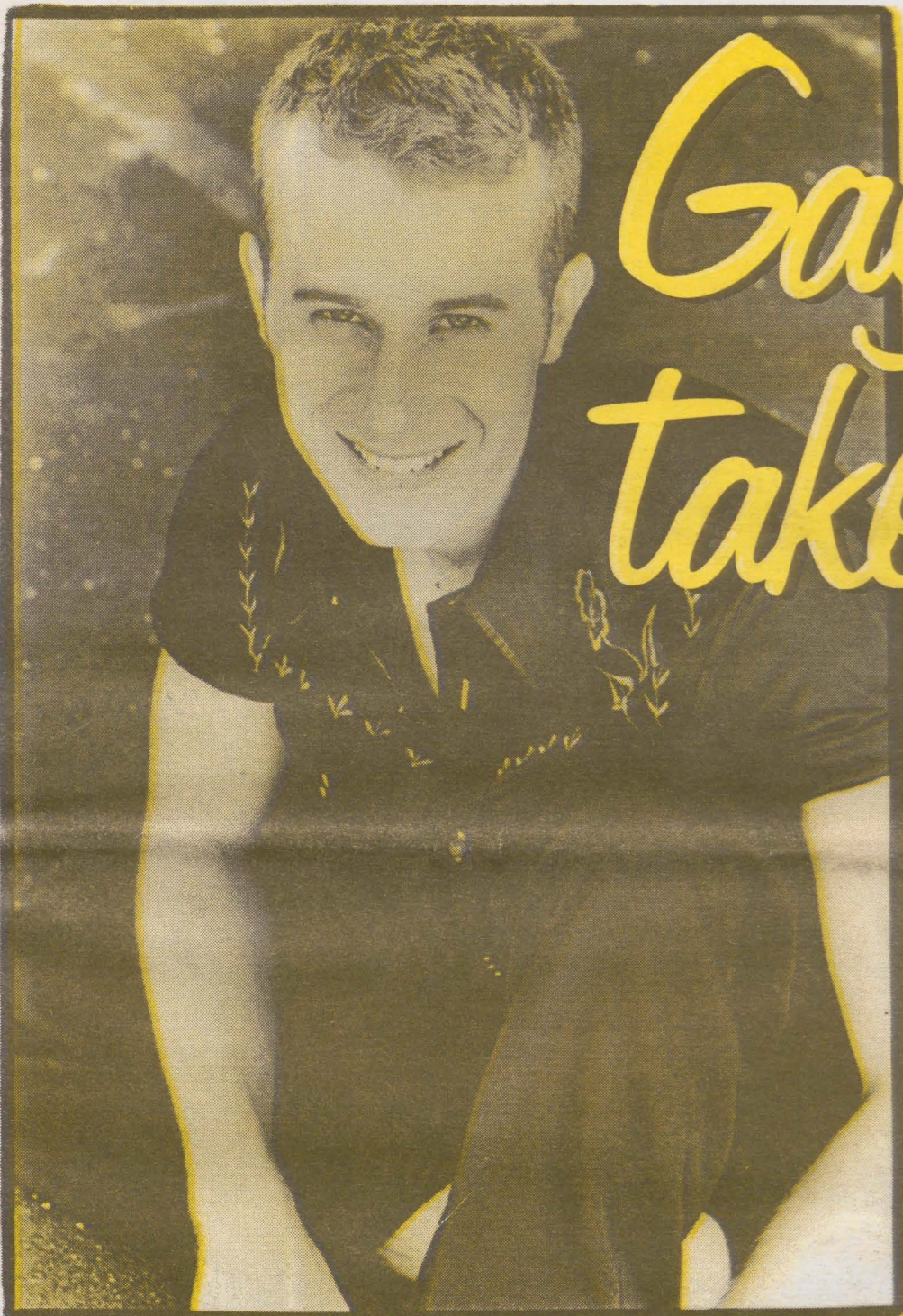


# HeatStroke

Volume 2, No. 24

Phoenix, Arizona

October 9—22, 1997



## Gay Boys take on fame

### New York actors to preview one-man show in Phoenix

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

A beautiful little girl with big dreams—of being a child beauty queen. A wannabe rock musician. An aspiring porno star. An edgy, neurotic actress and an elderly man.

All these characters—and more—are portrayed by New York actor and playwright Eric Bernat in his new, one-man play, *The Seductive Art of Becoming God & Famous*.

Bernat's show will have its Southwest premiere on October 22 at Phoenix Theatre's Little Theatre.

The play will be produced by Captive Audience Productions and directed by David Drake.

Drake is perhaps best known as the author and star of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, another solo theatrical work that was an off-Broadway hit a few years ago, winning Drake an Obie award and then touring successfully worldwide.

In a recent phone conversation with both the director and the writer/performer of *...God & Famous*, Drake told *HeatStroke* that

See "Play" page 8

## Regulators may strip medical license from Phoenix gay doctor

### Agency investigator details patient allegations of sexual misconduct

By Kelly Reidhead, Managing Editor

The state agency that regulates medical doctors has taken the first step toward terminating the legal authority of Dr. Ken Fisher, a local gay physician, to practice medicine.

Following a staff investigator's summary of the charges against Dr. Fisher, the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners (BOMEX) unanimously voted on September 26 to accept a motion that "the information presented may warrant suspension or revocation of the doctor's license." Fisher was not present at the Phoenix meeting; he was, however, represented by his attorney, Calvin Raup.

The motion, offered by Dr. Ram Krishna, the Board's Vice Chairman, directed BOMEX attorneys to prepare a written complaint against Dr. Fisher, and to schedule an evidentiary hearing of the matter before an administrative law judge. Arizona law requires a hearing before either revoking or suspending a physician's license for more than 12 months.

BOMEX did not implement an emergency summary suspension of Dr. Fisher's license; therefore, he is authorized to continue practicing medicine during the pendency of the legal proceedings.

The Board's action was in response to two complaints filed against Dr.

Fisher earlier this year, both stemming from charges of inappropriate sexual behavior.

The first complaint, filed February 20, 1997, alleged that Dr. Fisher violated a previous BOMEX Stipulation and Order that resulted from a 1995 complaint claiming the physician had sex with a patient. The 1995 complaint culminated with a signed agreement (the Stipulation and Order) between Dr. Fisher and BOMEX that restricted the physician's practice.

Among the restrictions imposed by the Stipulation and Order are the following: Dr. Fisher must have a chaperone present for all examina-

tions performed in his office, and require the chaperone to sign the patient's chart after each exam. Dr. Fisher also agreed to obtain a treating therapist to address "boundary issues," to have the therapist submit quarterly reports to BOMEX, and to remain in therapy until it is terminated by the Board. (See *HeatStroke*, Issue 15, June 5—18, 1997, for more details regarding this complaint.)

The second complaint, filed June 23, 1997, alleged that Dr. Fisher had engaged in "inappropriate sexual behavior." Confidentiality laws forbid disclosing further information about the specifics of that charge. (See

See "Dr. Ken Fisher," page 4

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before sending).

**Managing Editor**  
Kelly Justin Reidhead  
reidhead@mail.idt.net

**Editor**  
Allen Kalchik  
alkalpx@aol.com

**Contributors**  
Alison Bechdel, Eric Orner,  
Brian Helander, David Horowitz,  
Karyn Riedell, Andrew Collins, Bill  
Throckmorton, Tim Dougherty,  
Robert Griffith, Frank Repice

Member, Camelback Business and  
Professional Association

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**Advertising**  
Chuck Browning

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# Horowitz:

keep on coming out

**O**n October 11, 1989, my best friend (I'll call him Mark) came out to me. At the time, I was deeply entrenched in the closet.

We had known each other through college and graduate school, yet we had never discussed our sexuality. That evening, Mark took a huge risk and a significant step toward freedom.

He invited me to dinner—unusual since we each always paid our own way. Mark kept quiet during most of the meal, but by dessert became anxious and fidgety. He asked if I knew what day it was.

Knowing full well that October 11 is National Coming Out Day, I gave some ridiculous response like, "Saturday?" He looked deflated, so I asked, "Isn't something going on with gay people today?" He nodded his head and quickly blurted out that this was his way of telling me he was gay.

I smiled and said, "Congratulations." I didn't know what else to say. In that moment, I saw Mark breaking free of the same secret I kept. I saw someone who knew the truth would set him free, someone willing to risk a precious friendship.

**W**e all know that coming out is risky business. The support friends and families give us is often overwhelming, but sometimes rejection follows the revelation. Mark risked being rejected by his best friend. I was very proud of him—and very jealous.

So jealous, in fact, that I said, "Well, I've had some of those feelings too..." I went on about my clandestine thoughts and activities. I made the rest of the evening's conversation about me, and came very close to coming out right back.

It took another nine months before I let go of the lies and deceit and finally joined Mark outside the closet door — albeit very slowly and cautiously.

I remained incredibly nervous about anyone in my high-powered law firm finding out. I had said the words, yet the only people who knew I was gay were other gay people.

Once I got a taste of that freedom and sense of community, however, I couldn't turn back. So during the summer of 1991, I blew the door off the closet. Though July and August, I told all the people in my life that I wanted to tell directly.

The levels of love and support astounded me. I asked each person to keep my secret until September 1, and then they could tell anyone they wanted. I would no longer live the lies.

Within a short period, I got heavily involved in gay community activities and activism, came out at work, told my entire family and started hunting for a husband. Until I came out, I never knew true joy.

Meanwhile, Mark moved to another city. I won't say where because some people might piece this story together.

**U**nfortunately, when I blew the door of the closet, Mark bolted his shut again. He still has not told his parents he's gay. He precludes himself from a powerful, loving relationship because he fears being cut off by his prominent family.

He avoids photographers at gay-related events to make sure he doesn't make the papers. As a matter of fact, he avoids gay-related events entirely. The limited amount of happiness he allowed himself in 1989 is all but gone.

Mark reminds me that coming out is not an event but a process. Even though I've been telling the truth about my sexual orientation for years, I still come across people I must come out to. New employees at work, people in airports, hotel desk clerks, etc.

National Coming Out Day asks us to "Take Our Next Step!" The significance of October 11 doesn't end with the first disclosure; it begins. Unless we continue to come out of the closet, we end up going back in by default. So don't just come out; keep coming out.

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

Editors:

As you know, the comedy concert ("A Night of Music and Comedy" at Phoenix College on September 13) was a big success. That was directly thanks to you and the other sponsors who helped support the event and get the word out.

Thanks again and I look forward to working with HeatStroke again next year.

Dianne Post  
Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center  
Phoenix

*Editors' note: see page 6 for a report about the financial results of the Center's comedy benefit.*

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# Dr. Fisher's license to practice medicine at risk

Continued from page 1

HeatStroke, Issue 18, July 17-30, 1997.)

At the BOMEX meeting, the staff investigator in charge of Dr. Fisher's case verbally outlined some of the allegations against the physician.

Investigator William Meidt explained that the February, 1997, complaint had been brought by Dr. Alan Kazan, the Medical Director of Access Blue Connection, a now-defunct division of Arizona Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

Dr. Kazan's complaint asserted that Dr. Fisher had been examining patients without a chaperone being present, in violation of the previous Stipulation and Order.

According to investigator Meidt, a review of Dr. Fisher's records established that there were 59 examinations in which the presence of a chaperone was not documented. He also noted, however, that the records "implied" a chaperone in some cases, even though they lacked "formal acknowledgement of a chaperone present."

Meidt informed the Board the doctor admitted being in the examining room while patients were "self stimulating," although Fisher "could not recall who those patients might be."

Meidt then discussed a series of interviews that BOMEX investigative staff conducted with Dr. Fisher's patients in August. Mr. Meidt outlined for the Board the following allegations made by those patients:

- One patient claimed that Dr. Fisher had fondled his genitals, and that Dr. Fisher remarked that the patient's partner was "lucky."

- Another patient stated that there was no chaperone present during an exam in which Dr. Fisher fondled his nipples and grabbed his genitals.

- Another patient said that Dr. Fisher fondled his testicles with no chaperone present, and performed an inappropriate prostate exam, pushing his fingers in and out continuously for several minutes.

- Another patient stated that Dr. Fisher gave him a hug, and whispered "I love you," in his ear. This patient also described his reluctance to file a complaint because his partner was affiliated with a hospital in which Dr. Fisher works, and was worried that there might be some retaliation.

- Another patient stated that during an injection, Dr. Fisher grabbed his penis. While performing a prostate exam on the same patient, Dr. Fisher allegedly told him to "pretend I'm a big black man." At the end of the exam, the patient claimed Dr. Fisher gave him a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

- Another patient said that just before receiving an injection, Dr. Fisher allegedly told the patient to "say please, daddy."

timonial letters to the Board from patients who were supportive of Dr. Fisher. According to Meidt, "several letters say that there have been chaperones present during the course of the examination. . . others simply attest to his dedication to treating a given population of the community."

Concluding his summary, Meidt stressed that the case against Dr. Fisher concerned "a myriad of complaints that had a great preponderance of parallel accusations from a variety of people." Further, he stated that the investigation of the complaints indicated "conduct or practice which is, or might be, harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public."

Following the investigator's summary of the allegations, Dr. Philip E. Keen, BOMEX Chairman, offered Dr. Fisher's attorney the opportunity to address the Board. Mr. Raup declined the invitation without comment.

