

HeatStroke

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God Save the Queen

Contentious gay author/icon
talks about Clinton, sex
& visiting Phoenix



By Ty Robins,
HeatStroke Contributor

Mention the name Quentin Crisp in gay circles and you're likely to get one of three responses: enthusiasm, disdain or a blank stare. Unless you're among a group of party-circuit zombies, you'll probably find that people have strong opinions about Mr. Crisp.

But whatever one thinks of him, the legacy this 90-yr-old expatriated Brit has created as a world-class wit, humorist, lecturer and performer is undeniable.

Living in working class London in a time when homosexuality dared not speak its name, Quentin Crisp insisted on screaming it out over the course of four decades.

Unapologetically effeminate, he often let his flaming hair, painted face and shellacked nails do much of the talking.

That was until 1968, when Crisp's groundbreaking autobiography, *The Naked Civil Servant*, was published. In it, he details his experiences in England from 1926 until the late '60s as a person he describes as "disfigured" by homosexuality.

Proclaiming his desire to make the whole world understand homosexuality and, at the same time, going to great lengths to alienate

everyone he comes in contact with, the author seems caught in a love/hate relationship with himself as much as with mid-20th-Century society.

The book offers a fascinating social commentary from Crisp's deliberately warped perspective. It became a television film in 1976 starring John Hurt.

Approximately 15 years later, Crisp received strong reviews for his own movie acting in Sally Potter's *Orlando*, where he played—literally—the Queen of England.

His other works include a 1981 sequel to *Servant* entitled *How to Become a Virgin* and *Quentin Crisp's Book of Quotations* published in 1989. Also in print is *Resident Alien*, a collection of columns written for the *New York Native* between 1990-1994.

Talking to *HeatStroke* by phone from his home in New York City, Mr. Crisp demonstrates a uniquely Crisp-ian take on the world. "I really don't know anything about gay or lesbian literature," he says when asked to describe the subject of his upcoming speaking engagement in Phoenix on April 3.

"There's only literature about gay subjects."

Asked whether his work has influenced young gays and lesbians, Crisp says, "The younger generation is very displeased with me. I presume that's because I don't protest march and shake my

fist in the face of the real world. Young people of any kind are not really interested in the past, they are only interested in now."

He experimented recently with the Internet, publishing his daily diaries in cyberspace from January through August of last year. "Then I discovered I wasn't being paid, so I stopped," he says, laughing. "I don't have a Demon Machine, I only know someone who does. And he spent at least an hour a month while I told him what I'd done, writing it down onto the machine—and he wasn't being paid either. So it seemed I shouldn't go on with that."

Crisp moved to the United States from London in 1981 and found that life in the Big Apple was quite suited to him. "I've never had any trouble in New York. I've never understood why people thought of it as a dangerous city," he says.

"A woman I didn't know rang me up from England and said she

was unhappy. I thought: Well. To be a woman and to be unknown and to be in England was a triple burden almost too great to bear. So I said, 'Come to America where happiness rains down from the sky and everybody is your friend.' And she said, 'Wouldn't I be shot?'

I've never been shot or shot at. I feel perfectly safe. In England I was never safe."

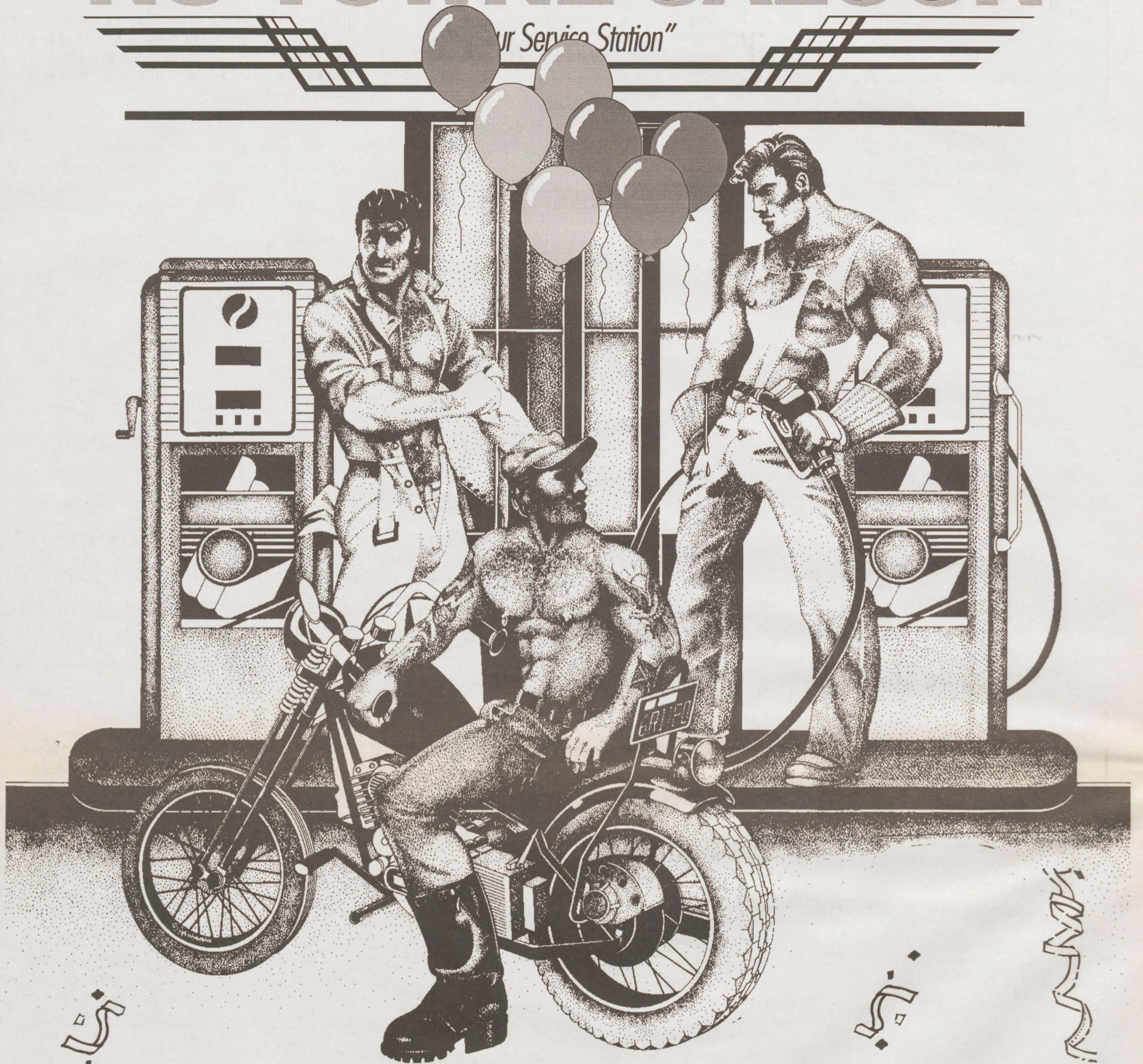
This will be Crisp's second visit to the Valley. "I have been to Phoenix before. I can't remember why or for whom I worked, but I have been there. I remember being surprised to find that the desert was full of flowers. I thought a desert was desert. But it was quite wonderful, quite beautiful."

Turning to the subject of gay rights, Crisp insists he is far from militant. "You see, I'm not militant by nature. I don't demand anything. I accept what I'm given." Contradicting many in the movement at large, he says he cannot understand why gay marriage should be considered desirable.

"I don't really understand why gay people want to be married.

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Horowitz:

parading our pride

The Arizona Central Pride Committee has extended its deadline for parade applications for the April 18 Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade and Festival.

This year's theme is "Gateway to Change," yet the parade and festival may be in severe trouble unless we step up to the plate and help ACP out. The committee's reason for the extended deadline is that only two completed parade applications were received.

I have to tell you I am a big fan of the Gay Pride concept. I get such a rush out of seeing people I never see anywhere else and a bigger rush from meeting and seeing hundreds of faces I've never seen before.

The pride festival provides so many opportunities for community and personal growth and togetherness. As Slade Grove, ACP's public relations and volunteer coordinator states, "The pride committee is charged with the task of letting the City of Phoenix know that there is a gay and lesbian community here." It also lets the gay and lesbian community meet and know about us.

Yet this year's festival finds itself in real trouble. According to Grove, the festival organizers have lots of ideas, but they don't have the manpower to carry them out. There are 10 open board positions and only 15 volunteers—including board members—actively working on this year's celebration.

I have attended pride parades and festivals all over the country, and while many are larger than Phoenix, we have a joyful and playful atmosphere not duplicated elsewhere. We must do whatever it takes to contribute to this event that adds so much to our community.

Grove suggests a two-pronged attack. First, he says ACP needs an infusion of people who are willing to participate and be on the board of directors. A very few people have been leading this charge for many years, and quite frankly, they're tired. Second, the organization needs volunteers—lots of them.

This is where you come in. Grove assures me that any volunteers who call him will have their calls returned quickly, and they will be put to work right away. While the small staff of ACP has had difficulty returning phone calls and handling administrative details, I believe him. If you are inclined to volunteer, do it today; call 266-6630.

I think we need an additional line of attack, however. We need to understand what pride is about. The parade and festival are not about being out-

geous, although I can promise some people will be. The events are not about being political, although I promise some people, including me, will be. The day is not about entertainment, although there will be plenty. The emphasis is not on beer and partying, although there will be plenty of that, too.

The real point of a pride festival and parade is that everyone is welcome to show up and be exactly who they are. It is an opportunity to see and be seen and to build community and relationships.

On Friday evening, April 17, The Experience-Phoenix is hosting a special event featuring inspirational speaker and long time community activist Honey Ward. This enlightening experiential event will emphasize the value of pride, not just for a day, but for a lifetime.

This year's pride festival finds itself in real trouble. According to Grove, the festival organizers have lots of ideas, but they don't have the man power to carry them out. There are 10 open board positions and only 15 volunteers — including board members — actively working on this year's celebration.

The event is coupled with a special, advance screening of the spectacular (I've seen it) documentary film, *Over the Rainbow* which depicts 100 years of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement around the world. You'll have an opportunity to meet the film's director, Dori Friend, who will be joining us from San Francisco.

The event will take place at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium at 205 West Jefferson from 7 to 11 pm. The festivities are free and open to the public, but seating is limited so plan to arrive early. Refreshments will be served and the doors will open at 6 pm. You can call (602) 460-2583 in advance to reserve a space.

Show up, get involved, and bring a friend. If you don't, who will?

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

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CA Supreme Court says Scouts can ban gays, atheists

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

The Boy Scouts are not covered by California civil rights laws and can exclude gays, agnostics and atheists, the state Supreme Court ruled March 23.

In a pair of unanimous decisions, the court said the Scouts are not a business and therefore are free, like any private club, to set their own membership policies.

One ruling upheld a decision by a Contra Costa County Scout organization in 1981 to reject an 18-year-old former Eagle Scout as an assistant scoutmaster after learning he was homosexual. The other ruling involved 9-year-old twin brothers who were barred by an Orange County Cub Scout den in 1990 after they refused to declare a belief in God.

The twins, Michael and William Randall, were allowed into the Scouts by lower-court rulings and recently qualified to become Eagle Scouts, Scouting's highest honor, subject to approval by the national organization. They and their father, James G. Randall, who is also their lawyer, say the boys are agnostics who haven't yet worked out their religious beliefs.

Both Randall and lawyers for Timothy Curran, whose application to be an adult leader in the Mount Diablo Council was rejected when he disclosed his homosexuality in a newspaper interview, sued under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act. That law forbids discrimination by business establishments on various grounds, including sexual orientation and religion.

The court has previously ruled

that organizations then known as boys' clubs were business establishments because their facilities were open to any boy, and a private golf club was also a business establishment because it did business extensively with members of the public. But the justices said today that the Boy Scouts are a private, selective organization, not a business.

"Scouts meet regularly in small groups (often in private homes) that are intended to foster close friendship, trust and loyalty," said the lead opinion by Chief Justice Ronald George, who also wrote the golf club ruling.

"The Boy Scouts is an expressive social organization whose primary function is the inculcation of values in its youth members."

Although the Scouts sell goods to

members of the public, George said, "non-members cannot purchase entry to pack or troop meetings, overnight hikes, the national jamboree or any portion of the Boy Scouts' extended training and educational process."

The ruling contrasts with a decision March 2 by an appellate court in New Jersey that said the Boy Scouts and their local councils were "places of accommodation" with open membership and were covered by the state's civil rights law. That ruling, in favor of a gay scoutmaster, was the first by any appellate court in the nation against the Scouts' anti-gay policy.

The Boy Scouts say homosexuality violates their concept of traditional moral values, embodied in a provision of the Scout oath in which members pledge to be "morally straight."

Former CT legislator says he's gay

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP)

When former state Representative Andrew Norton announced his decision not to run for Congress, he said it was because he needed time away from politics.

He now admits he was also concerned about telling voters in the 2nd Congressional District that he is gay.

Norton had been the favorite of district Republican leaders to run against nine-term Democratic Rep. Sam Gejdenson, before he announced in January that he had decided not to enter the race.

Norton said that he only recently

told his friends and extended family members about his sexual orientation. Launching a campaign for Congress was not the time to tell the district constituency, too, he told *The Day*.

At 23, Norton was the youngest legislator in Hartford when he was elected to his first term in the General Assembly. He served five consecutive terms representing the 48th District — Colchester, Salem and East Haddam — before giving up his seat two years ago to seek the Republican nomination for Congress. He lost the primary to Edward Munster of Haddam.

In June, Norton, now 35, was

appointed by Gov. John Rowland as project manager for the future use of Norwich Hospital, a 600-acre property closed by the state.

Norton said the main reason he decided to stay out of the race for Gejdenson's seat is because he enjoys his current job. But he said he also wondered whether coming out about being gay might have distracted his candidacy.

"It may have been difficult to ask people to take in this information, get used to it, and get the campaign going in full," he said.

John Torrenti of Old Saybrook,

who represents the 20th District on the State Central Committee, said Norton's sexual orientation wouldn't have mattered.

"In this day and age, I don't think it would have been an issue," Torrenti said.

"We have a number of congressmen who've been successful. But maybe he felt it would become a real negative. I felt he certainly had the energy and the vision and the desire to run. I was quite surprised when he said no."



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Straight interest in gay culture spawns clash over MN club

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP)

This is the rhythm of two cultures keeping a curious distance, at times clashing, at times chatting, but never quite embracing.

It takes place almost every Friday and Saturday night at the Gay 90's, the Twin Cities's most recognized gay nightspot. It unfolds like clockwork. Just sit on a bar stool and watch.

Friday, shortly after 8 p.m.

From the perch along the massive bar on the main floor where the male strippers will perform later, the dinner hour is in full swing. Nearly 100 baby-boom men laugh and talk.

There is an intimacy here, of the private club sort. No matter that a handful of women dot the crowd. All around are clues to who lays claim to this cavernous lair.

But the certainty that this is a gay men's nightclub erodes with every tick of the clock.

About a quarter-to-nine, a couple arrives whose difference is apparent. She: makeup picture perfect, dress disco-snug. He: skin heavily cologned, suit freshly pressed. Their gaze says they belong to each other. A man eating dinner gives them a long once-over.

By 9:30 p.m. straight couples are pouring in. A pink-sweatered woman already a couple of sheets to the wind is stuffing a \$1 bill into a dancer's red G-string on the strip bar.

"I like it the way it used to be," says one man as he watches the display of skin and lust. At 10:15 p.m., he becomes one of the last of the regulars to leave.

The Gay 90s, a bastion of gay nightlife for the past 20 years, has become a forum for a peculiar movement between gays and straights. The crowd on weekend nights is split 50-50 between the groups.

Two lawsuits were filed against the club alleging straight men and women were denied admittance or received poor service once inside because they are straight. The club's owner denied it. The suits were settled after voluntary mediation.

The issue of cultural assimilation always has been vexing. What happens when a group wants to maintain its culture but also wants mainstream acceptance? How is that balance reached in light of state human rights laws that bar discrimination against people of any sexual orientation? And what happens when people act on their desire to see how the other half lives?

