

HeatStroke

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Sweet MUSIC man

**Pianist/singer
Michael Feinstein
on celebrity life &
gay music**

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Michael Feinstein is in a good mood, and he should be.

He's just returned to his L.A. home after hanging out with Hollywood's hippest insiders at the Sundance Film Festival, where *Get Bruce!*, a documentary about comedy writer (and Feinstein pal) Bruce Vilanch premiered to glowing reviews. Feinstein contributed the film's score.

His 16th album, *Michael & George—Feinstein Sings Gershwin*, is up for a 1998 Grammy for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance.

And the series of concerts and special events he hosted and helped plan last summer and fall as part of composer George Gershwin's 100th birthday celebration were both professionally successful and personally rewarding.

He's on tour again in 1999 and will be bringing the music of Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern and other vintage American composers to the Valley's Sundome Center for the Performing Arts on Feb. 27.

Once the personal assistant to George's brother, lyricist Ira Gershwin, Feinstein helped manage the Gershwin estate and presided over the 20th Century legend's song catalogues for six years.

But he traded his academic pursuits for the keyboard and the stage after a feud with Ira Gershwin's wife in the mid eighties, and was subsequently discovered in 1986 playing in the piano lounge at L.A.'s famously chic Mondrian hotel.

Today, his vocal instrument has never been in better form. Long praised for his enunciation and intimate style, he's recently reinvented himself—according to the *New York Times*—as “a vaudeville-style entertainer whose polished crooning is augmented by Danny Kaye-like comic shtick.”

Comic shtick notwithstanding, the boyishly handsome 42-yr old possesses a wonderful voice,

See “Feinstein,” page 16

Judge rules witness identities and records won't be public in Fisher case

By Kelly J. Reidhead, Managing Editor

The Administrative Law Judge assigned to the case brought by the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners (BOMEX) against Dr. Ken Fisher, a gay Phoenix physician, has ruled against Fisher on the issue of patient confidentiality for the hearing scheduled to begin Feb. 22.

Judge Brian B. Tully ruled that the identities and medical records of Fisher's former patients will remain confidential during the upcoming hearing, and not subject to public disclosure.

BOMEX, the state agency that regulates medical doctors in Arizona, is seeking to terminate Fisher's license to practice medicine because of allegations that the physician engaged in

sexual improprieties with several of his male patients.

Attorneys representing Fisher and BOMEX clashed over patient confidentiality in written briefs requested by the Judge.

Fisher's attorneys argued that the identities and medical records of the patient witnesses should be public information. By making the “public accusations against [Fisher],” his lawyers asserted that the patient witnesses have waived the physician/patient privilege of confidentiality.

These witnesses would be able to “hide behind a cloak of anonymity” if their identities and medical records were kept confidential at the hearing, Fisher's lawyers claimed. “To permit this cowardly conduct to continue,”

they continued, “would deny [Fisher] the full due process rights to which he is entitled in a formal hearing.”

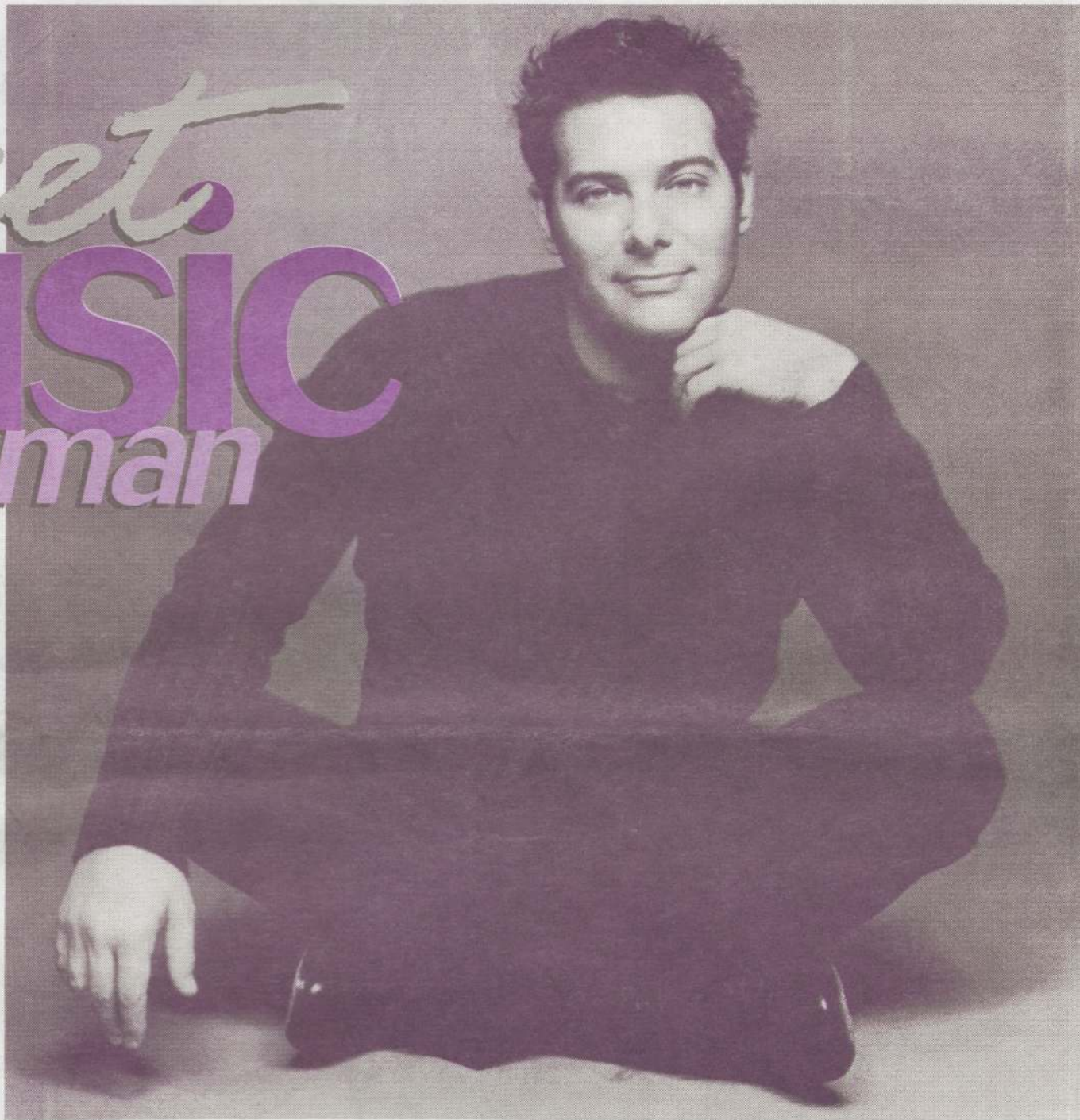
Attorneys for BOMEX argued in favor of keeping the witness identities and medical records confidential at the Feb. 22 hearing. In its brief BOMEX stated that the confidentiality statute governing the proceeding is very broad, protecting not only the medical records and identity of the patient, but also the identity of the patient's family. BOMEX requested that “all patient records be sealed and kept separate from the public record.”

Judge Tully agreed with BOMEX's position, ruling that “patients and patient-witnesses shall be identified by number in all documents and during any testimony,” and that “the

public shall be excused from any pre-hearing conferences and from portions of the hearing when necessary to comply with [the confidentiality statute].”

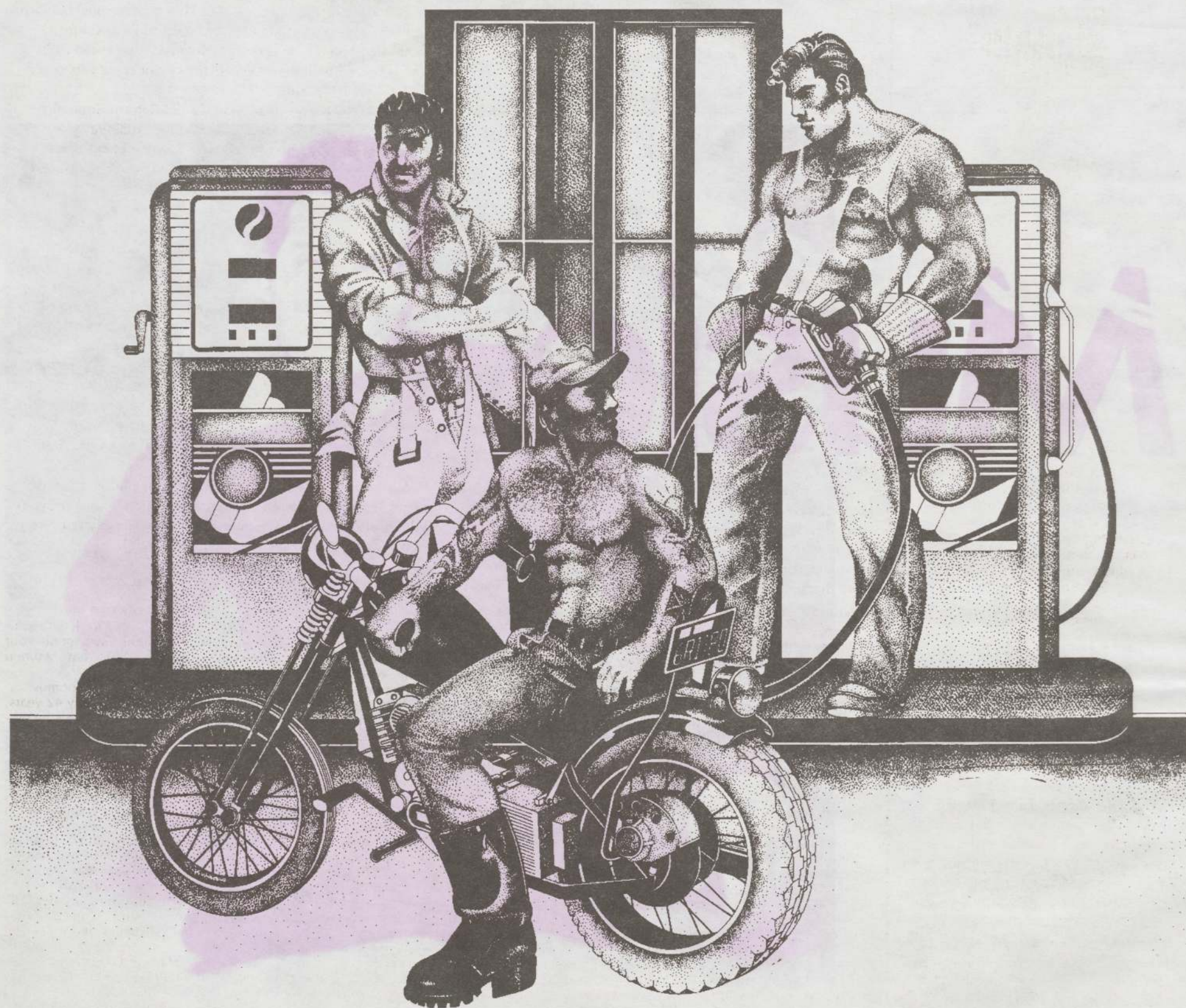
At press time, the Judge had signed 11 subpoenas either ordering witnesses to appear at Fisher's hearing or to provide certain documents for use at the hearing.

Among the subpoenas, Judge Tully ordered a Dr. Mitchell Roefe of Scottsdale to provide the medical file “regarding the treatment rendered to Dr. Kenneth M. Fisher.” Judge Tully also ordered a polygrapher, Cy Gilson, to provide all records and documents related to a polygraph examination that Gilson administered to Fisher on Jan. 18, 1999.



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Horowitz: Way to go, Steve

When Steve May first ran for the Arizona State Senate, I had very mixed emotions.

Steve ran his campaign as a conservative Republican who would not conceal his homosexuality. In my opinion, he did not court the gay community in any big way. The Arizona Human Rights Fund did not endorse him, but rather his opponent, a legislative incumbent with a proven pro-gay stance.

While I applauded May's honesty about his own gayness, Steve was not gay enough for my taste. I wasn't sure he could be counted on to carry the banner of gay rights. When speaking to the press, he consistently said he would not be pushing any kind of gay agenda. His campaign did not receive my active support nor any of my money.

May did not receive a huge amount of support from the gay community. Members of his own party ran hit pieces against him. His campaign became little more than a nice first try.

Thankfully, Steve decided to give it another go, and he ran for the House of Representatives in a different legislative district. This time his campaign looked very different to me.

This time, Steve May ran as a conservative Republican who happens to be gay. He actively sought the support of the gay community in both fundraising and campaigning. He showed great political savvy and put forth amazing personal effort in the republican primary. He was endorsed by both the Arizona Human Rights Fund and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

He took his message of fiscal conservatism to republican voters personally. Homosexuality was not his primary issue, but he did allow his gayness to be an issue this time around. After winning the republican primary, Steve was virtually assured victory in the general election. Earlier this year, he was sworn in as Arizona's first openly gay Republican state legislator.

Representative May joined Rep. Ken Chevront, the openly gay Democrat elected to his second term. I understood Steve's plan for this legislative session was to work on important issues like the state's budget and education finance reform. I expected he would also support our legislative efforts to end employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and to repeal

Arizona's archaic sodomy law. I don't think that anyone, including Steve himself, predicted he would become embroiled in one of the hottest fights in the state house in recent memory.

The Honorable Representative Karen Johnson—I can't decide whether I'm using the term loosely or facetiously—continues to propose antigay legislation.

This year her efforts are directed against domestic partnership benefits conferred on unmarried employees in Pima County. The Pima County Board of Supervisors voted to extend health benefits to the unmarried partners of Pima County employees, both gay and straight. Johnson introduced a bill that would prohibit the state and any city or county from providing domestic partnership benefits.

As usual, this time in a Government Reform Committee meeting on the bill, she decried the homosexual lifestyle, suggesting that "homosexuality is on the lower end of the behavioral spectrum." Her comments seemed to go on and on, but I don't want to waste more space on them.

I'd rather talk about what Steve May said.

Steve not only stepped up to the plate for the gay community; he did so with more vigor and charisma than I would have predicted.

When Johnson let loose with her antigay rhetoric, Steve was right there to defend himself and our community. He sounded like a true statesman and civil rights leader. He boldly accused Johnson of lying, for which he later apologized.

He also pointed out that his gay tax dollars spend just the same as her straight tax dollars. Most importantly he brought out Johnson's five marriages and her hypocrisy regarding family values. He threw down the gauntlet putting Johnson, and other homophobic legislators, on notice that he would fight, "[w]hen you steal my freedom. . ."

His words still echo loudly for me. I hope his words will inspire our entire community to further action. I hope his voice will be one of many that will finally help to close Karen Johnson's big mouth and open her small mind.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney.

Editors:

I am writing in response to the recent cover article you did on ADAP (*Money for Drugs*, issue #58, Jan. 28 - Feb. 10). I agree this program is wonderful and benefits many very needy people in the state. I am also in full agreement that the ADHS staff is terrific and deserved the award they received last November. I would just like to make you aware of the challenges that my family is facing.

We are a family of four that exceeds the federal poverty guidelines by approx. \$3,000 per year. We are a married couple with two children. My husband is HIV positive and the rest of the family is negative. He is receiving medical care through Ryan White Title I services. He does not qualify for AHCCCS. He receives SSD and is expecting his Medicare coverage to begin in June of this year. Medicare does not pay for medications and we will not qualify for ADAP based on federal poverty guidelines.

I tried to add my husband to the medical insurance I have through my employer. He does not qualify based on the fact that he has a pre-existing medical condition. The only way the insurance will allow the pre-existing condition is to get a certificate of credible coverage from his current health care provider stating that he has been covered with other medical insurance. Unfortunately, Ryan White Title I does not qualify as credible coverage.

For the first time in our life we are able to meet our monthly rent and expenses. We do not live above our means. By not qualifying for ADAP we are forced to purchase the medications at full cost. This monthly expense puts us well below the federal poverty guidelines and makes us unable to meet our monthly expenses. One of the options that we have had to consider is to get divorced. As a single man on disability my husband will qualify for ADAP. I have been told that a simple piece of paper such as a marriage license doesn't really matter if that is what we have to do. I disagree. That simple piece of paper means a great deal to me.

I am grateful that programs such as ADAP exist to assist people who need them. In the future we need to develop other options for families living with HIV. The state needs to evaluate the eligibility requirements for ADAP. For example, how many people using the program are single households versus families? Would it be possible to implement some sort of co-payment options?

In the last few years, I have seen the HIV community move mountains in the State of Arizona against incredible odds. Let's continue that process.

Christina Hurst
Phoenix

Editors:

Arizona State Rep. Karen Johnson, her supporters and the Republican Party they represent are (to borrow her words) at the "end of the behavioral spectrum", not the homosexuals. She and her ideals, not promiscuous sex, threaten to "undermine the very values and institutions, especially the family, upon which a stable and vital society is built."

Johnson has gone out of her way to grab headlines by trying to deny foster children a loving home because she doesn't approve of the parents. Now she continues to teach children that not everyone is equal in America and that it's okay to hate and judge people who are not like her. She is trying to legalize discrimination while pandering to the lowest common denominator of people who have to be brainwashed to think that they are more deserving than others. She is flat-out abusing her elected position for her own agenda.

One of her supporters, Rep. Debra Brimhall of Mesa, said she is disgusted by homosexuality and that it calls into question God and his designs. "I feel a strong sense of fear for anyone who questions God's designs." Well, she should live in fear because the only ones show are questioning God's designs are Karen Johnson, Debra Brimhall and anyone who supports their hateful agenda.

Michael Wayne Miles
Tempe

Editors:

This is an open letter to Reps. Karen Johnson and Barbara Blewster:

Both of you have recently made remarks about homosexuality and homosexuals. Strong and possibly damaging statements about other people can have terrible results, even more when sensitive topics like human sexuality are involved. Witness the sad story of Matthew Shepard.

Ms. Blewster, you have been quoted as saying that homosexuality is one step removed from cannibalism and human sacrifice.

Did you really say this? If so, what is your source of information for these facts? Did you mean that homosexuals eventually move into these practices? Or that cannibals begin as homosexuals? These are strong words and serious statements. Do you have a reliable source to support your statements?

Ms. Blewster, you also said that there is "no joy in life without taking on the responsibility of a wife and children." There are many people who, for medical reasons, cannot have children. Did you mean to mock them? There are others who for spiritual or economic reasons forgo having children. Do their lives lack joy? Do

you believe that joy is only for heterosexual couples with children? (I will ignore your unintentional suggestion that women should take a wife)

You, Ms. Johnson, said that homosexuals have a life expectancy of only 42 years. Similar statements have been made by others when criticizing homosexuals. Otherwise well-meaning people have been using our democratic process to enshrine what they claim is a Christian stance (actually their own homophobia) as public laws. To support their views, they quote as an authority Paul Cameron.

