

# HeatStroke

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Phoenix, Arizona

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## Real to Reel

**An Indie director speaks out on the present state of queer cinema**



Victor Mignatti by Roy Gumpel

By Allen Kalchik, editor

**"P**eople say this is a good time for gay films in America. But that's really not true, in my opinion," says movie director Victor Mignatti. "It's actually a very precarious time for gay films."

Mignatti has written, directed and edited a new romantic comedy called *Broadway Damage*. He spoke to *HeatStroke* by telephone from his home in Los Angeles, where he is currently putting together a trailer for the film. *Broadway Damage* is the former New York ad man's first feature, one of four films selected to screen at Phoenix's 1998 Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, February 13-14.

"When you look at popular gay movies—and I'm talking about independent gay films like mine, the festival type films—there are lot of really wonderful gay and lesbian films out there that

**"My theory is that in every Hollywood gay movie, they always create that dynamic that lets heterosexual audience members feel superior to the gay characters."**

no one is ever going to see in a theater," Mignatti says. He explains that gay films have not made the kind of money that creates a trend in the distribution end of the film industry.

"It's been awhile since gay films have made a

significant amount of money. We had kind of a freaky thing five or six years ago with *Go Fish* and *Poison* and *Two Girls in Love*. I think we all hoped that was going to be the start of a money-making trend for independent gay films. But it really didn't do that—instead it was a kind of freakish, one-of-a-kind situation."

Mignatti says last year, by comparison, most of the gay films that came out did terribly at the box office. "None of these recent independent films, from *Kiss Me, Guido to Love! Valour! Compassion!* have made the kind of money that creates a trend—that warrants the millions of dollars in marketing and advertising that must go into selling the film. Distributors don't see it as a worthwhile market. They are licking their wounds and have become very cautious. Some of them won't even look at gay product or consider handling it."

*Broadway Damage*, for example, has won Best Film awards at various festivals. Mignatti says the comedy has played not only gay film festivals, but has also been screened at some of the biggest international film festivals including those in Edinburgh, Seattle and Chicago. "It's gotten a real crossover audience as far as festival acceptance and exposure. And the film is consistently well-

received. We've even had standing ovations at some of our screenings, with cheering and screaming."

Despite that kind of acceptance, it has taken a huge effort on the part of Mignatti and producer

David Topel to line up wide distribution for *Broadway Damage*. "We are really lucky because after months of looking for a distributor, we have finally found one. But we're still not going to have a heavily financed release with a flashy ad campaign." For that reason, word of mouth will be really important to the success of *Broadway Damage*.

"That's one of the reasons festivals are so important. Because if 400 people see it in Phoenix and like it, and they tell five of their friends, then we can run our movie for a week in Phoenix—and that's really exciting to me."

**M**ignatti says the recent success of gay-themed films geared toward mainstream audiences, like *The Birdcage* and *In & Out*, are important politically—particularly in terms of the responses they generate in the media and popular culture. "A film like *In & Out* is important, because politically, our journey is one that is taking baby steps. It almost has to be done in a subversive way, and so I think *In & Out* is enormously successful on those terms.

"But when people say [gay filmmakers] must be doing great because of the success of *In & Out* and *The Birdcage* and all that stuff, I think we have to see a very serious distinction there."

He explains, "Those are Hollywood vehicles, essentially star-driven products. They are wonderful films in many ways and I enjoyed all of

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# from our readers

Editors:

HeatStroke's two commentaries (Allen Kalchik's editorial and David Horowitz's column, issue #31, January 15-28) took difficult stances on the Dr. Fisher saga and opened the doors to let fresh air into a suffocating, closed room.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with the opinions given, the significance of the two commentaries is that finally someone in the gay community did the right thing and took a stand. Every other large metropolitan area in the US has publications, activist groups and community leaders who have the courage to voice opinions and are unafraid to gouge the sacred cows of the community. Those who take a stand understand that self-criticism leads to self-improvement and empowerment.

Since arriving in Phoenix almost four years ago from New York City, I have noticed that constructive criticism of the gay community is considered sacrilege. In Phoenix, self-examination by the gay community

**"Since arriving in Phoenix almost four years ago, I have noticed that constructive criticism of the gay community is considered sacrilege. In Phoenix, self examination by the gay community is equated with self loathing."**

is equated with self-loathing. Nonsense. HeatStroke has opened the door.

One good example of this process of open criticism and honest exchange of ideas in Phoenix is the begrudging transformation of The Pride Craft Show into a Pride Parade of celebration. That is what activism can do.

HeatStroke has stepped up to the bat and dared to show us it is OK to demand the best from our community. I trust this is a beginning. Our community needs to stop being

comfortable with the status quo, with middle of the road, unimaginative community services, social venues and politics.

When we demand the best, we will finally become a community. We deserve the best. Those who view activism as counterproductive, inconvenient and unsettling do not want the best for our community. They are apologists for allowing us to be second class citizens. We are better than that.

Stephen E. Karpiak, Ph. D. Phoenix

Editors:

I have collected many observations from the more than 400 HIV-positive men and women that have come to me for direction, advice, information, and the sharing that occurs between HIV-positive persons concerned with the delivery of services here in Phoenix.

None of the opinions I'm about to express were solicited by me, nor are they my own opinions, since I have never had a professional doctor-patient relationship with Dr. Ken Fisher.

During thousands of encounters, I have heard clients and

friends sing the praises of many doctors. They have also related complaints and grievances against doctors and nurses. These grievances include rudeness, lack of compassion, long waiting-room lines, abominable bedside manner, and just plain unprofessional behavior.

However, of more than several dozen HIV-treating physicians in Phoenix, I have heard complaints of sexual improprieties against only one of them, and those 30 or 40 allegations have all been directed at

Dr. Fisher. I have never heard of a single incidence of sexual impropriety directed against any of the other physicians.

Two other gay doctors specializing in the treatment of HIV have told me that, once in a while, gay patients have "come on to them" as if sex or inappropriate touching might be part of a routine examination. Placed on the spot by these

**"Honor, integrity and sensibility take precedence over defending someone just because he or she is a fine practitioner of the healing arts"**

inappropriate gestures, the doctors said they were forced to rebuke the advances and even asked the patients to find another doctor.

We must demand that our healers remain professional, compassionate and sexually neutral in all encounters with their clients. Our community should also never take advantage of professionals by assuming that their "gayness" imparts the right to be rude or improper with a partner in care.

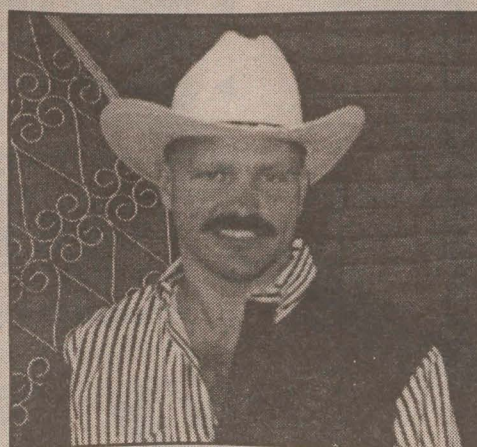
Let us all play a role in holding others accountable for their actions, be they doctors or patients. Honor, integrity and sensibility take precedence over defending someone just because he or she is a fine practitioner of the healing arts.

Mark Hoffman, health educator/treatment advocate Phoenix

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**Either way, you'll need to include your full name and address. We'll print only your city, and will withhold your name if you ask us to. Letters may be edited for length, grammar and clarity.**

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Photo by Roy Gumpel

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# AOL admits error in identifying sailor Navy says is gay

WASHINGTON (AP)

America Online admitted breaching its policy and said Jan. 21 it regrets disclosing to a Navy investigator the identity of a senior sailor now facing dismissal from the service as a homosexual.

"This was a case of human error under very unusual circumstances," AOL Inc. said in a one-page statement. While criticizing the Navy for the way it sought the information, AOL said of its disclosure: "This clearly should not have happened, and we regret it."

Also Wednesday, Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh moved to save his Navy career by filing a case in federal court in Washington. McVeigh charges the Navy pried into his personal affairs in violation of an electronic privacy law and the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

The service began investigating McVeigh last fall after a Navy spouse discovered information available through AOL and apparently written by McVeigh that indicated a sexual interest in young men. McVeigh, 36, is a highly decorated senior enlisted man with 17 years in the service — three years shy of the 20 needed to retire with a pension. He is no relation to the convicted Oklahoma City bomber.

"I don't have any bitterness against the Navy at all," McVeigh said outside U.S. District Court. "My only regret is that the Navy is unwilling to follow regulations."

McVeigh, in dress uniform festooned with rows of awards and medals on his chest, stood at attention as U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin entered the courtroom. Later McVeigh changed into a business suit to speak with reporters, observing a regulation against uttering public statements in uniform.

McVeigh's attorney, Christopher Wolf, said the Navy "broke the law" against wresting confidential information from online services. He also contended the Navy violated the Pentagon policy on gays in the military, which prohibits open homosexuality but bars the military from trying to discover a service member's sexual orientation.

Justice Department attorney David Glass argued that the 1986 law restricts online services from giving up confidential information but contains no limits on how investigators can go about seeking information.

Judge Sporkin appeared to embrace this argument, noting that police routinely collect evidence volunteered to them that they would otherwise have to obtain through search warrant. He said McVeigh may

have a stronger case against AOL, and Wolf said after the hearing that he and his client "are keeping our options open with regard to (suing) AOL."

Sporkin closely questioned Glass about the don't-ask, don't-tell policy.

"You're saying once somebody in an electronic instrument says that they're gay, that that's enough for the Navy to go out and start these (discharge) proceedings," Sporkin said.

"That's correct," Glass replied. He said the Navy investigator who called AOL "was entirely within the bounds of the statutes."

The case may hinge on whether McVeigh's online communications, none of which contained his full name, represented an open, public statement of sexuality. McVeigh has denied he is gay and told the Navy he had once been engaged and attends social events with women.

The case began when McVeigh sent a routine e-mail to Helen Hajny, wife of a shipmate of McVeigh's aboard the USS Chicago, a nuclear-powered attack submarine. Mrs. Hajny was serving as an onshore ombudsman for sailors aboard the sub, and she communicated regularly with McVeigh. This message, signed "Tim," was about buying presents for children of crew members for an upcoming Christmas party.

Mrs. Hajny noticed that the screen name atop the message was "Boysrch." She then went to the profile page in the AOL system and found under that screen name a profile by "Tim" from Honolulu, home port of the Chicago. Under marital status, the author wrote, "gay." Under hobbies the profile page listed "driving, boy watching, collecting pictures of other young studs." The woman turned this information over to her husband, who passed it up the chain of command until the submarine squadron commander ordered an investigation.

The Navy investigator who telephoned AOL testified at McVeigh's discharge hearing that he told the AOL representative he was a "third party in receipt of a fax" and wanted the full name of the sender.

AOL spokeswoman Ann Brackbill challenged that account Wednesday. In a telephone interview, she said that in AOL's internal inquiry, the company's representative reported the investigator "said he was a good friend" of McVeigh.

McVeigh's honorable discharge was to take effect Jan. 24 at midnight. But Sporkin told Glass, "I assume you'll keep him on while I decide this case."

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# Betty DeGeneres appears in ad urging parents to support their gay children

WASHINGTON (AP)

Every mother likes to brag about her children. Ellen DeGeneres' mother is getting to do it on national television.

Betty DeGeneres stars in a 30-second television ad urging parents to offer loving support to their gay children.

"Hello, my name is Betty DeGeneres and my kid is the greatest. You know her. She's Ellen — and she's gay," Mrs. DeGeneres says in the public service announcement as she and a group of children build a huge American flag out of red, white and blue boxes.

"For too long, gay Americans have suffered discrimination," she says. "As long as our sons and daughters are excluded from the basic protec-

tion of law, we must share that burden — as a family."

Ellen DeGeneres made a splash on her television show, *Ellen*, in an episode in which her character declared she was gay.

Mrs. DeGeneres, 67, made the commercial as part of her duties as a spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign, one of the nation's largest gay political groups.

Mrs. DeGeneres planned to be in Portland, Maine, on Jan. 24 to support gay rights in advance of the Feb. 10 referendum trying to block the state's anti-discrimination law.

She said she is enjoying the job, and believes her appearances and the *Ellen* episode have helped parents

accept their gay children more wholeheartedly.

"I'm hearing from young people — especially since Ellen's coming out

***"As long as our sons and daughters are excluded from the basic protection of law, we must share that burden — as a family."***

episode — that their parents are more accepting," Mrs. DeGeneres said.

"They're seeing a positive image for the first time instead of all this negativity," she said.

Elizabeth Birch, the group's executive director, said, "Gay people report that one of the most wrenching things in their lives, among all the things

they have to confront, is being honest and open with their own family members."

"So, what Betty brings to this is this compassionate voice coupled with common sense why everyone should embrace their gay and lesbian children," Birch said Jan. 21.

The 30-second spot will be distributed to television stations nationwide, HRC spokesman David Smith said. It will include special coding that will allow the group to track where and how often it is aired.

## CO gay rights club suing local school district

AURORA, Colo. (AP)

A high school gay rights club is suing the Cherry Creek School District, demanding that it be treated like any other club.

A lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Denver on Jan. 23 on behalf of the Homosexual-Heterosexual Alliance Reaching for Tolerance (HHART). It says administrators at Smoky Hill High School have

allowed HHART to meet but refused to include it in a list of school clubs.

The lawsuit, filed by the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project (CLIP), also says school officials have censored words such as "homosexual," "lesbian" and "gay" from the club's posters.

The high school club includes 25 members, both gays and heterosexuals, who meet to discuss personal and

social issues.

The lawsuit asks the court to declare that the group has a constitutional right to be treated like any other club.

CLIP is a Denver-based gay rights legal group.

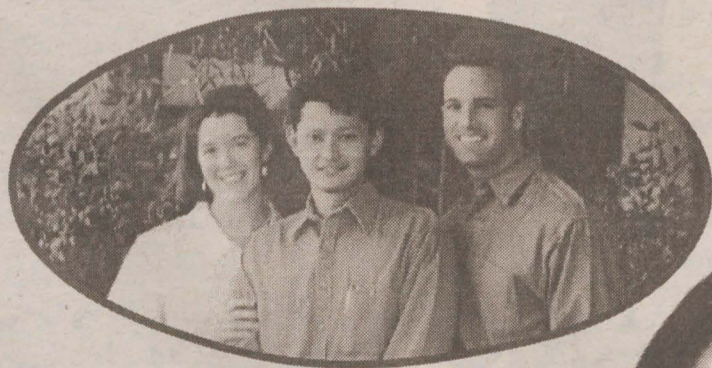
Cherry Creek District spokeswoman Michelle Cahn said administrators could not comment on the lawsuit because they had not seen it.

Smoky Hill Principal Mary Jarvis said HHART had been allowed to put its full name on signs at the high school, to meet at the school and to make announcements on the school's public address system.

"I feel we've not violated any policies," she said. "I'm not sure I understand what this is about."

