

HeatStroke

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riding BAREBACK

Sex & Sensibility: Why are some men losing the latex?

By Eddie James,
The Baltimore Alternative

John Travolta, Boogie Nights, disco balls, bell-bottoms—everywhere you look, the signs are painfully clear that the '70s are back. And among gay men, a small but growing number are not just embracing the pop cultural kitsch of the polyester era, they are also adopting its pre-AIDS, anything-goes mentality when it comes to sex.

Every day, via e-mail and Web site message boards, "cum parties"—private gatherings designed for hooking up with men looking for sex without condoms—are announced in cities all over the globe. The fact that such parties exist in an age where the AIDS epidemic is still a deadly reality is hard to believe. With the major selling points of these parties being unprotected sex and poppers, they seem a relic of the disco era.

But regular attendees say that in the latex-covered world of the '90s, these gatherings offer a freedom they haven't experienced since AIDS first stepped onto the dance floor in the early '80s.

The men who seek what they call "bareback sex"—a term that evokes the daredevil world of rodeo stunts—are often HIV-positive and make no secret about it. In fact, most men joining the ranks of the barebacking movement have been positive for years

and readily have unprotected anal sex with HIV-negative partners. Not surprisingly, the bareback scene is stirring up a lot of controversy.

The number of recent articles and books written on the subjects of gay male promiscuity and bareback sex could fill a warehouse. Gay pundits such as Michelangelo Signorile, Gabriel Rotello and Larry Kramer have chimed in with books denouncing the emerging subculture of bareback sex, while the barebackers themselves have taken to the Internet to spread their message more subtly.

But it's not just the fact that HIV-positive gay men are having sex without condoms that is fueling a national debate, it is more their emergence as a very vocal, but strangely invisible, subculture and the unsettling gospel they preach.

Although unprotected anal sex is nothing new—men have been doing it throughout the AIDS epidemic—it has only been in the last year or so that men into bareback sex have started to organize. By creating a network of Web sites, newsgroups and mailing lists on the Internet, barebackers in all parts of the world can regularly meet to cruise for potential sex partners in almost complete anonymity.

The bareback scene appears to have started with some HIV-positive men who felt they had nothing to lose in having sex without condoms with other HIV-positive men. They're already infected, right?

In fact, unprotected sex between HIV-positive men is dangerous for a number of reasons. With a number of strains of the human immunodeficiency virus floating around, and each one attacking the body in a different way, the risk of being infected with a new strain through unprotected sex is very high. And the more virus you get in the body, the sicker you become.

Moreover, this mixing of various HIV strains can make protease inhibitors and other antiviral drugs ineffective, and passing them on to another person, even one already infected with the virus, can make him resistant to drugs that could have helped him. AIDS educators are understandably worried about the effects this increase in risky behavior will have on the epidemic.

Coming Together on the 'Net

Started by a group of like-minded men who bonded last year on the mega-Internet service provider America Online, the Xtreme Sex Web site has played a

major role in helping barebackers get organized.

Webmaster Pigbotm, a North Dallas software engineer who declines to reveal his real name, says in the site's introductory pages that he wanted to extend the men's newfound sense of community by creating a Web page.

Xtreme Sex doesn't sugarcoat its mission to provide a forum for HIV-positive gay males interested in unprotected sex. Its banner advertisements have shocking headlines like "Get an Education—Fuck a Student" and "Poz Cum—the Fuck of Death." It's this frankness that has caused many gay leaders and at least two major gay newspapers to blast the site.

Chicago's *Windy City Times* and the *Dallas Voice* have declared an all-out war against the site, saying that it is leading men to their deaths by promoting unsafe sex. But not all people feel that the site is evil. One HIV-positive member sang the site's praises in a message board posting: "You have helped me in showing me that there is life after all this. ... Thank you for once again giving me back the freedom that I felt had been taken away from me."

While Xtreme Sex caters to

See "riding," page 16

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from our readers...

Editors:

It was with great disappointment that I read Mark Hoffman's article criticizing AIDS Walk Arizona, the process and those who run it. Equally disappointing were the letters that followed in support of Mark's views.

I read the article in *New Times* this past spring as well as the follow up article that basically exonerated the AIDS Walk organizers from wrong doing. I thought it was very convenient of Mark to leave out that follow up article in *New Times*. It was obvious to me that this was done to substantiate his "very one sided view."

In your last issue's Letters to the Editor, I notice that the majority of the people that wrote in were from A Place Called Home (APCH) and Volunteers in Direct Aid (VIDA). These two organizations were not happy with the funding they received from the Walk in 1997 and 1998. To me, it sounds like sour grapes.

The reality is they simply felt that they deserved more than they received. This year's Walk proceeds were distributed to 18 organizations including APCH and VIDA. While I do believe that they do provide a service to the HIV/AIDS community, they are a small part of a bigger picture in services that are provided to the HIV/AIDS community. In a proportionate distribution, they got exactly what they should have and/or deserved.

As the Committee Chair of Community Outreach for the AIDS Walk, I do not recall seeing any of these people for the last 11 months of planning meetings. I do not recall getting a call from these people saying, "What can we do to help?" My parents always told their children, "If you do not like the way something is being done, get involved, help and try and make a difference." I would question the professional ability of these people and the contributions they are making to their respective organizations if they cannot even report on the truth accurately.

The unfortunate outcome of these articles is the patients who benefit from the proceeds will ultimately suffer. Every year for the last three that I have lived here, I personally helped raise a significant amount of money for the Walk as an individual. If I could earmark where the money that I raise is allocated, I would not choose the aforementioned organizations. If we lose a \$1 contribution because of these types of articles, we might as well have lost \$1 million.

Richard Leitner
1996/'97/'98 #1 individual AIDS
Walk contributor
Phoenix

Editors:

This letter is in response to the recent column by Mark Hoffman and all of the Letters to the Editor in the last issue of *HeatStroke* regarding the AIDS Walk. I have not nor could I ever forget all of my friends and acquaintances who have perished from AIDS! I, as numerous others, have been in the trenches of this disease for 14 years, as a medical advocate, fund raiser, caregiver and friend. We have fought long and hard not to make this a "gay" disease.

I take personally Mr. Hoffman's accusation that the incidence of HIV infection among women, children and families has been overemphasized in order to sensationalize the Walk. I have never found changing my best friend's adult diaper, holding the hand of a dying 14-year-old girl, or fighting with doctors in hospital hallways over another friend's care either "sensational or overemphasized."

I have been involved with the Walk in many different aspects since 1988, I have volunteered or been involved with many of the AIDS service organizations in Phoenix—Shanti, APAZ, Phoenix Body Positive and Aunt Rita's Foundation. Over the past 10 years with Aunt Rita's Foundation I have served as a volunteer, Volunteer Coordinator, Coordinator as well as Secretary of the Board of

Directors. I have written the grants for Aunt Rita's including the Walk grants for the last two years.

Last year when I had questions about the Walk financials and the monies allocated, I called Marc Kellenberger (Walk Chairman) and asked. My questions were always answered to my satisfaction, verbally and in writing, not only by Mr. Kellenberger but also by Gene D'Adamo from The Arizona Republic Charities. So I find it very difficult to believe that there is any validity to the concerns some may have about the Walk.

This is truly an instance where actions would have spoken louder than words—when the Walk Steering Committee was begging for members, where were you? When the Volunteer Committee needed 600 volunteers "the day of", where were you? If you truly mean what you say, why not be part of the process?

Over the last six months I have been extremely pleased and proud to serve our community as the Volunteer Coordinator for AIDS Project Arizona and Volunteer co-Chair for AIDS Walk Arizona, along with Tony Soqui. I had no clue about what it really took to run the Walk until I was in the middle of it all.

The massive task taken on by Louise Bowden (Events Director), the Walk Steering Committee and the Walk staff as well as the dedication of everyone involved with the Walk can only make "all of us" proud. A MILLION dollar fund raiser—it's everyone's Walk!

Sharon Drosos
Secretary, Aunt Rita's Foundation
Volunteer Coordinator, APAZ
Phoenix

Editors:

Many thanks for your outstanding commitment to AIDS Walk Arizona and the fight against AIDS. Such unity and commitment has made this event, now in its second decade, a celebration of life—of all walks.

Your participation has had such a positive affect on the lives of many people in our community living with HIV and AIDS. AIDS Walk Arizona was a success not only with a monetary reward; but also through the positive community support and involvement, drawing us together for a worthwhile cause.

We can't thank you enough for the tremendous effort with all of the great exposure and advertisements. We are grateful for your commitment, compassion and participation in assuring community involvement.

In 1988, the first year of the Walk, hundreds of walkers raised several hundreds of dollars. AIDS Walk Arizona this year reached a major milestone—drawing 20,000 walkers and raising more than \$1-million. We cannot thank you enough for your cooperation in this extremely important AIDS fundraising and awareness event, which supports 17 AIDS education

and service agencies in the Valley.

Such wonderful support continues to give us hope for the future. We look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the year and again on next year's AIDS Walk.

Louise Bowden
Director of Development/
Special Events
AIDS Project Arizona

Editors:

Having read the Letters to the Editor concerning the Walk and AIDS Project Arizona, I feel compelled to point out the obvious to those who would complain that the process is unfair.

First of all, all of this was gone through with Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Karpiak, Ms. Wilson and others over four months ago when they accused APAZ of "being unfair in the distribution of funds" and "misappropriation" of monies. A reporter was brought in from *New Times* and all parties who thought they were wronged were encouraged to look at the numbers and process and then make their own decisions.

Then, the week before the Walk, Mr. Hoffman, in his infinite wisdom, decided to write and article couched as a history of the Walk (asking questions of those of us who were involved in the first Walk) and then turning the article into what Mr. Hoffman does so well, snivel. He and Mr. Karpiak seem to have a corner on the sniveling market. Nothing is ever quite enough for them. There always has to be a reason to disparage AIDS Project Arizona and especially the Walk. Is it the fault of the Walk that the agencies represented in the letters did not get the money they asked for, or did they? I believe, if the records are checked, they got just what they asked for, not that APAZ has anything to do with the distribution last year, because it did not; that was the job of a separate committee and the *Arizona Republic*.

My, how arrogant can they be to disparage an event the will go down in history as the largest fund-raising event in Arizona, with 20 thousand walkers and \$1 million raised? BAD PEOPLE to raise so much money. SHAME on them for actually contributing to the AIDS community through nine months of work and effort on the part of so many people, led by the Walk co-chairs, Marc Kellenberger and Mike Reiser as well as other community activists like Ritchie Leitner, Bill MacDonald, Victoria Wallace, Gerie Mayer-Gibbons and a cast of too many to name here.

No, I think SHAME on all of you who think you write for all of us and for those infected and affected by HIV.

Martha Jones
Phoenix

from an editor...

A big thanks to Ms. Jones and all who've written regarding Mark Hoffman's October Positive Perspective column, wherein he discussed the (then upcoming) 1998 AIDS Walk Arizona (*Response and Responsibility*, issue #50, Oct. 8-21).

We're entering our third year of publishing *HeatStroke* this month and I have to say it's nice to be reminded in our anniversary issue that people are not only reading our newspaper, but finding issues worthy of ongoing discussion inside. That's been a goal from the beginning and—make no mistake—community feedback is important to us.

One quick aside:

Those who wrote to condemn the piece—as well as many who wrote to praise it—seem to have missed a couple of basic points, the first and most obvi-

ous being that Mr. Hoffman's column in this newspaper is exactly that: a column. It's not a news article, and certainly not an "article couched as" anything else.

It is merely, perhaps impressively, an op/ed piece through which Mr. Hoffman, as an openly gay and openly-positive man, is encouraged to offer his personal opinion on any topic he'd like to address, chiefly pertaining—though not restricted—to the subject of living with HIV/AIDS.

Thanks again for reading and responding.

Allen Kalchik
Editor

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Tammy Baldwin makes American political history

Washington, DC

Wisconsin State Representative Tammy Baldwin was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives on Nov. 3 becoming the first openly gay political candidate to be elected as a non-incumbent to federal office in America. Tammy Baldwin, a Democratic state legislator, was declared the victor in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District.

"Last week, history was made when John Glenn proved once and for all that age is no barrier. This week, history is being made here on earth as gay and lesbian candidates prove that sexual orientation is not a barrier to election," said Brian K. Bond, Executive Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

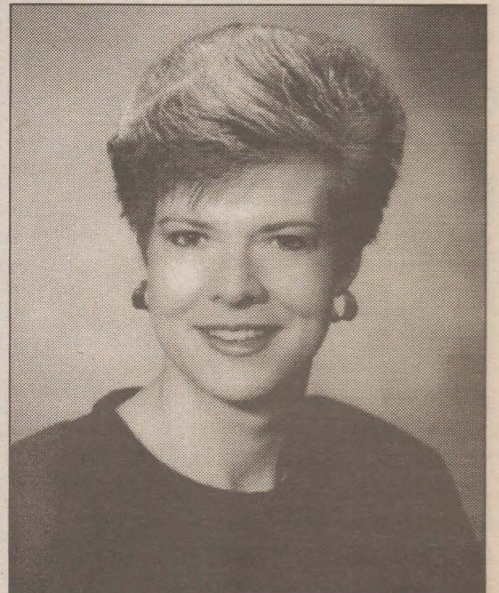
Despite early predictions of voter disinterest, lesbian and gay Americans and other fair-minded voters turned out in solid numbers to make history by electing America's first openly lesbian candidate to the United States Congress.

"This is the best message voters can send Congress today. In Madison, Wisconsin, they wisely chose the best qualified candidate and put aside the issue of sexual orientation. That's why we have worked so hard not only for Tammy Baldwin, but for scores of outstanding candidates across the nation. The Victory Fund again is helping write a new story about politics in America - and it's utterly fundamental. Americans believe each of us should be judged by our ability to do the job, and lesbians and gays are stepping up to that challenge," said Bond.

Enthusiastic congratulations were given to Congresswoman-Elect Tammy Baldwin by Victory Fund Co-Chair Jeff Soukup and by Deputy Director Kathleen DeBold, who were present in Madison, Wisconsin last night.

This year, the Victory Fund acceler-

ated its efforts for November 3 by assisting 28 openly gay and lesbian candidates for public office. [Eight additional state and local campaigns with Victory Fund-backed gay candi-



Wisconsin Democrat Tammy Baldwin is the first openly lesbian candidate to win a seat in Congress.

dates already won election in their own races before November 3.]

The total giving generated by Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund members during this election cycle exceeds \$750,000 to all endorsed candidates.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is the only national organization whose sole mission is to increase the number of qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates in public office. The country's 14th largest non-connected PAC, the Victory Fund has generated more than \$2 million for 188 qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates at all levels of government since its inception in 1991. For further information regarding the mission and year-round activities of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund can be obtained through their website, at www.victoryfund.org.

D'Amato endorsement sparks controversy in gay community

WASHINGTON (AP)

The nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization has been buffeted by controversy and strife since it endorsed Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato over Democratic Rep. Charles Schumer in the New York Senate race.

In the week since the Human Rights Campaign threw its support to D'Amato in New York's nail-biter race, the Washington-based group has been flooded with faxes, e-mails and letters of protest. A prominent board member, Marylouise Oates, quit.

"Your organization is no longer a member of the gay and lesbian community ... You can state whatever positions you want in Washington, support whomever you wish, but you are still invisible, alone, sad, withered, zero," one angry New Yorker wrote. "I wish I were a member so I could cancel my membership."

Actually, many gay and lesbian New Yorkers have quit over the controversial endorsement of the generally conservative D'Amato and some

donors say they'll give no more, said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign.

The organization set up a special voice-mail phone line to record complaints, and the group issued a lengthy explanation of its endorsement on its Internet site and in a mailing.

"Clearly there are a lot of folks who are unhappy with our decision and they have called to let us know," said Stachelberg.

The HRC's 25-member board struggled with the endorsement for months, and organization leaders say it was the hardest decision they have ever made.

Schumer has a long record of supporting issues homosexuals traditionally care about, and, unlike D'Amato, he is a vocal advocate of abortion rights.

"It was very difficult for us to endorse someone who is not pro-choice," said Stachelberg.

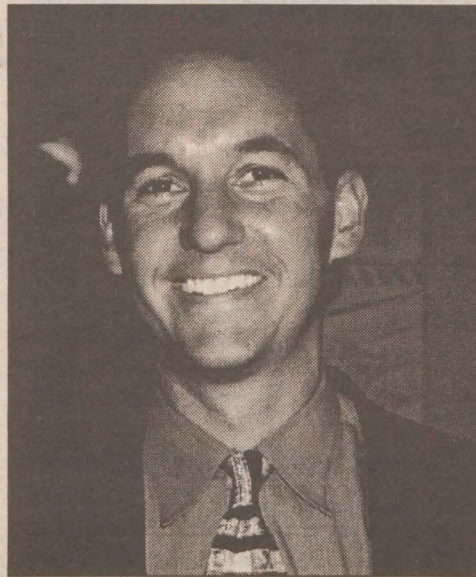
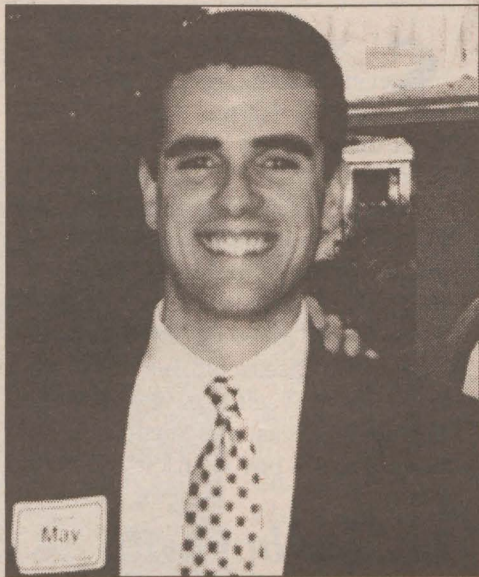
See "HRC" on the following page

May, Chevront win; 2 gay men heading for State House

Arizona voters made history Nov. 3 by electing not one, but two openly gay men to the State House of Representatives.

Steve May, a Phoenix Republican who has been active in a national gay Republican organization and who first ran for the legislature in 1996 as an openly gay senate candidate, was elected to fill one of two vacant house seats in Dist. 26. Dist 26 encompasses portions of east Phoenix, Scottsdale and Paradise Valley.

Ken Chevront, a two-term Democratic incumbent representing central Phoenix's Dist. 25 and the first openly gay man ever voted into state office, was re-elected to another



Republican Steve May (l) and Incumbent Democrat Ken Chevront will represent Districts 26 and 25, respectively, in the Arizona House of Representatives.

two year term.

Both Chevront and May were backed by the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), a Phoenix-based political advocacy group that backs gay and gay-friendly candidates and works with elected officials to advance equal rights for gays and other human rights issues.

May, who is the first out, non-incumbent gay Republican elected to public office in the state, was supported by the gay political group Log Cabin Republicans, for whom he serves as a regional board member, and by the Wash. DC-based Victory Fund. His campaign also received considerable financial help from AHRF.

HRC in hot water over endorsement of D'Amato

Continued from previous page

But D'Amato has sided with the organization in many important fights, supporting gays in the military, backing national hate-crime legislation and criticizing Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott after he compared homosexuality to alcoholism and kleptomania.

Tim Smith, co-chair of the HRC's New York steering committee, said the panel lobbied against the D'Amato endorsement, preferring either an endorsement of both candidates or no endorsement at all.

HRC leaders respond that they have a policy of favoring incumbents

friendly to their issues. To seek and receive D'Amato's support and then reward him with a dual endorsement, or no endorsement, would send a signal to other lawmakers that HRC can't be counted on, they say.

"They expected much outrage from our community and that's what they're getting," said Matt Foreman, head of the Empire State Pride Agenda.

While it's too early to gauge the long-term impact of the D'Amato endorsement on the 250,000-member Human Rights Campaign, some see it as a political maturing of an organiza-

tion that's traditionally backed liberal Democrats and has been close to the Clinton White House.

