

HeatStroke

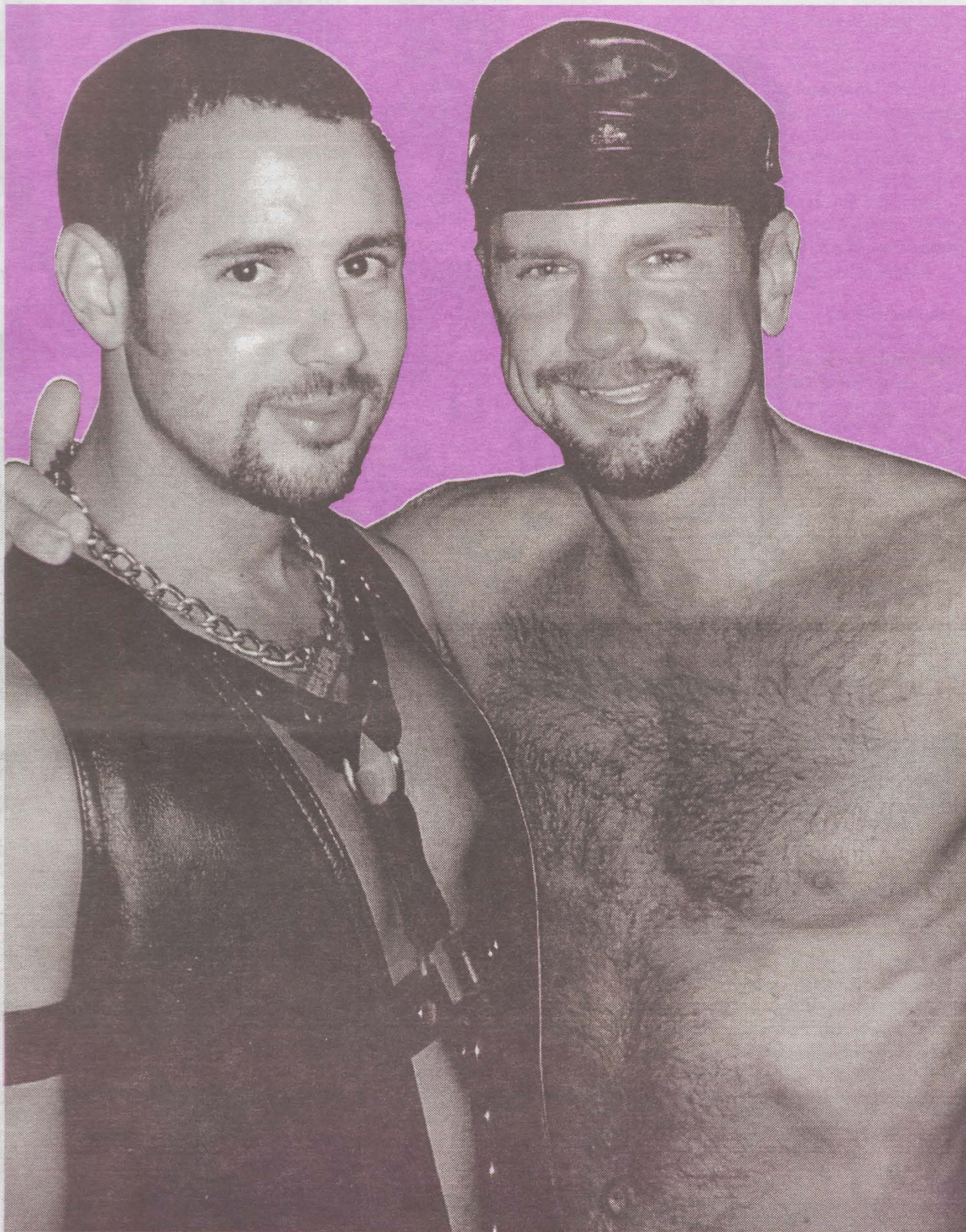
Volume 8, No. 97

Phoenix, Arizona

July 27—August 9, 2000

Coming Out of Hiding

Hampered by AIDS deaths
and a lack of gathering places,
Phoenix's leather community
is making a steady comeback



By Allen Kalchik, Editor

They were dimly lit, badly laid out and more than a little seedy.

Despite those drawbacks—or more than likely because of them—bars like the Bum Steer and the notorious Ramrod were the epicenter of the leather lifestyle in Phoenix in the late '70s and during most of the '80s.

The Ramrod, famed for its anything-goes reputation, closed in the late '80s. When the 'Steer also closed in the mid '90s, local leathermen were left without a bar to call home, creating an obvious gap.

For one thing, leatherman organizations and individual enthusiasts no longer had a dedicated place to meet and greet newcomers to the Valley who'd been involved in the leather scene in other cities prior to

moving here. Membership in local clubs declined, and once-established annual leatherman events were postponed for lack of interest.

Not having a full-time leather bar here also meant there was no place in the Valley equipped to host the nationally-sanctioned leather title contests that have become integral to the subcultural lifestyle in the post-Stonewall revolution.

But times have changed.

Phoenix now has two full-time leather bars, and leather competitions have also returned to the Valley, as evidenced by the 2000 Southwest Mr. Drummer and Drummerboy contest set to take place over the weekend of August 11 - 13.

The Drummer contest will be held at Padlock, on Indian School Road just east of 7th Street, which switched from sports bar to leather bar in early

1999. The club has never been busier since making the atmospheric adjustment, according to management.

Boot Camp, located just around the corner from Padlock on 7th Street south of Indian School, is Phoenix's other leather

leather community is on the rise in the metro area, according to contest promoter Bob DeJardine.

"I am trying not to favor one bar over the other, so the contest was at Boot Camp last year and it will be at Padlock this year," DeJardine said.

"For all the acceptance that we as gay men and women have acquired over the years, the leather lifestyle is still met with resistance by members of the gay and lesbian community."

bar. Boot Camp opened in October of 1998 and played host to the Drummer contest in August of last year.

The repeat of the regional contest in Phoenix is just one sign that awareness of the

DeJardine said the presence of the two bars on the local scene has made all the difference in pulling the leather community back together. "Whether we like it or not, a bar is still the major socializing place for the gay

community," he said. "Even more so for the gay leather community, because for all the acceptance that we as gay men and women have acquired over the years, the leather lifestyle is still met with resistance by members of the gay and lesbian community."

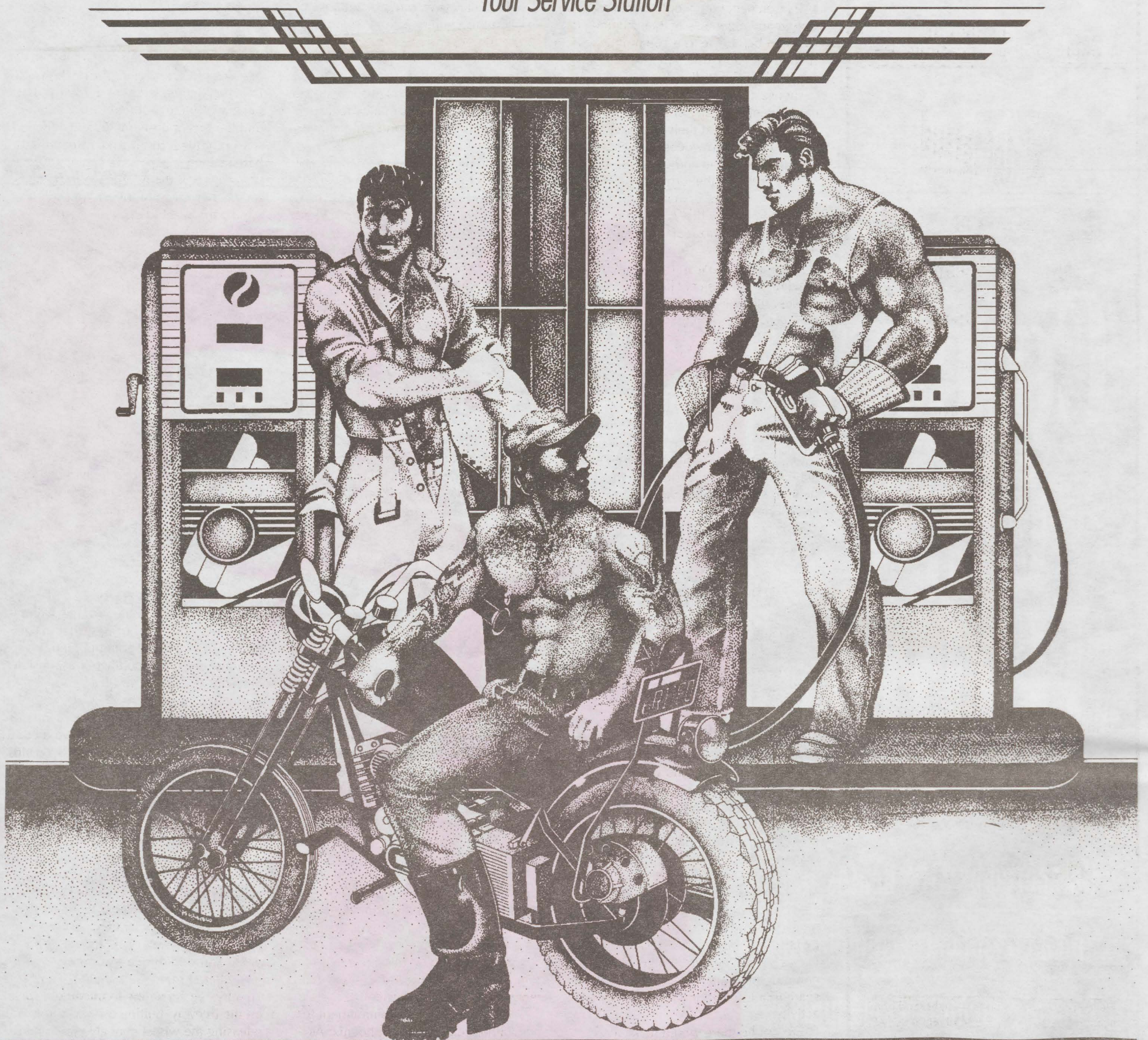
Where that resistance comes from isn't clear to DeJardine, who has owned and operated Tuff Stuff, a retail leather shop in town, since 1983. At 63, he is seen as something of a father figure to many in the leather community here. "People in the leather lifestyle want the same things as everyone else [in the openly gay community]," he says. "Maybe they are just a little more imaginative with the toys at hand."

Whatever the reason, no one is arguing the notion that leathermen have for years been stereotyped, marginalized and

See "Leather," page 16

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National Advertising Sales
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc
212/242-6863

Member,
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AP Associated Press

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Editors:

I find it morally reprehensible that The Padlock promotes the spread of HIV/AIDS by having links on their web site to an organization whose sole purpose is to encourage barebacking (anal sex without a condom).

Haven't enough people died already? How many more acts of total stupidity do we need before we as a community say: "Enough is Enough?" I am further appalled by The Padlock's position (response attached) that bare backing is no different from any of the other interests they support at their bar, such as the leather crowd. How does bare backing fit in with "Safe, Sane and Consensual," the mantra of the leather crowd? This is not just another fetish, or another diverse part of our community that needs to be celebrated. This organization promotes an act that kills people.

I am further shaken by the attitude of the director of Project Lifeguard, Frank Repice. It seems that my outrage that on the one hand the Padlock has benefits for Project Lifeguard, and on the other hand promotes the spread of HIV/AIDS is lost on him. He sees no conflict with the agenda of Project Lifeguard promoting safe sex in a bar while the bar actively supports the most unsafe and dangerous sexual activity known to man. If Project Lifeguard can not even be aroused to ask the bar to remove this site link, to what standards should we hold the rest of the community?

Please call, e-mail or write the Padlock asking them to remove from their site any references to barebacking, and if they do not do so, boycott the bar!

Will Green

(Editors' note: Mr. Green provided HeatStroke with the two following responses to his letter from Project LifeGuard and Padlock representatives.)

Hi Will:

I'm Frank Repice, Director of Prevention and Outreach for APAZ. I received your e-mail and wanted to give you a response.

While our agency's prevention services go to places throughout the community to provide individuals with information to help them make educated decisions, we do not see ourselves as being able to make that decision for them.

Some people do decide, even with education and peer norms in contrary, to engage in unprotected sex. Our activity at Padlock is a statement showing that a community of men exists that does not share in a fascination for unsafe sexual activity.

To not be there would make a very poor statement.

I hope that I have been able to clarify your concern. I share the same concern for those that are unwilling to protect themselves, and I am always looking for new ways to strengthen the community norm that safer sexual activity is important to oneself and to one's friends.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Frank Repice
Project LifeGuard

Will:

We appreciate your concern and even outrage at the barebackjack site, however we have to question your insistence on the removal of the link to barebackjack.com from the Padlock website.

Certainly your arguments are not without merit. However, one of the things we enjoy in this country is the freedom of expression, regardless of its unpopularity. Being an active participant in the leather community, each of us is enjoying that same freedom, even though some people outside the leather community feel such expression is offensive and even dangerous.

One thing we must accept (if we are to expect others to accept us) is diversity of thought and sexual practice. Not everyone in the leather community, or the gay community at large, is into fisting, watersports, bondage, mummification, breath control, or any number of other sexual practices, yet these are each a matter of personal preference based on individual decisions.

While we are aware of the potential risks of bareback sex, the fact is that it exists and occurs more commonly than might be thought. And as with each and every facet of the leather and kink communities, it is a behavior that appeals to some, but not all. The fact that some men enjoy their sex in one particular manner does not mean you must follow suit.

Padlock offers all gay men the opportunity to express their different sexual inclinations in a non-hostile atmosphere. We are sorry if this causes you to be angry, however it is not our place to determine what is right and not right for each of our customers, as long as they behave within the limit of the law within our establishment.

We hold fundraisers for HIV charities because we feel this is an important opportunity to the gay community, both in spirit and education. And we know barebackjack.com also offers HIV responsibility education and information on his site. In addition to his position on bareback sex, he has also contributed to the acceptance of watersports and other fetishes in Phoenix. He has also opened up communication between local men on the subject of barebacking whereas prior to his website, little discussion existed. It is better people talk about their feelings on the subject before putting them into practice, rather than imposing their desires without such communication.

Even so, we have never had a "Bareback Jack" promotion, event, or fundraiser at Padlock, and it is uncertain that we would even consider it.

We do have a deep commitment to the leather community of Phoenix. As such, we ask you please not request we deny recognition to one group or another based on personal feelings, no matter how politically correct your views may be. It's a policy we cannot uphold if we are to maintain our commitment to our patrons. However, if you have any recommendations on links to leather/kink oriented websites that promote safer-sex education, please let us know and we may add them.

We hope you will understand we cannot silence one voice in favor of any other.

Andrew Gage, Webmaster
padlockaz.com

Editors:

I am writing to inform you of a very disturbing and destructive occurrence I have discovered in our community. As I am sure you are aware, the irrational practice of "barebacking," or intentionally infecting people with the aids virus, has been a growing problem for some time, and the recent upswing in new infection rates is a direct result. Like diseased rats, barebacking groups have sprung up to chew away at the progress that the community has made in informing and containing this terrible disease.

The motivation for this is incomprehensible, as well as irrelevant—the sad fact is that it happens. One of these clubs, "bareback jack," is provided as a link to a website of one of the more popular leather bars in Phoenix. The rationalization that this bar uses is that it is a personal sexual choice, equivalent to "kinky" practices such as leather and watersports; true enough at first glance, but again, completely irrelevant.

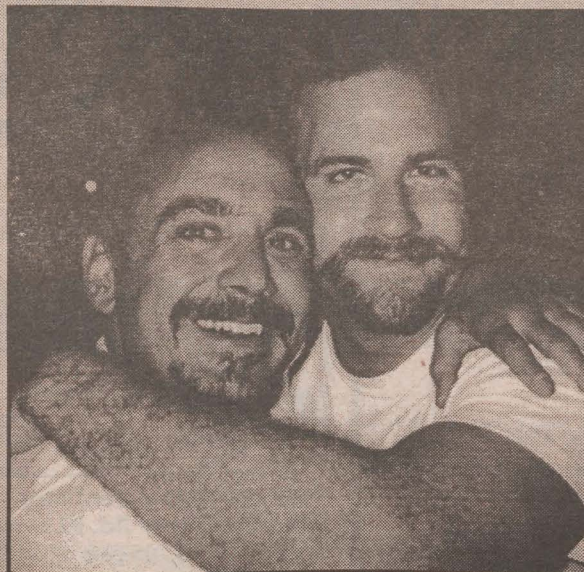
We as a community must be unanimous and vehement in condemnation, and send an unambiguous message that while certain misguided individuals may intentionally expose themselves to this deadly disease, the endorsement of an organization that lures weak-minded people into this practice will not be tolerated. The stated purpose of this organization is to promote, rationalize, and provide opportunities for the spread of aids among gay men. While we cannot eliminate the group, any business that makes money from the gay community has a responsibility to discourage irresponsible behavior that increases all of our risks. To promote, and provide access to this group is as unacceptable as it is incomprehensible. Too many of our friends have died, and are dying—the crisis is not over, aids is not curable, and people are still dying.

To briefly counter "individual choice," as a rationalization for promoting unsafe sex, please consider: The HIV virus mutates quickly—therefore the larger the viral reservoir, the greater the variation in the viral population, making a vaccine more difficult, and a cure less certain. Therefore far from being a harmless personal choice of sexual play, this practice puts us all at greater risk, increases the death and suffering in a community that has suffered more than any other in this country—accelerating to maximum speed on the freeway, putting on a blindfold and releasing the wheel may give some people a sexual thrill as well, but is that purely a personal choice, and could we tolerate an organization that lures teens into actually doing it?

I urge you to e-mail the Padlock bar with your opinion at DMIRAGES@aol.com to express your outrage, and please do not patronize this bar and put your friends and lovers at risk until this travesty has been corrected.

Gary Grodeman

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Deb Price

Churches face inevitable embrace with gays



Progress is painfully slow in the church world, and this season of Protestant church conventions proved no different. Yet the eventual success of the push to have gay and lesbian Christians fully embraced by their churches has taken on an unmistakable air of inevitability to those dedicated to the struggle.

"I think it will be a generation before people's hearts will be completely changed," observes Louie Crew, the founder of Integrity, the voice for full gay inclusion in the Episcopal Church. "But they are changing rapidly all the time." Only once every 12 years do the conventions of the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Episcopal Church coincide.

While the three denominations differ greatly in their acceptance of gay men and lesbians of faith, each is deep in a healthy spiritual struggle. Since 1988, the last time the three denominations' conventions coincided, gay people's place in society has changed markedly. And each of the denominations has been swept up in that change.

The Episcopalians still lead the three in gay-friendliness. The Presbyterians follow, while the Methodists, locked in a civil war, are so divided that the denomination might split.

But it's impossible to look ahead to 2012—when the three denominations will next meet simultaneously—and not be filled with hope that today's turmoil will be history. It's especially heartening to hear an ever-growing number of heterosexual ministers saying it's their moral duty to stand up for the gay people who always have been a vital part of the life and work of the church. Here are convention highlights:

Methodists: With conservative clout growing, the delegates reaffirmed in May the view that homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching" and the bans on same-sex blessings, non-celibate gay clergy and funding for gay-friendly educational efforts.

But the conscience-jolting arrest of 200 gay-supportive demonstrators—including two bishops—was a "moment of truth" at the convention, says Marilyn Alexander, director of the gay-friendly Reconciling Congregation Program. "It shocked many people that this was what it had come to—that people were willing to be arrested and that the church would

have them arrested," Alexander explains. "These were people they knew and loved. It was symbolic that the church is casting people out." Looking ahead to the 2004 convention, Alexander's group will focus on spreading its inclusive message.

Presbyterians: The general assembly voted in late June to delay a decision until next year on lifting the ban on ordaining non-celibate gay ministers. Also, by a narrower margin than in the past, it proposed banning gay holy union ceremonies.

Donna Riley of the gay-friendly More Light program predicts the holy union proposal will be defeated by the church's regional divisions, where it goes next, as it was in 1995. Ironically, the anti-gay proposal will serve as a useful starting

It's especially heartening to hear an ever-growing number of heterosexual ministers saying it's their moral duty to stand up for the gay people who always have been a vital part of the life and work of the church.

point for discussions of why the church ought to nurture gay couples.

"We can see from history that this is a long road, that small steps forward are just that," notes Riley, who adds that More Light also will mobilize support in coming months for gay clergy. "But there's a growing sense of inevitability—even among conservatives—that (full inclusion of gay Presbyterians) is going to happen sooner or later. The question is only how and when."

Episcopalians: In their recently concluded convention, policy-makers overwhelmingly passed a resolution saying unmarried couples—whether gay or heterosexual—deserve pastoral care.

Meanwhile, a proposal to create a standard rite for holy unions drew substantial support, prompting supporters to predict its passage in three years at the next convention. Holy unions and openly gay clergy are already allowed.

Churches are continually called to respond to the evolving understanding of God's inclusive love. All that gay Protestants are asking is for their denominations to answer the call.



Deb Price of *The Detroit News'* Washington bureau writes about gay civil rights in this column. Write to Price in care of *HeatStroke*. © 2000, *The Detroit News*. Distributed by the *Los Angeles Times Syndicate*.

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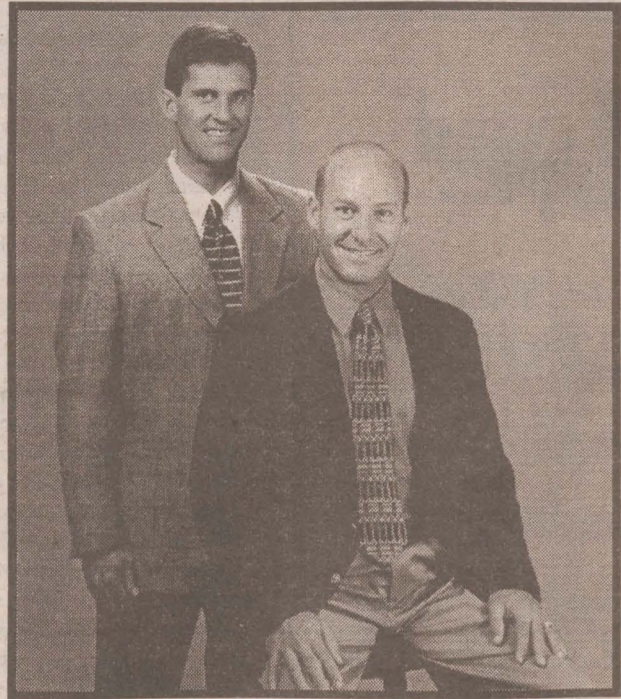
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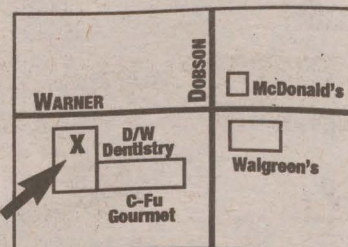


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SLOUCHING THROUGH Gomorrah

BY MICHAEL ALVEAR



bot.... Oh, right, like I'm going to say it and burn in hell for eternity. I'm in enough trouble already. The truth is Jesus turned traditional behavior upside down. He did things that were passive, womanly and gentle. He threatened the male power structure by advocating feminine approaches to life—namely, love, kindness and compassion.

Was Jesus gay? To Tolbert, the question is ridiculous. The concept of heterosexuality or homosexuality didn't exist. It's like asking if Jesus preferred land lines or cell phones.

A more important question than Jesus' past sexuality is his current view of gay life. What would Jesus say if he saw gay culture? Probably the same thing God would say: "I gave these guys the gift of loving other men and the best they could come up with is techno, drag, and show tunes?"

I'm not sure what Jesus would say about drag (other than "go, and sin no more") but his silence on homosexuality in general is proof of his acceptance. Jesus only spoke out about things that were important. Apparently, he thought who you loved was so inconsequential it wasn't even worth mentioning.