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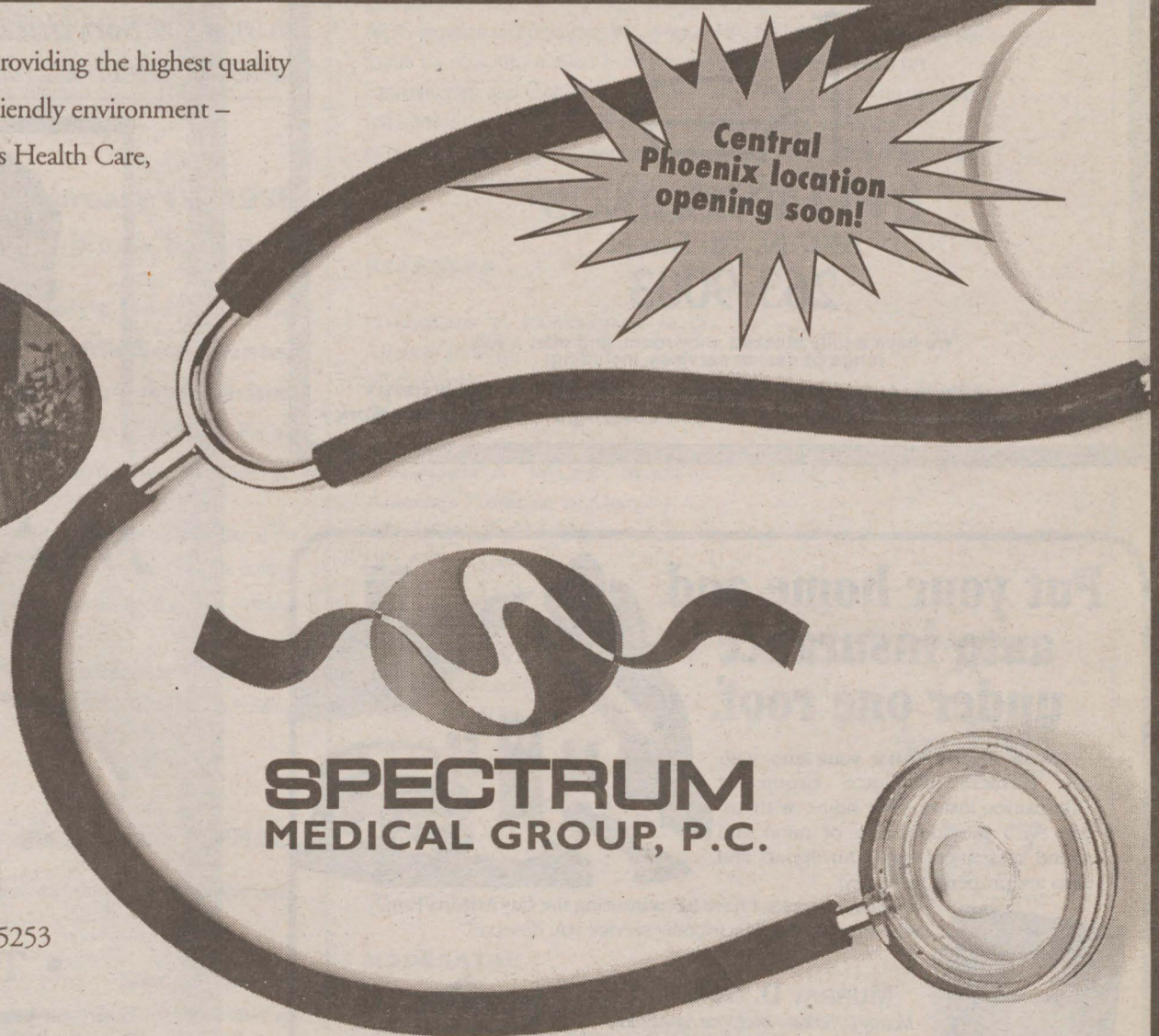
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# Utah lesbian teacher, partner try for normal life amid controversy

SALEM, Utah (AP)

Inside the modest home of Wendy Weaver, children play games, do their homework and eat snacks. They laugh, they yell, they run from room to room, they are denied requests for more snacks — so as not to spoil their dinner.

It's a scene not unlike any other home in Utah Valley on a given weekday afternoon, except that despite the veneer of normalcy, this is not a typical family. Especially not a typical Utah Valley household.

From the couch in the living room, Weaver and her lesbian companion, Rachael Smith, supervise their seven children while talking with a reporter. They sit close together, hold hands and occasionally stroke each other's hair. Do they feel like a normal family?

"We try to take care of seven kids, if you can call that normal," Smith said. "We talk about bills, make grocery lists, break up fights, get kids to their ball games. We're just trying to love our kids and each other."

Of the seven children, five are from Smith's former marriage and two are Weaver's and all but one are boys. Weaver and Smith have joint custody of the kids, who range in age from 4 to 12, with their ex-husbands.

"My boy (who is 10) has struggled a little bit. We talk about it," said

Weaver. "With our kids, the fathers are real involved with them. We work well with our ex-husbands in raising them. We never fought with our husbands. I don't want to underestimate the effects of divorce, but it's not as traumatic as it could be.

"The biggest change for us came when we moved in together. Nothing has been as traumatic as that, trying to meld our families together," Weaver said.

And this is a family that has experienced its share of traumatic changes.

The public revelation last fall that she is gay hurled Weaver, a Spanish Fork High psychology teacher, into the center of a raging controversy in this conservative community.

In October, she filed a civil lawsuit against Nebo School District, contending it violated her civil rights of free speech when it told her she could not discuss her sexual orientation with anyone inside or outside of the classroom.

The longtime volleyball coach who guided Spanish Fork to four state championships was relieved of her coaching duties before the current school year.

One group, led by attorney

Matthew Hilton sued Weaver for alleged misconduct with her players. Last month, a group of Weaver's former volleyball players called a press conference to refute the charges. The district, meanwhile, is vigorously defending itself against her suit, which will likely go to trial.

**"What bothers me is I'm not Wendy Weaver anymore. I'm 'the lesbian teacher.' It's not who I am. I'm a teacher, a mother and I was a coach. But being gay is my identifying factor."**

"What bothers me is I'm not Wendy Weaver any more. I'm 'the lesbian teacher,'" Weaver said. "It's not who I am. I'm a teacher, a mother, and I was a coach. But being gay is my identifying factor."

"The real issue in my suit was that the government told me what I could and could not say," she said. "The gay issue has become the focal point, but it shouldn't be."

While Weaver and Smith try to

shield their children from the publicity as much as possible, they don't hide their lifestyle. Instead, they talk about it openly.

"The kids have adjusted really well. They're too young to be hassled at school," Weaver said.

For Weaver and Smith, though, the public debate has taken its toll. "We'll take a long drive or long walk and cry a few tears," said Smith, who works as a real estate appraiser from home and takes care of the children when Weaver is teaching. Smith also officiates high school and college basketball, volleyball and softball games.

Still, both Weaver and Smith say they have heard more from supporters

than from opponents who want the school district to fire Weaver.

"There's no open persecution," said Smith. "No angry phone calls, no vandalism. No one's thrown snow-balls at us."

Weaver said she has had support from Spanish Fork residents who may not agree with her lifestyle.

"This community is not like the

*Continued on next page*

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# Salt Lake Mayor won't veto council's repeal of discrimination ordinance

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)

Mayor Deedee Corradini said Jan. 24 she will personally intervene if any Salt Lake City employees are discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.

But she will not go so far as to veto a repeal of an ordinance that would have made such protection a part of the city code.

"I made a decision shortly after the council action that I will neither veto nor sign this ordinance," Corradini said to some 30 community organization representatives. "I am the administrator of this government, not the policy-maker."

For the next hour, speakers pleaded with the mayor to reconsider her decision not to veto the action taken

Jan. 13 by the City Council.

The council voted 4-3 to repeal a month-old ordinance that extended job protections to city workers regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

The council members who voted for the repeal — Bryce Jolley, Carlton Christensen, Roger Thompson and Keith Christensen — did not want sexual orientation included.

At the Jan. 24 meeting, Corradini passed out a letter stating that the city's human resources director had not received a single complaint of sexual-orientation discrimination in eight years.

The Weavers were nominated for Family of the Year Award in Salem several years ago.

When the couple divorced after 15 years of marriage, rumors about Weaver's lifestyle arose but didn't become public until last summer when a student who was trying to decide if she should play on the team asked Weaver point-blank if she was gay.

Weaver says she told the truth. Not long after that, the district informed her of the decision to let her go as coach. "I wasn't going to lie about the relationship. These kids are

University of Utah law professor Terry Kogan said that proved nothing.

"If gays and lesbian employees of this city do not feel they are protected, of course they are not going to the director of human resources," Kogan said. "The fact there have been no reports of discrimination is simply a reflection of the fact there are no (protective) laws on the books."

Corradini started the meeting by declaring she was "disappointed and offended" by what she termed "press intimidation." She was referring to an article in *The Salt Lake Tribune* that included a quote from a gay activist who said the gay community would not support her in a re-election effort if she did not veto the repeal.

On Jan. 23, the Utah Progressive Network reported that the mayor had decided she would only meet with eight people and would exclude reporters.

But on the following day, Corradini's spokesman, Ken Connaughton said the conditions were "just a suggestion to make everything work smoother. There never was an either-or situation. As it turned out, everything worked fine."

Afterward, though they had not gotten the veto they sought, those at the meeting said it had gone well. "I'm pleased," Kogan said. "She did listen. It will be hard for her not to take this group seriously in the future."

## Utah Teacher

Continued from previous page

parents group. Most believe this is my private life. They judge me for how they interact with me."

Weaver never dreamed she'd become embroiled in a controversy that would attract national attention.

For years, she said, she battled her feelings. She and her ex-husband, Gary, who is also employed by the Nebo District, were seen as a model couple. They welcomed foster children into their home and served in the community.

16, 17, 18 years old. Telling them it's none of their business is unfair."

Weaver denies the allegations from some former students that she promoted lesbianism among athletes. "I pride myself in that I was a coach who played according to who was best. I played the best athletes. I didn't play gays over non-gays," she said.

Smith says she can relate to those who are opposed to Weaver.

"Six, seven years ago I probably wouldn't have gotten involved myself," she said. "I was raised the same way these people were raised..."

I told my mom about eight years ago I wished these people would just stay in the closet. I understand their fears, and their ignorance. That's the premise they base it on, that you can make someone be gay. You can't. They're operating on a bias they've been taught from birth.

Weaver said she doesn't regret the decisions she's made.

"I would tell this girl again the truth and I would file the lawsuit again. I still feel that what the school district did to me is wrong. I feel pretty OK with where I am."



AMFAR COMMUNITY FORUM

## HIV Treatment Update: Reports from the 5th Conference on Retroviruses & Opportunistic Infections

Thursday, February 19, 1998  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Hospital and  
Medical Center  
Cullen Auditorium  
350 West Thomas Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85013

Free parking available with this flier at the  
6th Avenue Parking Garage within the hospital campus  
(center off of Thomas Road at Third Avenue).

To reach auditorium, enter the hospital building and follow  
signs for the entrance to the Cullen Building.

Admission is FREE.

Refreshments will be served.

Space is limited.

To register call Phoenix Body Positive at

602.955.4673

Recent advances in the treatment of HIV/AIDS have given us unprecedented hope - and challenges. With eleven drugs on the market, four new ones expected this year, and the new resistance tests, making informed decisions about your HIV treatment is more complicated than ever. In this community forum, national and local AIDS experts will discuss the news in HIV treatment, with a special focus on new information from the recent 5th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Chicago. The speakers will address state-of-the-art antiretroviral therapy, including new/coming drugs and combinations, resistance issues, and other practical concerns to the Phoenix community.

### SPEAKERS

CHARLES F. FARTHING, M.D.  
Medical Director  
AIDS Healthcare Foundation  
Los Angeles, CA

STEPHEN A. MILES, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
UCLA School of Medicine  
UCLA Care Center  
Los Angeles, CA

ANDREW MYERS, M.D.  
Medical Director  
Phoenix Body Positive  
Phoenix, AZ

KIRK D. BAXTER  
Founder  
Phoenix Body Positive  
Phoenix, AZ

### MODERATOR

KEVIN ROBERT FROST  
Director, Clinical Research and Information  
AmFAR

Co-sponsored  
by:

AmFAR  
AIDS RESEARCH

PROJECT  
AAZ  
AIDS PROJECT ARIZONA



# Charlie's

At Charlie's  
It's all about you...  
men men men  
boys boys boys  
men men men  
boys boys boys

Where  
Phoenix meets and  
where there's always a party!

## When your stagecoach stops here:

Monday-Friday 12-7pm  
\$1.25 Well/domestic bottled beer

Happiness starts with....  
Friday-Saturday-Sunday 7-9pm  
75¢ Well/domestic bottled longnecks

**Monday**  
"Don't get dressed for us"  
Underwear Party Night.  
Everything 1/2 price  
while partying in your underwear 7p-1am

**Tuesday**  
Quench your thirst with 25¢ draft glass  
or \$1.50 pitchers, 7p-1am

**Wednesday**  
Top & Bottom Night, 7p-1am  
Top (shelf drinks) \$2.00 • Bottom (well drinks) \$1.25  
Don't know what you like??  
Then be versatile--try it ALL!!

**Thursday**  
Hey!! It's Thursday-Are you running on empty??  
Fill up with our original 1/2 price night!!!  
Let our mix masters readjust your attitude!

**Sunday**  
BBQ \$3.00 12-6  
Open Volleyball starts at noon  
\$1.50 Long Island Iced Tea 12-7  
\$2.50 Pitchers noon til midnight

Weekly Dance Lessons Wed-Sat-Sun at 7:30pm

Sunburst Squares Practice Night  
Tuesday & Friday 7pm  
Charlie's Renegades Practice Night  
Monday & Thursday 7pm  
Charlie's Knights Practice  
Sundays at 12:30pm

So stop reading-Come On In-Our door is always  
open noon til 1am Sunday thru Thursday and  
Friday & Saturday noon til 3am

Home of: Charlie's Sunburst Squares  
Charlie's Renegades • Charlie's Knights • AGRA  
Project Lifeguard Calendar • Men of Charlie's

Charlie's 727 W. Camelback Phoenix 265-0224

## GLAAD Alert

### Save Ellen's Future!

ABC will soon be announcing its decision on whether or not to renew *Ellen* for a new season. While producers of the show are committed to its ongoing success and the program's ratings have remained constant, ABC has continued its love/hate relationship with *Ellen*'s open and realistic representations of lesbian and gay life.

*Ellen* consistently wins in its timeslot. But ABC continues to be assaulted by constant pressure from radical religious groups targeting ABC and its parent company, Disney, based on their inclusion of gay people.

The anti-gay group American Family Association is now urging its ranks to demand that ABC pull the show, claiming such a decision would indicate that Americans reject fair representations of lesbians and gay men. *Ellen* needs your support now!

Let ABC and Disney know how much you value the show. Please include testimonials on how this show is especially important to young people dealing with their own sexual orientation, to families dealing with understanding a lesbian or gay family member and to viewers of quality television everywhere.

Contact: • Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90037, fax: 310.557.7679, e-mail: abcaudr@abc.com; • Michael Eisner, Chairman and David Newman, President of Network TV, The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521, fax: 818.560.1930, e-mail: <http://www.disney.com/Mail>.

### Leave Your Stamp on History!

The U.S. Postal Service is planning an upcoming stamp collection commemorating the twentieth century, and there is a chance that lesbian and gay history could be included—with your participation.

