Gay & Lesbian Life, Commentary and Culture

HeatStroke

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Legislator, Latina, Lesbian:

Will Tucson's Colette Barajas make it happen in Arizona?



By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Unless you've been napping beneath a barstool for the past two years, you know that Steve May and Ken Cheuvront were both elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 1998 as openly gay candidates, Cheuvront for the third time.

You're also aware of Neil Giuliano, who was elected in March to serve a fourth term as Mayor of Tempe. And then there's US Congressman Jim Kolbe, toiling in Washington, D.C. on behalf of his Southern Arizona constituents and arranging George W. Bush/Log Cabin Republican pow wows on the side. Both men were reelected to their posts after coming out publicly while in office.

Ignore, for a moment, the fact that three of the four above-mentioned gay elected officials belong to the GOP. Arizona is even more phenomenal on the national queer political scene in that all of our state's out public servants are male.

Come November, Colette Barajas would like to change that.

A realtor and onetime gay bar owner who's lived in Tucson since 1974, the 46-year-old Democrat is running for one of two available House of Representatives seats in Southern Arizona's District 13 .

Should Barajas clear the September primary and then win in the general, she'll be the first woman elected to the statehouse who regularly uses the word "wife" when referring to her life mate. The lesbian barrier, she says, is one she'll break with pride.

"It's not bothersome at all [being known as the first out lesbian to run for state office], as long as the media aren't portraying me as if that's why I'm running," Barajas says.

"I would love to be the first open woman in the House of Representatives. I would love to make that history. I've been making history since I first came to Arizona."

Cheuvront, the lone Democratic member of Arizona's openly gay boys cub, represents District 25 in Central Phoenix and has held office while being out the longest of the four.

Cheuvront chairs an international organization of gay and lesbian elected officials and has long championed the concept of getting an openly gay woman to run for legislative office here. He particularly likes the chances for a Democratic win in District 13. "We are very excited about Colette's candidacy and we have the utmost belief that she'll win the house seat in that district," he says.

"Tucson has always been at the forefront when it comes to gay and lesbian rights in this state," he adds, "and so it's high time they had representation in state government from among our community."

> ***"Tucson has always been at the forefront when it comes to gay and lesbian rights in this state. So it's high time they had representation in state goverment from among our community."***

On a sunny weekend afternoon in May, Barajas sat down for an in-depth interview with *HeatStroke* at her spacious real estate offices, situated in the middle of Tucson's pedestrian-friendly Fourth Avenue arts district. She began by explaining that she's had "lots of firsts, both gay and nongay" in her life as a community businesswoman and social activist.

"I opened the first women's club in Southern Arizona. I brought the men's and women's communities together, which is one of the nicer things I've been involved in. I guess people laugh and say I'm a legend in my own mind."

Barajas was born and raised in the Chicago area. She fell in love with the desert during an Arizona vacation at 16, then moved to Tucson at 20 with a post-high school boyfriend. The pair set up house while Barajas took classes at Pima Community College and began a career in the hotel/hospitality industry.

"I never knew I was a lesbian until I was about 20. I grew up in the '70s, the era of sex, drugs and rock & roll. I'd had lots of intimate relationships with women but I thought it was just part of the culture, and never understood while I was dating men why I didn't really connect—with the exception of the boyfriend I moved out here with."

But Barajas quickly realized that she and her boyfriend had different goals. "I came home and told him I had just seen this great sports car, and he said 'oh no, we can't buy a sports car, we have to save for children.' And I said 'but I am a child.' I'd worked very hard, and I wanted that car. So I suggested that he go back home to mom."

Six months to a year later, Barajas fell in love with her first girlfriend. "I realized I liked women, got my heart broken, and then I dated both men and women. I guess I was bi—I don't know what I was. I dated men but told them I was a lesbian. Then, at about age 22, I stopped that."

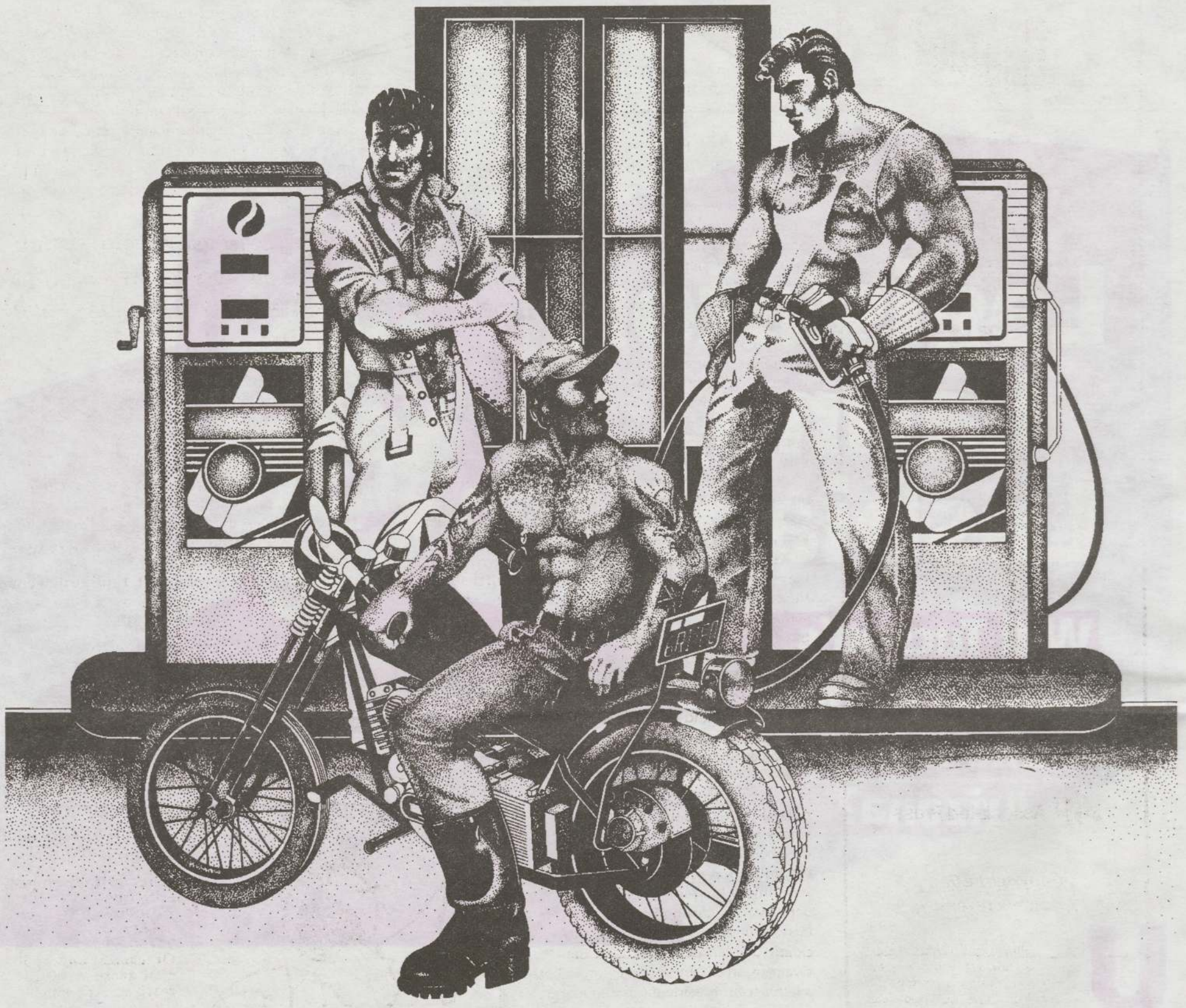
Barajas has easily self-identified as lesbian ever since.

A current—and longstanding—board member of the Arizona Human Rights Fund, Barajas has always been deeply involved in the state's most established equal rights and gay issues political organization.

See "Tucson Candidate," page 16

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Horowitz: *The Right to Protest*

This week I agreed to speak at two protests against radio talk show host Laura Schlessinger during her May 15 visit to Phoenix. She broadcast her show from KFYI radio studios in downtown Phoenix that morning, and later addressed a fundraising dinner for the right-wing Center for Arizona Policy at the Radisson in Scottsdale.

While I have qualms about restricting anyone's first amendment rights, I believe that Laura's free speech incites hatred and violence against lesbians and gay men.

Schlessinger holds herself out as a mental health expert, but her doctorate is in physiology, not psychology. She calls gay people "biological errors" and claims that we are "sexual deviants."

Aside from potentially firing a loose cannon among the already-bigoted religious supporters who hang on her every word, imagine the harm Schlessinger's rhetoric does to a gay teenager struggling with his or her sexuality. The public broadcast media outlets do not allow racist and sexist remarks, but they apparently feel comfortable allowing Laura a platform for her patently antigay statements. PFLAG organized the protests, and I was happy to speak.

Turnout at the anti-Laura events was light (surprise, surprise), but the small crowd was enthusiastic and extremely well behaved. Officers from the Phoenix and Scottsdale police departments were the epitome of graciousness and professionalism.

KFYI placed a water cooler outside for the protesters, with a sign reading, "Nothing is more important to KFYI than free speech." Bill Miller, the general manager of KTVK Channel 3 (which has purchased the local broadcast rights for Laura's new TV show, slated to air this fall) met with lead protesters during the afternoon. Miller assured us that careful attention would be paid to our views and that the final decision whether to air Schlessinger's TV show has not yet been made. All major news outlets—including the networks and the *Arizona Republic*—covered both events.

I recently had lunch with my friend Simona "Simi" Biedenbender. Simi was born in Czechoslovakia and became a naturalized United States citizen just a few weeks ago. During lunch, Simi told me about the arduous application and naturalization process that includes standing in long lines, filling out paperwork, learning English and U.S. History and passing a citizenship exam. She tearfully described the swearing-in ceremony and showed off a letter from President Clinton along with her citizenship certificate and brand new U.S. passport.

Simi's joy at becoming an American citizen rekindled my own joy of citizenship. Simi told me about her childhood in Czechoslovakia. Her parents both worked at a television station where her father was news director.

They lived a life of relative comfort and happiness. Her father was instructed to film Russian tanks as they invaded her country. He was later fired, beaten and ostracized from the new Communist society. Neither of her parents could find work, and her friends grew afraid to talk to her. She was nine years old when her father died of an apparent heart attack; the family remains uncertain of the true cause of death. Ten years later, when Simi looked for a job after completing her studies, she still found herself blackballed from gainful employment.

As much as I resent my legal status as a second-class citizen in my own country, at least we are allowed the rights of peaceful assembly and protest. People from the news media, hotel staffers, police officers and members of the public wished us well and told us that they supported our arguments. The *Republic* printed a cartoon by Steve Benson in last Sunday's edition showing a venomous caricature of Laura and decrying her intolerant, bigoted platform. In Simi's native land, no such rights of citizen protest and expression existed.

The public broadcast media outlets do not allow racist and sexist remarks, but they apparently feel comfortable allowing Laura a platform for her patently antigay statements.

As a newspaper columnist, I still struggle with the first amendment implications of silencing Laura Schlessinger's hateful speech because as an American, I'm grateful to have my own right to free speech.

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



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Deb Price

Legislator's personal plea makes hate crimes legislation fly



Our nation is blessed by diversity but still cursed by prejudice and the terrible damage it causes. The vast majority of Americans work silently throughout adulthood to expel prejudices we've inhaled as unconsciously as the air we breathe.

We envision a better America, a future free not just of hate crimes but of the poisonous attitudes that spawn them. Yet, it's a rare politician who can find just the right words with the timeless power to help bring that humane vision closer to reality.

As we tally up the pluses and minuses of the legislative season that's drawing to a close in most states, it's clear that our nation scored an important victory over hatred because of the intensely personal, profoundly persuasive speech a Georgia state lawmaker delivered to his colleagues.

By his own account, Rep. Dan Ponder was an unexpected messenger to be explaining the necessity of hate crime laws. A white, married, Republican from what he calls an "ultraconservative" rural district, Ponder, 45, rose to speak moments after the Georgia House voted 83-82 to shelve a proposal to make crimes carry tougher penalties when they are motivated by hatred.

Disturbed that the hate crimes debate was failing to put "a human face on the issue," Ponder had banged out his 13-minute speech at 7:30 that morning, drawing on a lifetime of regret for a boyhood act of prejudice.

On the House floor, Ponder shared the wrenching story of mistreating Mary Ward, or "May-Mar," as he called her. She was the housekeeper who had washed his clothes, cooked his meals, read to him, played catch with him and loved him unconditionally. But one day, when he was 12, Ponder turned away as May-Mar tried to kiss him goodbye as he left for school.

"She stopped me, and she looked at me with a look that absolutely burns in my memory right now. And she said, 'You didn't kiss me because I'm black,'" Ponder recalled. "At that instant, I knew she was right.

"... I have lived with the shame and memory of my betrayal of Mary Ward's love for me. And I pledged to myself then and I re-pledged to myself the day that I buried her that never, ever again would I look in the mirror and know that I had kept silent and let hate or prejudice or indifference negatively impact a person's life, even if I didn't know them."

In explaining his own support for enhanced penalties for bias-motivated crimes, Ponder's speech (available at http://www.garus.org) reflected on intolerance: his relatives' struggle to accept interfaith marriages within the family, for example, and the ostracism six of his former fraternity brothers experienced after coming out as gay.

"Hate is all around us. And it takes shape ... in ways that are somehow so small that we don't even recognize them to begin with, until they somehow become acceptable to us. It is up to us, as parents and leaders in the community, to take a stand and to say loudly and clearly that this just is not acceptable," he declared.

Republicans and Democrats alike gave Ponder two standing ovations, then outlawed all hate crimes by a vote of 116-49. Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes signed the new law at a synagogue scarred by swastika-painting vandals.

Georgia has distinguished itself by becoming the 41st state to embrace hate-crimes laws as a way to send a message against bias-motivated attacks. (For state-by-state details, go to http://www.ngltf.org.)

Attacks based on the victim's perceived sexual orientation are the third most common kind of hate crime. And 30 percent of the victims of anti-gay attacks are actually heterosexual.

Sadly, though, 17 states have hate-crimes laws that re-enforce anti-gay prejudice. They do so by covering certain hate crimes, such as those based on race or religion, but excluding those based on "sexual orientation." Attacks based on the victim's perceived sexual orientation are the third most common kind of hate crime. And 30 percent of the victims of anti-gay attacks are actually heterosexual. ***[Editors' note: Arizona's hate crimes statute was amended in 1997 to include attacks based on sexual orientation.]***

Michigan lawmakers, in session until fall, need to be urged to make correcting this tragic omission a top priority.

Hate crimes aren't just any crimes. They victimize an entire community, indeed, our whole nation. We need more leaders willing to send the message that hate crime in any form is intolerable.

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

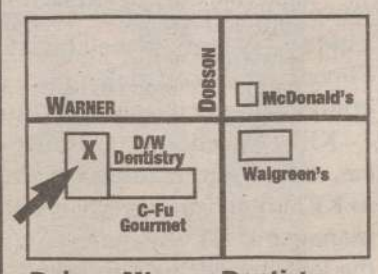
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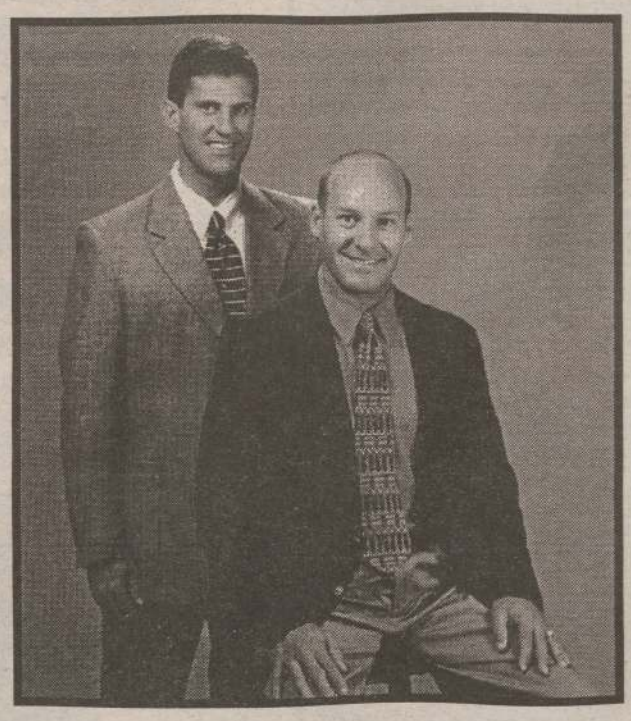
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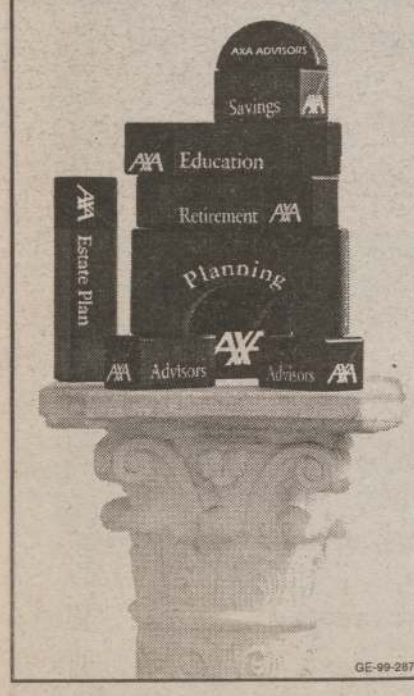
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NGLTF cites advances in state legislative sessions

May 15, 2000—A hate crimes bill in Alabama, a host of bills favoring gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality in California and an historic civil union bill in Vermont highlight the latest 50-state legislative update issued by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

This year, NGLTF has tracked a total of 465 bills throughout the United States. Of these, 287 are favorable and 178 are unfavorable. The latest highlights include:

• In Alabama, a bill that would add sexual orientation to the state's existing hate crimes law passed the full House and the Senate Judiciary Committee. Although it had not passed the Senate as of Friday, it is the first time a hate crimes bill inclusive of sexual orientation had advanced this far.

