

ROB LOWE:

Bad Influence

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volume 6 • issue 5

phoenix resource

GUIDE

RESOURCE

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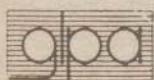
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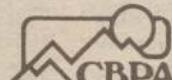
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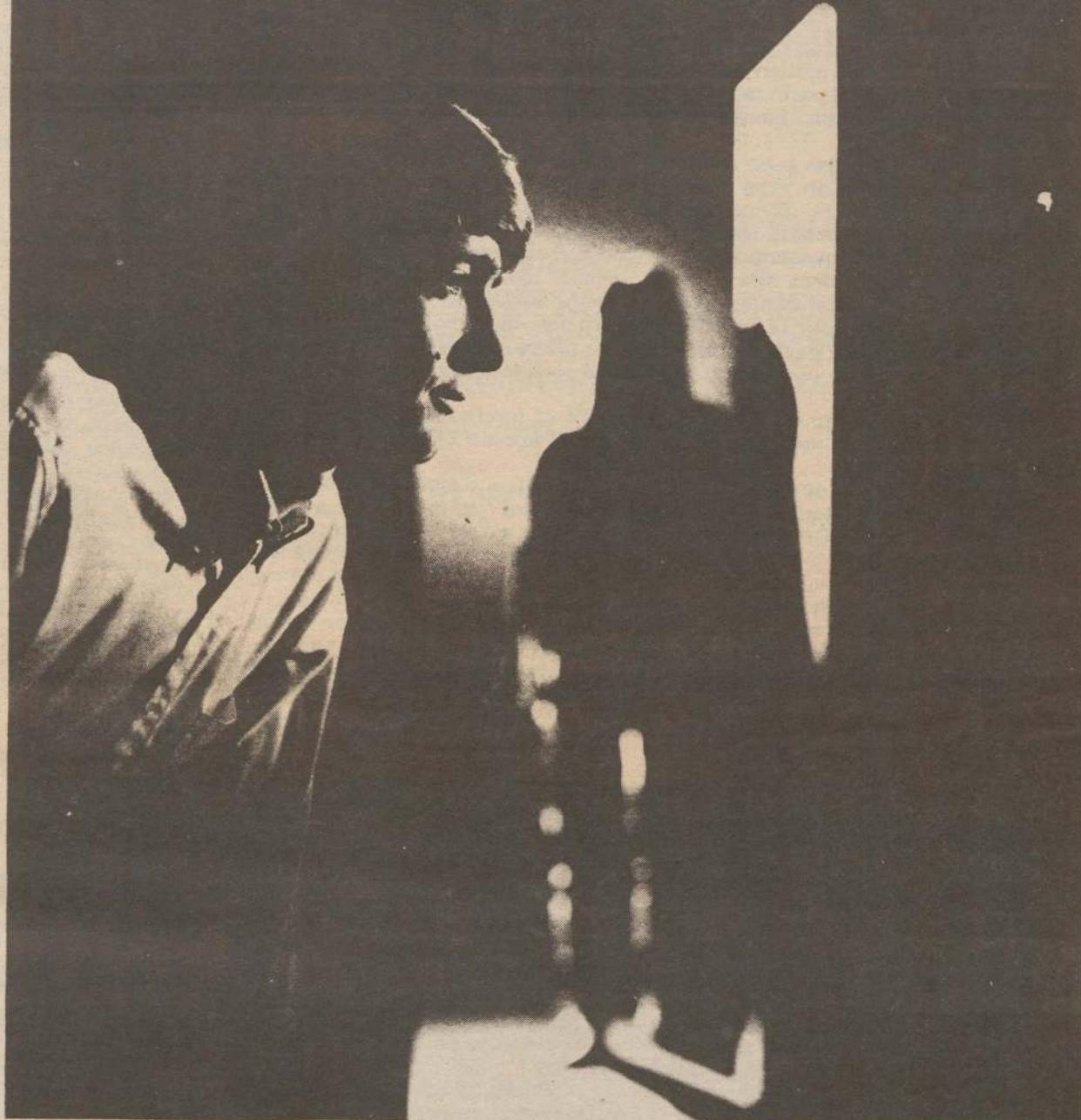


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Editorial

The 1990 Census and Us
Ivy Young

As you can see, 1990 ends in a zero. That means it's time for the decennial count, by the Census Bureau, of the entire U.S. population.

Ordinarily, the Census Bureau ritual would be of little or no consequence to the lesbian and gay community. But this year things are slightly different. Unlike past national counts, the 1990 census could have a direct impact on some of the issues affecting lesbians and gay men.

For the first time ever, the Census Bureau has added the category "unmarried partner" to the relationship section of the questionnaire. Expanding the selection choice beyond "roommate/partner" or "roomer/boarder," the new category is, according to some sources, the Bureau's attempt to get an accurate count of the number of heterosexual couples living together without "benefit of marriage."

By simple deduction, however, Census officials will also be able to determine the number of same-sex couples living together in committed relationships. That same-sex couples information will be published along with the statistics on heterosexual unmarried partners. For those of us working in the lesbian and gay families arena, that information could prove vital to the success of our efforts in the future.

The Census Bureau has been roundly criticized for its failure to alert affected groups that the question even exists, or, for that matter, what "unmarried partner" actually means. There has been no outreach effort, no community education, no discussion with lesbian and gay activists in particular, about how best to ensure that the question is understood and answered accurately.

The Census Bureau does not perceive, or more likely, does not care that for lesbian and gay couples answering the survey honestly involves more than a simple check off. The issue of government intrusion and privacy is a crucial one for many lesbians and gay men; yet, census officials have made no effort to counter the fear and apprehension that could lead to a serious undercount of same-sex couples.

Given the Census Bureau's negligence, lack of forethought, and apparent disregard of the lesbian and gay community, what are our options regarding the 1990 Census?

For some activists in our community, the answer is a simple one: boycott the 1990 Census. Their rationale is basically the criticism outlined above: a serious lack of outreach by the Census Bureau, coupled with a deep-seated concern over confidentiality, will lead to a gross undercount and a skewed statistical profile.

Unfortunately, this issue is more complex, and requires more than a simple solution. Whether we choose to answer or not, the question is on the survey. Statistics will be gathered, no matter what. Whether we choose to answer or not, we will be living with the results of the census for the next decade. Public and private industry programs are affected by census data; social and economic policy is guided by that same data; legislative agendas are set, initiatives launched, and priorities determined by the numbers gathered. If we choose to deliberately absent ourselves from this process, if we elect to "disappear," what advantage do we gain?

Some lesbian and gay activists have predicted that as few as ten percent of those couples affected by the "unmarried partner" question will respond honestly. But a recent poll conducted by the *Washington Blade* found that of the couples responding, 75% said they would answer the question truthfully. Granted, the *Blade* survey was conducted in a major metropolitan area with a history of gay visibility. Similar results may not emerge from some small town or hamlet; then again, they might.

Yes, there will be an undercount of gay and lesbian couples, just as there is with every other minority constituency in the United States. And, just as leaders in those communities have done following past national counts, we too will be able to offer cogent arguments about why the numbers are not accurate: Census Bureau insensitivity, fear about confidentiality, the chilling effect of the on-going climate of homophobia in the U.S., and so on.

Our responsibility now is to provide for our community what Census Bureau officials did not—information and education. Our community must be persuaded to put aside the fear of being exposed and answer the Census honestly. We have nothing to lose by being truthful.

The struggle to have our relationships and our families recognized and protected will assume much greater urgency in the decade to come. Accurate statistics gathered from the 1990 Census could provide us with a small but important weapon to help wage that struggle.

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New Compound
Fights HIV

WASHINGTON—Pharmaceutical companies may start increasing efforts to produce a new AIDS-fighting drug now that researchers have developed another possible weapon against the virus.

A synthetic compound has been shown in laboratory experiments to prevent reproduction of HIV in a way different than AZT, researchers said.

The compound, a synthetic peptide called U-81749, appears to block the final stage of a process the AIDS virus uses to reproduce itself in human cells. AZT, or zidovudine, attacks an earlier stage in the life cycle of the virus. "It [U-81749] drastically slows down and reduces the number of mature viral particles you get in an infection," said Leonard Post, director of infectious disease research for the Kalamazoo-based Upjohn Co., where the compound was developed.

"The major significance of the work is that we are now attacking another target in the HIV virus," said Dr. Bernard Moss, chief of the laboratory of viral diseases at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "There are only a limited number of targets in the virus and protease is one of them. A number of companies will be trying to develop such agents."

Moss said Smith-Kline Laboratories in Philadelphia has developed a similar compound.

Post said Upjohn's compound works by inhibiting the action of protease, an enzyme used by the virus to process proteins during the final stages of its reproduction. The result, he said, is that the virus cannot make mature copies of itself, and this prevents the spread of infection to other cells.