"It's like now you (straights) have an opportunity to immerse yourself in this freaky culture at the 90's," says Ken Darling, the *Q-Monthly* columnist who has been one of the loudest opponents. "I don't think it's worth winning back. It's

been made clear that we're not welcome."

Drag performer Miss Camille Collins warms up the crowd. Everybody knows he is a she. That's why they're here.

"Are you boys straight?" she asks three men seated to her right.

The men nod coolly, unruffled by the question.

"I know the gay community gets upset because this is a gay club, and I know some don't like straight people here. I can appreciate that," says Troy Smith, 22. "But, hey, it's a cool place. I don't know if the owner wants straight people to come in as a way to promote understanding, or whether he's trying to make a buck. But it's a fun place."

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, gay liberation was in the spotlight and many prominent pop culture images were gay — *To Wong Foo, The Birdcage* and RuPaul.

As "we see more and more straights going to gay dance clubs, it's a sign of acceptance and interest in gay culture, where just 20 or 30 years ago it was a very underground phenomenon that was mentally associated with the criminal underground, sexual violence and danger," says George Chauncy, a history professor at the University of Chicago, and author of "Gay New

"I don't know if the owner wants straight people to come in as a way to promote understanding, or whether he's trying to make a buck. But it's a fun place."

York."

Steve Abrams is a co-owner of Rumba, a restaurant in Chicago's primarily gay Boystown district that feature nightly drag performances. His customer base is mostly heterosexual.

"All we as gay men and women wanted was to be accepted," Abrams says. "Now we seem to be doing the same thing that was done to us. It's a sort of self-segregation that just doesn't make sense to me."

Stephen Cooper is a lawyer and former state human rights department director. He says shared space is simply the down side of progress.

"What's going on here is a sexual-orientation litmus test," Cooper says. "How do you simultaneously allow people to feel, 'We're a part of the whole,' but also feel 'We're part of a subset?' It's a complex question that nobody's ever going to get the answer to."



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Clinton advisers express no confidence in Administration's AIDS policies

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton's AIDS advisers unanimously expressed no confidence in the administration's commitment to reducing the spread of AIDS, accusing officials of playing politics with people's lives.

"The administration's current policy on needle-exchange programs threatens the public health, and directly contradicts current scientific evidence," said the resolution approved March 17 by the Presidential Council on HIV/AIDS.

It was the harshest criticism yet from the panel, whose members are furious that the administration has not allowed federal funding for programs giving drug addicts clean needles in exchange for dirty ones that may be contaminated with the deadly HIV virus.

"Our patience is exhausted," said the panel's chairman, Dr. Scott Hitt, who treats patients with HIV and AIDS in Los Angeles.

Hitt estimated that tens of thousands of new HIV infections could be prevented through needle-exchange programs. More than half of all people who become infected with HIV catch the deadly virus through contaminated needles or sex with injecting drug users — or are children born to infected addicts.

"Tragically, we must conclude that it is a lack of political will, not scientific evidence, that is creating this failure to act," the council said March 17 in a letter to Clinton.

Using taxpayer money to buy needles for addicts has become a politically touchy issue, with conservatives arguing that these programs send the wrong message.

One council member, Terje Anderson of Colorado Springs, Colo., spoke of his past heroin use and argued that availability of needles is no more likely to cause drug use than matches are to cause smoking.

"The question should be, 'Do you care about the lives of people like me?'" said Anderson, who no longer uses drugs but is HIV positive.

"Are you willing to take steps — perhaps politically risky or unpopular steps — in order to save lives?"

Federal law allows funding of needle-exchange programs, but only if the Department of Health and Human Services concludes that they are effective in reducing the spread of HIV without increasing drug use.

HHS Secretary Donna Shalala has already agreed with leading scientists

that the programs are effective in fighting HIV. But she says she is still reviewing drug use data, promising to make the decision on good science.

"We will operate on the best information available," agency spokeswoman Laurie Boeder said Tuesday.

Council members say the proof is already there, citing six government-

of unnecessary deaths."

But Shalala is still waiting for studies by drug abuse experts and is still reviewing the data already available, Boeder said. The results of studies will not be available for several months, she said, adding, "There is no timetable" for announcing a decision.

Council members accused Shalala of letting politics dictate policy, but they stopped short of calling for her resignation, as some members have suggested. They have also rejected suggestions that they resign in protest.

More than 80 needle exchanges, paid for by private, state or local money, already operate in the United States, but AIDS activists say expanding them will require federal

funding. More importantly, Hitt said, more private money would be generated if the government gave its endorsement.

"Many people in this country and the world are looking to the secretary to say the science is there," he said. "It's time for her to come out and say where she stands."

"The question should be, 'Do you care about the lives of people like me?' Are you willing to take steps—perhaps politically risky or unpopular steps—in order to save lives.?"

funded reports, including an independent group of experts convened by the National Institutes of Health.

"Does needle exchange promote drug use? A preponderance of evidence shows either no change or decreased drug use," the NIH concluded more than a year ago, saying the ban on funding for these programs will lead to "many thousands

EEOC sues freight company for bias against PWA

CHICAGO (AP)

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed a lawsuit against a freight company it accuses of discriminating against an employee with AIDS by giving him meaningless work and ostracizing him.

Richard McCullough, 40, says management at Nippon Express USA put him in a job that had no real function, took away his telephone and computer and ordered his coworkers not to talk to him.

"I would just sit there and have absolutely nothing to do, and work was my life," McCullough said after the EEOC filed the lawsuit March 23 in U.S. District Court.

The lawsuit was filed under the

Americans With Disabilities Act, contending McCullough was discriminated against because he had AIDS, not because he is gay.

Tsutomu Nagatani, administration manager for Nippon Express USA's Chicago-area cargo branch, declined to comment on the lawsuit.

"I can assure you Nippon Express USA is an equal-opportunity employer and does not discriminate on any basis," said William Milani, the company's outside counsel.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages from Nippon Express USA and a requirement the company's managers and employees receive sensitivity training on how to treat those with HIV or AIDS.

McCullough, who left the compa-

ny in 1996 after he learned he had AIDS, worked for Nippon Express for more than six years. He said when he sought employment at the company in 1989, he made no effort to hide the fact that he was gay. He said he told his boss when he tested positive for HIV the following year.

"I tried to explain that it was a virus, that it was terminal, that at that point I felt pretty good but I couldn't know what was going to happen," McCullough said. "He didn't know what (HIV) was, and he didn't tell any of the superiors what was going on."

McCullough said he was later given a promotion to help open the company's Indianapolis office. But he said shortly after arriving there his

authority to approve bills was withdrawn and he was ordered to attend meetings in Chicago for what he called minor matters that could have been dealt with by telephone. He said he was eventually transferred back to Chicago to be the lone employee in a new department — special projects — and was given little or no work.

During that time, McCullough says he then became the target of belittling comments from coworkers.

Ethan Cohen, the EEOC trial lawyer handling the case, said the lawsuit is the first by the agency in the Chicago area. He said McCullough's experience is an opportunity to define the unsettled law involving harassment of the disabled.

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Battle between dentist, AIDS activists goes to Supreme Court

BANGOR, Maine (AP)

After completing a routine dental procedure on one patient, Dr. Randon Bragdon was getting set to work on the next one, who greeted him with a startled look.

"He said, 'There's blood all over you,'" the dentist recalled. "My mask and glasses were splattered with blood, and I didn't realize it. But it happened. I was completely unaware."

That example last week illustrates how dentists face daily exposure to blood and saliva. It also helps explain, Bragdon said, why he does not trust gloves, masks and eye protection to protect him from the virus that causes AIDS.

Because of his concerns, Bragdon does not believe he should have to treat someone with HIV in his office.

The dentist, who has lost two rounds in a lawsuit over his refusal to treat a HIV-infected woman in his office, gets a final chance to make his case to nation's highest court March 30.

The AIDS activists say the dentist's refusal to treat the woman in his office violated the Americans With Disabilities Act.

"We're hoping a message will be sent to all health care providers, that just because someone discloses an HIV diagnosis, they have a right to

the same treatment in the most affordable manner," said Denis Cranson, executive director of the Eastern Maine AIDS Network in Bangor.

Both Bragdon and the 140,000-member American Dental Association, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief on Bragdon's behalf, hope the Supreme Court will clarify the legal obligations of dentists.

"I think it's an important issue and it needs to be resolved," Bragdon said. "These people need treatment, but they need treatment that takes into account that they have a serious infectious disease."

The lawsuit arose after Bragdon refused to fill the cavity of Sidney Abbott, a HIV-infected woman, in his office in September 1994.

Abbott, a volunteer for the Eastern Maine AIDS Network that referred her to Bragdon, noted on her medical history form that she was infected with HIV but was healthy.

Bragdon told her his infectious disease policy required him to perform the filling at a hospital.

Bragdon never heard from her again. Two months later, he learned he was being sued for violating the federal law designed stop discrimination against people with disabilities.

At the crux of the federal lawsuit is whether someone who is infected

with HIV but shows no symptoms of the disease should be considered disabled under the federal anti-bias law.

The definition under the law is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits "one or more major life activities," which is, in Abbott's case, her inability to bear a child.

If so, the court must decide whether it is permissible for a dentist to refuse routine treatment outside a hospital.

Bennett Klein, lawyer for the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders in Boston, said Congress intended for the ADA to be interpreted broadly and for people with HIV to be afforded its protection.

He said a defeat for Abbott would send a message to health care providers that they can discriminate against people with HIV by refusing to treat them or charging more for routine services.

In that case, people with HIV might be inclined simply to lie, creating a worse situation for health providers, Klein said.

AIDS activists say Bragdon's fears are overblown because there has never been a documented case of a dentist contracting HIV from a patient.

But the Centers for Disease Control says there are seven cases of

dental workers contracting HIV for whom the cause was never determined. Bragdon believes those workers contracted the virus from patients, just like he caught dysentery from a patient while working at a clinic at Tufts University.

John McCarthy, Bragdon's lawyer, said the definition of acceptable risk lies in the eyes of the beholder.

"If it's one in a million and you're the dentist who dies," he said, "then it's a significant risk."

By treating someone in a hospital setting, Bragdon said there would be an air-transfer system to expel stagnant air and ultraviolet lights that kill viruses, along with immediate access to AZT, protease inhibitors, and other medications in the event of exposure.

"If he acts in good faith and makes a reasonable judgment on then current medical knowledge, he should not be held to have discriminated under the ADA," McCarthy said.

So far, a federal judge in Maine and the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston have ruled against the dentist.

Abbott has declined to comment on the lawsuit. She has said in previous interviews that she contracted HIV from a former boyfriend.

Cranson said she remains healthy.

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Flapjacks, ice cream & fun at Center's Grand Re-Opening

The Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center has moved to a new location and the public is invited to join the move-in celebration by attending two events on Sunday, March 29.

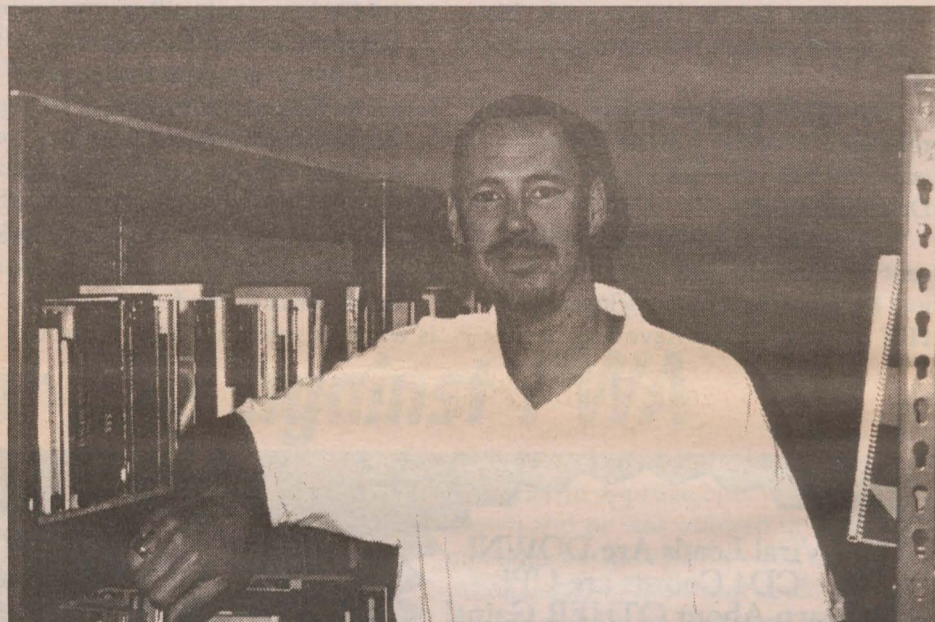
First, a Fantastic Flapjack Festival will be held from 10 am to 1 pm at Ain't Nobody's Bizness, located at 3031 east Indian School Road in Phoenix. The cost is \$5 per person and includes hand-flipped flapjacks, scrambled eggs, potatoes, orange juice and coffee.

Later that day, from 2 - 5 pm, The Center will host an Ice Cream Social and Open House at the newly remodeled offices, 24 West

Camelback Road in Phoenix. The free, all-you-can-eat ice cream will be offered courtesy of the Marble Slab Creamery.

This event will be a wonderful opportunity to tour the Community Center, visit the BJ Bud Memorial Library and see the new Technology Bank.

The Center is also asking for contributions to help defray the costs associated with moving. Any donations to the 1998 Moving and Remodeling fund are tax-deductible and should be made out to VSGLCC. For more information on the March 28 festivities or to make a donation, call (602) 265-7283.



Lyle Miller, Executive Director of the Center, looks forward to the Grand Re-Opening festivities scheduled for March 29

Obelisk event nets \$1,000 for The Center

Obelisk, The Bookstore has announced that its February 21 sidewalk book sale was a huge success. The second annual fund-raiser was held in support of Obelisk's new

neighbor, The Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center, raising \$1,000 for the community organization in just one day.

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A different kind of play: Queer softball is back and full of drama

Although the Cactus Cities Softball League's 1998 Spring Season was blown back a week by the fury of El Niño, nothing has dampened the excitement and camaraderie generated by gay and lesbian softball in Phoenix. The first three weeks of Sunday morning play have unfolded like a daytime soap opera fraught with suspense, controversy and, of course, high drama.