• In California, a number of bills advancing the equality of GLBT people were moving through the legislative process. AB 2142 would amend the state's anti-discrimination law to include transgender people. AB 2418 would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the process of jury selection. SB 118 would allow an employee to take family care and medical leave to care for a same- or opposite-sex domestic partner, grandparent or sibling who has a serious health condition.

• In addition, three other California bills— AB 1990, AB 2047 and AB 2211 — would grant registered domestic partners a host of legal and economic benefits. AB 1990 would allow a domestic partner to make medical decisions for an incapacitated partner. AB 2047 would allow one domestic partner to inherit from another if one partner dies without a will. AB 2211 would allow domestic partners to participate fully in conservatorship proceedings and also would require the state to recognize domestic partnerships formed outside of the state.

• In Vermont, the Legislature passed and the governor signed an historic civil union bill. The bill, which will take effect in July, will give same-sex GLBT couples the right to form state-sanctioned civil unions and enjoy more than 300 benefits, rights and responsibilities currently available to heterosexual married couples. These include the right to make medical decisions in case of emergency, transfer property, inherit estates, oversee funerals and file joint state income tax returns.

"The latest legislative activity shows both the formidable power of our community and the impressive advances—some sweeping, others incremental—we are making in state after state after state," said Virginia M. Apuzzo, interim NGLTF Political Director. "These gains are not an accident or a coincidence, but rather the result of growing political power and infrastructure at the state and local level."

The legislative update may be read by visiting www.ngltf.org/statelocal/leg2000.htm.

Blacks, gays feel most discriminated against—and other Americans agree

WASHINGTON (AP)—Blacks believe no other racial or ethnic group is discriminated against more than they. And the rest of America agrees.

Persistent remnants of racial discrimination against blacks are among the findings in a new national survey on racial, ethnic, religious and social attitudes.

Asked about groups that had suffered either a great deal or some discrimination in American society, 83 percent of all those questioned said blacks were discrimination victims, in a survey released by the National Conference for Community and Justice on May 15.

Hispanics were next with 76 percent of those questioned feeling the group faced at least some discrimination. Women and American Indians were next with 67 percent of those questioned believing they faced at least some discrimination.

Blacks say there is plenty of truth behind the perceptions of unequal treatment.

Whether it was at the corner grocery store, at work or in a local eatery, black Americans said they experienced discrimination more in the last 30 days than any other racial or ethnic group.

Only 13 percent of whites said they were discriminated against in the past month, compared to 42 percent of blacks. Meanwhile, 31 percent of Asians reported being discriminated against in the last month and 16 percent of Hispanics reported the same.

``This nation continues to be plagued by too much discrimination in our daily lives,'' said Sanford Cloud Jr., president of the NCCJ, a national human rights organization formerly known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

``It touches all groups but creates an especially wide gulf between whites and blacks in this country,'' Cloud said.

One solution to helping American bridge its racial divide would be open, honest and what might be painful conversations across racial, political, ethnic and gender lines, Cloud said.

``Discussions have to be held in environments that allow people to be comfortable,'' Cloud said. ``People have to feel as though they aren't going to be threatened or beat up during a frank conversation.''

When the question was taken beyond racial and ethnic groups, gay Americans are perceived to be the victims of discrimination in greater numbers than blacks, Jews or immigrants.

When the question was taken beyond racial and ethnic groups, gay Americans are perceived to be the victims of discrimination in greater numbers than blacks, Jews or immigrants.

Half of those surveyed said they believe gays and lesbians were victimized by ``a great deal'' of discrimination in American society.

Blacks were thought to be greatly victimized by 34 percent of those questioned, followed by the poor with 32 percent and people on welfare by 27 percent.

The study also found whites are far more satisfied in what they earn, where they live and how they make a living.

Just 49 percent of blacks reported satisfaction with their household income compared to 72 percent of whites. More than nine of 10 whites are satisfied with their housing compared to 77 percent of blacks. And 88 percent of whites expressed satisfaction with their jobs compared to 74 percent of blacks.

The telephone survey was conducted between January 20 and March 19 with a total of 2,584 people surveyed. The margin of sampling variance is plus/minus four percentage points.



Schlessinger gets an unwelcome message in Phoenix

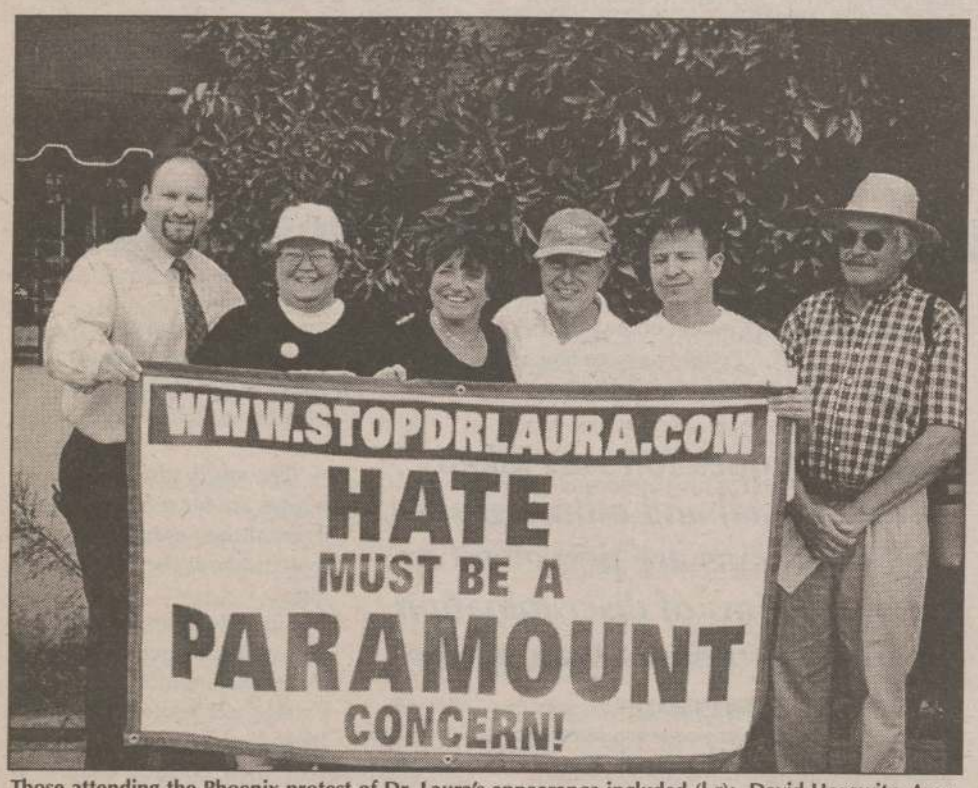
By Allen Kalchik, Editor

A coalition of demonstrators from several local and national organizations joined to protest the May 15 Phoenix visit of antigay talk radio personality "Dr." Laura Schlessinger at two different Valley locations.

The demonstrators included members of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG); a founder of the stopdrlaura.com website; and a representative of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Amy Culver said she planned the event because she is tired of the violence and anti-gay comments directed toward her 15-year-old lesbian daughter. "It's time someone took a stand against hate and intolerance," she said.

Schlessinger was in Arizona to broadcast her self-help and commentary radio talk show live from KFYI studios in downtown Phoenix. She is touring the nation to support sales of her new book. She also spoke at a Scottsdale benefit dinner for the Center for Arizona Policy, a local right-wing organization.



Those attending the Phoenix protest of Dr. Laura's appearance included (l-r): David Horowitz, Amy Culver, Robin Tyler, Stephen Spurgeon and two unidentified men.

Robin Tyler, a co-founder of the infamous anti-Laura website, took the bullhorn at the 11:00 a.m. protest held outside KFYI to denounce Schlessinger's antigay views.The "Dr.", a licensed physiologist, has variously blamed her vocal unacceptance of same sex relationships on her recent conversion to Orthodox Judaism as well as on her own "scientific" social observations.

Tyler identified herself as a lesbian and a Jew, and said that Schlessinger "is to Judaism what paint-by-numbers is to art." Tyler also said, "We're tired of the homophobia and fed up with the sexism," regularly espoused by the controversial radio personality.

Stephen Spurgeon, Deputy Director of Communications for GLAAD, flew in from Los Angeles to lend support to the protests and to meet with executives from KTVK Channel 3 in the afternoon. The local station was purchased several moths ago by BELO, a Texas-based media conglomerate. The station is set to air a new fall TV show that is being developed by Paramount and starring Schlessinger.

"We are meeting with station managers across the country to make sure they are aware of what they have purchased," Spurgeon explained. "Paramount is not giving the local stations all of the information." He said many station managers wrongly believe that Schlessinger has made an apology for her anti-gay remarks, and they therefore think the demonstrators are being unreasonable.

Spurgeon said that while meeting with station management he planned to play a compilation tape of Schlessinger stating some of her more virulent anti-gay views. "I call it the Magic Tape," he said. "It's one thing to read quotes, and another thing to actually hear her saying some of the worst things she has said. It really gets their attention."

The Phoenix and Scottsdale demonstrations went off peaceably. Schlessinger did not mention the protests during her broadcast.

Valley church collects for APAZ

During the April 15 Pride Parade, members of the Valley of the Sun Community Church carried a 30 by 50 foot American flag, secured with help from the Al Gore campaign headquarters. As the flag made its way along the parade route, the crowd was encouraged by church members to throw money onto the flag. At the end of the parade, the church had collected $825 which was donated to AIDS Project Arizona.

Pastor Jerry Cook presented a check to APAZ Education Director Billy Leeth during the church's Easter Sunday service on April 23. Leeth thanked the church members and detailed what the donation would help the organization accomplish.

Valley of the Sun Community Church is a nondenominational evangelical Christian church ministering primarily to gay men and lesbians in the Phoenix area. Sunday morning services are at 11:00 .m. at the Parkway Inn on northbound I-17 between Northern and Dunlap. For information, call 602/564-7895.



APAZ's Billy Leeth (l) accepted an $825 donation from Pastor Jerry Cook.

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P&G withdraws ads from Schlessinger TV talk show and future radio

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. Laura Schlessinger's upcoming television talk show and next season's radio show are losing advertising support from Procter & Gamble Co., because of controversial stands by Schlessinger.

Anti-gay comments by Schlessinger were not singled out by Procter & Gamble Co. in its statement May 16 that it has rescinded a decision to be a sponsor of the TV show, and ``does not plan to purchase any radio show advertising after this season.''

``The focus of the show was supposed to be responsible parenting,'' said spokeswoman Gretchen Briscoe at P&G in Cincinnati, Ohio. ``It's become impossible to separate Dr. Laura's opinions on a broad range of topics from the specific focus of this (TV) program.''

P&G, whose brands include Pampers, Mr. Clean and Tide, said last week that it would be the first major advertiser on the *Dr. Laura Show* being syndicated for the fall season by Paramount Domestic Television Distribution.

A telephone call requesting comment was placed to Paramount April 16, but there was no immediate response.

Gay and civil rights activists have protested outside Paramount, taking issue with Schlessinger's reference to gays as ``biological errors'' and similar remarks.

Schlessinger is heard on more than 400 radio stations in the United States, and also writes a column that appears in more than 100 newspapers.

Schlessinger said in a March interview: ``Regrettably, some of the words I've used have hurt some people, and I am sorry for that.

``Words that I have used in a clinical context have been perceived as judgment,'' she added. ``They were not meant to characterize homosexual individuals or encourage others to disparage homosexuals.''

Methodist traditionalists have won the gay war, but at what cost?

CLEVELAND (AP)—They called it ``the war on the shore.'' During demonstrations at the lakeside meeting hall of the United Methodist Church General Conference, two bishops and about 200 other pro-gay demonstrators were taken off by police and slapped with misdemeanor charges.

As delegates upheld the huge denomination's stand against homosexual practices, the radical protests were matched by harsh words.

Liberal caucuses blamed the church for encouraging suicide, terror and murder of gays, lesbians and bisexuals. Conservatives responded that the other side has blood on its hands, arguing that tolerance of same-sex activity carries health risks.

In one heated exchange, Professor Ben Silva-Netto of California's Pacific School of Religion demanded, ``God forbid that our decisions become baseball bats to smash peoples' heads.''

Such rhetoric ``hurts me,'' replied the Rev. Mark Fenstermacher of Elkhart, Ind., but he insisted that clear support for Christian tradition was essential.

A former Methodist district superintendent, the Rev. Deborah Pitney of Eugene, Ore., urged delegates to permit diverse views. ``I don't want the United Methodist Church to tell my daughter she is going to hell because she cannot agree,'' she said.

Demonstrators have not disrupted the decorum at meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, Catholic Church or Mormon Church—not yet, at least. Those groups are not close to considering change. But for most of the 20th century, Methodists have been at the progressive forefront of most social and doctrinal issues.

Homosexuality has proven to be the one great exception. In the 28-year conflict, moral traditionalists have held their ground.

This time around, despite the demonstrations inside and outside the hall, they posted solid two-thirds majorities against homosexual behavior, against active gay and lesbian clergy, and against ceremonies for same-sex couples. Activists said those votes represented the belief of grassroots Methodists.

What happens now among the one-third in the moral minority?

``I think we'll see a significant number of people leave,'' said a disconsolate Marilyn Alexander, who leads a caucus of 165 congregations that resist church policy on homosexuality.

``They'll think, who needs the church? How long do you stay in an abusive relationship?'' said Alexander, a former seminary administrator at Southern Methodist University.

Alexander believes this week's decisions will be overturned someday, but not for perhaps two decades. ``I wonder if the church will still be alive at that point,'' she said.

"[People] will think, who needs the church? How long do you stay in an abusive relationship?"

That doesn't mean the liberal wing will play dead. One prime strategist, Chicago pastor Gregory Dell, who was suspended for leading a same-sex ceremony, says this week's protests against ``denominational cleansing'' are only the beginning.

The Methodist church will face a ``consistent, active and ongoing challenge to business as usual'' until the day it changes policy, he vowed.

One of those who helped prosecute Dell, the Rev. Scott Field of Naperville, Ill., was his strategic counterpart for the energized conservative alliance during the eleven-day conference. The conservatives had worked hard for eight years, and helped steer like-minded delegates through a blizzard of legislation.

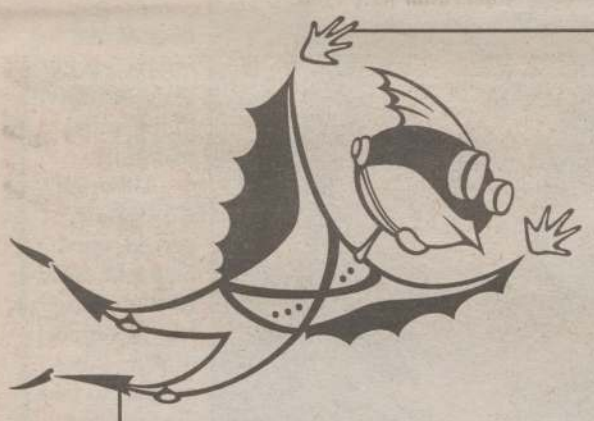
Field believes homosexuality has been settled and ``the church is getting ready to move on to other issues.''

The denomination has lost 21 percent of its U.S. membership the past two decades. But churches in Southern states have fared better, and conservatives expect their voting strength will increase through U.S. reapportionment and church growth overseas.

Legislation and a judicial ruling here have laid ground for trials of clergy who have pledged to continue conducting same-sex rituals. ``There's liable to be a lot of tumult,'' Field predicts, but ``if we get a few convictions with teeth, that will dramatically decrease.''

As delegates headed home, the Rev. Linda Campbell-Marshall, a liberal district superintendent in Maine, said the church body was ``lacerated.''

``There is going to be a profound need for damage control. One-third of our people are bleeding, and they're not going to stop bleeding because the issue has been legislatively resolved.''



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MMOW Diary: An Arizona couple heads to The Mall and back



Story and photos special to **HeatStroke** *by Jayne Goldstein (left) and Barbara Poe*

The Millennium March on Washington, April 30, 2000. We couldn't miss it.

The week before was spent packing up shorts and tee shirts, checking the weather on the web, then unpacking and repacking with sweaters and jeans.

We arrived Friday afternoon to find it sunny and warm and (of course) recognized that we had brought all the wrong clothes. Lugging the suitcases from the airport to the train to the subway, however, we spoke with several guys who had come for the event and obviously brought everything they owned!

