

HeatStroke

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The Entirely Fabulous Cartooning Life of Eric Orner

By Bradley David, Contributing Writer

Interviewing Eric Orner, creator of the wildly popular gay comic strip *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green*, can be challenging. The unassuming 34-year-old isn't interested in playing the part of the celebri-gay and says he can't imagine that anyone would be very curious about his personal life.

"I love talking about the process [of cartooning], but my background—the biography of a cartoonist—is not particularly dramatic," says Orner.

We'll be the judge of that.

It was ten years ago that the Chicago native first introduced gay everyman Ethan Green in the pages of Boston's gay weekly, *Bay Windows*. Today the



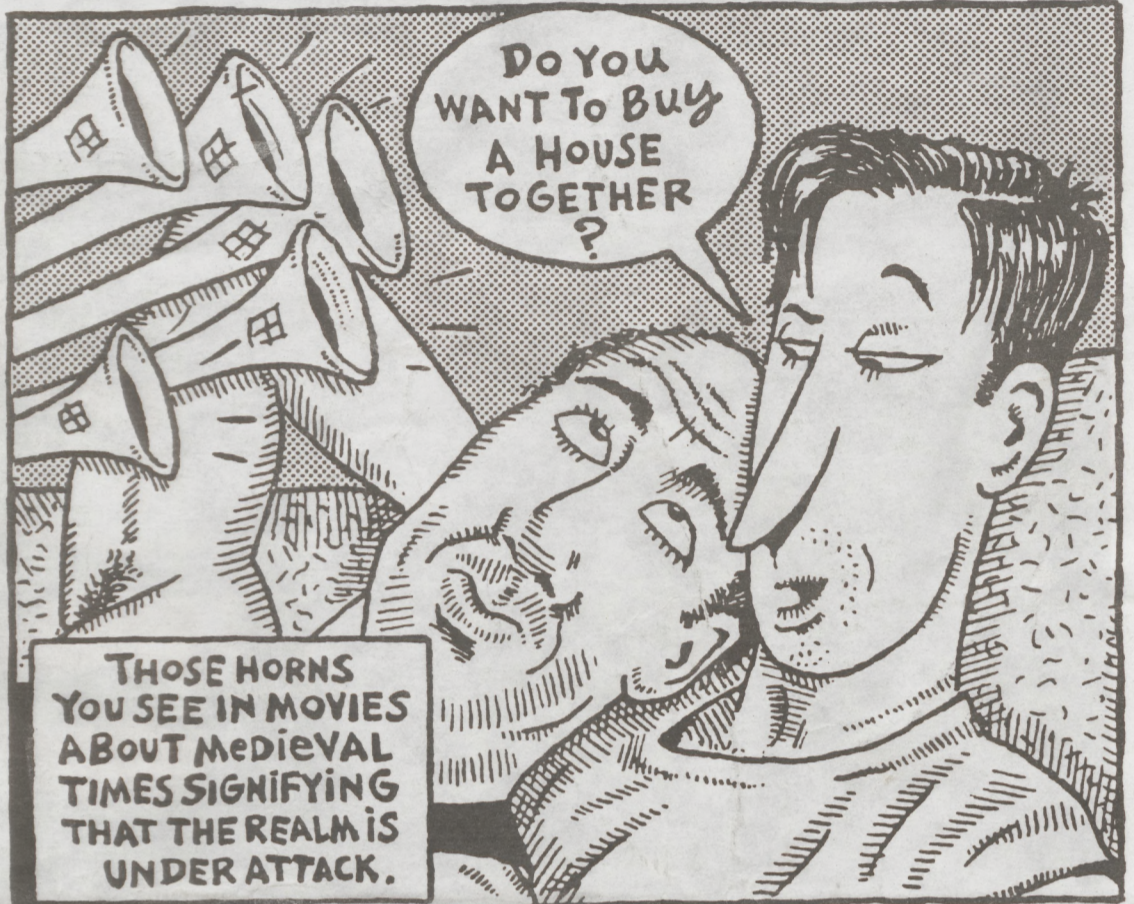
Ethan Green is an average gay guy doing his best to cope with life in the gay ghetto.

comic strip appears in more than 60 gay and alternative publications in the U.S., Canada, and the UK (including *HeatStroke*).

St. Martin's Press just published its fourth collection of Orner's work in a series called *The Ethan Green Chronicles*, and Orner recently sold the rights for a live-action independent film based on the strip.

"It was all a lark," says Orner of the strip's origins. "I was just drawing this gay-oriented cartoon to entertain myself. I didn't expect it to be printed, and God knows I didn't expect four books to come out of it."

Orner was just 13 when he sold his first cartoon to the *Chicago Daily News* in



1977. He drew cartoons for his high school and college newspapers and, after graduating from Boston's Tufts University, worked as the editorial cartoonist for the *Concord Daily Monitor* in New Hampshire.

"New Hampshire is like if you took some of the harshest, most mean-spirited counties in Mississippi and tacked them above New England," says Orner. "It's really right-wing, but Concord—the state capital—is kind of this besieged outpost of liberalism, and the daily paper up there is kind of a great old independent liberal paper. The biggest city in New

Hampshire is Manchester, and it's completely dominated by a really vociferous right-wing paper, so my job every day

was to somehow annoy the publisher of the *Manchester Union Leader*."

With Ronald Reagan in the White House, Orner had plenty of targets for his biting political cartoons, but the conservative atmosphere of New Hampshire kept him in the closet.

"I was out only in the sense that I'd get in my car and go to Boston and hang out in gay bars," he says. "It was a hard time because the mushroom cloud of HIV had just formed over gay life. The attitudes towards gay people in places

See "Ethan Green," page 12



Charlotte is Ethan's sharp-tongued lesbian neighbor who loves him, and is the only person in his life who can shoot a basket.

Medical Board gives gay doctor "one last chance"

Fisher may continue to treat patients with indefinite probation; BOMEX chief calls action "very balanced decision"

By Kelly J. Reidhead, Managing Editor

On Sept. 24, the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners (BOMEX) unanimously voted to revoke Dr. Ken Fisher's license to practice medicine because of sexual misconduct with former patients. At the same time, BOMEX agreed to stay the revocation so long as the physician complies with the terms of probation ordered by the Board.

The decision to stay the revocation will allow Dr. Fisher to continue treating patients.

Ken Fisher is an openly gay physician who practices in Central Phoenix; in the early days of the AIDS pandemic, he was one of the first doctors in the Valley to specialize in the treatment of HIV.

Dr. Tim Hunter, the Board member assigned to the Fisher case, offered a substitute order that significantly modified the recommendation of Brian B. Tully, the

Administrative Law Judge who conducted the 14-day evidentiary hearing that began Feb. 22.

Hunter's substitute order—which he circulated during the Sept. 24 meeting—strips away many of Judge Tully's findings on the grounds that they were irrelevant or mischaracterized the evidence that was produced at the hearing. Hunter's substitute order was unanimously adopted by the Board—with a few modifications—at the Sept. 24 meeting.

BOMEX took issue with many of Judge Tully's recommendations. For example, the Board significantly modified the language that describes Fisher's sexual transgressions.

Tully's recommendation simply stated that Fisher had "acknowledged boundary issues with gay male patients." The Board's final order, however, restates the same finding in terms that are much more

pointed: "[Fisher] acknowledged he crossed sexual boundaries with gay male patients." In a footnote, the order explains that the finding was "amended

The BOMEX final order flatly states that Dr. Fisher "has a sexual disorder that led to numerous patients perceiving they had been sexually victimized or violated."

to more accurately reflect the Board's review of the evidence."

The Board's final order flatly states that Fisher "has a sexual disorder that led to numerous patients perceiving they had

been sexually victimized or violated." Consequently, the order continues, Fisher's "therapy for this disorder will be ongoing for a long period of time, possibly for the duration of his medical career."

The BOMEX final order also sharply disagrees with Judge Tully's findings regarding the weight and credibility of the evidence presented at the hearing.

Judge Tully recommended that there was "insufficient evidence" to suspend or revoke

Fisher's medical license. BOMEX's final order, however, entirely rejects Tully's characterization of the evidence because the judge did not appropriately consider

See "Fisher," page 5



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Horowitz:

Accidental Activism

I often call myself an accidental activist. I never dreamed that I would be openly gay, much less engage in political battles over civil rights or write for the gay press.

When I came out, I self-imposed a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. When I suggested that I might say something to one or two people at work, my mother almost begged me not to. We knew some of the horror stories about people losing careers and families and their lives. The closet provided safety and security. Martina Navratilova was the world's most famous lesbian, and she lost many lucrative endorsements when she acknowledged that she "preferred the company of women."

Martina didn't, however, lose her status as the greatest female tennis player. As a tennis fan, I noticed that her talent wasn't affected by her personal revelations. Meanwhile, her enthusiasm for life began to soar. She found her voice. Martina's experiences were evidence of the positive and negative consequences of coming out.

Today, Martina—like every person who has ever come out—would never even dream of remaining in the closet, given the choice to do it all over again. If you or anyone you know regrets coming out of the closet, please contact me through *HeatStroke*. I'd like to hear about it.

Openly gay role models appeared everywhere in the 1990s—even in one of the last bastions of heterosexism, men's professional team sports. Most of these activists didn't set out to become activists. They just wanted to live their lives quietly and uneventfully, but free from prejudice, harassment, discrimination and bodily harm.

Candace Gingrich, for example, was openly gay long before her brother became Speaker of the House. Apart from what many considered an unfortunate haircut, her open lesbianism was unremarkable. But the animosity Newt leveled against our community was too much for Candace. Her simple life became a political statement, whether she wanted it to or not.

Arizona Rep. Steve May fought for a long time against being labeled a gay activist. He fought so hard initially that he didn't receive active support for his early State Senate campaign from the gay community. Until this year, his homosexuality was more of a

fundraising tool than a political cause. Yet the antigay stance of his fellow legislators and the military's exclusionary policies have thrust May into the national political spotlight.

Betty DeGeneres serves as the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project spokeswoman. Until Ellen came out, and even for a long time thereafter, Betty's primary contribution was as a loving parent. Who knew that her daughter's life and relationship would place Betty on the national gay pride speaking circuit?

Before the murder of their son, Matthew Shepard's parents didn't even spend much time in the United States, let alone could they imagine testifying before Congress in support of hate crimes legislation, or starring in public service announcements on MTV.

Chastity Bono was outed by the tabloid press: Cher's parental devastation overshadowed her nondiscriminatory value system for a time, yet she eventually supported Chastity and the entire gay community. When she accepted an award from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, she asked, "Chastity, are you sufficiently proud of me now?"

Some political activists get their motivation from the political soapbox itself. They would be politically motivated and involved whatever their sexual orientation. Congressmen Barney Frank, Steve Gunderson and Jim Kolbe didn't come out until after they had established political careers and gotten elected. A significant number of us, however, have been propelled into the political arena by outrage that accompanies the consequences of injustice and inequality.

Thankfully, the number of accidental activists grows as more people come out of the closet.

Our community used to point out that there were openly gay doctors, lawyers and accountants. Now we can point to openly gay police officers, television personalities and teachers. Founders of National Coming Out Day believed that coming out was our most effective political action strategy. Twelve years later, on October 11, 1999, it still is.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and activist. He can be reached in care of *HeatStroke*, or at DashingDav@aol.com.

Editors:

It has been a few months since my name surfaced in a March 4, 1999 *Arizona Republic* front page story and a March 11 *HeatStroke* article about the Veterans Parade Planning Committee being embarrassed by the presence of a "cross-dresser" in the Nov. 11, 1998 parade. This has been one of those issues where both the straight and gay communities had problems distinguishing between gender identity and sexual orientation. When someone of a transsexual disposition is singled out, therein lies the discrimination. If the dress fits, wear it.

I am not a "cross-dresser". I am a full-time, male-to-female transsexual. I live, work and play as a female. I am also a Vietnam war veteran with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, which means a day doesn't go by without memories of the event whacking my spirit with the force of a 2-by-4. I am a survivor of war, a plague, and now I'm working on transition.

My war experiences and my gender transition are of the same flesh—societal isolation. My family and others couldn't deal with the war, and they aren't dealing with my transition now. It is almost impossible to achieve affirmation of self within such silence. When I walked in that Nov. 11 parade, for a brief moment an overwhelming provide and acknowledgment came over me because I was proclaiming my self-

worth as a veteran and a woman with the world watching. The silence was broken. Healing had begun. Then came March 4. I guess the world wasn't so thrilled with my elation.

I now face the Nov. 11, 1999 parade knowing that I will not be in that parade, nor will there be closure for me. Something started by someone else will not allow me to see it through to its conclusion.

The Phoenix Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (PGLBVA) changed the rules and will keep me from attending. It was decided there will be an honor guard to precede general membership.

I survived [a war], so now non-combat veterans can say, "no honor guard practice, no parade." If I did wish to attend the practice sessions—and I don't (been there, didn't like it then. Don't like it now)—my work schedule would not allow me. And if any community veterans would like to join as they did last year—just to

affirm their patriotism—they won't be allowed to this year. It's now "Members Only", which, by the way, is what the Vietnam Veterans of America said when I attempted to attend one of their meetings recently. I can't see a whole lot of difference between the exclusionary tactics of the PGLBVA and the VNVA.

To sum it all up, somewhere long the way the March 4 news brief shifted from transgender discrimination to a "gay" victory over the parade committee, but guess what? The committee is getting just what they want: the transgender who doesn't pass well is not going to ruin their parade this year.

Gentlemen, there is no victory here. They win. you lose. Don't ask, don't tell. Right?

Please accept my resignation from your little club. This old warrior will take her dignity, her purse and move on.

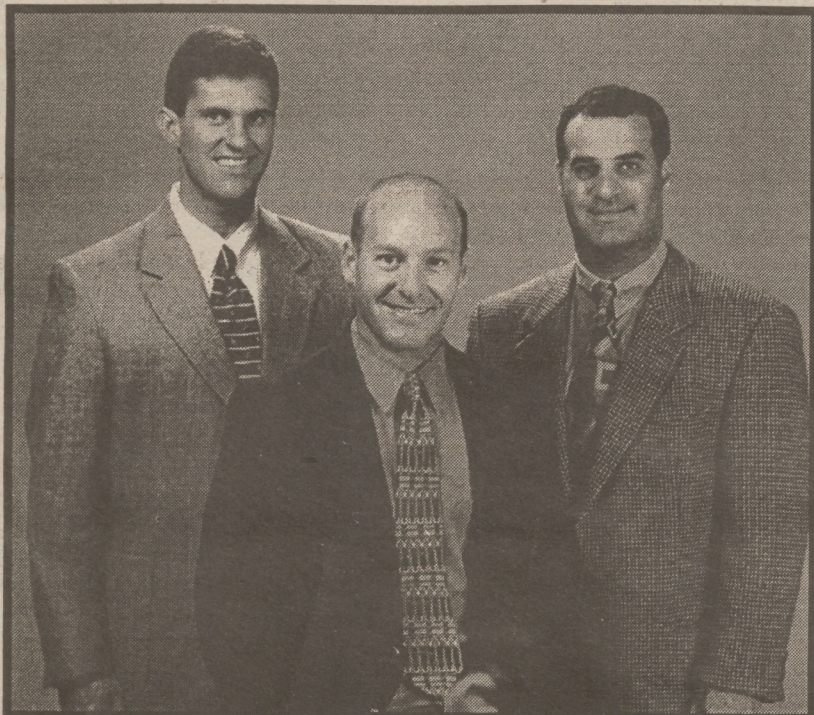
Neala Lynn Balmes,
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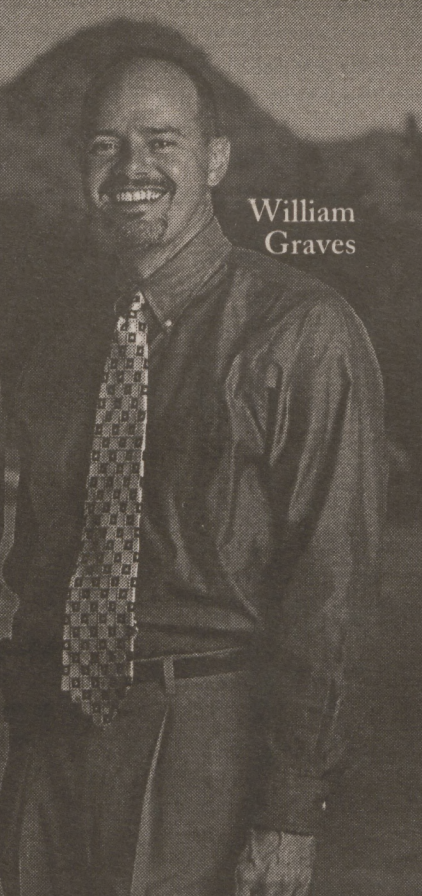


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Deb Price Gore and Bradley want our votes—we need more details

Bill Bradley has stolen the ball from Al Gore on a court where the vice president had historic advantages—the gay community. And Bradley has heads turning, including mine.

Wooring progressive voters, the former pro basketball star recently launched a high-profile media blitz, methodically laying out gay positions that in tone and substance go farther than Gore's.

Bradley has advocated scrapping the offensive "Don't ask, don't tell" ban on gays serving openly in the military, amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act to outlaw anti-gay bias in employment, housing and public accommodations, and granting "all the legal and economic benefits" of marriage to committed gay couples.

He's also matching Gore's outreach—listening to gay teens' troubles, doing a far-reaching interview for a cover story in a national gay magazine, and keynoting a gay Human Rights Campaign dinner. But Bradley's not just turning gay heads: Gore quickly got some backbone and followed Bradley's lead in opposing a divisive California referendum to ban recognition of same-sex marriages.

Bradley's views—recently spelled out in the *Advocate*, a letter to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and on ABC-TV's *This Week*—show he's aggressively courting the gay vote. In 1996, the gay-identified vote was 5 percent. That's larger than the Latino or Jewish vote.

