

HeatStroke

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Drawing Laughter from Life:

Indelible
humorist
offers more
to watch
out for



By Karen Riedell, Staff Writer

You wouldn't expect a self-described Vermont hermit to be much of a talker, and comic-strip artist Alison Bechdel is true to form.

Interviewed by phone from her home in West Bolton, Vermont, Bechdel is a no-nonsense Yankee with a forthright manner and blunt delivery. She comes across a lot like Mo, the prickly heroine of *Dykes to Watch Out For*, the satiric comic strip Bechdel's been writing and syndicating since 1983.

Bechdel's sequential strip has appeared in

every issue of *HeatStroke* since the Phoenix newspaper debuted in November of 1996. *Dykes...* follows the struggles and triumphs of about a dozen women who are related variously as roommates, friends and lovers in a New England college town. Much of the action centers on Madwimmin Books, the literary mecca of activist information at which the strip's hapless lead character, Mo, is employed.

Currently at work on her anniversary collection, *The Indelible Alison Bechdel: Confessions, Times and Yet More Dykes to Watch Out For*, to be published in late March, Bechdel says she is putting in 70-hour weeks compiling a collection of her work that includes material for other magazines,

anthologies and comic books. The book will also include 11 pages of time charts tracing her characters' progress over the past 15 years.

Inspired by collections such as those for *The Far Side* and *Calvin and Hobbes*, Bechdel will also provide background commentary on *Dykes to Watch Out For*, including the stories behind the stories.

Also included will be a chapter based on the hundreds of letters Bechdel has received since she started writing the strip 15 years ago—with no idea that it would grow into the huge success it has become, appearing in more than 60 publications here and in Canada.

See "Bechdel," page 10

ASU West educator terrorized

Bigots repeatedly vandalize lesbian professor's property at home and on campus

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Phoenix resident Batya Hyman settled into a comfy-looking chair in the pleasantly appointed living room she decorated herself. But she was unable to relax during most of our interview. "It feels creepy right now to be in my own house, and I hate that," she said.

The message says: we hate you and want you to be very afraid, even where you live.

The invasion that occurred in the quiet north Phoenix neighborhood that Friday afternoon was not the first time Hyman, an out lesbian, was the target of bigoted harassment. First, on January 28, a hateful slogan was

posted on the west Valley campus and at ASU's main site in Tempe to offer support. Vice provost John Collins said the campus has zero tolerance for hate crimes, and this incident has been characterized as the first such crime in the facility's ten-year history.

One faculty group has been distributing stickers showing the word "hate" with a slash mark through it. And Ubiquity, the ASU gay and lesbian teachers' organization, asked its members for financial assistance in case Hyman needed to stay in a hotel. Hyman holds a doctorate from Brandeis University and teaches social work at ASU-West.

Hyman reported the damage to her car to campus police right away. The crime was also reported to the Phoenix police department's Bias Crimes Unit and was later covered by a large Valley newspaper, though Hyman's identity had been withheld in print prior to our interview.

"I decided to come out with this publicly because I can afford to," Hyman said. "I can't be fired for my sexual orientation because my contract with ASU protects me. I'm ready now to let people know who I am—partly because it keeps happening—and also in case anyone in the gay community has information that will help the police."

Understandably fearing for her safety, the educator was unwilling to be photographed for *HeatStroke*.

Hyman hopes others in the area who have experienced similar incidents will be encouraged by her example to come forward. "The police would really like to catch someone and any information might help. As for myself, I just want it to stop," she said.

When her car was vandalized on campus and then again in her driveway, Hyman realized whomever was targeting her knows where she both lives and works. Now, she presumes her residence was invaded and sprayed with graffiti by the same person or persons who first defaced her

See "Hate Crime," page 6



Hate Crime: some of the racist, homophobic slurs that deface the West Phoenix home of Batya Hyman

When vandals jumped the wall of Hyman's ranch-style house on February 13 and painted anti-gay, anti-Semitic slurs on her home and on the inside of her block fence, they sent the 45-year-old college professor a message.

Painted on her car while it was parked in a lot on Arizona State University's west campus. A few days later, Hyman's car was again vandalized when parked at home.

News of the on-campus vandalism rallied many faculty and staff mem-

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Horowitz:

the ten percent rule

Attending the 2nd Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival last weekend, I was struck by how few of the people at the sold-out performances I knew. After all, I've been active in the gay community in Phoenix since 1990, and I'm out and about a lot.

With over 1,600 tickets sold, I don't think I knew more than 100 people. I guess I'm still always shocked by how many of us there are.

I got the same feeling at the 1993 March on Washington and the Phoenix Gay Pride Parade last March. In Washington, I was emotionally overwhelmed by the sheer power of our numbers. I felt awed and awesome at the same time.

Even the organizers of the 1997 Phoenix Pride Parade were dramatically and pleasantly surprised by the wonderful turnout. I knew the faithful would march, but I had no idea how many supporters would actually show up. I honestly feared the only spectators would be police officers securing our safety.

At the film festival, members of The Awareness Project were thrilled that we managed to sell out a 212-seat theater several times. Considering there are, by the ten percent rule, a quarter million gays and lesbians in the greater Phoenix area, we should have had lines around the block.

Rarely, however, do we show up in numbers reflective of our presence in the community. In 1991, we filled a room at Phoenix Civic Plaza to overflowing when we spoke up for our rights before the City Council. The council was considering an amendment to the city's human rights ordinance and we filled a room. Big Deal—each weekend we fill 25 gay and lesbian nightclubs.

In 1978, founders of The Experience declared the organization's vision, which has evolved to read: "By the year 2000, it will be absolutely OK to be lesbian or gay, and diversity will be valued and celebrated."

When I first heard these words in the early 1990's, I thought this dream was impossible. I can't even begin to imagine how observers more than twenty years ago felt. Today, however, I find myself cautiously optimistic. When I consider the huge amount of progress

we have made in securing human and civil rights, and the incredibly small number of dedicated activists and volunteers who have made it happen, I know we will enjoy equality and freedom.

I also know that for us to eliminate homophobia on the planet, we have got to show up in numbers far greater than we ever have. Those of us still in the closet must come out powerfully. More importantly, those of us who have been out of the closet have to show up more often and more effectively.

Our brothers and sisters in Maine lost important civil rights protections because they didn't have the energy to get off their asses and vote. The successful repeal of Maine's anti-discrimination protection was resulted from complacency with early polls showing the majority of citizens opposed to the repeal.

We face similar fights in Arizona. Representative Karen Johnson is committed to preventing gay and lesbian adoptions and foster parenting. Many conservatives stand ready to block the long-overdue repeal of the state's archaic sodomy statute.

The Arizona version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act has been introduced, yet appears doomed to get stuck in legislative committee, thanks to the efforts of Johnson and Speaker of the House Jeff Groskost. The control of the Arizona legislature rests in the hands of right-wing conservatives, and the fault is ours.

If you can show up in a gay chat room on the Internet, you can show up in a voting booth. If you can show up in a gay bar, you can show up to the gay pride parade. If you can spend time on the phone with friends, you can call your representatives and let them know your views on important issues. If you can take a weekend away, you can attend the Arizona Human Rights Fund Awards Dinner on June 13th. If you go shopping, you can support gay and gay-friendly businesses.

If the ten-percent rule applies, which I believe it does, we are a much more powerful force and much closer to freedom than we ever dreamed.

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

Correction

A January article in HeatStroke (Issue #31, January 15-28) about a Scottsdale fund-raiser for state Senate candidate Rep. Robin Shaw incorrectly quoted Shaw.

HeatStroke printed the following statement as an indirect quote: *Shaw said that Smith would likely*

follow the precedent set by Tom Patterson if elected to the post.

The comparison between Smith and Patterson should not have been attributed to Rep. Shaw.

The article also presented the following statement as a direct quote from Rep. Shaw: "It is possible to work with people like (Senate President) Brenda Burns, and pull the Republican party away from the

right-wing conservatives in Arizona."

That statement was the reporter's summary of Rep. Shaw's entire statement about Sen. Burns, moderate Republicans, and right-wing conservatives. It should not have been directly attributed to Rep. Shaw.

We regret any confusion these errors may have caused.

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On page 1: *Dykes to Watch Out For*, by Alison Bechdel

"Adoption Ban" bill dies in AZ House of Reps: eligibility of gay men & lesbians retained

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

A bill introduced in the Arizona House of Representatives by a conservative legislator that would have revised Arizona law to exclude gay and other unmarried couples from adopting children died in the House Rules Committee on Tuesday, February 24.

HB 2482 was introduced last month by Rep. Karen Johnson (R-Mesa) and was aimed at disqualifying unmarried persons who cohabit with their domestic partners from adopting children or being certified as foster parents.

Though the bill's language included unmarried heterosexuals and did not mention same-sex relationships specifically, it was widely understood to be Johnson's attempt to ban gays and lesbians from adopting children in Arizona.

Johnson, an aide to former Gov. Evan Mecham and the chair of Pat Buchanan's 1996 presidential campaign in Arizona, was quoted in a newspaper article in Phoenix last November as saying that only people who "live a normal life" should be allowed to be foster parents.

She told reporters then that she would introduce the bill to ban all unmarried persons from becoming foster parents. Banning single persons from becoming foster parents

would have excluded about a third of the foster families now licensed in the state.

When HB 2482 was introduced in January, its sponsors left single peo-



District 25 Democratic Rep. Christine Weason worked to kill HB 2482 in the Rules Committee

ple out of the bill but sought to exclude unmarried couples from both fostering and adopting children. The

bill made reference to "domestic partners", but how the law would have interpreted a domestic partnership was not made evident.

Despite questions regarding the legitimacy of its language, the bill did clear its first hurdle, passing in the Government Reform and State's Rights Committee when heard there Friday, February 20. With all four of the committee's Democrats absent, the bill passed 5-0. Johnson is a member of the Reform Committee.

But all five Democrats on the Rules Committee were present for the February 24 vote. With the Democrats unanimous in rejecting the bill and two Republicans also voting nay, HB 2482 died in rules, 7-5. Two committee Republicans were absent. The Republicans voting against the bill in Rules were Reps. Susan Gerard and Roberta Voss.

Rep. Ken Chevront (D-Phoenix) said through a spokesperson that Democrat Christine Weason of Central Phoenix was instrumental in killing the bill in Rules and deserves much of the credit for its defeat.

At present, Arizona laws place no

restrictions on the marital status of prospective adoptive or foster parents and officials at the Department of Economic Security have said the agency cannot discriminate based on sexual orientation when placing foster children.




How they voted:

HB 2482 — foster care, adoption, disqualification

House Rules Committee

Aldridge-R	Yes
Eberhardt-R	Yes
Hamilton-D	No
Hart-R	Yes
Overton-R	Yes
Voss-R	No
Weiers-R	Yes
Daniels-R	Absent
Gerard-R	No
Hanley-D	No
McClendon-D	No
Rios-D	No
Weason-D	No
Wong-R	Absent



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AZ ENDA bill dies in Senate

Sen. Patterson blocks committee's hearing of anti-discrimination legislation

By Kelly J. Reidhead, Managing Editor
Senate Bill 1346, the Employment Non Discrimination Bill died in the Senate Government Reform Committee chaired by Sen. Tom Patterson.

Introduced by Sen. Elaine Richardson, SB 1346 would have prohibited employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by the state, its political subdivisions and contractors.

Sen. Patterson stated on Feb. 11

that he was not going to hear the bill, according to Dianne Post, a Board Member of the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF).

Post said that Sen. Patterson claimed the bill would "give protection the rest of us do not have."

"The law is clear, and Sen. Patterson should acknowledge that," Post said, adding that a 1994 Court of Appeals decision "made it perfectly plain that an employer could fire a person solely for the reason that the

person was gay or lesbian."

The law would have protected all people regardless of their sexual orientation. Post pointed out, however, "in reality, gays and lesbians are fired for their sexual orientation, while heterosexuals are not."

A broader based bill covering private employers passed the House of Reps. last year.

Post noted that of the 25 largest employers in Maricopa County, 13 already have nondiscrimination poli-

cies in place. "Many other companies in Arizona are following suit in order to ensure that they have the most qualified person for the job," she added.

Referring to Patterson, Post stated, "One Senator should not have the ability to single-handedly shape public policy in the State of Arizona. This type of procedure makes a mockery of democracy. The bill should be heard."

LRP discussing next move

By Karyn Riedell, Staff Writer

What's ahead for the Lesbian Resource Project? About two dozen women turned out for the town hall meeting held Sunday, Feb. 22 in Phoenix to discuss just that.

Currently without an executive director or an office, the LRP is now experiencing a time of transition, said Norma Turner, who serves on the local organization's board of directors.

According to Turner, the LRP's main priorities at this time are to find a new place and to find a part-time coordinator to assume the duties of founding executive director Barb Jones, who left for another position in California.

The board of directors has set April 1 as the target date for finding a new base of operations. Some

women have come forward to donate money toward purchasing a building, but the board has not yet decided

whether to lease or buy. Prior to January 1, the LRP was housed in the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

The LRP decided against joining The Center at its new location near Camelback Road

and Central Avenue because of concerns about safety and parking. Turner said that the board was worried the location near a straight sports bar and a John Birch Society library would not be safe for women.

"Many women are nervous about

going out anyway, and so we were just not comfortable with it (the new location). We were disappointed

"We were disappointed because we wanted to move with The Center. We felt The Center could have been more responsive."

because we wanted to move with The Center. We felt The Center could have been more responsive," Turner said.

Despite the board's disappointment with the decision, the LRP still plans to maintain a close relationship

with the community center, Turner added.

Women at the recent town hall meeting discussed ways to meet the needs of a diverse lesbian community. Some participants mentioned the need to reach out to younger lesbians and to provide more in the way of spirituality.

"One thing that was clear was that women really want the LRP to continue, so that was delightful to hear," said board member Batya Hyman.

The board will present its strategy at the next town hall meeting to be held at 7pm March 20 at Healing Waters Ministries in Tempe. For more information, call (602) 266-5542.