The admonishment against homosexuality came before Jesus lived (the Old Testament) and half a century after he died (the bible was written 50-70 AD). Surely if there were something wrong with homosexuality Jesus would have spoken out against it, but he didn't.

We're fruit all right, but we're the fruit of God's labor.

Michael Alvear is going straight to hell. You can wish him a bon voyage by writing in care of HeatStroke.



Well, actually, if anything, Jesus was a friend, "they'd be cruising the other apostles for a three-way."

In John 19:26-28, Jesus is dying on the cross. The bible says when Jesus saw his mother and the beloved disciple [John] standing by, he said to his mother, "woman, behold thy son!" then he said to the disciple, "Behold thy mother!" Some scholars believe Jesus was commanding

his mother and lover to take care of each other, much as many gay men dying of AIDS requested this of their mothers and lovers. And in fact, John did take care of Mary into old age.

Why shouldn't we claim Jesus as one of our own? Think about it: His mom never asked about girls, he was friends with hustlers, and he wore flowing gowns.

The only straight scholar courageous enough to go on record about Jesus' sexuality is Dr. Mary Tolbert from the Pacific School of Religion. But even she hedges. She told *Salon Magazine* that sexual relations in biblical culture "weren't based on gender preference. Free men had sex with women, slaves or boys. Homosexuality is a concept that didn't exist then. Sex only happened between 'dominants' and 'submissives.'"

Oh, oh. I can just hear the fringe groups in gay life lining up to put their two cents in. "See?" all the leather guys will cluck, "I told you Jesus was a top."

Well, actually, if anything, Jesus was a

"Why Aren't You Married?"—The Question Jesus Never Answered.

Was Jesus Gay? Yes. But depending on whom you talk to, he was also straight, white, black, Jewish, Christian, male and female. Certainly every group I belong to claims Jesus as one of their own (I'm Latino, Jewish and Gay—a bigot's dream).

Hispanics believe Christ was Latino. And they have convincing proof: His first name was Jesus, He was always in trouble with the law, and nobody would hire him.

But Jews also have convincing proof Jesus was one of their own: He went into his Father's business, he lived at home till he was 30, and his Mother thought he was God.

African-Americans believe Jesus was black: He called everybody brother, had no permanent address and his Mother didn't know who his Father was.

So why should we gays be any different? Why shouldn't we claim Jesus as one of our own? Think about it: His mom never asked about girls, he was friends with hustlers, and he wore flowing gowns.

Exhibit A in *Christ v. Closet* can be found in the most famous meal of all time. In paintings of the Last Supper, the apostle John (the only one of the 12 apostles Jesus referred to as his "beloved") rests his head on Jesus' undergarment as they eat, much like two lovers would. Of course, some gay men insist the loving gesture proves Jesus was *not* gay. "If they were really lovers," said a far-too-bitter

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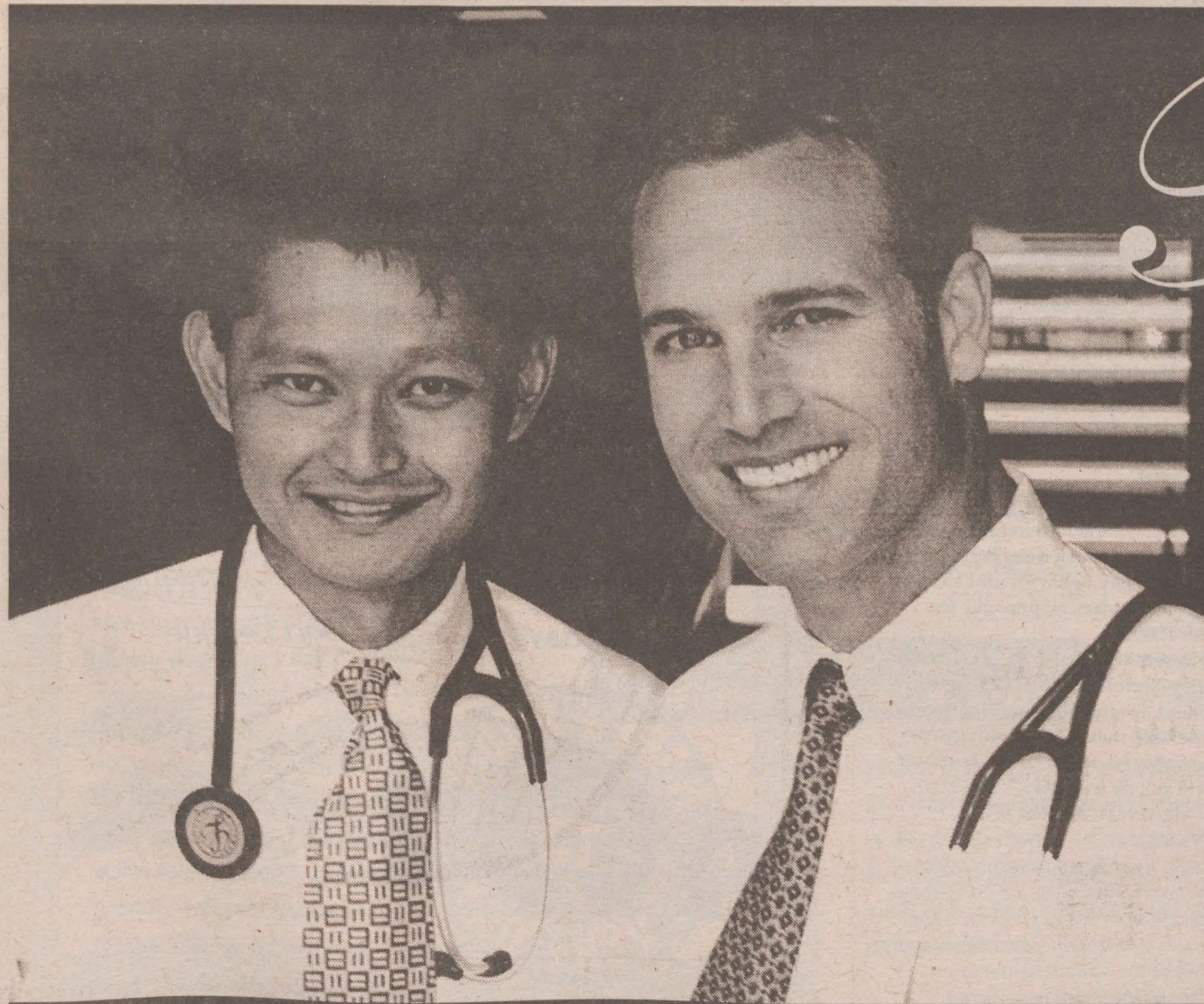
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New NGLTF report provides thorough look at Bush's record on gay issues

July 25, 2000—Six days before the start of the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) today released an 11-page report that provides the most comprehensive look yet at Gov. George W. Bush's record on a number of issues important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community.

The report examines Bush's record and statements on such issues as hate crimes legislation, employment discrimination, adoption and foster care, AIDS and other health issues, domestic partner benefits, same-sex marriage, sodomy laws, military service, affirmative action and racial justice, reproductive health care, welfare and poverty issues, and separation of church and state.

Among the report's findings:

- Bush has vowed to abolish the White House liaison to the gay and lesbian community
- Bush has not stated clearly whether or not he would appoint a gay or lesbian person to his administration; according to the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, he has appointed no openly GLBT person to his administration in 6 years.
- Bush helped kill the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes bill in the Texas Legislature last year because of its inclusion of sexual orientation.

"As journalists and delegates gather in Philadelphia for the Republican convention, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community is wary. Will speakers denounce us as they did in 1992?" NGLTF Executive Director Elizabeth Toledo asked. "The country has changed over the past eight years. Eighty-three percent of all voters now favor equal rights in employment and seventy-five percent favor equal rights in housing. The gay, lesbian and bisexual vote is now five percent of the national electorate and can swing a close election.

We encourage voters to pay close attention to what is said—and what is not said—next week in Philadelphia."

Toledo added that GLBT people have much at stake this election year. "Not only is the White House and Congress up for grabs, but also the Supreme Court," she said. "In addition, voters will decide the composition of almost all of the 50 state legislatures, which will draw new political boundaries through redistricting starting next spring. This in turn will affect the composition of the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures and many city councils for a decade to come."

Toledo pointed out that in the 1996 federal elections, 5 percent of voters nationally self-identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual (GLB), according to Voter News Service. (Voter News Service does not include transgender voters in its polling data.) Moreover, this electorate was independent.

In 1998, for example, one out of every four GLB voters identified as independent or as a member of a third party, and one out of every three GLB voters voted Republican. "This means that the GLB voting block can swing a close election or a presidential election in a hotly contested swing state," Toledo said.

Future NGLTF reports will look at presidential candidates Pat Buchanan, Vice President Al Gore and Ralph Nader and their position on GLBT issues as well as positions held by their running mates. Toledo explained that as a non-partisan organization, NGLTF cannot endorse candidates for federal office. "But we will explain what's at stake for the GLBT community," Toledo said. "We will help publicize the candidates' positions on the key issues. And we will make certain the GLBT community is energized and mobilized for November."

Pentagon says gay policy works, but training must be improved

WASHINGTON (AP)—The military's much-criticized policy on homosexuals in uniform is working, but training must be improved to eliminate anti-gay behavior like the abuse that led to a soldier's murder in Kentucky last year, the Defense Department said.

"We think we've got it right this time," Carol DiBattiste, the undersecretary of the Air Force, told a news conference July 21 to publicize a new Pentagon program to re-emphasize in training that such behavior is unacceptable.

Speaking at the same news conference, Bernard Rostker, the undersecretary of defense, said he disagreed with President Clinton's statement last year, after the beating death of Pfc. Barry Winchell by a fellow soldier at Fort Campbell, Ky., that implementation of his policy on gays was "out of whack."

"I don't agree with that characterization. I think the policy is working reasonably well to provide a degree of safety" for gays in uniform, Rostker said. "The days of witch hunts, the days of stakeouts, are really gone."

Even so, Rostker said, more needs to be done to ensure that everyone in the military understands the policy.

The plan to eliminate anti-gay behavior was created by a panel of civilian and military officials led by DiBattiste of the Air Force. It was in response to a Pentagon inspector general's report in March that found anti-gay behavior was commonplace in the military.

DiBattiste said the key to her panel's

plan is adoption of an "overarching principle" meant to clarify to all in the military that unacceptable behavior includes not just abuse of gays but also "inappropriate comments or gestures."

"That's the high road that we need to take," she said.

The DiBattiste panel's 13-point "action plan" is largely reiteration of previous expressions of determination to stamp out anti-gay behavior and to hold military commanders responsible for policy infractions.

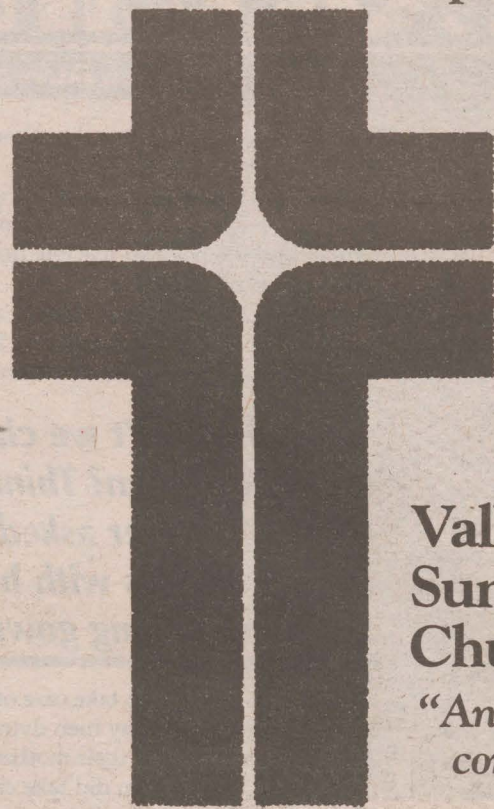
Last December, Rostker's predecessor in the undersecretary's post, Rudy de Leon, issued a statement that "harassment of service members for any reason, to include alleged or perceived homosexuality, will not be tolerated," and commanders must take prompt action against violators.

Michelle Benecke, an executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund, an advocate for gay rights in the military and a frequent critic of Pentagon policy, called the DiBattiste panel's report "thoughtful and considered."

"Today's recommendations, if implemented, would be a very good start," Benecke said.

The spark that caused the Pentagon to take a closer look at the gay policy's implementation, and at the extent of anti-gay behavior in the field, was the Winchell murder at Fort Campbell on July 5, 1999. Two of Winchell's fellow soldiers were convicted in the crime and are in prison.

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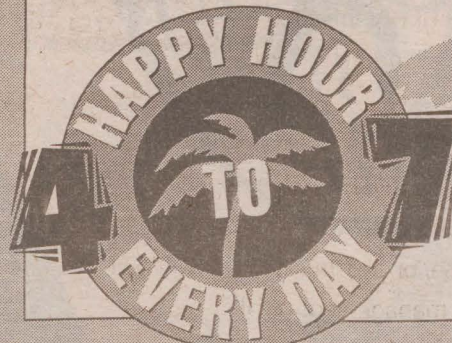
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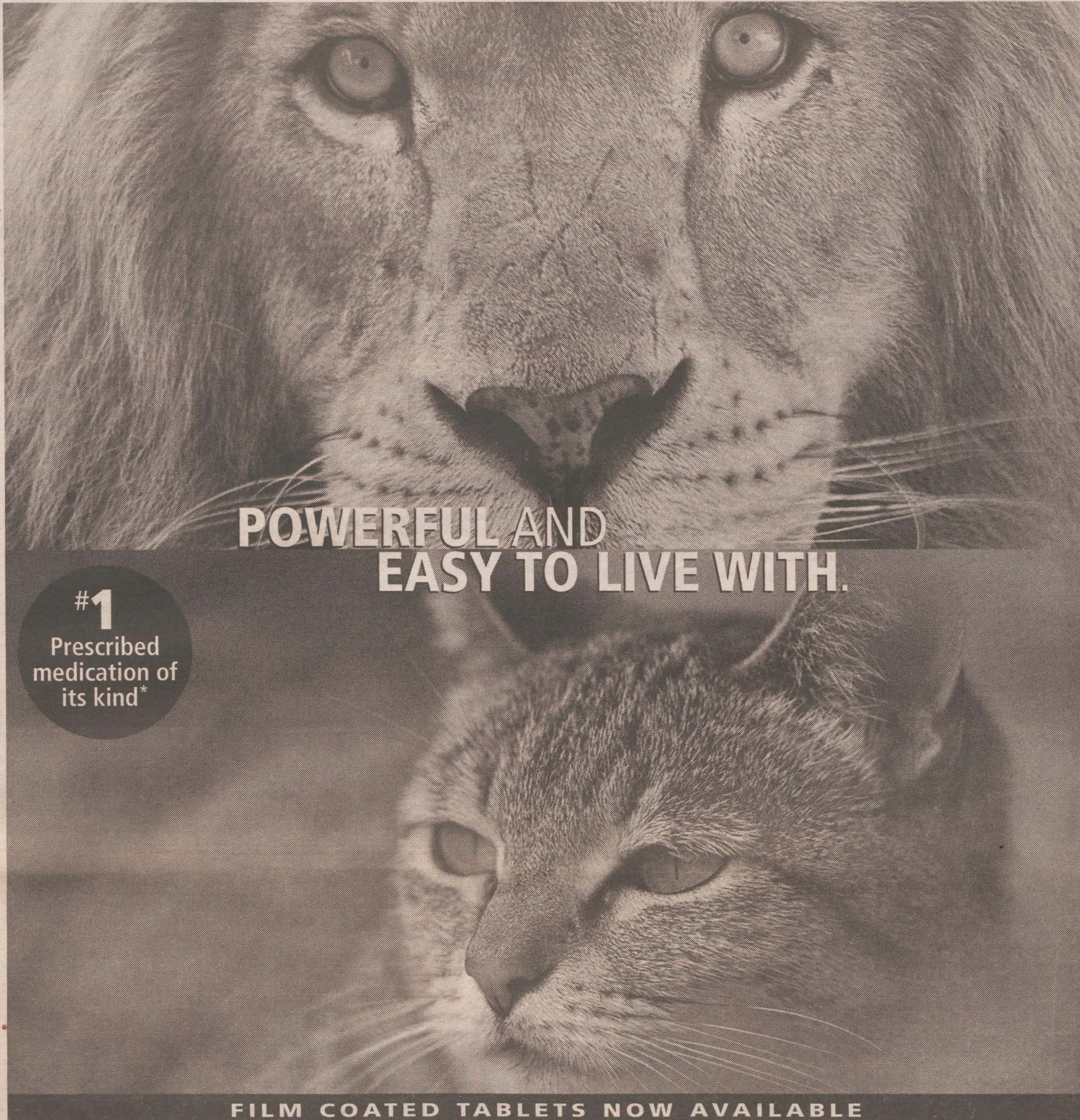
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Politically Speaking



Arizona Human Rights Fund

By Kathie Gummere, Contributor

The U.S. Supreme Court has spoken. The Boy Scouts may discriminate.

That is not okay for an association that is funded in any way by public money and that holds itself out as being inclusive. The Boy Scouts of America is certainly a public group, and I do not believe the current statements that heterosexuality is one of its "core beliefs."

Their message now is that homosexuality is bad, less than, wrong. What sort of message is that to give to young impressionable minds? Where does this leave

I do believe that as with the race-discrimination cases of the past, this one, too, will eventually be overturned. The question is, what do we do in the meantime?

Dr. Laura has a right to free speech. I have a right to protest to her sponsors and persuade them to withdraw their support of this purveyor of hate. Similarly, I have the right to protest discrimination by the Boy Scouts and to persuade those who sponsor the Boy Scouts that it is not only ethically abhorrent, but harmful to their bottom line to fund organizations that teach youth that some groups are better

Find out if your company supports the Boy Scouts. Find out if it contributes to the United Way (which currently funds the Boy Scouts). Communicate with your company and the United Way, and ask that they not sponsor the Boy Scouts unless that Troop disassociates itself with Boy Scouts of America.

the boy who is growing up in scouting, learning from them that homosexuality is wrong and at the same time discovering that he, himself, is gay? Or that his mother, father, uncle or teacher is gay?

This message of negativity is no less damaging than the messages that Dr. Laura spews. It may, in fact, be even more harmful because of its context and the fact that this message is aimed directly at youth.

than others. This I can do, and this I will do.

The most powerful message in the U.S.—and probably the easiest one to give—is the message of the bottom line. We must make it clear to corporate America that we will not support (or work for, if we can help it) companies that discriminate in any form.

This means that I will no longer do business with companies who support the Boy Scouts. This means that I will protest

to the United Way, telling them that I will not contribute to an organization that funds discriminatory organizations. Just as Proctor & Gamble found it imprudent to sponsor Dr. Laura and therefore pulled sponsorship of her proposed TV show, all of corporate America must discover that it is not in their best interests to fund the Boy Scouts.

Find out if your company supports the Boy Scouts. Find out if it contributes to the United Way (which currently funds the Boy Scouts). Communicate with your company and the United Way, and ask that they not sponsor the Boy Scouts unless that Troop disassociates itself with Boy Scouts of America, and agrees not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or any other form of status.

Ask that your churches pull their support unless these same conditions are met. Ask that new or existing groups be funded instead, groups that teach tolerance and acceptance and self-worth to all boys.

The Arizona Human Rights Fund is currently composing a list of organizations in Arizona that fund the Boy Scouts. We will make this list public and will protest to these groups.

But you can start now. Help us identify these companies and churches. Help us protest. Please send me the information that you gather. Does your company support the Boy Scouts? Does your church? Tell me. Tell me, also, what you have done to add your voice to the thousands across America that are protesting this message of hate. The more information we have, the more accurate and powerful our message will be.

Our voices have been

heard in the past. Our voices are being heard now. They will continue to be heard until there is no more discrimination, until there is equality for all.

"No."

"No, I will not support an organization which discriminates."

"No, I will not work for an organization which discriminates."

"No, I will not buy your products."

"No, I will not sit back and let thousands of young minds be taught to hate."

"No."

"No more hate."

"No more silence."

Add your voice.

Two websites that can provide more information on protesting the Boy Scouts are lambdalegal.org and scoutingforall.org.



Kathie Gummere is co-chair of the Arizona Human Rights Fund. She is also an attorney specializing in wills, trusts and estates for the gay & lesbian community. She may be reached in care of HeatStroke.

Dining Out Tonight?

Check out pages 20 & 21 for gay-friendly eateries!



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- Country Western Dance Music 8PM-1AM

SUNDAY

- 70's, 80's & 90's Retro Dance Music 4-8PM
- Dance Lessons with Molly 6-8PM



TAIWAN GOVERNMENT PLANS GAY FORUM

Taipei, Taiwan's first gay forum has been scheduled for Sept. 3, sponsored by the city government, reported *China Times*.

The Taipei Homosexuality Forum will feature "noted homosexuals" from Taiwan and around the world, including American activists Michael Bronski and Nan Hunter, according to the city's Bureau of Civil Affairs.

In preparation for the event, the bureau has printed pamphlets for the general public explaining gay history and culture and that homosexuality is biologically based. It also has published a comprehensive guide to the island's gay groups and meeting places.

The bureau also will sponsor a gala, a design show and art shows at Warners Village Square near City Hall in conjunction with the forum.

GAY PRIEST WINS BATTLE

Norway's Minister of Churches and Education, Trond Giske, has upheld the hiring of the nation's first openly non-celibate gay preacher by the Oslo Bishops Council of the state Lutheran church.

Giske said Jens Torstein Olsen was the "best qualified" person for the job.

Bishops who disagreed with Olsen's hiring had appealed to Giske, the formal employer of state church clergy, saying the appointment violated a 1997 decision by the church's national convention that preachers with same-sex lovers could not hold "consecrated" positions.

NORWEGIANS WOULD ACCEPT GAY KING

Fifty-nine percent of Norwegians would accept a gay king or queen, a Norsk Gallup poll has found.

Two-thirds would have no problem with a gay bishop in the state Lutheran church. Three-fourths wouldn't mind if the prime minister were gay.

Telephone pollsters questioned 993

people in early May.

CANADIAN COUPLE SUES TO MARRY

A gay couple in British Columbia, Canada, has filed a complaint against the provincial government with the Human Rights Commission because they can't get married.

Murray Warren and Peter Cook, who have lived together for 29 years, claim there is in fact no prohibition in Canadian law against same-sex marriage.

"Our rights to be treated equally as citizens in a democratic country and as a couple in a long-term, loving relationship are being denied because of our sexual orientation," Cook told reporters.

Provincial Attorney General Andrew Petter agrees.

"In a modern society there is no justification for denying same-sex couples the same option to form marital bonds as are afforded to opposite-sex couples," he said.

On July 20, Petter filed a petition with the B.C. Supreme Court requesting a determination on whether the federal common law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman is constitutional in light of a recent federal Supreme Court ruling that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation.

BISEXUALS TO RENDEZVOUS IN MANCHESTER

The Sixth International Bisexual Conference is scheduled for Aug. 24-28 in Manchester, England.

Among the speakers will be Fritz Klein who organizers described as "the father of modern bisexuality theory and research."

For more information, phone 011-44-794-609-2727 or visit <http://come.to/bicon>

AMNESTY CRITICIZES GUATEMALA

Guatemalan police are abusing transvestites, Amnesty International said July 18.

"There are strong indications that Guatemalan police have subjected transvestites to systematic abuse, including threats, harassment and rape, which is tantamount to 'social cleansing,'" said AI USA's Michael Heflin.

Heflin also called for full investigations into the recent murders of two transvestite sex workers in Guatemala City — "the latest in a string of [such] murders

that apparently began in October 1997."

MONTREAL PRIDE WINS TOURISM AWARD

Montreal's gay-pride celebration, Divers/Cité, which attracted 500,000 people last year, has won a Tourisme Québécois Grand Prize.

Fourteen awards were handed out in the Montreal region to four hotels, two restaurants, two tourist attractions, two tourist events, one outdoor-recreation activity and three tourist services.