Until now, I've counted myself among those voters who, quite frankly, saw Bradley as a pest interfering with Gore's painfully halting efforts to become the next gay-friendly president. As vice president, Gore has been a reliable, trusted and outspoken friend of the gay community. For example, he forcefully lined up Senate votes for a federal law to ban anti-gay job discrimination that fell just one vote short of passage in 1996.

In contrast, Bradley, despite a generally excellent gay-rights record, was not a visible, vocal trailblazer on gay issues in the Senate.

Rather than refusing to acknowledge that the very experienced Gore is so far turning out to be a surprisingly weak presidential candidate, those of us eager to keep the White House in the hands of a gay-rights advocate ought to welcome the upcoming struggle. Ideally, the Democratic primary season will force Gore to find his footing or will weed him out by proving that Bradley—moving up in key polls—is more worthy of the nomination.

Bradley's sudden moves to woo gay voters offer a critical opportunity to press the two rivals for details.

Gore needs to be quizzed on why he supports the absolutely indefensible "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. Toting some of President Clinton's unattractive baggage, Gore has patronizingly said that the military bans implementation just needs to be "fairer," more "compassionate"—as if discrimination could ever be fair or humane.

In contrast, Bradley sounded confident

Gore says he supports "legal protections for domestic partnership." What protections does he mean and what, exactly, would he do as president to secure them? Would he, for example, push to extend spousal Social Security benefits to gay couples?

and reasonable when recently pressed to explain his support of gay soldiers. In a wonderful moment, Bradley threw ABC commentator George Will on the defensive, challenging him to justify the ban.

Both Gore and Bradley oppose same-sex marriage, supporting domestic partnerships instead. Bradley's sketchy proposal appears to go farther than Gore's.

Gore says he supports "legal protections for domestic partnership." What protections does he mean and what, exactly, would he do as president to secure them? Would he, for example, push to extend spousal Social Security benefits to gay couples? Bradley says gay couples should have "all" the legal and economic benefits that go with marriage—an approach that sounds as if it would follow Denmark's lead. Bradley needs to be asked: Does "all" really mean all?

Which Democratic presidential player has the talent and vision to build on the many good parts of Clinton's gay-rights legacy? The answer isn't yet clear. We need to hear much more from Bradley and Gore.

Deb Price of the *Detroit News'* Washington bureau writes this gay-issues column. Price is co-author with Joyce Murdoch of *And Say Hi to Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out* (Doubleday). Write to her in care of *HeatStroke*, or at GNS Features, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22229-0001.

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PV, Scottsdale events give May the early fundraising edge

Hosts.

A second gay community fundraiser was held for May on Oct. 2 at the North Scottsdale home of Mark Scott and Marty Young. The suggested minimum contribution at the reception and dinner was \$30.

May, an openly gay GOP legislator, estimates that the campaign to retain his seat could cost as much as \$100,000, and may cost more if he is targeted for defeat by anti-gay conservatives.

Two recent fundraising receptions to benefit Rep. Steve May's 2000 reelection bid in Dist. 26 have paid off big for the one-term, East Phoenix Republican.

With the election still more than a year away, May's campaign took in over \$50,000 at a Sept. 29 fete in Paradise Valley, setting a new record for political fundraising from within Arizona's gay community. That amount far surpassed a June, 1998 fundraiser for May that raised more than \$17,000—the previous record.

The evening event, held at the home of Dain Adelman and Scott Sutherland, had more than 100 gay, lesbian and gay-friendly Sponsors who donated the maximum allowable contribution of \$256. An additional 35 people kicked in \$125, to be listed as



Scott Sutherland, Rep. Steve May and Dain Adelman

BOMEX revokes, but stays revocation, of Dr. Ken Fisher's medical license

continued from page 1

the "seriousness of the activity found." The final order finds that Dr. Fisher's actions constituted unprofessional conduct that violated three different Arizona laws governing physicians: 1) "sexual intimacies with a patient"; 2) "any conduct or practice which is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public"; and 3) "violating a formal order, probation, consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the Board, or its Executive Director".

The final order concludes, "there is sufficient evidence of record to support a decision to impose serious discipline... the evidence of record warrants high level discipline."

The order Fisher violated is a 1996 agreement between the physician and BOMEX that settled sexual misconduct charges brought by a former patient in 1995. The 1996 order required Dr. Fisher to undergo continued psychotherapy and to maintain a chaperone during every patient exam.

In his recommendation, Judge Tully proposed that the chaperone would no longer be required if patients signed a "knowing and voluntary waiver." If ultimately adopted by the Board, the provision would have allowed Dr. Fisher to conduct his examinations in private—without a chaperone—provided his patients signed the requisite waiver.

The Board's final order throws out the waiver provision of Judge Tully's recommendation.

Instead, BOMEX reaffirms and strengthens the requirement that Fisher perform every patient examination in the presence of a chaperone.

The final order notes that Fisher admitted he conducted many patient

exams without chaperones, and that when he did have chaperones present, he conducted the exams behind a curtain and required the chaperone to stand outside the exam room with the door ajar. At the hearing, Fisher stated that the chaperones could nevertheless view the examination by looking at the reflections of pictures hanging on the walls of the exam rooms.

The final order finds that Fisher "blatantly violated the [1996] chaperone order," and requires—as a condition of his probation—that the "chaperone's view

approved by BOMEX Staff, requires Fisher to grant the agency access to his health care records and requires Fisher to submit to any "future course of treatment... deemed necessary to protect the public health and safety."

The order puts the physician on notice that "any violation of the terms and conditions of this order will result in summary suspension, and any violation proved after hearing will result in revocation of [Fisher's] license."

Fisher is required to reimburse the agency the costs of the evidentiary hearing, which total \$18,419.99. Dr. Ronnie Cox, the Board member who proposed

ment period to three years.

Characterizing Dr. Fisher's case as a "Greek tragedy," Dr. Tim Hunter referred to Fisher's history of being a victim of

The final order concludes, "there is sufficient evidence of record to support a decision to impose serious discipline..."

childhood sexual abuse, implying that this was the cause of the physician's sexual disorder. Despite sympathy for his abusive past, Hunter said that the doctor's behavior nevertheless warranted revocation.

But because Fisher has continued his therapy for the sexual disorder, and because he "is a very good doctor with unique skills that should be preserved," Hunter recommended to the Board that Fisher should be allowed to retain his license. The other Board members apparently agreed, and voted to adopt Hunter's substitute order unanimously.

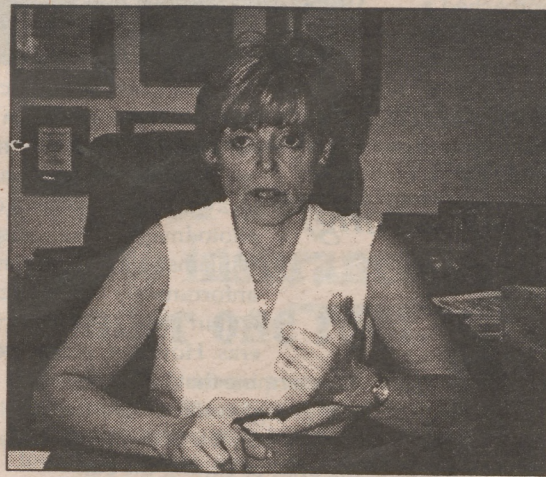
"The Board's action today represents a very balanced decision," said Claudia Foutz, BOMEX Executive Director immediately following the meeting.

The final order specifies that Fisher's license will be suspended immediately—without a hearing—if he violates his probation again. If that violation is proven at a hearing, his license will then be permanently revoked.

"The Board essentially gave Dr. Fisher one last chance," said Tom Dennis, Deputy BOMEX Director.



Dr. Ken Fisher, from his 1981 application to practice medicine in Arizona.



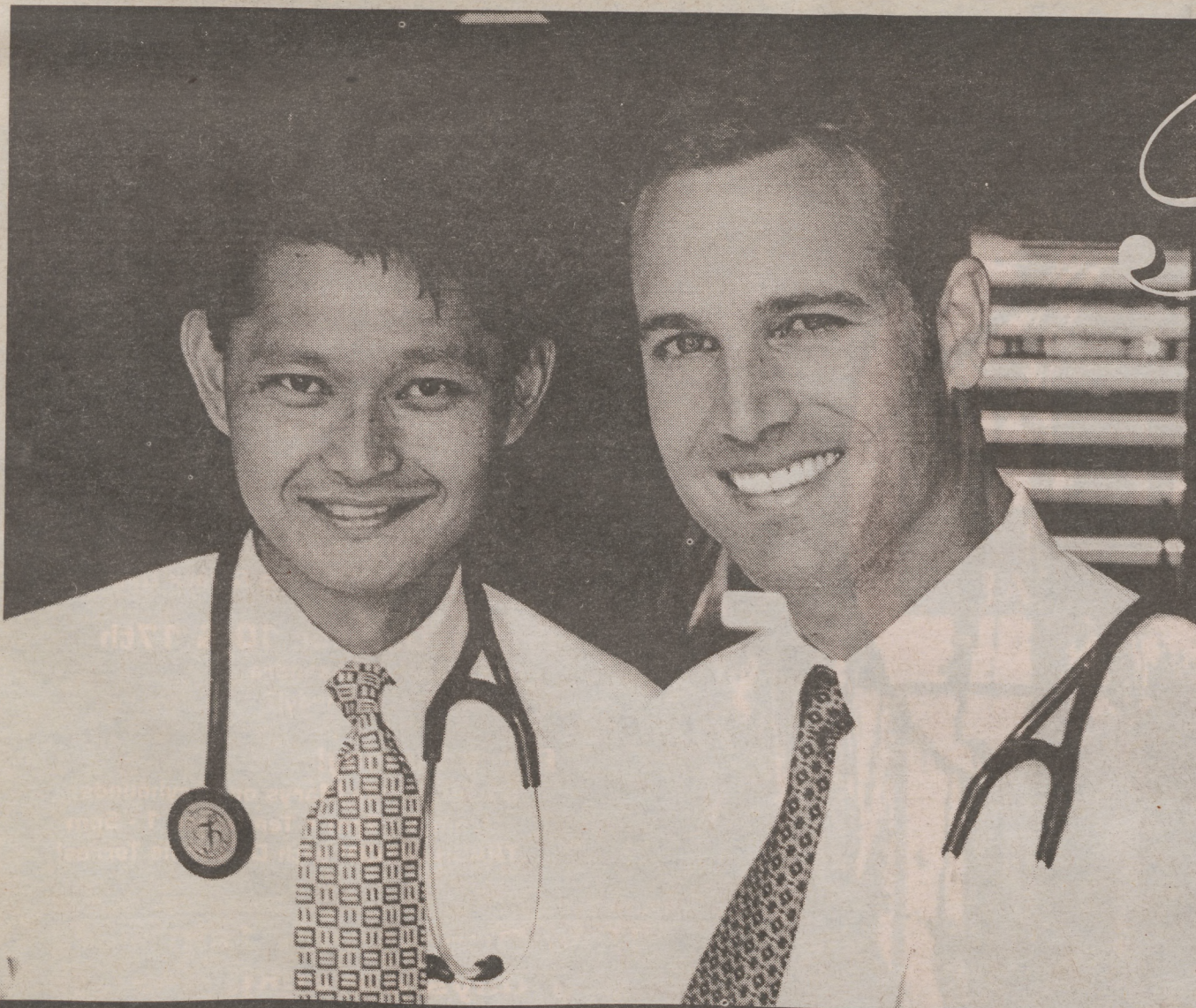
Claudia Foutz, Executive Director of BOMEX, was appointed by Governor Hull in May, 1998.

[of each examination] be unencumbered."

The probation ordered by BOMEX has four requirements:

- The order reinstates the 1996 settlement and chaperone requirement—with the revised "unencumbered view" language.
- The order requires Fisher to continue his psychotherapy with professionals

the reimbursement requirement, originally suggested that Fisher should be required to repay the costs within a one-year period. Fisher's attorney, Calvin Raup, informed the Board that the doctor has filed for personal and corporate bankruptcy, making a one-year repayment schedule an undue financial hardship. In response, the Board extended the repay-



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Police seek community's help in solving hate attacks

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Phoenix police are asking the patrons of a Valley gay nightclub to help identify the person or persons they believe responsible for two possibly anti-gay attacks in which four men were injured—one seriously—on Sept. 26.

Because the victims told police that the attacker appeared to be targeting gay men and used an anti-gay slur during at least one of the assaults, the attacks are being investigated as hate crimes by the city's Bias Crimes Division.

The incidents occurred in the very early morning hours of Sept. 26 at Charlie's, a country/western bar on West Camelback near 7th Ave. in Phoenix.

According to police spokesman Officer Tony Morales, the suspect approached a total of four patrons in the bar's parking

During the second attack, police said the suspect taunted the patrons, asking, "Are you a faggot, too?"

lot as they left the club during after hours, some time between 2:45 and 3:00 am.

In the first incident, Morales said the man "tried to lure" two victims further away from the front of the building before cutting the men at or near their throats with a sharp object he hid in his hand.

In a separate incident shortly thereafter, police said two more patrons were approached by the same man and were also assaulted. One was cut on the throat and seriously injured, while the other man "chased [the attacker] down and got in a fight with him," according to Officer Morales.

As the suspect fled, his victims ran

back into the bar to get help and police were immediately contacted, according to an employee of the bar. The victims, he said, did not want their names released because they did not want to be identified as patrons of a gay establishment.

The employee said the first incident took place on the northeast corner of the strip mall next to the bar, facing Camelback road. The second attack occurred on the south edge of the parking lot near Mariposa Street, he said.

During the second attack, police said the suspect taunted the patrons, asking, "Are you a faggot, too?" For this reason, police have labeled the incidents hate crimes.

Detective Tandra Williams of the Bias Crimes Unit said that police have obtained a video of the parking lot from the bar's security system that clearly shows the suspect and another man loitering in the parking lot "for some time."

The video picture was too far away for police to get a clear photo image of their suspect, Williams said, and the incidents unfortunately did not occur not within view of the security cameras. However, police were able

to determine that "a lot of people coming and going" walked right by the attacker and his possible accomplice while entering and/or exiting the bar.

The man suspected of all the assaults is described as a light skinned black or possibly Hispanic male, 20-25 years old, 5'4" to 5'7" and weighing 140-160 lbs. He had a light mustache and black, close-cropped hair. On the morning in question he wore a beige shirt with a tan stripe and dark, baggy pants. Police say he was acting aggressive and argumentative, and was on foot.

The suspect's companion is wanted for questioning and as a possible witness. He

is described as a 20-25 year old light skinned black or Hispanic male, 6' tall, stocky, with dark hair. He wore dark jeans and a white t-shirt, and may have been on a bike.

"He was obviously targeting gay men at this place," Morales stated. He said that all four injured men—three of whom were cut in the throat and a fourth who sustained injuries while fistfighting the attacker—were treated at local hospitals. Three were released, while the man cut most deeply was admitted.

Morales said that all three of the men who were cut did not realize it at the

time. "They believed they were being slapped and realized they were cut only after noticing that they were bleeding," he said.

Police are asking anyone who remembers seeing one or two suspicious-looking men who match the above descriptions outside Charlie's that Saturday night (or early Sunday morning) to notify the Bias Crimes Unit at 602/262-7331.

"We have no leads except for what people saw," Det. Williams said, "so we are hoping someone will remember something and come forward."

Reno urges intervention to prevent hate crimes

DENVER (AP)—Children who are teased and have little parental support are ticking time bombs, and communities need to develop strategies to deal with them, Attorney General Janet Reno said Monday.

"Hatred starts when a person feels alone and unloved, and they don't feel they have control over their lives, and strike out at others," Reno told participants at a hate crimes summit sponsored by the Justice Department and more than a dozen anti-hate organizations.

Experimental intervention projects in schools show that violence can be reduced if students are taught tolerance, she said.

"These results demonstrated that just as hate can be learned, it can be unlearned," she said. "I have a dream for this country, that just as students can learn other subjects, every teacher can teach our young people to resolve differences without guns and knives."

Although she did not address the Columbine shootings directly, Reno said communities have a duty to stop harassment of minorities, and students need to learn to live with different races.

"If you don't start there, you're too often too late," she said.

Reno said laws need to be changed to allow more federal intervention in hate crimes. She said there are no special provisions in federal law for attacks based on sexual orientation, gender or disabilities.

U.S. Attorney Tom Strickland specifically cited the attack on Matthew Shepard, a gay student who was beaten unconscious and tied to a ranch fence Oct. 7 outside Laramie, Wyo. He died several days later.

Strickland said hate crimes never stop, and said the Shepard slaying "still resonates throughout the country."

Strickland said a new advertising campaign will target violations of federal gun laws, which he admitted are often ignored because "there were no significant penalties."

The program, "Colorado Project Exile," is patterned after a similar program in Richmond, Va., to reduce gun violence, and will feature billboards, public service announcements on radio, and television ads. Law enforcement officers from across the state showed up to back the U.S. attorney's program.