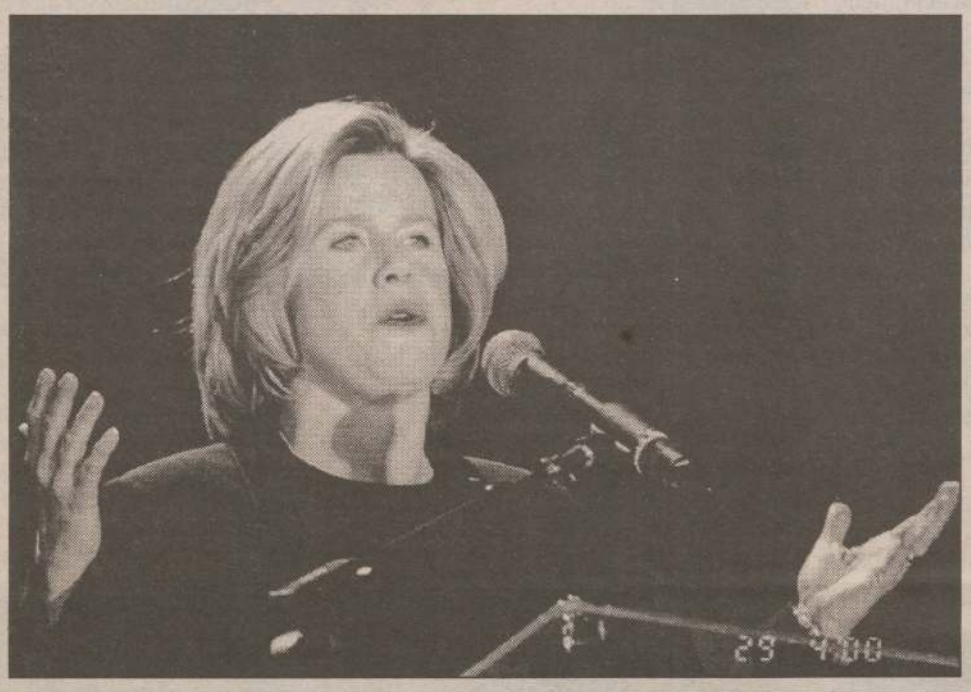
Walking from Union Station to the hotel with suitcases and backpacks adorned with gay patches and rainbow straps, we encountered a man on the street with his wife and another couple who started yelling at us to "go back to San Francisco". We exchanged a few choice words—he was really angry, yelling and shaking his fist. Welcome to D.C. We experienced no other such incidents.

The first activity on Saturday was a quick trip to the festival to peruse the booths, purchase tee shirts and pick up all the free stuff—which was plentiful.

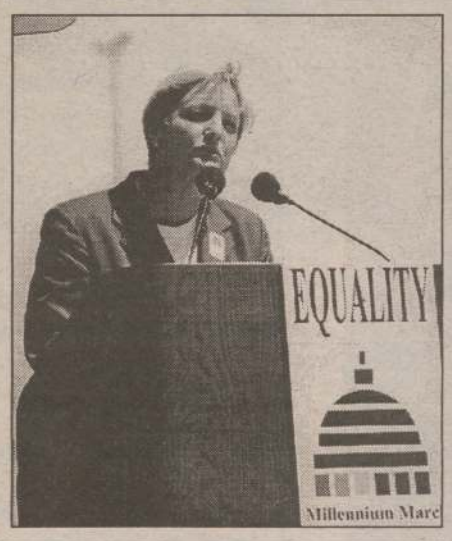
Then we headed back to the hotel to dress for the Equality Rocks concert. The ride to the concert on the subway provided the first glimpse of the evening to come; we took over the subway with our rainbow flags everywhere and shouts of anticipation of the evening's event on all sides.

As members of the Human Rights Campaign—the concert's sponsor—we were invited to the VIP party and got the opportunity to get up close and personal with Melissa, kd, Ellen, Anne and Garth (we were less excited about Garth initially, but he turned out to be a really nice guy). We went face to face with the stars, then we were seated fifth row and center. But the 45,000 queers gathered to share a great weekend of empowerment—that was the real thrill.

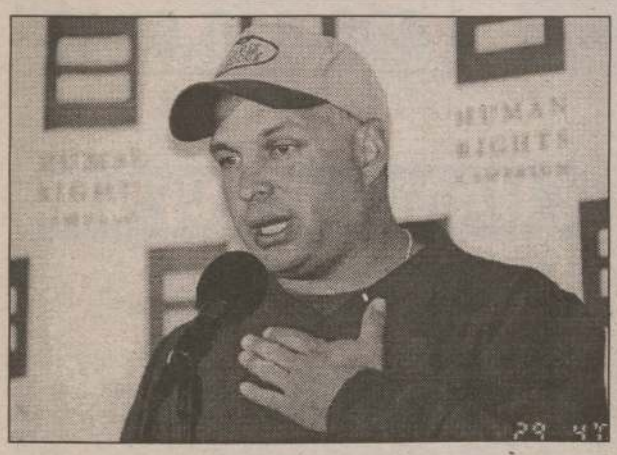




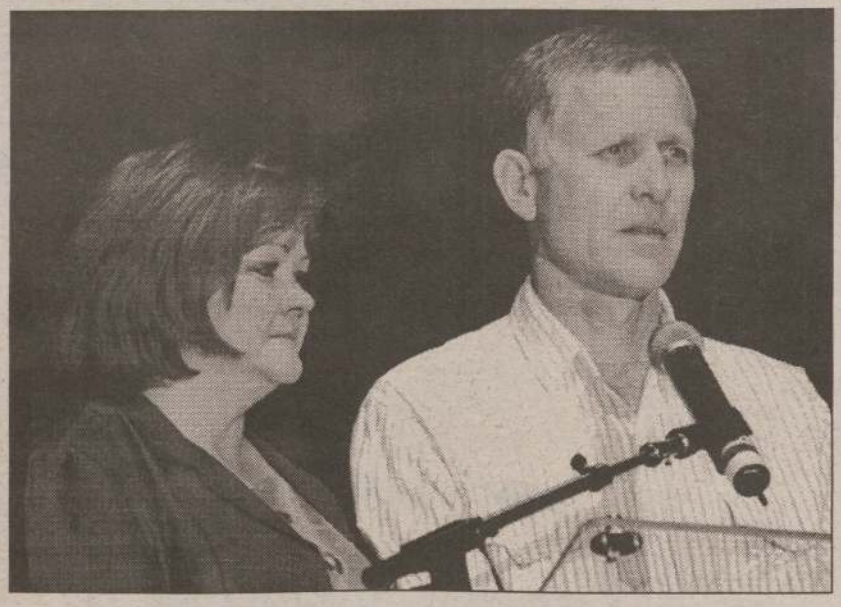














We experienced a wide range of emotions as the entertainers brought us to our feet, while Tipper Gore and HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch reminded us of the importance of being politically involved. The families of Matthew Shepard, James Byrd, children from the California Jewish day care shooting, and the sister of the Asian postal worker shared their stories of hate crimes and violent discrimination, reminding us why we were all there.

All the political speakers at the concert and the rest—all limited to three or four numbers apiece, which kept the four-hour extravaganza moving right along.

Melissa was obviously the crowd's favorite entertainer—she really put all of her energy into her set. Also great were the Pet Shop Boys. Garth Brooks closed the show.

Ellen got the longest standing and cheering ovation. She was the audience's most admired person to come onstage that evening, and she was very teary earlier at the VIP reception.

(and later at the March) stressed how important it is to vote, and to loudly and clearly vote for Gore. Tipper sat right behind us during most of the concert and was very friendly to all around, and she obviously enjoyed the concert.

Never let it be said that queers lack stamina. After a late-night concert and a variety of parties, dances and Dupont Circle barhopping, the lineup at 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning for the march brought everyone out again.

The March started at the Washington Monument and continued for four hours. It would have lasted longer but there was no space left to march since The Mall was completely filed with us from one end to the other.

Some say 300,000 were expected, and others estimated there was more like 800,000 on hand. We were there and we know it felt like at least a million! Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, parents, straight supporters—we definitely made a statement. The beautiful, sunny day included entertainment on the stage and it was all beyond words.

There were very large contingents from the South, especially Georgia, Florida and Texas. Many from New York boycotted the event because of HRC's support of Alphonse D'Amato in the last election. There was also, of course, the controversy over March organizers not being inclusive in the initial planning.

Although we kind of agreed, once they had decided to do it, we had to support it. Sometimes one has to take the lead and hope that others will follow.

There were also complaints about the corporate sponsorships of the March. Unfortunately, that's where a lot of the money comes from.

Too psyched to rest, we set out for the dance sponsored by *Curve* at 8:00 p.m., boogied awhile, then hit Dupont Circle again for some last-minute memorabilia.

At 8:00 a.m. on Monday we awoke to a hotel lobby newly filled with straight people just arriving, and the space in the world we had dominated just a few hours earlier was already visibly missed.

But in our hearts we knew we had made an impact, gained a presence, and made a statement that will stay with us forever and, we hope, will encourage more political action as we continue to fight for our rights.

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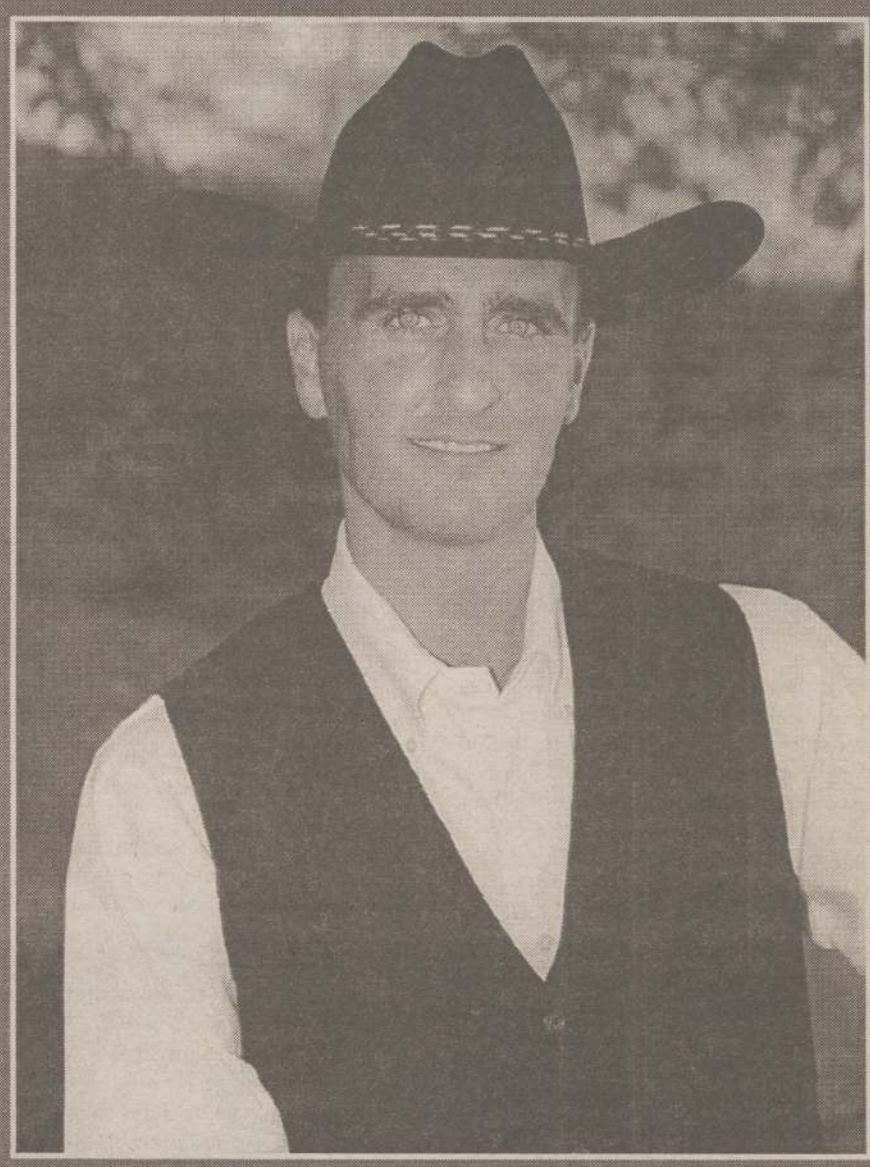
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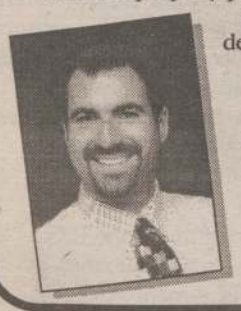
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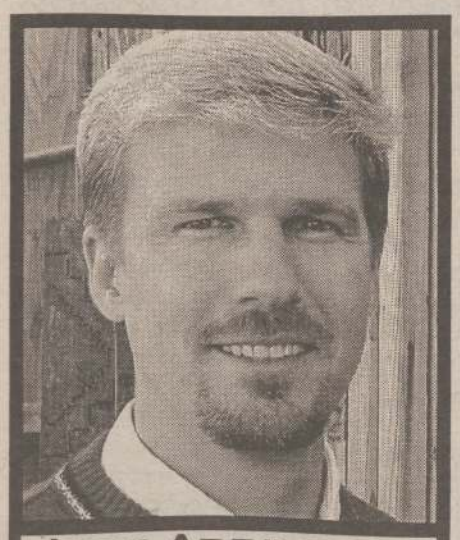
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International Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

BELGIAN PARTNER LAW UNPOPULAR

Belgium's toothless "statutory cohabitation contract" has been unpopular since it came into force Jan. 1.

Only eight couples have registered in Brussels, *Le Soir* reported May 5. Numbers are similarly low elsewhere in the country.

The registration is basically symbolic, failing to confer any of the rights of marriage.

"This law is completely pointless, it offers nothing for anybody, whether heterosexual or homosexual," said Jean-Paul Leroy, president of Infor-Homo. "It solves none of their problems, neither with the social security system nor with the tax payable on their legacies."

Gay-friendly members of parliament hope to amend the law to grant statutory cohabitants the benefits of marriage.

FRENCH PARTNER LAW POPULAR

About 14,000 couples—more than half of them gay—have gotten hitched since France's domestic-partnership law took effect last October.

Couples form Civil Solidarity Pacts at local court houses and acquire marriage rights and obligations in areas such as income tax, inheritance, housing, immigration, health benefits, job transfers, synchronized vacation time, responsibility for debts, and social welfare.

The law does not grant marriage rights in the areas of parental rights, adoption or medically assisted procreation.

Several other European nations—including Denmark (and Greenland), Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden—have gay-only registered-partnership laws that grant more than 99 percent of the rights and obligations of matrimony.

PARTNER LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN SPAIN

Members of Parliament from Catalonia introduced a gay and heterosexual partnership measure into Spain's Congress of Deputies May 8.

The "Law on Stable Unions of Couples" would confer marriage-like rights and obligations in such areas as alimony, child support, death benefits and Social Security,

CANADA BLASTS DR. LAURA

Canada's broadcast watchdog agency blasted U.S. radio talk-show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger May 10, saying her homophobic statements could ignite anti-gay violence.

The Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (CBSC) denounced Schlessinger for calling gays "abnormal," "aberrant," "deviant," "disordered," "dysfunctional" and "an error".

"[She] is abusively discriminatory and in breach of [Canada's broadcasting] code," the council said. "[She] may well fertilize the ground for other less well-balanced elements [in society] to take such aggressive steps [as] homophobic hostility or, worse, brutality."

The agency called Schlessinger's anti-gay positions "fatuous and unsustainable."

"The sexual practices of gays and lesbians are as much a part of their being as the color of one's skin or the gender, religion, age or ethnicity of an individual," the council said. "To use such brutal language as she does about such an essential characteristic flies in the face of Canadian provisions relating to human rights."

The ruling requires radio stations to cease broadcasting any comments by Schlessinger that breach the broadcasting code, CBSC head Ron Cohen said.

Other programs that have faced crackdowns include the Howard Stern Show (which is now broadcast with a time delay to allow deletions), the Jerry Springer Show (also time-delayed) and Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, which was banned in Canada due to excessive violence.

CANADA TO COUNT GAY COUPLES

Statistics Canada will count gay couples in next year's census.

All Canadians will be asked if they are living in a common-law partnership, defined as "two people of the opposite sex or of the same sex who live together as a couple but who are not legally married to each other."

A follow-up question requires the person filling out the form to define his or her relationship to the other people in the household with one of the choices being "common-law partner (same sex) of Person 1."

EGYPTIAN GAY COUPLE ARRESTED

Two men in Zaqaziq, Egypt, who were discovered to have gotten "married" by signing a private contract have been arrested, the *Cairo Times* reported.

Mumin S., 38, was charged with a "violation of honor by threat." His lover, Saber Abduh Ali, age 18 or 19, was charged with immoral and indecent behavior.

According to the *Times*, Ali told police the relationship had been going on for a year and a half while he worked in Mumin's computer-games store. But Ali claimed the relationship was not one of mutual consent because he had been "tricked" into it.

If convicted of forcing Ali to have sex against his will, Mumin faces up to six years in prison.

GAY INDIANS CAUCUS

One hundred ten gay and lesbian activists from around India gathered near Mumbai this month for a three-day conference entitled "Looking into the Next Millennium."

Addressing the opening session, actress and TV talk-show host Kiron Kher urged: "You must fight for your rights. You need to make your intentions clear and come public with your sexual preferences rather than spoil another's life."

Kher apparently was referring to opposite-sex spouses who unknowingly marry homosexuals.

Dr. Alka Gogte of the Maharashtra District AIDS Control Society agreed that coming out is the answer.

"No one will understand your problems till you speak for yourself," she told the conferees.

S.A. MAG WINS AWARD

The South African gay magazine OUTright won the mainstream Mondi Paper Magazine Award for "Best Fashion Editorials of 1999" on May 10.

"The impact of Daniel Somerville's two entries—'Episode 1 (and a half)' and 'Loop' in OUTright—is so visually powerful that the judges' decision was unanimous," said judge Sue Grant- Marshall.

"The photography, styling, layout, design and originality of the entries came together in a strong fashion statement. Men's fashion is nearly always challenging and Daniel and his team have broken new turf with their win."