The next step in the BOMEX investigation of Dr. Fisher requires the completion of a written Complaint and Notice of Hearing by an Assistant Attorney General assigned to the agency. The Complaint will outline all of the charges against Dr. Fisher.

There is no time frame within which the Complaint must be completed. Once it is sent to Dr. Fisher, however, the evidentiary hearing must be scheduled within 120 days.

BOMEX is authorized by statute to summarily suspend a medical license without an evidentiary hearing "if the Board finds that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action." According to BOMEX

Ombudsman Donna Nemer, "there has to be evidence sufficient to support a summary suspension."

Nemer said that BOMEX has

**"In my experience with the Board, I've never been aware of a situation in which BOMEX has invoked a summary suspension for allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior with patients."**

**— Donna Nemer, BOMEX Ombudsman**

invoked emergency license suspensions in cases in which physicians tested positive for alcohol or drugs while under investigation for substance abuse. With those facts, she explained, "the Board can be reasonably assured that the doctor is impaired, which would be grounds for summary suspension."

"In my experience with the Board," Ms. Nemer continued, "I've never been aware of a situation in which BOMEX has invoked a summary suspension for allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior with patients." She added, "I don't think the sexual orientation of the doctor or of his patients is at all relevant," to the Board's decision regarding an emergency suspension.

"The purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to require BOMEX to establish its burden of proof that the physician's license should be revoked or suspended," Nemer explained. The assigned administrative law judge will hear the evidence, and then will draft proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

After the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law are submitted to BOMEX, Arizona statutes authorize the agency to "affirm, reverse, adopt, modify, supplement, amend, or reject" the administrative law judge's findings in reaching its final decision regarding Dr. Fisher's medical license.



Dr. Kenneth Fisher, from his 1981 application to practice medicine in Arizona.

Affiliated with his patients from his time he

- Another patient stated that Dr. Fisher came into his room and masturbated him as he was waking.

Meidt pointed out that Dr. Fisher's attorney had provided a group of tes-



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layout and illustration by Chris Marzuola

# Colleges caving into financial pressure to allow military recruiters on campus

WASHINGTON (AP)

In 1992, Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, took a stand. Since the American military banned homosexuals in the ranks, Kenyon would ban military recruiters from its campus.

That policy lasted exactly five years. After being placed on a government blacklist, the oldest private college in Ohio capitulated under threat of a significant loss of federal dollars.

Dean of Students Donald J. Omahan said the school abandoned its policy in September because the government made the cost of resistance impossibly high.

"I'm not happy about the decision we had to make," he said.

Kenyon had been among a handful of holdouts that continued to refuse campus access to the military despite increasing pressure from Congress.

In 1994 — with the overwhelming support of Ohio representatives — the House passed an amendment forcing colleges to choose between their hardline anti-discrimination stands and cold hard cash.

The first law of its type made such schools sacrifice Pentagon grants and contracts if they refused to cooperate with the military.

Across the country, small colleges that didn't get much — or any —

Defense Department money found it easy to retain policies of defiance.

This year, the stakes became higher: a threatened cutoff of almost all federal funds — not just Defense Department funds.

For Kenyon's 1,540 students, that would have meant the loss of \$159,826 worth of grants, \$75,000 in work-study funds and \$9,744 in direct student loans.

"The impact the cuts would have had on our students was unthinkable," Omahan said.

The same pressure convinced most of the other holdout schools to allow recruiters on campus.

Left on the list are 17 colleges in Connecticut, which are in a peculiar legal situation because of a state court ruling, plus two holdout law schools: American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., and William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn.

"It's a very difficult issue to deal with," said Harry Haynsworth, dean of the Minnesota school. "It's the kind of thing people feel strongly about on both sides."

Haynsworth wouldn't say how he will advise the school's board of trustees, which has authority to change the policy. For now, he's researching the issue and trying to figure out whether giving in to the

federal government would put the college in violation of Minnesota's broad human rights statute.

"Some people think that if we let the military on campus it would violate the statute," he said. "Nobody has tested the statute in this connection before."

Haynsworth has heard from some people for whom "it's a matter of pride to say 'stick it to the military,'" but said his school hasn't had an adversarial attitude.

Even though the military hasn't recruited at William Mitchell since 1987, its graduates are referred on request to the local recruiting office. One recent graduating class included at least five people who enlisted in the Judge Adjutant General corps, he said.

The government has frozen some \$419,000 in federal student aid for which the law school was eligible for 1997-98, including the work-study funds that support students who clerk at the Minnesota Supreme Court.

"Unfortunately, maybe the dollar is more important than the principled approach," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of Washington-based Human Rights Campaign. "I would like to say that the price of principle should be high-

er than a student's loans."

The gay-rights advocate said her organization will continue to push for repeal of the federal-aid penalty, but she didn't sound optimistic.

"It's not just principle vs. dollars. It's the fact that (Rep.) Gerald Solomon created that choice for these institutions. To many, that's a tragedy," she said.

Solomon, R-N.Y., created the strategy that forced the colleges to make their choices.

An ex-Marine who offered a measure in 1982 denying student aid to young men who did not register for the draft, Solomon viewed barricades to recruiters as an impediment to building a strong all-volunteer military.

"The readiness of our Armed Forces is on the wane," he said, proposing to reverse the slide by helping recruiters explain military opportunities to more top-flight students.

Solomon described his successful amendment as "telling recipients of federal money at colleges and universities that if you do not like the Armed Forces, if you do not like its policies, that is fine. That is your first-amendment right. But do not expect federal dollars to support your interference with our military recruiters."

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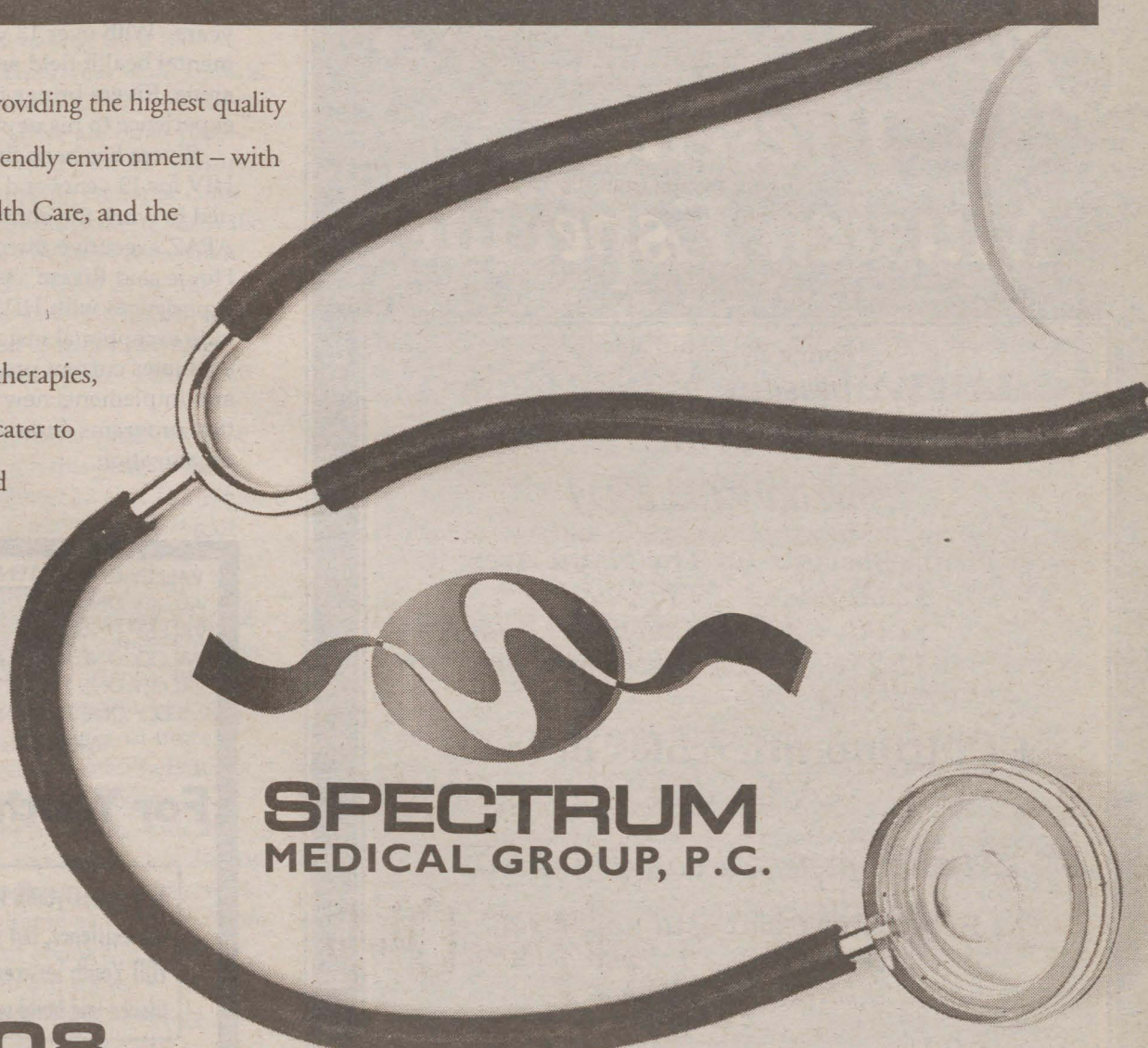
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# Fall event raises nearly \$7,000 for Community Center

The recent fall benefit for the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center brought in a total of \$8,605 for the non-profit community organization, said Phoenix attorney Dianne Post, who helped plan the event.

Titled "A Night of Music and Comedy," the program featured gay musician/humorists Romanovsky & Phillips and the comedic talents of out lesbian comic Karen Ripley. The event, held September 13 at Phoenix College's Bullpit Auditorium, was sold out.

Proceeds will be divided between The Center and Bas Bleu Productions, the evening's co-pro-

ducer. Of the ticket sales, \$6,893.50 will go to The Center and \$1,711.50 will go to Bas Bleu, according to Post.

Post said Bas Bleu will likely be putting the money right back into the community with another gay and/or lesbian production. She praised Bas Bleu president Jane Goldstein for her support of The Center and for Bas Bleu's continued commitment to bringing gay entertainment to the Valley.

To find out more about upcoming Community Center fundraisers or events, or to volunteer for any of The Center's programs, call director Lyle Miller at (602) 265-7283.

## New Being Alive Coordinator named

AIDS Project Arizona (APAZ) has announced the appointment of Edgar Rivera to the position of Coordinator of Being Alive/Early Intervention programs at APAZ, effective September 29.

Rivera comes to the Phoenix service agency from the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation in Tucson. There, he has been a Case Manager and Peer Support Specialist for the past three years. With over 13 years in the mental health field and HIV arena, Rivera brings talent and experience to his new position.

Rivera has been living with HIV for 13 years and has continued to work the entire time. APAZ executive director Peter Houle said Rivera's personal experiences with HIV will provide exceptional insight as he evaluates current program strategies and implements new early intervention programs and outreach at the organization.



Edgar Rivera settles in to his new post at APAZ's Being Alive program

Rivera can be reached at APAZ, 111 E. Camelback Road in Phoenix, (602) 265-2437.

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# 10,000 expected for Oct. 19 AIDS Walk

## Contributions could top \$1 million, planners say

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

The 10th annual AIDS Walk Arizona on October 19 promises to be the "biggest and best ever" according to Louise Bowden, Special Events Coordinator for AIDS Project Arizona (APAZ), the walk's producer.

Bowden said as of September 30 more than 8,000 people had pre-registered to walk in the fundraiser. She predicted the number of walkers will reach 10,000 by the morning of the event, which begins and ends at Patriots Square in downtown Phoenix.

Marc Kallenberger, Chair of the APAZ board, said he believes the fundraiser could reach the \$1 million mark this year. "We have projected a goal of \$650,000 on paper," he said, "but it already looks as though we will far exceed that."

Last year's AIDS Walk raised over \$466,000, an increase of more than \$200,000 from the 1995 Walk, Bowden said. More than 6,000 people participated in the 1996 event.

Kallenberger said raising \$1 million would make the AIDS walk the biggest fundraiser in the state. "This is really positive, to have had so many big sponsors sign on this year,"

Interest has also been building in the 1997 walk due to the involvement of Tonight Show guitarist Kevin Eubanks. The musician will participate in the walk and has lent his name to help raise money.

"Kevin wrote some very effective letters for us, helping to recruit walkers," said Bowden. "He will walk the route with his girlfriend, actress Tammy Townsend, and we are very happy to have them both participating." The use of Eubanks' name and image has brought community awareness to a level the event's producers might otherwise have been unable to raise, she said.

Also increasing participation and enthusiasm in the 1997 walk has been the involvement of many gay and lesbian bars in the Valley. "Many of these bars participated in the past, but this year we turned it into a contest," Bowden said, "and we are getting more participation there than we ever had before."

The bars with the most walkers in their teams will win awards and trophies. Doug Anderson, Bowden's assistant in special events at APAZ, has been coordinating the bar effort. He said the leading gay bars had recruited more than 50 walkers before October 1. Leading the effort were The Park, Harley's and The Wave.

"The bars are really rallying around the walk this year," Bowden added. "Many of them are raising awareness with parties, and having their bartenders wear walk T-shirts ahead of time."

There are other prize incentives for all walkers, including cameras, color TVs and clothing for walkers who raise more than \$125 - \$2000 in pledges.