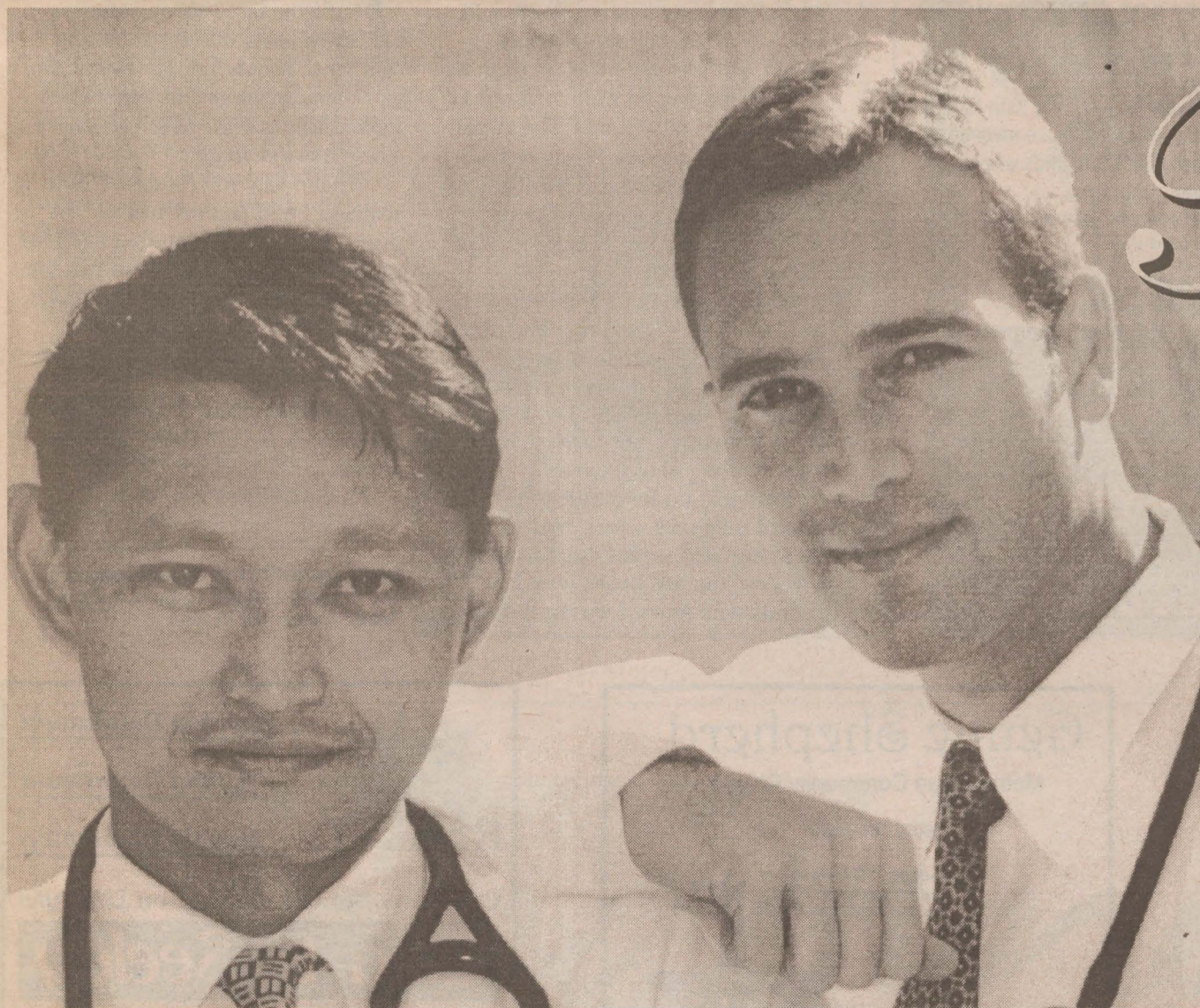
"It's a real paradox for somebody like me. I would like to see D'Amato retired. I would like to see Chuck Schumer in the Senate," said Ethan Geto, a veteran gay activist and the campaign manager for D'Amato's Democratic opponent six years ago, former state Attorney General Robert Abrams.

"From a purely national gay-rights political vantage point I'm not thrilled about what HRC did, but I certainly understand it and accept it,"

he said.

Kevin Ivers of the gay political group Log Cabin Republicans said the D'Amato endorsement was the HRC's first step toward recognizing that the Republicans control Congress, and it would make the group a more effective lobbying power on Capitol Hill.

"It's one of those painful growing steps an organization has to take if they're going to evolve from being a public relations and fund-raising operation to being a serious player in politics," said Ivers. "A one-party strategy is wrong."



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LARK LANDS, MS, PhD

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Dr. Lands' appearance is made possible by an unrestricted education grant in support of this program provided by Serono Symposia USA.

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Horowitz: An angel named Melissa

Several weeks ago, I ran in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure to help raise money for breast cancer research.

The five-kilometer run takes place in a very emotional environment as many people wear pink signs on their backs "in celebration of" or "in memory of" loved ones who have battled the disease.

I found myself fighting back tears on several occasions, particularly when I saw a boy with his dad. The

would be proud of me for not trying to be macho and for taking care of myself. While these thoughts were racing through my head, I must have uttered some involuntary guttural noise. You know, the kind of sound that says: *I don't think I'm gonna make it. Somebody please help me!*

At that moment, another runner came up on my right side. She immediately fell into step with me, and she asked, "Are you okay?"

I answered, "Yes, I'm fine. I think I'll make it."

She said, "We'll make it together."

From then on, she ran at my side. She clearly went slower than she could to run with me. At one point she got half a step ahead, and I saw two pink signs on her back. Shortly thereafter, I saw a

I saw a boy with his dad. The child couldn't have been more than 5 or 6 years old. The sign on his back read, "In Memory of Mommy."

child couldn't have been more than 5 or 6 years old. The sign on his back read, "In Memory of Mommy."

The race took place on October 11th, National Coming Out Day. I didn't see many of my gay brothers and sisters there. It was my first race in several months because I had surgery in June. I also managed to pick up an ugly virus in September. So I gave myself permission to stop and walk if the race got too tough for me to complete. I was not about to make myself sick in order to finish a race.

I decided to pace myself, and ran the first mile in about 11 minutes. Those of you who are runners will know that this is not breakneck speed, but it is nevertheless running.

I ran the second mile in about 11 minutes and 30 seconds. The fastest runners had already finished the race but there were still plenty of us out there, running down Central Avenue toward the finish line near Park Central Mall.

In the middle of the third mile, my lack of recent training and my fatigue started to have an impact. I was perspiring profusely, and my breathing was labored. I certainly wasn't having a heart attack, but I was working way too hard.

With just under a mile to go in the 3.2 mile race, I really considered stopping. It wouldn't hurt anyone if I walked the rest of the way. My friends who knew I was in the race

group with T-shirts that read, "Meg won, we run." I knew that if the human spirit could tackle this horrible disease, that I could run for ten more minutes.

"Hi. My name's David," I said to my running partner.

She answered, "I'm Melissa."

As we approached the finish line we both broke into a sprint, and we crossed the line together. We fell into each other's embrace and I said, "Thank you."

She answered, "Thank you for being here."

That's the last I saw of Melissa. She melted into the crowd. I don't even know her last name. I can't remember exactly what she looked like but she made an impression I'll never forget.

When I saw my final race time, I realized I had run my fastest 5K ever. Melissa and I ran that last part of the race faster than I had run the first two parts before I got fatigued. It just goes to show that with an angel by your side, you can do anything.

Seven days later, I walked in AIDS Walk Arizona with 20,000 angels.

I'll bet Melissa was there.

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

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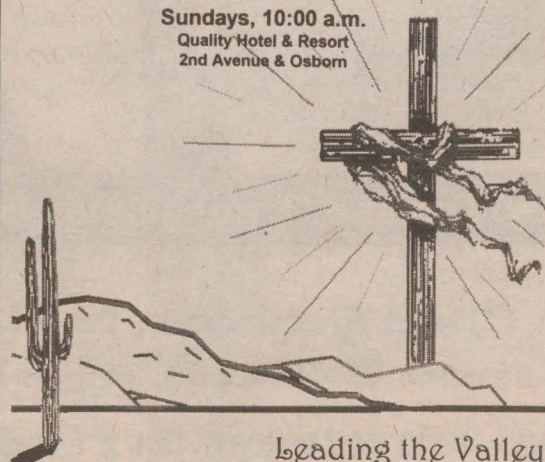
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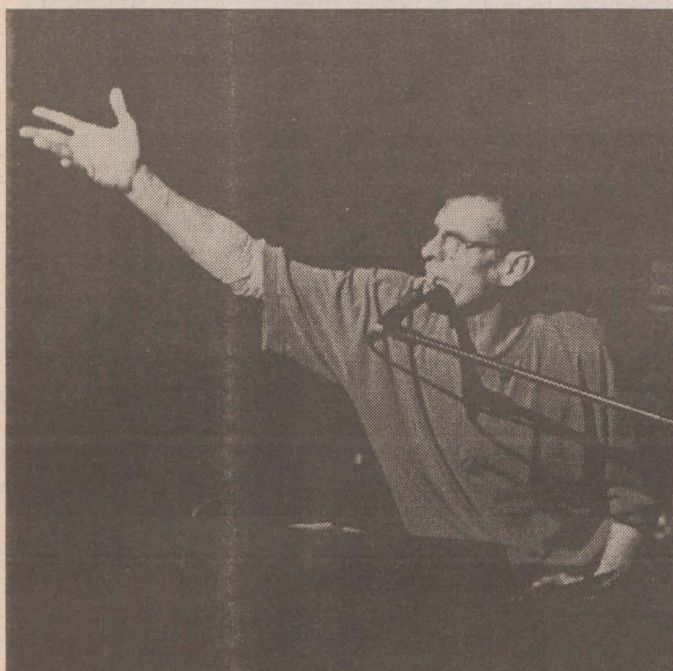
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AIDS Vigil bringing Steve Schalchlin to Phoenix



form the New York press.

On Friday, Nov. 13, Schalchlin will participate in a forum for Valley teens with the Valley One in Ten youth group and Horizons young adult group at the Community Center, 24 West Camelback in Phoenix at 7 pm.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, he will be a guest at a Songwriters & Musician's Forum at the gentle Shepherd offices, 3201 North 16th St., #4, at 10:30 am. That evening, Schalchlin will perform in concert at Trinity Cathedral, 100 West Roosevelt in downtown Phoenix. The free concert will begin at 7 pm.

Finally, on Sunday, Nov. 15, Schalchlin will participate in Gentle Shepherd's worship service at the Quality Hotel and resort Ballroom, at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Osborn, at 10 am. Everyone is invited. For information, call the church at (602)285-9020.

Steve Schalchlin, whose on-line diary *Living in the Bonus Round* has detailed and documented his experiences living with HIV, will be in the Valley Nov. 13-15 to take part in Gentle Shepherd MCC's 1998 AIDS Vigil.

Schalchlin tours nationally to present a program through stories and music that tells of his experiences with AIDS, musical theater and religious bigotry. His musical, *The Last Session*, played off-Broadway to rave reviews

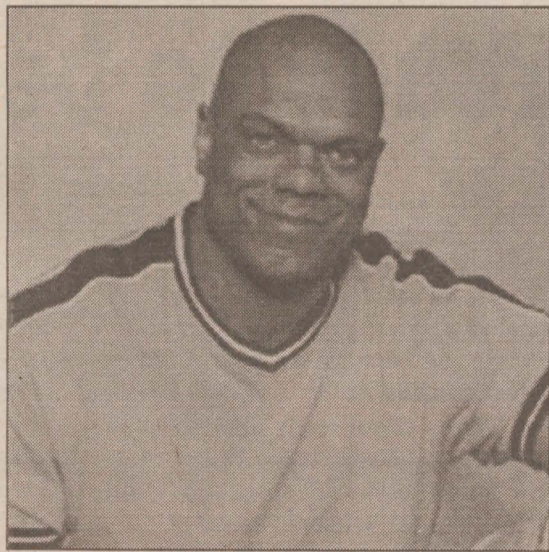
Gay suspense writer in town Nov. 15

Author Randy Boyd will be in Phoenix this month to sign his debut novel, *Uprising*, at Obelisk bookstore. Released this fall, *Uprising* tells the story of three closeted celebrities who plot the assassination of a US Senator while a straight FBI agent goes undercover to stop them.

Boyd's a UCLA grad who now makes his home in Indianapolis. His work has been featured in the anthologies *Flesh and the Word 2* and *Friends and Lovers: Gay Men Write About the Families They Create*.

He wrote the thriller in order to give readers the kinds of car chases, secret identities, intrigue and deadly conspiracies proliferated by the likes of Michael Chrichton—but with a gay twist.

Boyd will read and sign at 5 pm on Sunday, Nov. 15 at Obelisk: The Bookstore, 24 West Camelback in Phoenix. Call (602)266-BOOK



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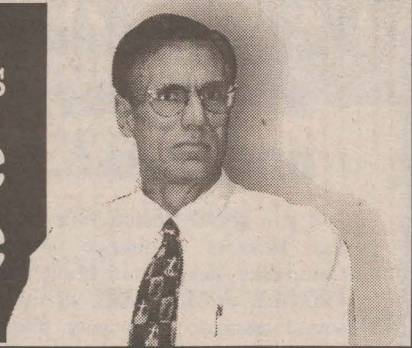
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Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



One lump, or none

The sweet delight that you add to your coffee or put on your cereal is not just innocent white crystals.

Until modern times, what we call sugar was unknown to man—as were the various negative effects that it has upon us.

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, sugar cane was a luxury available only to the rich and powerful. Then, with the advent of the vacuum pan, steam, and charcoal in the mid-1800's, refined sugar found a place in every home. The annual consumption of refined sugar has increased every year since the Civil War and now averages 128 pounds per person. We consume 80% of this weight in the form of commercial food products and the other 20% straight from the sugar bowl.

Manufacturers and purveyors of refined sugar had discovered a gold mine. Consumers liked the taste of this sweet sensation, and the addition of refined sugar to commercial food-stuffs sent sales through the roof as addicted Americans purchased sweet-

ened products. It was never the sugar producers' intention to make us healthier—profits were their sole motivation.

Only now do we know its damaging effects upon the human body. We find it in almost everything we eat, from cereals to candy bars, sports drinks, cakes, and soda pop. It's all the same whether it's corn syrup, sucrose, glucose, dextrose, maltose, or fructose.

So why is sugar the "bad boy" of nutritionists everywhere?

Let's start with its effects in the mouth as we first put it into our bodies. There it causes tooth decay and overgrowth of candida, or bacterial yeast, a perennial pest for HIV+ persons.

Then, once in the stomach, sugar impedes digestion of starches and proteins as it causes a form of fermentation, actually creating poisons within us. The body wastes vitamins, minerals, and enzymes on the digestion and metabolism of this invader, thus leading to sugar's reputation as "empty calories."

Then, as this sugar enters the bloodstream, it begins to do its deadliest work. It destroys the delicate

glucose balance within us, sending the body and brain into crisis. The endocrine system is put into complete disarray, and the immune system's ability to identify and destroy pathogens and toxins is diminished by up to 50% of capacity for hours after the consumption of just one soda pop, which might contain 50 grams of refined sugar (that's ten teaspoons of pure sugar!).

Excess sugar is first stored in the liver, then as fat in other inactive areas of the body, leading to weight gain and obesity.

These imbalances affect the brain; driving skills, moods, perceptions, and reactions become altered.

Sensitivity to pain is increased. After the first initial burst of energy, the body and brain feel sleepy and unresponsive. Day-to-day efficiency lags; we're always tired and sluggish. This condition is what is known as the "sugar blues."

If you are interested in lowering your sugar intake through diet, remember to consult with your doctor or nutritionist. Remember the following: (1) man-refined sugar is eight times as concentrated as flour (a carbohydrate) and eight times as unnatural—perhaps eight times as dangerous. It deceives the tongue and appetite, leading to overconsumption. Overconsumption produces diabetes, obesity, coronary thrombosis, and immune dysfunction; (2) a good mix of fiber, protein, fats, vitamins and minerals must be maintained for optimum health.

In 1912, Dr. Robert Boesler stated that "modern manufacturing of sugar has brought new diseases upon us. The commerce of sugar is nothing else but concentrated acid—but today, due to their low cost, sugars have caused a degeneration of the people. The loss of energy in the last century through consumption of sugar can never be made good."

The annual consumption of refined sugar has increased every year since the Civil War and now averages 128 pounds per person.

During the past five years, all of my clients and friends who have substantially reduced their intakes of refined sugar have experienced renewed energy, less irritability, improved immune function and oral health, and better sleep patterns. It takes practice to break any bad habit, but the effort will pay immense dividends.

The world had discovered something more intoxicating than beer or wine, and more potent than many drugs. Sugar has become not only a pleasurable source of sweetness for the mouth, but also an addictive substance.



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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AIDS vaccine study ready to begin

ST. PAUL (AP)

An unidentified St. Paul woman will become among the first in the area to be screened for the groundbreaking international AIDS vaccine study that includes the Twin Cities, officials said.

"We're about ready to rock," said Ellen Kane, research coordinator for the AIDS Research Consortium Twin Cities project, which is based at Regions Hospital in St. Paul with satellite sites in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park.

The woman is set to report to the St. Paul Public Health Department building. She will be tested to make sure she is not HIV-positive or pregnant and then counseled on how to avoid high-risk behavior.

If she passes the screening process, she will receive her first vaccine injection in two weeks, Kane said.

A second Twin Cities group, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, also will test the vaccine. So far, five people have completed screenings and likely will begin to receive their first injections on Tuesday, said Kevin Sitter, a clinic behavior counselor.

The Regions Hospital phase of the study, which will enroll 150 high-risk participants, is led by Dr. Keith Henry, an AIDS expert who directs the hospital's HIV program and clinic.

"It's very, very exciting, as well as challenging," Henry said. "It wasn't but five years ago when nobody thought there would be a vaccine study in this century."

Overall, 5,000 high-risk people will be enrolled in the study, 2,000 from the United States and 3,000 from Thailand, a hotbed for new HIV cases, Henry said. Of those, 3,335 will get the vaccine and 1,665 will receive a placebo.

After receiving the first injection, participants will get follow-up doses one month and then six months later to establish a minimum level of immunity. They then will receive booster shots at 12, 18, 24 and 30 months.

Participants will be monitored for three years.

"We're going to take high-risk people and give them the best education we can," Kane said.

At the end of the study, researchers will determine the vaccine's effectiveness by comparing the number of participants in the vaccine group who became infected with those in the placebo group.

The vaccine, called AIDSvax, is manufactured by VaxGen Inc. of San Francisco. Henry said it contains two different proteins that mimic the outer layers of the HIV virus, along with

See "vaccine," page 11

If you are experiencing disease-related weight loss and are finding it difficult to regain the weight, OXANDRIN may be an answer.

OXANDRIN is an oral treatment that is available by prescription from your doctor. OXANDRIN helps stimulate the rebuilding of protein tissue in the body and promotes weight gain.* OXANDRIN should be used in conjunction with proper nutrition and exercise.

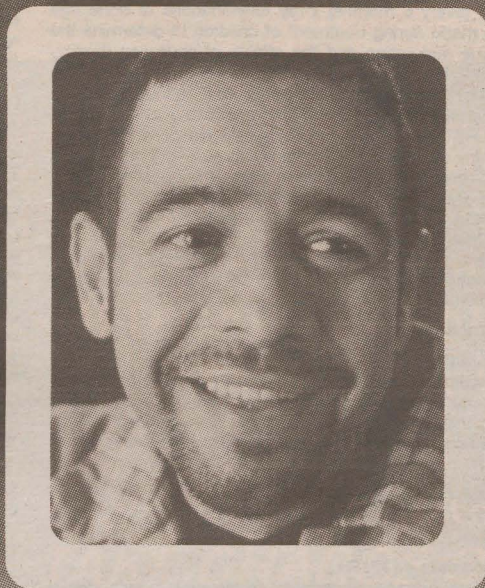
To find out more about OXANDRIN, ask your doctor or call 1-800-741-2698.

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a different

treatment to help

you gain weight



"Since I've been on OXANDRIN, I feel like I have my life back."

Jamie L.—
An actual person taking OXANDRIN

OXANDRIN should be used only as directed by your physician.

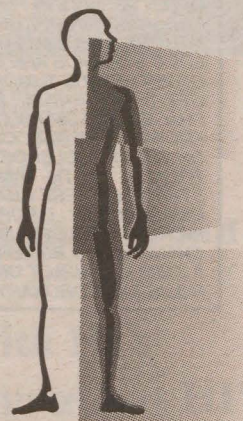
Precautions and Warnings from the OXANDRIN® (oxandrolone, USP) CIII Package Insert

In patients receiving androgenic anabolic steroid therapy, 1) peliosis hepatis, a condition in which the liver and sometimes splenic tissue is replaced with blood-filled cysts, has been reported; 2) liver cell tumors are also reported; 3) blood lipid changes that are known to be associated with increased risk of atherosclerosis are seen. See Warnings and Precautions sections of complete prescribing information.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: 1) known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast; 2) carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption); 3) pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose; 4) nephrosis of nephrotic phase of nephritis; 5) hypercalcemia

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Please see important information on the following page.