Neither of you may know that Dr. Cameron, who has a Ph.D. in psychology, was suspended from both the Nebraska and American Psychological Associations for violation of ethical principles and misrepresenting various studies and statistics relating to human sexuality, and especially homosexuality.

Former Secretary of Education William Bennett said in the Feb. 23, 1998 *New Republic*, "Given what I now know, I believe there are flaws with Paul Cameron's study. One cannot extrapolate from his methodology and say that the average male homosexual life span is 43 years."

For nearly 15 years, Dr. Paul Cameron has been thoroughly discredited. Whatever you may think about homosexuality and homosexual persons, Dr. Paul Cameron is not an authority on the subject.

A greater lawmaker than anyone in the Arizona Legislature said, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." This always applies, even if our neighbor is gay. This same lawmaker warned us that we would have to account for every idle word. He also instructed us that we should treat others as we wish to be treated.

A modern application: take other couples' needs for health care and legal recognition of their relationships and desire for children as seriously as you wish your own taken—even if your neighbors are a same-sex couple. Respect gays and their relationships, including your gay constituents, as much as you want respect for yourselves and your relationships.

In my capacity as Bishop, let me admonish both of you, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Blewster, that the words of public leaders such as yourselves have great effect upon the minds and actions of others. Take care lest your public utterances have sad consequences for many, including yourselves.

Rev. Basil Isaacks
Russian-Greek Orthodox
Christian Church
Phoenix

May blasts Johnson for homophobic remarks before legislative committee; bill passes anyway

PHOENIX (AP)

The only openly gay Republican in the Arizona Legislature clashed with a GOP colleague over gay rights, accusing her of lying and "wanting to impose a myopic and medieval moral agenda on the rest of the state."

Rep. Steve May, R-Phoenix, objected Feb. 3 to a bill that would prohibit Arizona governments from granting health benefits to their employees' gay partners.

"You can hate me. You can discriminate against me. You can be as bigoted as you want to be. But treat

would prohibit state government, including state universities, from offering health benefits to the unmarried partners of employees. County and city governments could offer such benefits only if their voters approve. The measure would not apply to health benefits for the children of employees who are not married.

A bitterly divided House Government Reform Committee endorsed Johnson's bill Wednesday on a party-line 3-2 vote. House Majority Whip Jim Weiers, who had

voted against a similar bill in a different committee the day before, abstained from the Feb. 3 vote.

"I find homosexuality disgusting, disturbing, and this activity hurts me. I feel it calls God and his designs into ques-

Rep. Steve May

tion," said Rep. Debra Brimhall, R-Snowflake, who voted for the measure. "And yet I feel a love for all people."

Johnson told the panel the benefits ban was needed because gays are at higher risk for medical problems such as AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, some cancers, "as well as a group of rare intestinal diseases that have been grouped together under the title gay bowel syndrome."

"Given the extreme medical risk and the fundamental psychological

problems involved, the undermining of the natural family and the threat to basic freedoms which the sexually promiscuous lifestyle constitutes, wisdom seems to point to only one conclusion: These kinds of lifestyles are at best morally suspect," Johnson said.

"This 'gay bowel syndrome' does not exist," May retorted. "It's just a silly creation of the radical-right, big-government theocrats."

May also accused Johnson of lying when she said gay men with AIDS have a life expectancy of 39 and gay men without AIDS have a life expectancy of 42.

"I don't know if these lies are born of ignorance, or of bigotry, or prejudice," May said. "I'm offended. I'm disgusted. It's a lie."

May later told the committee he retracted calling Johnson a liar but challenged her to prove her assertions. House rules say representatives may not "charge deliberate misrepresentation" by another lawmaker.

A supporter of the bill suggested it was May who was lying.

"Homosexuals are known for telling lies and twisting the truth and attacking and calling names those who would stand up and not go along with their agenda," said Frank

Meliti, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition of Arizona.

Currently, only Pima County and Tucson have plans that give benefits to employees' domestic partners.

Tucson's plan, which grants benefits only to same-sex partners, costs \$25,000 a year out of the city's \$14

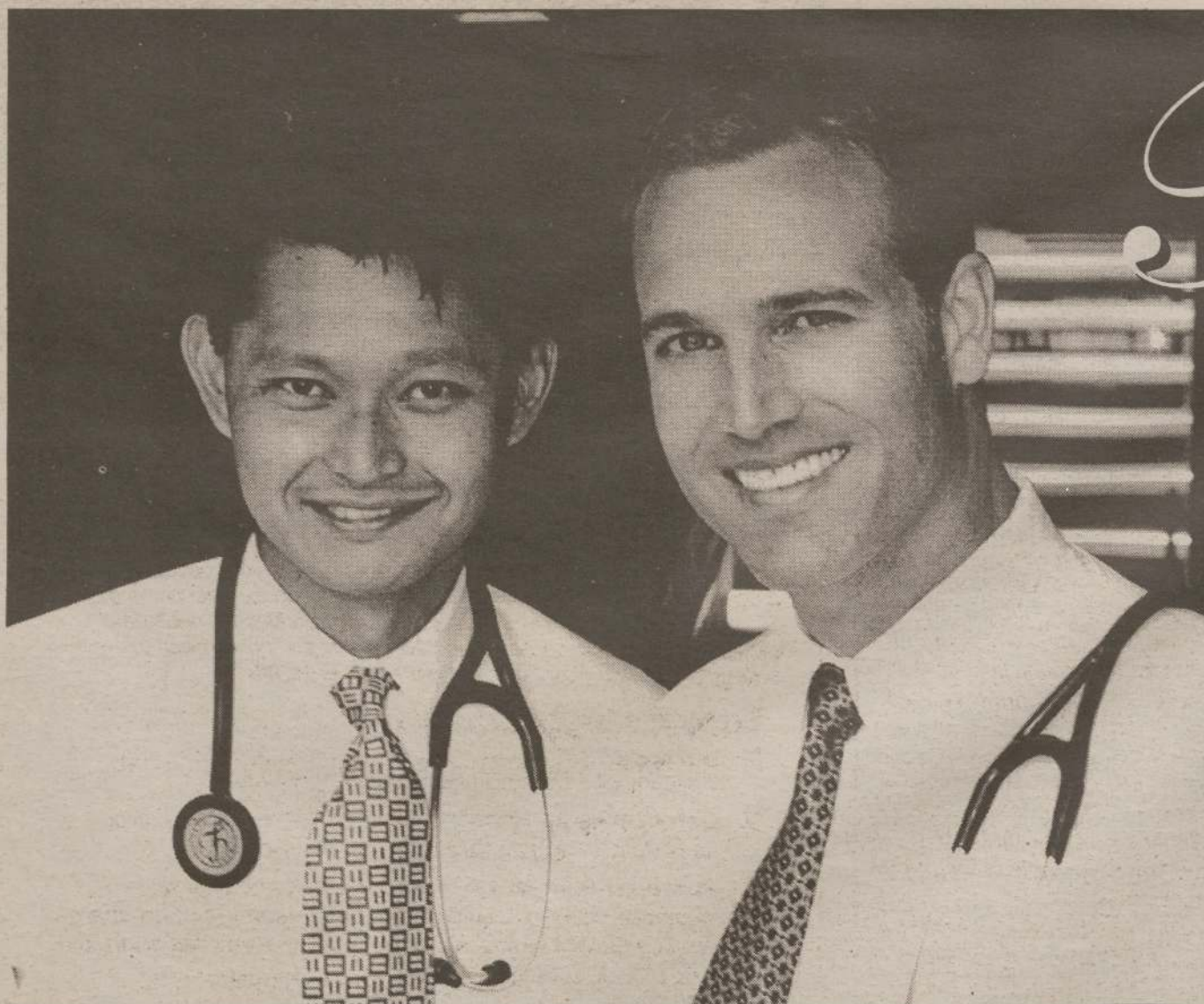
"Homosexuals are known for telling lies and twisting the truth and attacking and calling names those who would stand up and not go along with their agenda."

Frank Meliti, Traditional Values Coalition

million health benefits budget, May said. Pima County's rule, which applies to both heterosexual and homosexual couples, costs the county 1.5 percent of its health benefits budget, or \$225,000 a year, May said.

Representatives of local governments said they opposed the idea because it would restrict their ability to choose what employee benefits to offer.

"The Legislature to date has never got involved in local personnel policies," said Kent Fairbairn of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. "Other cities and towns should be able to make that decision at the local level."



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Here's what the people of District 30 voted for: Rep Karen Johnson—the transcript

You've seen excerpts from her speech on page 1 of the *Arizona Republic*. You've heard the sound bites on TV and radio.

HeatStroke now presents, in its entirety, the full text of remarks made by everyone's favorite moralizing Mormon when she chirped up at a Feb. 3 meeting of the House's Government Reform Committee to support amending House Bill 2524 in order to deny health coverage to domestic partners.

Bear in mind that Karen Johnson of Mesa is not a member of the reform committee, though she is the bill's sponsor.

.....

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is Karen Johnson, Representative from District 30.

Umm, as far as I'm looking at this bill, there were three different components that I think involve this bill. And they would be: tax dollars, health issues, and moral issues. And I'd like to just cover those for a moment if I could.

Should the state be using tax dollars to grant insurance benefits to people that are cohabitating, be they heterosexual or homosexual? I don't believe it is the proper role of government to in any way reward couples with tax dollar benefits when they are breaking the law on cohabitation, which is found in our Arizona statutes.

Under health: The medical consequences of promiscuous sexual activity is [sic] well known. Without a marriage commitment, the heterosexual relationship often is short lived and can result in various STDs—Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

In the homosexual relationship [ed. note: from this point on, Johnson pronounces "homosexual" oddly, indicating she has trouble with the word itself. It comes out something like, "hah-ma-sek-shul"] research affirms that the average length of a relationship involving homosexual partners is 2.7 years.

The life expectancy for a homosexual male with AIDS is 39 years of age, and without AIDS it's 42. The insurance rates of other covered employees will rise with the added cost of insuring the types of diseases that follow the activities of those involved in a promiscuous heterosexual lifestyle, as well as a homosexual lifestyle.

Under moral: I just think it's critical to our national health and survival to restore social virtue and purity to our state and nation.

Is living together without the benefit of marriage good? Is homosexuality good? If cohabitating and homosexual behavior is essentially detrimental to the individual and to society—besides breaking the law—then society has the responsibility to resist it, and certainly should not endorse it as acceptable by rewarding it with state tax dollar benefits.

What matters morally must be determined on the basis of our best understanding about what constitutes human well being. Generally speaking, those behaviors and lifestyles which I've spoken of which promote physical health are to be encouraged, while those which are essentially injurious are to be avoided.

You know, it's— Today, we have restaurants, and airlines, and private businesses, public businesses—even cities, that have consistently been adopting policies which are discriminatory towards a significant segment of Americans, and that is those that smoke.

Now, does promiscuity and homosexuality pose any such health risk? Do the behaviors practiced by homosexuals and oftentimes heterosexuals and the consequences of these behaviors constitute a socially significant threat?

HIV and AIDS is only one of the many infections to which homosexuals are significantly prone. Since their kind of sex involves contact with human feces, such behavior carries with it a high risk of contracting such diseases as Hepatitis A; Kaposi's Sarcoma; Anal Carcinoma; and other rectal infections involving gonorrhea, Herpes Simplex Syphilis; as well as a group of rare, intestinal diseases that have been grouped together under the title: Gay Bowel Syndrome.

If the focus is kept on the medical consequences alone, moral judgments against such behavior are overwhelmingly supported by the best scientific data presently available.

Again, please let it be remembered that such a judgment does not proceed from prejudice, bigotry or homophobia. It is grounded in the concrete effects brought about by the kinds of sexual acts in which gays, lesbians, bisexuals and promiscuous heterosexuals often participate in.

Given the extreme medical risks and the fundamental psychological problems involved, the undermining of the natural family, and the threat to basic freedoms which the sexually promiscuous lifestyle constitutes, wisdom seems to point to only one logical conclusion: these kinds of lifestyles are, at best, morally suspect.

They clearly are not harmless, and certainly not beneficial. It does not promote the welfare of either its adherents or of the society in which it is practiced. Just the opposite is true.

Even those who place a high premium on tolerance are obligated to recognize that in matters of sexual lifestyles, social ideology, and political agenda, sexually promiscuous sex threatens to undermine the very values and institutions—especially the family—upon which a stable and vital society is built and sustained.

Because of this, public policies must be established by which promiscuous heterosexual activity and homosexual activity is firmly resisted. While all people themselves must be guaranteed their full rights as citizens and, more importantly, embraced—as much as they will allow—and offered the hope of the significant healing and restoration available to them. That needs to happen.

Unlike laws, morals are carved in stone and are therefore immutable.

Due to the clearly recognizable consequences waiting at the lower end of the behavioral spectrum, history tells us that good public policy cannot accept varying levels of morality.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

.....

The amendment passed 3-2, with one abstention.

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Mesa woman gets nasty in *Get Out*; editors respond

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

A recent letter to the editor of *The Tribune's* weekly arts & entertainment publication reveals that State Rep. Karen Johnson isn't the only East Valley resident who creates her own logic when it comes to obsessing about sex between men.

The letter appears in the newsprint magazine *Get Out's* Jan. 28 edition. It was ostensibly written in response to a Jan. 14 piece on "total morality" penned by regular columnist/humorist Dan Dunn.

The letter, which is credited to a Mrs. Pat Engelman of Mesa, shocked many readers. In it, she decries homosexuality, "outs" talk show host Rosie O'Donnell, and alleges that two family members were raped, tortured and/or molested and murdered by "homos".

"I never cared who was gay as long as they kept it to themselves like Rosie seems to do but I'm tired of most gays trying to force people to accept it as normal," Mrs. Engelman writes, stating that she will never accept homosexuality—"even if I was tortured".

In closing, the writer digresses to state that a 15-yr old boy in her family was "drugged and raped by two homos and they took pictures of it. Ruined his life forever." She then claims her "10-year-old nephew was murdered six years ago by two gay men that were molesting him."

"Yeah, she sounds like a real kook," said *Get Out* Editor Jess Harter when asked about Mrs. Engelman's comments.

Asked if the paper would have run the letter as if it railed against African Americans instead of homosexuals and included a derogatory racial slur the same way Mrs. Engelman used the word "homos" to

describe gay men, Harter responded, "No. Probably not," adding, "why don't I let you talk to the guy who edited it."

Assistant Editor Sam Middlestadt took responsibility for the letter's final content. "We don't edit the phrasing in a letter," he explained.

"We would have used the word 'black'—we don't use 'African American'. But wouldn't have changed it, if [the racial slur] is the word a writer used." Further considering the race scenario, he added, "The question would have been whether to run it."

Middlestadt said the paper's representatives did contact the woman to ask if she really wanted *Get Out* to print her anti-gay diatribe. "We told her it was going to cause a stir. She said that's okay."

He added, "We actually cut two paragraphs that were even more inflammatory. He also said that in practice, regarding letters to the editor, 'we cut around them but we don't rephrase them.'"

In the opening paragraph Mrs. Engelman labels herself a "Christian" and exhibits rhetoric typical of the religious right as her letter progresses.

She is, however, clearly tuning into one popular TV show not found on the Christian Broadcasting Network.

"I love the Rosie O'Donnell show even though I've always suspected she's gay," she writes. "Hey, she's never had a man in her life and her attire makes my husband look sissy."

Middlestadt did not elaborate on the contents of the two paragraphs that his department decided to excise from the letter. Pictures of Engelman's husband were unavailable for comparison to Rosie O'Donnell's likeness.

1999 Safer Sex Royalty chosen

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Celia Putty was selected as the new, 1999 Queen of Safer Sex and Steve Berghoef was crowned King at Project LifeGuard's third annual pageant, held Feb. 6 at the Crowbar in downtown Phoenix.

Miss Putty (a.k.a. Richard Black) blew away the competition and the rowdy crowd with her copper lamé ensemble in the Club Wear competition, and she had every judge in stitches with an intricate, Peg Bundy-esque talent segment that found her dispensing safe sex advice while rolling fresh condoms onto barbecued sausages.

In the runner-up categories, the judges honored Candy Apple (a.k.a. Jake Ketchum) with the title of Princess and went with Scott Hofstettler as the agency's new Prince. Notable additions to the judge's panel this year were Lisa Trygg of KHOT radio's morning show and rocker Rob Halford, formerly of Judas Priest.

Frank Repice, Project LifeGuard Coordinator, said he was "ecstatic" about this year's pageant.

Repice commended the "wonderful job the former King and Queen did" producing the show. "We planned the event, but they put the entire show together and it was fantastic."

1998 Queen Miss Markus and King Jeff Edwards each made numerous appearances throughout the evening.

Emcee duties were shared by sharp-witted drag impresario Barbra Seville and Phoenix radio personality

Pistol Pete. Kevin Andrews deftly handled the lighting design.

Repice said Project LifeGuard owed a particular debt of gratitude to bar manager Todd Colin and his staff. "They opened up both Crowbar and Amsterdam to us, and we didn't pay a cent, and that means so much to our

organization," he commented. Amsterdam also provided appetizers for a VIP pre-pageant party.

Project LifeGuard is a program of AIDS Project Arizona targeting gay and bisexual men. The organization provides workshops and discussion groups, HIV testing, and individual and couples support.



1999 Queen of Safer Sex Celia Putty and King Steve Berghoef strike a pose after the crowning.

Bid on a Valentine & raise money for local youth groups

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Hey ladies: how would you like to take a hot air balloon ride with Hollis, a 29-yr old accounting contract administrator?

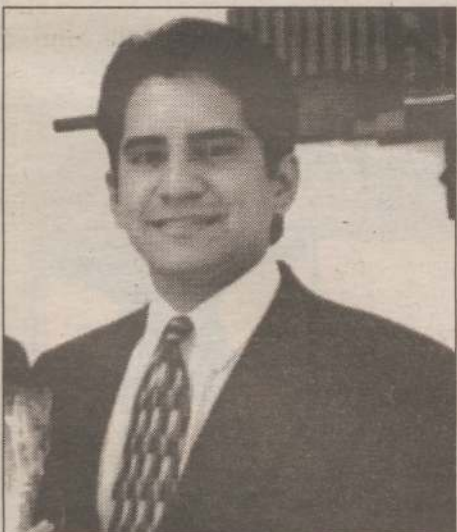


Hollis is offering a hot air balloon ride for her high bidder at the VOIT bachelor auction.

Maybe your taste runs toward an Italian dinner and a night at the opera with Gina, a woman who writes screenplays and owns her own production company.

For you physically energetic men, try a date with Marcus, a computer systems administrator who is planning a fun-filled outing at Southwest Paintball and a full body workout at Bodypump just for you.