The walker with the most money pledged in his or her name will win the grand prize: a trip to Acapulco.

"Our major media sponsors have done a terrific job this year," said Bowden. "Channel 12 and The Edge, especially, have really been promoting the walk and gotten the message out there."

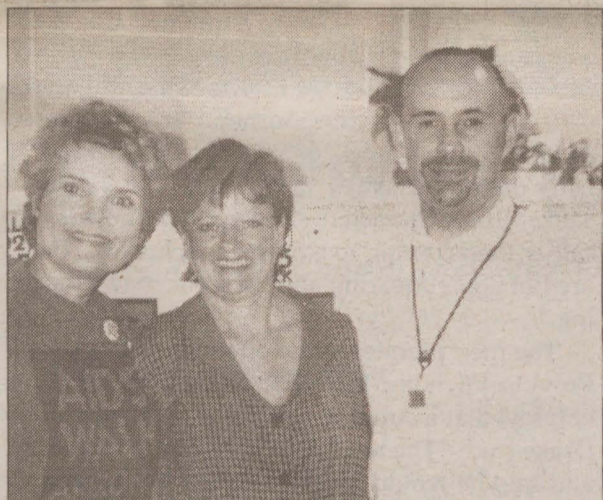
To participate in the walk, call 265-WALK to register and obtain a pledge form. Then get your friends, family and co-workers to sponsor you for as little as \$2 per kilometer, or more. Bring your pledge money to Patriots Square on October 19 at 9am.

There will be a sign-in, with live entertainment and activities including an aerobics warm-up before the walk. The walk will begin at 10:30am. Most people will take about 3 hours to complete the 10 km route. Entertainment and refreshments will be available at each rest stop. Following the walk will be a concert at Patriots Square featuring The Murrurs.



Heather Grody, left, and Leisha Hartley, aka The Murrurs, will perform in downtown Phoenix after the walk.

Alison Dyer



APAZ's AIDS Walk planners: (l-r), Team Coordinator Pam Kramer, Special Events Director Louise Bowden and Special Events Assistant Doug Anderson

he said. "It is wonderful to finally see this kind of support in the corporate community, in a state that has not embraced funding for AIDS in the past."

The major corporate sponsors to which Kallenberger was referring include The Arizona Republic, Wells Fargo, Community Hospital, Channel 12, The Edge radio and others.

Proceeds from the walk will benefit AIDS Project Arizona and The Arizona Republic Charities, a fund of the Robert T. McCormick Tribune Foundation, which will support AIDS service and education providers in Arizona.

This year, *The Arizona Republic* has committed to donate 50 cents for every dollar raised by this event. "That in itself should create a sizable increase in the money we will raise this year," Bowden said.

The relationship with *The Arizona Republic* took a long time to develop, said Kallenberger. "That is something we have been working on for a long time," he said. "This is very exciting and it's already clear the event is going to be a huge success."

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# New York play comes to Valley

Continued from page 1

there are similarities as well as differences between Bernat's new piece and his own work.

"My own writing," said Drake, "often has homophobia as a conflict at the center of it. Not so much gay self-acceptance, but homophobia as it exists in the world. And that's not the central conflict of Eric's play."

Drake explained that his solo work generally deals with the AIDS crisis. "AIDS really sort of clarified homophobia for many people," he said. "What happened is that a lot of writers in the theater had a story to tell. They felt they had to deal with the subject in some manner, and many of them did so. Including me."

"So that's what you saw a few years ago with this proliferation of AIDS as the central plot theme, the central conflict in the world. We were all asking, 'how do you live your life in a plague?'"

"Now we are moving on and telling other stories. I don't know if writers will return to gay things, as more gay characters become secondary characters in mainstream, heterosexual scenarios. And I find that sort of sad, I'm sort of nostalgic. Not for AIDS to return in that way or for that gay conflict to return, but for that period of gay theater."

"Maybe AIDS has impacted some other aspects of life, so that is why some of the more spiritual work is coming out," Drake added.

Offering his own view on *...God & Famous*, Bernat said, "It's really not a gay-themed play. But it can't help but be written from a gay point of view. Because it's my point of view." The men were together on a recent afternoon, working on the play in Drake's New York apartment.

"The fact that I play women gives kind of a gay feeling to it," continued Bernat, "We don't have costumes, so I'm not actually doing drag. But I don't think there's any question in the audience's mind as to whether I am gay or straight," Bernat said.

Now 26, Bernat grew up in California. He attended UCLA, then lived in Los Angeles but didn't get involved in any sort of professional acting until he moved to New York.

"I wasn't acting in LA, so I moved to New York because I thought it sounded glamorous," Bernat said, laughing. Last year, Bernat sent an early draft of his monologues to Drake, who had never before considered directing a solo show apart from his own work.

"Eric sent me the script and it was so funny that I had to do it," said Drake. "I was acting in the revival of *Boys in the Band* off Broadway—this was about a year ago. Eric sent me a note asking if he could send *...God & Famous* to me. I read it, and right away I thought it was very good."

The two met and began to expand and shape Bernat's idea. "I made some notes as a writer," said Drake. "The production you are going to see in Phoenix is vastly different from the one he sent

me a year ago. He's changed about half the characters and the other half are new ones that we've worked on for the last year.

"We got together and went over it pretty harshly with a big, red pen," Drake continued. "Eric was grateful because I took him very seriously. I would suggest, 'this is good,' or 'you could get a better joke here,'—little things as well

The playwright said that, during the process, both he and Drake noticed how fame kept coming up as a central theme in all the monologues. "They all think of fame as being a part of something bigger than themselves. For these characters, fame means being able to contribute something to the world. Which is—for a lot of people—a big dream.

"I think for everybody," Bernat continued, "the need to contribute is prevalent in their lives. And so in my thinking—in my little, actor head—it all focuses around the media and those desires, those sort of narcissistic, exhibitionist desires."

The God part of the title is not a reference to religion, Bernat said. "God, in this sense, is like being able to take charge of your own situation—your own destiny—and I think all people are struggling to find that control. I know I am."

"These are mostly low-rent types, they are on the fringes," Drake said of the characters. "They are male and female, young and old, there is one young girl and then a very old man."

Bernat had actually written the part of the Child Beauty Queen long before the JonBenet Ramsey murder made headlines. "Eric's play was timely before it became timely," Drake said, laughing.

Drake explained that the characters in *...God & Famous* do not follow a typical, narrative journey. "It's like some

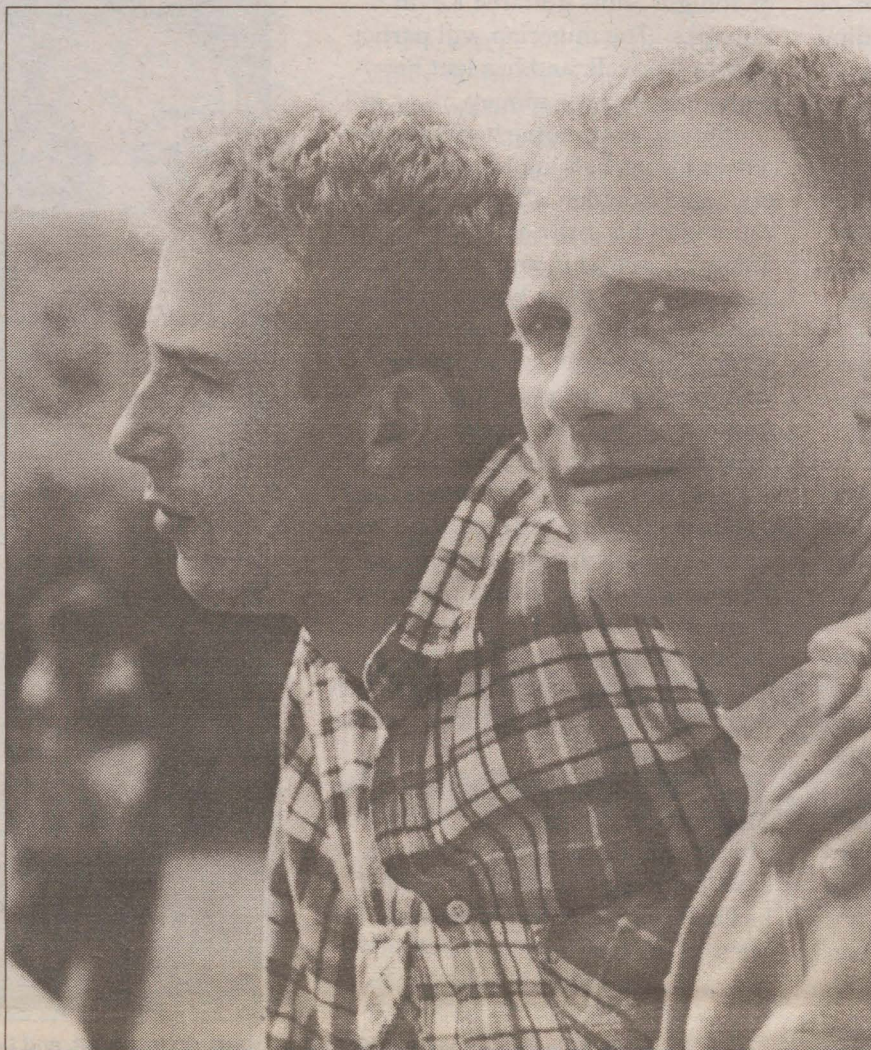
of Lily Tomlin's work, or Whoopi Goldberg's early days, when she was doing solo work," he said. "Eric's characters shed light on these issues rather than coming to a moral conclusion. They are fun and endearing and, in some ways, touching."

The men premiered the one-man play in Provincetown last July, where Bernat was employed at a summer repertory company. Drake said, "The artistic director knew my work and said he would love it if we came up there and did the play on the off nights in his theater as a work-in-progress."

The play did well before its first audience, selling out both shows. The playwright and his director then hooked up with former Phoenician Christopher Wynn, an actor who recently started his own production company in New York.

Bernat explained how the decision to test the play here came about: "David knew Christopher in New York, and Christopher was interested in producing some solo work. David showed him a tape of our Provincetown show, and he gave it the big thumbs up."

Producer Wynn said he was excited by the prospect of bringing the talents of David Drake and Eric Bernat to Phoenix. He promises a fun, funny evening for all who attend the show. "The quality is something you would expect to see in New York, but we can produce it here for far less than it would cost to stage it there," Wynn said.



Actor/writer Paul Bernat, left, in Provincetown last summer with his director, Obie winner David Drake

as larger, theme things. That's the way it was established and the way we've been working ever since."

Describing his friend's play, Drake said it is a comedy made up of seven characters, each of whom is seeking fame. "In some way, shape or form, they are all meditating on the American obsession with fame, and all the sensations of it," he added.

"One of those sensations has a spiritual quality to it, if you think of God as the experience of being alive, rather than representing some particular religious sect. In this case, the sect would be fame—it's about the religion of fame."

Bernat explained how his unusual theme came about. "I started writing just because I wanted to write," he said, "and that's the theme that came through." He never consciously thought of writing about fame.

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# Bishops to parents: love your gay children

NEW YORK (AP)

U.S. Catholic bishops are advising parents of gay children to put love and support for their sons and daughters before church doctrine that condemns homosexual activity.

In a groundbreaking pastoral letter, the bishops say homosexual orientation is not freely chosen and parents must not reject their gay children in a society full of rejection and discrimination.

"All in all, it is essential to recall one basic truth. God loves every person as a unique individual. Sexual identity helps to define the unique person we are," the bishops say. "God does not love someone any less simply because he or she is homosexual."

The document, titled "Always Our Children," was approved by the Administrative Board of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops early in September and released September 30, with an early copy provided to The Associated Press.

In the last two decades, with almost every other church struggling over gay ordination or efforts to ease condemnatory church doctrine, the Roman Catholic Church has stood

firm, teaching that homosexual activity is morally wrong.

In two high profile cases in the 1980s, the Vatican disciplined Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen for allowing a group of gay Catholics to meet at St. James Cathedral and revoked Charles Curran's license to teach moral theology at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Curran had said homosexual acts are sometimes morally acceptable.

But the mounting turmoil and pain felt by Catholics torn between church teaching and love for their gay children prompted several bishops to request guidance from the bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family. The committee began studying the conflict in 1992.

Five years later, the bishops in their letter describe parents who suffer guilt, shame and loneliness because their children are gay and report that "a shocking number" of homosexual youth are rejected by

their families and end up on the streets.

The parental rejection, along with the other pressures faced by young gays and lesbians, place them at

**"The basic hope here," said Bishop Thomas O'Brien of Phoenix, chairman of the Committee on Marriage and Family Life, "is that parents will accept their children, regardless of their sexual orientation."**

greater risk of drug abuse and suicide, the bishops said.

Why the form of a pastoral letter from the church's spiritual leaders?

"Primarily to get them to accept the fact that their son or daughter is gay or lesbian, and that their child was not damned forever," Bishop Joseph Imesch of Joliet, Ill., chairman of the Committee on Pastoral Practices, said in an interview.

The Vatican, in the new Catholic Catechism and in the pronouncements of Pope John Paul II, has staunchly held that sex is morally acceptable only within the bounds of heterosexual marriage.

And the U.S. bishops' letter in no way abandons Catholic doctrine. It states clearly that genital sexual activity between same-sex partners is immoral and that the letter is not to be understood "as an endorsement of what some would call a 'homosexual

lifestyle.'" It draws a distinction, however, between homosexual orientation and sexual activity.