OXANDRIN®
oxandrolone, USP CIII
2.5 mg tablets



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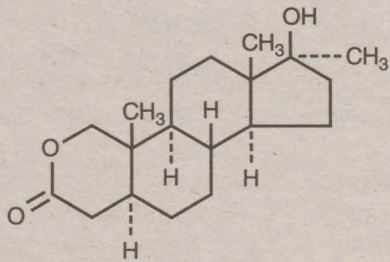
*After weight loss due to extensive surgery, chronic infection, severe trauma, failure to gain or maintain normal weight without definite pathophysiologic reasons, or protein catabolism due to prolonged corticosteroid administration.

BTG PHARMACEUTICALS
OXANDRIN®
 (oxandrolone tablets, USP)

Revised: Aug. 30, 1996

DESCRIPTION

Oxandrin® oral tablets contain 2.5 mg of the anabolic steroid oxandrolone. Oxandrolone is 17 β -hydroxy-17 α -methyl-2-oxa-5 α -androstan-3-one with the following structural formula:



Inactive ingredients include cornstarch, lactose, magnesium stearate, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Anabolic steroids are synthetic derivatives of testosterone. Certain clinical effects and adverse reactions demonstrate the androgenic properties of this class of drugs. Complete dissociation of anabolic and androgenic effects has not been achieved. The actions of anabolic steroids are therefore similar to those of male sex hormones with the possibility of causing serious disturbances of growth and sexual development if given to young children. Anabolic steroids suppress the gonadotropic functions of the pituitary and may exert a direct effect upon the testes.

During exogenous administration of anabolic androgens, endogenous testosterone release is inhibited through inhibition of pituitary luteinizing hormone (LH). At large doses, spermatogenesis may be suppressed through feedback inhibition of pituitary follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH).

Anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins and decrease high-density lipoproteins. These levels revert to normal on discontinuation of treatment.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Oxandrin is indicated as adjunctive therapy to promote weight gain after weight loss following extensive surgery, chronic infections, or severe trauma, and in some patients who without definite pathophysiologic reasons fail to gain or to maintain normal weight, to offset the protein catabolism associated with prolonged administration of corticosteroids, and for the relief of the bone pain frequently accompanying osteoporosis (See **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Oxandrolone is classified as a controlled substance under the Anabolic Steroids Control Act of 1990 and has been assigned to Schedule III (non-narcotic).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast.
2. Carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption).
3. Pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose.
4. Nephrosis, the nephrotic phase of nephritis.
5. Hypercalcemia.

WARNINGS

PELIOSIS HEPATIS, A CONDITION IN WHICH LIVER AND SOMETIMES SPLENIC TISSUE IS REPLACED WITH BLOOD-FILLED CYSTS, HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PATIENTS RECEIVING ANDROGENIC ANABOLIC STEROID THERAPY. THESE CYSTS ARE SOMETIMES PRESENT WITH MINIMAL HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION, BUT AT OTHER TIMES THEY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH LIVER FAILURE. THEY ARE OFTEN NOT RECOGNIZED UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING LIVER FAILURE OR INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG USUALLY RESULTS IN COMPLETE DISAPPEARANCE OF LESIONS.

LIVER CELL TUMORS ARE ALSO REPORTED. MOST OFTEN THESE TUMORS ARE BENIGN AND ANDROGEN-DEPENDENT, BUT FATAL MALIGNANT TUMORS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG OFTEN RESULTS IN REGRESSION OR CESSATION OF PROGRESSION OF THE TUMOR. HOWEVER, HEPATIC TUMORS ASSOCIATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS ARE MUCH MORE VASCULAR THAN OTHER HEPATIC TUMORS AND MAY BE SILENT UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. BLOOD LIPID CHANGES THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS ARE SEEN IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE DECREASED HIGH-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS AND SOMETIMES INCREASED LOW-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS. THE CHANGES MAY BE VERY MARKED AND COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS AND CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE.

Cholestatic hepatitis and jaundice may occur with 17-alpha-alkylated androgens at a relatively low dose. If cholestatic hepatitis with jaundice appears or if liver function tests become abnormal, oxandrolone should be discontinued and the etiology should be determined. Drug-induced jaundice is reversible when the medication is discontinued.

In patients with breast cancer, anabolic steroid therapy may cause hypercalcemia by stimulating osteolysis. Oxandrolone therapy should be discontinued if hypercalcemia occurs.

Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with pre-existing cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. Concomitant administration of adrenal cortical steroid or ACTH may increase the edema.

In children, androgen therapy may accelerate bone maturation without producing compensatory gain in linear growth. This adverse effect results in compromised adult height. The younger the child, the greater the risk of compromising final mature height. The effect on bone maturation should be monitored by assessing bone age of the left wrist and hand every 6 months (See **PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests**).

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN TO ENHANCE ATHLETIC ABILITY.

PRECAUTIONS

General:

Women should be observed for signs of virilization (deepening of the voice, hirsutism, acne, clitoromegaly). Discontinuation of drug therapy at the time of evidence of mild virilism is necessary to prevent irreversible virilization. Some virilizing changes in women are irreversible even after prompt discontinuation of therapy and are not prevented by concomitant use of estrogens. Menstrual irregularities may also occur.

Anabolic steroids may cause suppression of clotting factors II, V, VII, and X, and an increase in prothrombin time.

Information for patients:

The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following side effects of androgens:

- Males:** Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis, appearance or aggravation of acne.
- Females:** Hoarseness, acne, changes in menstrual periods, or more facial hair.
- All patients:** Nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.

Laboratory tests:

Women with disseminated breast carcinoma should have frequent determination of urine and serum calcium levels during the course of therapy (See **WARNINGS**).

Because of the hepatotoxicity associated with the use of 17-alpha-alkylated androgens, liver function tests should be obtained periodically.

Periodic (every 6 months) x-ray examinations of bone age should be made during treatment of children to determine the rate of bone maturation and the effects of androgen therapy on the epiphyseal centers.

Serum lipids and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol determinations should be done periodically as androgenic anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins. Serum cholesterol levels may increase during therapy. Therefore, caution is required when administering these agents to patients with a history of myocardial infarction or coronary artery disease. Serial determinations of serum cholesterol should be made and therapy adjusted accordingly.

Hemoglobin and hematocrit should be checked periodically for polycythemia in patients who are receiving high doses of anabolic steroids.

Drug interactions

Anticoagulants:

Anabolic steroids may increase sensitivity to oral anticoagulants. Dosage of the anticoagulant may have to be decreased in order to maintain desired prothrombin time. Patients receiving oral anticoagulant therapy require close monitoring, especially when anabolic steroids are started or stopped.

Oral hypoglycemic agents:

Oxandrolone may inhibit the metabolism of oral hypoglycemic agents.

Adrenal steroids or ACTH:

In patients with edema, concomitant administration with adrenal cortical steroids or ACTH may increase the edema.

Drug/Laboratory test interactions:

Anabolic steroids may decrease levels of thyroxine-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T₄ serum levels and increased resin uptake of T₃ and T₄. Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged. In addition, a decrease in PBI and radioactive iodine uptake may occur.

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility

Animal data:

Oxandrolone has not been tested in laboratory animals for carcinogenic or mutagenic effects. In 2-year chronic oral rat studies, a dose-related reduction of spermatogenesis and decreased organ weights (testes, prostate, seminal vesicles, ovaries, uterus, adrenals, and pituitary) were shown.

Human data:

Liver cell tumors have been reported in patients receiving long-term therapy with androgenic anabolic steroids in high doses (See **WARNINGS**). Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases.

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

Pregnancy:

Teratogenic effects—Pregnancy Category X (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Nursing mothers:

It is not known whether anabolic steroids are excreted in human milk. Because of the potential of serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from oxandrolone, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric use:

Anabolic agents may accelerate epiphyseal maturation more rapidly than linear growth in children and the effect may continue for 6 months after the drug has been stopped. Therefore, therapy should be monitored by x-ray studies at 6-month intervals in order to avoid the risk of compromising adult height. Androgenic anabolic steroid therapy should be used very cautiously in children and only by specialists who are aware of the effects on bone maturation (See **WARNINGS**).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions have been associated with use of anabolic steroids:

Hepatic: Cholestatic jaundice with, rarely, hepatic necrosis and death. Hepatocellular neoplasms and peliosis hepatis with long-term therapy (See **WARNINGS**). Reversible changes in liver function tests also occur including increased bromsulphthalein (BSP) retention, and increases in serum bilirubin, aspartate aminotransferase (AST, SGOT) and alkaline phosphatase.

In males:

Prepubertal: Phallic enlargement and increased frequency or persistence of erections.

Postpubertal: Inhibition of testicular function, testicular atrophy and oligospermia, impotence, chronic priapism, epididymitis, and bladder irritability.

In females:

Clitoral enlargement, menstrual irregularities.

CNS: Habituation, excitation, insomnia, depression, and changes in libido.

Hematologic: Bleeding in patients on concomitant anticoagulant therapy.

Breast: Gynecomastia.

Larynx: Deepening of the voice in females.

Hair: Hirsutism and male pattern baldness in females.

Skin: Acne (especially in females and prepubertal males).

Skeletal: Premature closure of epiphyses in children (See **PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric use**).

Fluid and electrolytes: Edema, retention of serum electrolytes (sodium chloride, potassium, phosphate, calcium).

Metabolic/Endocrine: Decreased glucose tolerance (See **PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests**), increased creatinine excretion, increased serum levels of creatinine phosphokinase (CPK). Masculinization of the fetus. Inhibition of gonadotropin secretion.

OVERDOSAGE

No symptoms or signs associated with overdosage have been reported. It is possible that sodium and water retention may occur.

The oral LD₅₀ of oxandrolone in mice and dogs is greater than 5,000 mg/kg. No specific antidote is known, but gastric lavage may be used.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Therapy with anabolic steroids is adjunctive to and not a replacement for conventional therapy. The duration of therapy with Oxandrin (oxandrolone) will depend on the response of the patient and the possible appearance of adverse reactions. Therapy should be intermittent.

Adults: The usual adult dosage of Oxandrin is one 2.5-mg tablet 2 to 4 times daily. However, the response of individuals to anabolic steroids varies, and a daily dosage of as little as 2.5 mg or as much as 20 mg may be required to achieve the desired response. A course of therapy of 2 to 4 weeks is usually adequate. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

Children: For children the total daily dosage of Oxandrin is ≤ 0.1 mg per kilogram body weight or ≤ 0.045 mg per pound of body weight. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

HOW SUPPLIED

Oxandrin 2.5-mg tablets are oval, white, and scored with BTG on one side and "11" on each side of the scoreline on the other side; bottles of 100 (NDC 54396-111-11).

Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

Revised: Aug. 30, 1996

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OXANDRIN® 
 (oxandrolone tablets, USP)

Scaled-back AIDS treatment fails; virus rebounds

(Associated Press)

Two experimental attempts to cut down on the 15 to 20 pills a day that HIV-infected people must take to keep AIDS at bay failed when the virus bounced back quickly in many patients.

Over the past few years, the three-drug AIDS "cocktail" has turned AIDS from a death sentence to a manageable illness. However, patients must take their pills on an excruciatingly precise schedule. Some pills must be taken with a quart of water, some on an empty stomach, some only after eating. Missing a few can let the virus mutate into forms resistant to the drugs.

In two studies published in the Oct. 28 *New England Journal of Medicine*, researchers tried to find out what would happen if they cut back on patients' medication once the drugs had reduced the virus to almost undetectable levels. It's the way cancer is treated: hit it hard and fast at the start, then follow up with easier-to-take maintenance therapy.

Doctors in France and the United States took different approaches but got results so disappointing that both studies were ended early.

In the United States, virus levels shot up rapidly in nearly one-quarter of the patients whose medication was cut back to just one or two of the drugs.

"Most failed in the first couple of weeks," said Dr. Diane Havlir of the University of California at San Diego, lead author of the U.S. study, which

treated 316 people at 27 centers.

The U.S. patients took all three drugs for six months, then were divided into three groups. One group got all three drugs. The second group got only Crixivan, the most popular protease inhibitor. The third group got the two older drugs, AZT and 3TC.

All three groups continued taking the same number of pills, but some of them were placebos, or dummy pills.

In the French study, led by Dr. Gilles Pialoux of the Pasteur Institute Hospital, 279 patients at 34 centers took all three drugs for three months. After that, one-third continued with all three, and two other groups took AZT and either Crixivan or 3TC.

Only 4 percent of the U.S. patients and 9 percent of the French patients taking all three drugs had more virus in their blood when the studies ended than they did after the first three or six months.

But 23 percent of each of the two other U.S. groups showed signs of viral rebound. In France, that happened to 31 percent of the patients on AZT and 3TC, and to 22 percent of those on AZT and Crixivan.

All of the patients were treated as soon as they learned they were infected, before symptoms appeared. That is standard with the AIDS cocktail.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said it is too early to assume that people must stay on the drug cocktail for the rest of their lives.

While these studies show that patients cannot be put on fewer drugs after three or six months, Fauci said a year might do the job.

Doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital and at Fauci's center are even testing whether someone who has had no detectable virus in the blood for a year can go off the drugs entirely.

"I say, if we want to treat it early and treat it hard, we should treat it longer before switching to a less toxic

regime," Fauci said. "Three months or six months is really cutting it close."

Dr. Robert Siciliano, an AIDS researcher at Johns Hopkins University, said the studies show that current drugs are barely keeping the AIDS virus under control.

"As soon as one drug is dropped, we immediately see that they start to fail. So we need more potent drugs," he said.

Testing of AIDS vaccine to begin

Continued from page 8

several other chemicals that help the body generate antibodies when exposed to the virus.

Because none of the materials is made from the virus itself, he said the vaccine cannot trigger HIV infection.

The study ignites a tricky ethical dilemma. Participants will be strongly advised against engaging in risky behaviors, but in order to determine how well the vaccine works, some participants will have to ignore the warnings.

Researchers also fear that some participants will develop a false sense of security. The best vaccines are only 95 percent effective—and AIDSvax clearly is not in this league.

"Hundreds of people have already gotten the vaccine and some have become infected, so we know the vaccine isn't going to be 100 percent

effective," Henry said. "The point of the study is to see if the vaccine lowers the risk of infection."

Over the years, Henry has watched about 270 of his AIDS patients die. While the three-drug cocktails introduced several years ago have dramatically cut the death rate, the numbers have started to climb once again because patients have difficulty taking 15 or 20 pills a day.

"My experience shows that it's best not to get infected in the first place," Henry said. As a result, he will be spending more of his time during the next 10 years helping people avoid the infection.

"I want to be so successful that I put myself out of business," he said. "You don't hear that too often these days."



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The East Valley gets a gay bar

A new club catering to the Valley's growing gay and lesbian community opened Oct. 29 in Tempe.

It's called "The Mill" and marks the first time in as long as anyone in Phoenix can remember that a gay bar has opened in the Tempe/Mesa area.

Located at 3300 South Price Road—just off the 101 Loop freeway near Price and Southern—The Mill features rustic western decor and an open floor plan that includes

both a dance club and restaurant.

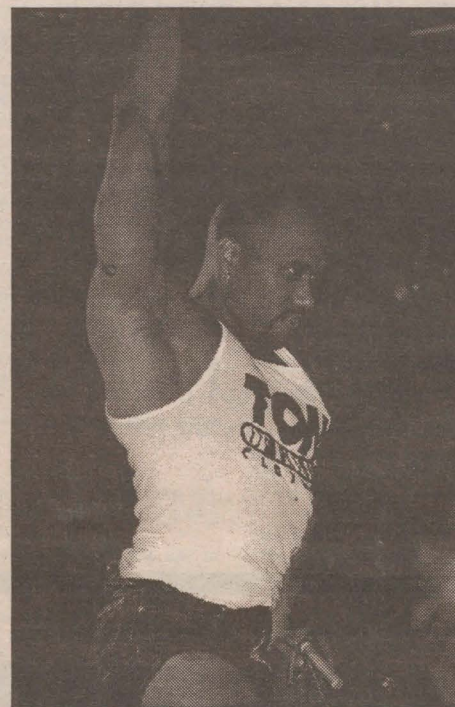
The Mill is open from 5pm to 1am daily.



Hot men, cool clothes do downtown

Seasoned partygoers & fresh-faced club kids alike enjoyed their first look at the new Tom of Finland clothing line, revealed to Phoenix during a men's fashion show at Crowbar on Oct. 23.

The casual wear inspired by the artwork of the legendary gay illustrator was a hit. So, apparently, were the hunky models—who showed off nearly as much of their own stuff as they did Tom's.



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Michael Moore speaks against Kansas' sodomy law

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)

Michael Moore hadn't planned to stop his "Sodomobile" in the Kansas state capitol.

But after the Flint, Mich., filmmaker and writer saw the Rev. Fred W. Phelps Sr. protesting two weeks ago at Matthew Shepard's funeral in Wyoming, he knew he had to bring his crusade against anti-sodomy laws to Topeka.

Prosecutors say Shepard was beaten to death and robbed because he was gay.

Phelps' family and members of his Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka—known for their anti-homosexual views—picketed outside Shepard's funeral, holding anti-gay signs. One sign read: "God Hates Fags."

"There was a collective moan of disgust across America when people saw him there with his family," Moore said.

Moore may be best known for his 1989 film, *Roger and Me*, which criticized General Motors for abandoning some of its Flint plants.

On Oct. 29, Moore traveled through Topeka in a recreational vehicle, decorated with pink satin and leopard skin and dubbed the Sodomobile. He made stops at the Capitol and at a counterprotest against Phelps and his sympathizers.

Signs on Moore's RV mocked

Phelps' anti-homosexual pickets that are a common sight in Topeka. A band of men, hired by Moore, suggestively danced on top of the RV to the songs "Celebrate" and "It's Raining Men." Several of the men kissed each other.

"There wasn't anything that we hadn't seen before," said Phelps' daughter, Margie Jean Phelps. She noted that church members have picketed in the Castro District, a gay area in San Francisco, and at the International Gay Games in New York City.

Moore taped several discussions with Phelps and members of his church for his new television series, which is expected to air after the first of the year. He planned to visit and videotape in eight states with anti-sodomy laws.

The show will appear on an undetermined cable station. It will be similar to Moore's 1994 television series *TV Nation*, which aired on both NBC and Fox.

Moore said Topekans reacted to his protest with both humor and a sense of embarrassment. He said he would make every effort to tell the story of the Phelps family without identifying Topeka as the group's hometown.

"People in Topeka are embarrassed. It gives Topeka a bad name," Moore said.

An exercise in life: physical trainer helps combat HIV wasting

With 18 years experience as an exercise trainer, Mark Rincon knows his way around the gym. But for the last seven years, he has turned his attention to the particular needs of people with HIV.

Now, Rincon has played a key part in a new clinical study which documents the significant role exercise may play in treatment of wasting.

Rincon provided progressive resistance training to clinical research participants as part of an innovative study by researchers at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of California at San Francisco that combined exercise with testosterone replacement therapy and an anabolic agent, oxandrolone.

In the study, which was presented at the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva in July, participants gained an average of more than 15 pounds over eight weeks.

"We had a range of people in the study, from those who had exercised in the past to those who never imagined themselves in a gym. But once they started to see the changes in their weight, strength and energy, they all came through," said Rincon. "Some felt good enough to go back to work, to start new relationships, all the things they had experienced before wasting."

Involuntary weight loss due to HIV is a problem for up to 50% of people living with HIV or AIDS. HIV infection often results in abnormal metabolic processing of nutrients,

causing the body to deplete its own muscle mass. Nutritional therapies alone may be ineffective due to the altered metabolism caused by HIV.

"You see people with HIV wasting who have shuttered themselves behind their doors because of how they look," Rincon explained. "Now we have the opportunity to offer them an alternative, a chance to take their lives back."

Rincon's own work with people experiencing HIV wasting led him to Dr. Marc Hellerstein of the University of California at Berkeley in 1997. Dr. Hellerstein was planning a clinical study of a "combination approach" to treating HIV-related weight loss, using pharmaceutical therapy together with nutritional counseling and an exercise regimen.