GLASGOW DE-FUNDS GAY GROUPS

Glasgow, Scotland's City Council temporarily suspended all funding of gay groups May 12 after a homophobic citizen filed suit charging the city with violating Section 28 of the Local Government Act, a 10-year-old United Kingdom law that prohibits cities from "intentionally promot[ing] homosexuality" or teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" in schools.

Among the groups defunded are HIV Carers, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, the Glasgay arts festival, the MCT Theatre Company and the West of Scotland Lesbian and Gay Forum.

GAYS WELCOME IN FRENCH ARMY

Gays are welcome in the French army, spokesman General Alain Raevel told the gay magazine Tetu May 4.

"The army which we are building is an extension of society," Raevel said. "We need to recruit boys and girls for 400 different types of work. The fact that they may be homosexual does not concern us.

"The question is whether we want a very tough army, and recruit only Rambos, at the risk of seeing the army cut itself off from the nation it is supposed to protect. Or shall we have a less monolithic army which is really in a kind of osmosis with the nation, and through that gains its legitimacy. We have clearly chosen the second option."

Act up/Toronto challenges AIDS orthodoxy

A new ACT UP group in Toronto is promoting the theory that HIV is not the cause of AIDS, reports Xtra.

Similar ACT UP groups exist in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"We seek to challenge the myths of the gay male death cult ... that claim that HIV causes AIDS causes death," said organizer Robert Steffler. "We confront the deadly profiteering and corruption of the AIDS industry and demand an end to the AIDS test."

He added, "Our acronym does not stand for AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power, like the old ACT UP, but rather AIDS Coalition to Undo Propaganda."

ILGA OPENS OFFICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The International Lesbian and Gay Association has opened an office in Johannesburg, South Africa, with money provided by the International Funding Consortium.

Said ILGA: "For the first time in history, we have an opportunity to position African lgbt [sic] issues on the international agenda. We have an opportunity to utilize existing structures in combating the homophobia that is based on 'African culture and tradition' by using, among other methods, international human rights instruments to achieve equality for lgbts [sic] in the continent. This is a daunting task."

ILGA is a federation of some 400 gay groups from more than 80 nations. It stages conferences, publishes a bulletin, issues action alerts, and networks Western nations with the growing gay movements of the Third World and former communist nations. ILGA initiatives have increased gay clout within the European Union, the World Health Organization, Amnesty International and other international bodies.

For more information, phone ILGA Africa Coordinator Larissa Klazinga at 011-27-11-487-0772 or e-mail ilga@ncgle.org.za.

BRAZIL HAD 169 ANTI-GAY KILLINGS IN 1999

There were 169 anti-gay killings in Brazil last year, the *Grupo Gay da Bahia* reported May 2.

The murder rate was highest in the states of Sao Paulo and Pernambuco, the biggest city of which is Recife.

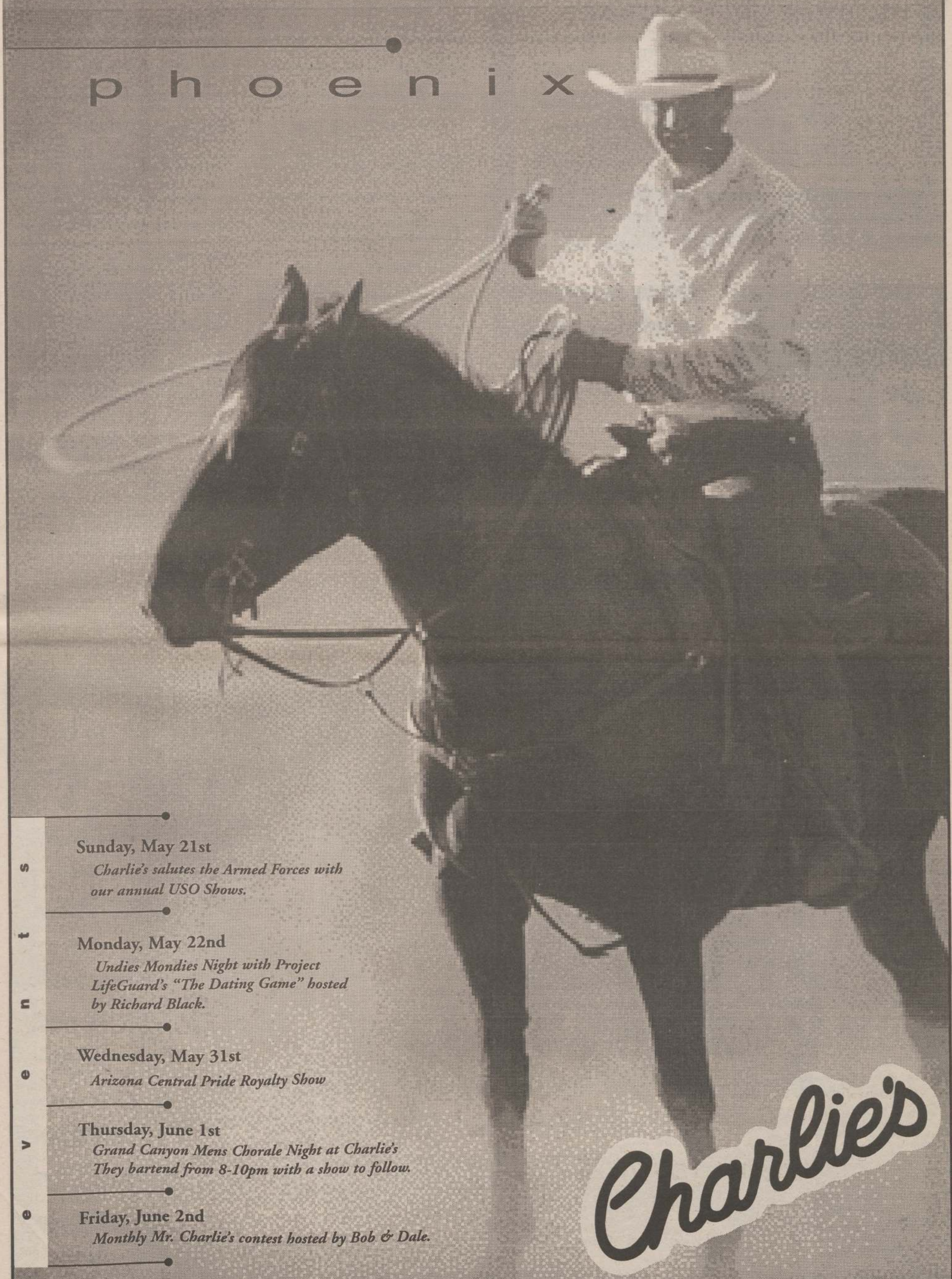
"These statistics are only the tip of the iceberg," said anthropologist Luiz Mott, human rights secretary of the Brazilian Association of Gays, Lesbians and Transgender Persons and author of the study.

"As there are no government statistics on hate crimes, we can only base our information on newspaper reports and the Internet. The data suggests that it would be more realistic to conclude that one gay, lesbian or transgender person is violently murdered every day in Brazil, victim of machismo and homophobia."



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Thursday, June 1st
Grand Canyon Mens Chorale Night at Charlie's They bartend from 8-10pm with a show to follow.

Friday, June 2nd
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Vermont's clergy and judges wrestle with civil union rituals

BARRE, Vt. (AP)—It takes more than two to enter a civil union.

Like the marriages after which they are patterned, civil unions must be certified by a justice of the peace, judge or clergy member. As the July 1 start date for the new system approaches, some of those officials still aren't sure if they'll preside over same-sex unions.

``I don't really know yet. I don't know,'' says Larry Johnson of Barre City, a Republican who has been a justice of the peace for about 20 years. ``I'd have misgivings.''

Others are overjoyed with their new roles. ``I got a call, and I'm doing one the beginning of July,'' says Rabbi Michael Cohen of Israel Congregation in Manchester.

Given Catholic Bishop Kenneth Angell's outspoken opposition to the new law, it's no surprise that priests in the diocese will be prohibited from presiding over civil unions. Unitarian Universalist ministers, toward the other end of the spectrum, generally applaud the legal recognition now granted to the commitment ceremonies they've offered to lesbian and gay couples for years.

But in other denominations, the stance on civil unions is not so clear. Some groups are leaving the decision to the consciences of individual ministers, while others are asking congregation members to weigh in. Vermont's Episcopal and Methodist bishops, who both advocated for the state to establish civil unions, recently advised clergy that their religious texts do not provide for a related ceremony, and in the case of Methodists, specifically prohibit it.

``The Methodist Church (Book of) Discipline says it's the job of its members to support the protection and establishment of civil rights for gay and lesbian persons,'' explains Arthur Hagy, dean of the cabinet of the Troy Conference of the United Methodist Church, which covers Vermont and northeastern New York. ``But we're not allowed as clergypersons to perform (civil union ceremonies).''

The civil union law is just that: a civil law. It does not require any religion to recognize same-sex partnerships. It also allows some leeway for state and local officials to choose whether they want to be involved.

Justices of the peace like Johnson, for example, have the right to decline to sign civil union papers for a same-sex couple, just as they can refuse to preside over a wedding, according to Vermont Secretary of State Deb Markowitz.

That doesn't mean they'll all back out, though. Johnson's colleague, Democrat Wilfred Fisher of Barre City, sees it as his duty to preside over the union of any couple who can get a state license. ``I thought about it and I don't see how we can refuse it,'' he says.

Fisher, a former mayor of Barre who has been a justice of the peace for about 40 years, believes the fuss about same-sex couples detracts from more important issues. ``I'm too old to be bothered by something like that,'' he says. ``There should be more about prescription drugs that are costing us a fortune.''

Like justices of the peace, town clerks have a choice about whether to participate in civil unions, although their role is limited to distributing and collecting forms.

``They're not performing a civil union; they're just giving out the paperwork,'' Markowitz says. ``Mostly what I've heard from the clerks is this is just paperwork and they're fine with it.''

For the few clerks who are uncomfortable with that level of involvement, the state allows the designation of another person to oversee civil unions, Markowitz says. One clerk has designated a gay male lister, or assessor, to perform the task. The clerks in Rutland and Barre have not yet decided how they will deal with the new law.

``We haven't even seen a copy of the bill,'' says Darlene Gregory, Rutland City clerk.

Rep. Thomas Little, R-Shelburne, who helped craft the new law as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, believes public officials should not be able to refuse to certify civil unions or file the related paperwork. He likens such a stance to refusing to solemnize interracial marriages, which would be illegal.

``I think it's OK to not do something as a public official, as long as the reason you're making that choice isn't a discriminatory reason,'' he says. ``So if the answer (to a couple asking for certification of a civil union) is 'I'm not around next weekend,' that's fine. If the answer is 'I won't do it because I don't do civil unions,' that raises concerns.''

As a practical matter, Little doesn't expect many lawsuits in this arena. Justices of the peace and judges already exercise their own discretion about what ceremonies they will solemnize.

``Just because they're authorized to marry people doesn't mean they are on call to perform marriages. (Getting married or having a civil union certified) is not like going to the counter of Motor Vehicles and saying 'I want to register a car,'" Little says.

Some clergy are scrambling to come up with policies to respond to the new law. Others say the state's decision doesn't affect them at all.

The Rev. Norman Runnion of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Fairlee will not preside over civil unions because they are not recognized in the Bible or in the Episcopal prayer book.

``I cannot in good conscience perform a same-sex marriage or a blessing of a same-sex marriage because it is not authorized by my church,'' he says.

But the Rev. Martha Dyson, canon pastor of St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington, says a recent memo from Vermont's Episcopal bishop specifically encouraged clergy who so desire to go outside the Episcopal prayer book for rituals to celebrate civil unions.

``The bishop has left it up to each individual clergyperson to follow their own conscience,'' says Dyson, who created a commitment ceremony with her female partner five years ago and plans to enter a civil union with her. ``We are definitely allowed to perform them.''

Bishop Mary Adelia McLeod of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont could not be reached for comment and she declined to make her memo public.

Dyson won't use the Episcopal marriage liturgy for same-sex civil unions because they are not marriages. Instead, she will look to texts from other traditions to craft the ceremonies until the prayer book is amended, which she anticipates will happen.

Dyson expects to require couples to go through counseling with her before a civil union ceremony. She also may limit her services to couples with some tie to the cathedral.

``I don't want to become the equivalent of a justice of the peace or a wedding mill,'' she explains. ``For me the underlying principle, whether we're talking about heterosexual marriage or a civil union, is it's not something to be taken lightly.''

Same-sex marriage has been hotly debated in the Methodist church. Bishop Susan Morrison, who oversees the Troy Conference, could not be reached for comment last week because she was attending the denomination's General Conference in Cleveland, where gay rights were expected to be on the agenda.

Unless a vote of the General Conference changes the policy, the United Methodist Church does not recognize same-sex unions. The church has revoked the credentials of some clergy who have broken that policy, Hagy says. ``Nothing that the Vermont Legislature has done has

Continued on following page

PrideRide 2000: Opening minds a mile at a time

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"It's not about changing people's opinions, it's about positive exposure. Especially for kids."

So says Tamra O'Halloran of the ambitious and ground breaking 3300-mile bike trip that she and four other gay women are undertaking. It's a highly visible way of promoting gay pride all across America while celebrating social diversity in towns large and small along the way.

PrideRide 2000 was organized by San Francisco filmmaker Dori Friend more than a year ago and is chiefly sponsored by The Experience, a 22-year-old self-awareness seminar aimed at gay men and lesbians.

The five bike riders left Huntington Beach, California April 30 and are planning to arrive on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on July 4. The group reached the Phoenix area on May 5 and took a well-deserved day off before heading east on the morning of May 7.

"We try to make 60 to 80 miles every day," Friend said. She drove cross country last year to map the route. Other riders include Melissa Myles, Lori Swan and Tasha Hill.

The women rise at 4:30 a.m and try to get underway by 5:30. They are accompanied by a support crew in a Jeep and an RV. They either stay at campsites along the route, or else are hosted by Experience supporters and others who've been notified of their arrival via their website, www.prideride2000.com.

The riders' message is a simple one—it's about being gay and being visible, and undertaking an athletic feat that impresses even the most jaded people in today's sedentary society.

"We have signs on the Jeep, signs on the RV, and we wear our tee-shirts, letting people know who we are and what we're doing," Friend states. "And then there are the cards."

The women have printed 5000 business cards explaining that they are riding to celebrate diversity and promote gay and lesbian pride. They liberally hand out the cards—to passersby at stoplights, in stores and restaurants, and wherever else they encounter curious onlookers during their 66-day trek.

From Phoenix, the group was off to Santa Fe, where The Experience is headquartered. They'll make stops in Dallas, Birmingham, Atlanta and Charleston, as well as at countless small towns along the way.

O'Halloran said the small town encounters are the most rewarding. "They'll see gay people riding through their town and maybe they'll think that they can follow us. And we get comments from gay people who tell us that no one ever wears pride shirts around there—and they'll be really impressed.'



The riders have received warm welcomes in unlikely places, often getting meals, drinks and ice comped by friendly store and restaurant owners who appreciate their outreach efforts.

The team is being regularly joined by additional riders along the route, and Friend is expecting the largest number of participants to accompany them from Dallas to Atlanta in a few weeks. "It's amazing there's only five of us, and that the core group is all women," Friend commented. "It wasn't intended to be that way."

Despite their small number, the bikers have already experienced a lifetime of memories and are feeling an up swelling of gay pride with every stop.

"It's about being out all the time—to be who I really am, everywhere," Friend said.

"You can't believe how much doing something like this increases your self confidence," added O'Halloran. "It's like, 'yeah, I can do this. I can do anything.'"

For information on how you can support the ride, to join the bikers along the route, or to get an update on their progress, visit their website at www.prideride2000.com

Continued from previous page

changed that at all."

Rabbi Cohen of Manchester is of the Reconstructionist branch of Judaism, which chose to offer commitment ceremonies for lesbian and gay couples more than a decade ago. That makes things easier for him now.

But still there is a creative tension involved in applying Jewish traditions to new circumstances, he says. ``You model it after (the traditional ceremony), but it's also different."

Cohen expects some civil unions to look very much like traditional Jewish wedding ceremonies and others to be less traditional, depending on the couple involved. In keeping with his religious beliefs, he will perform civil unions only for two Jews.

Reform Jewish leaders, who represent a much larger branch of Judaism, recently authorized their rabbis to officiate at same-sex commitment ceremonies, but the Orthodox and Conservative branches do not recognize such unions.

Rabbi Solomon Goldberg of the Rutland Jewish Center, a Conservative synagogue, supports civil unions, although he will not officiate at them.

``My denomination is not yet prepared to OK same-sex marriages and come up with a ceremony," he says. ``I would hope that we could find some way of doing it. I'm not sure how soon it will happen."

At least one church has decided to take the issue to its people.

``We're taking this opportunity to review all aspects of marriage policy," says Kerrick Johnson, a deacon at Barre Congregational Church. The church, part of the United Church of Christ, is holding a series of meetings to discuss civil unions and other marriage issues, such as whether the minister should wed couples who have no connection with the congregation.

While a leader of the United Church of Christ testified in favor of civil unions, each congregation is autonomous and may adopt its own policy, Johnson says. Members of the Barre congregation hold a wide range of strong opinions.

``Our minister has quite effectively and quite assiduously and repeatedly pointed out that that position (in favor of civil unions) in no way binds us at all. That's a point we've been stressing," Johnson says. ``We may get there. We may not."



Goings On

Bartlett Bash set for May 19 - 21

The annual spring Bartlett Bash, a fun-filled campout and boating weekend held each year at Bartlett Lake northeast of Phoenix, is scheduled for May 19 through 21. For information on how to get there and meet the rest of the gay/lesbian/overall queer community fun group, call Apollo's bar at 602/277-9373.

