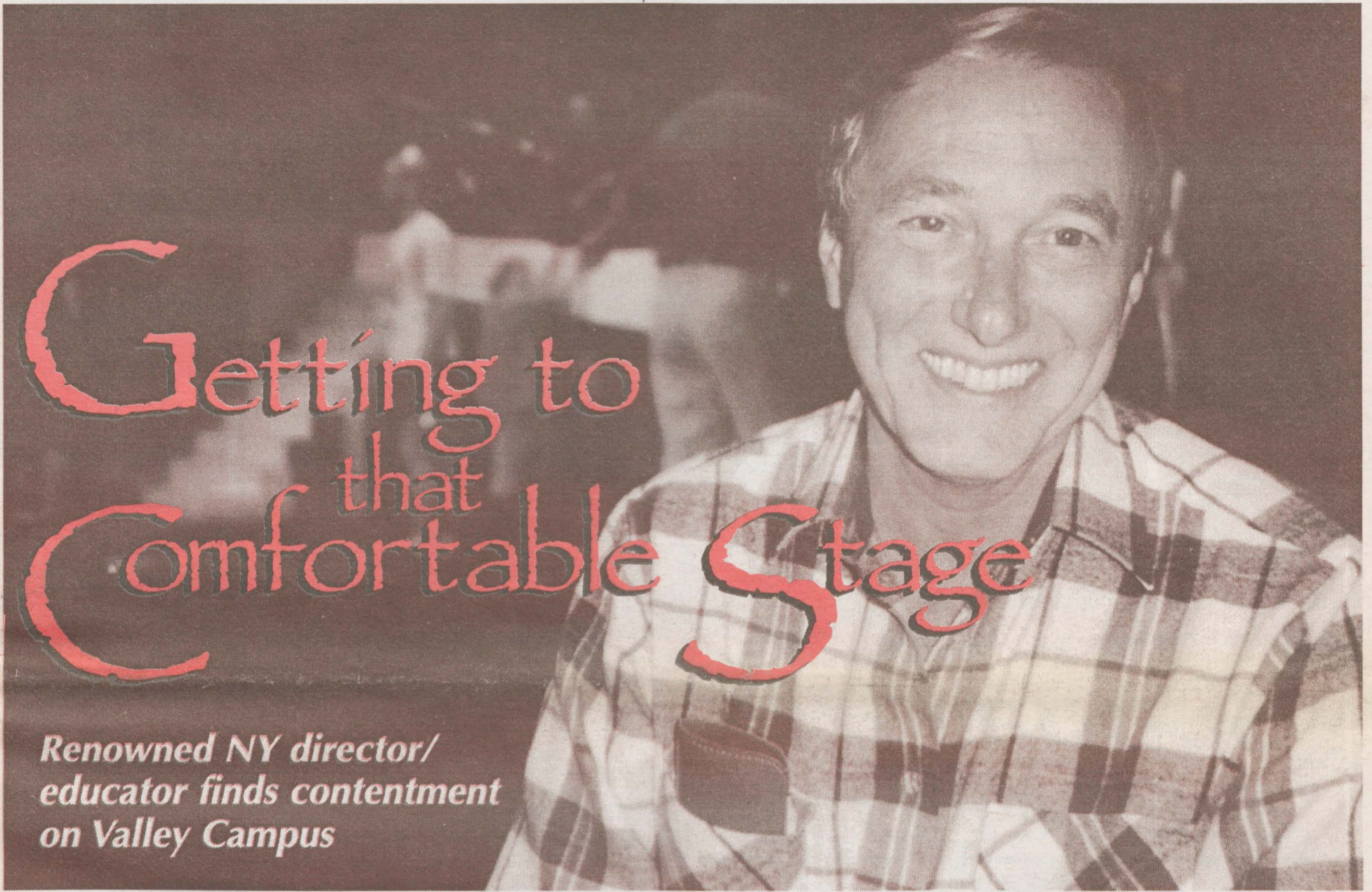


HeatStroke

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February 12 — 25, 1998



Getting to that Comfortable Stage

Renowned NY director/educator finds contentment on Valley Campus

By Ty Robins,
HeatStroke contributor

The man I'm scheduled to interview is a few minutes late. He arrives and offers a simple explanation, neither an excuse nor an apology: he was asleep.

Between teaching classes for Arizona State University's theater department and preparing to open his latest production, Shakespeare's *King Lear*, sleep has become something of a luxury for director Marshall W. Mason. So he has taken advantage of an afternoon break in his schedule to catch a few Z's.

Mason is perhaps best known for his many off-Broadway successes and his longtime collaboration with playwright Lanford Wilson. With his reputation, he could well have chosen to mount a new play from any number of exciting new playwrights working today. And yet, he has turned this season to an English playwright who's been dead for centuries.

Why? "When you encounter one of the greatest plays ever written, you know you've encountered genius," he explains. This is Mason's third Shakespearean production and he's promising to make it unique. "*Lear* is always done on such a huge scale. I wanted to do an intimate version,

which is what I think you'll see. Very much in the audience's lap."

He cites the play's central theme of a kingdom deteriorating under an aging ruler as timely, given the national concern and attention these days for aging and Alzheimer's Disease. He has included more than a little sexual innuendo. "I've got some interesting sexual kinks that I have implied in the production," he says with a mischievous smile.

Crossing the Tempe campus as we chat, Mason greets several people and calls them by name. He's definitely

"Hollywood was so homophobic at that point, we could not find anyone to play Harlan, the track coach."

in his element here, if such a thing is possible away from the stage.

Mason's theatrical resume reads like a roll call of the biggest and brightest names of both Broadway and Hollywood. He has directed Christopher Reeve, Stacy Keach, John Malkovich, Joan Allen, Tyne Daly, Danny Aiello, Kathleen Turner and William Hurt, to name a few. He is

the recipient of six Obie Awards and five Tony Award nominations. Yet today, he is happy to make his home in the Valley of the Sun.

The long journey that brought him here might be called much ado about nothing. After founding the Circle Repertory Company in New York and rising to the height of his Broadway career, events transpired that forced Mason to reevaluate his life.

Over the course of a single summer, he explains, "I had three very, very close friends who died, all from different causes," which included the suicide of Circle Repertory Company's co-founder. "I saw that I could either go on doing what I was doing and that [New York theater] was going to be the rest of my life, which is not a bad life. But in a way I felt: well, I've done this. And what I had not done was film. And that was something I very much wanted to do."

Mason moved to Los Angeles in 1986, when he was chosen to direct the film version of Patricia Nell Warren's gay novel, *The Front Runner*. In what has become a well-known story among gay and entertainment circles, the project languished after producers failed to attract a major star for the lead role.

"Hollywood was so homophobic

at that point, we could not find anyone to play the role of Harlan, the track coach," Mason says. Second unit footage had been shot, production and location managers had been hired and endless rounds of casting had been completed. "*Hollywood Reporter* did story after story about how I was going to direct this movie, and I did everything but make the movie," he recalls.

"Finally—after years of feeling in a way that I was being exploited by the producer because he kept using my name and the movie was not being made—after awhile, it became kind of a joke. So that was my first Hollywood experience."

Other film projects suffered similar fates. "After eight years of desperation in Hollywood with movies that came to the brink of being made and then ended up not being made, I suddenly discovered myself in pretty severe circumstances," Mason says.

His return to theater came in 1991 in Arizona, with the new play, *Whisper in the Mind*, by Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee. Mason directed the drama's world premiere at ASU's Galvin Playhouse with stars

See "ASU Director," page 9

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Horowitz:

the state of the union

As I listened to President Clinton's State of the Union message, I renewed my pride in having voted for him—twice.

Regardless of the (unmentioned) Monica Lewinsky scandal, I found myself inspired by Clinton's unflappable demeanor and extraordinary grace under pressure. Though I mostly enjoyed our President's performance, the First Lady was the "Clinton" who truly impressed me.

Whether or not Bill engaged in extra-marital activity really doesn't interest me, yet our nation's press corps seems totally engrossed with the notion. Hillary Rodham Clinton is the real story. She's giving us all a lesson in class, intelligence, strength, grace, humility and loyalty.

Hillary Clinton is reminding us that what goes on in a partnership between two people who love each other is really only the business of those two people.

She's reminding us that what goes on in a partnership between two people who love each other is really only the business of those two people. She's put the country on notice that she loves her husband and that she is personally accepting what he's said in public and in private as good enough.

Other spouses of powerful people have been subject to rumors and talk of marital infidelities, yet none have been exposed to the same level of direct inquiry and viciousness as Mrs. Clinton. The tone and manner that interviewers take with the First Lady is horrific.

Several months ago, Katie Couric asked Hillary what her plans were after the President's term ends. Hillary said that she really hadn't given it any thought. Ms. Couric responded by saying, "Oh come on now, I don't believe that." Would any national anchor have dared to speak that way to Jacqueline Kennedy?

Princess Diana's story was told through private interviews. While she was hounded by the paparazzi, the "high end" press showed her respect and admiration. Hillary deserves nothing less. I believe her detractors loathe her because she is an outspoken, intelligent woman with ideas, skills and talents that rival—if not exceed—her husband's.

She responds to jeers and inane questions with a

dignity and grace that make me wonder how she's gotten such a bum rap for all these years. Her unwavering commitments to real family values, justice and children remain unparalleled among the nation's leaders. Linda Tripp, whose ethics and morals remain questionable at best, should take lessons.

People like the Christian Coalition's Pat Robertson vilify Hillary while singing the praises of executed killer Karla Faye Tucker. Tucker's story has nearly eclipsed the White House scandal, and the folks who lined up to support her pleas for mercy amaze me. Pope John Paul II, who has shown an almost complete lack of human compassion when it comes to AIDS, takes the time to plead for Tucker's life. Imagine the lives he could save if he urged the world's Catholics to love crack babies, unwed, pregnant teens, and people dying of AIDS.

Imagine the amount of good the \$30 million in taxpayer dollars that Kenneth Starr has spent investigating President Clinton could do for the nation's homeless. Imagine the amount of good that the time, effort, energy and money spent to kill Karla Faye Tucker could do to help rehabilitate troubled teens. Imagine if our President could spend his valuable time on the Iraq crisis and on our nation's budget. Imagine what would happen if our First Lady got the respect that she deserves. Maybe gays and lesbians would get the respect we deserve.

Pope John Paul II, who has shown an almost complete lack of human compassion when it comes to AIDS, takes the time to plead for Karla Faye Tucker's life. Imagine the lives he could save if he urged the world's Catholics to love crack babies, unwed, pregnant teens, and people dying of AIDS.

Let's get united behind our President and First Lady. Let's take a stand and say we're tired of the petty bullshit and bickering. I believe they can lead us into the next century in a most powerful way. Let's let them.