The therapeutic portion of the study consisted of a comparison between a combination of a low "replacement dose" of testosterone (100 mg per week) plus a placebo pill, versus the replacement dose of testosterone plus a well tolerated anabolic agent (oxandrolone, 20 mg per day).

Oxandrolone is an oral anabolic medication that is used in the treatment of HIV-related weight loss and other disease-related wasting conditions to promote protein synthesis and weight gain. Oxandrolone has been given for several years at the relatively low dose of 20 mg per day safely for other conditions, such as alcohol-related liver disease, without causing toxicities to the liver or other

organs. In addition, masculinizing side effects are rare at this dose.

For the exercise component, Rincon and several other trainers provided an hour-long exercise session, three times weekly, that consisted of six upper body exercises and three lower body exercises on standard weight-stack exercise equipment.

After eight weeks of the study treatment regime, substantial gains in body weight, lean body mass and muscle strength were observed in both the placebo group and the oxandrolone group; however, the group that oxandrolone had almost twice the gains of the placebo group.

The results of the Hellerstein study were so encouraging, Rincon has now developed a community based model of the program to be piloted in San Francisco. The program's goal is to provide, under medical guidance, supervised resistance training to those with HIV-related weight loss, to

show the approach works in real-life settings and to encourage insurance companies to provide coverage for this approach by demonstrating its cost-effectiveness when compared to the cost of hospitalization for wasting.

A similar approach is being offered by Dr. Allen Huff and Ed Kinser through Kinetic Sports, a non-profit HIV wasting management clinic in Houston, Texas. Dr. Huff and Kinetic Sports provide technical assistance to people across the country engaged in community-based wasting treatment projects.

"We provide a comprehensive approach for managing weight loss due to HIV, emphasizing nutrition and exercise," explains Dr. Huff. "community-based efforts like ours and Mark Rincon's are essential in getting the current science of wasting treatment into day to day practice among people who need it."



Mark Rincon trains Dan Prezioso, who was a participant in a new study of HIV wasting treatment combining anabolic therapy with exercise.



The Mill

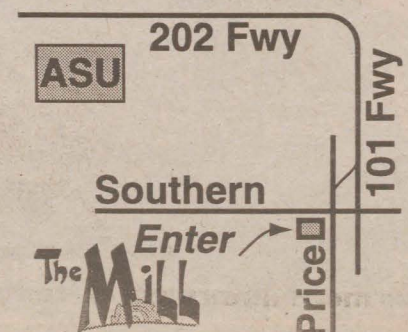
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Holding court & looking to get beyond love

By Ty Robins, HeatStroke Contributor

"Lobbing one's balls into the net" is not just a reference to a drag queen in a pair of fishnets.

For lots of sports enthusiasts, it's part of that combination of fun, social interaction and exercise known as tennis.

What many local Navratilova and Agassi wannabes may not realize, however, is that there is a gay group right here in the Valley that is always looking for new members to frolic on the courts.

It's called the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Social Tennis Club (GLBSTC), although president Bob Hersh laughingly says that if anyone can come up with a less cumbersome name, "Please call!"

Hersh started the group about a year and a half ago with a few other friends who were interested in tennis. "We wanted to form a group to play tennis, just like the softball league and the bowling league. We thought the city was big enough to support a gay tennis league," Hersh says.

The club has "thirty-some" members, according to Hersh, with a core group of about fifteen that regularly attend.

The group meets on alternating Fridays and Sundays, with a slightly

different format for each day.

"Friday night is very social," Hersh explains. Once all of the players have checked in, "We shuffle all of the names, draw teams and play doubles. We rotate and try to get all of the teams to play each other, so that there's the maximum amount of interaction among people. Afterwards, we go out to dinner to further the social atmosphere."

Sundays are more competitive. "We try to match up people by level so that it's competitive tennis," Hersh says.

The play lasts about two hours and costs \$5 per week.

Hersh emphasizes that the purpose of GLBSTC is to meet new people and have fun. In that spirit, other activities are on the way.

"We're going to have a barbecue soon, we're planning to go as a group to the Princess Tennis Tournament in March, and we're planning a trip to the U.S. Open. We're also planning parties for all the finals of the big tennis tournaments. So we're trying to make it more social by having activities outside of just playing tennis," Hersh says.

While maintaining a fairly informal membership process, the club does have elected officers which include Hersh as President, Secretary

Patrick Gulley, Membership Chairman David Chaney and Declan Barr as Social Chairman.

One of the goals Hersh sees for the group is to eventually sponsor teams in U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) leagues throughout the city. As the club grows, another goal is to sponsor a tournament on the gay tennis circuit.

Hersh is looking for dedicated tennis enthusiasts who would like to help the club grow and have a lot of fun at the same time. In particular, he would like to see more participation from women.

players and maybe find someone. There have been some match-ups!" he says. In addition, he says that members range in age from early 20s to himself at 45, and they come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

If you're backhand is a little rusty, Hersh says not to worry. "We have all levels of players, from beginners to advanced. Friday nights there is a pro who gives clinics. So if you haven't played or you want to learn how to play, we have a pro who can get you started or get you refreshed."

Friday meetings are held from 7-9 pm. at Kiwanis Park in Tempe.

Sundays are from 5-7 pm at the Phoenix Tennis Center. Undeterred by searing summer weather, the group meets year-round.

"I like being involved with people who play tennis because they tend to be non-smokers, they tend to be health-orient-

ed," Hersh says, speaking for himself. "I just want to try to bring in one more organized activity to give people a way to get out of the bars and help create a sense of community."

To become a part of GLBSTC, contact Bob Hersh at 279-0709 or e-mail him at tennisbud2@aol.com.



"Right now, we have mostly men and we're desperately trying to get women involved. We get one to come, she finds out she's the only one and doesn't come back. We'd love to have it mixed, so we're trying to encourage women to come out."

Hersh says the club is composed of about half single men. "There are a number of us looking at this as an avenue to meet other single tennis



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8pm-12am
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Monday
Happy Hour 8am-8pm
Beer Bust 8pm-12 am
Domestic Beer \$1.75
Draft \$1.25
Free Pool 6pm-close

Tuesday
Happy Hour 8am-8pm
"Vulgar Vodka" Night
Well Vodka \$2.00

Wednesday
Happy Hour 8am-8pm
"Booze & Cruise"
8pm-12am
Reduced prices on well drinks, domestic beer & shot specials

Thursday
Happy Hour 8am-8pm,
Beer Bust 8pm - 12am

Friday
Extended Happy Hour
8am - 9pm

Saturday
Happy Hour 8am - 8pm

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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the
Phoenix Queer Community

Catch our dear Mr. Crisp Nov. 7, 8

Writer/ranconter Quentin Crisp, who turns 90 on Christmas Day, will visit Phoenix to present his world famous one-man show, *An Evening With Quentin Crisp* Nov. 7 & 8.

The renowned wit and British expatriate, whose literary contribution to the modern gay movement includes his daring autobiography, *The Naked Civil Servant*, performs this solo stage show with no director and no script. He simply speaks extemporaneously for the first half, then conducts a question and answer session with the audience for the second.

Mr. Crisp will perform two shows only: Saturday, Nov. 7 at 8 pm and then Sunday, Nov. 8 at 2 pm at the Phoenix Theatre's Little Theatre, 100 East McDowell Road in Phoenix. Tickets are \$15 and available by calling (602)254-2151.

Being Alive Town Hall slated

Being Alive, the early-intervention arm of AIDS Project Arizona in Phoenix, will present a Town Hall seminar called "Living Well" on Nov. 12 at the Cullen Auditorium on the campus of St. Joseph's Hospital, 5th Avenue and Thomas in Phoenix.

The free presentation begins at 6:30 pm with guest speaker Lark Lands, MS. Ph.D., a health educator and the author of *Positively Well*. A light dinner will be served. To register, call (602)265-2437.

Community Center Board search

The Community Center in Phoenix is currently engaged in an active, open search for qualified applicants to serve on its Board of Directors. The Center works to provide space, programs, services and social activities to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community in the Valley.

Persons with specific expertise in the areas of finance, fund raising, technology, programming and volunteers are being sought. Women and people of color are encouraged to apply. All applications will be reviewed. To receive an application, call (602)265-7283.

CBPA November events

CBPA is the Valley of the Sun's gay, lesbian and gay-friendly chamber of commerce and this active social and business networking group has a number of activities planned for this month.

Don't miss the Lunch Bunch get together at Pookie's cafe, every other Tuesday at 11:30 am. The next meet will be on Nov. 17. Cost is just \$10 and Pookie's is on 7th Street just south of Highland. It's a great chance to network, socialize, and meet new friends and associates. There's a new east side Lunch Bunch at Minder Binders, 715 South McClintock. It's \$10 and the group is looking for everyone east of Phoenix to join in.

This month's NetMix will be hosted by metalsmith artist Michele Dore on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 6:30 pm at

the Art Iron Works, 9235 N. 10th Drive in Phoenix. It's \$10 to attend, food and drink provided.

The November General Meeting will feature Executive Coach Craig Wallace on the topic of bridging the gap from where you are and where you want to be in your personal and professional life. Join CBPA on Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Phoenix Airport Hilton, 2435 South 47th Street (Hohokam & University). The meeting is at 7 pm and cost \$15 for members and \$19 for guests.

To RSVP any of these events or to join the club, mail a check to CBPA, PO Box 2097, Phoenix AZ, 85001. Or call (602) 225-8444.

Xena group movie day, Nov. 14

Everything's Relative is a sexy romantic comedy about a group of women reunited after their college years. It's been called the "Lesbian Big Chill" and made an impression at many lesbian/gay film fests.

The Xena fan group for lesbian and bisexual women will host a video presentation of the film on Saturday, Nov. 14. An added treat will be the showing of a provocative short called, *Peach* that features Xena star Lucy Lawless as a lesbian tow truck driver.

The films will be shown starting at 8 pm at Augustana Lutheran Church in Phoenix, at 14th Street and Virginia. A \$4 donation is asked. Call (602)813-8681 for info.

Valley church celebrates 28 years

Casa de Cristo is the oldest Christian church with an outreach into the Gay community in Phoenix. Under the leadership and instruction of its current pastor, Ronnie Pigg, The 28-yr-old church is experiencing a Spiritual renewal and has also recently undergone a physical facelift as well.

Pastor Pigg and the Casa congregation extend an invitation to celebrate these changes with *The 28th Anniversary Renovation Celebration*, on Nov. 15 at the church which is located at 1029 E Turney—north of Indian School between 7th and 12th Streets.

The celebration begins after morning worship service at 1pm with a Sunday dinner on the church grounds, followed by an old fashioned, Gospel singing and praise good time at 2pm. For more information, the church can be contacted at (602)265-2831. Or check the website at www.casade-cristo.org.

Garden Party: it's not just a song

The Hand of Love Ministry will host a Psychic Garden Party on Sunday, Nov. 15 from 11 am to 5 pm at 6605 North 14th Street in Phoenix. Admission is \$20 and includes one reading.

The ministry's Alternative Healing Workshops & Network Meetings continue to be held the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is set for Nov. 17 from 7 - 10 pm. Admission is by good-will donation. Call (602)264-1470 for information on these events.



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- Fri:** Country Western Music
with DJ "De"
- Sat:** Country Western Music
with DJ "De"
- Sun:** Steak & Chicken Fry \$3, 6-8pm
Karaoke with Jamie 7-11pm



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday

Nov. 8:

Catch Ladies with an Attitude and Diamond Fire at the Arizona State Fair! Ladies with an Attitude hit the boards at noon; Diamond Fire starts at 2pm.

Thursdays

Nov. 5, 12 & 19:

Cash Inn's 3rd Annual Turkey Shoot — don't miss your chance to win a free gobbler the first three Thursdays in November!

Thursday

Nov. 5:

Cash Inn starts its free Swing Dance Lessons (along with Country Western) with Geri, our renowned dance instructor.



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riding BAREBACK

Continued from page 1

HIV-positive men interested in condomless fluid exchange, the second most popular hang-out for barebackers on the 'Net was originally designed for men interested in sex with other men, period.

Sponsored by the adult Web site Bedfellow, cruisingforsex.com is the official "Web site for men looking to know where to meet men for sex." The site lists places where men can find glory holes and other meeting grounds for sex in every state and every major university. The site also hosts chat rooms, editorials, reviews of personal home pages, and entrapment alerts.

Cruisingforsex.com has also been the target of the police, who regularly monitor postings to the site in efforts to enforce public sex laws. The site states often that it is against the practice of bareback sex in theory, but also says that barebacking is a personal choice and that it doesn't condemn barebackers themselves.

The most shocking thing about this budding subculture is the small but steadily growing number of men who are HIV-negative, but come to both Web sites actually seeking to be infected.

Why would anyone seek out the AIDS virus? There seems to be no satisfying answer. Pigbotm, in fact, denies that that is what is happening in most cases. He writes on his Web page that "the majority of these HIV infection requests come from men who are already HIV-positive and want to experience some sort of fantasy about being infected."

But the HIV-negative ranks of the barebacking movement are not only made up of those seeking HIV infection. Members of another similarly growing group have no desire to become HIV-positive, but are still flocking to Xtreme Sex's message boards and its members' bareback parties.

It's not that these HIV-negative barebackers don't know about the life-or-death consequences of their actions. A surprisingly high number of negative barebackers have already seen a friend or partner die from the disease. They come purely for the thrill of raw sex.

"I do think about it a lot as I'm HIV-negative & plan to stay that way," reads a typical member's posting to the boards at Xtreme Sex. "No one cums in me & the only cum I eat is mine. I bareback top only. My lover died of AIDS. I went through the whole thing, ending in wasting syndrome and a fatal bout with PCP. Barebacking is definitely not wise, but we are looking for a type of intimacy that doesn't frequently happen since AIDS."

Who Are These People?

The slew of articles written on the subject imply that the group of men identifying themselves as barebackers is made up primarily of young party boys in their 20s who are anxious to travel back to a time when the love was free and the party never ended. But this is not necessary true.

On the Queer Bareback list, an e-mail list that boasts over 500 men from around the world as members, barebackers come together to discuss where they can find willing sex part-

ners and to read announcements of area sex parties. Although the twentysomething circuit party crowd is represented, it is men in their 30s, 40s, and 50s that make up the majority of the participants.

And they are not only from gay Meccas like New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Miami. Barebackers from Phoenix, Knoxville, Dallas, Memphis, Cincinnati and Baltimore have signed on, as well as men from practically every other major city in the country. Barebacking is not even a uniquely American phenomenon, as the presence of men from England, Germany, Holland, Australia and Nigeria would attest.

Besides their dislike of condoms, a common thread that binds the world's barebackers is a deep resentment toward any authority figure, be it the government, the Centers for Disease Control, the police or their parents.

This is especially true when it comes to HIV transmission. "I feel

"It's my personal decision and I don't need a bunch of verbal masturbation from guys who are still unsure, or who think their choice not to bareback is universal law."

we've been presented a bad bill of goods by the health care community, especially the AMA [American Medical Association] and the pharmaceutical industries," says Brian B., a 32-year-old video store employee from Phoenix. "I've never quite trusted what was being said about this disease. I came to the decision that the only 'safe' sex was either masturbation or no sex at all and I wasn't about to go for that. I stopped using rubbers 10 years ago. I've been tested a dozen times or so and have always been negative according to the tests."

Brian is not alone. Barebacking message boards and mailing lists have become breeding grounds for conspiracy theories about the government and the medical establishment. Postings often talk of secret studies done in France or other countries that "prove" that pre-cum is harmless and can't transmit HIV and that topping—being the inserter in anal sex—doesn't pose a substantial risk of HIV transmission.

Despite all the talk about HIV and AIDS on these online forums, most barebackers claim that they aren't concerned with spreading HIV or becoming re-infected, and counter the glut of postings warning about AIDS with glorified tales of their sexual conquests.

The stories posted by visitors to the site are lusty, painting a highly eroticized picture of unprotected sex. One such story recounts a wild orgy where a bunch of "poz guys" try to give the "gift" of HIV infection to a willing group of negative men.

In fact, it's the blatant way barebackers flaunt their unsafe sex practices that anger AIDS activists the most. Maintaining condom use as the norm is difficult enough, activists say,

without media that glorify unprotected sex.

"The message is not as strong as it was," says P.J. Gouldmann, secretary of the People With AIDS/HIV Coalition in Baltimore. "We have all been lulled into a false sense of security by drug companies and the media who are creating an impression that AIDS won't necessarily kill you. But if you bareback, you are really putting yourself in a situation with a very high risk of getting something that isn't going to go away."

Responsible Barebacking?

Despite their lack of trust in the medical and pharmaceutical industries, some barebackers are in fact concerned with their own health and the health of their sexual partners. Mark J., a medical professional at a hospital in Baltimore, regularly posts messages on the morality of barebacking, stressing that HIV status should be discussed with sex partners.

"There are lots of unknowns about the transmission of HIV, and a large number of uninformed men out there," Mark J. recently wrote. "I think that it is perfectly acceptable, if not a requirement, to talk about the methods of transmission and the risks. A young guy new to the gay scene, living in

responsibility, especially to the younger guys. Barebacking is a lifestyle choice that you make. I'm not telling people not to bareback. Far from it. But I don't want guys to think that if they are HIV-negative that it's not possible for them to become infected. It's a case of knowing that you are at risk and making an informed choice."

And why would a medical professional who clearly knows the risks involved choose not to use condoms? "I just like the way it feels, without a condom," he says. "I know it's not the smartest choice, but I want to enjoy sex to its fullest and achieve an intimacy that I don't get using condoms."

In an effort to help gay men make informed choices, some AIDS organizations have begun issuing "safer sex" guidelines for barebackers, offering such advice as to withdraw before ejaculation and to use plenty of lubricant.

These guidelines have become as controversial as barebacking itself and many say they take away the very thing that makes condomless sex a more intimate experience: the sharing of another man's semen. And many AIDS experts believe that these guidelines will do little to make barebacking safer, even if they are put into practice.

Why Do They Do It?

The word intimacy comes up often on online discussions. Barebackers post message after message about the joys of going condom-free and how it is a way of reclaiming some lost right of passage, a concept that is difficult, they admit, for others to understand.

In the June 1997 issue of *POZ* Magazine, Stephen Gendin tried to explain the appeal of bareback sex to the publication's readers.

"I can't comment on a negative guy's decision to go raw, but for us positive men, the benefits are obvious," Gendin wrote. "The physical sensation is much better. The connection feels closer and more intimate. The sharing of cum on the physical level heightens the sense of sharing on the emotional and spiritual planes. ... How do I justify pursuing acts with other positive men that many would describe as callous, even malicious? Am I guilty of skirting the facts in pursuit of pleasure? Or is the reinfection science shaky enough that it's not irrational for positive men to go skin-to-skin? With the risks so hazy and the benefits so brilliantly clear, no wonder riding bareback is all the rage. For me, being infected in the first place is such

Podunk, USA, may not have had the access that the rest of us have had to the current literature and science and medicine of HIV. He might just stumble on a bareback Web site or mailing list one day and see all these other guys having wonderful, unprotected sex. If he jumps headfirst into barebacking without understanding the risks, he will be committing suicide."

Messages like this one are routinely met with angry responses from other participants, but although Mark is in the minority among barebackers, he is definitely not alone. In an e-mail message he tells me that as a health care professional, he sees it as his duty to make sure that those who stumble on the bareback message boards, Web sites and mailing lists know exactly

"Everyone has their own opinion on AIDS and what they feel are acceptable risks. . . every bottom out there now knows that if he gets fucked without a condom, he stands a very good chance of becoming infected. I don't need to discuss it with anybody. It's the other guy's choice and not my problem."

what they are getting into.

"There seem to be some poz men who will assume that any man who takes cum in his butt understands the risks automatically, so they don't even discuss the risk with their bottom partners," Mark J. writes. "There are some poz men who will fuck without regard for the bottom's HIV status. We barebackers have a duty to inform our partners of the risks. We have a serious

a doomful event that any act that brings pleasure, even a risky one, is worth grabbing for."

But most barebackers say it is no one's business why they choose to lose the latex. They claim it is an individual choice and that the discussion of HIV and AIDS has no place in the barebacking culture.

"I bareback because I like it and don't give a shit about HIV," writes

Gary Bryant of San Francisco when questioned about his reasons for barebacking.