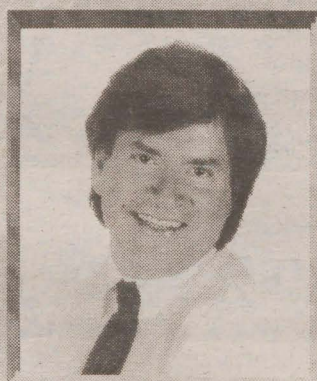
In the letter, the bishops urge parents to encourage their children to lead a chaste life and, at times, to challenge aspects of their children's lives they find objectionable.

But the bishops also tell parents that maintaining a relationship with their child should be their primary goal.

See "Pastoral," page 11

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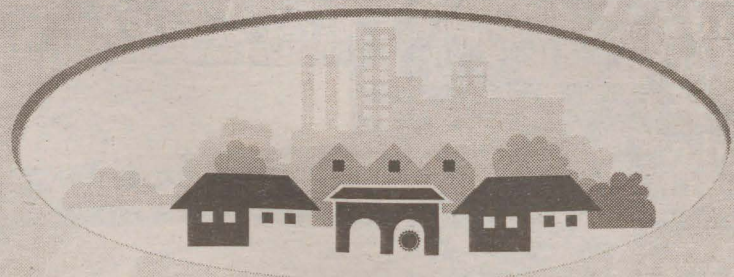
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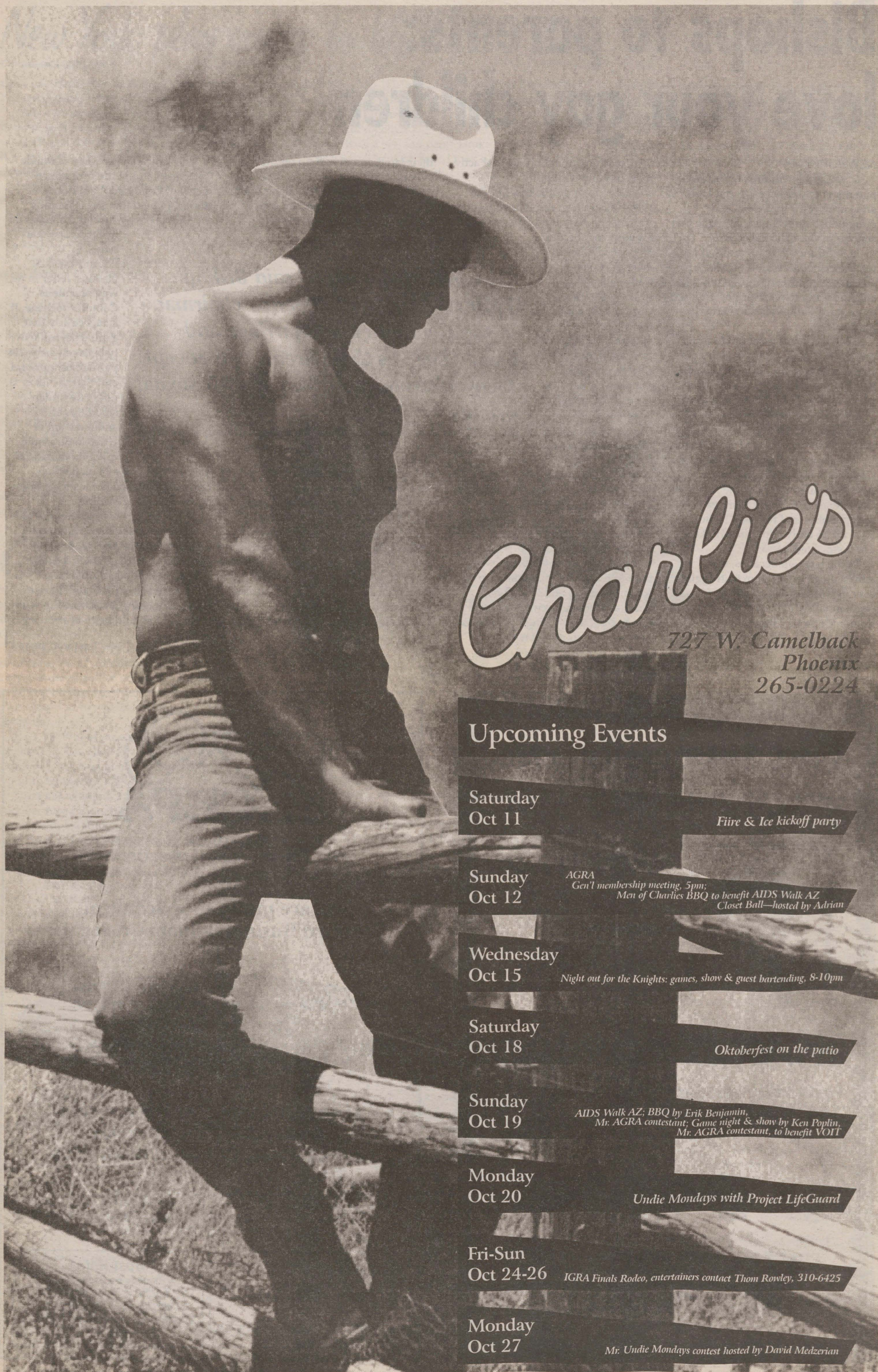
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Sunday  
Oct 12

AGRA  
Gen'l membership meeting, 5pm;  
Men of Charlies BBQ to benefit AIDS Walk AZ  
Closet Ball—hosted by Adrian

Wednesday  
Oct 15

Night out for the Knights: games, show & guest bartending, 8-10pm

Saturday  
Oct 18

Oktoberfest on the patio

Sunday  
Oct 19

AIDS Walk AZ; BBQ by Erik Benjamin,  
Mr. AGRA contestant; Game night & show by Ken Poplin,  
Mr. AGRA contestant, to benefit VOIT

Monday  
Oct 20

Undie Mondays with Project LifeGuard

Fri-Sun  
Oct 24-26

IGRA Finals Rodeo, entertainers contact Thom Rowley, 310-6425

Monday  
Oct 27

Mr. Undie Mondays contest hosted by David Medzerian

# Gay Catholics respond to bishops' pastoral letter

Washington, DC,

"Dignity/USA welcomes the pastoral letter, Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to the Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministries, issued October 1 by the board of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference. This pastoral letter is a positive step and we commend the bishops for their improved sensitivity to the issues which confront parents and their lesbian and gay children, but all is not perfect," says Dignity/USA Executive Director, Charles Cox.

While this pastoral letter has been in development for five years, and does not break any new ground theologically, it does demonstrate greater pastoral sensitivity. Robert

Mialovich, President of Dignity/USA said: "The document points out the real dangers that confront gay and lesbian youth. It also offers some very practical advice to both parents and pastors. Our hope is that all bishops, pastors and parents will take it to heart and that we will see improved ministry to our community. Since its founding in 1969, Dignity/USA has been working for improved pastoral attention to the real lives of gay men and women. The bishops' letter recognizes some of these needs and our task will be to hold them to their words."

Mialovich went on to say, "Though the letter is very pastoral, we continue to be disturbed by the bishops' continued distinction

between homosexual orientation and homosexual activity. This is a distinction that makes little sense to us and will be a stumbling block in the way of any effective pastoral program seeking to encompass the letter's recommendations. Further, the letter still leaves parents without guidance on how to respond positively to their children's same-sex relationships." Charles Cox also went on to say, "The most serious fault we find with the letter is the incomplete explanation and view it provides regarding chastity. Dignity believes that expressions of love, including sexual intimacy between two individuals of the same sex, can be morally acceptable."

Cox also said, "Today, however, Dignity/USA is pleased with the tone

and content of Always Our Children. Our hope is that this letter is only the beginning of a more open and fruitful dialogue between gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons and the Catholic Church. Dignity looks forward to meeting the 'outstretched hand' of invitation offered by the bishops."

The bishops' letter is especially timely in light of Dignity/USA's sponsorship of Lesbian and Gay History Month throughout October, and of Solidarity Sunday on October

Dignity/USA is the nation's largest organization of Catholic lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered individuals and their families and friends.

## Pastoral letter instructs Catholics to accept their gay kids

Continued from page 9

"First, don't break off contact; don't reject your child," the bishops say. Instead, they say, create an atmosphere in which a child would be willing to discuss his or her sexual orientation.

"This child, who has always been God's gift to you, may now be the cause of another gift: your family becoming more honest, respectful and supportive," the bishops said.

Among their recommendations, the bishops urge parents to "do everything possible to continue demonstrating love for your child." That includes remaining open to the possibility that even after counseling,

a child may still be "struggling to ... accept a basic homosexual orientation."

The document also encourages priests to welcome homosexuals into parishes, to help establish or promote support groups for parents of gay children and to let people know from the pulpit and elsewhere that they are willing to talk about homosexual issues.

When they lead chaste lives, homosexuals should be given leadership opportunities in the church, the bishops said.

"Generally, homosexual orientation is experienced as a given, not as

something freely chosen," the bishops said. "By itself, therefore, a homosexual orientation cannot be considered sinful, for morality presumes the freedom to choose."

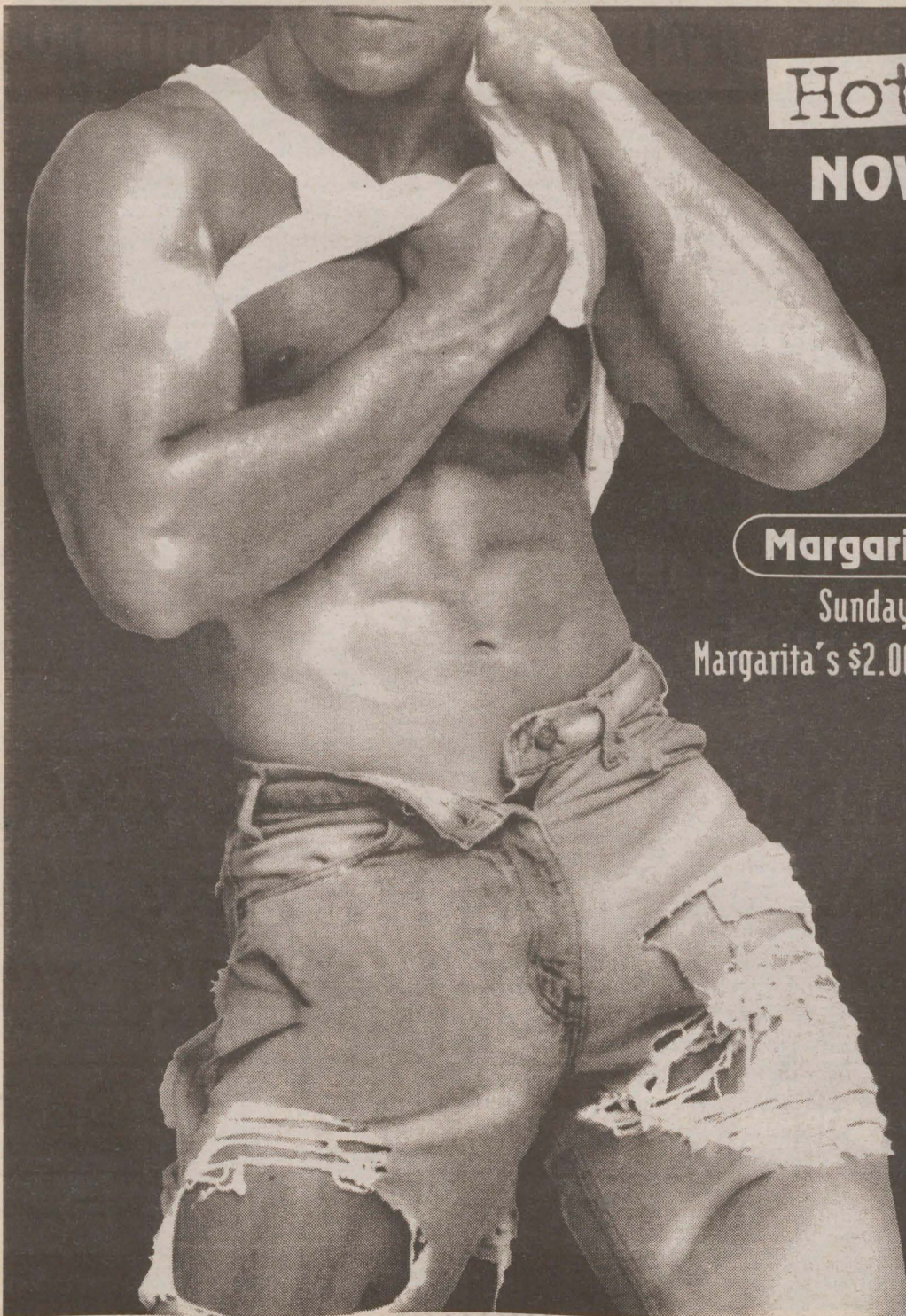
"The basic hope here," said Bishop Thomas O'Brien of Phoenix, chairman of the Committee on Marriage and Family Life, "is that parents will accept their children, regardless of their sexual orientation."

Mary Ellen Lopata, co-founder of the Catholic Gay and Lesbian Ministry in the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., said many parents struggle with the conflict between loving their child

and their understanding that church teaching condemns that child.