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

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Civil rights leader's niece urges repeal of Maine's gay rights law

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — The niece of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. urged Mainers to repeal Maine's gay rights law at the polls Feb. 10.

Alveda Celeste King told a rally of about 300 sign-waving people in the State House Feb. 5 that the gay rights movement should not be compared to the black civil rights movement.

"There is no similarity," she said. King told the crowd, assembled by fundamentalist Christian groups leading the assault on the newly enacted law, that she was not condemning homosexuals, but said homosexuality violates God's laws.

She spoke in a large hallway outside the office of Gov. Angus King, whose signing of Maine's gay rights law last spring capped a two-decade effort by activists. The law bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in jobs, housing, credit and public accommodations.

The Christian groups last year were able to collect enough signatures to stop the law from going into effect and force a statewide referendum on it, which will be held Feb. 10.

Alveda King, who began her address by asking the crowd to kneel in prayer, said gays are not told to sit in the backs of buses or barred from restaurant counters as blacks were in the South before the civil rights movement.

She also questioned claims of many homosexuals that they cannot

help the way they are, saying, "I've heard the 'I was born that way' story many times."

During the boisterous gathering, activists holding pro-gay-rights signs of the Maine Won't Discriminate coalition stood at the fringes and at the top of a stairwell behind the speakers.

Among them was Rep. Michael Quint, a gay Democratic lawmaker from Portland, who said, "This group of people to me just underscores the importance of defeating this referendum."

"All these people just want the right to discriminate against other people based on their own moral judgments," Quint said.

Karen Geraghty of Maine Won't Discriminate said the struggles of blacks and gays are similar, as are struggles of the disabled, women and people of different nationalities.

"We don't compare ourselves" to other groups, said Geraghty. "We say they are all similar struggles for full equality under the law."

During the rally, Maine Won't Discriminate distributed photocopies of a letter from Coretta Scott King, in which the widow of the slain civil rights leader says "workplace discrimination against gay men and lesbians is real (and) widespread."

In the letter, King calls for a federal law protecting gays from discrimination at the workplace.

A newly formed coalition called

Citizens Against Regulatory Excess opened Thursday's rally with an attack on the gay rights law as a threat to local control because it imposes a new policy upon towns and cities.

Rep. Adam Mack, R-Standish, said the law is at odds with the diverse religious traditions of many Mainers. The Libertarian Party is supporting the new group.

Meanwhile, supporters of Maine's gay rights law appeared to be winning the fund-raising battle as the ref-

erendum campaign entered its final five days.

Political action committee reports filed by the Feb. 3 deadline show the pro-gay rights campaign has received more than \$420,000 in cash and in-kind contributions.

The pro-repeal organization known as Yes for Equal Rights has taken in \$6,763. An allied group, the Ad Hoc Committee for Common Sense, reported total campaign contributions of around \$90,000, roughly equal to its expenditures.

Chicago cuts scout ties to settle gay discrimination lawsuit

CHICAGO (AP) — The city has agreed to sever ties to Boy Scouts of America programs until the group accepts gays and stops requiring a religious oath.

The Feb. 4 agreement settles a federal lawsuit filed against Chicago by the American Civil Liberties Union. In agreeing to settle, the city avoided accepting blame.


The ACLU sued last April seeking to end the city's sponsorship of 28 Scout programs. The lawsuit alleged the city's involvement violated the separation of church and state principle and that the Scouts' ban on

admitting gays is discriminatory.

The ACLU called the settlement a victory and urged other cities to "take a cue from Chicago's action and end their sponsorship of these discriminatory programs."

The city agreed to pay \$20,000 in court costs, said ACLU attorney Roger Leishman.

Rebecca Fields, an executive with the Scouts' Chicago area council, did not say whether the Scouts are considering changing their policies. She said private sponsors have helped fill the void left by Chicago's disassociation with the group.





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National gay movements emphasize importance of Maine vote

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)

National movements on both sides of the gay-rights battle emphasize the importance of the February 10 referendum in Maine and say they will emerge as winners even if they lose at the polls.

At issue is the fate of last year's legislation to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in credit, housing, jobs and public accommodations. The measure, held in abeyance pending the outcome of the vote, would make Maine the 11th state with a gay-rights law.

"We see Maine as a linchpin since it has acquired a reputation as a liberal state," said Robert Knight of the Family Research Council in

Washington, D.C., which wants Maine's legislation repealed. "The feeling is, if it can be done in Maine it can be done anywhere."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force says the vigor shown by Mainers who support the legislation demonstrates that gay-rights advocates aren't complacent or intimidated by opponents.

"This really shows people around the country that people in the gay community have tasted what it's like to be treated fairly and ... are not at all willing to roll over and say, 'Oh, well,'" said Mark Johnson of the task force, also based in Washington.

National groups on both sides have contributed paid staff, cash,

radio ads and campaign pamphlets to the Maine campaign.

While each side says the stakes are high, neither deems the Maine election crucial to its overall success. The advocacy groups view the battle as just the latest in a years-long series of statewide and local votes, city ordinances and legislative proposals aimed at various aspects of gay rights.

"There's no final victory for either side," Knight said. "Either side will continue to press for its advantage or point of view."

At the same time, spokesmen on both sides say they'll emerge as winners even if defeated by Maine voters.

"Just the fact that states even con-

sider these issues, I think many people would say, is a victory," Johnson said. Just 10 years ago, it would have been inconceivable that the voters of an entire state would be asked to consider a gay-rights law, he said.

Knight said the existence of a referendum challenge to gay rights demonstrates a new assertiveness by Americans.

"It's already a victory for the people, because they refuse to sit back and take what the cultural elites told them was their medicine. ... It's part of a national uprising against arrogant legislators and courts who are imposing their values on the people."

ACLU files lawsuit to overturn MD law governing gay oral sex

BALTIMORE (AP)

Larry Jacobs is one of seven plaintiffs in a lawsuit that seeks to overturn a Maryland law banning oral sex between homosexuals.

While he's never been prosecuted under the law, the Rockville attorney said Thursday he fears grave repercussions if anyone makes an issue of his sexual orientation.

"If I were convicted of a crime like that, I could lose my license," he said, adding he lost his job in 1983 when the law firm found out he is gay.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued the state seeking to overturn the law, which makes oral sex between people of the same gender a felony punishable by 10 years in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

The statute, passed in 1916, is unconstitutional because the state's highest court ruled in 1990 it doesn't apply to heterosexual couples, meaning gays and lesbians are unfairly singled out, the lawsuit contends.

"That kind of open season on gays and lesbians has got to stop," said Susan Goering, executive director of the ACLU state chapter.

The ACLU wants the state to broaden the Court of Appeals decision to ensure homosexuals are given the same protection as heterosexuals.

While only a few people have been arrested under the statute, it has been used to discriminate against gays and lesbians in other ways, the ACLU said. For instance, gays and lesbians have been denied jobs or custody of

children. Critics of the law say it gives prejudiced people another reason to intensify their hatred of homosexuals.

"We're talking about a 10-year felony. It's serious," said Susan Silber, a Takoma Park attorney who belongs to Free State Justice Campaign, which seeks equal rights for homosexuals and transsexuals.

Twenty-one states have sodomy and oral sex laws. Of those 15 target sexual activities between both gay and heterosexual couples, according to the ACLU. The remaining six, including Maryland, exclusively target homosexuals.

Gov. Parris Glendening's aides said he would have no comment because he hadn't seen the lawsuit,

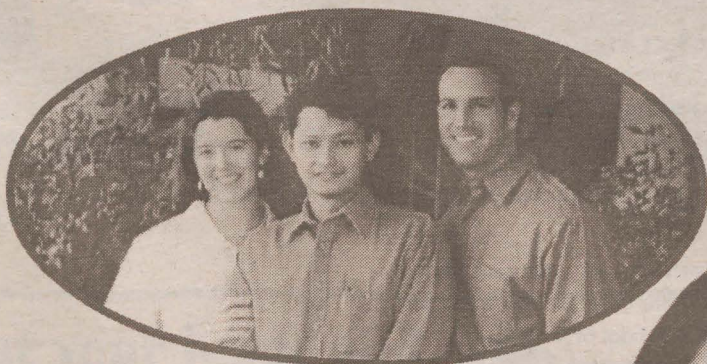
which was filed in Baltimore City Circuit Court. Attorney General J. Joseph Curran's aides refused comment saying they hadn't thoroughly reviewed the complaint.

Lawmakers in the past have introduced bills to change the law, but the bills have never made it out of the House Judiciary Committee.

The Maryland law bans "private, consensual, noncommercial sexual intimacy when shared by adults of the same gender." But the Court of Appeals focused on oral sex in 1990, in effect making the law applicable only for that type of sex, explained Dwight Sullivan of the Maryland ACLU.

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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
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AGRA picks 1998 Board of Directors

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) - Phoenix Chapter elected and announced its 1998 Board of Directors at the organization's annual Rodeo Wrap-Up Party, held at Charlie's-Phoenix on Saturday, January 31.

The newly elected board will be chaired by Chuck Browning as President, Brian Helander as Vice President, Ron Trusley as Recording Secretary, Ed Powers as Public Relations Director, Bob Oxford as Fund Raising Director, Ken Poplin as Dance and Entertainment Director, Jodi Hines as Rodeo Events Director and Bob Pimentel as State Board Liaison.

Browning and Helander have been competing steadily throughout the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) circuit for the several seasons, individually and as partners in the Camp Events. Their election to the 13 year-old organization's #1 and #2 posts marks the first time in several years that active contestants have headed the board.

"There has to be a kind of balance between two groups," said Helander after the election. "There are people who see the rodeo as a big party—like a circuit party—that happens to have a rodeo attached to it. Then you have the contestants, who take the arena events seriously and want the focus to be on that." Helander said.

Helander hopes Browning's service as president and his own term as vice president this year will help bring the contestants' point of view to the organization's leadership. "We have one of the more successful rodeos on the circuit and it's important to have input from all groups," he said.



AGRA - Phoenix Board President Chuck Browning (l), with Vice President Brian Helander

Also at the January 31 gathering, commemorative silver belt buckles were presented by 1997 President Bill Travis to members of the 1997 board, including Travis, Browning (then vice-president), Recording Secretary Ron Trusley, Corresponding Secretary Tim Dougherty, Public

Relations Director Ed Powers, Rodeo Events Director Jodi Hines, Dance and Entertainment Director Ken Poplin, Fund Raising Director Bob Oxford and State Board Liaison Bob Pimentel.

At the AGRA general membership meeting on February 8, nominations were taken from members as to how to distribute some \$17,000 in profits from the 1998 Road Runner Regional Rodeo held in January. Last year, AGRA donated \$20,000 in funds to the Valley One in Ten youth group; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; The Arizona Humane Society; and the Coalition of Meal Providers.