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Series of hate crimes target ASU Professor

Continued from Page 1

car. Hyman also believes she has been followed on more than one occasion and has enlisted the help of friends to watch her house.

"I've received a lot of wonderful support from the lesbian community in particular, and the police have been

Kelleher said. "We are doing everything we can and we have been watching Batya's house. We are definitely treating this series of incidents as a hate crime."

For a criminal act to be classified a hate crime, it must be shown to have

every incident of harassment a crime, which is inaccurate. A crime is a crime no matter whom it is committed against, she said. Whether an act can be investigated as a crime depends on the degree to which someone is threatened or harmed, as it always has.

Crimes committed against gays are probably still underreported in the Valley, but Kelleher said reporting figures have improved recently, no doubt due in part to the new law. There were 220 hate crimes reported in Phoenix in 1997 and 135 the year before that, she said. She thinks the hate crimes law with its specific language—including that regarding sexual orientation—offers minorities more security when coming forward, though it actually relates to criminal sentencing.

Including sexual orientation in the law's wording may also improve police officers' attitudes when they respond to calls involving violence or threats against gay men and lesbians. "The officers I know and work with take every report very seriously," Kelleher said. "But the law helps remind everyone in the department to be more sensitive, and more aware that anti-gay bias exists and can relate to crimes against gay people."

Hyman, who came to Phoenix from Boston in 1995, has lived and worked as an out lesbian for more than twenty years. She is proud of a

her to do so.

Hyman says it's more important to remember that these crimes have been committed not against herself as an individual, but against three minority communities.

"They have attacked Jews, women and gay people," she said. "They could have written 'Queer' but they didn't—they specifically identified lesbians and specifically identified Jews."

Her neighbors have been supportive. Most were outraged to learn such blatant acts of vandalism and anti-gay, anti-Semitic terrorism had occurred in their quiet enclave. It was an aware neighbor who looked over the wall from an adjoining yard and first noticed the graffiti at Hyman's house on February 13. "It happened between 1pm and 6pm, right in broad daylight," Hyman said.

The vandal(s) wrote "Dyke" and "Kyke Dyke" in several places on Hyman's block wall and on the back of her house, using spray paint. The same slogan was painted earlier on the back of her car, in a poster paint that easily washed off. The word "kike" was misspelled, with a "Y" instead of an "I" in each instance.

"Because the spelling was the same and the incidents occurred so close together, we believe the crimes are related," Kelleher said. Anyone with information that might be related to these crimes should contact the

detective directly at (602) 262-7311, or call the Bias Crimes Hotline at (602) 534-BIAS/2427.

Until the situation is resolved, Hyman is unsure what she'll do or when her sense of security will return—if ever.

"I can't imagine a student doing this. I can't imagine it's another faculty member, and I can't imagine that it's someone from my neighborhood, either."

history of involvement in both the Jewish and lesbian communities. Until a few weeks ago, she had never experienced any type of hate crime and the events of the past few weeks have clearly shaken her.

"I can't imagine a student doing this. I can't imagine it's another faculty member, and I can't imagine that it's someone from my neighborhood, either." Hyman honestly has no clue as to who is sending the repeated message of hate, and she does not like to speculate about the person(s)'s identity, though Detective Kelleher and other officers have encouraged

"This neighborhood is designed for privacy," Hyman said. She explained that the living rooms in the development don't look onto the streets, the yards are large and well-kept, and people generally drive their cars directly into their garages. Prior to this month, she always felt safe at home.

"This is ridiculous, what they've done to me," she said with a shudder. "This is my house. I love my home, and now I feel uncomfortable being here."



ASU's West Campus, where Batya Hyman teaches Social Work, was the site of the first instance of vandalism to her car

very understanding and professional. It isn't easy for me to ask for help and I really appreciate it." Hyman serves on the board of the Lesbian Resource Project, a Phoenix-based organization for women. She teaches students about hate crimes in her college classes and now finds her own situation frighteningly ironic.

Phoenix police detective Janet Kelleher of the Bias Crimes Unit has been working on Hyman's case. "We really don't have much to go on,"

been motivated by bias against a specific group, as the vandalism of Hyman's property would indicate. A law passed by the Arizona legislature in the 1997 session allows judges to take a criminal's prejudices into account when sentencing. Bias against sexual orientation is included in the language of the new law.

Kelleher said many citizens misunderstand the term hate crime, particularly in the gay community. Some people assume the new law makes



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Some Maine lawmakers change opinion after gay rights repeal

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)

Some lawmakers who supported a gay-rights bill in the Legislature last year say they won't again if the issue returns to the State House.

Rep. Michael McAlevey of Waterboro signed on as a co-sponsor of last year's bill. But he says he will vote against the bill if he wins a third term and the issue comes up again.

The reason: His constituents opposed gay rights by almost a 2-to-1 margin in the Feb. 10 referendum. During the referendum, voters statewide narrowly repealed the gay-rights law.

"I've made a decision to set my personal beliefs aside because the people in my district said 'no way,'"

said McAlevey, a Republican.

"People send me messages, and I think this was a pretty clear message."

If McAlevey's remarks are any measure, the recent "people's veto" that overturned the gay-rights law has some lawmakers worried. After backing the bill in 1997, they are asking themselves if the voters who threw out the law will throw them out too.

To hedge their bets, they are not committing themselves on future gay rights votes.

But others who broke with their constituents on gay rights are holding firm. They say they still support civil rights safeguards for homosexuals

and they don't fear a backlash at the polls.

And they say they will vote the same way if they are re-elected and the issue resurfaces in the Legislature. There's a decent chance that will happen. Gay-rights supporters may reintroduce a bill similar to last year's during the next two years.

As they focus on their re-elections this year, many legislators who support gay rights express confidence, saying most voters don't vote based on a single issue. And the referendum's voter turnout was so low — about 30 percent of all registered voters statewide — that the results are not a meaningful measure of public opinion.

"There was very low turnout in the referendum," said Sen. John Nutting, D-Leeds, who supports gay rights, but whose district opposed the gay-rights law by a 69 percent to 31 percent margin on Feb. 10. "Very few people I know will vote for or against a candidate based on one issue."

"People elect you to make decisions based on input and your values," said Sen. Bruce MacKinnon, R-Sanford, whose constituents opposed the gay-rights law by a narrow, 25-vote margin. "I voted for (the bill) because I thought we needed it. The citizens said we don't. I see no problem."

HeatStroke writer gets 2 nods in national contest

By Kelly J. Reidhead, Managing Editor

HeatStroke editor Allen Kalchik was awarded two Honorable Mentions for his writing in the first-ever Vice Versa Awards for excellence in the gay and lesbian press. The awards were announced February 11. Winners were selected by a national panel of judges experienced in gay and lesbian journalism and/or activism.

"Sun City Mama", a profile of Christine Shaw, who founded a chapter of PFLAG in her conservative west Phoenix suburb, earned Kalchik an Honorable Mention for best interview or personality profile. Another

local writer winning Honorable Mention in the same category was Jeff Ofstedahl of *Echo* magazine, for his interview with Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano.

Kalchik also received Honorable Mention in the best editorial category for his January, 1997 column supporting the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association's decision to advertise its annual rodeo in the mainstream press. Ofstedahl was also named in this category, with an Honorable Mention for an editorial on whom to endorse in District 25 during the November, 1996 elections.

The contest was open to all publications serving a primarily gay and lesbian and reader-ship in North America. More than 450 entries were received from throughout the US and Canada. Top honors went to writer Kyle Young of *Outsmart* Magazine in Houston, who won the Randy Shilts Award for Outstanding Achievement for his piece: "The Ex Files: A former follower sheds light on ex-gay ministries."

Several publications were multiple winners. *The San Francisco Bay Times* won 11 awards. *Echo* magazine earned a total of four awards, including a First Place for best comprehensive coverage or investigative report for Ofstedahl's two-part, 1996 article on the Mormon Church's influence on gay politics in America.

"I'm happy *HeatStroke* won these two Honorable Mentions," said Kalchik. "I only entered four pieces, so it's quite an honor that two out of the four were selected. Articles originally published between July 1996

and July 1997 were admissible, so only the first 15 issues of *HeatStroke* qualified. The newspaper debuted in Phoenix in November, 1996.

Also earning first prize was cartoonist Eric Orner for best illustration or cartoon. Orner's syndicated work, "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Greene" appears in every issue of *HeatStroke*. The winning strip, "T'aint the season" from December, 1996 was submitted by *IN Newsweekly* in Boston, where Orner lives.



Allen Kalchik's profile of Christine Shaw, from *HeatStroke* #13, garnered an Honorable Mention in the Vice Versa Awards

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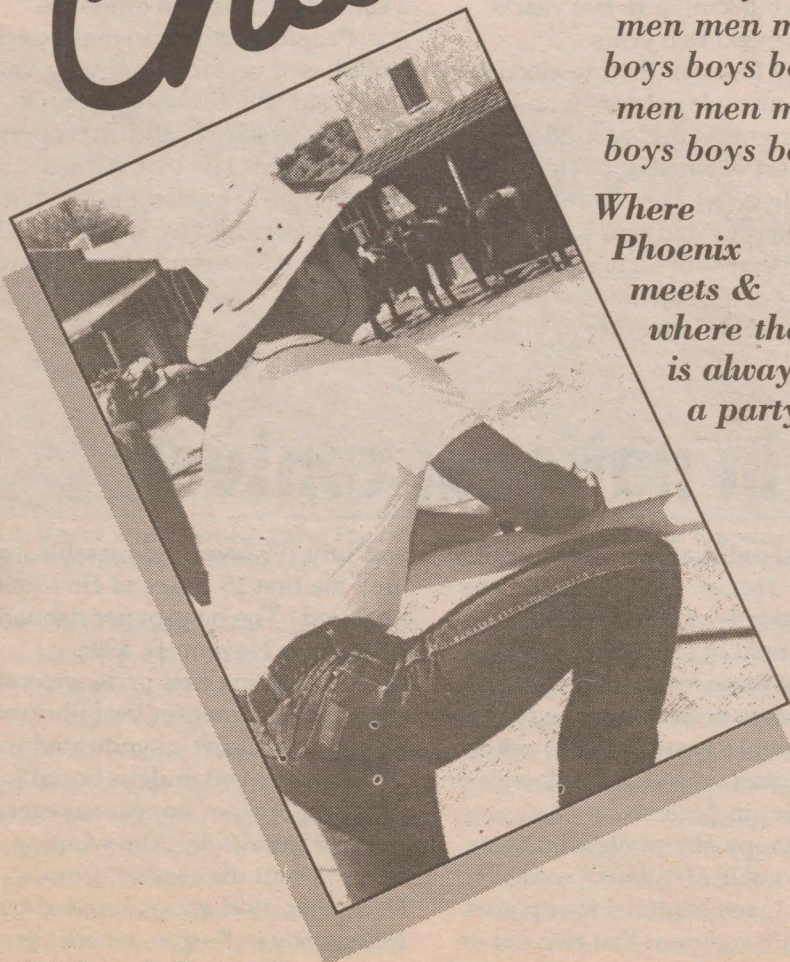
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Sunday March 1st

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Contestant Show & Fund-raiser

Wednesday March 4th

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Friday March 6th

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Congratulations John!

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(the Captain loses... \$1 Capt. Morgan Drinks)

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Sunday March 15th

Bears Meeting

Okay, we'll try this again... E.J.'s 5 Year

Anniversary Party

Charlie's 727 W. Camelback Phoenix 265-0224

Goings On

Wrestlers holding anniversary party

The Spartan Wrestling Club of Phoenix will be celebrating its third anniversary on Sunday, March 1 at The Park, 3002 North 24th Street in Phoenix at 6pm. There will be food provided and special entertainment, as well as the presentation of certificates of recognition. All members and those interested in joining are encouraged to attend. Call (602) 898-7277 for information.

Women's Rights Convention

An event celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention will take place at Phoenix College's John Paul Theatre, 1202 West Thomas in Phoenix, on March 14 at 7pm.

The event will feature skits and portrayals of historic women's rights figures including Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Margaret Fuller, Harriet Tubman and Angela Grimke. The event is sponsored by the Lesbian Resource Project and by People of Alternative Lifestyles, a Phoenix College student group. Admission is \$8 general and \$5 for LRP or PALS members.

Churches to present musical

Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church and Asbury United Methodist Church in Phoenix will present the musical *Promised Light* on Sunday, March 15 at 6pm.

The concert will be performed at Asbury UMC, at the corner of 16th Street and Indian School Road in Phoenix, and is free to the public. Contact Gentle Shepherd at (602) 285-9020 for more information.

Xena's troops unite via LRP

For lesbian and bi women who thrill to the weekly adventures of *Xena, Warrior Princess* and her devoted Gabrielle, a Phoenix group meets on Sunday every month as a part of the Lesbian Resource Project.

Xena group activities include reading fan fiction on the internet, screening bloopers and fan music videos, watching early episodes and sharing information. The group meets from 1-3:30pm at the Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 North 14th Street in Phoenix. For this month's meeting date, call (602) 813-8681.

Womyn 2 Womyn outings for March

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

There's a breakfast scheduled for Saturday, March 14 at The Eggery in Uptown Plaza, on the northeast corner of Camelback and Central in

Phoenix. The group will head out to the movies on Sunday, March 29 in the afternoon. For the movie time and title, call the events line.

Email Womyn 2 Womyn at w2wc@aol.com, or call the events line at (602) 941-3513 for details.

DA planning activities outdoors

Desert Adventures, a social group for men and women in the Phoenix area that plans and promotes a number of outdoor activities and other events, has several fun "things to do" coming up.

First, on February 28, the group will hold a day hike and tour of the Vulture Mine. Allow 2 hours travel time to arrive at 10am. The mine is west and north of Phoenix, and includes a genuine gold mine and an adjacent ghost town. For directions and carpool information, call the DA events line at 266-CAMP.

There will be a day hike through Estrella Park west of Phoenix on March 7. Meet at the Estrella Park rodeo grounds at 10am. The seven-mile hike will take about three hours.