These—and many other—romantic and interesting dates will be on the auction block at Pookie's Cafe on Friday, Feb. 12 as part of "A Chance of a Lifetime", a bachelor auction



Alberto plans a picnic at Fish Creek Canyon and lunch at Tortilla Flats for the winner of his date.

with proceeds to benefit The Community Center's youth services programs.

The auction promises an evening of fun and excitement for observers and bidders alike, according to Youth Services Coordinator Donna McHenry, who is organizing the production.

"It's going to have something for everybody, and we have a lot of different people participating from all over the community," said McHenry. Female impersonator Victoria London (a.k.a. Scott Tickler) will emcee.

Check out Ryan, a 26-yr old customer relations manager who says to "let the suspense excite you" during your date with him. Or Alberto, who's planning a picnic at gorgeous Fish Creek Canyon and lunch at the historic cowboy bar in Tortilla Flat,

for your special day together. Or spend some time with Tracey, the friendly woman behind the counter at Obelisk bookstore.

Many more gay men and women will be appearing as eligible bachelors at this Valentine's weekend fund-raiser. Date packages include all sorts of exciting ideas and excursions, from the economical to the extravagant. The bachelors of both sexes also represent a diverse range of ages and interests.

"We have included some donated date packages that couples can bid on, like a bed and breakfast stay, for example," said McHenry. "That way couples as well as singles can get involved in the bidding."

She explained that organizers hope to make the auction an annual occurrence. "We are trying to plan fund-raising events like this one so



Gina and her date will share dinner and a night at the opera.

the youth programs don't have to rely only on grants for funding."

Whether you're looking for a friend or for romance, a romantic getaway with your significant other, or even if you want to come down and cheer on the bidding, you'll have great time while supporting a worthy cause.

The youth services programs of the center encompass Horizons, an organization of young people from 18 through 24, and Valley One in Ten, or VOIT, for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth who are under 18.



Ryan is just one of the many bachelors available to the highest bidder on Feb. 12.

The fun is set to begin at 7 pm, and Pookie's is located at 4540 North 7th Street in Phoenix.



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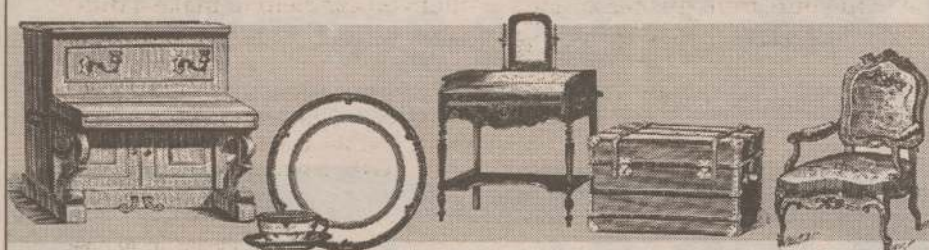
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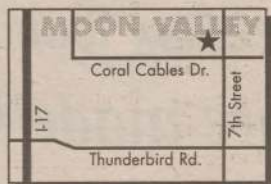
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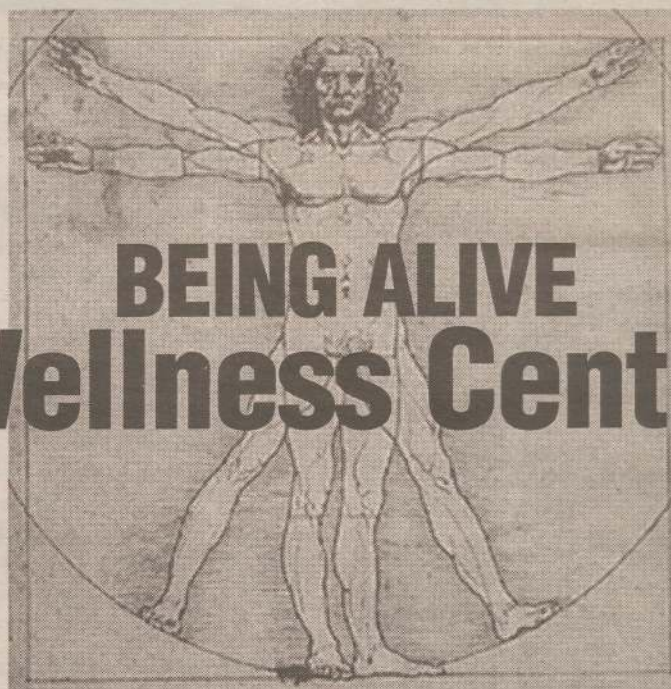


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Politically Speaking



Arizona Human Rights Fund

By Kathie Gummere, HeatStroke Contributor

Equality Begins at Home.

At no time has this phrase had more meaning than in the past few days. Another stirring controversy has erupted in the state legislature regarding GLBT rights.

Rep. Karen Johnson (R-Mesa) introduced a Bill, HB2524, that would ban all state agencies from granting domestic partner benefits for gays, lesbians and unmarried couples. This would include the state universities.

It also prohibits local governmental bodies, (cities, counties, etc.) from granting domestic partner benefits unless they put it to a public vote. It is unclear what would happen to the benefits that governmental agencies such as the city of Tucson have already granted.

The Bill is homophobic and has far-ranging consequences.

But the legislative diatribes of Rep. Johnson and Rep. Blewster against the "immorality" of homosexuality were particularly vitriolic. On the record, Johnson stated that homosexuality is at "the lower end of the behavioral spectrum."

As reported in the lead article of the *Arizona Republic* on Feb. 4, Blewster "compared homosexuality to bestiality, human sacrifice and cannibalism."

Johnson seems to have access to facts that the rest of us have never seen. She stated, for instance, that "the life expectancy for a homosexual man with AIDS is 39, while homosexuals who haven't contracted AIDS can expect to live to 42," according to the *Republic*.

Steve May, the openly gay Republican representative from Scottsdale and east Phoenix, strongly objected to the bill and the comments of fellow Republicans. May brought out the fact that he has one partner, while Johnson has had five husbands, and that he could not stay quiet in his office as many of his fellow Republicans would have wanted.

"When you attack my family, and you steal my freedom, I will not sit quietly in my office. This Legislation takes my gay tax dollars, and my gay tax dollars spend the same as your straight tax dollars. If you're not going to treat me fairly, don't take my money." He also stated that Johnson's facts were wrong in several respects.

Where all this will lead is uncertain as of press time. Johnson's Bill, however, was endorsed by the House Government Reform Committee on a party-line vote of 3-2.

What can we do? We need to follow the lead of Rep. May and Rep. Ken Chevront, (openly gay Democrat from central Phoenix), and stand up and be heard. It is very

important is to let our legislators know how we feel. Call your legislator and register your opinion. Call Steve May's office and offer your support.

AHRF and The Community Center have planned events for the week of March 22-26, during the national Equality Begins At Home campaign.

One of these events is a Visit the Legislature Day scheduled for March 24. This is a chance for all of us to be seen and heard by our legislators. We will assemble quietly in the Legislature, and will be introduced by Rep. May and Rep. Chevront.

As part of that activity, AHRF is asking that everyone sign a petition form (clip yours from this page) and mail it to the AHRF office, 25 West Camelback Rd., Phoenix 85013. Please use correct names and addresses, as the petitions will be presented to Chevront and May during their

introduction of the delegation.

The petitions will then be taken to the individual legislators for the district that matches the address on each petition. Presenting several thousand of these petitions will send a powerful message to the legislature that we will not take lightly any action that takes away our rights.

Steve was eloquent in his defense of our rights. But he can't do it alone. We all complain about disparate treatment. Now we have a chance to do something about it.

Please participate in any and every way that you can. Call your legislator. Sign the petition. Join us on March 24 at the legislature. Now is the time that you can help to make a difference.

Kathie Gummere is a Phoenix attorney practicing in the area of wills, trusts and estates for the gay & lesbian community. She receives e-mail at kgrn@goodnet.com

To The Honorable

The Arizona Senate &
The Arizona House of Representatives

As a taxpaying resident of the State of Arizona, I petition each of you individually and all of you collectively to resist legislative attempts to set apart gay and lesbian citizens of Arizona as undeserving of full and equal protection under the law and as undeserving of full participation in the rights of citizenship.

I specifically petition you to: 1) Repeal Arizona's archaic laws that criminalize certain private sex between consenting adults; 2) Protect all Arizona citizens from governmental work place discrimination based solely on their sexual orientation; and 3) Reject attempts to prohibit governmental jurisdictions within Arizona from offering

personnel benefits to domestic partners of their own employees.

Respectfully,

Signature

Print your name

Address

Date

Please sign, fill out, and return to: EBAH Campaign Headquarters c/o Arizona Human Rights Fund, PO Box 25044, Phoenix, AZ 85002. Send it in as soon as you can, and please before Monday, March 22, 1999. Thank you.

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

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Happy Hour 8am-8pm,
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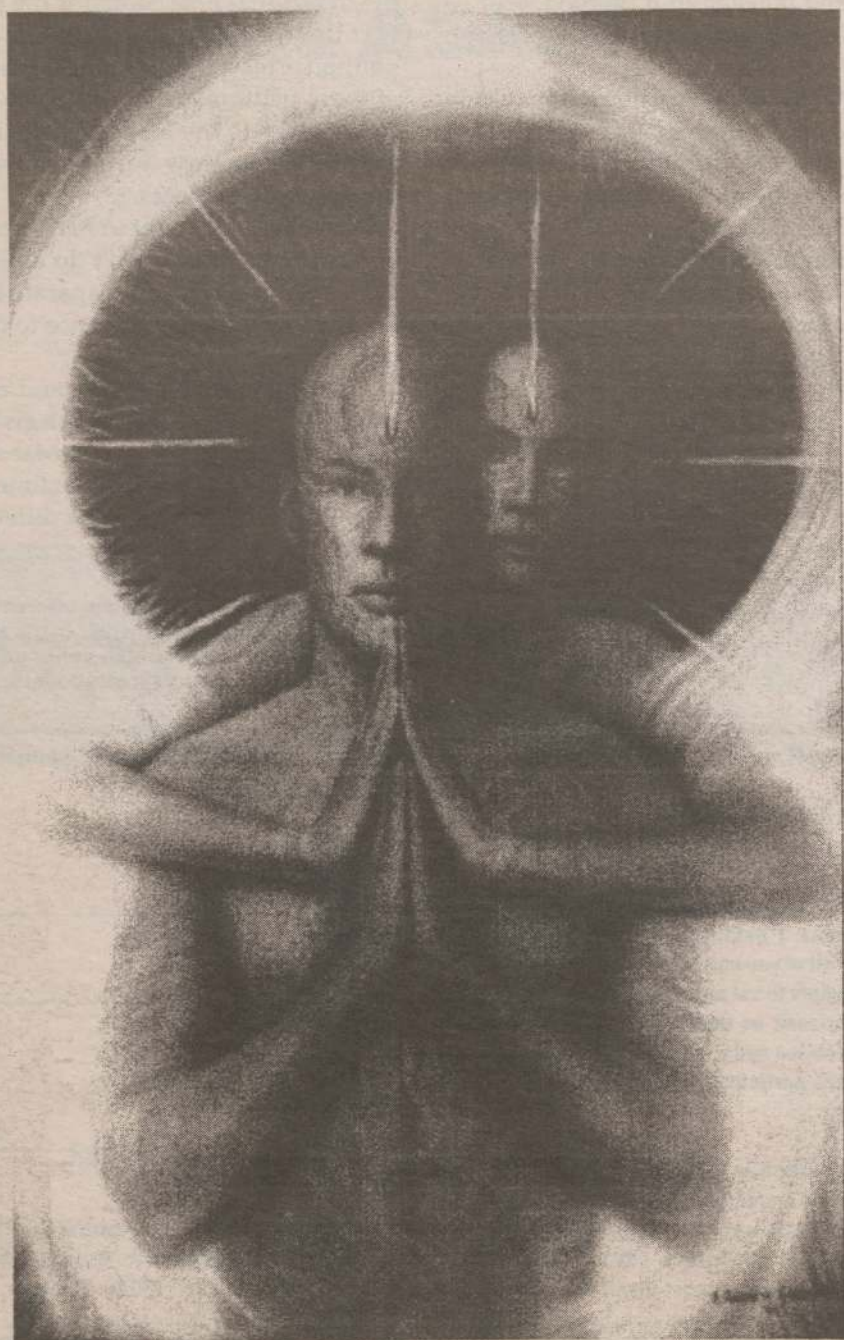
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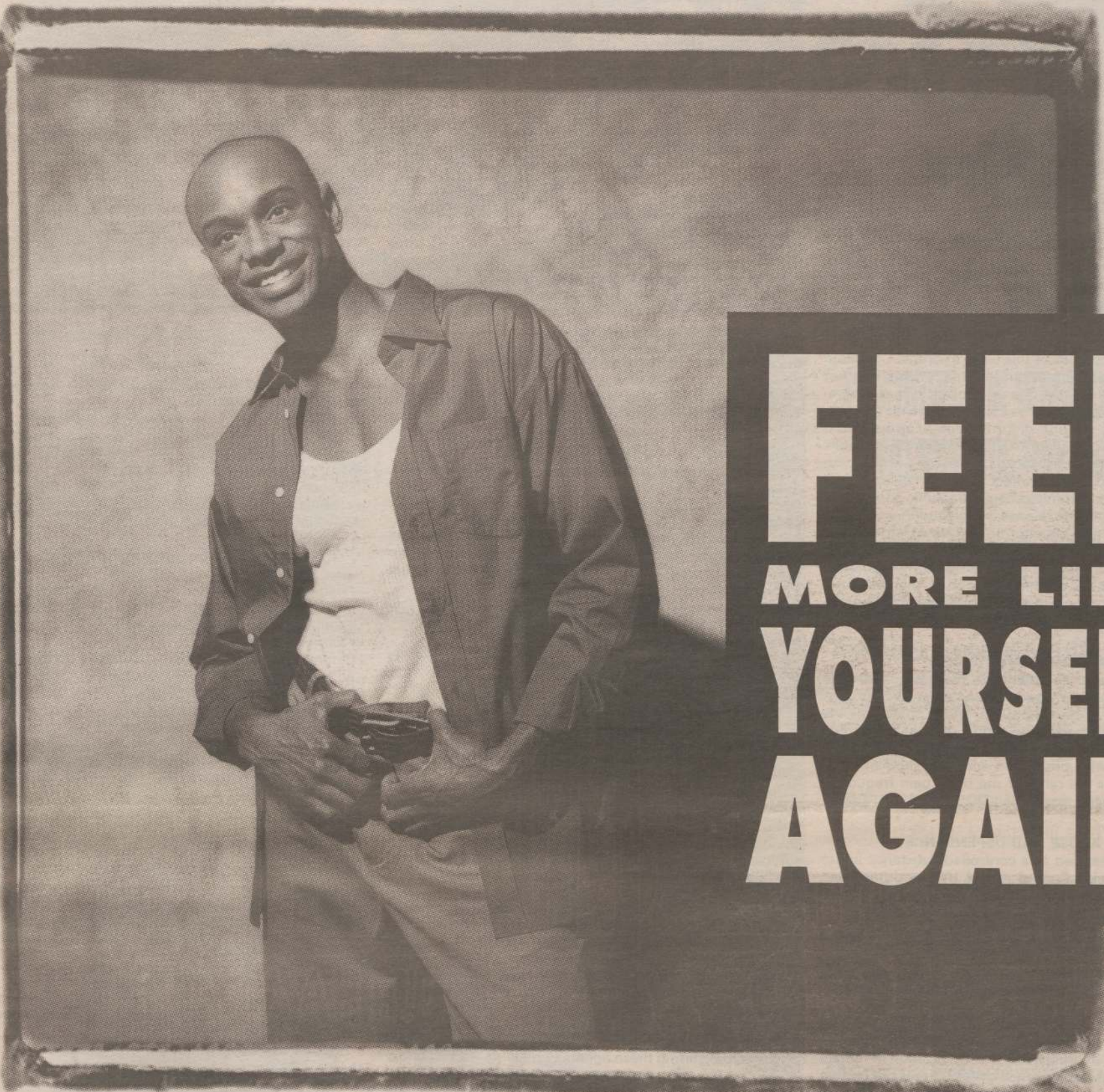
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Contraindications: 1) known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast; 2) carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption); 3) pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose; 4) nephrosis, the nephrotic phase of nephritis; 5) hypercalcemia.

References: 1. Strawford A, Barbieri T, Van Loan M, et al. The effects of oxandrolone plus resistance exercise on nitrogen balance, body composition and strength in men with AIDS wasting syndrome. Presented at: 12th World AIDS Conference; June 28-July 3, 1998; Geneva, Switzerland. Abstract. 2. Fisher A, Abbaticola M, the Oxandrolone Study Group. The effects of oxandrolone on body weight and composition in patients with HIV-associated weight loss. Presented at: 5th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections; February 1-5, 1998; Chicago, Ill. Abstract. 3. Berger JR, Pall L, Hall CD, et al. Oxandrolone in AIDS-wasting myopathy. *AIDS*. 1996;10:1657-1662.

BTG PHARMACEUTICALS

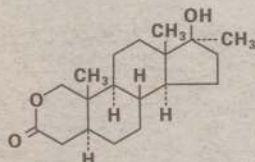
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DESCRIPTION

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

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

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

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

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

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

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

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

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

CONTRAINDICATIONS

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

WARNINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANABOLIC STEROIDS HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN TO ENHANCE ATHLETIC ABILITY.

PRECAUTIONS

General:

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

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

Information for patients:

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

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

Laboratory tests:

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

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

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

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

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

Drug interactions

Anticoagulants:

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

Oral hypoglycemic agents:

Oxandrolone may inhibit the metabolism of oral hypoglycemic agents.

Adrenal steroids or ACTH:

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

Drug/Laboratory test interactions:

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

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility

Animal data:

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

Human data:

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

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

Pregnancy:

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

Nursing mothers:

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

Pediatric use:

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

ADVERSE REACTIONS

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

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

In males:

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

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

In females:

Clitoral enlargement, menstrual irregularities.

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

Hematologic: Bleeding in patients on concomitant anti-coagulant therapy.

Breast: Gynecomastia.

Larynx: Deepening of the voice in females.

Hair: Hirsutism and male pattern baldness in females.

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

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

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

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

OVERDOSAGE

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

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

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

HOW SUPPLIED

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

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Tuesday, February 16th

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Wednesday, February 17th

Orchard Party V with Bill and Bobby

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Bears Meeting

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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the
Phoenix Queer Community

Center/Ubiquity presenting LA activist

Arizona State University's communication dept. will host Lorri L. Jean, former director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, on March 5 at 7:30 pm in the College of Education Lecture Hall in Tempe.