Safer Sex '98 royalty crowned

Project LifeGuard held its Second Annual King & Queen of Safer Sex Pageant on Saturday night, January 31, at The Crow Bar in downtown Phoenix.

From among three men and four female impersonators competing, Jeff Edwards was crowned King and Miss Markus (a.k.a. Marcus Allen) was named

the new Queen.

Both winners will be featured as spokespersons and representatives through the coming year for Project LifeGuard's AIDS education and prevention outreach efforts directed at gay and bisexual men. Project LifeGuard is a division of AIDS Project Arizona.

Pageant contestants competed in categories ranging from Talent to Clubwear/Swimwear. The winners were selected by a panel of five judges who scored the competitors individually in each category.

In the talent segment, Miss Markus drew a huge audience response performing as Cleopatra while miming Annie Lennox's version of "Take Me to the River", while Jeff Edwards sang "New York, New York" to an admiring crowd.



'98 Safer Sex Court: King Jeff Edwards, Queen Miss Markus, and Princess Victoria London

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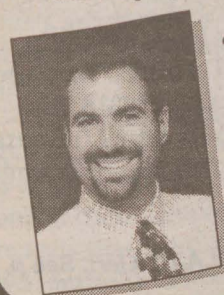
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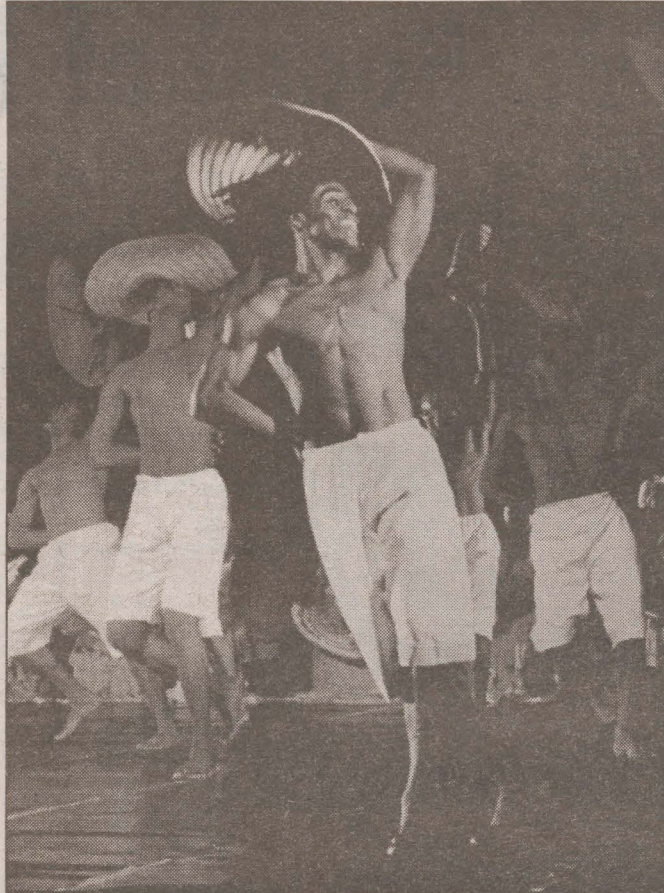
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February Best Sellers
Phoenix/San Diego

WOMEN	MEN	GENERAL
1. <i>Chain Letter</i> Claire McNab, \$11.95	1. <i>Jocks</i> Dan Woog, \$12.95	1. <i>Billy's Boy</i> Patricia Nell Warren, \$24.95
2. <i>Liberty Square</i> Katherine Forrest, \$5.99	2. <i>Shirts & Skins</i> Tim Miller, \$12.95	2. <i>Pomosexuals</i> Carol Queen, \$14.95
3. <i>Murder, She Meowed</i> Rita Mae Brown, \$6.50	3. <i>Reclaiming Your Life</i> Rik Isensee, \$12.95	3. <i>Barbie Unbound</i> Sarah Strohmeyer, \$12.95
4. <i>Passion's Shadow</i> Nicole Conn, \$5.99	4. <i>Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me</i> Michael Ford, \$10.95	4. <i>Gay Finances in a Straight World</i> Berkery & Diggins, \$19.95
5. <i>Xena X-Posed</i> Nadine Crenshaw, \$16	5. <i>Pages Passed from Hand to Hand</i> Mark Mitchell, \$18	5. <i>Best of Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review</i> Richard Schneider, \$27.95

February is Black History Month — 10% off selected titles

Brazilian rhythms & French classics coming to Phoenix



Southwest Dance will bring two international-ly acclaimed acts to Phoenix this month, each performing one show only in the Valley.

On February 18, Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse will appear at the Orpheum Theatre. Tickets for the 8pm show range from \$24 to \$32

and are on sale now. Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse, based in Toulouse, France, is known as one of Europe's greatest ballet companies.

And then on February 20—and also at the Orpheum—Bale Folclorico da Bahia from Brazil will perform. The 8pm show is selling for \$18 to

\$28. Bale Folclorico da Bahia performs a repertory based on "Bahian" folk dances of African origin. The troupe has been named Brazil's best dance company.

For tickets to either show, call Dillard's outlets at (602) 503-5555.

GLAAD Alert

Gay and Lesbian Alliance
Against Defamation

Suicide in Little Rock

Once again, a newspaper's irresponsible publishing of the names and addresses of men arrested in

public sex raids has led to one of the victims committing suicide, this time following a January 30 story in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

In the story, "24 men are cited in 3-

day park sting," the newspaper published eight men's names and addresses for being arrested on charges of "public sexual indecency: a misdemeanor." One of those men then killed himself.

The *Democrat-Gazette* does not print the identities of others arrested in misdemeanor consensual sex-related offenses, or any other misdemeanors. When the newspaper ran a June 25, 1993 article on a major heterosexual prostitution sting, it did not identify any of the men arrested, and even blurred the photo of one man to protect his identity.

Over a year ago, a GLAAD representative met with Frank Fellone, the deputy managing editor of the *Democrat-Gazette*, in part because of past instances of the newspaper publishing the names of men arrested in parks for misdemeanor offenses.

According to local GLAAD contacts, until January 30, the newspaper had stopped printing the names except where a public figure was involved.

As local GLAAD contact David Ivers noted, at the meeting "We predicted that the *Democrat-Gazette* was not only going to ruin careers but drive someone to kill himself. Now it has happened."

"The newspaper must understand that printing the names will not stop men from seeking out anonymous sex with other men. That will not occur until society, including the media, stops making it so painful and difficult for people to come out of the closet, and until laws in employment and other areas protect lesbians and gay men from discrimination based on their sexual orientation."

GLAAD and other organizations are currently seeking a meeting with the editor and publisher of the *Democrat-Gazette*.

Please contact the newspaper and firmly but rationally explain to them the clear bias of their actions and the

intolerably dire consequences of them. Also, explain to them how societal forces of homophobia lead deeply closeted men to end up seeking out such furtive sexual encounters.

Contact: Walter Hussman, Publisher, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, P.O. Box 2221, Little Rock, AR 72203, phone: 501.378.3485, fax: 501.372.3908

Yes, He's Gay

To promote their show *rough cut*, cable network TNT has placed a full-page advertisement in the March edition of *Movieline* which draws attention to the unnecessary scrutiny faced by openly lesbian and gay people in the entertainment industry.

In large font, the top half of the page reads, "YES, HE'S GAY." Below it says, "Now, can we please talk about the movie?" The bottom has the rough cut logo, and its slogan: "rough cut-where movies come first."

The ad's assertion, that an entertainer should be able to be open about being gay, but that the person should be judged on the merit of his work, articulates in a clear and simple way the need for greater honesty about sexual orientation in Hollywood as a means of getting past it.

In short, once Hollywood becomes comfortable with openly gay entertainers, we can all get over it and just celebrate their performances.

Please commend TNT for this refreshing and clear call for greater openness and acceptance of sexual orientation in the entertainment industry.

Contact: Andy Jones, Editor in Chief, *rough cut*, TNT, 1050 Techwood Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30318, fax: 404.885.0855, WWW: http://tnt.turner.com/asktnt/email_feedback.html.

For more GLAAD Alert, See p. 12

In Mixed Company presents:

Desdemona

A Play About A Handkerchief
By Paula Vogel



Photo: Lyle Mauldin

A play for women, by a woman, and featuring only women!
But we know men will like it, too!
A dark comedy based on characters from Shakespeare's *Othello*.

Thursdays - Saturdays, Feb. 12-28 at 8pm
Sunday, February 15 at 2pm

Playwright's Theatre, 1121 N. 1st St.
(2 blocks n. of Roosevelt), Phoenix

Call 252-8497 for tickets!

Feminist humor for everybody from In Mixed Company

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Paula Vogel's *Desdemona* may well be "a play about a handkerchief," as its subtitle proudly declares. But this wacky one-act by a prolific lesbian playwright delves into a number of modern-day, feminist issues and ideas while both skewering and celebrating Shakespeare's tragic tale of jealousy and murder, *Othello*. Ultimately, *Desdemona* is a play about women.

"This play is really funny, and that's the interesting thing about what Paula Vogel has done," says Julie Whelihan, who plays Emilia in In Mixed Company's production of the comedy, opening at the Playwright's Theatre in downtown Phoenix on February 12. "You are laughing and at the same time, you are thinking about all these realities that are going on."

Whelihan is joined on-stage by Heidi Sulzman as Bianca and Debra K. Stevens as Desdemona. The three-woman show holds plenty of appeal for theatergoers of all stripes, says Kevin Kerrigan, IMCO's Artistic Director and the director of this offering. *Desdemona* is the second production in the professional, nonprofit Phoenix company's 97-98 season.

"I like a lot of the very modern views that Paula Vogel puts forth in

the play," Kerrigan says. "She's taken three characters from Shakespeare's *Othello*, the only three women he included, and completely done a turnaround with them."

The comedy brings up more than just women's issues, Kerrigan says. "It also deals with class structures, and the roles that women and men play in society. Another aspect is the way these characters have to hide their true selves throughout the play. It also looks at violence against women—it's a short play but there is a lot going on."

To give the Phoenix production an added dose of originality, Kerrigan and IMCO's other chiefs have added a prelude, specially written for the troupe by Brenda Edwards. Called *Othello, She Told*, the pre-show miniplay features the *Desdemona* cast playing three actresses readying a Shakespearean drama for which they are comically unprepared.

The idea to commission and include Edward's

original piece as part of an evening's entertainment is just one more innovative move from these folks, who delivered the musicals *Pageant* and *Hello, Again* last season, and then put an acclaimed production of Nicky Silver's *The Food Chain* on the local boards last November.

"We are always looking for a new take on things, and these plays offer

that," says Kerrigan. "Even if you don't know or remember anything about *Othello*, you'll really enjoy it."