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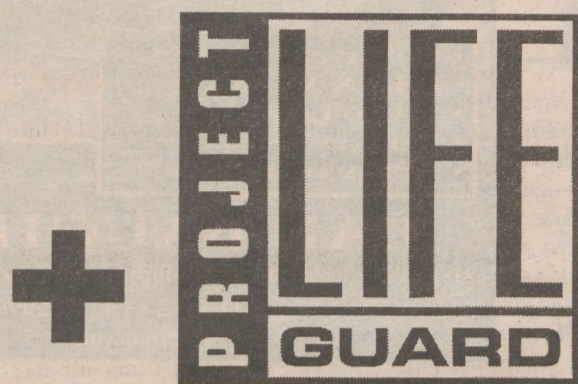
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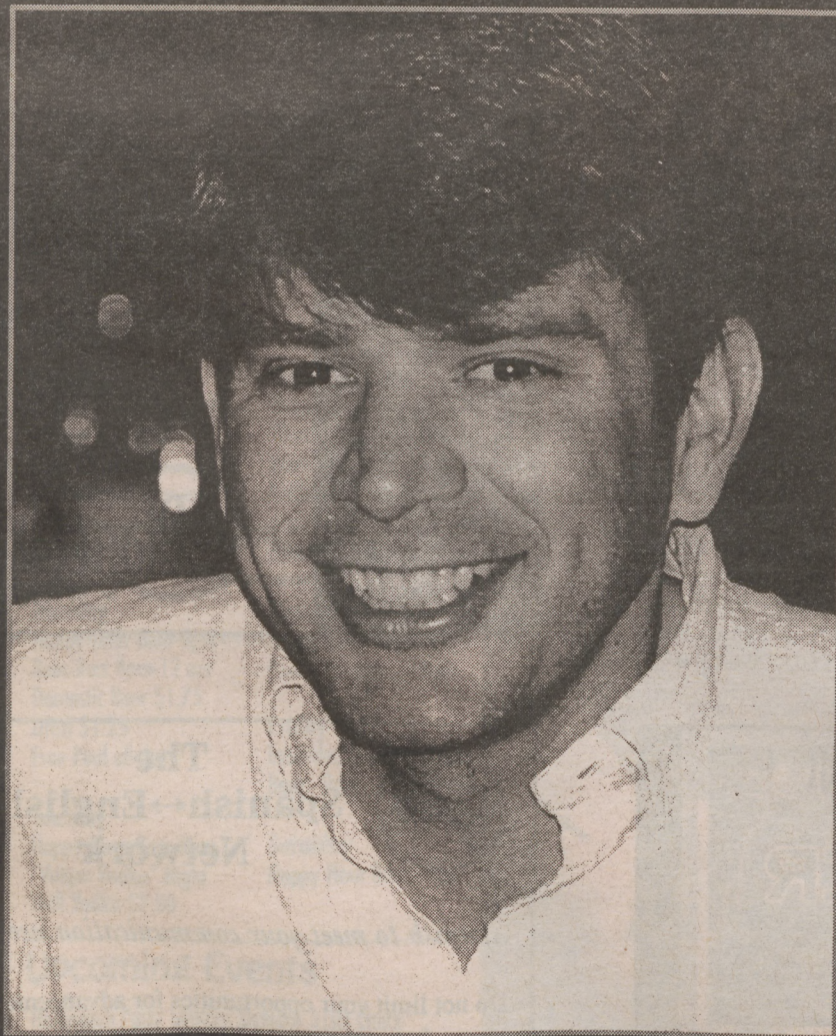
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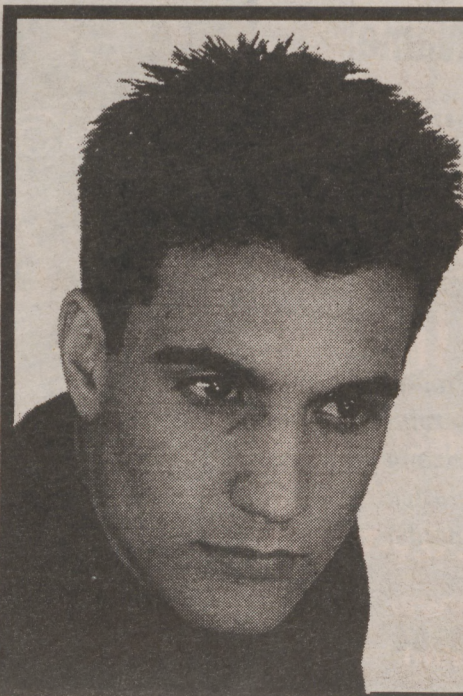
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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

Annual OUTober-fest Oct. 10

The Community Center's annual OUToberfest picnic and celebration in honor of National Coming Out Day will be held at South Mountain park Activity Complex in South Phoenix from noon to 5 pm on Sunday, Oct. 10.

The celebration will feature the music of Zebbie Nyah, Sistah Blue and Carmela y Mas. Tickets are \$20 on the day of the event, \$15 in advance. Call 602/234-2752 for information.

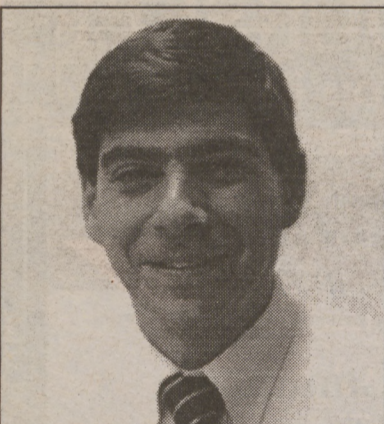
Wellness Center makes a move

The Being Alive Wellness Center has moved from its former location near Community Hospital to join the rest of AIDS Project Arizona's programs at 1427 N. 3rd St. in Phoenix. The new number for the clinic is 602/253-2437.

HIV Educational Town Hall Oct. 14

Phoenix Body Positive is hosting an Educational Town Hall on "Antiviral Strategies for Living Long & Well with HIV Infection" on Thursday, Oct. 14 from 6 to 8:30 pm at the Central United Methodist Church's Kendall Hall in Phoenix.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Cal Cohen, the research Director of the Community research Initiative of New England and an internist and the HIV Clinical Management Consultant at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates in Boston. He has been involved in the development of



Dr. Calvin Cohen

treatments for HIV, with a focus on antivirals, for the past ten years. Cohen was involved in pivotal work that led to the approval of ritonavir, and has traveled the globe to lecture to many audiences.

Other speakers at the event will be Dr. Jack Sipperly, a retinal specialist, and Dr. Thanos Vanig, an HIV specialist.

The Town Hall will include a light dinner buffet at 5:30. The church is located at 1875 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix. Registration is free—call 602/955-4673 to reserve your space.

Mass for HIV affected Catholics

The Phoenix Catholic Diocese has established an HIV/AIDS Resource Committee chaired by Rev. Christopher Carpenter, associate pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church in Mesa. The committee recently discerned that one of the needs for Catholics touched by HIV/AIDS is a regular mass.

Catholic Social Service has offered their Counseling Center, located near Phoenix College at 2911 N. 11th Ave. in Phoenix, as the site for mass and a dinner to follow. Mass will be celebrated the second and third Saturdays of each month at 4 pm, beginning Oct. 9.

For more information about the mass and other HIV/AIDS services provided by Catholic Social Service, call Fr. Lou Bishop at 602/277-9551.

GPGLCC moves Lunch Bunch dates

The Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has made a few changes in its regular event schedule, beginning this month.

The Valley's main Lunch Bunch gatherings will still be held at Pookie's every other Tuesday, including Oct. 19 and Nov. 2, at 11:30 am. The East Side Lunch Bunch has been moved, however, to occur once a month and on the second Tuesday. Its location has also been changed, from Chompie's deli to the University Club on ASU's campus at 425 E. University Drive. Meet other East Side chamber members there to network and socialize on Oct. 12 at 11:30 am. The new Scottsdale Lunch Bunch has also been moved to one Tuesday a month—the last. It will next meet at Chompie's, 9301 E. Shea, at 11:30 on Oct. 26.

In other GPGLCC news, the organization's next NetMix will be held at BS in Scottsdale on Oct. 13 at 5:30 pm and the upcoming Town Hall meeting is set for Oct. 27 at 6:30 pm. For information on these events, or to learn more about the chamber, call 602/265-8848.

Diamond Ladies lunches set

The Diamond Ladies, a new Valley social group for women who are retired or otherwise free to have a late, leisurely lunch, meets one Thursday every month for a midday get-together. It's always in a different part of the Valley and it's always a good time.

The next gathering will be on Oct. 21 at 1:30 pm at Tivoli Gardens restaurant, 14365 N. Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City. Next month, they'll head clear across town to meet at Fast Freddy's, 7557 E. Camelback in Scottsdale, on Nov. 16. The December event will be at a private home on Dec. 16 and will include a Christmas White Elephant gift exchange.

To RSVP these events, call Barb at 602/840-4993.

PLUS Weekend Oct. 23 -24

The Being Alive early intervention program of AIDS Project Arizona is presenting another popular PLUS (Positive Living for US) Weekend on Oct. 23 in the Quality Inn's Grand Ballroom, 3600 N. 2nd Ave. in Phoenix and continuing on Sunday, Oct. 24 with a group bus trip to Sedona.

Saturday programs will include such topics as Attitudinal & Spiritual Healing, Massage Techniques, and separate breakout sessions for men and women. The Sedona trip will feature a discussion on the benefits of art therapy.

Call APAZ at 602/253-2437 for times and information.

Alternative Healing to resume at Hand of Love

The regular Alternative Healing Workshop & Networking Meetings will resume at Hand of Love Ministry on Tuesday, Oct. 19 from 7 - 10 pm. The meetings will continue the third Tuesday of each month through the spring.

Join organizers under the stars in a candle lit garden, where Reiki, chiropractic and other alternative healing practitioners get to work and learn together. The Ministry is at 6605 n. 14th St. in Phoenix (between Maryland and Glendale).

Admission is by good will donation. Adepts of all disciplines of healing therapies, willing patients and guest speakers are welcome. For information, call 602/264-1470.

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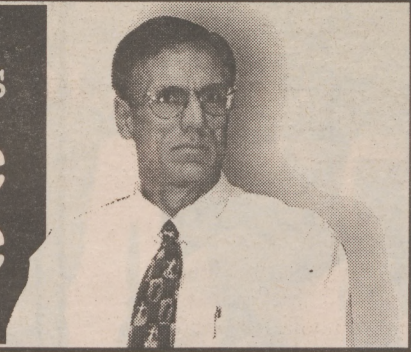
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Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



Two Cities

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.

No, I am not writing about Charles Dickens' London and Paris of 1775—I am writing about an intense and unexpected experience that occurred during my visit to San Francisco during the last weekend of September, 1999.

The trip started on Sunday at the Moscone Center with a two-day visit to the 39th Annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (better known as the annual meeting of infectious disease specialists) where 12,000 physicians and researchers had gathered to discuss advances, research, and "The best of times... the age of wisdom...the Season of Light...and the spring of hope" surrounding antibacterial and viral plagues of the 20th century, particularly focusing on the HIV virus.

I had just delivered two research projects describing remedies for some of the side effects of antiviral therapy that affect the quality of life of HIV+ persons. The

meeting rooms and lecture halls were filled with discussions of new hope, new ideas in conquering disease, new cures and remedies—all very sensible things.

Here I heard about advances in treating sexually transmitted diseases and their consequences, about taking control of the AIDS epidemic, about new inroads and novel ideas for vaccines to prevent the continuing spread of disease, and about hope and the power of wisdom and the better times to come. In the Dickens novel, this compares to the goodness and

Just a short distance away, the more than 250,000 participants were expressing their right and desire for complete sexual freedom, which is the fuel that has brought the current rise in the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases to epidemic proportions in our community.

sensibility that prevailed in London during that era.

I then walked six city blocks to Folsom Street to view the annual Folsom Street Fair, the country's largest gay and lesbian celebration of leather, S/M, and sexual freedom. The theme for 1999 was "Consent... in a sexually charged atmos-

phere". This was an understatement.

In contrast to the medical conference just a short distance away, the more than 250,000 participants were expressing their right and desire for complete sexual freedom, which is the fuel that has brought the current rise in the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases to epidemic proportions in our community.

It is also the fuel that has kept the annual rate of new HIV infections constant despite all of the efforts of local, state, and federal agencies to educate all of us about the perils of the interactions of consenting adults in the 1990's.

This display, this fair, in my eyes, was truly "...the worst of times, the age of foolishness, the epoch of incredulity, our season of darkness, and our own winter of despair." This scene was more like the Paris of 1775 in *A Tale of Two Cities* where anarchists struggled with the burdens of sexual culpability, all in a background of revolution.

The main vision from the novel that we remember so well is "The Terror"—the phenomenon dear to the revolutionary mind where individual "offenses" often seem trivial, incidental and unimportant in a radical scheme where the only meaningful offense is the crime committed by a society that oppresses.

What have we learned about human interaction and passion during the past two decades? The obvious answer to this is a communal desire to put HIV, AIDS, and STDs behind, to go on living without worrying about the price we have paid and will continue to pay for risky sexual behaviors, and to celebrate our right to "freedom for consenting adults."

On Folsom Street the sex was everywhere—in the air, the bars, the alleys, and the

backrooms. While much progress has been made in decreasing the death rate from AIDS, the incidence of HIV is still high; while that of other STDs is ever-increasing among gay and bisexual men. Some experts believe that the new drug therapies (being discussed just a few blocks away) are providing a false sense of security and that fewer preventative measures are being taken as a result.

The contrast between these two events was as dramatic as that portrayed by Dickens in his masterpiece—the riches and wisdom in one city versus the rebellion and foolishness in another, not very far away, where the fury of the French Revolution and the ominous rumble of the death carts trundling toward the guillotine filled the air.

I walked away, fighting back the tears, wondering where the new Millennium will take us.



Mark Hoffman is HIV positive and works as the Health Education Coordinator for Phoenix Body Positive. His opinions are not representative of that agency.

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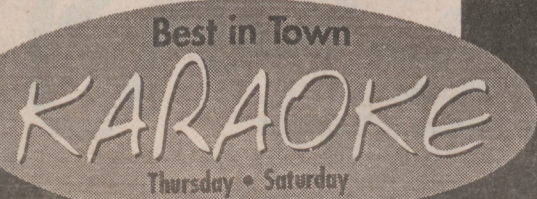
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Upcoming Events
Halloween Party Sunday, October 31st! Check Apollo's or this space in the next issue for details.



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NetMixes

Oct. 13th at 5:30 p.m., B.S. West Bar, Scottsdale
 Nov. 10th at 6:30 p.m., First Travel, 4700 N. Central, Ste. 205
 Dec. 8th at 6:30 p.m., The Source, 2750 W. McDowell Rd.

Lunch Bunch

Pookie's Cafe: First and third Tuesday of each month
 ASU University Club: Second Tuesday of each month
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 All Lunch Bunches start at 11:30 am

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"Victoria's Closet" Show & Dress Sale

MONDAY, October 18th
Project LifeGuard Night along with our famous Undies Mondays!

TUESDAY, October 19th
Miss Pacific Coast NCC'99
Personal Interviews in our Community Room-6pm.

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Ethan Green's (sometimes) alter ego speaks— an interview with Eric Orner

Continued from page 1

like New Hampshire were really harsh, which is part of the reason I didn't stay there. I loved the job but I couldn't live there."

After moving back to Boston, Orner

cliché, but when I first started to hear gay men use it twelve or thirteen years ago, it was this word that just suddenly popped into the lexicon and it meant a certain lifestyle," he says. "My notion was that

it, and there was a guy who lived on Green St. named Ethan, who I thought was cute," he says.

Contrary to popular assumption, Orner says the Ethan Green character is not based on himself. Not entirely, anyway.

"I think a lot of times when people look at a work of fiction, they assume that the main character is the autobiographical vehicle," he says. "I think often that's not the case, and it's not necessarily the case with me. Some of my experiences I might hand to some of the strip's supplementary characters. Is Ethan my alter-ego? Sometimes he is, but more often he's not."

Following the birth of Ethan, Orner continued to draw political cartoons, selling his work to mainstream publications like the *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe* and *New Republic*. In recent years, however, he has lost interest in this genre.

"It kind of bores me," he

says. "The problem with drawing a political cartoon is that the topic that you're drawing on is the same topic that 300 cartoonists across the country are drawing on."

tant moralists within the gay community.

"Being gay is a little like being Jewish, which I also am," Orner says. "When you're in a kind of insular minority group, you've always got your self-appointed scolds. I don't think that gay people are any more prone to hedonism than anyone else, yet there's all this hand-wringing about that. I think that gay men often get a bad wrap—certain unattractive attributes are handed to us as if gay men invented them. Like beauty worship. As if that's something WE cooked up. Like John Kennedy didn't get elected president based on that..."

While reluctant to talk much about himself, Orner does acknowledge that he shares his life in Boston with his lover of ten years, a computer software engineer. And as for his parents in Chicago, they are proud.

"You know, they wish I was drawing Charlie Brown and making a zillion dollars a year, but they're supportive," he says. "As it happens, my mother is the Illinois Secretary of Arts and Culture and works with a bunch of gay men, so they kind of gleefully bring her the Ethan strip from the Chicago gay paper each week."

Orner says he considers himself a storyteller. Most of his major influences have been writers (he mentions Anne Tyler, Annie Proulx, and John Irving) rather than other cartoonists. He's interested in pursuing other types of writing and says he'd love to do a non-cartoon book about relationships.

"Ethan's basically been about being single, and I've been married a long time," he says. "I'd love to write a book about married life, and in my head it's kind of Erma Bombeck-ish. Every time I'm in a bookstore there's some new tome about how to have a successful relationship. And I'm convinced the only way to have a successful relationship is to



Eric Orner, creator of the gay comic, *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green*, at home in his Boston studio.

showed some gay-oriented cartoons he had been experimenting with to the editor of *Bay Windows*, and presto—*The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green* was born. Soon after, other gay papers around

most people, even those who aspire to what that word means, aren't going to get there. I certainly didn't think I was getting there—having the right shirt and the right new pair of boots and the right car



Doug is Ethan's completely lovely and sweet natured, on-again, off-again boyfriend who is as commitment shy as he is devoted.



Todd is Ethan's arch nemesis anti-sister. He's a smarmy, noxious, social-climbing fink.



Bucky is Ethan's best friend. He's a big hearted, bartending, socially conscious circuit queen. Half the city wants to take him to bed.



Etienne is Ethan's sexy but devious trick. He's a celebrated Montreal chef who is wanted by the police.



Lucy is Ethan's smart aleck cat. She could take him or leave him, but figures she'll stick around—at least until dinner.

the country began running the strip.

Part of what distinguished the strip from the start was its long and amusing title.

"The word 'fabulous' has become so

and the right all-those-things. All of that was what I was making gentle fun of."

The name of the strip's title character, says Orner, was completely made up. "I lived near Green St. when I was drawing

Much more fulfilling, he says, has been getting to illustrate his humorous yet thoughtful comic strip about gay life. He especially enjoys poking fun at the small but vocal minority of serious, self-impor-

assume there is no way to have a successful relationship. Then you muddle through."



