

HeatStroke

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Tommy's Hollywood Big Break

With his feature debut, *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*, Tommy O'Haver offers a cinema first: The gay Everyman. Scott Seomin puckers up for a chat with the director and his leading men.

By Scott Seomin, HeatStroke Contributor

"I t's a lot of me in that movie. I've fallen for about 50 straight guys, but I don't pursue them anymore," sighs a two-thirds joking/one-third serious Tommy O'Haver, the 29-year-old director and writer of the new film *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*.

"There's a lot of longing...." O'Haver trails off, as if he's thinking of a particular unrequited love, and then adds, "When it comes down to it, it's about romantic idealism. I'm always trying to woo somebody. I like to think of my movies as 'pitching woo.'"

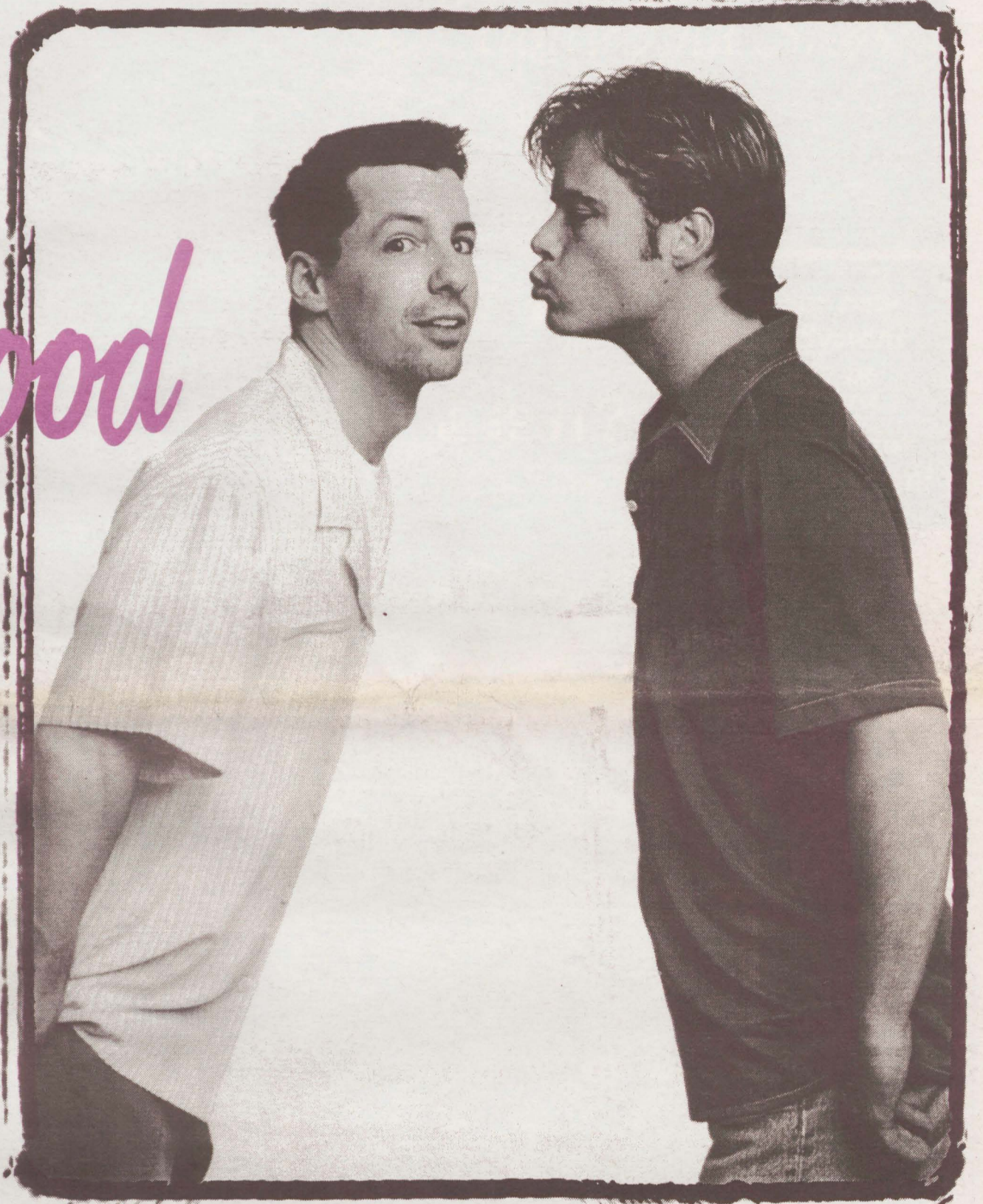
Critics and audiences, however, will think of O'Haver's film as funny and bittersweet, woo notwithstanding.

In this comedic love story, Sean P. Hayes plays Billy Collier, a 26-year-old struggling photographer who is gay, simply full of cute and living in Los Angeles. After meeting the very pretty Gabriel [Brad Rowe], Billy develops a crush—only to discover that Gabriel has a girlfriend "back in San Francisco."

Is this blond Adonis a true hetero? Or is his journey to self-discovery starting later than it usually begins for most homos? Answering these questions becomes the shared quest of the audience and Billy as this leading man's feelings for Gabriel deepen.

This playful premise isn't really new in cinema; in fact, O'Haver says Billy's story structure was inspired by the 1949 William Wyler classic *The Heiress*.

"You can't tell if Montgomery Cliff really loves Olivia de Havilland, and it's kept ambiguous until the end," O'Haver says. "It's the same with Billy and Gabriel."



It is this ideal that should make the film appealing to a wide audience as it takes the prototype of a melodrama with a 1950's woman and applies it to a millennium-approaching gay man.

"I think Billy is enough of a human character,

"I struggled for about two years showing (the film) around with these people saying, 'Well, there's too much sex in it for the straight audience and not enough sex in it for the gay audience.'"

an Everyman, that anyone straight or gay can relate to him. I want people to forget that Billy is a gay man experiencing these things because the situation could happen to anyone."

Billy's, which is in a limited, roll-out release in large, urban markets, received well-deserved crit-

ical acclaim at this year's Sundance Film Festival. But the trip getting there was bumpy at best as O'Haver, script in hand, met with investors and distributors.

"I struggled for about two years showing it around with these people saying, 'Well, there's too much sex in it for the straight audience and not enough sex in it for the gay audience,'" the director remembers. "Or they'd say, 'You know, you've really got to expose Billy's neuroses more fully and show how screwed up he is.'"

Ultimately, the film would be financed for a mere \$100,000 by independent investors, which allowed O'Haver to protect the integrity of his story.

Casting the film was in part an easy task, as O'Haver hired several actors he had used in his previous short films for supporting roles.

Kudos for casting the title role are well deserved: Hayes' Billy is a not-yet-jaded romantic

See "Gay director," page 14

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Horowitz:

Have you seen...?

The Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project has plans well underway for the 1999 Phoenix Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. The film festival has attracted sell-out crowds each of its first two years, and the third anniversary promises to be even more exciting.

The first Phoenix festival took place at the Valley Art Theatre in Tempe. The Awareness Project will be forever grateful for the small theater's willingness to give us a shot at bringing a wide variety of lesbian and gay films to our city. Unfortunately, we outgrew the small space very quickly, and last year's festival was held in a large auditorium at the AMC Camelback Esplanade.

Just four years ago, experts around the country and around Phoenix said that a gay and lesbian film festival would never fly in this city. I've always enjoyed proving people like that wrong.

The Awareness Project had sought space at other theatres, but AMC showed real support in getting us into their newest theatre in town. Eight of ten screenings sold out!

The Awareness Project approached Harkins Theatres last year, but someone made the mistake of turning us down. This year, both Harkins and AMC actively pursued the festival contract. I am pleased to be the first to publicly announce that the upcoming festival will take place February 12-14, 1999 at the Harkins Camelview Theatre on Goldwater Blvd., near the newly expanded Scottsdale Fashion Square.

The festival is growing from Friday night and Saturday screenings to fill the entire Valentine's Day weekend. The festival will have more than twice as many screenings and more than twice as many seats available as last year.

The Awareness Project will once again hold a Friday

night gala opening for the festival with live entertainment and refreshments. Ticket prices will remain the same as last year. The festival remains committed to presenting a showcase of films which otherwise would not be available here in the Valley. A careful selection process takes place to insure that feature length, high quality films entertain our Phoenix community.

As always, the Awareness Project welcomes your attendance at this first class community event. Watch for details about pre-purchasing tickets. Several screenings sold out last year with no at-the-door tickets available. Additionally, if you would like to volunteer or become a sponsor of the film festival, you may contact festival coordinator Amy Ettinger at (609) 249-1074. All proceeds from the festival go to support educational project sponsored by the Awareness Project, a non-profit educational organization.

Just four years ago, experts around the country and around Phoenix said that a gay and lesbian film festival would never fly in this city. I've always enjoyed proving people like that wrong.

Years ago, I decided to dedicate my life to the vision that by the year 2000, it would be absolutely okay to be openly gay in Phoenix, Arizona. I've had to throw my energies into some other endeavors, because it's already absolutely okay.

While Phoenix is no bastion of liberal thought, thousands of gay men and lesbians live openly and happily in our fair city. Many of us are protected from employment discrimination by a city ordinance (which still needs expansion). Hate crimes legislation includes crimes based on sexual orientation, and the City of Phoenix police department dedicates significant efforts to reach out to the gay community.

People will say that it's too soon to double the size of our film festival. Many will say that the project is overly ambitious.

Last year, festival organizers received complaints because there were no more seats available. I can't imagine a better result.

Our Phoenix community is hungry for entertainment and cultural opportunities. Mark your calendars for next Valentine's Day weekend and then join me in being entertained while proving the naysayers wrong again!

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

Karyn Reidell and Editors:

Thank you sooo much for the wonderful article and support of my work and The Community Center.

Jason Stuart
Los Angeles

Editors:

I just picked up your last issue of HeatStroke and thought it was good. I think it's nice to have a paper just for the gay & lesbian lifestyle. I got it at the Castle on Camelback. I also pick up the Echo sometimes to read, which is good as well.

I enjoyed your paper and probably will get it more often. I am not really gay, more like bisexual. One of the things I really liked about your paper was the ability to get in touch with some new groups. Thanks for the paper to enjoy and the Directory of Community Services.

Good luck in the future, and if possible maybe do an article about the she-males in the Valley.

Thanks again and keep up the good reporting.

Brian Kingsley (Brianna)
Phoenix

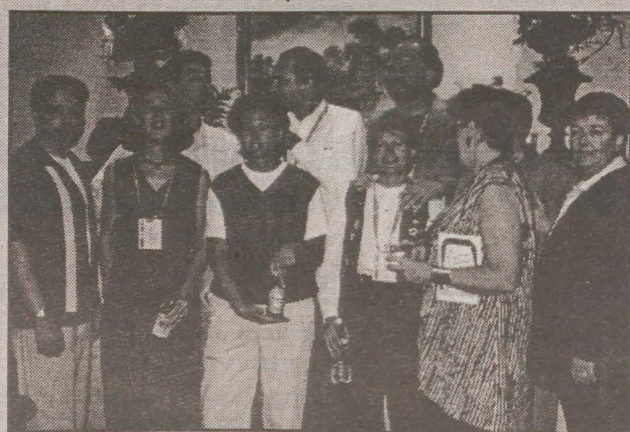
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May wins GOP primary

Out gay man one step closer to representing east Phoenix in legislature

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Only hours after the polls closed in Arizona's GOP primary race for State Representative in Dist. 26, openly gay candidate Steve May was pronounced a winner with 100 percent of the precincts reporting.

Of seven candidates vying for two vacant house seats in the east Phoenix district, May was the number-one vote getter, with 4,039. May's name will now be placed before all voters in the general election in November, along with Jeff Hatch-Miller who garnered 3,689 votes.

The men will face one Democratic candidate in the Nov. 3 general election, but the Republican majority is fully expected to carry the Dist. 26 race. For that reason both May and Hatch-Miller are considered sure bets for the 1999 legislature at this point.

"It's a significant victory," a tired but elated May told *HeatStroke* moments after his victory was announced. He called his win the result of "a lot of hard work by a lot of people."

And if all goes as predicted May will become the first openly gay Republican to serve in the Arizona state legislature, making his a significant victory for the state's gay community as well.

Rep. Ken Chevront, a Democrat who represents Dist. 25, is also openly gay and it is predicted he'll retain his house seat in the November contest.

May said more than 400 people contributed money to his campaign and more than 200 volunteers donated their time. "I'm only the candidate. This victory belongs to a lot of people," he said.

May's candidacy was supported by many in the gay community. The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), a Phoenix-based political advocacy organization working on behalf of a number of gay issues, endorsed and supported his campaign with several fundraisers.

Endorsements by mainstream newspapers like the *Arizona Republic* may have aided May's campaign. He was also named the front-runner in the Dist. 26 house race by Pundits on the KAET political analysis program *Horizon* on Sept. 4, the Friday prior to the election.

After the Dist. 26 primary results were announced during a special election-night edition of *Horizon* Sept. 8, commentators Keven Willey and Sunny Hemphill credited May's win to a well-orchestrated campaign, successful early fund-raising and heavy spending.

"I don't know if I spent the most or not," May said after the votes were tabulated. "I still have money left in my campaign budget for the general election."

Though he was out of the closet well before he announced his plans to run, May's sexuality apparently was a taboo subject in the mainstream press and remains such as the general election draws nearer. Neither in the *Republic* nor on *Horizon* have journalists uttered the "G" word.

One gay-friendly candidate lost and another won in two other legislative races of note.

AHRF supported and endorsed former Rep. Robin Shaw in the Dist. 26 GOP Senate contest, but she lost to her former house colleague, the ultra-conservative Tom Smith. Smith will probably have no trouble against the Dems in November.

In Dist. 18, Republican Susan Gerard retained her chance for a seat in the house. Gerard chairs the health committee and has proven herself a powerful ally to the community as a moderate voice in the GOP-controlled legislature.

In other races, homophobic former State Senator John Kaites was soundly defeated by Tom McGovern in the GOP primary race for Attorney General. McGovern will oppose Democrat Janet Napolitano on Nov. 3.

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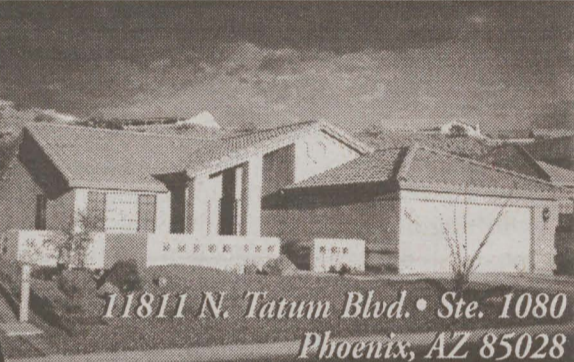
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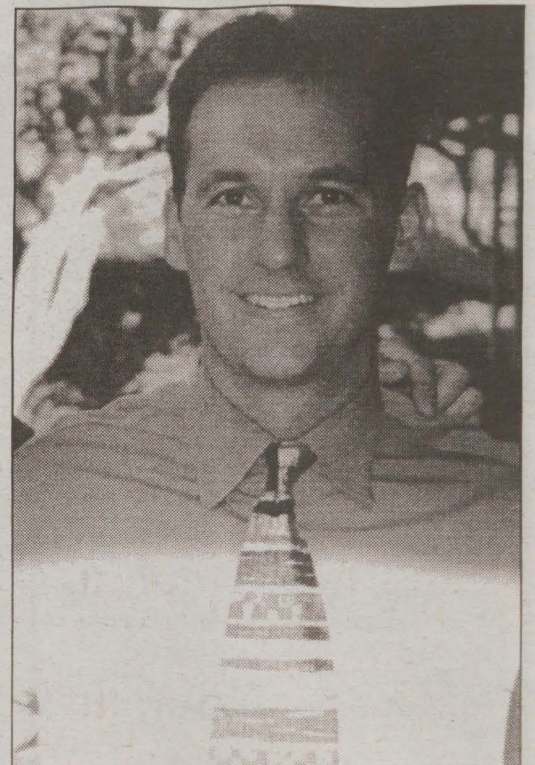
Community effort nets \$8,300 for Chevront

A Sept. 3 reception at the home of Tom Simplot and Crel Vogel in central Phoenix raised \$8,300 to bolster the re-election campaign of Arizona State Rep. Ken Chevront.

Chevront, a Democrat, represents Dist. 25 and is currently the only openly gay elected official in the Arizona legislature.

"Once again, the community came through and supported a candidate who supports gay issues," Chevront said after the event.

Chevront and fellow incumbent Christine Weason ran unopposed to retain their house seats in the Sept. 8 Democratic primary. Now both candidates must face Libertarian John Buttrick in the general election Nov. 3 in a three-way run for the two posts.



Missouri Supreme Court facing child custody decision for lesbian parents

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)

As their 11-year marriage disintegrated, both Janice and Frederick Joseph DeLong III were having extramarital affairs. Court documents recount their mutual unfaithfulness in nasty detail.

What set this divorce case apart from other tawdry breakups was that Ms. DeLong's affairs were with other women.

In 1996, a judge not only awarded full custody of their children, then ages 9, 7 and 5, to their millionaire-industrialist father, but he also ordered the mother to reveal her sexuality to her children.

The judge ordered her to tell her two oldest children, both girls. The youngest child, a boy, was not covered by the order.

The ruling by Special Circuit Judge Ronald M. Belt also specified that the children could visit their mother only if they were kept away from all but one of her lesbian friends, a doctor who had known the children a long time.

Ms. DeLong appealed and Belt's ruling was overturned. DeLong then took his case to the Missouri Supreme Court, which took it under review at the end of August and is now in a position to decide what rights homosexual parents have in child custody cases.

"I know my children miss me and

that's what this is all about. I hope that the court makes the right decision," Ms. DeLong told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Ms. DeLong, who lives alone in Jefferson City, is seeking joint custody of her children. Her lawyer, William Rotts, argues in court documents that Missouri's record of ruling against homosexual parents reflects an automatic presumption that their sexuality is harmful to children, to the exclusion of other factors.

In her appeal, Ms. DeLong claimed that Belt discriminated against her because she is gay and did not fairly weigh the best interests of the children.

In January, a three-judge appeals panel agreed, overturning Belt's decision and sending it back to his court. DeLong's appeal to the Supreme Court stopped Belt from reconsidering the case.