The pride parade won in the category of "Tourist Event—Less than \$1 Million Budget."

Officials said the parade is an "exceptional contribution toward promoting the image of the Montreal area as a tourist destination."

SAUDI GAYS BEHEADED

Six men were executed in Saudi Arabia in mid-July for crimes related to homosexuality.

Three men were beheaded in Abha July 11 for engaging in sodomy, transvestism and "homosexual marriage," and for allegedly raping youths after drugging them with sleeping pills.

An Islamic court found Attiya bin Ubaid Attiya, Rajeh bin Ibrahim Issa and Rajhi bin Hamad bin Ali guilty of "committing the extreme obscenity of homosexuality and imitating women." They were decapitated with a sword.

On July 14, three men from neighboring Yemen were beheaded in Jizan on charges of homosexuality, transvestism, same-sex marriage and luring boys into sexual activity. Abdullah Jabli, Yehya Faraj and Faraj Hajuri also were decapitated with a sword.

Saudi Arabia also applies the death penalty for murder, rape, apostasy, armed robbery, drug trafficking and repeated drug offenses. Adulterers are stoned. People who drink alcohol are flogged.

CHINESE CLUB RAIDED

Police raided the gay health spa Junjie Men's Beauty and Health Center (also known as Heroes' Gym) in Guangzhou, China, July 7 and arrested 37 men for prostitution.

But a police spokesman said the raid was not anti-gay in nature.

"The men were not taken in because of their homosexuality, which is a voluntary mutual relationship, but because the cen-

ter charged from 200 yuan (\$24) to 500 yuan for their services," he said.

Police said the spa opened in February and had hundreds of card-carrying members.

Guangzhou is a thriving provincial capital near Hong Kong.

GAY GROUP FORMS IN NIGERIA

With the transition from military to civilian government, a gay organization has formed in Nigeria.

The Alternative Lifestyles Foundation hopes to organize gays and lesbians into a formidable pressure group to promote gay visibility and equality.

Co-founder Kene Uz Korie says the first step is for gays to take a public stand.

CYPRUS EQUALIZES GAYS

Cyprus' parliament enacted legislation June 8 eliminating areas of discrimination against gay men in the criminal law.

According to the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), lawmakers equalized the male age of consent (by raising the age of consent for heterosexual males from 16 to 18—women can have sex at 16), eliminated the pejorative description of gay sex (replacing "unnatural licentiousness" with "intercourse between men"), and deleted discriminatory provisions on privacy (sex between more than two men had been classified as taking place "in public").

Provisions banning "indecent behaviour or invitation or provocation or advertisement aimed at performing unnatural acts between males" were altered to apply only to actions directed at persons under 18.

The changes were a belated response to a 1993 victory at the European Court of Human Rights by gay activist Alecos Modinos who had challenged Cyprus' total ban on gay-male sex. In 1998, parliament repealed the outright ban but simultaneously created the discriminatory provisions described above.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe then ruled that the 1998 changes did not fully comply with the terms of the Euro Court's ruling. (Under the European Convention on Human Rights, the Committee is empowered to ensure that actions taken by governments and parliaments in response to a judgment of the European Court fully rectify the human-rights violations identified in the judgment.)

British Columbia goes to court challenging ban on same-sex marriages

VICTORIA (AP)—British Columbia's attorney general filed a petition with the Canadian province's supreme court to determine whether the ban on same-sex marriages is constitutional.

Attorney General Andrew Petter said July 20 that his office has received a legal opinion concluding the federal common law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman would likely be revised by the courts in light of recent equality rights decisions under the Charter of Rights, Canada's bill of rights.

Currently in Canada, same-sex couples are entitled to all the benefits of heterosexual couples except for the right to apply for a marriage licence.

In June 1999, however, members of the House of Commons voted overwhelmingly that marriage should remain defined as the union between a man and a woman.

British Columbia's move is the first by a province to go to the courts on the issue, although the City of Toronto has sought guidance in Ontario courts over whether to issue a marriage licence to two men.

"If the institution of marriage is a positive and beneficial institution for society and works for heterosexual couples, it should work for same-sex couples," Petter said. "We have no right to deny same-sex couples the same opportunities to participate in that institution given their equality rights."

The province's petition names two same-sex couples who have tried but failed to get marriage licences. Other gay and lesbian couples are expected to join the case. There was no indication when

the petition might be heard.

One of the couples named in the petition, Judy Lightwater and Cynthia Callahan, applied last May for a marriage licence, but a provincial official deferred granting the licence pending a legal decision.

"This is the second-best thing in our opinion that could happen other than actually getting the licence," Callahan said.

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Goings On

Team AZ News

Team Arizona is the Valley's all-volunteer organization for gay and lesbian athletes and is a big supporter of individuals planning to attend the Gay Games in Sydney in 2002. This growing group has a number of activities planned for the summer months.

The Team Arizona sport of the month for August is swimming. All persons interested in getting together on Saturday, Aug. 26 for an informal swim event should call the hotline at 602/408-4311.

On July 29, the group will host a pool tournament at Charlie's, 727 W. Camelback Rd. in Phoenix. This Saturday afternoon event will last from 4 - 7:00 p.m.

The Team AZ tennis players are meeting every Friday from 7 - 9:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Tennis Center, and again on Sundays. Call the hotline for details.

The Frontrunners and Frontwalkers groups are meeting several times per week, including Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in Papago Park. The Delta Flyers Mountain Biking club is also always looking for new members who'd like to ride with gay and lesbian bikers in a friendly atmosphere.

Call 602/408-4311 for information about joining Team Arizona and getting the group's monthly newsletter.

ACP Announces Annual Meeting

The Arizona Central Pride Committee has set the ACP annual meeting for Sunday, Aug. 20 at 1:00 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

The meeting will be held at the Parkway Inn, 8617 Black Canyon Hwy (east side). The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect new board members, to

provide an opportunity for the public to meet and give input to current board members, to serve as a kickoff for pride 2001, and to allow the public to see how the largest gay and lesbian event in Arizona is put together.

Jan Rice, board member and volunteer coordinator said, "this meeting is an excellent chance for people who would like to volunteer to meet the board members and see how the organization works, and we always need more volunteers."

The board is also open to input and suggestions from the public; the festival is growing every year, and organizers hope to expand the festival site significantly next year.

The Arizona Central Pride Committee works year round to create a spectacular festival for Phoenix celebrating the anniversary of the beginning of the gay and lesbian liberation movement, and this annual meeting is your chance to influence, or even become a part of the celebration.

GCMC: August auditions

The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale will hold auditions for the fall season on Tuesday evening, August 29 at the First United Methodist Church located at Central Ave. and Missouri in central Phoenix.

For more information and to be scheduled for an audition time, contact Rick at 602/266-4987 or BassoProfundo@liinkii.com. Rehearsals will begin the following Tuesday, September 5.

Scouting for All to protest in Phoenix

PFLAG member Amy Culver is orga-

nizing a local protest of the Boy Scouts' discriminatory policies in conjunction with Scouting for All, a national group calling for a nationwide protest on Aug. 21.

The Phoenix protest will be held at 4:00 p.m. on that date at the Grand Canyon Boy Scout Council headquarters, 2969 N. Greenfield in Phoenix. The building is situated just off the northbound on-ramp to the 51 freeway north of Thomas.

For information, call 480/545-2834 or visit www.scoutingforall.org.

Center's Comedy Night set for Aug. 26

The Community Center's biggest summer fundraiser, *A Night of Comedy*, will bring three top gay and lesbian comics to the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Phoenix for a special Saturday night of all-out laughter on August 26.

Eddie Safarty, Michele Balan and Kit Stewart will fill the bill for the 7:03 p.m. show, and tickets go on sale July 22 for \$10-\$24. Last year's event drew more than 900 people, with proceeds going to benefit the Center's programs and services. Call 602/265-7283 for information.

Desert Valley Squares to host Convention in 2004.

The International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs has awarded its 21st Annual Convention to the Desert Valley Squares. The convention will be held at the Arizona Biltmore July 1-4, 2004. An expected 1,100 gay square dancers from across the US, Canada, Japan, Denmark, and Australia will converge on Phoenix for a weekend of fun and dancing. The name of the convention has yet to be

determined.

Dancing in Phoenix since 1983, Desert Valley Squares is Arizona's premier gay and lesbian social square dance club. Desert Valley Squares has memberships in the IAGSDC, Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association. Desert Valley Squares is also a founding member of the Grand Canyon Square Dance Association.

Everyone is invited to be a part of the Desert Valley Squares and the Convention. New beginner classes are scheduled to begin September 10, 2000. The convention committee is searching for sponsors and volunteers to assist in making this convention another record-breaking event.

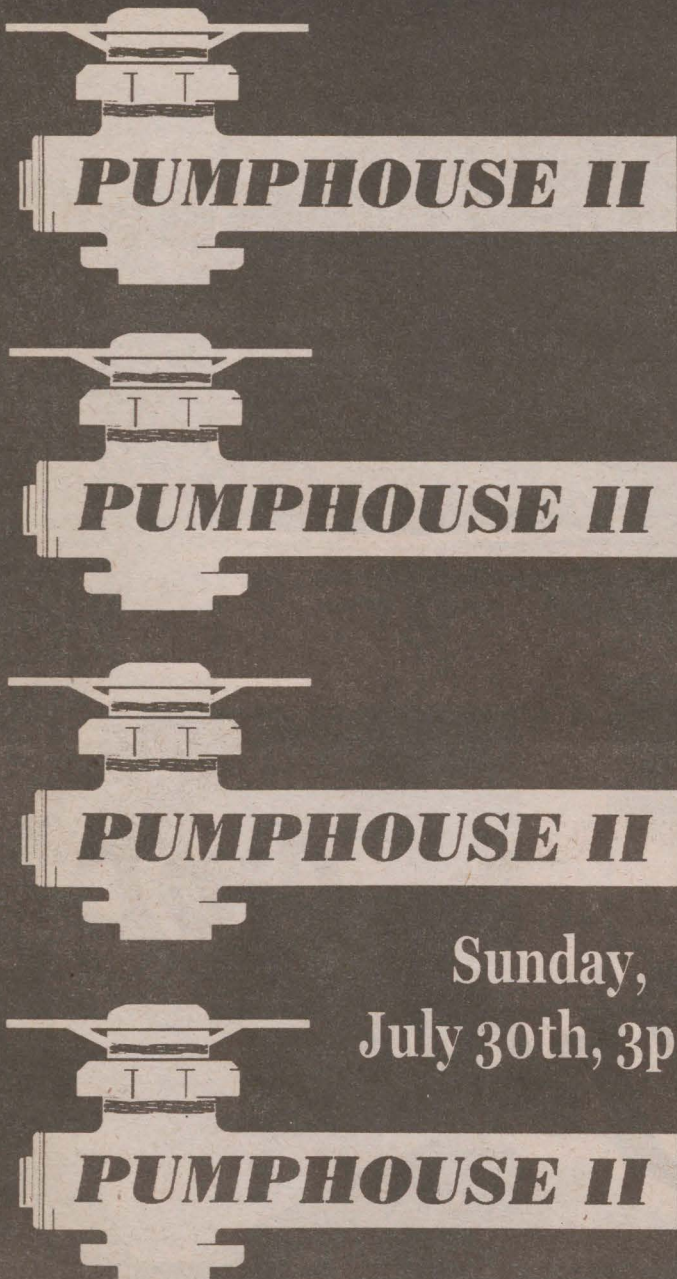
For more information contact Desert Valley Squares, Gordon Macaw, President, 602/331-8839.

DA plans August events

The Desert Adventures outdoor social organization is celebrating 20 years in the Phoenix area's gay community. The club plans a number of events year-round encouraging gay men and lesbians to interact and have fun while taking part in numerous group events and activities.

On Saturday, Aug. 5, the club will host an 8:00 a.m. Ultralight Flight over Lake Pleasant. The cost is \$85 for a half-hour in the air, and the group will gather after the adventure at nearby White Horse Tavern to enjoy brunch and exchange stories. Call the DA hotline for directions and carpool information.

On Sunday, Aug. 6, DA will take a tubing trip down the Salt River. Meet at the Salt River Recreation facilities at 8:30 a.m. There's a fee of \$10 for the tube rental and a DA fee of \$3 for guests and \$1 for members.



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News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

Coming up later in the month, DA will be heading off to Reynolds Creek for a weekend campout (Aug. 18 - 21) and hold an ice cream social on Aug. 13.

For information on any of these activities or to join Desert Adventures, call 602/266-CAMP.

Rep. Barney Frank in town Sept. 8.

The Arizona Stonewall Democrats and the Arizona human Rights Fund are joining forces to host a fundraiser entitled "Pride and Politics: An Evening with the Honorable Barney Frank".

The openly gay Mass. congressman will speak at a reception at a private home in Paradise Valley at 6:00 p.m. on Sept. 8. Tickets are \$50.

The reception will be followed by a dinner with the congressman at Coup Des Tartes, tickets are \$250. For information or to order tickets, contact Wally Straughn at 602/864-6092.

OUToberfest scheduled, moved to zoo

The Community Center has announced the date of this year's National Coming Out Day celebration and picnic. The eighth annual OUToberfest will be held October 7, 2000 at the Phoenix Zoo.

Event planners promise food, drinks and a wild time, with proceeds going to benefit the Community Center's programs. Tickets will go on sale Sept. 1.

Bush running mate Richard B. Cheney—a look at his record on gay/AIDS issues

Compiled by the Human Rights Campaign

January 27, 1993—

In an interview with CNN, Richard B. Cheney said he opposed President Clinton's effort to lift the ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military. Cheney told Larry King: "I am one of those people who believes that people's sexual preference and orientation are a private matter. It's something that is a personal matter for them, and no one else's business. And that's the way I ran the civilian side of the Pentagon... On the military side, though, you can't pursue that policy."

And later in the interview, Cheney said: "I basically don't believe in discrimination, but I did conclude, as secretary of defense, that the ban on gays in uniform was appropriate."

Aug. 5, 1991—

As U.S. secretary of defense, Cheney supported Pete Williams, the department's chief spokesman, when The Advocate magazine revealed his homosexuality. "I have operated on the basis over the years with respect to my personal staff that I don't ask them about their private lives," said Cheney. "As long as they perform their professional responsibilities in a responsible manner, their private lives are their business." (The Associated Press, 8/5/91)

July 31, 1991—

As defense secretary, Cheney appeared to question the validity of the ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military by referring to the policy as an "old chestnut" that he inherited. But he gave no indication that he planned to reverse the policy. Cheney maintained that the ban "applies specifically to the military, not civilians. It's a

policy I inherited." (The Associated Press, 8/5/91)

May 18, 1988—

Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1988

As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Cheney, R-Wyo, voted against the Hate Crimes Statistics Act and supported a hostile amendment that added needless anti-gay rhetoric to the bill. The bill passed in the House 383 to 29 (with 19 not voting).

Sept. 23, 1988—

AIDS Federal Policy Act of 1988

In the House, Cheney voted against the AIDS Federal Policy Act of 1988, the first major federal bill to provide funding for HIV/AIDS counseling and testing. The bill passed 367 to 13 in the House (with 51 not voting). Several ultra conservatives voted for this bill, including: Reps. Tom DeLay, R-Texas; Dick Armey, R-Texas; Mike DeWine, R-Ohio; John Kasich, R-Ohio; Fred Upton, R-Mich.; William Thomas, R-Calif.; Susan Molinari, R-N.Y.; Lamar Smith, R-Texas; Bill Archer, R-Texas and Michael Bilirakis, R-Fla. Cheney joined Reps. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.; William Dannemeyer, R-Calif.; and Bob Dornan, R-Calif., in opposing the much-needed bill.

Mandatory HIV/AIDS Testing of Prison Inmates

Cheney also voted against an amendment in the House that would restrict HIV/AIDS testing in prisons to only those inmates convicted of prostitution or a crime related to sexual assault, IV drug use and who posed a direct threat of infection to others within the State penal system. The measure, proposed by Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., passed in a 266-137 vote.

June 15, 1988—

HIV/AIDS Research Funding Cuts

Cheney voted for an amendment put forward by Rep. William Dannemeyer, R-Calif., to cut \$100,000 in HIV/AIDS research funding. The amendment failed 37 to 369, with 25 members not voting.

July 24, 1986—

D.C. HIV/AIDS Insurance Bill

Cheney voted for an amendment, also sponsored by Dannemeyer, to overturn a Washington, D.C., HIV/AIDS Insurance Bill. The amendment would have prohibited the D.C. government from spending money to enforce the city's recently enacted HIV/AIDS insurance bill. Dannemeyer's move failed 241-173, with 16 members not voting.

1980-1981—

Cheney repeatedly supported the McDonald Amendment to Legal Services Bill, which sought to prohibit the "promotion" of homosexuality within the Legal Services Department. This bill is one of the first types of "no promo homo" bills to have ever been widely debated. (The Gay Rights National Lobby Report)

1979-1980—

The Gay Rights National Lobby released a voting study for the 96th Congress showing that Cheney received low marks from the American Civil Liberties Union (13) and the National Women's Political Caucus PC (0). The conservative Christian Voice, however, gave the Wyoming congressman an approval rating of 100.

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HRC report shows dangers of "ex-gay" ministries and reparative therapy

Former "Ex-Gays," Mental Health Professionals and Community Leaders Speak Out Against Harm Caused by "Ex-Gay" Programs

SAN DIEGO—The Human Rights Campaign released a new report in July that reveals the grave psychological damage done to many people who go through the "ex-gay" ministries and "reparative" therapy, which seeks to change a person's sexual orientation. *Finally Free: How Love and Self-Acceptance Saved Us From the Ex-gay Ministries*, is a landmark publication that features the personal stories of people who have survived the "ex-gay" ministries and have come forward to expose the harm done by these groups, says HRC.

"The extreme right-wing pumps resources into deceptive ads that claim gays can change their sexual orientation, but they unconsciously conceal the damage done to many people who enter these failed programs," said HRC Associate Director of Communications and *Finally Free* Editor Wayne Besen at the press conference. "*Finally Free* exposes the 'ex-gay' myth and highlights how false and misleading information put out by these groups can place vulnerable people at risk."

"After five wasted years of lies and deceit, I found the empty promises of 'ex-gay' ministries shallow and without foundation," said *Finally Free* contributing writer Clint Trout at the press conference. "My mental health was clearly compromised by my attempts to resist my true nature as a gay man. I urge anyone to research the facts before they enter these ministries who lure people with false promises that lead to broken hearts and shattered lives."

Finally Free was released at a press conference in San Diego, the city where Exodus International—the largest "ex-gay" organization—is hosting their annual conference. The publication is intended for use as an educational tool, and to share the truth about the "ex-gay" ministries and "reparative" therapy that the political right does not want the public to hear.

Unlike the political right who pay "ex-gays"—as much \$65,000 per year—for their testimony, no one was paid for their story in *Finally Free*. The publication hopes to set the record straight on the astronomical, if not complete, failure rate of the "ex-gay" ministries and "reparative" therapy.

A common thread in each essay in *Finally Free* is how desperately these

individuals tried to conform and reject their sexual orientation, says HRC.

Methods of change included all-night prayer meetings, exorcisms, fasting, lip-stick application seminars for lesbians and endless, expensive sessions with so-called "reparative" therapists.

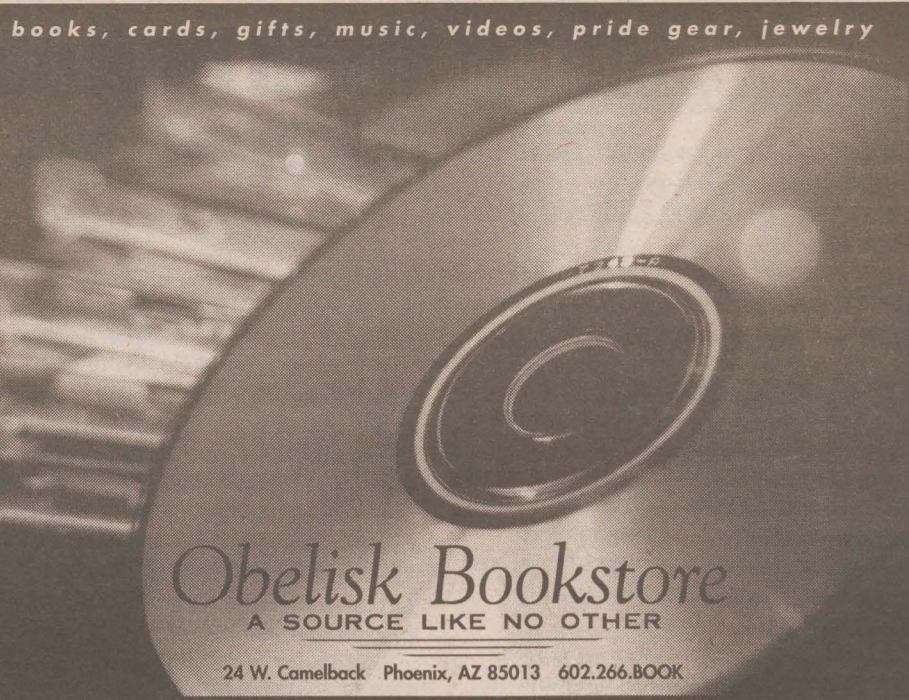
Speakers at the press conference were: Trout, Wulfensmith, Steve Kesel, former "ex-gay;" Dr. Heather Berberet, director of educational and support programs, Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center of San Diego; Judy Shaim, San Diego psychotherapist; Joseph Hampton, San Diego youth activist, and HRC's Besen.

In an effort to counter increased acceptance of gay and lesbian Americans, a coalition of conservative Christian organizations launched a national newspaper ad campaign in 1998 saying that gay people could change their orientation through prayer and the help of "ex-gay" ministries. A similar television campaign debuted in 1999 in Washington, and "ex-gay's"—who are paid staff at right-wing organizations—have lobbied extensively to block legislation that would protect gays and lesbians from discrimination in housing and employment.

"Having served extensive time in an 'ex-gay' program, the most change in orientation that can occur has to do only with behavior and not feelings," said *Finally Free* contributing writer Catherine Wulfensmith at the press conference. "Today, I am happily married to another woman. I have finally found peace in accepting myself for who I am."

"I wholeheartedly agree with virtually every respected medical and mental health organization when I say that the 'ex-gay' ministries can cause untold harm to people," said Dr. Heather Berberet, director of educational and support programs for the Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center of San Diego. "Gay men and women who come out in supportive, nurturing environments are just as likely to be happy, productive individuals as anyone else. Unfortunately, the 'ex-gay' ministries and 'reparative' therapists paint a distorted picture of what it means to be gay, at a great psychological cost to those who are caught in their web of misinformation."