"It's my personal decision and I don't need a bunch of verbal masturbation from guys who are still unsure, or who think their choice not to bareback is universal law," he asserts. "Everyone has their own opinion on AIDS and what they feel are acceptable risks. I am relatively sure that

than fellow barebackers.

Joshua C., a 26-year-old graduate student at a local university, has been barebacking for four years and regularly participates in bareback discussion groups on America Online and the Xtreme Sex site.

"I've found the whole experience to be very lonely," he says. "I can only talk about it with other barebackers and most of them are only interested

And what about re-infection? "It's all just hype. I am already positive. I might lose a few years, so what."

Chad J., a 36-year-old corporate trainer from Kansas City, Mo., sees many parallels between being a barebacker in the current political climate and the coming-out process. He says the constant pressure to practice safer sex has made sharing his sexual escapades with his friends difficult.

"I have started to talk to my gay friends, and just like I started talking about being gay to my straight friends during my first coming out, I'm finding a lot of agreement and support," Johnson says. "Let's face it, nobody likes condoms—it's just some of us have the balls and intelligence to question our programming, and do a little research on our own. I think barebackers need a support group, but I dislike our becoming an isolated subgroup. I'd much rather see us bring real fucking back into the gay mainstream."

The Coming Backlash

As the movement grows in number and the debate grows in intensity, barebackers are finding that even cyberspace is beginning to find their cause unsettling. The Webmaster for cruisingforsex.com recently took barebackers to task.

Known only as "the Cruisemaster," he wrote to visitors of the site: "There's no getting around it. A significant—and by significant I mean a noticeable, purposefully public and nearly organized—number of gay men are intentionally having unsafe sex. Not just run-o'-the-mill unsafe sex, but humping without condoms—bareback fucking. That, in fact, is old news. As a fad it would by now be tiresome if it

weren't so maddening, durable and typical."

He goes on to warn readers that "angry politicians in state capitals and Washington, D.C. will jump on barebacking to justify downsizing and killing programs that help people with HIV, and they won't get much argument from the vast majority of their constituents. Some of us are playing with fire; we're all going to get burned."

But bad publicity is only the beginning of what could lie ahead. Sure, it is only a matter of time before barebacking crawls out of the message boards on the Web and into the national political arena. Once Hard Copy or A Current Affair gets hold of the story, what will happen to government-funded AIDS programs or the ground we've gained in our struggle for equality?

More unsettling is the very real possibility that, as barebacking becomes more common, a "superstrain" of HIV could be introduced into the population. With all the new strains mutating daily, researchers are already racing to find drugs that are effective.

What will happen if this "new and improved" HIV virus appears? Will anyone be prepared? The answer could be even scarier than the rise of the bareback culture itself.



Editors' Note: This story won the 1997-98 Randy Shilts Award for Outstanding Achievement, part of the Vice Versa Awards for excellence in the gay and lesbian press. It first appeared in the *Baltimore Alternative* in February 1998.

"Angry politicians will jump on barebacking to justify downsizing and killing programs that help people with HIV, and they won't get much argument from the vast majority of their constituents. Some of us are playing with fire; we're all going to get burned."

every bottom out there now knows that if he gets fucked without a condom, he stands a very good chance of becoming infected. I don't need to discuss it with anybody. That's the other guy's choice and not my problem."

No One to Talk To

Despite claims of greater intimacy, many sexual partners and the frequent parties, many barebackers say they find the experience lonely because of the stigma attached to it. With the gay community—especially the HIV-positive community who fear that the public will lump all HIV-positive people in with the barebackers—up in arms over their actions, it is difficult for barebackers to open up to anyone other

in me for sex. I can't discuss it with my close friends. I think some of them have figured it out based on references that I make, but it is not something out in the open. I can tell them, for example, when I've had a really hot time. But I can't tell them of my fears and anxieties associated with it."

Joshua C. says he fears for his physical safety when going to strangers' houses for sex parties mainly out of concern for the rampant drug use that usually takes place, but he claims to have no fear of AIDS.

"I tested positive two years ago and, to be honest, it was a relief. I didn't have to worry anymore about becoming positive. I could just go out and have fun."

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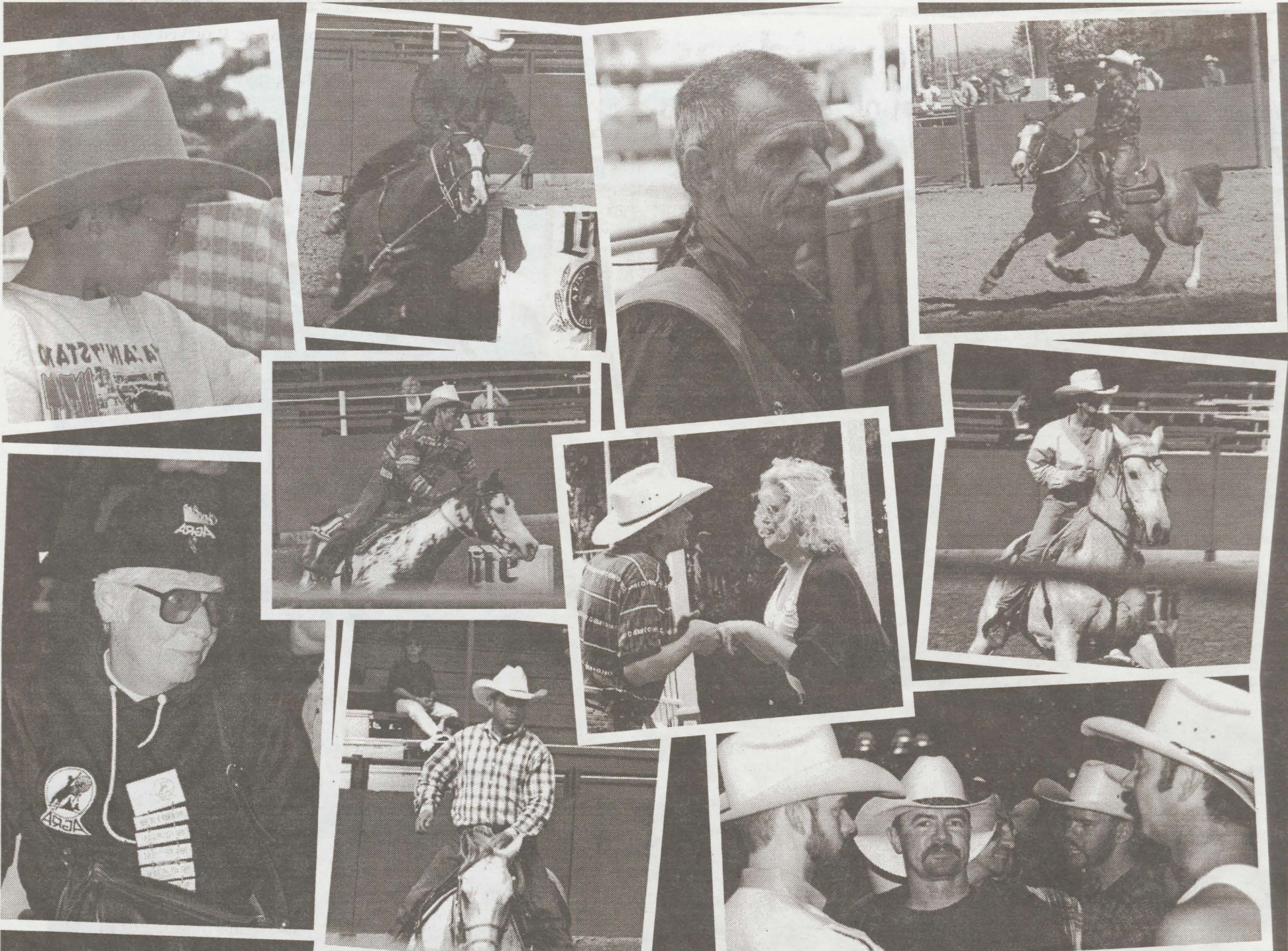
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Seeing/Being Scene

Photos by Mario Rodriguez



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New drama, new ideas

Never the Sinner breaks ground for maturing Phoenix Company

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

In an upscale Chicago suburb, a 14 year old boy is kidnapped and then found strangled to death.

Two 19 year old males are arrested for the killing only a week after the body is discovered. Both are extremely bright, well educated and come from prominent families.

A media feeding frenzy surrounds every aspect of the case. At the ensuing trial, the nature of the killers' relationship is revealed: not only are they best friends, but lovers who committed the heinous crime for no apparent reason other than to prove they could get away with it.

The suspects plead guilty and the State of Illinois calls for the death penalty. A famous defender is hired who argues passionately against capital punishment. Though the killers show no remorse, their attorney demands a more humane sentence because of their ages.

It works. Instead of hanging, they are sentenced to life in prison for the boy's murder plus 99 years for kidnapping him.

If a playwright, novelist or screenwriter made up any of the above facts and based an original play or movie on such a case, he or she would likely be accused of sensationalism.

But it all really happened. And the senseless murder committed by Nathan Leopold and Richard "Dickie" Loeb in 1924 continues to fascinate and inspire writers even today.

The latest of several literary efforts based on the Leopold/Loeb trial is a stage play called *Never the Sinner* by John Logan. The two-act drama impressed New York critics and audiences alike during a lengthy off-Broadway run last year.

Valley theatergoers will have the opportunity to see the play that the *New York Times* called "Excellent and compelling", when *Never the Sinner* opens this month, the next offering in Phoenix Theatre's 1998-99 season.

Logan, an openly gay writer as well as a theater and film director, is currently working on big screen feature projects with the likes of Tom Cruise and Oliver Stone.

His updated treatment of the tale, which he based in large part on transcripts from the actual trial, deals frankly with the homosexual current of the killers' relationship. And yet it's much more than a gay play.

"It's not a play about homosexuality," says Phoenix Theatre's Artistic Director, Michael D. Mitchell, who directed the local production. "It's really a play about the issue of, 'what do you do about kids who kill kids?' And how do we understand and grasp, intellectually and spiritually, the concept of what goes into making a person a person?"

In the local production, Nathan Leopold is played by Childsplay trouper Jere Luisi, with ASU grad Joel David Maurice playing the role of Richard Loeb.

The snobbish intellectuals who showed no remorse were represented

at the trial by renowned attorney Clarence Darrow, also of Scopes Monkey Trial fame. Darrow, who brilliantly argued the precedent setting defense and saved the lads from being put to death, is portrayed by veteran Phoenix actor Richard Glover.

"I don't see him as gay," Maurice says of his character. Many experts say Loeb masterminded the kidnapping and murder. It is presumed he used the lure of sex to manipulate Leopold into doing his bidding.

"Nathan Leopold was, I think, definitely gay," Luisi explains. "He loved Loeb sexually and he would do whatever Dickie wanted."

Others who've studied the case say that Leopold manipulated Loeb in many ways, as well. Leopold was a certifiable genius who finished high school early and spoke 14 languages by the time of his death in 1971. He penned his own memoir of the killing, *Life Plus 99 Years*, while exiled in Puerto Rico after his 1958 parole.

In the book, Leopold claimed it was Dick Loeb who planned the kidnapping and said it was Loeb who suffocated their young victim, Bobby Franks. But Loeb had always maintained that the more physically powerful Leopold had done the actual killing.

Leopold's version of the events always made the greater impression, in part because he impressed trial psychiatrists as calmer and more in control than Dickie Loeb. Loeb was suicidal as a boy and behaved maniacally during the investigation and trial.

But Leopold's story is accepted mainly because Loeb was killed in prison by a cellmate in 1936 and therefore unable to refute Leopold's memoir.

Strangely, the killers had been imprisoned together a few years after their sentencing, and their relationship continued to some degree during their incarceration. That is, until Loeb was killed.

Despite Leopold's blaming Loeb, most historians agree that the psyches of the two were so intertwined that one could not have committed the crime without the other. Expert psychiatrists testified during the trial that their personalities were inter-digitated. In other words, they were two abnormal personalities working together.

The unusual personality disorder from which both young men suffered combines with the brilliant legal work of Clarence Darrow to form the basis for Logan's articulate and much-lauded script. It's part courtroom drama and partly a look at the media's affect on the celebrity of murderers.

Gay indie director Tom Kalin's *Swoon*, a black and white film version of the story that made the rounds on the arthouse circuit a few years ago, was largely a homoerotic drama that concentrated on the pairs' prison years and the sexual nature of their bond.

Two other movies have been made based on the case. *Compulsion*, starring Orson Welles and Dean Stockwell, was made in 1959. Suspense master Alfred Hitchcock also directed a version of the story,

Rope, based on a British play and made in 1948 with Farley Granger and James Stewart.

Rope left the homosexual content out of the case altogether, while *Compulsion* indicated—as delicately as was possible in the late '50s—that there was indeed more than friendship that passed between the spoiled prep school chums.

"It's odd how you see something from that time period today, and you'll pick up on these little nuances you didn't realize were there at first," Michael Mitchell says of *Compulsion*.

Never the Sinner leaves all nuance aside and tells the story pretty much as it was.

"There's a same sex kiss in the play, and that's on the edge for our audiences," Mitchell relates. "The word 'fuck' is used more than once, which is probably going over the edge for some people."

Mitchell understands that profanity and frank discussions of male/male sex are hardly new in the theater world. Nevertheless, same sex kisses can be considered a tad startling at Phoenix Theater, which has a conservative reputation and a rather mature base of subscription ticket holders.

"In five years [as PT's Artistic Director], I've tried very, very hard to expand the range of PT's productions in order to better reflect the diversity of the Phoenix community," he says. As a gay man himself and as an artist, the representation of diversity is important to the director.

"But we aren't doing this particular play because I'm gay, or because John [Logan] is gay. We're doing it because it's an excellent play and something our audiences should see."

When he joined the company, he says, African American material was not being done. Nor were Hispanic, gay and feminist issues being dealt with. At least not in the way they were at comparable professional houses in other U.S. cities. Mitchell has worked to change that.

But not everyone loves change, and Mitchell knows it. Of Logan's highly acclaimed new drama, he says, "People will walk out on this play. They'll leave at intermission. They'll be offended and angry. I absolutely expect that and I will not be surprised when it happens."

He is convinced the offended patrons will be in the minority.

"Most of the people who see *Never the Sinner* will be really moved by the experience. I have no doubt about that."

He adds, "This is a beautiful piece

of writing. It played for a year in New York—which tells you something right there—and it is the kind of thing we need to be doing more of in this house. And the set is stunning, unlike anything we've done in recent years."

The minimalist set, designed by Evan Alexander, takes its cue from the cubist-modernism movement that was growing in popularity at the time of the Leopold/Loeb murder and trial.

A well written, well acted and well produced play, Mitchell says, ought to provoke and stimulate the mind in a way that only live theater can.

"This is a subject that people will discuss and argue and think about after the curtain falls, and an experience that will stay with the audience members for a long time after they leave this building."

That's what he's aiming for, he says, and that's why he is trying to make changes in the company's material. He says he's making the changes slowly, over the course of several seasons.

"We have to make money to stay in business," explains the man whose company just concluded a run of the 40-yr-old musical, *West Side Story*, that was both a critical and box office success.

"Yes, it is our job to entertain. But I wouldn't want to be here if I just accepted that it was about entertaining audiences, and that's all. So people can have their *Nonsense Jamboree*, okay. But they can also have *Never the Sinner* in the same season, and they can expand their minds in addition to being entertained."

The most interesting thing about the Leopold and Loeb case, Mitchell says, is the unanswered question about why they did it. Part of the appeal of John Logan's script is that it provides no pat answers and draws no easy conclusions. "It pushes you to think."

He adds, "This play delivers. It absolutely delivers everything live theater is supposed to. The people who stay with it and give themselves over to this incredible story—and remember, it's a true story—those people are going to have an amazing, provocative evening at the theater."

With that kind of enthusiasm behind the production, it's hard to believe anything else is possible.



Never the Sinner opens Thursday, Nov. 6 and runs through Nov. 22 at Phoenix Theatre, 100 east McDowell Road in Phoenix. Tickets are \$23 to \$25. Call (602)258-1974 for showtimes, reservations & information.



(l-r): Richard Glover, Joel David Maurice and Jere Luisi play Clarence Darrow, Richard Loeb and Nathan Leopold in Phoenix Theatre's production of *Never the Sinner* Nov. 6-22.

HEATSTROKE SHORT TAKES

Living Out Loud

As a divorced, fortysomething Manhattanite craving new direction in life and love, the ever watchable Holly Hunter turns in the year's best lead comic performance in this laughing-out-loud romance, written and directed by Richard LaGravenese. Hunter's Judith Nelson is angry, gorgeous, tender, tough and fabulously witty—you'll remember this movie's "gem" moments and Judith's snappy comebacks long after the lights come up.

The major characters are wonderfully complex. Dwarfish Danny DeVito is charming—sexy, even—as the flick's unlikely romantic lead. But it is rap diva Queen Latifah's outstanding performance as the sultry torch singer whom Judith admires and then befriends that pulls the various elements together and provides the film's centerpiece. And yes, that is indeed Latifah blowing away the syn-copated pop standard "Lush Life" as the opening credits roll.

LaGravenese is a seasoned tinseltown scribe who's used to batting for the big leagues, but this time out he's working smaller. *Living Out Loud* is his directoral debut, and LaGravenese wisely keeps Judith's lessons in self-reliance and her overall message of hope out of your face. The movie doesn't feel slick or packaged, and (unlike the scripts for, say, *Beloved* or *The Horse Whisperer*, among many he's adapted) we're given dialogue that accurately captures the way real people talk to each other when they don't know the ending.

The film also has a marvelous gay

sensibility throughout (how many truly hetero men alternate porn with old Bette Davis movies?) and there's a lesbian-bar dance sequence that'll leave many moviegoers laughing, wiping away tears and quite possibly aroused all at once. Intelligent, character driven and simply told, *Living Out Loud* is the movie that last year's *As Good As It Gets* would have been if it had been funny. Don't miss it.

Happiness

This black comedy is one of the funniest films in recent memory—it's also one of the best. The follow up to Writer/Director Todd Solondz' first film, the 1996 indie hit *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, *Happiness* was rescued from oblivion by queer-savvy producers Ted Hope and Christine Vachon after being dropped by its original producer, October Films, for its controversial content.

And controversial it is: one of the central characters is Bill (Dylan Baker), a psychiatrist who can't stop obsessing about the male classmates of his 11-year-old son Billy (Rufus Read). But Solondz doesn't do the obvious with this character—he neither glorifies nor demonizes Bill. Instead, he portrays Bill as a human being—a complex person who is smart, funny, and, at the same time, deeply disturbed about his sexual compulsion. It's a testament to Solondz' skill, both as a writer and director, that he so successfully brings to the surface not only the pathos inherent in this dark subject, but also the unintentional humor.

Happiness has a terrific cast. Old favorites Ben Gazzara, Louise Lasser and Elizabeth Ashley share their suburban angst—and their laugh lines—

with Cynthia Stevenson, Lara Flynn Boyle and Camryn Manheim.

The bottom line: *Happiness* is an extremely funny movie that addresses some serious issues without being preachy or heavy handed. Todd Solondz understands that the real world is not about black and white moral decisions; his subtle shades of gray paint a vivid impression of his characters' lives and motivations.

Velvet Goldmine

Openly gay filmmaker Todd Haynes (*Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story*, *Poison and Safe*) and his collaborator, Producer Christine Vachon, have created a beautiful film that is unapologetically queer in its sensibility and perspective. *Velvet Goldmine* is Haynes' fictional take on the early to mid-70s glam rock movement in Britain that produced such influential artists as David Bowie, Roxy Music and Brian Eno.

With Executive Producer Michael Stipe, Haynes has woven together original recordings of the period, covers of original songs, and new songs written for the film (nicely performed by lead actors Ewan McGregor and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers) to create a strong musical backdrop for the film.

Cinematographer Maryse Alberti's fine camera work perfectly captures the lush production design, costumes and makeup that all work together to evoke the period.

The narrative advances through a series of flashbacks. British reporter Arthur Stuart (Christian Bale) is assigned by his American editors the task of writing a "where are they now" story on Brian Slade (Jonathan



Jonathan Rhys-Meyers with director Todd Haynes on the set of *Velvet Goldmine*.

Rhys-Meyers), a washed-up glam rocker who faked his own death on-stage a decade earlier. As he digs into the story, Arthur is overwhelmed by memories of the period and of Brian Slade: buying the bi-sexual rock star's record was one of his first steps toward coming out of the closet.

Harkins Theatres

From The Director Of WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE

"No movie event this year is more likely to raise hell than 'HAPPINESS!'"