Ms. Jean will address "The Big Tent: diversity, the politics of division, and the true meaning of leadership in the new millennium." An ASU alum, Jean is the outgoing director of the world's largest gay and lesbian center.

The presentation is co-sponsored by The Community Center and Ubiquity, the organization of ASU staff and faculty supporting lesbian, gay and bisexual issues.

CBPA February events

The Camelback Business and Professional Association is the Valley's gay, lesbian and gay-friendly Chamber of Commerce and this busy organization has several social and networking activities planned each month.

Regular Lunch Bunch gatherings are held at Pookie's cafe in central Phoenix every other Tuesday. The next meeting will be on Feb. 23 and the cost is \$10. A new East Side group meets on Wednesdays at Minder Binders at 715 S., McClintock. The cost is also \$10. Both groups offer terrific opportunities to meet new people, network and socialize.

The regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Phoenix Airport Hilton. Featured

speaker will be attorney Judith L. Praker, who will discuss the small business and employee/employer issues. The meeting starts with no-host cocktails at 6:30 and the per-person meeting cost includes dinner. Call the CBPA line for the price and for reservations, at (602)225-8444.

The Dinner of the Month will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the home of Eric Constantino and Jimmy Gross. The cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Call the CBPA line for more information or to find out how you can join CBPA.

Bears celebrating 1 yr.

The Phoenix social club for bear men and their admirers, Bears of the Arizona Desert, will celebrate its one-year anniversary on March 6 with a dinner at Arriba's.

BAD is a social group for singles and/or coupled individuals who share the common interests of Bears, Cubs and Bear enthusiasts. If you're interested in finding out more about the group or the anniversary party, call (602)345-8755.

L & G Filmfest Valentine's weekend

The Valley's Third Annual Lesbian and Gay Film Festival gets underway Feb. 12 at Harkins Camelview 5 theaters in Scottsdale.

Tickets are available in advance at the gay-owned & operated video store, Movies on Central. General admission prices are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door per film. But you can pick up full festival passes for \$50 in

advance, and these passes include admission to the opening night party. Tickets for the opening night double-header only are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the theater that night.

A portion of the proceeds from this year's festival will go to The Experience, a non-profit workshop aimed at gays and lesbians.

G & L Cribbage Club formed

The Rainbow Cribbage Club is sponsoring a two-hour, free Cribbage lesson on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 2 pm. at The Community Center, 24 West Camelback Road in Phoenix.

The club sponsors competitive Cribbage play in a gay and lesbian social environment. to reserve a seat for the lessons on the 20th, call (602)877-5452. Space is limited.

PFLAG hosting speakers from Ubiquity

The Phoenix Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will meet Feb. 15 for a program on: "Heroes and Role Models" presented by members of Ubiquity, ASU's staff and faculty organization supporting gay issues.

The West Valley PFLAG support group will meet at 1:30 pm on Sunday, Feb. 28 and the East Valley group will meet March 5 at 7 pm.

For locations of these meetings or for more information on PFLAG, call (602)843-1404.

PLUS Weekend slated for Feb. 20, 21

AIDS Project Arizona's Being Alive early intervention program will

host another informative Positive Living for Us (PLUS) Weekend for HIV positive individuals on Feb. 20 and 21 at the Southwest Institute of Healing Arts.

The program, called, "The Holistic Experience", will feature two days of seminars and workshops on how to live healthier and better while living with HIV.

A special program will introduce fitness expert and author Michael Mooney, who will present "Built to Survive", a lecture on the best approach to lean body mass for better survival and optimal immune function. His presentation will be on Saturday at 1 pm.

Registration for PLUS weekend is free, so reservations should be made early by calling Mark or Edgar at (602)265-2437. The Southwest Institute is located at 1402 North Miller Road in Scottsdale.

Be square & be there

Remember square dancing in junior high? Or those crinoline skirts on the *Lawrence Welk Show*? If you haven't been gay square dancing, then you haven't square danced before, say the members of Desert Valley Squares.

Desert Valley is the area's first & oldest gay square dance club. The group has belonged to the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs for 16 years and has hosted an invitational square dance weekend every January for the past eight years.

Now's your chance to get out, learn something new and socialize as the group is starting a new "Basic Square Dancing" class on Feb. 21 at 6 pm. Classes are held at Augustana Lutheran Church at 14th Street and

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call (602) 864-6404 for details

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For more information, call (602)704-9604.

Xena fans hosting Ellen film night

The Real Ellen Story, a documentary that takes an intimate look at Ellen DeGeneres' decision to out both herself and her TV sitcom character, will be shown at the next Xena fan group gathering on Feb. 27 at 8pm at the Augustana Lutheran Church.

Other memorable *Ellen* episodes will be shown, and a tape of Lucy Lawless' appearance on *Saturday Night Live* will also be viewed. The event is open to the lesbian/bi women's community and a \$4 donation is requested.

For more information, call (602)813-8681.

Hit the lakes with new G&L boating club

A new gay boating club is forming in the Valley. The club will be for gay

men and women, both those with boats or those without who are boating enthusiasts. They'll be visiting local lakes at least once a month for boating fun and possibly for camping.

Now is a great time to start planning for summer fun, so contact Rick at (602)818-7686 for information.

Fourth Annual Night for Life set for April

Phoenix Body Positive's largest fund-raising event of the year, *A Night for Life*, is scheduled for Friday, April 30 at the Camelback Inn.

Last year, the dinner and auctions raised more than \$120,000 and were attended by more than 600 people.

This year's event begins with cocktails and a silent auction on the patio at 6:30. Dinner, awards and the live auction will begin at 7:30. Scott Jacobson will emcee.

Tickets are \$125 each, with table and corporate sponsorships available by contacting Phoenix Body Positive at (602)955-4673.

openly HIV-positive, told reporters: "Tom Spencer is a very fine man. There is nothing seedy about our relationship. The sexual side only developed after our first meeting. I find him very good company and was not aware at first he was a Euro MP. He made it clear from the word go that he was a family man and his wife and children come first. I have never met his family but it is clear he is very fond of them.

"I have been HIV for a long time," Tucker added, in another interview, "But I don't have full-blown AIDS. I told Tom about my condition — but I don't know if he told his wife. Nothing has happened that could affect Tom. I practice safe sex."

In a statement posted on his Web site, Tucker elaborated: "Mr. Tom Spencer is a wonderful, brilliant and loving man. When we first met, I approached him. This was not an escort or business situation. This was private and personal for both of us. I am so sorry that he and his family have to go through this.

"I never saw him use or abuse illegal substances in my presence. I am a sober and drug free man and have been so for 17 years. I parted his company many days before the customs thing happened. I do not keep company with drug and alcohol abusers or addicts and Mr. Spencer is neither of those.

"I am in excellent health, though I have been HIV-positive for a number of years. I have not been diagnosed with AIDS. All sexual activities were safe in our practices.

"It was purely a vacation for both of us and it was not seedy or torrid. We have known each other for eight months and were developing a strong and sound friendship. He was always honest and open about his marriage and family and that they came first. We never discussed his politics or his work other than his passion about global warming. I respected his need and desire for discretion and we both carried ourselves in that manner while we were together. His wife and family have been the real forces of strength and dignity in these hard times.

"The British tabloids have been very brutal and have exaggerated the headlines to sell papers. This seems to be the way of tabloid journalism. We will all get beyond this a little wiser," Tucker concluded.



Outed Euro MP dates porn star

The chairman of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee was outed Jan. 30 when British Customs agents found prohibited gay erotica and marijuana joints in his luggage as he returned from visiting his porn-star boyfriend in Amsterdam.

Conservative Euro MP Tom Spencer, who represents Surrey, England, was fined \$908 on the spot and released. He was later suspended by Tory leaders and announced he would not seek re-election.

Spencer, 50, has been married for 19 years and has three children. He told reporters his wife knew he was gay and that they have an open relationship.

"I am gay and I have always been gay," he said. "My wife and I discussed this before we were married. ... I have always been liberal on social issues of this kind, and part of the way we have lived our lives is occasionally I would go away for a week-end."

Spencer's wife, Liz, told reporters: "We believed we could make it work, and I have to say I believe we have. ... We were attracted to each other and we had become the center of each other's world. I also felt strong enough not to mind that Tom would need room to love others on the periphery of his life. Obsessive love is not love to me."

The biggest surprise of the affair, however, is that Spencer's boyfriend is none other than American gay-porn star Cole Tucker, 45, of whom Spencer says: "I have to admit I'm in love with him. ... We met in America last year when I was on holiday with my children. I have been back to see him in America on numerous occasions. He's lovely, warm and I am very fond of him. He's not into drugs or alcohol or anything like that and I feel very upset I've dragged him into this. ... Cole and I had a lovely weekend together and the videos he gave me were a present. It's ironic that is how this all developed."

Tucker, who lives in Boston and is



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- Sun:** Steak & Chicken Fry \$3, 6-8pm; DJ & Country Western Dancing until 11pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Feb. 14: Valentine's Day—join us for a special Dining and Dancing Event at the Cash Inn. Now taking dinner reservations. See your bartender for more details.

Sunday Feb. 21: Happy Birthday Jamie!



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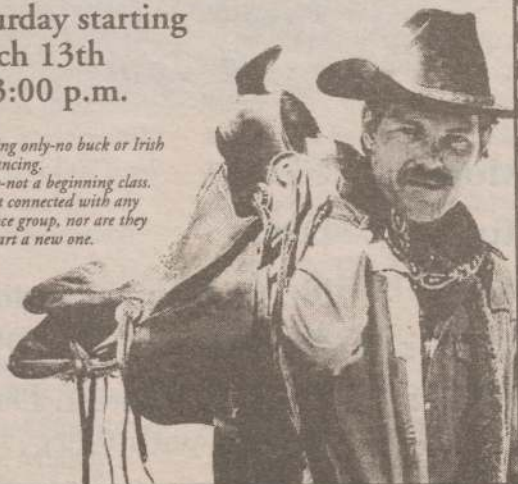
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Michael Feinstein

Continued from page 1

has a remarkable, natural talent at the keys and an archivist's admiration for the material he presents.

And coloring every performance, whether he's on stage in Sun City or taping another special for PBS, is a marvelous gay sensibility that Feinstein says he's never even tried to deny or suppress.

Michael Feinstein is out. Way out. He always has been, and has never had a problem discussing his sexuality in the press, despite what you may have heard or read to the contrary.

The crooner took a few moments out of his hectic schedule to talk with *HeatStroke* about the music he loves and the way he got his start, as well as to discuss his gay fans and the controversial *Advocate* cover story that he insists got him all wrong.

HeatStroke: You arrived in L.A. in 1976 at the age of 20—how and where did you learn to play the piano and sing?

Michael Feinstein: I'm a self-taught musician, born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. I started playing piano by ear when I was five years old.

My parents sent me for lessons with the local piano teacher who taught me some basic exercises. One day, she opened the book to a new page and said, "now play that one."

And I said, "I can't." She was very perplexed and asked why not, and I said it's because I couldn't read the music.

She said, "Well, you've been reading for weeks."

I told her, "No. I've been listening to what you do, and then copying it."

She realized then that I was playing by ear and we held a conference with my parents. I told them that I didn't want to take piano lessons—I wanted to do it on my own. And they agreed to just let me do it at my own pace, and so I taught myself to play.

HS: You can read music now, can't you?

MF: Poorly. I'm still not a good reader—not of music, anyway. I rely mainly on my ear. Or ears.

HS: When did you realize that you were good enough at singing and playing the piano that you could make a career of it?

MF: Out of high school I started playing in local night clubs in Columbus and getting paid for it. I played the stray wedding and bar mitzvah when I was in my teens, and that was wonderful—to get any kind of money for that.

After high school, I didn't want to go to college because I wasn't sure what I was going to do or what I wanted to do—I didn't think I could make a living from music. I just started playing in this club called The Dell until I could figure out what I was really going to do. So it was just sort of a stopgap measure.

I didn't see much future in playing in a piano bar, because I figured in thirty years I'd probably still be in a piano bar. Even though I loved the music, it didn't seem like there was much room for advancement.

Then, when I moved to California, less than two months after I moved there, I met June Levant, the widow of Oscar Levant, who was a great Gershwin interpreter. And she was friends with the Gershwin family.

Eventually she created an intro-

duction to Ira Gershwin, and I then started working for Ira for six years. I had fully planned that my job would be to take care of his estate after he died. He put me in his will as such, and so it was my intention to pursue a more academic career.

After I had a falling out with Ira's wife, I started working in clubs again. It was in that period that I started working at the Mondrian and was "discovered" by a number of people, and I went on the Merv Griffin show.

Then I got an offer to play at The Algonquin in New York, and by that point I thought I'd better start taking this seriously. I really didn't take it seriously until I started working at The Algonquin in January of 1986. And then I realized I had a career.

I also played occasionally at a number of different gay bars in L.A. during the time I worked for Ira—quite a few of them.

HS: Have you found that a lot of gay men and lesbians support your music just because you are known as an openly gay performer?

MF: Yeah, of course from the beginning I've always had a lot of support from the gay community—because we have fabulous taste!

I mean, I was playing in gay bars not because they were gay bars—even though the fact that they were made me very comfortable. But I was playing in gay bars because that's the place where I could play the music I loved. I mean, it was wonderful to be able to sing "Anything Goes" and do an Ethel Merman impression.

HS: How often do you get back to Columbus, and do your parents still live there?

MF: I'd say every two years. I'm going to Columbus in about a week. My parents now live in Florida and Las Vegas—those are the two places to retire to.

HS: When you were about 20 and just getting hooked up with Ira Gershwin, did you ever think that being openly gay would hold you back, or did being closeted ever enter into your plan for success?

MF: I didn't really have a plan. Certainly in Los Angeles, I was going to events with guys, like if I went to a premiere or an industry event. Of course, I wasn't going to that many at that time—but I never really gave it any thought because I didn't think it was going to be an issue. It's only an issue if you are a "personality".

I also had the good fortune of knowing a lot of performers in show business who are gay, who have been in it for a long time.

Like Roddy McDowell, who was a very good friend of mine. He never hid anything about his life but he never discussed anything in public. And he called me up about three years ago and said, "Something very strange has happened."

I said, "What's that?"

He said, "Someone's called me from one of these tabloid magazines and is threatening to do a whole story about my being gay." He said it was amazing—he said, "in my entire career in Hollywood, this has never happened before. What should I do?"

I said Ignore it! And he did, and they never wrote the article. And it was like, who cares, you know? If it's Tom Cruise, then I think it makes a big difference.

HS: Do you ever wonder whether your sexuality has some inspiring

effect on you, or has anything to contribute to your talent? Would you be doing the same thing if you were heterosexual?

MF: That's difficult to answer in the sense that I either know or am friends with a number of people who have a kind of gay soul but who are not gay. The actor Richard Thomas is a very good friend of mine and he's one of the most gay friendly people I know.

HS: He's played several gay roles...

MF: Right. And he's totally heterosexual, but he loves gay men. Except for what he does in bed, as far as I'm concerned, he's gay.

And so it's hard to answer that. I understand the question but I'm not really sure how to answer it, because there're so many different aspects that make us who we are.

My parents played a lot of this music when I was growing up, but maybe it was whatever that gene is that makes you gay that also made me especially interested in and sensitive to this music. My brother and sister heard the same music and didn't have the same reaction to it as I did. And so it's hard to say.

HS: Looking at the repertoire you typically perform, many of the composers—and the lyricists in particular—of the pop standards and show tunes you're known for singing were gay. They were probably closeted at the time they were writing. But do you ever think about the same-sex connotations of the lyrics as you're singing them?

MF: Yes, I do think about it. Occasionally a militant soul will say, "Why don't you say 'he' instead of 'she' when you sing these songs?" My answer is that love knows no gender and I don't feel a need to change the gender of the songs because it's not about that. It's about a more universal expression of love.

But I do think about those things. I think about Cole Porter. Yip Harburg—who wrote "Over the Rainbow" and "Paper Moon", "Finnian's Rainbow", "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?"—told me that "I've Got You Under My Skin" is a song that only could have been written by a homosexual.

HS: What did he mean?

MF: Well, I've never quite figured that out. Except for that idea—that notion. That expression. The way that lyric unfolds is an expression that only could have come from the imagination of a person who was homosexual—who knew homosexual practices. It sounds so clinical but I think that was his point of view.

I also think about Edward Heyman, who was a very, very successful lyricist and whose lyrics particularly intrigue me because he wrote so many great love songs. He wrote "Body and Soul", which is a great torch song. And he wrote "When I fall in Love". He wrote a lot of unrequited love songs.

HS: Songs that aren't gender-specific...

MF: Herman Hupfeld, who wrote "As Time Goes By", from all I can gather was gay. David Raksin, who wrote "Laura", knew him in the thirties and said he was very effeminate and they just assumed—he said he's sure that he was gay.

So some of these writers were gay, and it's fascinating. Actually it would make an interesting show.