"For them to hear the bishops say to love their child first is very important and can go a long way to help them resolve those conflicts and begin some healing," she said.

Imesch, head of the Pastoral Practices committee, said the church is nowhere near even discussing whether it could ever consider homosexual acts morally acceptable. In the meantime, however, gay men and lesbians "still need to be accepted as people," he said. "The judgment part is left to the Lord."



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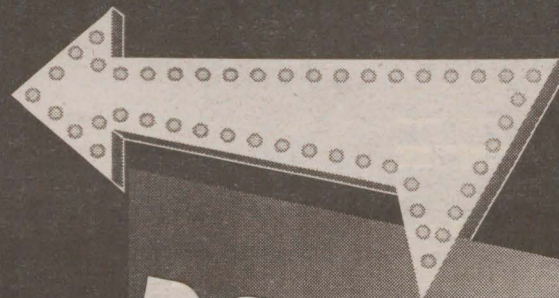
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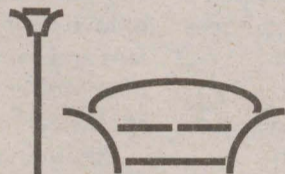


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**Goings On**

**Coming out social at South Mountain**

A Coming Out Social and Barbecue will be held at South Mountain Park in Phoenix on National Coming Out Day, October 11. The event will include refreshments and picnic activities. All gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their supporters are encouraged to attend.

The social will begin at 12pm and run until 4pm, with all the beer, soda and food you can consume for \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Discounts will be offered to youth for \$5 per ticket and Community Card holders will pay \$12 each.

The proceeds from this outdoor event will benefit the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center and its programs. Tickets can be purchased in advance. For information call (602) 234-2752.

**Fall PLUS Weekend is here**

Being Alive, the early intervention program of AIDS Project Arizona, will present its semi-annual PLUS Weekend at the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine & Health Sciences in Tempe on October 11 and 12.

Titled, "That was Then, This is Now," the 1997 fall PLUS Weekend is a free educational seminar for persons infected and affected by HIV. PLUS means Positive Living for US. Workshop topics include Women and HIV, Acupuncture, Naturopathic Medicine and HIV, Demonstrations on Improving Your Quality of life and The Power Program for Wellness Restoration, among others.

The cost of this seminar is being underwritten by a number of pharmaceutical companies, so everyone interested is encouraged to attend. To register, contact Mark Hoffman at APAZ, (602) 265-2437.

**IGRA '97 Finals in Phoenix**

The International Gay Rodeo Association will hold its annual Finals Rodeo in Phoenix the weekend of October 23 - 27. The event will be held at the Corona Rodeo Grounds on Baseline Road, just west of 27th Avenue.

**Tucson man takes Mr. Gay AZ title**

Brian Bernot of Tucson was named Mr. Gay Arizona 1997 in a contest at Charlie's in Phoenix on Sunday, September 28. Bernot is a bartender at IBT's in Tucson.

The winner competed against four other men for the title. The five categories included talent, swimwear, interview, question and answer, and formal wear. Bernot will head to Florida to compete in the national finals for the title of Mr. Gay America some time next spring.

"It was great to win," Bernot said, "I'm still trying to set some goals and lay out some things to do with the title, because we haven't had it here in Arizona for awhile. But I am looking forward to a great year."

Contestants have qualified for the finals in numerous IGRA divisions throughout the US and Canada. They will be in Phoenix competing for international titles in four categories of events: rough stock, camp events, horse events, and roping.

In addition to the arena events, the rodeo weekend will feature vendors, dance and entertainment in the pavillion adjacent to the arena. The annual pageant to determine Mr. Miss and Ms. IGRA for the upcoming season will be held in the pavillion on Friday evening, October 24. Preliminary portions of the judging will take place at Charlie's on Thursday, October 23.

Entry to the rodeo events for Saturday and Sunday is \$12 each day. Evenings are free, and there is no admission for the Royalty Contest. For more rodeo information call the rodeo hotline at (602) 265-0618.

**Team AZ to meet, Gay Games less than a year away**

Team Arizona's next general membership meeting will be held at the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Phoenix on Wednesday, October 15 at 8pm. The Center is located at 3136 N. 3rd Avenue.

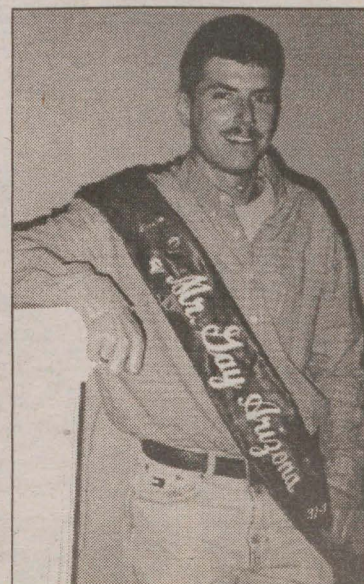
Registration procedures and travel plans for the Gay Games 1998, to be held in August in Amsterdam, will be discussed. Plans for fundraising will be developed and Team Arizona souvenir pins will be available.

As of September 8, nearly 8,000 pre-registrations have been processed for the Gay Games. This figure represents almost half the number of participants expected by organizers.

The Gay Games will feature 30 sports and 22 cultural events. For events where spaces are still available, late registrations will be accepted until April 30, 1998.

For information on the Gay Games, contact Paul van Yperen, Public Relations, at 31-020-6261998.

Everyone planning to join the Arizona contingent in Amsterdam for the international event is encouraged to attend the October 15 meeting. Team Arizona will be meeting at The Center the third Wednesday of every month for the rest of the year. Contact Team Arizona at (602) 464-1461.



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- 2 Phoenix Civic Plaza Grand Ballroom  
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Sunday, November 9

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- 3 The Gardens & Restaurant at Eddie's Grill  
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Sunday, November 9

**MELTDOWN**

6pm-1am


- 4 The New Phoenix Art Museum Great Hall  
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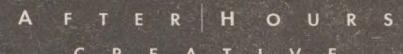
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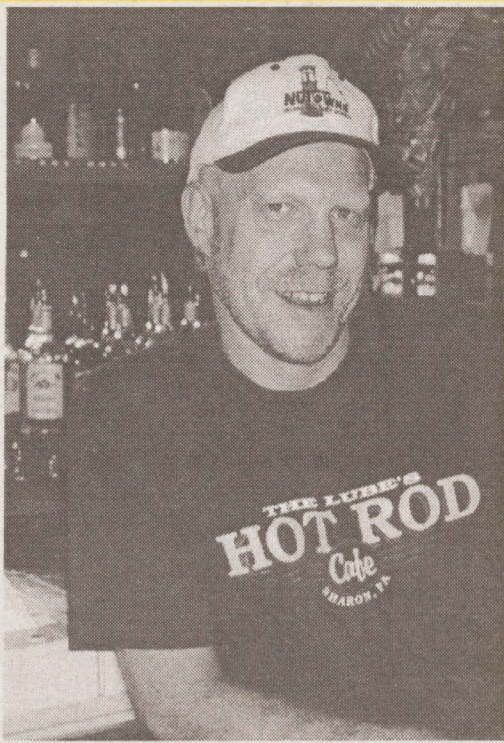
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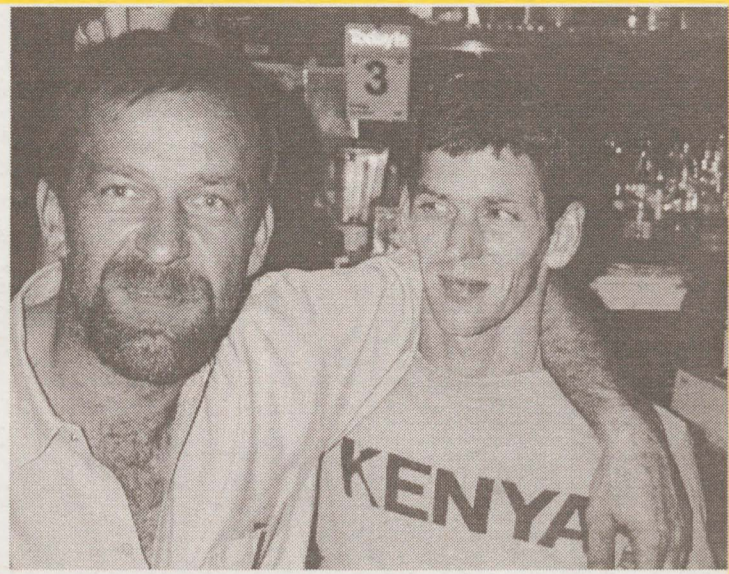
Your host: Stephan; Scooter, Scott & others

Daytime specials: Domestic beer & well drinks, \$1.25. Happy Hour extends 'til 8pm on Tuesday & Wednesday.

Music: Taped; eclectic mix of rock, techno, disco, with some country thrown in.

Atmosphere: Dark, cool and out-of-the-way. A great place to play hooky from work or afternoon classes. Pool tables, pinball & dart machines.

Location: 5002 E. Van Buren



## Charlie's

Opens: 12pm every day

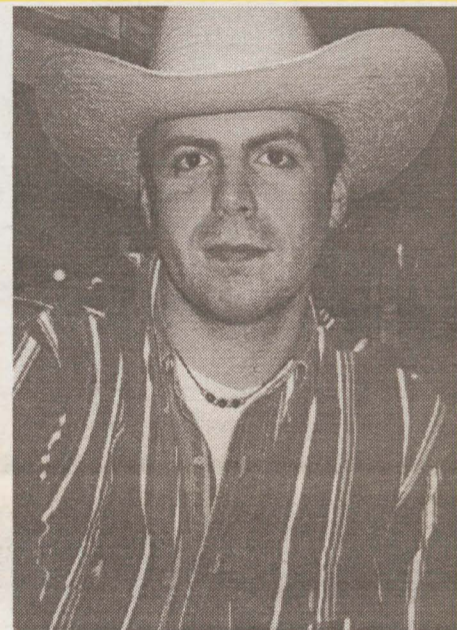
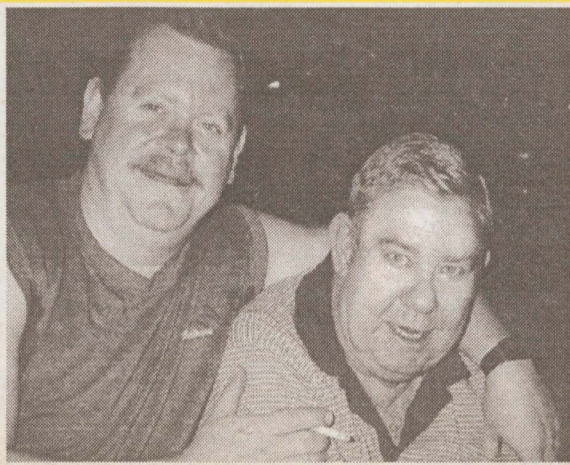
Your host: Ray; Danny & others

Daytime specials: Domestic beer & well drinks \$1.25. Draft beer .75 cents.

Music: Taped country & some upbeat variety

Atmosphere: Big & friendly country/western bar. Any attire fits in, especially among day clientele. Central location makes Charlie's a daytime stop-off for folks heading in & out of downtown. Pool, pinball, darts & dance floor.

Location: 727 W. Camelback



## Roscoe's

Opens: 3pm weekdays and Sat., noon on Sun.

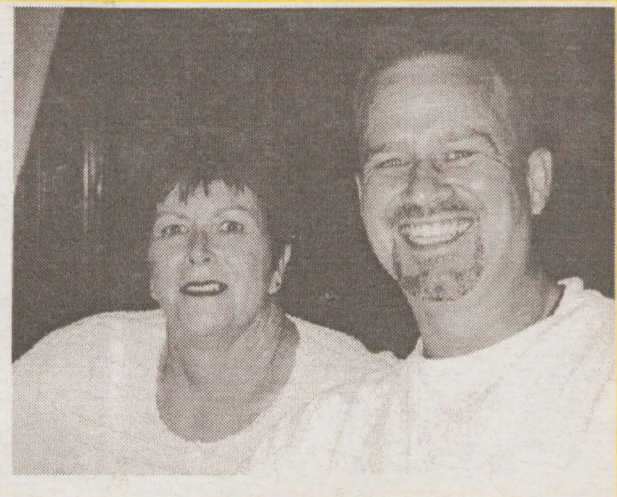
Your host: Scott; or "one of the owners"

Daytime specials: 2 for 1 from 3-7, Happy hour runs all night on Tuesdays

Music: Juke box. Selections run toward hard rock & popular alternative

Atmosphere: Sports, sports, sports! Multiple ESPN channels play continually on several screens. Mixed, festive crowd. Pool, darts, free-throw basketball available.

Location: 4531 N. 7th St.



## The Wave

Opens: 3pm weekdays, noon on Sat. & Sun.