He emphasized that the compound has been used only in test tubes on cultured cells and that it will be years before such a compound will be ready for human tests.

Cleve Jones Steps
Down From
Names Project

SAN FRANCISCO—Cleve Jones, founder of the NAMES Project Foundation and originator of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, has announced his resignation as executive director. Although Jones is no longer responsible for the day-to-day operation of the NAMES Project, he will remain with the organization to take the lead on several projects, including the recently announced HIV Life Center, a building to house the Quilt and other HIV-related service organizations.

"The change signals our growth as an organization," said managing director David Lemos who now has been named active executive director. "Cleve and I have been quietly talking about this for the past several months, as plans for the building have moved steadily forward."

The HIV Life Center is being established in conjunction with Trinity Methodist Church to develop an HIV center that would house a wide variety of non-medical HIV services and also provide workshop, office and display space for the NAMES Project. The site is near the present Project location, at the corner of Market, Noe and 16th Streets, in San Francisco's Castro district. The new building is to be constructed on the lot where the Trinity Methodist Church once stood.

Healing Waters
Offers
Coffeehouse,
New Programs

PHOENIX—In response to needs expressed by the gay and lesbian community, Healing Waters Ministries is offering "The Coffeehouse."

The non-alcoholic, non-religious program is open to couples, singles and PLWAs; children of the participants are also welcome. A variety of programs will be available at the coffeehouse, including music, crafts, videos and dancing.

The coffeehouse, run solely by donation, will be held at 8pm on the second Friday of each month, beginning March 9.

"There is a need in the gay and lesbian community for a program such as this," says Rev. Jim Simpson, pastor of Healing Waters Ministries. "The Coffeehouse is an effort to bring the community together where social gathering can take place in a non-threatening environment."

"We also wanted to provide a service open to gays and lesbians with children. Very few social outlets are available where families can gather socially. This also provides a service to recovering alcoholics who can meet others in a non-bar setting."

As part of the church's new outreach to young people, Healing Waters will also offer children's programs during its regular Sunday morning worship service. Children's sermons will be given before the 11am service time, and families are welcome to participate.

The coffeehouse will be held in the social club space at the Adobe Gardens complex, which also houses Healing Waters Ministries, 555 E. Van Buren in Phoenix.

Desert States
Conference Set
For Vegas

LAS VEGAS—A six-state lesbian and gay conference will be held in the entertainment capital of the world on Mother's Day weekend, May 11-13, 1990. "Growing Together as Lesbians and Gays" will be the conference theme and individuals will learn and share information which can be taken back to their respective communities.

This year's event marks the sixth annual Desert and Mountain States Lesbian and Gay Conference. The conference site is rotated between Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and Nevada. The conference returns to Las Vegas for the first time since it was founded here in 1985. This year's conference will be held at the El Rancho Hotel and Casino.

Steven Tierney, PhD, an activist from Boston, Mass., and Urvashi Vaid, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will be the featured keynote speakers. Tierney was very effective in getting the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Law passed. Vaid, an attorney who is well known in national gay political circles, directed media operations for the civil disobedience action which was held in Washington DC. in October, 1987.

Workshops will be divided into five tracts, including: Health and Wellness; Politics and the Environment; Spirituality and Humanism; Female and Male Racism, and Oppression and

Privilege. Each of the six states will be bringing experts and community leaders to educate and inform individuals from surrounding states.

Registration cost for the event is \$55, and can be mailed to the Desert and Mountain States Lesbian and Gay Conference, P.O. Box 19360, Las Vegas, NV 89132-0360. Additional information can be obtained by calling local organizing committees or the Las Vegas committee at (702) 791-0083.

Gay Arab Group Forms

WASHINGTON—The Gay and Lesbian Arabic Society (GLAS) of the U.S.—the first such group in the world, including the Middle East—is looking for members and other people interested in gay Arab issues.

GLAS, formed in the nation's capital more than a year ago, currently has dozens of members around the country. The group is open to gays and lesbians of Arabic origin or descent, and their supporters. To accommodate increasing West Coast interest, GLAS has recently opened a San Francisco chapter.

"GLAS provides Arab men and women with a support network and a vehicle for gay Arab visibility," said Ramzi Zakharia, GLAS founder and co-leader. "We reach out to gay Arabs and build a group identity that, for the most part, does not exist."

Zakharia said GLAS sponsors numerous social events, including parties, cultural happenings, calendars and support groups. GLAS also provides AIDS education and outreach services, and has a newsletter that includes articles and information useful to Arabs around the world.

But perhaps most important, says Zakharia, is the work GLAS undertakes to dispel stereotypes about Arabs. "We advocate a positive image of Arabs in the gay and lesbian community," said Zakharia, a Palestinian born and raised in Lebanon. "We attempt to change negative stereotypes, such as the 'sultan' image, that some people have of us. We also educate the straight Arab community about gay and lesbian issues."

GLAS will participate in the Second Annual Arab AIDS Conference in Cairo this March. Most recently, GLAS has worked with "Al Jadwal," the newsletter of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, to publish information about fighting AIDS in the Arab community.

Topics of discussion at GLAS' regular meetings include coming out of the closet in the Arab world, developing relations with the Jewish community and lobbying other Arab organizations.

For more information on GLAS, write The Arabic Society, PO Box 4971, Washington, DC 20008.

No Such Thing As "Ex-Gay," Report Says

NEW ORLEANS—Church organizations who claim to be able to change homosexually oriented men and women, so called "Ex-Gay Ministries," are not effective and can actually do more harm than good, according to an article in *The Second Stone*, a national newspaper dealing with gay and lesbian issues in the church and society.

Alarmed by higher visibility of gays and lesbians, church leaders began forming ex-gay ministries soon after

Anita Bryant's campaign against gay rights in Miami. Though science tends more and more to show that sexuality is formed by causes lying beyond an individual's choice, "change" ministries are now more popular than ever. But Rev. Sylvia Pennington, author of *Ex-Gays: There Are None*, told *The Second Stone* that the changes ministries do not ultimately offer gay men and lesbians the desired result. Pennington was raised in the Assembly of God and worked in a change ministry before forming her present belief that sexuality is not a matter of choice—that gays can be beloved of God as much as anyone, and that people who think they can change their sexuality are doomed to disappointment.

Still, about 25 percent of the gay Christian population at any one time is so vexed by what has become for them a painful sexual dilemma that they seek help from a change ministry.

Letters...

To the Editor:

We've all heard rumors and horror stories about society's treatment of persons who are infected with HIV or have AIDS. Some of these are no doubt true, some are embellished with multiple re-telling, and some seem to have no basis in fact. An example was a recently published editorial in *Phoenix Resource* which stated as fact, "County Health Services farmed out this routine phone work (calling reported individuals at home) to the State Department of Health. Clerical workers call people with AIDS to ask how they're doing and whether they want or need assistance." The article also stated that confidentiality was breached to the individual answering the phone in a particular case.

There are multiple errors in this brief report. First, the county has delegated *nothing* of this sort back to the state. Second, no state clerical worker ever has access to names, much less been assigned to calling them. Only three individuals in all of ADHS are allowed to access to the list of names involving HIV. The call as described simply could not have originated from ADHS. Third, although all humans make mistakes, it is hard to believe that the trained and monitored investigators at the county level, who might have made a phone call, would have been as clumsy and inept with confidentiality as was described in the article.

The recently released data from the study of knowledge, attitudes and behavior in the gay community showed that the most often cited source of AIDS-related information was the gay media. We all need to be careful, especially the media, not to repeat misinformation, since that can seriously affect individuals' choices. Perhaps no one needs accurate information for decision making quite as much as an individual who is infected with HIV or is considering HIV antibody testing.

There are plenty of valid criticisms to direct toward government activities, and doing so is an important civic service. To mislead persons into needlessly delaying testing or treatment due to unwarranted fear is a tragic misapplication of that criticism.

Bob England, MD

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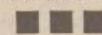
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Commentary



Dealing With "The Terminator"

Preston Gant

P

art of survival is ability to play political games. We, as members of the gay community, have a choice: live within the rules of our heterosexual counterparts, or perish.

One example is the dogmatic policies of medical insurance companies, churches, the majority of state governments and especially our employers that ignore alternative lifestyles as threads in the fabric of humankind.

Some fight to achieve parity with mainstream society. Usually the fight leaves careers, relationships and self esteem scattered around the remains of what was once a happy, goal-oriented individual.

Sometimes a member of our community falls prey to unsuspecting bigotry and finds no one's hand extended to prevent emotional destruction. In some cases, the absence of support includes those closest to us.

Some recover: I refer to these brave individuals as role models. They are few and far between, not due to the lack of good candidates but to erosion of experience. True role models aim for what life can be and are not afraid to face the challenge of being gay and of sharing the experience.