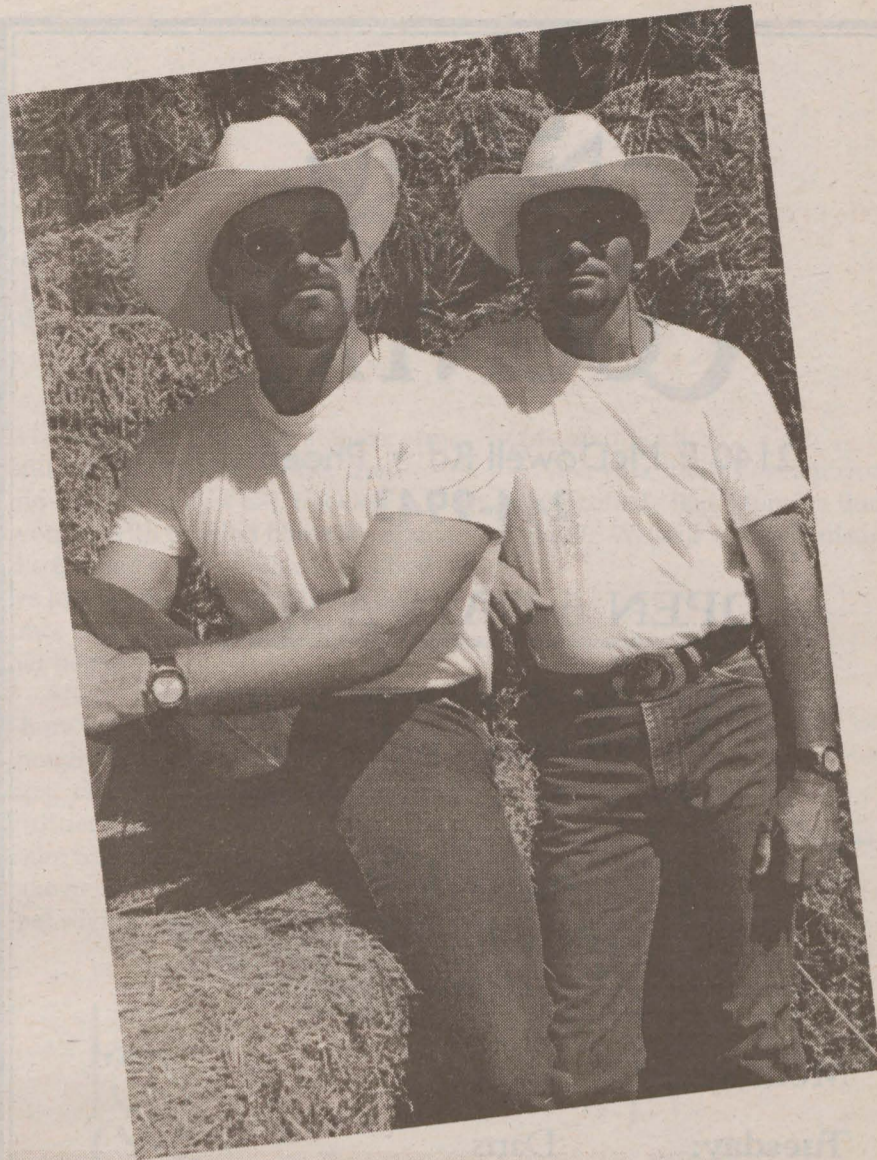
Parity has produced an atmosphere of anticipation and intrigue in the Women's Division. The talented ladies from Bas Bleu lead the division with a 4-0 record; however, a predicted tight race for first place is destined to keep fans gasping the entire season.

High drama permeates the Recreational Division. On March 7, last year's fourth-place finisher, Roscoe's X-treme, hammered reigning champ First Family Medical. X-Treme's 3-0 record already has aspiring prognosticators confident they know this division's outcome; But one should never underestimate the

power of a gay softball team scorned. Flying bats, gloves, and wigs are sure to keep fans in stitches through upcoming weeks.

The Competitive Division may look subdued compared with the other divisions; however, lurking beneath the calm surface are several molehills yearning to become mountains. This division has made controversy an art by mastering instant softball drama. And speaking of drama (queens), the boys from Wink's sit atop the Competitive Division with a 2-0 record.

The CCSL invites the entire gay and lesbian community and all interested sportsfans to come out and support the local athletes. League games are played on Sundays from 9am to 4pm at El Dorado Park, located on Miller Road north of McDowell in Scottsdale. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Hotline at 848-8562, or visit the CCSL website at www.aau.net/ccsl.



CCSL LEAGUE STANDINGS - AS OF MARCH 9, 1998

WOMEN'S DIVISION: Rank/Team/Record

- 1 / Bas Bleu Productions / 4-0
- 2 / Roscoe's Scorpions / 2-0
- 3 / Cash Inn / 3-1
- 4 / 2GirlGraphics/Page Whitney / 3-1
- 5 / Desert Reproductions / 2-2
- 6 / Movies on Central Renegades / 2-2
- 7 / Castle Boutique Players / 2-2
- 8 / Nasty Habits / 1-3
- 9 / Ain't Nobody's Biz/Experience This / 1-3
- 10 / The Mavericks / 0-2
- 11 / All About Destinations / 0-4

OPEN DIVISION - COMPETITIVE: Rank/Team/Record

- 1 / Wink's / 2-0
- 2 / Roscoe's / 2-1
- 3 / Pookie's / 0-3

OPEN DIVISION - RECREATIONAL: Rank/Team/Record

- 1 / Roscoe's X-Treme / 3-0
- 2 / First Family Medical / 3-1
- 3 / Bunk House Scorchers / 2-2
- 4 / Gay Community Yellow Pages / 1-2
- 5 / Wink's Warriors / 1-2
- 6 / BS West Express / 0-3

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Joshua Tree Spring Fling

Sunday March 29th
**Greg Olson Memorial Fund
a fund-raiser by Ken Poplin**

Wednesday April 1st
**Wrangler Roundup
Men in Wranglers contest**

Thursday April 2nd
**Ken Poplin-Contestant for Mr. I.G.R.A
game night**

Friday April 3rd
Mr. Charlie's Man of the Month contest

Sunday April 5th
Men of Charlie's BBQ & car wash

Wednesday April 8th
**Barbara Seville Show-Proceeds to benefit
Arizona Central Pride
Stoli Strawberry Daquiries**

Saturday April 11th
Community Food Fair

Sunday April 12th
**Happy Easter
How many eggs can you get in your basket?
AGRA Day show and fund-raiser**

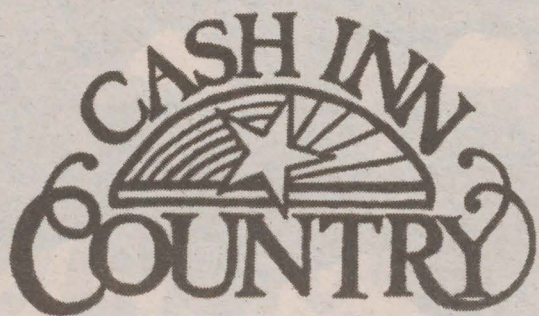
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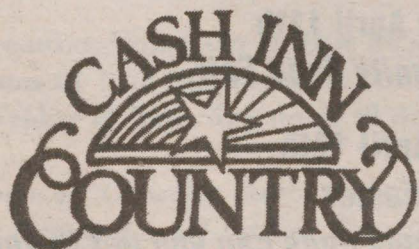
Tuesday-Friday 4pm-1am
Saturday 2pm-1am
Sunday 12noon-1am

Happy Hour
Tuesday-Friday
4-7pm

- Monday:** Closed
- Tuesday:** Darts
- Wednesday:** Hump Day: remember Happy Hour starts at 4pm!
- Thursday:** Country Western Dance Lessons with Geri 7-9pm
- Friday:** Country Western Music with DJ "De"
- Saturday:** Country Western Music with DJ "De"
- Sunday:** Steak & Chicken Fry \$3, 6-8pm
Karaoke with Jamie 7-11pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday April 3:** Benefit Show for Paula Sha, Candidate for Miss Gay Pride.
- Saturday April 4:** Gigantic Party — Cash Inn welcomes all Cactus Cup Softball players & fans! The fun starts at 8pm; don't miss the special performance of Ladies with an Attitude at 8:30.
- Sunday April 12:** Cash Inn will be closed Easter Sunday.
- Saturday May 23:** Our First Anniversary Bash! Watch this space for more details.



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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the Metro Phoenix Queer Community

ANDES gathering slated for September

ANDES (Arizona Nude Dudes) proudly announces its Eighth Annual Southwest Gathering, to be held in the Valley of the Sun September 25-27, 1998.

This fun-filled weekend will provide the opportunity to socialize with gay and bisexual men clad only in their birthday suits under the warm southwestern sky. ANDES will also provide hosted housing upon request for non-Valley residents. Past events have hosted upwards of 100 friendly nudists.

To request an application for the Southwest Gathering or to contact ANDES for membership information, contact the ANDES hotline at (602) 817-6907, or write PO Box 32776, Phoenix, AZ 85064.

Author in town for April 2 signing

Carren Strock, author of *Married Women who Love Women* (\$23.95, Bantam) will sign her book at Obelisk: The Bookstore on Thursday, April 2 from 6 pm until 8.

Obelisk invites all its customers and *HeatStroke* readers to come out and meet the author of this informative and groundbreaking book. The store is located at 24 West Camelback in central Phoenix.

Seeing... a party in your future

A Psychic Garden Party will be held at Hand of Love Ministry, 6605 North 14th Street in Phoenix on Sunday, April 19 from 11 am-5 pm.

Readings by some of Phoenix's most distinguished psychics and astrologers and healing from leading Reiki masters will be featured. Admission is \$25 and includes one reading. Light refreshments will be available.

Also, the Workshop Networking Meetings for Reiki, Chiropractic and other Alternative Healing Practitioners will continue at Hand of Love Ministries on the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21 from 7-10 pm. For information on these events, or the regular weekly service of Hand of Love Ministries on Sunday mornings at 9 am, call (602) 264-1470.

Xenites plan fan party

Valley women who thrill to the weekly adventures of *Xena, Warrior Princess* and her devoted Gabrielle

will be whooping it up on Sunday, April 26 for a Xena Party at Obelisk: The Bookstore from 1-4 pm.

There will be cool, new Xena merchandise available, including books and CD's. All Xena fans are welcome.

The Xena gang will also be marching with the Lesbian Resource Project in the April 18 Pride Parade. This common interest group meets once a month on Sunday from 1-3:30 pm at the Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 North 14th Street in Phoenix. For more info, call XenaFan at (602) 813-8682.

Affirmative Action Trainer's training

Arizonans for Affirmative Action will be hosting a "train the trainer" conference in Phoenix on April 21 from noon to 5 pm. The goal is to have leaders go back to their respective groups and train them on the issues surrounding the affirmative action debate and, if needed, defeat the planned initiative campaign to put the issue on the ballot.

Looking for a LifeGuard

Project LifeGuard in Phoenix has announced an opening for the position of Program Specialist. The job involves outreach in the area's gay bars, coordinating workshop enrollment and confirmation, facilitating groups and workshops, and data entry.

LifeGuard, which is a program of AIDS Project Arizona, is looking for someone with strong communication and computer skills. The position also requires extensive evening and weekend work hours.

A complete job description is available by calling the LifeGuard offices at (602) 266-SAFE/7233. To apply for the position, send a cover letter and resume to: Executive Director, APAZ, 111 East Camelback, Phoenix AZ 85012.

Spartans car wash moved

The rains of El Niño dampened the March 14 car wash fund-raiser the Phoenix Spartans wrestling club had scheduled, so the wrestlers will try again. They have moved the event to Saturday, March 28 from 1 to 5 pm. The car wash will be held once again at Nu Towne Saloon, 5002 East Van Buren in Phoenix, so all friends and fans of the gay wrestling group are encouraged to bring in their dirty cars and help the Spartans raise some money.

GINGHAM DAYS

AND

SPANDEX DREAMS

By Molly McCloy,
HeatStroke contributor

The Dinah Shore Golf Tournament weekend in Palm Springs, California offers the horny, flesh-starved lesbian a lush, no-boys-allowed fantasy land: hundreds of girls in bikinis bobbing up and down in a giant pool of blue water while beach balls fly through the air and sunshine pours over tanned, glistening bodies. It's *Baywatch* with taste.

Unfortunately, there are no bikini lesbian pool parties scheduled in Davenport, Iowa where I will be spending my vacation this month.

Iowa. The home of corn syrup and the rock-stubborn value of practicality, a vortex for too-polite chatter about weather and hairstyles. Davenport. The home of my 88-year-old grandmother who deserves a visit from me before she—as my mom puts it—“gets more confused.”

Grandma Bernie is a four-foot-five cutie who could hold her own if that “Where’s the Beef?” chick ever came at her in a dark alley. She retired as a driver for the Meals on Wheels program only two years ago, and mowed her own lawn recently because she didn’t like the way the lawn service was doing it. She’s a feisty gal with an easy giggle and a good sense of fun.

It will be good to see her, but every time I go to Iowa I feel like I am walking through a Crisco ad from the *Ladies’ Home Journal*. Checked tablecloths. Big, crispy cherry pies. Women who spend their idle time making poodles out of macaroni. In fact, the only two women in the whole town of Davenport who break this mold are my Aunt Judy and her diesel-driving wife.

Aunt Judy is a loud woman who would like to “out” me to my grandmother—not to propel any political agenda—but in order to shake things up, to entertain herself, and to redirect everyone’s attention onto somebody else for a change. My loud Aunt Judy—the Anti-Crisco.

I will be longing for the living, bouncing Swimsuit Issue in Palm Springs this month as I watch TV with Grandma and try to respect her respect for Billy Graham. As I eat one low-fat, mayonnaise-ridden salad after another and duck the Anti-Crisco’s questions about “boyfriends” and marriage.

As I dream about the Dinah Shore tournament, I will not envision women playing golf. I am sure the women golfers who participate in the tournament are doing great things to further the cause of female athletes everywhere, and if I could get interested in a bunch of yuppie chicks chasing after little white balls, I would probably even watch a few rounds.

To me, Dinah Shore is not just a golf tournament that gives female athletes the respect they deserve. To me, Dinah Shore is more about the

bikini pool parties that give lesbian sexuality the absolute, uninhibited glorification it deserves.

For any lesbian who has ever envied the upper-class, straight, white male who watches *Baywatch* and realizes he could take Pamela Anderson home and marry her legally, kiss her in public without someone slapping a warning label on him, and earn



enough money to pay for reverse surgery to make puffed-up Pam look like a human being again, Dinah Shore is a dream come true.

Dinah Shore provides the type of pleasure that het-privilege can never buy. At the usual heterosexual hotel pool scene, men elbow their way in front of other men to get the attention of women; women compete with other women to get the attention of the men who are elbowing each other.

A woman at a lesbian pool party, however, is not limited in her scanning scope the way heterosexuals in straight environments are—a dyke in a poolful of dykes can scam on absolutely everyone she wants to. If you think about it this way, straight boys at boy/girl parties only have half as much fun.

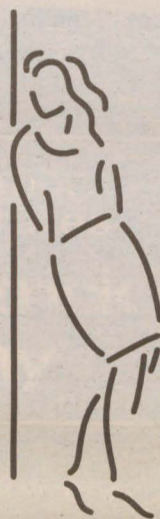
Even if you are the type of lesbian who says (like the Anti-Crisco often does), “I kiss my girlfriend in public any time I want to,” Dinah Shore will make you realize that sex-squeamish heterosexuals rule the outside world in a very unfair manner. Finally, you get the chance to blatantly cruise barely-clad women without somebody squirming or pointing.

And the selection of women is superior to the cookie-cutter options glorified on TV—at Dinah Shore, the women come in all sizes and shapes and a surprising number of them know how to throw a football.

Beach balls and footballs fly everywhere. A gorgeous redhead whose nipple piercing is subtly outlined by her black bikini top dives to make a one-handed catch. As a hip-looking Filipina tosses you a beach ball, you notice how sexy the shaved-off, bristled hair on her muscular neck is. There is a friendly skirmish as ten

women dive for the ball at once: arms and legs everywhere, water frothing—until finally a tall, freckled woman with braided hair rises above the tangled mass of bikinis and bodies to hold the ball aloft. Your eyes trace each drop of water sliding down her body.

Ahhh. I wish I could go to Dinah Shore this year. Since I can’t make it, though, I will leave you with a few tips. First of all, break up with your girlfriend before you drive out to Palm Springs, or at least refuse to take her with you. Always remember that saying, “I need a little space”



adds up quickly.

Next year I will start a terrorist group called “Bad-Momma Budget Dykes”. We will wear swimsuits and



arm ourselves with squirt machine guns so we can round up women and force them to attend free events, like hikes and readings and basketball games at the park. Until then, remember that if you must miss any of the Dinah Shore events, don’t let it be a pool party.

now is better than saying, “No, Honey, I wasn’t untying that girl’s bikini strings with my teeth” later.

And despite what anyone tells you, the rich golfer Sugar Mommas aren’t really Sugar Mommas but shrewd and subtle sex maniacs. If a hot-looking woman wearing a little white visor says, “I want to lick every inch of your body,” she does not mean, “I am going to pay your rent and support your writing career for the rest of your life.” I had to learn that one the hard way.


Finally, I need to warn you to bring plenty of cash. You will be charged a ten to twenty dollar admission fee every time you turn around—for pool parties, comedy shows and small music festivals. It

I will wish you happy scamming, as I sit at my grandmother’s dining room table and defend myself against the Anti-Crisco’s accusations when she insists that whatever craft item I am making out of tissue paper looks suspiciously like a female breast.