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HAPPINESS

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 D.J. R. Bruckner, New York Times

"A GREAT EVENING OF THEATRE!
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 Clive Barnes, New York Post

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For Tickets Call 254-2151

Writer/Director Haynes adeptly parallels the rise of Brian Slade and his on-stage alter ego Maxwell Demon with the advancing sexual revolution and the increased awareness and acceptance of sexual diversity. Haynes doesn't shy away from portraying gay sex—unlike the many sanitized "gay" films that have come out of Hollywood in recent years. *Velvet Goldmine* is loaded with scenes of boys kissing, humping, and generally enjoying themselves with other boys; it's a wonderfully unashamed, gay-positive film. Go see it.

Vampires

Goth drama meets classic western in this cliché addled bloodbath. The film has the cheesy quality of a soft core porno flick and it's hard to believe it's a big budget release from the progenitor of the seminal *Halloween* horror series (the actual, more reverential title is *John Carpenter's Vampires*).

Normally a class act, James Woods turns in an oddly sloppy performance as Jack Crow, the archetypal tough guy with a passel of chips weighing down both shoulders. Sanctioned by the Vatican and spurred more by misplaced testosterone than sense, Crow leads his motley crew of professional "slayers" across the Southwest in a

holey (as in "full of holes") crusade against the familiar goons who only come out at night.

Screenplay credit goes to Don Jakoby from a novel by John Steakley. But it's often hard to believe it wasn't scribed by a couple of 13-yr-old hetero males during a pot-fueled all-nighter. At other times, the actors appear to be making up lines and plotting action as they go along. The cast includes Daniel Baldwin (he's the heavy Baldwin brother) and Sheryl Lee (late of TV's *LA Doctors*).

The characters in *Vampires* claim to provide the straight dope on all things undead in today's America while dispelling the romantic, Anne Rice-type myths we all supposedly hold about the title creatures. Yet even on those terms it breaks no new ground.

Though rated "R", the movie is clearly aimed at the youth market—which means it's blatantly homophobic, insulting to Hispanics, and big yuks are drawn from talking dirty to Catholic Priests. Even worse—and far more frightening than the vampires themselves—is the continued physical abuse of women, who appear only as prostitutes or vampires. Or prostitute vampires.

Arrogant, offensive and unamusing, this is one vampire tale that never should have seen the light of day.

ATC invites G & L community out for O'Neill's "Night"

Eugene O'Neill proved the ultimate drama queen when he finished *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, then tucked it away and ominously requested that the scathing portrayal of his troubled family be neither published nor produced until he'd been dead 25 years.

His wife had her own ideas. She waited just three years after Gene checked out in 1953 and then handed the script over to a publisher, turning the dark, autobiographical play into cash and bagging O'Neill a posthumous Pulitzer in 1957.

Arizona Theatre Company will present what is arguably the greatest work of one of America's greatest writers in Phoenix Nov. 14 - 28, at the Herberger Theatre Center. Tickets are \$23 to \$33, available through ATC or the Herberger box office.

ATC has initiated a new outreach program for the gay and lesbian community in Phoenix. The company will be hosting a Rainbow Night at 7:30 pm on Thursday, Nov. 12 as a way of previewing this production to gay

audiences. Then, there'll be a post show party at Amsterdam in down-



town Phoenix following the night's performance. Call ATC at (602)256-6995 for details.

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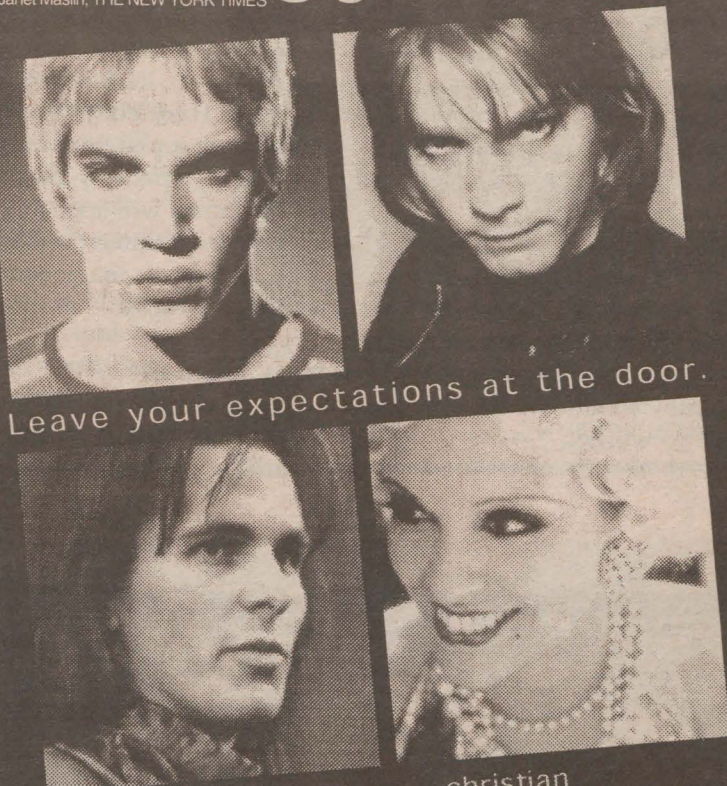
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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Madonna's All-American Boy Toy?

So just who is Madonna entertaining between the sheets these days?

We've heard a lot about her new record, a little about her daughter Lourdes and even a tidbit here and there about the father of her baby, Carlos Leon. But it's been a while since we've heard anything about her love life.

Well it seems our darling Miss Ciccone has once again found a younger beau. He's actor/director



Madonna's new main squeeze is Peter Berg, the actor who played Billy Kronk on *Chicago Hope*.

Peter Berg (a departure from her more recent Latin appetites).

Berg, 34, is handsome and Midwestern, not to mention a star on the rise. He just quit his role as Dr. Billy Kronk on the CBS hospital drama *Chicago Hope* to pay more attention to his film career, which up to now has contained few highlights (save for his role as Linda Fiorentino's dim suitor in *The Last Seduction*.)

Berg, however, has attracted considerable buzz for his feature directing debut, *Very Bad Things*, starring Christian Slater and Cameron Diaz. In other words, dating the dirty blond hunk isn't a bad career move for Madonna.

In other Madonna news, the role she gave up in Wes Craven's *50 Violins* went to Meryl Streep. But that doesn't mean the movie will be without a diva, as Gloria Estefan will make her movie debut as Streep's friend and co-worker.

Elton in a Tizzy

Elton John can't be commended enough for his tireless efforts to raise money for AIDS research and awareness. But his prickly nature can still get the best of him, as guests at a recent AIDS benefit in the singer's adopted hometown of Atlanta discovered.

Guests paid \$1,000 each to meet the legendary "Rocket Man" (some coming from as far away as Minnesota) but were disappointed when John made little more than a cameo appearance, skipping out on the gathering when confronted by a camera-wielding fan and spending the rest of the night in a limo outside. The donors were, to put it mildly, miffed.

E.J. has also made headlines this year for canceling his summer tour with Billy Joel and when he backed out of an initial agreement to become a United Nations "messenger of peace."

Warning to would-be boyfriends: Sir Elton appears to be a commitment-phobe.

In Kevin We Trust

Matt Damon and Ben Affleck may get the magazine covers, but Miramax's biggest star has to be gay writer Kevin Williamson, who penned the *Scream* franchise.

His sci-fi/thriller collaboration with director Robert Rodriguez (*From Dusk 'Til Dawn*) will be released by Miramax's Dimension Films on Christmas Day.

Featuring teen stars Elijah Wood (*Deep Impact*), R&B pop star Usher and Josh Hartnett (*Halloween: H20*), the film wrapped with only \$15 million spent (a paltry sum these days). But Miramax will spend twice that amount to promote the film, banking on Williamson's magic touch with the teen demographic.

Holy Woman

Anne Heche, prophet of God? Jerry Falwell may not like it, but our favorite spiky haired dyke will play a

woman nominated for sainthood in her next project, set to begin filming Oct. 31 in Toronto.

Total Eclipse director Agnieszka Holland will helm *The Third Miracle*, based on the Richard Vetere novel about a priest (played by Ed Harris) sent by the Vatican to verify miracles performed by Heche's character.

Curtain Call?

Is Nathan Lane's new sitcom in trouble? Sources at NBC say it might not last the season, plagued by weak scripts and, dare I say, miscasting.

Of course, poor ratings are the biggest problem. *Encore, Encore* is not even keeping much of a share of the audience from its lead-in, the relentlessly boring *Mad About You*.

In fact, it was recently pre-empted for a repeat of *Jesse*, NBC's millionth sitcom (or so it seems) about a single woman in her 20s. The surest sign that Lane's day job is in trouble: NBC chose to spotlight *Will and Grace* during competition with the World Series, giving the show the coveted time slot between *Frasier* and *ER*, this despite the fact that *Encore's* producing team also helms the Kelsey Grammer sitcom.

Speaking of *Will* (as in will he ever get a date?) and *Grace*, signs are positive that it will be one of the few survivors in what is shaping up to be the biggest fall season massacre in memory.

lot of confidence in the freshman show, which has drawn promising ratings in its normal Monday night time slot.

What's more, peacock execs are considering "promoting" the comedy to either Tuesday or Thursday, which I suppose would make it a "must see." My suggestion: pair *Will* with *Encore!*, guaranteeing the network at least one strong viewing demographic.

Battle of the Babes!

Who's worth more, Julia Roberts or Jodie Foster? Despite her two



With her new film Julia Roberts edges out Jodie Foster in the income department

Oscars, it seems our favorite sexually ambiguous actress falls just shy of the pretty woman, at least financially.

Foster will reportedly earn \$15 million for her next role, in *Anna and the King*, a non-musical remake of *The King and I*, in which Foster will play 19th Century British schoolteacher Anna Leonowens. Chinese martial arts star Chow Yun-Fat (*The*

Replacement Killers) has been cast as the King of Siam.

Roberts, meanwhile, will take home \$17 million for *The Runaway Bride*, her eagerly anticipated screen reunion with onetime sugar daddy Richard Gere.

The Georgia native plays an oft-engaged woman who just can't say "I do," repeatedly leaving prospective grooms at the altar. Gere plays a reporter writing an article about Roberts' character only to fall in love with her. Bet you didn't see that one coming!



Producers of the new film from Kevin Williamson, the openly gay writer of the *Scream* series, are hoping for another megahit.

The network aired the sitcom about a gay man living with his straight female friend twice against stiff baseball competition, exhibiting a

Romeo San Vicente, who couldn't be happier with Sandra Bullock's plan to take a year off from acting, can be reached in care of *HeatStroke* or at RSVicente@aol.com.

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Out of Town

By
Andrew Collins



A Hawaiian Island Primer

A trip to Hawaii requires a greater investment of time and money than to any other U.S. destination, but when planned carefully, the rewards are unrivaled.

The 50th state lies about 2,500 miles from Southern California, its nearest major land mass. The flora, fauna, and natural beauty of this rugged archipelago is unique in the Western Hemisphere, and each of the four major islands that make up the Hawaiian chain varies tremendously in terrain, diversions, and personality.

Whereas most mainland destinations can be enjoyed over a long weekend, Hawaii demands at least a week of exploration—two if you can possibly manage it.

The creature least likely to enjoy a visit to Hawaii is the gay single traveler with high expectations of finding romance (the gay single traveler with low expectations of finding romance may have a terrific time, however). While hooking up here isn't unheard of, it tends to happen more by accident than by design.

Honolulu (and its adjacent resort community Waikiki), may buzz with

The creature least likely to enjoy a visit to Hawaii is the gay single traveler with high expectations of finding romance (the gay single traveler with low expectations of finding romance may have a terrific time, however).

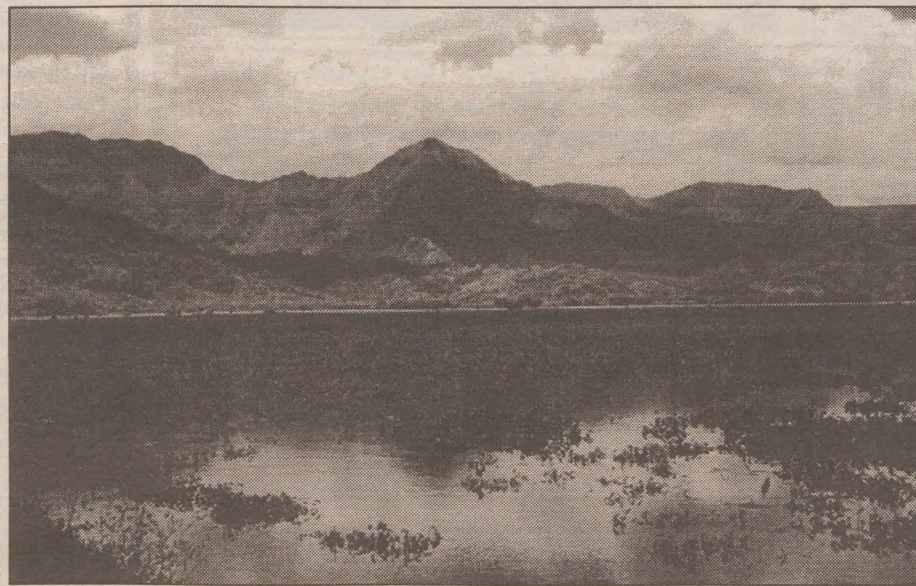
commerce, shopping, dining, and other big-city diversions, but it has only a smattering of gay bars.

Furthermore, the block of Kuhio Avenue in Waikiki that once housed a bounty of queer bars, shops, and restaurants was closed down early in 1998 to make way for an upscale shopping center. Some of the businesses folded and others have moved

into new quarters around the city, but none of the queer nightclubs here compares in terms of size and popularity with those in most cities this size.

The islands of Kauai and Hawaii each have a small gay bar, and Maui has been unable to support even one such establishment on a consistent basis. Hawaii is most definitely a destination geared toward couples, so plan to bring your own lover.

Oahu, of which Honolulu is the capital, is home to about 900,000 people (75 percent of the state's population). Many visitors base themselves



Lush Hanalei and the Na Pali Coast have turned Kauai into a hiking mecca.

here because of the plethora of high-rise beachside hotels in Waikiki, the dazzling variety of restaurants and shops, the ease of getting around without a car, and the presence of Hawaii's major airport.

Waikiki, unfortunately, lacks the charms and intimacy of neighbor islands, and many of the hotels here are shrouded in bleak glass-and-steel exteriors and offer shabby accommodations. It's sad that countless visitors to Hawaii never set foot beyond their Waikiki hotel.

The ideal time to see Oahu is during the first two or three days of your visit, as Waikiki is walkable and downtown Honolulu offers the kinds of cultural attractions—Iolani Palace, Chinatown, the Bishop Museum—you might be most in the mood to appreciate having just arrived from the mainland (once you experience the more pristine and peaceful neighbor islands, you'll probably have considerably less interest in urban diversions).

No visit to Oahu is complete without a drive around the island's splendid Windward Coast and North Shore, which can be managed easily in a day (the only day you might consider renting a car, which is unnecessary unless you plan to leave Honolulu and Waikiki).

The island of Hawaii (known most commonly as "the Big Island") is about twice the size of the other islands combined. There's considerable resort development along the western coastline, distinctive for its arid and beautifully desolate terrain, characterized by massive black fields

of lava rock.

Ideally, you should try to spend at least three days on the Big Island, one to drive to the verdant tropical eastern coast, which is anchored by the small historic city of Hilo. Dedicate another day to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, which comprises two active (and occasionally flowing) volcanoes and countless trails and campsites. And spend your final day driving north into the upcountry ranching community of Waimea, and beyond that to the breathtakingly rugged Hamakua Coast.

In terms of scenery, the one Hawaiian island that comes closest to living up to the expectations of many first-time visitors is Kauai, a relatively small but magnificently lush isle of rainforests, towering seaside cliffs, and secluded beaches.

Hikers flock to Na Pali Coast State Park, which is on the remote northwestern tip of the island, just beyond the picturesque village of Hanalei (which has

been the setting for such films as *South Pacific*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Jurassic Park*. The eastern side is dominated by the waterfalls of the Wailua River Valley (home to several gay-friendly B&Bs), and the southern side by Poipu's beaches—these areas were devastated by Hurricane Iniki in 1992, but you'll find very little evidence today of the storm's destruction.

Kauai remains largely unspoiled and slow-paced, an ideal spot for devotees of the outdoors; loyal admirers often vacation here exclusively and skip the other islands.

The one island virtually any traveler could encamp happily on for a full week or more is diverse and dramatic Maui, the second-most populated and developed of Hawaii's islands.

Longtime visitors fret that the rate at which tourism has boomed here has diminished Maui's appeal, but a quick glance at Waikiki should convince anybody that conditions could be many times worse. Maui's resorts are sophisticated and relatively new (most built over the past two decades), and fine restaurants and shops abound along the west coast, which is also where you'll find the best and sunniest beaches.

The island's must-do activities are a drive to the 10,023-foot Mt. Haleakala, a dormant volcano whose peak offers unrivaled views of the Pacific Ocean; and an all-day drive to the sleepy village of Hana, set in the richly verdant southeast side of Maui.

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*.

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by Eric Orner

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It remains unclear whether she's just crashing, or expecting to be entertained. You hope it's the former - she and you aren't close, she doesn't like guys who've slept with Etienne.



Still, here she is. Friday Night you throw a small dinner party so she can meet your friends.



Saturday she's awake and showered and gone before you get up, which is fine.



Sunday morning Buck and Charlotte stop by to pick you & Doug up for brunch. Leeza's door is closed. You decide not to wake her.

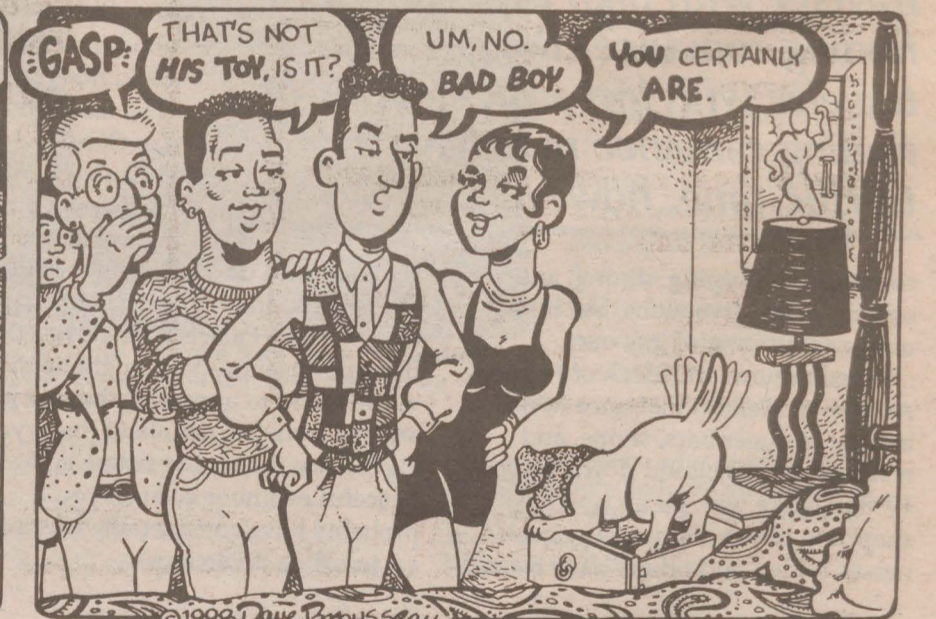
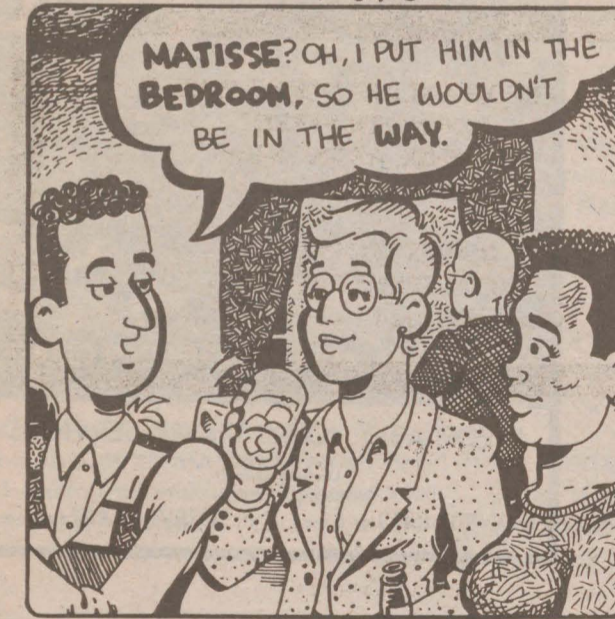
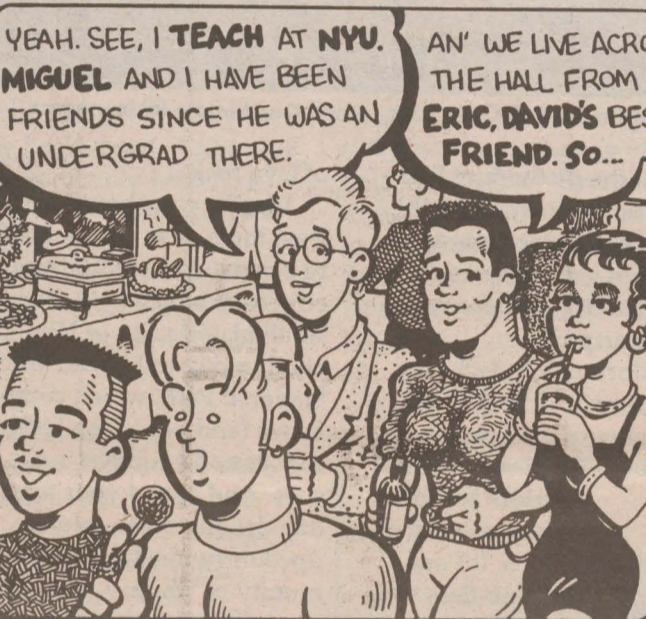


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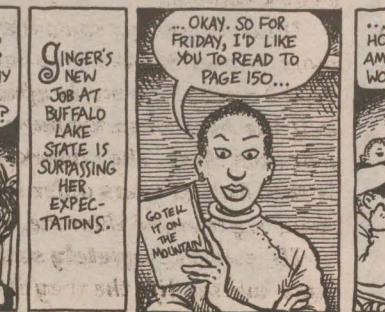
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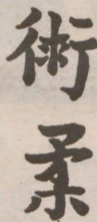
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for you.