Special yoga course May 20

Expand your mind with a day of Kundalini yoga. The 3HO Kundalini Yoga Center is offering two half-day yoga seminars for students of all levels on May 20. the morning session is 8:00 a.m. to noon, and the afternoon session is 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is $15 prepaid and $20 at the door.

A vegetarian buffet will be served throughout the day. The event will be held at the Guru Nanak Dwara Ashram, 2302 N. 9th St. in Phoenix. Bring a blanket or towel to sit on. For information call 602/258-2580.

AIDS candlelight memorial May 21

The Phoenix area International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization Service will be held at Community Church of Hope, 4400 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix on Sunday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. Local coordinator for the event is Rev. Patrick Stout.

The mobilization, in its 17th year, will be held in more than 400 cities and towns and in 60 countries on that date. The theme of this year's service is "Break the Silence: Honor Every Death, Value Every Life."

Local AIDS organizations and churches and other organizations with AIDS outreach programs are invited to take part in a procession with their organization's banners. There will be a vigil on Central Avenue and the lighting of candles. The public is invited.

For more information or to volunteer to help, call the Community Church of Hope at 602/234-2180.

Wig Awards at Pookie's May 31

Miss Gay Arizona-America 2000 Barbra Seville and Pookie's Cafe will join forces on Wednesday, May 31 to present the Fifth Annual Golden Wig Awards at 9:00 p.m.

Known locally as the "Academy Awards of Drag", this event takes a light-hearted approach to recognizing gay entertainment in Phoenix. "In Hollywood they vote for Best Supporting Actress and Best Original Song," explains show producer and hostess Barbra Seville. "Here you can vote for Best Dance Diva, Best Wigs, or Most Over-Performed Song."

All proceeds from this year's event will go to Project LifeGuard, AIDS Project Arizona's HIV/AIDS prevention program.

"This is the third year we've hosted this event," said Jonathan Stern, manager of Pookie's Cafe. "It's always a blast." Pookie's is located at 4540 N. 7th St. in Phoenix.

Dependency group to begin in June

A new group will be available the first week of June for gay men who want support dealing with addictions and other compulsive behaviors (alcohol, drugs, sex, shopping, spending, food, gambling, work). The group will follow the book *Accepting Ourselves and Others* by Sheppard Kominars.

Group facilitator is Joe Amico, area therapist and nationally known speaker on gay issues. Amico is the former executive director of Pride Institute, among the first chemical dependency treatment programs specifically for gay men and lesbians.

For more information on group times and how to register, call Amico at 602/284-2191.

GCMC concert June 3

The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale has announced its Spring 2000 Concert, "This Joint is Jumpin", a celebration of classic swing music from the 30's and 40's by composers such as Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Harold Arlen.

The concert will take place at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 3 at Phoenix's historic Orpheum Theater. Locally recognized producer and director Lyman Goodrich will stage the show. In addition to the men's chorale, Arizona Women in Tune will perform. For the fifth consecutive year, the 45 members of the GCMC are under the direction of Dr. Craig Westendorf.

For tickets and information, call the GCMC hotline at 602/340-7640.

AGRA Poster Contest: deadline is June 10

AGRA-Phoenix chapter is sponsoring a poster contest for the 2001 Road Runner Regional Rodeo. The theme of next year's rodeo is " 2001: A Rodeo Oddessy" .The rodeo will take place in Phoenix Jan. 19-21, 2001. Judging for the contest will be by vote of the members present at the monthly AGRA meeting on June 10, 2000. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. that day.

Entries may be delivered in person or by mail to: "RRRR Poster Contest" c/o Charlie's Phoenix, 727 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona, 85013. Entries must be 17" x 22" finished size with the only lettering being " 2001 Road Runner Regional Rodeo". Exception to the size requirement will be made for computer generated artwork, with the original art being on a Macintosh-compatible CD or Zip disk. Sufficient space must be left within the design—or in a border included in the finished size—for dates, hotel information and sponsor logos.

Entries must be received with the artist's name and phone number in upper right-hand corner of the back of the design. Entries received with the artist's name on the front of the design will be disqualified. The winning design and artwork become the property of AGRA-Phoenix Chapter. All other entries will be destroyed, unless arrangements are made to have them returned at the artist's expense.

The artist of the winning entry will be awarded a $200 prize. For further information, contact Brian Helander, Public Relations Director for AGRA- Phoenix Chapter, at 602/266-5726.

AHRF Dinner June 17

The Arizona Human Rights Fund will host its annual awards dinner at the Camelback Inn on Saturday, June 17 2000. Last year, more than 800 people attended and this year organizers are hoping for more than 1000 attendees to support the organization.

Honorees this year will be Chase

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News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

Manhattan Bank and attorney Mary Bonauto, who is the lead counsel in the Vermont marriage rights case. Also honored will be the City of Tucson's mayor and city council; AHRF member and activist Ron Passarelli; and Rep. Steve May.

The theme for the 200 dinner is "If not now, when? If not us, who?" AHRF is dedicated to influencing the political process and government to fight prejudice and discrimination and secure equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

For information on individual ticket purchases or to host a table at this event, contact AHRF Director of Administration Carla Darby at 602/650-0900.

Softball teams need help getting to series

Representatives of the Legacy Screenprints women's softball team are seeking financial help getting to the Gay World Series of Softball, to be held in Toronto Aug. 15.

The cost of sending 14 women to Canada for one week is nearly $900 per person, so team members are reaching out to the community for assistance. The team will take monetary contributions of any size, as well as donations of business products or services.

Checks should be made payable to Team Legacy. Questions or donations should be directed to Christen Koselke at 480/964-2266. Or e-mail teamlegacy2000@aol.com.

Don't run... Walk!

A new Frontwalkers group has formed within Frontrunners. The Frontwalkers will meet in the same location as the Frontrunners, but simply walk the route. For more information, interested persons should contact Connie at Rudy910@ aol.com or call 602/954-3983.

Frontrunners, a gay and lesbian running group under the mantle of team Arizona, now has four runs during the week at locations around the Valley: Tuesday morning and evening and also on Friday and Saturday mornings. Interested runners should contact azfrontrunners@hotmail.com or call 602/954-3983.

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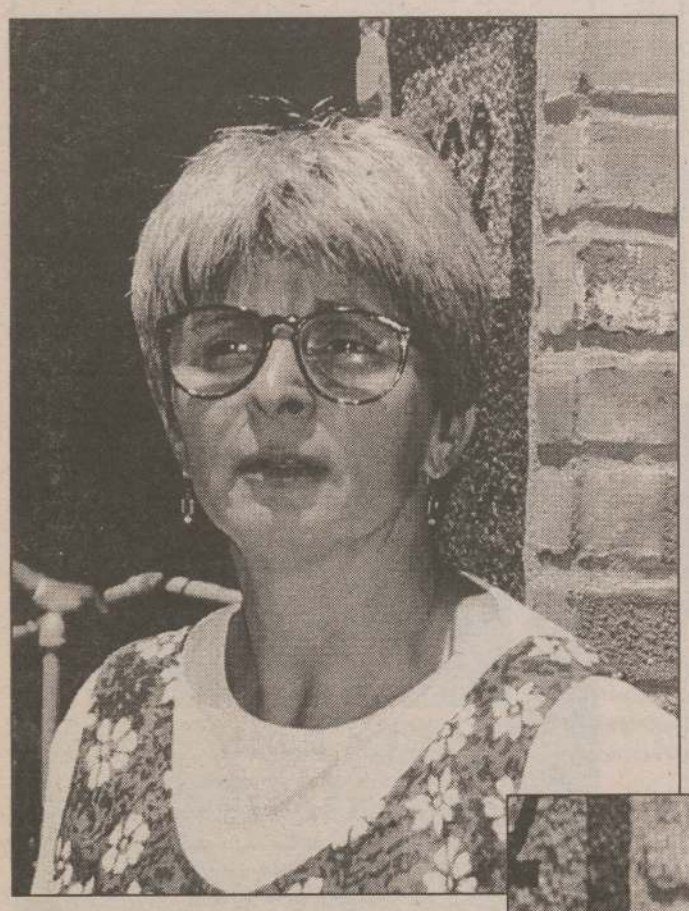
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Tucson lesbian is a candidate for AZ legislature

Continued from page 1

Yet she wants people to understand that she is launching her political career not as a gay activist, but primarily as an advocate for improvements in behavioral health and education funding. She says she would be running for the seat even if she weren't gay, and she's bothered to think people aren't getting that.



"What motivated me the most is that Pima County does not get its share of dollars sent down for behavioral health and education. I think that we always get shortchanged."

As a private citizen, Barajas has given many volunteer hours and logged many miles to bend lawmakers' ears on behalf of the issues she believes in. "I have been going to Phoenix several times throughout the year for the various boards that I sit on, and to speak to my legislators regarding things that are passionate to me. Like mental health, health care and education."

Having learned something about the process, Barajas is ready to run for office herself. "I spoke to my business partner and I spoke to my wife. Both my business and my life are in a place where I'm able to step out of those roles and supply more time as a volunteer. I still look at [being a legislator] as a volunteer position, because it really doesn't pay much. So I will be doing [the same volunteer work] but at a different level."

Barajas is operating her campaign under Clean Elections guidelines, which severely limit the amount of money she will be able to raise.

"I can collect 200 five-dollar contributions, and only from Democrats registered in our district. I'm about 70 shy from that. I think it's obscene how much money people spend to get elected to public office, and I have a whole concept of what I'd like to do with the money."

Barajas would like to see candidates initiate some type of bartering system "where if people want to give money, it should go to some kind of a nonprofit" and advertising spending would be limited.

"This campaign is going to be really grassroots, which I've always been really involved in—grassroots campaigning. And I think I'm one of the rare candidates in that I really like to get out and walk the district. I love walking. I've been walking the district since January, introducing myself. Obviously, now that I'm in real estate, you have to be able to walk up and meet people."

For all legislative hopefuls, the window for filing signed petitions and officially declaring their candidacies is from May 15 through June 14. Barajas has collected her requisite signatures and says she plans to file all the necessary papers by the end of May.

The district she seeks to represent encompasses much of the city's Northeast section. Geographically the largest district in Southern Arizona, District 13 includes portions of downtown Tucson and stretches to the Eastern foothills. It's an economically and socially diverse region and is nearly evenly split between registered Republicans and Democrats.

Eighteen weeks before the primary, there are four Democrats running and two Republicans. Incumbents Andy Nichols (D) and Kathleen Dunbar (R) are both vacating their house seats to run for the State Senate, leaving the house race wide open.

"District 13, from a political standpoint, is the most watched district. The Republicans want to take all three seats back," Barajas explains. "Governor Hull was just down here for a fundraiser. They're going to drop a lot of money into the district."

The Republican-v.-Democrat dollar disparity, she says, "will really make it interesting. Because I'm running as a clean candidate and I really, really believe that with my volunteers, that we can win this under the Clean Elections guidelines."

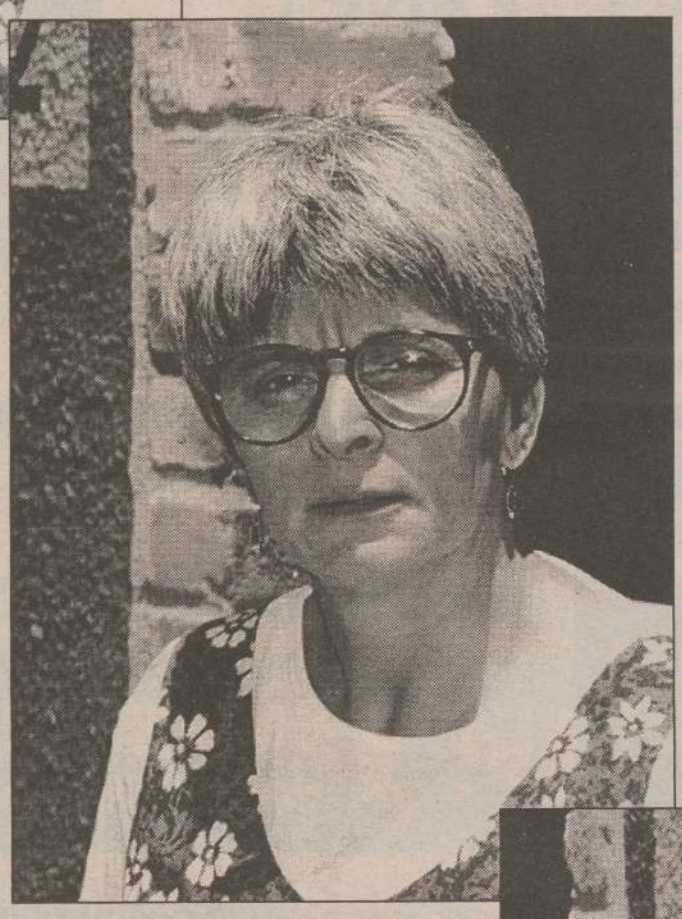
Barajas is limiting her campaign spending based on principle, not out of necessity. She has done quite well for herself in the area's booming real estate market and is proud of her accomplishments. She likes to be viewed as an example of someone doing who is well financially while remaining socially responsible.

"I fall into a lot of minorities. I'm a woman, I'm Hispanic, I'm a lesbian. But I'm successful, and so I break those barriers because I'm successful."

She adds, "A lot of people think, 'Oh, you must be a Republican.' Why? because I'm financially in a good place? I've known the downside of life and the upside of financial rewards."

As a business owner, Barajas says, she thinks businesses need to participate in the community in order to improve it. "My company gave away more than $40,000 last year, and not just to gay organizations. I represented a nonprofit last year in a real estate transaction and gave away my $27,000 commission because of the work that they do around mental health and substance abuse."

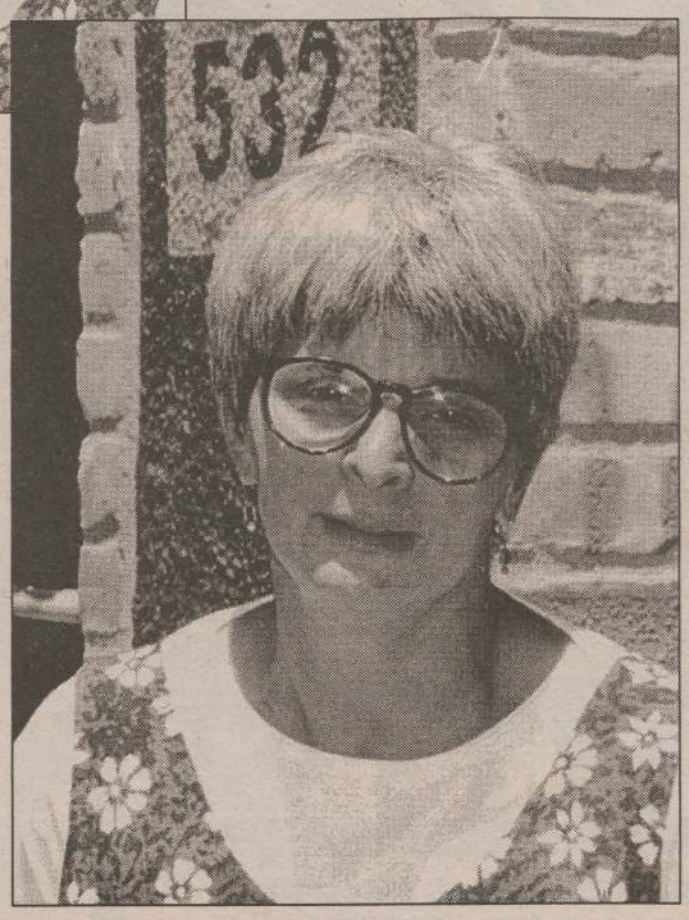
"I can take myself and show you how I saved taxpayer dollars, because I went to an agency that took interest in me and got me into recovery, and so now I'm back as a contributing member of society."



Substance abuse is an issue Barajas understands personally. She readily describes herself as a recovering addict and alcoholic.

Barajas admits that liberal Democrats are often summarily characterized as wanting an endless supply of money flowing into social services. It's an unfair charge, she says. Smarter spending doesn't have to mean more spending.

"I fall into a lot of minorities. I'm a woman, I'm Hispanic, I'm a lesbian. But I'm successful, and so I break those barriers because I'm successful."



"I can take myself and show you how I saved taxpayer dollars, because I went to an agency that took interest in me and got me into recovery, and so now I'm back as a contributing member of society. And so I look at long-term solutions, and not ways that we have to continue to spend dollars. And education is prevention."

She continues, "I think we just need stronger voices in the House from people who really understand. I'm a recovering alcoholic, I understand what that means. I understand what it means to be forgotten."

Sober for 15 years this October, Barajas' personal life could not be happier. She married her partner, Carolyn Barajas, in a holy union ceremony on Nov. 11, 1995. Carolyn is 39, a former pro golfer. She took Barajas' surname at the time of their wedding.

Both women's families attended their ceremony and fully support their relationship, though such was not the case when they met. "My wife came from a very strict, God-hates-Fags background. Her parents also weren't coming to the wedding, they had not spoken in four years. When she was a professional golfer and was always on tour, if she was with somebody, she was not welcome [in their home]."

Like many gay men and lesbians at odds with their parents, Carolyn assumed the damaged relationship was irreparable. But Barajas had overcome a five-year period of estrangement from her own mother after coming out in her 20s.

"So when we met, I kept saying, 'you have to talk, you have to talk. Just because they say no, we both must just continue to give them choices.'" Barajas says she learned in recovery that "you just give them choices, you don't make decisions for people. So we invited them up to the wedding."