Recently, I met Dennis, a newer member of our community. After talking for four hours, he gave me permission to relate his story to you. It is a story of dreams and how ignorance vaporizes them. It also states how a member of the community survives the odds and becomes a role model.

One of Dennis' dreams is to help people. He applied for a job at a local nursing home about a year ago. After the interview, he was hired as the head of their Social Services Department and given the responsibility of coordinating the needs of all the patients.

In addition to beginning a new career, Dennis met his lover. Seemingly, everything was now in place; he was destined to be happy.

It was only after he confided in his supervisor that things went awry.

Back at work, Dennis was informed that the director of nursing had spread the word: the administrator knew. Shortly thereafter, he was accused of having an "attitude problem." Later, the owner of the nursing home arrived and presented a performance appraisal which cited Dennis for having made a "180 degree turnaround within the previous two weeks," which matched the time that he came out to the director of nursing.

After this, he was demoted from the director of social services to director of sales. Two days later, Dennis was fired. The only reason given was "misconduct."

Dennis informed the Department of Economic Security about what really

"I know for a fact that I was fired because I am gay. She was just trying to get rid of me any way she could."

happened, and they took the nursing home to court. Dennis' unemployment checks started to come in, but if the case was lost he would have to pay all the court costs and reimburse the state for all the benefits he received.

After almost three months, Dennis was cleared and could go on with his life. The judge agreed that Dennis was fired "without just cause." All through the court proceedings the issue of Dennis' being gay never surfaced. His attorney from Community Legal Aid agreed that his sexual preference was most likely the reason for termination; however, the point would be very difficult to prove.

"I know for a fact that I was fired because I am gay. She was just trying to get rid of me any way she could."

Today, Dennis is much happier. Instead of fulfilling his dream of being a social worker, he now works as a waiter. Throughout the battle he missed tests and due dates in his nursing classes, but he achieved a 3.5 grade average. He remains proud that he is gay and is honest about it.

"I spent too much time in the closet and I promised myself never to be there again. As a result, the positive aspects have far outweighed the negative. In addition, because I came out to all my friends and family, I was able to turn to them for support when times were bad. This experience has impressed upon me the importance of discretion, but it has not changed my mind about being out. Freedom has a high price, but it's worth it."

How many others, I wonder, have met lesser challenges in their lives and decided to end their misery once and for all? And how many others of us take the insults and don't utter a word if we are unjustly fired?

This story speaks to all of us caught between our lifestyle and daily existence. The question of who we trust and how we relate to society remains unanswered.

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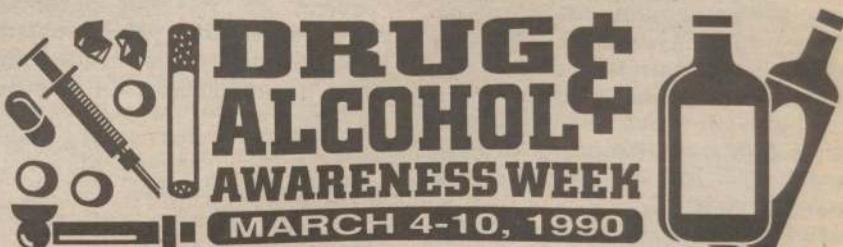


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ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT



Sexual Behavior Study Released

Bj Bud

The raw data of the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors (KAB) survey of gay and bisexual men in Arizona was released February 21, 1990. "A high knowledge level about HIV transmission and prevention is very widespread among gay and bisexual men in Maricopa County, and an apparent support of safer sexual behaviors among men who have sex with men," according to Bob England, MD, Medical Epidemiologist for the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).

The gay and bisexual men in this study already have sufficient theoretical knowledge about HIV transmission to effect the changes in their behavior necessary to protect themselves and others from HIV," according to Dr. England. He suggested that "future educational efforts, therefore, should be directed at teaching individuals how to put that knowledge into practice. In particular, educational campaigns are needed that will encourage men to believe that they are at risk for AIDS and that they have the ability to reduce that risk. These campaigns are likely to be most successful if they are presented through the media, especially the gay media."

The KAB survey is the first of its kind in Arizona and one of only a handful that have been conducted in gay communities throughout the U.S. The study was commissioned by ADHS using funds from the Federal HIV Prevention Grant, and was conducted by the ASU Department of Sociology. W. Shepard Wolf Jr. was the principal investigator.

The self-administered questionnaire, which contained 67 questions, was distributed through gay organizations, events, nightclubs, and doctors' offices. Of the 1,850 questionnaires distributed, 533 were returned, for a response rate of 29%. 512 questionnaires were analyzed.

According to Dr. England, the results may be skewed due to the method of distribution. Although the majority of questionnaires were distributed through organizations, bars, and the gay rodeo, the research lab chose two other avenues to collect data: AIDS organizations and support groups, and physicians with AIDS patients. Because these two groups serve a high percentage of people who are HIV positive or have full-blown AIDS, the results may not reflect the behaviors of the general gay population.

Eighty-six percent of respondents attended some college and 51% earn between \$20,000-\$50,000. Ninety percent were white, non-hispanic; Eighty percent

"The data suggests that there is still a gap between knowledge of HIV transmission and actual behavior change..."

consider themselves gay. The most common health problem reported was rectal bleeding (7.6%), followed by warts (5.9%) and herpes (2.7%). Seventy-seven percent responded that they have not had any sexually related health problems.

Regarding illegal drug use: 37.5% use poppers; 36.3% use marijuana; 19.3% use cocaine; 14.1% use some form of crystal/methedrine; 2% admitted to injecting heroin. 84.2% use alcohol.

Almost half (43%) of the respondents met their sex partners frequently or sometime in gay bars. The least frequent methods of meeting sex partners included hitchhiking (.4%), phone lines (.6%), through ads (.8%), at a bathhouse (1.6%), at a public restroom (1.8%), at meetings (2.1%), at work (2.1%), at a park (2.9%), and at a bookstore (3.3%).

Nearly all the respondents know that receiving anal intercourse without a condom (98%) and sharing needles with someone who is HIV-infected (99%) are modes of transmission of the AIDS virus. In addition, almost all of the respondents (98%) know that they can become infected with HIV from unsafe sexual contact with someone who seems healthy.

The data suggests that there is still a gap between knowledge of HIV transmission and actual behavior change. Although 77% agree with the statement that they 'would have sex only with someone who is willing to have safer sex,' and 99% believe that 'using condoms can reduce the chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus,' actual reported condom usage is lower than these percentages might suggest," stated Dr. England. Only 67% of respondents indicated that they either do not engage in anal intercourse or always use condoms during anal intercourse.

The information regarding free, anonymous testing availability through the Maricopa County Health Department (MCHD) is apparently not getting to the gay and bisexual men. Only 37% knew that they could get a test in Arizona without having their name reported.

Dr. Steve Englander, assistant director of the ADHS division of Disease Prevention Services, said, "This survey shows that a majority of the survey group is taking action to lower their personal risk of becoming infected or infecting their partners with HIV. However, as recognized by the recent Governor's Task Force on AIDS report, AIDS prevention efforts must be expanded in partnership with community organizations and local health departments to assure that this positive trend continues."

One of the intents of the survey was to discover if gay and bisexual men consider safer sex a practical option. The results are promising. Sixty-eight percent believe that most of their friends use safer sex and only 9% believe that they will be rejected if they propose safe sex. The down side is that almost 30% feel uncomfortable talking about having safer sex with someone before having sex with them for the first time.

—cont. on next page



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Sex Survey

cont. from previous page

During the last six months, 24 people surveyed reported no sexual partners and four people reported over 99. The average number of sexual partners was seven, but 155 people (28%) reported only one sexual partner. Eighty percent reported six or fewer sexual partners during the last six months. Oral sex and mutual masturbation were the most commonly reported behaviors. "Fisting," sex with IV drug users and sex for drugs or money were the least commonly reported behaviors.

"Among infected persons, those who actually have AIDS have fewer partners than those who are only HIV positive. Those who have AIDS are less likely to give anal sex, but equally likely to use condoms if they do," Dr. England noted. "Those who believe safe sex is practical are significantly less likely to engage in unprotected anal sex (insertive and receptive) and more likely to discuss safer sex with new partners."

The last survey question asked for other concerns, questions, comments or suggestions about how ADHS can better serve the needs of the gay community in the Phoenix area. The comments included requests for anonymous testing, surveillance, legislature, medical information, AZT, education condoms and gay counseling in general.

Likewise, there were requests for increasing AIDS education budgets. Many respondents requested programs to help pay for AZT and pentamidine; others suggested offering very explicit safe-sex workshops to all high risk groups. Only one respondent suggested that AIDS is an artificially created illness which was created in a lab, and that the government has the cure.