The appeals panel ruled that a connection must be established between a parent's homosexuality and potential harm to the children. Twenty-eight states have adopted similar legal positions when deciding on custody cases involving gay parents.

In court documents, DeLong argues that Belt never used homosexuality as a factor in his custody ruling.

DeLong declined to discuss details

of the case with the AP. His lawyer, Roger Krumm, did not return phone calls seeking comment. Neither did Belt.

DeLong referred questions to Ken Lewis, a professional custody evaluator who owns Custody Evaluation Services, a private custody litigation service based in Philadelphia.

In a 40-page report to Belt, Lewis recommended that Ms. DeLong disclose her lesbianism to her children in a "telling-session" so they could better understand their father's negative attitude toward their mother.

"It is unusual, but this is an unusual case," Lewis said in a phone interview. "Not to tell was continuing to hurt those children; they were totally confused."

Denying gay parents custody because of sexuality alone isn't the right thing to do, according to Cathleen Connealy, a Kansas City lawyer working on behalf of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, a San Francisco-based organization that specializes in homosexual discrimination cases.

"I think for small-town Missouri it's not that shocking, I guess, but (such rulings) should be done away with," she said.

Briefs on Ms. DeLong's behalf have been filed by Connealy's group and by the 15,000-member American Psychological Association. Both orga-

nizations cite scientific research showing that the development of the children of gay parents is not different from the children of heterosexual parents.

Rotts said the case could have significant impact on Missouri parents who seek custody of their children in a divorce.

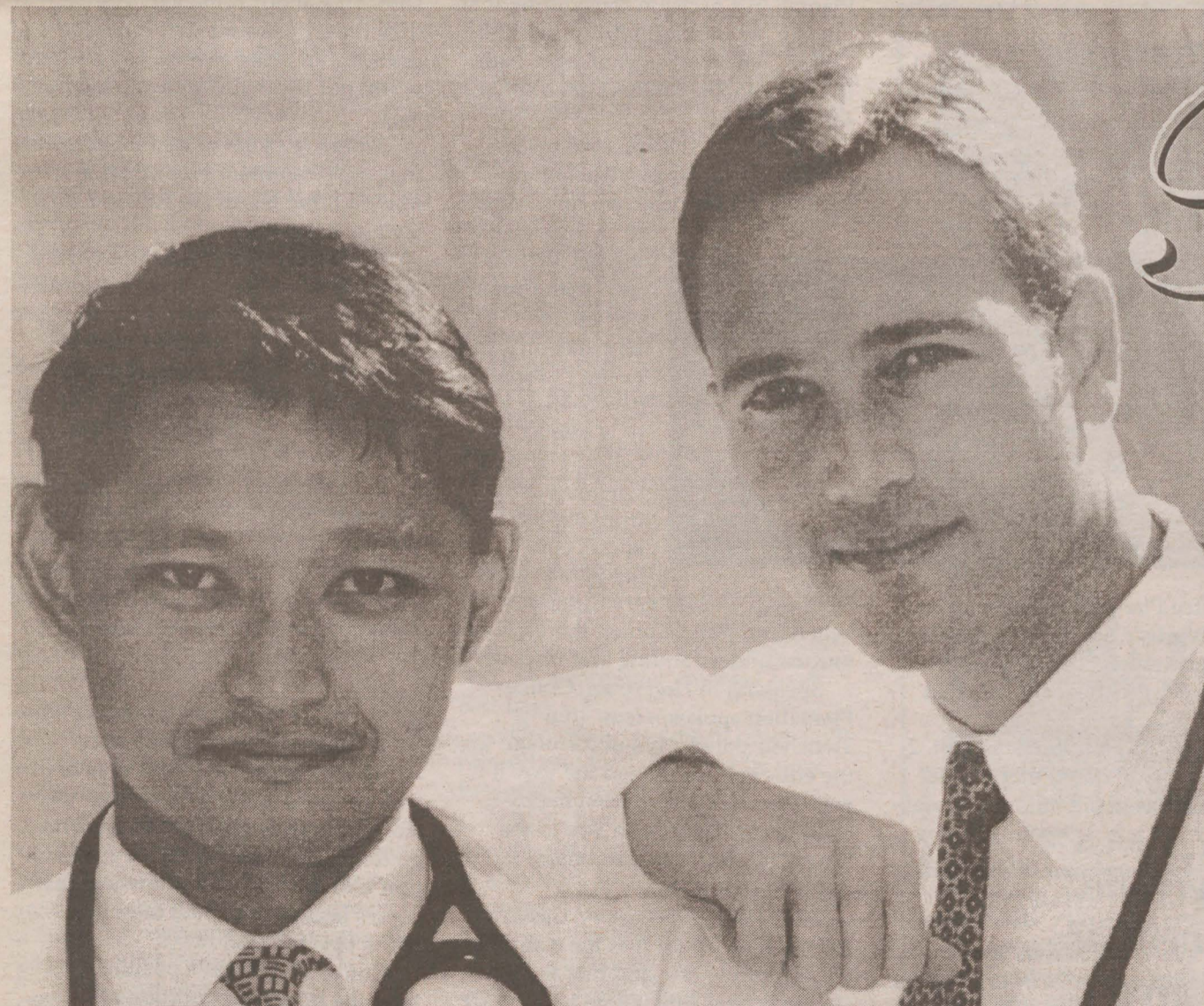
"You can safely say that people with a homosexual background have not gotten a fair shake in the past," Rotts said. "The court could level the playing field for everyone. Look to what's in the best interest of the child, that's where the focus ought to be."

Ms. DeLong and her ex-husband have houses in the same older, upscale neighborhood of Jefferson City. It is also home to some of the state capital's most prominent and influential citizens, from bankers to lawyers including Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon and Supreme Court Chief Justice Duane Benton.

Benton has recused himself from hearing the case. He is not required to give a reason.

Ms. DeLong is a substitute teacher and has income from real estate property.

DeLong is CEO and majority owner of DeLong's Inc., a steel manufacturing company founded by his father in the 1940s. It employs more than 150 people in the city and has interests throughout Missouri.



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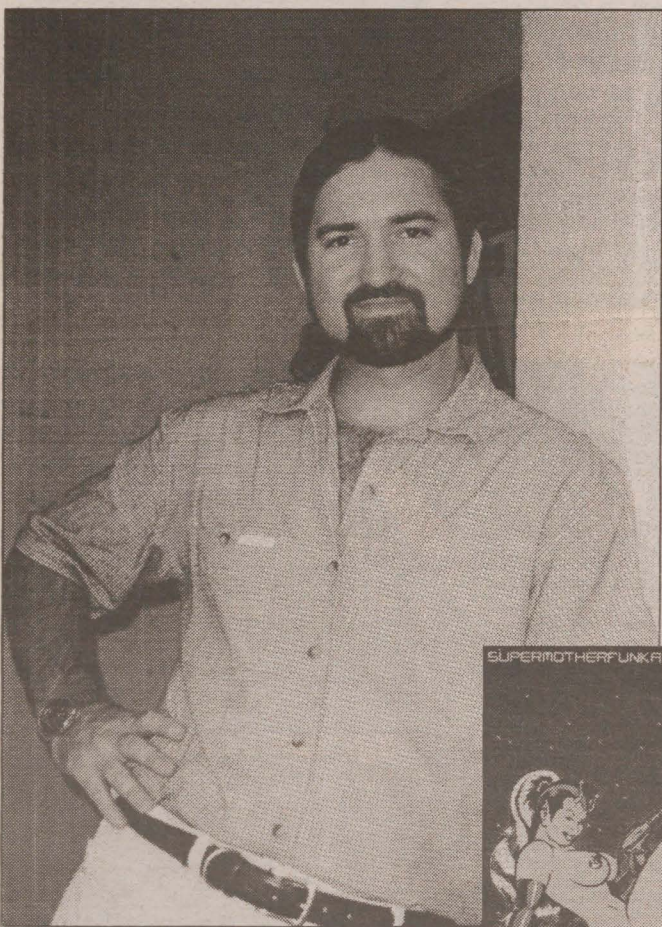
Big chain “protects” its patrons from racy reading material

By Karyn Reidell, staff writer

The next time you stop to relax, read a newspaper and savor that cup of joe, you might want to think about where your coffee dollars are going—and who's benefiting from them.

When it comes to everyday politics, coffeehouses around the Valley practice a full spectrum of political policies and moral views, including the blatantly homophobic.

One example: *HeatStroke* recently learned that Coffee Plantation, a popular local chain of coffeehouses that once welcomed a diverse selection of free reading material for its customers, will no longer allow gay and lesbian publications to be distributed at its stores. The reason? Management fears offending any potentially bigoted straight customers.



Java publisher Robert Sentinery calls Coffee Plantation's policy “a form of censorship.”

“We want something for everyone. Gays are just one small segment of our clientele. If people who aren't gay or lesbian are uncomfortable with [gay publications], we don't think we will have that,” explained Roxanne Castle, Coffee Plantation marketing manager. “It's not a prejudiced thing

“We want something for everyone. Gays are just one small segment of our clientele. If people who aren't gay or lesbian are uncomfortable with [gay publications], we don't think we will have that.”

at all. Many of our customers are gay and lesbian.”

Publications that are now accepted for distribution in the stores include

New Times, *Today's Arizona Woman*, *Healthy Living* and *City AZ*.

Until this summer, Coffee Plantation's ten Valley locations also offered *Java*, a local alternative magazine featuring articles on arts and culture in the Phoenix area.

That changed in July when Castle informed *Java* editor Robert Sentinery that Coffee Plantation stores would no longer advertise in or carry the magazine. Castle wrote the publisher, “As we begin to grow in the Arizona market we want to be associated with the best quality publications.”

What the marketing director means by “quality publications” isn't defined in her letter and is clearly subjective. The real news is that the decision to ban *Java* and to shun print material aimed at gays and lesbians proves to be in keeping with the nebulous moral plan of Coffee Plantation and its new parent company, Coffee People.

According to Castle's letter, “Some of the articles and print ads (in *Java*) conflict with Coffee Plantation's company values and do not appeal to, or target the majority of our customer base. In the future all publications we advertise in will compliment the same company values as Coffee Plantation.”

Castle further informed Sentinery



that Coffee Plantation would discontinue advertising with other publications that conflict with company values once advertising contracts had expired.

Speaking to *HeatStroke* on Sept. 2, however, Castle stated that Coffee Plantation has no intention of discontinuing any other publications. The decision to stop carrying *Java*, she said, was two-fold: many customers had complained about a clothing store ad featuring a scantily clad

Martian woman, and Coffee Plantation's customer base does not read *Java*.

“I think it's a different customer

base. In most of our stores, that's not the type of publication they read.

[Managers] didn't feel our customers even liked it,” Castle said.

The decision to discontinue *Java* was prompted by an ad for Marz Red Light District, a Tempe clothing store. Coffee Plantation management found the ad to be in poor taste, Castle said. “There's no official policy. . . other

“Some of the articles and print ads (in *Java*) conflict with Coffee Plantation's company values and do not appeal to, or target the majority of our customer base.”

than we thought some of the pictures were pornographic in nature and something we didn't want to be a part of.”

In response to Castle's letter stating that Coffee Plantation would stop advertising in and carrying *Java*, Sentinery penned an editorial that appeared in his August issue. In it, Sentinery states his surprise at Coffee Plantation's decision considering that “unlike other ubiquitous local publications, we have never accepted ads from sex shops, topless bars or phone sex lines.”

Sentinery also expressed regret that his many happy associations with the coffeehouse had now come to an end, recalling his relationship with former owners Joe Johnston and Tim Peelin of Mesa (the company is now owned by Coffee People, an Oregon-based firm). Of Johnston and Peelin, Sentinery wrote:

“although we had very different beliefs and philosophies, there was a mutual understanding and respect.”

Speaking to *HeatStroke*, Coffee Plantation spokesperson Tom Twitchell stated, “It's unfortunate that the editorial was staged the way it was. We would have been happy to continue working with *Java* in the future, but our concerns weren't received that way.

According to Sentinery, Castle's letter left no doubt that the company was dropping *Java* and that the decision was final well before his August editorial appeared. “It was a closed and final situation. I did argue for the opportunity to present my case. But they has slammed the door shut.”

“The only concern we have about any publication that would be placed in our store,” said Twitchell, “is graphic images, photography or art that could be construed as pornographic in nature, whether that's soft porn or hard-core porn. Our concern



was an advertisement that appeared in a couple of issues that was pretty graphically oriented around sexual images. And we had a problem with clientele in a couple of locations bringing it to our attention when their

children were laying their hands on a magazine.”

Why Coffee Plantation is so worried about offending the sensibilities of small, unattended children using coffeehouses as a source for reading material is anybody's guess.

Perhaps most startling about Coffee Plantation's official statements is the moral superiority they demonstrate. Spokespersons admitted the company is willing to go the extra mile to protect its bean-loving customers from pornography where the company sees it—and they saw it without question in the Marz ad.

To Sentinery, the issue is censorship. “It's about someone believing they have the authority to make a decision for other people. It's a harsh word, but it's really a form of censorship.”

Sentinery believes that it is his magazine's content more than the Marz ad that led to the rupture with Coffee Plantation.

Describing the magazine as “very left of center,” Sentinery said that articles presenting alternative lifestyles, gay culture, youth culture and Marxist perspectives probably offended Coffee Plantation management—and the Marz ad just provided an easy excuse.

In fact, the ad, a fun example of “vintage tattoo art”, was not even a photograph but a drawing, Sentinery said. “They (Plantation management) were scrounging and searching for something tangible they could use.”

Coffee Plantation customers who frequent the original Mill Avenue location can still find *Java* in racks located about 20 feet from the store, Sentinery said, but those who go to the Biltmore Fashion Park location will have to look elsewhere for copies because the mall does not allow freestanding racks.

Coffee Plantation's position violates the historical tradition of coffeehouses as a “free zone for an exchange of intellectual ideas,” Sentinery observed.

“It just makes me sad more than anything else that the community is losing one of its vital gathering places. What we're seeing is that a little bit of our freedom is being taken away.”

Televangelist's group challenges NYC's domestic partnership law

NEW YORK (AP)

A new city law extending health benefits to unmarried domestic partners of city employees is being challenged by a group founded by televangelist Pat Robertson.

The Virginia-based American Center for Law and Justice filed a lawsuit Sept. 2 on behalf of three New York City residents, naming the city and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as defendants.

State Supreme Court Justice Louis B. York in Manhattan refused to block the law before it took effect Sept. 5. He said he needed time to study what he called an "important constitutional matter."

Vincent P. McCarthy, a lawyer for the group, argued that the law was unconstitutional because it interferes with the state's exclusive jurisdiction concerning marriage and domestic relations.

He said the domestic partners law had expanded the definition of marriage to create a marital status in the city that does not exist under state law.

"The creation of a domestic partnership ... essentially creates a marriage," McCarthy told York. "This ordinance is illegal because it creates a common-law marriage."

Gay Mormons converge on Portland

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)

To many, the concept of a gay Mormon is an oxymoron. For a religion that bans cigarettes, coffee and alcohol, same-sex intercourse is a definite sin.

In fact, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a religion with a staunchly conservative reputation, doesn't even acknowledge the existence of gays. They are only heterosexuals with deviant inclinations.

"Sometimes it pushes the boundary to tell them you're a gay Mormon," said Rick Fernandez, 40, a Portland lawyer. "They think you must be crazy or confused."

But gay members of the church say being Mormon goes much deeper than doctrine and dogma.

"For many people, being Mormon is like being Jewish. Even if you don't believe the whole ball of wax, it's a part of your identity," Fernandez said.

In an effort to reconcile their religious and sexual natures, nearly 300 gay Mormons converged on Portland Sept. 5 for the 20th annual conference of Affirmation, a gay Mormon support group.

Though not an official arm of the Mormon Church, Affirmation exists to assist Mormons in coming to grips with their gay lifestyle.

The Mormon Church was founded in 1830 by Joseph Smith. Some credit the church's emphasis on traditional family values with its quick growth to a current worldwide membership of 10 million believers.

While only about 300 gay Mormons are registered with Affirmation, the group estimates that thousands of America's five million Mormons are still in the closet.

And many say the Mormons' hard-line stance on homosexuality keeps that closet door tightly closed.

When gays do step outside, local bishops can enlist any number of disciplinary actions to crack down, including probation, disfellowship

and excommunication. But Georgia Pestana, a city lawyer, said the new law actually only redefines the family unit rather than who can be considered a spouse.

"We're not legislating in the area of marriage law but in the definition of family," she said.

She said the ordinance changes very little because the city has been extending health benefits to the domestic partners of city employees since 1993, when an executive order from the mayor's office established the new category.

She said the new law just makes the executive order a permanent fixture of city law.

McCarthy cited numerous previous court cases that he said supported his case but York seemed skeptical.

When McCarthy noted that the state never included domestic partners in any of its laws, the judge threw his arms into the air and said, "up till now!"

"The question is, 'Did the Legislature seek to exclude something that didn't exist yet?'" he asked McCarthy.

McCarthy noted that the state does not allow same-sex marriages. He said the new city law appeared to make same-sex marriages legal rather than illegal in conflict with state law.

and excommunication.

These are not idle threats to gays wanting to preserve their religious heritage. Believer Drew Smith straddles the line.

"My involvement is the church is important enough to me that I haven't decided to partake in sexual activities because I know that would jeopardize my role with the church," Smith said.

The 32-year-old came out to his Seattle ward two years ago and stays active as the bishop's administrative assistant. He swears off alcohol and cigarettes, believes the divine revelations of church founder Joseph Smith, and tries his best to live by the "Book of Mormon."

He also goes out to gay clubs to dance with friends.

Other gays have not adjusted that easily and some gradually have left the fold as they deal with guilt and isolation.

"When I told church members I was gay, I said, 'OK, God has realized I'm gay but I've got to know if he still loves me.' That whole aspect darn near drove me to suicide," said Jay Bell, 50, a computer engineer from Salt Lake City.

Although he's come to peace with himself and God, Bell said he now belongs to a religion of one.

While other denominations debate the ordination of gay clergy and begin to champion gay rights, Affirmation members don't expect the Mormons to loosen up anytime soon.

Still, change isn't impossible. Fernandez noted the church recently abandoned its policy of blaming parents for their homosexual children.

And it is also taking a hands off approach to birth control, a subject the church used to rail against.

But Fernandez acknowledges Mormons prefer slow, quiet change.