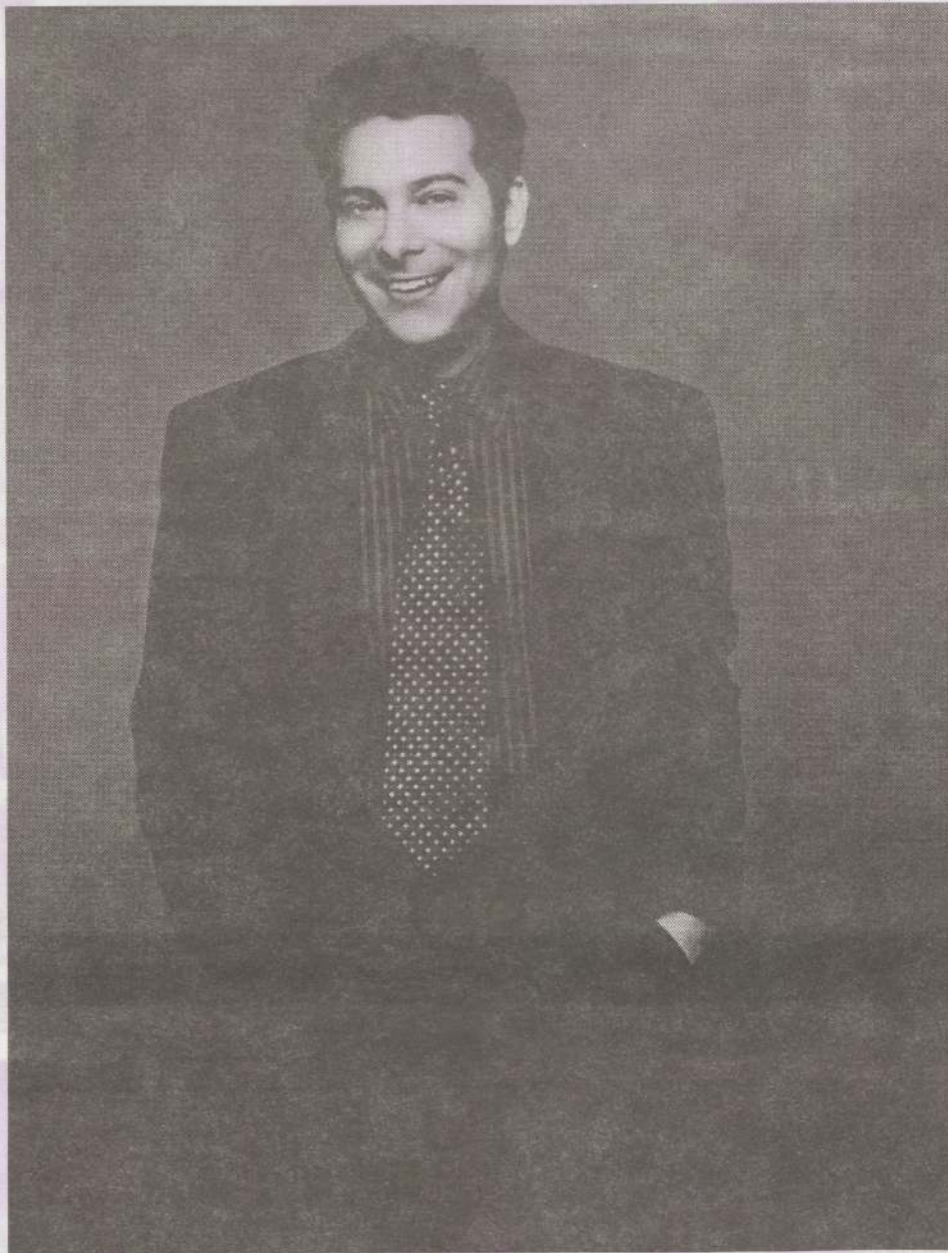
HS: When you're alone listening to music, are vintage pop standards, show tunes and classics pretty much all you are listening to? Do you ever listen to what's labeled, "Alternative" or anything like that?

MF: (big laugh) Well, my alterna-

tives are different from other alternatives.

I listen to all different kinds of music and I listen to a lot of unusual things. I like to listen to particular singers—I'll get on a jag where I'll listen to Peggy Lee for days and days. Or Rosemary Clooney, or Ethel Waters. Or Buddy Clark. Or Gene Austin.

I love individual voices. I like a lot of the recordings from the thirties and forties, it's true. I love show music. I listen to a lot of movie music. I've collected a rather large selection of unusual soundtracks, material that I love to listen to.



Roger Doug

In addition, I listen to a lot of classical. Again, I tend to be single minded. And then I'll get on a jag, like I've been listening quite a bit of Korngold lately, which I love. And Alan Hovhaness, who is an incredible, Armenian composer who has written hundreds of symphonies. His most famous work is called "Mysterious Mountain". Rhino recorded it with the Chicago Symphony years ago and it's great. He's a really good composer who is still alive, in his late eighties. It's sort of mystical, symphonic music.

I also listen to, at different times, Jazz/New Age kind of stuff that is musically substantial. There's that old joke: "What does New Age music sound like played backwards?" And the answer is "New Age music."

I don't listen to Top 40 stuff, I'm not really dialed in to what's happening right now in the music world even though I'm aware of certain people, certain singers, specific performers who do come to my attention. But most of it doesn't interest me.

And it's not any snobbism. It's just—it never really affects me. The music that I love affected me when I was a kid in a certain way.

HS: You sing a few standards that were made famous by, or are maybe associated with Frank Sinatra. Does singing a "Sinatra song" feel any different now that he has died?

MF: I never liked Frank Sinatra's

work. I respected him, but he never moved me. So he's the last person I would ever think of while singing a song. Especially since these songs have been covered by so many other people.

HS: Barry Manilow, for instance, just did an entire album of Sinatra covers that has gotten quite a bit of press.

MF: Haven't heard it.

HS: You didn't rush right out to buy that?

MF: I like Barry Manilow. But I want to hear Barry Manilow do his own stuff. I mean, it may be a wonder-

And suddenly he is a celebrity, which he finds flabbergasting.

I was there last week for the premiere of the film and it was great. It was so much fun to be in an audience for the first time, having seen it only in production. And to hear the reaction to all the funny stuff.

HS: Both Nathan Lane and George Michael recently told Advocate magazine that each felt he was always out of the closet and that everyone either knew or presumed he was gay—despite the fact that it was never mentioned in the mainstream media. And so both were apparently frustrated by some people in the gay community who saw them as ashamed or homophobic when they really were quite happy and accepting of themselves as gay performers—it just wasn't in print. Did you feel similarly before you talked about being gay in print?

MF: I talked about it from the first time I ever did an interview with any gay publication. Nobody paid any attention, because I wasn't a celebrity then and nobody cared.

Then later, when I did this interview with the Advocate, they wanted to talk about coming out. I said, "I can't come out because I'm not in the closet." And they still put on the cover "Piano Man Comes Out" to sell more magazines.

And I really—I canceled my subscription to the Advocate. I won't read it anymore.

HS: You're still angry about the piece?

MF: Yeah, because they just weren't honest. It wasn't only that fact they said I just came out, but it wasn't an accurate article. And they asked me questions like whether I was HIV positive, they asked me about AIDS, they asked me about sexual practices. They asked me a lot of questions—I just thought it was really inappropriate and it made me really angry. I mean, who needs that?

I don't know. I think more people were mad at me after the Advocate article because at that time, I wouldn't use the word "gay." And the reason I didn't want to use the word gay is because I felt then—as I do now—that it is a limiting, stereotypical label. And I don't like it.

HS: What is your preference?

MF: I don't have any preference. I will use the word gay, because it makes life easier in the context of—being understood.

One guy came up to me after reading that article and said, "I like your music but I really don't like your politics."

And I said, "Excuse me? Do you know my politics?"

It was like a lot of people said, "Oh, get him—he refuses to say he's gay, and he's in the closet." Well, that's fine. A lot of people didn't understand it.

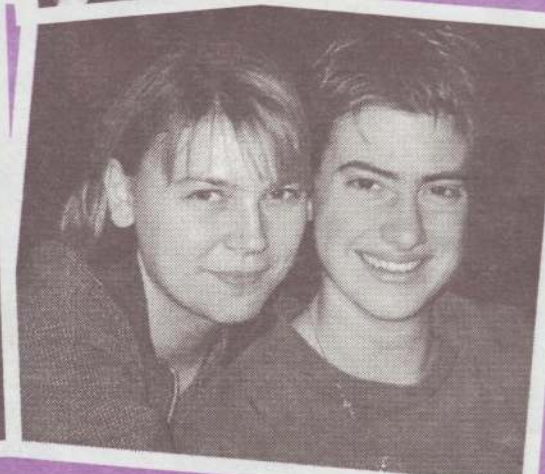
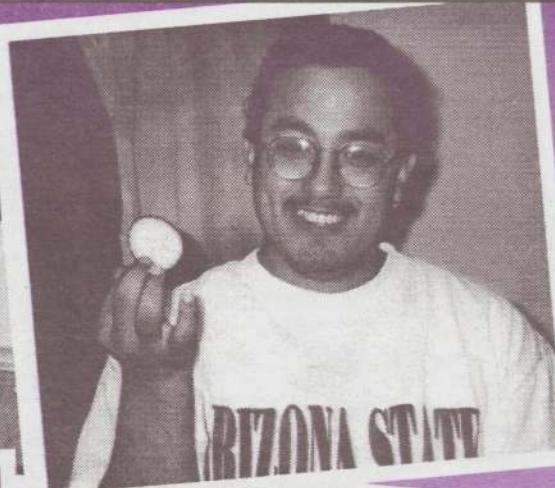
One of the other reasons I didn't want to be identified as stereotypically "gay" in the Advocate article is because I didn't want people to say, "Gay Singer Michael Feinstein."

Because what happens to a lot of people who come out with a big flourish, then they are a gay performer and it's not about their art—it's about their sexuality. And that's ridiculous.

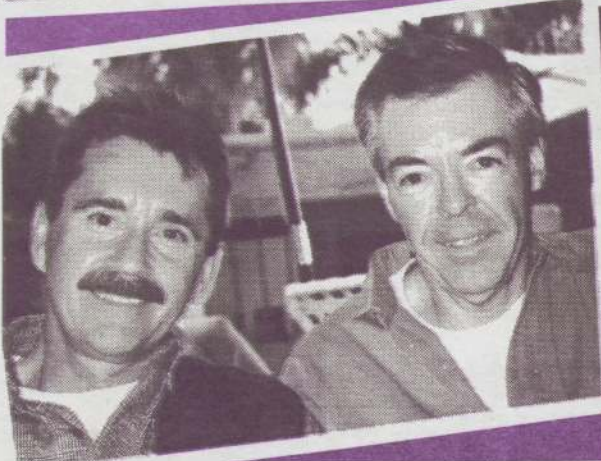
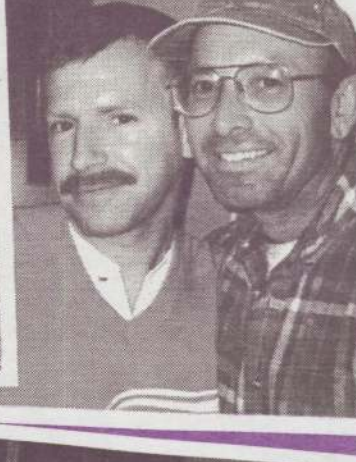


Check out Michael Feinstein's show on Feb. 27 at 7:30 pm at the Sundance, 19403 R.H. Johnson Blvd. in Sun City West. Tickets range from \$9 to \$29—call (602)975-1900 for information or reservations.

Seeing/Being Scene



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The legendary Ms. Baez at Orpheum Feb. 17

Joan Baez will include a performance at downtown Phoenix's Orpheum Theater on Wednesday, Feb. 17 as part of her extended tour in support of *Gone From Danger*, the folk legend's first new album since 1992.

An icon of the '60s and '70s folk movement, Baez has championed a variety of civil causes—including gay rights—in her three-decade career. Of

her current tour, the *Los Angeles Times* said, "Baez is better than ever. An artist whose skills are superb," while the *New York Times* called her, "Resilient, romantic, undiminished."

Tickets for the 8 pm show are \$20 and \$26 and are available through the Scottsdale Center for the Arts at (602)994-2787 or through Ticketmaster.



You have reached: *The Hispanick Zone*

Picture, if you will, a parallel universe where every Latin stereotype in the book is satirized, disrespected and celebrated—all at the same time.

It's called *The Hispanick Zone*, and it's happening on stage at PlayWright's Theatre in Phoenix Feb. 12 - 28.

The new comedy by ASU playwright Prof. Guillermo Reyes features an ensemble cast of ten talented collegians and is directed by Warren Baumgart.

A series of sketches, the show features family mini-dramas, coming of

age monologues, and even a hilarious send-up of male beauty contests. Throughout, *The Hispanick Zone* touches on various issues of Latino identity and even questions taboo subjects within the community, from Catholicism to intra-racial discrimination.

Show times are 8 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays with a 2 pm matinee slated for both Sundays. Tickets are \$12 and available by calling (602)253-5151. PlayWright's Theatre is at 1121 North 1st Street in downtown Phoenix.

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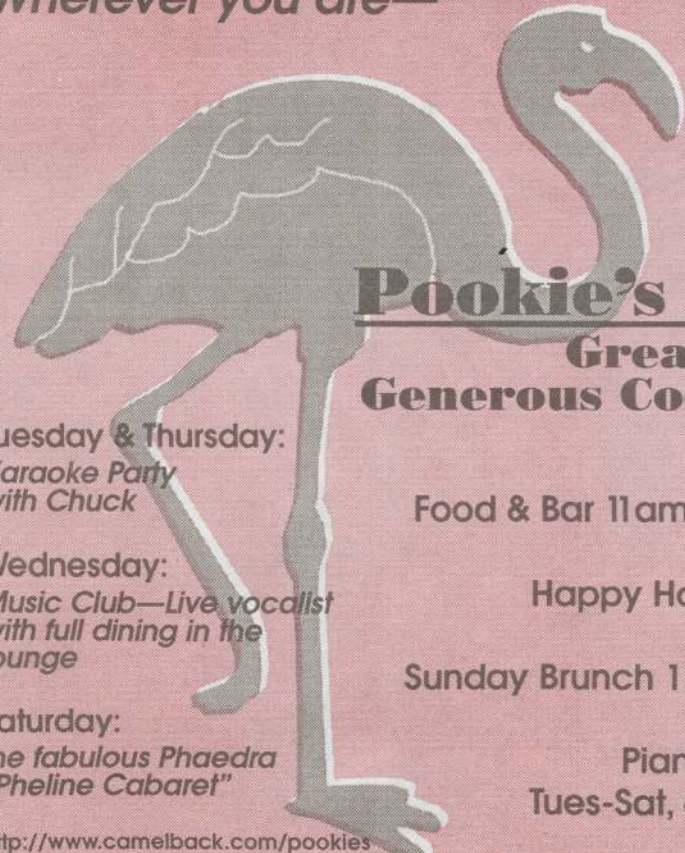
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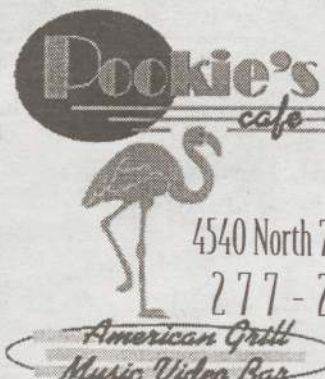
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Ralph Rippe

Back in the habit for "Nunsense III"

The singing, dancing, joke-telling nuns are back in town with an all new version of their special brand of musical mayhem, opening Feb. 19 at Phoenix Theatre.

The third installment in author Dan Goggin's *Nunsense* saga is called *Sister Mary Amnesia's Country Western Nunsense Jamboree* and it features the ongoing story of Sister Mary Paul, the dizzy sister who lands a Nashville recording contract after a crucifix is dropped on her head.

Directed by Marc Robin with

musical direction by Dan Kurek, the PT production marks the return to the stage of Valley favorite Debby Rosenthal as Sister Amnesia. Also cast are Michelle Gardner, Leah Lodmell, Paula Baack and Mark Stoddard.

The hilarity continues through March 7 on the venerable Phoenix company's main stage, at 100 East McDowell Road. Call for times. Tickets are \$23 - \$25 and available by calling (602)254-2151, or through Dillard's outlets.

GSMCC hosting SF entertainer

San Francisco-based gay Christian singer Jallen Rix will perform in concert on Saturday, Feb. 13 at 7 pm at Gentle Shepherd MCC's new location in north Phoenix.

Rix's latest album, *The Sacred and the Queer*, has been praised in *Genre*, *Out* and the *Advocate*. His performance will be followed by a Valentine's dance at 8:30.

Gentle Shepherd will also again be hosting a "Rally at the State Capitol" on Valentine's Day to draw attention to the ongoing fight for equal rights

for same sex couples.

Interested persons are encouraged to meet at the State Capitol at 2 pm on Sunday, Feb. 14 in support of the effort. There will be speakers from various organizations followed by a special "Blessing of the Couples" ceremony.

For information on the concert or rally (or both), call Gentle Shepherd at (602)864-6404. The church has recently moved to 7810 North 27th Ave. in Phoenix.

Essential love stories for Valentine's

Phoenix's improvisational specialists, the Essential Theatre, will present an evening of Playback Theatre entitled *Love Stories*, with two performances on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 at PlayWright's Theatre.

The ensemble troupe of musicians and performers who make up Essential Theatre take their cues from the participating audience, enacting a variety of sketches—some humorous, some touching, but always provocative—centered around a chosen theme.

Love Stories will commence at 5:30 and 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$12 and available by calling (602)897-

6711. PlayWright's Theatre is at 1121 North 1st Street in downtown Phoenix.

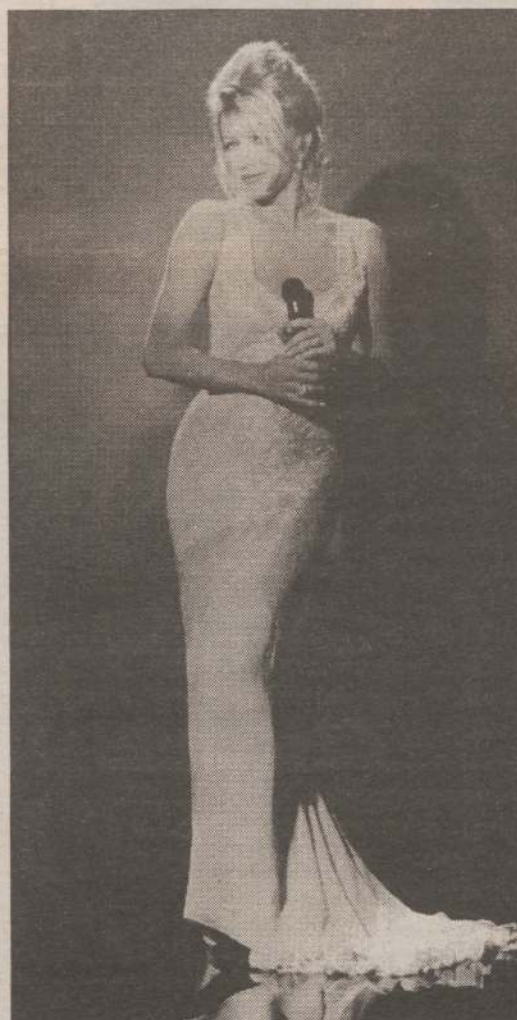


Suzanne Somers to dazzle the Sundome

She catapulted to fame in the late '70s as Chrissy on the hit sitcom *Three's Company*, later starred in *Step By Step* with former *Dallas* hunk Patrick Duffy, and now co-hosts the new *Candid Camera* show with Alan Funt's son.

Besides being one of the busiest women on the tube, Suzanne Somers also polishes her Las Vegas-style song and dance act for an occasional tour. The lady was voted Vegas' Entertainer of the Year in 1986, and she'll be donning the sequins and the tap shoes for a stop at the Sundome on Sunday, Feb. 14 at 2 pm.

Tickets for the Valentine's Day event are \$9 to \$20 and are available by calling (602)975-1900.