For the "Celebrate the Century" campaign, stamps will be issued to commemorate each decade, and the public will get to vote on which ones will honor the 1950s-1990s. The nominations to be voted on by the public will be chosen by the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC).

This committee needs to hear from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and those concerned with honoring America's lesbian and gay heritage, and GLAAD is spearheading a letter-writing campaign to ensure that Americans will be able to vote for a major lesbian and gay event in American history as a possible candidate for the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

"This is a unique opportunity for our community to have a direct impact on lesbian and gay visibility in a medium that Americans use every day—stamps," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry.

"While there are lesbian, gay and bisexual people represented in some stamps (Bessie Smith, James Dean,

Tennessee Williams and Cole Porter, most notably), our community's larger history is invisible in the world of stamps."

Please ask the CSAC to include the Stonewall Riots for the 1960s, slain civil rights leader and San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk for the 1970s, the 1987 display of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, D.C. for the 1980s and the historic 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Civil Rights and Liberation.

In addition, explain why each event holds special historical meaning. Act quickly, as the ballots for the 1960s could be finalized as early as the beginning of March!

Contact: Stamps Department, Attn.: Dr. Virginia Noelke, Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, RM 4474E, Washington, D.C. 20260-6753.

### Go on, "Girlfriend"

While she may be coy about her own sexual orientation, rapper Queen Pen's new song, "Girlfriend," openly discusses a liaison with a woman from the perspective of her female lover.

From the album *My Melody*, the chorus of "Girlfriend" starts: "Girlfriend, girlfriend—Yes, I had your girlfriend/If that was your girlfriend/She wasn't last night." It continues: "I'll be/The one that your main squeeze been digging/Pull you out your closet/Sex so wicked/It's my business what I do."

After telling the guy who thought the woman was his girlfriend a few things about her and the evening they spent together, she finishes by addressing the woman, saying, "It never ceases to amaze me/Break it down/'Cause I like to get down/I will/I love to love you baby."

In the world of rap music, affirmations of lesbians and gay men are slim to none, and this explicit, proud work is both an homage to Me'Shell N'degeocello and a celebration of women passionately loving other women.

Let Interscope Records and Queen Pen know you appreciate this sassy, tight song. Also, encourage local radio stations and dance clubs to give it a spin.

Contact: Interscope Records, 10900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1230, Los Angeles, CA 90024, fax: 310.208.6547, e-mail: [interscope@interscope.com](mailto:interscope@interscope.com).

### Discovering the Hypothalamus

The February issue of *Discover* magazine's "Science Classics" cartoon column discussed the nature/nurture debate of sexual orientation as it relates to the hypothalamus.

One panel's caption explains how "When a region of the human brain was found to be smaller in homosexual men than in heterosexual men, it was suggested that the brain difference might somehow cause the difference in sexual preference."



### Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

The picture shows two men holding hands, with one asking, "Hey, how's your hypothalamus?" and the other responding, "Small!"

The next panel's caption reads, "But the brain isn't just an information processor...It's also an organ, and organs can change their size and shape."

The picture has one of the men suddenly all buff, saying, "Like, look at what happened to my biceps since the last panel."

After discussing a study about this theory, it concludes in one panel that, "Differences between brains may be the result, rather than the cause of differences in behavior [such as sexual orientation]." The boys say, "Oh well, who cares?" and "Um, I care about biceps now."

Without moralizing about either nature or nurture, the cartoon explains the basic debate around the gay hypothalamus theory in a light-hearted, highly accessible way.

Let *Discover* know that this fun approach to scientific theory around sexual orientation is valuable and engaging.

Contact: Marc Zabludoff, Editor

In Chief, *Discover*, 114 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011-5604, fax: 212.633.4817.

### Blue Boy Is Back

The cast of ABC's critically acclaimed *NYPD Blue* once again features the sensitive, together gay police aide John, played by Bill Broctrup.

In the past, John was occasionally given storylines, and as a soft-spoken openly gay man, he brought both calm and dignity to the police station.

Broctrup left the show two years ago to pursue larger roles on two other Steven Bochco productions, *Public Morals* and *Total Security*, both of which have subsequently been canceled.

Please commend Bochco's production company for bringing back John and encourage them to develop major plotlines for the character.

Contact: Steven Bochco Productions, 10201 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

## Queer Sporting News

### CCSL's Softball news & updates

Spring Softball Fever is in the air! The first official day of the Cactus Cities Softball League's 1998 Spring Season is Sunday, February 22nd. One of the reasons this will be a special year for players and fans is that Eldorado Park will be the new home of the league, which is the official gay and lesbian softball organization in the Phoenix metro area.

Eldorado Park is located on Miller Road north of McDowell in Scottsdale. CCSL invites all fans to

(602) 848-8562. All beginner, recreational, and competitive players are encouraged to participate in the spirit of fun, friendship, and sportsmanship.

The CCSL is also proud to host the 5th Annual Cactus Cup Softball Tournament, coming up in the spring of 1998. Fans will be able to see teams from Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego and many other cities on the weekend of April 3-5. Up to 64 teams are expected to participate in what has become one of the best-run, annual gay softball tournaments in the country.



One of the teams sponsored by Roscoe's on 7th that competed in Palm Springs

join the league Sunday mornings throughout the season for fun and competition. If anyone is interested in playing, there is still time to join.

The CCSL will be hosting the following sign-up days: Sunday, February 1 and Sunday, February 8 from 9am to 1pm. If you'd like to play but cannot attend a sign-up day, please call the CCSL Hotline at

In other softball news, teams from the CCSL in Phoenix recently competed in the 7th Annual Winter Classic Softball Tournament in Palm Springs, California. The tournament was held January 16-19 and was attended by several local teams, including three sponsored by Roscoe's on 7th.



Photo by Jeff Toleu

# Charlie's

265-0224

727 West Camelback, Phoenix

**Saturday January 31st**

**Rodeo Wrap up Party**

**8pm in Charlie's Community Room**

**Special! Special! Special!**

**9-1am \$1.25 Red dogs &**

**promotional giveaways**

**Wednesday Feb 4th**

**•••• Leather Night!!! ••••**

**Friday Feb 6th**

**Mr Charlie's Contest.**

**Sign up with Contest Coordinator Ray**

**Sunday Feb 8th**

**Charlie's Knights Fundraising & Show**

**They BBQ 12-6 Bartend 2-8 Casino 3-9**

**and then It's Show Time!**

**Wednesday Feb 11th**

**Roses are Red Party**

**Friday Feb 13th**

**Black Out Party**

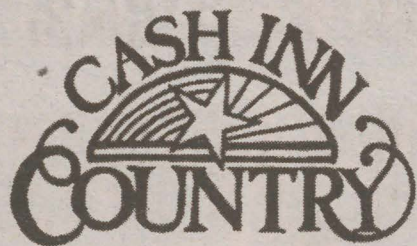
**Saturday Feb 14th**

**Valentine's Day — Do the Sweetheart Dance**

**Sunday Feb 15th**

**EJ's 5 year Anniversary Party**

**(Providing he's allowed back in the United States)**



2140 E. McDowell Rd • Phoenix, AZ  
244-9943

## OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK

**Tuesday-Friday 4pm-1am**

**Saturday 2pm-1am**

**Sunday 12noon-1am**

*Happy Hour*  
*Tuesday-Friday*  
*4-7pm*

<b>Monday:</b>	Closed
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Darts
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Karaoke with Jamie 7-11pm with a Cash Prize!
<b>Thursday:</b>	Country Western Dance Lessons with Geri 7-9pm
<b>Friday:</b>	Dance and Country Western Music with DJ "Sugar"
<b>Saturday:</b>	Country Western Music with DJ "De"
<b>Sunday:</b>	Steak & Chicken Fry \$3, 6-8pm Karaoke with Jamie 7-11pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday

**Feb 1 & 8:** Scaraoke: join Jamie for  
Karaoke with a twist!

### Saturday

**Feb 14:** Valentine's Dancing &  
Romancing at Cash Inn.  
Dancing starts at 8pm —  
Romancing starts at ?

### Sunday

**Feb 15:** Oldies party; starts at 4pm.  
Watch this space for details!



2140 E. McDowell Rd • Phoenix, AZ  
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## Goings On

### Being Alive's PLUS Weekend is back

Positive Living For Us, better known as PLUS Weekend, is a series of workshops and educational seminars presented twice a year by Being Alive, the early intervention program of AIDS Project Arizona (APAZ).

The 1998 Spring PLUS Weekend will be held once again at the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine, 2140 East Broadway in Tempe, February 7-8, 1998. The weekend will begin with a continental breakfast on Saturday at 8am and end on Sunday afternoon after 4pm. Interested persons can choose to sign up for certain programs, or to attend the entire weekend.

There will be massages and acupuncture sessions, and a program lineup featuring discussions of many new and alternative HIV therapies. The program includes:

Reconstruction, Hype vs. Hope, Wake Up and Smell the T-Cells, What Happened to the Nest Egg?, and It's Back to Work We Go.

The Reconstruction portion of the program will be presented by guest lecturer Mark King, a nationally acclaimed HIV educator from Atlanta. The seminar is free for persons who are HIV positive. To register, contact Edgar or Mark at APAZ, (602) 265-2437.

### AHRF seeking volunteers

The Arizona Human Rights Fund, a non-partisan gay and lesbian political advocacy organization based in Phoenix, needs people experienced in two specific areas to help with AHRF's continued efforts in this election year.

First, AHRF needs someone to take charge of Research, able to gather data on political candidates and incumbents and to organize the data in a usable way. Second, AHRF needs a Volunteer Coordinator to recruit and manage volunteers for specific tasks at specific times.

If interested, call AHRF at (602) 530-1660 and ask for Ron or Dianne.

### Project LifeGuard survey is out

Project LifeGuard is conducting a major survey of gay and bisexual men in the Valley to help determine its program needs in coming years. The survey is being done as part of a new three-year grant LifeGuard received through the Arizona Department of Health Services.

LifeGuard, in conjunction with Arizona State University, developed the survey, which is available at locations around the Phoenix metro area or by calling the LifeGuard office at (602) 266-SAFE/7233. Surveys can either be mailed back (postage is paid) or dropped off at LifeGuard's offices, 4700 North Central, Suite 204 in Phoenix.

LifeGuard is a program of AIDS Project Arizona that provides HIV testing, one on one support and refer-

ral, and programs targeting gay youth and African Americans.

### Pride Parade registration info

Arizona Central Pride, the non-profit committee that produces local pride celebrations, is encouraging people to sign up early for the 1998 Pride Parade and Pride Festival, both to be held April 18 in downtown Phoenix.

Applications and fees for the parade and festival that are received by March 15 will qualify for discounted rates. For applications and more information, contact ACP at PO Box 16847, Phoenix, AZ, 85285. Or, call (602) 279-1771. The E-mail address is [parade@azpride.org](mailto:parade@azpride.org), and the website is located at [www.azpride.org](http://www.azpride.org).

### Womyn 2 Womyn outings for February

Womyn 2 Womyn, a Phoenix social group for women, has several events scheduled for February.

Whether you are a single or couple, you are welcome at the W2W Valentine's Day evening celebration on February 14. Call the event line at (602) 941-3513 for details.

But first, join the group at 10am that Saturday morning for a South of the Border breakfast at Mi Patio, on the Southeast corner of 7th Avenue and Osborn in Phoenix.

Womyn 2 Womyn is also heading out to the Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Superior, on February 21. Meet the group at 9:30am at the Town and Country Shopping Center at 20th Street and Camelback, near the entrance to Trader Joe's. Or, if you live in the East Valley, leave a message on the event line and they will make arrangements to pick you up along the way.

Womyn to Womyn is a non-profit group supporting the lesbian community. There are no membership fees and couples and singles are welcome. Contact them at the community event line, or e-mail Womyn 2 Womyn at [w2wc@aol.com](mailto:w2wc@aol.com).

### Look out for new Bears

A new social alternative group for Bears and their buddies has formed in Phoenix, called Bears of the Arizona Desert. The goal of the group is to bring together singles or coupled individuals who share a common interest in Bears, cubs and their admirers for social and entertainment interaction.

Membership is open to all over age 21 who support and endorse the group's purpose. There will be various social activities, gatherings, sporting, cultural and entertainment events. The first get together was held February 21. To find out more, contact: Bears of the Arizona desert, 4133 E. Campbell Drive, Phoenix, 85018. Or, call (602) 345-8755.

Charlie's • 727 W. Camelback Phoenix • 265-0224



James — Mr. October



J.D. — Mr. November



Keith — Mr. December

Who will be  
Mr.  
February  
1998

Join us  
at *Charlie's*

for the next  
Man-of-the-Month Contest,  
Friday, February 6th.

*Sign-up starts at 9pm. Mr. Charlie's Contests have raised tens of thousands of dollars for local charities!*



AIDS Project Arizona  
in conjunction with  
AID Atlanta presents

# RECONSTRUCTION

Living with HIV into the new millennium  
by **MARK KING** a nationally acclaimed HIV health educator

**PLUS WEEKEND**  
Positive Living for Us

**Saturday & Sunday, February 7 & 8**  
at Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine and Health Sciences  
2140 East Broadway Road, Tempe, AZ  
A free educational weekend to empower those infected and affected by HIV  
Sponsored by AIDS PROJECT ARIZONA  
For more information and registration call **APAZ, 265-AIDS**

Watch for these future PLUS Weekend Topics...  
Hype Vs. Hope, Wake Up and Smell the T-Cells, The Tangled Web of Public Benefits,  
What Happened to the Nest Egg?, It's Back to Work We Go?, The Doctor is In,  
Naturopathic Medicine and HIV, Alternative Treatment Strategies for HIV, and much more.  
Funding for this PLUS WEEKEND was made available as a result of a grant awards from the  
US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration and  
the Maricopa County Department of Public Health Services.

**NEW CLASSES STARTING  
SPACE LIMITED- ENROLL TODAY!**

**LIVE LONGER!** *Long Term Living* a series exploring the changes for those diagnosed 6 years or more\*

Have you thought about getting off social security?  
Are you unsure about your future?  
Is your relationship ready for this change?