"To Mormons," he said, "it's still one of those scary issues people don't want to talk about."

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International Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

HIV+ Canadians must reveal status before sex

People with HIV or other dangerous sexually transmitted diseases must reveal their condition to sex partners before having sex without condoms, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Sept. 3.

The decision came in the case of Henry Cuerrier of Squamish, B.C., who had sex with two women more than 100 times without telling them he carries HIV. Neither woman seroconverted to HIV-positive.

"The risks of infection are so devastating that there is a real and urgent need to provide a measure of protection for those in the position of the complainants," Justice Peter Cory wrote.

The Canadian AIDS Society denounced the ruling, saying it will make people afraid to get tested.

Gay partnerships on German agenda

Germany's Social Democrat candidate for chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, is promising to grant gay couples marriage-like status if he is

elected Sept. 27.

"We want to create a legal communal-life status that would include the same rights and duties as marriage," Schroeder told the gay magazine *Hinnerk*.

However, adoption and child-custody rights would be withheld for the time being, he said.

The Social Democrats also have promised to open political asylum to foreign gays persecuted for their sexuality.

French partnership law on-deck

France's Socialist government said Sept. 2 it will grant cohabiting couples—gay or straight, romantic or not—most of the social and fiscal rights of matrimony.

The "Civil Solidarity Pact" will be presented to the National Assembly Oct. 9.

Couples will sign up with a court clerk rather than at the local registry office to avoid the appearance that gay matrimony has been legalized, officials said.

The new law likely will prohibit adoption and government-funded

artificial-conception procedures for gay and lesbian couples.

President Jacques Chirac's conservative Rally for the Republic party opposes the pact, calling it "a decisive step toward the creation of a substitute for marriage and a parody of the family."

Zambian gays organize

Twenty Zambians have formed an organization called LEGATRA—the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons Association—and are attempting official government registration.

The group, which is working closely with Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), will offer legal advice, personal counseling and AIDS information.

Zambian President Frederick Chiluba has called homosexuality "un-African" and government officials have warned that the registration will not be allowed.

Winnipeg paper dumps gay column

Winnipeg, Manitoba's alternative weekly newspaper, *Uptown Magazine*, has dumped the Montreal-based syndicated gay column "Three Dollar Bill" following an outcry over a recent installment entitled "Bottoms Up!"

In the offending piece, author Richard Burnett said: "I love to fuck. I love getting fucked. I just wish straight boys had as much guilt-free sex as queer boys do (and with queer boys!). ... The queer community has taught me we don't necessarily need a monogamous sexual relationship to have a relationship of value. ... There's Bagel Boy, who I picked up in

the bakery he worked in. His dick was as big and hard as the baguette I bought. Or Cuban Boy, whom I hoped would wait for me when his Bleury Street traffic light turned green. When the Latino stud looked back at me, then waited, we doubled back up to his McGill Ghetto digs. There's the French sculptor (I'll dub him Artist Boy) who I met over drinks at a bar on St-Laurent. He makes moulds of body parts but has yet to find a cock that can stay hard for five minutes. Now I'm no Jimi Hendrix, and Frenchie here was no Plaster Caster Girl. But I immediately offered my services. (Un)fortunately we never made it out of bed."

Responding to his firing, Burnett said: "The column was, admittedly, controversial everywhere it ran, even in Montreal. ... I must admit, as a gay man and longtime queer-civil-rights advocate, that I'm not surprised by the mainstream public reaction."

Uptown explained to its readers: "The content might have been too harsh and explicit for our readers. ... Due to overwhelming response, *Uptown Magazine* has decided to stop running Richard Burnett's Three Dollar Bill column. Our decision is not based on the fact that this story revolved around gays and lesbians; had the content been heterosexual in nature our decision would still stand."

Canadian military to pay for sex-change operations

Canada's Department of National Defence will pay for soldiers' sex-change operations in some cases, officials said Sept. 1.

"There's more known about how effective the surgery is in returning

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people to a level of functioning consistent with military service," said Col. Scott Cameron, director of medical services at the National Defence Medical Centre.

Some members of the conservative Reform party denounced the new policy, saying the military has far more pressing matters on which to spend money.

Durban gays protest Mugabe

Fifty gays and lesbians picketed Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe Aug. 29 in Durban, South Africa. He was attending the Non Aligned Movement Conference at the city's International Conference Centre.

Mugabe loathes homosexuals. He has said: "[They are] repugnant to my human conscience ... immoral and repulsive. ... Animals in the jungle are better than these people because at least they know that this is a man or a woman. ... I don't believe they have any rights at all. [Gay sex is] an abomination."

Gay Aussie film is mainstream hit

The new Australian movie *Head On*—which depicts a day in the life of a young gay Greek man and includes explicit gay-sex scenes—is a box-office smash in the suburban multiplexes of Melbourne and Sydney, reports *Melbourne Star Observer*.

The film was third in box-office takings after its first week of general release, trailing *Armageddon* and *Sliding Doors*.

Jonathan Mann killed

Key AIDS figure Dr. Jonathan Mann, 51, and his wife, Mary-Lou Clements-Mann, were among the 229 people killed in the Sept. 2 crash of Swissair flight 111 near Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Mrs. Mann also worked in the AIDS field, on vaccine projects at Johns Hopkins University.

Jonathan Mann was the head of the World Health Organization's AIDS program from 1986-1990, when he quit and denounced then-WHO head Hiroshi Nakajimi for "completely paralyz[ing] our efforts." At the time of his death, Mann was dean of Allegheny University of the Health Sciences' School of Public Health in Philadelphia. Until December, he was a professor of international health and epidemiology at Harvard University's School of Public Health.

"In the '80s, he was truly a visionary at a time when it was absolutely not clear how devastating and epidemic AIDS would become," said Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS. "He pulled off what he called a global response both in developing and developed countries."

HeatStroke earns 3 G & L press awards

Phoenix paper will represent Arizona in competition for national "Best Publication" title

HeatStroke co-publishers Kelly J. Reidhead and Allen Kalchik were both named winners in the 1997-98 Vice Versa Awards for excellence in the gay and lesbian press. Results in the nationwide competition were announced Aug. 28.

Reidhead won two Honorable Mentions for his writing. His June, 1998 profile of Phoenix attorney Kathie Gummer (A *Unique Perspective on the Law*, issue #42) was named in the category "Best News Interview or Personality Profile." His October, 1997 editorial on Gov. Jane Hull (*From an Editor*, issue #22) garnered honors in the "Best Editorial" category.

Kalchik also won an Honorable

Mention in the "Best News Interview or Personality Profile" competition for an April, 1998 profile of legislative Candidate Steve May (*Out and Running*, issue #38).

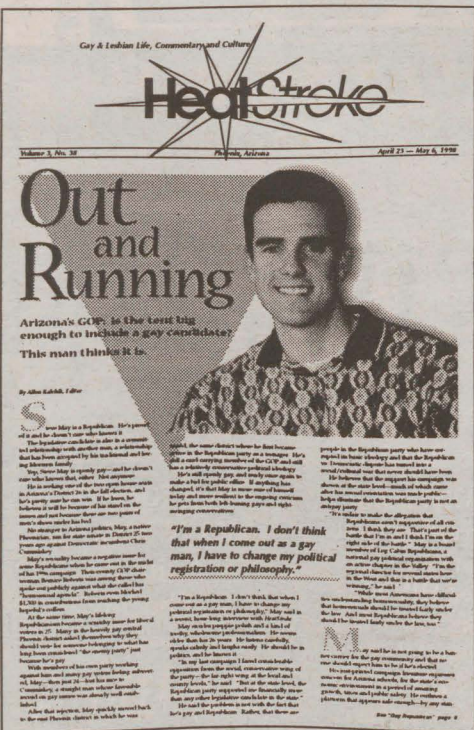
HeatStroke competed in the second annual awards contest in Division A, open to weekly and bi-weekly regional publications. By winning these three awards, HeatStroke is now eligible to compete for the "Best Publication" trophy, to be presented at a ceremony Oct. 1 in Las Vegas.

In all, twelve publications from across the U.S. and Canada met the "Best Publication" eligibility requirements in Division A.

The nominees are *Au Courant* (Philadelphia), *Between the Lines* (Michigan), *the Front Page* (North Carolina), *Frontiers* (Los Angeles), *the Gay and Lesbian Times* (San Diego), *HeatStroke* (Phoenix), *HX* (New York), *Metro Weekly* (Washington, D.C.), *Outlook* (Columbus), *San Francisco Bay Times*, *Southern Voice* (Atlanta) and *Xtra West* (Vancouver).

In addition to HeatStroke's writing awards, two cartoons that regularly appear in the paper came up winners. In the category, "Best Illustration or Cartoon," Eric Orner's *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green* earned First Place, while a strip from Alison Bechdel's *Dykes to Watch Out For* won Second Place. Both cartoonists have been featured in HeatStroke since the Phoenix-based newspaper debuted in November, 1996.

Writers Jeff Ofstedahl and Michael Conciello each received one award for stories that appeared in *Echo Magazine*.



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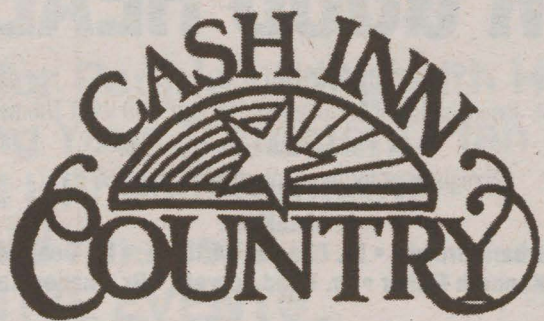
UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Sept. 20: Benefit for TJ Alvis, second runner-up Ms. IGRA. \$5 Steak Fry, from 4-8 pm.

Still to come in September at Cash Inn:

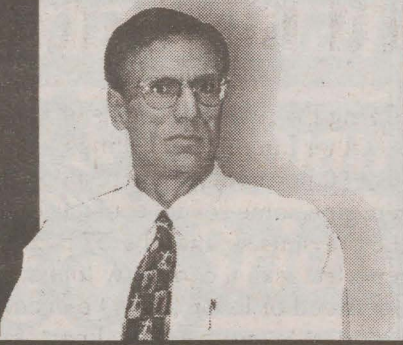
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Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



Efforts & Oaths

A few years ago I asked my doctor what percentage of his patients requested copies of blood test results or asked for written information about their particular afflictions.

He replied that 90% of his patients only wanted to hear that he knew what was wrong, and that he could make them feel better simply by prescribing treatment—which they would then follow without question.

I (always being the inquisitive one) asked how this could be; he told me that the adage "what I don't know won't hurt me" seemed to be the greatest influence upon the doctor-patient relationship.

Patients assumed that their physicians knew everything about their particular condition and that, consequently, they would receive the best state-of-the-art treatment.

But in the late '70s the human immunodeficiency virus came along and forced everyone to reexamine doctor-patient relationships. It also forced physicians to take a second look at how they approach disease

and the patients infected with HIV.

While many assume that physicians have adapted well to these changes and new demands, my experiences with more than 400 HIV-positive clients and dozens of HIV-treating physicians during the past three years have exposed some frightening deficiencies in the treatment of "our" disease.

Firstly, my friends and clients often bring in their list of current medications for my review, knowing that I can be their advocate and that I, too, need this information in order to help them select complementary botanicals or micronutrients to help support what our bodies do to keep us healthy.

During our discovery process, I see one or two clients per week that have been prescribed combinations and/or dosages of antiviral medications that are now known to be dangerous or inadequate.

My observations are based on the information that I, as a layman, have gathered at the 15 medical conferences I've attended during the past three years. In addition, this information is readily available over the Internet, where there are more than

1,000 HIV-related Web sites in existence today.

Secondly, by attending pharmaceutical "physician roundtable" events and conferences, I have observed a complacency among our HIV-treating family of physicians that makes these same events that I attend unimportant or unnecessary to many physicians—especially infectious disease specialists in the Valley.

Monthly physician roundtables are held in many other cities our size, but not here. Dr. Andy Myers, Medical Director for the clinical trials division at Phoenix Body Positive, told me that a regular gathering of HIV-treating physicians held during the '80s

I see one or two clients per week that have been prescribed combinations and/or dosages of antiviral medications that are now known to be inadequate.

here in Phoenix provided a forum for the dissemination and discussion of the latest treatment information among these specialists.

No such meeting presently takes place, even though the treatment and management of this disease has become exceedingly complex (there will soon be more than 200 triple combinations of antivirals to treat HIV infection).

Thirdly, Cheryl Desch, RN and Women's Outreach Coordinator at AIDS Project Arizona, has visited 69 Ob/Gyn and family practice offices during the past year in her efforts to inform clinicians about the interaction of HIV and women.

"Most providers are not aware of the unique signs and symptoms of HIV infection in women," she reports, "such as yeast infections and abnormal pap smears. They don't think to test non-pregnant and many pregnant women for HIV. Not one clinician had ever seen a female condom!"

How does this affect the HIV-positive population?

A study published three years ago showed that persons treated by physicians experienced in the treatment of HIV infection survived at least eighteen months longer than those persons treated by a physician who had little or no previous experience with HIV. In addition, countless HIV-positive persons suffer from the interactions of the myriad of drugs

that are often improperly prescribed for them by their physicians during the ever-increasing complexity of HIV treatment.

The adage "what I don't know won't hurt me" has now become "what my doctor doesn't know might kill me!"

We, the clients, are the lifeblood of physicians. They are bound by their oaths to go that extra mile for us. There is no room for complacency or mediocrity or pride or ego in the treatment of this disease.

Moreover, we, the patients, have the duty to learn more about HIV and its treatments, to question and challenge our physicians along the way,

and to initiate the conversations that will develop into a cooperative partnership between "healer" and "patient" that results in a higher standard of care.

After all, two minds are better than one.

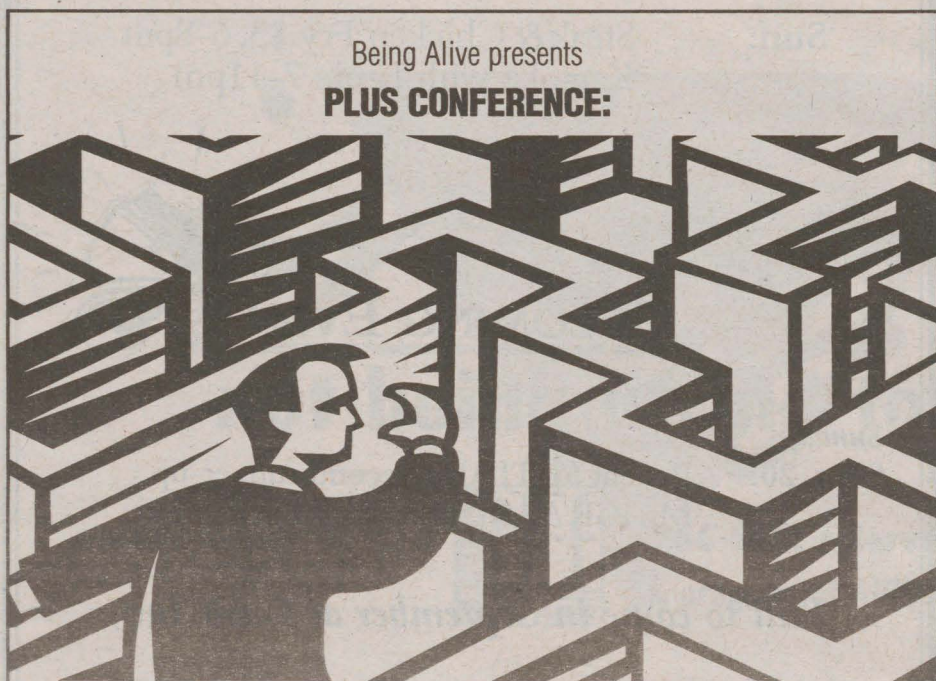
Hippocrates stated in The Physician's Oath "...to make [the patient] partner in my liveli-

hood." He then further states, in his Aphorisms, that "Life is short and the art is long."

I was in attendance when Dr. Richard Horton, editor of *Lancet* in Great Britain brought this necessary interaction home in Geneva during one of the closing sessions on at the 12th World AIDS Conference. At the end of his speech he said "...all of these principles would be pointless if physicians could not practice the oldest and still the most important skill of a good doctor—that of listening with humility."

Indeed, doctors that choose to treat us must do whatever is necessary to ensure that we are receiving the best treatment possible. In my opinion—with some notable exceptions—this has not been happening. Many physicians are unwilling to admit just how much they don't know about this incredibly complex disease.

Mark Hoffman is HIV positive and works as Health Educator and Treatment Advocate for Phoenix Body Positive and A Place called Home, two non-profit organizations serving the Valley's HIV community.



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Survey results give LifeGuard new info to work with

A survey of nearly 600 gay and bisexual men in Maricopa County that was distributed earlier this year by Project LifeGuard has provided approximately 40 pages of data for the Phoenix AIDS organization to decipher and use in assessing its program needs.

"We learned a lot of really interesting things, and so now we have to look at what this means in terms of the effectiveness of our programs," said Sam Van Leeuwen, coordinator

of Project LifeGuard. "Getting the results published is just the beginning, in a way."

One particularly notable piece of information: 28 percent of men surveyed had unprotected anal sex with a casual partner at least once in the six months before taking the survey.

The survey was created by David Huebner and Mary Gerend at Arizona State University. It was distributed in various publications, bars and establishments serving gay men

during the first six months of 1998.

Other interesting findings:

- 90 percent of those responding reported some sexual contact within the previous six months. 57 percent reported sexual contact with a steady boyfriend or lover, and 69 percent reported sex with a casual partner.

- Men between the ages of 20 and 44 were equally likely to have had unsafe sex, while those younger than 20 and older than 44 were less likely to report unsafe sex.

- 83 percent of respondents said they had been tested for HIV. Of those, 19 percent were HIV positive. HIV positive men were as likely to report unsafe activity as men who were not positive.

- Nearly 80 percent had heard of Project LifeGuard prior to completing the survey, but few had actually participated in any of the program's workshops.

Project LifeGuard is a program of AIDS project Arizona.

AIDS-fighting pioneer among victims of Swissair crash

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dr. Jonathan Mann, who became known as the outspoken head of the World Health Organization's AIDS program when the disease exploded in the 1980s, was among the 229 people killed in the crash of Swissair Flight 111.