COLLECTABLE ETHAN *Ethan Exposed: Further Adventures from Ethan Green's Mostly Unfabulous Social Life—By Eric Orner*

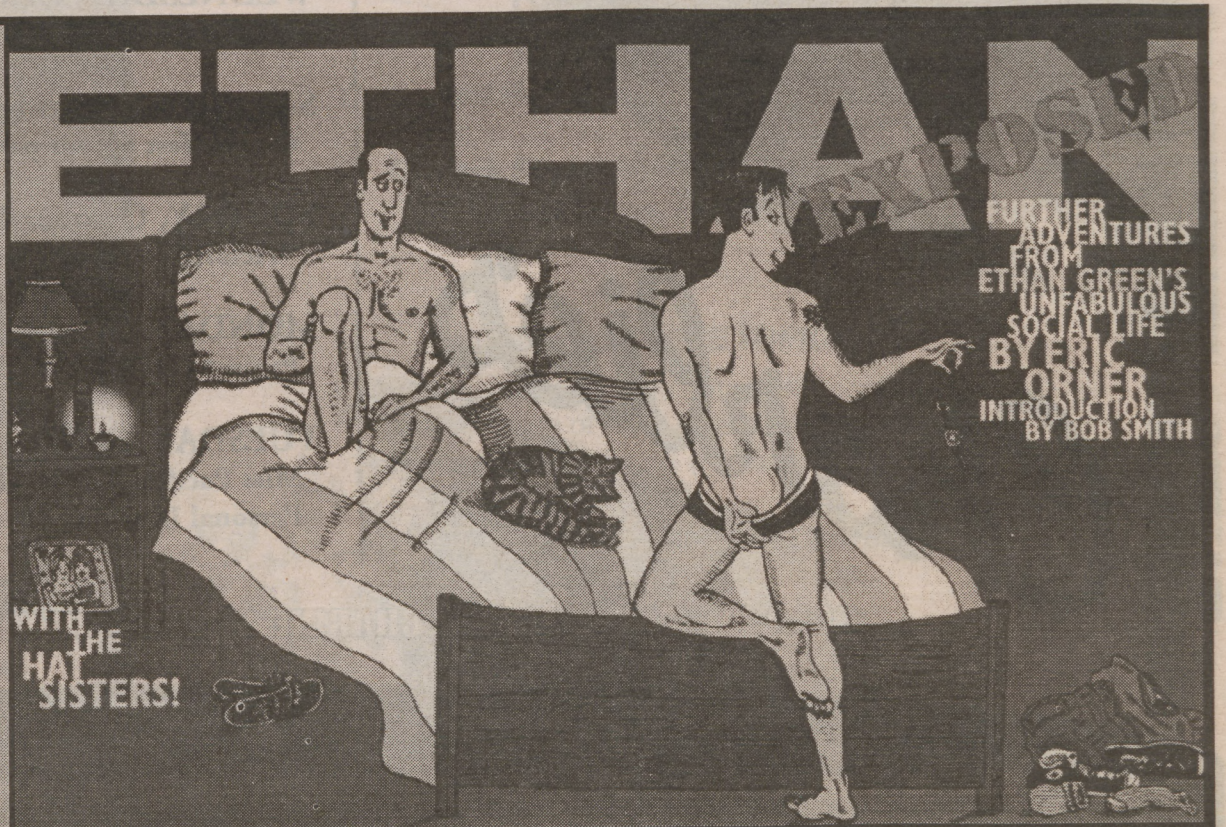
St. Martin's Griffin, 1999
\$10.95, paper

In this, the latest installment of *The Ethan Green Chronicles*, cartoonist Eric Orner continues his right-on-target portrayal of the gay world in all its complexity and hilarity. The comic strip's anti-hero Ethan Green further explores the central themes of life—rejection, career opportunities, and commitment.

The book, which begins with a delightful introduction by gay stand-up comedian and author Bob Smith, is

about 20% original work combined with the best of Orner's weekly syndicated comic strip. Making grand returns are the strip's original cast-members: the wacky pair of drag queens known as *The Hat Sisters*; Ethan's best friend Bucky; Charlotte—his lesbian neighbor; Doug—his ex; and his ever-alooof cat named Lucy.

Refusing to be cynical, the book is clever and sharp, and you don't need to have read the three previous books (or even seen Orner's strip) to fully enjoy it.



**International
Gay & Lesbian
News Briefs**
Compiled by Rex Wockner

Uganda to arrest gays

The president of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, ordered the arrest of the nation's homosexuals Sept. 27.

He said they are guilty of "abominable acts."

"I have told the CID [Criminal Investigations Department] to look for homosexuals, lock them up and charge them," Museveni said in remarks to a meeting on reproductive health, according to the daily newspaper *New Vision*.

"Even the Holy Bible spells it out clearly that God created Adam and Eve as wife and husband, but not men to marry fellow men," he said.

Uganda's penal code considers gay sex "carnal knowledge of another against the order of nature." The punishment is up to life in prison.

In a press release responding to Museveni's remarks, the group Gays and Lesbian of Zimbabwe said: "Same-sex sexual activity exists in a variety of forms in at least fifty-five African traditional cultures and these expressions are ancient and entirely indigenous to this continent... After centuries of slavery and colonialism, we remain at a loss to understand why African leaders continue to wallow in the language of oppression and domination."

Euro court rules against British Military ban

Britain likely will drop its ban on gays in the military following a unanimous Sept. 27 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that the nation discriminated against four servicemembers who were discharged because they are homosexual.

The court said Britain violated the servicemembers rights to privacy and family life and denied them adequate recourse in

the British courts.

"The investigations conducted into the applicants' sexual orientation together with their discharge from the armed forces constituted especially grave interferences with their private lives," the court said.

British Defence Secretary George Robertson responded: "This government, like all governments, has to accept the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights. The detail of this complex judgement and the practical implications are presently being studied carefully."

The government had argued that the mere presence of gays undermines military morale, fighting power and operational effectiveness. The court responded that the military has a duty to confront anti-gay bias among heterosexual soldiers because "those negative attitudes could not, of themselves, justify the interferences in question any more than similar negative attitudes towards those of a different race, origin or color."

Homophobic soldiers should be subject to a strict code of conduct and disciplinary rules, the court said.

The seven-member panel that heard the case was composed of judges from Albania, Austria, Britain, Cyprus, France, Lithuania and Norway.

The European Court of Human Rights is the judicial organ of the Council of Europe, a grouping of 40 nations pledged to uphold human rights and cooperate in a variety of spheres of activity. The court enforces the 1952 European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Four other Council of Europe member nations reportedly discriminate against gays in their armed forces. In Germany, open gays are disqualified from becoming officers or instructors. In Greece and Poland, gays are discharged for having a "personality disorder." And in Turkey, anyone who engages in "unnatural sexual intercourse" is separated from the services.

Following the Euro Court ruling, the International Lesbian and Gay Association called on these nations to lift their anti-gay restrictions immediately.

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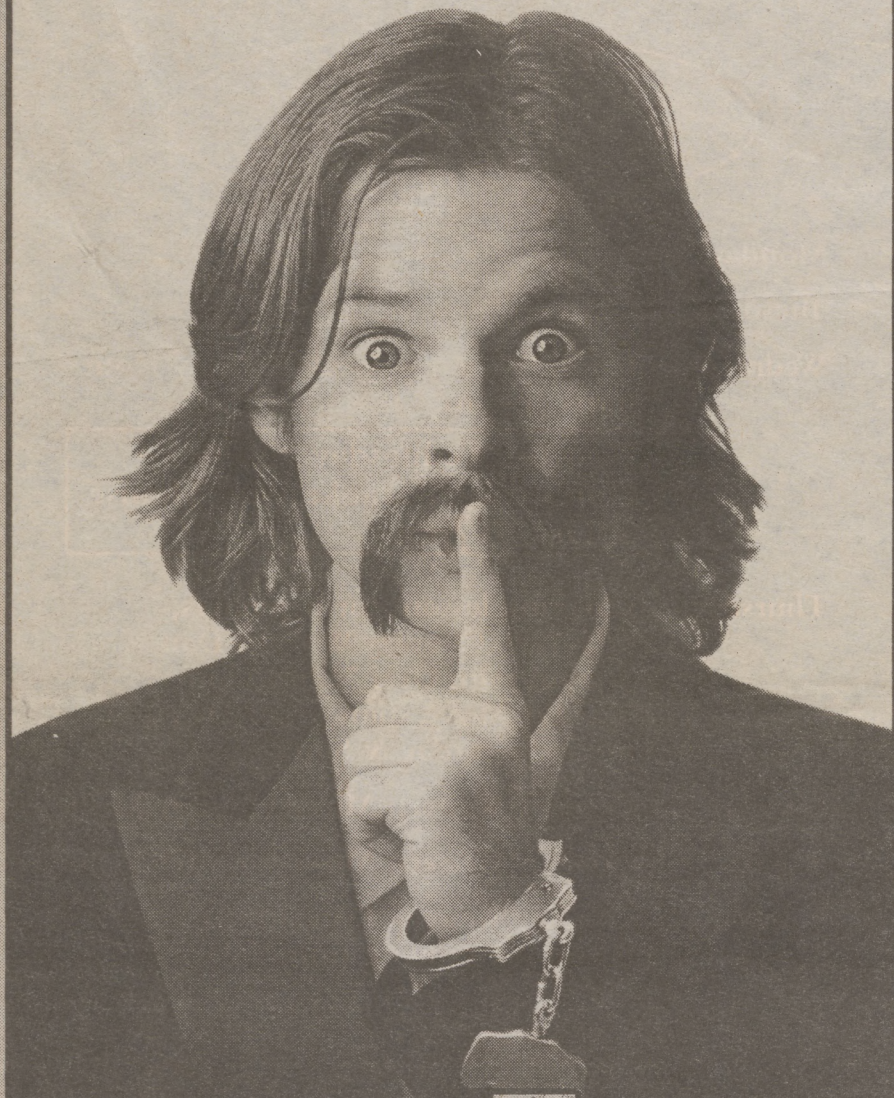




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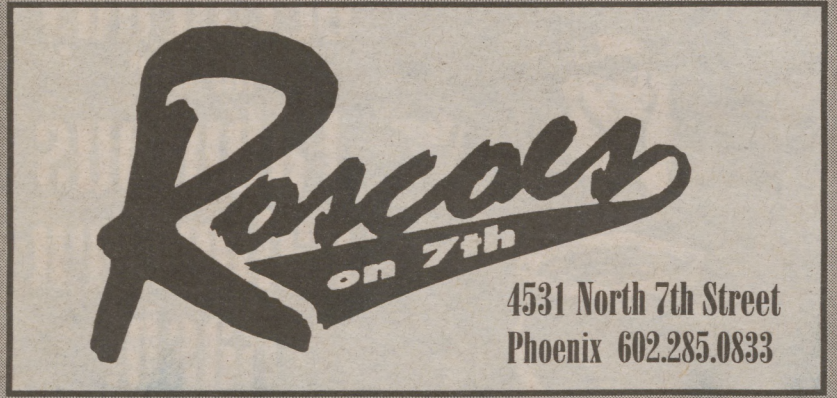


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How to Succeed in the Theater Business...PT's new director is doing more than trying

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

It's a safe bet Arizona theatergoers and producers are paying extra close attention this month to the positive reviews and strong box office already generated by Phoenix Theatre's current musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, running now through Oct. 24 on the company's main stage.

People are taking notice of the production not only because it's the season opener for the Valley's oldest continuously operating stage troupe, but also because it's the first production helmed by the company's new Artistic Director, Michael Barnard, and everyone wants to see how "the new guy" is doing.

Barnard, a veteran choreographer and director, may be new to the position but after more than a decade of work on local stages in various capacities, the ASU grad is well known both to Phoenix audiences and the PT stage.

After four years in California, where he worked as Senior Show Director at Disneyland, Barnard returned to Phoenix earlier this year to take over the creative reins at PT following the departure of outgoing AD Michael Mitchell, who resigned last season after five years with the organization.

"He's a doer," PT's Development Director, Robert Meza, said of Barnard. "He just goes and goes, and if he says he's going to do something, then you know it's going to get done."

Meza said Barnard's energy is infectious around the small suite of offices housing the theater company at 100 E. McDowell. "He gets the rest of us excited because he's always so upbeat and positive," Meza added. "And he's always moving."

When Mitchell was still handling the creative end for the venerable company last November, he told *HeatStroke* that one of his goals, as an openly gay man, was to press for more diversity in the Phoenix Theatre season.

Barnard, who's also gay and out, said his idea of diversity might differ slightly from his predecessor's. "What I was looking at when I was coming in was that no one [locally] seems to be doing the American Theater, meaning the 20th-Century writers." Barnard's plan is to "bring the American Theater to life" on the PT stage "in new and inventive and interpretive ways that will be relative to our audiences today—in musical theater as well as in the straight play."

He explained that while other Valley companies can bring in recent Broadway hits, produce Shakespearean classics or focus on contemporary plays—even wildly alternative and untried works, PT's role should be to reinterpret solid fare along the lines of what he calls the American Theater. "And there's a plethora of diversity within that scope of things," he added.

As a marketing device, Barnard has found it financially beneficial in the past to tie a season's productions together under a unifying theme, and he's hoping the concept will work for him here. His maiden season at PT has been dubbed, "The Way We Were: A Century in Retrospect". To that end, each of the six scheduled productions for 1999-2000 represents a different era of the 1900s. "So if a ticket buyer knows nothing else about a particular play, they at least can say, 'ahh—this must have something to do with the past.'"

The first show, *How to Succeed in Business . . .*, was written in 1961 and originally set a decade earlier. Barnard's production sets the story (of an egotistical window washer who climbs to the top of the corporate ladder) earlier still—in the mid to late forties.

Barnard said that changing a drama's time frame and setting is part of what he means by updating and reinterpreting a revival production. Many regional companies, including the Guthrie in Minneapolis and the La Jolla Playhouse, he said, are finding the technique effective.

"They've reinterpreted the piece, maybe streamlined the musical arrangements. Or the authors—if they are alive—have rewritten pieces to not make them dated," he explained. Non-traditional casting can play a part in updating as well, with actors crossing racial and gender lines in key roles in order to give older plays a new look.

Because traditional American theater is unquestionably his forte, it may seem as though Barnard has no interest in bringing things that are closer to the cutting edge to PT. That's not the case, Barnard said. It's just that when you are operating, as he is, with the constrictions of a non-profit organization's budget, you need to be cautious and build an audience carefully.

He said he'd love to see absurdist fare, like Charles



PT's Michael Barnard

Busch's *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, return to the PT stage, eventually. But should that happen, it would likely be in the form of a second company. "Phoenix Theatre used to have an additional company called Theatre One," he explained. "They did a whole spectrum of alternative stuff."

Success on the main stage is what will make a second stage season happen, he said. "It will take, one—obviously—money, and two, someone attached with me to head that sort of thing and get the ball rolling." He said there are also some logistics to work out as far as the performance space available. With the Cookie Company housed in the Little Theatre next door and that venue being let out at present to a number of other companies who need the space as well, there is only so much room.

"It may mean only three shows per season [to initiate a Theatre One type company under the PT umbrella] at first. We'd have to start small."

Barnard is thinking ahead. In the immediate future, though, he has another play to mount. He's now directing *Twigs*, the next play in PT's season, opening Nov. 5 on the main stage. The comic/drama by George Furth features one actress playing four roles.

Moving back to the Valley he called home for most of his professional career was an easy transition for Barnard. His partner moved here with him from out of state, and they are living in the Phoenix Country Club area—conveniently near the theater and his office.

Barnard is clearly relishing the role of Artistic Director. It no doubt helps that his supporting cast is behind him all the way. Michelle Gardner, who acts in *How to Succeed in Business . . .* and works as Marketing Director for the company, can't say enough good things about her new boss.

"Michael is terrific, a real professional," she said. "We are all so excited to have him here and it just raises the level of everyone else's efforts that much higher. It's great."

With praise like that in his camp and satisfied smiles on the faces of the audiences filing out of *How to Succeed in Business . . .*, there's a very good chance that this "new guy who isn't really new" will make out just fine.



Tickets for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* are \$23 - \$25 and are available through Dillard's or by calling the PT Box Office, 602/254-2151, through OCT. 24. The main stage is located next to the Phoenix Art Museum, at 100 E. McDowell in central Phoenix.

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BATTY COMEDY TO HERALD HALLOWEEN AT JMCO

In Mixed Company opens its sixth season on Thursday, Oct. 7 with *The Vampires* by Harry Kondolean.

A wildly funny black comedy, the play explores the dark underside of America's well being and cleverly comes just in time for Halloween, also known as the Gay National Holiday.

The show is directed by db Bailey and will be performed through Oct. 30 at PlayWright's Theatre, 1121 N. 1st. St. in downtown Phoenix. Tickets are \$17.50 and are available through the Herberger box office at 602/252-8497.



It's Cho time at the Celebrity Oct. 22

Comedian Margaret Cho will appear in her one woman show *I'm The One That I Want* at Phoenix's Celebrity Theatre on Friday, Oct. 22.

In the show, Cho relates her experiences as the first Asian American to star in her own sitcom, *All American Girl*. Cho

refers to the series' run and subsequent cancellation as her "trip to hell and back" and has reaped much of her new comic material living through "the worst Hollywood experiences ever."

Tickets are on sale at the Celebrity Box Office, 602/267-1600, or through Dillard's.

Vogel comedy dances back into Valley

By John T. Lotardo, Contributor

Baltimore Waltz, the smash hit play by Pulitzer Prize-winner (for her 1997 *How I Learned to Drive*) Paula Vogel, is coming to the Herberger Theatre Center's Stage West as the opening production for Actors Theatre of Phoenix's 15th Season.