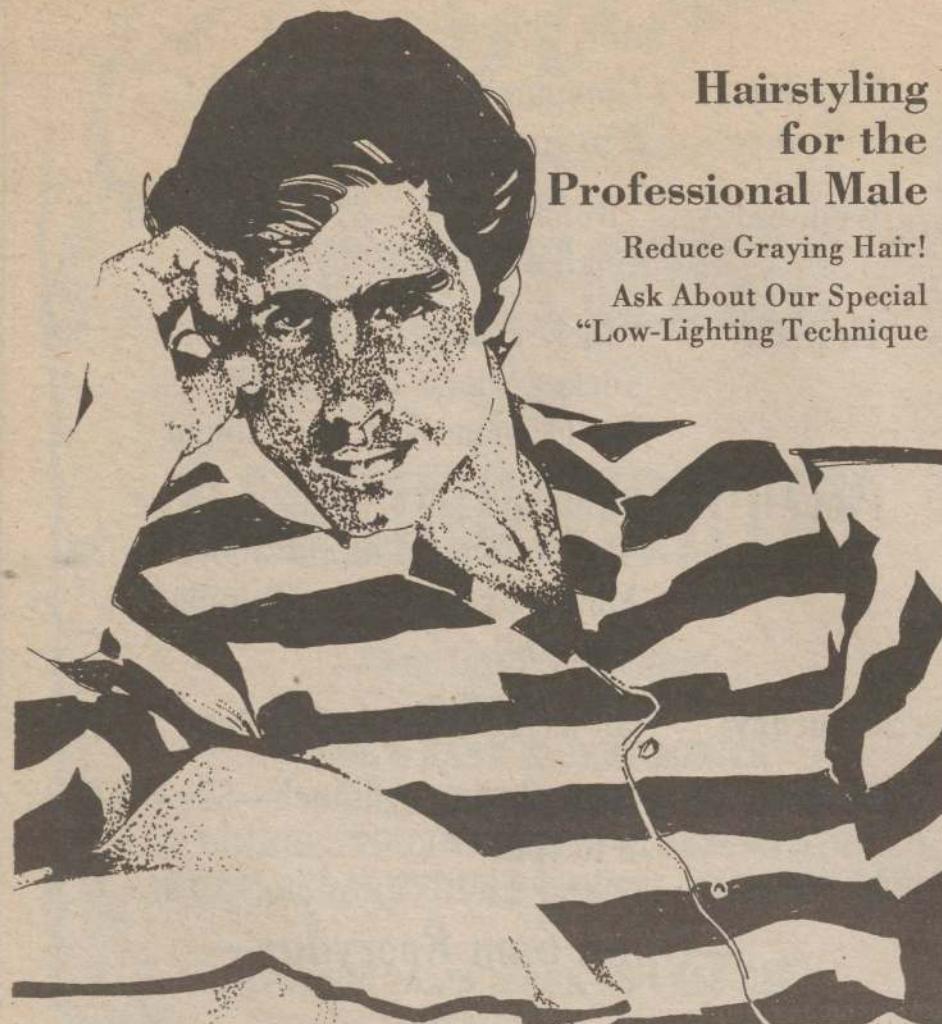
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Book Review

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Meg Umans

Tears In the Lion's Heart

Margaret O'Connor, author. Phoenix, AZ: Po Kuan Press, ©1988. 292 pages paperbound. \$7.95.

Tears in the Lion's Heart is Margaret O'Connor's first novel, self-published by a woman who had the courage to do her dream. Self-publishing insures control and provides freedom, and in this case resulted in a book that shows strong individuality combined with the potential for wide appeal to O'Connor's selected market. Her promotion targets the gay and lesbian community, with emphasis on the lesbian segment, and nods to feminists, liberals and anyone else who may be intrigued.

If you enjoy fictional-format self-discovery, you'll be intrigued, and you'll quickly get past the factors that weaken this book's impact as a novel. It's hard to read as a novel, for several reasons that need to be acknowledged before they can be dismissed. The characters' self-discovery rides on vehicles of implausible premises supported by unlikely details—but once you've accepted the premises, and you will, you'll fit the supporting details into place. All characters are developed just about equally, and they're all done strongly and well and purposefully enough to give the impression of a case history of a group. You may find part of yourself in the process of each character's development, and you may try to split yourself into enough fragments to follow everyone's thoughts and feelings and find yourself distracted by their actions. The story fails to tie characters together in a meaningful plot, but it certainly does cast a wide net as a story.

On Crescent Island, between California and Hawaii, the majority of the population is homosexual, and people believe that this is the way of the world. Their government, institutions, social structures and interactions follow, unknown to them, the patterns of contemporary American society, with the differences required by a homosexual majority. Heterosexuals are called "gay" and many aspects of contemporary gay-straight relationships are played out in reverse. We meet the despised homosexual owner of the island's only "gay" bar, the God-spouting lesbian militant who attempts to libel him, the normal happily-married (heterosexuals aren't allowed to marry each other) gay-trashers, the folks realizing they're gay, their friends and their enemies.

This part of the story ends with a deus ex machina— foreshadowed, but still a contrivance. In Part Two, we meet the same people in a different self-contained setting, and follow them through their continuing interaction and discovery. Here, society is the way we know it, some people have changed sexual orientation and some haven't, and we get another chance to know them and ourselves differently.

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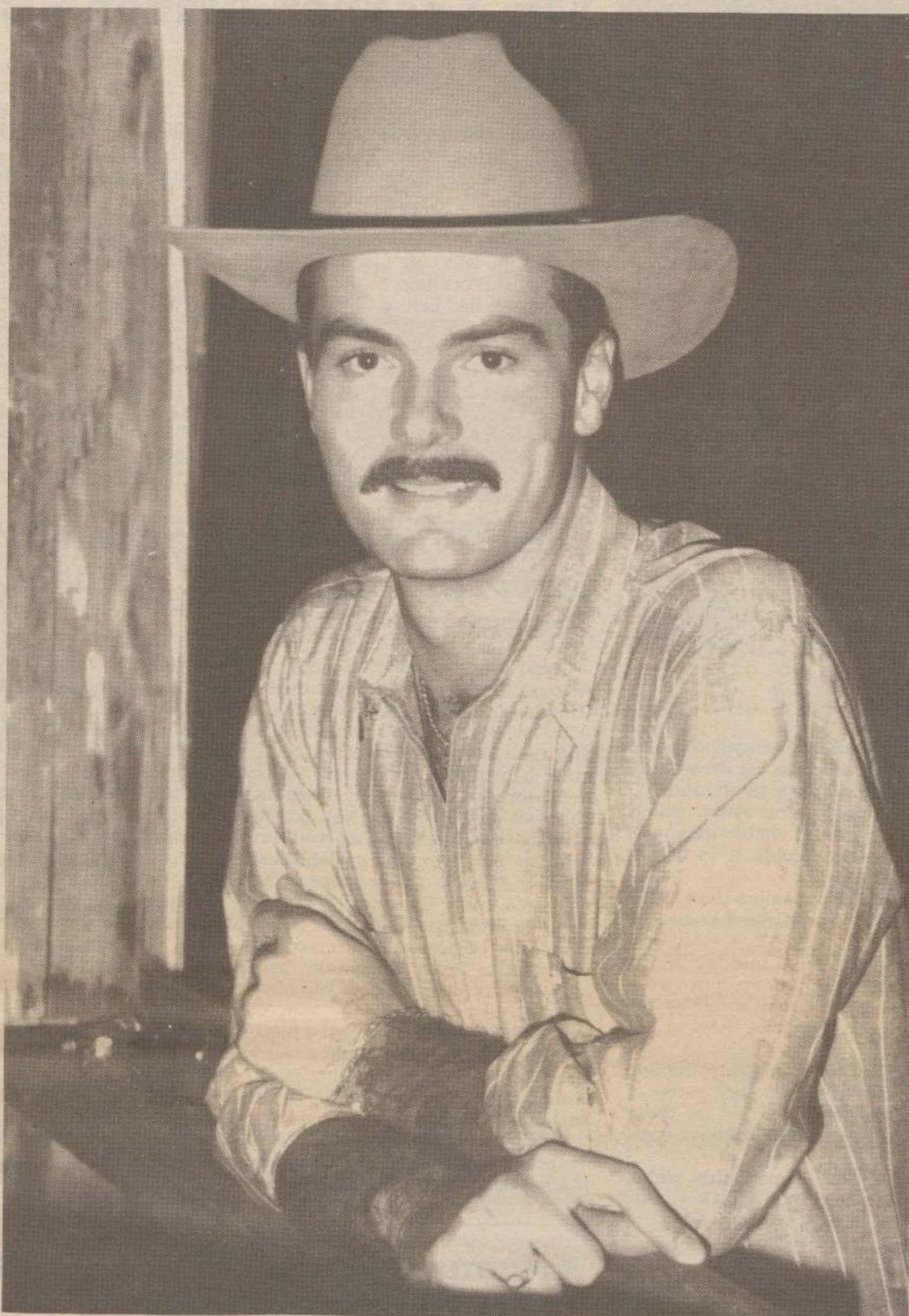
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Dino, Mr. Charlie's 1989 winner.