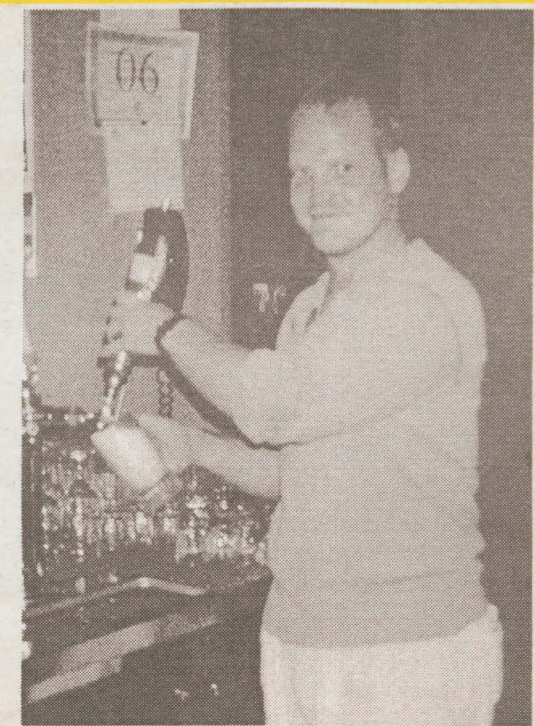
Your host: Mark, Chris, JR or Richard (Barbara)

Daytime specials: 2 for 1 on everything 'til 7pm

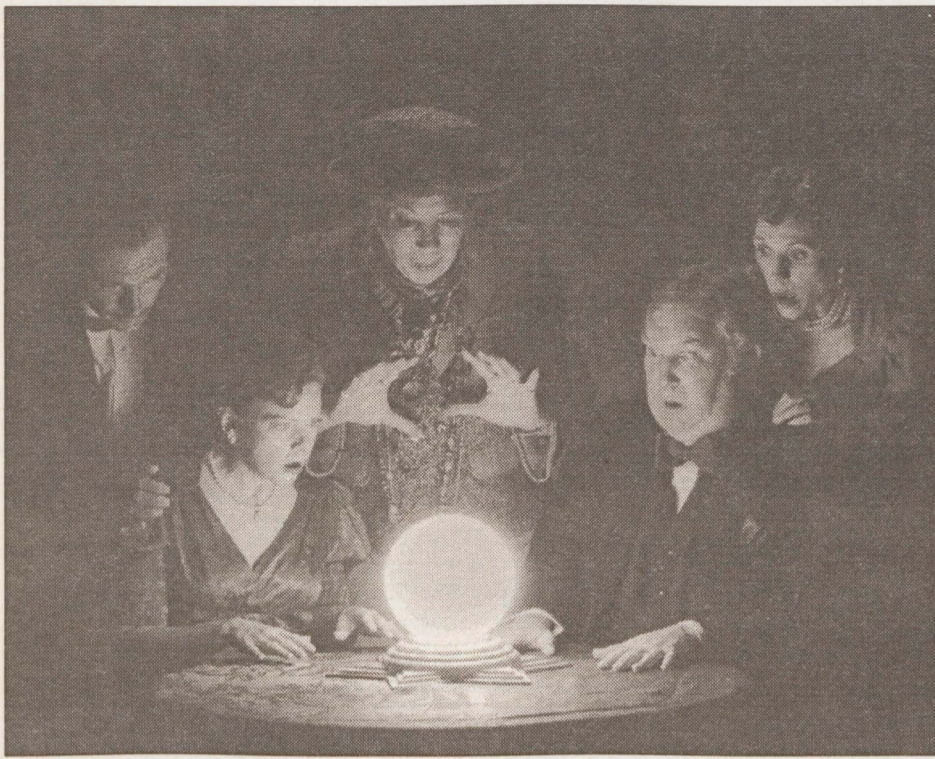
Music: Taped. Variety, including disco and show tunes.

Atmosphere: Show bar. Smaller, front bar opens during the day with lounge area and darts. Big screen TV features AbFab & other popular programs. Off-duty employees of local bars and out-of-make-up entertainers hang out here.

Location: 998 E. Indian School



# Noel Coward comedy opens ATC season



Tim Fuller

Arizona Theatre Company opens its 1997-98 season with *Blithe Spirit*, Noel Coward's ghostly comedy of impeccable manners and spirited mischief. The play will open October 11 and run through October 25 at the Herberger Theater Center.

Former ATC artistic director Gary Gisselman returns to the company to direct the beloved masterpiece by Coward, England's favorite high-society entertainer and master of wit. The production is part of the ongoing UK/AZ Festival.

The cast includes Sally Jo Bannow, Kurt Rhoads, Claudia Wilkens and Katherine Leask. Nance Williamson plays Elvira, the spirit who returns to cause her high-brow widow and his second wife no end of problems.

Tickets range in price from \$19.50 to \$32.50 and are available by calling the Herberger Center at (602) 252-8497, ATC Box Office at (602) 256-6995 or all Dillard's outlets at (602) 503-5555. Call for showtimes.



# Carrie Fisher's mother at Sundome

Debbie Reynolds, star of stage and screen, author and vocalist, will perform one show only at ASU's Sundome Center for the Performing Arts in Sun City Friday, October 10.

Reynolds is currently costarring in *In & Out*, the box office hit written by Paul Rudnick and starring Kevin

Kline. Her most recent honor is the Golden Globe nomination she earned for the title role Albert Brooks' recent comedy, *Mother*.

Tickets to Debbie Reynolds' Sundome show are \$9-\$26, available by calling the Sundome Box Office at (602)975-1900 or at Dillard's.

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New York Post

Tickets for *Miss Coco Peru* and *The Seductive Art of Becoming God & Famous* available at \$30 for both or \$17.50 per show.

# El Rancho Local

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

The only reason to see *U-Turn*, the new movie from accomplished director Oliver Stone and written by John Ridley, is to try to figure out how a film with a cast and crew this talented could possibly have ended up this awful. And even that isn't reason enough.

Shot on location in Superior, Arizona, the plot of this supposed comic/action/thriller finds an edgy drifter named Bobby Cooper (Sean Penn) shit out of luck when his vintage car breaks down near a dusty desert burg east of Phoenix, sidelining a road trip to Vegas where he had planned to pay off a bloodthirsty Russian mobster.

Stranded in the decrepit mining town while the grimy local mechanic (Billy Bob Thornton) reassembles his transportation, Bobby promptly falls into the company of Grace (Jennifer Lopez), a beautiful Native American nympho, and her buck-toothed sugar daddy, a creepy gringo Realtor named Jake McKenna (Nick Nolte).

Bobby soon loses all his cash in a convenience store hold up, gets on the mean side of the town bully (Joaquin Phoenix), exchanges suspicious glances with an alcoholic sheriff (Powers Boothe), and passes time under the blazing afternoon sun collecting sage advice from a homeless, blinded veteran (Jon Voight).

Jake wants Grace dead and he tries to hire Bobby to kill her. Then, Grace reverses her hubby's proposition. Both promise beaucoup cash and an escape from Superior, so Bobby does find each offer more than momentarily intriguing. Meanwhile, the Russian bad boy sends in his debt collector and the whacked-out mechanic continues to work on Bobby's car as well as his nerves.

This sounds pretty good on paper, and with Stone at the helm it probably sounded pretty good to Penn and the other actors, too—not to mention the Studio Chiefs behind the project. But it's all a horrible mess.

There isn't a single Southwest Desert postcard cliché that isn't employed here. These tired images include circling vultures, dead coyotes, rattlers on rocks, 30-year-old country music blaring from a jukebox, scorpions in the road, saguaro-silhouetted sunsets and spirit-vision flashbacks complete with native drumming.

Several key characters in Stone's redneck Palookaville go so far as to sport thick Southern accents. Umm... Oliver? Exactly where in the Deep South is Superior, Arizona?

Despite Stone and photographer Robert Richardson's mastery of creative camera angles and some brilliant editing techniques, and despite a few sardonically humorous lines (mostly from Penn), the whole show swirls into a freakish dust devil of nothingness.

The characters have no redeeming value, the story has no meaning and the plot is superfluous. Things are depicted as strange and surreal merely for the sake of being strange and

surreal, and it's clearly because they look better on film that way.

Watching *U-Turn* is like watching the longest, most boring music video you've ever seen—but with



Jennifer Lopez as Grace McKenna in *U-Turn*

# Out on film

the music turned down. When this dreck is released on video (likely within the next week or two), it will probably fare exceptionally well as a rental, purely by word of mouth.

I offer that prediction in part because the movie is far better suited to the home screen's pause and rewind capabilities, and also because of its obvious "damn, look at that!" appeal. Bad films like *U-Turn* often find a bigger audience among the microwave-popcorn Blockbuster crowd, who'll commit to watching something odd for no reason other than because it is odd, and will applaud the merits of its gruesome weirdness and gratuitous sex at the water cooler the next day.

Oliver Stone's latest attempt at Cinematic art is, nevertheless, a colossal failure. This is one *U-Turn* you're better off not even trying to make.

# Miss Matched

by Allen Kalchik, Editor

Janeane Garofalo as a romantic lead? Dubious as that might sound, Garofalo's performance is one of the few things that actually works in *The Matchmaker*, a new romantic comedy from Gramercy Pictures directed by Mark Joffe and filmed on location in rural Ireland.

The title may strike a familiar chord, though it's really all this sleepy film has in common with the Thornton Wilder play that eventually inspired the stage and film musical *Hello, Dolly!*

The fact that Joffe and the screenwriters were unable to come up with anything more original than *The Matchmaker* when naming this trite effort gives a pretty fair indication as to where originality falls on their list of creative priorities.

Garofalo plays Marcy, the workaholic aide to a sleazy American senator (Jay O. Sanders). The film opens as Marcy is sent overseas to track down her boss's elusive Irish roots. An election is looming, so the Boston-based politico is counting on Marcy to set up a cross-cultural publicity stunt designed to boost his standings among Irish-American voters.

Less than thrilled with her temporary genealogical assignment, Marcy's arrival on the Emerald Isle's western shore coincides neatly with the film's most peculiar contrivance. She's put squarely in the midst of an annual ritual known simply as "The Matchmaking Festival."

When unmarried Marcy immediately runs into a humpy, garrulous writer/bartender named Sean (David O'Hara) and then an elderly, professional matchmaker (played by Milo O'Shea with all the eye-twinkling, wizened sincerity he can muster), it's easy to see where her story is headed.

Isn't the bathetic goal that's the problem, however. It's the getting there. Garofalo's practiced acerbity and flawless comic timing bounce

well off the slow-paced earnestness of the villagers. It is this bull-in-a-china-shop personality clash that provides the film's best comic moments.

But that single joke quickly wears thin and the weak storyline runs out of steam long before Garofalo does. This is her vehicle; she's in nearly every frame, yet we can't help wishing there were somehow more for her to do.

When the senator arrives with another aide (Denis Leary) determined to speed things along, the Goal-Oriented Yanks vs. Laid-Back Irish Yokels motif spins way out of control and the movie digresses from bland and hackneyed to downright preachy.

In her first real turn as a film star, Garofalo proves that her phenomenal screen presence is no mere fluke. She doesn't need the height of a Julia Roberts, the conventional beauty of a



Janeane Garofalo and David O'Hara in *The Matchmaker*

Demi Moore or the pouting self-assurance of a Nicole Kidman to carry a film.

Pinch yourself often enough to stay awake through *The Matchmaker*, then take a look at what The Industry considers its top leading ladies at the Box Office. There is no question Janeane Garofalo has better instincts and is infinitely more engaging than the best Hollywood has to offer.

All she needs now is a script.

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# Out of Town:

## Amsterdam Sleeps

By Andrew Collins, HeatStroke Contributor

If you're planning to visit Amsterdam during next August's Gay Games, and you haven't yet booked a hotel room, act immediately. Many of the best-known hotels have already filled up, and the others will before long.

If you're not attending Amsterdam as part of a package tour, where accommodations have already been arranged for you, consider using the following guide to find a room on your own.

A few things to keep in mind: No matter what you pay, you can expect spotless rooms and such modern conveniences as phones and TVs. At most hotels you're assured a private bath, although quite a few budget properties offer a discount if you're willing to go with a shared one.

All of the city's major attractions, dining, and gay nightlife are relatively near the city center, which is where you'll also find the bulk of accommodations.

Many of the city's hotels are close to the Centraal Station, which is a desirable spot for sightseeing and convenient to getting in and out of the city, but is a bit of a walk (20 minutes) from gay bars, except for the leather clubs along Warmoesstraat.

with rates ranging from moderate (just under \$100 nightly) to high-end (as much as \$250).

There's also a fine predominantly gay rental service, Centre Apartments Amsterdam, consisting of about 15 similarly priced apartments (three-night minimum stay) near Centraal Station.

As for specific hotels, what follows are recommendations of some of the city's lesser-known properties, several of which don't often advertise in gay publications but are nevertheless quite accepting (it's unlawful for a Dutch hotel to turn away same-sex couples).

Although it's a bland and rather pricey convention hotel, the Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky faces centrally located Dam Square and has 430 rooms (huge by Dutch standards).

Another high-end business property that's recently received some impressive renovations is the Barbizon, which is steps from bustling Leidseplein, has a first-rate health club, and just added a branch of the renowned Northern Italian restaurant chain, Bice.

A final and somewhat less expensive mainstream option is the Tulip Inn Amsterdam, a complex of five 1920s Amsterdam School-style buildings with bright contemporary guest rooms and an elegant art deco lobby. It's in a good location, close to both

If, out of an admirable but profoundly moronic sense of adventure, you show up in Amsterdam without a hotel reservation (this is unwise any time of year, but especially during the Gay Games), you can try stopping by the VVV Logiesservice. This same-day hotel-booking service is run by the government tourism office and has windows at Centraal Station and right beside Leidesplein.