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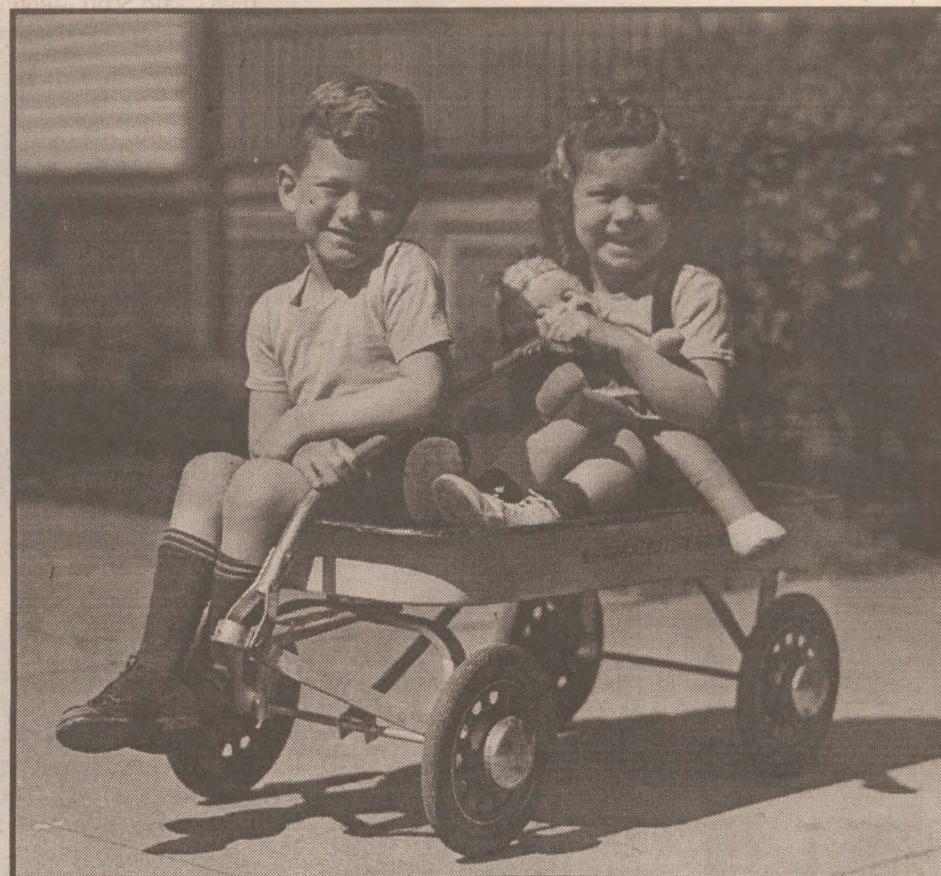


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Other states looking to follow Vermont's civil unions lead

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Legislators in Rhode Island and New York are looking to follow Vermont's lead in granting same-sex couples the benefits of marriage, even if it might be called something else.

From New Hampshire to California, politicians are intrigued by the civil unions statute Vermont created to grant gay and lesbian couples rights and benefits without wandering into the politically volatile thicket of marriage.

But most advocates say Vermont will remain a pioneer on the issue for the foreseeable future while the public becomes more comfortable with the idea.

They won't be introduced until next winter, but a state senator in New York is drafting a bill based on Vermont's statute and a Rhode Island state representative is pushing a bill that would expand his state's marriage laws to include same-sex couples.

"I would not introduce anything but marriage," said Rep. Michael Pisaturo, a Democrat from Cranston, R.I. "I don't necessarily see something like civil unions or domestic partnerships as a stepping stone to marriage."

In the New York state Senate, Manhattan Democrat Tom Duane is drafting a bill that his aide said would be "similar to" Vermont's first-in-the-nation civil unions statute, although details were still being worked out.

"Our Legislature won't be back until January, so it wouldn't be until then," said Scott Melvin.

Advocates also see opportunities in New Hampshire, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts and California for laws granting marriage benefits, either through marriage itself or through a civil unions compromise like Vermont's.

"I think the situation we're in is Vermont will be there and will have to have the courage of its convictions for a while and then, I think, it will fall into place in a number of spots," said Beatrice Dohm, a lawyer for the Lambda Legal

Defense and Education Fund, which led the legal fight in Hawaii for gay marriage.

Although most advocates insist that full inclusion in marriage statutes is the only way for gay and lesbian couples to achieve equality, some see the civil unions statute as a good way to begin moving toward that goal.

"Using Vermont as a model, other legislatures wishing to enact equal benefits, equal status for gay and lesbian people will look at this," said David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights organization. "There are several progressive legislatures around the country that would look to this."

Vermont's law is parallel to marriage but is a separate legal creation. It has prompted a lot of debate

Because civil unions aren't marriage, the Vermont authors of the law say, they're a way to take a step without getting bogged down in emotion, religion and morality.

around the country about granting benefits to couples who want legal recognition and protection for their long-term relationships.

Vermont lawmakers have said repeatedly that their law could be a model for other states to emulate as they seek to steer clear of the emotional debate about marriage. Thirty-four states have adopted statutes specifically outlawing gay marriage. Because civil unions aren't marriage, though, the Vermont authors of the law say, they're a way to take a step without getting bogged down in emotion, religion and morality.

But to people like California Assemblywoman Rep. Carole Migden of San Francisco, that's demeaning.

"The premise of civil union is still an insult, but nevertheless we're

Weddings, unions—it's all the same to Vermont newspapers

UTLAND, Vt. (AP)—Announcements for civil unions are beginning to appear alongside wedding announcements on wedding pages in newspapers around the state.

At many newspapers, editors said they will treat announcements of same-sex unions the same as traditional marriages, placing them in the same section of their newspapers and in the same format, although perhaps under a different heading.

The decision "took about 30 seconds of deep thought," said *Valley News* editor Jim Fox. "It wasn't very difficult."

"Of course we would treat them the same," said Annette Sharon, managing editor of the *Manchester Journal*. "If they want to make that announcement to their neighbors, the newspaper is the place for that to happen."

Even newspapers that have editorialized against the law granting marriage-like benefits to same-sex couples appear likely to print civil union announcements.

Mark Smith, publisher of *The Caledonian-Record*, said no one had brought such a notice to his St.

pleased that the state of Vermont recognizes the quality of lesbian and gay equality in a less-than-dignified way," said Migden, whose state last year outlawed gay marriage in a referendum. "We're moving along. Each year we add to it. It's a step-by-step building-block process."

Some gay rights advocates caution that experiences in Hawaii and Alaska, where courts said same-sex couples should be allowed to marry and then lawmakers and voters reversed them, should temper any predictions that the idea of civil unions will spread quickly beyond Vermont.

"I think it's important to bear in mind that Vermont is a leader in not just civil unions, but in terms of hate crimes, second parent adoption and nondiscrimination issues for the lesbian and gay community," said Tim Sweeney, deputy executive director of New York state's Empire State Pride Agenda. "I think that's an important context to keep in mind."

Political considerations appear to be far from the minds of many of the people entering into civil unions since they became the law on July 1. Of the 115 that had been reported

to the state vital records division through Monday, more than two-thirds have been between couples from outside Vermont. That's even though civil unions for now are not legally recognized anywhere else in the country.

That alone will make a difference in other states, though, advocates say, because it is generating debate in practically every state.

"The whole movement in Vermont has created a tremendous amount of education and discussion about lesbian and gay relationships and the kind of discrimination we face," Sweeney said. "It's been an extremely positive discussion and very helpful to humanize lesbian and gay relationships and our families."

course."

Joseph Watson of Leicester, entered a civil union with his partner, Michael Warner, on July 7. Watson said he had no problem with sending out the notice, which has appeared in the *Addison County Independent* and was in the July 23 edition of the *Sunday Rutland Herald* and *Times Argus*. It will also be in a new "Milestones" section of the gay newspaper *Out in the Mountains* and is expected to be published soon by *The Burlington Free Press*.

Addison County Independent publisher Angelo Lynn said his paper received only a letter of praise for its publication of Watson's civil union notice.

At the *Newport Daily Express*, however, managing editor Susan Davis doesn't expect such a smooth reception.

Davis said if she receives civil union notices, she will print them as long as her publisher approves. But she anticipates a backlash.

"I don't have a problem with it, but I know a lot of people do," she said. "This is the Northeast Kingdom and everybody is running anti-civil unions (for the upcoming elections). ... It's a huge issue up here."

Phoenix's Leather Enthusiasts Enjoy Resurgence

Continued from page 1

maligned by other factions of the community—even to the point of being specifically asked *not* to take part in the Millennium March on Washington this past April.

When the deaths from the AIDS pandemic peaked in the late eighties, the leather community was among the hardest hit, and resentments still linger toward groups and individuals promoting a positive approach toward gay life and gay sex.

DeJardine said that discriminating against leathermen based on any disproportional part they may or may not have played in spreading the HIV virus in Phoenix is particularly unfair, given the fact that every major organization formed to combat the disease here included a leatherman on its founding board.

In the mid-'80s, DeJardine himself won the title of "Mr. Ramrod" in one of the earliest leather contests organized locally as a fund-raiser for AIDS. He offered the money he'd raised in the contest to several organizations before he found one willing to take it.

"Their attitude was basically that they weren't taking any money from the dirty people that started all this," he recalled. "I was very hurt by that, and

I've never forgotten it."

DeJardine acknowledges that many gay people see leathermen as something to be afraid of, even today. He recalls being scared to enter Tuff Stuff when he initially visited the shop after moving to Phoenix in the '80s.

"I have no idea what I was afraid of," he said, glancing around the store he now owns. Leather clothing, dildos, harnesses, and toys are on display, and there are racks of chaps, shorts and other gear available for purchase. The bulk of Tuff Stuff's

"The attitude [of the AIDS organizations at the time] was basically that they weren't taking any money from the dirty people that started all this."

business, however, is custom fit and made to order.

Although the Phoenix leather community has been less than cohesive in recent years, DeJardine's shop has done well. He expanded the Phoenix store last year and opened a Tuff Stuff in Palm Springs in June of 2000.

"We don't really have a slow season," he said. As testament to that claim, even in late July there were more than a dozen completed orders hanging behind the shop's counter waiting to be picked up. A recent Saturday morning found two employees busily stitching together orders and ringing up sales.

The store served as a gathering place for information, too, during the period before Padlock and Boot Camp opened. Jeff Gibbs, a Phoenix-based graphic artist and leather enthusiast who designs erotic artwork under the name Gryphon, said Tuff Stuff became "the core of the leather community" after the Bum Steer closed.

Gibbs has gotten involved in the Mr. Drummer and Drummerboy contest by designing the program and posters for the event. He is relatively new

to the leather lifestyle, having moved here from the Cleveland area almost five years ago.

"It was frustrating when there were no leather bars in town," Gibbs said. He was introduced to

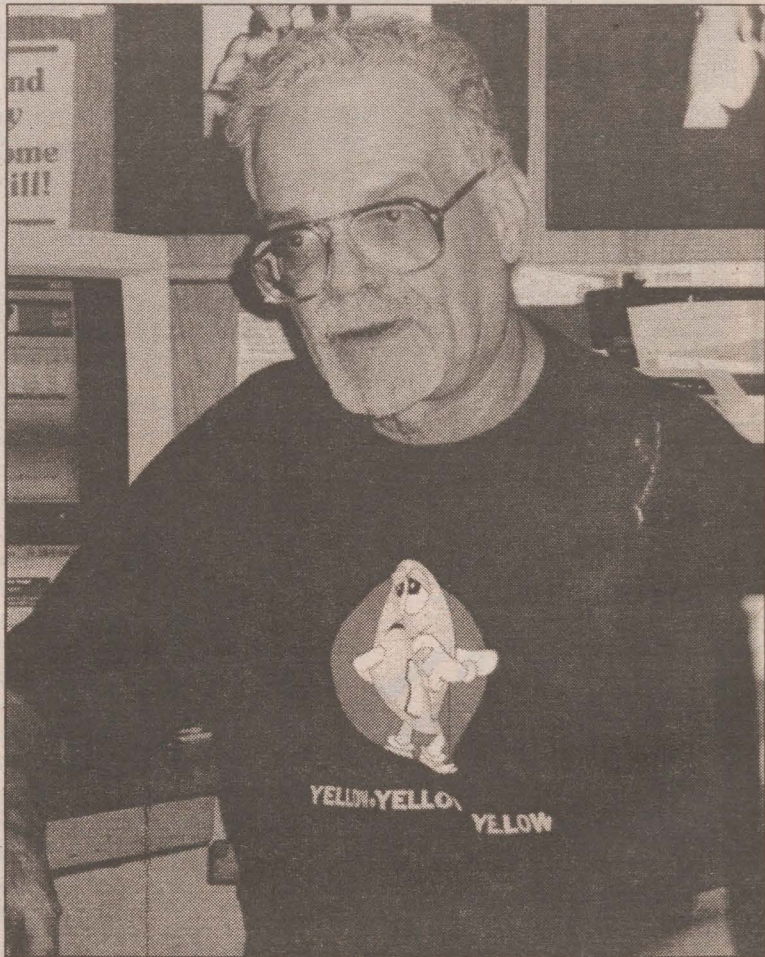
leather by an ex-lover shortly before he moved West. Trained in commercial art and with a BFA in Graphic Design, Gibbs has fully embraced the leather lifestyle and his art reflects his sexual and spiritual interests.

"My stuff is mostly mytholo-

gy, animorphic, man-beast type of artwork," he explained. Leather contests and gatherings like the Mr. Drummer and International Mister Leather (IML) events offer Gibbs the opportunity to display his pieces and to network with art collec-

Gibbs. He currently holds the title of Mr. Padlock Drummerboy. As such, he'll be representing the bar in the upcoming regional contest.

"I've had a lot of fun since becoming involved in the leather community," Black said. "I've



Bob DeJardine is a long-time ambassador of Phoenix's leather community. He is the owner of Tuff Stuff Leatherware, which is sponsoring the 2000 Southwest Drummer Regional Contest to be held at Padlock August 11 - 13.

tors and publishers whose interests are similar.

Richard Black is even newer to the leather lifestyle than

had an active voice in the community in the past, and holding a leather title gives me another opportunity to become

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involved."

The past Black refers to includes the several "Miss" titles he's held after winning local pageants as his drag persona,

tuning.

The gay men (and women) who celebrate their sexuality through leather say they've heard it all before, and defini-

and posturing? "The bottom line is that it's a sexual thing. It's fun, and it feels good," said Black. "It's talking about sex that bothers some people."

DeJardine would agree. "As far as a definition of the leather lifestyle, I'm not even going to attempt that, because it's so broad," he said.

He referred instead to a brochure from the Universal Brotherhood of the Leatherlords, of which DeJardine is a founding member. The Phoenix-based

and women in particular should understand that one person's discomfort may be another person's Eros, and that people should not be so quick to condemn nor judge.

The only judging going on at Padlock during the Drummer contest weekend will be onstage, said Tom Fierros, part of the bar's management team and a primary coordinator of the event.

"We're hosting it with no cover charge, and we'll have a big-screen TV showing the

at a variety of events and fund raisers during their year-long reign, and DeJardine said they take the ambassadorship seriously.

Fierros, a local title holder in the IML preliminaries and First Runner Up to Mr. Southwest Drummer in 1999, said the Friday-night demonstrations and Saturday night contest are a good opportunity for curious queers to get an initial look at the lifestyle.

"There's no dress code, so come on in and check it out," he said.

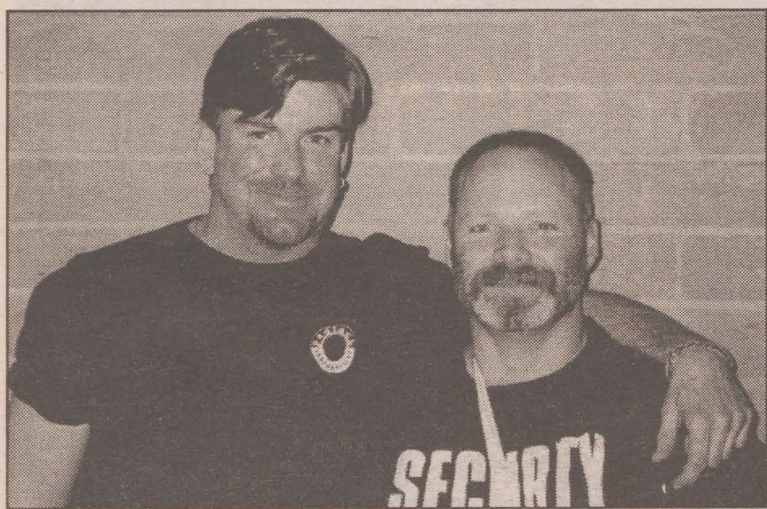
Contestants will be judged in several categories, including the popular Fantasy Segment wherein each man acts out a sexual fantasy using props, music and (usually) a willing partner.

"The fantasy is the best part about it, and is what makes the Drummer contests more sexually oriented than IML," said Black, comparing the two major leather competitions. "We get to act out a fantasy onstage, and that's the main reason I'm doing it," he adds.

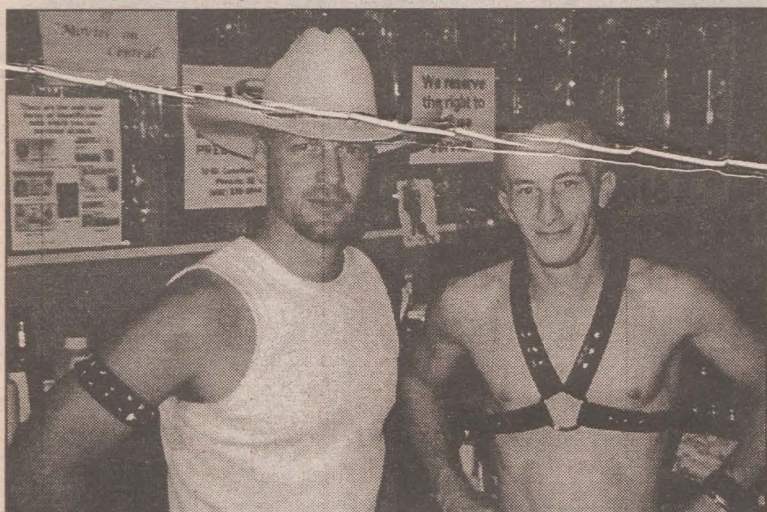
As a pioneering member of The Leatherlords as well as another struggling local organization, the Copperstate Leathermen, DeJardine is encouraged by the enthusiasm of younger men like Black.

"Because of AIDS, mainly, [leather organizations] lost a lot of our continuity," DeJardine said. "An entire generation of people aged 32 to 42 who were very actively involved was basically wiped out."

He added, "But now it's being revitalized. It's a rediscovered community."



Padlock co-owner Bill Jackson, above left, and staff welcome all to the Southwest Drummer Regional Contest.



Celia Putty. As a sometime drag queen, Black's immersion in the Drummer contest may prompt further allegations that leather is just another form of queer cos-

tions and misperceptions often reveal more about the sexual inhibitions of person doing the complaining than anything else. So what if it is all attitude

DeJardine wishes more people would realize that, like any healthy sexual activity between adults, leather sex is based on "courtesy, mutual respect, and consent."

organization describes itself as "... a group of men formally organized for the common purpose of promoting, encouraging, teaching and continuing the rich traditions of the gay leather community within the leather/S&M/B&D/fetish community..."

Including S&M and bondage in the leather-lifestyle definitions can often lead to assumptions, and from assumptions comes intimidation, DeJardine said. He wishes more people would realize that, like any healthy sexual activity between adults, leather sex is based on "courtesy, mutual respect, and consent."

Contrary to popular belief, he said, "there are no written [sexual] rules or guidelines." DeJardine thinks that gay men

events live, so there will be room for a lot of people to spread out and see what's happening," Fierros said.

Fierros is expecting several contestants in each of the two categories. The Southwest region includes Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, new Mexico and Colorado.

To compete in the regional contest, participants must have already won a local title. The Mr. Drummer and Drummerboy winners from Phoenix will go on to represent the Southwest and compete in the International Mr. Drummer & Drummerboy contest in St. Petersburg, Fla. Sept. 15 - 17.

Winners in both divisions then go on to serve as ambassadors for the leather community

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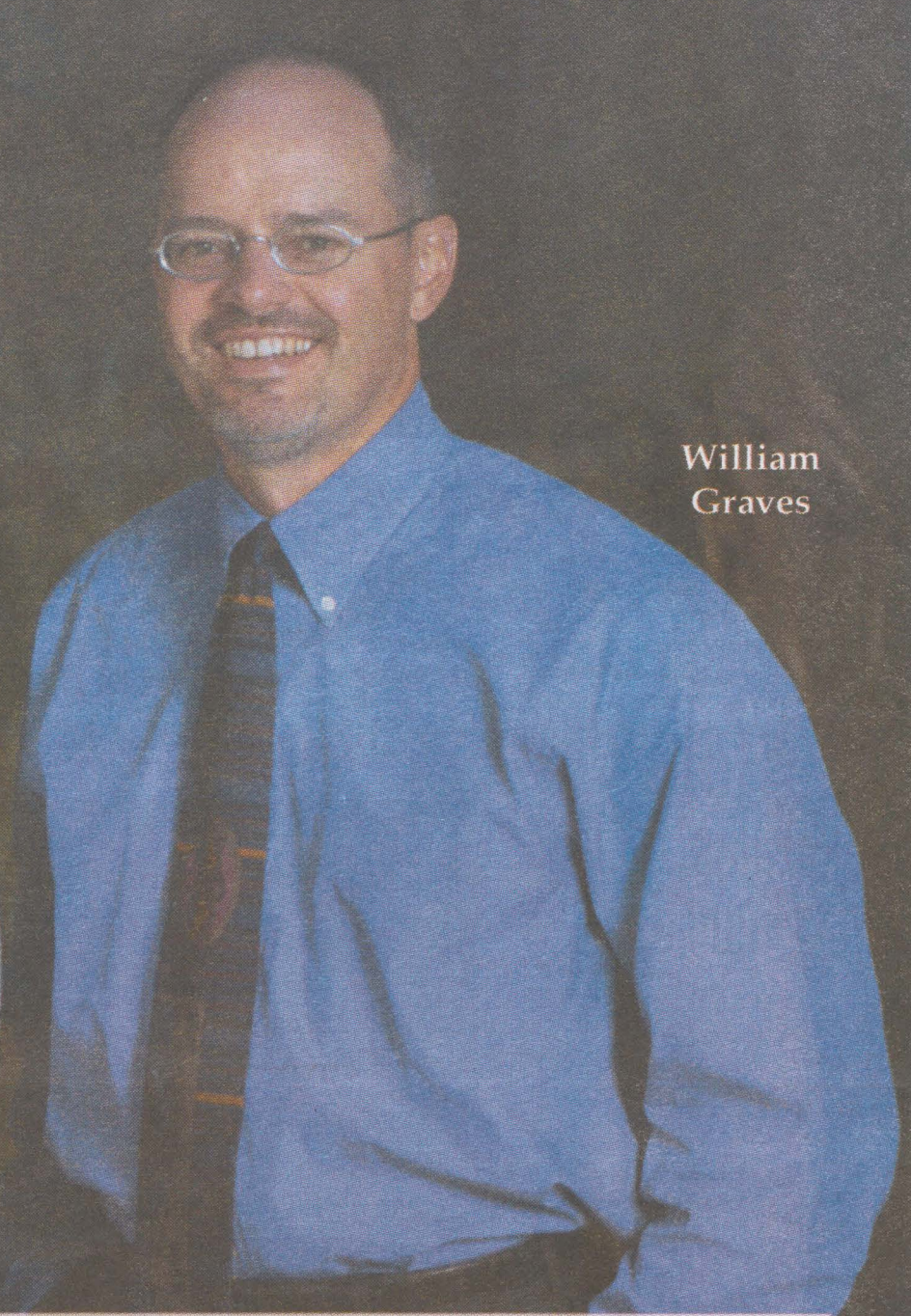
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Annie Leibovitz: Women, is a special exhibition of the renowned photographer's portraiture featuring 64 images of women from a broad spectrum of society. The exhibition and its companion book, with an essay by longtime Leibovitz "collaborator" Susan Sontag, opened at Washington, D.C.'s Corcoran

Gallery and attracted nearly a quarter of a million people.

The exhibit opens at the Phoenix Art Museum on Saturday, July 29 and runs through Sept. 24. Special admission price to the exhibition is \$9 for adults. Call 602/257-1222 for recorded information.

Soulful blast from the past in town July 28

The R & B ensemble Earth, Wind & Fire will bring its timeless sound to ASU's Gammage Auditorium on Friday, July 28 for an 8:00 p.m. show.

With memorable hits like "September", "All n' All", "After the Love has Gone" and more, the group has earned legions of fans and 14 Grammy nominations in a career that spans four decades.

Tickets are \$30 - \$55 and available through the Gammage Box Office at 480/965-3434.



Stagebrush hearkens back to the '40s



The Stagebrush Theatre is presenting the lighthearted musical romp *1940's Radio Hour*, opening Friday, July 28 and running through August 6 at 7020 E. 2nd Street in Scottsdale.

The comedy is set during a live broadcast from Manhattan's Hotel Astor in the famed Algonquin Room on Dec. 21, 1942. Tickets are 17 and available by calling 480/990-7405.