Mann, 51, was dean of Allegheny University of the Health Sciences' School of Public Health in Philadelphia, formerly known as Hahnemann University Hospital.

Mann resigned in December from Harvard University's School of Public Health, where he was a professor of international health and epidemiology. He was also director of Harvard's Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center of Health and Human Rights.

The Boston native headed the WHO's AIDS program from 1986 until 1990, when he resigned amid a bitter clash with Hiroshi Nakajima, then WHO's director-general. Nakajima's attitude "completely par-

alyzed our efforts," Mann said then.

"It's a terrific loss for the whole AIDS community because his name and voice are very familiar to anybody who works on this issue," Larry Kessler, executive director of the AIDS Action Committee of Boston, said of Mann's death.

"I think his only regret was that he could never find enough money worldwide that would make a big enough dent in this epidemic," he said.

Mary-Lou Clements-Mann, who was with her husband on the plane, also was a noted AIDS researcher who taught at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. She was working on developing AIDS vaccines.

Mann had intended as a medical student to become an eye doctor, but fast became interested in public health when he went to New Mexico after graduation to work for the Centers for Disease Control. Two

years later, in 1977, he moved to the state's public health department and held various positions, including state epidemiologist. He stayed in New Mexico for 10 years and was credited with helping control bubonic plague

there.

After that, Mann said he needed a change and took an offer to spend a year in Zaire setting up an AIDS research facility under the auspices of the WHO.

Ala. Diocese donates property to AIDS group

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)

The Catholic Diocese of Birmingham donated its former Agape House retreat and the buildings of St. Anthony's parish at Ensley to the AIDS Task Force of Alabama.

The task force for three years had paid \$1,000 a month to lease the property, which has an appraised value of some \$200,000.

The diocese chose to donate the property instead of sell it as a sign that the church backs "this kind of apostolate," Bishop David Foley said.

The church can't build a housing facility like the one the task force has, but wants to show the church sup-

ports efforts to help those infected with the virus that causes AIDS, Foley said Friday.

He handed the property deed to the task force board chairman, Thomas E. Baddley Jr., "with God's blessings and our prayers for every success."

"I know from history that the church has been a place of safety and sanctuary and it's ironic that the church is fulfilling that mission again today," Baddley said.

The donation will allow the task force to free up \$12,000 a year in unrestricted money for other services, said director Randy Russell.



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HIV 404 - Long Term Living With HIV: Issues and Answers
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Sunday Sept. 27th

- Bill Travis Show - Contestant for
 Mr.AGRA - benefiting PFLAG

Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the
Phoenix Queer Community

Food Safety game at PBP

Phoenix Body Positive Family Support Services program has planned another fun, free family adventure. The Phoenix AIDS/HIV service agency will be hosting "The Food Safety Game show" Saturday, Sept. 19 at 12 noon.

Laura May, a registered dietitian and coordinator of the Arizona AIDS Nutrition Network will host the game show, with contestants playing and answering questions in a *Jeopardy* type of format.

It's all part of National Food Safety Education month and PBP considers you and your loved ones part of its "family", so all are welcome. There will be door prizes, games for the children and lunch for participants.

Call Miranda at (602) 955-4763 for more details.

CBPA Sept. events

The Valley of the Sun's gay, lesbian and gay-friendly chamber of commerce is called the Camelback Business and Professional Association (CBPA) and this group has several activities scheduled for Sept. and Oct.

The Sept. Lunch Bunch gatherings continue at Pookie's every other Tuesday. Lunches are slated for Sept. 22 and Oct. 6 & 20—meet at 11:30, buy your own lunch and plan to network and socialize.

The new East Side Lunch Bunch meets on alternating Wednesdays at Minder Binders, 715 South McClintock. This group will meet at 11:30 Sept. 16 and 30. CBPA members and friends from Scottsdale, Mesa, Chandler, Tempe and Ahwatukee are encouraged to attend.

The General Meeting slated for the Diamondbacks vs. Braves game on Sept. 17 has sold out, but more events are coming up in Oct.—including a sit-down with Phoenix Chief of Police Harold Hurtt. Watch this space in coming issues of *HeatStroke* for details.

Bears to wrap summer with splash

On Sept. 13, Bears of the Arizona Desert (BAD) will hold Bear Splash II, an end-of-summer BBQ and Pool Party. The club will provide the meat and fixin's along with beverages for just \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members. RSVP for directions.

BAD was formed to bring together singles and/or couples who share the common interests of Bears, Cubs and Bear Enthusiasts for social and entertainment interaction. Membership is open to individuals over 21 for \$25 for individuals and \$35 for couples, annually. To join, contact Bears of the Arizona Desert, PO Box 25951, Tempe, AZ 85285.

To RSVP, call (602) 345-8755.

Drive donated to HIV group home; positions available

Continuing community support has made upgrades possible at a group home run by the Phoenix AIDS organization A Place Called Home.

On Sept. 8, Chris Schafer of Superlite Block donated special driveway pavers for a much-needed redo at the organization's group residence for needy persons with HIV/AIDS. The home is near 32nd Street and Osborn in Phoenix. Installation labor, equipment and crushed granite will be supplied by Garden Grove Nurseries.

A Place Called Home also has a position available for a Resident Manager. Responsibilities include housing management and providing and assisting with supportive services for 9 residents with HIV/AIDS at two group homes.

Compensation includes residence, food, utilities, phone, medical and dental benefits and an annual salary. Direct inquiries to A Place Called Home, (602) 942-1572. Or, fax (602) 942-7598.

HIV+ art & awareness

The Life Mask Project is an ongoing mask-making art project designed to promote HIV/AIDS awareness. HIV-positive people are invited to have masks of their faces made as part of a traveling display.

Folks can participate anonymously or include their names with photographs and statements about their lives. Each mask takes about 20 minutes to make and there is no charge. Contact the project's Artistic Director, Michelle Milne, at (602) 730-9854.

Mask-making is scheduled for Sept. 18 at Phoenix Body Positive from 9am - 7pm and Sept. 25 at Mesa Community College from 9am - 7pm.

PLUS weekend returns

Positive Living for Us, a weekend workshop presented twice each year by Being Alive, is scheduled for Sept. 26 & 27 at the Cullen Auditorium on the campus of St. Joseph's Hospital in central Phoenix.

The "PLUS" weekend is free for HIV-positive persons. Its purpose is to empower people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to make informed choices concerning treatment and to improve the quality of their lives.

Scheduled topics include "Homeopathic Growth Factors Support Long Term Survival and Maintain Low Viral Load"; "Adherence Isn't Easy"; "When Protease Inhibitors Fail" and more. There will be free BIA testing offered, as well as chiropractic and massage therapy.

Funding for this weekend is made available through grants from the Dept. of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Maricopa County Dept. of Health Services.

To register, call Being Alive, a program of AIDS Project Arizona, at (602) 265-2437.

G & L Dems to meet

The new Gay/Lesbian Caucus of the state Democratic party will meet Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 5:30 to 7pm in the 2nd floor conference room at Arizona Democratic Headquarters, 2005 North Central Avenue.

RSVP to Alma at (602) 257-9136. All are welcome to discuss how gays and lesbians can affect change within the party and the community.

Castles n' Coasters n' homos n' fun

Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church is bringing "The Invasion", a fall day of play for Valley gays and lesbians (and anyone else who knows how to have fun with us), to the Castles n' Coasters theme park in north Phoenix on Sunday, Oct. 4.

This new community outing is sponsored by the same folks who host the annual "Our Day at Big Surf" party in the Valley every summer, and organizers are looking for another great turnout. The park, near Metrocenter at I-17 and Dunlap, features nine acres of unlimited rides and putt putt golf.

Planners say the park will be open to everyone during the event (hence the "invasion" label) but that if things go well, they'll be able to guarantee numbers for next year and reserve the facility exclusively for the community in coming years, a la Gay Day at Disneyland.

Tickets are \$15 and that's a savings of \$8 off the regular admission. The event is co-sponsored by *HeatStroke* and Desert Rose Chiropractic. Call Gentle Shepherd at (602) 285-9020 for more information.

Walk the walk & win a new Saturn

Walkers that raise at least \$500 in sponsorship money for AIDS Walk

Arizona on Sunday, Oct. 18 will qualify for a drawing for a 1999 Saturn, courtesy of Saturn of Arizona. For each additional \$500 raised, walkers will get another chance to win the car.

"So if someone brings in \$1500 the day of the walk, they get three chances for the car," explained Louise Bowden, Director of Special Events for AIDS Project Arizona (APAZ). All pledges have to be collected and turned in prior to the walk in order to qualify for the car, Bowden said.

Last year, the AIDS Walk raised more than \$900,000 and participants numbered over 14,000. To register for the walk, call 265-WALK, or register online at www.apaz.org.


Malta dinner set for Nov. 6

The Malta Center, the Valley's spiritual outreach to those infected by HIV, will hold its annual fund-raising dinner, "Night of a Thousand Lights", at Marriott's Camelback Inn resort on the evening of Nov. 6, 1998.

For ten years the Malta center has been providing individual and group counseling, prayer services, therapeutic massage, "open door" dinner gatherings and more, and all services are free of charge. Like most non-profit service organizations, the Malta Center depends on internal fund-raising to continue its efforts.

Individual tickets to the November dinner are \$150. Corporate underwriting and table hosting is encouraged. Attendance is expected to be near 400 and a silent auction will be part of the evening. For information call the Malta Center at (602) 212-0222.

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Gay director/writer's romantic comedy inspired by Hollywood classics

Continued from page 1

portrayed with a sweet vulnerability and a quick wit. "My Irish-Catholic background, that is where the sarcasm came from," Hayes says. "My entire family is just biting sarcasm."

Good looking without being intimidating, the 28-year-old could easily pass for Tom Cruise's younger brother. And while other heterosexual actors continue to shun gay roles, Hayes was only slightly hesitant.

"I think that is only natural because, you know, you want to build a career and make the right choices," he says. "I'd like to hope that we're coming past that [worrying about playing gay] and if everybody just relaxes, it's not that big a deal, folks."

Hayes' representation of the homo next door is convincing, particularly in scenes with Rowe. Character research was simple, according to the Chicago native.

"Living in Los Angeles, every other person is gay. So I have a lot of friends that are. I took what I know and what the character knows and combined them and came up with Billy."

A dead ringer for Brad Pitt, Rowe plays the sexually ambiguous waiter/model with less intensity than Hayes. "I didn't do any research gay-wise," says the actor. "I wanted to play the character as straight as possible—not butchy straight but just sort of non-descript—because that is what the story calls for."

Born and raised in Milwaukee, the 28-year-old—who sold orthopedic back supports and worked as a finance manager before becoming an actor—admits he was extremely hesitant in taking a role in a gay film.

"It was really hard. I wasn't sure if this was something I wanted to do," he notes, adding that it was O'Haver and Hayes who eased his decision to play Gabriel.

"I actually ended up auditioning with Sean right off the bat. We had a great chemistry and had a lot of fun hanging out and talking. And talking with Tommy

about the part, he made it so alluring and fun to do."

Rounding out the film's cast is Meredith Scott Lynn, who portrays Billy's roommate Georgie, the obligatory straight girl with the heart of gold. Lynn makes the most of this supporting role, which she also plays in real life: she lives with a gay man, her best friend since she was 12 years old.

Director/actor/writer Paul Bartel adds a fun flamboyance to Billy's as Rex Webster, a Bruce Weber-like photographer who shoots ad campaigns featuring boys in underpants. Bartel, whose delivery is lovable under an air of bitchiness, begs for more screen time.

O'Haver's first feature film is a farcical romp with drag queens, dream sequences ("You can never

with Billy throughout the film, but most notably in a scene in which a too-drunk-to-drive-home Gabriel spends the night. An angelic sequence

art direction and even the Polaroid-filled pre-opening credits sequence, the film has received a few negative notices.

"I'm not saying there's anything wrong with sex but there are obviously other things in life. And I think the movie's very sexy, but in a very naive and innocent way."

featuring Billy and Gabriel dancing in tuxedos to Petula Clark's "This is My Song" is poignant, touching and a

been forced to defend his work to the journalists who theoretically should be offering the most support. "I'm not saying there's anything wrong with sex but there are obviously other things in life. And I think the movie's very sexy, but in a very naive and innocent way."

Billy's *Hollywood Screen Kiss* marks the beginning of promising careers for O'Haver and Hayes. Universal has hired the filmmaker to write and direct a live action feature based on the *Archie* comic books—a project he says will have "a certain edge of camp to it. There won't be a kiss between Jughead and Archie, but there will be a few good cat fights between Betty and Veronica."

And this fall on NBC, Hayes will again play gay on the sitcom *Will & Grace*. Asked how he feels about gay men developing crushes on him through these roles, Hayes does not

hesitate. "I am absolutely flattered," he laughs. "Bring it on, folks."



Scott Seomin is a West Hollywood-based freelance writer. He has never, ever turned down a gay role.



Clockwise from left: Tommy O'Haver is the writer and director of *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*; Sean P. Hayes plays Billy, a photographer with a penchant for romance, with Meredith Scott Lynn who stars as his roommate Georgiana; Brad Rowe is Gabriel, the model who captures Billy's artistic eye.



favorite of the director. "That really gets me right here every time," O'Haver says of the scene, hand over his heart. "If I can feel a knot in my stomach every now and then I think 'OK, its working for me.' And then I hope it works for everybody else."

Lauded for its story, cast, beautiful

have too many dream sequences," says the director.) and a great soundtrack.

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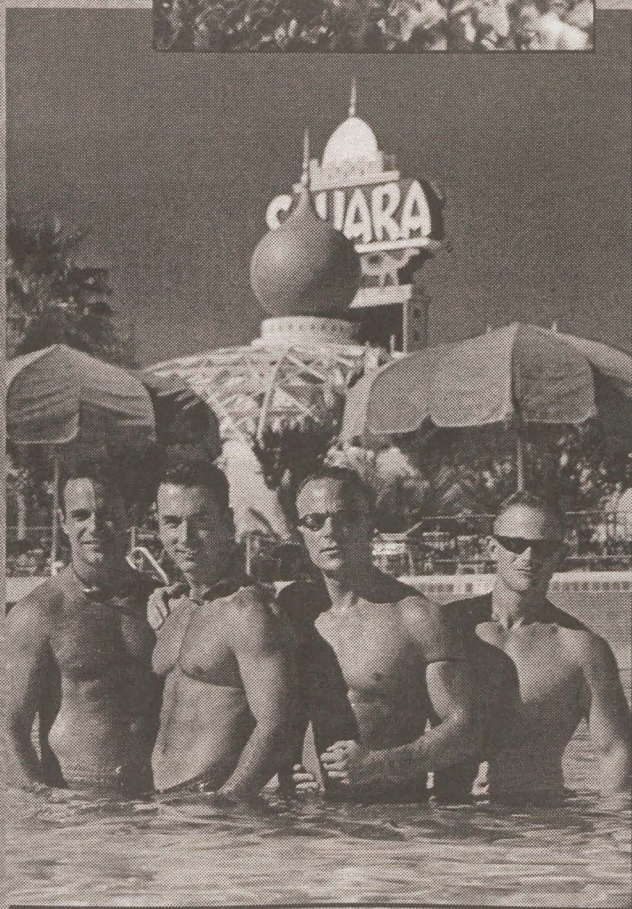
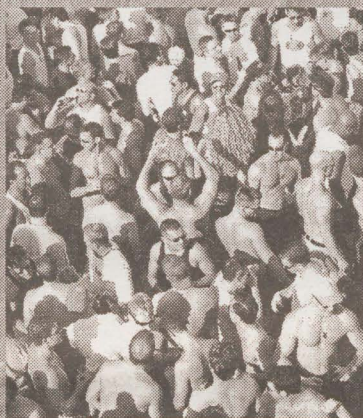
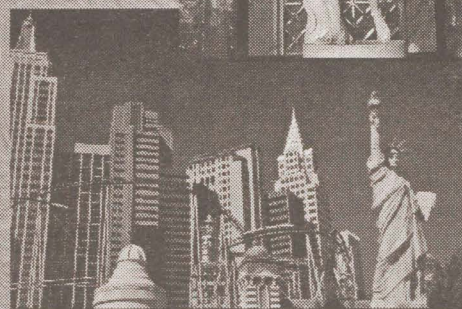
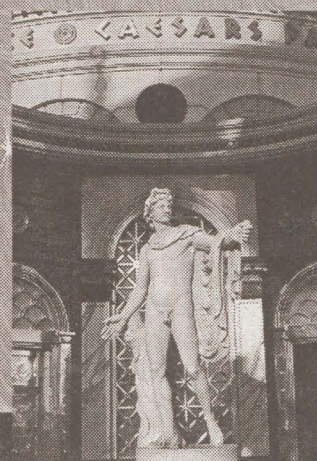
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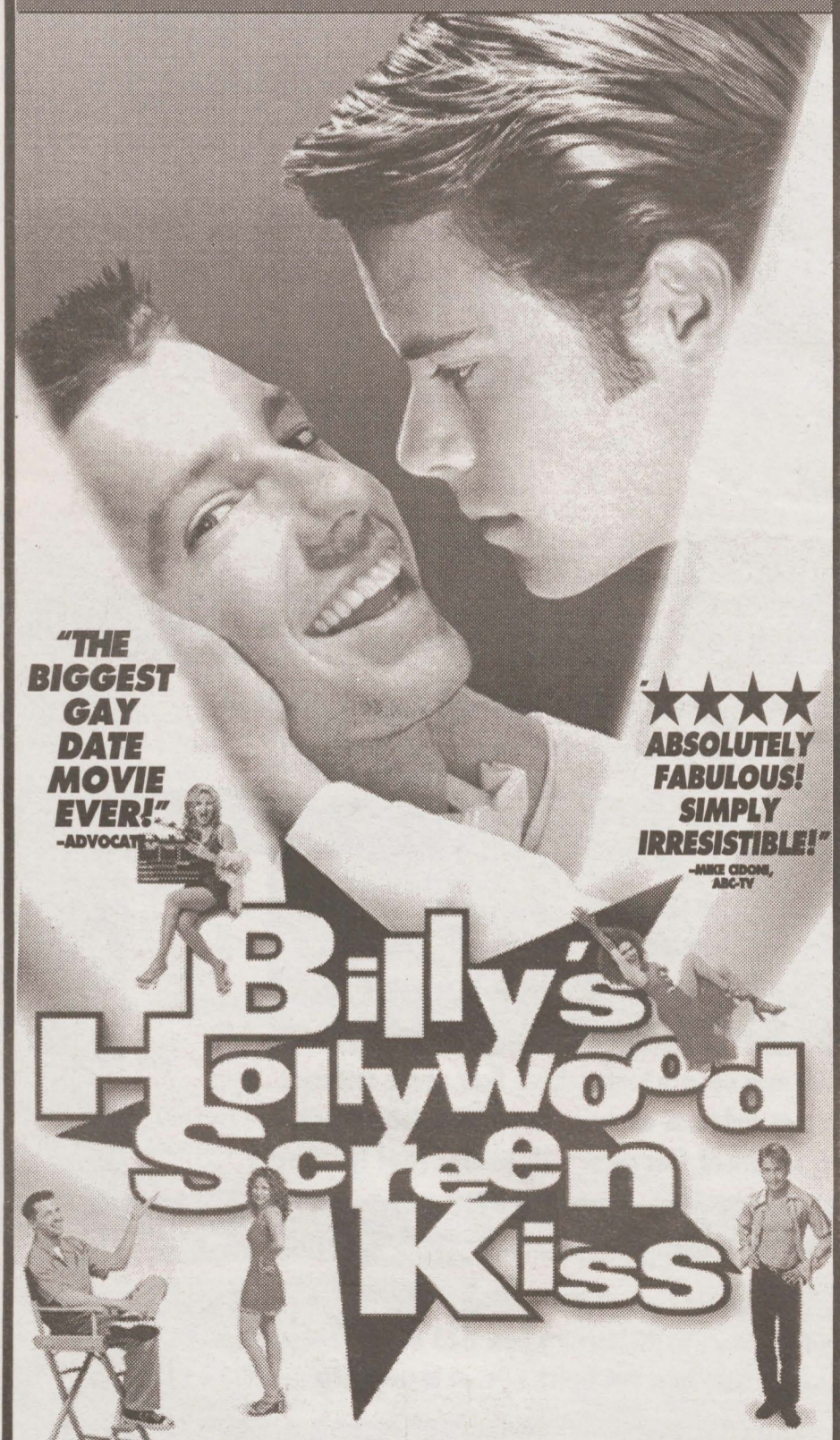
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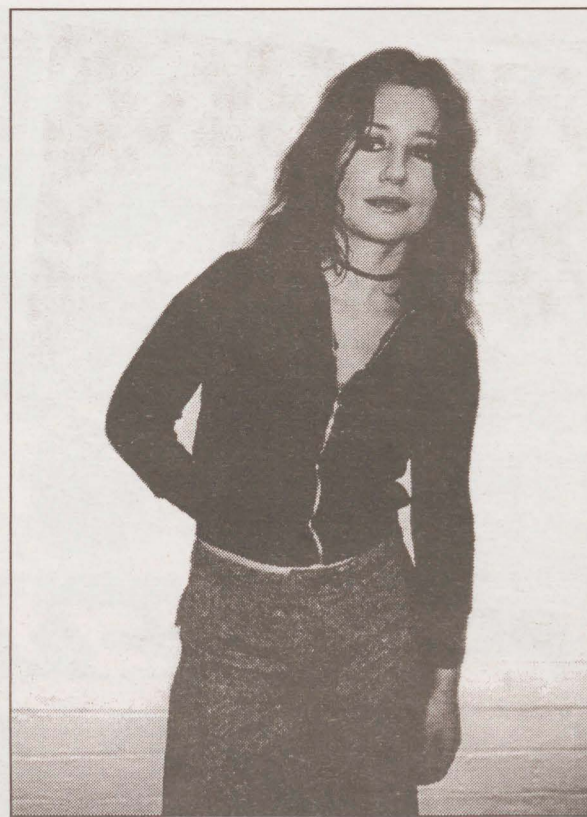
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Tori to rock AWA Sept. 27