“Dinah Shore?” Grandma will ask. “Isn’t she the one who got the glass eye and then started peddling Wheat Thins? Those women on TV all look alike... after awhile I start getting them mixed up.”

“Me too,” I will tell her. “Me too.”





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Gay author revisits the Valley of the Sun

Continued from page 1

You can't call it marriage because marriage is a sacrament. And it's very shocking to real people who take notice of all that, that a sacrament should be offered to people they consider sinners." Instead, Crisp advocates the creation of a different type of union.

"You call it something else, they can have it. What they do need is a law that protects the dependent party." As an example, Crisp cites the death of lesbian writer Gertrude Stein and the financial ruin that befell her life companion, Alice B. Toklas, afterward.

Crisp says he is glad to see the number of celebrities who are now coming out of the closet in a very public way, but he has some reservations. "I think it's a good idea. But of course the emphasis is so strong, because no one has ever mentioned it before, that you know nothing about them except that they're lesbians. And it's not very important."

As to whether he thinks coming out is damaging to an entertainer's career, he offers the following hope: "I think one day, of course, it won't be important. When you say, 'I'm gay' other people will say, 'And then?'"

Crisp also offers his take on today's highest-profile peek into the

private lives of famous people, the ongoing Clinton sex scandal: "In Queen Elizabeth the First's reign, had anyone been sexually involved with her and then bragged about it after-

"I don't know why all those women aren't beheaded. I mean put together and chopped up like parsley."

wards, he would have been beheaded. I don't know why all those women aren't beheaded. I mean put together and chopped up like parsley."

Crisp says it doesn't matter whether Clinton is guilty or not. "It's so horrible that he should be treated this way. He's the President, he's sacred."

In the end, it seems Quentin Crisp finds all this talk about bedroom behavior rather distasteful. "I, of course, am not modern at all," he explains. "I'm already ninety. So I'm not interested in sex personally and I've never lived a life in which it was even mentioned. In England nobody talks about it."

He continues, "I was on Dr. [Ruth]

Westheimer's show. She said, 'Now we have Mr. Crisp with us, who has opinions about everything... what do you think about sex?' And I said, 'It's a mistake.' I had to remind her that I come from a world in which we didn't know that sex was here to stay. We thought if nobody talked about it, it would go away."

Reminded that hasn't exactly been the case, Crisp says, "We don't know whether if no one talked about it, it would go away—because no one ever stops talking about it. If they did stop, it might go away. And wouldn't that be wonderful?"

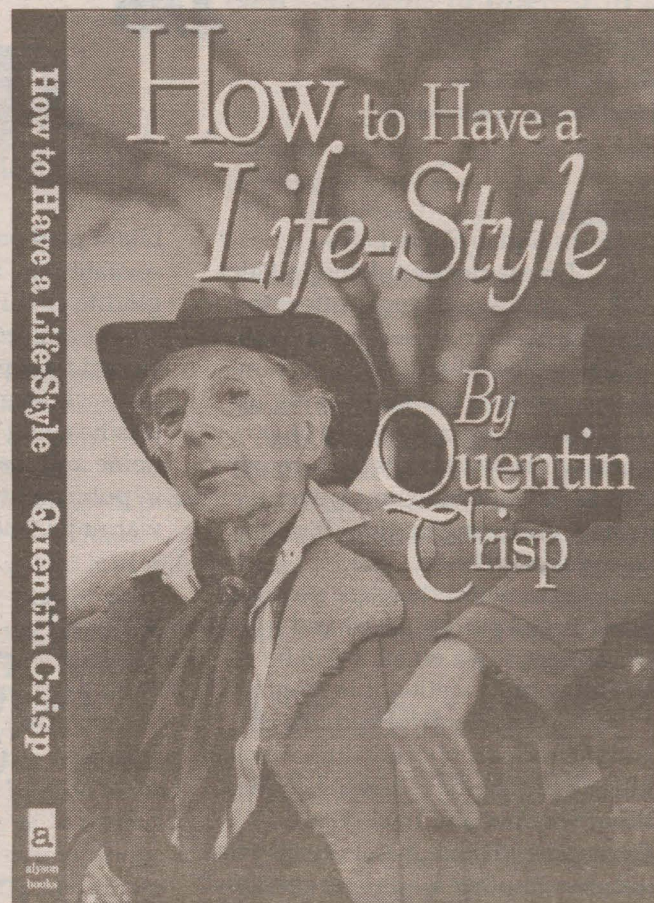


Mr. Crisp is liable to further discuss any number of strange and unrelated subjects during An Evening With Quentin Crisp at 7 pm on Friday, April 3 at the Arizona history Museum, 105 North 5th Street in Phoenix.

This free lecture is being offered through the BJ Bud Memorial Library, a program of The Valley of the Sun Gay and

Lesbian Community Center, with funds granted by the Arizona Humanities Council.

The lecture will be followed by two book signings on April 4, at 11 am at the Arizona Book Festival at Margaret T. Hance Park in downtown Phoenix and then at 1pm at Borders Books and Music, 24th Street and Camelback in the Biltmore Fashion Park.





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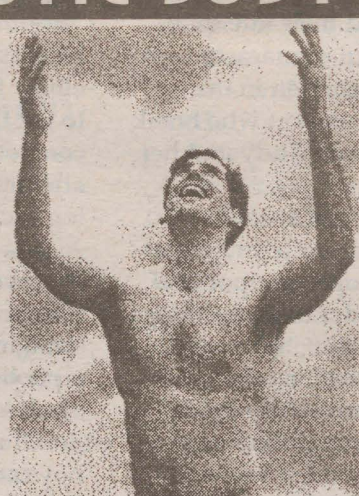
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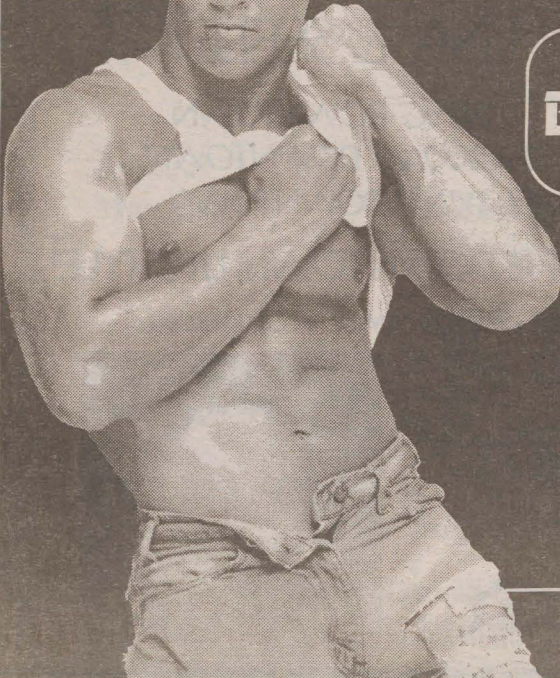
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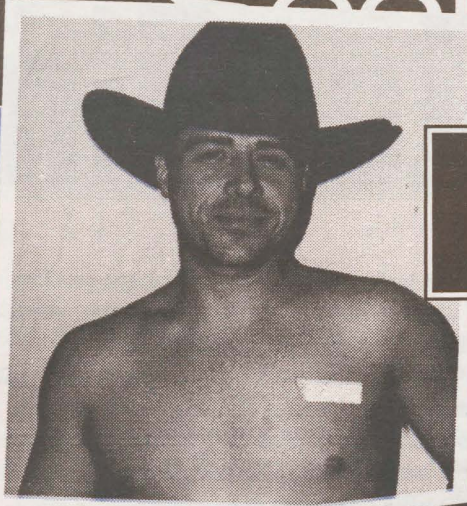
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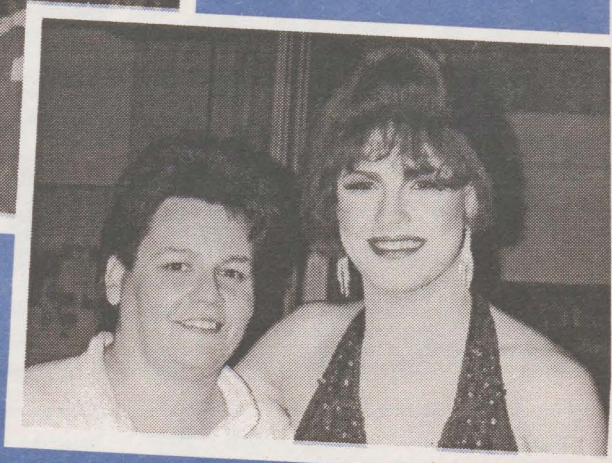
Seeing/Being Scene



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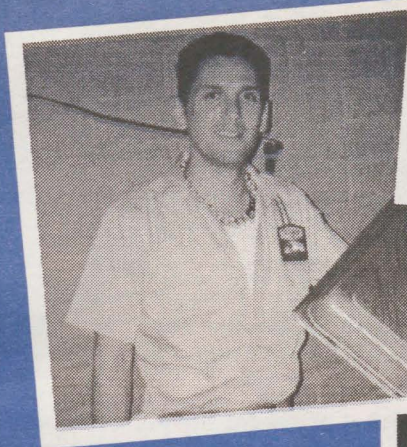
Cash Inn



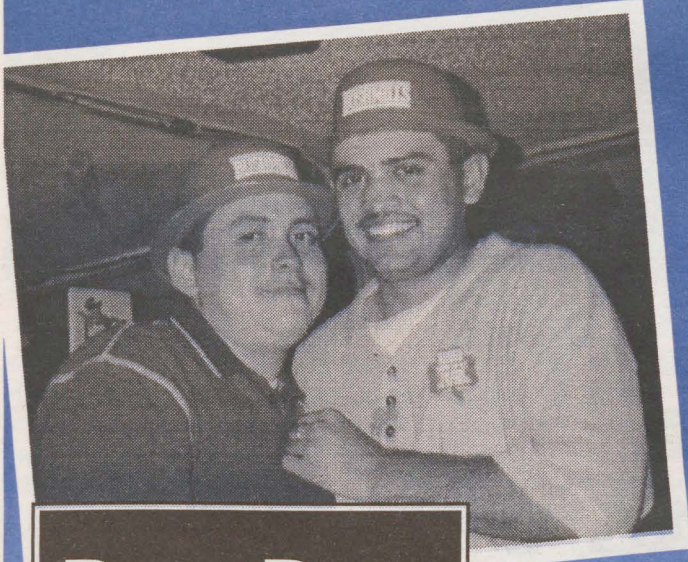
Phoenix Celebrates St. Patrick's Day



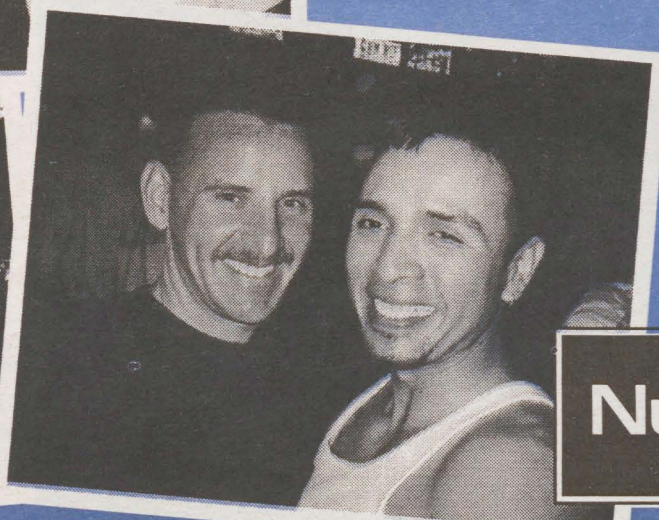
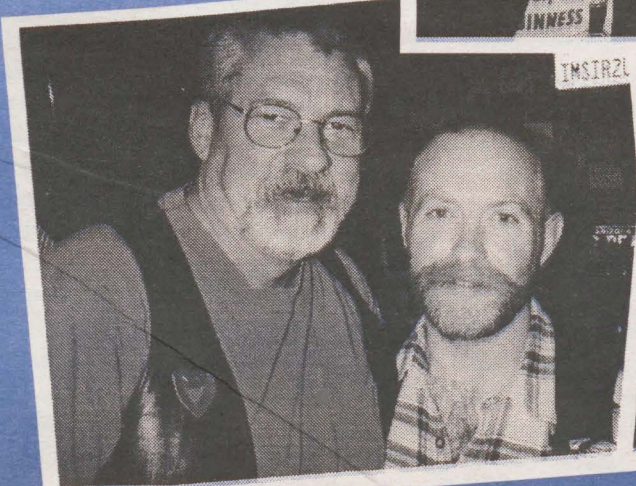
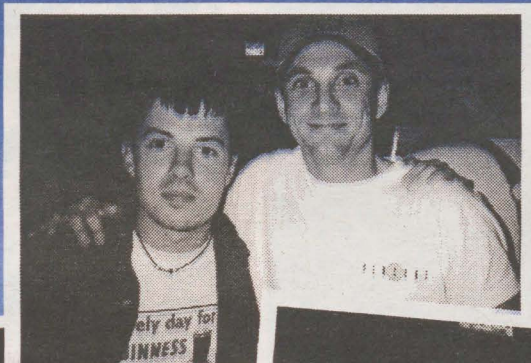
JC's Fun One



Shooterz



Paco Paco



Nu Towne

De'Ath Warmed Over

By Kelly Reidhead, Managing Editor

John Hurt is a wonderful actor. He's taken on roles that are breathtaking in their diversity: from the deformed Victorian hero in *The Elephant Man* (for which he received his second Oscar nomination), to the razor-sharp wit of *HeatStroke's* current cover eccentric, Quentin Crisp, in *The Naked Civil Servant*. It's a shame that his talents are squandered in a film as flimsy as *Love and Death on Long Island*.

Hurt plays Giles De'Ath (pronounced "day-AHTH"), a reclusive British writer who takes pride

in his total rejection of technology: he drafts all his manuscripts in longhand, and has never owned a television. A widower, he is comfortably ensconced in his London townhouse, pampered by his loyal housekeeper, Mrs. Barker (Sheila Hancock).

Accidentally locking himself out of the house on a rainy day, Giles decides to pass the time in a nearby movie theater, intrigued by an adaptation of a E.M. Forster novel. But Giles mistakenly wanders into the wrong auditorium: rather than Forster, he finds an American import, *Hotpants College 2*, on the big screen.

Thoroughly disgusted with the crudeness of the film, Giles stands to leave when he has an epiphany: the image of Ronnie Bostock (Jason Priestley) appears on the screen, and he is utterly transfixed with the comely American actor. And, as they say, nothing is ever the same.

C. Reardon



Giles becomes obsessed with Ronnie, collecting every piece of information he can track down about the actor. He furtively purchases teen fan magazines, from which he clips Ronnie's image for a scrapbook/shrine he lovingly assembles and christens "Bostockiana."

He memorizes all of the trivia of the actor's life: his favorite foods, his dog's name, Ronnie's "pet peeves." And, so he can watch Bostock's previous films,

Outonfilm

Giles decides to buy a VCR — although he doesn't realize he also needs a television until the installer informs him of the missing component.

His obsession continues to grow, and he begins to fantasize about meeting Ronnie. The balance of the film follows Giles as he stakes out the actor's Long Island hometown, and plots to insinuate himself into the life of Ronnie Bostock.

The most glaring problem with *Love and Death on Long Island* lies with the script. Writer/Director Richard Kwietniowski never fully develops Giles' character. The only thing we really understand about Giles is that he was technophobic — but this eccentricity is irrelevant to understanding what motivates his obsession with Ronnie.

Nothing in the script implies that Giles is anything but heterosexual — except for his creepy fixation on a male movie star. Kwietniowski's script offers no insight that would explain why Giles becomes a pathetic weirdo stalking the celebrity he claims to love.