The play, inspired by a trip Vogel and her brother never took before he died, is a quirky fantasy vacation that garnered an Obie award for Best Play for Vogel. As Victoria Holloway, the director of the Phoenix production says, "the audience should expect to have fun". At times, she admits, "the play is tough, but it is relentlessly funny." It is tough because the play is part tribute, part love letter to her gay brother who died of AIDS.

Vogel, a lesbian, wrote a play that embraces the gayness of her brother and the special relationship they shared. Holloway believes this production conveys the true spirit of Vogel's work and helps to "create tolerance through humor."

Asked what she thinks about the play being the opening production for Actors Theatre, Holloway says adamantly, "it is a bold choice for a bold theater."

The production features Jim Robinson as Carl and Valley favorite Cathy Dresbach as Anna. Jon Gentry plays the Third Man with Kenneth Mathews playing the Orderly. *Baltimore Waltz* runs (Thursday-Sunday) Oct. 15-31 at the Herberger Theater Center's Stage West.

A special production "night OUT" will be held Oct. 28, celebrating the gay and lesbian community. Tickets for that event are \$20 and include a post-show reception.

Ticket prices range from \$17.50 to \$31.50 with discounts for seniors and students with I.D. Tickets can be purchased at the Herberger Theater Center Box Office 602/252-8497 or at all Dillard's outlets 480/503-5555. The theater is located at 222 E. Monroe in downtown Phoenix.

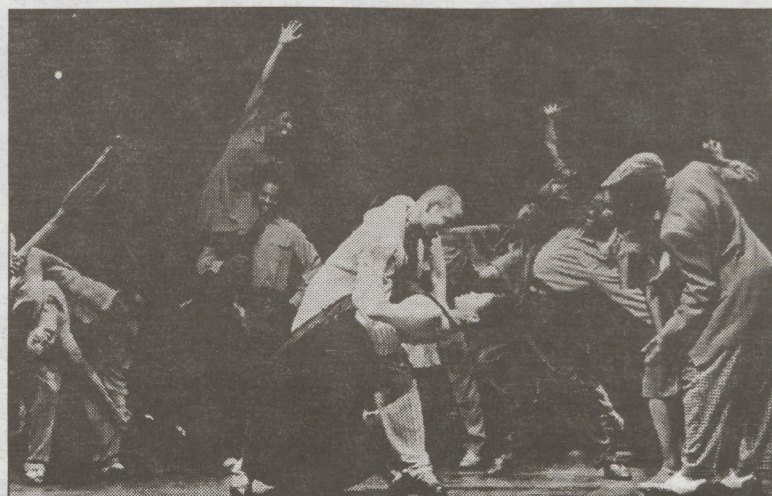
Ellington Musical kicks off ATC's new season

Arizona Theatre Company will begin the 1999-2000 season with the new Duke Ellington musical, *Play On!*, conceived and directed by Sheldon Epps and featuring the choreography of Duke's granddaughter, Mercedes Ellington.

Loosely based on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, the musical is set in Harlem and features more than 20 of Ellington's most popular songs. The show opens Oct. 7 and runs through Oct. 24 at the Herberger Theatre in downtown

Phoenix.

Tickets for *Play On!* are \$29 to \$44 and are available at the ATC Box Office, the Herberger, or via Dillard's outlets. The Herberger Theatre Center is located at 222 E. Monroe.



Rude, Rude Rudy?

The popular pianist insists he's just a big tease

By Allen Kalchik, editor

Choosing a seat at Rudy de LaMor's cabaret show can be hilariously risky. That's because everyone within the veteran performer's sightlines is a potential target for his running verbal attack.

Out on your own tonight? You're either a lush or a tramp. Here with a partner? He or she is much too cute for you. Gay? As if we *all* couldn't tell. Not gay? Yeah, right—what in the hell are you doing *here*, then?

One after another, the insults fly from the lipsticked potty mouth of the portly man on stage, and there's no telling whose turn is coming next. "They've said I'm a cross between Phyllis Diller and Barry Manilow," the middle-aged comedian relates, adding, "I think my act is kind of like the gay Don Rickles."

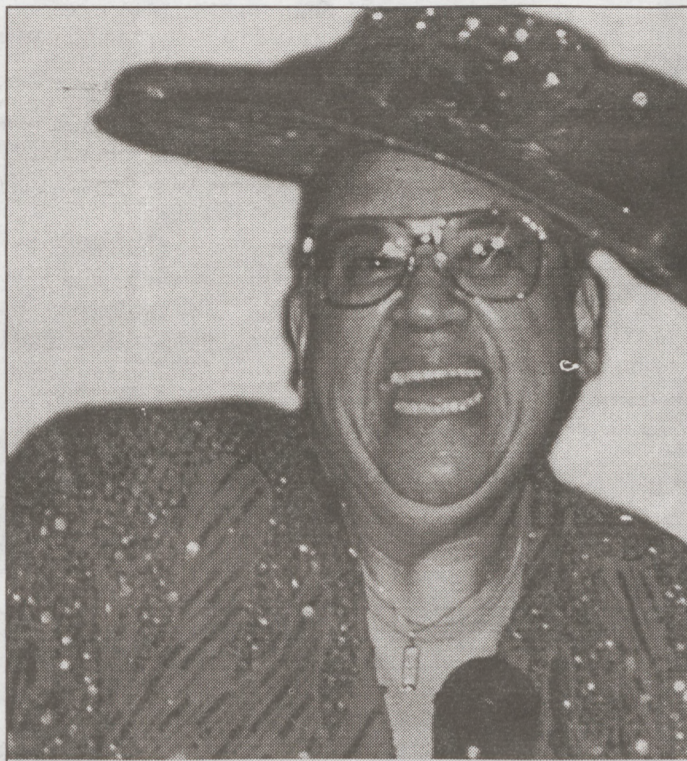
De LaMor will be reappearing in the Valley at Pookie's Cafe on Oct. 10 and 11, and is speaking by phone from his home in Southern California, having just returned from a gig in Las Vegas.

Like Rickles, de LaMor derives most of his laughs by deriding others. "And I also make fun of myself. You have to make fun of yourself, first, and if you can't do that you're in serious trouble." Unlike Rickles, de LaMor sings and plays the piano while decked out in a glittery blouse. He also wears makeup, earrings and any of a couple dozen fanciful, feminine hats stored in a box next to his piano bench. Though he isn't a female impersonator in the truest sense, the glitzy hats and biting humor have become his trademarks.

De LaMor hasn't yet encountered an instance where the butt of his barbs took great offense. "No, no, never, never. And the reason I'm sure of that is because I always tell them right from the very beginning—I always say, 'now ladies and gentlemen, this is an X-rated show. Please do not be offended. Do *not* be offended.'"

He admits that when a comedian gets "a little on the rough side", things have a tendency to go too far. "But everything I do is really soft and it's not really, *really* hurting the people—we're having fun

with them. And you can tell, as a performer, when you offend somebody. So I may do something like that and then I'll come right back a few minutes later to kind of rectify, maybe, what was said. So



they know that I'm only teasing."

When singling someone out for a little good-natured public ridicule, de LaMor says he has to assume that his victim can take it—otherwise, why would he or she be at the club in the first place?

"I've been around for so many years now with my reputation and what I do. There's people that do not like me at all, and there are people who are die-hard fans. So the ones who come and see me, by this time, know what to expect. They join me. But the ones that don't like me will not show up. They're afraid of me because of my mouth and how I'll pick on somebody. If they do come, they'll kind of sit far away and I won't notice them. So people pretty much know me and what I

do by now." And well they should. "The year 2000 will be my thirtieth year in entertainment," de LaMor states proudly.

"I'm home-based in California, at Ozz (a gay club). I've been there for 13 years," he says, explaining how he plans his busy schedule. "I try to go three or four months out of the year, if possible, to Chicago. I work a lot at Gentry's there."

He also sets aside a month or more every spring for personal travel with Tom, his lover of 11 years. "He's a mail carrier, so he has to request certain times for vacation. We decide what we're going to do, like if we're going to go to Europe or China, and then I [book my club dates] around his schedule."

Of Mexican-American descent, de LaMor was born and raised in Anaheim. He finds it ironic that a lot of people within his ardent fan base aren't even aware that he's a Latino—"they all think I'm Jewish"—who speaks fluent Spanish.

This year, he's been watching the career of another Latin performer with a big gay following, and offers this pragmatic take on Ricky Martin's feverish rise: "Ricky right now is just riding the wave, and that's good. He should appreciate it and put a few pennies away and just enjoy himself because—I mean, the man's very colorful and very interesting, he's beautiful and he carries himself well—but this Poca-Loca

business? That song's not going to last forever, you know?" Martin, he adds, will probably not have a career with the staying power of a Garth Brooks or Eric Clapton, "but it's good that Hispanics are getting recognized. There's a lot of talent there, too."

As for his own staying power, if someone had told de LaMor when he was starting out in show business that he'd still be touring the country's gay piano-bar circuit 30 years later, packing them in and earning enough money to support himself and annually travel abroad, he says he'd never have believed them.

The death this year of his good friend, actor Charles Pierce—"I called him my Little Angel"—moved de LaMor to reflect on his own lengthy career. Pierce was best known for a long-running and popular solo drag show that was built around his uncanny impersonations of Bette Davis and other Hollywood legends.

"I was reading the last little note [Pierce] sent me, and he said, 'Woman, you're always traveling.' And I thought, [he sighs] yeah, I know. He said, 'You're like me. The reason I stopped performing is because when it got to be like a chore, then it was no fun anymore.'"

For de LaMor, then, "as long as the phone keeps ringing and the demand's still there, I'll keep going, 'cause it's still pretty fun. But when I find that it's not fun anymore, then it's time to hang it up."

Not to worry. If his enthusiasm for his coming visit to Phoenix is any indication, de LaMor still gets a big kick out of tickling the hand that feeds him. "I've been really happy. The gay community's been very kind to me and I'm very, very grateful. They've been wonderful and I thank them eternally."



Rudy de LaMor will perform at Pookie's Cafe, 4540 N. 7th St. in Phoenix, on Oct. 10 & 11, at 8 pm both nights. Call 602/277-2121 for reservations and information.

Fair play through the month of October

From country to jazz, latin, rock, pop and alternative to Wayne Newton (Wayne Newton?), there's something for everybody in the concert lineup for this year's Arizona State Fair.

Weird Al Yankovic kicks things off opening day, Thursday, Oct. 7, followed by Canadian country singer Terri Clark on Oct. 8 and Megadeth Oct. 9. Veteran rockers Jethro Tull will wrap the weekend on Sunday, Oct. 10.

Sweet-voiced Vince Gill will open the week on Monday, Oct. 11, followed by Better than Ezra and Dawson's Creek warblers Sixpence None the Richer double-billed on Tuesday, Oct. 12. Lonestar will play Oct. 13, Carrot Top is slated for Oct. 14, and then LeAnn Rimes will take the stage on Friday, Oct. 15. Saturday, Oct. 16 is retro night, with Kool & the Gang, Gap

Band and The Boogie Nights on the bill. The latest incarnation of the Latin boy-band Menudo will perform on Oct. 17, rounding out the fair's second weekend.

Then it's Reba time. The country diva will wail her woes for two shows, Oct. 18 and 19, followed by Wayne Newton on Oct. 20. Thursday, Oct. 21 will present All-4-One and Blessed Union of Souls, with Toby Keith and David Kersh double-billed on Friday, Oct. 22. Live will take the stage on Oct. 23, with country hitmaker John Michael Montgomery wrapping the third weekend on Sunday, Oct. 24.

General admission seating for all these shows is free with fair admission. Reserved seats are \$8 - \$15 and are available through Dillard's or the State Fair Box Office. Call 800/638-4253 to order by phone.



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Newsmakers, Celebrities
& Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"I'm sure it [being openly gay] wasn't the same like a few years ago, like Martina Navratilova has said. I think people are growing in their mind. I'm coming today, so I don't know what it would have been a few years earlier. I think, of course, I benefit from what they did."

—Lesbian French tennis star **Amelie Mauresmo to the New York Times, Sept. 4.**

"I definitely dealt with it by putting every amount of time and energy I have into trying to create an environment where people can fully be themselves. It pushed me to say, 'I don't really care how you label yourself. I want to create a world where you can be yourself.'"

—NGLTF Executive Director **Kerry Lobel on the 1996 suicide of her married brother after he was arrested in a police raid on an adult theater, to syndicated columnist Deb Price, Sept. 7.**

"Discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people is all of a piece because it is rooted in people's assumptions about what it is to be male or female. When I had short hair, people harassed me on the street. Now that I have long hair, I don't get harassed. The amount of discrimination we face is often linked to how we look."

—National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Executive Director **Kerry Lobel to syndicated columnist Deb Price, Sept. 7.**

"Being an actor in my milieu was regarded as a slightly sissy profession. My father actually thought I was telling him I was gay."

—Michael Caine to Reuters, Sept. 7.

"I like to think that if I were gay I would be out. Rupert Everett-style."

—Actor **Ben Affleck (Good Will Hunting) to Vanity Fair, October issue.**

"What is more important—patent rights or patients' rights? It's a moral disgrace. To me it's just like ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, there is no difference."

—Zimbabwean Health Minister **Timothy Stamps on U.S. pharmaceutical companies' refusal to allow African nations to produce generic AIDS drugs, to Agence France-Presse, Sept. 9.**

"You can serve if you are a homosexual, but you can't make it a political issue. You cannot be an active homosexual in the military any more than you can be an adulterer. The Army is a very conservative institution. Three-quarters of our people are married. Enforcing the regulation is fair to all concerned. Our national defense is imperative. You wouldn't have the freedom you have to ask these questions if it weren't for the great men and women who have served."

—Secretary of the Army **Louis Caldera to LGNY reporter Andy Humm, Sept. 7 in New York City.**

"Sometimes, to tell the truth, it seems like there's nothing holding gays and lesbians together except political expediency, and that we'll kiss each other goodbye the instant we think no one's looking any more."

—Syndicated gay-press columnist **Simon LeVay, Sept. 8.**

"Gay men are much more interested in casual, outdoor, kinky, extramarital, pornographic, and intergenerational sex than are lesbians. In general, lesbians are seen as flouting convention only by rea-

son of who they love; gay men flout convention with every gory detail of their sex lives. No wonder some lesbians accuse gay men of sabotaging the whole queer enterprise by their public deviance, while some gay men accuse lesbians of taking the sex out of

homosexuality."

—Syndicated gay-press columnist **Simon LeVay, Sept. 8.**

"I'm queer and I'm proud but I'm also mentally ill—so don't expect me to be a role model. I must be gayly incorrect. I'm perhaps the only gay man who has never been to the baths or the gym—I've done much worse. But certainly I can't be your leader."

—Filmmaker **John Waters addressing University of Texas film students in early September, as reported in the Texas Triangle, Sept. 10.**

"Increasingly, I think, the barriers we see when we come out are internal and psychological and our own doing. I think there's so much that's possible for us now, that sometimes we don't realize it because we're just so in love with our own limited horizons because of the complaining rights it gives us."

—Gay syndicated sex-advice columnist **Dan Savage to the Chicago Free Press, Sept. 8.**

"There's a lot of gay men and lesbians out there with very childish, idiotic, cloying, stupid, unreflective ideas about what being gay is all about. It's not all about rainbows and hearts. And I'm kind of a dark, cynical writer, and so every month in this magazine [Out magazine], where they expect to get nothing but rainbows and hearts and affirmation, they come across me."

—Columnist **Dan Savage to the Chicago Free Press, Sept. 8.**

"I am not generally astounded by what my mom does, but seeing the 'Believe' concert gave me one of those rare opportunities to disconnect, to forget who I am and be totally blown away by her."

—Chastity Bono on Cher, to **TV Guide, Aug. 21.**

"I feel like the Larry Kramer of my generation. Why am I yelling and screaming if no one's listening to me? It's like there's a party going on, and I'm not at it. Listen, I can have a good time with the best of them, but I always find myself in the midst of those good times thinking about how many people are still dying of AIDS. I think we're in the midst of a false security."

—Actor **Wilson Cruz (My So-Called Life and Party of Five) to the Advocate, Sept. 28.**

"I came out for political reasons and also because I wanted to live my life a certain way. I had heard all my life that the thing to do is first create wealth and a successful career for yourself and then come out. I was always telling my friends that it's possible to come out at the beginning of your career and still be successful. I always felt the way of achieving that was not to give anybody any room to disapprove and to demand respect. I don't mean by being forceful or rude or bitchy but just by expecting people's respect and accepting it when they give it to you. So when I got the opportunity, I had to put my money where my mouth was. I wanted to see if I was right by starting my career without secrets to see what would happen. And it was frightening. It was scary. I'm not going to say it wasn't scary."

—Actor **Wilson Cruz (My So-Called Life and Party of Five) to the Advocate, Sept. 28.**

"I am not an assertive person. I'm pretty shy. But I have realized that people would listen to what I had to say. There can be a period in time where I can make a difference. I feel compelled to do this for Matt. I feel compelled to do this for other parents. I feel compelled to do this for myself, because it helps to focus. Without it, I think I would just be in my bed."

—Matthew Shepard's mother, **Judy, to the Los Angeles Times, Sept. 14.**

"Governor Bush believes marriage is between a man and a woman and therefore does not believe in gay marriages. ... He believes children ought to be adopted in families with a man and woman who are married. ... He believes the Boy Scouts is a private organization and they should be able to set their own standards."

—Republican Presidential candidate **George W. Bush's campaign in a Sept. 14 letter to the anti-gay newsletter Straight From The Heart.**

"[Marcelo Rodriguez is] a very well-respected police officer who has had some very vicious things said about him. [George Michael] has said [things] in numerous interviews in magazines, on television, on the Internet and all over. George Michael has profited greatly out of what has happened at my client's expense."

—Richard F.G. Thomas, lawyer for Marcelo Rodriguez, the Beverly Hills cop who arrested singer George Michael in a cruisy toilet. Rodriguez is suing Michael for \$10 million claiming humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional and physical distress caused by Michael's

"Outside" video and public comments Michael has made.