On the road to promote her fourth album, *from the choirgirl hotel*, rock diva Tori Amos makes a long-awaited return to the Valley Sept. 27 at America West Arena.

The new show marks Amos' first-ever touring with a full band and is sure to excite both new fans and those who count themselves among her dedicated following. "I've done the girl with a piano thing," says the woman who first sat down to a keyboard at the age of two and a half. "I wanted to be a player with other players."

The Devlins will open the show for Amos and tickets are going for



\$29, available through Dillard's and the AWA Box Office.

Wisconsin-bred rockers headed for Scottsdale

The BoDeans, on tour in support of their current album, *Blend*, are slated to play Scottsdale's Cajun House Friday, Sept. 11 at 7 pm.

Co-leaders Sammy Llanas and

Kurt Neumann teamed up in Wisconsin and have now been partnered for more than 15 years. The band's biggest hit of late is a tune called "Closer to Free" that's best

recognized as the theme song to TV's touchy-feely drama, *Party of Five*.

Tickets are \$16 in advance, \$17 day of show and are available through Ticketmaster. The Cajun House is situated in the heart of old town Scottsdale at 7113 East 3rd Avenue.



One-woman comedy show making Valley debut

Family Secrets starring Sherry Glaser, the longest running one woman show in off-Broadway history, is coming to downtown Phoenix this month for a two-week run.

Written by Glaser and Greg Howells, *Family Secrets* will open at Phoenix Theatre's Little Theatre Sept. 17 and will play through Sept. 27, Thursdays through Sundays at 8 pm.

Glaser plays an entire dysfunctional Jewish "family" in the award-winning show, sublimating her own personality to become father, mother, big sister, younger sister and grandmother.

Family Secrets has played to sold-out houses and critical acclaim in

San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago, Miami, Orlando, Washington DC, New York and Canada.



Tickets are \$18 for regular admission and can be reserved by calling (602) 254-2151. Phoenix Little Theatre is located at 100 East McDowell Road.

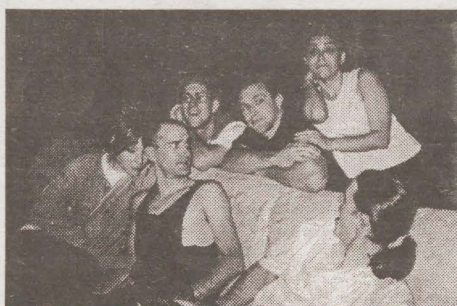
New troupe opens season with wacky comedy

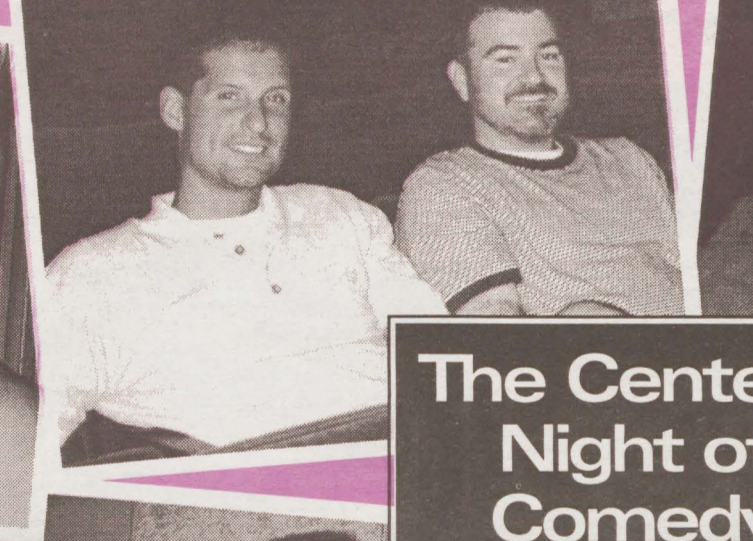
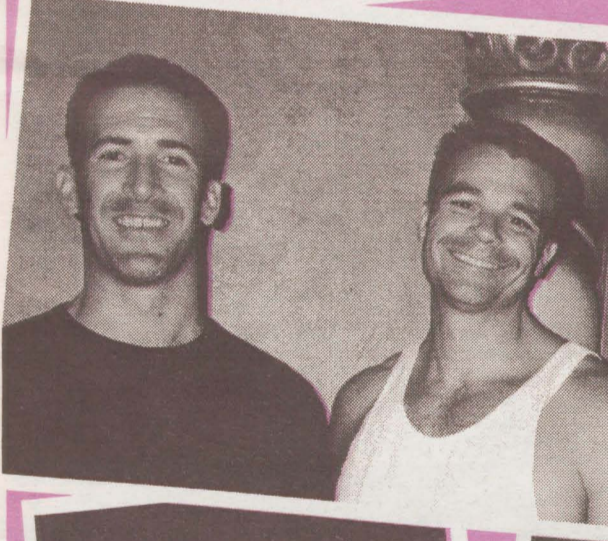
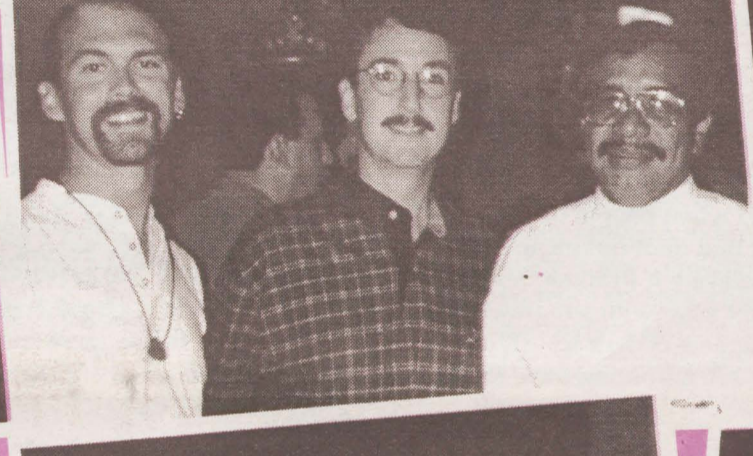
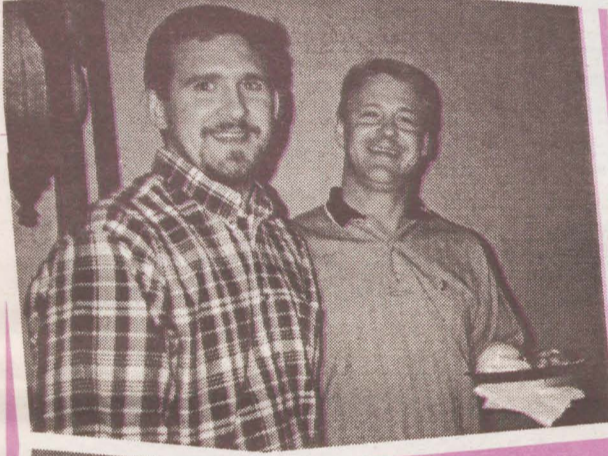
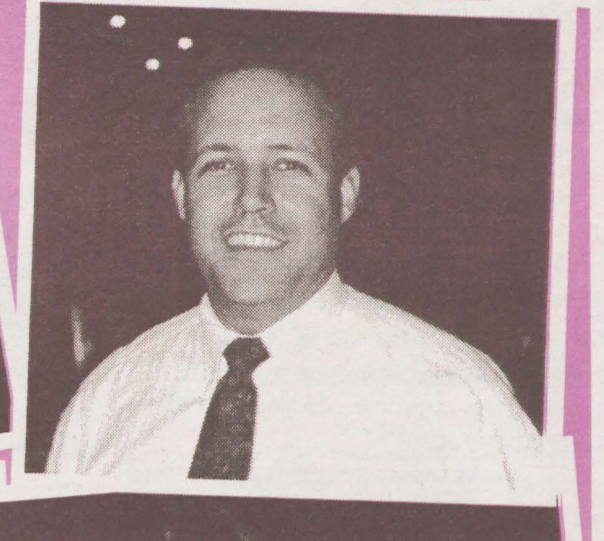
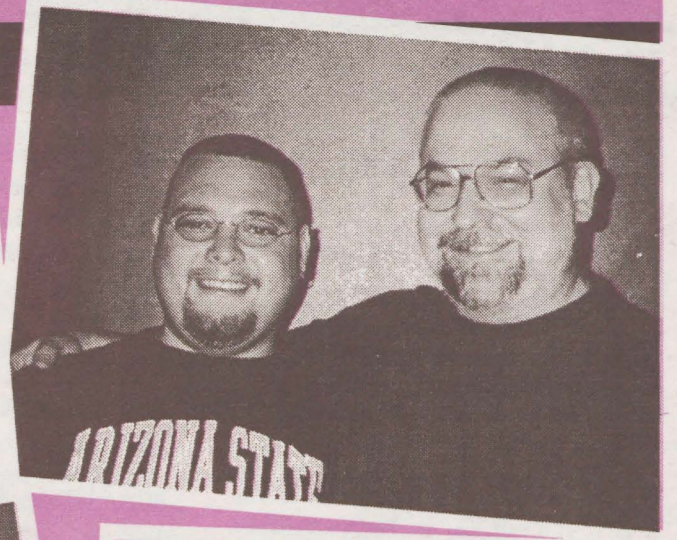
Blackball Ensemble's inaugural season will open with David Greenspan's *Dead Mother* or *Shirley*

Not All in Vain. The play runs Sept. 18- Oct. 3 at the newly renovated Planet Earth Theatre in downtown Phoenix.

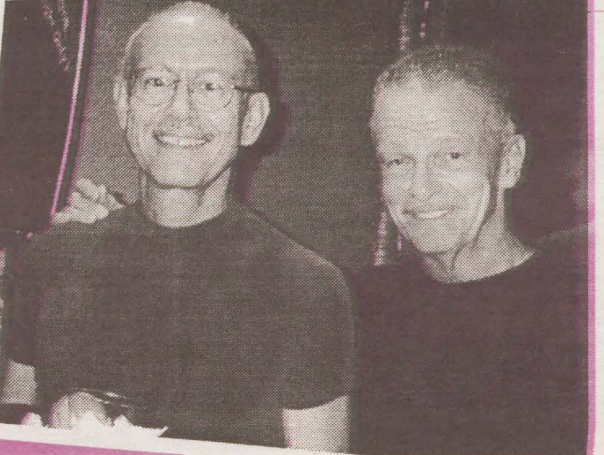
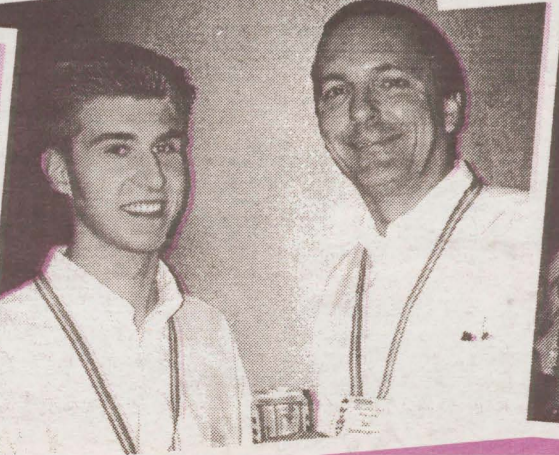
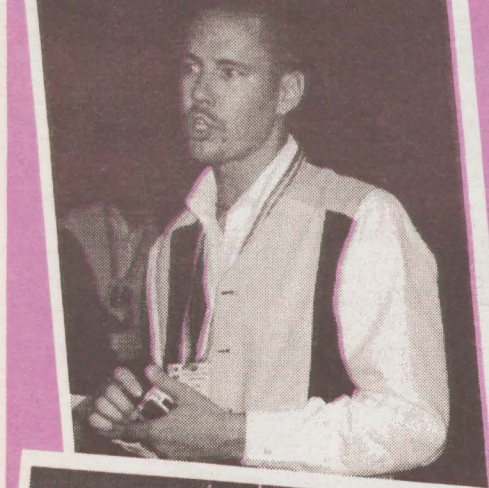
The show's producers relate that Greenspan is a gay playwright from New York with a growing reputation. Greenspan has also won an Obie award for his acting.

Tickets for the black comedy are \$12 and available by calling (602) 521-6278. Planet Earth is located at 909 North 3rd Street.





The Center's Night of Comedy



Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities
& Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"So he had a puppet show in his pants? It's not like he hurt anybody. He just went out cruising at a place that was known for that. What did the police think they were going to find? I think the whole thing is ridiculous."

—Comedian Judy Tenuta on singer George Michael's tea-room arrest, to Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, July 30.

"When you were gay and then you're not anymore, do you still like Broadway shows?"

—Actress, screenwriter and comedian Rita Rudner on TV's *Politically Incorrect*, Aug. 12.

"It's time for the sex police to shut down and go home. You have succeeded in humiliating the President, his wife and daughter and the American people have had enough! I say to those of you who have nothing better to do than focus on the President's sex life and the sex life of gay Americans, get a life of your own. Stop worrying about the President

and Monica, stop worrying about what gay people do in the privacy of their homes and start worrying about the real problems our nation faces."

—Eric Bauman, president of Los Angeles' Stonewall Democratic Club, in an Aug. 18 press release.

"Now, if you can help gay people become not gay, could you help Mr. Clinton become gay and then save the country?"

—Rock legend David Crosby (Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young; and the Byrds) to Family Research Council Cultural Studies Director Bob Knight on TV's *Politically Incorrect*, Aug. 12.

"It is important to be honest about why and when people have unsafe sex, but that does not mean we should elevate it to some trendy fetish. Yet now, with smarmy smirks and swaggers certain self-styled activists are garnering their 15 min-

utes of infamy through turning their dangerous peccadillo into a 'politicized' media circus."

—Columnist Dominic Hamilton Little in Chicago's *Outlines*, Aug. 12.

"People are always disappointed when they meet me. I'm not as funny or as interesting in person."

—Dykes To Watch Out For cartoonist Alison Bechdel to Toronto's *Xtra!*, July 30.

"I think most of my problems personally came from my childhood and without the gay world I wouldn't have been able to overcome these problems."

—Porn superstar Ryan Idol to Miami's *The Weekly News*, Aug. 5.

"When I came in[to] the [gay-porn] business I started requesting anyone that I would be working with to have HIV tests and if they didn't they just wouldn't be performing with me ... and actually now I request that the whole cast—even if I'm not working with them—anyone who works on my set gets HIV tests ... and if they choose not to take the test that's as guilty as taking the test and it coming up positive. [HIV-positive persons] shouldn't be in the adult video industry."

—Porn superstar Ryan Idol to *The Weekly News*, Aug. 5.

"We enjoy the support not just of straight Republicans and straight

Americans, but gay and bisexual Americans as well. We want their support. They want lower taxes, they want a balanced budget, they want to take people off welfare and give them jobs. We're doing that. And we welcome their support."