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


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*18 tri-therapies - 5 quad-therapies - 7 dual-therapies*  
*... IF YOU DID, THIS CLASS NEEDS YOU.*  
*... IF NOT, YOU NEED THIS CLASS.*

**MEDICATION EDUCATION**  
A CLASS IN UNDERSTANDING ALL THE MEDS

\*Data collected among participating members at PBP--"Client Survey for Treatment Education Classes"

For information or to register contact "Ant"oney  
at Phoenix Body Positive

 VOICE: 955-4673 FAX: 955-5483  
E-MAIL: BODYPOSITIVE@SWLINK.NET

Programs funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health

*Just when you had thought it was safe to go back into the water!*



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Friday Night, Saturday and Sunday!*

*Wednesday is Talent Night  
with \$50 First Prize!*

*Open Mon. thru Fri. 2 pm to 1 am  
Sat. & Sun. Noon to 1 am*

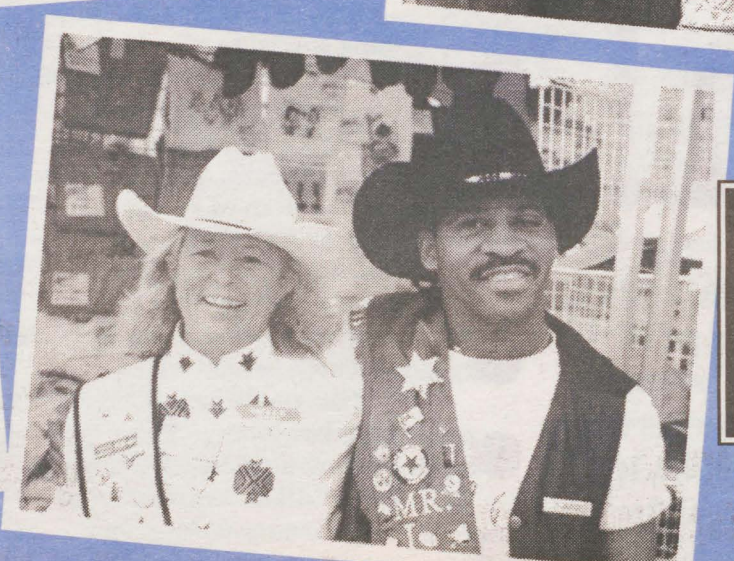
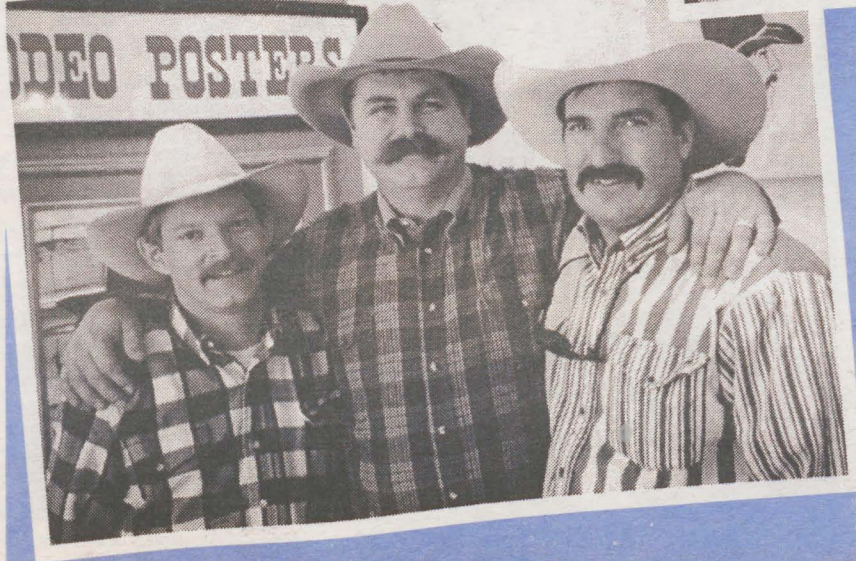
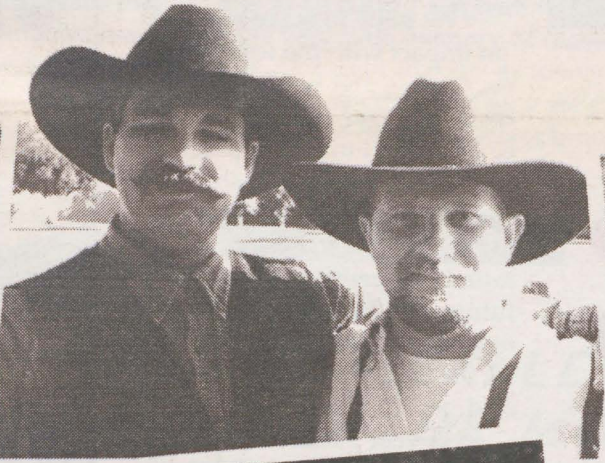
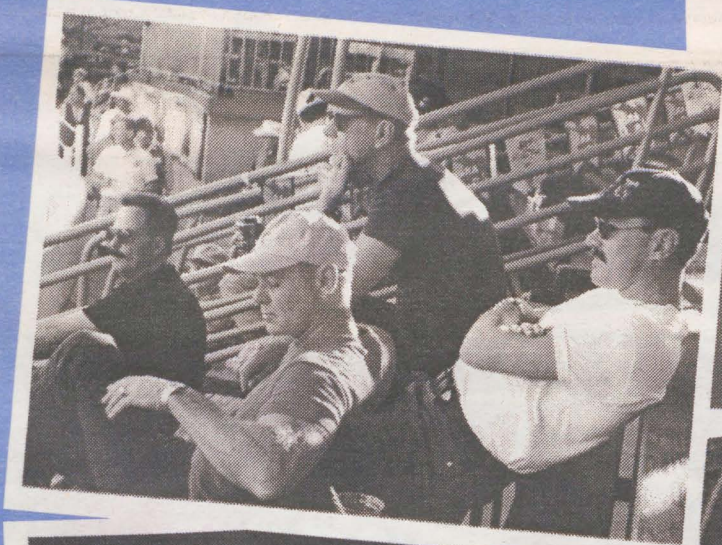
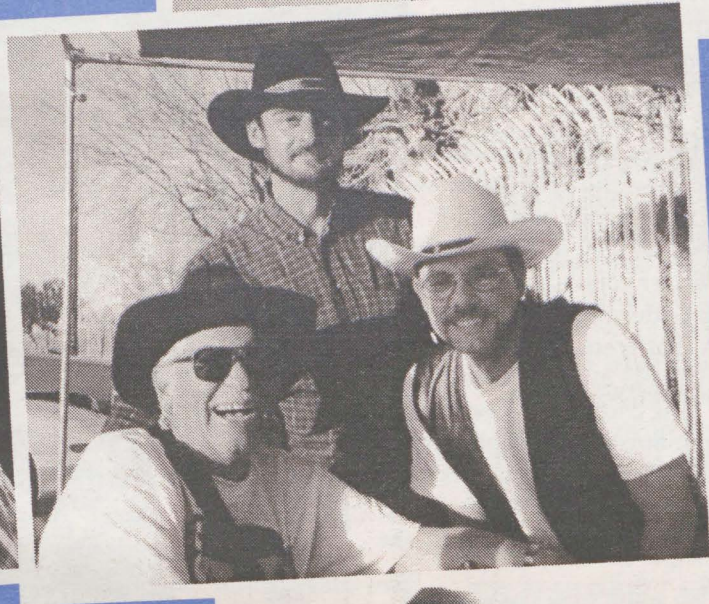
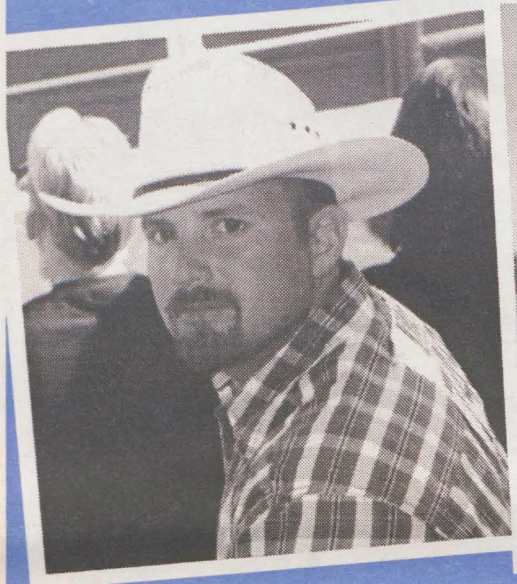
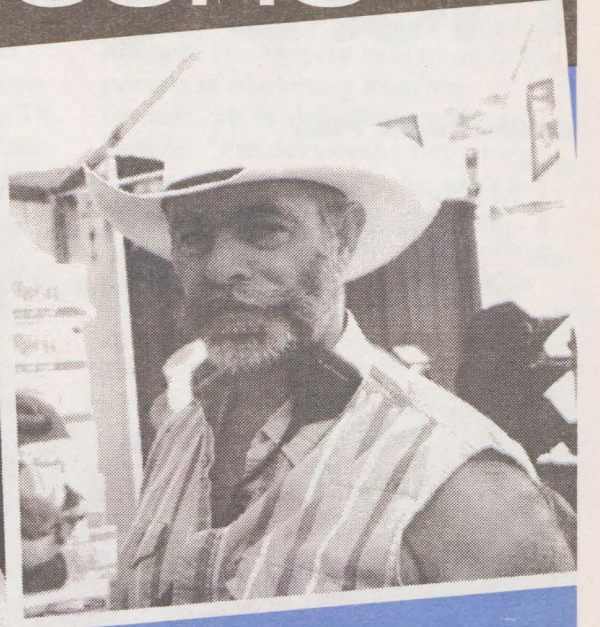
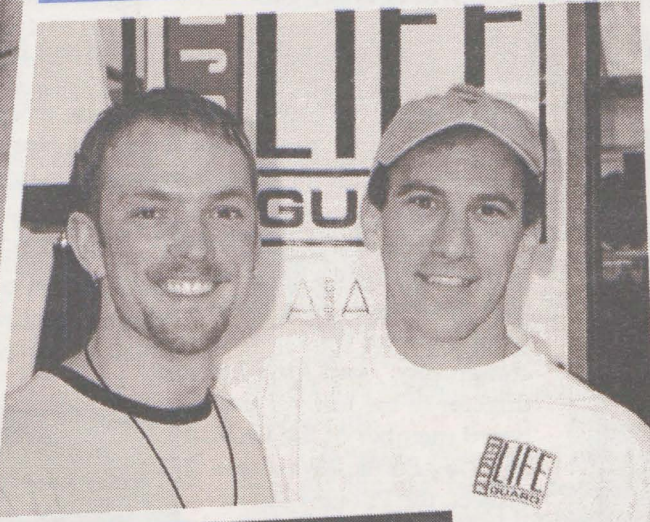
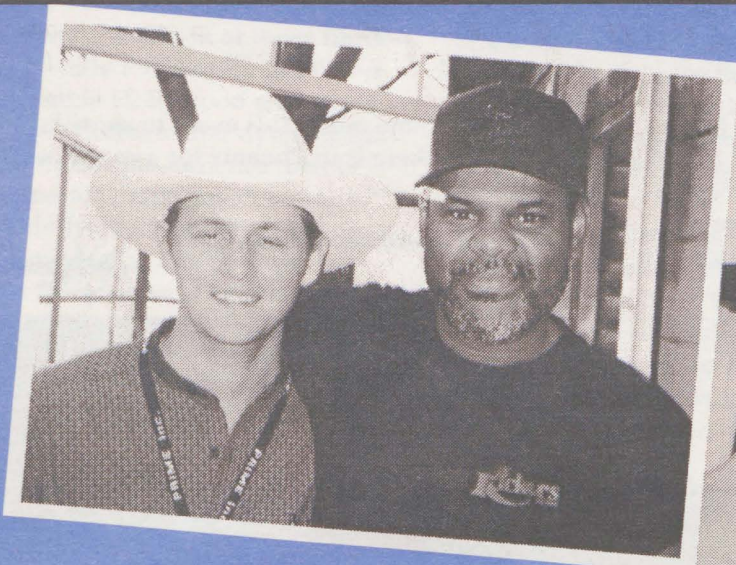
*Friday  
Happy Hour  
Show & Buffet  
The fun begins at 6pm  
Fri., Sat. & Sun.  
Shows begin at 9:30pm*

*We're Remodeling!  
Come See The  
Changes As They Happen.*

**the Wave**

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# Seeing/Being Scene



12th Annual  
Roadrunner  
Regional  
Rodeo

# More on the '98 filmfest

By Allen Kalchik, editor

The Phoenix Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is moving uptown this year, in more ways than one. Featuring four highly acclaimed—and yet very

different—independently produced gay and lesbian films, the 1998 festival will be held February 13 and 14 at the new AMC Camelback Esplanade cineplex in Central Phoenix. In years past, festival fare was shown at a small, single-screen theater in downtown Tempe.

everyone will come out to this event to show how much support there is in Phoenix for gay and lesbian cinema.”

For prices and showtimes, see page 28.



Deepa Mehta, writer and director of *Fire*

“Holding our annual festival in the Esplanade’s gorgeous new theaters is going to be a great thing for the Phoenix community,” said Amy Ettinger, director of the festival and a board member of the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project, the Phoenix-based group producing the event. “It’s a move we hope will raise the level of professionalism of the entire festival.”

Ettinger said besides being brand new, the new venue will offer more space and more screens, as well as little things like better concessions, with more bathrooms and other services that were not available to moviegoers at the Tempe theater. The move to a larger and more mainstream property also makes the gay-positive event much more visible to the greater Phoenix community, she said.

“We hope to make more of an impact with the festival every year, and we need to make it bigger and more visible to do that,” Ettinger explained. One goal Ettinger said she would personally like to see is for the festival to become a juried competition in the near future. “If the event continues to grow as it has been, I can easily see that happening,” she said.

This year’s festival features four exciting new movies that will be shown in rotation over a two-day period.

- *Green Plaid Shirt* is an inspiring AIDS drama that was written and directed by Daily Variety contributor Richard Natale.

- Deepa Mehta’s groundbreaking *Fire*, one of the most talked-about independent films currently in distribution, will also be shown.

- *Late Bloomers*, a lesbian coming-out story by sisters Gretchen and Julie Dyer is included in the program.

- Victor Mignatti’s refreshing romantic comedy *Broadway Damage* rounds out the bill.

Each of the films has something special to offer for festival attendees and all four have been honored at other festivals throughout the US and Internationally. *Fire*, in particular, has received excellent reviews and has caused a huge political stir in India over its honest portrayal of a lesbian relationship that occurs between two middle-class wives.

“We are really thrilled to have *Fire* debut in Phoenix as part of our festival,” Ettinger said. “All of these movies are very exciting and we hope



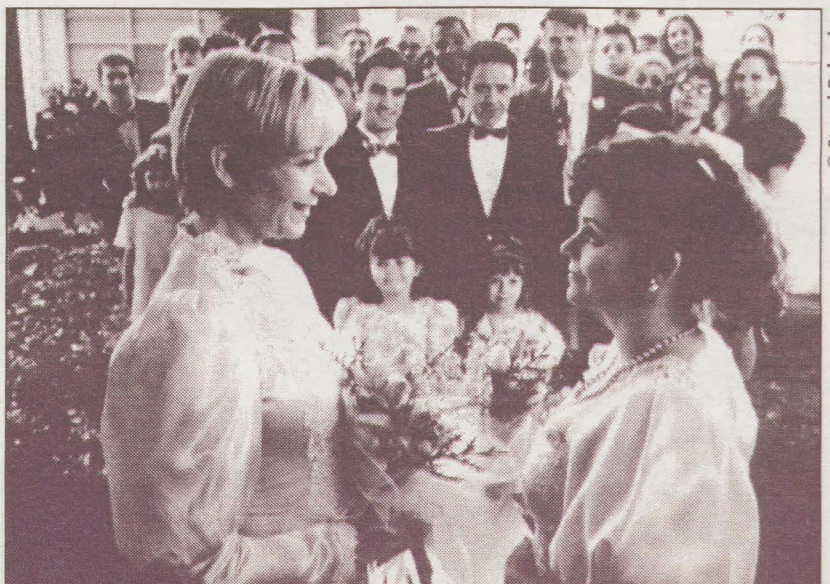
Nandita Das plays Sita, a bored Indian woman in *Fire*



Shabana Azmi (l), and Ranjit Chowdhry in *Fire*



Producer/screenwriter Gretchen Dyer (l), and producer/director Julia Dyer on the set of *Late Bloomers*



Connie Nelson (l), and Dee Hennigan star in *Late Bloomers*

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Are you motivated?