Is his behavior the result of mental illness? Is he being poisoned by his housekeeper? We never know; consequently, we don't care. We just want the film to end.

Abby Bradford sings at Gammage

Tony Award winning actress and singer Betty Buckley will star in *Betty Buckley on Broadway* at Arizona State University's Gammage Auditorium on Saturday, April 4 at 8pm.

Buckley won critical acclaim as Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard* and as the Glamour cat in *Cats*. A concert, film and Broadway star, she is also fondly remembered for her long-running role as Abby, the pragmatic mom on the television drama *Eight is Enough*.

Betty Buckley also starred on Broadway in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *1776*, *Song and Dance* and *Carrie*. Her repertoire for the Tempe performance will include pop standards and Broadway classics, such as "Memory", from her Tony Award winning role in *Cats* and "With One Look" from *Sunset Boulevard*.

Ticket prices for the performance range from \$24 to \$32 and are available by calling ASU's Gammage Box Office at (602) 965-34334 or Dillard's at (602) 503-5555.



Tim Fuller

New ATC play blasts off April 4

Rocket Man, a new play by Steven Dietz, will have its world premiere at the Herberger Theatre Centre in downtown Phoenix in April as a presentation of the Arizona Theatre Company.

Billed as a serious comedy, *Rocket Man* will be directed by ATC Artistic Director David Ira Goldstein and will open April 4, running through April 25. This is the third Dietz play to premiere at ATC in the last four years, following *Private Eyes* in 1996

and *Dracula* in 1995.

The play will be shown in repertory with the Childsplay production of *Still Life With Iris*, another Dietz play. Patrons of each company will have the opportunity to see the other company's play on the same stage at a discounted price.

Tickets are \$19.50-\$32.50 and are available by calling ATC at (602) 256-6995, the Herberger Box Office at (602) 252-6497 or Dillard's at (602) 256-6899.

Latins & Catholics & Gays... oh my

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Arizona State University's upcoming production of *The Seductions of Johnny Diego* is the first of local writer Guillermo Reyes' many plays to be fully mounted in the Valley, and its author admits he is a little nervous. "But I'm excited, too," he says.

This wild production of Reyes' most satirical comedy opens March 27 at ASU's Lyceum Theatre and marks several "firsts" for the Chilean-born playwright, who was raised in Los Angeles and now heads ASU's graduate play writing program.

For one thing, the ASU show is the first time *Johnny Diego* has ever been fully staged. The family farce is something Reyes started writing in 1990 when he was a grad student at the University of California - San Diego and it was presented as a staged reading at LA's Mark Taper Forum in 1995.

It's also the first time Reyes will be working here with his good friend and longtime collaborator, director Joseph Megel. Presently the Artistic Director for Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey, Megel is in Tempe specifically to direct *Johnny Diego* as a guest artist at ASU. Reyes has been a Valley resident and an instructor with ASU's Theatre Department for two years.

Ask Reyes whether he considers his job complete once he's written the play, and he's remarkably quick to answer: "Oh, no. As a playwright, you always hope to see your work on stage in a theater full of people. You write it for the audience—that's when the sense of accomplishment comes."

Megel has directed Reyes' work many times on both coasts, including world premieres, workshop productions and staged readings of several plays. Last year, Megel helmed the award-winning off-Broadway staging of *Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown*, Reyes' collection of comic monologues that features one actor playing six different gay Latino characters.

The visiting director promises that ASU's presentation of *Johnny Diego* will deliver a unique experience for Valley theatergoers who may be used to tamer fare in college productions.

"What Guillermo does that's so nice is the way he hits upon a lot of issues without being militant about them," Megel says. "He approaches ideas as a gay man from a Latin American culture who is comfortable with who he is. And so there is, of course, going to be that minority experience somewhere behind whatever it is he's writing about. Maybe that minority status is a motivating factor, but it's used subliminally and not politically. And it's so much more entertaining"

It's Megel's opinion that militant plays—particularly gay themed ones—that have an obvious political

agenda are often quite boring. He enjoys directing Reyes' work, he says, because the messages are much more subtle and the plays themselves "are never boring." He says it's probably Reyes' sense of humor that makes his plays work so well.

That sense of humor abounds in *The Seductions of Johnny Diego*, the farcical story of a young Mexican American from East LA who attacks upward mobility with a vengeance after returning from a tour of duty in Viet Nam in 1967.

Johnny is determined to marry into the upper middle class Zeveda family, whose comically heard-but-never-seen patriarch is the "Appliance King of East LA." The Zeveda household's material success means everything to Johnny, and he'll do just about anything to get a piece of the wacky family's all-American Pie.

Mrs. Zeveda is a lively and over-sexed anti-establishment liberal of Irish decent who's embarrassed by her Mexican American husband's financial success. To cope, Mrs. Z takes to boozing and flirting, and embraces any number of militant



Johnny (Richard Trujillo) considers one of his options in *The Seductions of Johnny Diego*

causes. She likes to be called "White Hot Mama", a code name she claims she was given by the Black Panthers.

And then there are her crazy kids. Bonita, the eldest daughter, is motivated by dreams of screen stardom and complete assimilation into Anglo culture. Theresa is the younger daughter, a poet-cum-hippie fiercely proud of her Latin heritage and aroused by Johnny's "Aztec Warrior" features. Equally turned on by the barrio-born warrior is Bonita's little brother, Arnie, a spoiled and very horny gay theology student.

Reyes has no problem tossing openly gay characters and situations into his plays. In *Johnny Diego* Arnie Zeveda proudly—and outrageously—throws himself at his childhood playmate time and again. Arnie urges Johnny to face both a relationship and label that neither the ex-soldier nor late-sixties society are ready to acknowledge.

For those who remember a time when masturbation, male/male sex, profanity, infidelity, pot-smoking and religious satire were subjects deemed too controversial for the hallowed halls of many US campuses, this mounting of *Johnny Diego* at ASU serves as an example of how progressive attitudes have become in college theater departments.

Neither the play's director nor its author find anything in the wacky comedy to be "too" provocative or groundbreaking for the Tempe school. "This is certainly not the first thing ASU has done with gay characters in it," Reyes says. He thinks it's great that gay issues can be staged and dealt with in the open in a college environment.

"It's about time," he adds. "I mean, much of the department's faculty is openly gay. Then, you have more and more students coming out nowadays when they are still in college. So doing gay roles and discussing gay subject matter is seen more and more as just a part of life." Reyes says even though he is completely out, he is not an activist in any sense. "I'm not trying to put my views or sexuality onto anybody. I'm just honest."

He says that if the straight kids plan on staying in the theater when they graduate, they are going to find gay people all over the place—so they might as well get comfortable around them in school. "Besides, a lot of the work being done in New York or in regional theaters today has all kinds of gay stuff in it. So why hide?"

It was not *Johnny Diego*, but another

eter—a sort of underlying gay sensibility. Even if you look at musicals with male/female love stories from decades ago. The writers were closeted, but theater still had a recognizable kind of gay humor and gay wit."

He says writers are more open today, and that's the big difference. "That's how it should be. Some people say there's too much gay stuff in the theater now. I don't agree—I say it was always there but it's finally out of the closet and that's a good thing"

The gay issue aside, Reyes is quite curious to see how individuals within in the Phoenix area's large Latin community will react to *Johnny Diego*, which also hilariously skewers family relationships in Mexican-American culture, ethnic identity, Catholicism and assimilation issues.

His reference point up to now has been *The His-Panick Zone*, another Reyes-penned comedy that deals with ethnic issues and stereotypes and was presented twice in the Valley in 1997, each time as a staged reading. Reyes says the response from Hispanic audience members at both shows was very positive.

"You never know how people are going to react. This is where I live now, so I am very curious to see how my work is going to go over in the Phoenix area. I hope to see more of my plays produced here, so it's important to me. Several of my plays will, I think, go over very well with Phoenix audiences. But this is the first full production of one, so we'll have to see."

In 1997 Reyes' new drama, *A Southern Christmas*, won the top prize in Arizona Theatre Company's Hispanic Play Writing Contest. Another comedy/drama, *Chilean Holiday*, has been staged in LA and Houston, and Reyes says he would love to see it done here. Both plays are under consideration by planning boards of two local companies for their 1998-99 seasons.

Joseph Megel has staged Hispanic-themed plays in both LA and New York but never before in Phoenix, and he doesn't expect that *Johnny Diego* will be too controversial for ASU's audience. "I find that the Latin American experience is so hugely under-represented on stage that people are just hungry to see their lives enacted in some way," he says.

"As a writer, you don't want to attack or offend people—you want to make them think," Reyes says. "And sometimes people are offended by things you don't expect. Other times you think something is going to push some buttons and there's no reaction at all. It's the type of thing that's very difficult to predict."

"We just have to raise the curtain and then see what happens."



The Seductions of Johnny Diego opens March 27 and runs through April 11 at the Lyceum Theatre, University Drive and Forest Mall in Tempe. Evening performances begin at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees are at 2 pm. Tickets are available through ASU's Fine Arts Box Office at (602) 95-6447.

The play features guest artist Richard Trujillo (seen most recently in Arizona Jewish Theatre's *Twilight of the Golds*) as Johnny Diego and ASU students Patrick Cavanaugh, Andrea Morales and Kurt Gundersen. Valley actresses Neda Tavassoli (*Chicks with Dicks*) and Kathleen Butler (*King Lear*) complete the cast.

Out of Town

Palm Springs: Part I

By Andrew Collins, HeatStroke Contributor

It was in the 1930s that well-to-do Hollywood types first discovered the virtues of Palm Springs, a lushly landscaped oasis in the heart of the rugged, barren, and dramatic Coachella Valley, a couple of hours from both Los Angeles and San Diego.

Gay people have maintained a steady if discreet presence since the city's beginnings, but only in the early '70s did a specifically gay resort open. In the early '80s several more followed, as did some bars, shops, and restaurants.

Development was booming by the late '80s, as Palm Springs reemerged as an exclusive getaway. In the last few years tourism—gay and straight—has leveled off, but the region's popularity doesn't appear to be in jeopardy. With a higher charge of sexual energy than any other gay resort in the West, the region will always lure fast-lane types.

Palm Springs is slow-paced and casual much of the year; only during winter does the place become markedly more lively.

Certain aspects of the city's gay scene are as image-conscious and party-driven as L.A.'s, but Palm Springs is chiefly a place to unwind, lie in the buff around the pool, and catch up with old friends.

Most gay resorts, a few bars, and many businesses are in Palm Springs proper, with more of the nightlife in the next town over, Cathedral City, a young commercial burg.

North Palm Canyon Drive, downtown Palm Springs's commercial spine, once enjoyed the cachet of Beverly Hills's Rodeo Drive, but it's become considerably more pedestrian. That said, there's plenty of chichi browsing to be done at the Desert Fashion Plaza, an indoor mall with about 50 stores.

The Palm Springs Desert Museum is the area's cultural center, focusing on western and Native American art.

Much of what makes this part of California so

breathhtaking—the mountains and the high desert—is difficult to appreciate without venturing a bit from the center of town.

It's just a short drive to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, from which you can take a dramatic 20-minute tram ride to the 8,500-foot peak of Mt. San Gorgino.

The Indian Canyons, one of the area's most fascinating attractions, are about 5 miles south of Palm Springs. Here you can view pictographs and hike among four canyons inhabited for centuries by the Agua Caliente tribe.

For a longer hike spend a day exploring the

out feeling self-conscious. The piano entertainment on weekends adds a spark to the meal.

In Cathedral City, Triangles offers both Asian and Continental specialties in two smartly decorated dining rooms, and nearby Michael's Cafe is a kitsch-filled diner with stainless steel furnishings and a fabulous collection of Marilyn Monroe commemorative plates.

Nearby Rancho Mirage is home to arguably the most respected queer-popular eatery in the desert, Shame on the Moon. The traditional Continental fare—favorites include pasta bolognese and fresh seafood with pasta—is consistently stellar.

As for nightlife, the biggest discos are packed with every style of guy and a smaller contingent of women, and each season, specific establishments become the places to haunt at particular times of the day or night.

Except for one high-energy disco—C.C. Construction on Sunrise—Palm Springs is mostly the domain of chatty neighborhood bars, the most popular of which are centered upon Arenas Road, hyperbolically dubbed "Little Castro."

The low-key friendly joints include the Rainbow Cactus Cafe—a piano bar whose walls are festooned with Christmas lights and Native American art—and Streetbar,

a simple video pub with pool, pinball, and a small sidewalk terrace.

In Cathedral City, you'll find the region's hot new disco of the moment, Amnesia, which is set inside the spacious former home of C.C.

Construction. This place has two distinct dance areas offering different styles of music, and the management encourages a mixed-gender clientele.

Just down the street is long-running Choices, another big dance club with a large video-game and pool-table area and a big but nondescript patio outside.

The desert has been without a full-time dyke bar since Delilah's closed a couple of years ago, but the Sundance Saloon recently christened an adjacent women's hangout, the Love Shack, complete with dancing and plenty of space for mingling.

Leather aficionados favor the nearby Wolfs Den, a cousin of the like-named club in San Diego. Forgot your chaps? Fear not, there's a fine leather boutique on premises.

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.



A view of Palm Springs from the 8,500-foot peak of Mt. San Gorgino

Andrew Collins

half-million-acre Joshua Tree National Park. It's an hour's drive east from Palm Springs on Highway 62. Parts of two deserts overlap Joshua Tree. The higher Mojave is studded with the distinctive trees for which the park is named; the lower, generally less interesting, Colorado Desert is carpeted with wildflowers in the spring.

This region lags behind the rest of Southern California when it comes to cutting-edge cuisine: Steakhouses, traditional Italian restaurants, and fast-food franchises dominate the dining landscape.

Some of the nicer hotels have good food, but most of the cuisine is comparatively tame and old-fashioned. Flambes are still a novelty here. Still, you'll find a few nice options, including Billy Reed's, a hallowed institution that looks like an old brothel, has plenty of spunk, serves decent American food, and whose entertainers impersonate famous stars.

For a somewhat higher-end treat, folks often dine at snazzy 2095, where same-sex couples can nuzzle over a drawn-out four-course dinner with-

Certain aspects of the city's gay scene are as image-conscious and party-driven as L.A.'s, but Palm Springs is chiefly a place to unwind, lie in the buff around the pool, and catch up with old friends.

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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

ABC Orders Out... For Pizza?

Want to know in advance whether *Ellen* will be back on ABC next season? Then you might be wise to follow the ratings of *Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place*, the network's replacement for *Ellen* on Wednesdays through April.

Insiders say that show is poised to replace the groundbreaking sitcom if it performs well during a six-week tryout. If not, then *Ellen* stands a better chance of returning in the fall.

This despite DeGeneres' claim that her show is history, based on indications from ABC execs. Of course, *Ellen* said the same thing last year, but ratings were stronger then.

Before making any knee-jerk judgments that would likely follow *Ellen's* cancellation, it should be noted that the show is steadily losing viewers.

Through Feb. 25th, *Ellen* was ranked 45th in the Nielsens, down 15 spots from last year and 32 from the show's first full season (1994-5). And it's not holding onto the audience from its lead-in, *Drew Carey*, which in the most recent Nielsens finished 28th for the week. *Ellen* was 63rd.

To be fair, *Ellen's* audience is much different from the one *Drew Carey* attracts. And the network's ratings are down overall this year.

One thing's for certain: if *Ellen* does return, ABC execs will insist she tone down this season's emphasis on *Ellen Morgan's* love life.

If this is *Ellen's* last hurrah, there are

no plans as of yet for a "farewell" episode. All that's known about this season's last show is that several WNBA players, such as the Los Angeles Sparks's Lisa Leslie, will be appearing.

On the personal front, *Ellen's* mom Betty DeGeneres is reportedly charging that Anne Heche's mom is selling false stories to the tabloids in an effort to break the couple up.

Heche has indicated in past interviews that she grew up in a very religious household, so it's no surprise that her mother would object to a lesbian relationship.