Photo: Gary Shiffman

Mr. Charlie's Redux

"The Men of Charlie's"—formerly a weekly contest held at the bar of the same name—will now be presented monthly, according to bar manager Max.

"We've been doing this contest for several years now," Max says, "and it's getting harder to come up with enough contestants each week. So we've decided to just hold the contest on the final Friday of each month."

The contest is an ongoing fundraiser for the Lesbian and Gay Community Switchboard, with each of the contestant's monetary votes being donated to that organization each month. Photographs of each of the monthly winners are featured on the bar's annual "Men of Charlie's" calendar.

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Mr. Leather Arizona Contest This Month

Rick Conder

The Mr. Leather/Arizona 1990 contest will be held this weekend at local leather bar the Bum Steer. This year, in an attempt to create greater community outreach, some changes have been made to the traditional proceedings. "The Mr. Leather/Arizona title not only represents the leather community, but also the entire gay community," says a spokesperson for the event.

Beginning at 10pm on Friday, March 2, a group presentation of the men vying for the title will take place at Trax, where each contestant will draw a number for their official position in the contest. Trax will also conduct a "popular vote" which will involve dedicating the income of each contestant to their preferred charity.

Saturday, the festivities begin with a special VIP reception (by invitation only) at 6:30pm at the Bum Steer. Tuff Stuff Leatherwear is the official sponsor for Mr. Leather/Arizona and Tuff Stuff owner Dale McKissack will act as the executive producer of the event.

Mr. Drummer 1989-90 Brian Dawson and erotic artist Cirby will be in attendance at the event; entertainment will also feature special fantasy segments by members of our community and visiting dignitaries.

Oscar Wilde's Classic Comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, To Be Presented By ATC

Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, is slated to be Arizona Theatre Company's third production of the 1989-90, directed by Gary Gisselman, ATC's artistic director.

Set in 1897, Wilde's comedy lampoons the social mores of his contemporaries and their solemnity of behavior in regard to what are truly trivial matters. "Not quite a hundred years later," says Gisselman, "we still see the same types of behavior. We agonize over which shoes are best for cross training or which gourmet coffee to buy. Not exactly crucial matters. That's what makes Wilde's comedy timeless, and that continuing relevancy is the sign of well written satire."

In the play two young, dandified and witty men lead double lives. Jack (John Worthing) leads a very proper life in the country and goes to the city to sow his wild oats under the name of Earnest. Algernon, who believes his friend's name to actually be Earnest, decides to adopt the name and do the same in the country when his curiosity is aroused by Jack's cigarette case, which bears an odd inscription: "From little Cecily, with her fondest love to her Uncle Jack." Jack falls in love with Algernon's cousin, Gwendolen, and Algernon falls in love with Jack's ward, Cecily.

Both ladies believe that the men they are in love with are truly named Earnest and declare that they could never love anyone named differently. Add a snobbish society aunt and a bumbling governess, courted by a pedantic reverend, and the comedy becomes embroiled in mistaken identities, misplaced babies and the solving of mysteries.

The play opens Saturday, March 3, and will continue through March 17. Tickets start at \$12, and may be purchased through the Herberger Theater Center Box Office at 222 East Monroe, or by calling 252-8497.

Arizona Opera Presents Donizetti's *Lucia Di Lammermoor*

The Arizona Opera Company will present Donizetti's famous melodic opera *Lucia di Lammermoor* March 22, 24 and 25 at Phoenix Symphony Hall.

Evening performances begin promptly at 7:30pm, and the March 25 performance will be at 2pm. The opera will be sung in Italian with English surtitles.

The opera is based on the novel *The Bride of Lammermoor* by Sir Walter Scott. It premiered in Naples, Italy, in 1835.

Last presented in Arizona in 1984, the opera is a beautiful fantasy about the misfortunes of a Scottish girl who goes mad when forced to marry against her will. The work is most famous for its sextet in Act II, the soprano "mad scene" in Act III and the tenor's finale; all of which are replete with memorable melodies and the driving emotions of unrequited love.

Single tickets for *Lucia di Lammermoor* are available at Phoenix Civic Plaza Box Office and all Dillard's Box Offices.

Singles Meet The Stars of *Lucia Di Lammermoor*

The Arizona Opera Company will host a Singles Meet the Stars party at McKenna's, 100 W. Clarendon (at Central Ave.) on Sunday, March 25 immediately following the opera *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Lucia di Lammermoor is a beautiful operatic fantasy about the misfortunes of a Scottish girl who goes mad when forced to marry against her will.

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10. Refreshments and a no host bar will be provided, and no reservations are required.

Tickets for the opera are on sale now at the Phoenix Civic Plaza Box Office and all Dillard's Box Offices. For further information: 254-1664.



Coming Soon...

March 9

Bad Influence

Michael Boll (James Spader) is a successful marketing analyst, engaged to the perfect blonde, climbing the corporate ladder with great promise, he lives in the ultimate Los Angeles apartment where state-of-the-art electronic toys abound.

Alex (Rob Lowe) is a handsome drifter who plays life only by his rules, which basically means no rules at all. He has no ties to anyone, no visible means of support, and no morals. He grabs life with two fists and molds it to fit his passions. He's charming, he's sly, he's unpredictable.

Michael will find Alex irresistible and it's an attraction of opposites that, while exciting, could prove fatal. Alex is the kind of guy someone like Michael knows he should stay away from—someone who is a bad influence.

When success seems too high a price to pay, Michael takes a midday break, leaving his briefcase behind but taking an anxiety attack with him. Pressure from his fiance about their wedding plans and a missing report, either eaten by the computer or mysteriously waylaid by his corporate nemesis, cause Michael to bolt for his BMW and the serenity of the beach.

Enter Alex. He meets Michael in the oceanside bar and buys his introduction by preventing a brawl. An innocent enough gesture—or so it seems. Alex is one of those guys who can immediately sense your vulnerabilities and feed on them until there's nothing left. Michael is feeling insecure and ambivalent about most aspects of his life—tantalizing qualities for Michael.

A fast drink and Michael is out of there, unfortunately leaving his wallet behind. When he returns to retrieve it, he meets Alex and the "E-ticket" ride begins.

Actor's Theatre to Present *A Shayna Maidel*

Actors Theatre of Phoenix (ATOP) will produce *A Shayna Maidel* as the fourth show of its 1989-90 season.

A Shayna Maidel is the story of a Polish-Jewish family reunited in New York City after World War II. The main character, Lusia (Judy Lebeau), is a young woman who has survived the horrors of the concentration camps and now must learn to accept all that a new world has to offer. It is the story of everyday people who become heroes by relying on the Jewish values of family life and who draw from their own traditions the courage to go on living. Although the memory of the Holocaust hovers throughout, the play is really about new beginnings and renewed hope. The play's title literally translates from the Yiddish as "a pretty girl," but in Yiddish it conveys the expression of love, hope and inner beauty.

Actors Theatre of Phoenix has substantially involved the Jewish community in its production of the play. The director, Dr. Glorianne Engel, a professor of theater at ASU, and three of the six cast members (Judy Lebeau, Lisa Fineberg and Joan Entz) are Jewish. Special audition notices were sent throughout the Jewish community to ensure that Jews would have an opportunity to participate. "It's important that Jews continue to tell their own history," said ATOP managing director Doris D. Greene.

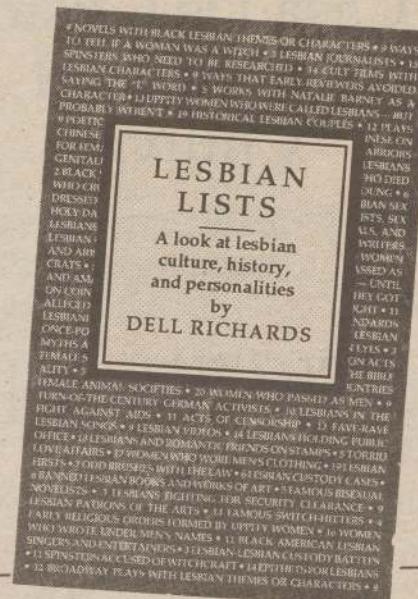
The play's appeal, however, is in no way limited to the Jewish community. "This show will appeal to everyone," said Mollie Lakin-Hayes, audience development manager at the Herberger Theater Center. "It's bound to be popular because it's such a strong play about family," she said. In fact, it was an enormous hit when it played off-Broadway to general audiences. At that time, *The Wall Street Journal* called it "a beautifully crafted play," and *The Jewish Journal* said it was "a work that touches our hearts and enrages our soul."