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# Gay Filmmaker

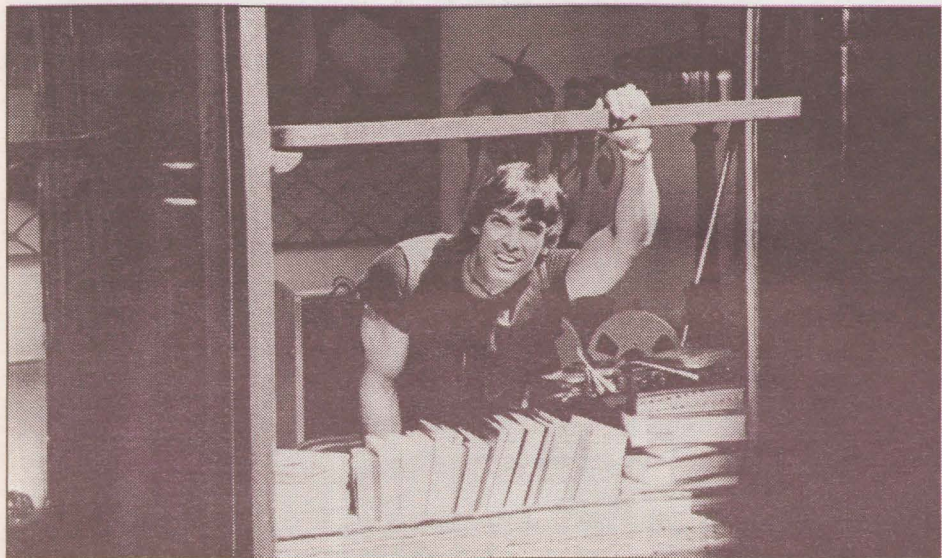
Continued from page 1

them for various reasons. But my theory is that if you look at those films—and I include *Philadelphia* in this—in every, single Hollywood gay movie, they always create that dynamic that lets heterosexual audience members feel superior to the gay characters.” For a Hollywood gay film to be financially successful, like *Birdcage*, *In & Out* or *Philadelphia*, a heterosexual viewer must always be allowed to feel in some way superior, Mignatti stresses.

“By contrast, most gay indepen-

are gay, and you either deal with it or you don't. They don't create that weird safety zone for the straight audience.” It is the lack of that apologetic safety zone, he suggests, that makes distribution companies leery of the product.

*Broadway Damage* is a touching comedy that deals with the lofty aspirations of three New Yorkers just out of college. All are looking for romance and direction in their lives. Two of the main characters are gay men, Marc and Robert, who are best



P. Duquette

Broadway veteran Hugh Panaro in a scene from Victor Mignatti's *Broadway Damage*

dent films do not create that dynamic ever, in any way. The movies on the gay and lesbian festival circuit and other independent films are very matter-of-fact about sexuality. Some characters and some relationships in them

friends. Each is hoping to land a career in the theater and find his own version of Mr. Right. The third major character is Cynthia, a witty, plump and very hetero Rich Daddy's Darling who shares an apartment with Marc.

## Horowitz:

LGPAP Prez on Valentine's Day at the Movies

The Second Annual Phoenix Lesbian and Gay Film Festival plays on February 13 and 14. The festival benefits public education campaigns by the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project and offers Phoenicians the opportunity to see some extraordinary gay-related entertainment that otherwise probably wouldn't be available in the Valley.

Last year's festival, held at the Valley Art Theatre in Tempe, provided sold-out crowds with first-rate movie fare and a great opportunity to build community spirit.

The knockout films for this year include the highly acclaimed *Fire*, a prize-winning entry at the San Francisco Gay Film Festival. Also showing will be *Broadway Damage*, *Late Bloomers* and *Green Plaid Shirt*.

The opening night gala double feature includes a wine and cheese event during intermission. Also on tap is famed lesbian comedienne Judy Carter, whose comic performances will be included in the festivities. This year's film selections include romance, comedy, drama, men's themes, women's themes, coming-out themes, etc... There's something for everyone. You'll find a synopsis of each film in the ad on the back of this issue of *HeatStroke*.

The early success of Phoenix's festival has the organizers excited about the future. Over the next several years, look for a push to make this a "juried" event, potentially lasting a week or more and having submissions from some of the finest gay and lesbian filmmakers from around the world. This year's festival brings us quite a bit closer.

The films will show at the brand new AMC Camelback Esplanade Theatre, com-

plete with stadium seating and state of the art equipment and sound. Films will be shown Friday evening and all day Saturday. Advance tickets are available at Movies on Central, at 4700 North Central.

I have managed to see some great gay and lesbian films but, unfortunately, many never make it to Phoenix. Of course we'll get to see Robin Williams and Kevin Kline strut their stuff in the semi-mainstream flicks that have gay themes, but equally good movies with lesser-known players often don't show here. I saw *Bent*, *Kiss Me, Guido* and *Ma Vie en Rose* elsewhere when I had the chance.

A great turnout at the festival will help ensure that more gay related works—movies and otherwise—will make it into the cultural scene in the Valley. Cultural opportunities here are increasing at a dramatic rate. We need to do everything possible to insure that our fabulous gay influence remains a prominent part of that trend.

If you are planning to celebrate Valentine's day with someone special, why not make it a point to catch at least one of the festival's films? If you don't have a valentine to share the experience with, why not take a chance at meeting that special someone at this fine event? While you're at it, get a group of friends together and make the day a bigger production still.

Don't let the film festival be one of those things that you'll wish you had attended when everyone else is talking about how great it was...

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and President of The Lesbian and Gay Public

Why did this 38-year-old writer/director feel the need to create an original story so earnest, youthful and romantic? "Because I felt the world was ready for it and needed something like this," he says. "I was working in advertising—directing TV commercials, videos, corporate films and high-end fashion stuff. So much of what I was being called on to do was supposed to be very edgy and very hip, and I realized a lot of that edginess is just a disguise for cynicism."

Mignatti says he started looking at images in popular culture and then looked inward. He had never considered himself a cynical person, but realized the work he was producing for others had taken a toll on his outlook toward life.

"I thought, 'What was I like—what was my life like, before I became cynical and jaded?' And I flashed back to when I was about 19. When my parents had just dropped me off at the dorm to NYU and absolutely everything seemed possible."

Mignatti thought it would be a lot of fun to make a movie "about a group of friends that are just wide-eyed optimists—hopeless romantics—in a very cynical day and age. Three people for whom anything is possible. And that's what I did."

Actress Mara Hobel co-stars as Cynthia. Now in her twenties, Hobel is best known to most audiences for her portrayal of little Christina Crawford in the camp classic, *Mommie Dearest*. "This is probably her first role as an adult," Mignatti says. "I have very little memory of *Mommie Dearest*, except that it was totally over the top—so that is not why we cast Marla. The casting director brought

her in and she was wonderful. She totally nailed the part."

Having finally landed a distributor for his fresh and warmhearted flick, Mignatti is now very caught up in the process of marketing *Broadway Damage*. He is also planning his next feature. "I'm developing two projects. One is another comedy, the other is a period film, set again in New York City, but in 1982." Both projects have primarily gay themes. "But I don't see myself as someone who is going to do exclusively gay things. I really don't," he says.

"I think festivals like the one coming up in Phoenix are really important, because the gay community really needs to support independent gay filmmakers. It's a very hard thing to make a film, because of the financial aspect of it. And for most of these films, not to have any kind of outlet to bring money back in can be financially devastating."

Like many openly gay artists, Mignatti seeks approval from within the community and yet has mixed feelings about the categorization of his work. "Look, we all know *Broadway Damage* is a gay film and it's going to be mix-marketed. It's going to be marketed to the gay community and, hopefully, it will then cross over and be marketed in the straight community as well. That's the reality of it," he says with a sigh.

"But I don't like labels and it kind of bothers me to have it always called a gay film. I really hope that someday—and this is me being an idealist—I just dream that there is going to be a time when we don't have to label all these things: a Gay film, a Black film, a Latino film. Really, I'm sort of over all that."



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## Texas on a bankroll

By Andrew Collins,  
HeatStroke Contributor

The oil boom that solidified the image of Texas as a land rife with multimillionaires, sumptuous ranches, private jets, fancy cars, and lavish parties may have sunken into a depressing bust in the 1980s, but queer travelers in search of the best dining, shopping, and lodging money

makers is NorthSouth, whose menu is divided into two varieties of cooking: South-style (i.e., traditional, high-caloric, and rich) and North-style (i.e., nouvelle, low-fat, and still seemingly rich). The latter is not actually a genuine reflection of Northern cuisine but rather of chef Larry North's predilection for such tasty but healthful fare as tortilla-crust roasted corn hash and tomato salsa verde snapper.

Among hotels, the ultra-luxury standard is set at the aforementioned

hoods — River Oaks and the Galleria — are booming with mansions and exclusive shopping centers.

The vibrant and visibly queer neighborhood, Montrose, sits between these two areas and offers several noteworthy attractions as well as easy access to the impressive Museum District. To the surprise of many visitors, Houston is culturally the best endowed city in either the Southwest or the Deep South.

Like Dallas, Houston is a wonderful dining city, and two of the top draws with queer followings are the classically debonair River Oaks Grill, which specializes in nouvelle but untrendy American and Continental fare, such as red snapper with crab-laced pico de gallo, and chef Monica Pope's Boulevard Bistrot, a slick New American haunt set along a promenade of Montrose boutiques.

Where to spend the night? You'll find high-end chain properties near the Galleria, but for a truly first-class European-style experience, nest at the historic Lancaster, a restored 1926 gem, that's equidistant from the downtown theater and financial districts. Rooms have VCRs, CD players, and private fax lines.

San Antonio is the state's most popular tourist destination, and in many ways captures the essence of Texas outsiders seek but never seem to find in Dallas or Houston.

What makes San Antonio special, apart from its dramatic history as the site of the Alamo, is River Walk (Paseo del Rio), one of the most enchanting urban settings in America.

The river, which is 15 feet below street level, cuts a loop through downtown and is lined with cobbled and flagstone paths, over which hang the drooping branches of cypress and willow trees. Along here, too, are fancy shops (many of them inside the Rivercenter Mall) and mostly banal and touristy restaurants.

The culinary exception is Paesanos, a Northern Italian trattoria renowned for dishes like spinach gnocchi with fresh mozzarella, tomatoes, and roasted garlic, and grilled amberjack with a Sicilian clam chowder.

Just north of downtown is another favorite of local big shots and visiting dignitaries, Biga. The decor inside this turn-of-the-century mansion is Edwardian but the crowd cool and sassy — which is also true of the food. Highlights include habanero-spiked swordfish over risotto and the

many game meats offered on a regular basis (most notably oak-roasted antelope).

As for the top gay-friendly hostelry in town, don't miss the intimate and historic Arbor House Hotel, which was opened in 1995 by a couple of talented guys with an eye for bold artwork and innovative ideas about restoration.

The property's four buildings each have a handful of enormous suites — some with Jacuzzis, kitchenettes, and balconies. Brightly painted Southwestern antiques, leopard print rugs, clawfoot tubs, and a few retro-stylish furnishings salvaged from the old Las Vegas MGM hotel are arranged in unison to create a memorable yet tasteful impression.

Austin, the state capital, is the one Texas city where driving a fancy car and dressing in your best threads will do little to impress the locals. This is a countercultural student-driven town with a bent for alternative music, cerebral diversions, and the artsy vestiges of bohemia.

Still, with a booming real estate market and the growing presence of high-tech corporations, Austin is gradually cultivating a following among big spenders. It's also one of the queerest cities in the country.

The city's most luxurious hostelry, the Four Seasons, has great views of the Congress Avenue Bridge, where Austin's legendary fleet of bats reside in the summer months. Southwestern decorative accents and fabrics lend a laid-back Texan air to the guest rooms, but deluxe amenities are still the norm here.

For dining, don't miss Shoreline. A glance at this airy restaurant's New American menu should put you in the mood to nosh: note flaky lump crab cakes with grilled shrimp and a piquant mango sauce or the half rack of ancho-cured lamb with caramelized onion potatoes and a blackberry cascabel sauce. Same-sex couples celebrating special occasions favor Jeffrey's, a dark sexy restaurant with the polish of a big city supper club. Elk loin with roasted red potatoes and juniper-chipotle sauce, and duck and shrimp with black bean ravioli and shiitake mushroom sauce, are the sorts of dishes that draw raves all around.

Andrew Collins is the author of *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*, as well as six gay guides covering the West Coast, New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam. He can be reached care of *HeatStroke*.



Above, the glimmering glass-and-steel skyline of downtown Dallas hints at the city's internationally famous prosperity. Below, San Antonio's beautiful Riverwalk.

can buy will still find plenty of places to satisfy their cravings in the Lone Star state.

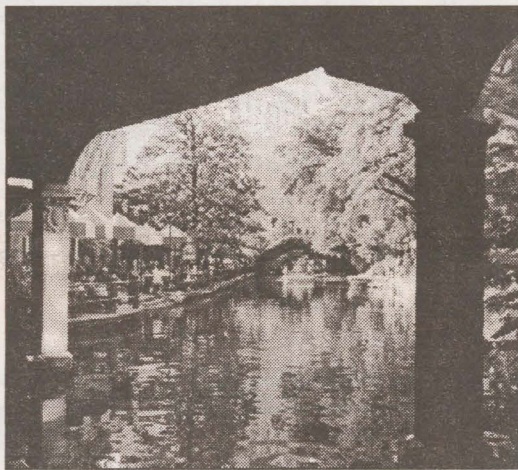
What follows is a connoisseur's guide to the most fabulous (and expensive) gay-friendly restaurants and accommodations in each of the state's major cities: Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin.

Dallas has long been a hub of big spenders. This reputation permeates the gay community; queer Dallasites are famous for dressing to the nines — the phrases "buttoned-down" and "starved-collar" are part of the regional gay vernacular.

The community is highly influential and has considerable political and social clout, and you'll find guppies living, playing, and shopping most noticeably in trendy Oak Lawn, and also in the city's wealthiest district, neighboring Highland Park.

Dallas has some of the hottest restaurants in the country, including the stellar Mansion on Turtle Creek, a hotel dining room famous for such complex creations as warm lobster salad with yellow tomato salsa and jicama salad.

Another favorite of gay scene-



Mansion on Turtle Creek, whose state-of-the-art health club, posh rooms, and sterling service are rivaled by none.

The most spectacular of the city's small inns is the gay-friendly Hotel St. Germain, a turn-of-the-century house whose suites are all fitted with French and New Orleans antiques. Elaborate touches include canopied featherbeds, rich tapestries, marble bedstands, balconies, fireplaces, and, in two suites, Jacuzzis.