The first campout of the season will be held Friday through Sunday, March 13-15 at Usery Mountain recreation Area, 12 miles northeast of Mesa. For information on this or any other DA activity, call the event line at (602) 266-CAMP/2267.

CBPA March events

The Camelback Business and Professional Association will hold its board meeting on March 5 at the home of President Greg Edelman. The group's next Lunch Bunch get-togethers will be held at Pookie's in Central Phoenix on March 10 and 24 at 10:30am.

The March Netmix will be at the Murray Sullivan Insurance Agency at 9700 North 91st Street, Suite 124, in Scottsdale on March 11 at 6:30pm. The monthly CBPA general membership meeting will be held March 19 at the Phoenix Airport Hilton. The topic for the 6:30 meeting will be: A Home Buying Seminar.

Veterans' group to form local chapter

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America is a national organization dedicated to serving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered United States service members—active, reserve and veteran.

GLBVA Goals include challenging the defense department's discrimination policy, eliminating UCMJ restrictions on private, consensual activities and working on issues of importance to all veterans. Membership is open to all who support the goals of the organization.

The group will hold its national conference March 13-15, 1998 in Denver, Colorado. The national contact person for this event is James C. Darby in Chicago, who can be reached at (773) 752-0058, or e-mail jamesdarby@aol.com.

**News & events in the
Metro Phoenix Queer Community**

A chapter of the GLBVA is now being organized in Phoenix. Monthly meetings are being scheduled and all interested persons are urged to contact Wally Straughn at (602) 261-7514 or e-mail pglbva@aol.com.

Funding sought for youth programs

Directors of Valley One in Ten (VOIT) and Horizons, youth service programs of the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Phoenix, are asking for contributions from the community in order to meet 1998 budget goals.

The Center's Youth Services Program is the only network of its kind in the Valley serving gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth. All donations to these vital programs are

tax deductible. To help or to obtain more information, contact Donna McHenry, Youth Program Coordinator, at (602) 265-7283.

More Reiki from Hand of Love

The Hand of Love Ministry is continuing meetings on a regular basis following the successful Workshop Networking Meetings for Reiki and other alternative healing practitioners in January and February.

The meetings will be held the third Tuesday of every month beginning March 17 from 7-10pm. Admission is by donation. Monitors will be Reiki Master Bonnie Flanagan and longtime natural healer Rev. Roderic Vickers. Hand of Love is at 6605 North 14th Street in Phoenix, call (602) 264-1470 for more information.

10th Annual Auction coming from Aunt Rita's

A Caribbean cruise, an autographed Phoenix Coyotes hockey stick, Suns tickets, a 1940's Barry Goldwater original photograph and tens of thousands of dollars in art-work... they could all be yours if the price or raffle ticket is right.

Aunt Rita's Foundation is celebrating its 10th Annual Auction and Bake Sale with its best prize and auction list ever. The bake sale will feature home-made treats as well as creations from award-winning chefs. There will be something for everyone's taste buds and pocketbook.

The big event is set for Sunday, March 8 at Bud Brown's Barn at 9th Street and Northern in Phoenix from noon until 7pm. The fund-raiser features live and silent auctions, raffles, a bake sale and entertainment. Bid books and admission are free and open to the public.

The local celebrities turned part-

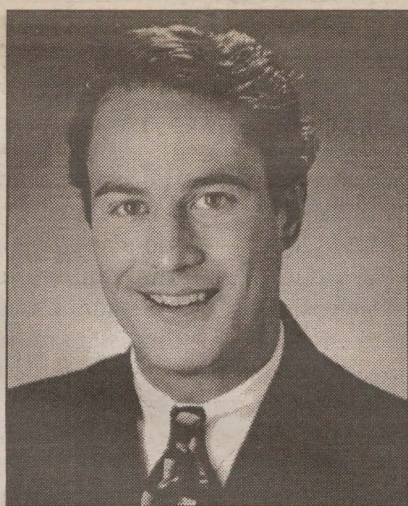
time auctioneers this year will include KPNX's Sean MacLaughlin, FOX 10's Linda Williams, KEZ's Beth and Bill, Jon Summers from the Wildlife World Zoo and more.

The anniversary auction is being held in memory of Randy Shrock, the original Aunt Rita, friends and loved

ones who have died, and in honor of Skip O'Neill and Tish Tanner. Aunt Rita's began ten years ago when Shrock, O'Neill and Tish Tanner (a.k.a. Gary Mangum) raised \$2,300 at a bake sale to help fight HIV/AIDS.

Aunt Rita's is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to providing assistance to people infected and affected by

HIV/AIDS. Since it began ten years ago, Aunt Rita's has raised more than \$500,000 to help thousands of people. All funds raised go directly to clients and client assistance programs in and around the Phoenix metropolitan area.



Sean MacLaughlin, auctioneer at the 10th Aunt Rita's Auction

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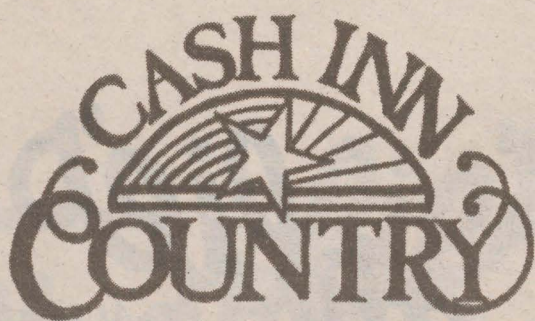
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday**
March 1: Scaraoke Finals with Cash Prizes!
- Friday**
March 13: Ladies with an Attitude Benefit
- Tuesday**
March 17: St. Patty's Day Party with Paula Sha,
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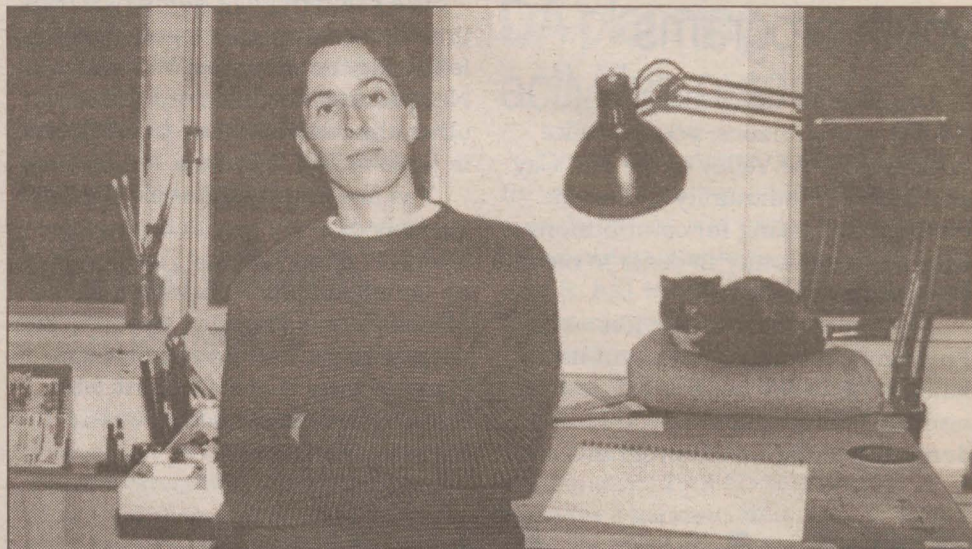
Alison Bechdel: A Dyke to Watch Out For

Continued from Page 1

Bechdel says she doesn't have a style per se—"That's just how I draw"—and describes herself as "pretty illiterate." Starting with *Mad* magazine, her primary influences have been other comic-strip artists like underground cartoonists R. Crumb and Art Spiegelman. One of her goals is to write a graphic novel, something

ical when you're a writer."

To keep in touch with the outside world, Bechdel says one of her goals is to get out more often and to get involved in the community of nearby Burlington. Bechdel hasn't always been a rural hermit. She lived in cities for a decade—from about age 20 to 30—before deciding to leave



The original striped-shirted one: Alison Bechdel, artist and author of *Dykes to Watch Out For*, in her studio in rural Vermont

along the lines of Siegelman's long comic book, *Maus*.

One of the most important issues facing lesbians and gays today is that of assimilation, Bechdel says, with gay marriage and the lesbian baby boom being two manifestations of this trend. As gayness becomes more accepted, Bechdel wonders if gays will lose their identity as a subculture.

She is also interested in exploring sexual identity. Unlike years past, when people were labeled either gay or straight, sexual identity today is viewed as more of a continuum with greater possible options, Bechdel says. In fact, one of her characters, Sparrow, is now dating a man.

Her ability to see both sides of an issue can sometimes be a problem, Bechdel observes, noting for instance her ambivalent attitude toward gay marriage. One part of her wonders whether gays even want to emulate straights. "Are people meant to have long-term relationships? Are they (straights) so happy?"

But she sees the other side as well. "I also think lesbians will have increasingly longer lasting relationships, and that's a good thing. People need to be more patient."

Bechdel says her writing is not a form of therapy, but does provide a creative outlet—"a way to vent my frustration at things going on in the world."

Working on the book has taken up most of her time and energy these days, Bechdel says, especially as the deadline approaches. She describes her artistic process as a "manic-depressive," cycle of binging and crashing. Getting started is always the hard part, she says. "I have to totally clear my desk before I can begin. The longer I work on it, the more involved I get."

Because she needs to be in condition for the physical demands of her heavy workload, she keeps in shape by lifting weights, hiking and skiing. With her busy schedule, Bechdel says she hasn't had much time for anything else. "I don't really have a life except for my work. I feel like I'm losing touch with real life, and that's crit-

ic Minneapolis and move to West Bolton in 1991.

Originally from a small town in Pennsylvania, Bechdel says the decision to move to Vermont and return to her rural roots was motivated in part by a breakup. Although she lives in the country now, Bechdel isn't a total recluse. For the past five years, she has been living with writer Amy Rubin, whom Bechdel describes as her best critic and editor.

Bechdel also receives criticism, praise and advice from her readers. Her fan mail includes letters from lesbians thanking her for helping them to come out. She also receives letters from military lesbians, Christian lesbians and others who want to see characters more like themselves. Some of the letters are complaints—like the woman who objected to the lovemaking scene in a movie theater, saying that Bechdel should have considered that children might be present.

Another woman wrote Bechdel to complain about a plot involving a character who gives her father a drum, saying Bechdel was condoning the practice of Whites appropriating Native American rituals.

Trying to please everyone is a battle she's long given up, she says. "You know how lesbians are—there's no pleasing them," Bechdel observes. "I'm pretty damn politically correct myself, but every now and then I overlook something."

Bechdel's political correctness can hardly be doubted. Asked her impression of the controversial 1997 film *Chasing Amy*, about a young lesbian dating and falling in love with a man, Bechdel's response is brief and pointed: "I won't see that piece of shit."

Bechdel is continually amazed at how involved some of her readers become in the fictional lives of the *Dykes...* characters. When Mo and Harriet broke up, Bechdel couldn't believe the letters that poured in. "I still hear from people who want them to get back together," she laughs. "It's an honor that people care that much."



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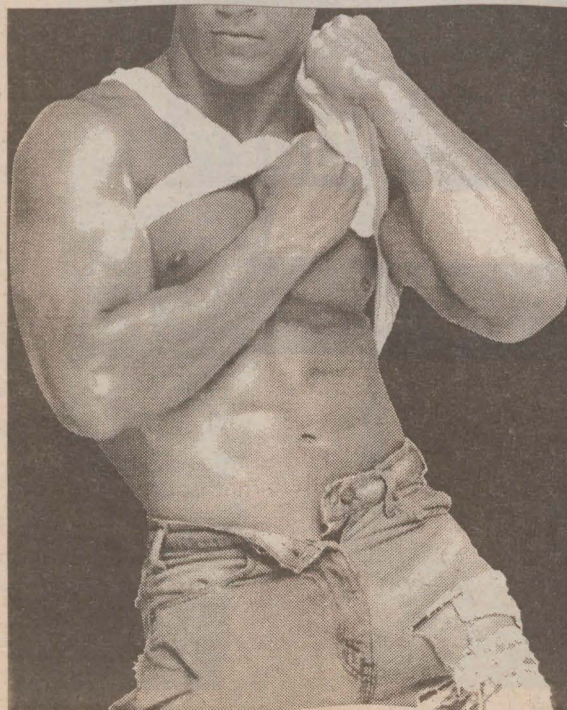
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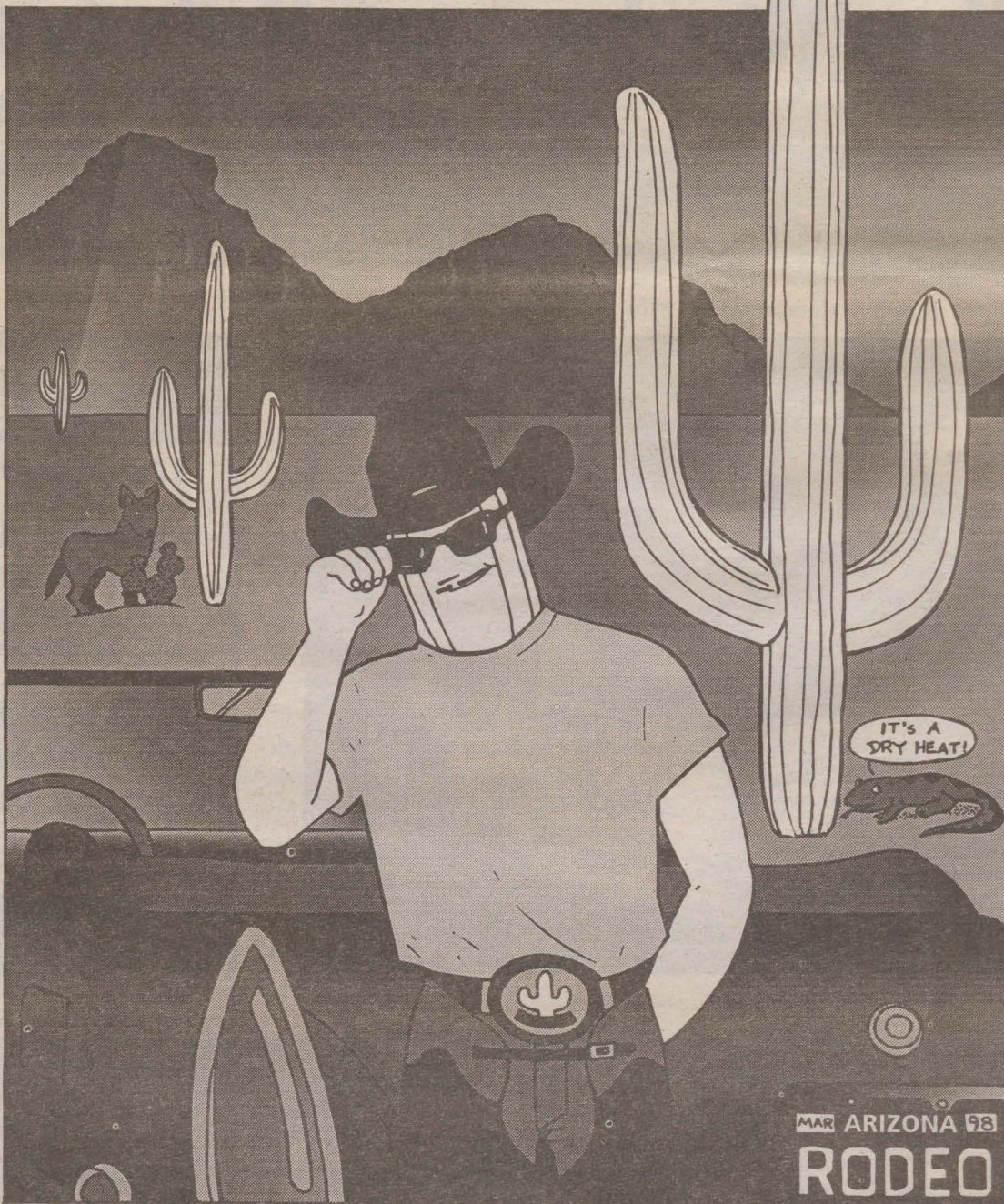
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Director of *Ma Vie en Rose* says gay theme blocked Oscar bid