Desdemona, a play about a handkerchief and Othello, She Told, open February 12 at Playwright's Theatre, 1121 North 1st Street in Phoenix. The plays run through February 28, tickets are \$16.50 and available by calling (602) 252-8497.



Heidi Sulzman, Debra K. Stevens and Julie Whelihan prove that *Desdemona, a play about a handkerchief*, is nothing to sneeze at.

Director finds home at ASU

Continued from page 9

Michael York, E.G. Marshall and Michael Learned.

The production was such a positive experience for Mason that he approached ASU about the possibility of teaching there. Previously, he had been a visiting professor at Carnegie-Mellon University and an Associate Professor of Theater at UCLA. His offer was enthusiastically received, Mason says, but ASU wanted him to teach full time, which would require moving to Phoenix.

"Phoenix seemed really off the beaten track to me," he recalls. "But my lover was sick to death of L.A. and he said, 'Let's go to Phoenix.'" The desert and warm weather won out, and Mason's arrangement with ASU allows him to travel to New York when directing opportunities arise there. His next outside project will be directing a musical in London, beginning in March.

Mason, who turns 58 this month, has been in a relationship with a man for the past 24 years. While he is openly gay, he has tried to avoid being labeled. "I think artists are always a little hesitant about being thought of as a Gay Writer or a Gay Director. Certainly the fact that one is gay contributes a great deal to the way one sees the world. And the way one sees the world, of course, is reflected in one's artistic work. But at the same time, I am first and foremost an artist."

Mason also feels that for him, being gay is a choice. "I was married to a woman at one point, and I guess I'm one of those people who believe reports that there are a lot of possibilities, sexually. I made the choice that it was just too confusing to be a bisexu-

al, because then you're really open to every kind of problem to get involved in," he says, laughing. "So I decided that to choose a sexual direction would simplify my life."

Sizing up the local theater scene, Mason says he is amazed by the number of offerings in the Valley, and finds himself surprised from time to time by their quality. However, during a stint as theater critic for *New Times*, he says, "About eighty percent of what I saw was neither really good nor really bad—but was sort of so-so. I found that very difficult to write about, because I didn't have any passion one way or the other."

He says he recently enjoyed *Social Security* at the Arizona Jewish theater, and often is impressed with productions of Shakespeare by the Southwest Shakespeare Company, Grand Canyon College and ASU. Among companies regularly presenting gay-themed plays, Mason cites *The Food Chain* by In Mixed Company as a recent favorite and says *Making Porn* at Planet Earth Theater was fun.

We continue walking. As we near the Galvin Playhouse, a group of students wait outside the stage door for rehearsal to begin. Spotting Mason, they approach and begin clamoring for his attention. He may be miles from New York, but it's clear that on this Tempe campus, Marshall W. Mason has found a whole new audience.



ASU's Department of Theatre presents *King Lear*, continuing through February 21 at the Galvin Playhouse, 10th Street and Mill Avenue in Tempe. Call the College of Fine Arts Box Office at (602)965-6447 for more information.

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- Thursday:** Country Western Dance Lessons with Geri 7-9pm
- Friday:** Dance and Country Western Music with DJ "Sugar"
- Saturday:** Country Western Music with DJ "De"
- Sunday:** 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 reunion; 4-11pm — Hosted By Indian Ruthie.
- Wednesday**
Feb 18: Benefit for Paula Shea, candidate for Miss Gay Pride.
- Sunday**
Feb 22: Benefit for Cactus Cities Softball League: Steak & Chicken Fry 4-8pm, \$5, proceeds to benefit CCSL.
- Wednesday**
Feb 25: Live entertainment with Diamond Fire 8-10pm, \$2 cover.



2140 E. McDowell Rd • Phoenix, AZ
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Goings On

ACP Masquerade Ball, Pride info

Arizona Central Pride (ACP) and the Grand Canyon Men's Chorale will hold the Phoenix area's Second Annual Valentine's Day Masquerade Ball on Saturday, February 14. The Ball will be held at the Ramada Hotel, 502 West Camelback Road in Phoenix beginning at 8pm. Tickets are \$25 for singles and \$40 per couple, available from any ACP board member, from members of the Chorale, or at Obelisk and Unique on Central.

Arizona central Pride is also seeking donations and sponsorship for the 1998 Pride Parade and Festival, to be held at the Margaret T. Hance deck park in Central Phoenix April 18. ACP is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that still has an outstanding debt of nearly \$20,000 from the 1997 festival.

All donations are tax-deductible. For more info., contact the ACP office at (602) 279-1771, ext. 3. The ACP mailing address is PO Box 16847, Phoenix, AZ 85011. Or, e-mail parade@azpride.org.

Log Cabin meeting

Log Cabin Republicans of Central Arizona, a local chapter of the national organization for gay republicans, will hold the next monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 5:45pm at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1418 North central Avenue in Phoenix. Dinner will follow the no-host cocktail hour at a cost of \$12 per person. The topic will be simply "an evening of conversation and conviviality."

Team AZ heading to Amsterdam

The next general membership meeting for Team Arizona, the Valley's gay and lesbian athletic organization, will be held at Charlie's Community Room, 727 West Camelback Road in Phoenix on February 18 at 8pm.

Everyone planning to be in Amsterdam for the Gay Games this August is encouraged to attend. For more info., contact Team Arizona at PO Box 36431, Phoenix, AZ 85067, or call (602) 464-1461.

CBPA meeting, lunch planned

The Camelback Business and Professional Association (CBPA) holds monthly meetings, lunches and net-mix parties for members and guests.

The next general meeting will be held Thursday, February 19 at 6:30pm at the Phoenix Airport Hilton. The speaker will be Charles F. Pierson, EA, explaining new tax laws that affect individuals and business owners. The cost is \$16 for members and \$19 for guests.

On Tuesday, February 24, the CBPA lunch bunch will meet for an informal get-together at Pookies restaurant in Central Phoenix at 11:30. To find out more or to join CBPA, contact the organization at PO Box 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001, or call (602) 225-8444.

AmFAR to hold Phoenix event

The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) will present a community forum on Thursday, February 19 at 6:30pm in the Cullen Auditorium at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. Called "HIV Treatment Update: Reports from the 5th Conference on Retroviruses & Opportunistic Infections, the event is co-sponsored by AIDS Project Arizona and Phoenix Body Positive.

Scheduled to speak at the forum are Charles F. Farthing, M.D., Stephen A. Miles, M.D., Andrew Myers, M.D., and Kirk Baxter. Moderator will be Kevin Robert Frost, AmFAR's Director of Clinical Research and Information. The Cullen building is on the St. Joseph's Hospital campus at 350 West Thomas Road.

AmFAR is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of AIDS research, AIDS prevention and the advocacy of sound AIDS-related public policy. Admission to the forum is free, and refreshments will be served. Space is limited. Call Phoenix Body Positive at (602) 955-4673 to register.

Center News

The Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center will be hosting a night at the theater on Friday, February 20. Tickets for the benefit showing of the Arizona Jewish Theatre Company's production of *Twilight of the Golds* are \$21.50 and available by calling The Center at (602) 265-7283.

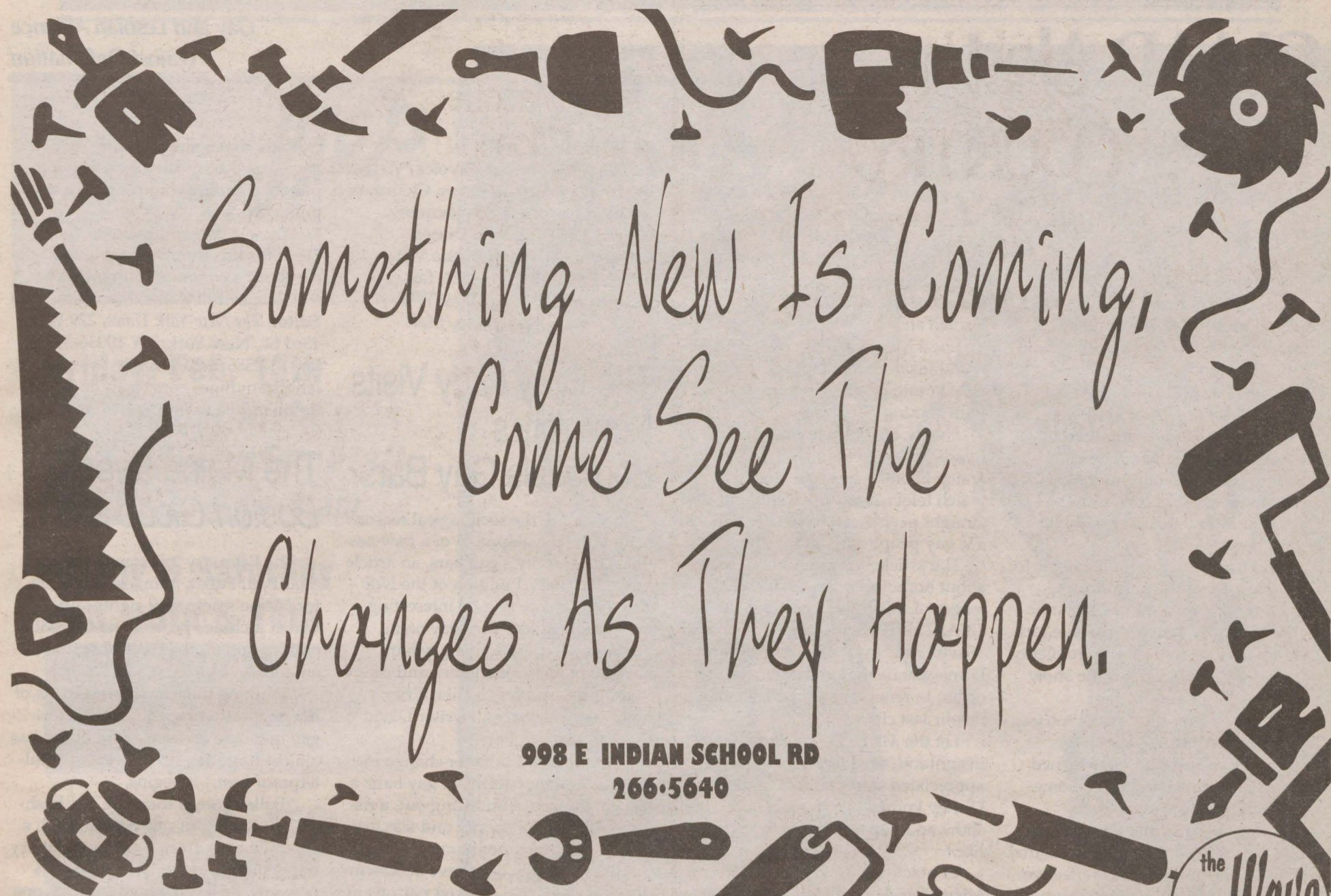
On Saturday, February 21, Obelisk Bookstore and several other area merchants will be hosting an Anniversary Sale from noon until 5pm at The Center and Obelisk, both at 24 West Camelback Road in Phoenix. Proceeds will benefit The Center. Call Obelisk at (602) 266-BOOK or call The Center for more information.