One of those allegedly fabricated stories claimed that Heche was carrying on with one of her co-stars in an upcoming film, *Swingers* stud Vince Vaughn (who also appeared in last year's *The Lost World*).

Playing Gay

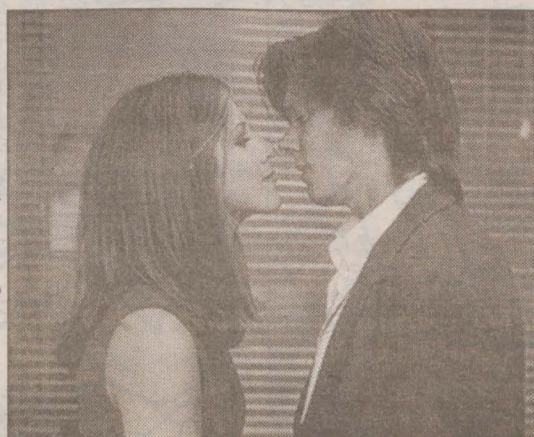
Pretending to be queer has become a hot new celluloid trend. The latest actor to "switch teams" is *Friends* star Matthew Perry, who will play an architect assumed to be gay by a

powerful businessman who seeks to employ him in *Three to Tango*.

Perry's character is not gay, however, and falls in love with the businessman's mistress, Neve Campbell, who is having it both ways in her own new movie, *Wild Things*.

The thriller, now in limited release, shows Campbell sharing some steamy scenes with co-star Denise Richards (late of *Starship Troopers*), including the red-hot *Party of Five* star's first same-sex, on-screen kiss.

Incidentally, audiences also get a glimpse of Kevin Bacon's penis in the film, leading to all sorts of new spins on the "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon" game.



Kevin bares the Bacon in *Wild Things*

© 1997 Twentieth Century Fox



Neve Campbell will soon be seen in *Three to Tango* with *Friends* star Matthew Perry, who will play gay for pay

© 1997 Warner Bros.

Moms

Madonna, 39, says she is going to have another baby. How, when and with whom (if anyone) is not known, but considering the diva's age, it'll probably happen quickly.

Meanwhile, mom-to-be Jodie Foster is bringing *The Baby Dance* out of development hell.

Past Oscar nominees Stockard Channing and Laura Dern play a lesbian upper-middle class couple who want to buy a baby from a trailer park mom. Foster's Egg Productions will produce.

Springtime for Nathan

The ubiquitous Nathan Lane is returning to Broadway in a musical produced by gay entertainment mogul David Geffen.

Lane will co-star with Martin Short in the show based on Mel Brooks' 1967 film *The Producers*, which won Brooks a well-deserved best screenplay Oscar.

The role marks the second time Lane has stepped into Zero Mostel's

oversized trousers, following a 1996 Tony-winning turn as Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Could *Fiddler on the Roof* be next?

Dyke Icons

Xena: Warrior Princess's large lesbian viewership apparently includes k.d. lang, who, according to series star Lucy Lawless, has expressed interest in guest-starring on the show.

An upcoming episode will feature Lawless portraying the original Lesbian icon, Sappho—the Greek writer who wrote love poems to women.



Big-Boned Gals: Lucy Lawless counts k.d. lang among her many admirers

© 1995 MCA Television

did the "half monty," and brought the concept south.

Chippendales became an immediate hit, of course, but Banerjee's success dragged him down, as he associated with organized crime and developed a serious drug problem.

Banerjee hung himself in prison after being jailed for engaging hit men to do away with some of his business associates.

The Tragically True Story of Teena

A documentary probing the untimely death of transsexual Brandon Teena now in limited release is the first of three films due this year examining Teena's life.

For those of you not already familiar with this saga, Brandon Teena was born a girl, Teena Brandon, in Lincoln, Nebraska. After deciding she was male, Teena reversed her name and had her breasts surgically removed. Assuming his new identity, Brandon started dating girls.

At age 20, he moved to nearby Falls City, Neb., where he embarked on a relationship with a young local woman. After being arrested for passing a forged check, Brandon was charged under his real name, revealing his true gender to the town.

Enraged by the discovery, a couple of macho thugs who knew Brandon beat and raped him on Christmas Eve, 1993.

After filing a complaint, he was found dead on New Year's Eve along with two other people in the house

where he was staying. The rapists were convicted of the killings (one is on death row while the other serves a life sentence.)

Besides this documentary, Teena's story will be told in an independent adaptation *Take it Like a Man* and Fine Line's *All She Wanted*, which stars the sexually adventurous Drew Barrymore.

Romeo San Vicente, who's still enraged that his Oscar-nominated boyfriend chose to take his mother to the ceremonies instead of him, can be reached care of HeatStroke or at RSVicente@aol.com.

Mickey Gets Naked

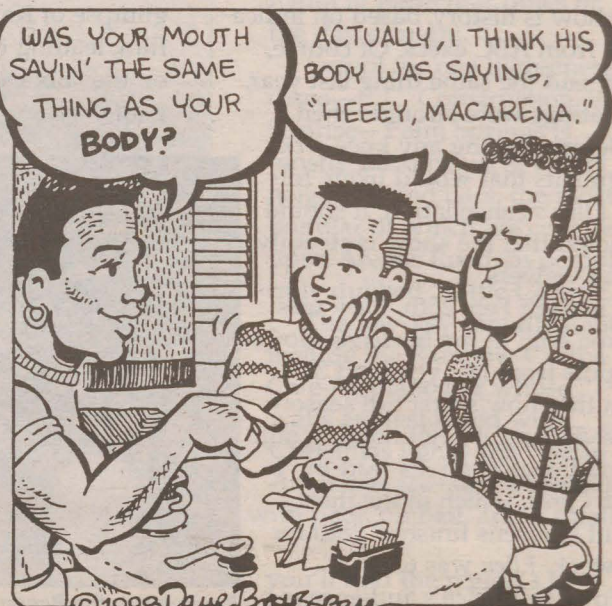
Disney has hired *Men in Black* director Barry Sonnenfeld to direct a film about the rise and fall of Chippendales founder Steve Banerjee.

Their goal is to turn the project into the *Casino* of male dancing.

Banerjee was an Indian immigrant who made his fortune in Los Angeles gas stations. After losing money on a backgammon club, he learned of a Canadian nightspot where the guys



the funnies

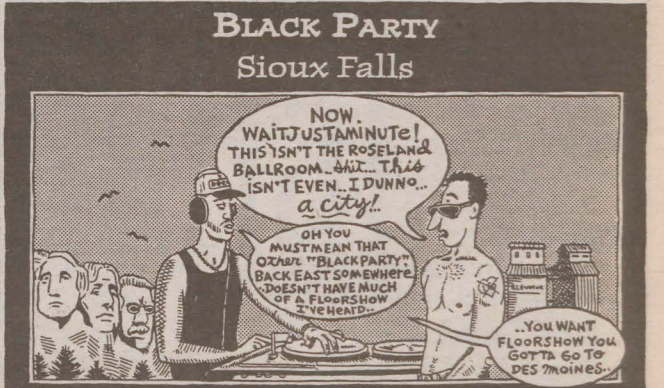
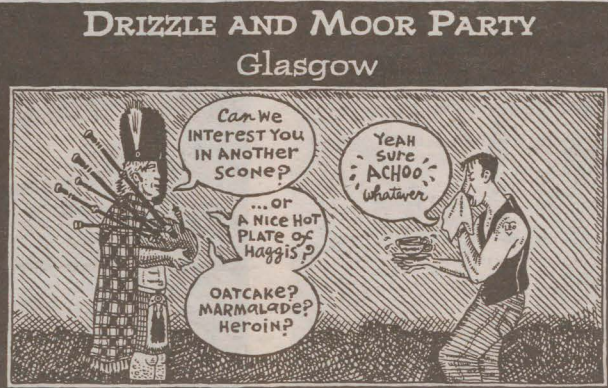
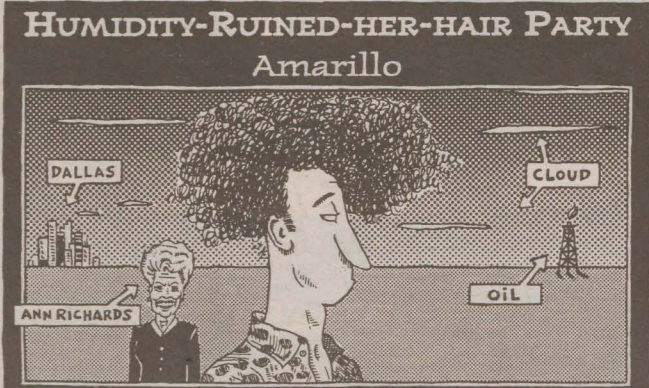
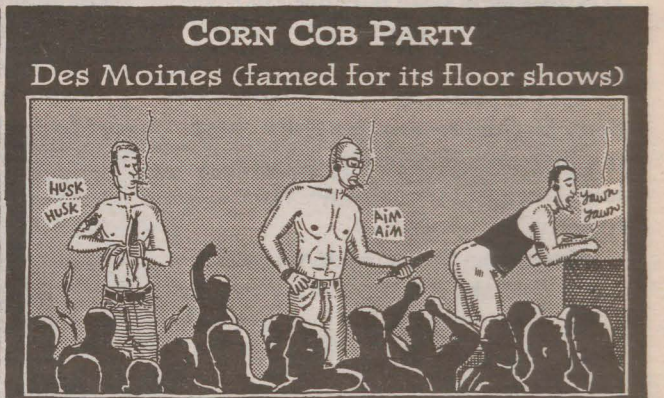
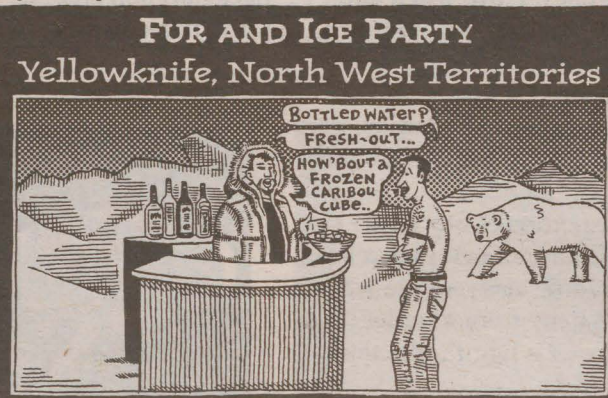
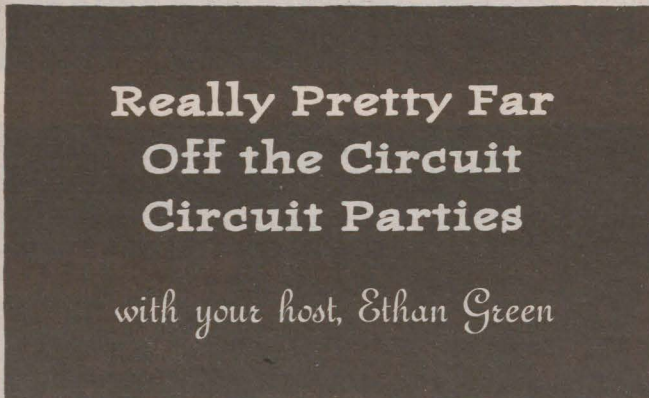


Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner



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"DEAR COWBOY" A REGULAR ADVICE COLUMN



We've rounded up a real cowboy who's tough as rawhide but gentle as a poet. Ask him anything. Calmer and wiser than most of us, he's full of strong coffee and good advice. And he never squints into the sun. Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ, or e-mail to alka-lphx@aol.com — we'll pass them along to the wise one for you.

Dear Cowboy,
My lover is always bailing her deadbeat brothers and sisters out of trouble with lost jobs, drugs, bill collectors, etc. She's the only one of six kids to get a college education and hold a good job. I think it's okay to give her mom some extra money when we have it, but the brothers and sisters are between 27 and 45 and they can either sink or swim on their own.
She is Latina and says I don't understand the significance of "la familia" and tradition in Mexican culture. She really believes it is our duty to help her siblings financially when these little crises come up, even

though we cannot be open about our relationship with them.
We've been together for seven years and I'm tired of this whole situation. Do you think I'm wrong to try to change her traditions? How can I convince her?
Signed, Unhappy In-law

Dear In-law,
Don't think of it as "changing a tradition". You both know by now there's a lot that is charming and valuable about the tradition of family ties in Mexican-American culture.
Think of it instead as setting limits—and then set some, quick. Tell your deep-pockets lover there's a dif-

ference between loving support and financial support.
Bailing out a sibling once in a lifetime is okay. After that, each can make his/her own bunk and then be expected to lie in it.
Tell them you no longer have the dinero to spread around. They'll accept that, and it'll be easier to say, "We can't" than to try and explain why, "We won't." So start telling everyone you are just getting by, limit

My lover is always bailing her deadbeat brothers and sisters out of trouble with lost jobs, drugs, bill collectors, etc.

any discussion of your true household finances to the two of you, and close the bank.

Dear Cowboy,
When I met my boyfriend he was a nonsmoker for five years. I've never smoked, so everything was cool. We moved in together and I still really love him.
He recently started smoking again, not that much, but I want him to stop. He mostly smokes outside but says if he pays half the rent, he should be able to smoke wherever he wants. I don't know what to do. Am I crazy to think about breaking up over this?
Signed, Tobacco Free

Dear Free,
No smoking means no smoking. But before you hit the dusty trail, tell him how much you love him and how worried you are that "not that much" will turn into a regular habit you aren't willing to live with. Don't nag but stand firm. If he continues past your comfort level, you have no choice but to hitch up your wagon and set off in search of clearer skies.

E**dibles**

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

L**ibations**

- 1. Ain't Nobody's Bizness
3031 E. Indian School
Phoenix 224-9977
- 2. Apollo's
5749 N. 7th Street
Phoenix 277-9373
- 3. BS West
7125 5th Avenue
Scottsdale 945-9028
- 4. The Bunkhouse
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix
- 4. Cash Inn
2140 E. McDowell
Phoenix 244-9943
- 6. Charlie's
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix 265-0224
- 7. Crowbar
702 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 258-8343

- 8. Cruisin' Central
1011 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 253-3376
- 9. The Rose
44301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 265-3233
- 10. Harley's Club 155
Harley's Too!
155 & 125 W. Camelback
Phoenix 274-8505
- 11. Incognito
2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix 955-9805
- 12. JC's Fun One
5542 N. 43rd Ave.
Glendale 939-0528

- 13. Johnny Mc's
138 W. Camelback
Phoenix 266-0875
- 14. JY's
4343 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 263-8313
- 15. Marlys'
15615 Cave Creek
Phoenix 867-2463
- 16. Nasty Habits
3108 E. McDowell
Phoenix 267-8707
- 17. NuTowne
5002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 267-9959
- 18. Paco Paco
3045 N. 16th St.
Phoenix 263-8424
- 19. The Park
3002 N. 24th Street
Phoenix 957-6055
- 20. The Pumhouse
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 275-3509

- 21. Roscoe's on 7th
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 285-0833
- 22. Shooterz
998 E. Indian School
Phoenix 266-5640
- 23. 307 Lounge
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 252-0001
- 24. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 254-0231
- 25. Waterhole
8830 N. 43rd Ave
Glendale 937-3139
- 26. Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 265-9002

S**taples**

- 30. The Adult Shoppe
111 S. 24th Street
Phoenix 306-1130
- 31. The Barn Adult Shop
5021 W Indian School
Phoenix 245-3008
- 32. Book Cellar
4029 E. Washington
Phoenix 275-0015
(7 other Valley locations)
- 33. Castle Boutique
5501 E. Washington
Phoenix 231-9837
(3 other Valley locations)
- 34. Community Florist
4747 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 266-6648
- 35. Obelisk Books
24 West Camelback
Phoenix 266-Book

- 36. Movies on Central
4700 N. Central, #121
Phoenix 274-0994
- 37. Tuff Stuff
1714 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix 254-9651
- 40. Chute
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 234-1654
- 41. Flex
1517 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix 271-9011