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)

Alain Berliner looks dazed. The last few months have been a whirl of joys and disappointments. Now he is recovering from the unexpected treatment of his film, *Ma Vie en Rose* (My Life in Pink), that won a Golden Globe but failed to win an Oscar nomination.

"I'm surprised and disappointed," admits the 34 year-old Belgian director. "Everyone around me was so sure it would be nominated, I ended up believing it too!"

Ma Vie en Rose — first seen at the Cannes Film festival in May — is a poignant tale of a boy who wants to be a girl.

After winning the Golden Globe for best foreign language film in January, many people expected an Academy Award nomination because, in the past 15 years, 11 films that took best movie honors at the Golden Globes got the same at the Oscars.

Asked if he thinks his film's underlying theme of homosexuality — the movie won best picture award at Seattle's 1997 gay and lesbian film festival — disturbed the jury, Berliner says he has no doubt. But he says he is not the kind to worry about something he can't change.

"When you enter a competition, you must accept the jury's verdict," he said in an interview. "In any case,

they can't take the Golden Globe and the other awards away from me."

Before the Oscar nominations were announced, Berliner was ecstatic about the film's "incredible" success.

Incredible because at the Belgian film school, where he studied, Berliner specialized in script writing, and never imagined his first serious shot at directing would reap such applause.

Since hitting American screens in September, the film has grossed more than \$680,000 in sales, respectable for a foreign film.

One reason for that success may be that the story of Ludovic (Georges du Fresne) — a sweet, wide-eyed 7-year-old with a dimpled smile who wants to be a girl — is a change from the usual glossy blockbuster fare.

The film follows the trials and tribulations of Ludovic's parents — he also has three siblings and a grandmother — as they try to come to terms with his marked preference for playing with dolls and wearing girls' clothes rather than running around a football field.

The film is both funny and sad and always touching. It does not

preach or give in to sentimentality. The overriding theme is family closeness, which in the end conquers all, even when Ludo's father (Jean-Philippe Ecoffey) loses his job and his wife and children are ostracized by the whole neighborhood.

"A film has to be universal," Berliner says.

He says he has no patience for action films "where an explosion takes place every five minutes." He says he liked Chris Vander Stappen's script of *Ma Vie En Rose* because it

"We all have unspoken desires, things we conceal and bury when we grow up. As a child you don't understand social taboos."

was about being different.

"I love stories like that," he says. "Stories that are about people who have to cope with being different for one reason or another."

Of Ludovic's unrealistic dream of marrying his friend Jerome, Berliner says, "We all have unspoken desires, things we conceal and bury when we grow up. As a child, you don't understand social taboos."

Ma Vie en Rose offered Berliner a potential for a variety of scenes.

"What I like best are films that combine humor, sadness, drama and comedy," the director says.

Many actors in this French-Swiss-Belgian co-production are trained comics. "I like comedy actors because they can react quickly from one scene or mood to the next," Berliner says.

Some shots in his vividly colorful film were directly influenced by his favorite director, Tim Burton, Berliner says.

"There is one shot which is practically identical to one in Burton's film *Edward Scissorhands*," he added.

Berliner is now busy shooting a second film for the Franco-German Arte television channel on the historic divide between Belgium's Dutch and French-speaking communities.

"One morning before the turn of the century the two communities wake up to find a great wall has been erected between them," he explains.

He has another project pending. "A novel I really want to make into a film and I'm trying to buy the rights for it," he says. "But I'm not telling which."

TRAX

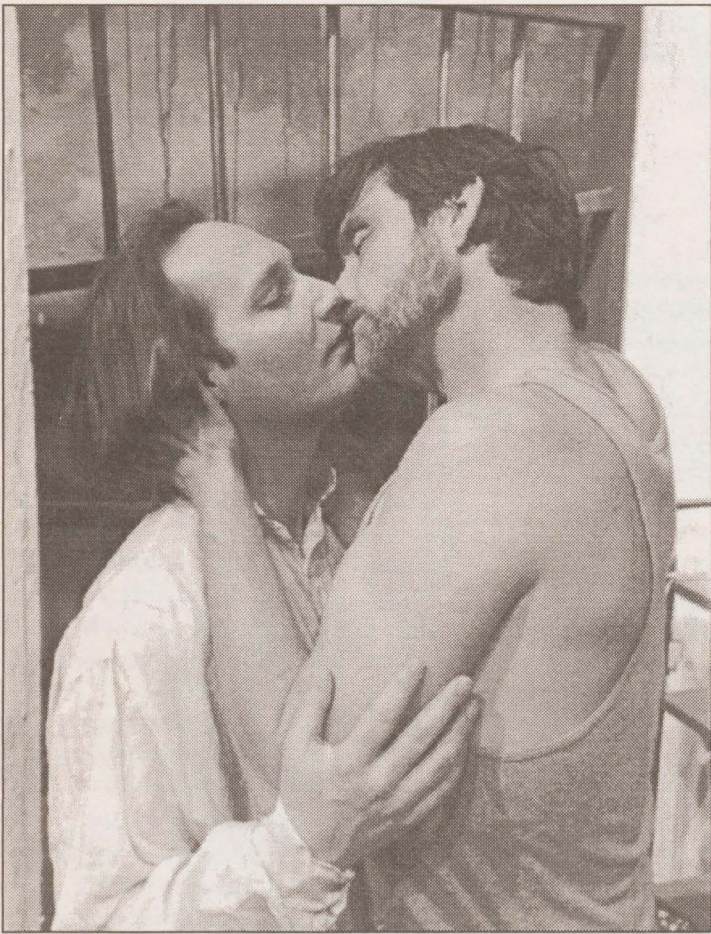
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| FRI 3/6 | White Knights Party |
| SAT 3/7 | Dungeons & Dragons |
| FRI 3/13 | Get Lucky at TRAX |
| SAT 3/14 | March Birthday &
Underwear Party |
| TUES 3/17 | St. Patty's & Dart Teams |
| FRI 3/20 | Black Out Party |
| SAT 3/21 | Bud Night |
| SAT 3/28 | Uniform Party |

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PC to stage Latin American drama

The Theatre Arts Department at Phoenix College will present the compelling drama *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, by Argentinean novelist and playwright Manuel Puig, opening February 26 and continuing through March 7.

This will be the Arizona Premiere of the play's dramatic version, the Broadway musical version of the story having been presented recently in Scottsdale. The story was made into a successful and controversial movie in 1985. The movie was nominated for several Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director, and William Hurt won the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of Molina, a gay window dresser.

The story is based on actual political events.

Molina shares a prison cell in Argentina with Valentin, a dogmatic revolutionary haunted by memories of the woman he left for the cause. In close quarters, the two men learn to trust and accept each other despite their differences.

This production of Puig's intriguing drama will be directed by Eliana Argamin, a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil who holds an MFA in Theater from the University of Florida and now teaches full-time in the Phoenix College Theatre Department.

All shows are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm. Tickets are available at the John Paul Theatre Box Office, 1202 West Thomas Road in Phoenix. Call (602) 285-7300.



Gary Thiebault

Ice show glides into downtown's Orpheum

Featuring great tunes like "Nice Work if You Can Get It", "The Memory of All That", "I Got Rhythm" and "S'Wonderful", and starring Olympic class ice skaters, *The Memory of All That*, Gershwin on Ice will come to Phoenix's Orpheum Theatre from March

3 through March 8. The show stars 5-time National Champions Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner. Tickets are \$24-\$36 and are available at all Dillard's outlets, (602) 503-5555. This production is a presentation of Southwest Dance.

International mix fuels Global Divas' fire



Tish Hinojosa is from Texas, a daughter of Mexican immigrants whose music magically blends Tejano, folk, rock and country.

Susana Baca hails from Peru and plays music influenced by her African heritage.

Stella Chiweshe is Zimbabwean, one of the world's foremost mbira (metal

pronged hand piano) players.

The three women have joined musical forces to form the *Global Divas* tour, coming to Gammage auditorium in Tempe on Friday, March 13 at 8pm. Tickets for the concert are priced from \$19-\$26 and are available through ASU (602) 965-3434 or from Dillard's. (602) 503-5555.



Joan Marcus

Smokin' rock & roll sounds to fill Gammage

The hit songs of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller include "Hound Dog", "Yakety Yak", "Love Potion #9", and "Jailhouse Rock". Leiber and Stoller's biggest hits of the 50s and 60s have been compiled in one big, Broadway musical celebration called *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, coming to ASU's Gammage Auditorium for one week only, March 3-8.

Tickets to this Grammy Award winning and Tony nominated musical are \$29.50-\$43.50 and available at the Gammage Box Office, (602) 965-3434 or at all Dillard's outlets. Showtimes are at 8pm Tuesday through Saturday, 7pm Sunday with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2pm.

Chicks with Dicks to be remounted

ASU grad student's comedy continues to arouse interest

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"This is pretty racy stuff for Phoenix and that's why I wanted to do it here," says Trista Baldwin, discussing the title and plot of *Chicks with Dicks*, the bawdy comedy she penned and has now directed for the Planet Earth Theatre in downtown Phoenix, re-opening March 7.

A Seattle native, Baldwin is in Arizona to get her Masters in playwriting at Arizona State University in Tempe. *Chicks with Dicks* was staged in Seattle twice, in 1994 and 1997, before opening for a month-long run at Planet Earth last December. The play received glowing reviews and has generated a repeat audience, something Planet Earth's new Artistic Director, Jared Sakren, hopes to build on.

"We think it can get a kind of cult following, which worked in Seattle," says the playwright. In plotting *Chicks with Dicks*, Baldwin eagerly borrowed in style and tone from the campy films of Russ Meyer, particularly Meyer's late 60s cult hit, *Faster, Pussycat: Kill Kill*. "That's the first movie I ever saw that I thought was truly funny," she recalls. "I don't know why it appeals to me so much but it does."

Chicks with Dicks tells the story of Vespa de Amour, third runner-up for Prom Queen at Palo Verde High, who brutally kills her boyfriend and then takes over the girl biker gang Satan's Cherries. Vespa travels with her

female sidekicks to the land beyond gender and slays her enemies with the penis that sprouts from her forehead after a close encounter with nuclear waste.

"Trista's work is brilliantly funny and also filled with deeper meanings," says ASU Associate Professor Guillermo Reyes. He heads the university's graduate playwriting program and calls Baldwin one of his most talented students. "This play is really about female empowerment, but the messages come to the audience through a lot of wonderful humor."

Baldwin is less exacting when assigning a theme to her work. "I'm not really conscious of any message as I'm writing," she says. "These are sexy, raunchy women kicking butt, but they have an overall sweetness. Subconsciously, I guess most of my work is about women getting the

power to do whatever they want."

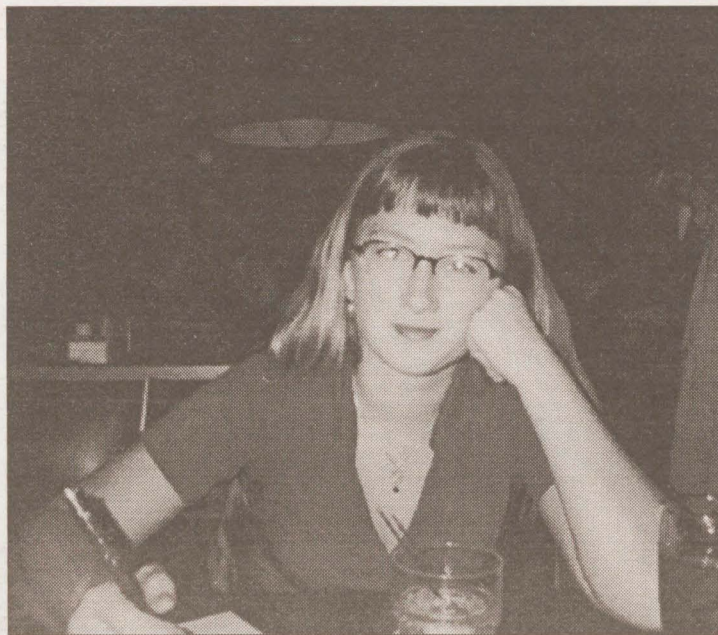
Many people ask Baldwin whether *Chicks with Dicks* is a gay play, or a feminist play. "I like to think it breaks down a lot of stereotypes, one way or the other. The women are

Her two most recent works, *Electropuss* and *Accidents and Short Conversations*, will be presented at ASU this spring.