If this doesn't work, fix your hair, look pretty, take a walk through Vondelpark, and pray that some cute thing with a spare room and a love of desperate foreigners invites you home.

A quick note on airlines: the sooner you book, the cheaper your fare.

From North America, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is the Netherlands's national carrier, but you should also consider Martinair, which has reduced-rate flights from about a dozen major North American cities; Martinair has been a contributor to gay causes. U.S. airlines with regular service to Amsterdam include Delta, Northwest, TWA, and United.

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



Jaap Bongers

Amsterdam's picturesque Keizergracht and Leidsegracht canals at twilight.

It's also a rather dull part of the city.

The most desirable location is around the Leidseplein, which is a 25-minute walk from Centraal Station but close to gay bars, restaurants, music and theater venues, and several of the major attractions, including the Rijksmuseum and Vondelpark — the closer you can stay to the Leidseplein, the better.

There are also several hotels in the area between Dam Square and the Jordaan; specifically, you'll find an entire row of bare-bones budget properties along Raadhuisstraat, just east of Westerkerk.

An ideal option if you're planning to stay in Amsterdam for a week or more, and an excellent alternative to hotels, is the gay-friendly Amsterdam House, which rents out some 35 apartments and 10 houseboats, all of them complete with kitchens, baths, direct phones, stereos, cable TV, and, on request, many business services (such as fax, photocopiers, etc.).

These are nicely furnished places that are often ideal for friends or two couples traveling together; they come in many configurations and sizes

the Jordaan and the curious mix of sleaze and fine dining along Spuisstraat.

With rooms typically around or slightly more than \$100 nightly, the 65-room Hotel Smit is an outstanding option. This intimate hotel on fashionable P.C. Hoofstraat is close to the diamond district, museums, park, and Leidseplein, and although guestrooms are somewhat modest, the bathrooms have marble details and either tubs or showers.

Smaller but qualitatively similar, the Hotel Sander is a bit of a walk to gay nightlife, but this handsome 19th-century hotel on a quiet street near Vondelpark and the Museumplein is ideal if you're seeking peace and privacy. Rooms are typically modest but clean with modern bathrooms.

If you're on the tightest of budgets, check out the family-run Quentin, a canalside property that has been fashioned out of two stately old houses, one from the 1600s and the other from the 1800s. Although rooms contain functional furnishings, many of them look out upon the water.



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# Queer Sporting News

Sponsored by Roscoe's on 7th

## Fall Softball League

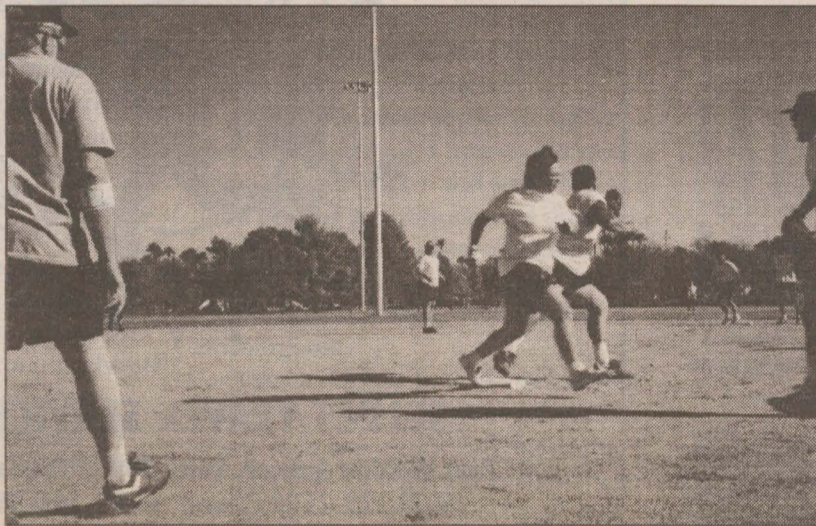
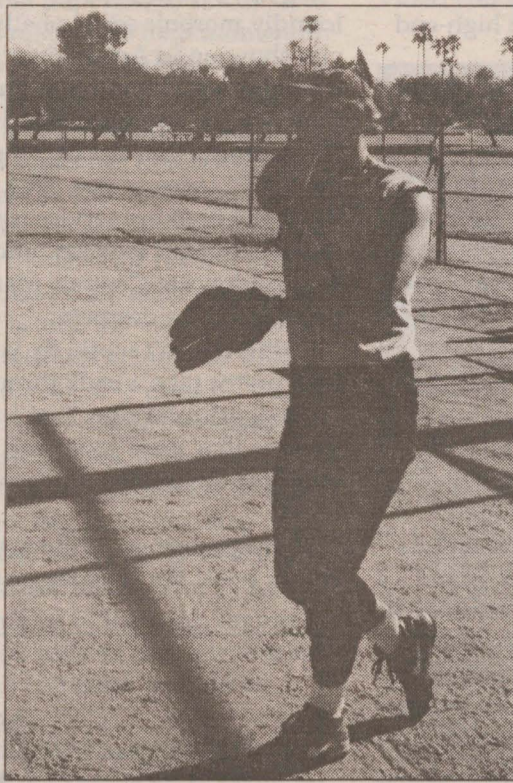
The weather in Central Arizona is finally cooling off and the fall season of the Cactus Cities Softball League is now underway, with Sunday morning play at Eldorado Park in Scottsdale.

CCSL is the Phoenix metro area's gay and lesbian softball league, with teams sponsored by a number of Valley gay bars and businesses. Their 1997 spring season games were played at Monterey Park in Phoenix. The fall league is made up of several teams and players that participated in the spring, as well as several new players.

It is still possible to join a CCSL team. Call Jack Pruitt, the Open Division Commissioner at (602) 241-9224 or Melissa Keefe, Women's Division

Commissioner at (602) 926-2348.

The ball field at Eldorado Park is located just south of Oak street on Miller Road. The facility includes three diamonds and a grandstand pit for viewing. Everyone is welcome to watch the games, which begin at 9am every Sunday.



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# British lesbians win round in discrimination case

*Wife of Prime Minister Blair represented couple*

LONDON (AP)

A lesbian couple scored a victory in European courts September 30 when an advocate-general said a British train company should have provided the same travel privileges heterosexual employees get.

The opinion from advocate-general Michael Elmer is not binding on the full European Court of Justice, based in Luxembourg. But if the court agrees with Elmer's findings, it could force changes in Britain's employment, pension and social security laws.

Lisa Grant, a reservations clerk with South West Trains, had argued her partner, Jill Percey, was entitled to the same travel privileges given to the husbands, wives and common-law opposite-sex spouses of other rail employees.

The travel benefits the couple sought were worth about \$1,600 a year.

The company argued it had not practiced discrimination because it

also withheld travel privileges from any male homosexual employee's partner.

But Elmer ruled the company had discriminated against Grant "in as much as employees must be of the opposite sex to their co-habitees." He said that the travel privileges were part of Grant's pay package, which was protected by European Union law.

An opinion from the full court is expected later this year.

The case was argued in July, with Grant represented by lawyer Cherie Booth, the wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Blair's Labor Party government opposed his wife's legal arguments. Government lawyer Patrick Elias said the government opposes discrimination against homosexuals, but was concerned the European court could "stretch" existing laws beyond their intent.

# CDC defends AIDS studies

ATLANTA (AP)

Rejecting comparisons to the notorious Tuskegee experiment, President Clinton's nominee for surgeon general October 2 defended the ethics of Third World AIDS studies in which some infected women are being given only dummy pills.

The studies, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are intended to prevent the spread of AIDS from mother to child in some of the world's poorest countries.

The studies have come under attack in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the British journal *The Lancet* because some patients get no medication, only placebos.

Dr. David Satcher, director of the Atlanta-based CDC and Clinton's nominee for surgeon general, defended the research as urgent and designed to benefit the countries where it is being done.

His remarks came in a commentary in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. It was co-written by Dr. Harold Varmus, director of the National Institutes of Health.

Satcher and Varmus said the studies were designed in cooperation with researchers in the countries where they are being performed and passed rigorous ethical review both in those countries and in the United States.

Varmus and Satcher, who is black, also criticized comparisons to the Tuskegee study, in which black men were denied penicillin for syphilis.

"The Tuskegee study ultimately deprived people of a known, effective, affordable intervention," they

wrote. Such criticism "trivializes the suffering of the men in the Tuskegee study and shows a serious lack of understanding of today's trials."

About 1,000 children a day get AIDS from their mothers, usually in late pregnancy or during childbirth.

The 16 controversial studies are trying to find cheap and practical alternatives to the proven AZT regimen, which involves 12 weeks or more of treatment. The goal is to find a treatment that will work with as little as two or three doses of AZT or other drugs.

The proven treatment costs about \$1,000 per pregnant woman — a price that many developing countries cannot pay. Most of the studies are being performed in Africa, where per capita spending on health care is less than \$10 a year.

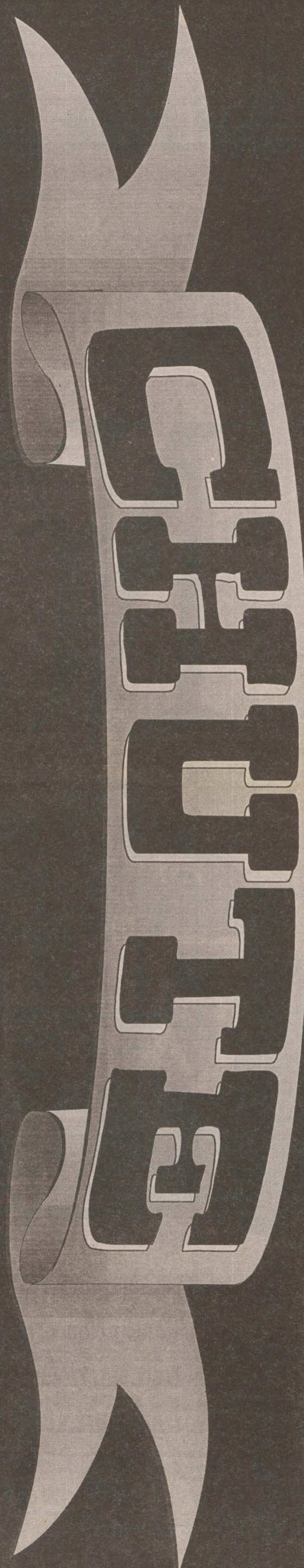
It is standard practice in the United States to give the longer AZT regimen to all comparison groups when testing alternatives. However, the AIDS studies in the developing countries compare brief treatment to no treatment at all.

Critics say that clearly violates World Health Organization guidelines on ethical research.

Dr. Peter Lurie of Public Citizen Health Research Group, a Washington-based advocacy group, said the studies should compare lengthy AZT treatment to a shorter course.

However, Satcher and Varmus said that comparing experimental treatments to lengthy AZT treatment will not tell researchers whether the alternatives are better than nothing — the only option available to most women in these poor countries.

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Department of Public Health Services.

# Growing evidence shows mineral's importance to AIDS survival

MIAMI (AP)

A deficiency of the mineral selenium — found in foods including whole grains, seafood and liver — can dramatically lower the survival rate of people infected with HIV, says a new study released September 30.

Scientists say the mineral plays a key role in maintaining a healthy immune system and has been shown to fight cancer.

A study at the Center for Disease Prevention at the University of Miami's School of Medicine showed that HIV-infected patients with a deficiency of selenium were almost 20 times more likely to die of causes related to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The study of 125 HIV-infected men and women, published in the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, demonstrated that selenium plays a critical role in the progression of AIDS. While other nutrients such as vitamins A, B12 and zinc affect survival, deficiencies in those nutrients produce a much lower risk of mortality, the study found.

The Miami study lasted for 3 1/2 years and measured nutritional factors in the 125 people every six months. Twenty-one of the people died from HIV-related causes.

"It is known that nutritional deficiencies develop in the course of HIV infection," said Marianna Baum, assistant dean of the medical school and head of the selenium research.

"Sometimes that occurs because of the lack of appetite. Sometimes people eat but don't absorb nutrients."

But, she said, those suffering from infections like HIV have an increased need for some nutrients, "especially antioxidants, that cleanse some toxic elements in the bloodstream and the liver."

Based on this research, Baum's team is starting to study whether selenium treatment can slow progression of the disease and improve survival chances for people infected with HIV.

Research in recent years has indicated that HIV infection actually depletes the body's supply of selenium.

"There is evidence that dietary selenium levels have declined in the modern diet," said Will Taylor, associate professor at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, noting a 1997 British study that showed selenium in the British diet had declined by half over a 20-year period.

He said the selenium deficiency in the diet is caused by a shortage in the soils that could be caused by acid rain and other factors.

Taylor said a previous study in 1994 predicted a link between selenium and HIV progression. In the new Georgia report, researchers show that a new protein of HIV has the potential to incorporate selenium, which could be a factor in selenium depletion in HIV-infected patients.

## New AIDS treatment announced by researchers

WINSTON-SALEM (AP)

A different strategy for treating AIDS was reported September 30 by Wake Forest University researchers, who said they had found a way to keep the HIV virus from invading white blood cells.

The method involves blocking the chemokine co-receptor on the surface of the white cells called lymphocytes. The research was announced in the

Oct. 1 issue of the journal *Nature*.