Mystery writer Zubro back in town Aug. 1

Mark Richard Zubro, author of 13 gay mystery novels, will read from and sign his newest book, *One Dead Drag Queen*, at Obelisk: The Bookstore on Tuesday, Aug. 1.

One Dead Drag Queen is Zubro's eighth book in his Tom and Scott series, set in Chicago and featuring gay schoolteacher Tom mason and his lover, ballplayer Scott Carpenter.

Zubro also has five books published in his Paul Turner series, also set in Chicago and featuring a gay police detective. The

latest book in this series, *Drop Dead*, is just out in paperback.

Zubro teaches junior high school near Chicago and is president of his teachers' union. He lectures frequently about the craft of mystery writing as well as the problems inherent in being and openly gay teacher.

Call Obelisk at 602/266-BOOK for more information and time. Obelisk is located at 24 W. Camelback Rd. in central Phoenix.

Michael Barnard's *Branded*: Cowboys, not Pigs, take flight

On July 28 & 29, Phoenix Theatre's Third Annual New Works Festival will feature a staged reading of a new show conceived by Michael Barnard, the venerable theater's own artistic director and recent star of the way-gay musical romp *When Pigs Fly*.

Branded is a wild musical based on six contemporary cowboys who meet in a bar at the base of Picacho Peak. They twirl tales of rodeo championships, jealous husbands, land deals, saloon fights, civil war battles, celebrity divas and western song contests.

Barnard will direct the piece, which was conceived by him with music and lyrics by Brett Simmons and Carolyn Gardner.

Brock Norman's newly revised drama *Here Is Monster* will be presented August 4 and 5, followed by Richard Warren's *Snap* August 11 and 12.

All performances are at 7:30 and a \$5 donation is requested. The staged readings are followed by an audience-participation question and answer session with the writer, director and cast.



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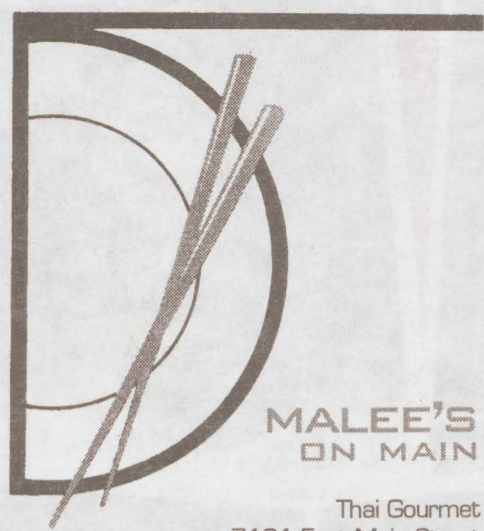
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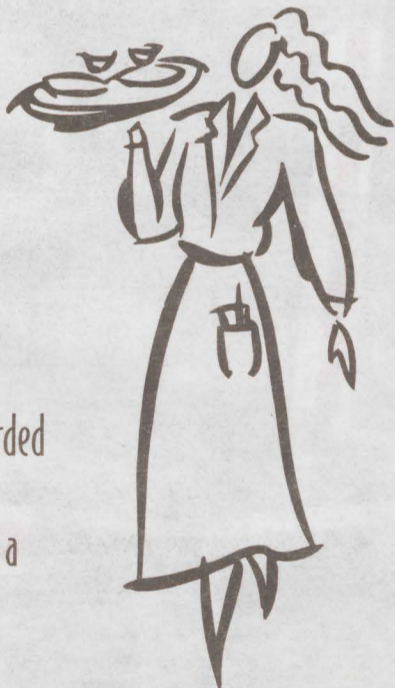
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Fetishes & Fanaticism for Phoenicians

IMCO reveals its dark side with period drama at Herberger

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"We are confronting this show as if it's a Gothic nightmare," director Kevin Kerrigan says of In Mixed Company's newest onstage offering, *Quills*, opening July 27 in downtown Phoenix at the Herberger.

"Confronting" seems an apt verb.

The troupe that has brought comedies like *Departing the Divas* and *The Food Chain* to town has weightier issues in mind as it wraps its sixth season, and Kerrigan and his cast are clearly relishing the provocative qualities of this production.

"I hope it creates a lot of chaos in town," says veteran actor John Sankovich, who stars in *Quills* as the Marquis de Sade. Set in a French asylum in 1807, Doug Wright's drama is gruesome, sexually explicit, witty and daring as well as confrontational.

"This play asks a lot of questions of the audience," continues Sankovich, "like 'what is pornography? what is censorship?' and I think it's going to rattle some bodies."

In the early '90s, at the height of the National Endowment for the Arts controversy, author Wright took the loose elements of the infamous 19th-century de Sade case and adapted the story to suit his own political and artistic agenda—basically, a defense of artistic freedom and an indictment of modern-day, right-wing hypocrisy.

In *Quills*, Wright imagines de Sade's confinement as a combative test of wills between the captive and his holier-than-thou captors. In an attempt to stifle de Sade's erotic and anti-establishment writings, his jailers first remove his quills and ink. When de Sade finds other ways to express his opinions, the representatives of church and state must resort to more drastic means of keeping him quiet. In the process, the moralists end up debasing themselves.

The Phoenix audience gets a relatively modern story wrapped up in period detail. "We're going full out" with the costumes and the sets, says Kerrigan. "We went through a couple of concepts and are really pleased with the results of our choice to present it more realistically—and also, doing it at the Herberger gives us the opportunity to do a lot of that."

The professional, nonprofit company performs the bulk of its shows in a smaller and less adaptable space at PlayWright's Theatre. They've rented Herberger's Stage West for this summer production, however, just as they did for the showy musical *Pageant* in the summers of '97 and '98.

"There'll be lightning, fog, fire—all kinds of nightmare elements thrown in," promises Kerrigan.

At the heart of the all that theatricality, though, lies a meaningful script and a "fabulous, meaty" lead role, according to Sankovich. "Great roles are few and far between, now that I'm an old fart," the 51-year-old actor says with a hearty laugh. "This is my 34th year of acting and I get tired of doing all the light comedies I've been doing. That's why this is so exciting for me."

David Jones, most recently onstage in a dress and an updo for IMCO's comedy hit *Departing the Divas*, is also in *Quills*. Jones portrays the duplicitous Abbe with whom de Sade has a love/hate relation-

ship taken to the extreme.

Jones says he consistently tries out for IMCO productions because he likes their work, and because the company's founders are all friends of his who keep him abreast of what shows are coming up. Some friends, it seems, are closer than others—Jones' life partner of ten years is Kerrigan, who's a company co-founder and its current Artistic Director as well as the director of *Quills*. "I've auditioned for him for like, four shows, and this is the first show he's ever cast me in," Jones says, laughing. Both men say the dual collaboration has led to no complications in their personal relationship as of yet.

For now, the play's the important thing. "The pieces they choose are very cutting edge, very now, even dangerous," Jones explains. For him, that's undeniably appealing.

Sankovich, the only *Quills* cast member who's appearing in an IMCO production for the very first time, is no less enthusiastic in his praise of the troupe's choices.

"I think it's really adventurous of



David Jones, left, and John Sankovich star in *Quills*.

them to put this on at the Herberger," he says, "especially for a young company to attempt something this bold—and in this business, anything less than ten years old is considered a young company."

Kerrigan points out that Wright won the Dramalogue Award for Playwriting for *Quills*, and says he admires the way the play talks about censorship and corruption. "I think it's an incredible script," he adds.

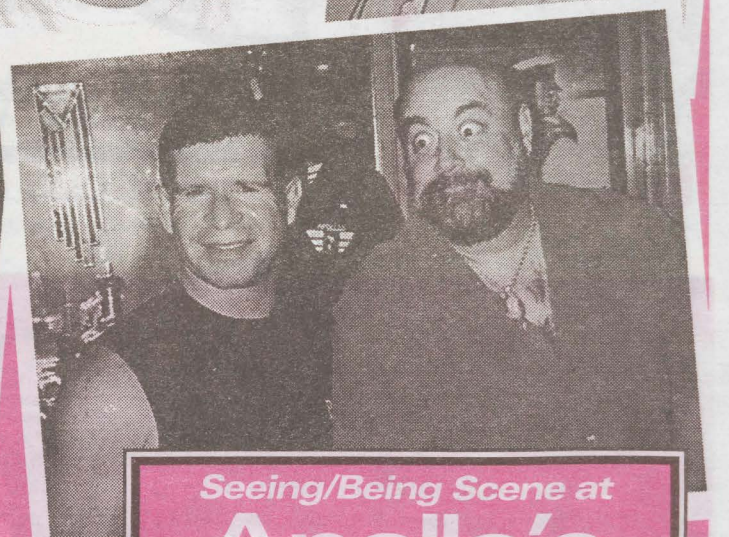
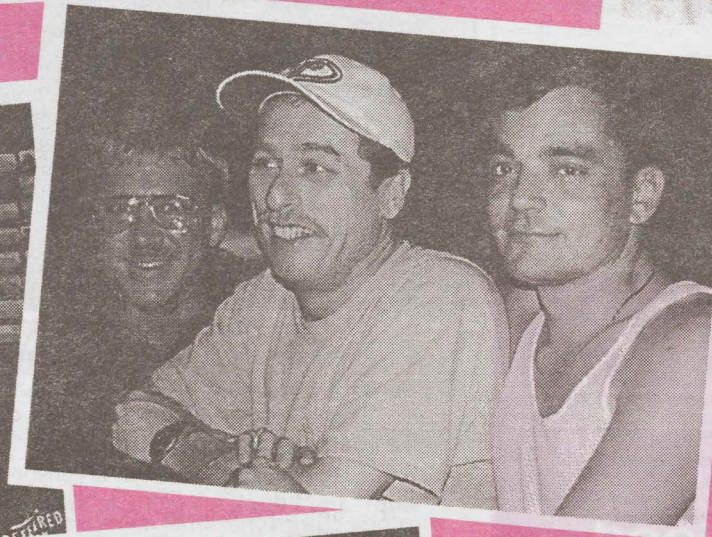
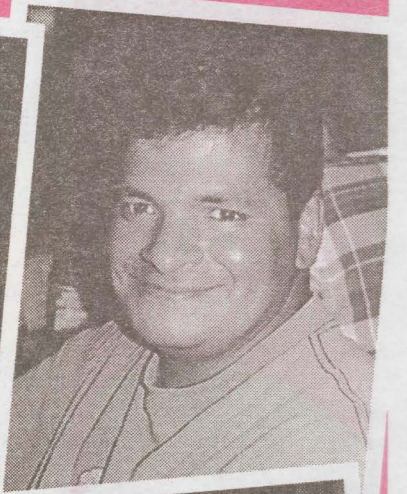
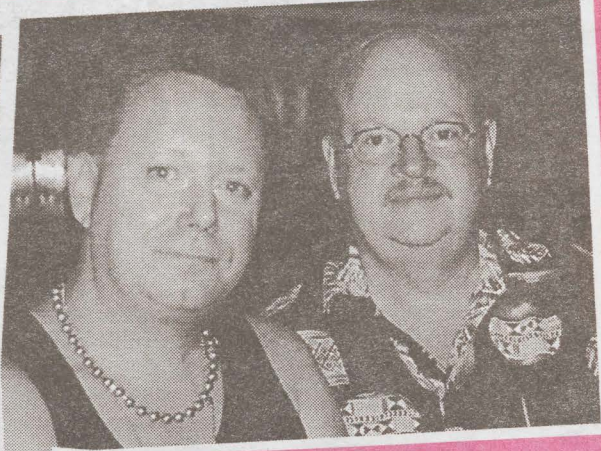
Incredibly daring, puts in Sankovich, who, as de Sade, spends a good portion of the play nearly nude and is responsible for much of its explicitly masochistic dialogue.

Apart from providing him with a particularly juicy role, the actor says it's his opinion that daring is always good when it comes to the Valley's often staid theater scene.

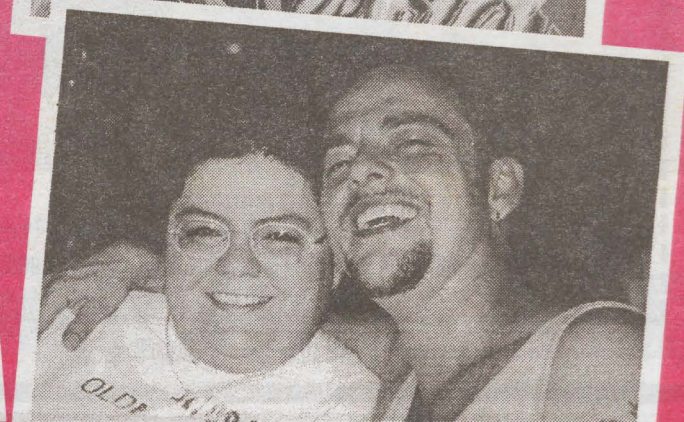
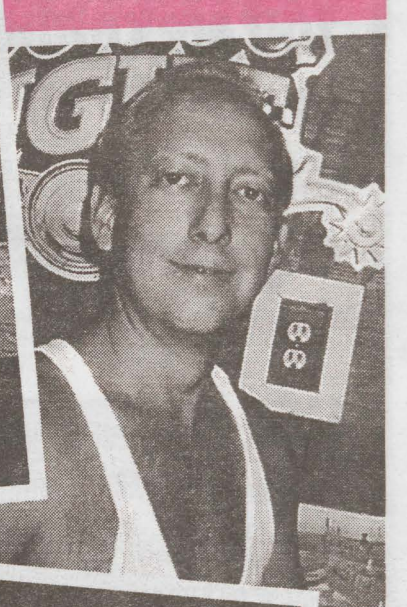
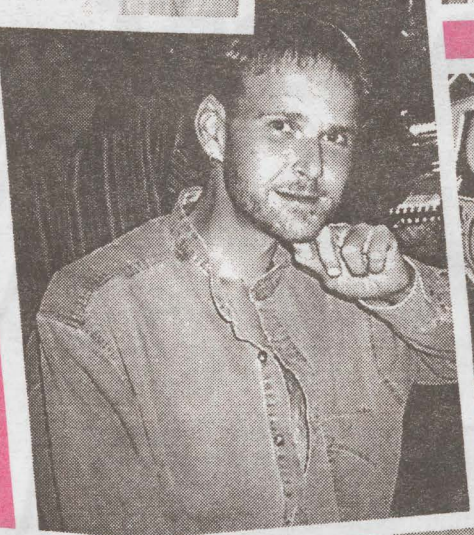
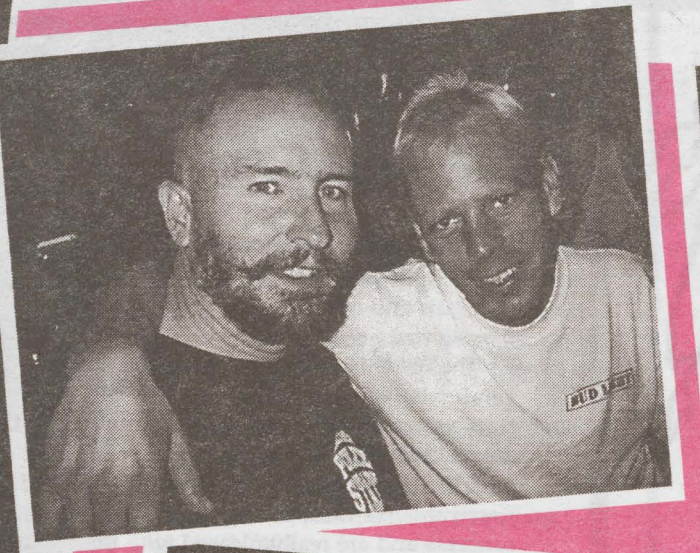
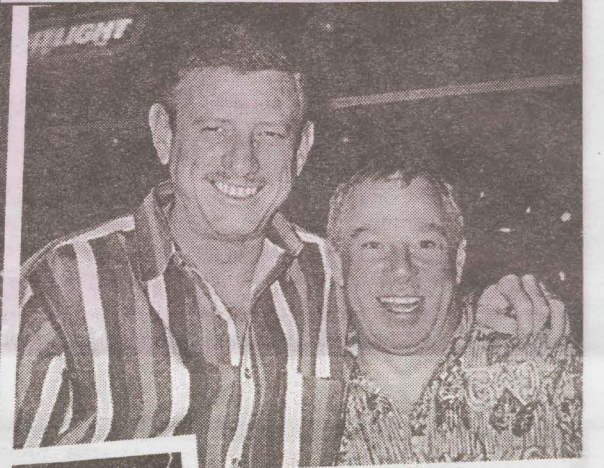
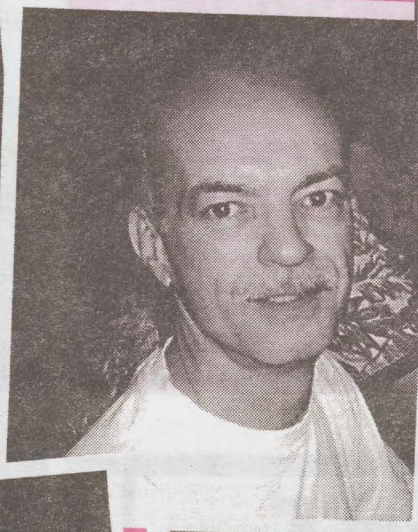
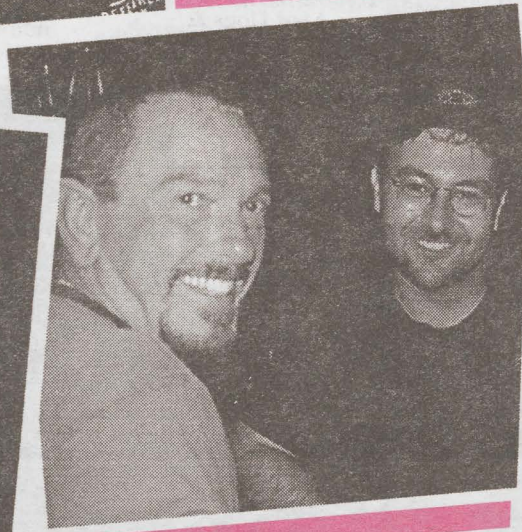
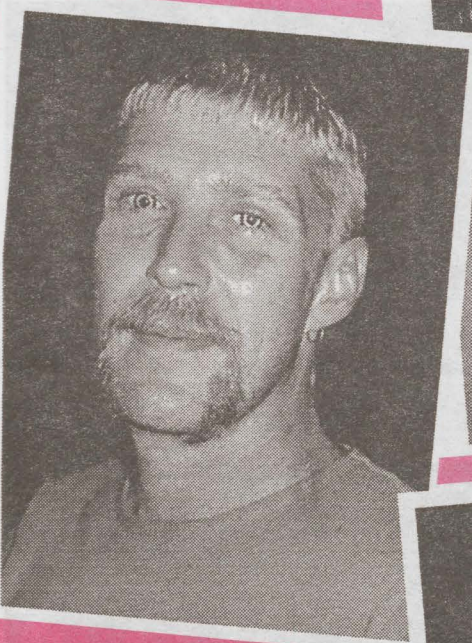
"Honey," he says with a glint of de Sade about the eyes, "there's nothing like a little controversy to put asses in the seats."



Quills also stars Dwayne Hartford, Debra K. Stevens, Dion Johnson and Angelica Frost. It opens July 27 and runs Thursday - Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m. through August 19, with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and available by calling 602/252-8497.



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Internet sex partners bring increased risk of STDs, study says

CHICAGO (AP)—People who use the Internet to find real-life sex partners are more likely to have had sexually transmitted diseases or engaged in risky intimate behavior, a government-led study found.

But the news isn't all bad. Another study, based on San Francisco's handling of syphilis cases linked to an Internet chat room, suggests the Internet can help public health officials curb disease outbreaks.

Both studies appear in the July 25 *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

In the first study, led by Centers of Disease Control researcher Mary McFarlane, investigators looked at the habits of 856 clients at a Denver HIV testing and counseling center. Nearly 16 per-

cent—135 subjects—reported seeking sex partners online.

Nearly a third of those online seekers said they had contracted sexually transmitted diseases and had been exposed to HIV-positive sex partners. In comparison, 20 percent of those who tried to find partners in more conventional ways said they'd had venereal diseases and just 14 percent said they'd had HIV-positive partners.

A JAMA editorial said the findings weren't surprising, since the anonymity of sex facilitated by the Internet would be expected to appeal to "sexual adventurers" willing to take risks.

"The real news is ... that the public

health establishment had its feet planted firmly in the last century and did not anticipate this inevitable response to the new technology," wrote the editorial's authors, Drs. Kathleen Toomey and Richard Rothenberg. Toomey is with the public health division of Georgia's Department of Human Resources and Rothenberg is from Emory University.

Still, they praised San Francisco officials for going online to curb a potential outbreak and said other public service systems should follow their lead in the age of Internet-linked sex.

The San Francisco health officials determined last year that two men may have contracted syphilis from partners

they met online. Because the patients said they knew only their partners' chat room aliases, officials couldn't use conventional methods of tracking them down or alerting others about the danger.

With help from the service provider that hosted the chat room, officials posted alerts there encouraging men who may have met sexual partners online to seek medical evaluation. That helped them find five additional men with syphilis, linked to the chat room, said the authors, led by Dr. Jeffrey Klausner of the city's public health department.

Gay Financial Network launches television ad campaign

New York, NY, July 25, 2000—gfn.com, the Gay Financial Network (www.gfn.com), the leading online provider of financial and business news, information and services to the gay and lesbian community, announced the airing of a ground-breaking television advertising campaign, the first of its kind from a gay-interest Internet company to be shown on a major cable network's finance program. Walter B. Schubert, Founder, Chair, and CEO of gfn.com, the Gay Financial Network, made the announcement.

The spots, entitled "The Nervous Banker" and "100% Heterosexual," will air on *Squawk Box*, CNBC's unscripted, fast-paced, "pre-game" weekday morning financial news program.

"CNBC *Squawk Box* is serious media for serious investors. It is the perfect program during which to show these spots," said Schubert.

Honest and eye-opening, the ad campaign expresses the often-uncomfortable way the financial world and its service

providers react to Americans who are lesbian or gay. Through its Web site, gfn.com provides easy access to top-quality financial news and information and offers discounts for its members who open accounts with its strategic partners. These value-added services are open and accessible to everyone.

"I've met the 'Nervous Banker' 1,000 times. I met him before I said 'I'm gay' and I still meet people like him every day," explained Schubert. "We're trying to underscore the all too familiar and uncomfortable experience that many American gay consumers have when they're considering their financial affairs. An important goal of the campaign is to inform the gay community that the financial world, which has traditionally underserved them, is finally waking up, and becoming more welcoming - with gfn.com leading the way."

The anxiety-producing "Nervous Banker" spot brings the viewing audience face to face with the truly uncomfortable reaction of an unprepared banker visited

by a same-sex couple. While viewing the ad, one can feel the air being sucked out of the financial service provider's office, as the discomfort level rises and spreads to the gay couple seeking financial assistance. Both the "Nervous Banker," as well as the lighter version, "100% Heterosexual," will run in New York and Greater San Francisco area, July 24 through August 6.

The campaign was the brainchild of advertising agency Mad Dogs & Englishmen, the agency that created gfn.com's popular print ads, which debuted in the *Wall Street Journal* in February. Creative Director Nick Cohen, Account Planner Spencer Baim and their team have been working with gfn.com since being awarded the company's \$6 million ad campaign last September.

"We wanted the spots to be entertaining and truthful at the same time by sending out a message that would be welcomed by both the straight and gay communities," explained Cohen. "We wanted the straight world to say 'Good Lord is

that how it is?' and the gay community to say 'Thank you so very much.'"

To understand the challenges and experiences that gay men and women traditionally have when "confronting" the world of finance, two pairs of heterosexual ad team members posed as a gay couple and visited various banks within the New York metropolitan area to apply for a joint mortgage. As expected, the various bankers' reactions to the couples, as well as to their financial needs, were confused, unprepared, and in the end, uncomfortable.