The writer, who prefers to identify herself as bisexual, finds a comparison of the gay communities in Seattle and Phoenix quite interesting. "There seems to be a bigger, more active community in Seattle that is very supportive of the overall art scene," she says, "but it's getting better here all the time."

She hopes gay and lesbian playgoers will enjoy the play here as much as they did in Seattle, where it was performed in a late-night cabaret setting. At Planet Earth, the play is geared to appeal to a late-night crowd by running on Saturdays only (with a special Friday the 13th performance) and by not starting until 10pm.

Baldwin says despite the play's brow-raising (and quite literal) title, no one has walked out early, offended by the content. "It's actually very tame, very sweet. I like things that aren't really overt and obvious, and this is more sweet than anything—these girls are raunchy, but they're just so sweet about it."



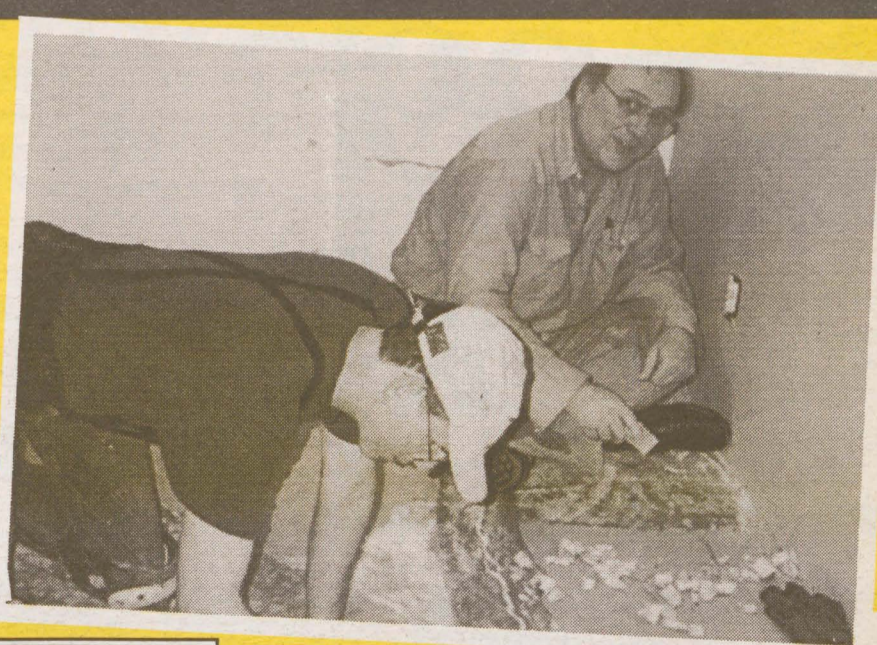
Racy lady? Seattle native Trista Baldwin conceived and delivered *Chicks with Dicks*

attracted to men, they are attracted to each other, they are beating up people—they're doing whatever they want. It's a female fantasy play."

At 26, Baldwin has already completed 13 plays. She's authored additional plays in the movie-parody style of *Chicks with Dicks* and has written several "more traditional" pieces.

Tickets for *Chicks with Dicks* are \$10 and available by calling (602) 521-6278. Also opening at Planet Earth in March will be Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, directed by Jared Sakren and running Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7pm. Call for tickets.

Seeing/Being Scene



Remodeling Party at The Center



Out of Town

Gay Spring Break

Part I: Eureka Springs, Arkansas

By Andrew Collins,
HeatStroke Contributor

Just how Eureka Springs, site of the one of the largest free-standing statues of Christ and one of the world's most famous productions of the Passion Play, came to be a haven of gays and lesbians is difficult to pinpoint.

Still today, as the town's percentage of the population that's gay continues to grow every year, hundreds of bible-thumping tourists show up here without the slightest knowledge that this is the Heartland's main queer resort mecca.

After natural springs believed to have curative powers were discovered here in the 1870s, the town developed into a health spa and resort.

For the next 40 years businesses prospered, but the popular use of the automobile — which the town's steep narrow streets originally could not accommodate — ultimately threw Eureka Springs into a recession.

By the 1950s only 700 full-time residents, many of them artists or societal drop-outs, lived here. The construction in the 1960s of the Christ of the Ozarks statue and the opening of the first six-month-long Passion Play season put Eureka Springs back on the map, but this time as a mecca for Christian families.

It was probably during the decades of seclusion and artiness that Eureka Springs developed a gay following.

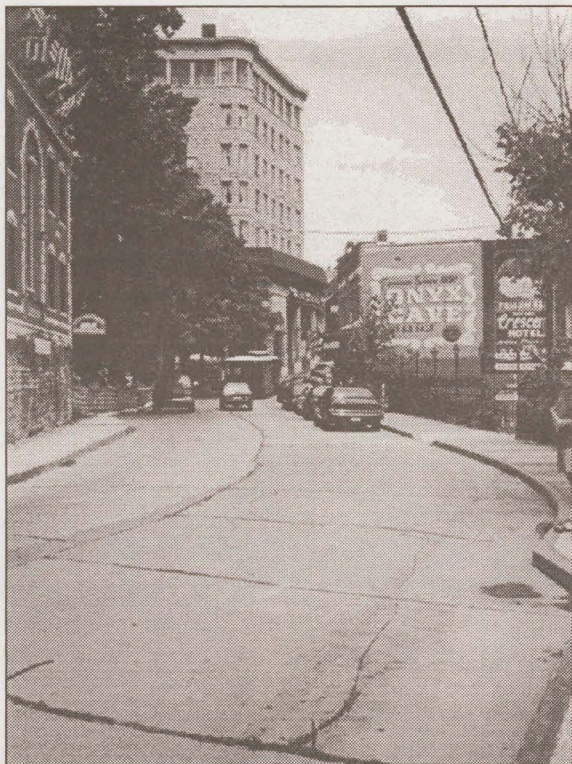
Since the '60s, countless hippies and countercultural types have settled here. Free spirits are also lured by the town's natural springs, which make it a center of New Age and holistic healing.

And the presence of the nationally acclaimed Opera of the Ozarks, a two-month long school of opera (performances run from late June through

late July), has brought a number of gay performers through town.

Today Eureka Springs is a live-and-let-live town, where a household of Evangelical Christians gets along perfectly well with the lesbian couple next door.

People don't always embrace their neighbors' beliefs and lifestyles, but they respect their rights and privacy.



Andrew Collins

The steep winding streets of Eureka Springs abound with galleries, boutiques, and restaurants

There's quite a bit to see and do in the region, some of it quite engaging — and some of it pretty tacky.

Considerable appeal lies in the region's remarkable natural beauty, which you can explore simply by hopping into your car and driving 15 miles in virtually any direction. Of special note, 33-acre Eureka Springs Gardens bursts with flora, beginning in late March.

The town's historic district is itself a vivacious and colorful preserve of Victorian architecture, both commercial and residential.

Hundreds of meticulously restored wood-frame, brick, and stone houses and buildings — some containing galleries and boutiques — cling to Eureka Springs's precipitous slopes, and several homes are open for touring.

The historic district is also where you'll find the town's most sophisticated and gay-friendly eateries.

Fresh flowers, white linens, and contemporary art give Chez Charles a hip but elegant sensibility; through the open kitchen you can watch the skillful preparation of such sophisticated fare as pecan pesto-crusted salmon with a subtle lemon butter sauce.

A gay-popular nightspot, Center Street South is a funky Caribbean and Mexican restaurant early in the evening.

The romantic dinner-only Jim and Brent's Bistro is set in a picture-perfect yellow house on a bluff just south of downtown. The Continental and American cooking, from beef Stroganoff to spicy jambalaya, is stellar.

Set inside a majestic Victorian House near several gay-friendly B&Bs, Ermilio's specializes in homemade semolina wheat pastas, such as gnocchi, spinach-and-cheese ravioli, and linguine.

Abundant with wholesome, and in most cases hokey, country-music shows and mountain jamborees, Eureka Springs nevertheless has a handful of homo-friendly pubs and saloons.

Center Street South has the strongest community following, among both women and men. The owners bring in great live music, from blues to rock to grunge, and most nights there's dancing.

Chelsea's Corner Cafe is a rowdy neighborhood pub that welcomes gay patrons, but most nights see a pretty straight crowd.

Folks sometimes drop by the bar at the grand Crescent Hotel for drinks, as well.

Though there are no queer-exclusive accommodations in Eureka Springs, many smaller inns and B&Bs cater to a mixed crowd.

Set on the highest parcel of land in the county, Pond Mountain Lodge & Resort is a sprawling mountaintop compound with 30-mile views. Many of the rustic but warmly decorated rooms have fireplaces and decks, and guests enjoy swimming in two large ponds and an outdoor pool, or arrange for horseback riding at the stables.

Rock Cottage Gardens was built in the 1930s as a run-of-the-mill motor court, but the current innkeepers have made it quite extraordinary, creating flower-filled gardens alive with hummingbirds and butterflies, and refitting the original stone bungalows with vaulted ceilings, antiques, and whirlpool tubs.

Clean, light-filled, modern, and tastefully decorated, the four craftsman-style cottages that comprise The Woods Resort have kitchens, wicker furnishings, whirlpool tubs, and shaded decks.

Down a quiet lane of historic Kings Highway, the yellow Arbour Glen Victorian is set amid tall shade trees beside a fish pond with a fountain. Rooms are period-decorated, with lace, elaborate wallpapers, and plenty of frill.

Though lacking a tropical oceanfront setting or a serious gay club scene, quirky Eureka Springs may not sound like a typical spring break getaway, but late March through early June are ideal times to visit.

Same-sex couples seeking a romantic rustic escape warm instantly to the sights of blooming azaleas and fragrant flower gardens, and after a dreary winter, visitors relish the countless opportunities for hiking, swimming, and soaking up the dazzlingly lush countryside.

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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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Before They Were Stars

Leonardo DiCaprio's *Titanic*-fueled stardom is increasing the spotlight on his earlier work, including a bold turn as gay poet Arthur Rimbaud in 1994's *Total Eclipse*.

Video stores are reporting a heavy demand for the otherwise ignored feature, which co-stars British actor David Thewlis (*Seven Years in Tibet*) as poet Paul Verlaine.

So why isn't there a demand as well for old *Growing Pains* reruns, where DiCaprio began his career as a homeless kid?

It has much to do with exposure. DiCaprio appears totally nude in the film (though nothing titanic to report) and engages in a steamy lovemaking session with Thewlis.

Must be interesting to see those vid store clashes between balding chicken hawks and retainer-clad teenage girls vying for the last copy of *Eclipse*.

Meanwhile, DiCaprio's publicist has denied a published report that the actor and some of his friends were kicked out of a Miami bar because of lewd behavior, specifically, some dirty dancing between two of the men in the party (no word on whether one of the duo was Leo).

Interestingly, the denial claimed only that Romeo's group was never kicked out of the bar. No mention of the "forbidden dance."

On a more "wholesome" front, people are also taking a closer look at *Good Will Hunting* stud Matt Damon's film bio, which includes a turn as a bigoted prep schooler in *School Ties*.

But for much the same reason *Total Eclipse* is a second-time-around hit, the earnest *Ties* is seeing increased business because of Damon's shower scene, more particularly an extended bit in which the blond reveals everything but the plumbing in a sequence



Good Will Hunting's Matt Damon bares (nearly) all in *School Ties*

he shares with Chris O'Donnell and Brendan Fraser (who shows a little skin as well).

Damon has just signed to star in *The Talented Mr. Ripley* alongside Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law (who will be seen later this year as Oscar Wilde's lover in a film bio of the legendary gay wit). The film is

based on the Patricia Highsmith novel that was turned into a French movie, *Purple Noon*, 36 years ago.

That version ignored the book's bisexual overtones in the relationship between Damon's character Tom Ripley and his friend, Dickie Greenleaf (played by Law, who also played gay as a hustler in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*).

No word yet on whether this remake will broach that subject, though Damon is a confirmed heterosexual. He's currently squiring Winona Ryder after a brief relationship with *Hunting* co-star Minnie Driver.

Brat Packer Goes Dyke

Ally Sheedy, who rose to fame in *The Breakfast Club* and *St. Elmo's Fire*, is winning acclaim for her turn as a lesbian in *High Art*, which won scribe Lisa Cholodenko the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

Sheedy plays a once-renowned photographer who falls in love with a neighbor while her girlfriend descends into heroin addiction.

High Art has been picked up by October Films for release.

Valley of the Icons

Bette Midler is all but set to play *Valley of the Dolls* author Jacqueline Susann in a film adaptation of a *New Yorker* article.

While that news in itself would be enough to attract a slew of queers to the theater, word is Nathan Lane is being wooed to star opposite Midler as Susann's husband-manager Irving Mansfield.

And if any other enticement is necessary, *In and Out* and Jeffrey scribe Paul Rudnick is slated to write the film, tentatively called *Isn't She Great?*

The movie is coming together quickly, with a director (Andrew Bergman of *Striptease* shame and *The Freshman* acclaim) already committed. Michael Korda's article focused on his reminiscences of editing Susann's second novel, *The Love Machine*.

The film version is expected to centerpiece Susann's marriage to her svengali, Irving Mansfield, who crafted his wife's flashy persona, one that helped revolutionize the way authors promoted their work.

True Love

The skeptics had a field day when Ellen DeGeneres and her ambiguous galpal Anne Heche hit the talk show circuit last spring. Few thought their relationship would last, but a year later the two seem inseparable, with talk of a baby and recent comments by Heche that she couldn't go on with

life if Ellen ever left her.