A new group for gay youth aged 18-22 has formed as part of The Center's youth services program. Called Horizons, the organization is a social/support/discussion group for gay, lesbian, bi and questioning young adults. Horizons was designed as a transition from the other youth program of The Center, Valley One in Ten. For information on joining or aiding Horizons, call (602) 264-5437.

HIV+ singles sessions at APAZ

AIDS Project Arizona is offering an innovative, new eight-week session of workshops for HIV positive singles. Called "Face to Face", the meetings take place at the APAZ offices, 111 East Camelback Road in Phoenix, on Monday nights from 6-8pm.

There is no charge for the sessions, which are facilitated by Gerrie Mayer-Gibbons, Ph.D. and are open to all who are HIV positive and seeking to regain confidence and discuss issues related to living with HIV and being single. To be a part of the group, call APAZ and register. The number is (602) 265-2437.

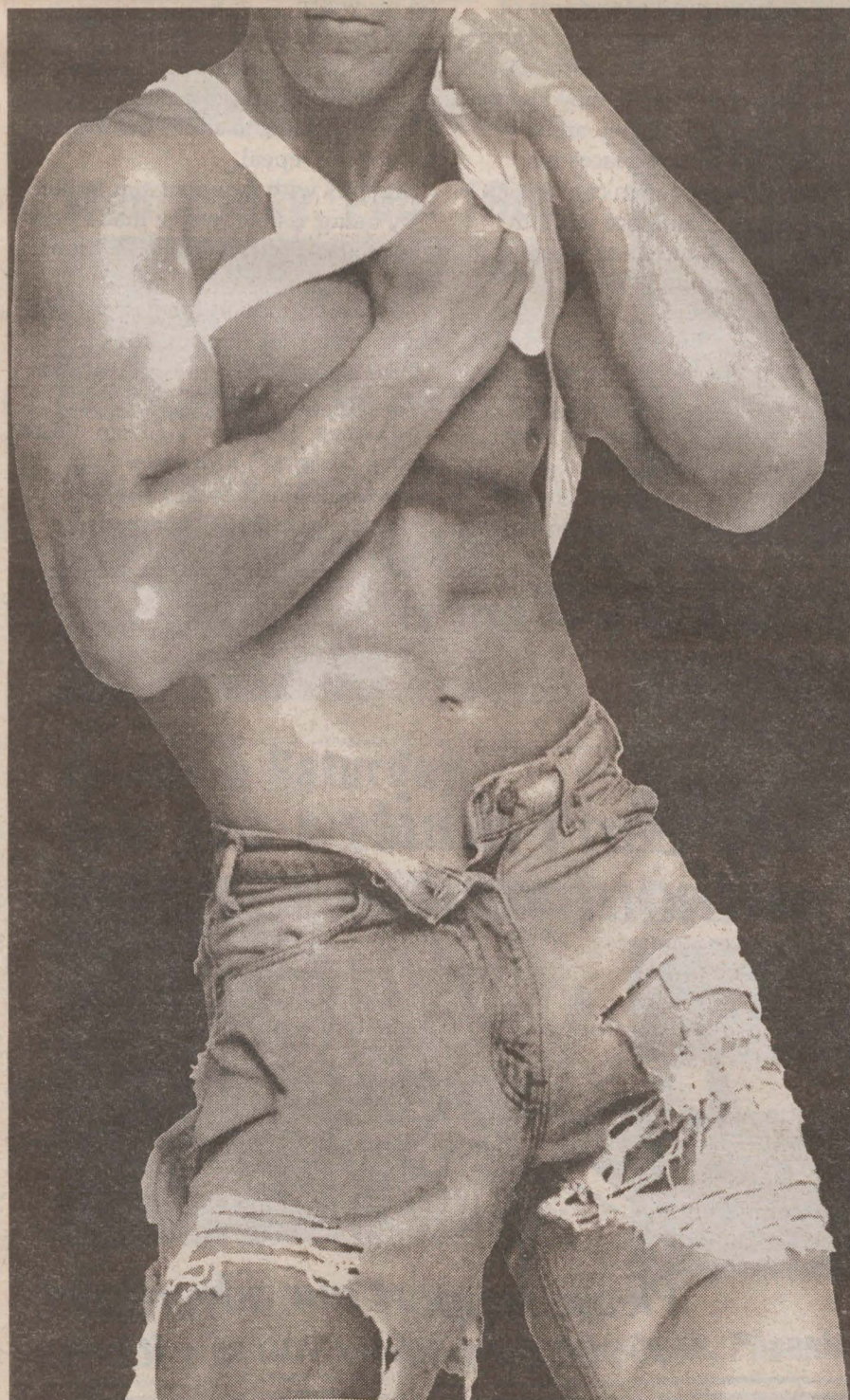


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GLAAD Alert

Gay and Lesbian Alliance
Against Defamation

Miami Herald Explores Ellen on the Edge

The February 4 *Miami Herald* featured a story by Lydia Martin about the high probability of cancellation that ABC's *Ellen* faces and what the show means to its fans.

"Krista Lopez, 22, is one of those die-hard *Ellen* fans. The kind who keeps every episode committed to memory and videotape. The kind who sprints to her computer as soon as the show ends each week to engage in Internet chatter with others," it begins.

It discusses the program's plans to stir up greater enthusiasm for the show through appearances by Anne Heche, *Ellen* DeGeneres' real-life girlfriend, but adds that "there are plenty of theories" for challenges the show now faces to stay on the air.

"Some say the show is just too gay, that it has become a soapbox for political correctness and has turned off a lot of people looking for something lighter," it says.

The article adds that GLAAD and many fans say, "Those who argue that don't understand just how reflective of a person's coming-out experiences the show has been."

It also quotes David Marc, a professor at Syracuse University's Center for Study of Popular Television, stating that since television is increasing-

ly targeting different demographics, especially on cable, *Ellen*'s varying ratings "proves how difficult it is to find the mainstream."

GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Chastity Bono then speaks about the personal connections the show has had for her and many other lesbian and gay people.

Local Miami activists working with kids note that tapes of the show help young people who are dealing with coming out issues.

Finally, it quotes lesbian author Lyndsey Van Gelder, who does not watch *Ellen* because she does not watch television: "But I applaud it. If straight people can have silly junk on TV, gay people should too."

The article brings up many issues about both the successes and challenges of the groundbreaking show. GLAAD is currently urging people to "Save *Ellen*" by writing to ABC and Disney while they consider whether or not to renew the show. This may be our last chance!

Let the *Miami Herald* know their insight into the *Ellen* struggle is appreciated. Also, let ABC and Disney know how you feel about the show and why you want to save *Ellen*.

Contact: • Jim Hampton, Editor, *Miami Herald*, One Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132-1693, fax: 305.376.8950, e-mail: heraldedit@aol.com • Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA

90067, feedback form: <http://www.abc.com/vvoice/Viewcons1.html> • Michael Eisner, Chairman & David Newman, President of Network TV, The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521, fax: 818.560.1930, E-mail via: WWW: <http://www.disney.com/Mail>

The Gray Lady Visits New York's Bourgeois Gay Bars

Examining the sociological reasons behind the development of a new aesthetic for the city's gay bars, an article in the February 1 edition of the *New York Times* raises several interesting issues facing New York gay men.

"A new generation of gay bars have all but jettisoned dark and dingy interior designs for cleaner, airier, more creative spaces," writer David Colman says.

"[It] mirrors a broader change in attitude among patrons of gay bars: a self-confidence about being out, a rising economic prosperity and less fear of harassment by nonhomosexuals. Traditionally, gay bars have been windowless dives that cloaked patrons in anonymous darkness while protecting them from the scrutiny of passers-by."

The open, windowed new bars, Colman says, "illustrate that many gay men appear to be embracing some of the values and freedoms of mainstream society, from which they have often been excluded. Although such bars still function as they always have-as pickup places-they are now also attractive meeting places for friends, where a gay man can bring a heterosexual acquaintance without fear of complaint and even where gay couples can go, undaunted by a heavy cruising scene."

He cautions, "But the more wholesome-looking digs have not been universally embraced. The closing of [sex-oriented] back rooms has been attacked by Sex Panic, a vocal gay group that advocates sexual liberation, for representing a crackdown on the freedom of gay men....Others have grouched that the newer bars—like the obsessions with muscles and

clothing that symbolize the Chelsea gay scene—bespeak a growing complacency among some gay men about political issues."

Please commend the *New York Times* for this thought-provoking article about a community in transition.

Contact: Bill Keller, Managing Editor, *The New York Times*, 229 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036-3959, fax: 212.556.3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com (include phone number when sending by e-mail)

The Maine Event, Boston Globe-style

The February 2 *Boston Globe* profiled Paul Fuller, a tireless advocate for Maine's new civil rights law which includes protections from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"Walking the snowbound roads of Maine, promoting equal rights for gay men and lesbians, Paul Fuller has almost forgotten he is wearing a bulletproof vest," it begins.

"Fuller knows there are gay bashers out there. But midway through a 400-mile walk from Canada to Kittery to persuade voters to keep Maine's new law, he has trudged through one ice storm, at least one snowstorm and temperatures as low as 10 degrees below zero."

It notes how supporters have far outweighed critics and some locals have joined him for hours at a time on his walk.

"On Feb. 10, Mainers will decide in a statewide referendum whether to repeal the law," it adds, quoting one radical religious leader who is pushing for the repeal.

It ends with a quote from Fuller: "By being visible, we've made people aware," Fuller said. "It's a human rights issue."

Please commend the *Boston Globe* for showing the human side of Maine's struggle to preserve human rights for all.