"All I can hope is that by working with me it will move them [closeted celebrities] closer to coming out. And that's the most important thing, because the more visible gay people there are out there, the more people I can date."

—Comedy writer and Hollywood Squares star **Bruce Vilanch to the Contra Costa Times of Walnut Creek, Calif., Sept. 17.**

"We all have something we don't want to tell our parents. In this case, it was that I had so many love scenes. My mom saw my naked butt when she was changing my diapers and I don't think she cares to see it again. ... I'm sure she'll keep her eyes shut for parts of it."

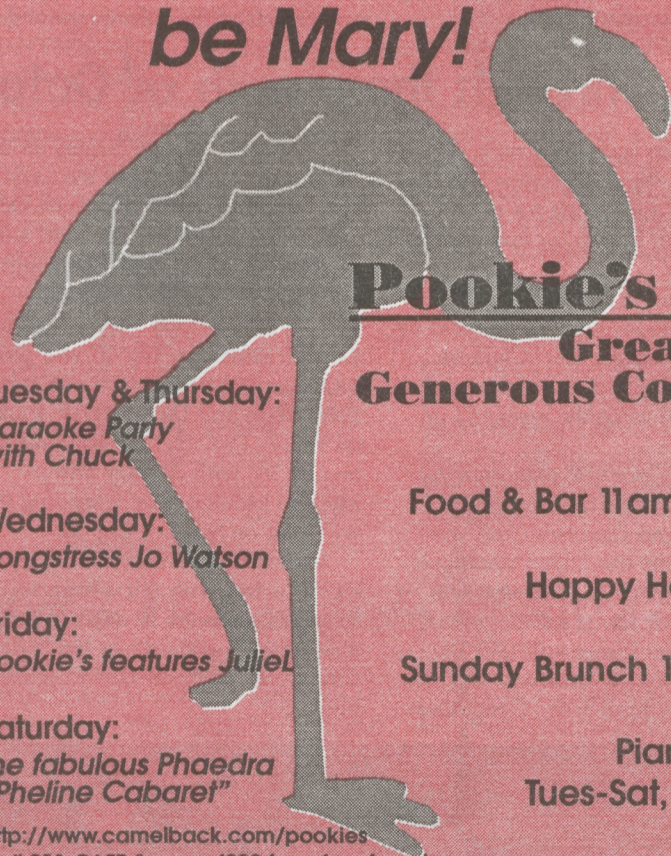
—Karyn Dwyer, star of the lesbian film **Better Than Chocolate, to the Calgary Sun, Sept. 17.**

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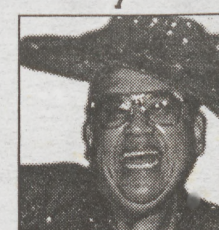
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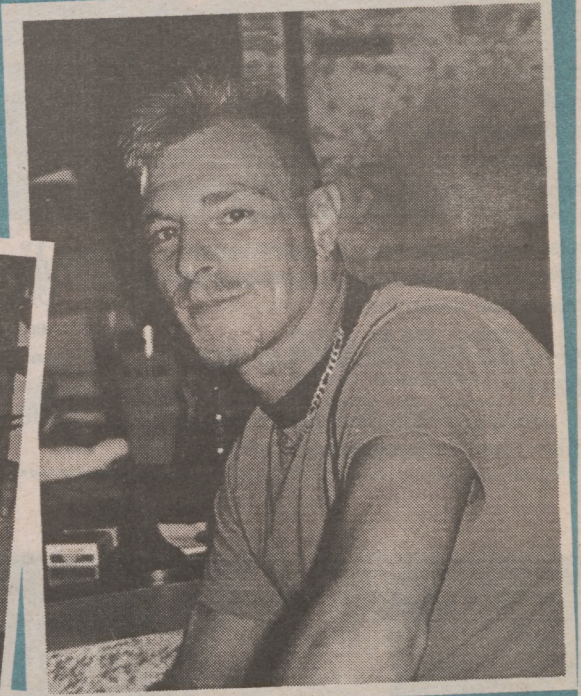
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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, *HeatStroke* Contributor

Kevin's \$1.5 Million Baby

The *Big Kahuna*, the latest film effort of *American Beauty* star **Kevin Spacey** (who denied those pesky gay rumors most recently in a *Playboy* interview), has been acquired by Lion's Gate Releasing for an estimated \$1.5 million.

Spacey produced and starred in the movie, which generated mucho interest after it garnered good notices at this year's Toronto film festival.

While the Lion's Gate offer was not the largest on the table, Spacey was said to be swayed by the company's past success with niche pictures (such as *Gods and Monsters*) that were "marketing challenges." Spacey told *Daily Variety*, "Being that this film was my baby, I was careful to hand it over to the right hands."

Lilliputian acting dynamo **Danny DeVito** also stars in the drama, which is based on **Roger Rueff's** play *Hospitality Suite*, about salesmen holed up in a Kansas hotel room during a convention where they struggle to land a major deal.

The \$2 million film was shot in 16 evenings, from 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., last February to accommodate Spacey's rehearsal schedule for his Broadway turn in *The Iceman Cometh*. Lion's Gate, which will only handle the North American distribution of the film, has ambitious plans to release *The Big Kahuna* in at least 40 major U.S. markets in the spring of 2000.

Babs Shakes Hands with Showtime

Diva and Clinton booster **Barbra Streisand's** production company, Barwood Films, is gearing up for production on the much anticipated Showtime Original picture *Two Hands That Shook the World*. Mrs. Brolin will executive-produce the telefilm, which parallels the lives of Palestinian leader **Yassir Arafat** and slain Israeli Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin** while chronicling 50 years of Middle Eastern history.

Although Showtime has not yet officially given the three-hour telefilm a green light, casting has begun and the project is expected to begin shooting in Tunisia in January. Rumor has it that **Ben Kingsley** of *Gandhi* fame is the favorite for the role of Arafat, while Irish hunk **Aidan Quinn** tops the casting list for Rabin's role.

Goodbye Lover director **Roland Joffe** has been mentioned as a potential helmer for the film. The highly political Streisand has been developing the project since 1994, and is believed to have the cooperation of the Rabin family.

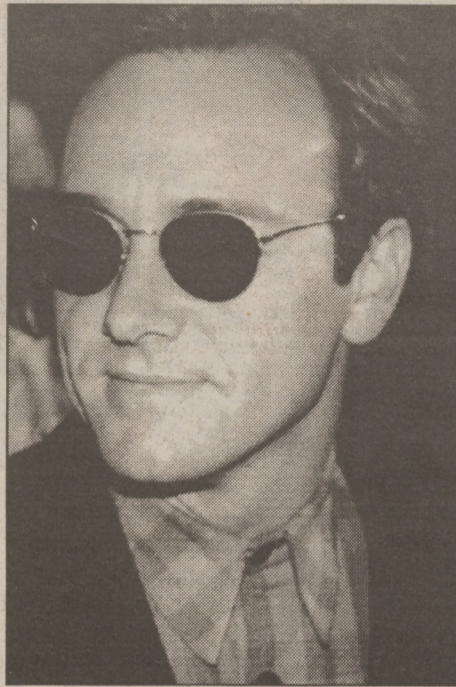
Schumacher Strikes Up the Band

Batman & Robin director (and noted queer) **Joel Schumacher** is currently

developing a remake of **Katja Von Garnier's** 1997 German film *Bandits* for Warner Brothers.

The English-language version will stay pretty close to the original's plot about four female convicts who escape from prison and achieve fame when their band becomes an overnight sensation among the youth in America.

Hey if the *Backstreet Boys* can make it, why not a bunch of butch chicks in denim?



Lion's Gate Releasing has picked up Kevin Spacey's production *The Big Kahuna*.

Grid-Iron Gays

Director **David O. Russell**, who counts *Flirting with Disaster* and the current release *Three Kings* among his credits, has been drafted to produce the gay-themed football comedy *NFL: A Love Story* for Warner Brothers.

The film, which explores the story of a pro quarterback who falls madly in love with his wide receiver, was penned by first-time screenwriter **Kate Kondell**.

Russell isn't planning on directing *NFL*, but he was quoted in the industry trade paper *The Hollywood Reporter* as saying he and producing partner **Billy Gerber** "want to take an irreverent, comedic approach to this film and find a young, satirically minded director."

Bruce Plays Hard to Get

Diva **Barbra Streisand** approached comedy writer and openly gay *Hollywood Square* **Bruce Vilanch** before her last tour in an attempt to convince the furry funnyman to script some amusing asides for her act.

But the deal never closed because Babs offered the writer, who pens the jokes for the annual Academy Awards show, a ridiculously low wage. When Streisand asked Vilanch what she could do to amend the situation, he suggested "sell a lamp." Maybe that's why Streisand is having the famed auction house Christie's unload some of her stuff?

Vilanch, who is the subject of a new documentary, *Get Bruce!*, recently revealed that he's been approached once again by the notorious perfectionist to whip up some lines, this time for her New Year's Eve gig in *Lost Wages... um, I mean Las Vegas*.

But Bette got Bruce first. **Bette Midler**, who has employed him for most of her shows in the past, has Vilanch booked to write for her *Divine Miss Millennium* show in Sin City.

La Streisand fans need not despair: while Bruce won't be creating quips for the show, rumors abound that it's almost a sure thing that **John Travolta** will be joining Mrs. James Brolin on stage for a few numbers.

Three Cheers for Cheerleader

Fine Line Films, the company that believes in marketing to the gay community and proved it by giving the flick *Trick* the biggest opening a gay indie film ever had, has acquired the queer comedy *But I'm a Cheerleader*.

Jamie Babbit's directing debut stars *American Pie* cutie **Natasha Lyonne** as a rah-rah whose parents (played by **Bud Cort**—remember *Harold and Maude?*—and **John Waters** veteran **Mink Stole**) think their daughter's a dyke: she loves **Melissa Etheridge**, eats tofu, and doesn't like playing tonsil hockey with her horny quarterback boyfriend in public.

The solution? Send the girl to True Directions, a homosexual rehab center run by **Cathy Moriarty** and **RuPaul** (playing—out of drag—a machismo counselor named Mike).

Fine Line has agreed to pony up more than half a million bucks in advertising for the motion picture, so you can expect another massive opening. No release date has yet been set.

Rudd Should Be Great in Gatsby

Paul Rudd, who played the queer object of

Jennifer Aniston's affections in *The Object of My Affection*, has joined the cast of another tale of unrequited love: the A&E

Network's original telefilm version of the **F. Scott Fitzgerald** classic *The Great Gatsby*.

Rudd will take on the role of **Nick Carraway**, the detached and cynical narrator of the Jazz Age story about self-made mega-millionaire **Jay Gatsby** (played by **Robert Stephens**) and his tragic love for the very married **Daisy Buchanan** (Academy Award-winning



Bruce Vilanch has agreed to pen **Bette Midler's** *Millennium* extravaganza—to the consternation of **Barbra Streisand**, who wanted him for hers.

actress **Mira Sorvino**).

The telefilm, now in production in Montreal, is tentatively set to air in late 2000.

A Kingly Jodie

Fox films has moved up the release date of the **Jodie Foster** epic *Anna and the King* from December 20 to November 24, hinting that the studio believes strongly in this non-musical retread of the same story that made **Yul Brynner's** bald pate famous.

The new release date gives the flick more playing—and money-making—time during the holidays. Foster told *Daily Variety* columnist **Army Archerd** that the new film tells the story of the real **Anna Leonowens** and the real **King of Siam** (portrayed by Kung Fu hunk **Chow Yun-Fat**).

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Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Exploring San Jose, the South Bay, and the San Francisco Peninsula

Travelers don't often vacation in San Jose or the string of towns connecting this up-and-coming city—the third-largest in California—with San Francisco, but the region offers a surprising number of diversions. What little gay scene you'll find here is discreet; nevertheless, San Jose and the neighboring area offer considerable, if subtle, charms.

Most of the South Bay and, north of it, the San Francisco Peninsula, straddles Interstate-280 and U.S. 101. The communities here are highly livable, with a dry and sunny climate, good schools, a generally progressive social and political sensibility, and a low crime rate, although the cost of living has grown dramatically in recent years.

Much of America's computer boom began in the lower South Bay—Hewlett Packard, Apple, and Intel are a few of the companies spawned here—hence, the Silicon Valley nickname. This techy moniker conjures up images of modern offices surrounded by asphalt, but in fact, San Jose has more than 125 parks, and the region as a whole is a major producer of fruit, vegetables, and wines. Rugged hills form an attractive backdrop to the south and west, and excellent camping and hiking grounds are easily accessed.

Downtown San Jose, which was insufferably dull and in some places run-down right through the '80s, has come into its own in recent years. Parks have been laid out and trees planted; fountains, statues, and antique-style street lamps now dot the landscape; older buildings have been renovated; and new structures are under way, for the most part in a sleek but carefully integrated postmodern style.

Be sure to visit the San Jose Museum of Art, which through June 2000 is exhibiting works from its permanent collection alongside pieces from New York's Whitney Museum. Since you're in one of the world's centers of technology, consider touring the Tech Museum of Innovation. Its hands-on exhibits survey the gadgets that will, depending on one's outlook and aptitude, either simplify or complicate our lives.

Diversions in greater downtown include the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Planetarium, which contains the West Coast's most impressive collection of Egyptian and Babylonian artifacts,

and Paramount's Great America theme park, which has state-of-the-art rides and amusements. An unofficial "gay day" has been held here in the past, usually in the fall, but it's best to check with San Jose's Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center for the latest scoop.

To gain a sense of life in the South Bay before the computer chip, head a couple of miles southeast of downtown to the 25-acre Kelley Park, site of the San Jose Historical Museum.

Restaurants here draw on the tremendous bounty of fresh produce raised in the region. In fact, every July the little town of Gilroy, about 30 miles south, hosts the Gilroy Garlic Festival.

San Jose's most famous restaurant may be Emile's, which delivers a mix of traditional and nouvelle contemporary cuisine in a dining room filled with fresh flowers. An outstanding wine list, reasonable prices, and a warm country-house atmosphere contribute to the success of the 71 St. Peter restaurant. The Bank Cafe, which indeed occupies a stately former bank, is the queerest java joint in the South Bay.

San Jose's nightlife finally developed over the past decade to the point where residents no longer have to drive an hour to San Francisco to find things to do. Nonetheless, for a city of 850,000, gay nightlife options are limited.

Directly behind the San Jose Arena, the city's best-known gay and lesbian hang-out is The Foxtail; here you'll find a laid-back bar, a small but potent dance floor, and a terrific back patio and yard that's packed on weekends.

Other good bets include the rough-and-tumble Renegades, where you're apt to find a happily eclectic mix of pierced club kids and hairy leather daddies; 641, which is especially popular with the Hispanic and African-American communities; and Buck's, a small, dark, and cruisy locals spot.

Head north a couple miles to Santa Clara to find another of the area's best gay bars, Tinker's Damn (a.k.a. "T.D.'s"), which has been going strong for nearly three decades and draws a lively collegiate and young professional crowd. Among visiting gay-male sun-worshippers, San Jose's greatest attribute is no doubt the beautifully maintained and cheerfully staffed Watergarden, one of the loveliest bathhouses you'll ever find.

The area north of the Silicon Valley and immediately south of San Francisco, known as the Peninsula, has even fewer gay-specific businesses and goings-on but nevertheless merits exploration.

Stanford University dominates the wealthy town of Palo Alto. Although it's not as visibly queer as many colleges,

Stanford does have a vocal gay contingent. Interestingly, Mattachine Society founder Harry Hay attended Stanford in the 1930s, but feeling oppressed and unhappy, split before graduating.

The talented Frederick Law Olmsted laid out the campus core, but its red-tile-roofed Romanesque sandstone buildings border on the impersonal. The 285-foot

once rural and increasingly touristy village of Half Moon Bay, which is still a great place for window-shopping and enjoying views of the Pacific.

Pick up a meal at the wonderful 2 Fools Market and Cafe, which specializes in all-organic free-range fare, from fresh calamari to buttermilk-roasted free-range chicken.



The campus of Stanford University, with its red-tile-roofed sandstone buildings and acclaimed arts center, anchors the old-money town of Palo Alto.

tower that rises above the school's Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace is impressive, and there's an observation deck at the top.

After suffering extensive damage during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the esteemed Stanford Museum of Art was transformed in January 1999 into the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts. This magnificent structure contains 27 galleries and a renowned Rodin Sculpture Garden.

You'll find ritzy shopping and beautiful homes northeast of campus along and around tree-lined University Avenue. And there's delicious food to be eaten in Palo Alto, from cheap and filling burritos at Andale Taqueria and soft-shell crab rolls at Sushi Ya to exceptional tapas and contemporary Mediterranean fare at Zibibbo, which is owned by the folks who run San Francisco's famed Restaurant LuLu.

One of the true must-see attractions on the Peninsula, in the town of Woodside, is the magnificent estate Filoli (pronounced "fie-loh-lee"), a 1916 Georgian-style mansion on 16 acres of gardens—the exteriors doubled as the Carrington estate on TV's *Dynasty*.

Just down the coast from San Francisco is the

One of the country's oldest nude beaches, at San Gregorio, is about eight or so miles south, just north of Highway 1's junction with Highway 84 (there's a gay section toward the north of the beach). On many weekends, you'll find more evidence of a queer subculture here on this sterling stretch of sand than you will any place south of San Francisco.

Andrew Collins authored the expanded second edition of *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*, as well as six gay guides covering the West Coast, New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam. He can be reached in care of *HeatStroke* or at GayFodors@aol.com.