The two will work together for the first time on the March 4 episode of *Ellen*. Heche will appear as an acquaintance of Ellen Morgan's girlfriend Laurie. They meet and comfort one another in a hospital emergency room after Laurie (played by Lisa Darr) is involved in a car accident.

On the cancellation front, more sources inside ABC are indicating that the show will indeed be axed because of shrinking ratings. If so, the last *Ellen* episode would be sometime in



Ellen's main squeeze, Anne Heche, is slated to appear in the March 4 episode of the about-to-be-cancelled ABC sitcom

May, following a six-week hiatus beginning March 11.

Hell Bent for Leather

That's the name of a heavy metal classic written by former Judas Priest lead singer Rob Halford, who came out of the closet this week in the midst of promoting his new group, Duo, and album.

Though the more intuitive among us might not be too surprised about this revelation from a man who spent most of his time extolling the virtues of leather and chains, Halford says he relied on innuendo and metaphor to reveal his true self in lyrics. Homophobia in the music industry kept him from coming out earlier, he says.

Halford is emerging from the closet with guns blazing, getting famed gay porn director Chi Chi LaRue to lens Duo's first video.

Pucker Up!

Openly gay Rupert Everett, who played Julia Roberts's queer editor in *My Best Friend's Wedding* is in talks to star alongside Kevin Kline and Michelle Pfeiffer in Fox Searchlight's remake of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

No word on what part he'll play, but methinks he'd be a good fit as Oberon, King of the Fairies.

The Silver Fox

Elizabeth Taylor is pondering a return to film with legendary director Arthur Penn (*Bonnie and Clyde*), who wants to adapt

Friedrich Derrenmatt's 1958 play *The Visit*.

Health problems have limited La Liz's work; she last appeared on screen as Wilma Flintstone's mother in *The Flintstones*.

Romeo San Vicente, who recently admitted under oath to sleeping with the neighbor of Monica Lewinsky's third cousin, can be reached care of HeatStroke.

ask Anita Life!



As Channeled through Comic Karen Ripley



Dear Anita Life:

This makes me crazy: if a lesbian couple breaks up, the "Co-Mom" can be denied visitation rights because she is considered in some courts a "biological stranger."

The man who shot his sperm into the jar for insemination purposes has more rights to the child than the co-mom who raised the child for many years. This is insane.

Signed, DNAless

Dear DNAless:

I agree this is very unfair. I do think if the child wants to know the biological source (also known as the father) they should be allowed.

In my day it was a little different. My father was known as a "Chemical Stranger."

I'd come home and he'd be under the influence of chemicals. I'd say "hi Dad," and he'd say "who are you?"

Dear Anita Life:

If you married Don Ho, your name would be Anita Ho. If you married George Raft, it would be Anita Life Raft.

If Yoko Ono married Sonny Bono, she'd be Yoko Ono Bono.

If Dolly Parton married Salvador Dali, she'd be Dolly Dali.

If Snoop Doggy Dogg married Winnie the Pooh, he'd be Snoop Doggy Dogg Pooh.

If G. Gordon Liddy married Boutros-Boutros Ghali, then divorced him to marry Kenny G., he'd be G. Ghali G.

Nog (Quark's brother on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine") has no other name, so he uses it twice when getting a marriage license. If he married Howard Hughes, and then Pamela Dare, he'd be Nog Nog Hughes Dare.

If Jack Handy (SNL writer) married Andy Capp, then married Jack Parr, then moved on to Stephen King, he'd be Jack Handy Capp Parr King.

If Sondra Locke married Elliott Ness, then divorced him to marry Herman Munster, she'd become Sondra Locke Ness Monster.

Signed, Name Freak

Dear Name Freak:

Stop . . . You're killing me!

the funnies

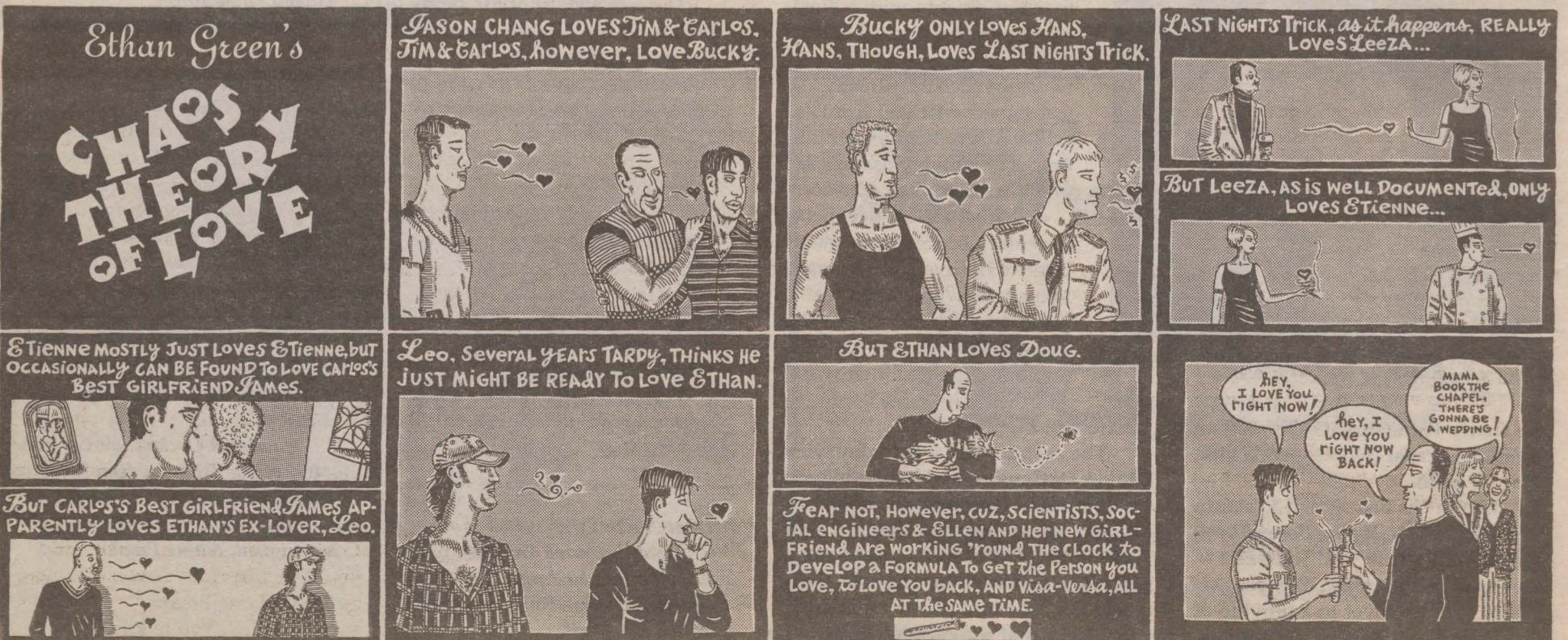


Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner



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Dear Cowboy,
I read your response to "Jealous of the Porno Stars" with interest. The writer took delivery of porno videos his lover had ordered and was hiding them. I have a similar situation, though not nearly that drastic. I wonder what you will think about it.
My lover, who works at home, opens all my mail and it drives me crazy. He says that since we live together and he is the one who organizes the bills, he should be able to open everything that comes into the house. I think mail addressed to me should be put aside until I get home. He insists that if we were straight and he were my legal wife, I would

not have a problem with it. This argument has been going on for about three years and I have always given in, mainly because there is nothing I specifically wouldn't want him to see in my mail. Still, it bothers me that he does it. Who is right?
Signed, No Privacy

Dear No Privacy,
Your bunkmate has some mixed up ideas and you'd better set him straight right quick. Just because two people share a household—gay, hetero, married or not—that doesn't mean they automatically give up their rights to privacy where the mail is concerned.

When the pony express delivers, the only cowboy who should be opening the mail is the one to whom it is addressed. If your bud wants to open the bills because he pays them, then they should all be switched into his name. As far as your letters, telegrams and such, tell him "hands off"—and it doesn't make a damned bit of difference what's in them.

Dear Cowboy,
I am a 25-year-old, good-looking gay man who is single. I really want to be in a relationship with a man, but I hang out with straight girls

My lover, who works at home, opens all my mail and it drives me crazy.

more than I do gay men and that makes it hard to meet and date guys. I feel so much more relaxed and more myself when I am around

women. When I am around a lot of gay men—like in a bar or at a party—I just feel pressure. Is this weird? How can I get these separate parts of my life together so I can be comfortable with gay men?
Signed, Surrounded but Lonely

Dear Surrounded Butt,
Often, it is just plain easier to run with the fillies than to compete with those more aggressive colts. You say you know what you're looking for and yet you are making social choices and settling for something else based on behavior that is less risky for you. Take change a step at a time. To be more approachable, limit your group at parties and saloons to one good friend. Then try to enjoy the company of any cowpoke who stops to say Hi, whether you are interested or not. Alter your habits bit by bit, and you'll eventually become more outgoing and more "like yourself" with any herd, not just around the gender you're physically not attracted to. Cowboy up, take some risks, and you'll be surprised how far you can go.

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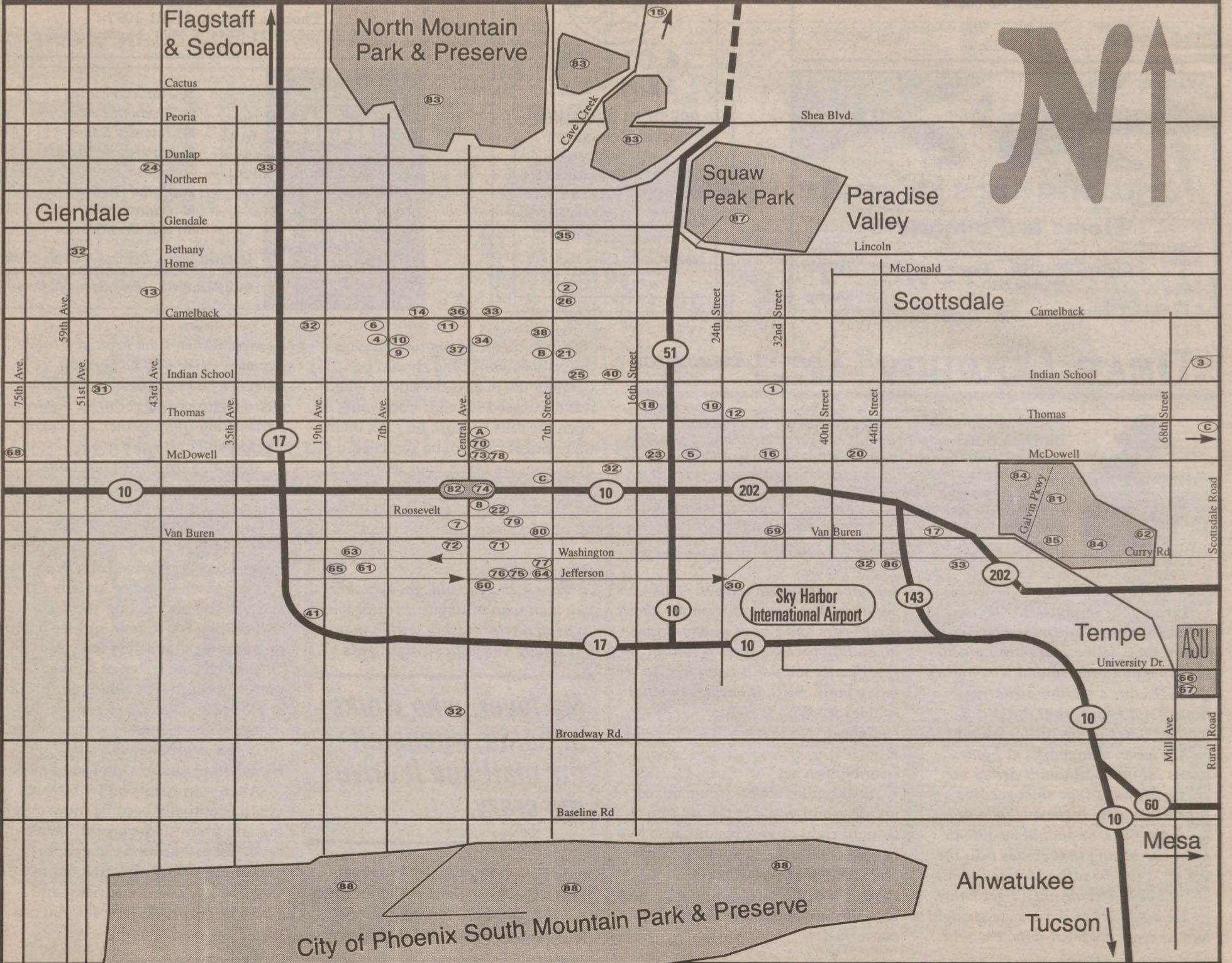
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Phoenix 941-1217
- 82. Margaret T. Hance Park
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 262-6696
- 83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 262-6696
- 84. Papago Park
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 256-3220
- 85. 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

Finding it in Phoenix



Directory of Community Services

Aids Services

AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix, AZ 85064 234-6143

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

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

Arizona AIDS Information Line
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
Phoenix, AZ 85013 234-2752

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

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

Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Log Cabin Republicans
P.O. Box 60994
Phoenix, AZ 85082 428-3596

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

Arizona 2-somes 678-4568

Arizona Nude Dudes
P.O. Box 32776
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Bears of the Arizona Desert
4133 E. Campbell Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85018 345-8755

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

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

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

Social & Support Groups

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

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

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

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

The Phoenix Bears
PO Box 25951
Tempe, AZ 85285 216-8000

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

Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian
Community Center and
Youth Services 265-7283
Lesbian & Gay Community
Switchboard 234-2752
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
PO Box 33367
Phoenix, AZ 95067-3367

Womyn 2 Womyn Connection
singles & couples 941-3513

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Mormons)
P.O. Box 26601
Tempe, AZ 85285

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

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Paradise Valley, AZ 85283
840-8400

Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch.
1700 W. Warner Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85224 899-4249