"We put ourselves in the shoes of a gay couple to experience it first hand. Nothing beats that," said Baim. "We thought that the whole experience would be uncomfortable for us, and it was, but the thing that hit us most was how hard it was for the banker. She was not used to a situation like this, it was a little difficult for her. This influenced the way we created our ads."

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My Queer Life

IN DEFENSE OF DR. LAURA

by Michael Thomas Ford

I have no love for Dr. Laura Schlessinger. But now I'm finding myself in the peculiar position of having to stand up for her.

Before you start writing hate e-mail, let me explain.

Recently stations planning to air Dr. Laura's forthcoming television show in Canada were told that they would have to edit out any negative references to gays and lesbians. For those hoping for a quick end to Dr. Laura's program, this was good news.

But is it?

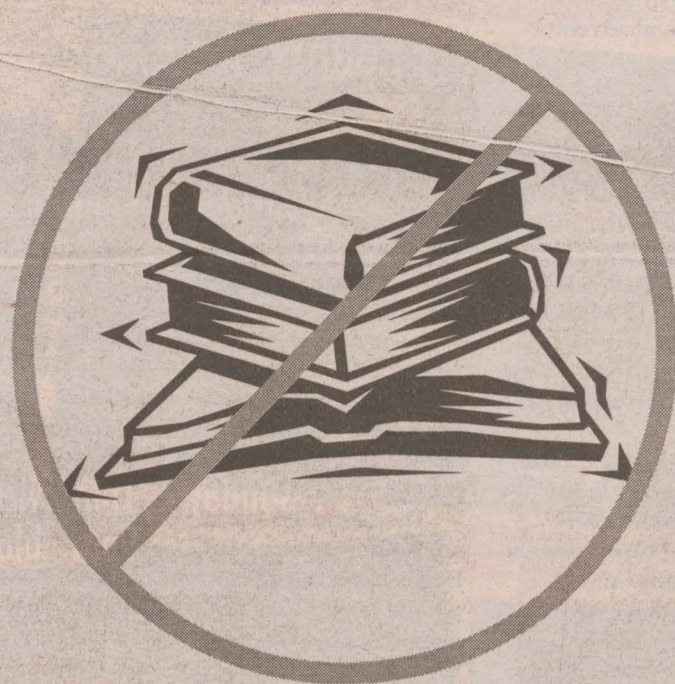
The decision to censor Dr. Laura's comments was made by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, a government watchdog agency responsible for monitoring radio and television broadcasts in Canada and making sure that the content of programming doesn't pose a threat to any particular group. In the case of Dr. Laura, the CBSC feared that her negative comments about queer people might lead to violence against lesbians and gay men.

This would seem to be a victory. The problem, though, is that in censoring Dr. Laura, the CBSC relied on the same guidelines that have been used for years to censor freedom of expression for the same people they're now claiming to protect.

Canada's government has a long history of censoring art under the guise of protecting the rights of various groups. The most infamous example of this is the long-running battle against sexually-explicit material. Ostensibly enacted to protect women, children, and others from the threat of abuse, these so-called "protective" laws have frequently been used to keep gay-oriented books and magazines out of the hands of readers.

Erotic magazines have been favorite

targets of Canadian censors, with guidelines preventing the import of any periodicals depicting, among numerous other things, anal intercourse or "excessive" ejaculation, both of which are considered degrading and violent sexual practices. Fiction is similarly restricted, and numerous gay and lesbian books have been seized by Canadian customs for allegedly containing material that would threaten



the well-being of readers.

As a result of this, many publishers of queer material have toned down their products. Instead of waging costly wars against a government with deep pockets, they've decided not to publish certain kinds of books and magazines. They have, ultimately, silenced themselves because it's too difficult to fight back.

I know what it's like to have a book banned because someone thinks it's dan-

gerous. My book *100 Questions & Answers about AIDS* has been banned in several American cities because it allegedly promotes homosexual sex as healthy and normal.

Similarly, my book *OutSpoken*, a collection of interviews with lesbian and gay people, has been removed from school libraries because opponents fear it will encourage young people to explore the quote "gay lifestyle." And yes, I've also been banned in Canada on several occasions.

What made me maddest about these instances of censorship wasn't that my books annoyed certain people. What infuriated me was that the various school boards, city councils, and governments involved were effectively saying that readers of their communities weren't intelligent enough to decide for themselves what they should or shouldn't read. Instead of providing freedom of choice, they were making choices for people who were perfectly capable of making them themselves.

As I said, I don't like Dr. Laura. I think she's a misin-

formed person whose dogmatic rhetoric spreads ignorance and makes people ashamed of who they are. But I don't think you protect people, or educate people, by running to the government and asking them to make her shut up, any more than you protect people from violence by stopping them from looking at pictures of excessive ejaculation and anal sex.

Whether we like it or not, Dr. Laura

has a right to her opinions, and she has the right to spread those opinions if someone wants to give her the forum to do so. And while it might not seem like it, this is a great thing, because it means that those of us who disagree with her also have the right to express our opinions.

And that is where our power is. In America we're winning our battle against Dr. Laura not by censorship, but by letting the sponsors of her show know that we won't support their products if they support her views. One by one the advertisers on the Dr. Laura show have been pulling out, leaving her producers scrambling for replacements and running out of justifications for airing her views.

If enough advertisers turn their backs on her, you can bet she'll be out of a job in no time flat.

This kind of action is far more powerful than government sanctions. By standing up in record numbers and letting advertisers know that we watch what they do, we as gay people are using our voices to effect change. We aren't relying on someone else to protect us. We're doing it ourselves. And in the long run, that will make a huge difference.

Maybe you're happy that Dr. Laura has been banned in Canada. But don't be fooled—the same laws that are being used to protect us from her may be used to protect someone else from what you have to say. So let Dr. Laura have her say. Because as long as we have freedom of expression, we can have our say right back, and our voices are a lot louder, and a lot clearer, than hers is.



Michael Thomas Ford's latest book, *It's Not Mean If It's True*, will be in stores in September, as will *My Queer Life*, an audio collection of the most popular pieces from his Lambda Literary Award-winning essay collections.

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Softball teams gear up for World Series

Three women's softball teams from the Phoenix-based Cactus Cities Softball League are heading to Toronto the weekend of August 12 to take part in the annual Gay & Lesbian World Series of Softball there.

A July 22 Casino Night at Nasty Habits to benefit the participating teams was well attended and the money raised will help underwrite the cost of getting all the competing male and female ballplayers to the international tournament, according to

Assistant Women's Commissioner Andi Warren.

"It's awesome to have three women's teams going," Warren said, "that's never happened before."

Kristi Herman, a buyer/planner in the aerospace industry, is among the players looking forward to the midsummer trip. "It's my second time going to the World Series," she said, "and it's really a lot of fun."



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GLAAD Alert

Gay and Lesbian Alliance
Against Defamation

Journalists' "bible" makes positive changes

The Associated Press (AP) Stylebook is used by the majority of journalists as the gold standard for proper news reporting form and accurate terminology.

GLAAD and GenderPac, a transgender lobby group, met with AP Stylebook editors and senior staff earlier this year to discuss revisions in terminology when covering lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

A significant addition has now been made in the new edition of the stylebook under the entry for "gay." Under "sex change," the use of pronouns is clarified.

For the "gay" entry, the new edition has the added sentence, "Avoid references to gay, homosexual or alternative 'lifestyle.'"

This addition will affect how many stories about the lesbian and gay community will be written. By recommend-

ing not using the word "lifestyle," AP is helping to prevent reporters from giving the false representation that being a lesbian or a gay man is a matter of choice or something less than genuine. Dropping the word "alternative" does the same.

For the "sex change" entry, reporters are instructed to use the pronouns preferred by the individual who is referenced. This clarification in the stylebook will help insure transgender persons can have themselves identified correctly and not be subjected to the sometimes erroneous or even prejudicial judgment of the reporter.

Please thank AP for making these important changes and encourage it to continue revising the stylebook.

Contact: David Tomlin, Assistant to the President, Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020; fax: 212-621-5456; e-mail: dtomlin@ap.org



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QSCOPE

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES:

Uranus and Neptune retrograde in your friendship sector could make you feel as if your comrades are out of their minds. They are! But maybe it's time you joined them in the world of hysteria. Spontaneity and wildness should be your calling cards in early August. A Libra will surely be calling you asking for more, more, more.

TAURUS:

The moon moves into your house of love over the weekend of the 5th, which means that when you let go of your well-laid plans, you may actually get well laid. Why don't you start spending more passionate time with those closest to you? All you ever wanted is right there in your own backyard. A Virgo has been there all along.

GEMINI:

Mars moves into your money sector in early August, which means that if you push your bosses and contacts a bit, you may actually get more work and more dough out of them. New people in your life want to your charm to rub off on them, but be a little selective about who you rub up against, hottie. A Capricorn is definitely worth getting closer to.

CANCER:

Your life experience may be just what a potential employer wants you to write about or draw upon. Get confessional, but do it with some originality, please! Stop recycling your old material, darling, and reach for something new and unknown. A Gemini wants to probe you more deeply.

LEO:

Mars moves into your sign at the beginning of August, and suddenly you're hotter than July! If your hormones are raging, please release them! Use your charisma to embrace an old demon and turn it into something magical—and helpful! An Aries can teach you about alchemy, in life and in bed.

VIRGO:

Saturn finishes up a stint in your house of travel early August, so if you want to travel, either do it or make a plan to make it happen now! Your ability to see into the future is super strong now. If what you see scares you, that's even more reason to go for it. The old familiar ways of love have left you lonely and confused. A Cancer wants to start a new ritual with you.

LIBRA:

You can get what you want from a potential lover if you are willing to treat him or her with the respect you'd treat a friend. Be the one to say, "Something is not right in this relationship." You could turn an important relationship around if you've got the guts. A Scorpio longs to respect you more.

SCORPIO:

Work around the clock for what you believe in, baby. This is not the time to take a wimpy approach to life or to your life's work. You could have a night of dreams with a Pisces if you are willing to open the door to happiness instead of storming into Angsville... again!

SAGITTARIUS:

If you would make a deeper effort to understand your own character, you could finally get what you want out of a tricky relationship. Mars moves into the most adventurous house in your chart in early August, so why not live large like you used to? You can blow a Taurus' mind with your lust for life.

CAPRICORN:

You may have to decide whether you want to commit to the one you love or to love the one you're with. It's easy to judge other people harshly during this gritty, truth-telling time. But why not refrain from destroying friendships and instead seek out the truth within your own diary? By summer's end, you'll receive the love you want from an Aquarius.

AQUARIUS:

Mars in your house of love is making you think of sex, sex and more sex, but some of that energy may have to be sublimated into your work. Oh, and by the way, instead of speaking to pals in clichés or meaningless metaphors, get really specific. A Leo wants all the details.

PISCES:

Finish up all the monotonous tasks you've been avoiding all summer, dear. You've got an exciting love life to look forward to in late August. A change in your day job is imminent. The question is: What kind of work could you do every day that would make you really happy? A Libra will guide you in the right direction if you are humble enough to follow.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling *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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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"I never understood why we didn't have gay terrorists. Every other movement did and it works. ... I am not against gay riots. I think all of it works. It worked for the Black Panthers, for all minorities it has worked. Gay militants should stay angry and use humor like the yippies did to humiliate their enemies. That's the best kind of demonstration, and God knows we have a lot of bitchy queens out there who certainly should be able to come up with some very, very funny political actions that humiliate their enemies."

—Film director John Waters to the Michigan gay newspaper *Between The Lines*, June 15.

"We're not interested in having kids at all. They're not in my blood. Some people really have a natural inclination to be maternal, but Leisha [Hailey] and I just don't have it, for some reason."

—Singer k.d. lang to London's *The Pink Paper*, June 16.

"I find them attractive, definitely. I don't go looking to flirt, I don't go cruising, but I acknowledge my attraction to men. It's energy I go for. A combination of energy and style. I'm not bisexual, but I think men are attractive. I'd like to be bisexual, but I just don't have it this lifetime I'm afraid. I think bi is greedy, but I think it is also innately natural. If we removed all social stigmas, it'd probably be the way we'd all really be. If we got rid of all the bullshit, it would be great. If you really truly fell in love with who you wanted to, without any restrictions, it would be amazing, wouldn't it? Even if it was your bother, if it was consensual. Even if it was like a person fifty years older. Ultimately, love is the strongest right and power."

—Singer k.d. lang to London's *The Pink Paper*, June 16.

"Many gay activists had written off glossies like *The Advocate* and *Out* years ago, well before they were consolidated into one company—bemoaning the soft-focus feature stories on gay vacation spots and diet and fitness trends, the proliferation of ads hawking the latest high-end fashions and luxury goods, the obsession with celebrities and the aversion to anything that could possibly be deemed perverse, kinky or too political. Critics often registered these complaints under the rubric of 'lifestyle'; the gay glossies, they argued, were simply 'lifestyle publications' that manufacture and market a version of gay life that is increasingly commodified, depoliticized, desexualized, white and rich. There's a lot of truth to these critiques."

—Richard Kim writing in *The Nation*, July 10.

"It would be rare to go to a party in France of all men. Very rare. It'd be much more likely to go to a party where there were a lot of straight women and gay men but everybody is flirting with everybody."

—Famed gay author Edmund White to the Phoenix gay newspaper *HeatStroke*, June 29.

"I was diagnosed [with HIV] in 1985. I'm supposed to be something called a long-term non-progressor. I haven't even had them [my CD4 immune-system cells] tested in a year but the last time I looked they were like high 600s [which is low normal]. I feel lucky. I don't take any credit for it at all. I don't drink. I don't

smoke, and I sleep a lot, but I don't think that has anything to do with it. I think it's genetic. I'm awfully happy to have been granted this reprieve because I feel like I've been able to write a lot of books. From the time I saw you [in 1988] till now I've written God-knows-how-many books."

—Famed gay author Edmund White to the Phoenix gay newspaper *HeatStroke*, June 29.

"The gay left assumed (or hoped) that coming out was a politically transformative act that would somehow (it was never quite clear why) transform torpid, bourgeois closeted gays into zealous out-of-the-closet social radicals. Their message was not simply 'Come out' but rather: 'Come out and adopt our beliefs and act the way we think you should.' ... Most gays and lesbians, it seems, want to live happy, healthy, prosperous, fulfilled lives, pretty much the way their friends, relatives, and neighbors do. This perfectly reasonable desire is what is denounced as 'assimilation.'"

—Syndicated gay-press columnist Paul Varnell in a late June filing.

"I was brought up in a culture where it wasn't a good thing to be gay and so I was quite uncomfortable with it for a long time. And I didn't really want people to know about it and a lot of my friends don't know about it, you know. And I wasn't necessarily comfortable about the whole world knowing about it because I hadn't come to terms with it myself. Or understood myself. But actually there's nothing wrong with it and in fact it's a beautiful thing. ... I'm much more at peace and much happier being myself."

—Singer Sinead O'Connor to *Curve* magazine, August issue.

"A lot of people around me don't know that I'm a lesbian because I've never sort of flashed it around them. I've kept myself very private, so people like my manager and my friends—they wouldn't know that about me. Only very few of my close friends would know. ... My family, obviously, is totally cool with it."

—Singer Sinead O'Connor to *Curve* magazine, August issue.

"A huge part of me is just a girl who wants to waggle her butt and have fun. ... It's terribly important to acknowledge a huge part of why you want to do this is because you want to dress up sexy, and get on stage and put your lipstick on."

—Singer Sinead O'Connor to *Curve* magazine, August issue.

"I believe it was overcompensating of me to declare myself a lesbian. It was not a publicity stunt. I was trying to make someone else feel better. And have subsequently caused pain for myself."

—Singer Sinead O'Connor to the London *Sunday Independent*, June 25.

"I'm the Frank Sinatra of gay people. You either love Frank or you hate him and there's no in-between. It's the same way with me. I think Scott Thompson has the same problem. I think Sandra Bernhard has the same problem. If you view it as a problem. We're constantly recognized and lauded by the mainstream, but gay people hate us for some bizarre

reason, and it's kind of odd because we've been out longer than anybody."

—Comic/singer/actress Lea DeLaria to the *San Francisco Bay Times*, June 22.

"I have been, in a very strange way, this sort of sex object for a lot of lesbians. Especially young lesbians. They throw their bras and panties at me onstage. It's happened to me all over the world."

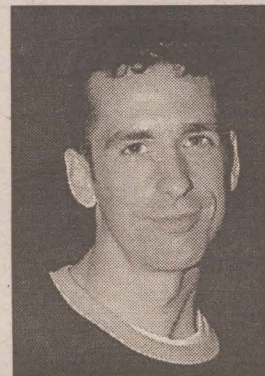
—Comic/singer/actress Lea DeLaria to the *San Francisco Bay Times*, June 22.

"I just want my tombstone to say she left all women satisfied. Not one girl has complained yet. That'll be my legacy. She fucked more girls than Warren Beatty. The Warren Beatty of the lesbian entertainment world. That'll be my legacy. That's it."

—Comic/singer/actress Lea DeLaria to the *San Francisco Bay Times*, June 22.

"Gays and lesbians are being so rapidly assimilated into the mainstream of American life that it sometimes feels as if we may drown. Much of what we think of as gay culture—the attitudes, hairstyles, sex, and lefty politics that set us apart—is being rapidly undermined by a mainstream culture that wants to see us assimilated, as well as by gays and lesbians who want to assimilate."

—Dan Savage writing in *Seattle's The Stranger*, June 22.



Dan Savage

going to happen to gay papers now that gay writers can find work at papers that offer a living wage? What happens to the gay Democratic club when the membership of the regular county organization will elect an openly gay chair?"

—Dan Savage writing in *Seattle's The Stranger*, June 22.

"The pride parade is, in fact, increasingly unbearable, general good cheer notwithstanding. The pride parade is simply one of those bloated, tired institutions that can't die because it has established itself so firmly as a bloated, tired institution."

—Steve Wiecking writing in *Seattle's The Stranger*, June 22.

"Out of the chatrooms and into the streets! I do think that there are ways that we are connected through the Internet, but it's no substitute for actually getting out on the street and getting on your feet."

—Comedian Kate Clinton to the Michigan gay newspaper *Between The Lines*, June 15.

"I can see that the loneliest gay men I know are not in the boonies; they're in San Francisco. They're in New York City. They're surrounded by gay men, they can go out and find a sex partner seven nights a week, but they can't seem to form a relationship no matter how hard they think they're trying. They begin another relationship every week. They end them because they get early misgivings and worried over imperfection, and because they're not quite ready to give up cruising."

—Chris Fox writing in *Los Angeles' Fab*, July 7.

"I was misquoted and misrepresented and distorted by the media. It seems very conspiratorial, if you want to get *X-Files* about it."

—Dr. Laura Schlessinger to the *Washington Post*, June 28.

"My dad was an actor and that was very influential but I was always drawn to that even when I was really little. I was kind of a big weirdo ... I would shut myself off in my room and go off into weird territories alone as a child. ... My Dad was a very theatrical flamboyant person. I was influenced by his ability to just let it go and kind of go off into weird directions."

—*Will & Grace's* Megan Mullally (Karen) to the *Seattle Gay News*, June 16.

"What a fucking idiot."
—Bryant Gumbel, co-host of CBS TV's *Early Show*, immediately after interviewing the anti-gay Family Research Council's Robert Knight June 29 about the Supreme Court's anti-gay Boy Scouts ruling. Only the first two words of the remark were audible on the air but Knight provided reporters with the rest of the sentence. The Associated Press watched a tape of the broadcast and said it "appears to support [Knight's] contention." Knight has been demanding an apology from the network.



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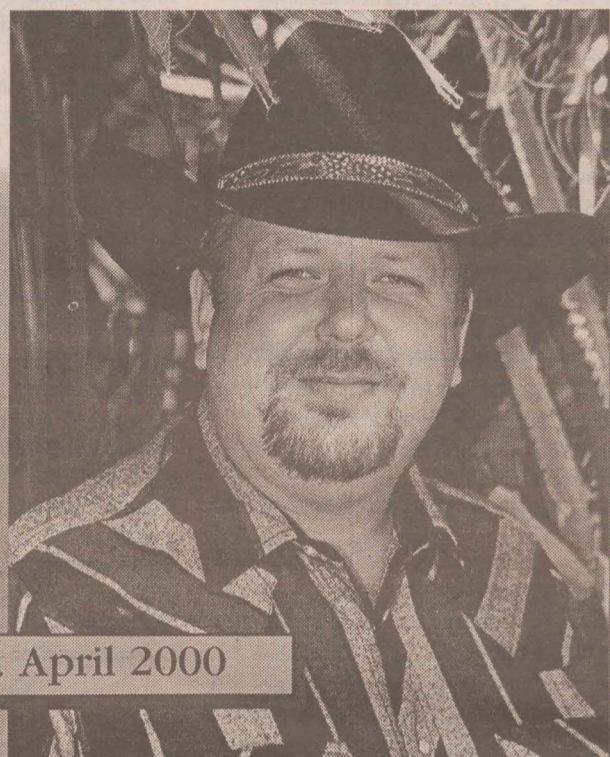
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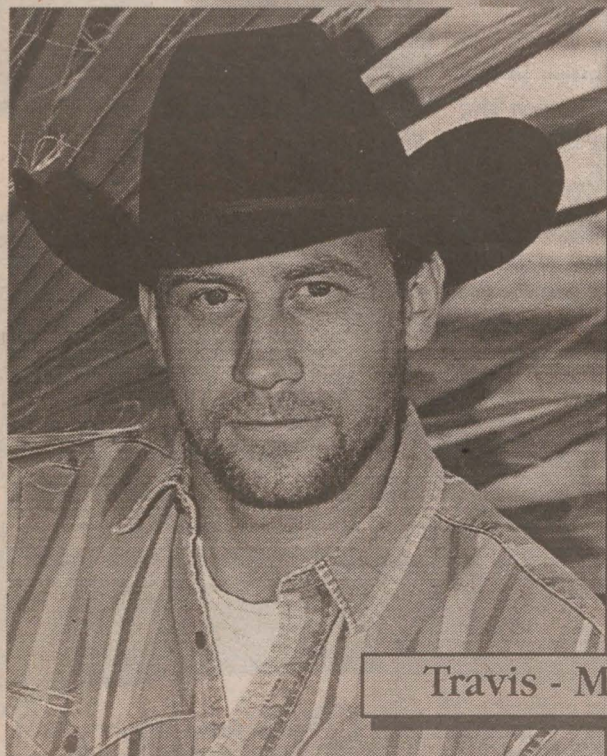
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Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Seattle on a Budget

Of the major U.S. cities, particularly those popular among lesbian and gay travelers, Seattle ranks as one of the easiest to enjoy even if your funds are limited.

To be sure, this has become an increasingly expensive place to live, with skyrocketing rents of late. But visitors will still find quite a few reasonably priced gay-friendly inns, many of them within walking distance of Capitol Hill's trendy, but relatively affordable, dining and clubbing.

Students, yuppies, latter-day hippies, and young families—lesbians and gay men among them—live on Capitol Hill, with cutting-edge music, liberal politics, coffeehouses, microbreweries, computer technology, and environmentalism among the ties that bind the area's disparate elements.

The neighborhood has few attractions but several commercial pockets with most of the nightlife, cheap dining, and people-watching. Pine and Pike streets hold many gay bars, plus some live-music halls and coffeehouses. Also here are few inexpensive shops, such as the women's erotica emporium Toys in Babeland and the thrift and antique clothing store (one of several in this area) Vintage Voola.

Broadway Avenue bustles with a youthful mix of straight and gay-popular businesses. The common denominators are funkiness and thrift, though Broadway is gentrifying as the hippest crowds migrate south toward Pine and Pike. Still, you'll find incredibly cheap food and lots of fun clothing and bric-a-brac.

A must-visit is Broadway Market, a three-story atrium mall loaded with gift shops, stalls, clothing stores, a few restaurants, a gym, a parking garage, and a cinema. A tad more upscale and mature than Broadway, 15th Avenue offers better restaurants, some antiques stores, and City People's Mercantile, often dubbed Seattle's dyke hardware and household goods emporium.