Houston had a particularly rough time in the '80s, but has rebounded confidently in recent years. Its downtown is crowned with shimmering skyscrapers and its ritziest neighbor-

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# Hollywood Deep Inside

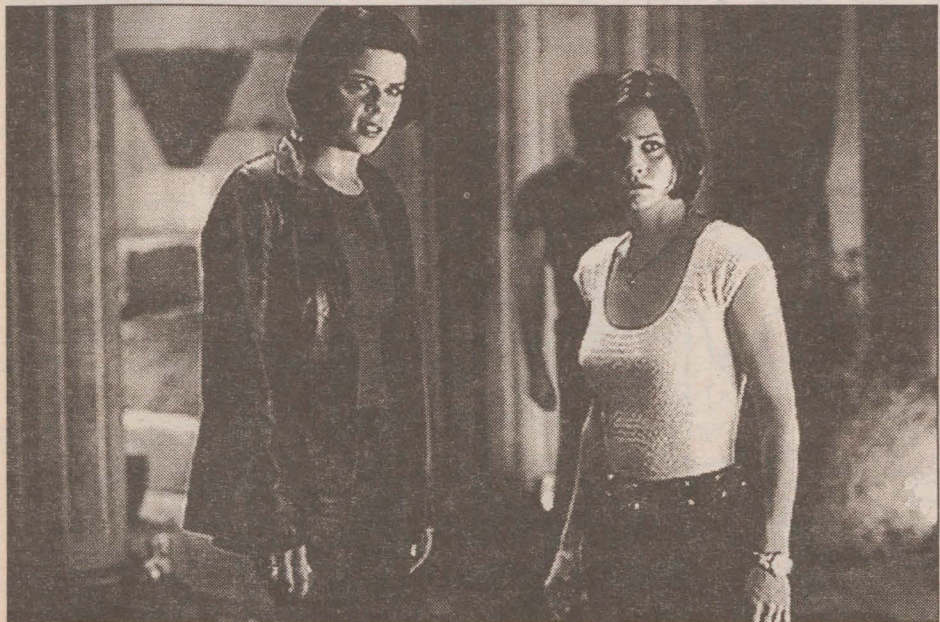
By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

## Whither Neve?

Neve Campbell's reluctance to return to her role as Sidney in *Scream 3* may cause the film's openly gay writer Kevin Williamson to lose his chance to direct the third installment

mance. However, she doubts he'd be interested in playing Lestat again.

Though details of the movie remain sketchy, it would be interesting to see whether the film sticks more closely to the written characteri-



Neve Campbell, left, on the set of *Scream 2*

of the Miramax franchise.

Campbell says she won't come back unless Wes Craven directs the third (as he has the first two). And Miramax chairmen Bob and Harvey Weinstein are reportedly set to offer the *Party of Five* star a staggering \$13 million (the highest ever paid to an actress) to confront psycho teen-agers one more time.

## The Vampire Leonardo

Author Anne Rice says she would love to see *Titanic* heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio star in *The Vampire Lestat*, which would actually be a prequel (if the order of Rice's books is followed) to *Interview with the Vampire*.

Rice initially derided the choice of Tom Cruise, who played Lestat in *Interview*, but later praised his perfor-

zation of Lestat, whose bisexuality was played down in the first film.

DiCaprio hasn't shied away from gay-themed roles in the past, playing queer poet Arthur Rimbaud in *Total Eclipse*.

## Back in the Cage

United Artists honchos have given the go-ahead for a sequel to the 1996 hit *The Birdcage*, with Robin Williams and Nathan Lane expected to reprise their roles as longtime gay lovers.

The sequel will not, however, feature the writing talents of the legendary Elaine May. The studio has instead hired Emmy-winning scribe and *Advocate* columnist Bruce Vilanch to pen *Birdcage II*.

This should be familiar territory for Vilanch, however: he has previously written stage shows for Bette Midler and Barry Manilow, in addition to writing the Oscars for the last nine years.

Lane continues to be a busy man. In addition to the surprising success of *Mousehunt* and development of his NBC sitcom, Lane is currently filming in *At First Sight* alongside Val Kilmer and Mira Sorvino.

He plays a specialized therapist who assists Kilmer's character after he undergoes risky sight-restoration surgery. The MGM drama is based on a true story from physician-author Oliver Sacks of *Awakenings* fame.

## Baser Instinct

In more sequel news, United Artists is moving forward with a follow-up to *Basic Instinct*.

Neither the film's writer Joe Eszterhaus (who also punished us with *Showgirls* and *Jade*) nor co-star Michael Douglas will be back, but of course the project depends on the return of Sharon Stone, who gained fame for her por-

trayal of bisexual sociopath Catherine Trammel.

Although reports that she's been offered \$16 million to return to the role have been dismissed, Stone remains non-committal, waiting to read the script before making a decision.

*Internal Affairs* scribes Henry Bean and Leora Barish are working on the sequel, which will focus on a new murderous adventure for Stone in a new city. Sounds fascinating.

## A Queer First

While the number of queer-themed films has definitely increased over the past few years, there's been a noticeable absence of movies featuring African-American gays and lesbians.

That is set to change, however, as Laurence Fishburne has agreed to produce and star in the film version of a 32-year old suspense novel, *A Queer Kind of Death*, which features as its central character a black, gay detective (to be played by Fishburne, late of *Hoodlum* and *Boyz n the Hood*).

The story, set in 1960s New York, follows Det. Pharaoh Love as he investigates the death of a male model found electrocuted in a bathtub. The book on which it is based will be re-

released in paperback by Alyson Publications in July.

## South Park, the Movie

Yes, it's true. The little cartoon that could (insult everyone, that is, and hilariously so) appears to be coming to the big screen.

*South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone have reportedly been paid \$1.5 million to make a film version of their mega-hit TV show, whose characters include self-loathing homosexual teacher Mr. Garrison and Sparky, the gay dog.

Romeo San Vicente, who hopes all this sequel talk won't ever include *Too Wong Foo 2*, can be reached care of *HeatStroke*.

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Dear Anita Life:

I just found out something so bizarre. I own Ralph Lauren underwear and towels, but now there is Ralph Lauren paint! I'm sure!

That's not the least of it. I heard at the gym that there will soon be Calvin Klein tranny fluid and Eddie Bauer flea dip.

Why don't they stick with one product like all the brands I grew up with? You don't see Kellogg's douche, or Black and Decker tampons, or Best Foods condoms.

Signed, Help

Dear Help:

I guess you haven't heard of Anita Life anti-depressants — coming to a pharmacy near you!

Dear Anita Life:

Valentine's Day is so special. I always read the ads in the paper... everyone wishing their sweethearts well.

My problem? Last year there were six ads wishing "PooPoo" lots of love. My sweetie is called "PooPoo," and I don't want her to confuse my message with some other PooPoo's message. What's the answer?

Signed, Too Many PooPoos

Dear Too Many:

Perhaps you could spell it Poopoo, or Po-opoo, or start calling her Poo-Pooee, or something a little different than the usual PooPoo.

Actually, what's her name? You could write "for my PooPoo Mary, or PooPoo Linda." I call my love Stinky, and there is never a problem. I would stay away from BooBoo and HoneyBunny.

Dear Anita Life:

I love my lover very much, but she tastes terrible — her breath, kisses, and vagina. I find I don't always want to make love because of the taste. What do I do?

Signed, Sensitive Nose

Dear Knows:

- 1) You could get another lover.
- 2) You could suggest that she change her diet. Certain foods sweat through our skin. If you're a vegan, and she's a carnivore, well... dead meat stinks.
- 3) Have her put clothes pins on your nipples and nose — tell her it's your new fetish!

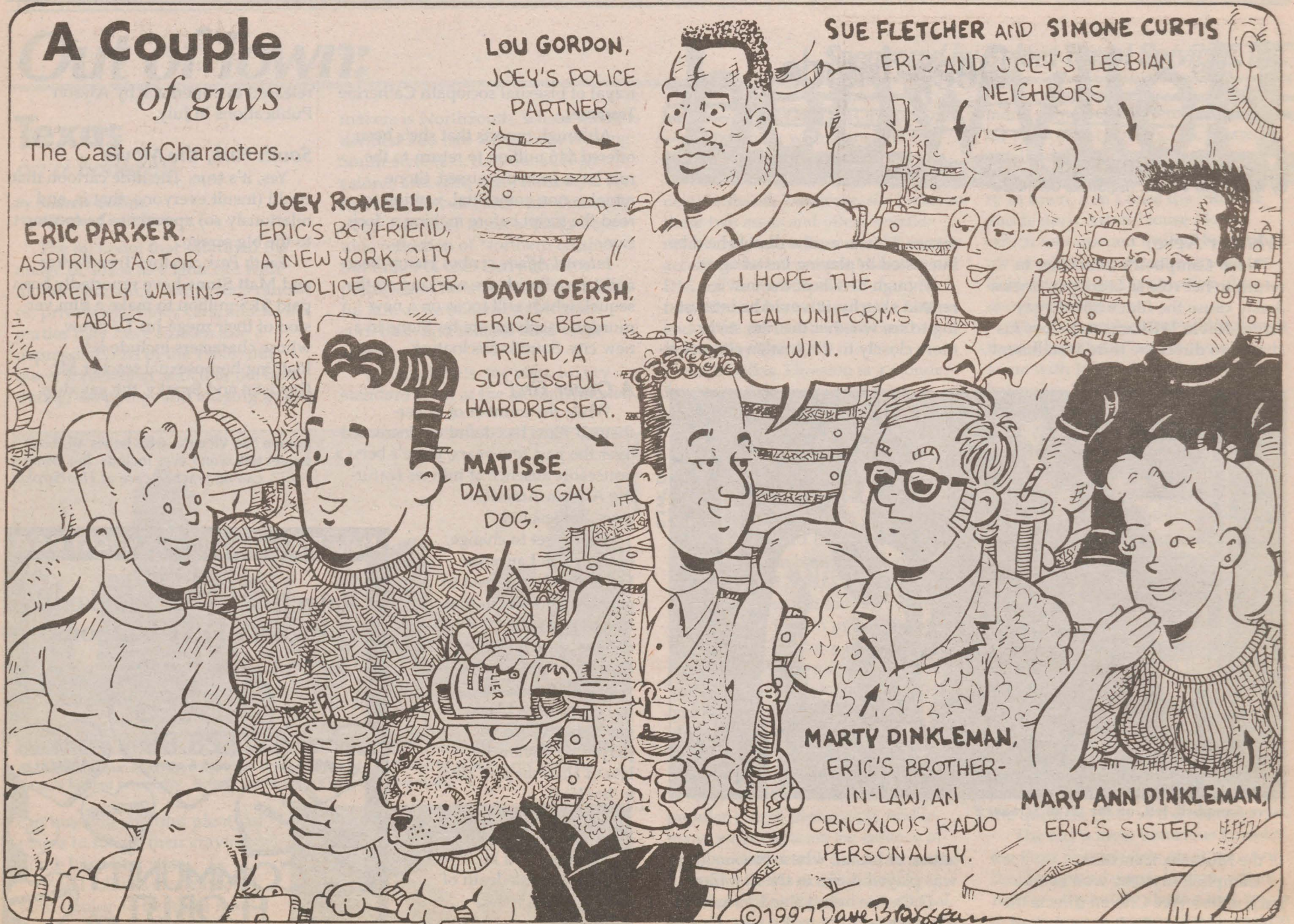
e-mail Anita with your questions and problems at [askalife@aol.com](mailto:askalife@aol.com), or write to Anita Life c/o HeatStroke



Leonardo DiCaprio: favored to play a bisexual vampire in Anne Rice's Gothic tale

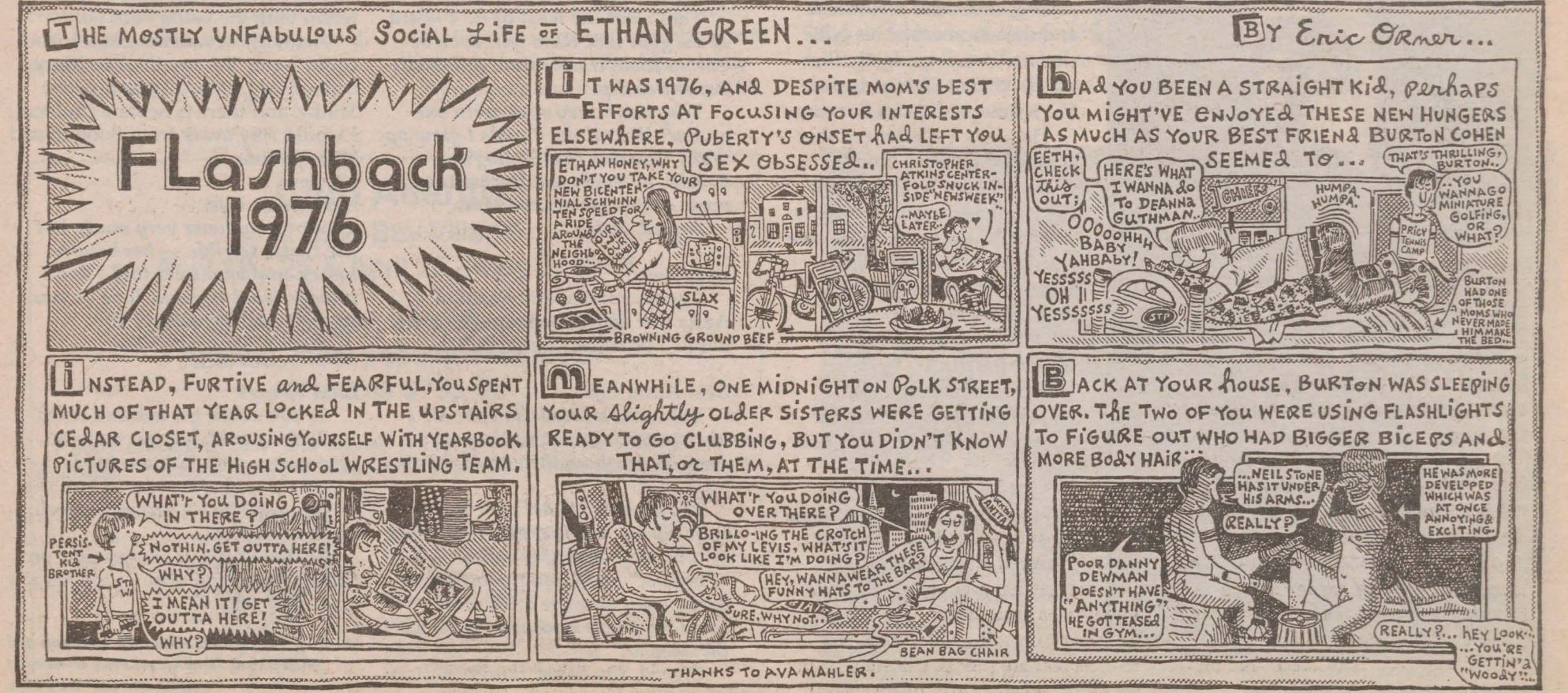
# A Couple of guys

The Cast of Characters...



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Dear Cowboy,

I don't understand why my boyfriend is still buying porno movies, because we recently moved in together and the sex is great between us. He always had a pretty big collection, but I figured he would stop ordering them when we got a place together.

I signed for 3 videos that were delivered yesterday morning and I am so mad I have not even told him they came yet. I saw the receipt—they cost him almost \$200. He could have spent that on stuff for the house. Am I not hot enough for him? How can I get him to stop doing this?

Signed, Jealous of the Porno Stars

Dear Jealous,

If the sex is great, don't worry about where your bunkmate gets his appetite—so long as he eats at home. A little visual stimulation from videos and magazines is not cheating, as long as the real sex stays healthy and he isn't obsessed. You need to talk this out. Instead of getting mad and hiding his deliveries, try joining him in front of the tube for a hot first viewing together.