—Republican National Committee spokesman Mike Collins to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Aug. 13.

"[Anti-gay sentiment within the GOP] is a sign of the bankruptcy of the party. There are so many issues they could be taking on and now they are taking a position that is directly contrary to the principles of the Republican Party."

—Conservative pundit Arianna Huffington at the gay Log Cabin Republicans convention in Dallas, Aug. 16.

"I can't stand it when people in the media make up trash about me and/or Ellen. The rumors and nonsense they make up about us are unbelievable. They've gone from the not-so-evil 'I'm pregnant' to 'Now I am straight and having an affair with Vince Vaughn.' Give me a break. The words that many people write are harmful. The stories should be laughable, but in essence show how stupid and insane some writers can be."

—Actress Anne Heche, Ellen DeGeneres' lover, to Chicago's *Outlines*, Aug. 12.

"Everyone needs to understand one thing. I have a wife and I love her dearly. We live together and we love

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Metropolitan
Community Church



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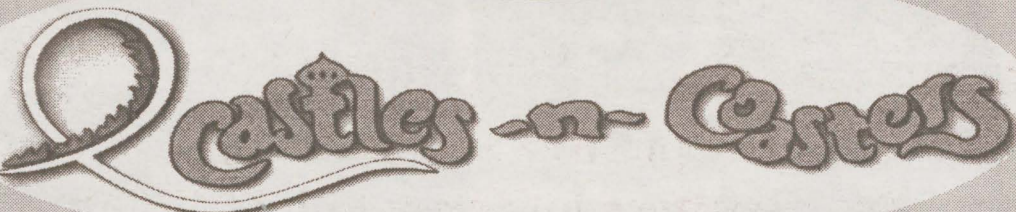
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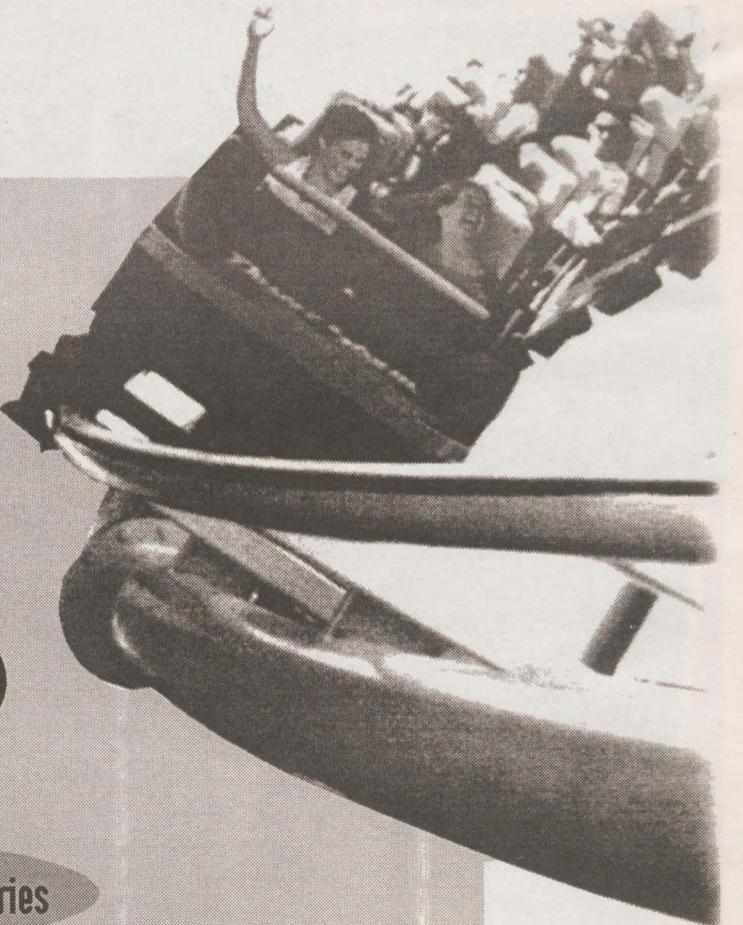
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each other more than anything in the world. I am an entertainer as is Ellen and we both push ourselves and strive to be the best that we can at what we do. I hope people stop writing about our sex life and start to concentrate on our acting abilities whether they like them or not. My challenge right now is to shock people with my creative ability on screen. That is my challenge."

—Actress Anne Heche, Ellen DeGeneres' lover, to Chicago's *Outlines*, Aug. 12.

"[AIDS] patients should be able to put their information on the Internet [so they and their doctors can log in and find out, in real time, how patients are doing on particular drug combos.] We're all waiting for someone to tell us what drugs to take. That's not going to happen. We'll have to find these answers for ourselves. It's time to hit the keyboards like we hit the streets."

—AIDS activist Larry Kramer whose HIV Treatment Data Project begins a test-run on the Internet next month, to the *Village Voice*, Aug. 25.

"The bi-level, the regulation lesbian haircut, is the ultimate non-do. It's short and spiky on top, cut straight across the top of the ear and left longer in the back. Considering the bi-level's dominance, I used to think that maybe the bad hair gene was on the same string as the gay gene. There is, however, considerable peer pressure to conform in this area. ... This haircut was not designed to be

flattering. It was designed to make the following statement: 'We don't conform to whole white-male-dominated ideal of beauty.' This is an offshoot of the 'We are a bitter people' philosophy that many lesbians have. These are the women who think people like me are too happy to be gay. Intentionally bad hair also makes lesbians easily identifiable. It's a visibility thing, like those rainbow stickers on our cars. ... It seems as though all lesbians have the same haircut because the only lesbians people can readily identify are the ones with the bad haircut. ... Meanwhile, those of us who don't do the 'do are accused of trying to 'pass' as straight. I am not a stealth lesbian traveling under a cloak of femininity, I'm just one who thinks that being attracted to other women doesn't mean I have to quit looking like one. Not only do I prefer dressing up to dressing down, not care for camping and lack softball skills, I dare to be satisfied with my lot in life."

—Chrissy Cada writing in the *Washington Post*, Aug. 9.

"After Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss, I'm sort of gayed out. The film is labeled a gay film, and I'm labeled a gay filmmaker. But the film is trying to make it a non-issue. It's so exhausting being asked about being gay all the time. This doesn't mean I'll never do another gay film. But it will be nice to do something that's not gay."

—Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss writer-director Tommy O'Haver to Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, Aug. 13.

"At different points, Diana's life story was a fairy tale, a horror story, a soap opera, a grand opera, a drama, a romance and a tragedy. But it was also, ultimately, a retelling of the greatest gay fable of them all—The Wizard of Oz. Just like Dorothy Gale, Diana, Princess of Wales was an innocent little girl who found herself caught up in a cyclone that took her some place she never felt she really belonged, and so she had to start on a life-changing journey down the long and winding yellow brick road. Hell, she even managed to pull back the magic curtain that exposed the 'wonderful' Wizards of Windsor for what they really are—i.e. nothing special. And most important of all, somewhere along the way, Diana discovered that she already had the three most important things in the world: a heart, a brain and courage. Unlike Dorothy, just as Diana looked like she was ready to click her heels together three times and say 'there's no place like home', she was taken away from us. But even though Diana's story doesn't have a happy ending, no Gay Icon of the past ever got quite as close as she did to finally getting over that rainbow."

—Richard Smith in London's *Gay Times*, August issue.

"I believe that the steady erosion of oft-denigrated 'family values' has resulted in a disaster for our children and society. Never before have we had so many children in broken or never-made homes; children into drugs, violence and sex; children killing themselves and others; children raised by institutions instead of

by parents; children killing their own infants; children being molested by Mom's many boyfriends; children not doing well academically and children lost emotionally. You have to be in serious denial not to see the connection between these maladies and the undermining of what structure and behavior best supports the raising of children. On my program, for example, I've seen a terrible trend of people getting married, having children and then deciding they are gay and abandoning their obligations for their sex life."

—Syndicated columnist Dr. Laura wigs out, Aug. 12.

"Kenya has no room or time for homosexuals and lesbians. Homosexuality is against African norms and traditions, and even in religion it is considered a great sin."

—Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi to the *Daily Nation* newspaper, according to the Sapa-Panos news agency, Aug. 14.

"Taking into account other modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS, homosexuality is negligible, and should not take up our resources and time. We have other, far more pressing areas which affect the majority of our people and therefore need urgent attention."

—Kenyan Ministry of Health spokesman Maina Kahindo to the Sapa-Panos news agency, Aug. 14.

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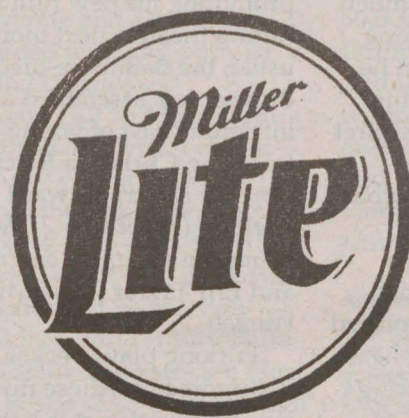
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Friday, Sept. 11
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\$1 Miller draft
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\$1.75 Miller products

Saturday, Sept. 12
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Sunday, Sept. 13
BUNKHOUSE
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Saturday, Sept. 19
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Sunday, Sept. 20
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an organization dedicated to providing assistance to people with HIV & AIDS.
Miller Brands of Phoenix will donate a percentage of beer sales during September.

Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Banderas Dons Another Mask

Mask of Zorro star Antonio Banderas has pulled off an upset, snagging the title role away from John Travolta in the movie adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*.

Travolta was considered a shoe-in for the role, which he's been dicker-ing about taking since the troubled production's inception five years ago. During this time Lloyd Webber began warming to the idea of the Latin heartthrob as his phantom. The court-ing started in earnest last April when the famed musical producer flew Banderas to London to sing at his 50th birthday party, a kind of public audition.

Of course, Lloyd Webber also knew Banderas from his co-starring role opposite Madonna in the owl-ish Brit's 1996 film *Evita*.

The *Phantom* movie has neither a script nor a director yet. And it also lacks support from a hardcore legion of fans of the theatrical production who think no one but Michael Crawford should be allowed to por-tray the deformed balladeer.

According to a sampling of re-sponses from their website, they view Banderas as a worse option than Travolta, who wasn't a favorite of theirs in the first place.

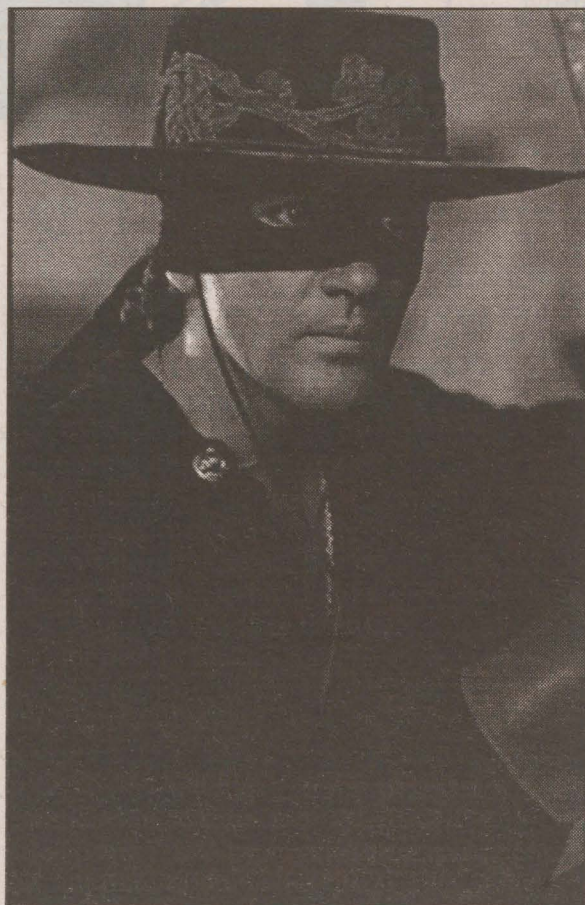
Schizo Leo

With the release of *Titanic* in video stores and the Sept. 8th publication of nude pictures in *Playgirl*, Leomania continues to sweep the country. But when you'll see him again on-screen remains a mystery.

Partying like a dog on both coasts (and eating like one too, judging from his expanded belly and double chin), DiCaprio doesn't seem to be in much of a hurry to return to work, nixing the title role (and the \$20 million he would've received for it) in the big screen adaptation of gay novelist Bret Easton Ellis' *American Psycho*.

This comes just days after Leo par-ticipated in a script reading with Oliver Stone, who was said to be interested in directing the destined-to-be- controversial film. The reported reason for DiCaprio's change of heart was a disagreement with producers about a start date.

Now the film may revisit its low-



Sexy Spaniard Antonio Banderas is set to don another mask for the big screen—this time he'll play the Phantom in Andrew Lloyd Webber's campy songfest.

budget roots, with *I Shot Andy Warhol's* Mary Harron returning to the director's chair. Harron was ousted when DiCaprio initially agreed to take the role.

Taking On The Trash

Legendary gay director John Waters will have the camera turned on him in the docu-mentary *Mondo Trash*, set for release next year from director Steve Yeager.

In the meantime, Waters is promoting his new film *Pecker*, hitting theaters next month. As usual, the Baltimore-bred director has assembled an intriguing cast of young actors, featuring Christina Ricci (*The Opposite of Sex*), Edward Furlong (*Terminator 2*), Martha Plimpton (*Running on Empty*) and Lili Taylor (*I Shot Andy Warhol*).

Furlong plays Pecker, a Baltimore boy whose raw amateur photos attract the attention of a New York art dealer

(Taylor). Pecker's shock snapshots of rats fornicating and his little sister eating a Fudgesickle lead to his becoming the art world's latest sensa-tion. Sounds kind of autobiographical to me.

And, of course, Patty Hearst has a small role, as she has in all of Waters' '90s releases, this time as a freewheeling Big Apple art patron.

Take It Outside!

Autobiographical works seem to be in vogue these days, and newly outed singer George Michael is not one to miss a trend. So his upcoming greatest hits CD (slated for an October release) will include a new song, "Outside," in which the Wham! graduate addresses the subject of outdoor sex.

Michael, you'll remem-ber, was arrested in Beverly Hills last spring for lewd conduct when an undercover police officer discovered him mastur-bating in a park bathroom.

Bruce Vilanch's Coming Out Party

He's not a household name, but chances are you've laughed at his jokes. Openly gay writer Bruce Vilanch, best-known for his writing stints for the Oscars, is the

autobiography "Take It Like a Man" is being turned into a feature film by the husband-and-wife producing team Erica Spellman-Silverman and Ethan Silverman. Casting has just begun, but there's no chance Boy will be playing himself.

In other '80s icon news, Brooke Shields returns to the big screen in next year's British feature *The Misadventures of Margaret*, in which the former teen idolette plays a les-bian. Finally, a woman will get in between Brooke and her Calvins.

Daddy's Little Girl

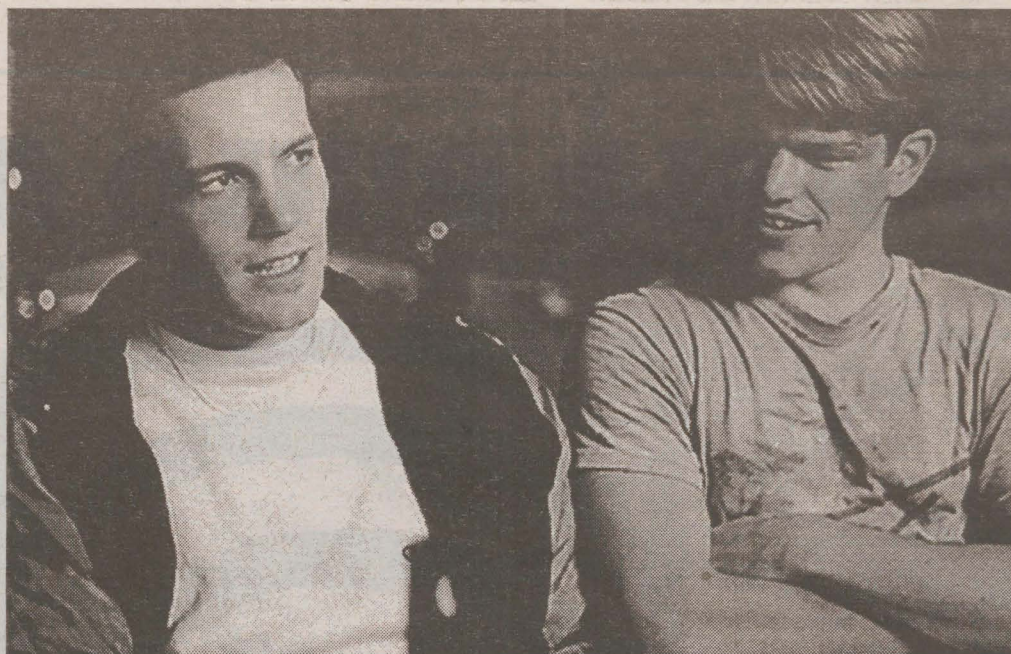
Tori Spelling seeks to reinvent her wholesome reputation with a reveal-ing interview in *Playboy*, where the 90210 star says she would love to have a threesome with Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

Other tidbits from the interview: she enjoys stripteasing by herself in front of a mirror; she is a member of the Mile High Club; and Madonna has the best cleavage in show biz.

Hot Rumor of the Week

Maybe this item is the project of someone's overheated imagination, but Boston boys Matt Damon and Ben Affleck are rumored to be hitting the range in Gus Van Sant's *Brokeback Mountain*, the story of two gay cow-boys in love.

Van Sant directed the pair in *Good Will Hunting*, so the rumor may not be as outlandish as it seems. Despite delusions to the contrary, Damon and Affleck have been the very models of heterosexuality in their private lives.



Two gay caballeros? Rumors say Oscar winners Ben Affleck (l) and Matt Damon will re-team with director Gus Van Sant in *Brokeback Mountain*—a tale of two gay cowpokes.

subject of a new documentary by director Andy Kuehn.

Get Bruce! features interviews with many of the performers Vilanch has written for, including Bette Midler, Billy Crystal, Robin Williams, Carol Burnett and Whoopi Goldberg.

And Vilanch will be taking occa-sional turns in front of the camera in this fall's syndicated revival of *The Hollywood Squares*, which will feature Goldberg in the coveted center square, which of course was the former home to gay comic Paul Lynde (and in a later incarnation, Jim J. Bullock).