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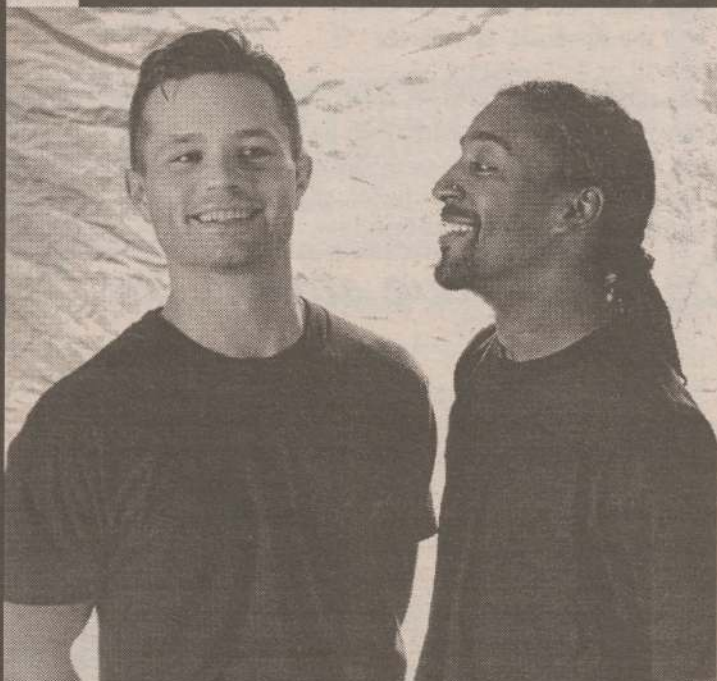
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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner

"Sleeping in the garage doesn't
make you an automobile."—An unnamed ex-"ex-gay" to
Denver's *West Word*, Dec. 31.

"Fuckin' drums!"

—*Dykes To Watch Out For* cartoonist
Alison Bechdel on the Michigan
Womyn's Music Festival, to
Vancouver's *Xtra! West*, Jan. 21."I think everybody is bisexual. ...
When no girls were around, my
[male] best friend in high school and
I would make out with each other as
a last resort. ... My last foray [into
homosexuality] was when one of my
best friends came to Italy. I wanted
to get [cocaine], and so we were
heading to a gay bar to look for
some, and I kissed him out on the
street. I was drunk, and it just felt
right."—Actor Robert Downey Jr. to
Detour magazine, February issue."It can be pretty sexy [when
women come on to me]. I mean,
c'mon—everyone is sort of bisexual.
It's not a big deal. I've thought about
it, when relationships don't work
out with guys and you think, 'God,
this woman friend is so wonderful.
It would be so much easier.' But real-
ly, it's going to be the same damn
problems."—Actress Lucy Liu, the ice queen
Ling on *Ally McBeal*, to *Details*
magazine, February issue."I've never hidden anything [re:
being gay], but that apparently is not
enough. I'm really not political, and I
worry that if I set myself up as some
sort of model that I can't live up to
it, or am not well-enough informed
to live up to that position, whatever
position they apply to you. But then
this whole thing with Matthew
Shepard happened, and it was like
somebody slapped me awake. At
this point it's selfish not to do what-
ever you can. People seem to like
me. I get a warmth from them. I
make them laugh. If I do this story
and say I'm a gay person, it might
make it easier for somebody else. So
it seems stupid not to."—Actor Nathan Lane (*The Birdcage*,
Love! Valour! Compassion!, *A Funny
Thing Happened on the Way to the
Forum*, *Encore! Encore!*) to the
Advocate, Feb. 2."When you're in Hollywood,
everybody thinks the best thing in
the whole world is to be a movie
star. What a fucked world we live in.
You have love on your plate and you
have celebrity on your plate, and
people are all buying celebrity. And
saying I'll do anything for it."—Actress Anne Heche,
Ellen DeGeneres' lover, to
Mirabella magazine, November-
December issue."I have to write a 'fuck off!' hit
record. I think it's very important
that when people are outed or out
themselves that it's seen to be a posi-
tive thing for the future of their lives.
Whatever kind of artistic statement I
make in writing about this experi-
ence has to be a hit. It has to say, 'It
doesn't matter.'"—Singer George Michael to the
Advocate, Jan. 19."Can they be sure the attackers
were straight? Lord knows, I've been
tempted to set fire to rainbow teddy
bear displays."—Syndicated sex-advice columnist
Dan Savage to this column after beer
bottles hurled through the window of
Lambda Rising Bookstore in Norfolk,
Va., by suspected gay-bashers broke a
neon sign which set fire to a display
of rainbow teddy bears."There's still all kinds of specula-
tion about my sexuality, and quite
frankly, I'm getting a little tired of it.
My ploy to get the media off track
didn't work. It seems that in this
country, sexuality is never a non-
issue. Rather, it is always the issue. ...
But it's insulting when someone
asks, 'Are you gay?' A woman can-
not be strong, outspoken, competent
at running her own business, handle
herself physically, play a very con-
vincing role in a movie, know what
she want—and go for it—without
being gay? Come on."—Rapper Queen Latifah in her new
book *Ladies First: Revelations of a
Strong Woman*."Every morning she would read
the paper and go absolutely nuts.
One day I said to her, 'Why don't
you read it later in the day?' And she
said, 'Could I?' And she did, and it
changed her completely."—Comedian Kate Clinton on her
lover Urvashi Vaid to *Curve*
magazine, January issue."Last week I couldn't remember
whether I had slept with someone or
served him latte. I kept telling
myself this sort of thing happens to
everyone. It's the nineties. People
have numerous lovers. They serve
numerous customers. Sometimes
they get confused. Blow jobs, lattes.
It all becomes the same thing."—Columnist Billeh Nickerson in
Vancouver's *Xtra! West*, Jan. 21."Our national gay organizations
talk about our rights, or equality, or
fairness, sometimes about privacy,
occasionally (if rarely) about person-
al liberty, but never about sex itself.
If the religious right seem obsessed
by what we do with our genitalia,
our national gay groups seem to
ignore that we have genitalia at all."—Syndicated gay-press columnist
Paul Varnell, in a mid-January filing.

"I've been very careful about how and when to introduce him [my new boyfriend] to [my adopted 4-year-old daughter] Tia, because I want things to be as stable as possible for her. She's very possessive of me. The other day I told her he might be spending the night sometime soon and when he did, he'd be staying with me in my bed. I asked her, 'Is that OK with you?' And she thought about it and said, 'As long as you both keep your clothes on.'"

—Gay, HIV-positive actor Michael Kearns to *POZ* magazine, February issue.

"She's wonderful. She's willful, funny, bright, curious and incredibly tough — she'll have to be. Her father may be the only openly gay, openly HIV positive, over-40, single, white man in the country who has successfully adopted an African-American child. Her adoption was a major ordeal: It took two and a half years. I'm writing a book about it called *A Daddy of a Different Color*. It's about sexism, homophobia, racism, classism, ageism—all the isms that came into play during Tia's adoption."

—Actor Michael Kearns to *POZ* magazine, February issue.

"We know that our continuing racial problems are aggravated, as the Presidential Initiative said, by opportunity gaps. The initiative I've outlined tonight will help to close them. But we know that the discrimination gap has not been fully closed either. Discrimination or violence because of race or religion, ancestry or gender, disability or sexual orientation, is wrong, and it ought to be illegal.

Therefore, I ask Congress to make the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act the law of the land."

—From President Bill Clinton's State of the Union address, Jan. 19.

"Both the characters of Will and Jack [on NBC TV's *Will & Grace*] are fair portrayals of gay men. One of our callers expressed a big concern that Will was not gay enough and Jack was too flamboyant and campy. I had a question: 'How many Jacks have you known?' As for Will, he had just ended a relationship with a man. Unlike *Ellen*, the story is not about his coming out. He already is out. Our callers ask: 'Are we going to see him affectionate to other men?' To show him in bed with a man or kissing a man would turn off a large part of the audience. After all, the show is 'Will & Grace,' not 'Will and the Men He Dates.'"

—Scott Seomin, entertainment spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, to AP, Jan. 23

"Before we were even on the air, a lot of the press decided that the 'kiss' was this milestone that represented how daring and true NBC was going to be. I'm not sure why a kiss matters. What matters is knowing that eventually, in the not-too-distant future, Will is getting out there, the way a straight character on *Friends* would. After eight, nine, 15 episodes of characters sitting around yakking, joking, you start to think, 'Is Chandler ever going to have a date? It's time for the character to have a date.' Same with Will. He's gotta have a date. But why do

they have to show a big kiss? ... It's titillation, something to put on the front page. What we're concerned with is who is the guy he goes out with, what happens on the date."

—*Will & Grace* star Eric McCormack to AP, Jan. 23.

"Will [of NBC TV's *Will & Grace*] is just a generic soap opera lug, with nothing to mark him as gay except a certain bitchiness, and that is so heavy-handed as to be offensive. ... Making a gay character respectably celibate is one thing, making him aggressively dull is another."

—Columnist Brent Ledger in *Toronto's Xtra!*, Jan. 14.

"The truth about Matthew Shepard needs to be known. He lived a Satanic lifestyle. He got himself

killed trolling for anonymous homosexual sex in a bar at midnight. Unless he repented in the final hours of his life, he is in hell. He will be in hell for all eternity, 'where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.' (Mark 9:44) For each day that passes, he has only eternity to look forward to. All the candlelight vigils, all the tributes, all the acts of Congress, all the rulings by the Supreme Court of the United States, will not shorten his sentence by so much as one day. And all the riches of the world will not buy him one drop of water to cool his tongue."

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some dance hits from DJ Enrique.

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Sat Feb 20—Buddy Night;
Sat Feb 21—The Original Uniform Night

Hollywood

Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Yo Quiero Salma Hayek

Latin lovely Salma Hayek will be lending her considerable maracas, uh I mean talents to a feature film about famed Mexican bisexual painter Frida Kahlo.

Hayek's own production company will produce the film about the handicapped painter who, in addition to



Salma Hayek's is set to produce and star in a film about Frida Kahlo, the bisexual Mexican painter and wife of Diego Rivera.

being the wife of famed Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, had a penchant for cross-dressing.

Kahlo, unlike the waxing-crazed "lesbians" featured on the Playboy Channel, liked to darken her moustache to play up her butch side.

Gus Is The Word

Hollywood heavyweight John Travolta is teaming up with gay director Gus Van Sant for the Jimmy Roselli biopic *Standing Room Only*.

Van Sant, who was nominated for an Academy Award for *Good Will Hunting*, begins shooting the film in March in Los Angeles and Atlantic City.

Roselli was a New Jersey born Sinatra-like crooner who never reached Old Blue Eyes' status because of his love/hate relationship with the mob.

While mobsters' wives adored the singer, he spurned the mob and was consequently marked for a hit.

Standing Room is the first time since *Grease* that we'll get to hear the vocal stylings of America's favorite Scientologist, since he'll be singing a slew of old standards in the film.

Travolta's manager told *Daily Variety* "He'll be the *Raging Bull* of lounge singers, but with the humor John brings to the role."

Lesbians Leaving Los Angeles

Hollywood dykes Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche have sold their tony 5,000-square-foot love nest in LA's old-money enclave Hancock Park for a cool \$3.3 million.

The Spanish-Moorish pad, originally built in the 1920s by the same architect that built Hollywood's legendary Chinese Theater, was completely renovated by the lovebirds with hers and hers closets and a shower built for girl-girl action.

The two have relocated to an "undisclosed location" heavily rumored to be the posh Santa Barbara suburb of Montecito. Meanwhile, an upscale interior designer is trying to unload some of the lovely ladies' furniture which won't be making the move.

Peep Holes Wide Open

The best kept secret in Hollywood these days isn't the whereabouts of Ellen and Anne, however, but rather the plot of director Stanley Kubrick's super mysterious Tom Cruise/Nicole Kidman thriller, *Eyes Wide Shut*.

The film, currently scheduled for release this summer, had one of the longest shoots in history, and has produced massive speculation.

Cruise, who played a bisexual bloodsucker in *Interview With A Vampire*, may be up to his old tricks. According to *USA Today*, Cruise has some "come hither" scenes with "Cabaret" star Alan Cumming. Hmmm...

Rosie's Monkey Business

America's favorite talk show host Rosie O'Donnell will be heard (but not seen) in this summer's Disney film *Tarzan*.

O'Donnell took time off from her hectic schedule to voice the character

of Terk, a short, sarcastic ape for the kiddie flick, which also includes songs composed by Phil Collins.

Tony Goldwyn will fill out the leading loincloth and boast long, wavy black hair. British babe Minnie Driver will play Jane, a relatively small role since the film focuses on Tarzan's childhood.

Glenn Close will also be featured in the film, playing another monkey.

Jodie Joins the Circus

Single mama and uber-talent Jodie Foster has committed to direct October Films's *Flora*.

The film, which was written by femme-friendly writer Steven Rogers (who penned last year's *Hope Floats*), is a love story set in the 1930s. It focuses on the tragic story of a circus freak who befriends (and falls in love with) a poor waif.

Claire Danes is in preliminary talks to play the waif-her, but no deal has yet been sealed. Clearly October feels they are in good hands with Jodie, as the film has a budget in excess of \$20 million.



Anne Heche and Ellen DeGeneres have relocated to an undisclosed location after selling their home in Hancock Park.

Tranny Tunes

If you're itchin' for some tranny tunes, just cruise by a record store near you for the Atlantic Records soundtrack of the off-Broadway rock opera sensation *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

Hedwig, the story of a Berlin drag queen cum "internationally ignored rock star" living in a trailer park in Kansas has been optioned by New Line Cinema to make it to the big screen.

Hedwig creators John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask have created the biggest cross-dressing sensa-

tion since *Rocky Horror* with David Bowie, Glenn Close, Sandra Bernhard joining the packed audiences.

New York critics are citing *Hedwig* as a vehicle for social change with tunes so rockin' they just may trickle down to high school theater departments across America.

Sweatin' To Syndication

Just when television viewers were convinced that Richard Simmons infomercials were banished to the late night fringe, the exercise guru has got a syndicated television show that is buzzing with heat for next season.

Simmons will host *Richard Simmons Dream Maker*, which is sort of a Make-A-Wish-Foundation for the average non-terminally ill American. The show will focus on making the dreams of viewers come true.

The episodes will deal with mundane fantasies (like Richard taking their place at work for a day) to the even less original "surprise meetings with their favorite celebrity."

Just don't expect to rub this genie's lantern and wish to be magically rid of those pesky ten pounds, or you'll probably get a pitch for his Deal-A-Meal weight loss plan.

In other television news, Sara Gilbert (best known for her stint on *Roseanne*) has a go for her own pilot for CBS next fall.

The sitcom, which will be executive produced by Brad Hall (who brought us the unfortunate Jonathan Silverman vehicle *The Single Guy* a few seasons back) is tentatively called *The Next Big Thing* and Gilbert will play a young writer who joins the staff of a *Saturday Night Live* type show.

Hall, who got his start writing for the legendary show back when it was good, may actually be able to pull this one off.

Take It Like A Manson

Marilyn Manson may have to take some time off from his Mechanical Animals tour to defend himself in court.

The shock rocker is being sued for 24 million bucks by the newly canned editor of *Spin* magazine for an incident in November '98 where he was allegedly beaten by Marilyn and his bodyguards.

Wonder what the Anti-Christ superstar will wear to court...

Romeo San Vicente, who likes lesbians with facial hair, can be reached in care of HeatStroke or at RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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Out of Town

By
Andrew Collins



Philadelphia —by night

For gays and lesbians, Philadelphia is great for bar-hopping and meeting fellow revelers. This statement, however, will probably arouse startled disbelief from most who have lived for any period in this city.

Indeed, the nightlife scene here suffers from an energy drain every weekend when hundreds of potential club bunnies train it to Manhattan (a mere 90-minute ride away) for a more substantial taste of partying.

But if intimacy, value, friendliness, and the ease of getting around a gay neighborhood mean anything to you, Philadelphia might just make for a highly fulfilling night on the town.

And that's merely if hitting the bars is your primary criteria for after-dark excitement.

This city of 1.6 million is also a hotbed of outstanding cutting-edge and classic restaurants. A stellar performing arts district fringes the city's Gay District, and several classy hotels sit within five blocks of this same area.

What for lack of a proper neighborhood name locals call the Gay District comprises the couple of blocks on either side of Camac Street, from about Walnut to Pine streets.

It's a compact little rectangle of historic mostly 18th- and 19th-century buildings, containing eateries, coffeehouses, bars, boutiques, and a few adult bookstores (for good measure).

An excellent place to set up base camp is the chic Alexander Inn, which opened in summer 1998. With a mostly gay staff and a mission to welcome queer visitors (although the clientele is mixed), this 48-room mid-rise is furnished with tasteful luxurious rooms, many with skyline views—and the rates (\$79-\$129) are a fraction of what you'll pay at some of the nearby convention hotels. There's a nice gym on premises, too.

Another nice nearby option is the smaller and slightly less expensive

Uncles Upstairs Inn, above the bar of the same name.

If money is no option, drop a bundle for a room at the deluxe Rittenhouse Hotel, overlooking pretty Rittenhouse Square, a 10-minute walk away. The Rittenhouse treats its guests like old friends, and movie buffs may appreciate its having accommodated the cast of *Philadelphia* during filming.

Once you've settled into your room, consider some of the wonderful dining opportunities nearby.

Romantics should book a table at the Gay District's Inn Philadelphia, a

fare as roast spiced duck with pumpkin and parsnip risotto and glazed chestnuts; and the Victoriana-filled Astral Plane, an intimate spot known for fine regional American cooking (with the seafood especially good).

If you're on a tight budget, fear not—most of the gay bars in town serve inexpensive food, ranging from pub grub to slightly more upscale Continental favorites.