As for the area's inns, Hill House is one of the neighborhood's perfectly restored Victorians. Rooms are furnished with antiques and contemporary pieces, lace curtains, and fluffy down comforters. The full breakfast is superb. Then there's the Edwardian-style Tudor Bacon Mansion, whose rooms have lavish architectural details; some have kitchenettes and refrigerators, and one has a two-per-

son soaking tub. Many have cozy pitched ceilings.

The Gaslight Inn and adjoining Howell Street Suites is one of the most popular of the gay-oriented inns on the Hill. The turn-of-the-century house has arts and crafts furnishings, Turkish and Persian rugs, and oak paneling. There's a large heated pool outside, along with space for sunning. Next door, accommodations at the more contemporary Howell Street Suites have large sitting areas.

Generally the least expensive of the bunch, the distinctive Craftsman-style Landes House, which was named after the city's only woman mayor, is right off Volunteer Park. Several rooms have decks with views of Puget Sound and the city skyline.

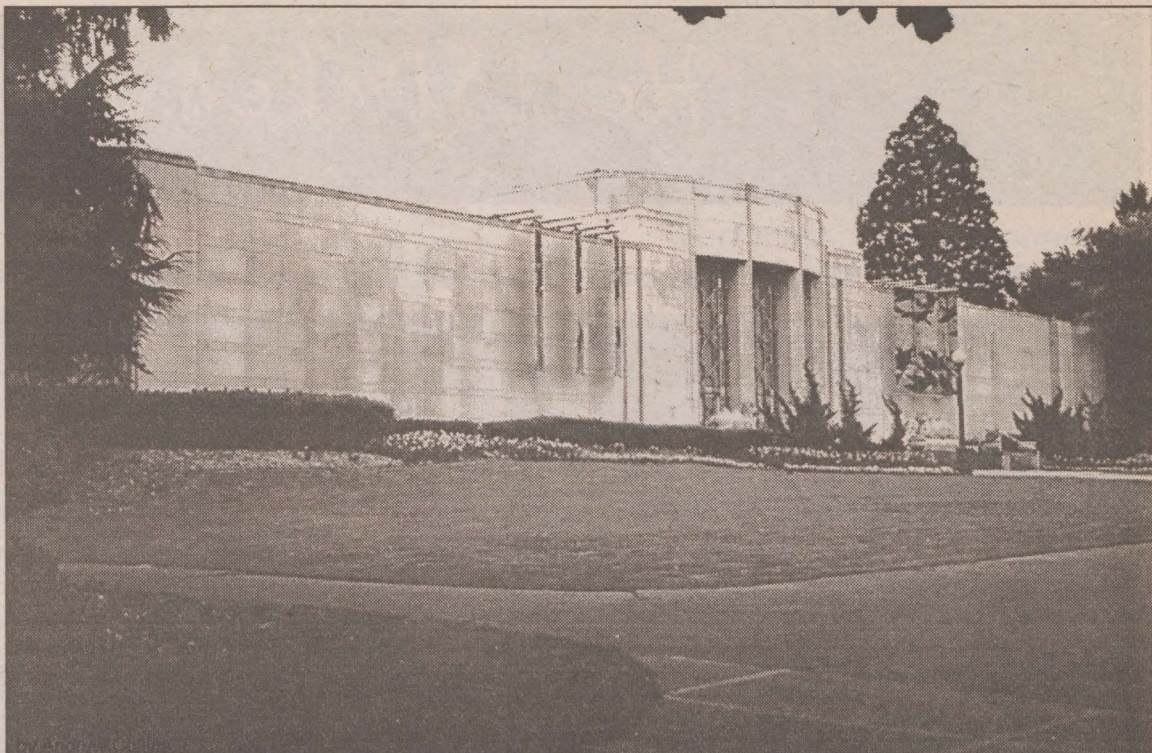
To quell your hunger pangs cheaply, consider dining at ARO.space, a futuristic-looking cafeteria-style eatery with tall windows and smooth molded-plywood chairs. The kitchen churns out affordable nouvelle comfort food like wild mushrooms, leeks, and pistachios tossed with penne and a wine, cream, and gorgonzola sauce.

Another sure-fire bet for excellent feather-light pastas and crisp pizzas (try garlic-clam pie), Giordina's has been a fixture of the 15th Avenue queer scene for many years. Jack's Bistro is a peppy Tuscan—and Provençal—inspired spot where you can dine in a sunny courtyard, on the sidewalk, or in a cozy storefront eating area. The menu has fine salads and pastas, and there's often live jazz.

On the ground floor of the ultra-faggy Broadway Market, Gravity Bar is a jumping juice bar—a seeming magnet for cute lesbians. Salads, open-face sandwiches, chapati-bread roll-ups, and rice-and-veggie platters are served under massive chrome air ducts and pipes. And that wheat-grass juice is dee-licious... just like Mom's. Also in the neighborhood, the Globe is a crunchy lesbo-popular bakery and vegetarian cafe.

At the north end of the neighborhood is one wonderful place to hang out for free, Volunteer Park, home to the exotic-plant-filled Conservatory and a 75-foot water tower from which you can enjoy panoramic city views. Here the Seattle Asian Art Museum, which does charge admission, has a comprehensive collection. Throngs of gay guys and lesbians lounge on Volunteer Park's lawns, reading books and each other. This is a lovely place to jog or toss a Frisbee, and there are views of the Space Needle, Lake Washington, and Elliott Bay from various vantage points.

Another part of the city worth exploring is the University of Washington's



It costs nothing to enjoy the leafy confines and brilliant views of Volunteer Park - and if you feel like a cultural splurge you enter the park's acclaimed Seattle Asian Art Museum for just \$6.

beautiful, hilly campus and the funky U. District neighborhood around it—it's not all that gay, but it's full of quirky diversions, cheap eats, and vintage clothing stores, especially along the main drag, University Way.

Nearby is the heart of Seattle's most significant lesbian community, low-key Wallingford—you'll find good shopping and dining along Meridian Avenue. Straight parents and their kids eat at Julia's, but joining them are gay couples (frequently with kids of their own), and folks who just consider one another family. The food is healthful—pasta, veggie dishes, burgers, baked breads, and fresh salads.

Dykes with tykes, alternatens, yuppies—all these and more—weekend brunch at colorful Mae's Phinney Ridge Cafe, a bit north of Woodland Park (home to the city's cool zoo). Breakfasts are huge, with memorable cinnamon rolls. You can grab cappuccino in the Mae's Mud Room espresso bar.

A bit southwest, Fremont was Seattle's hippie haven of the '60s but today is home to a mix of grungers, dot-commers, and artists. As you enter the neighborhood via the Fremont Bridge, a sign welcomes you to "The Center of the Universe." On Sundays, vendors show crafts, antiques, and objets d'art at the Fremont Market, a two-block plot just off Fremont Avenue. One of the best cafes in town, Still Life, has a seating area with yard-sale-quality wooden tables and chairs. The menu is substantial, with corn-tortilla pie, smoked-salmon bagels, and heavenly hazelnut shortbread among the offerings.

Downtown Seattle tends to have the more expensive hotels and eateries in the city, but it also is home to delightful (but extremely touristy) Pike Place Market. The sprawling 1907 structure is abuzz with fishmongers and food marketers of every ilk. The lower floors contain some genuinely interesting shops—some cheap,

some not.

For high-caliber food at reasonable prices, keep in mind the nearby branch of the Wolfgang Puck Cafe, across from the Seattle Art Museum, which serves pasta and pad thai, pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven, soups and salads, a few entrees, and some fab desserts. Another good pick is a sprawling pub-like Italian restaurant off Pioneer Square, Trattoria Mitchelli, which has great sidewalk seating, hearty pasta dishes (try the black-bean ravioli), and a huge list of micro-brewed beers.

If you do have your heart set on staying downtown, check out the Inn at Queen Anne, a pair of Tudor Revival buildings connected by an inviting courtyard. This affordable boutique-style property is near the Space Needle and has neatly kept rooms with simple but modern furnishings, floral bedspreads, and individual configurations—all have fully stocked kitchenettes.

If you're truly ambitious and nearly broke, you can always bypass booking hotel rooms and eating at real restaurants by spending as much time as possible at one of Seattle's many wonderful gay drinking holes.

Some of them, like the lesbian bar Wildrose and the aforementioned ARO.space, serve decent food, and if you flirt enough you may get somebody to buy you a meal. Better yet, cruise the dark but friendly confines of the Seattle Eagle, an eclectic hangout with a generally on-the-make crowd of age-varied men, and you might just find somebody charitable enough to put a roof over your head for the night. Of course, you may not get a lot of sleep, but, hey... free is free.



Andrew Collins authored Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached in care of HeatStroke or at GayFodors@aol.com.

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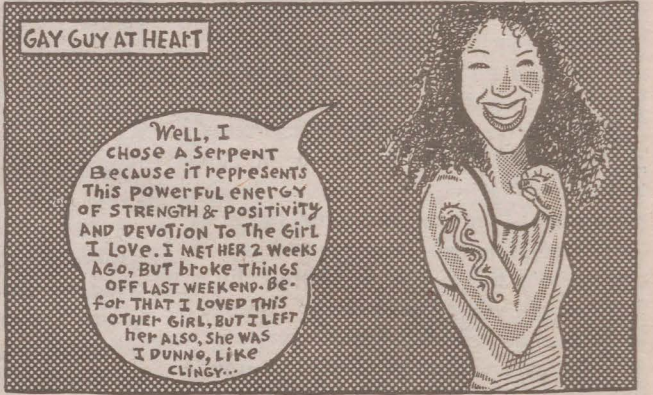
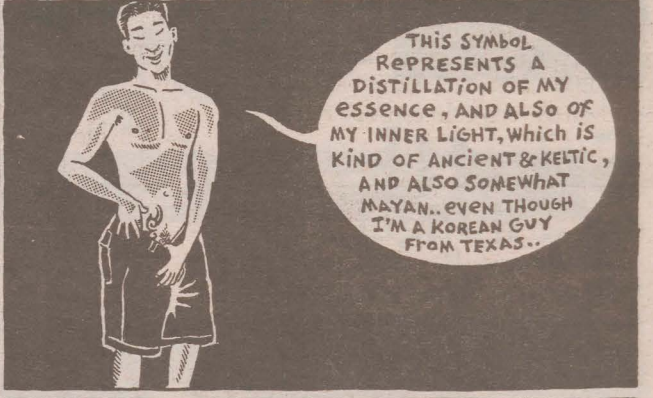
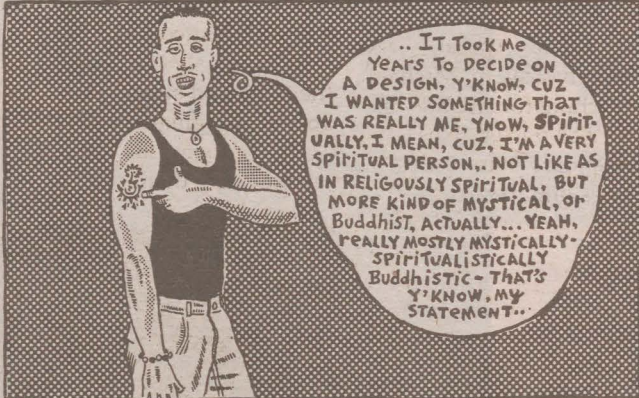
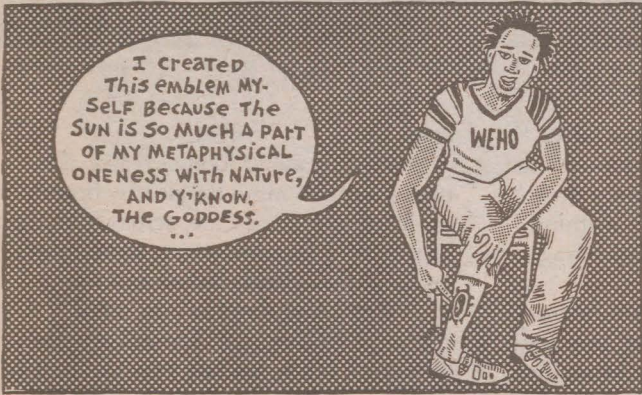
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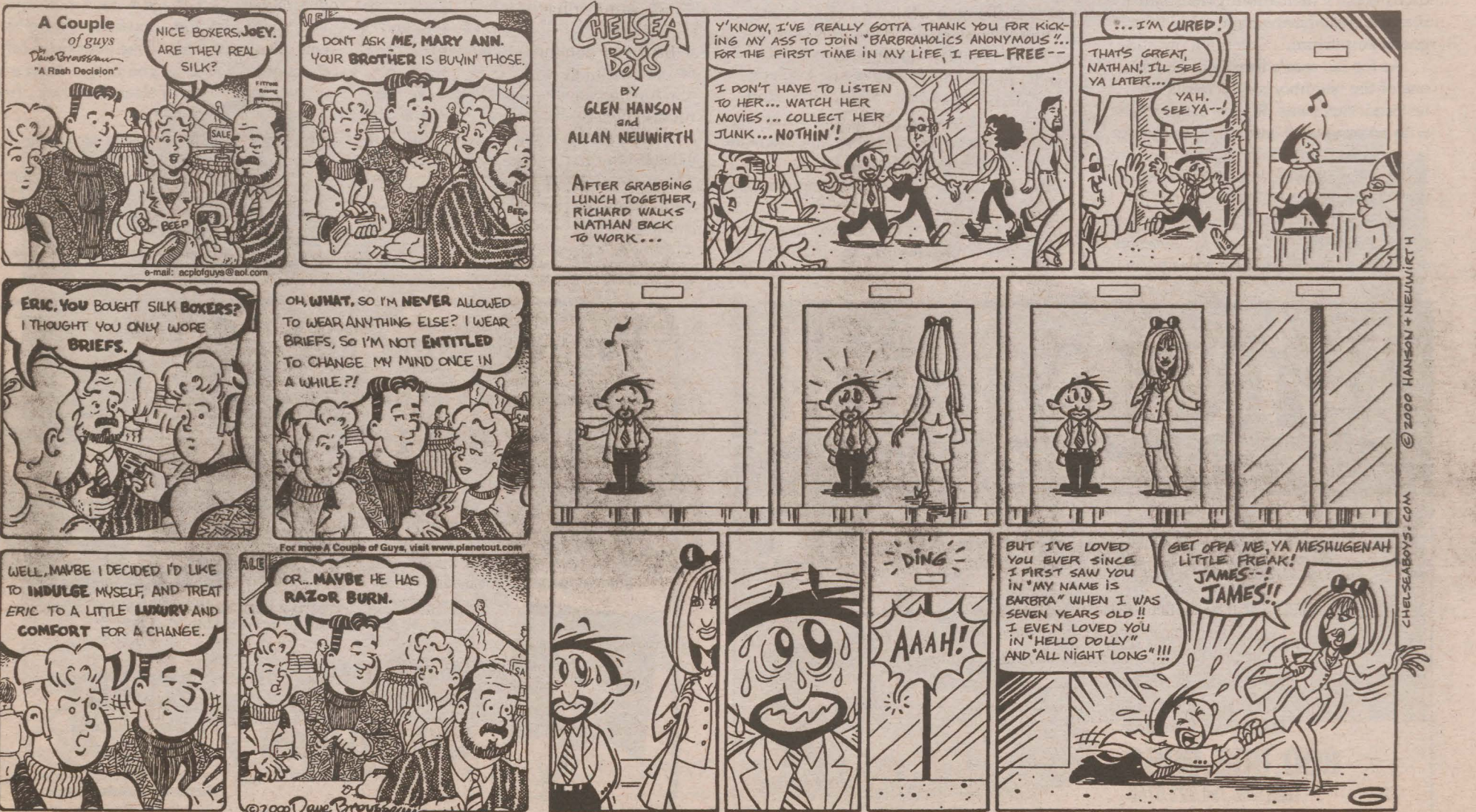
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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

MIRA GOES MANLY

Academy Award winner **Mira Sorvino** is finalizing a deal to do the gender-bending thang in the upcoming independent feature film *Triumph Of Love*, based on Pierre Marivaux's 18th century French play.



Mira Sorvino takes a turn at gender bending in her next project: *Triumph of Love*.

Sorvino will portray a young princess who tries to restore her homeland's throne to its rightful heir, who happens to be a young prince with whom she falls in love. Using love as her weapon, the princess assumes both feminine and masculine identities and discovers that she has a knack for seduction, quickly finding herself engaged to three people.

Triumph is scheduled to roll before cameras in Tuscany this September.

BROOKE SHIELDS—GAY DIVORCEE?

The former Mrs. **Andre Agassi** and suddenly **Susan** star **Brooke Shields** has joined the cast of the Lifetime Original pic *What Makes a Family* playing a lesbian. (Personally, Romeo thinks Andre's current squeeze, **Steffi Graf**, would be a more convincing dyke.)

Whoopi Goldberg is starring in the made-for-TV pic, whose plot centers on a child-custody battle involving a lesbian couple. The telefilm has none other than **Barbra Streisand** as its executive producer. *What Makes a Family* is expected to air later this year on the cable network.

JOHN MAHONEY HELPS FIND ATLANTIS

Frasier father **John Mahoney** has lent his voice to the upcoming Disney animat-

ed film, *Atlantis*.

Mahoney provides the vocal chords of **Preston**, an old-time explorer who was friends with a late, great adventurer, whose grandson, **Milo** (voiced by **Michael J. Fox**), has been searching for Atlantis his whole life. Mahoney's character gives Milo a legendary map book and inspires him to go on a submarine adventure and find the lost city.

Also lending their voices to the cast are **James Garner**, **Don Novello** (the artist formerly known as **Father Guido Sarducci**) and the late **Jim Varney** of *Ernest Goes to Camp* fame. *Atlantis* is on track to hit theaters next June.

EXODUS FROM THE THEATERS?

Oscar-winning documentary filmmakers **Rob Epstein** and **Jeff Friedman** (*The Celluloid Closet* and *Paragraph 175*) recently went undercover in the Christian Exodus movement to investigate the ministry's attempt to "save" a gay man as research for their upcoming feature film *Save Me*.

Writer **Alan Poul** joined them at the meeting for "born-again recovering homosexuals" in July. *Save Me* is not a documentary; it's a romantic comedy centering on a gay man who joins a Christian group that helps bring homosexuals back to both heterosexuality and Jesus. Instead of finding "redemption," he finds a hunk and falls in love with a guy who is still closeted.

Something tells me this one isn't going to play on a lot of screens in the Bible Belt.

REUNITED THREESOME

Quirky *The Opposite of Sex* stars **Christina Ricci** and **Lisa Kudrow** have joined the cast of the upcoming flick *All Over the Guy*.

The flick is being executive produced by **Don Roos**, the gay writer-slash-director who previously worked with the two lovely ladies in *The Opposite of Sex*. The film is about a recovering-alcoholic special-ed teacher whose fear of commitment is challenged while on a blind date.

The screenplay for *All Over the Guy* was written by **Dan Bucatinsky**, who played a minor role in *Sex* and will make an appearance in the new film as well.

All Over the Guy is currently in production in Los Angeles, but no release date has been set for the film.

COMEDY CENTRAL GOES "AMBIGUOUSLY GAY"

Short-film maker and *Saturday Night Live* fixture **Robert Smigel** has signed a deal of **Matt Stone** and **Trey Parker**-like proportions with cable network Comedy Central to create a new half-hour show that will debut later this year.

Smigel's show will feature a combination of new and old material, including animated shorts, puppets and animals. Among the existing Smigel characters that will be included on the new show are the "Ambiguously Gay Duo," **Ace** and **Gary**, the tight-clad superheroes who have appeared regularly on *SNL*.

In the toon, **Gary** and **Ace** use teamwork to help them conquer evil homocen-



Christina Ricci reunites with **Lisa Kudrow** and **Don Roos** for the upcoming *All Over the Guy*.

tric villains such as the **Big Head** and the **Queen**. Much of the humor of the their escapades revolves around the homoerotic imagery created by their heroism, which everybody seems to notice except them, such as their giant dildo-shaped car.

Ten episodes of Smigel's unnamed show should be done by the end of this year, with the deal calling for 20 more in 2001. Comedy Central promised Smigel "creative freedom" a la **Parker** and **Stone**, so we can expect **Ace** and **Gary** to push the boundaries of good taste.

FRIEND LIKES IT HOT

Friends star **Matt LeBlanc**'s summer hiatus is a drag... literally.

LeBlanc just committed to join the cast of the \$15 million independent comedy *All The Queen's Men*, about a group of World War II soldiers who pull a *Mrs. Doubtfire* and disguise themselves as women in an

attempt to infiltrate the enemy's femmerun factory.

You might recall that before *Friends*, the actor was a model for an international gay guide. *All The Queen's Men* will roll before cameras next month, shooting in various eastern European locations.

SCOTT RUDIN: FAIRY GODFATHER

It must be nice to be **David Schickler**. A few weeks ago Schickler was merely a Rochester, N.Y., English and drama teacher.

But that all changed when gay über-producer **Scott Rudin** optioned Schickler's short story *The Smoker* for Paramount and put him under contract to write the screenplay.

The Smoker is about a teacher at an exclusive girl's high school who becomes the object of one of his student's infatuation. When he has dinner with her parents, he is shocked when he is asked to marry her. *The Smoker* was first published in the *New Yorker's* Summer Fiction issue.

No word yet, but Romeo's guessing Schickler won't be doing the faculty thang next semester.

CLOONEY + WAHLBERG = ?

Some of the steamiest gossip on the Internet says studs **George Clooney** and **Mark Wahlberg** are gonna be roommates.

It seems the two are booked to share a hotel suite at a hip, mid-town Manhattan hotel this fall for several weeks. Doesn't **Marky Mark** know I'm available?

PRIVATE SHOWING

A certain queer sitcom actor has a curious habit. It seems the star likes to show his erect member to his lady friend when he gets aroused in public.

Romeo hears that the chick in question isn't interested in the least, but he still offers. Go to West Hollywood my boy, I'm sure you'll get plenty of takers.

Romeo San Vicente is ambiguously Latino. You can reach Romeo in care of *HeatStroke*.



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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 85067, or e-mail to alkalpx@aol.com—we'll pass them along to the wise one for you.

Dear Cowboy,
I'm a fairly good looking, well educated, and healthy guy. I have a good job and what I think is a positive attitude toward life, and I own my own home. But I'm also 32 and have never had a boyfriend for more than a few weeks even though I've been out of the closet since college.
It seems like the longer I go without dating, the harder it is to connect with people. I tried the personal ads, and they didn't work out either. I really want to meet someone special and it's gotten to the point where it's hard to think about anything else.
I'm really depressed these days, and I don't know what to try next.

Any suggestions?
Signed, Alone in Mesa

Dear Alone,
There are dozens of organizations that could use a good looking, well educated and healthy guy like you to lend a volunteer hand around the place. Figure out what you're interested in, or think of a charity or group that's either meant a lot to you or to someone you've cared about at one time or another. Then call them up, or simply walk on in and offer your services.
It's high time you got out of that house and stopped feeling sorry for yourself. Start connecting with other people without fretting over whether they're

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interested in you, and forget about your "single" situation. You'll be surprised at how soon a new focus will turn things around, and pretty soon you'll be standing in a whole new arena.

Dear Cowboy,
She didn't smoke when we met. She didn't smoke while we were dating. Then we moved in together, and it turns out I'm living with a smoker!
It all started with a couple of cigarettes a week after dinner, and then things escalated to a steady habit. She never smokes in the house, but the back porch reeks and so do her clothes and hair. I can't stand it, but I'm in love with her and don't know what to do. She's got to become either an ex-smoker or an ex-lover, and I don't know

She didn't smoke when we met. She didn't smoke while we were dating. Then we moved in together and it turns out I'm living with a smoker!

which it's going to be. Help!
Signed, Red-eyed and Coughing

Dear Coughing,
Why are those the only two options? Is it at all possible for you two to come to terms you can both live with on this? See if there's room on both sides for a few new "rules of the ranch" that would allow your cowgirl her smoking space while keeping her habit out of your bonnet. If that won't work, consider the possibility of continuing the relationship but setting yourselves up in separate casas. If those suggestions aren't for you, it may be best to divide the team. Love is supposed to be unconditional, but when your health is affected, it may be time to move on.