To both their surprise, Carolyn's mother showed up. "I don't know how she got there, but she was drinking beer and dancing in a gay bar at our reception. And now I always tease her and say I'm her favorite daughter-in-law."

Family ties are very important to Barajas. "I had two brothers. My oldest brother, who was my best friend, was killed instantly in a work-related accident 20 years ago. I have a younger brother who's just delightful. He has five girls and a wonderful wife and lives in Chicago. He thinks I walk on water and he was the best man—or best whatever—at our wedding."

Barajas' father took an early retirement several years ago and moved from Chicago to Tucson. "When I was little, my dad lived with us periodically but not very much, so it was interesting that my relationship with my dad really developed when I moved out here. I started corresponding with him through letters and then he ended up coming out here to be near me, and actually was the backer for the first women's bar I had."

When Barajas and her brothers were growing up, her parents were separated although they never divorced. "My parents have never been together. They're married, but they've never lived together as husband and wife. I grew up in a very nontraditional family, with really lots of moms and dads who took care of me."

Now she and her father are closer than ever. "It's been an interesting process in educating him on women's issues, and not using the words 'broad' and 'babe'. And really, he's turned

in to a very compassionate man and most of his women friends are lesbians."

Carolyn's parents recently purchased a home in Tucson. "They bought a house here last year . We just took them to Rio Rico for the weekend for their anniversary. We are constantly doing things together. And so it's a miracle, really, how our families have kind of come around."

The family support means a great deal as Barajas considers a public role. "They're very supportive. My in-laws came to the kickoff party, they try to come to every event. My mother-in-law is still a Republican, though, but we're working on that."

Kidding aside, the main thing Barajas is working on now is getting her message to voters and not being labeled—and written off—by the mainstream press as a gay candidate with only one issue on her mind.

"My process as a representative in the house is that I will stretch people beyond what they know they can be stretched. I will show them limitations that they don't even know exist, because I will not be quiet when it comes to being passionate for issues about people."

And there are no barriers, she explains, that those issues cross between heterosexual and homosexual people. "The things that I'm passionate about—bigotry, and education, and health care—there's no line that distinguishes us on those problems, whether we are heterosexual or homosexual. Human rights are human rights, and I will absolutely strive for more equality for gays and lesbians and bisexuals and transgenders, because you know what? We are no different."

"No matter what my sexual identity is, my passion for people has stemmed from childhood," she says. "My passions are people, civil rights and human rights, and that includes everyone."

Barajas says her social conscience goes back "to when I was in Chicago and selling Easter Seals when I was six years old. I've always tried to help people. And so this is not new to me, going and trying to help people. My expertise is in fundraising and the community. So I just think of this as a larger level of fundraising, trying to allocate dollars to Pima County for services that need to be in place. And also to look at how money is being wasted."

As personal heroes, Barajas names Hilary Clinton and Eleanor Roosevelt. She also owes a great deal of inspiration to Arizona Senator Herschella Horton, the District 14 Democrat stepping down this year to run for Corporation Commission.

"The only reason I've stayed out of politics this long is because I didn't think I could be in office and stay true to myself. And I've watched Herschella Horton over the years, and gone up and spoken to her about different issues. And



if there ever was an example of someone who can vote on the issues and remain true to her ideals, it's her."

Barajas adds, "I would only hope that I could be anywhere near the legislator that she has been. She is such a passionate woman on her issues, and she has always stood up for gays and lesbians as well, even though she is not gay. I admire her no end, and just hope that, once elected, I could continue to walk in her path and continue some of the successes that she has brought to Pima County. She's my mentor and my hero in politics."

Could the socially progressive Horton have been elected to her senate seat if she weren't heterosexual? Perhaps. Will Barajas' sexual orientation make a difference in the 2000 campaign? She doesn't see why it should.

"Pima County is much different than Maricopa County as far as the climate of our attitudes toward gay issues." Barajas points out that Tucson's mayor and city council are being honored by AHRF at its annual fundraising dinner in Phoenix on June 17 for the city's proactive positions on equal rights and nondiscrimination.

AHRF Co-Chair Bill MacDonald likes Barajas' chances, provided the Tucson newspapers get beyond discussing her sexuality. "I think Colette's a viable candidate, and from the people supporting her in that district, I think she certainly has credibility with the incumbents, like Andy Nichols." Nichols, who is leaving his house seat because of term limits, has long been a reasonable voice and supporter of equality and other issues that AHRF advocates.

"I think the gay and lesbian community in the Tucson area will be supporting her all the way," MacDonald says," But I think she has been a victim of the press because it seems that all they have focused on is her statements that she is a lesbian. So I really hope that she and the media can come together and she is able to present herself as an advocate for all her constituents, and for all the issues that are important to her, like education and health care. She offers the kind of balanced representation that all the the voters in District 13 need, and I hope they'll get the opportunity to see that during the campaign."

When Barajas was recently described as a "homosexual candidate" at a speaking engagement, she said she had to ask herself why none of her opponents are then labeled "heterosexual candidates".

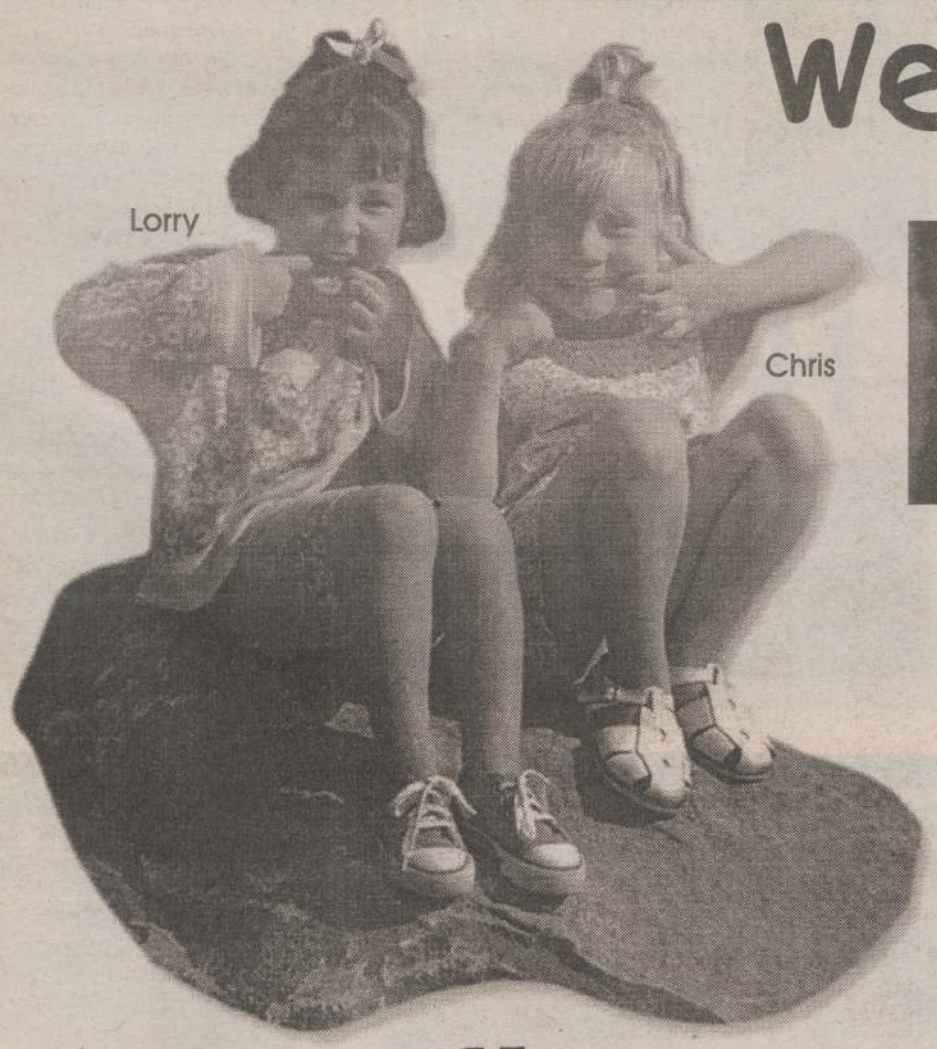
"And I don't mind [the designation]. I'm out and I'm very comfortable. I don't hide, I'm very affectionate to my wife in public and I would never hide it. But it's not what makes me who I am. Does it make me a strong voice in the gay and lesbian community? Absolutely. But I don't want to be tolerated. Being tolerated, to me, is being looked down upon. It's not about toleration."

Although she won't make gay equality issues her number-one priority, Barajas, if elected, says her votes will work to further the progress made in recent sessions. "There are several bills that we still have to look at," she explains, noting that the sodomy bill was killed by one vote in the '99-00 session.

"I work hard. I pay my taxes. I'm a participating citizen of the state of Arizona. I was born in America, and yet I am denied constitutional rights—and that is an injustice. And those are the types of injustices that I would like to see changed."

There are also, she acknowledges, more than 400 state laws that specifically discriminate against Arizona's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender population. She says she won't sit idly by when conservatives attempt to introduce additional discriminatory bills—as one Mesa Republican, in particular, can be counted on to do in every session.

"Will I be a strong voice? Absolutely," she says eagerly. "I can't wait. And I hope my chair is right next to Karen Johnson's."



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Essential Theatre presents Gay & Lesbian Stories at Scottsdale Center for the Arts May 20

By John T. Lotardo, Contributor

"This is our third annual gay and lesbian show. We do it primarily to give a voice to the stories and experiences of the gay community," says Susan Southard, artistic director for Phoenix-based Essential Theatre.

Southard explains that, each year, the gay & lesbian program has a different unifying theme. This year's show addresses what the inalienable rights are for gay men and lesbians.

The format of the May 20 show, called *In Pursuit of Happiness, Gay and Lesbian Stories*, is different from most theatrical presentations. The Essential troupe performs something called Playback Theatre, an interactive onstage experience in which audience members tell their stories and then watch them brought to life on stage.



Southard says that audiences love it.

She says that "gays and lesbians are ecstatic to be there and have a piece about them being performed on stage." Oftentimes, the personal and identifying details that make someone gay and lesbian become whitewashed when delivered to an audience. Southard describes this show as allowing "their experiences to become mainstage."

The whole purpose of this type of theater is to create a direct connection between performer and audience member. As Southard sees it, both are crossing boundaries, not only of gender, but life experience as well in order to create a thread of common humanity for all.

At a previous playback performance with a gay and lesbian theme, Southard was herself one of the actors. She remembers that a gay man had chosen her to play him in the reenactment of his story. Although it is not unusual for the performers to play either a male or female role, the man was surprised by her successful portrayal. He didn't expect her to have it in her to properly portray the nuances of being a gay man. As part of this theme of inclusiveness, the show will also be sign language interpreted.

Lorenzo Aragon, associate artistic director for the company, considers this show as a very personal one. Aragon, as a gay man, calls the gay-themed show a great avenue of expression for gays and lesbians. He explains that "one reason we continue to work with 'la familia'—or the community—is because 60% of the company is gay."

The cast for *In Pursuit of Happiness* includes Southard, Aragon, Jacqueline Masei, and Lendo Abdur-Rahman as the actors with Sarah Ludowici as the conductor and David Sorensen and Paul Evans as the musicians.

Three of the actors and one of the musicians are gay. By having their stories and lives told openly and honestly on stage, Aragon believes gays and lesbians "have their moment." He says it allows their existence to "become visible."

Though *In Pursuit of Happiness* is part of its public performance series, the Essential Theatre Company works with other less public audiences as well. They work closely with many social service groups to bring a voice to those who normally would not see their stories told. Essential Theatre performance venues include shelters, criminal facilities and other social service arenas—each with its own story to tell. Aragon states that "these groups really expand our artistry. It is intense work."

Aragon loves "the freedom of it." Southard does too. As Southard says, doing non-scripted work is exciting. She thrives on the "the originality of it." She continues, "everything is anew each time. We love that kind of work."

***In Pursuit of Happiness: Gays and Lesbian Stories* will perform at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 in the Cinema Theater of the Scottsdale Center for the Arts at 7380 East Second Street in Scottsdale. Tickets are $14 and can be purchased at SCA by calling 480/994-ARTS or from Ticketmaster at 480/784-4444. For more information about Essential Theatre, including their other performance venues, call 480/897-6711.**

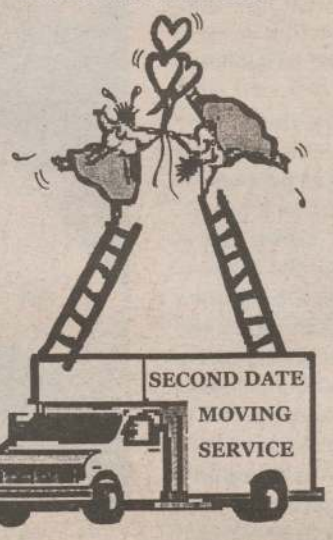
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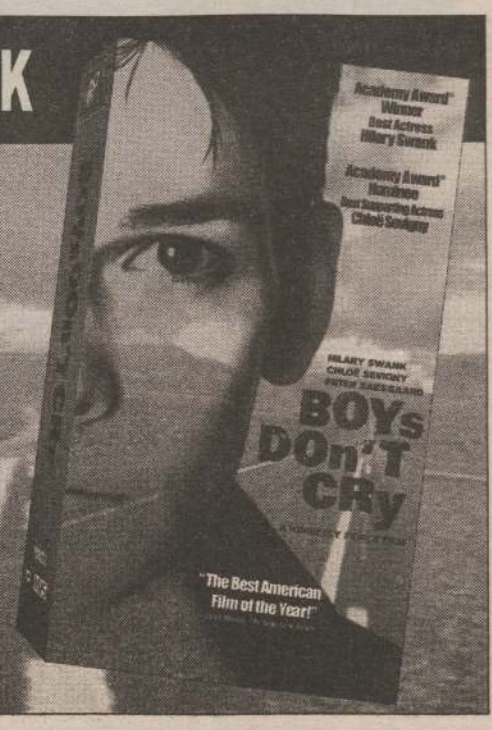
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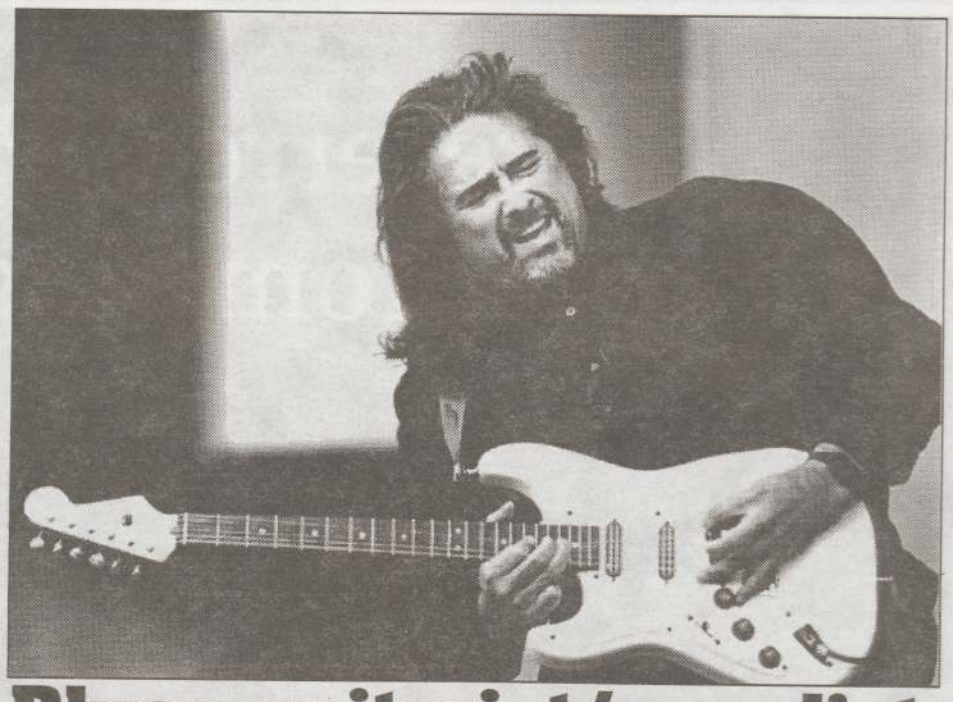
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Blues guitarist/vocalist hitting Celebrity May 21

Master guitarist and vocalist Coco Montoya will celebrate the release of his Alligator records debut, *Suspicion*, with a performance at Phoenix's Celebrity Theatre on Sunday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Montoya spent five years drumming for the late blues legend Albert Collins and then ten years as guitarist for John Mayall's Bluestreakers before launching his solo career in 1993. With his fourth solo album, Montoya uses blues as a blasting off point for his rock solid, groove-laden sound.

Tickets are $23.50. Call 602/267-1600 to order.

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Deported divas impart laughs through May 27

Deporting the Divas, Guillermo Reyes' award-winning fantasy play about a sexy border guard's struggles to come out as a gay man and a modern Latino, continues its run through May 27 at PlayWrights Theatre in downtown Phoenix.

Call 602/252-8497 for show times, ticket prices, and reservations.



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Lilies continues through May

Michel Marc Bouchard's sensitive gay romance, *Lilies*, continues its run on the Phoenix stage through May 27. The drama is being presented by the just-formed Nearly Naked Theater Company at the Helen K. Mason Theater under the direction of company founder Damon Dearing.

Call 602/274-2432 for tickets and information.

Women's chorale takes a musical look at love May 20

Arizona Women in Tune, the Valley's lesbian chorale, has doubled in size in the last year and a half "and we're very excited about that," says Conductor Kim McCreary.