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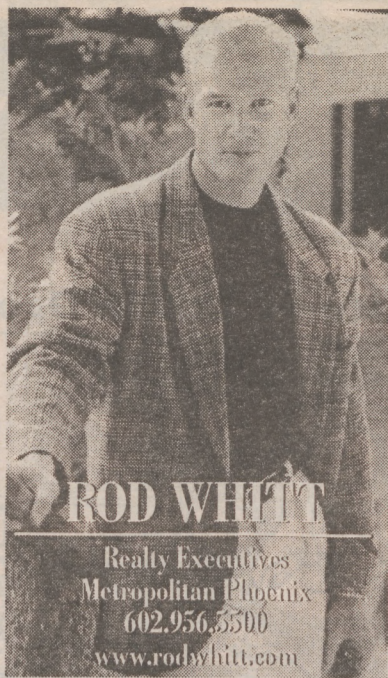
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“DEAR COWBOY” A REGULAR ADVICE COLUMN



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

Dear Cowboy,
I've been going with my boyfriend for about a year. He has a nice-sized house and the lease on my apartment is almost up. He really wants me to move in with him, and I want to live with him, too. The problem is his dogs. He has two big mutts which he says will fight to the death if they ever get near each other. To solve this, he has this elaborate system of letting one dog in one part of the house while the other is in another part, and only one can go outside at a time. He takes them on separate walks. There is always a lot of really loud yelling through the house (to me or his roommate) about what dog is going where at what time, in the terrible fear that one of us will “slip” and open the door that

accidentally gets these beasts together. He says this whole separation-yelling thing has been going on for four years!
I love the guy when we are out together or at my place, but I think his home life is crazy. I told him I won't move in until he does something about the situation. He says I'll get used to it, but I don't know. Should I try?
Signed, Being Dogged in Chandler

Dear Dogged,
Stick to your guns. This old cowboy loves his four legged friends as much as anyone (and there are plenty more than two around here), but it sounds like your partner's place is being run by the critters instead of the cowpokes.
You don't say whether he's tried out-

side help, like obedience classes, or calling in a pro who makes house calls on problem pets. That would be my first suggestion. You could even offer to pay, so he'd have fewer excuses not to try it.
If he won't do that, or if it doesn't work, he ought to consider finding one of his pooches a good home with someone else. Chances are pretty good it's some behavior of his that's causing the extreme jealousy between his pets.
The only reason this problem continues is because he lets it. Tell him to take charge of the ranch, and not just to get you to move in, but because everyone will be happier and

healthier when he finally does. Including the dogs.

Dear Cowboy,
Thank you for crediting me for input regarding relationships in one of your recent columns.
I am a regular reader of your column, and find your responses sensitive, compassionate and “right on.” You do the community a great service in providing this bimonthly forum for HeatStroke readers. I hope more will take advantage of it.
Sincerely, Doc Egge

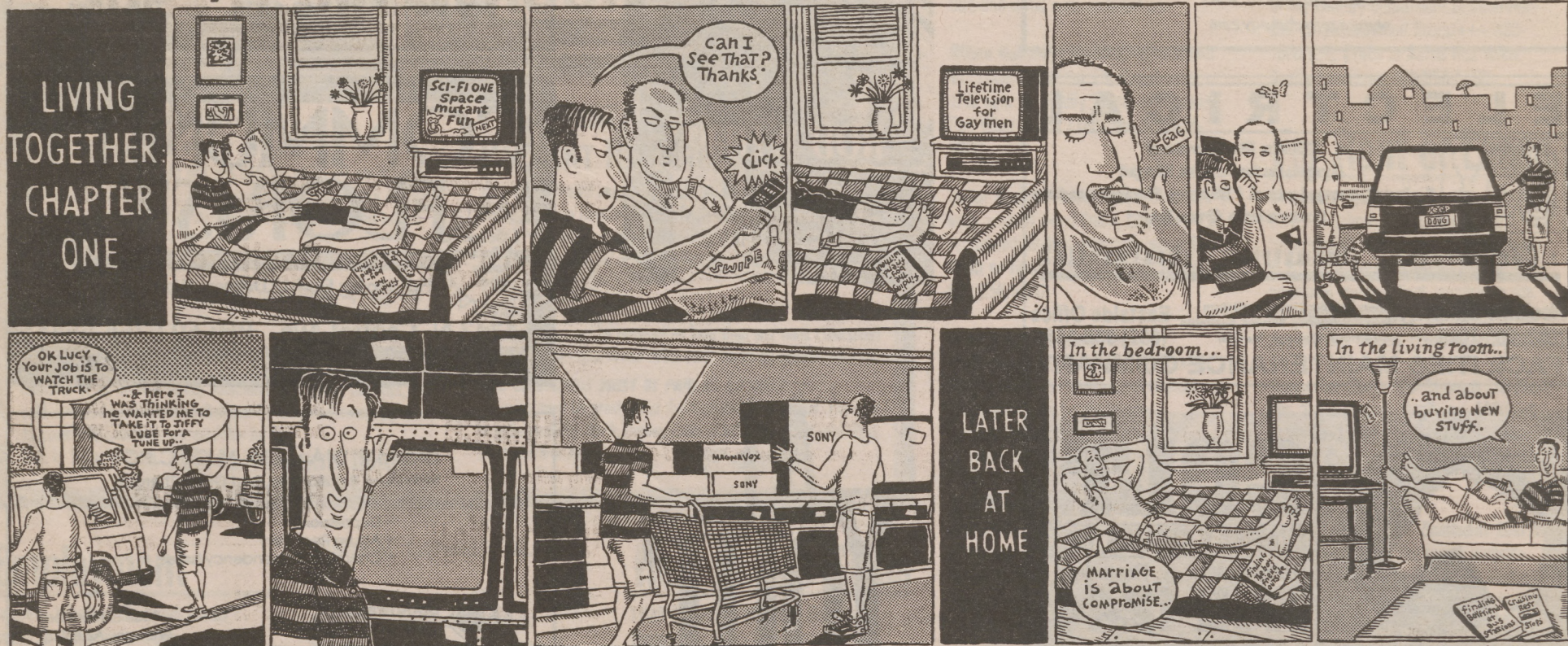
Dear Doc,
Shucks, your professional endorsement made my day. Thanks, and happy trails.

This old cowboy loves his four legged friends as much as anyone (and there are plenty more than two around here), but it sounds like your partner's place is being run by the critters instead of the cowpokes.

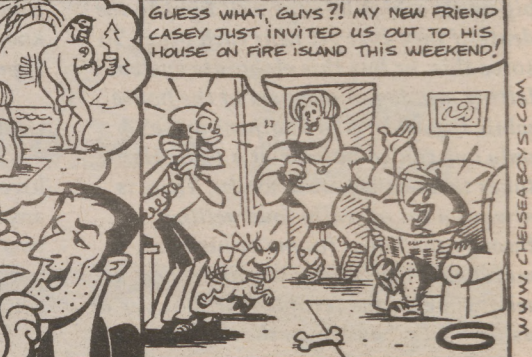
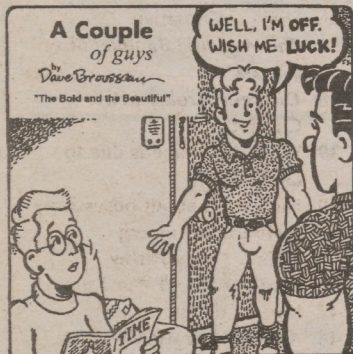
HeatStroke's Funny Page

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Orner



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Directory of Nonprofit Services for the Phoenix Metro Gay & Lesbian Community

HIV Services

- AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix 85064 602/234-6143
- AIDS Project Arizona
1427 N. 3rd Street, Suite 125
Phoenix 85004 602/253-2437
- A Place Called Home
3431 W. Thunderbird #13-403
Phoenix 85023 602/942-1572
- Arizona AIDS Information Line
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
Phoenix 85013 602/234-2752
- Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance
6523 N. 14th St., #112
Phoenix 85014 602/279-4805
- AZ AIDS Services for the Deaf
111 E. Camelback
Phoenix 85012 602/265-9953
- Aunt Rita's Foundation
5501 N. 7th Ave #215
Phoenix 85013 602/279-0716
- Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593
- HIV Care Directions
1366 E. Thomas #105
Phoenix 85014 602/264-2273
- Native American Community Health Center
3008 N. 3rd Street, Suite 302
Phoenix 85012 602/279-5262
- Joshua Tree Feeding Program
P.O. Box 7056
Phoenix 85011 602/264-0223
- Maricopa County Health Dept.
1825 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 85006 602/506-6900
- Planned Parenthood
5651 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 85016 602/277-7526
- Phx. Body Positive
4021 N. 30th St. #2
Phoenix 85016 602/955-4673
- Phx. Shanti Group
2020 W. Indian School Rd. #53
Phoenix 85015 602/279-0008
- Terros, Inc.
320 E. Virginia Ave.
Phoenix 85004 602/234-8900
- Volunteers in Direct Aid
P.O. Box 40476
Phoenix 85067 602/279-8432
- Wellness Center
1840 W. Maryland, Suite E
Phoenix 85016 602/864-0710

Political Action & Education

- American Civil Liberties Union
P.O. Box 17148
Phoenix 85011 602/650-1967
- Arizona Central Pride
P.O. Box 16847
Phoenix 85011 602/279-1771
- Arizona Human Rights Fund
P.O. Box 25044
Phoenix 85002 602/650-0900
- Arizonans for Fairness
P.O. Box 34766
Phoenix 85067 602/265-7283
- AZ Democratic Party
Gay & Lesbian Caucus
2005 N. Central #180
Phoenix 85004 602/257-9136
- Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project
P.O. Box 60881
Phoenix 85082 602/351-3080
- Log Cabin Republicans
P.O. Box 60994
Phoenix 85082 602/428-3596
- Maricopa Cty. Libertarian Party
P.O. Box 501
Phoenix 85001 602/248-8425

Social & Support Groups

- Alpha Zeta—Crossdressers Supp. A Rose—Transgender Support
P.O. Box 1738
Tempe 85280 480/488-0959
- APEX-AZ Power Exchange
apex@xroads.com
602/415-1123
- Arizona 2-somes 602/277-8796
- Arizona Nude Dudes
www.aznudedudes.org
andes@swlink.net
- Bears of the Arizona Desert
PO Box 25951
Tempe 85285 480/345-8755
www.bearsazdesert.com

- Copperstate Leathermen
P.O. Box 40472
Phoenix, AZ 85067
- Delta Lambda Phi - Phoenix
903 S. Rural Rd., Suite 101-317
Tempe 85281 602/248-5270
- Desert Adventures
P.O. Box 2008
Phoenix, 85001 602/266-2267
- Entre Nosotros
546 E. Osborn, #22
Phoenix 85012 602/285-0970
- FATHOM
PO Box 83072
Phoenix 85029
www.psn.net/~damour

- Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America, Phoenix
602/864-6092;
pglbva@aol.com
- Gay Lesbian Yavapai Alliance
PO Box 3241
Prescott, AZ 86302-6558
520/541-6558
- Girth and Mirth of AZ
P.O. Box 16605
Phoenix 85011 480/655-8229
- The Leatherlords 602/254-9651

- Lesbian & Gay Alanon
2622 N. 16th Street
Phoenix 85006 602/548-0936
- Lesbian & Gay Overeaters Anon.
480/607-7640;
cave4bear@hotmail.com
- Los Amigos del Sol (LADS)
PO Box 27335
Phoenix 85061 602/997-2411
- Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
P.O. Box 7625
Phoenix 85011 602/843-1404

- Prime Timers of Phoenix
602/993-8337
www.primetimers.org/phoenix
- Project LifeGuard
Project Q
TRIBE
1427 M/3rd Street, Suite 120
Phoenix 85004 602/254-3233
- The Community Center and Youth Services
602/265-7283
Lesbian & Gay Community Switchboard 602/234-2752
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
PO Box 33367
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

Professional Enrichment & Networking

- Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix 85001 602/225-8444

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

- Affirmation (Gay Momoms)
P.O. Box 26601
Tempe, AZ 85285
- Asbury United Methodist Church
1601W Indian School
Phoenix 85015 602/279-2369
- AVIV of Arizona (Jewish Group)
PO Box 66904
Phoenix 85082 602/952-1612
- Casa De Cristo
1029 E. Turney
Phoenix 85014 602/265-2831
- Community Church of Hope
4400 N. Central
Phoenix 85014 602/234-2180
- Dignity and Integrity
P.O. Box 60953
Phoenix 85082 602/222-8664
- Gentle Shepherd MCC
7810 N. 27th Ave.
Phoenix 85051 602/864-6404
- Goddess Womyn's Network
480/610-8061 ext. 3
- Healing Waters Ministries
225 W. University, 105
Tempe 85281 480/894-8681
- Lutherans Concerned
P.O. Box 7519
Phoenix 85011 602/870-3611
- Presbyterians for Lesbians & Gays
P.O. Box 61162
Phoenix 85082 602/275-0506
- Unitarian Universalist Congreg.
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Paradise Valley 85283
602/840-8400

- Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch.
1700 W. Warner Rd.
Chandler 85224 480/899-4249

Music, Sports & Hobby Groups

- Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix 85011 602/265-0618
- AZ Women in Tune
PO Box 37855
Phoenix 85069 623/878-5430
- Cactus Cities Softball League
PO Box 45101
Phoenix 85064 602/287-9573
- Charlie's Renegades
P.O. Box 17602
Phoenix 85011 602/277-9142
- Desert Adventures
PO Box 2008
Phoenix 85001 602/266-CAMP
- Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 34615
Phoenix, AZ 85067 480/990-2562
- Gay League Association of Darts
P.O. Box 63251
Phoenix, AZ 85082

- Grand Canyon Men's Choral
P.O. Box 16462
Phoenix 85011 602/340-7640
- Lambda Car Club
P.O. Box 36211
Phoenix 85067 602/409-3160
- Phoenix Tennis Alliance
602/359-0936
- Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling Alliance (PUGBA)
PO Box 44422
Phoenix 85064 602/246-9643

- Spartan Wrestling Club
602/340-8070
matthims@aol.com
- Team Arizona
P.O. Box 36431
Phoenix 85067 602/408-4311
teamarizona.org
- Valley of the Sun Comm'ty Band
Jayne: 480/947-0907;
Terry: 602/954-9244



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Sherry Tackett, MSN ----- 602/266-4670

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Martial Arts Instruction ----- 602/331-1230
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Nightlife

Apollo's ----- 602/277-9373
Cash Inn ----- 602/244-9943
Charlie's ----- 602/265-0224
Nu-Towne Saloon ----- 602/267-9959
Studio 43 ----- 602/230-2515

Pet Services

Most Valuable Pet (Joe) ----- 602/955-3471
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Alicia Ruiz, DVM ----- 602/277-5155

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Mario Romero ----- 602/943-3003
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Restaurants

Pookie's ----- 602/277-2121

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Obelisk, The Bookstore ----- 602/266-8008

Spiritual Groups

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Gentle Shepherd MCC ----- 602/864-6404

Viatical Svcs.

Living Settlements, Inc. ----- 602/956-3770

Q Puzzle

"Leaving the Closet Behind"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15						16			
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58			59			60	61					
62						63					64	
65						66						67

ACROSS

- Non-PC purchase?
- "_ a nice guy like you doing in a place like this?"
- Put aside, as time
- Oddball comedian Philips
- Leonardo DiCaprio's 1996 title role
- Where *Aida* premiered
- One way to come out
- Batman's buddy
- Gives in
- Figure skater Babilonia
- CD followers
- Jeffrey won one
- Men on top, perhaps
- Ally McBeal actress Lucy
- One way to come out

- Way to address a dominatrix
- Bills stuffed in a stripper's G-string
- One way to come out
- L-_ (parkinsonism treatment)
- Premed subj.
- One way to come out
- He cared for Samuel
- Sexually appealing, like David Duchovny?
- "_ Need is the Girl" (song from *Gypsy*)
- On the _ (fleeing)
- Friend of Eyore and Tigger
- What one may do to avoid a sexually-transmitted disease

- It might be wrapped around your package
- One way to come out
- Wet spot on a blanket of sand
- "...the bombs bursting _..."
- Word before whiz or whillikers
- Beautiful young woman
- They're found in some fruits
- Fast way to the U.K.