Western Orthodox
Catholic Church
241-9776 pasisozi@cris.com

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

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

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

Gentle Shepherd MCC-285-9020

Goddess Womyn's Network
P.O. Box 17312
Phoenix, AZ 85011 266-4111

Healing Waters Ministries
225 W. University, 105
Tempe, AZ 85281 894-8681

Lutherans Concerned
P.O. Box 7519
Phoenix, AZ 85011 870-3611

Professional Organizations

Camelback Business & Professional Association
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix, AZ 85001 225-8444

Music, Sports & Hobbies

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix, AZ 85011 265-0618

Arizona Lambda Yacht Club
951-9481

Cactus Cities Softball League
254-0648

Charlie's Renegades
P.O. Box 17602
Phoenix, AZ 85011 277-9142

Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 34615
Phoenix, AZ 85067 252-0048

Gay League Association of Darts
P.O. Box 63251
Phoenix, AZ 85082

Grand Canyon Men's Chorale
P.O. Box 16462
Phoenix, AZ 85011 340-7640

Lambda Car Club
P.O. Box 36211
Phoenix, AZ 85067 409-3160

Our Gang Bowling League
2644 E. Birchwood
Mesa, AZ 85204 969-4629

Spartan Wrestling Club-340-8070
e-mail: mattbims@aol.com

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

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

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

Q Puzzle

Theme: Would Kinsey Agree?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
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23	24	25		26						27			
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				44						45			
	46	47	48					49	50	51			
								53			54		
55				56	57	58	59			60			
61					62					63	64	65	66
67					68					69			
70										72			

ACROSS

- 1 It makes you jerk
- 6 It's often topped with cream cheese
- 11 Inc., in Britain
- 14 ___ Domingo
- 15 Dwelling

- 16 Suffix with auction or profit
- 17 "Daniel" singer John
- 18 Sex advice-giver Bright
- 19 Teachers' org.
- 20 Start of a humorous quote from *Boys in the Band*
- 23 Exclamations of surprise

- 26 Running star Sebastian ___
- 27 Sault ___ Marie
- 28 More of the quote
- 34 "To market, to market, to buy ___ pig"
- 35 *Each Dawn* ___ (1939 James Cagney drama)
- 36 More of the quote
- 44 Comment at a throat examination
- 45 Ewan McGregor, by birth
- 46 More of the quote
- 52 ___ Speedwagon
- 53 In the past
- 54 It's of minor concern?
- 55 End of the quote
- 61 Actress Ullmann
- 62 Parcel out
- 63 Sex-shop selections
- 67 "Mom, Dad, there's something ___ been meaning to tell you..."
- 68 *Naked* ___
- 69 *Bolero* star Bo
- 70 ___ Moines
- 71 Is defective, as a condom
- 72 Pasolini's country of origin

DOWN

- 1 San Francisco-Los Angeles dir.
- 2 Ethel, to Lucy
- 3 Little queen
- 4 Put in the overhead compartment
- 5 First name in 1998 headlines
- 6 Committed a hate crime
- 7 Bump up against
- 8 "Gee whillikers!"
- 9 Cigar-smoking Adams
- 10 Lascivious look
- 11 Penis measurement
- 12 Titter
- 13 "Doggone it!"
- 21 2,000 pounds
- 22 Suffix for Marx or sex
- 23 Man-___ bird (predacious seabird)
- 24 Stereo, briefly
- 25 Hosiery headache
- 29 Shakespearean verb suffix
- 30 ___-washy

- 31 Infamous Amin
- 32 ___-tac-toe
- 33 Nongay, for short
- 37 23rd Hebrew letter
- 38 *The Drag* playwright West
- 39 Egypt, before 1971 (abbr.)
- 40 FDR's successor
- 41 Canyon comeback
- 42 Greeting from Scar
- 43 Laundry or luncheon ender
- 46 Get there
- 47 *My Own Private Idaho* star
- 48 Seemingly forever
- 49 Christianity and Buddhism, e.g.
- 50 Self-importance
- 51 The Eurythmics' "___ Lie To You?"
- 55 "Put ___ on it!"
- 56 Dark and handsome friend
- 57 57-Down, for example
- 58 Forearm bone
- 59 Hudson who wasn't 33-Down
- 60 Animal tissue used as a cooking fat
- 64 It may be burned
- 65 Slithery swimmer
- 66 Word in 16-Across's chart-topping Beatles cover

M	E	S	A		A	L	M	O	S	T		A	S	P				
A	S	I	N		P	U	E	R	T	O		D	E	E				
T	A	L	K	I	S	C	H	E	A	P		V	A	T				
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					N	E	E		T	A	S	K	F	O	R	C	E	
H	I	C			S	L	O				L	U	B	E	D			
I	D	E	S		E	L	S			P	E	P						
V	I	R	T		U	A	L	E		Q	U	A	L	I	T			
					A	S	K			C	U	M			E	N	Y	A
G	L	A	R	E						E	P	T			T	S	K	
L	I	B	E	R	T	I	E	S		O	D	O						
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A	S	S			S	E	N	S	E	S		S	E	E	M			

Solution last issue's Q Puzzle: Acceptance Advocate



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HOROSCOPES

By Deane Jaye, HeatStroke contributor

Pisces (February 21-March 20)

Beep, beep, beep. That's the sound of you backing up, and the people around you will quickly jump out of your way if they know what's best for them. You got yourself too far into something and now is the time to get out of it. Be friendlier, even toward those you believe don't deserve it, on or about the 1st. The reward you receive for that effort could lead to a sexual adventure. An upscale party on the horizon offers a chance to reinvent yourself for a night. Focus on the person inside the new ensemble as you work that crowd and accept those compliments.

Aries (March 21-April 20)

You have a great deal of untapped potential just itching to burst forth. So scratch! You'll need to take things slowly, however, or your exuberance will frighten others. Sometimes it's hard to show people you truly are concerned about advancing the project or cause at hand, and that it's not all about you showing off. Well, okay—sometimes it's all about you showing off. But not always. Sprucing up your dwelling and changing your appearance a little could be part of the package—but nothing too drastic. The week of the 1st is best for making these changes.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)

That notorious Taurean stubborn streak has reared its ugly head and caused a rift. You have your heels dug right in and claim to be unwilling to budge on this one. But before you break a heel consider the art of compromise, give in an inch or three and then get on with your life. The last thing you can control is the way other people spend their time, so stop trying. There's fun in the sun on the way and outdoor activity will improve both your health and attitude, especially around the 8th. With that in mind, be open to romantic possibilities in the great outdoors.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your Mama said if you kept on rolling your eyes like that, they'd get stuck in the back of your head. That isn't quite true, but what will happen is this: people will catch you at it and be put off, realizing how big a cynic you truly are. At the risk of alienating someone important, smile and pay attention when hearing a new story, particularly around the 2nd. You can't be everywhere at once so take a break. Pick one person who intrigues you and use humor to score points—try tickling them with a feather or enjoy their company at a comedy club.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Brace yourself. You probably dread moving more than anything. But it may be time to seriously consider a relocation over the next few months, especially if your comfort continues to feel threatened, as it may be where you are living now. You may just be suffering from a case of the winter blahs. Look to close friends for advice and suggestions, especially that Libra in your life who can help you to see every side of an issue. Travel is not advised, at least not until things settle.

Leo (July 21-August 20)

There's a lot of special attention coming your way at work or home, and the best part is that it's almost all genuine and quite sincere—it means a lot to you when people are interested for the right reasons. You may even feel a little reckless and find yourself celebrating with strangers by dancing on a table or singing karaoke, particularly around the 6th. You could be prone to dental problems in the next few weeks, so consider scheduling a checkup and cleaning. Another Leo native could prove influential as the weeks progress.

Virgo (August 21-September 20)

Kander & Ebb said that money makes the world go around, but you keep wishing it would just go away. All that planning and worrying over where it's coming from and where it goes... and how to get more. Now you are likely considering a major purchase, so lighten up and enjoy the moment. Maybe invite an Aries or Leo friend along to shop. The weekend of the 6th looks like a most opportune time to buy. Keep your eyes open after the checkbook is put away, because big-ticket spending often makes you earth signs horny and who knows what could follow?

Libra (September 21-October 20)

There is strength in numbers. You know this, but sometimes think you can do everything on your own, anyway. Now that idea is about to backfire on you in a big way, unless you figure out that other people are on your side. Ask for help and be willing to share the credit before a crisis develops. Creative projects are a good idea right now and dabbling in the arts could lead to a financial reward; try working with clay or paper for a satisfying result. Be open to privileged information, a Sagittarius friend in particular may have a hot secret to share.

Scorpio (October 21-November 20)

Did you ever stop to think that speed limits are posted all over town not only for your own safety, but for the safety of others as well? You'd better slow down on both the surface streets and in matters of the heart, before you either cause a wipeout or get a firm reprimand (maybe even a steep fine) from someone in uniform. Just like you never see those cops until it's too late, you never see what you did wrong in the pursuit of l'amore in time, either. Try to learn from past mistakes, especially when an interesting fire sign native ignites sparks around the 9th.

Sagittarius (November 21-December 20)

Favorite teachers get the biggest apples and you are about to earn your fruit. Someone who has looked to you for guidance needs your calming influence, helpful assistance and expertise right now; it could be a parent/child relationship, or maybe a mentor/protoge thing on the job, perhaps even a kinky dominatrix/slave dynamic. Either way, your plump and juicy reward will almost certainly follow and you'll soon get your chance to take a bite. The 7th would be a good time to consider a new tattoo or piercing, and a Gemini may well be involved in your decision along those lines.

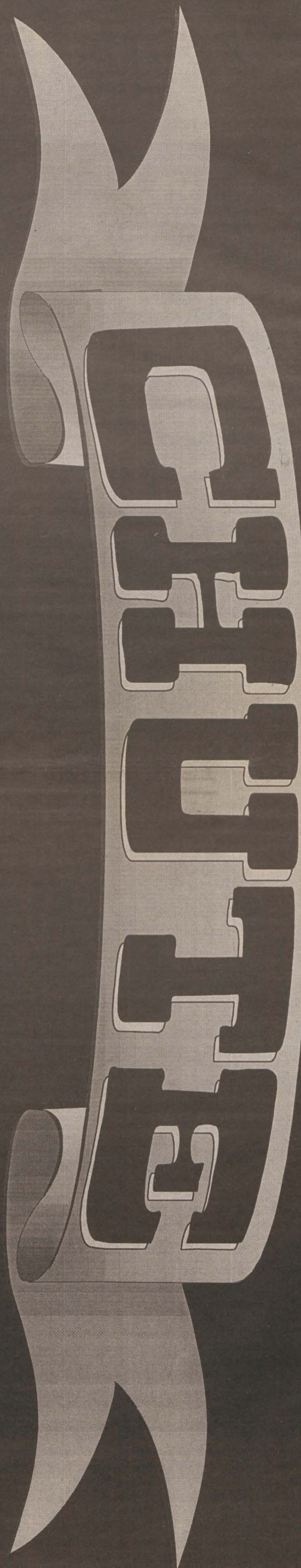
Capricorn (December 21-January 20)

The secret is in the blending, Edward Scissorhands was informed by his adoptive mom. So he tried to blend in with everyone else and it all turned out bad. Take a lesson from that and be yourself for the next couple of weeks, no matter who you might scare. A roommate or best friend relationship may not be going well, especially around the 29th. Reaffirm your commitment to a project or situation and others will do the same. You've finished your tax return, so try helping others with theirs instead of gloating.

Aquarius (January 21-February 20)

What a month this has been! What a rare mood you're in. Why it's almost like... like you know what you want out of life and are willing to sit down and formulate a plan to make things happen. Now if you could only get the people around you to cooperate with your ideas, you'd be off and running. Around the 30th, your powers of persuasion should peak, so do keep trying. Family ties play an important role this month—you may gain particular insight from a Scorpio who shares your bloodlines.