Dear Cowboy,

I'm mild mannered and retiring.
Make that shy. Since my demeanor is
deferential, the men with whom I
choose to become physically intimate
tend to assume that I'm a bottom.

Someday I hope to be in a committed
relationship, exploring and learning.
But for now I do not enjoy being
on the receiving end, greek-wise.

When bump comes to grind and I
decline that particular invitation, I
feel as if I've disappointed my companion,
which makes for a lackluster
experience. Ergo, I forego.

The dearth of physical pleasure is

now affecting my mental well being.
Any suggestions?

Tired of Holding My Own

Dear Holding,

I understand that you are shy, but
obviously you are not too shy to get a
guy into bed for a little "pre-relationship"
exploring and learning. Most gay
caballeros learn early on that someone's
behavior on the bold/meek scale is not a
true indicator as to whether he's a header
or a heeler, so stop worrying about what
your dates expect. Talk it out.

Somewhere between, "You can fol-

low me if you want to come over,"
and, "Excuse the mess in my bedroom
but I wasn't expecting company," you
single cowpokes need to be asking each
other, "What are we gonna do when we
get there?"

If bump is already coming to grind
and things haven't been discussed, you
are both heading for disappointment.
Not to mention the STD issue—In this
day and age, anything anal needs to be
coming up well before those clothes are
shed.

Don't give up sex. Just be responsible
about it.

Dear Cowboy,

How do you get someone to be
more responsive and imaginative in
bed? I really love my boyfriend but
half the time when we have sex, he
just lays there. The remarkable thing
is that he's 11 years older and far
more experienced than me.

He seems completely satisfied
with our sex life the way it is but I'm
not. When I suggest something differ-

ent, he makes a joke about me being
kinky and that's as far as it goes.
What should I do?

Signed, Need Excitement

Dear Excitement,

If you are not happy you need to
speak up. Next time you make a sug-
gestion, follow through on it even if
he does crack a joke. Tell him it only
seems kinky the first time and he'll
get to like it.

He can't be happy just "laying
there", instead he's probably too shy
or embarrassed to explore other
options. It's your job to convince him
that only good will come out of open-
ing up, and that you are the guy he
can open up to.

Share all your sexy bunkhouse
secrets and ideas and be shameless
about it, and ask him to do the same.
If he needs a boost in the inspiration
department, buy him some books or
videos and enjoy them together.

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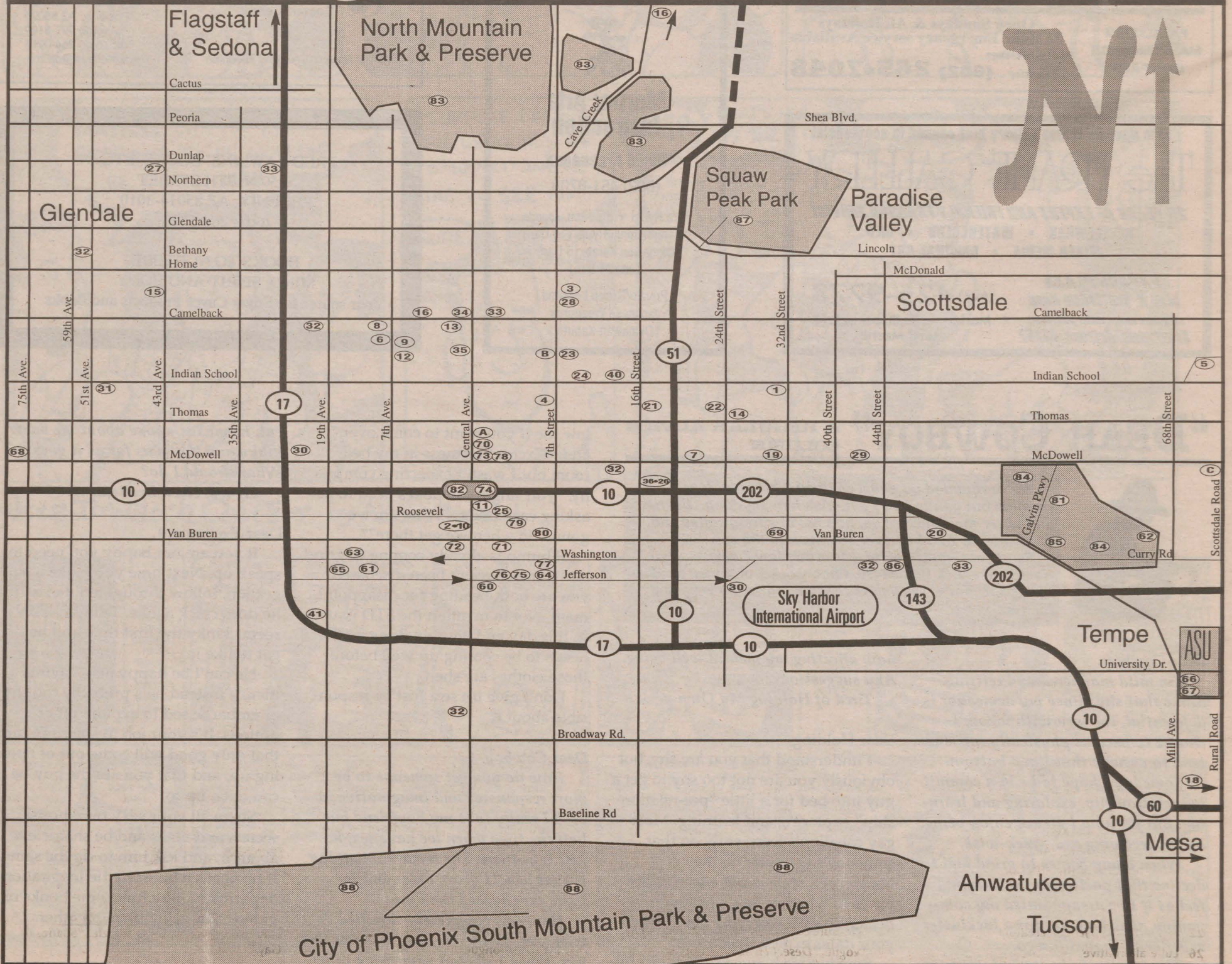
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- 76. Phoenix Symphony Hall
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Phoenix 262-6225
- 77. Phoenix Museum of History
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- 78. Phoenix Theatre
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- 79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural
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111 E. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85012 265-2437

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

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

Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance
6523 N. 14th St., #112
Phoenix, AZ 85014 279-4805

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

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

Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wellness Center
1840 W. Maryland, Suite E
Phoenix, AZ 85016 864-0710

Political Action & Education

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

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

Arizona Human Rights Fund
P.O. Box 25044
Phoenix, AZ 85002 650-0900

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

AZ Democratic Party
Gay & Lesbian Caucus
2005 N. Central #180
Phoenix, AZ 85004 257-9136

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

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

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

Social & Support Groups

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

APEX-AZ Power Exchange
apex@xroads.com 415-1123

Arizona 2-somes 277-8796

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

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4133 E. Campbell Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85018 345-8755

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

Delta Lambda Phi - Phoenix
903 S. Rural Rd., Suite 101-317
Tempe, AZ 85281 248-5270

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

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

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual
Veterans of America, Phoenix
864-6092; pglbva@aol.com

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

The Leatherlords 254-9651

Lesbian & Gay Alanon
2622 N. 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85006 548-0936

Los Amigos del Sol (LADS)
PO Box 27335
Phoenix, AZ 85061 997-2411

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

The Phoenix Bears
PO Box 9627
Tempe, AZ 85068 216-8000

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

The Community Center
and Youth Services 265-7283
Lesbian & Gay Community
Switchboard 234-2752
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
PO Box 33367
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

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

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

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

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

AVIV of Arizona
4704 E. Paradise Village Pkwy N.
#314
Phoenix, AZ 85032 996-8622

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

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

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

Gentle Shepherd MCC
PO Box 33758
Phoenix, AZ 85067 285-9020

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

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

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

Presbyterians for Lesbians &
Gays
P.O. Box 61162
Phoenix, AZ 85082 275-0506

Southwest Miracles Center
3644 E. McDowell
Phoenix, AZ 85008 244-9001

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

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

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

Music, Sports & Hobbies

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

Cactus Cities Softball League
PO Box 45101
Phoenix, AZ 85064 241-9224

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

Desert Adventures
PO Box 2008
Phoenix, AZ 85001 266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 34615
Phoenix, AZ 85067 248-0048

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Social
Tennis Club 279-0709

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Puzzle

"Family Get-togethers"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13				14				15				
16								17				
		18					19			20	21	
		22				23	24			25		
26	27					28				29		
30			31	32				33	34			
35			36					37		38	39	40
			41				42				43	
44	45	46				47				48		
49			50	51				52	53			
54			55					56				
	57		58				59	60		61	62	63
	64					65						
	66					67			68			

ACROSS

- Hockey players' fantasies
- The Chiffons' "___ So Fine"
- Wisecrack
- What happens after the wife finds out her husband is gay?
- Queens Logic star Ken
- "Karma Chameleon" Adam's Rib creator?
- Cruising place of the '90s, often
- Lesbian's first?
- Pick preceder
- "Supermodel"/Jeffrey creator?
- Lube alternative

- ___ in "nipple"
- You've heard this before
- It might come after yoo
- Whirlpool
- Intimacy interrupter
- "Daniel"/Polyester creator?
- Football players' fantasies, for short
- Meatheads
- Figure skater Babilonia
- Be the lookout, e.g.
- 69 plus 86, to Caesar
- "Pleasures of the Harbor" folk singer Phil
- "Vogue"/Desert Hearts creator?

- Sex follower
- Egypt and Syria, from 1958 to 1961 (abbr.)
- ___ lucky (score)
- 1714 Schism Act/Robin Monroe in *Six Days, Seven Nights* creator?
- Ball State, for one (abbr.)
- Dig deep to uncover
- Dame Everage of drag
- What Makes Me Feel This Way* author LeShan
- First name in cosmetics

DOWN

- Chew the fat
- Yoko ___
- Luther Vandross's "___ Love"
- A mechanic may screw one
- Orgasm follower, often
- Him, in homoease
- Quentin Crisp's home (abbr.)
- Takes the wheel
- Streisand's son Jason
- Kind
- Like Lindsay Wagner's TV character
- Make wealthier
- Baseballer Manny or marathoner Rosa
- Billy the Kid portrayer Gulager
- Oscar De La Hoya win, sometimes
- Stonewall event
- Release from bondage, e.g.
- ___ of (grasp)
- Incubation station
- Cyndi Lauper's "___-Bop"
- Barney Frank, for one
- Gregg Araki's *The Living* ___
- They sit and spin
- Start of k.d.'s personal ad?
- ___ in "anus"
- Director Preminger
- Place where you might get down on your knees
- ___-A-Sketch
- Hooray for tight ends
- Candace, to Newton
- Gay porn giant Bel
- Pyrenees tongue

- A Boy's Own Story author White
- Wine container
- Eightsomes
- It's new to Spanish boys
- Actress Fabray, to friends
- ABC honcho Robert
- Flirtatious giggle
- "Ich bin ___ Berliner"
- Composer Rorem
- They love to shoot (abbr.)
- Uncomfortable place for sex
- Rainbow portion
- Hot time in Paris

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

Oops—we goofed! This is the solution to the 1998 Contest Crossword. Sorry for the confusion.

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

Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle: "Shades of Gay."

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HOROSCOPES

By Deane Jaye, *HeatStroke* contributor

Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)

"Ooh, ooh..." sparks will definitely be flying from your fingertips this month. Jerry's overactive ex, Ms. Elaine Benes, must have had you mysterious Scorpions in mind when she campaigned for "Witchy Woman" for a relationship theme song. Even among you witchy men, the feminine side will rule these next few weeks and it won't take an eagle eye to see that you mean business in the bedroom and the boardroom.

Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)

The stamp needs a-lickin' and the hawk needs a chicken, and your world wise and weary mood these days could well be a signal that you are duly in need of both. It's all about attitude and not your age, so put some spark back into your step and go for it now if it feels good. Look into a door that opens around the 8th—it should provide an important passage to something you were trying to achieve long ago and then gave up on.

Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)

It's all about tests for the next few weeks, as you push yourself beyond old limits and set your sights on goals that seemed out of reach until very recently. You'll surprise yourself more than you will anyone else by knuckling down and working it out in the time allotted. A negative opinion you've held toward a family member or close friend may be all wrong—look to a breezy Gemini native to see where the truth is hiding.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)

Like the stately maple whose leaves change to glorious gold and crimson this time of year, you water-bearers will be bursting into your own true colors in order to gain more recognition and some added attention. All the tree wants is to become a little more poplar—but the show is fleeting and your time in the spotlight could be as brief as the leaves that soon fall off. A big bash the weekend of the 14th may actually be more fun than you need.

Pisces (February 21 - March 20)

When you give and you give and you give, you expect to get at least a little tossed back your way in exchange. Things have been a little off-kilter in that department lately, however, and you may be having serious doubts as to whether there are any obvious benefits to be reaped from all this generosity. Maybe that's the problem—you're forgetting that the benefits aren't always obvious. Be yourself and you'll be taken care of in time.

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

Just because you're readily able to laugh at your own foibles, that doesn't mean you're allowed to have fun at the expense of others. Take a look at whom you might actually be hurting before you plan and carry out your next impractical joke. Gossip is definitely not your friend this month—be particularly careful not to pass along things you shouldn't hear on or around the 15th. At the very least, don't pass it

along until you check the fax.

Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

The message from ruling Venus this month is to take your time, Taurus. But what the lady is referring to is up to you to decipher. Perhaps you're acting hastily when it comes to love, or maybe it's a race for monetary gain that has you revved. Whatever the cause, the answer is to let go of what you can't change and to cool it on the criticism. A dinner party or small gathering on or near the 10th could be your moment to shine.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

What makes the muskrat guard his musk? Courage! You're no cowardly lion these days, what with everything you've got to organize and control and take over. Who better to do it than you? I certainly can't think of anyone and neither can anyone else, so get in the front seat and put the pedal to the metal (that's just a figure of speech. Don't actually drive faster, okay?). And don't worry about ticking off the rest of us. We love you when you get like this.

Cancer (June 21 - July 20)

You often prefer working alone, but you'll get further in your endeavors by being a team player, especially when it comes to activities undertaken the weekend of the 6th. It could be a good idea to give up some of the decision-making, too. Or at least trust your partner or partners with a vote in the matter. Look to Scorpio's message for a clue, and allow yourself to really enjoy the resulting experience with no more second guessing.

Leo (July 21 - August 20)

Exercise your heart and exercise your mind, and get with the program (never mind that it's Oprah's old theme, just do it) before the temptation to give in to lackadaisical laziness overwhelms your every move. It may help your motivation to stay out of the sun until both your head and mood clear. An aware Aires may be just the energetic influence you need these days, so follow the ram's lead and do something invigorating.

Virgo (August 21 - September 20)

"Welcome, everybody!" My, my. You're the hostess with the mostest this month and you can pull it all off with aplomb, as long as others cooperate with your authority and contribute to your plans, at least in some small way. Resist the urge to explode when rules regarding your big event appear inflexible; try instead to laugh it off and look at the preparation as being integral to the project, instead of focusing only on the results.

Libra (September 21 - October 20)

You generally aren't fond of any type of waiting, but there are some unusual things occurring within your social sphere—maybe early this month—that should prove well worth waiting for. If your common practice of walking out when you're feeling stood up finds you going home alone and early, stay for another dance or another drink and see who turns up. But stay focused and don't put your faith in any naughty ideas until after mid-month.

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WHERE THE BEARS & LEATHERMEN ARE IN PHOENIX...

HEALTHY

Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities
& Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



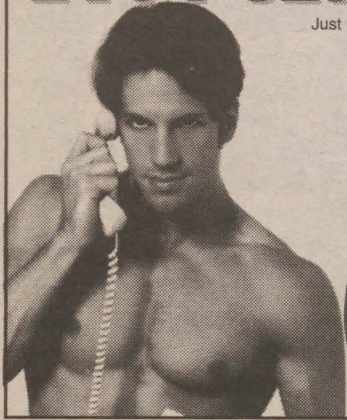
"They [ABC & Disney] allowed me to do it [the sitcom]. I was a bad litmus test. People stopped watching the show. I lost my job. I've been through a dark, dark time. I won't lie and say I haven't been very depressed."

—Ellen DeGeneres at a San Francisco fundraiser against the Hawaiian ballot measure to ban gay marriage, Sept. 29.

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"We talk about it all the time. But then we come home at 2 a.m. and say we don't want to give up our freedom. ... You can't use a spray bottle on a baby [like we do on our kitten]."

—Ellen DeGeneres on having a baby, at a San Francisco fundraiser against the Hawaiian ballot measure to ban gay marriage, Sept. 29.

"She was sitting in the first row looking up at me [when I sang Beauty and the Beast at the 1995 Academy Awards] and I almost lost it. I love her, I admire her whole career."

—Singer Celine Dion on Barbra Streisand, to Agence France- Presse, Oct. 1.

"I'm not 'admitting' that I'm gay. I'm telling you that I'm gay."

—Former Navy officer Timothy McVeigh, who was at the center of the military/America Online/Internet-privacy scandal earlier this year, coming out publicly for the first time at the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association convention Oct. 2 in Las Vegas.

"We [my partner and I] were taught by [AIDS activist] Mary Fisher to simply not answer those questions [about whether we are HIV- positive or not]. It's the scarlet-letter

mentality. We need to set the precedent that that doesn't matter."

—Gay Republican former Congressman Steve Gunderson to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Oct. 4.

"The real message behind these ads is that lesbians and gay men exist. There it is: We exist. No amount of slickly packaged advertising can change that. The unmitigated gall of the people behind this campaign is appalling. When you get right down to it, these groups are showing their hand to the entire country and their message isn't really about 'hope' or 'healing' or 'understanding,' but rather, about intolerance, deception and moral bankruptcy. This new campaign represents what has become a relentless, well-financed and reprehensible assault on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. So there you have it: Bottomless pockets overflowing with hollow messages."

—GLAAD Executive Director Joan Garry Oct. 7 in response to the Family Research Council's announcement of a new TV ad campaign promoting "conversion" of lesbians and gay men to heterosexuality.

"If this campaign is about truth or love, then George Orwell must be its honorary chairman. No matter how much the Religious Right tries to dress it up, bigotry is still bigotry."