"The genetically modified lymphocytes are immune to T-tropic virus infection but appear to maintain normal biological activities," said researcher Dr. Si-Yi Chen, assistant professor of cancer biology at the university's Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Chen's research resulted in a white cell surface that was impervious to

the HIV virus. If the research proves useful in treatment of humans, Chen said, the white cells could be withdrawn from an infected patient, genetically modified and reinfused into the bloodstream.

White cells' function is to protect the human immune system, which is what breaks down as AIDS progresses.

"This approach may provide a

new paradigm for the treatment of HIV-1 infection, that is, to protect cells from HIV rather than to inhibit HIV-1 replication," Chen said.

Chen said his treatment is different from current treatments using combinations of drugs that have toxic side effects.

He said trials in people are a year or more away.

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\*A collaborative effort among PBP, HIV Care Directions, SWBIRA (Southwest Business and Industry Rehabilitation Association) and Greg Shrader, PhD.



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

*Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ, or e-mail to alkalphx@aol.com — we'll pass them along to the wise one for you.*

Dear Cowboy,

Mother Nature connected my eyebrows together in one, long eyebrow that sort of dips down in the middle.

I never thought anything about it until I came out a year ago and gay guys started commenting on it. One queenie guy even said, "If you're gonna be gay, you need to take care of that uni-brow."

My question is, do I really need to "take care of it?" And what should I do?

How I am supposed to know what hairs to pluck and what hairs to leave? And waxing sounds really painful, plus I don't know where to get the waxing done.

Is it normal for men to get this done?

Signed, Two Furry

Dear Furry,

Get out the tweezers, bucko. If you were riding the range all day, I'd advise you to forget that hair bridge and let nature take its course. But since you're an urban cowboy you'd do well to lose it— if only in the interest of good grooming, which is always "normal".

If you honestly don't know what to pluck, try this: draw a faint line along each side of a pencil held flat against your forehead, centered down the bridge of your nose. Remove the

pencil, pluck out everything between the two lines and then wash them off.

For a permanent solution, consult an electrolysisist. Waxing is not only painful, but the results are short-lasting and tend to make a gay caballero look more Victoria Barclay than Adam Cartwright.

Dear Cowboy,

My boyfriend of the last four months is a pretty good guy, but he hates drag and he

doesn't know I used to do it. Normally I tell people, but he has made several disparaging remarks about it and also about my friends who are still performing.

If I don't tell him my past, it will probably come out from someone else, or he'll find an old picture and be mad. If I do tell him, I might lose him.

Since I don't do it anymore, there is really no harm in keeping my secret, is there?

What would you do?  
Signed, No More Heels

Dear Heels,

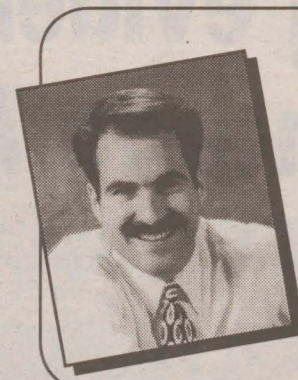
You may have stepped off the saloon stage, but it sounds to me like you've been performing for four months. That's probably how your macho-loving beau will see it, too,

after all this time. It's what you are doing now that is important and that includes being honest. So tell this wrangler about your Patsy Cline period.

If you lose him just because he can't handle your

powdered past, then you are better off without him. If you let this secret linger much longer however, you'll lose him for sure over your secretiveness and dishonesty. Good luck.

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## Aids Services

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AIDS Project Arizona  
111 E. Camelback  
Phoenix, AZ 85012 265-2437

A Place Called Home  
3431 W. Thunderbird #13-403  
Phoenix, AZ 85023 942-1572

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

AZ AIDS Services for the Deaf  
111 E. Camelback  
Phoenix, AZ 85012 265-9953

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

Coalition of Meal Providers  
992-6593

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

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

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

MALTA Center  
3033A N. 7th Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85013 212-0222

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Political Action & Education

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

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

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

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

AZ Democratic Party  
2005 N. Central #180  
Phoenix, AZ 85004 257-9136

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

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

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

## Social & Support Groups

Alpha Zeta—Crossdressers Supp  
A Rose—Transgender Support  
PO Box 1738  
Tempe, AZ 85280 488-0959

Arizona 2-somes 678-4568

Arizona Nude Dudes  
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Phoenix, AZ 85064

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

Delta Lambda Phi - Phoenix  
903 S. Rural Rd., Suite 101-317  
Tempe, AZ 85281 227-3370

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  
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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  
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Phoenix, AZ 85067 460-4481

## Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Momoms)  
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 Choral  
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

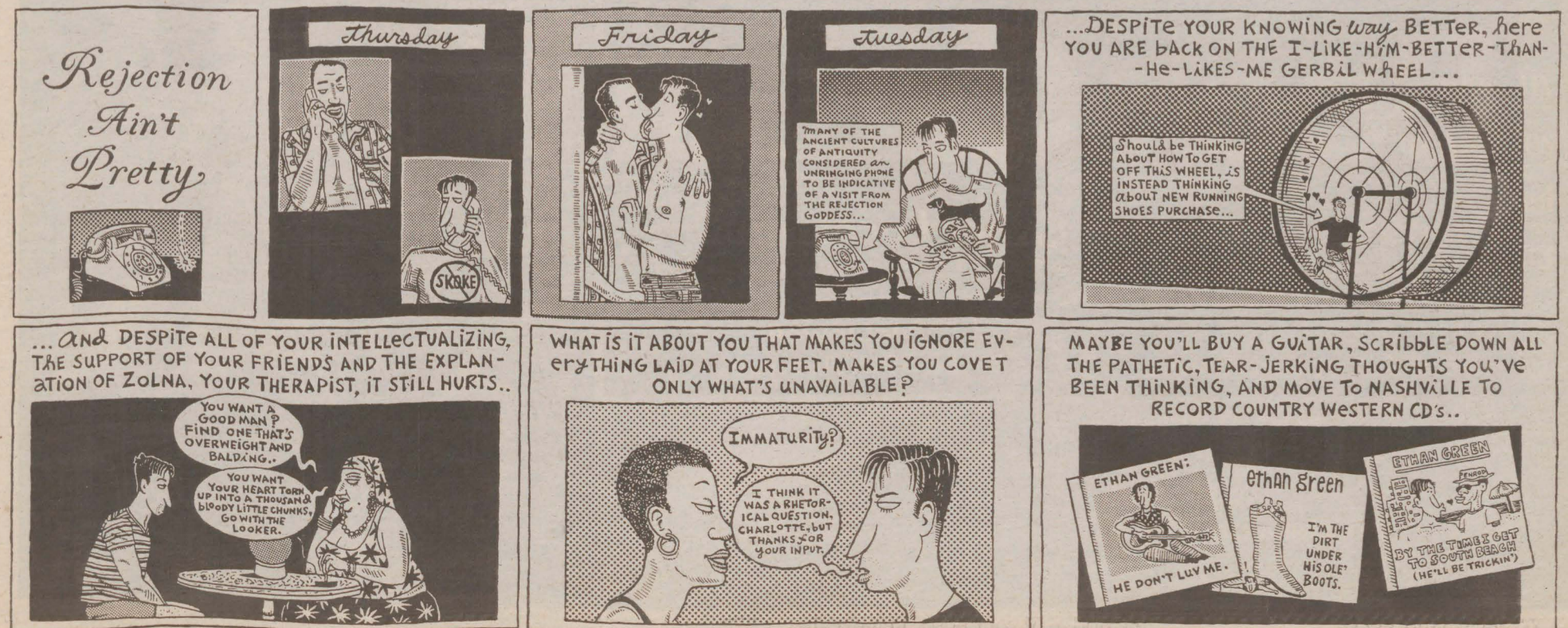
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## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

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Phoenix 266-7173
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4221 N. 7th Ave.  
Phoenix 234-0333

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- 1. Ain't Nobody's Bizness  
3031 E. Indian School  
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Phoenix 277-9373
- 3. BS West  
7125 5th Avenue  
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5002 E. Van Buren  
Phoenix 267-9959
- 19. Paco Paco's  
3045 N. 16th St.  
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- 30. The Adult Shoppe  
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Phoenix 306-1130
- 31. The Barn Adult Shop  
5021 W Indian School  
Phoenix 245-3008
- 32. Book Cellar  
4029 E. Washington  
Phoenix 275-0015  
(7 other Valley locations)
- 33. Castle Boutique  
5501 E. Washington  
Phoenix 231-9837  
(3 other Valley locations)
- 34. Community Florist  
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Phoenix 266-6648

- 20. The Park  
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Phoenix 957-6055
- 21. The Pumhouse  
4132 E. McDowell  
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- 22. Roscoe's on 7th  
4531 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 285-0833
- 23. 307 Lounge  
222 E. Roosevelt  
Phoenix 252-0001
- 24. TRAX  
1724 E. McDowell  
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- 25. The Wave  
998 E. Indian School  
Phoenix 266-5640
- 26. Wink's  
5707 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 265-9002

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

# C

## ulture

- 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

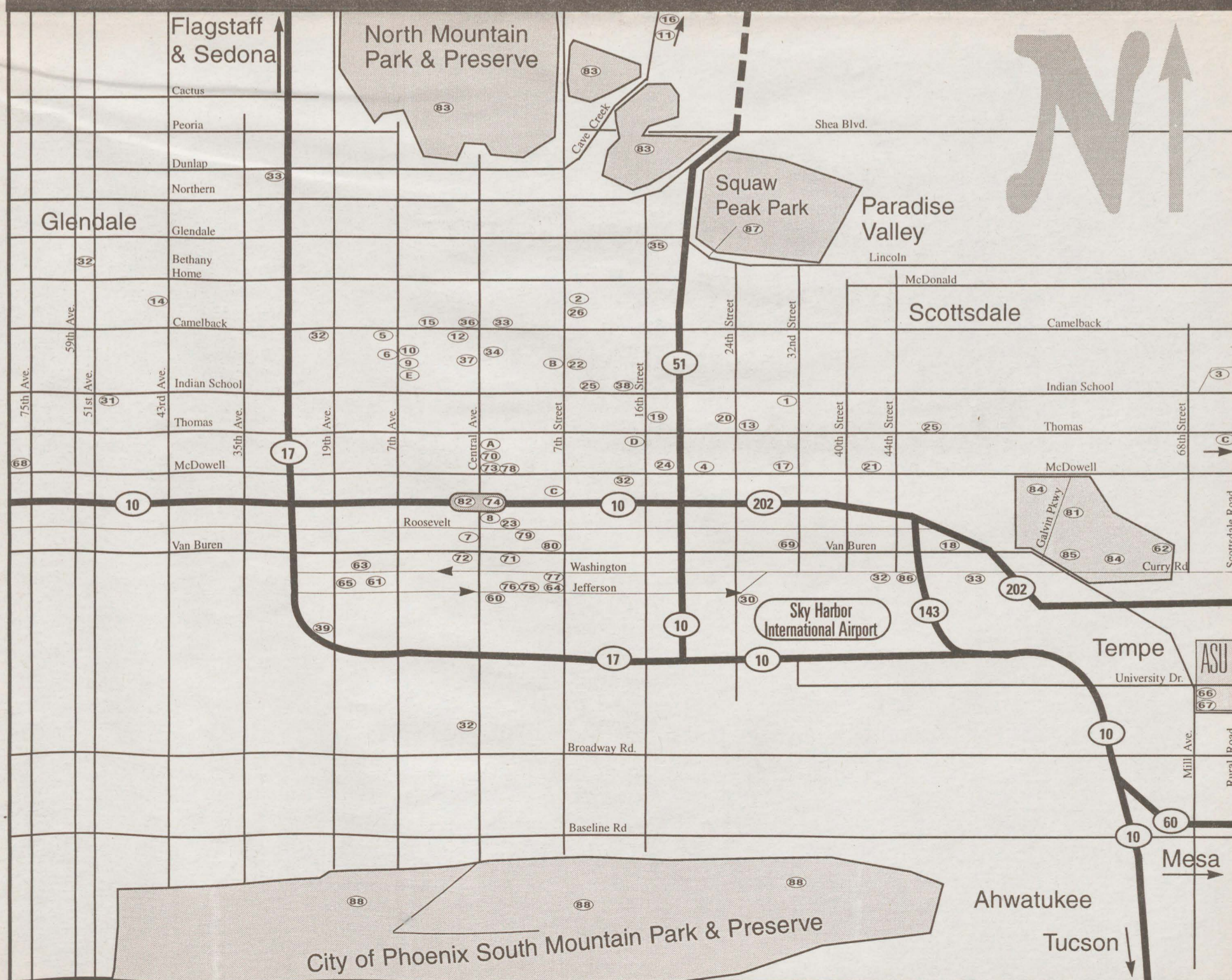
- 66. ASU Art Museum  
Nelson Fine Arts Center  
Mill Ave. & 10th Street  
Tempe 965-2787
- 67. ASU Gammage Center  
Apache & Mill Ave.  
Tempe 965-3434
- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky  
Pavillion  
2121 N. 83rd Ave.  
Phoenix 254-7499
- 69. Celebrity Theater  
440 N. 32nd Street  
Phoenix 267-9373
- 70. 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
- 78. Phoenix Theatre  
100 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 254-2151

# O

## utdoors

- 79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural  
Theatre  
909 N. 3rd Street  
Phoenix 241-1821
- 80. Union Hall  
512 E. Van Buren  
Phoenix 253-7100
- 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  
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Phoenix 495-0900
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