A Shayna Maidel will play in Stage West at the Herberger Theater Center from March 8 through 18. Tickets are \$12.50 to \$14.50, with discounts available for groups of twenty or more. For more information: 279-6790. For tickets: 252-8497.

Listomania

There are apparently enough interesting facts about homosexuals and homosexuality to warrant a couple of volumes compiling same. Dell Richards, author of the just-published *Lesbian Lists*, seems to think so. Likewise Leigh Rutledge, whose *Book of Gay Lists* preceded Richards' by about two years. Richards acknowledges Rutledge in her introduction for inspiring the format; we'll take it a step further and tip a cap to the Medveds and Benjamin Franklin.

Now we'll have to find another literary subgenre to rip off.



Twelve of the Most Important Works of Lesbian Fiction Written Before 1984

1. RADCLYFFE HALL, *The Well of Loneliness*, 1928
2. DJUNA BARNES, *Nightwood*, 1937
3. CLAIRE MORGAN, *The Price of Salt*, 1952.
4. JANE RULE, *The Desert of the Heart*, 1964
5. ISABEL MILLER, *Patience and Sarah*, 1971
6. RITA MAE BROWN, *Rubyfruit Jungle*, 1973
7. MONIQUE WITTIG, *The Lesbian Body*, 1975
8. ELANA DYKEWOMON NACHMAN, *Riverfinger Women*, 1974
9. JUNE ARNOLD, *Sister Girl*, 1975
10. BERTHA HARRIS, *Lovers*, 1976
11. SALLY GEARHART, *The Wanderground*, 1978
12. AUDRE LORDE, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*, 1983

One Lesbian Who Wrote a Kiss-and-Tell Book—And The Seven Women She Blabbed About

In her 1960 autobiography, *Here Lies the Heart*, Mercedes de Acosta claimed to have been intimate with the following women—among others:

1. ISADORA DUNCAN, pioneer of modern dance
2. MARLENE DIETRICH, movie star
3. ALICE B. TOKLAS, Gertrude's honey
4. MARIE LAURENCIN, French painter
5. EVA LE GALLIENNE, Broadway actress
6. MALVINA HOFFMAN, American sculptor
7. GRETA GARBO, one of the screen's greatest beauties

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2. AMAZON ABC, by Alix Dobkin
3. IMAGINE MY SURPRISE, by Holly Near
4. SWEET WOMAN, by Cris Williamson
5. ODE TO A GYM TEACHER, by Meg Christian
6. SURPRISE (I'M A LESBIAN), by Paula Walowitz
7. ROSALIE, by Bonnie Hayes, performed by Teresa Trull

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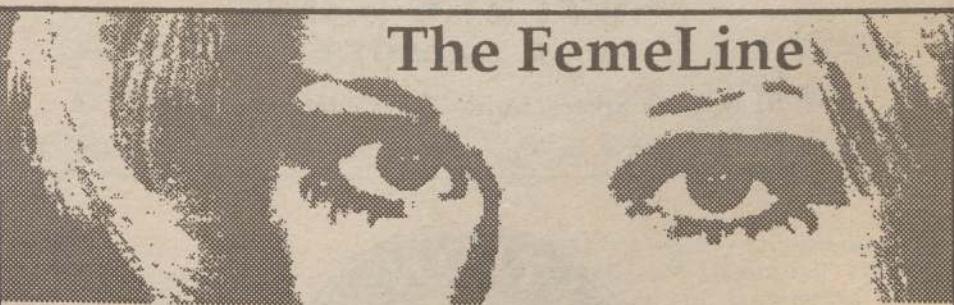
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Friday: "SOB Night"—South of the Border
Specials, 8pm to Midnight

Saturday: "Screw Yourself" Night—Screws and
Other Drinks \$1

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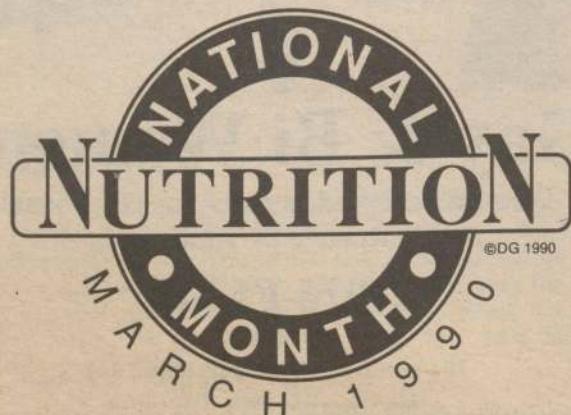
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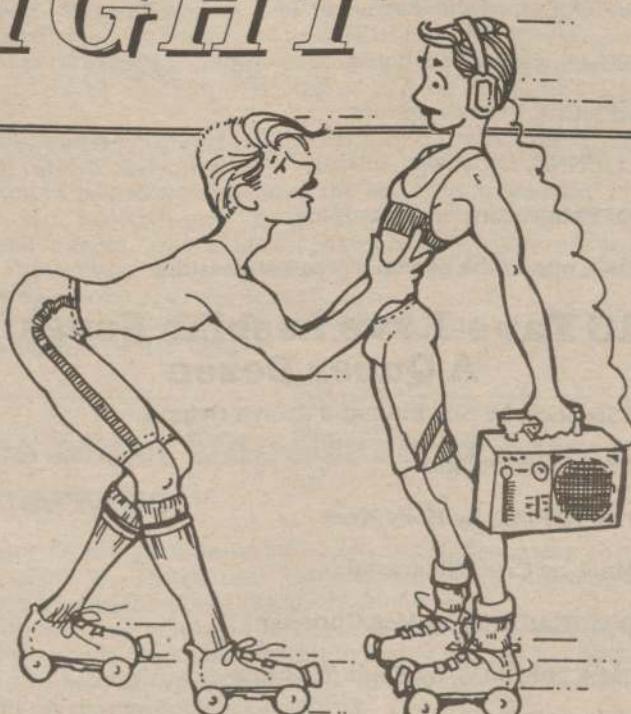
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Listomania

cont. from page 11

8. WOMANLY WAY, by Linda Tillary
9. OLDER WOMEN, by Lynn Lavner
10. MADEMOISELLE, by Lucie Blue Tremblay
11. SISTERSHIP, by Faith Nolan
12. WOMAN-LOVING WOMEN, by Teresa Trull
13. THE LESBIAN POWER AUTHORITY, by Alix Dobkin

Ten Questions Most Commonly Asked Of Lesbians—And The Answers You'll Never Hear

1. *What, exactly, do two women do together?* (Usually asked by a woman.)
A: It takes too long to explain. A lesbian quickie last hours. We lay there and discuss politics until we figure it out. But if you like I'll show you. How about this evening at six?
2. *Which one of you is the man?* (Usually asked by a man.)
A: We're lesbian, not confused. Look it up!
3. *What do your parents think about it?*
A: They weren't exactly tickled lavender.
4. *Do you face any discrimination because you're—"that way"?*
A: None. The lesbian movement is a bodily function that involves the expulsion of our reproductive organs.
5. *Why are you a lesbian?*
A: Let me show you a picture of my girlfriend.
6. *Did anything in your childhood affect your "choice"?*
A: Definitely. There was this cute little redhead in my nursery school that I used to take naps with....
7. *Why do you have to tell everyone?*
A: I have a P.C. quota to meet.
8. *Is one of you "butch" and the other "femme"?*
A: Yes, but we trade off every time we roll over.
9. *Do you plan to have children?*
A: We're trying! (Wink-wink, nudge-nudge, know what I mean, know what I mean!)
10. *But wouldn't you want your children to be straight?*
A: And miss this opportunity to be interrogated by the next generation of psych majors?

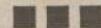
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15. SITTING ON YOUR FEET (1910s)
16. SURGERY ON THE ADRENAL GLAND (1930s)
17. HORMONES (1930s)
18. ANALYSIS (1920s through 1970s)
19. ISOLATION OR CONFINEMENT TO MENTAL HOSPITAL (1920s through 1970s)

Six Countries With The Harshest Penalties Against Lesbianism

1. CUBA: Maximum 20 years imprisonment. In addition, parents are supposed to report any homosexual activity on the part of their children to the authorities.
2. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: 20 years imprisonment.
3. PAKISTAN: 100 lashes— from which people have died.
4. LIBYA: Islamic law punishes homosexual acts by "throwing the performer of those acts down from the highest level."
5. IRAN: Death.
6. SAUDI ARABIA: Death.