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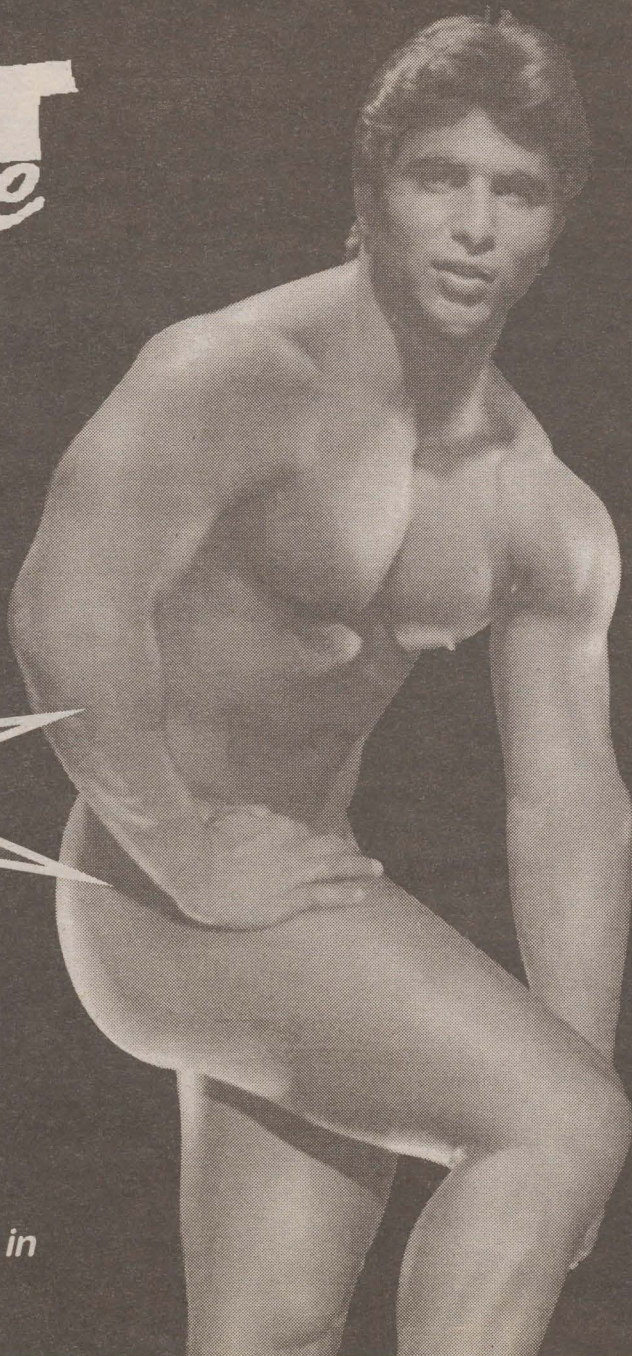
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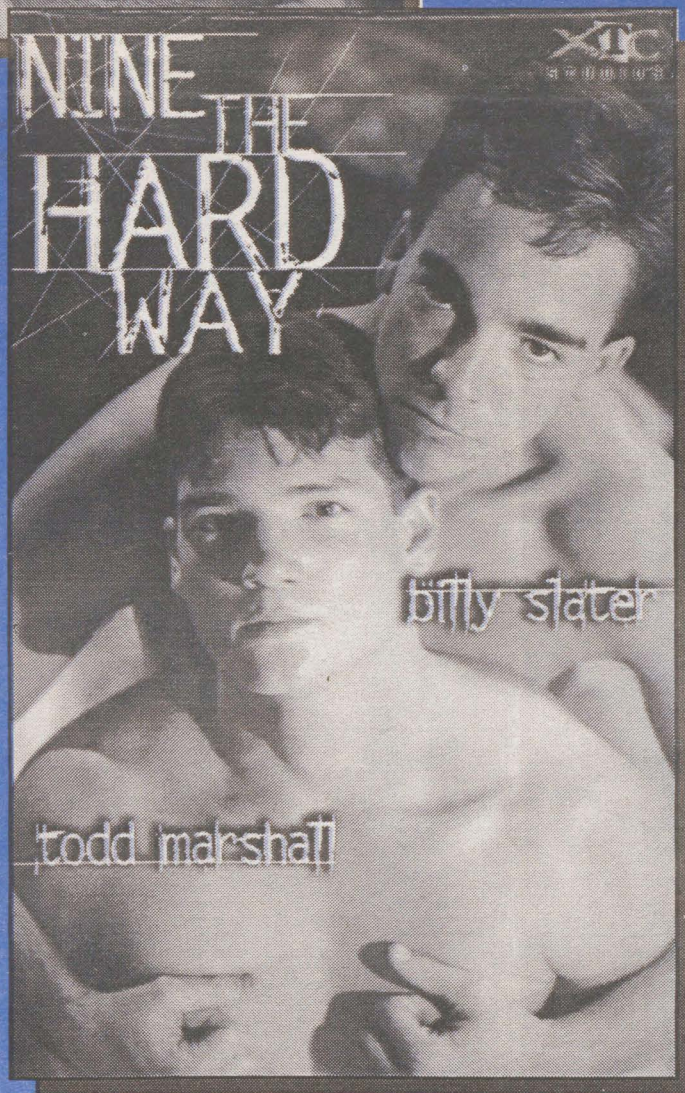
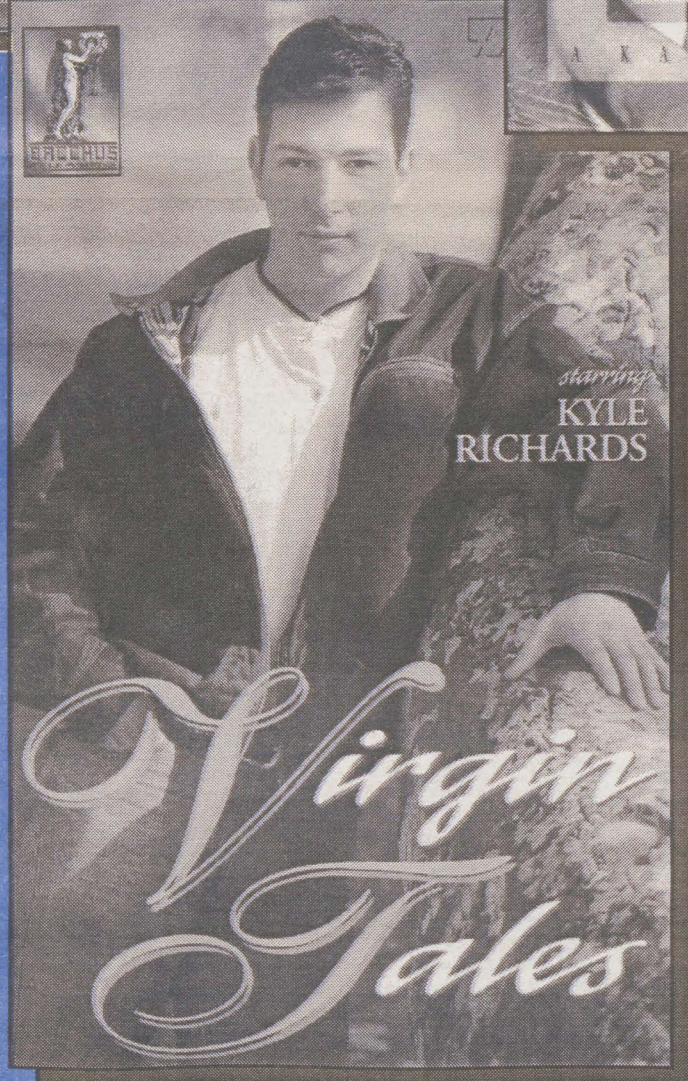
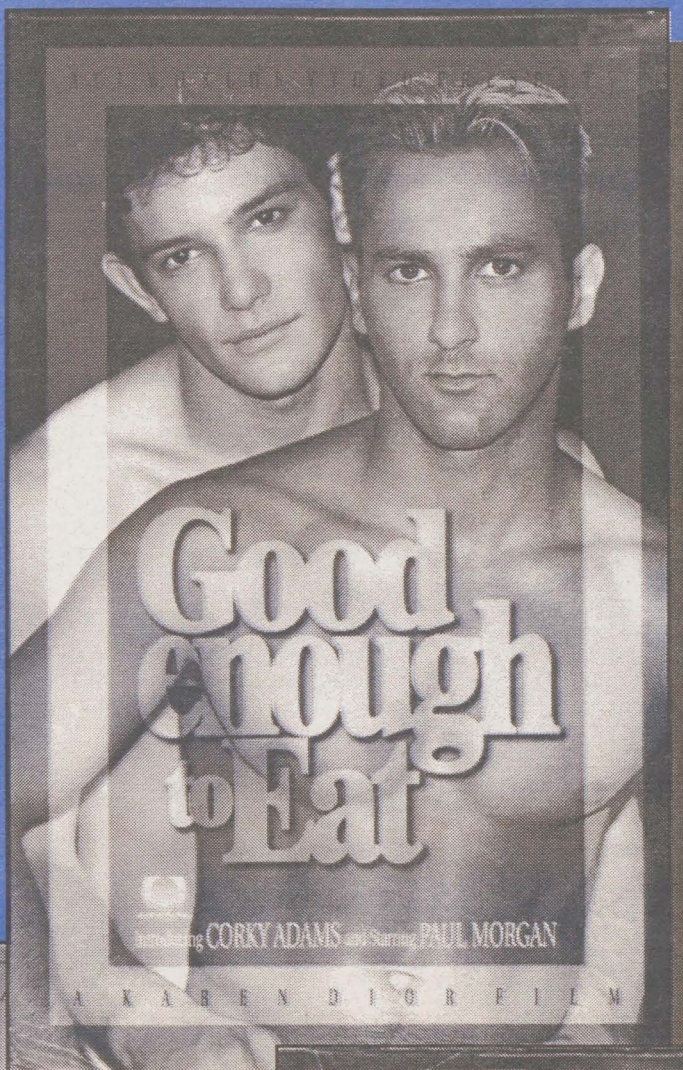
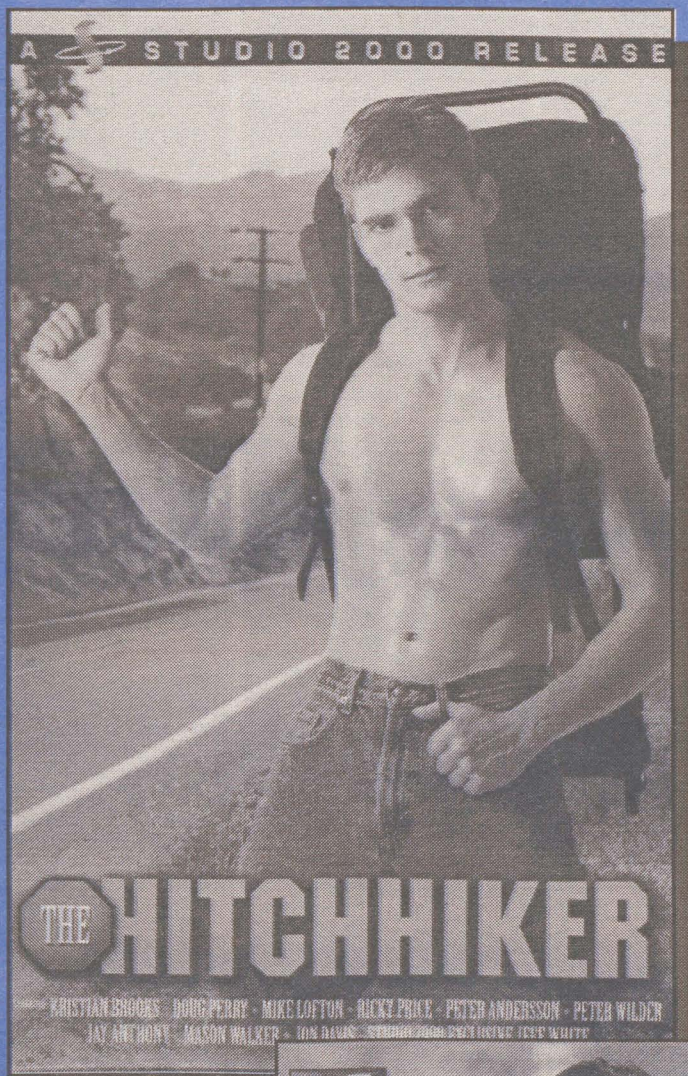
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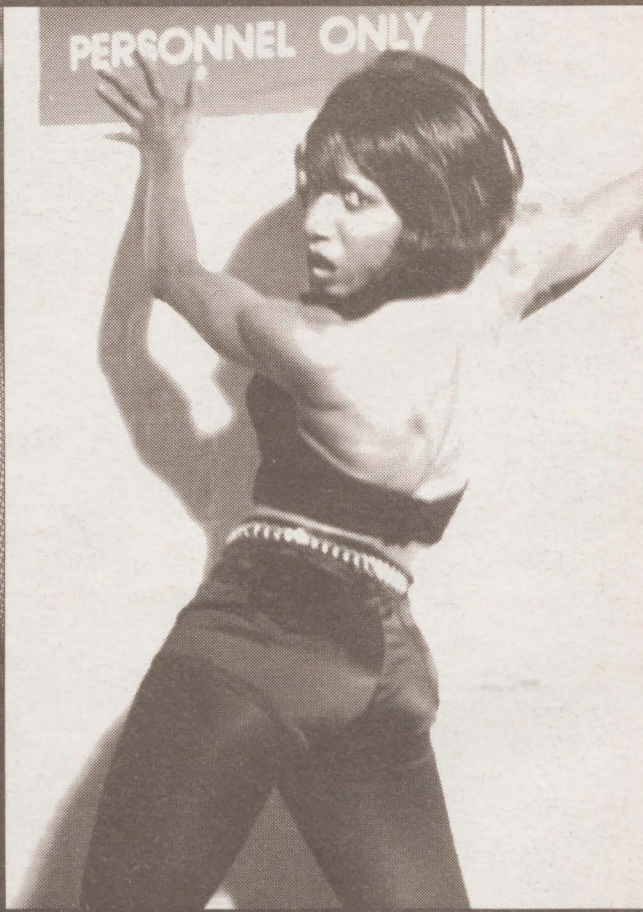
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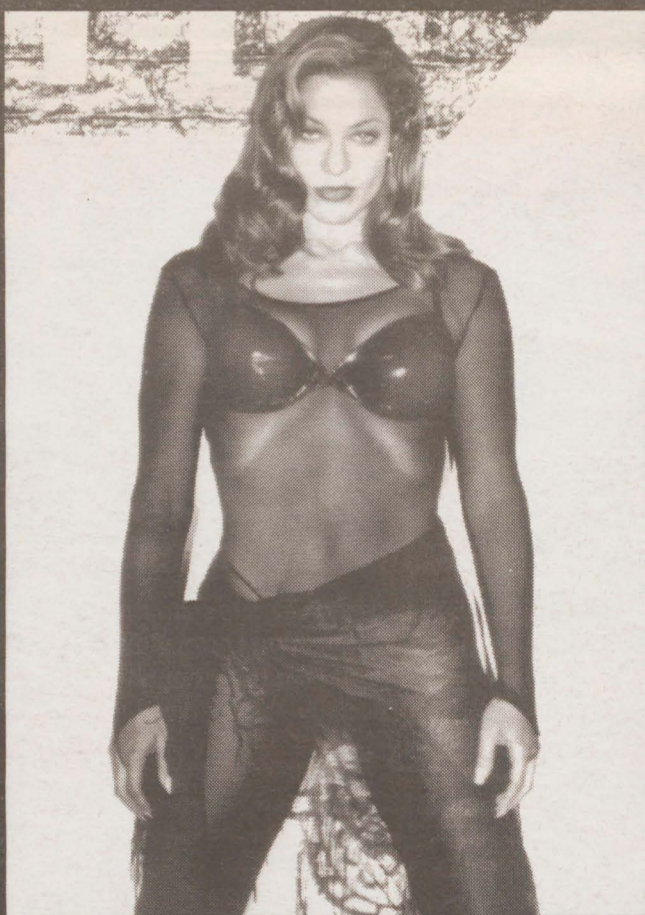
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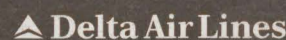


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