But perhaps it will be Vilanch, one of the creative forces behind the new *Squares*, who will attain the title: "A Paul Lynde for the new Millennium." Methinks we need one already!

Big Screen Boy

Comeback hopeful Boy George's

Romeo Plugs...

Explicit depictions of gay sexuality are just a part of the in-your-face HBO drama series *Oz*, which I believe is TV's best hour-long drama (by a mile).

Full frontal nudity and blow jobs are the norm in this series, which takes place in a maximum-security prison. Of course, the sex isn't that glamorous—this being prison—and the gay characters aren't role mod-els—this being prison—so politically correct types best turn away.

Those interested in bold, brave and often twisted plots, however, will be riveted.

Romeo San Vicente, who has never worn any of the ties his lovers have given him, can be reached care of HeatStroke or at RSVicente@aol.com.



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Out of Town

Boston—by Day

By Andrew Collins, HeatStroke Contributor

The U.S. metropolis whose brisk pace and dignified countenance compares most favorably with European cities, Boston yields to few American trends and rather marches to its own agenda.

Bostonians have long supported a liberal social climate, backing most issues that favor the rights of women and gays (and repeatedly sending Barney Frank to Congress). This is remarkable given the city's conservative historical ties to both Puritanism and Catholicism.

Local political and cultural wisdom, however, is shaped significantly by the presence of several respected educational institutions—the city fosters a climate of discourse, albeit to a sometimes excessive degree, and a groovy egalitarian ethic prevails.

Boston is a culture vulture's dream. The region's academic vibrancy contributes to a superb fine and performing arts scene. The thousands of full- and part-time students roaming the city display an insatiable appetite for high-brow diversions, from film and literary festivals to avant-garde art exhibitions.

Compact and attractive, it's also the definitive walker's city. And many of the neighborhoods abundant with museums and engaging architecture—the Back Bay, the South End, parts of Cambridge—thrive with gay-popular shops, eateries, and hang-outs.

The Boston Common has been the city hub since 1630. The Boylston and Tremont streets side is more work-

The fact that same-sex couples can stroll comfortably arm-in-arm through this traditional family neighborhood is further evidence of Boston's overwhelming acceptance.

day than the stretch along stately Beacon Street, but the whole park merits exploration. The adjacent Boston Public Garden, the centerpiece of which is a placid pond traversed in summer by foot pedal-powered swan boats, also contains several acres of formal gardens. Overlooking the

Common stands Charles Bulfinch's golden-domed neoclassical State House.

One of the nation's earliest urban residential neighborhoods, nearby Beacon Hill (where same-sex couples are not uncommon) was settled in the early 1800s by the city's wealthiest merchants and is today the domain of brick sidewalks, stately town houses,



Boston's dramatic Hancock Tower looms above the historic South End.

shade trees, and boutiques (the best are on Charles St.). A bit north is the estimable Museum of Science, which has more than 400 exhibits, a planetarium, and an OMNIMAX Theater.

Northeast of the Common, beyond Government Center—a jumble of 1960s-era civic buildings and office blocks—is Quincy Market, an enormously popular complex of specialty food shops, restaurants, bars, and retail stores.

The food stalls hawk everything from gelato and fried dough to Italian sausages and steamed clams. Many popular sights are nearby, most easily visited by walking along the Freedom Trail, a mile-and-a-half self-guided historic tour marked with a painted red line along the sidewalk. East of here is the always-packed New England Aquarium, home to

more than 2,000 species of sea creatures.

Across the hideous I-93 overpass from Government Center is Boston's North End, a network of narrow, crooked streets and 19th-century brick tenements that house one of the nation's most prominent Italian communities.

The fact that same-sex couples can stroll comfortably arm-in-arm through this traditional family neighborhood is further evidence of Boston's overwhelming acceptance.

In addition to fine restaurants, you'll find such important Freedom Trail sites as the Paul Revere House and the 1723 Old North Church.

At the other end of town, the South End is an urban record of social and economic change. Though ritzy these days, its original flourish as an enclave of gentility was short-lived.

Most of the neighborhood's trademark circa-1850s bowfront redbrick homes

had deteriorated by the early 1900s, and over the next 60 years, middle-class blacks and incoming Middle Easterners, Asians, and Latin Americans moved in.

Although major gentrification here was slow, the neighborhood began drawing students, artists, and young professionals in the '60s. By the early-'80s a gay ghetto had been born, and over the past decade housing costs have soared, making this more of an upscale professional neighborhood than a predominantly gay one. Still, its main commercial spines, Columbus Avenue and Tremont Street, are loaded with gay-popular restaurants and businesses.

While Beacon Hill and the South End have a distinctly British character, the relatively young Back Bay (a tidal flat before the 1860s), with its broad avenues of four-story town houses, its grid layout, and its bustle of sidewalk cafes and swank boutiques, recalls late-19th-century Paris.

The long east-west streets are ideal for walking: Beacon and Marlborough streets are chock-a-block with fine

homes.

Commonwealth Avenue is divided by a gracious grassy mall. Newbury Street is lined with shops and eateries that range from high-end, up by the Public Garden, to funky and collegiate, down toward Massachusetts Avenue.

Boylston is the most commercial. Both the 62-floor John Hancock Tower and the 52-story Prudential Tower have phenomenal views for miles around Boston; the latter is surrounded by an indoor shopping mall, which leads in turn to Copley Place, a larger more upscale—and even cruiser—shopping complex.

West of Massachusetts Avenue is the Fens, the final piece in Boston's jigsaw puzzle of landfill, an amalgam of low-budget residential and shaggy industrial blocks and site of the campuses of Northeastern and Boston universities.

The topographical feature that defines the neighborhood, however, is the amorphous Back Bay Fens Park, the only area of tidal marshlands that was never filled in with gravel as Boston expanded.

Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted converted this wilderness into a subtly manicured park. On its south side is the Museum of Fine Arts, whose highlights include Asiatic art and French Impressionists. To the west is the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, a stunning if idiosyncratic collection of paintings, drawings, textiles, and furniture (mostly Western European).

Often lumped in as just another of Boston's many neighborhoods, Cambridge is a small, independent city of 100,000 with one of New England's most visible women's communities. It was settled in 1630 and six years later became home to the nation's first university, Harvard, which remains a top tourist draw.

Dozens of shops and eateries line the streets around Harvard Square. Within steps of it are such impressive institutions as Widener Library, with the country's second-largest book collection; the Fogg Art Museum, whose 80,000 holdings concentrate most on European and American painting; the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, which emphasizes Asiatic, ancient Greek and Roman, and Egyptian, Buddhist, and Islamic art; and the mammoth Harvard University Museums of Cultural and Natural History.

Andrew Collins recently authored the greatly expanded second edition 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 in care of *HeatStroke* or at gayfodors@aol.com



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CAUSE #1: LINE PRESSURE;
 PERHAPS IF I DID A LITTLE RAINDANCE...
 YOU GIRLS QUIT GOSSIPING- I GOTTA WIZ
 WATERFALLS RUNNING, FANCETS, SWIFT MOUTH-TAIN STREAMS
 AAAAY MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO READ A SWEET STORY WHILE YOU'RE AT IT
 WAZA HOLD UP!
 THE SAHARA, THE GOBIE, THE DUST-BOWL...

CAUSE #2: TALKATIVE FELLOW PEE-ERS.
 YES! REE BOB! ROSS PEROT 'LL BREAK THAT LOG JAM DOWN THAR IN WARSHINGTON! CAUSE HE'S GOT THE KNOW HOW, AN' HE UNDERSTANDS TH' LITTLE GUY! HE'S A SHARP SHOOTER WHO'LL TALK STRAIGHT AND KNOW WHAT HE'LL SAY WHEN HE DOES?
 WELLSIR, HE'LL SAY WE GOTTA BREAK THAT LOG JAM DOWN THAR IN WARSHINGTON AND THAT HE'S GOT THE KNOW HOW 'N HOW HE UNDERSTANDS TH' LITTLE GUY + THAT HE'S A SHARP SHOOTER!
 MA TANTE 75% SUMI 17% + CARROT
 HOOPER

CAUSE #3: RUNNING INTO SOMEONE YOU KNOW;
 "...MARY" I SAID, "THERE ARE CERTAIN SHADES OF LIMELIGHT THAT CAN RUIN A GIRL'S COMPLEXION... Well ETHAN, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HER FACE..."
 "LOOK HERE MISS POISON THANG," SHE HISSED...
 Well You Can Just bet she...
 ...AND THEN SHE... WHEREAPON SHE... AND

CAUSE #4: TAPE MEASURE TROLLS.
 You! SA.

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subw

MARTY, THAT IS THE LAST THING ANYBODY WOULD THINK ABOUT YOU.

YEAH. NO OFFENSE, BUT LOOK AT YOUR HAIR, YOUR CLOTHES, YOUR PHYSIQUE...

ON SECOND THOUGHT... WAY T' SHOW YOUR "BEAR PRIDE!"
 MY BARE WHAT?!

© 1998 Dave Broussan

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel Alison's on vacation. This is an archive episode of Dykes To Watch Out For.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER
 A TIPS OF THE NIP TO BYT MINICK
 © 1988 BY ALISON BECHDEL 35

WANNNA COME IN? LOIS AND SPARROW WON'T BE HOME TILL LATE. SURE.

IGNORE THE MESS. IT'S MY THESIS. WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

IT'S ABOUT HISTORICAL TRENDS IN DOMINANT-CULTURE CRITICISM OF AFRO-AMERICAN LITERATURE...

... WITH A FOCUS ON THE CRITICAL RESPONSE TO THE INFLUENCE... UH...

... OF THE ORAL TRADITION IN, UM... CONTEMPORARY FICTION BY BLACK WOMEN... MMM...

WO HOURS AND FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER... OOPS! SCUSE ME!

I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING INTO, GINGER. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.

SLAM!

GINGER... I HAVE TO LEAVE IN CASE TONI CALLS IN THE MORNING... UM... I HAD A GREAT TIME.

ME TOO. YOU BUSY TOMORROW?

UH... YEAH. TONI'S FLIGHT GETS IN AT 6. ARE YOU GOING TO TELL HER? TELL HER WHAT?

HAS CLARICE BEEN POSSESSED BY AN ALIEN? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, ANYWAY? DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!

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Dear Cowboy,
I am planning to move in with a guy who won't kiss me.
We met through the classifieds about a year ago, originally just for sex. It was very hot, so we started meeting more often. He was married at the time and still considers himself bi-curious. Now that he's broken up with his wife, he wants to get a place with me.
I have really fallen in love with him. He says he's never thought of being in love with a guy but if he does, it will definitely be with me. I take that to mean we have potential and that I should give him a little time to come around to a more

romantic relationship. But sometimes I have doubts about where this can lead. What do you think?
Signed, Need Romance

Dear Romantic,
Doubts come up in all pairings in some shape or form. That's no reason to let a steer run right out of the arena before teaming up and throwing a couple of loops.
Kissing isn't everything. If the man-to-man sex is mutually satisfying and moving in together is his idea, I'd say there's something there worth sticking to.
He can't label himself a gay man at this point. So maybe he will tomor-

row. Or maybe he never will. You're fretting over the uncertainty about what your cowpoke will be able to give you emotionally at some point in the future. No one knows the answer to that.
The real question here has to do with what he's giving you already and whether it's enough. The guy who can tell you that is the one staring back at you in the bunkhouse mirror. Listen to what he says and act accordingly.

Dear Cowboy,
I was thrilled when my boyfriend came out to his entire family a few months ago but now I'm not so sure. They keep inviting me to all these family functions—the latest is his

niece's Bat Mitzvah, which means a weekend trip to New York. I don't want to go. It isn't the money or the time because we can afford both. But I never feel comfortable at family events like that (even my own family) and besides, I'm not even Jewish.
He says we have to go to show respect for the effort they're all making to accept our relationship. I say we have to draw a line somewhere or we'll be expected at everything. What should I do?
Signed, Want to be a Nice Goy

Dear Goy,
Your man is right—and what you should do is quit your bellyaching and pack your duster. It gets cold in New York this time of year.

I was thrilled when my boyfriend came out to his entire family a few months ago but now I'm not so sure. They keep inviting me to all these family functions.

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4540 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 277-2121
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Phoenix 258-6122
- 3. Apollo's
5749 N. 7th Street
Phoenix 277-9373
- 4. BS West
7125 5th Avenue
Scottsdale 945-9028
- 5. The Bunkhouse
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix
- 6. Cash Inn
2140 E. McDowell
Phoenix 244-9943
- 7. Charlie's
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix 265-0224

- 8. Crowbar
702 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 258-8343
- 9. Cruisin' Central
1011 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 253-3376
- 10. The Rose
44301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 265-3233
- 11. Harley's Club 155
Harley's Too!
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- 12. Incognito
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Phoenix 955-9805
- 13. JC's Fun One
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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. Roscoe's on 7th
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 285-0833
- 21. Shooterz
998 E. Indian School
Phoenix 266-5640

- 22. 307 Lounge
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 252-0001
- 23. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 254-0231
- 24. Waterhole
8830 N. 43rd Ave
Glendale 937-3139
- 25. Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 265-9002
- 26. Yanks
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 275-3509
- 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
(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

Staples

- 37. Tuff Stuff
1714 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix 254-9651
- 38. StatScript Pharmacy
5501 N. 19th Ave.
Phoenix 433-1100
- 40. Chute
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 234-1654
- 41. Flex
1517 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix 271-9011
- 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

Tubs

- 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
- 79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural
Theatre
909 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix 241-1821

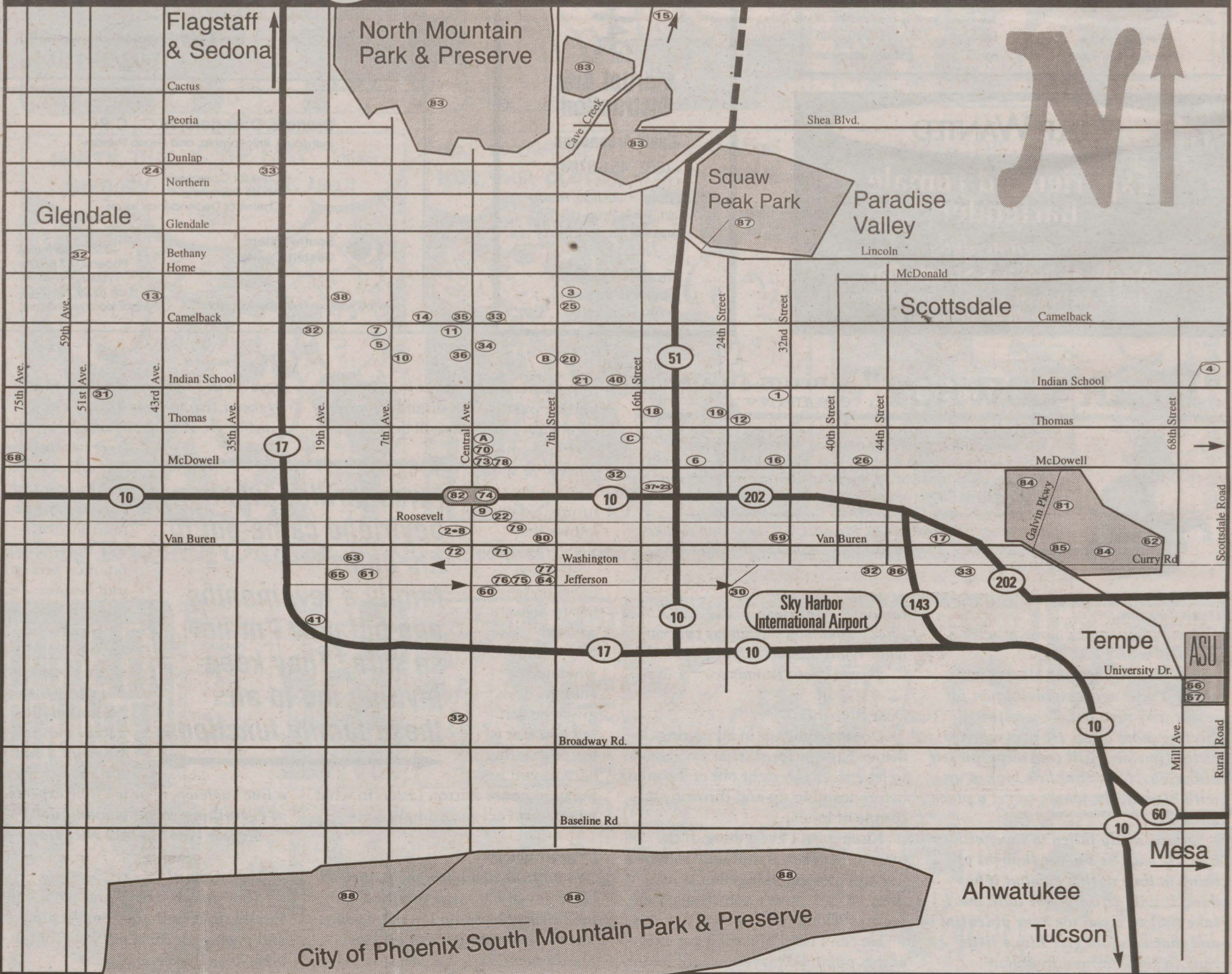
Culture

- 80. Union Hall
512 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 253-7100
- 81. Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 941-1217
- 82. Margaret T. Hance Park
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 534-2406
- 83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 262-6696
- 84. Papago Park
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 256-3220
- 85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 273-1431
- 86. Pueblo Grande Museum
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

Outdoors

- 81. Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 941-1217
- 82. Margaret T. Hance Park
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 534-2406
- 83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
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- 87. Squaw Peak Park
2701 E SquawPeak Dr
Phoenix 262-6696
- 88. South Mountain Park
10919 S. Central Ave.
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H O R O S C O P E S S C R O P E S

By Deane Jaye, *HeatStroke* contributor
Virgo (August 21 - September 20)
You're active. You're alert. You're the rabbit ears of the world and everyone else in your life is a snowy old cabinet-mounted TV. Take your time, tune them in to the way you view things, and they'll be operating on your channel soon enough. You could find yourself caught up in appearances—particularly your own—after the 12th, so step back from the superficial and prove you're more highly evolved than Mama predicted you'd be.