The group's 30-plus members are also excited about their spring concert, *Risk & Romance*, scheduled for Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church , 4027 E. Lincoln.

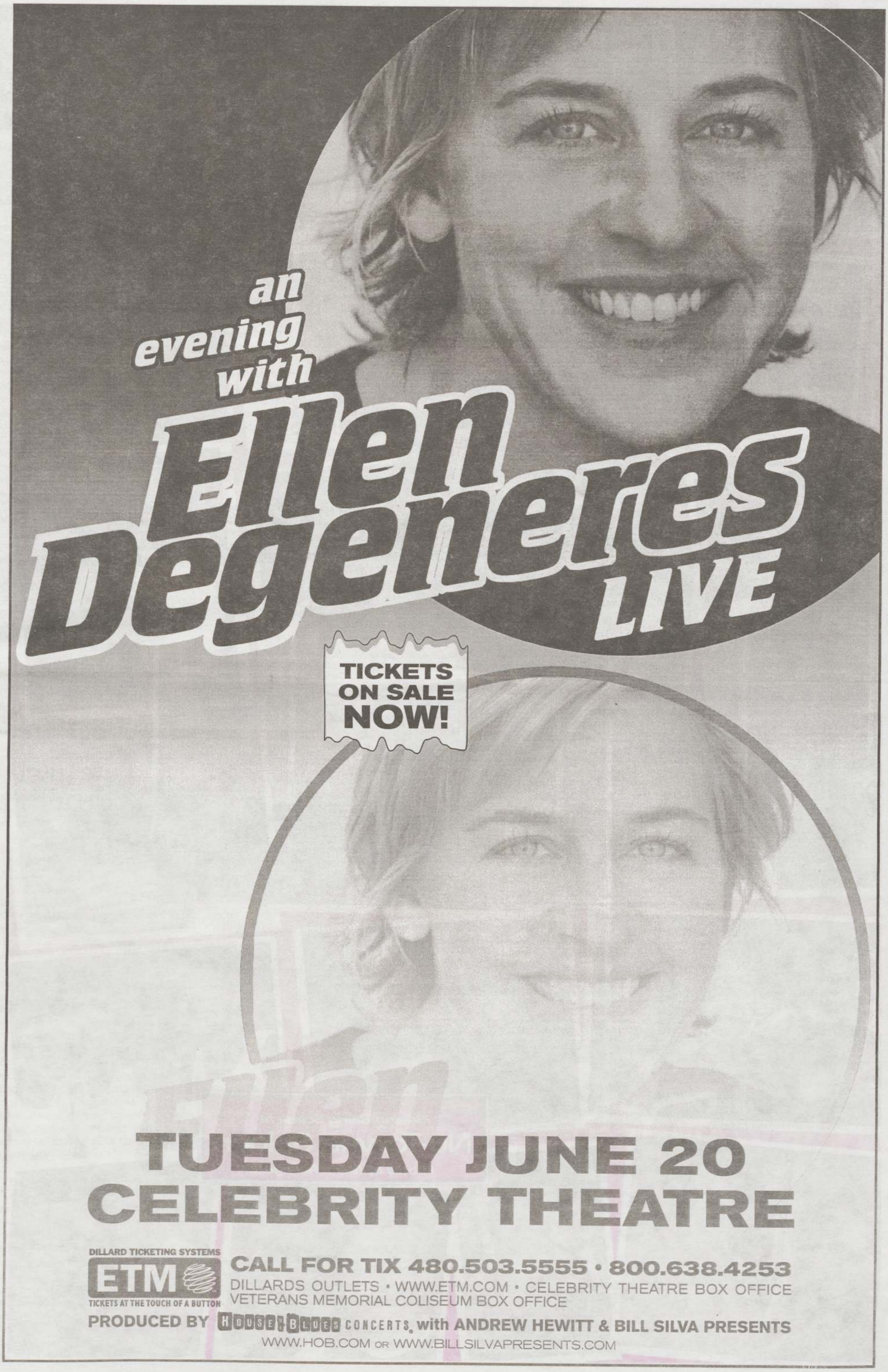
"We're taking a musical look at love, and particularly love in the gay community," McCreary explains. The group will be sharing stories culled from members' experiences as well as from outside stories.

Babe Caylor of Obelisk Books and The Community Center's youth programs will serve as emcee and will narrate the evening's offerings.

Once known as TLC and formed as part of a now-defunct women's services organization, Women in Tune incorporated on its own and changed the name about 18 months ago. Attendance has been rising steadily ever since, as has the group's musical reputation.

Later this year, the group will be traveling to San Jose to take part for the first time in GALA, a worldwide conference and performance program for gay and lesbian choruses.

McCreary is proud of the group's progress and invites everyone to come hear them on the 20th. Tickets are $15 and are available at Obelisk or through chorale members. Call 623/878-5430 for information.


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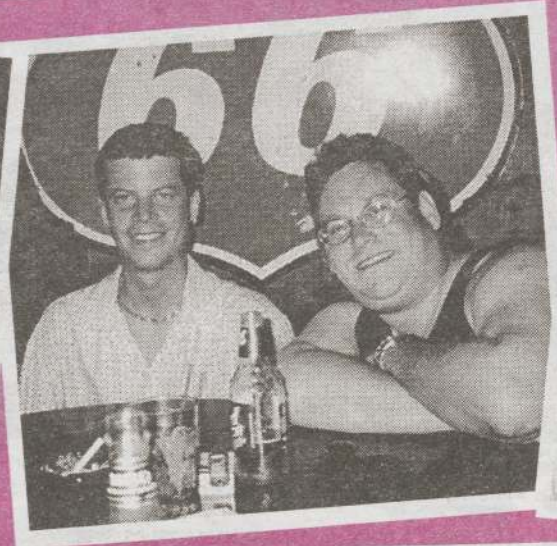




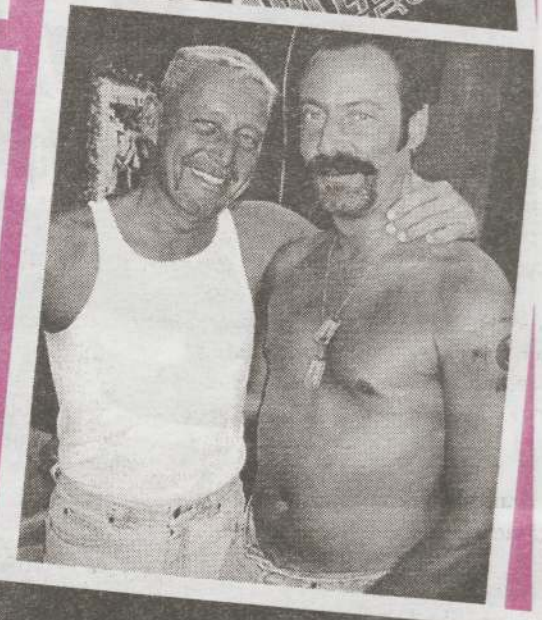
































Seeing/Being Scene at

Nu-Towne Saloon

Photos by Mario Rodriguez

Directing a Winner

Kimberly Peirce transformed Brandon Teena's disturbing story into 1999's most acclaimed—and important—film

By Francesca Miller

Anyone who believes that women directors are only capable of bringing lightweight fare to the screen will have their illusions shattered by one viewing of *Boys Don't Cry*. This dark, brooding film is the freshman effort of a previously unknown writer/director named Kimberly Peirce.

The 33-year-old visionary labored five years to bring her film to fruition. Peirce and co-screenwriter Andy Bienen based their work on the true story of Brandon Teena, the transgendered youth who entranced a small-town community of Falls City, Nebraska, with his charm and charisma. Brandon Teena was eventually brutally murdered by two friends who discovered Teena's true identity as a female. The murder spawned a very real controversy that is still very much alive today.

Boys Don't Cry, which has recently been released on video and DVD by Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, continues to have an astounding resonance.

I caught up with Ms. Peirce in the Lone Star State, where she was accepting an award from the Texas Film Commission. Peirce is the kind of filmmaker journalists adore. She is gracious, erudite, passionate about her work, incredibly articulate about film, and very much in love with the film-making process. It's exciting to realize that this provocative filmmaker might one day be a leading voice in American cinema

Q: Brandon Teena's murder became a cause celebre among gay activists around *the world. Do you consider Boys Don't Cry* a gay film?
A: I think it's a universal story that affects people regardless of their sexual orientation because it focuses on real emotion intertwined with class, culture and sexuality. It resonates with a broad audience because everyone can identify with Brandon.

Of course in doing my research, I spoke to a number of butch lesbians and transsexuals and read books like *Gender Defender* and *Stone Butch Blues*. While Brandon's story reflects lesbian, gay and transsexual experiences, it also goes beyond these individual stories. I think everyone at some time or other in their life has questioned either their gender identity or their sexual preference, or has struggled to figure out who they are and how to be themselves. People seem to identify with Brandon as a reflection of themselves.

If people who are gay look at my film, feel connected to it and to Brandon and therefore consider it a gay film, then that's great, it's doing what its supposed to do, reflecting them and bringing them inside Brandon's story. The point is to engage the audience as deeply as possible with all the characters and allow the audience to see itself reflected in all of them, in the tragedy as a whole.

Q: Do you identify as a gay filmmaker?
A: Are you planning on outing me? I've discussed my sexuality in several interviews and in several publications. I identify as queer rather than straight, lesbian or gay.

I like the term "queer" because it gives me the freedom to express more aspects of my personality—the boy side and the girl side—the fact that some days I might wake up feeling like Clyde Barrow and other days wake up feeling like a girl, the fact that I can be attracted to all types of people. I'd rather follow my desire than be limited by a label.

Q: When did you come to this project?
A: I had been working on another script. It was a true story about a woman who passed as a man during the Civil War. However, the more I probed into her story, the more I found that that she was passing as a man to save herself, not to discover who she was. And therefore, the act of passing was not inherently dramatic and neither was her story—ultimately you were going to have to go beyond the passing as a man to figure out who she was and what she wanted.

In April 1994, I saw an article in *The Village Voice* about a young woman named Teena Brandon who had fully reinvented herself as a boy named Brandon Teena, and was largely successful as a boy.

I ultimately became much more compelled by him and his story than the woman in the other script I had been working on. I gathered up a lot of material, traveled to Falls City, interviewed Lana Tisdel (Brandon's lover) went to the murder trial, and met the policemen who were actually involved. I was more interested in making a story of gender identity, rather than one of survival.

I really fell in love with this kid Teena Brandon who one day put a sock in her pants and a cowboy hat on her head and reinvented herself into her fantasy of a boy and then went out and passed, asked girls out, was largely successful and then after it all came crashing down, found a deeper, truer expression of his/her self—Brandon just had so much life in him. I was also compelled by all the other characters, who they were, why they were drawn to Brandon, why the whole thing played out as it did—it seemed to touch such intense truths about desire and identity.

Desire—who you think you are, who you're attracted to—is fascinating, because it seems to be the truest emotion we experience. And unlike any other medium, film can capture it so purely.

Q: You created a brilliant character in Brandon. How did you capture Brandon's persona?
A: Besides the research I had on the actual Brandon, My writing partner and I used a number of film influences including Montgomery Clift, the young Brando, Clyde Barrow from *Bonnie and Clyde*, James Dean, *Cool Hand Luke*, and Jimmy Stewart—the wonderful, iconic gentleman of Hollywood films.

Q: The film's visual palette is also astonishing, particularly since it was your first feature. What is your background, and which filmmakers were your influences?
A: I studied English and Japanese at the University of Chicago, attended graduate school at Columbia for film, and worked as a photographer in Japan.

My influences? I loved the neo-realistic works of Pasolini, Robert Bresson, the "French New Wave", early Cassavettes, and young Scorsese. I loved them because of their rough intensity and the poetry of realism.

I was also moved by the surrealism of Michael Powell and *Black Narcissus*, Carol Reed, Japanese cinema, film noire, and early Disney because it was important for me to capture the hard-core realism of life in Falls City as well as the landscape of the imagination that the characters escape into when the world they live in won't let them be who they believe they are. You want to create a visceral and emotionally true world that brings the audience as deeply inside the experience as possible, so they can see and feel what the characters see and feel.

Q: Given the tremendous interest in this story and the fact that there was a competing Brandon Teena film with Drew Barrymore and Diane Keaton attached, why do you think it took so long to get this low budget ($2 million) story on screen?
A: I just wasn't ready, the film community wasn't ready, the culture wasn't ready and I didn't have my skills as a filmmaker up to speed yet.

I think Brandon's life and death reflected things that were deeply reflective of the culture as a whole—proliferation of violence, the fragility of masculinity and the fact that gender is everyone's issue—who has not at some time or another been at odds with how they feel about their gender on the inside and how it is manifested to the outside world?

I think as time passed, as violence, particularly crimes against identity swept through the country—for example, the crimes against the Jewish day care center, the execution of Matthew Shepperd, the executions at Columbine, people woke up. The time became right—I got the financing, we found Hilary and we got the other elements necessary to make the film.

Q: What was the search for Brandon like?
A: I auditioned every butch lesbian and transsexual I could find. They were wonderful and could pass in real life, but unfortunately, none of them could portray what they did in real life on screen. Great screen actors have this extraordinary ability to exteriorize emotions so as to bring you deeply inside their experience.

I started looking at actresses, but there was a stigma attached to the role and few actresses would come in. Then in 1998, after Ellen came out, we were inundated with a flood of actors interested in the part, but none of them could pull off being a boy.

After three years of searching we had four weeks to go before we started shooting and we still had not found Brandon. We pulled out all the stops and sent our casting agent to LA. Late one night, a tape came in and this beautiful androgynous person floated across screen with a cowboy hat on and a sock in his pants—we didn't know if he was a boy or a girl and then he smiled, and that was all we needed to see. Hilary blurred the gender line and by smiling, she captured Brandon's spirit and therefore invited the audience all the way inside the character.

I then realized that after three years, I had my Brandon. Now the problem became finding a Lana. I had three weeks before filming began, and no Lana.

Chloe Sevigny originally wanted to play Brandon. In the audition, I sensed she did not really feel connected to being a butch and I asked her "Have you ever really felt like a boy?" and she said "I can't lie to you, I haven't," and then she told me she wanted to be Lana, so I asked her to audition for the part and she refused, claiming she didn't audition. So I started looking for Lana. I looked at hundreds of girls, all over the country.

About two months passed. We had pulled off the casting miracle of the century in casting Brandon, we were about to shoot and still we had not found a Lana who could capture and carry the role. Meanwhile, Chloe was in New York petitioning for the role, still refusing to audition.

I re-watched all her work and found a

Continued on page 24







Above: *Boys Don't Cry* Director Kimberly Peirce; below: scenes from the award winning film.



Continued from page 23

moment at the end of a film called *Last Days of Disco* where Chloe is in a train dancing. She flashes a sexual look toward the camera and then pulls away. At that point, I realized I had found my Lana. But she still would not audition.

I went back to the videotaped interview I had made of the real Lana back in 1996. Ironically, I found a moment when I suggested I could only think of two actresses who reminded me of her: Jodie Foster 10 years ago, and a girl named Chloe Sevigny who at that point—in '96—was too young.

The search paid off. Both actresses—Hilary as Brandon and Chloe as Lana—captured their roles perfectly. Then it was just extraordinary to see the audiences, the critics, the journalists, and then the academy support them with nominations and awards at the Golden Globes and the Oscars.

Q: It was fascinating that you didn't portray the two killers as villains; instead, they are shown to be victims.
A: Demonizing these two guys would have kept them at a distance from the audience and left the audience unengaged in the story as a whole. So we aimed to characterize them in such a way that you identified with them, saw them through Brandon's eyes and therefore engaged in their and Brandon's story.

Brandon sees John as a role model, John sees Brandon as a friend. Because we do connect with the guys—and with Brandon's affection for them at the beginning of the story—and as we see them turn on Brandon and we watch the mechanics of hatred take over, we feel a deeper loss than if we had never connected with them to begin with. Their arcs are fuller and our ability to empathize with them in some ways makes their lives as tragic as Brandon's.

Q: One of the boys who murdered Brandon, John Lotter, may be executed soon. Are you following it?
A: No, killing John Lotter won't bring back Brandon Teena. John and Brandon were each in and out of the social services and criminal justice systems since they were young. Brandon was the kind of kid who was ultimately going to piss someone off enough to provoke retaliation, and John was a blueprint for murder. So, when they cross paths, is it any surprise that John strikes out against Brandon?