—People For the American Way President Carole Shields on the Center for Reclaiming America's new "Truth in Love" TV ad campaign promoting "conversion" of lesbians and gay men to heterosexuality, Oct. 8.

"For far too long, the gay liberationists promoted the tragic lie that no avenue of sexuality was any better or nobler than any other; that all demands for responsibility or fidelity or commitment or even healthier psychological integration were mere covers for 'neoconservatism' or, worse, 'self-hatred'; that even in the teeth of a viral catastrophe, saving lives was less important than saving a culture of 'promiscuity as a collective way of life,' when, of course, it was little more than a collective way of death."

—Gay author Andrew Sullivan in his new book, *Love Undetectable: Notes on Friendship, Sex, and Survival*.

"After my [HIV] infection, as before, I followed the condom code to the letter, did my best to be public about my HIV status and to tell most, if not all, of my sexual partners. If asked, I never lied. But it was amazing, perhaps, how infrequently I was asked."

—Gay author Andrew Sullivan in his new book, *Love Undetectable*.

"Vehement and venomous and quite often life-threatening."

—Film director William Friedkin on gay activists' response to his 1980 film *Cruising*, to *London's Gay Times*, October issue.

"I met this guy who was really into the cyber-world, and he was quite fun, and he was very romantic with it. There was a lot of cyber-kissing going on. He kept on arranging to meet me in different chat rooms. And then after a while he said, 'I want to go cyber-steady with you.' I said OK, and he typed in O for a ring, and told me that it was for eternity. ... We even

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created our own chatroom and it was 'our room,' and we'd talk about what our day was like. I was his cyber-boyfriend. Fidelity was demanded—cyber and real. That was very strange. It was quite funny, but I kept on thinking, 'Are you for real? You might be.'"

—Netizen "Andrew," as quoted in an article entitled "Beyond Cybersex" in London's *Gay Times*, October issue.

"I was deeply grieved by the act of violence perpetrated against Matthew Shepard of Wyoming. The Justice Department has assured me that local law enforcement officials are proceeding diligently to bring those responsible to justice. And I am determined that we will do everything we can and offer whatever assistance is appropriate. Hillary and I ask that your thoughts and your prayers be with Mr. Shepard and his family, and with the people of Laramie, Wyoming. In the face of this terrible act of violence, they are joining together to demonstrate that an act of evil like this is not what our country is all about. In fact it strikes at the very heart of what it means to be an American and at the values that define us as a Nation. We must all reaffirm that we will not tolerate this. Just this year there have been a number of recent tragedies across our country that involve hate crimes. The vicious murder of James Byrd last June in Jasper, Texas and the assault this week on Mr. Shepard are only among the most horrifying examples. Almost one year ago I proposed that Congress enact the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Our Federal laws already punish some

crimes committed against people on the basis of race or religion or national origin, but we should do more. This crucial legislation would strengthen and expand the ability of the Justice Department to prosecute hate crimes by removing needless jurisdictional requirements for existing crimes and by giving Federal prosecutors the power to prosecute hate crimes committed because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender, or disability. All Americans deserve protection from hate. There is nothing more important to the future of this country than our standing together against intolerance, prejudice, and violent bigotry. It is not too late for Congress to take action before they adjourn and pass The Hate Crimes Prevention Act. By doing so they will help make all Americans more safe and secure."

—President Bill Clinton, Oct. 10.

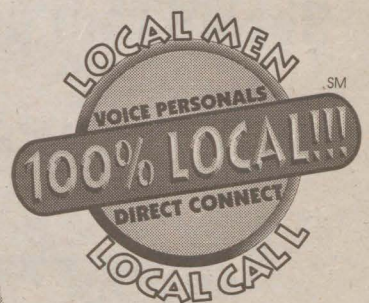
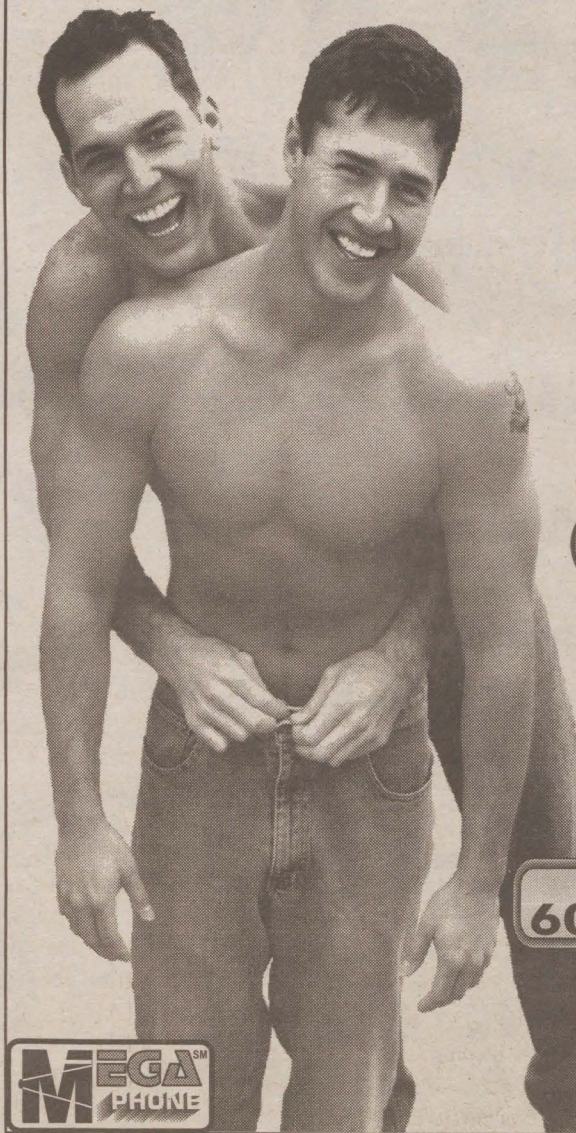
"Matt Shepard spoke three languages or more. He seemed bright and open and full of promise. We will never know what he would have done in life. But in death, in a nation sickened by the gratuitous thuggery of his murder, he may do much to dispel the stubborn belief in some quarters that homosexuals are not discriminated against. They are. Hatred can kill. The men accused of killing Matthew Shepard will be tried for first-degree murder. But his death makes clear the need for hate-crime laws to protect those who survive and punish those who attack others, whether fatally or not, just because of who they are."

—Editorial in *The New York Times*, Oct. 13.

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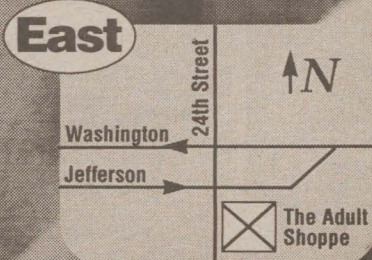
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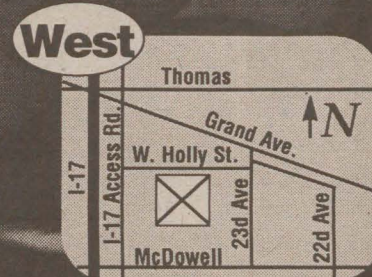
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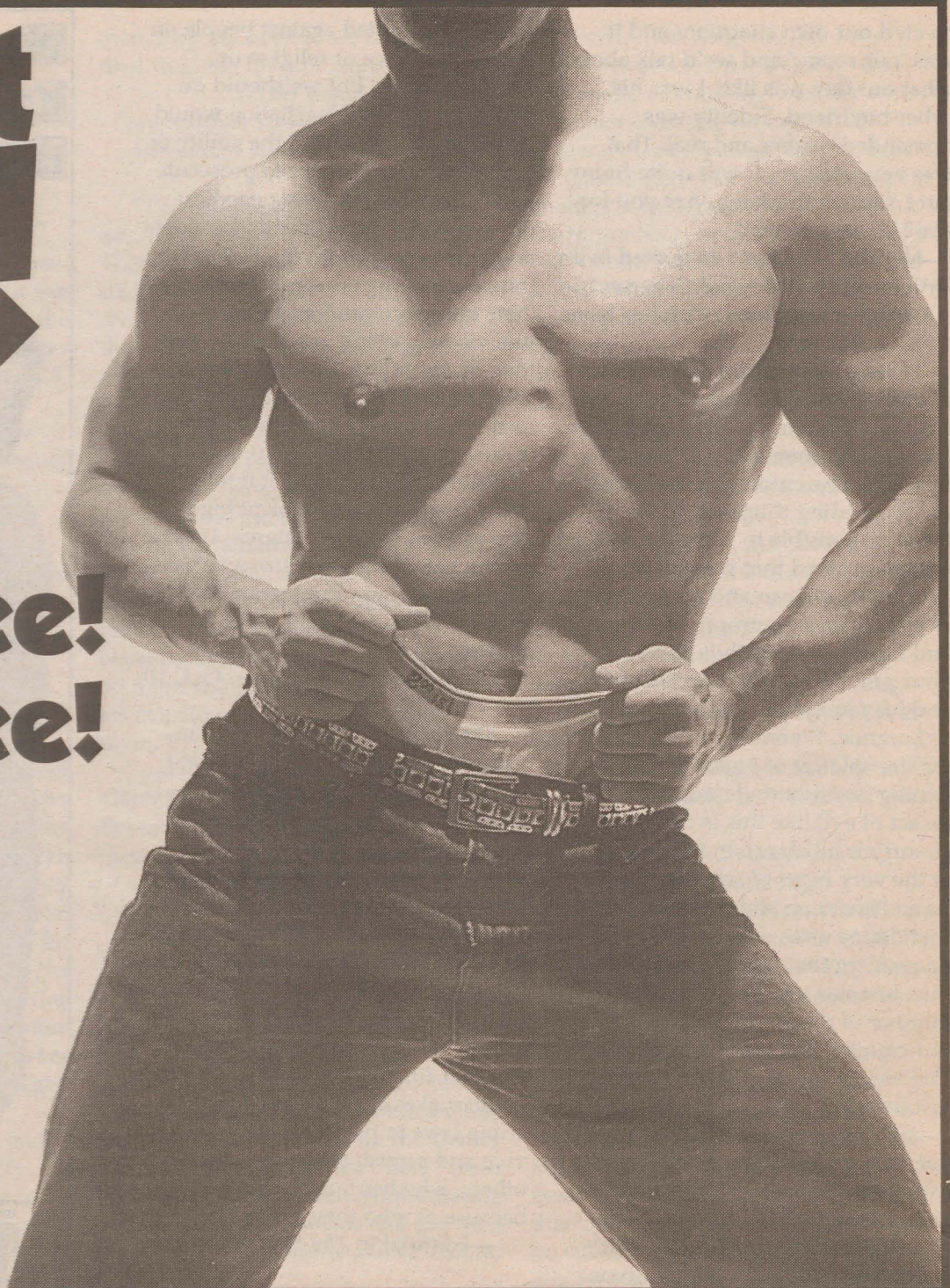
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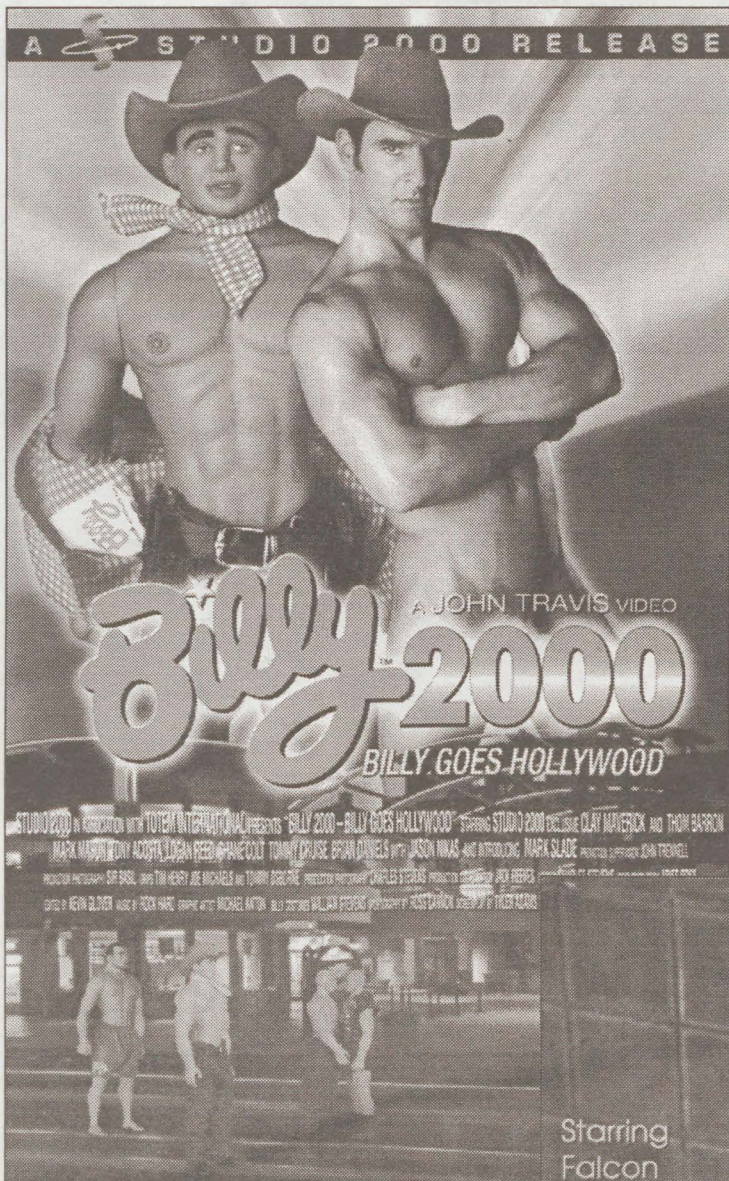
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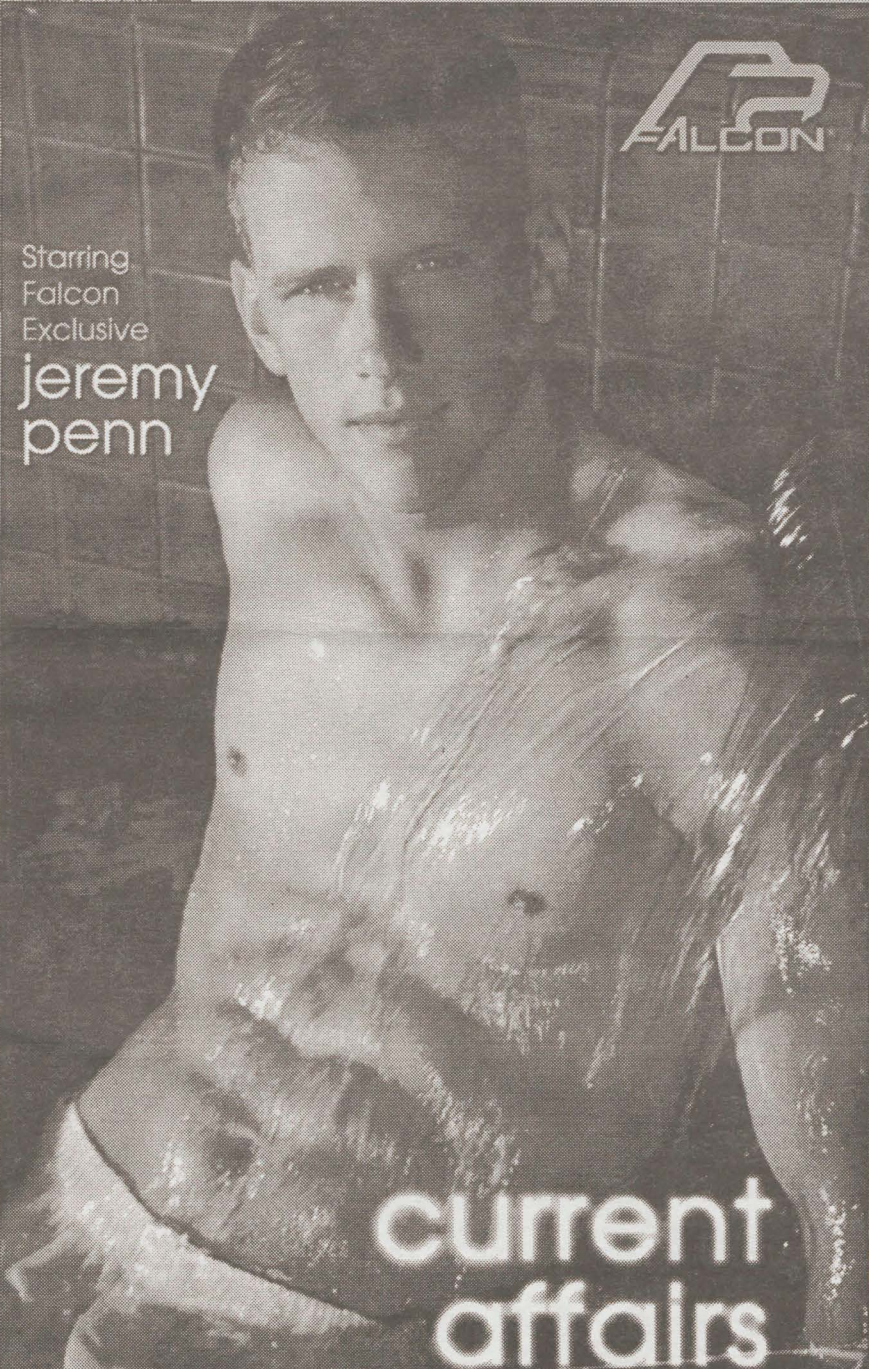
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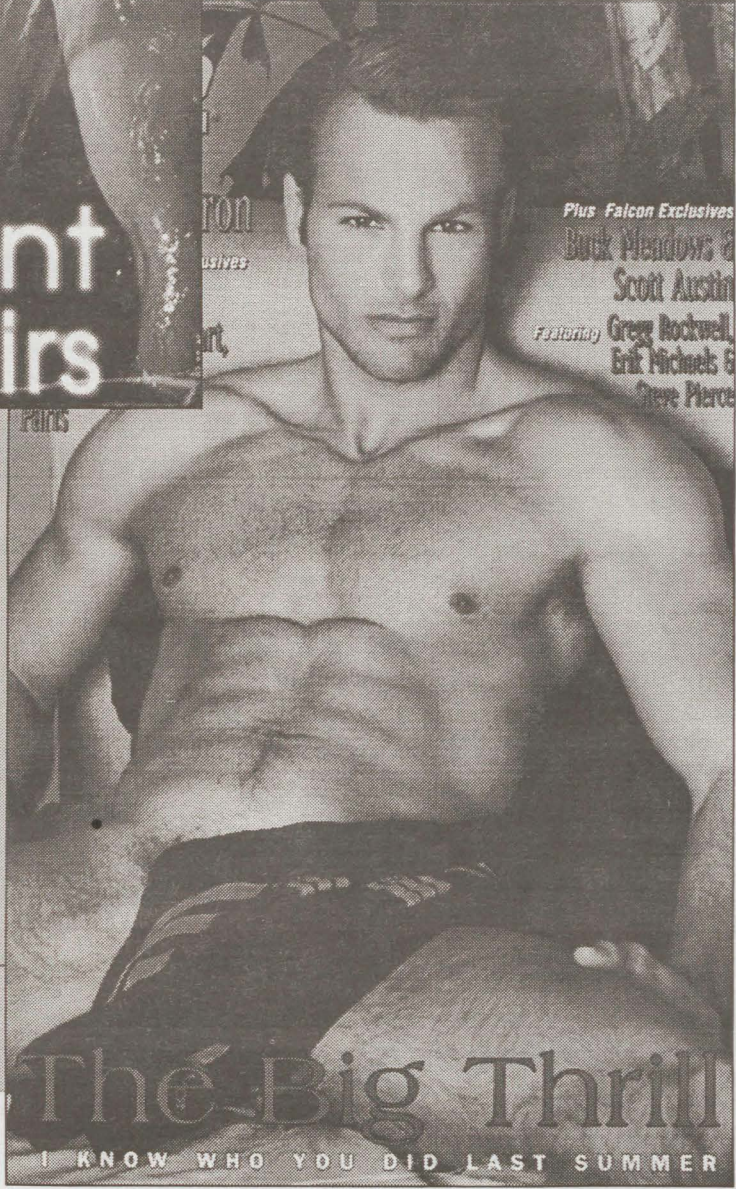
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Theatre Locations

- 4029 E. Washington
- 1838 Grand Avenue

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