T**ubs**

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

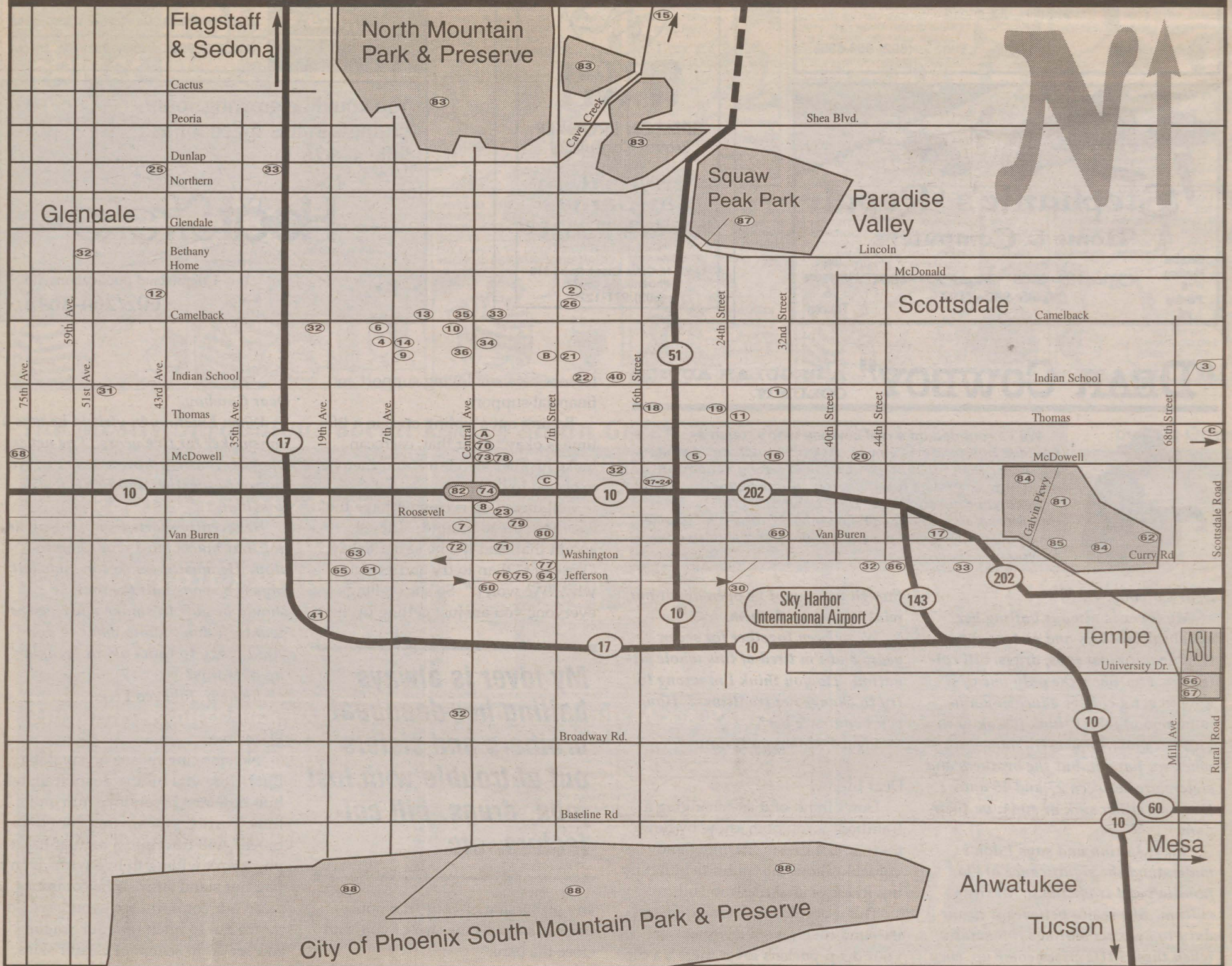
C**ulture**

- 60. America West Arena
201 E. Jefferson
Phoenix 379-7800
- 61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum
1101 W. Washington
Phoenix 255-2110
- 62. AZ Historical Society
Museum
1300 N. College
Tempe 929-0292
- 63. AZ Mining & Mineral
Museum
1502 W. Washington
Phoenix 255-3791
- 64. AZ Science Center
600 E. Washington
Phoenix 716-2000
- 65. AZ State Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix 542-4675
- 66. ASU Art Museum
Nelson Fine Arts Center
Mill Ave. & 10th Street
Tempe 965-2787
- 67. ASU Gammage Center
Apache & Mill Ave.
Tempe 965-3434
- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky
Pavillion
2121 N. 83rd Ave.
Phoenix 254-7499
- 69. Celebrity Theater
440 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix 267-9373
- 70. Heard Museum
22 E. Monte Vista
Phoenix 252-8848
- 71. Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
Phoenix 254-7399
- 72. Orpheum Theatre
203 W. Adams
Phoenix 262-7272
- 73. Phoenix Art Museum
1624 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 257-1222
- 74. Phoenix Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 262-4636
- 75. Phoenix Civic Plaza
225 E. Adams St.
Phoenix 262-6225
- 76. Phoenix Symphony Hall
225 E. Adams
Phoenix 262-6225
- 77. Phoenix Museum of History
105 N. 5th Street
Phoenix 253-2734
- 78. Phoenix Theatre
100 E. McDowell
Phoenix 254-2151

O**utdoors**

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

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H O R O S C O P E S

By Deane Jaye, HeatStroke contributor

Aries (March 21-April 20)

The roller coaster has come to a stop and you're ready to move on to the Fun House and the Zipper. You've found a couple of zany pals to tag along on this wild ride, so what's the problem? Well, the problem is that sometimes the people you need to learn more from are sailing quietly along in the Tunnel of Love with someone else. How are you going to connect when you're operating at such different speeds? Good question. A Scorpio native may offer insight in coming weeks, and a big meal on or around the 28th could kick off an evening that satisfies more than just your empty stomach.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)

You're generally not one to take big chances in either investments or love, but well-planned festivities in the days ahead may put you in a downright frivolous mood. You could exhibit off-the-wall behavior that will shake up your pocket-book, tickle your funny bone and send everyone close to you running for shelter or looking up the number to Gambler's Anonymous. Pay no attention, you know you'll still be in control and will have no trouble pulling back after you've pushed yourself to the edge. A younger escort could play a role on or about the 6th, perhaps a Cancer native who seems very much in control.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Take me home, country roads... that's from a little ditty Miss John Denver used to sing. No one really knows what the hell a "Mountain Mama" is, but take a tip from John, anyway, and get back in touch with your roots this month (I mean your ancestry—stop checking your hairline). Family relationships are often complicated for you Mercury-ruled folks, but this is a great time for reaching out and healing. The first week of April looks quite favorable, so call Mom just to say Hi or visit that sister you argued with last month. You'll be a better person for it. A Sagittarius friend may be making travel plans—just remember what happened last time.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your Cancerian intuitive powers could reach their tidal peak toward the end of March, when people will seem to be saying all sorts of things they couldn't possibly mean. You'll need to weigh one argument against the other and figure out where the truth lies—exactly the kind of mystery you Moon-children enjoy solving. Around the 4th, you single crabs may find yourselves attracted to a boisterous Aries or outgoing Leo, someone who has everything you desire physically yet operates on another level spiritually. Get some of your home cooking into them, then get them into your hot tub and sort things out beneath the steamy bubbles.

Leo (July 21-August 20)

Bigger, bigger, bigger. Everything steers you Sun-people toward the biggest and flashiest these days but you must decide whether bigger is *always* better before you act. Breasts? Muscles? SUVs? That gravy-covered hunk of Salisbury steak in your TV dinner? Where will it end? Sometimes you have to stop and tell yourself that size doesn't necessarily lead to satisfaction. Health plays an important role after the 3rd—you may wish to renew your commitment to working out and shaping up, particularly the legs and lower body. An exciting trip to the mountains may be in the near future—hurry before the snow melts.

Virgo (August 21-September 20)

Lock the doors, click off the porch light and haul in the welcome mat. You aren't being rude. It's just that you always know when you need some time to yourself and this may prove to be an important calming period for you, an opportunity to analyze the world around you and plan your next big move. Travel is not advised right now, unless it's merely a quick Day Trip you're considering. Pets and pests may affect your life in ways you can't control after the 1st, so keep your cool if a mini-crisis arises. A Taurus native may wish to show or tell you something rather impressive.

Libra (September 21-October 20)

Woopsy-daisy. You may have started the spring season off feeling a little tilted and now you're trying to get back onto level ground. Putting more effort into a developing relationship at work may help to provide the balance you seek. Or perhaps it's a new love interest that has you thrown off these days. You Librans are not always the best at talking things out, but verbal communication could provide the solution here, so give it a shot. There's a chance you'll be quite charmed by someone to whom you normally would not pay much notice on or around the 7th. Could this be a lesson in the value of sobriety?

Scorpio (October 21-November 20)

"Thunder only happens when it's raining" is not entirely true. But that witchy Gemini songwriter had to find something to rhyme with "players only love you when they're playing," which is the far more significant line and the one that better applies to you Scorpios when it comes to your ongoing quest to merge love and sex. Whether you are the player or the one being played is the thing you have to figure out before things get too heavy. The 28th and 29th look ideal for fresh dreams and new conquests—a Virgo could be involved in pulling party plans. There's a lot riding on the weekend and appearances will count: choose your costume carefully.

Sagittarius (November 21-December 20)

It's all so complex sometimes, isn't it? Why, you wonder, can't people just get together and enjoy each other's company without those darned old emotions and egos clouding everything? They can, of course, but you need to be clear about what you're looking for from the beginning—and that's where you proud and adventurous Sagittarians tend to go astray. Conversation is the key, and new opportunities the week of the 31st could prove it. With the arrival of spring, you Centaurs may well be looking to get out and get wild in the great outdoors, which leads your mind right to those three magical little words: Nude Hot Springs.

Capricorn (December 21-January 20)

They say it's better to give than to receive, but you Capricorns sometimes need to learn to be gracious recipients and let someone else do the giving. The next couple of weekends may provide ample opportunity for you to smile and say Thank You, as compliments and gifts continue to come your way. Your prankster's sense of humor is encouraged by the season, but an April Fool's trick you're considering could backfire big time, so be sure to know your audience and lay careful plans before setting any traps. Digestive problems must be guarded against, so eat your veggies and fiber and watch the alcohol intake around the 29th.

Aquarius (January 21-February 20)

Sproiing... you sometimes feel like a kid's slinky, snapping back into shape and then getting all stretched out again as you try to pursue all your interests at once. Try to calm down and ease up the pressure you've been putting on yourself, before you go tumbling down the stairs end over end, all out of control. Your social life may be particularly active these days as you try to spend "quality" time with everyone you *think* you should be seeing. Travel is not advised until after the 8th, and rainy climates should be avoided. A Gemini native may be available to assist in the kitchen (and elsewhere) as the month begins.

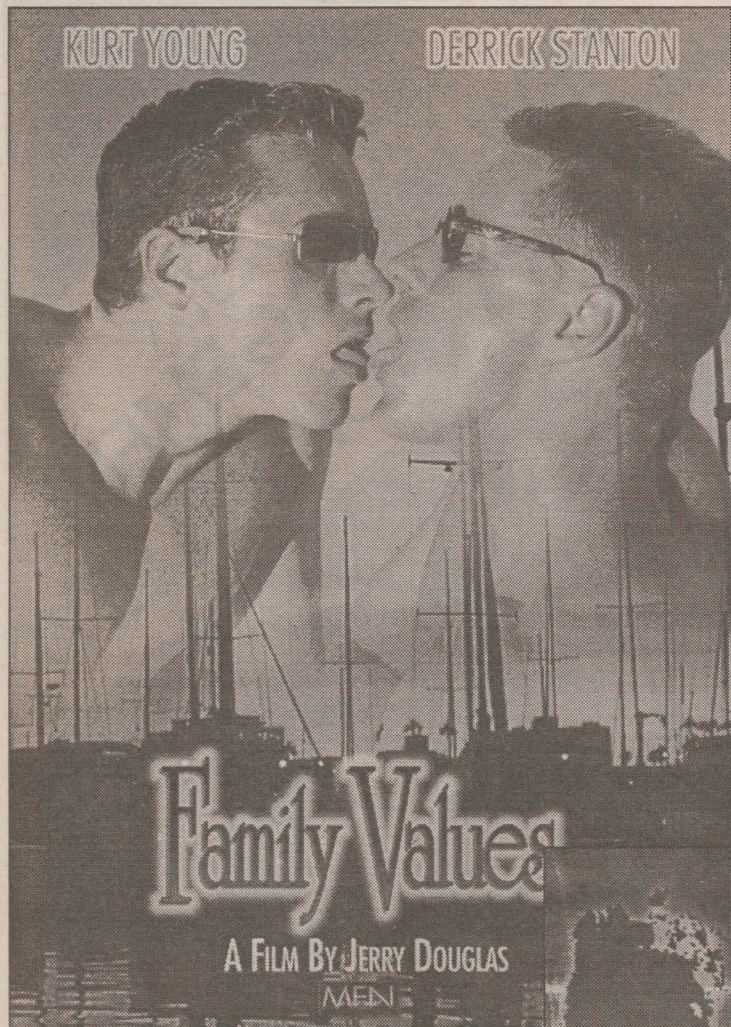
Pisces (February 21-March 20)

Home Improvement may be an awful show but it's a good idea for you Pisceans right now. Romance is on your mind as the days grow longer and the nights grow warmer, so do something nice and traditional to spruce up hearth and home, and see what develops from that. Try a new look in the bedroom or bath, and the end result may be even more pleasant. An Aries friend could lead you down new paths around the 3rd, especially if you can sneak away from the crowd together. Don't be surprised if high expectations at a fancy social function lead to disappointment—and possibly indigestion—before the evening ends.