Contact: Matthew V. Storin, Editor, *Boston Globe*, 135 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester, MA 02125-3338, fax: 617.929.3192, e-mail: letter@globe.com

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Sunday, Feb. 22nd

***Martha Washington
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Tuesday, Feb. 24th

***Come on down &
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Wednesday, Feb. 25th

***Latin Night with
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**Friday & Saturday
Feb. 27th & 28th**

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Show & Fund-raiser***



Photo by Jeff Tolou

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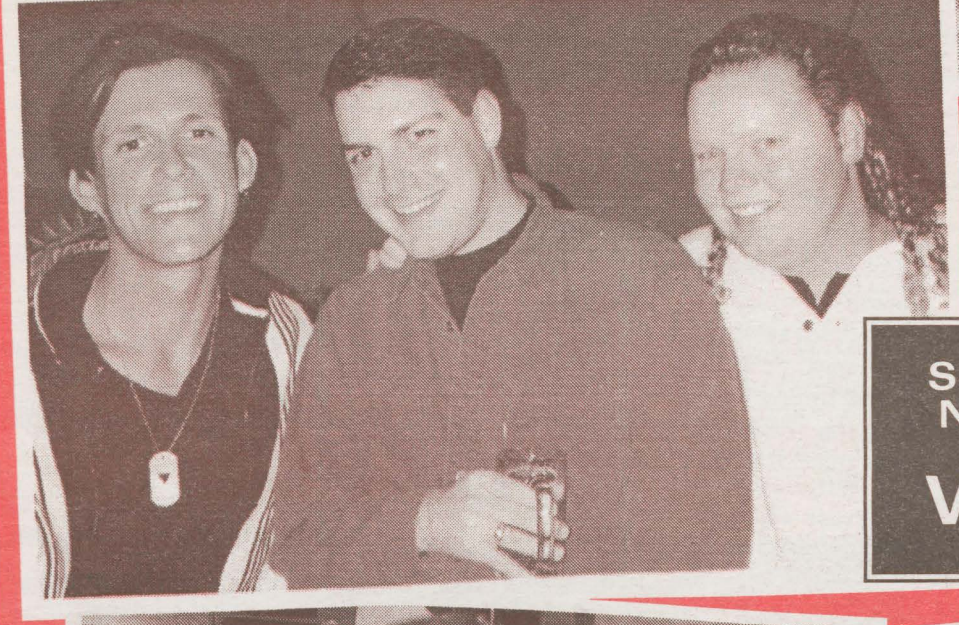
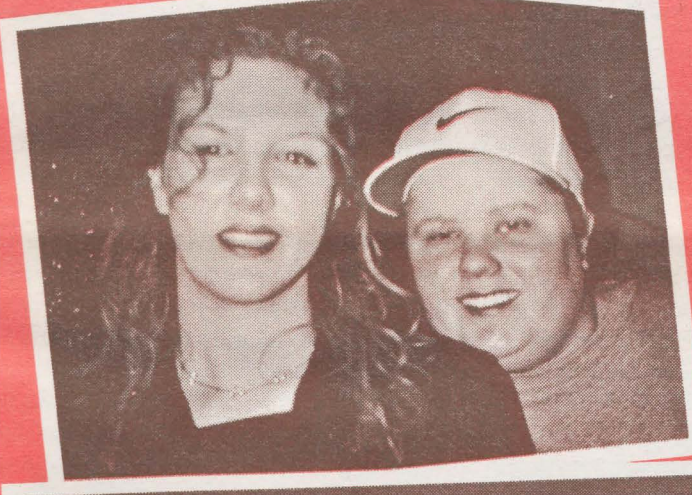
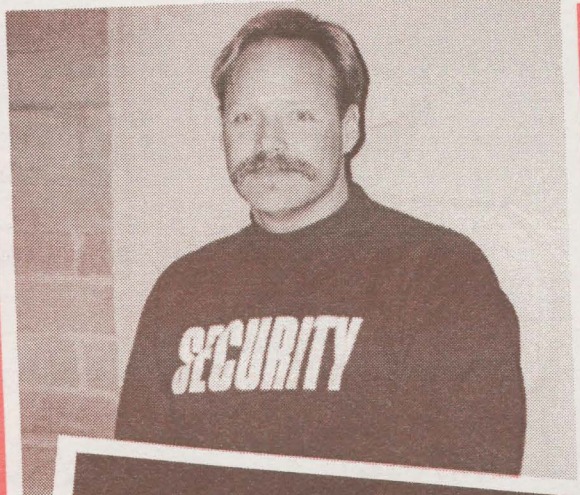
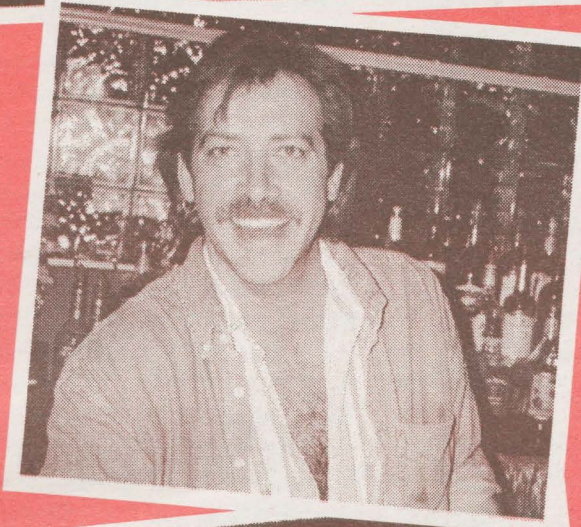
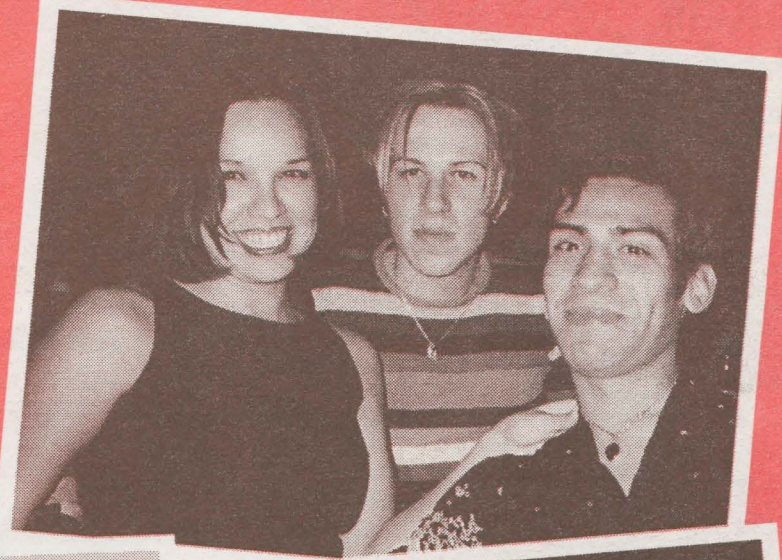
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Texas on a budget

By Andrew Collins,
HeatStroke Contributor

It's quite easy to enjoy the vast and thoroughly engaging diversions of Texas without blowing a whole lot of cash.

The state is abundant with affordable and outstanding restaurants, including countless purveyors of that captivating style of regional cooking, Tex-Mex.

Hotels in the state's major cities — at least those in trendy neighborhoods — don't come cheaply, but with a little perseverance you can find romantic, queer-friendly, and eye-pleasing rooms for under \$80 nightly.

What follows is a budget guide to the top gay-friendly restaurants and accommodations in each of the state's major cities: Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio.

Dallasites are the most image-oriented breed of Texan, and their gay scene is fashionable and stylish, concentrated in the tony Oak Lawn neighborhood, in the shadows of posh Highland Park (the Beverly Hills of Texas).

Still, it's not difficult to eat well in this rich culinary center without spending more than a few bucks on a full meal.

One option is to scope out the queer-infested intersection of Throckmorton and Cedar Springs roads, where you'll find more than a half-dozen affordable eateries, from hamburger joints to pizza parlors to Chinese restaurants.

Another is nearby Eatzie's, a gourmet market that's more costly than your average grocery store, but far less expensive than the type of restaurant that would offer this caliber of both packaged and prepared foods (which you can eat back in your hotel room, perhaps with the cute thing you meet in the check-out line).

For breakfast consider a jaunt to the oft-packed Dream Cafe, a sunny hangout with a terrific veggie-oriented menu. The buttermilk pancakes topped with ricotta are famous. Between bites, you can toss a frisbee to your dog or your date on the long green lawn out front.

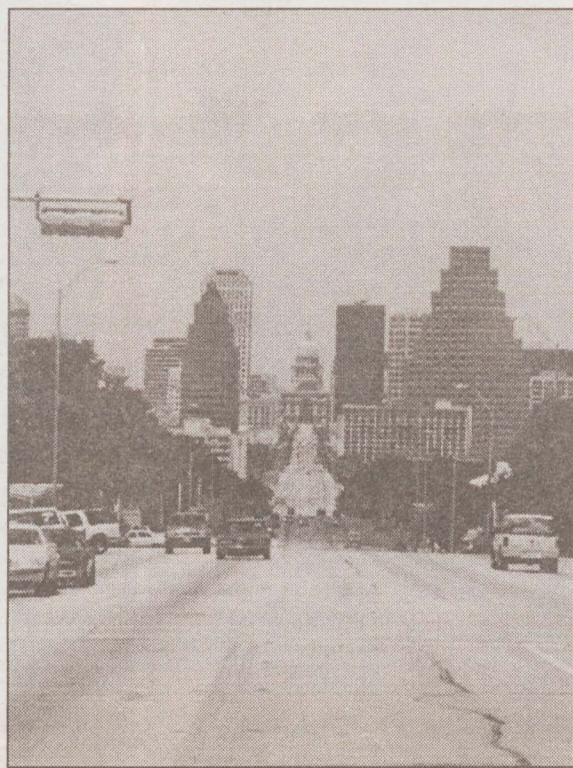
Dallas is known for its fancy hotels, but there is a perfectly clean

and well-maintained La Quinta on the edge of Oak Lawn, in the up-and-coming Knox-Henderson neighborhood.

For a little more you can stay at the mostly gay and lesbian Inn on Fairmount. This charming and attentively run B&B is a wonderful value, with a hot tub; rooms with phones, TVs, and private baths — not to mention very high standards.

While Dallas' personality typifies the Southwest, Houston's exemplifies the traditional charm and hospitality of the Deep South.

Edging the city's rapidly gentrifying downtown is Montrose, one of the nation's largest and most visible



The home of the original Slackers: Austin's skyline

queer enclaves, and a haven of restored homes, rowdy and rollicking gay bars, and trendy restaurants and coffeehouses.

This is one city where meager funds still entitle you to some of the finest cooking around.

The queer-popular Fox Diner, on the northern edge of Montrose, offers friendly service, a chic setting, and such sublime creations as warm-grilled tuna steak with tomato-calamata olive relish.

A terrific option for excellent cafe fare, exotic beers, and tasty coffees is Toopees, a funky java house with vinyl booths, Formica tables, and other retro decorating touches. A low-intensity alternative to the bars,

Toopees is especially popular with lesbians.

Honey and affordable, the Lovett Inn has long been Houston's most queer-popular lodging. Rooms are done with a tasteful mix of antiques and reproductions, and in back, a pool and hot tub are given privacy by rows of box hedges. Bars and restaurants are within walking distance.

Few American cities are better suited to the needs of budget queer adventurers than liberal Austin, one of the fastest-growing communities in the country and home to what Fortune magazine rated America's fifth most knowledgeable work force.

The presence of the University of

Texas accounts for much of Austin's appeal — it enrolls 50,000 students, and many decide to stay here once they graduate. It's no coincidence that the pop term "slacker" was coined here a few years back, when an amusing, low-budget documentary on the city's brightest and youngest do-nothings achieved cult status.