Libra (September 21 - October 20)
The eyebrows you've been raising all over the workplace these past weeks are directly related to the vibrant flow of your creative juices combined with some deep personality focus as that old zodiacal cycle charges for renewal. Let bygones be bygones in personal relationships as well as job performance and you'll get the job done with aplomb. If you've been looking for a new cause to jump into, pay attention to subtle suggestions around the 21st.

Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)
Your patience has been admirable lately but there's a limit to what you fiery Scorpions can put up with and you've just reached it. Unwrap that blanket, take that thumb out of your mouth and stand up for yourself before it's too late. Or at least get the hell out of the house. Wheels are spinning in your favor around the 18th—that should prove an opportune time to make a more assertive move and change the mood before your favorite season arrives.

Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)
Say what? Those clever critical abilities could get you in trouble during a rather delicate social situation around mid-month, so speak with caution—especially around strangers (and friends who've been out of touch for a while). The workplace gets complicated after the 10th as you take on more responsibility than you can reasonably handle, but your sense of humor can see you through. Learn to delegate, and avoid no-win situations from the outset.

Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)
So which is it? Your precious career, or an all-important hobby that's taking up almost every bit of your social time these days? You may wish to re-examine those priorities before people you've counted on (dare I say taken for granted?) bail completely. I know you've earned points in the past by sticking to your guns, but now is the time to give some ground. Splurge a little over the weekend of the 9th and you're sure to impress that certain someone.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)
In the wolf pack, only two fluffy little cubs grow up to be enjoined and placed in charge as the Alpha couple. If that race for the top spot has been stressing you Aquarians out lately, it may be that you're not really as qualified to lead as you thought. So relax and let someone else fight it out while you head off on an ice floe for some reflection. Travel is indeed in the stars,

particularly after the 20th when southern winds may call.

Pisces (February 21 - March 20)
Look for that brass ring as the pony you're riding gets its chance, because the merry-go-round is definitely spinning in your favor for the next couple of weeks, at least. Travel is a good idea right now, and guess what? So is shopping! Connect the two and enjoy a spree of spending and indulging that will tickle your Piscean fancy right down to its core. Love may be in the air after the 15th when your sunny disposition rules at a big gathering.

Aries (March 21 - April 20)
Hey, party people! All the effort you've been throwing into those special projects both around the house and at the office are going to pay off big-time when your ship comes in around the middle of the month. Get some exercise and you'll feel better about a recent setback—then lay back and bask in the glory likely to come your way. Massage and other forms of physical stimulation will prove key to getting your body and mind in sync.

Taurus (April 21 - May 20)
You can kiss that Miss Congeniality title good-bye this month, as your socialization skills are hampered by a mean streak of curiosity and that casual bluntness you are often known for. Your own dedication to a particular project may get you into trouble at home when you forget that others are not quite as steadfast in your beliefs. Keep the numbers small when hosting an event on or near the 23rd, and suppress the urge to swap scary stories.

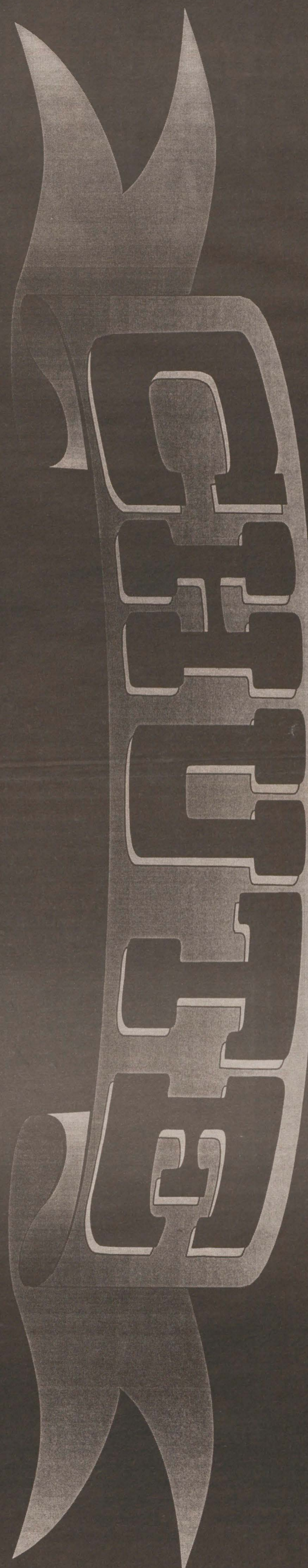
Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
Tripping over coffee tables in the dark is no way to go through life, especially when bodies bruise as easily as yours. Do something about stress and tension well before night-night, if that's the source of your somnambulism. Or try lying down when your tired, for starters. One sure-fire cure for stress where you Geminis are concerned is an old-fashioned romp in the hay—so get out the necessary appliances, get some sex and then get to sleep.

Cancer (June 21 - July 20)
You'll be drawn like a cheap magnet to an old refrigerator door when lust takes over your life later in the month. Best to build up some resolve now so that you don't completely lose face when Mr./Ms. Right swaggers by. Stand in front of a mirror and say, "I'm not really in love—I just wanna do it, and that's okay." But don't say it out loud or your roommates will think you're a freak. Make a trek toward cooler places after the 19th.

Leo (July 21 - August 20)
Finding something left of a relationship you had long thought ended is a lot like finding money in a pocket for you Lion people. There's that flash of excitement, followed by a moment of wondering how it got there, and then making plans for what to do with it. With any luck (and oh, you do have plenty), your affections will be reciprocated and you'll get the chance to explore this adventure to its fullest.

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100 Candles on RuPaul's Cake

RuPaul, the fierce drag diva of late night talk TV, soon will conclude the current season of *The RuPaul Show* on cable's VH1, marking 100 episodes of the often outrageous and funny gabfest. As of now, VH1 has not renewed the show for another year.

Since premiering Oct. 12, 1996, the show has welcomed an eclectic mix of guests, including Cher, Dennis Rodman, Charo, Whoopi Goldberg, Joan Rivers, Nell Carter, Sandra Bernhard and k.d. lang.

The program will finish its current season with three new Wednesday night episodes - on Sept. 9 (super-model Veronica Webb, Gary Coleman and Dionne Warwick), Sept. 16 (Christina Mommie Dearest Crawford, Mary Jo Buttafucio and Gloria "I Will Survive" Gaynor) and Sept. 23 (Laura "Gloria" Branigan, and the "Wonder"-ful Lynda Carter).

Throughout the past two years, *The RuPaul Show* has seen the host reveal his more fabulous side, with the biting humor of a drag queen, his open expression of his sexual orientation and a strong sense of camp.

But compassion also has been displayed in episodes including one entitled "The Family Show," in which Ru featured footage from his family's reunion and interviewed his three sisters. That episode was nominated for a 1998 GLAAD Media Award.

By continuing to produce and air

The RuPaul Show, VH1 has demonstrated a commitment to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and has sent a message saying that its issues are to be openly celebrated and explored. Through its efforts, television has become more educational, engaging and entertaining.

Please tell VH1 how much you value *The RuPaul Show* and encourage the network to renew the show. Also, check out this season's final three episodes.

Contact: John Sykes, President, VH1, 1515 Broadway, NY, NY 10036, fax: 212.258.7955, e-mail: shows@vh1.com (write "RuPaul Show" in the subject line)

Looking Closely at How New "Family" Networks Define "Family"

What, precisely, is a "typical American family"—and how do you get its members to watch television together? According to the *St. Petersburg Times*' Eric Deggans, the answer could spell the difference between success and failure for two new multi-million-dollar TV networks.

The new networks are Pax TV, which premiered Aug. 31, and Fox Family Channel, which began broadcasting two weeks ago. Pax TV is the

\$500 million creation of Christian media mogul and Home Shopping Network founder Lowell "Bud" Paxson; the Fox venture used to be Pat Robertson's Family Channel.

Pax TV—originally called Pax Net—encountered controversy when it ran an ad in some national publications stating, "Some so-called creative people seem to be using what was once the family viewing hour to peddle every kind of alternative language and lifestyle to our kids."

In addition, Deggans writes that Pax TV promotional consultant Steve Sohmer said, "I did not know ... that those words together were a buzz word." The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that Sohmer had said, "When I wrote that, I was thinking about the subject of casual sex. That's exactly what I was writing about."

But "many critics didn't buy his explanation," states Deggans. Pax TV's schedule "reveals series that seem overwhelmingly devoted to the old-style, Eurocentric definition of a nuclear family—leaving open the question of whether interracial families, gay families, minority families and immigrant families will find their values reflected in Pax TV's vision of American family values."

According to Pax TV's website, its line-up does include a number of historically lesbian- and gay-inclusive programs, including *Touched by an Angel* and *Dr. Quinn*,

Medicine Woman, which have each featured episodes which include gay male characters.

Deggans lasers in on concerns about the new network's inclusiveness. He questions whether Pax TV will present a bleached and constricted image of the American family to the viewing public.

Please convey to the *St. Petersburg Times* the importance of Deggans' thorough reporting and identification of potential concerns with a network aiming to beam its version of American family values into 50 percent of American television-watching homes.

Contact: Neil Brown, Managing Editor, *St. Petersburg Times*, P.O. Box 1121, St. Petersburg, FL 33731, fax: 813.893.8675, e-mail: letters@sptimes.com

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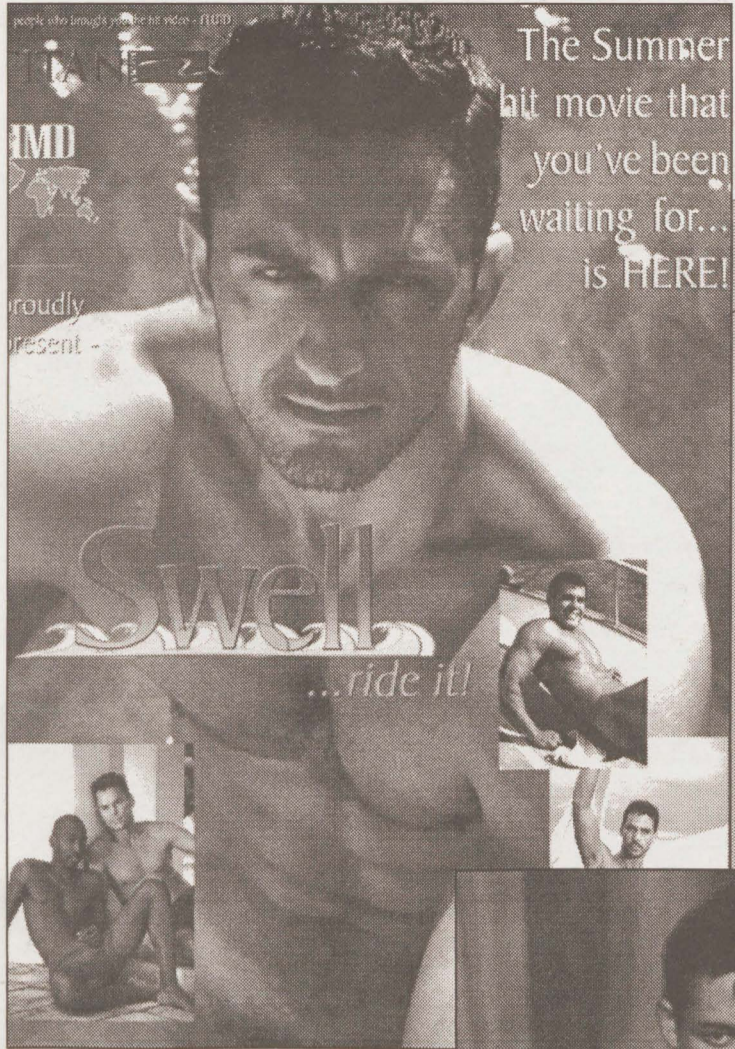
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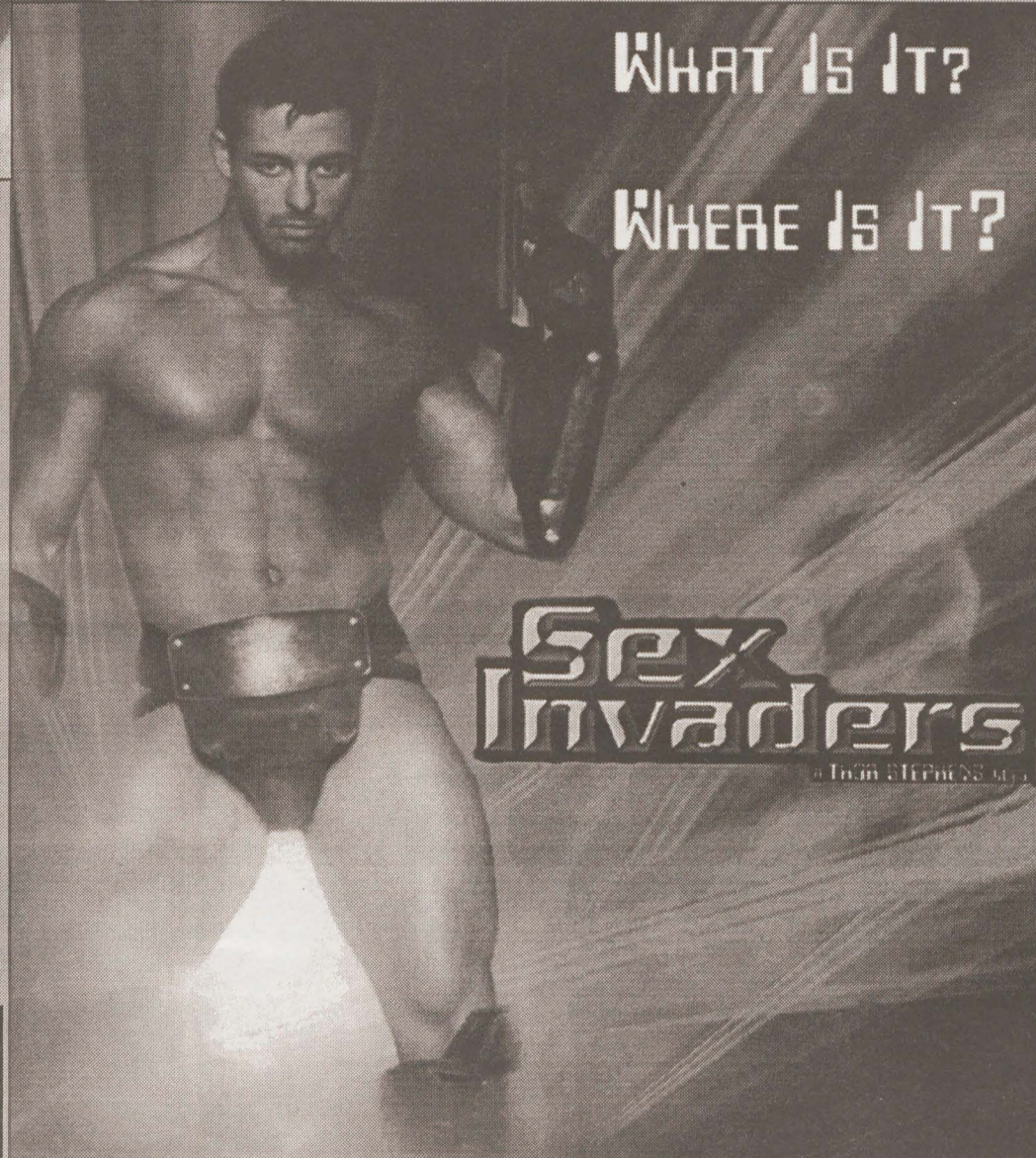
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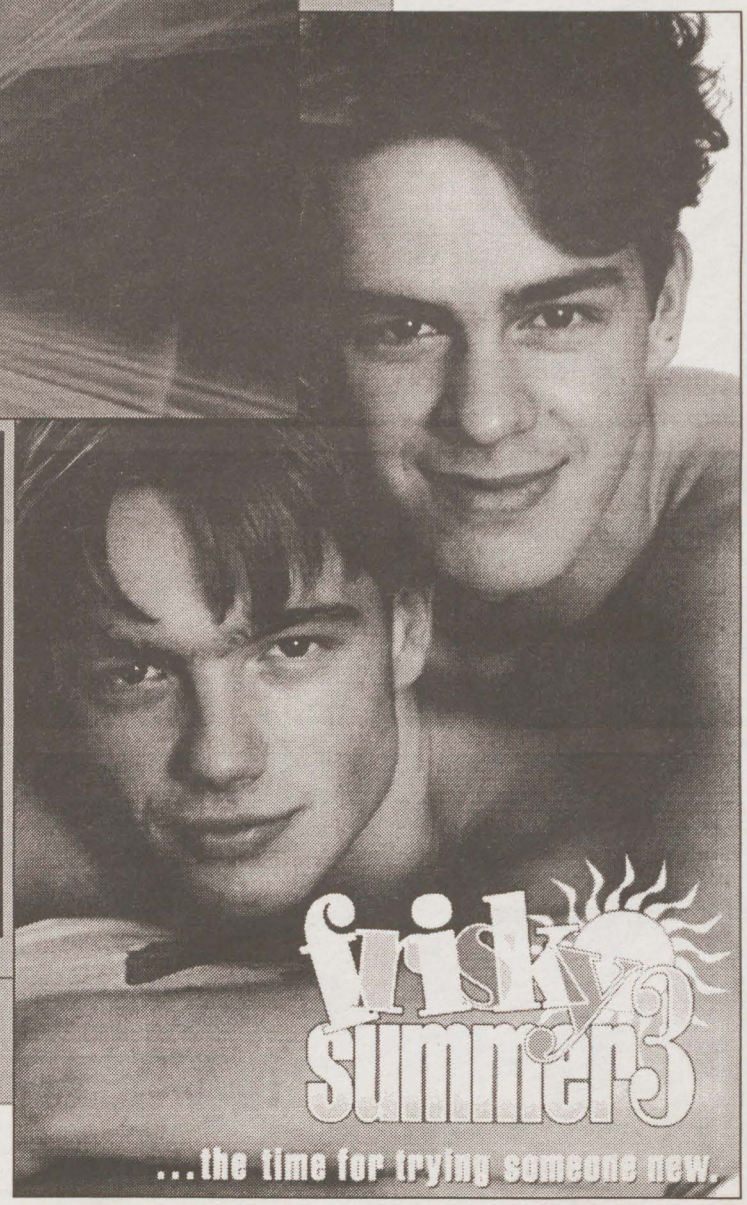
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