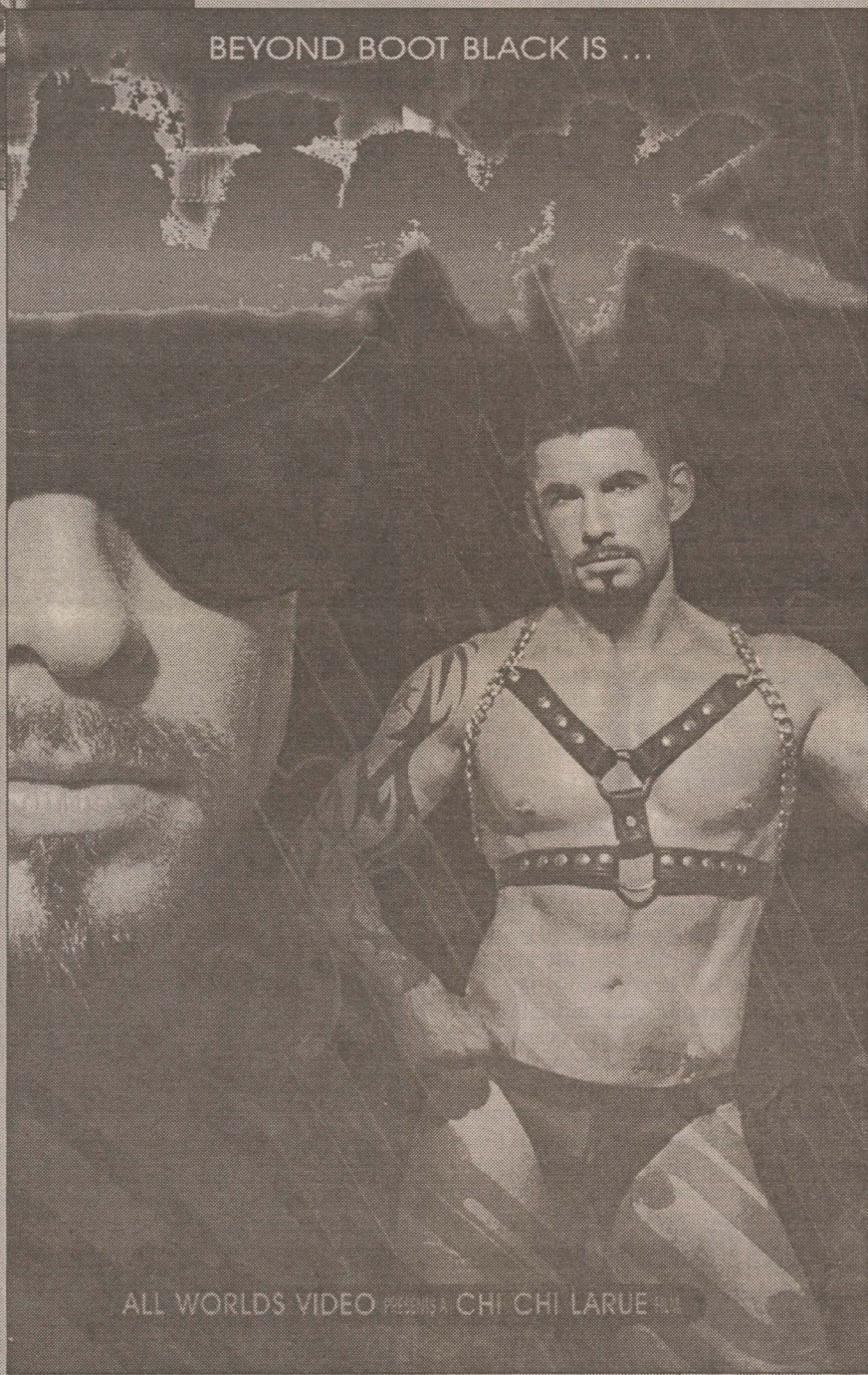
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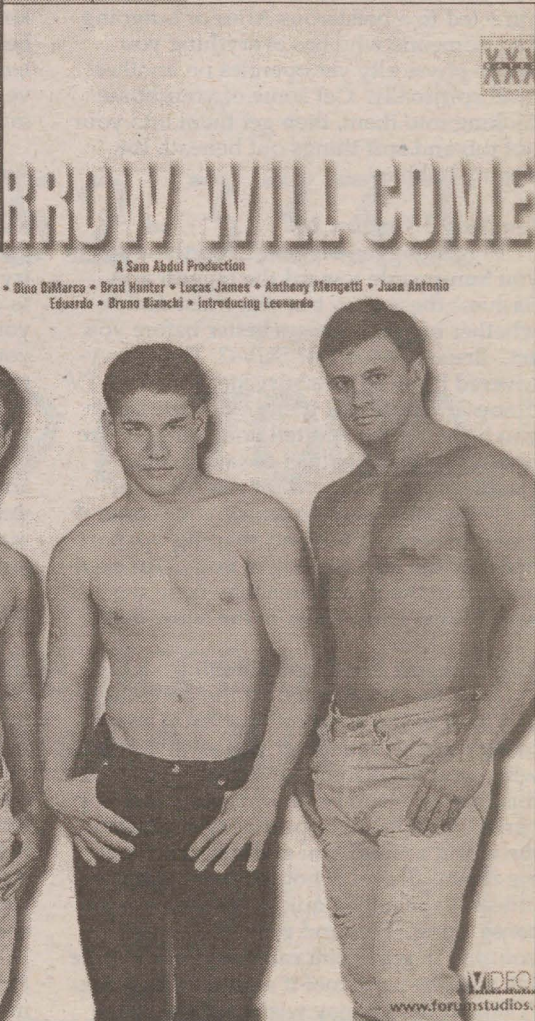


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• 1838 Grand Avenue	• 1421 E. McDowell
• 3420 S. Central Avenue	• 6527 N. 59th Avenue

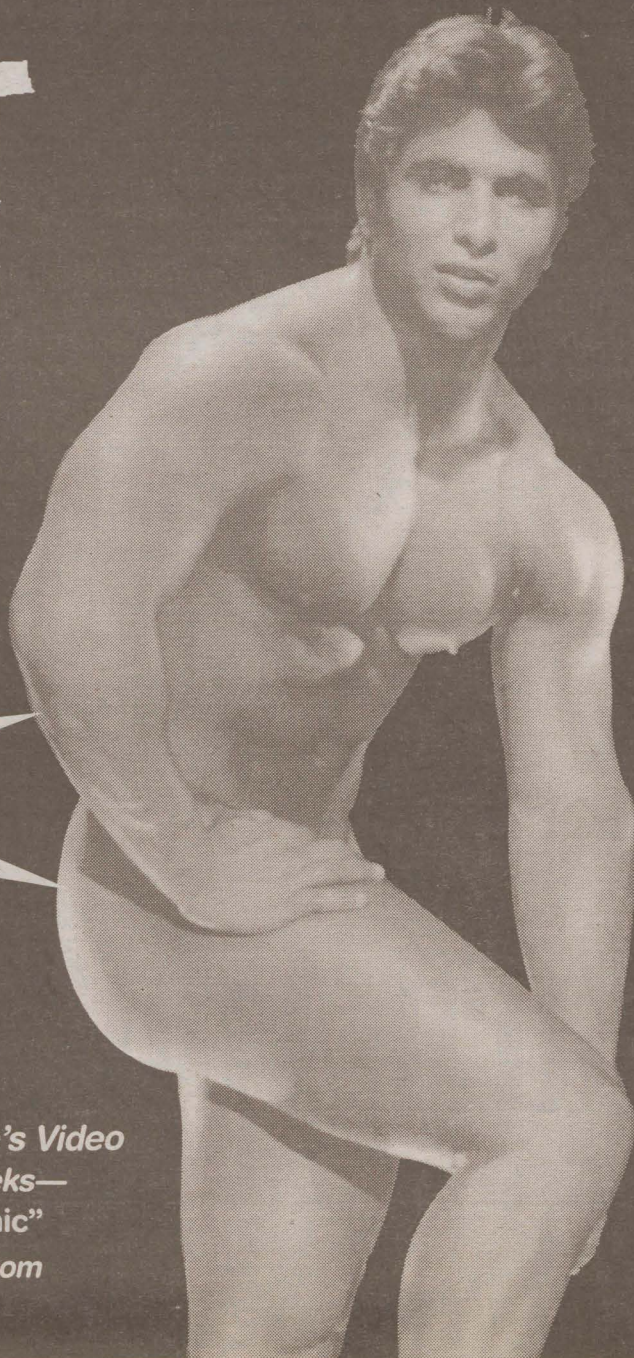
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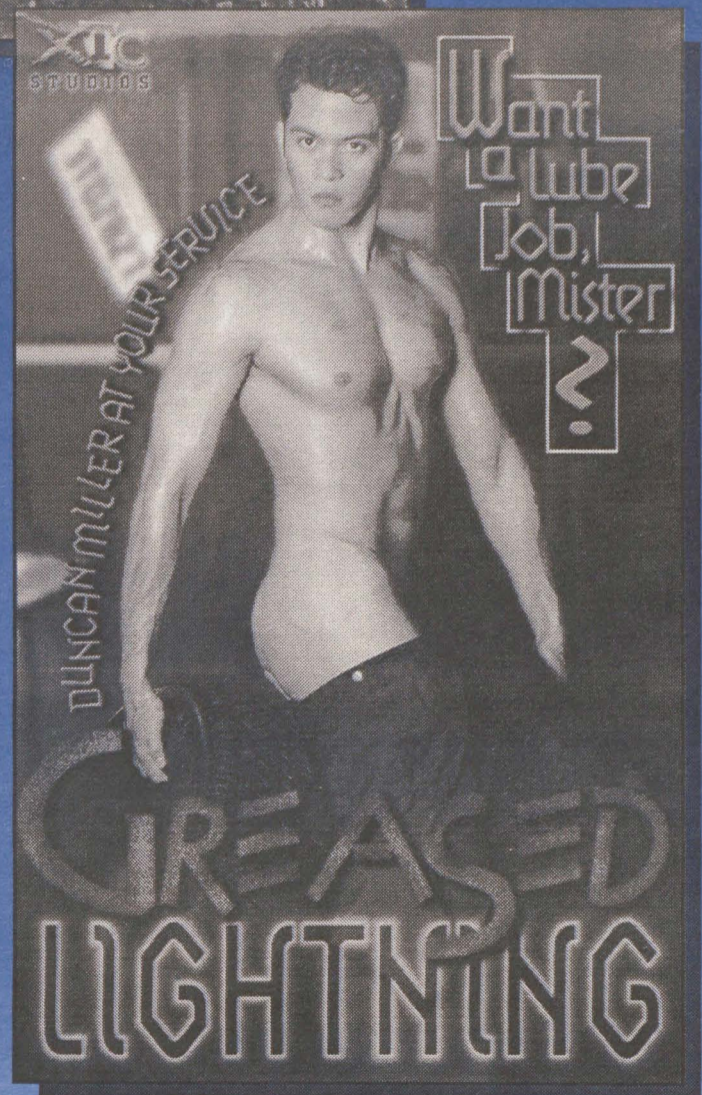
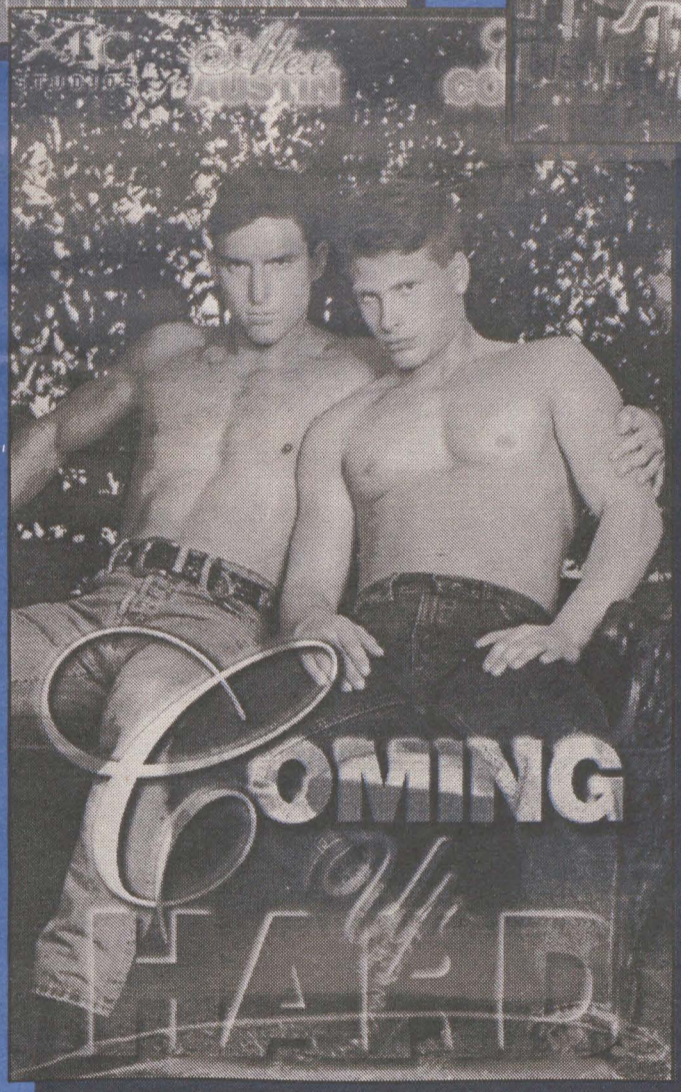
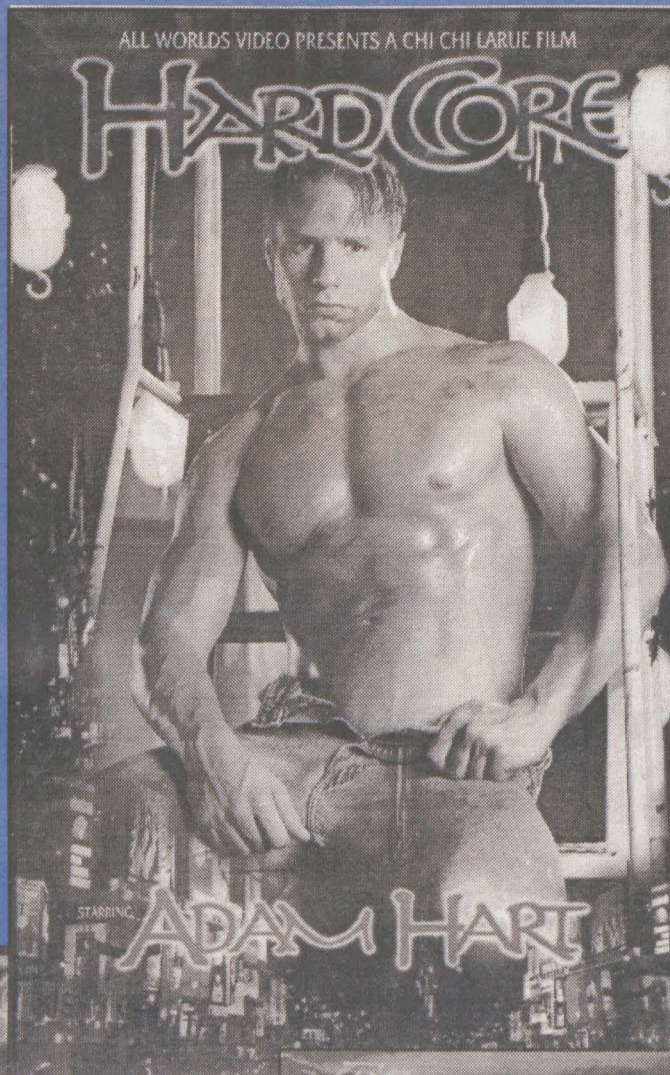
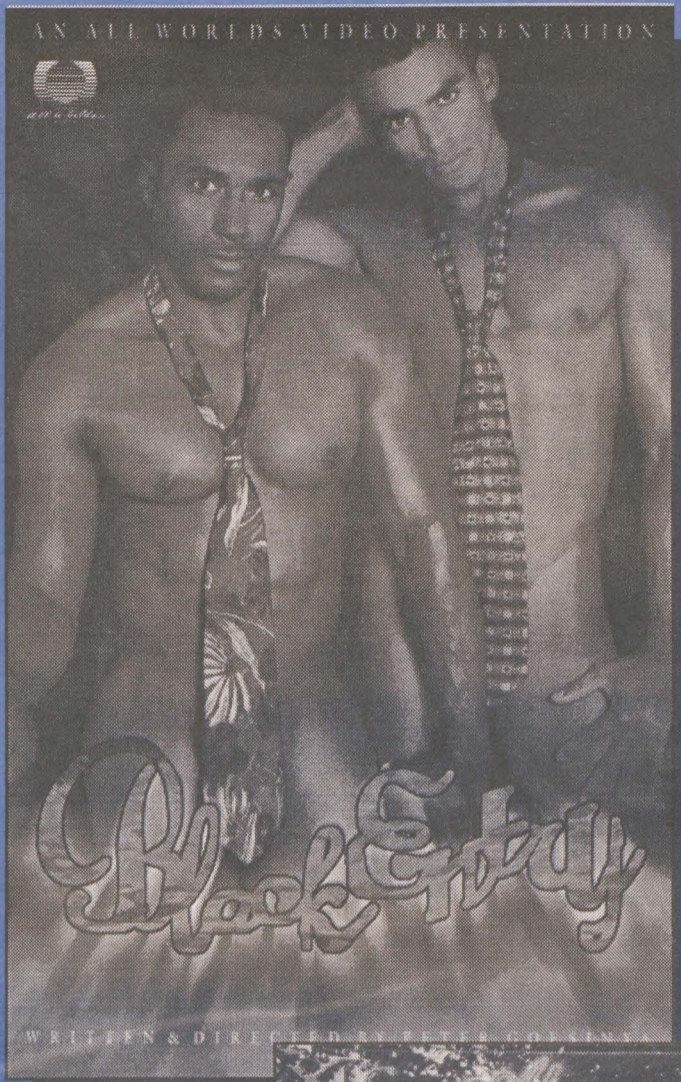
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