DOWN

- Part of MGM
- You may watch one reproduce in biology class
- "Keep your pants on!"
- _-tit (small bird)
- Rosie O'Donnell, for one
- City north of Des Moines
- _ Aviv
- In greater need of Viagra, maybe
- Burned to _ (incinerated)
- 7 Faces of Dr. _* (1964 Tony Randall vehicle)
- Slanderer, in legalese
- Openings of porno flicks
- They make French kisses "French"
- Nair alternative
- NASA "thumbs-up"
- The Pleasure of His _* (Fred Astaire flick)
- Wellness gp.
- _ Claire, Wisconsin
- What the religious right has waged against the gay community
- He Who Gets Slapped* star Chaney

- Work long and hard
- What rose-colored glasses represent
- Slangy affirmative
- The Wedding Banquet* director Lee
- Diff'rent Strokes* actress Charlotte
- When the plane is due to land, briefly
- Fantasized about obsessively
- From the beginning
- "Hinky Dinky Parlay _" (Popular World War I tune)
- Kind of dancer or fruit
- Archibald or McMillan of basketball
- "The Trolley Song" has many
- Omits a syllable
- Map within a map
- Worship from _
- French cheese
- Ian McKellen and Elton John
- Tuck's partner
- Yoko of *Double Fantasy*

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

Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle:
"Names will Never Hurt Us"

E

dibles

A. Pookie's
4540 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/277-2121

L

ibations

1. Ain't Nobody's Bizness
3031 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/224-9977
2. Amsterdam
718 North Central Ave.
Phoenix 258-6122
3. Apollo's
5749 N. 7th Street
Phoenix 602/277-9373
4. Boot Camp
3702 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/212-9888
5. BS
7125 5th Avenue
Scottsdale 480/945-9028
6. The Bunkhouse
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 602/200-9154
7. Cash Inn
2140 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/244-9943
8. Charlie's
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/265-0224
9. Crowbar
702 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/258-8343
10. Cruisin' Central
1011 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/253-3376

11. Doc Gireaux
12032 N. Cave Creek
Phoenix 602/997-9461
12. Harley's Club 155
Harley's Too!
155 & 125 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/274-8505
13. JC's Fun One
5542 N. 43rd Ave.
Glendale 623/939-0528
14. Johnny Mc's
138 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/266-0875
15. Marlys'
15615 Cave Creek
Phoenix 602/867-2463
16. Millennium 2001
3300 S. Price Rd.
Tempe 602/756-2445
17. Nasty's Sports Bar
3108 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/267-8707
18. NuTowne
5002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 602/267-9959
19. Paco Paco
3045 N. 16th St.
Phoenix 602/263-8424
20. Padlock
998 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/266-5640
21. The Park
3002 N. 24th Street
Phoenix 602/957-6055
22. Roscoe's on 7th
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/285-0833
23. The Rose
4301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 602/265-3233

24. Scandals
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/275-3509
25. Studio 43
4343 N. 7th Ave
Phoenix 602/230-2515
26. 307 Lounge
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 602/252-0001
27. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/254-0231
28. Waterhole
8830 N. 43rd Ave
Glendale 623/937-3139
29. Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/265-9002

S

taples

30. The Adult Shoppe
111 S. 24th Street
Phoenix 306-1130
2345 W. Holly St.
Phoenix 602/253-7126
31. The Barn Adult Shop
5021 W Indian School
Phoenix 623/245-3008
32. Book Cellar
4029 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/275-0015
(other Valley locations)
33. Castle Boutique
5501 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/231-9837
(other Valley locations)
34. Obelisk Books
24 West Camelback
Phoenix 602/266-Book

35. Movies on Central
4700 N. Central #121
Phoenix 602/274-0994
36. Tuff Stuff
1714 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix 602/254-9651
40. Chute
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/234-1654
41. Flex
1517 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix 602/271-9011

C

ulture

60. America West Arena
201 E. Jefferson
Phoenix 602/379-7800
61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum
1101 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/255-2110
62. AZ Historical Society
Museum
1300 N. College
Tempe 480/929-0292
63. AZ Mining & Mineral
Museum
1502 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/255-3791
64. AZ Science Center
600 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/716-2000
65. AZ State Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/542-4675

66. ASU Art Museum
Nelson Fine Arts Center
Mill Ave. & 10th Street
Tempe 480/965-2787
67. ASU Gammage Center
Apache & Mill Ave.
Tempe 480/965-3434
68. Blockbuster Desert Sky
Pavillion
2121 N. 83rd Ave.
Phoenix 623/254-7499

69. Celebrity Theater
440 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix 602/267-9373
70. Heard Museum
22 E. Monte Vista
Phoenix 602/252-8848
71. Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
Phoenix 602/254-7399
72. Orpheum Theatre
203 W. Adams
Phoenix 602/262-7272
73. Phoenix Art Museum
1624 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/257-1222
74. Phoenix Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/262-4636
75. Phoenix Civic Plaza
225 E. Adams St.
Phoenix 602/262-6225
76. Phoenix Symphony Hall
225 E. Adams
Phoenix 602/262-6225
77. Phoenix Museum of History
105 N. 5th Street
Phoenix 602/253-2734
78. Phoenix Theatre
100 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/254-2151

79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural
Theatre
909 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix 602/241-1821
80. Union Hall
512 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 602/253-7100

O

utdoors

81. Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 480/941-1217
82. Margaret T. Hance Park
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 602/534-2406
83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/262-6696
84. Papago Park
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 602/256-3220
85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 602/273-1431
86. Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/495-0900
87. Squaw Peak Park
2701 E SquawPeak Dr
Phoenix 602/262-6696
88. South Mountain Park
10919 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/495-0222

Finding it in Phoenix

Q Q Q Q Q Q S C O P E S

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES: You might be getting more than your share of attention these days, but don't let it go to your head. It's time to make some important life choices: Are you going to stick to the tired and familiar or break through to the incredible other side? A Leo worthy of you is waiting there.

TAURUS: The Moon transits your house of love on October 11. Ah, what a romantic "Coming Out Day" this should be. Energy you put into organizing your life - at work and at home - will not be wasted. Show off your happy homosexual self to a Pisces, who thinks you're aloof.

GEMINI: Sexy Mars finishes up its trek through the most romantic sector of your chart on October 17. Enjoy that last week of erotic inspiration and stop judging your desires. It's time to connect your creative world to your sexual longings. An Aquarius triggers a major breakthrough.

CANCER: Mercury is transiting the exhibitionist sector of your chart, so get out where you can be seen. Chatting up strangers—as well as close allies you haven't seen in a while—may be just what the doctor ordered. Get out of your own head, and into the head of an Aquarius.

LEO: Passionate Mars is giving an extra boost to your creativity right now, so put some of it into your work and some of it into your love life. You're tapping into things the public finds fascinating. Share your brilliance, don't withhold it. Start with an open-minded Cancer.

VIRGO: Money matters go well during mid-October, especially if you keep your cool while everyone else is losing it. Follow where your gut leads you, but once you're there, work to get what you want from any

and all new and bizarre situations. A Libra could introduce you to a wild world you never knew existed.

LIBRA: It's your time to do all the things you've been putting off since 1998. Enjoy a bit of your success. In fact, revel in it. Stand up to bosses and to the naysayers in your personal life who are keeping you down. Break free from your fears. And then beg for mercy under the firm hand of a Sag!

SCORPIO: It's the end of your annual solar cycle, and what have you got to show for the past year? A lot, darling, a lot. Write down all your accomplishments and give yourself a pat on the back. Then sharpen your wit by engaging in some verbal seduction with a Gemini.

SAGITTARIUS: Jupiter (your ruler) and Saturn are both marching through the health sector of your chart, so do something to honor your body, like cutting out a vice (chips, ciggies, whatever). Then, if you see something—or someone—you want, go for it. Begin with a Libra.

CAPRICORN: You can improve your work life if you use your imagination. That means shutting off that obnoxious censor that claims to be your "practical side." A Scorpio believes you can do *anything* - at work or play.

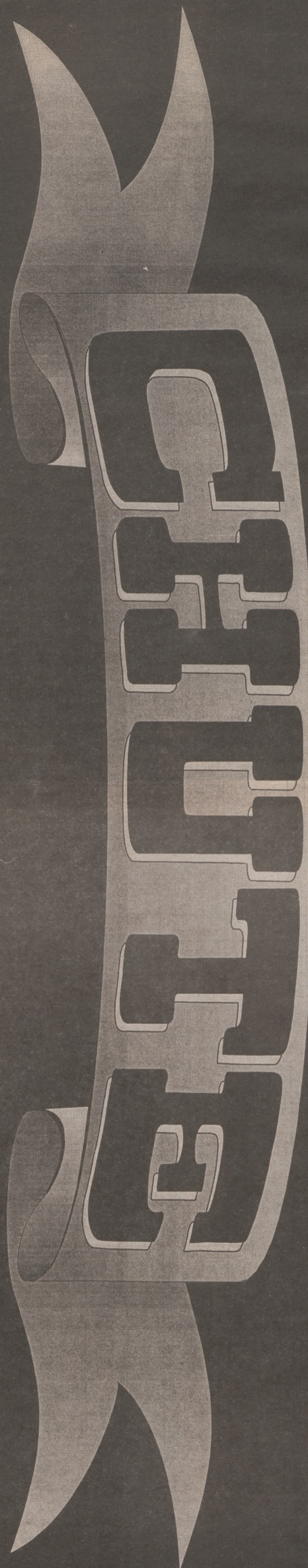
AQUARIUS: Venus is transiting your marriage house, dear one, so it may be time to pop the question. If there's no one special in your life, follow your intuition into the arms of someone *real* who can stimulate your mind as well as your body. A Libra has a few ideas for you.

PISCES: Your ruler, Neptune, goes direct in your house of the unconscious on October 13, so expect a spiritual breakthrough and pounce on it. A lot of wispy, inconsequential types may try to seduce you, but don't be fooled! Someone who seems too available—a Virgo?—could be offering the real thing.

Jill Dearman is the author of two new books, *Queer Astrology for Men* and *Queer Astrology for Women* (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177, or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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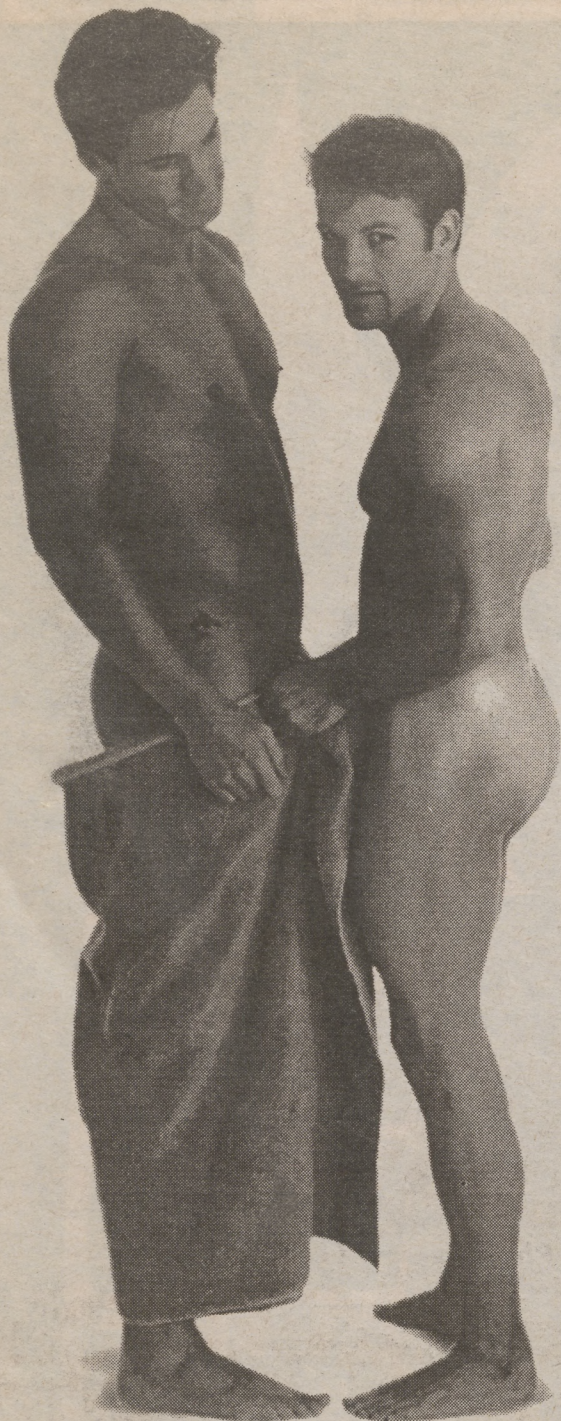
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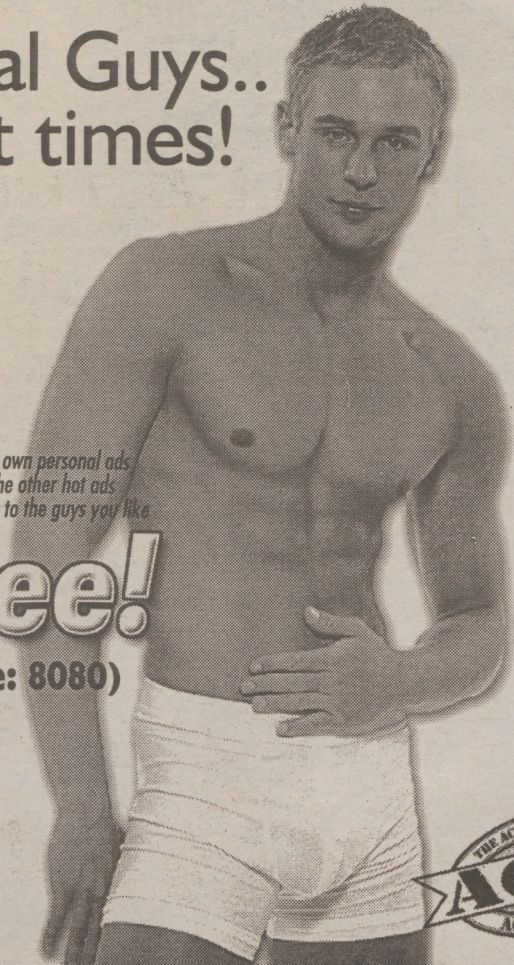
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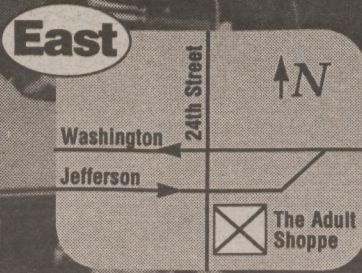
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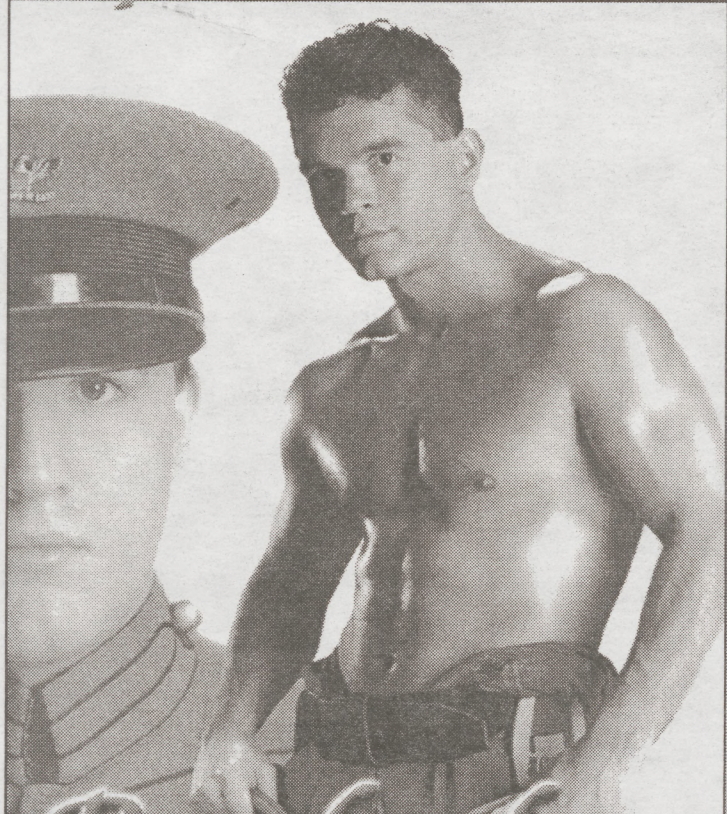
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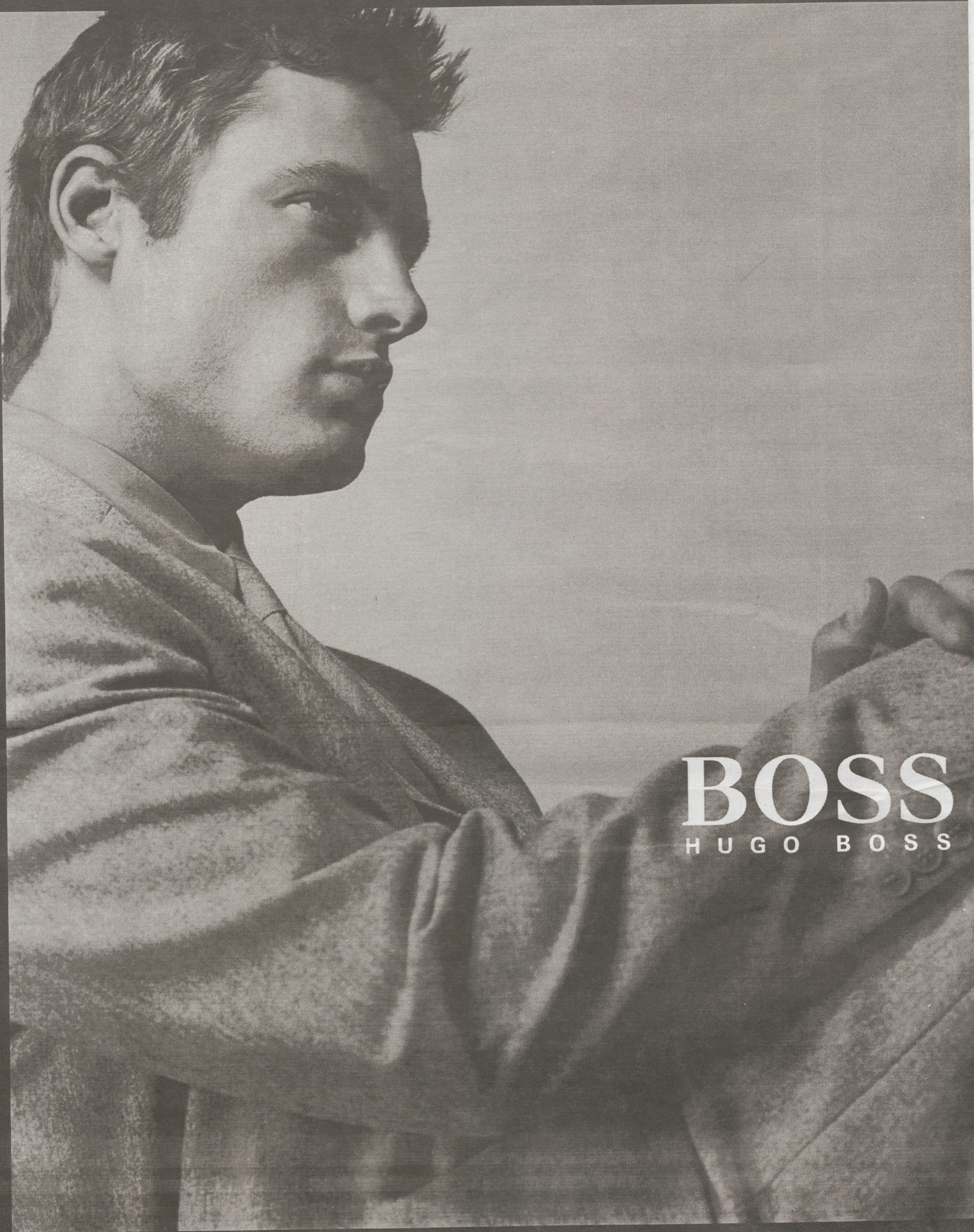
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