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- B. Pookie's**
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Phoenix 602/277-2121
- C. Punky's Corner**
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- 1. Ain't Nobody's Bizness
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- 2. Amsterdam
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Phoenix 602/258-6122
- 3. Apollo's
5749 N. 7th Street
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- 4. BOOM
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- 5. Boot Camp
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- 6. BS
7125 5th Avenue
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- 7. Bunkhouse
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 602/200-9154
- 8. Cash Inn
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Phoenix 602/244-9943

- 9. **Charlie's**
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- 10. Crowbar
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Phoenix 602/258-8343
- 11. Cruisin' Central
1011 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/253-3376
- 12. **Doc's • Club TENONE**
12032 N. Cave Creek
Phoenix 602/997-9461
- 13. **Harley's Club 155**
Harley's Too!
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- 14. Incognito
2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix 602/955-9805
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Glendale 623/939-0528
- 16. **Johnny Mc's**
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Phoenix 602/266-0875
- 17. Marlys'
15615 Cave Creek
Phoenix 602/867-2463
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Tempe 602/756-2445
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Phoenix 602/265-3233
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3108 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/267-8707
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Phoenix 602/267-9959
- 22. Paco Paco
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- 23. Padlock
998 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/266-5640
- 24. The Park
3002 N. 24th Street
Phoenix 602/957-6055
- 25. **Pumphouse II**
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- 26. Roscoe's on 7th
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- 27. **Waterhole**
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Glendale 623/937-3139
- 28. Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/265-9002
- 29. World
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- 31. **Book Cellar**
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- 34. Paradise Adult Boutique
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- 35. Movies on Central
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- 36. **Tuff Stuff**
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- 37. Unique on Central
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- 40. **Chute**
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/234-1654
- 41. **Flex**
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Culture

- 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

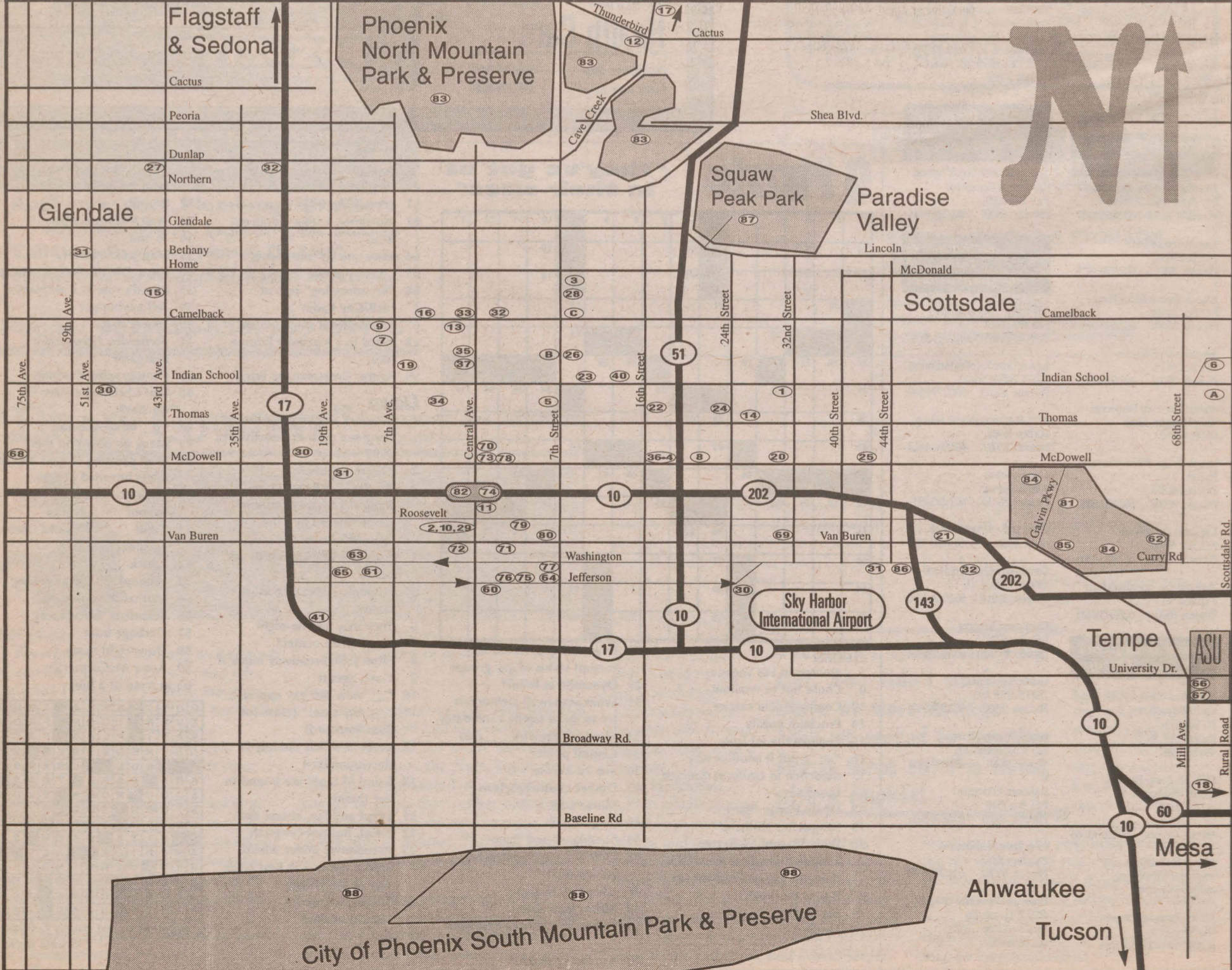
- 65. AZ State Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington
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- 66. ASU Art Museum
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Mill Ave. & 10th Street
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- 67. ASU Gammage Center
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- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky
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- 69. Celebrity Theater
440 N. 32nd Street
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- 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.
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- 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

Outdoors

- 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
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- 88. South Mountain Park
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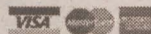
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Announcements

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Mummy Mountain—Town of Paradise Valley—Updated in 95-96, approx. 3500 sqft; 4bd+den/game room; 3ba; pool; 2G; greatroom kitchen; slate flrs; expansive views of N. Scotts, the McDowells, Pin. Peak, Saddleback & Mummy Mountain; last home in neighborhood sold for \$1MIL & was TORN DOWN!! Great Neighborhood. Offered for \$864,000; Call The Real Estate Consultants Sam Wercinski 602/228-4497 direct. West USA 480/948-5554.

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Glendale/7th Ave—East Coast Charmer! Spacious 3bd+den, 2ba with an ALL TILE DIVING POOL! Parquet floors throughout, gas cooktop & fireplace, French doors, 2 car garage with workshop on a large 10,000 sqft lot. Great Central location! Offered for \$220,000. Call The Real Estate Consultants John Walsh 602/319-0692 direct West USA 480-948-5554.

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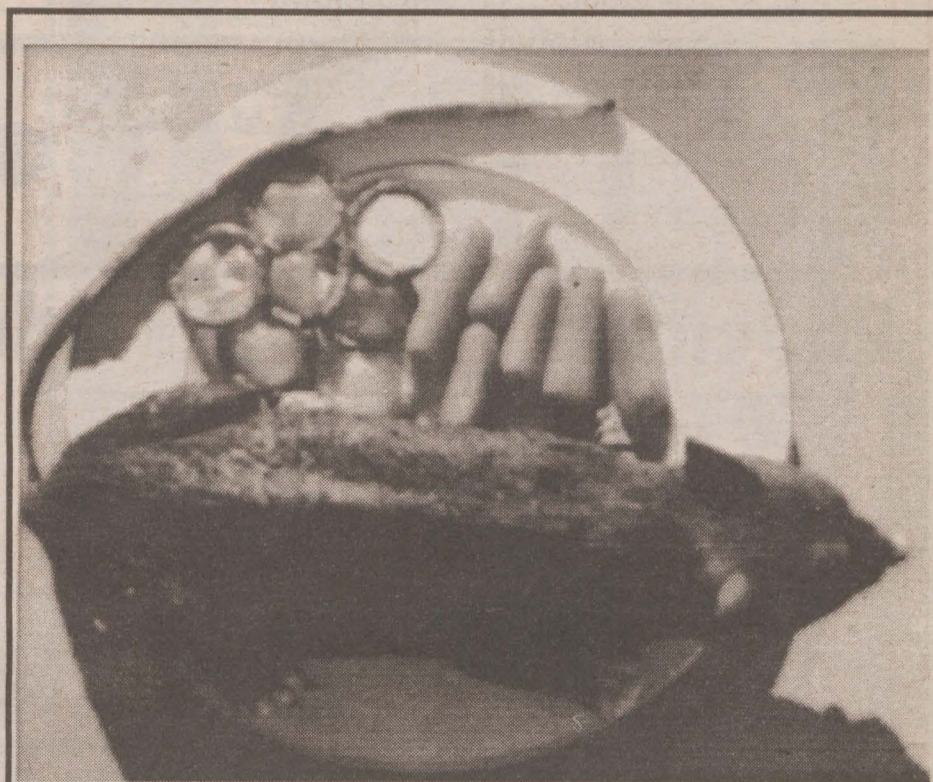
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bathroom. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

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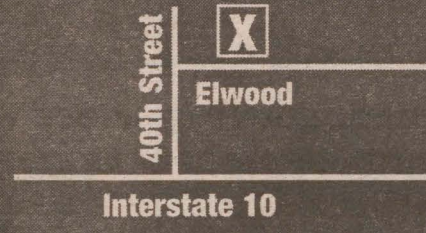
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TIPS FOR GETTING TIMBER

Sex Advice for Gay Men

By Woody Miller, Contributor

Hey, Woody!

Prozac is killing my sex life. As my shrink gradually increased my dosage to where my depression is at bay, my libido has slowly gone south, along with my ability to maintain an erection.

My lover of 3 years and I have a glee-ful understanding of our sexual roles: I'm the pushy top and he's the passive bottom. We won't switch roles, so don't even go there.

He's been a model of support, in a Hillary Clinton kinda way—calm on the outside, but when nobody's around, threatening to start getting fucked by other guys if I can't satisfy him. What can I do?

—Dickless in Duluth

Dear Dickless:

First of all, Hillary Clinton would never say "fucked" to her husband unless she was using the word to describe his future.

Second, your boyfriend isn't a passive bottom. He's a passive-aggressive bottom. He needs to know he's got two roles in your bedroom—lying underneath you when things are going well, and standing beside you when they aren't.

We've all been sold a bill of goods about anti-depressants. According to the pharmaceuticals, about 30% of users will suffer some sort of sexual impairment, from reduced libido ("yeah, you're really hot, man, but let's watch *Biography* on A&E, first") to taking an eternity to climax ("Honey, you keep trying, I'll go and make us an omelet") to outright impotence ("I'm furious and I'm going to start getting fucked by other guys if you can't satisfy me").

The truth is, pharmaceuticals lie. I don't know ANYBODY who's on an anti-depressant who hasn't peeled the banana and had it droop before anybody could take a bite. Prozac and its sister SSRIs are the 90s way of selling your soul for a little happiness. Peace at the cost of your piece.

That being said, it's also true that these anti-depressants are often the only things that can overcome crippling depression and anxiety disorders. But, man, talk about picking your poison.

I'm assuming you've picked the pill poison because you've tried everything else: therapy, meditation, yoga, crystal meth, fisting, web design, and they've all failed. Talk to your doctor about other SSRIs (Prozac is one of many, each working on the brain in slightly different ways).

There might be others that can provide depression/anxiety relief without making you Noodle Man. Another way might be to get off pills altogether and try the herbal route—St. John's Wort, which does not seem to have sexual side effects. But do it under doctor supervision—do NOT take both SSRIs and St. John's Wort together.

And if you're stuck on Prozac, consider decreasing the dose steadily as you increase a spiritual practice like yoga or meditation. You might find a happy middle ground.

Hey, Woody!

What's more important to a bottom—length or girth?

—Bottomed out

Dear Bottomed:

That's like asking what's more important, your own net worth or your boyfriend's—it's all going to the same place, and it's going to feel great.



Like Clinton's version of "is," sphincter muscles can flex to the situation. If you don't believe me, ask an emergency room doctor what people walk in with (literally) at 4 in the morning. One guy got a huge cucumber (yes, a big, fat, long cucumber) stuck in him. When the ER doc asked him how it got there, the man turned beet red and said "it was an unfortunate gardening incident."

Which is better, girth or length? I don't know of any bottom surveys to back me up (bottoms like poles, not polls), but I'd wager the results, like the legs of the survey respondents, would be split right down the middle.

Hey, Woody!

Video porn has taken over my life. I can't masturbate without it and it's getting to the point that I don't want to have sex with other guys unless porn is running on the VCR. At first I thought it would be a great way to spice up my sex life but my sex partners tend to think I'm way weird.

Especially the ones I've never slept with before. The last guy was so insulted he left my apartment in a huff. This is embarrassing, but it's harder and harder for me to get it up without watching a video.

—Stuck in Rewind

Dear Rewind:

As a porn connoisseur, I share your, ahm, passion for using the VCR like an industrial toaster to heat things till they pop up with pleasure. Porn is so automatic with me, sometimes I'm afraid I'm going to forget the tape and accidentally stick my hoo-ha in the VCR and hit "Play."

And is it me, or does anybody else wish they'd just record the damn things with no sound. I always watch it with the volume turned off. My God, if I wanted music and conversation during sex I'd wake up my boyfriend.

So asking me how to stay away from porn is like asking an alcoholic how to lay off the sauce—you're liable to hear some tortured rationalizations.

Be that as it may, put the remote down and listen. I don't see how watching too much porn is harmful as long as you're alone and there's nobody competing for your attention. However, if you're telling me you can't get it up while hot live wood lays next to you because "Texas Stool Studs" isn't flashing beaver like the pulsing "12:00" on my VCR clock, then it's time to radio in for support because you're on Planet Beyond in the Help Galaxy.

Porn should serve as fuel for your fantasies, not as an escape hatch from reality. Porn can be a wonderful libidinal lift for men to watch together, but in your case, it's wedge that drives dates away.

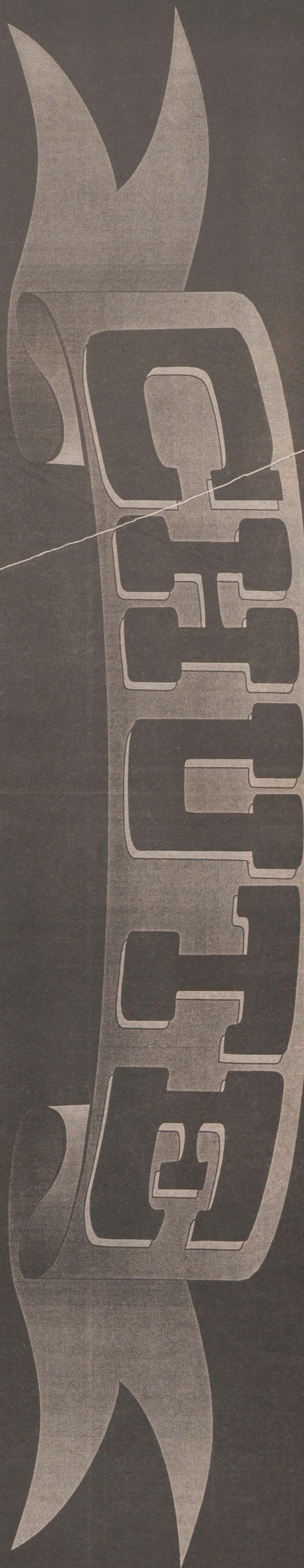
You're not using porn as a "marital aid"—you're using it as a way of avoiding the complicated sexual and emotional realities of live flesh and blood. There's something about sex with real people that's scaring you to death, and you're hiding behind the VCR to avoid it. You need to find out what it is before it consumes you. I encourage you to seek counseling.

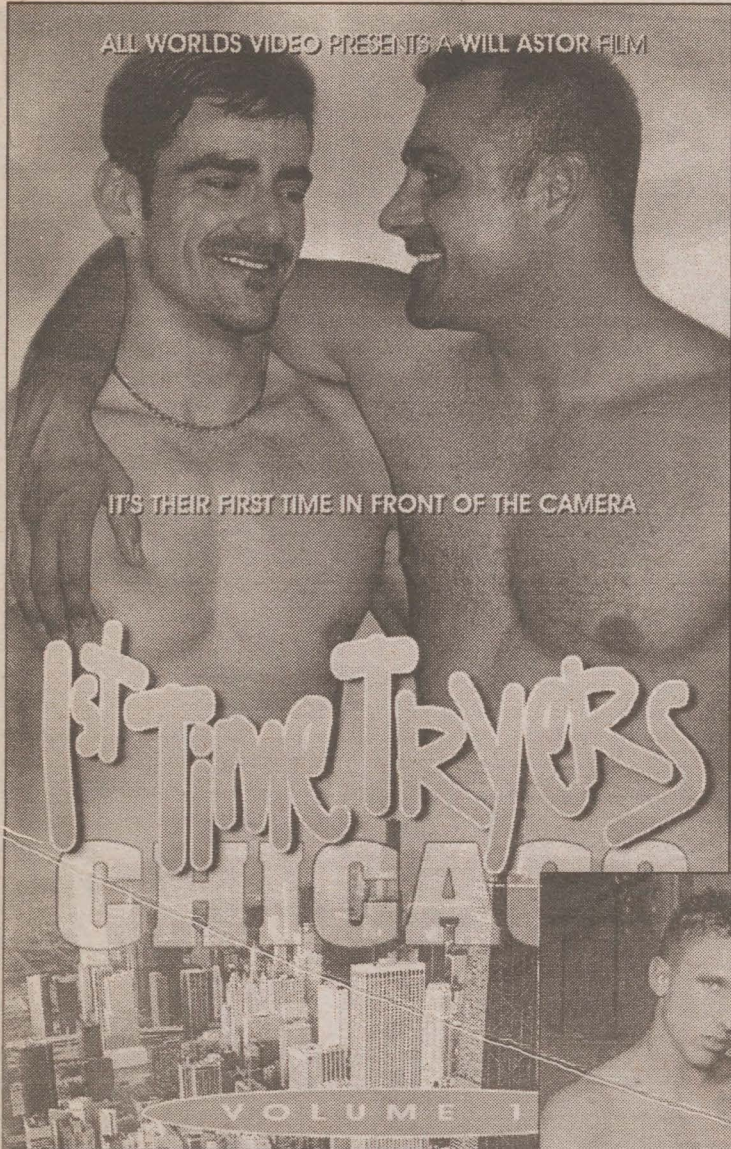
In addition, my advice is to throw your porn collection away (you have no idea how much that hurts me to say). As long as it's there you'll never come to grips with what you fear from live sex.

Need Wood? Email him at kneadwood@aol.com. A gay psychologist and a board-certified MD with a large gay practice advise the author on medical matters. The author keeps his own counsel on matters of common sense.

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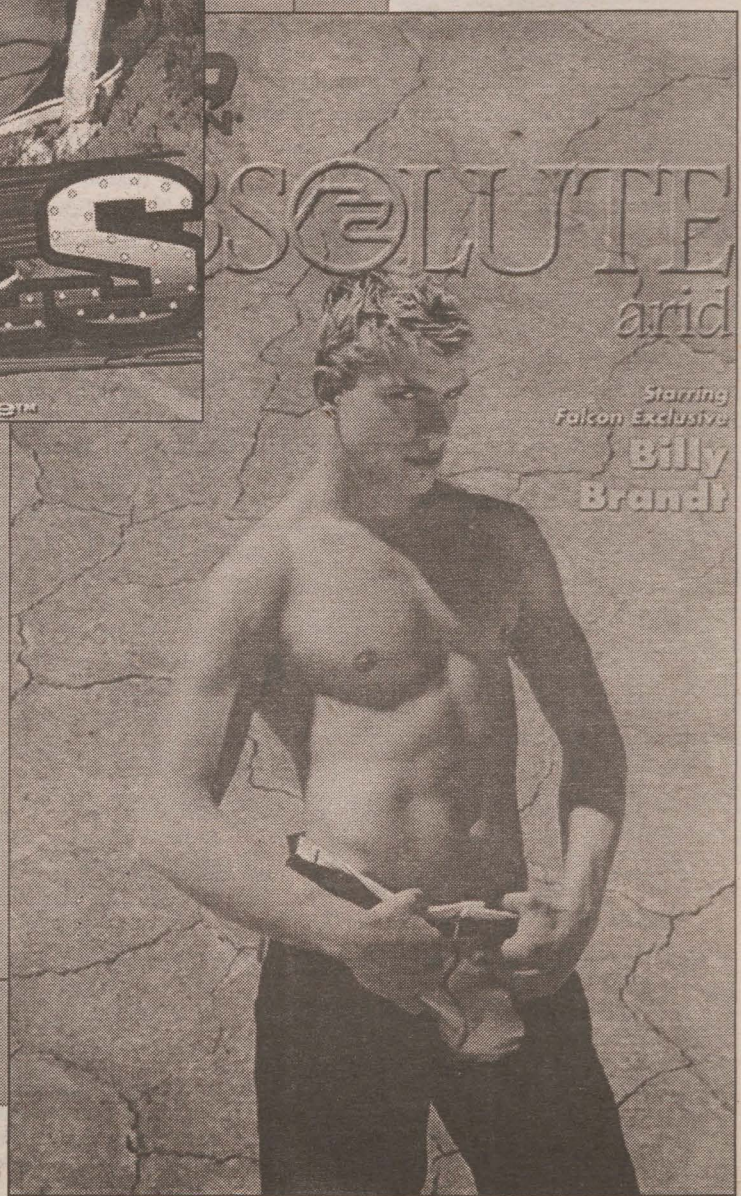
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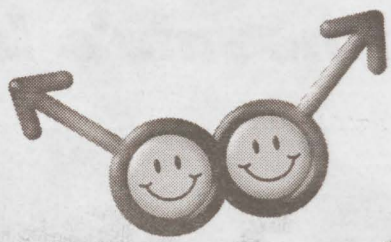
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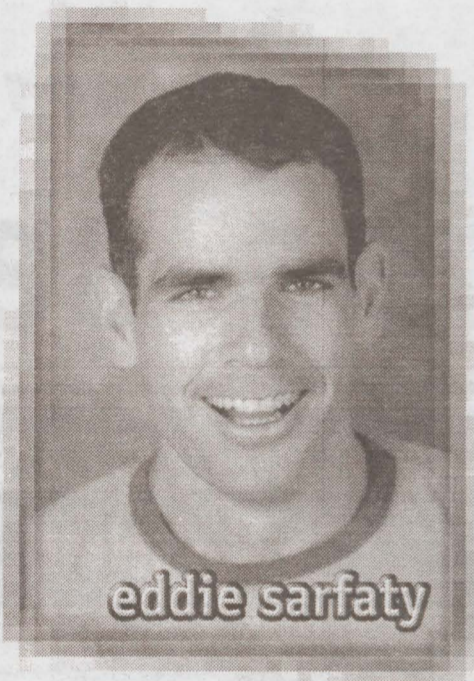
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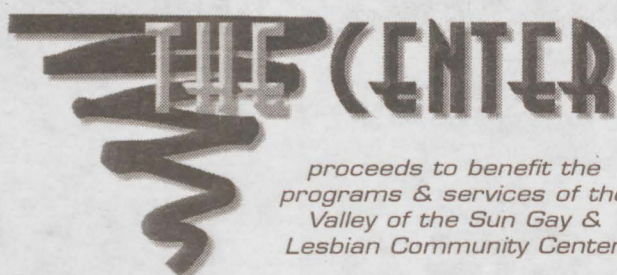
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