Nuvo Lesbiana



New Kinsey Study of Lesbian Sex Behaviors Looks at Coming Out Process, Increased Lesbian HIV Risk

Jorjet Harper

In a soon-to-be published Kinsey Institute study of lesbian sex patterns, 262 women who chose the self-orientation label of "lesbian," "homosexual," or "gay" were questioned in detail about their sexual practices and sexual histories.

Results of the new study show that seven out of ten of the women who currently refer to themselves as lesbians had used a different label earlier in life: 59 percent of lesbians in the sample had labeled themselves as "heterosexual" at some time since the age of 18; 13 percent had labeled themselves as "bisexual" at some time since age 18. Only 28 percent had labeled themselves "lesbian" during their entire adult lives. Twenty percent of all the women in the sample had been married at least once.

"Clearly there's the coming out process," said Mary Ziemba-Davis, a Kinsey Institute researcher who, along with June Reinesch and Stephanie Sanders, conducted the study. "Most gays and lesbians, particularly because of socialization in American society, will start out identifying as heterosexual only to come at some point later to a realization that the label 'gay' is more appropriate for their lifestyle."

According to the study, the number of lesbians who have slept with men at some time in their adult lives is about three out of four. This figure is roughly equal to the number of gay men who, according to other studies, have slept with women. Data culled from several studies, published in the November 1988 issue of *American Psychologist*, show that from 62 to 79 percent of self-identified gay men have had heterosexual intercourse some time in their adult lives, and 15 to 26 percent of self-identified gay men had been married.

Forty-six percent—almost half—of lesbians in the new Kinsey study reported having sex with men since 1980. Of those, one third reported having sex with male partners they "knew or suspected of having at least one homosexual experience since adulthood."

Ziemba-Davis emphasizes that there is a difference between self-labeling and actual behaviors. "We're confident that the women who participated in our study are lesbians, that they consider themselves lesbians, and that's very valid," said Ziemba-Davis. "The point is that labels aren't completely accurate, particularly if you want to say anything meaningful about actual behavioral patterns. You can't just ask someone, 'Are you gay or straight?' and then assume you know everything there is to know about their sexual behavior patterns—particularly potential HIV risk factors—based on those labels."

If, as the study indicates, a significant number of lesbians are having sex with men—including high risk sex with gay men—HIV status among lesbians is likely to be affected.

"Lesbians sleeping with men is the biggest way, along with IV needle exchange, that AIDS is going to come into the lesbian community," says lesbian sex therapist JoAnne Loulan, author of *Lesbian Sex and Lesbian Passion*.

"It's easier for lesbians to sleep with gay men than straight men," Loulan says. "They don't hassle you, it's playing around, nobody thinks they're going to get attached to anybody particularly, it's easier to have recreational sex with a man—and if you can do it with a gay man, how simple. We have such tremendous denial about HIV in our community. Lesbians think that they can't get AIDS because they're lesbians."

Only four percent of the lesbians who reported penile/vaginal intercourse with exclusively heterosexual men in the Kinsey study said they used condoms "at least some of the time" while 61 percent (23 out of 38 individuals) of those who had penile/vaginal intercourse with "Behaviorally bisexual" partners used condoms. Roughly the same proportion of each group—76 percent of those with heterosexual partners and 79 percent with bisexual partners—were reported unprotected intravaginal ejaculation.

The study also found that women who slept with men they knew or suspected of gay experiences were more likely to engage in anal intercourse, the highest risk factor for HIV sexual transmission. Lesbians reported that in over half the cases in which they engaged in penile/anal intercourse with men, no condom was used.

The Kinsey study was conducted in 1987 at an annually held women's event which attracts 5,000 to 7,000 women. It will be published as a paper called "Self-Labeled Sexual Orientation, Sexual Behavior, and Knowledge About AIDS: Implication for Biomedical Research and Education Programs," in a forthcoming book *Proceedings of NIMH/NIDA Workshop on Women and AIDS: Promoting Healthy Behaviors*, from American Psychiatric Press, Washington, DC.