The money thing is another issue but it is related, because it shows me you are having problems with your need to control. If you want living together to work, cowboy up and realize you are plenty hot enough but you will never control his personal

spending or his desire for video turns.

Dear Cowboy,

My girlfriend got interested in oil painting, so I gave her some equipment for Christmas. Then I went along with it when she insisted on painting three giant portraits of me,

*I don't understand why my boyfriend is still buying porno movies, because we recently moved in together and the sex is great . . .*

completely naked.

We are having a huge fight now, because she wants to hang the pictures around the house! For one

thing, I don't think whoever comes over needs to see me hanging on the wall with no clothes. Besides, the pictures are not very good and they don't go with the rest of the house. What would you do?

Signed, Modest Model

Dear Model,

You've been more than supportive of her hobby already, so your budding Ms. Remington should really consider your wishes on this.

Never, ever tell her that you don't think her paintings are good—what you can say is the "style doesn't really feel right" for your ranch the way it's laid out now. Suggest a compromise: let her hang one of the portraits, but you get to pick which, and you also get to say where (sounds to me like they'd suit the bunk/bath area more than the parlor, but I'm no art critic).

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- 11. Harley's Club 155  
Harley's Too!  
155 & 125 W. Camelback  
Phoenix 274-8505
- 12. Incognito  
2424 E. Thomas  
Phoenix 955-9805
- 13. JCs Fun One  
5542 N. 43rd Ave.  
Glendale 939-0528

- 14. Johnny Mc's  
138 W. Camelback  
Phoenix 266-0875
- 15. Marlys'  
15615 Cave Creek  
Phoenix 867-2463
- 16. Nasty Habits  
3108 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 267-8707
- 17. Nu Towne  
5002 E. Van Buren  
Phoenix 267-9959
- 18. Paco Paco  
3045 N. 16th St.  
Phoenix 263-8424
- 19. The Park  
3002 N. 24th Street  
Phoenix 957-6055
- 20. The Pumphouse  
4132 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 275-3509
- 21. Roscoe's on 7th  
4531 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 285-0833

- 22. 307 Lounge  
222 E. Roosevelt  
Phoenix 252-0001
- 23. TRAX  
1724 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 254-0231
- 24. Waterhole  
8830 N. 43rd Ave  
Glendale 937-3139
- 25. The Wave  
998 E. Indian School  
Phoenix 266-5640
- 26. Wink's  
5707 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 265-9002

# Staples

- 30. The Adult Shoppe  
111 S. 24th Street  
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  
4747 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 266-6648
- 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
- 38. Sheepskin World  
4800 N. 7th Street  
Phoenix 277-6226

# Tubs

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

# Culture

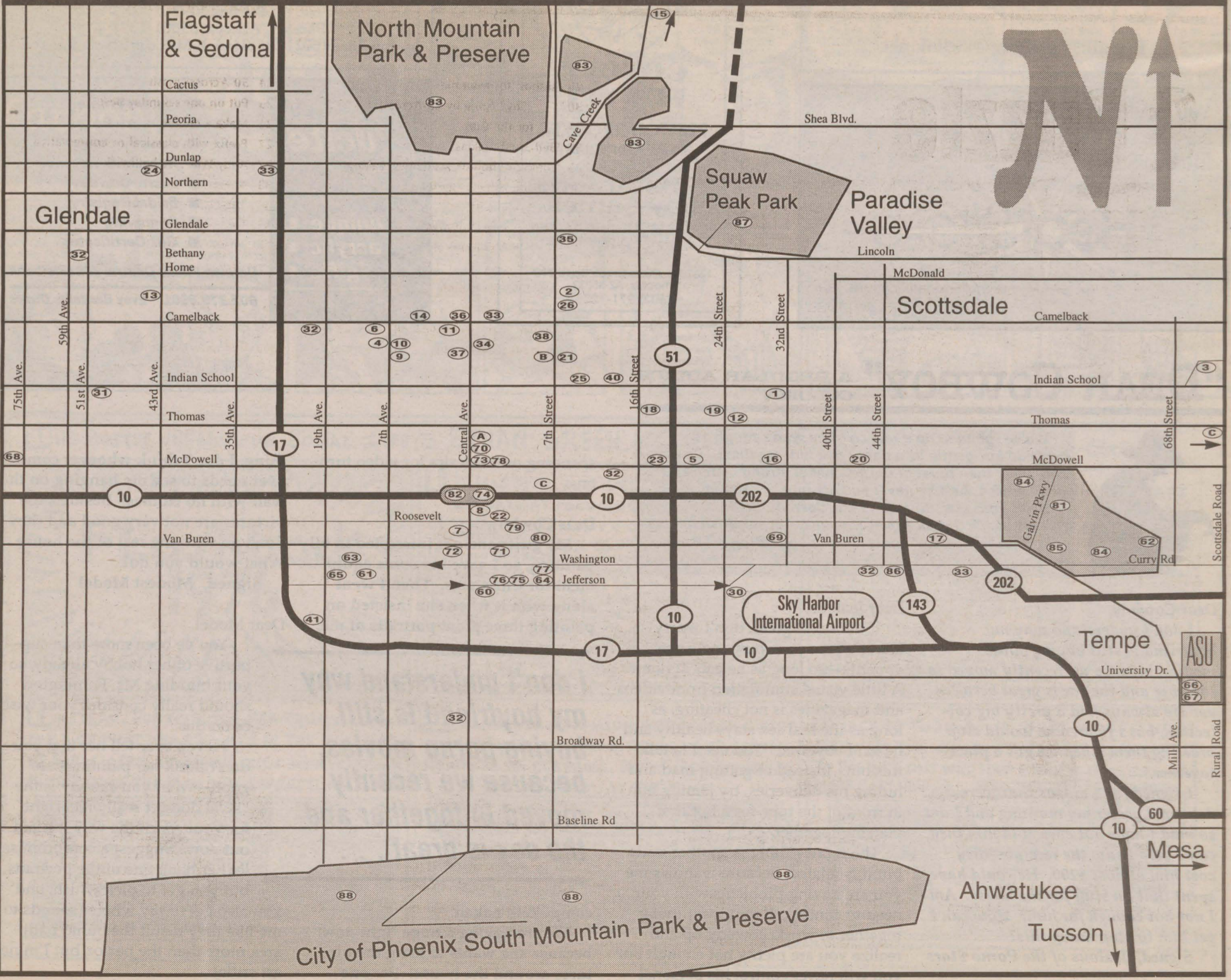
- 60. America West Arena  
201 E. Jefferson  
Phoenix 379-7800
- 61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum  
1101 W. Washington  
Phoenix 255-2110
- 62. AZ Historical Society  
Museum  
1300 N. College  
Tempe 929-0292
- 63. AZ Mining & Mineral  
Museum  
1502 W. Washington  
Phoenix 255-3791
- 64. AZ Science Center  
600 E. Washington  
Phoenix 716-2000
- 65. AZ State Capitol Museum  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix 542-4675

- 66. ASU Art Museum  
Nelson Fine Arts Center  
Mill Ave. & 10th Street  
Tempe 965-2787
- 67. ASU Gammage Center  
Apache & Mill Ave.  
Tempe 965-3434
- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky  
Pavillion  
2121 N. 83rd Ave.  
Phoenix 254-7499
- 69. Celebrity Theater  
440 N. 32nd Street  
Phoenix 267-9373
- 70. Heard Museum  
22 E. Monte Vista  
Phoenix 252-8848
- 71. Herberger Theater  
222 E. Monroe  
Phoenix 254-7399
- 72. Orpheum Theatre  
203 W. Adams  
Phoenix 262-7272
- 73. Phoenix Art Museum  
1624 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 257-1222
- 74. Phoenix Central Library  
1221 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 262-4636
- 75. Phoenix Civic Plaza  
225 E. Adams St.  
Phoenix 262-6225
- 76. Phoenix Symphony Hall  
225 E. Adams  
Phoenix 262-6225
- 77. Phoenix Museum of History  
105 N. 5th Street  
Phoenix 253-2734
- 78. Phoenix Theatre  
100 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 254-2151

# Outdoors

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

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# Horoscopes

By Deane Jaye, HeatStroke contributor

## Aquarius (January 21-February 20)

You seem to have all the answers and the biggest, brightest ideas right now. In fact, you have so much to offer that you're almost scary in your intensity. Look slowly around the room and find those who will most appreciate your wild mix of wisdom and creativity. A Leo native figures prominently in finding solutions around the 31st. Wondering which way to go with your love life as Valentine's Day approaches? Just remember that the ruling planets will always point the way. So take a deep breath and tap into the power of Uranus.

## Pisces (February 21-March 20)

It's all about currents this month. If the other little fishies in the sea appear to be swimming right on past you these days, it may be because you're stuck in the same spot. Relax and go with the flow. Current trends in clothing also figure into your planning, but you'd be better off to haul out the sewing machine and leave the credit cards alone. You know you can either find or make a cheaper knockoff of the look you want, instead of paying those catalog prices. Experiment with electricity for an extra charge in your love life—ask that Scorpio friend or lover to explain.

## Aries (March 21-April 20)

At ease, Sarge! You Arians are not often looked to as leaders, but events this month are pushing you into a leadership role, either at work or maybe for something involving sports. Thorough planning and showing extra respect for newfound subordinates will help you handle your new duties with aplomb. A Libran you had not considered before may be in the picture around the 10th. Right now is a good time to travel. Think carefully about what you will be packing.

## Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Many temptations are coming your way at this time—in particular, there's a big temptation to confess something you've been keeping secret. Best to consider every angle before you tell. You are also being tempted to stray from a plan you only recently put into play—straying may be exactly what you don't need right now. Rely on friends and family to help you resist. Look to a Pisces native for nurturing support, and give credit and thanks where they are due around the 4th.

## Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Someone special needs your full attention and support right now, so don't be your usual flip self when asked to help. Friends don't need to hear more about the pressure you are feeling, either. You will be able to take time for yourself again after it all blows over. The sun is beckoning to your zippy Mercury nature, making you want to warm your extremities and even re-tan your booty. A quick trip to an even toastier climate should pay off both physically and emotionally. That Leo native crowding your space may need a quick rebuff.

## Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Love and spring are in the air, so try not to nurse those wounds for too long, and get right back to work finding that special someone (why does it always seem like a job to you?). Hectic twists and turns may temporarily throw you off course around the 31st. There is a financial reward on the horizon—a Capricorn could be involved in helping acquire what you are due. Being less guarded about your personal space could lead to a welcome surprise at home, maybe even in the bedroom.

## Leo (July 21-August 20)

Your ruling sun is smiling down on you this month, and urbana is closing in and stifling your spirit. So get out into the desert and commune with nature. The weekend of the 13th looks particularly good for a long afternoon out-of-doors. Get naked if you have to—a hike and a dip in a hot spring will do wonders, especially if you include a chance to show off for strangers in your plans. Music plays an important role around the 8th. You may be asked to perform for the good of others, your support will be appreciated. A sexy, younger Scorpio is in the picture.

## Virgo (August 21-September 20)

It's all lined up. You have a power weekend coming, so use the time wisely and much will be accomplished around the 31st. Give those closest to you some breathing room—no doubt others will only be in the way as you set and achieve your goals, one by one, all by yourself. And don't take that trip until the home-front is in order—just look at the brochures for now. After the big weekend, a Sagittarian may exhibit more of a casual approach you admired in the past. Pay attention and you just might learn something about real relaxation.

## Libra (September 21-October 20)

You are tempted to give too much away these days and with Valentine's Day looming, you could well be setting yourself up for a painful fall. Hold your heart and ideals a little closer to the breast, until you know for sure whom you can trust. You'll get a kick out of a crazy idea around the 5th—that doesn't mean you have to act on it. You Librans are being invited to splurge on the shiny new version of something that has served you well just as it is. Seek advice from a Virgo in deciding. Don't be afraid to tell that special someone that you are ready for a change.

## Scorpio (October 21-November 20)

Life's candy and the Sun's a ball of but-tah. Dive into big handfuls of both when they come your way early in the month. Don't be so quick to judge the new people moving through your life right now—there may actually be something worthwhile below the surface that doesn't impress upon a first meeting. Stop apologizing for being horny all the time—your friends are used to it by now. They might not understand it, but they are used to it. Travel is in the picture. An evening rendezvous with another water sign could reveal much about who's really in charge.

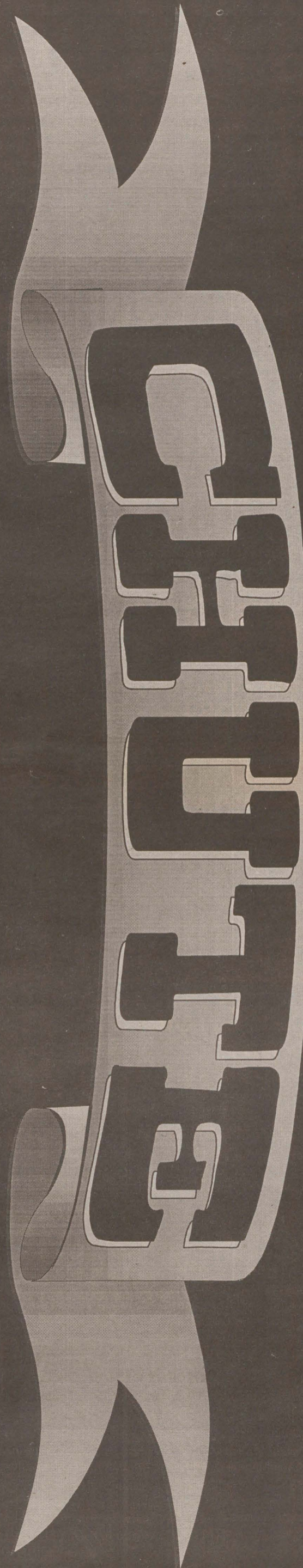
## Sagittarius (November 21-December 20)

Stop apologizing to your gourmet supermarket friends for your convenience store on every corner lifestyle. You have plenty to offer the group just the way you are and it's high time they realized it. The weekend of the 13th will offer a great opportunity to connect with someone special at an arts event. Maybe the theater, or an opening of some kind. Get your best attitude on and be the meeter/greeter you know you can be. An Aquarian may be the first to see that it's all good.

## Capricorn (December 21-January 20)

You are heading toward the top of the roller coaster and about to take a big plunge. It's going to be a fun right down, whatever it involves. Remember, the feeling of losing all control can only drive you crazy if you let it. Try instead to simply enjoy the ride. The big picture improves in every aspect after the 12th. You are feeling more diverse sexually than ever, and an Aries may hold part of the clue as to why. Watch what you eat (and drink!) as the month gets further underway.