One of the many cheap eateries that appeals to both the indigent and the well-heeled is Guero's, an old South Austin feed store turned divy taqueria. Here you'll find some of the best Mexican fare in town, ranging from standard but artfully seasoned enchiladas and tamales to more innovative creations like marinated grilled pork on a corn tortilla

with onions, cilantro, and fresh pineapple.

Nearby, the Magnolia Cafe is a local landmark with an eclectic menu that's especially strong on breakfast; try the solar landscape (seasoned grilled potatoes, red onions, and ham topped with queso and chipotle sauce).

In the increasingly trendy Hyde Park neighborhood, Mother's is a dyke-popular vegetarian restaurant known for such surprisingly robust meatless specialties as tofu lasagna, mushroom stroganoff, and veggie rancheros.

The roomy well-maintained Radisson Town Lake, which overlooks the Colorado River and is with-

in walking distance of gay nightlife, is one of the best values in Austin.

Gay-owned and cheaper than any hotel, the Summit House is an informal B&B in a pleasant residential neighborhood just south of downtown. Accommodations are modest but full of character, filled with local art and a few antiques.

About an hour's drive south of Austin, San Antonio has the least pronounced gay scene of America's largest cities, but a trip to Texas is not complete without a foray into this decidedly Western and thoroughly multicultural metropolis, known for its well-preserved historic downtown (home of the Alamo), stunning river walk, and excellent parks and museums.

San Antonio has an excellent gay-popular guest house with rooms fit for any budget.

For many years the women-owned Painted Lady has been a hit with members of our community, who appreciate its walking distance to downtown, reasonable rates, and dramatic yellow exterior offset by green balconies and white Doric columns.

The queerest budget dining is found north of downtown, in the neighborhoods of Alamo Heights, Monte Vista, and Olmos Park, which is also where you'll find much of the city's queer nightlife.

It's not dirt cheap, but moderately priced La Fogata is worth the slight splurge for one of the most authentic Mexican dining experiences in Texas: The menu draws on both local Texas-influenced recipes and on interior Mexican ones — a favorite is the smoky and sizzling chile poblano al carbon (poblano pepper stuffed with chicken and cheese and cooked under charcoal flame).

When you need a cheap and filling break from bar-hopping, drop by Earl Abel's, a tacky diner where dotting waitresses race around serving up plates of cornmeal-battered catfish, fried chicken, and coconut pie. The place fills up nightly with old ladies with big Texas hair — not to mention parading drag queens with equally big Texas hair. It's sometimes hard to tell them apart.

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 or at OutofTown9@aol.com.

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Dear Cowboy,
After I date a man for a few months, I'll start running into all these other guys who are cuter and more like what I am looking for. It usually starts with a little flirting and ends up with me doing something I shouldn't.
I don't know why I do this, since it never amounts to more than a quick trick or two—but I can't help it. I have ruined two good relationships this way and I don't want to lose the one I am currently in.
Can I somehow train myself to be monogamous and faithful? How do I do it?
Signed, The Wanderer

Dear Wanderer,
You can't train yourself to be a naturally faithful person in your mind or heart. But if a one-man event is what you really want, you can sure enough act like a faithful person acts, and you'll end up being faithful by the time the bell sounds.
That's because the effort you put into any relationship is shown through your ongoing actions, not through what you are thinking or feeling.
You have already learned that dishonesty (to yourself) and cheating (on your pard) can ruin the ride for both of you. So if you make a monogamous commitment again, choose actions that show you are sticking

with this one. The only rules are the ones you and your partner make together.

If you can't act committed, then don't commit. Turn him loose and enjoy your life of tricks.

Dear Cowboy,
My girlfriend and I have these friends, another lesbian couple, who have a habit of dropping by our house almost every weekend.

Last Sunday we were going to do a bunch of yard work, then spend the afternoon in bed. They showed up right after we started on the yard and

After I date a man for a few months, I'll start running into all these other guys who are cuter and more like what I am looking for.

stayed until dark, throwing off our whole weekend.

We like them both and don't want to insult them. They keep saying how nice it is to have close friends you can just pop in on, unannounced. How can we politely tell them we don't like being that friendly?

Signed, The Weekend Hosts

Dear Hosts,
It was awful nice of you cowgirls to set out that doormat, but you weren't supposed to lie down on it. Get up and get busy next time your visiting gal pals pop in. Tell them you're sorry, but they interrupted your chores and you really can't enjoy their company the way they deserve. Make a plan then and there to meet again soon, then start the chores right in front of them.

Every time they drop by without calling, apologize and set a firm time and place (away from your own spread) to meet—even if it's later that same day. Be consistent and they'll get the hint.

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HOROSCOPES

By Deane Jaye, *HeatStroke* contributor

Aquarius (January 21-February 20)

Your brook is bubbling over with knowledge and wisdom, but that doesn't mean you're supposed to keep babbling on about it. Try a little quiet dignity and let others have their say, even when it's clear they know far less than you about the subject at hand. You'll learn a lot by listening, for a change. Altering your diet will result in a welcome change in attitudes, especially during stressful events around the 29th. A Sagittarius native may wish to share a massage or hot tub, or perhaps offer another grand idea for some semi-clothed relaxation. Go with the flow.

Pisces (February 21-March 20)

With a new Piscean cycle beginning on the 20th, this is a great time to get rid of the hang-ups you have collected over the last year and to let some of those hurts go for good. You probably have a few apologies to offer others before you can get on with things, so say you're sorry and start anew. Then get out and mingle. Travel is in the works and a warm seaside visit might be a good idea, while snow, ice and mountains should be avoided. Tricky events around the 22nd might be worked through with the aid of another Pisces.

Aries (March 21-April 20)

Hell, even Gene Tierney wore a ton of makeup. So remember, everything is not quite as pretty as it seems, especially if someone—or some new opportunity—seems absolutely perfect. Look closer and you'll find the truth lurking below the glamour on the surface. As the weather warms, you'll want to get outside, breathe in that spring air, and show off your ball skills. Watching or playing sports will prove a great way to meet people with similar interests, especially the weekend of the 20th. Cancer friend who's been hiding at home may need your encouragement to come out and play.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Whew! You are just busy, busy, busy these days and no one is pitching in to help—at least that's how it feels to you. But look again. How important and pressing is every item on that long list of projects? It's time you categorized things, weeded out the extras and took some of the pressure off. Someone you've seen as a father figure could be taken down a notch this month, and that's okay. You were probably placing him on too high a pedestal, anyway. Scorpio native has something big to share around the 18th.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Whipping yourself into a frenzy over a recent bad turn of events will do nothing to solve the problem, so you may as well find someone else to do the whipping for you and at least get some twisted enjoyment out of it. Speaking of kinky, there are many more ideas coming your way this month in the boudoir, so spread out the rubber sheets and make sure those chandeliers are screwed in tight before you start. Things will loosen up after the 22nd, and an Aquarius native may offer a few kinky ideas of his/her own.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

That big idea you've been nurturing could change your life—so please don't give in to self-doubt this time. Make it happen and show those naysayers what you Cancerians can accomplish when you throw your impressive back muscles into it. Just because your symbol is the crab, that doesn't mean crabbiness is somehow charming on you. Keep that in mind around the 14th in particular, when a smile will get you much further than you know. A Virgo is in the picture, and a collaboration between the two of

you may have satisfying consequences all the way around.

Leo (July 21-August 20)

All those folks that run around complaining because there just aren't enough hours in the day—what are they talking about? You're proud to have accomplished less in an afternoon than those worked-up crazies do in ten minutes. When will they realize your calm and steady style always gets the same (or even better) results in the end? Someone you trust needs your wisdom and advice when it comes to romance this month, so don't joke around when they turn to you. Look for an unusual way to spend an evening around the 24th—the outcome will both shock you and turn you on.

Virgo (August 21-September 20)

Forgiveness is in the air. Lay all your grievances on the table, make the point you need to make, and then move on. No more turning everything inward while continuing to hold those grudges. Afraid you'll be misunderstood and abandoned? Maybe that's better than the way things are now—you must decide. Travel and financial opportunities abound, so take advantage of both and give in to whatever urges come your way around the 19th. Come on, it's easy. No one is looking.

Libra (September 21-October 20)

You're so sensitive lately. Remember what they say about water rolling right off a duck's back? Pretend those misguided remarks are water, and you're the duck with the oily back. If that doesn't work, lie on your back and get someone else to oil your front. It won't help with the insults, but at least you'll feel better. People around you will start getting bogged down around the 20th and will look to you to bring them up to speed. A Capricorn's investment advice may prove well worth taking.

Scorpio (October 21-November 20)

Mmmmm. There's something about getting your way that must be directly connected to your sex drive, and you've certainly been getting your way a lot these days. Dreams will play a big part in your decision-making this month, so you needn't bother explaining most of your actions as the weeks progress. Spend time with pets and family around the 15th and 16th. Someone you once thought to be too intense suddenly looks interesting again—move more slowly this time and you'll get what you need from them, even if it isn't exactly what you want.

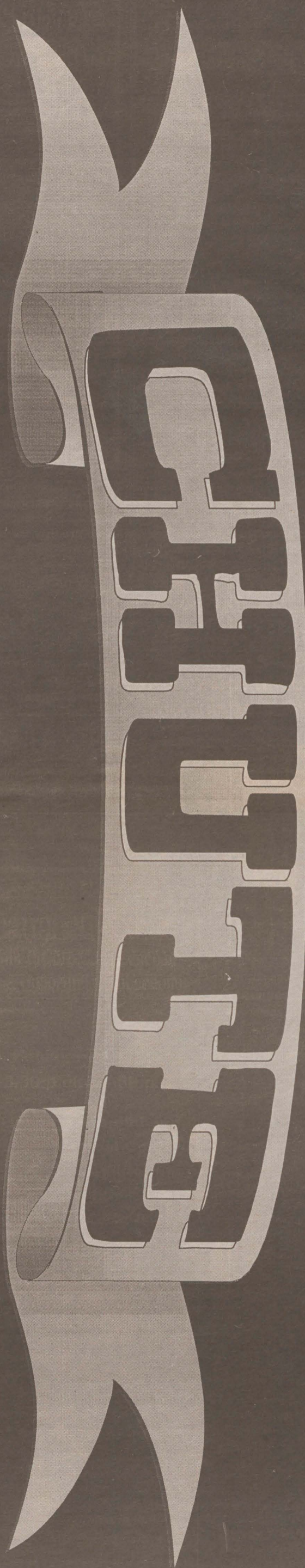
Sagittarius (November 21-December 20)

Oops. You're breaking promises left and right that you have forgotten you even made. That should teach you to be more careful next time, before making that committed, "Yeah, sure, okay, I guess," that you have become so famous for. Not to worry, though. The injured parties will eventually get over it if they want to retain your friendship, just like always. Colder climates are calling to you right now, so look further into that ski trip or cabin rental you've had in mind. Enjoy the planning—maybe make it a group thing?