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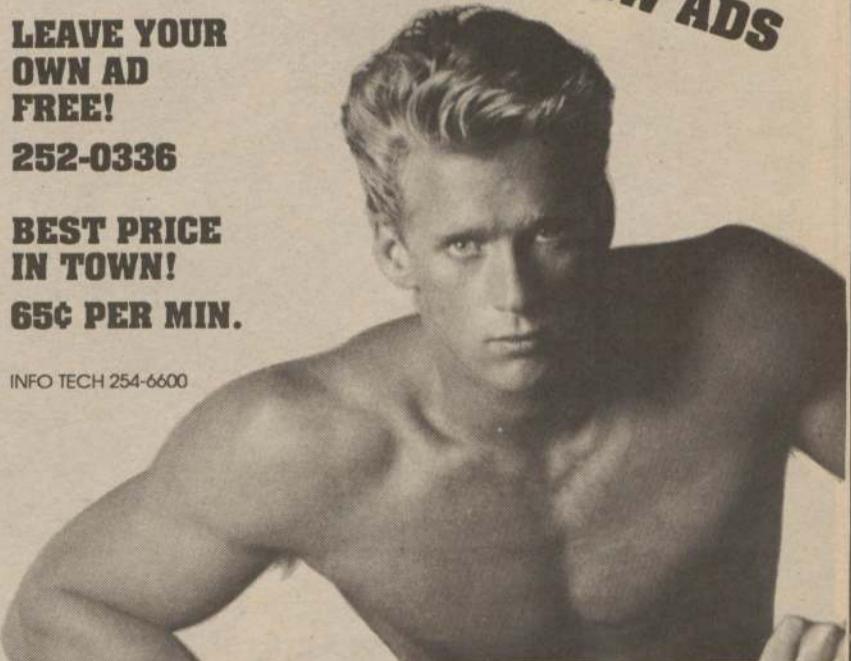
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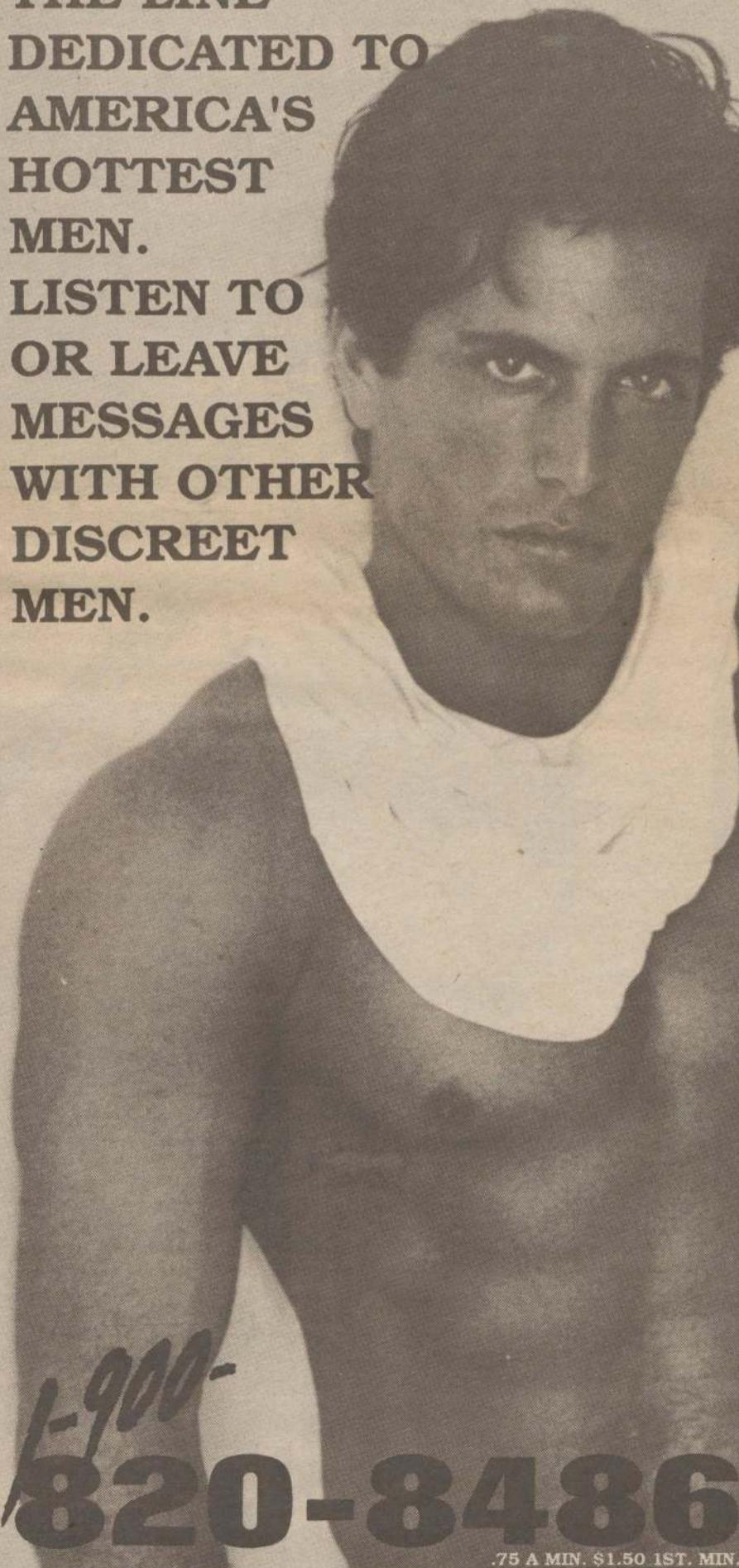
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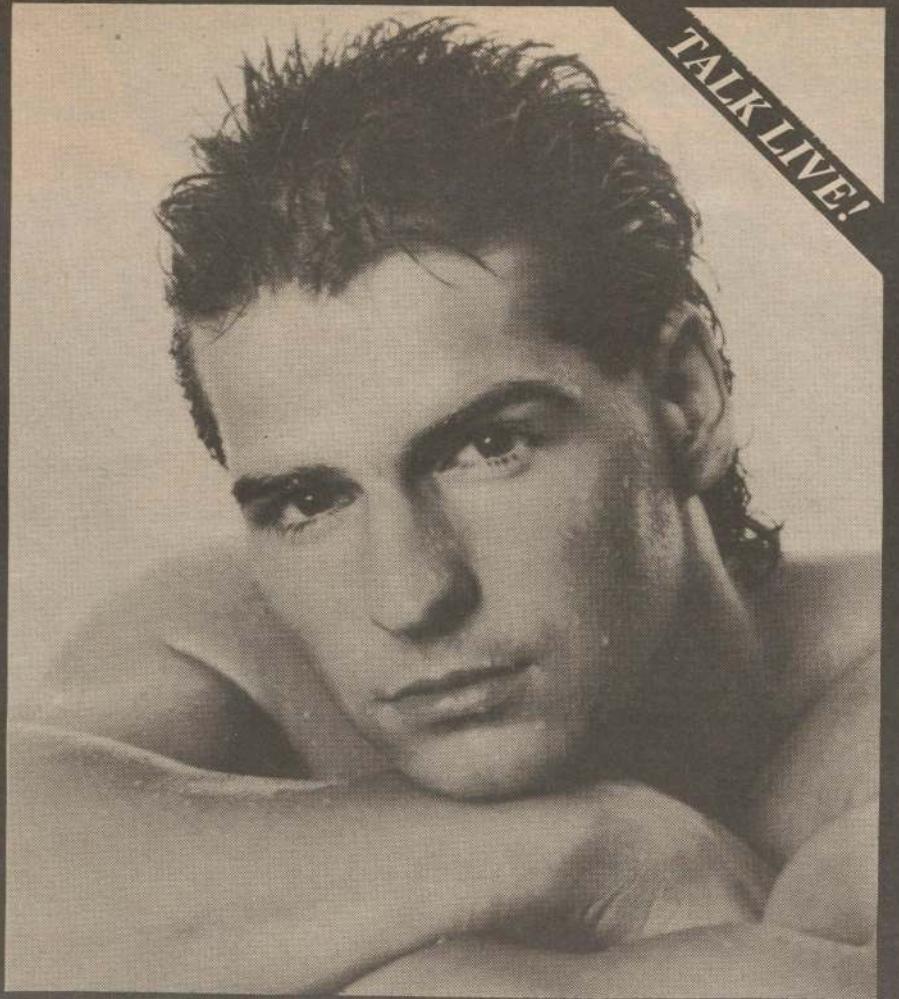
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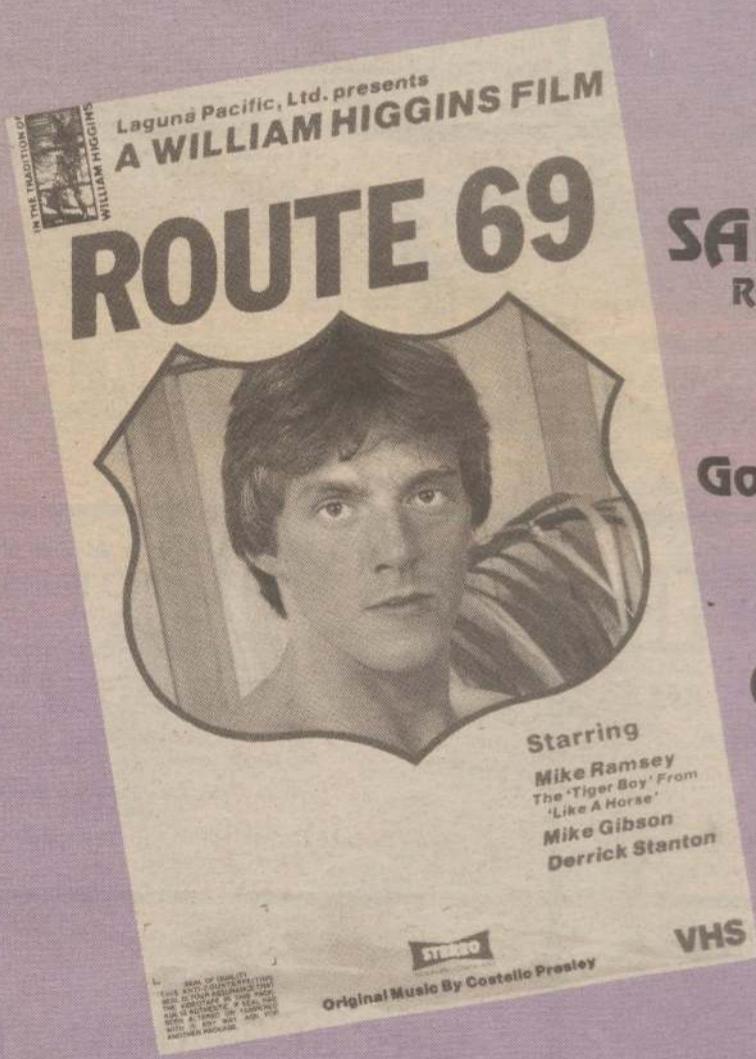
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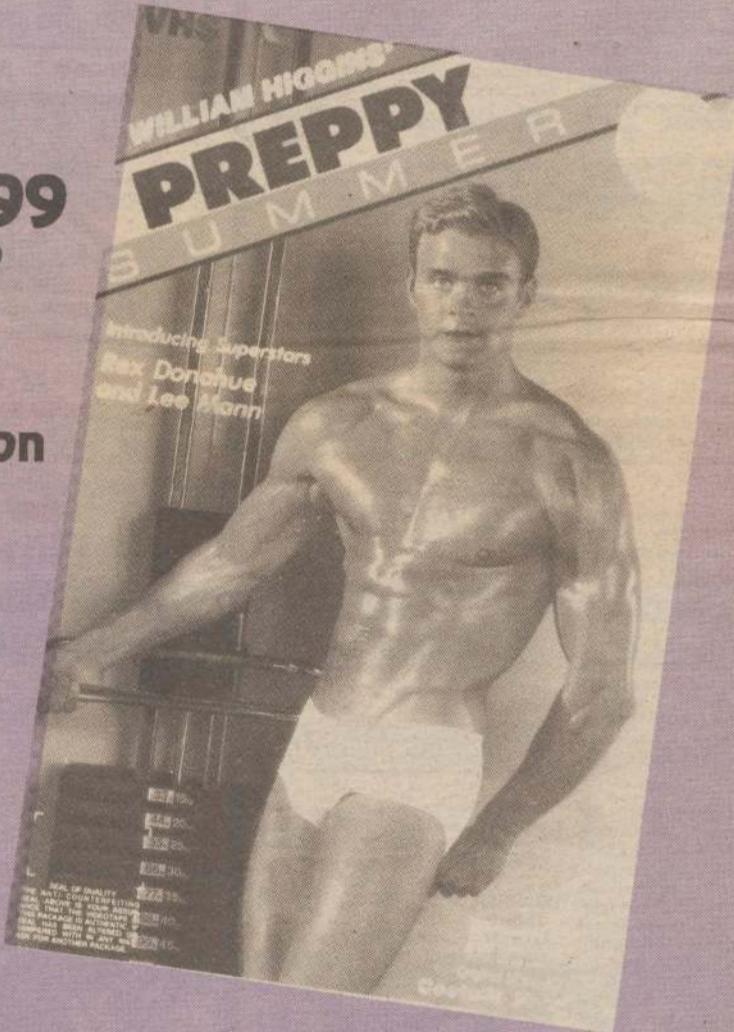
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