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• 3420 S. Central Avenue	• 6527 N. 59th Avenue

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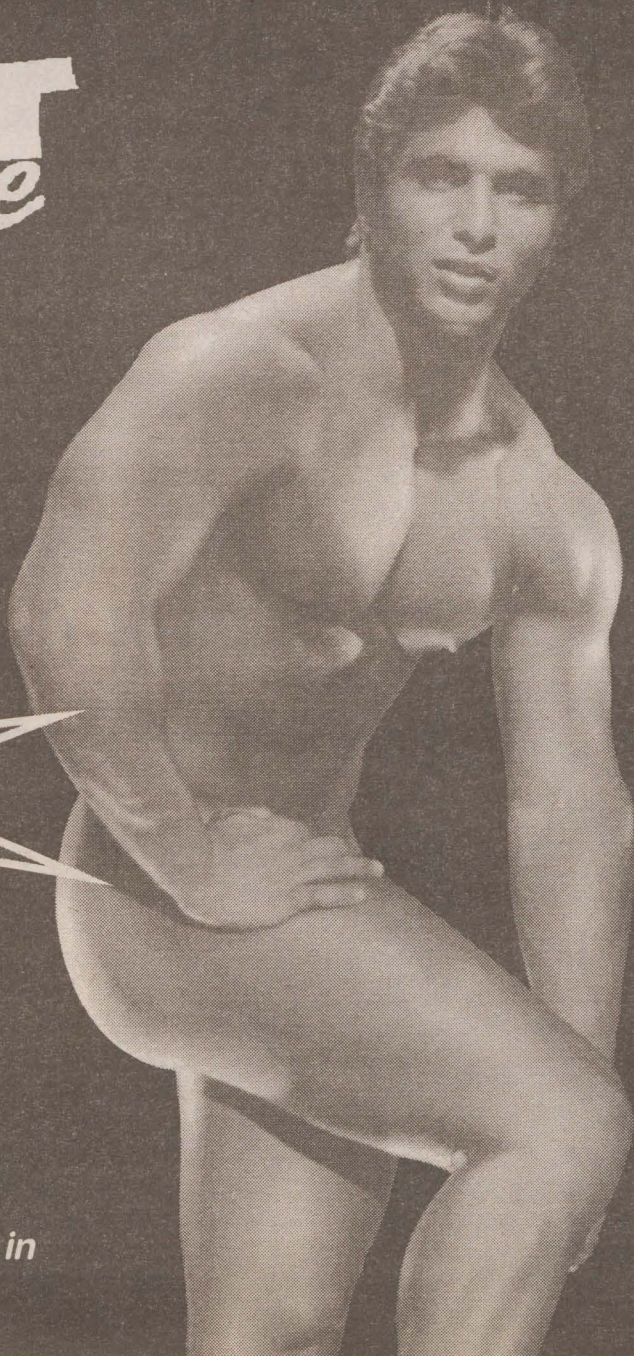
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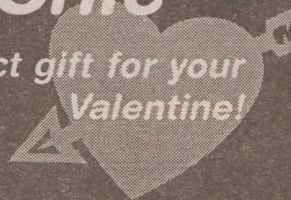
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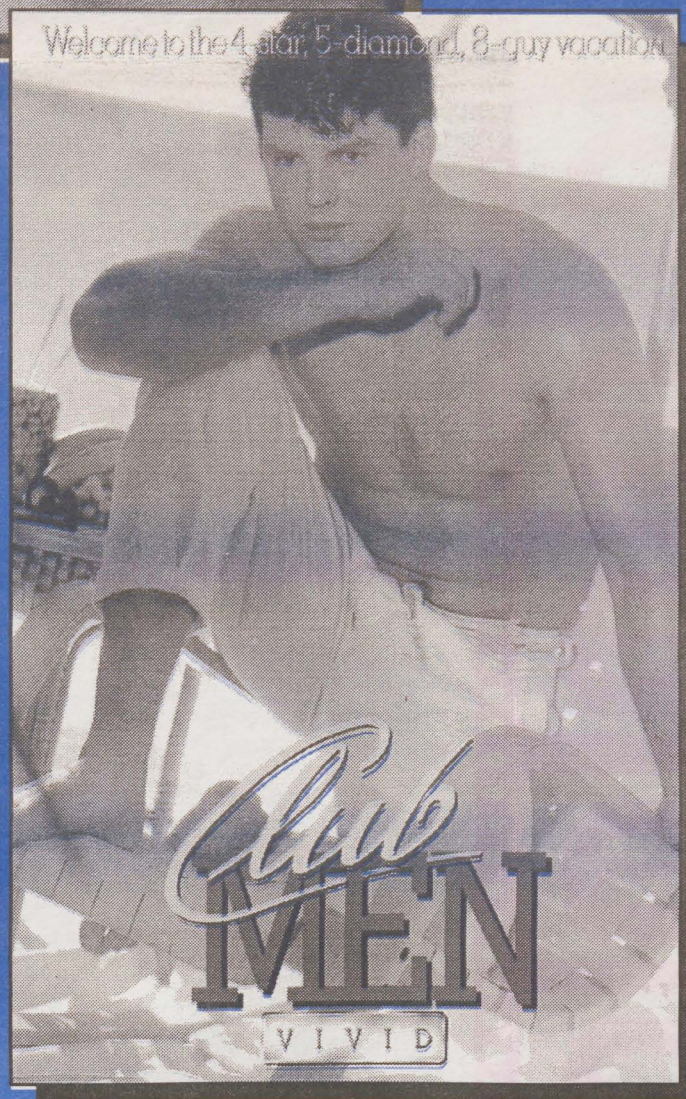
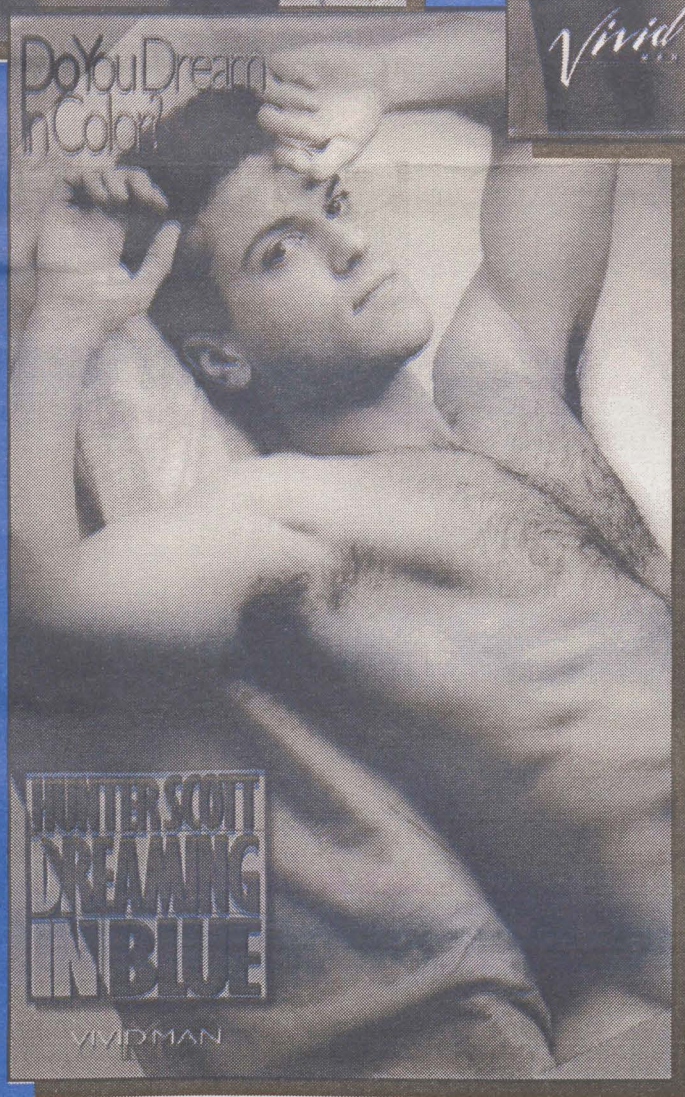
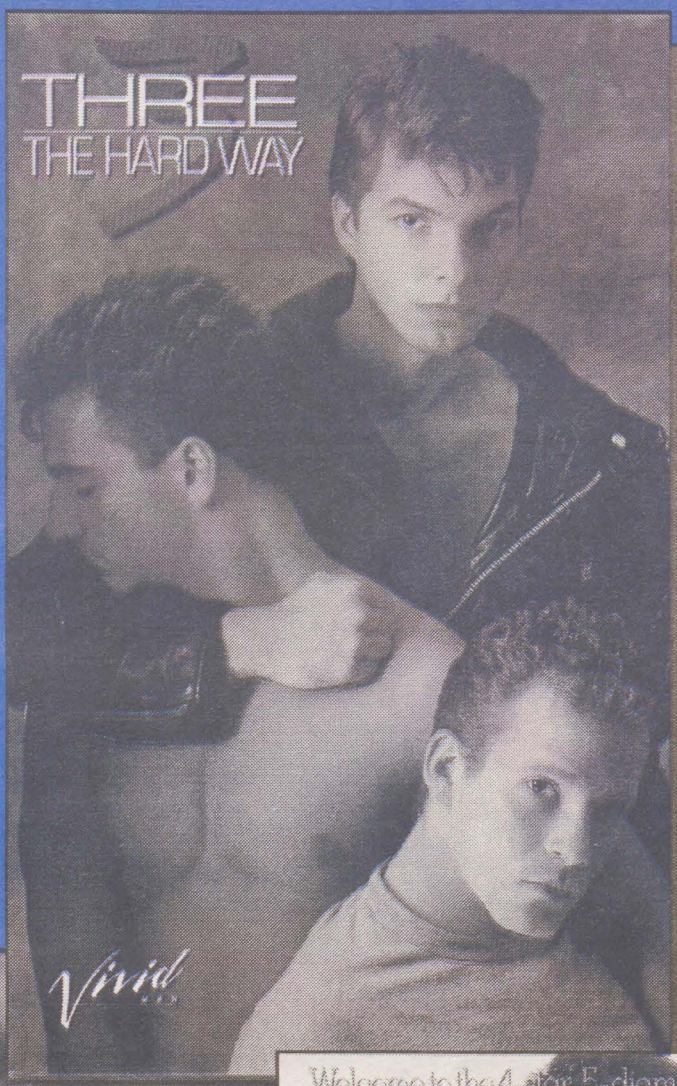
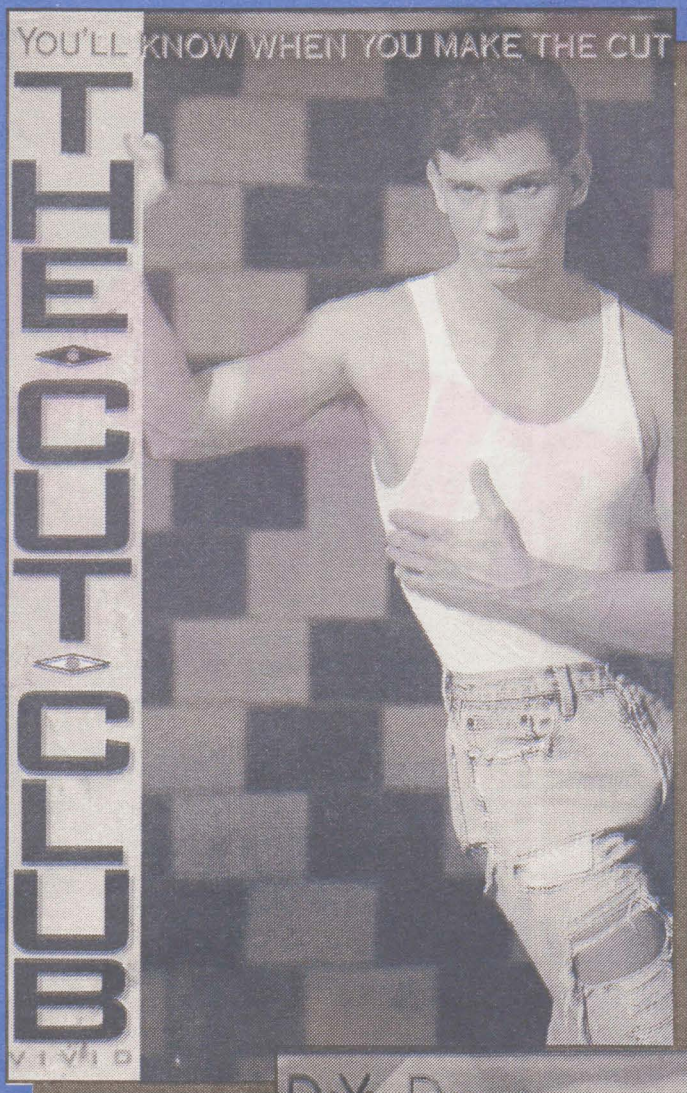
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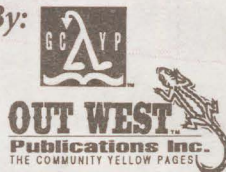
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**\$20** in advance  
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**DOUBLE  
FEATURE**

**Fire** 8:00pm to 9:45pm

Intermission with wine & cheese

**Broadway Damage** 10:30pm to 12:00am

Ticket prices include two movies plus wine & cheese hosted by *ECHO Magazine* on Opening Night only.

**SATURDAY Feb. 14th**

**\$10** per movie, in advance  
**\$12** per movie, day of

**Late Bloomers** 11:00am to 12:45pm

**Green Plaid Shirt** 1:15pm to 3:00pm

**Late Bloomers** 3:30pm to 5:00pm

**Fire** 5:30pm to 7:15pm

**Broadway Damage** 7:45pm to 9:25pm

**Green Plaid Shirt** 10:00pm to 11:30pm

Quantities Limited. Day of event seating cannot be guaranteed.



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### FIRE

Set in a contemporary household in New Delhi, **FIRE** is an enthralling tale of a desire, passion and forbidden love. It is Sita (the stunning Nandita Das) who first begins to question the order of things. Drawn closer to Radha through their shared household duties, Sita's sensual presence and excitable nature ignites emotion and feelings in Radha repressed long ago, and it is just a matter of time before they fall in love and set the house and screen on fire. Deepa Mehta has taken taboos of Indian society and given them a gloriously vivid cinematic treatment.

### BROADWAY DAMAGE

This film is a hugely enjoyable romantic comedy. The story revolves around the ambitions and loves of three eager, wide-eyed young dreamers trying to become a success in Manhattan. There is Marc, a recent NYU grad and would-be actor; his mop-headed best friend and aspiring musical comedy composer Robert; and Marc's ditsy Greenwich Village roommate Cynthia, an exuberant shopaholic who would do anything to get magazine editor Tina Brown to return her calls. Trouble arises when Marc falls hard for sexy aspiring rock singer David, and Cynthia and Robert are forced to look adult realities straight in the eye.

### LATE BLOOMERS

Sisters Julia and Gretchen Dyer's delightfully romantic coming-out love story is certain to be one of the high points of this year's festival. Set in all-American suburbia, the comedy-drama is set in Eleanor B. Roosevelt High School where Dinah, a gangly fortysomething math teacher and basketball coach, becomes friends with the cute but doughy Carly, the school secretary. Romance triumphs over all adversities as the two women throw caution to the wind and fall passionately in love with each other. The invigoratingly tender and refreshingly romantic nature of the two women's relationship that will stay with you long after the movie ends.

### GREEN PLAID SHIRT

An endearing and sincere drama that chronicles the ten-year life of a gay relationship. Back in 1978 everything seemed possible. For Philip and Guy there was the thrill and exhilaration of first love. For their friends Devon, Jerry and Todd, life was still an open book with so many pages yet to be filled. Ten years later, they are all gone and Philip is left alone, wondering what happened, trying to make sense of the joys, the sorrows, and what made everything possible; but all the while looking hopefully to the future.