Capricorn (December 21-January 20)

You think it's all about how well-connected you are, and you're right. To a degree. But when your social climbing gets in the way of your sociability, you'll find yourself all alone on a Saturday night and that's the last thing you want. So calm down, be yourself and say "No" every once in awhile. There's good news coming your way after the 18th, possibly involving a sibling or close cousin. Be extra cautious with your health right now—you could be particularly vulnerable to throat or ear problems for the next two weeks.

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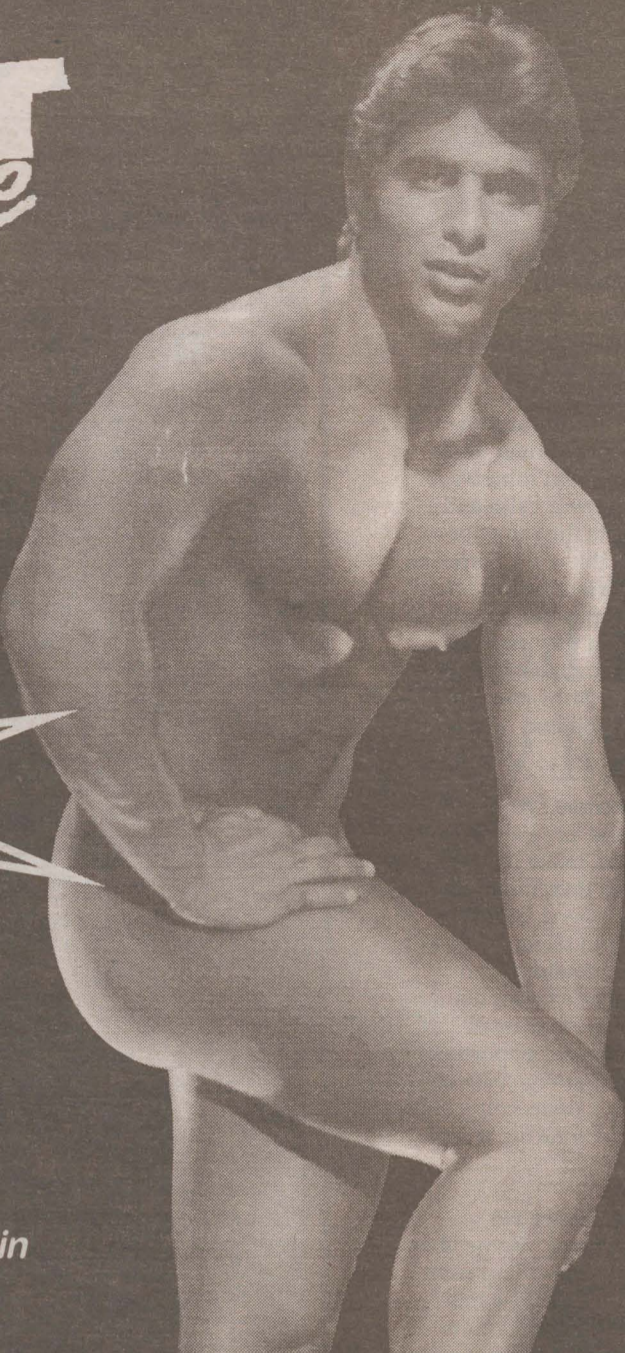
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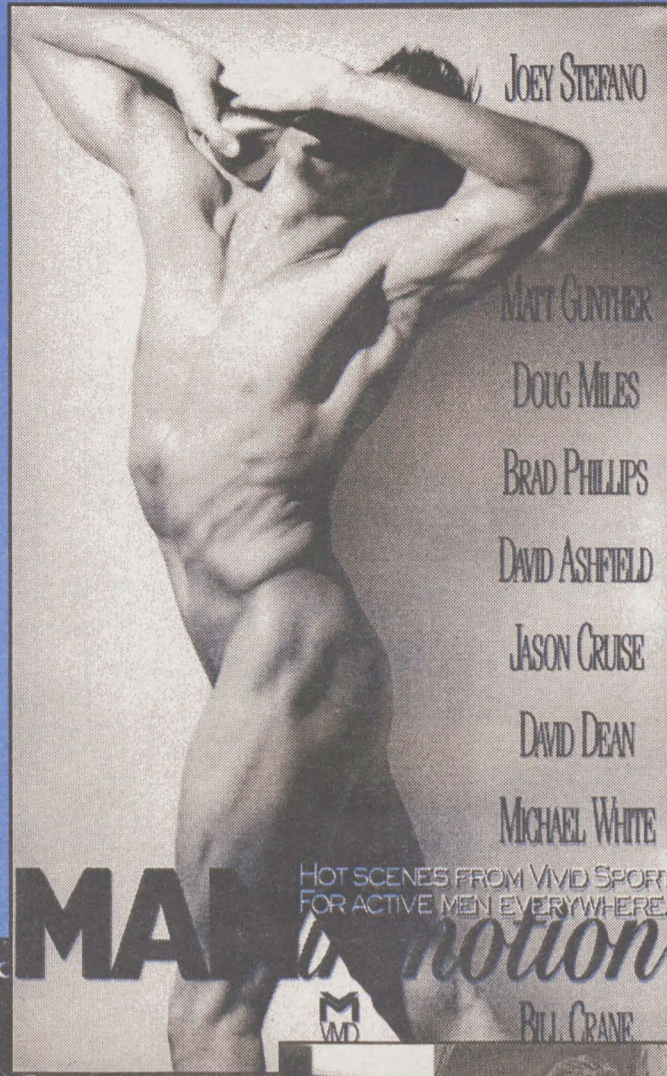
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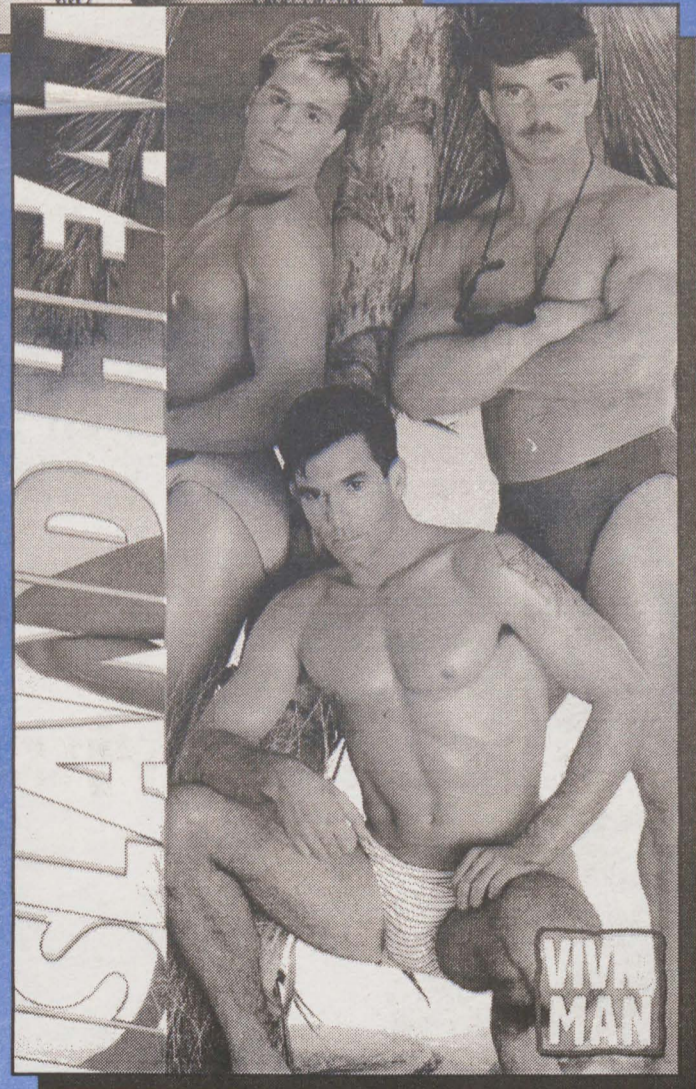
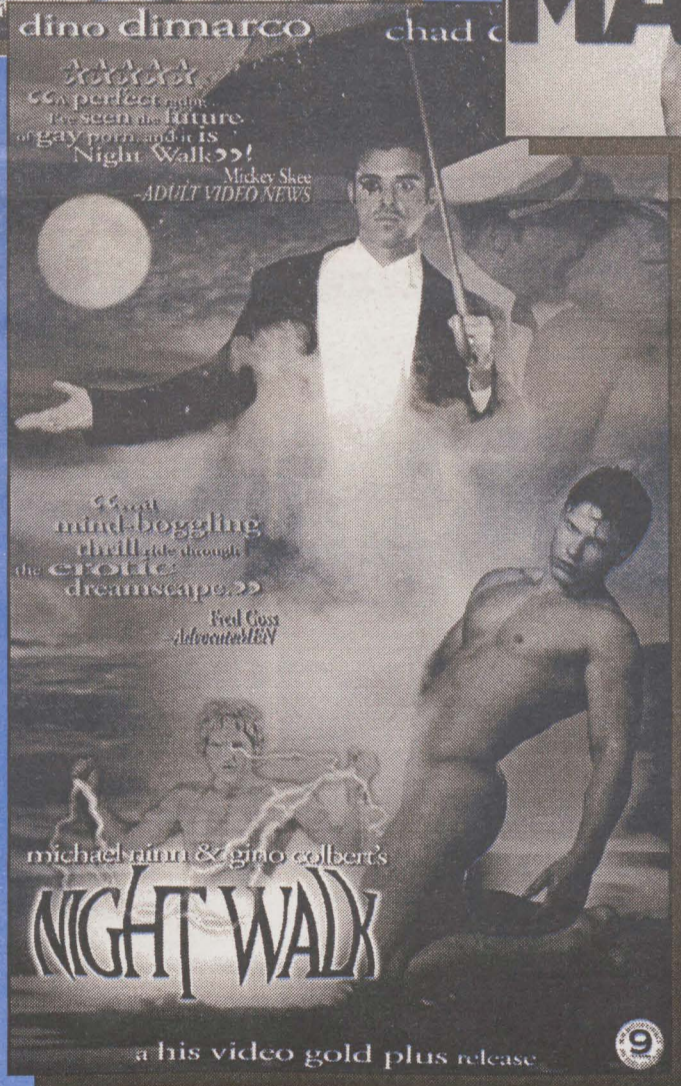
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This film is a hugely enjoyable romantic comedy. The story revolves around the ambitions and loves of three eager, wide-eyed young dreamers trying to become a success in Manhattan. There is Marc, a recent NYU grad and would-be actor; his mop-headed 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.