The city has no shortage of fag-happy java joints, the leader of which has long been Millennium Coffee, which is conveniently beside the fag-happy newsstand and small book-

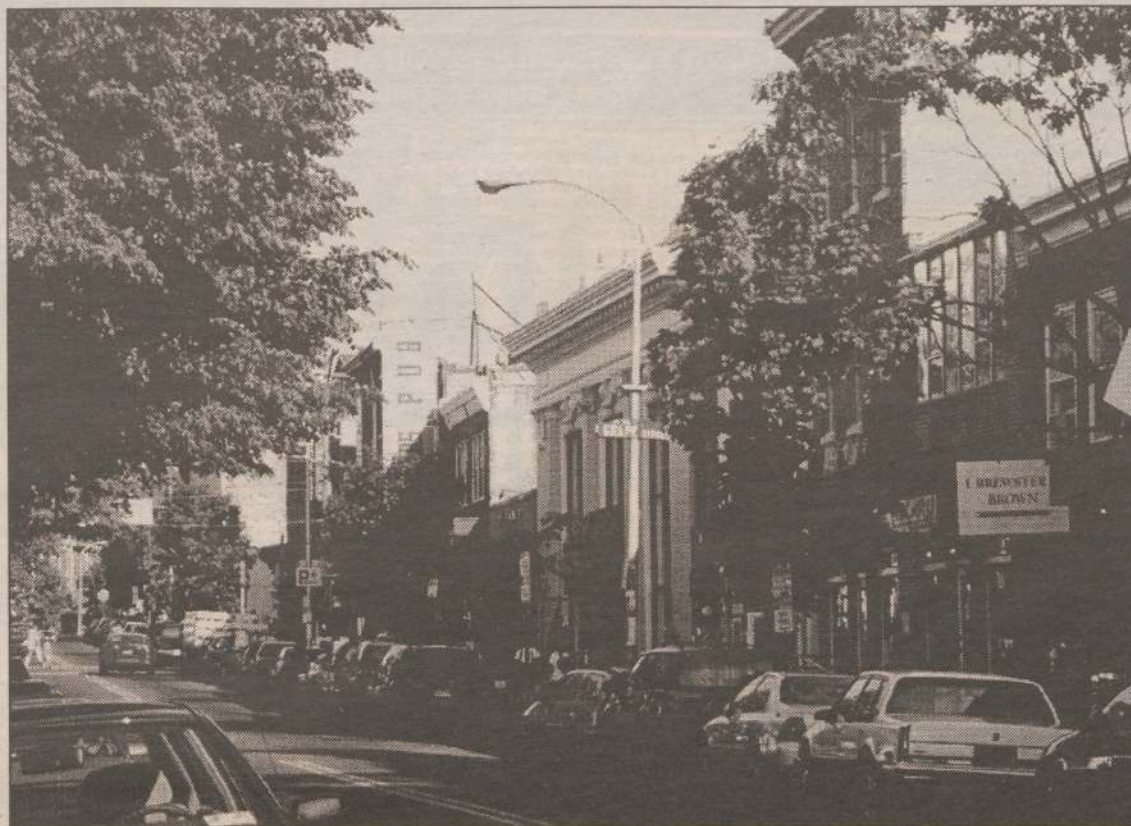
a basement "dungeon" open on weekends; regular Joes enjoy the conversation and cheap drinks at the homey Westbury Bar; players from Philly's respected gay and lesbian softball teams congregate at Uncles; and a mix of the above enjoy dancing and cruising at the bi-level 12th Street Air Command.

The Gay District also has a great lesbian disco, Sisters; and a typically packed and youthful stand-and-model video-dance bar, Woody's, which is definitely the choice of guppies, gym boys, and club kids.

The popularity of Woody's

notwithstanding, Philadelphia didn't have a truly glamorous warehouse megadisco until Shampoo opened in 1997. This terrific pulsing weekends-only club several blocks northeast of the Gay District (you'll want to cab it here) is mostly gay on Fridays, mostly straight Saturdays—but there's a definite mix both evenings.

If you have a car, be sure to consider one Philadelphia nightlife option that has become super trendy in recent years, Manayunk. It's about a 15-minute drive west via I-76 to reach this charming National Historic District.



Main Street in Philadelphia's trendy Manayunk neighborhood is lined with upscale boutiques and festive pubs and restaurants.

suave historic town house with five roaring fireplaces inside.

The Continental American menu is first-rate; consider seared sesame-crusted tuna steak with a faintly sweet plum-pear sauce.

Not far away, Deux Cheminees is the gayest of Philadelphia's internationally acclaimed French restaurants. The rack of lamb with truffle sauce is legendary—note that dinner is *prix-fixe* (\$75).

Less pricey but still renowned for its fine Continental cooking is Frangelica, whose first-rate upstairs performance space is a favorite hangout of cabaret aficionados.

Two more lovely options that are a short walk from the Gay District, rather close to Rittenhouse Square, are the chichi Opus 251, where arty types dressed to the nines convene for such innovative contemporary

store, Afterwords. In addition to the tables in front (good for people-watching) and in back (good for people-chatting), there's a coffee bar mid-way (good for people-meeting).

Legendary as well is More Than Just Ice Cream, a delightful cafe where the "more than" refers not only to coffees, soups, and sandwiches but also the best apple pie this side of Mom's.

And now for the truth about Philadelphia bars: For a city so large, there really aren't many of them, and the few you'll find are small and unflashy. But therein lies the charm—bartenders and patrons tend to be convivial and unpretentious, and most of these places are within a 10-minute walk of each other; you can hit a bunch easily in one night.

Leather-and-Levi's types favor the Bike Stop, a butch bear hangout with

1800s as a mill town and gradually peopled with Irish, German, Italian, and Polish immigrants, Manayunk slid downhill following the Depression. It was reclaimed by preservationists and yuppie entrepreneurs in the early 1980s, and while none of the many pubs and bars, 30 restaurants, and 70 boutiques lining picturesque Main Street are specifically gay, this community has a very strong queer following—especially among moneyed types who take seriously the Lenape Indian translation of the village's name: "Where we go to drink."

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

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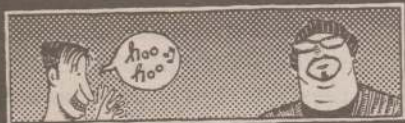
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The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner

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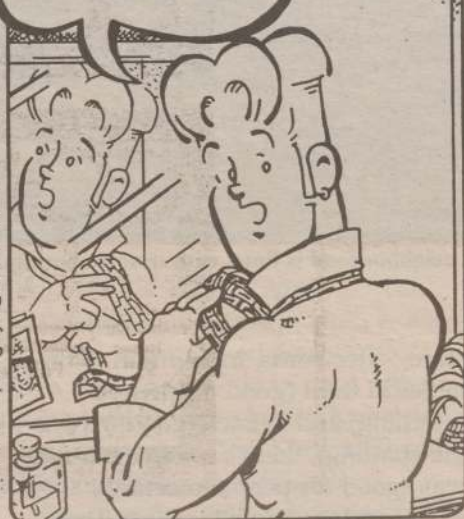
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A Couple of guys

by Dave Brissau



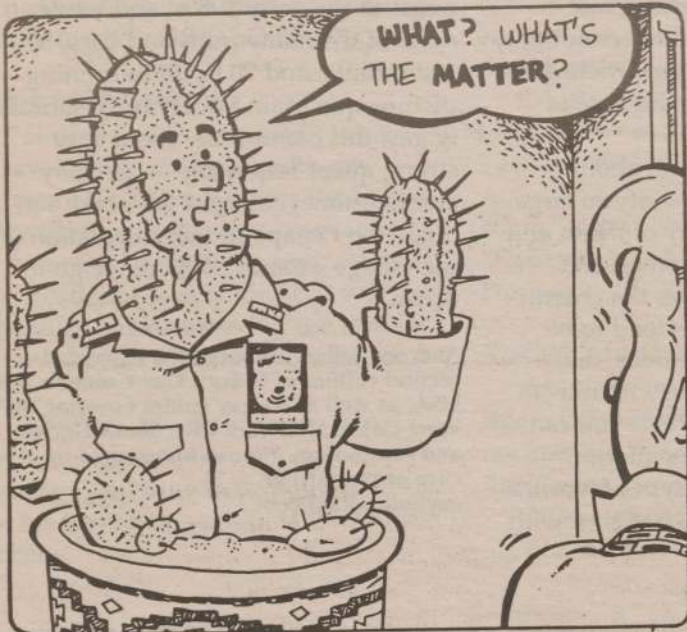
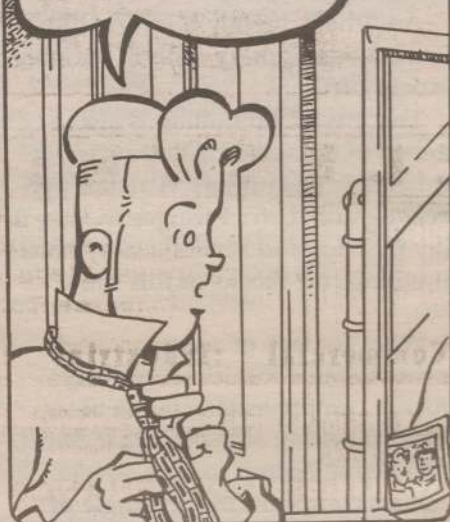
I'M IN HERE, JOEY. GETTING READY.



YOU'RE LATE, SO HURRY UP. OUR RESERVATIONS ARE FOR SEVEN-THIRTY.



DAVID IS MEETING US AT THE RESTA---



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

drugstore cowpokes

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ONE SNOWY SATURDAY MORN...



I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE TOLD YOU AND NOT HIM! YOU DIDN'T GET HER PREGNANT!



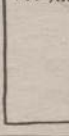
OH, RELAX. HE WENT OUT WHILE YOU WERE WALKING DIGGER. SO WHAT'S SPARRING GONNA DO?



I DON'T KNOW. SHE WAS PRETTY WIGGED OUT. I KNEW ALL THIS HETEROSEXUALITY WOULD COME TO NO GOOD.



MEANWHILE, DOWN AT THE LOCAL PHARMACY...



I'M SICK OF MESSING AROUND WITH YOGURT. I WONDER IF THIS STUFF THEY'RE ALWAYS ADVERTISING ON "MARTHA STEWART LIVING" WILL KILL ME?



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Dear Cowboy,

I am 31 and I have never been in a long-term relationship even though I really want one.

I'm nice looking and have a loyal group of friends. But when it comes to getting turned on sexually, I can only perform with really hot, masculine looking men.

The trouble is, the A-list guys I like never seem to think I am in their league, unless it's just for a quick fling. Which is usually very hot, but I want more.

Now I'm hardly having sex at all, and the older I get the worse my

chances seem to be of landing Mr. Right.

How can I train myself to be attracted to regular guys who don't look like they just stepped out of an International Male catalogue?

Signed, Model Lover

Dear Lover,

The problem isn't with training yourself to like (or not like) a certain kind of hombre, the problem is with the way you're listing and categorizing and limiting your expectations of the guys you do run into, date, and bunk with.

You say you want a relationship—but what does that really mean? You think there's a guy out there who's just waiting to be your relationship-fitting man, like a bull drawn just for your personal ride.

Stop thinking that way. Put the catalogues away and look at how you act around your friends and what you like about them for some clues as to what you really want in a partner. Don't swear off the one-night ride, just don't be so ready for it, and in time you'll meet a cowboy who turns you on above the neck and below the belt.

Dear Cowboy,

When my girlfriend and I bought our 900 sq. ft. house last year, we kind of agreed there was no room for house guests and we made the second bedroom an office/workout room.

Her parents are coming in a month for a ten day vacation. They always stay with her when they visit and they come out to Phoenix every

spring. She says "No way" does a no guest rule apply to parents. She says they can sleep in our bed, I can have the sofa and she'll camp out on the floor the whole time!

They know we're a couple, but I've never even met them and I think our place is just too small. I wish they would stay in a hotel—it will be easier on everybody. Maybe I should stay in a hotel. What do you think?

Signed, Crowded House

Dear Crowded,

Unless you're impossible to get along with and plan on making the whole stay a miserable experience for all concerned, then I'm on your partner's side.

Make every effort to make her folks feel welcomed and accepted at your lil' ranchette, and bed down with your gal with a smile on your face and appreciation for the closeness of her family situation. It won't be forever. This is not the hill to die on, so be hospitable and try it.

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- AZ Science Center
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- AZ State Capitol Museum
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- North Mountain Park &
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Phoenix 262-6696

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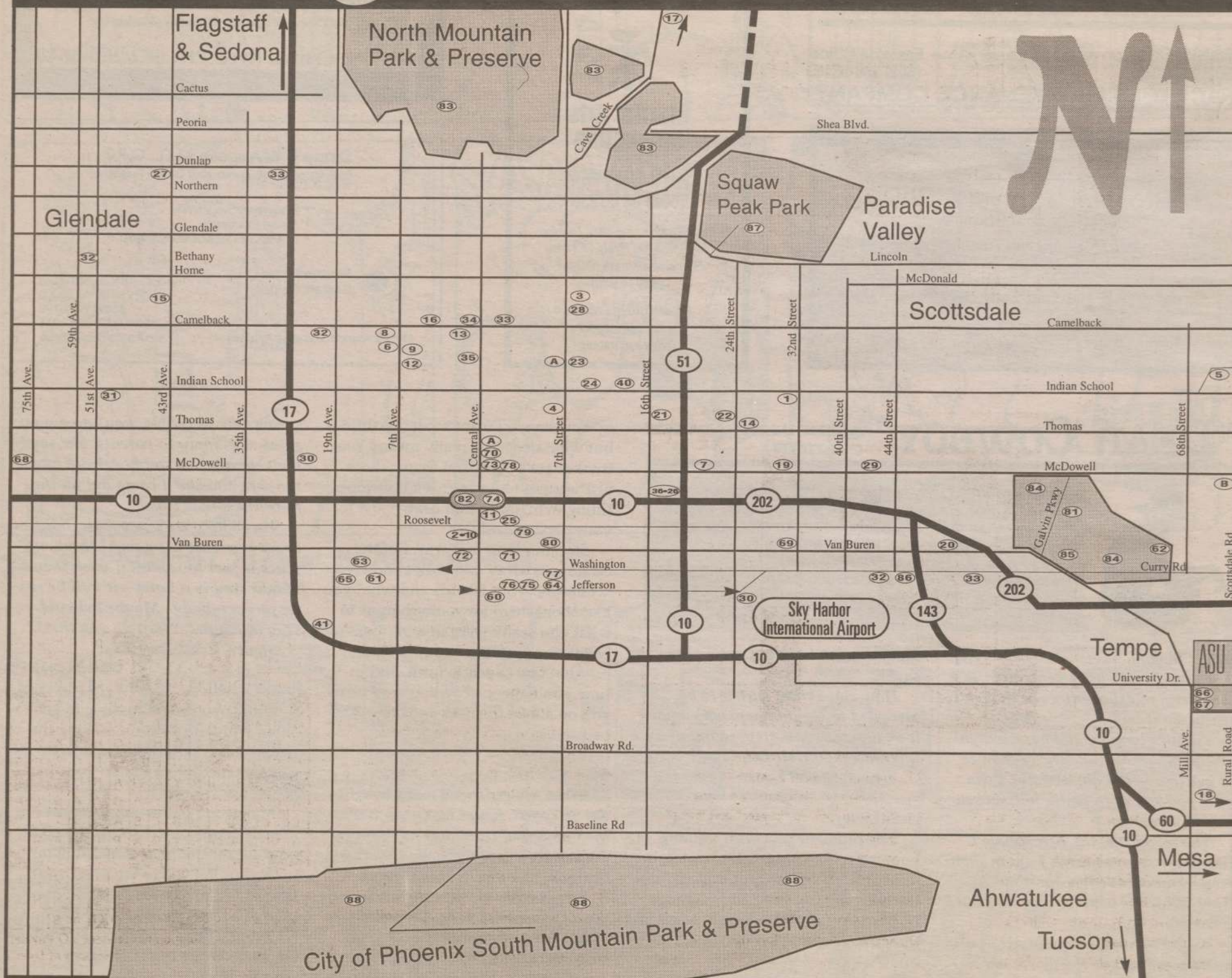
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- Pueblo Grande Museum
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- Squaw Peak Park
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Gay & Lesbian Caucus
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Coalition
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Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness
Project
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Professional Organizations

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Professional Association
P.O. Box 2097
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Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Mormons)
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AVIV of Arizona (Jewish Group)
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Lutherans Concerned
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Gays
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Catholic Church
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Desert Valley Squares
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Alliance (PUGBA)
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Spartan Wrestling Club-340-8070
e-mail: matthbms@aol.com

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

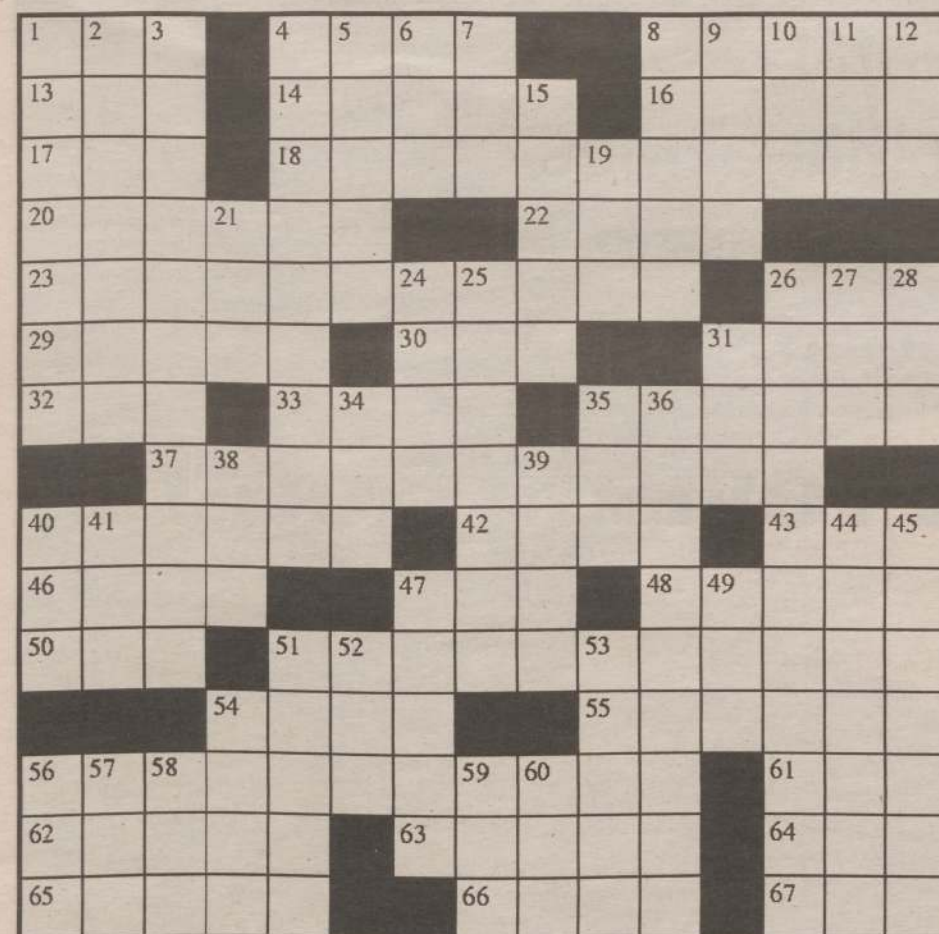
TLC Choral
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Phoenix, AZ 85069 878-5430

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Music, Sports & Hobbies

Q Puzzle

"Nice Jewish Boys"



ACROSS

- 1 Gay porn setting, sometimes
- 4 Aid's partner
- 8 Where Rosie O'Donnell shops, in ads
- 13 Bobby who played with his stick
- 14 Femininity or swishiness, e.g.
- 16 Paradise for the panting
- 17 The Eagle, e.g.
- 18 Libby Gelman-Waxner's real name
- 20 Erection direction
- 22 The Gay '90s, et al.

23 Massachusetts congressman

26 One of the former Jackson-Parises

29 They may be out against the house

30 Where to look up "bugger" and "shag" (abbr.)

31 Spacey prefix?

32 Out workers (abbr.)

33 Studs may pierce them

35 What a load of crap!

37 Angels in America playwright

40 What a soldier does to his superior with his hand

42 Taylor or Margaret

43 ___ loss for words

46 Response to "No, really, I'm straight!"

47 Cowboy Ritter

48 Bottom's position, usually

50 Like a spanked butt

51 *The Normal Heart* playwright

54 *Under the Pink* singer Amos

55 Actor Wilson Cruz, for one

56 DreamWorks co-founder

61 Milland of *The Lost Weekend*

62 Don't ask, don't tell?

63 Antique-shop offering

64 It may follow "long, long"

65 Hall's partner

66 It hangs on a horse

67 ___ Mis rables

28 Buck's mate

31 Reaction upon first seeing John Holmes naked?

34 Response from a willing sailor?

35 ___ Na Na

36 Multi-orgasmic lover's quality

38 Not hiding one's homosexuality

39 Like a *Playgirl* model

40 Ian McKellen's title

41 President who went around with a beard

44 Like many XY readers

45 Dry ravines

47 One who takes a stab at it

49 ___ King Cole

51 Holes with precious stuff inside

52 Its cap. is Buenos Aires

53 Calvin seen on underwear

54 It goes in and out and comes in waves

56 Gaius's god

57 Gardner in *Priest of Love*

58 Brewery fixture

59 Lipstick lesbian

60 SoBe locale

DOWN

1 Like Alka-Seltzer tablets

2 What hustlers like to be, money-wise

3 Held hands with another man and fought

4 Now

5 Robert Reed's sitcom surname

6 ___ de toilette

7 Actor Schweiger of *Maybe...Maybe Not*

8 ___ moment (perfect time to shoot)

9 "One ___ meat..."

10 "Do ___ say!" (master's command)

11 Flair of wrestling

12 "For shame!"

15 Pump bottom

19 Tea-room accessory

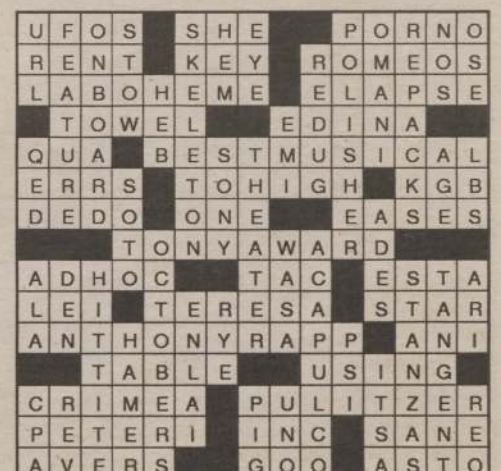
21 Actress Magnuson

24 It gets the meat to your mouth

25 One who picks up where he left off

26 He's on top of the captain?

27 PFLAG or GMHC, e.g.



Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle:
"Seasons of Love"

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H O R R O R S S C O P E S

By Deane Jaye, HeatStroke Contributor

Pisces (February 21 - March 20)

Who can turn the world on with a smile? Who can take a nothing day and suddenly make it all seem worthwhile? Well it's you, Pisces and you should know it—and show it with every little move you make this month. You are definitely in command of your environment, and your friends and associates should prepare to be impressed with a capital "I". Let the creativity flow the weekend of the 13th.

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

Every party has a pooper and you Arians are about to earn a reputation for bringing everyone else down in a big way, unless you do something to move your mood in a more positive direction, and do it quickly. Perhaps by trying to think, rather than feel your way out of an unpleasant situation, you'll achieve the results you seek. A Libra native has something exciting to share with you on or around the 21st.

Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

Remember that hard driving Lynard Skynard song about the Free Bird that you cannot change? E-yaaay-aay-ange? Yeah, that's the one. Well, that little immutable bird is wonderfully representative of you this month, Taurus, as you feel the need to be traveling on, and your stubborn streak rises to the surface (it's really never lurking too far below the surface, anyway). Travel is advised, but wait until after your point is made at home.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Take you out to the ballgame! Take you out to the crowd! Sporting events, concerts, shows and parties are all on the docket for you this month. And if such events are not yet showing up in your day planner, then pencil them in ASAP! We all know that a busy Gemini is a happy Gemini, and no one wants an unhappy Gemini, do they? It's activity and excitement that will get you up and keep you going—particularly after the 15th.

Cancer (June 21 - July 20)

Hunger is gnawing in many areas of your psyche for you moon children in coming weeks, particularly after mid-month when things seem to cycle more slowly. Concentrate on the effort and you'll be less likely to dwell on the disappointing results, should you happen not to reach fulfillment. Love is especially elusive at this time of year, so exercise your communication skills if you plan to hang on to what you've got.

Leo (July 21 - August 20)

You really don't want to say it, and it's just as well because no one really wants to hear it. Mama used to say that if you can't say anything nice, then you shouldn't say

anything at all. So take her advice to heart and demonstrate your superior strength and dignity through silence, especially toward the end of this month. If loose ends are stressing you out, get organized, prioritize and make a list. Then burn the list and go shopping.

Virgo (August 21 - September 20)

Why does it seem that everyone in your life right now gets to lounge and frolic like the Love Boat's special weekly guest stars, while you must around like Julie the Cruise Director making sure everything gets done and everyone else's needs are being met? Take some time out for your own comfort, or your ship of happiness will never leave the port. Spicy or exotic dishes could spice things up in the bedroom the weekend of the 20th.

Libra (September 21 - October 20)

Take it off, baby. It's all about doing whatever you can to be unencumbered, unconstrained and uninhibited these days. If your clothes are constricting you, peel them off and reveal a new attitude. If it's a heavy relationship that's holding you back, now is the time to toss it off and lighten things up. Simplify and streamline, especially during the week of the 15th. And remember that no one ever takes you seriously when you're bossy.

Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)

Cross your t's and dot your i's, and get all your ducks in a row, Scorpio. Organization is going to pay off for you in a big way in weeks to come, so long as you're willing to invest the time it takes to finish that project. Nobody gets to be in control all the time—and if that reality bites for you, then take comfort in the fact that some people don't get to be in control at any time. See, that made you feel better.

Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)

Wanderlust is in your heart and your feet are itching to roam, so give in to the temptation and go wherever the road beckons, especially if a Scorpio or other water sign is signing up for companionship along the way, no matter how temporary. Just bear in mind that all roads will eventually lead back home and there's nothing wrong with that. Yours may be the calm head that prevails at an explosive event on or near the 23rd.

Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)

The water in Central Arizona rivers just isn't flowing any more, and neither are the ideas that seemed to be springing forth a few weeks ago. It's all part of the cycle, Capricorn, so relax and concentrate on what you know. Money matters will be on your mind by the middle of the month.

Don't let a few impulse purchases throw your whole system for saving out of whack. You deserved that treat, and you'll make up the difference soon enough.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)

Patience is not generally your strongest suit but you'll need to exercise it as best you can when new situations and acquaintances seem deliberate on testing your every last nerve around the 14th. Sometimes it's better to walk away from situations that are causing you pain, no matter how much you think you're learning by attempting to stick it out. Do your best and no one can fault you, and if they do fault you, forget about them.

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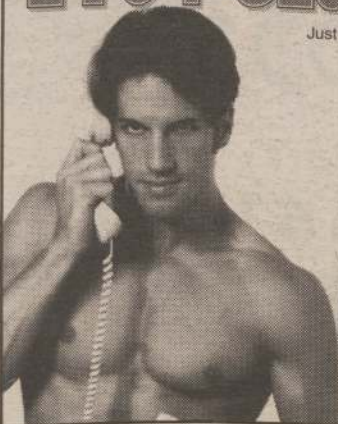
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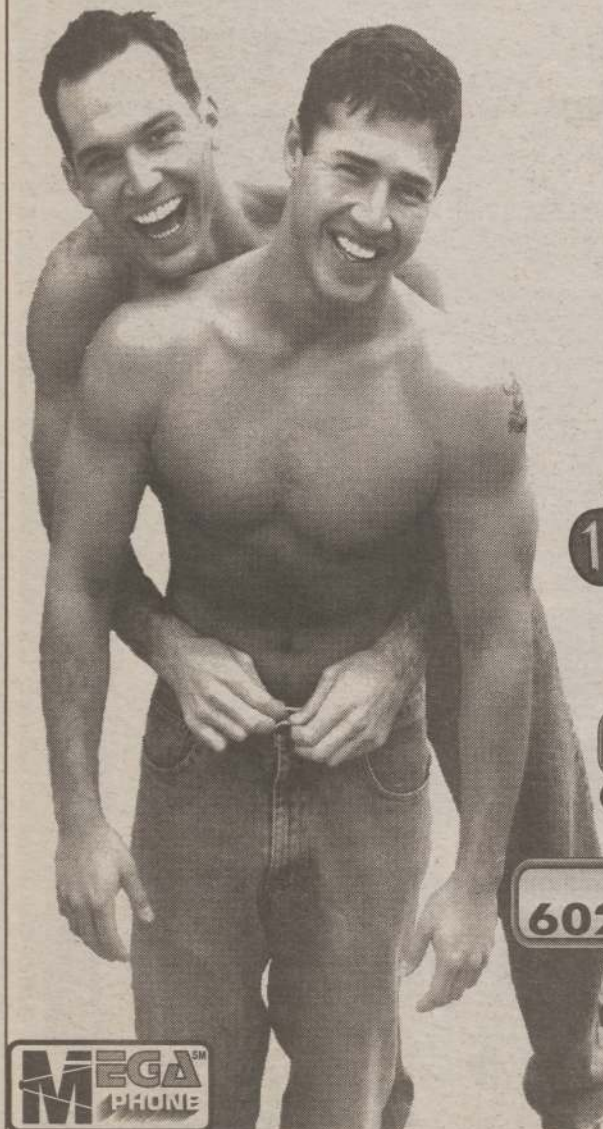
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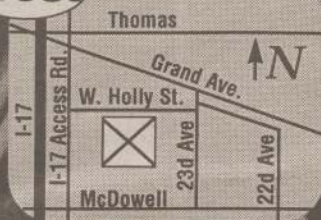
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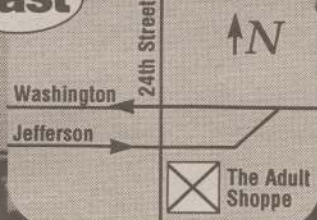


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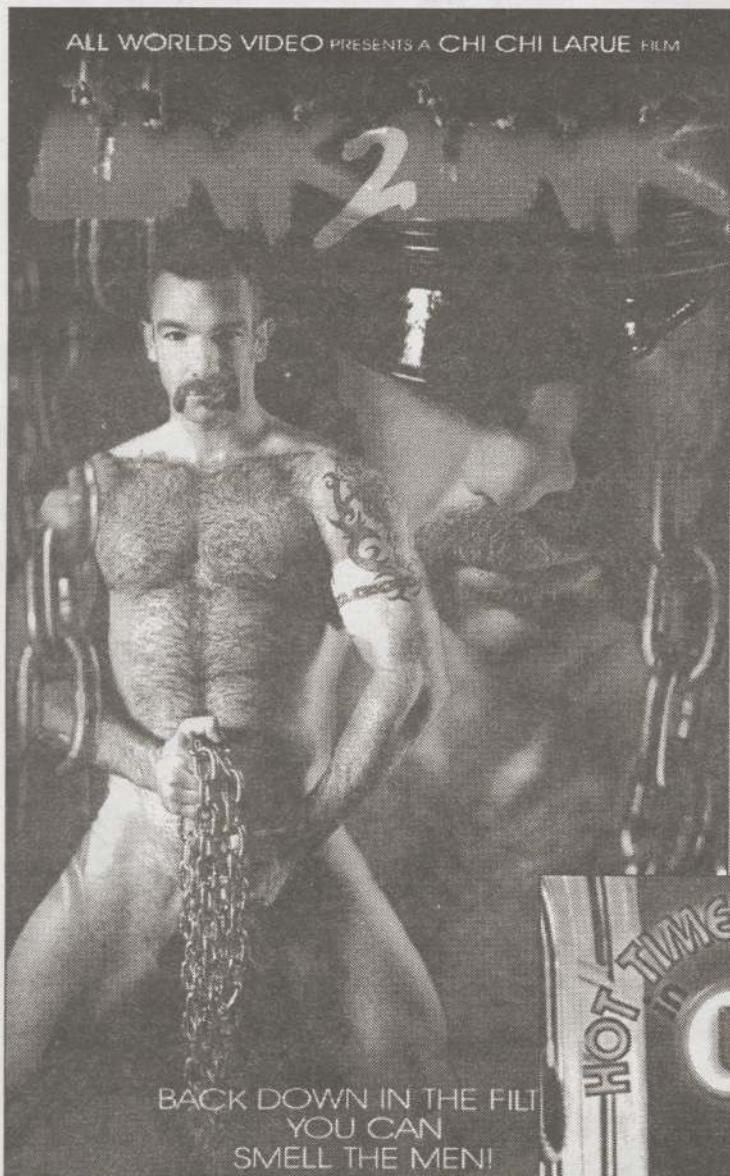
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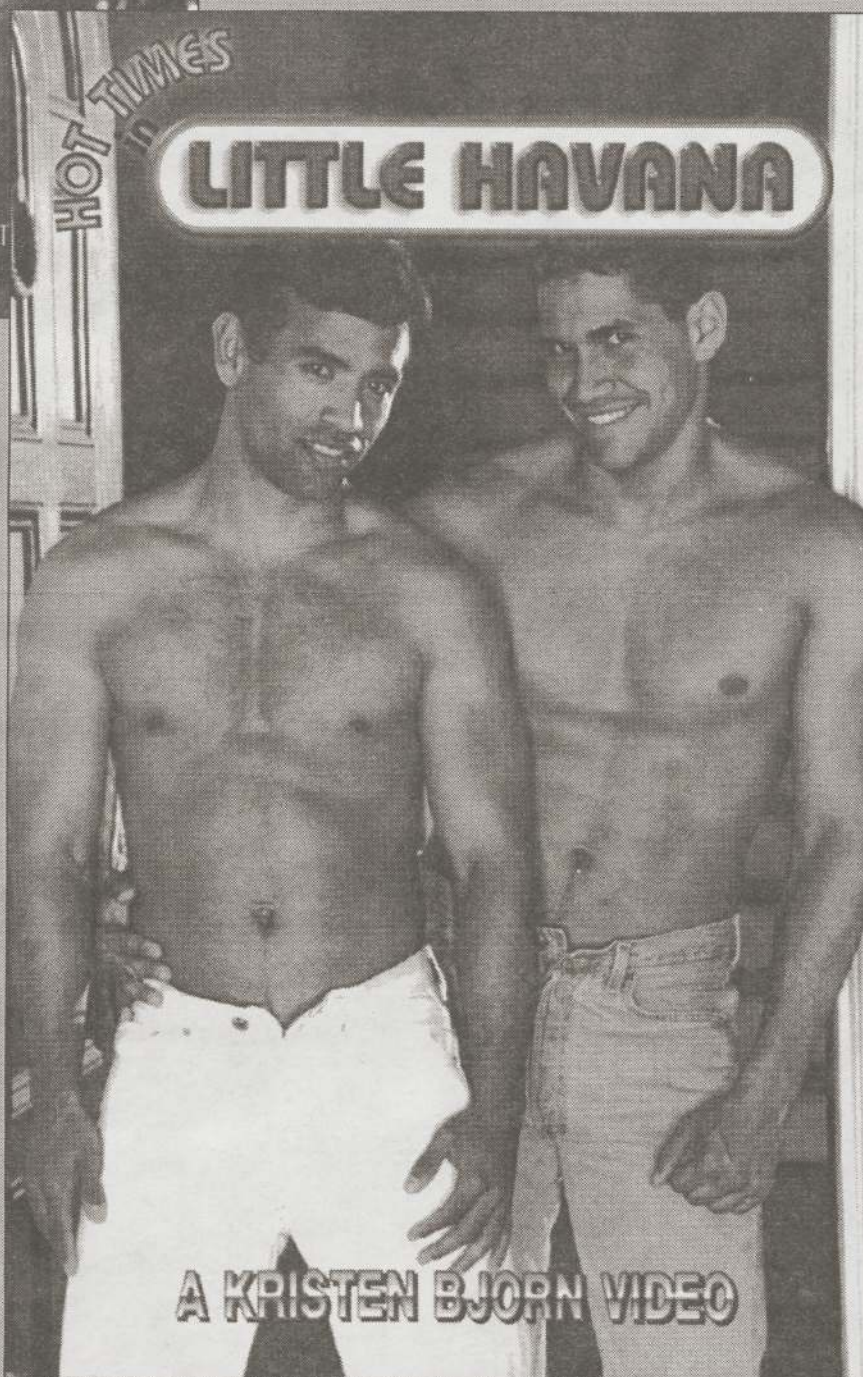
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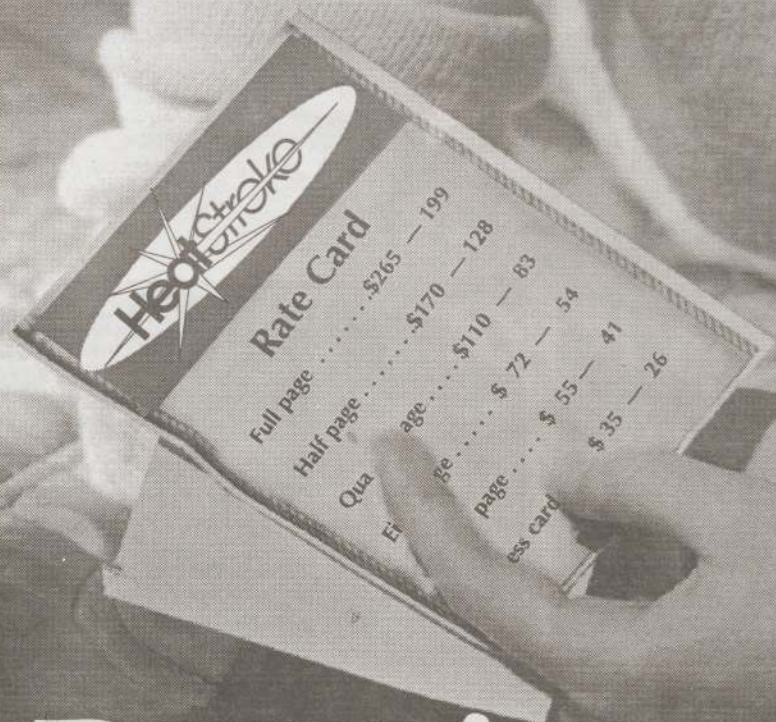
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