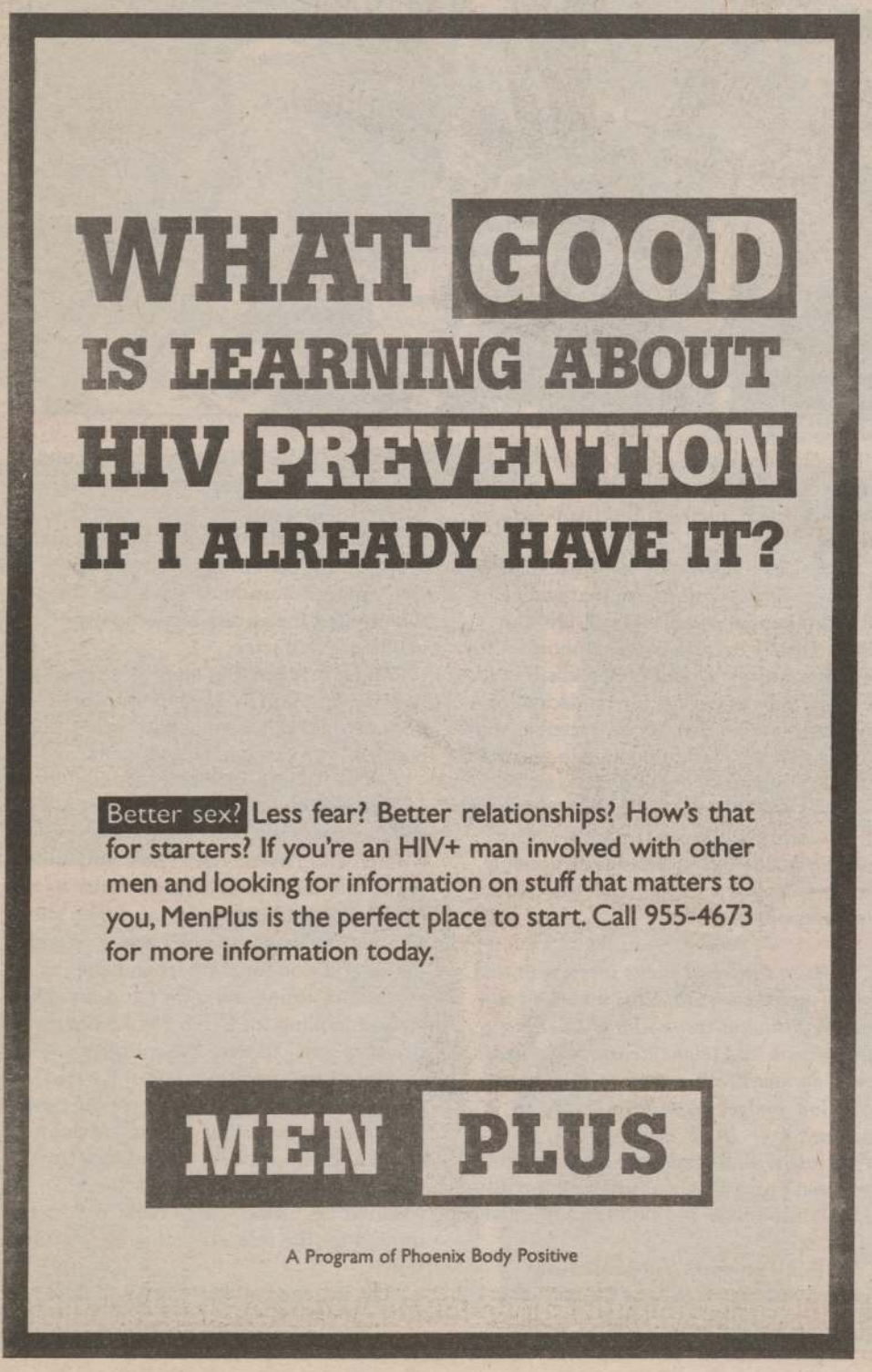
I am not blaming society or Brandon or excusing John for what happened, simply asking how these kids passed through places where they could have received help and they didn't. Brandon is dead and John is in jail waiting to be executed. There has to be a better way of dealing with this kind of tragedy for them, for all of us.

Q: Can you talk about your next project?
A: We'll be making the announcement next week, so I'm not at liberty to talk about it just yet, but I can say we have studio backing and that I'll be writing the script with my writing partner (Andy Bienen). Its another film inspired by/based on an actual event, another murder, but the structure and characters are very different from *Boys Don't Cry*.

I'm deeply invested in continuing to work the way I work, so I am happy that we have total control over the script and that I have final cut. I love making movies —bringing characters to life, from co-writing, casting, directing and editing to this final stage of seeing people fall in love with the character, so I am thrilled we're finally getting back to work.

Q: Oh God, Kim, are you going Hollywood on us?
A: Only in my head. I still live in New York [she laughs].

***Boys Don't Cry* is currently available on VHS and DVD from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment.**



The LifeGuard Stand
By Frank Repice
PROJECT LIFE GUARD

So, you're dating a great guy.

The conversation is stimulating, the chemistry is there, and the sex is hot (and safer). This one's a keeper.

How long do you have to keep using the condoms?

Discontinuing condom use with a steady partner is a topic a lot of men think about and yet many are uncomfortable discussing. But if the relationship is going well, no subject should be too tough to tackle.

Talk to your guy. Is he comfortable with the idea? How comfortable are you? Ask yourself why losing the latex is a step you want to take.

Are you both on the same page? Good, then it's time to get HIV tested. Do it together, like a date.

If you both test negative, you'll still need to continue the condom usage and safer sex practices for a while. Three months is the commonly suggested window.

Time to get tested again. If it's still double negative, move to the next step.

It's time for some very clear agreements about sex inside and outside your relationship. Some suggestions include:

1. No condoms with each other.
2. No anal sex outside the relationship.
3. Anal sex outside the relationship will only be done with a condom.
4. No sex of any kind outside the relationship.

This is a decision that varies with the dynamics of every couple; what works for you and your partner might not be the right answer for someone else.

Honesty is paramount for any relationship, but it's particularly important when sexual activity is involved. We don't live in a perfect world, and none of us are exempt from making mistakes.

So, what happens when one of us break the rules? What comes next, when we don't play by the rules we've set for ourselves?

Discontinuing condom use with a steady partner is a topic a lot of men think about and yet many are uncomfortable discussing. But if the relationship is going well, no subject should be too tough to tackle.

Make sure the lines of communication are open, and that your relationship is one where you can discuss mistakes and reevaluate the arrangement.

Is this arrangement something you'd like to continue? How are you going to deal with this situation? Do you want to rework your agreement again?

In any scenario, you must head back to step one and renegotiate the safety of yourself and your partner.

Sounds like a hassle? It's a lot better than the alternative.

In Mixed Company
Presents

DEPORTING THE DIVAS

by Guillermo Reyes
directed by D. Scott Withers

An award-winning fantasy play of love, sex, wigs, and ... immigration politics?
Discover the secret of Miss Fresno!
Learn all about embracing your inner foreigner and the real reason for the fall of western civilization!
Feel the plight of illegal alien divas, iguanas in general, and of course, poor Lucy!
Watch as a man crosses the line into sexual and ethnic ambiguity - and finds his true self!

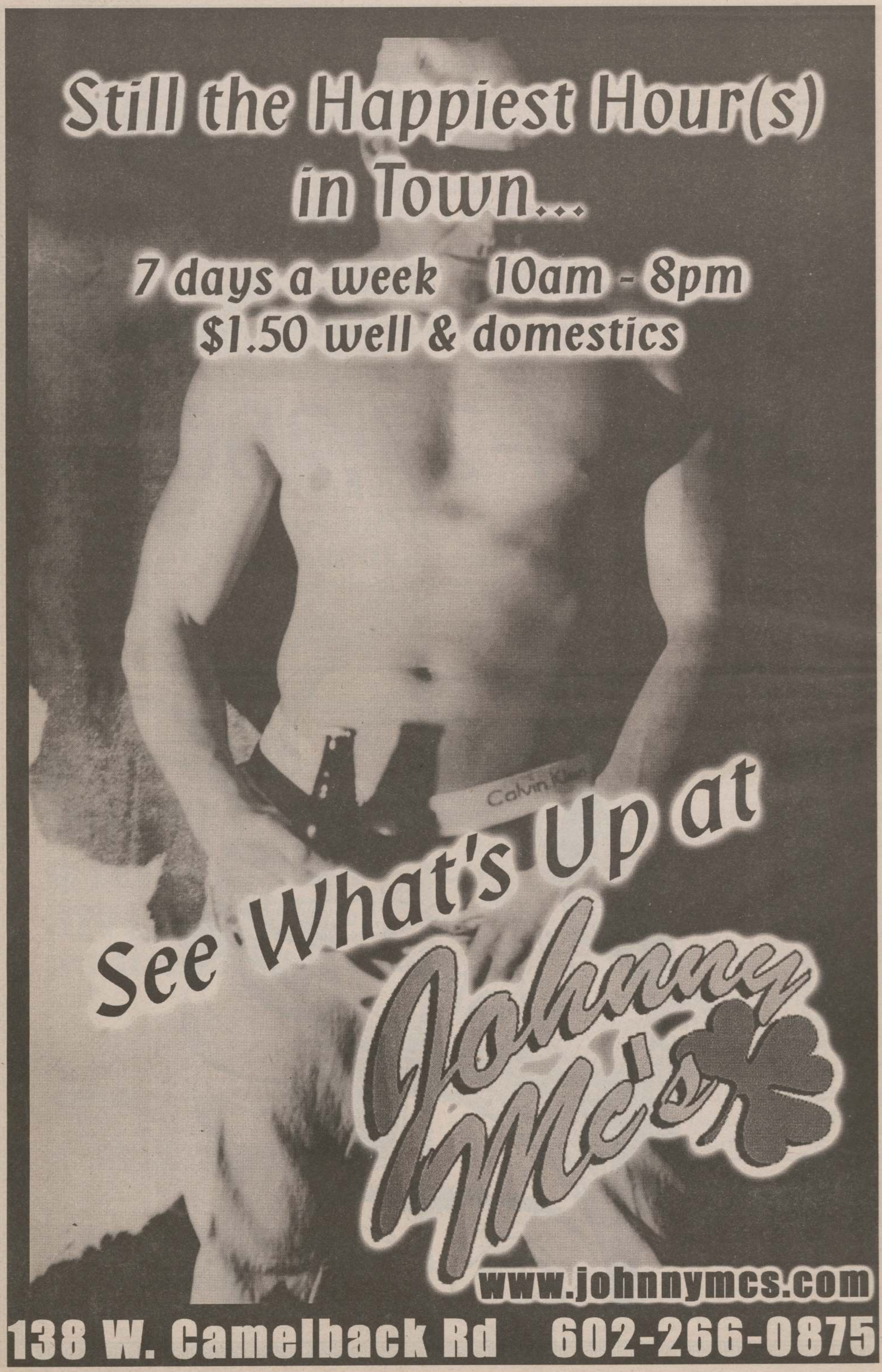
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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"In the U.K.—since my left hand outed me to an audience of millions on that fateful day in 1998—my personal life, or rather my imagined personal life, has rarely been out of the tabloid press. I am apparently engaged in a menage a trois with my boyfriend, Kenny, and Geri Halliwell (formerly of the Spice Girls), who will be carrying our child, of course. (No mention of whose sperm the poor thing is getting.) I want to 'bed' Tom Cruise, which would be handy, especially since Geri has stolen Kenny from me."

—Singer George Michael to *The Advocate*, April 30.

"I would have to advise a young version of me that these days, celebrity and secrets don't go together. The bastards will get you in the end, baby. So don't give them that power. Be proud of who you are and deal with the shit. Oh, and stay away from public conveniences unless you—really—need to pee."

—Singer George Michael to *The Advocate*, April 30.

"Is there a nice young man out there who wants to marry a bitter old bitch?"

—Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt founder Cleve Jones to Boston's *Bay Windows*, March 30.

"The compassionate conservative's stand on homosexuals seems to be this: I'm OK, you're OK—so long as you don't want to serve in my military, marry my son, or get 'special protection' from civil rights laws. To those old enough to remember or with an ear for history, this will all ring familiar. And the conundrum the Republicans are facing now echoes the one with which segregationists of both parties were confronted as the black civil rights movement matured: once bigotry falls out of mainstream fashion, it's hard to talk the accepted talk without walking the walk. When the prevailing political winds force a party to abandon prejudicial rhetoric, how can it continue to advocate prejudicial policy without wrapping itself in the cloak of hypocrisy?"

—Anchor Dan Rather writing at cbsnews.cbs.com, April 18.

"For the record, I did put myself forward as a sperm donor [for Madonna]. But I was rejected."

—Gay actor Rupert Everett to New York's *Next* magazine, Feb. 25.

"The question is, how long do you have to be out? Is it one year, is it five years, is it 30 years? I think that we're looking for a spectacular candidate who could be a wonderful, effective executive director, and we found her. I also think that she sends a signal to anybody out there who might be looking for the courage to come out."

—National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Communications Director David Elliot on the organization's new executive director, Elizabeth Toledo, who has been out of the closet less than one year, in an interview with this column, April 21.

"You look for the best candidate. I don't know who all of the candidates were who were interviewed because I wasn't part of the search committee but I do know that there were a number of male candidates who made the latter stages of the process. There is no extra consideration [for lesbians or lesbians of color], no special consideration. You look for the best candidate."

—National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Commun-ications Director David Elliot on the fact that the group's last six executive directors have been lesbians, in an April 21 interview with this column.

"The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force frequently receives phone calls from same-sex couples asking for a list of states in which they can legally marry. These individuals see shows like *Will and Grace* or *Dawson's Creek*. They worship in churches or synagogues that welcome them. They are out in the workplace or at school. They just assume, like many heterosexual Americans, that the barriers of discrimination have been eradicated. The reality, of course, is quite different. Not a single state allows same-sex marriage. Thirty-nine states allow gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees to be fired from our jobs. Twenty-eight states lack hate crimes laws that include sexual orientation. Eighteen states criminalize loving, same-sex relationships."

—NGLTF Executive Director Elizabeth Toledo, April 25.

"I have three different gay friends who named their dogs after me. Lots of people think I'm a dog. Woof! Woof!"

—Former televangelist Tammy Faye Messner (formerly Tammy Faye Bakker) to the Knight Ridder newspapers, April 23.

"[The gay struggle] has little to do with state legislatures or Congress. It's all about coming out. At some point in a gay person's life, you have to face this truth within yourself and have the courage to be honest with others. And that's what's happening around dining room tables in Utah and Alabama. It's having a dramatic effect."

—Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch to *The New York Times*, April 24.

"There must be an agenda—every gay politician, spokeswoman and militant has shouted at me for not following it. Perhaps it's available in public libraries, or Clone Zone. I don't know—I never looked. Right now, I'd love to see it, this set of rules ... dictating what, how and why a gay writer must write."

—Russell Davies, author of the groundbreaking British TV series *Queer As Folk*, to Miami's *The Weekly News*, April 6.

"[In college] I was a feminist trying to come out, and there were, like, three lesbians in Kalamazoo [Michigan] and they were all involved with each other! I often say I came to New York to be a feminist artist, but I really came hoping to get laid!"

—Performance artist Holly Hughes to Milwaukee's *In Step*, March 23.

"I did porn for the fame and the money and have since moved on. I've always hated the sex. I liked the acting part of it, but I found the sex to be an incredibly difficult thing to do. You have about five people around you. You have people standing on crates, people beneath you, everywhere. I never enjoyed that part. So you know what I'd do, I'd take home the guys that I just filmed with and fuck them and that was much better."

—Former gay porn star Blue Blake, to L.A.'s *Fab*, April 28.

"I like his music. OK, his music might not be the only reason why I like him."

—West Hollywood Mayor Jeffrey Prang on Ricky Martin, to L.A.'s *Fab*, April 28.

"I don't really like musicals and I have never seen a Bette Davis movie. Go figure."

—Gay West Hollywood Mayor Jeffrey Prang to L.A.'s *Fab*, April 28.

"Memo to the operatives: Old gay agenda—world domination by 2000—has been scrapped. Look for a new gay agenda in your mailbox sometime in June."

—*Advocate* columnist Bruce Vilanch, May 9.

"Straight Arrows In Gaysville, U.S.A. Marriage. Family. Army. Boy Scouts. Homosexuals Just Aren't Way Out There Anymore."

—Headline in the *Washington Post*, April 27.

"Crate & Barrel, on a Sunday afternoon in spring, in Pentagon City ... We watch stealthily as two gay men argue about wine glasses. (You ask: How do you know they're gay? Please. It's not 1983 anymore. It's the uniform—the plaid shirt tucked into the jeans just so, the Ricky Martinish haircut; the Abercrombie-Zombie look. ...) How handy it would be to read too much into their story, to reconstruct a narrative that plucks them, leather chaps and all, off pride parade floats or brings them, blinking, out of the pretty-boy disco dungeons into the sunshine. To have them meet and fall in love at Gay Bingo Night at the parish hall; to chart their survival through the AIDS epidemic, and figure when and where politics and the dreaded 'gay agenda' ceased to matter anymore."

—*Washington Post* reporter Hank Stuever, April 27.

"The modern experience of coming out of the closet has been funneled down to a prescribed set of rituals involving a blase soundtrack of disco anthems (gay and straight Americans alike now grow up knowing how to dance to 'YMCA'), a few white tank-top T- shirts, some boots, some unhappy Thanksgiving dinners with the family, a regrettable tattoo, some poetry scribbled in journals. The majority of gay people do not get pummeled or fired or expelled; they emerge a wee bit neurotic and immediately set about shopping."

—*Washington Post* reporter Hank Stuever, April 27.

"*Out* magazine was bought by the *Advocate*, and a month later they were both acquired by PlanetOut, a Web site that makes being gay look like a college brochure. What could be more boring than a media conglomerate?"

—*Washington Post* reporter Hank Stuever, April 27.

"I feel very proud for being gay. When you are gay and when you are fighting for something, your life takes on so much more meaning."

—Actress Ellen DeGeneres at the Millennium March on Washington, April 30.

"I gotta say I was straight for 27 years and I never came to a party as big as this."

—Actress Anne Heche at the Millennium March on Washington, April 30.

"We must elect Al Gore as president of the United States. ... The very future of the U.S. Supreme Court for the next generation hangs in the balance."

—Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch at the Millennium March on Washington, April 30.

"I stand with you, and am with you every step of the way. [We will] continue our fight for an employment nondiscrimination act that would ban discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace."

—Bill Clinton speaking on video tape to the Millennium March on Washington, April 30.

"If my son was alive, he would be here today,"

—Dennis Shepard, father of Matthew, at the Millennium March on Washington, April 30.

"She's Jerry Falwell's prom date!"

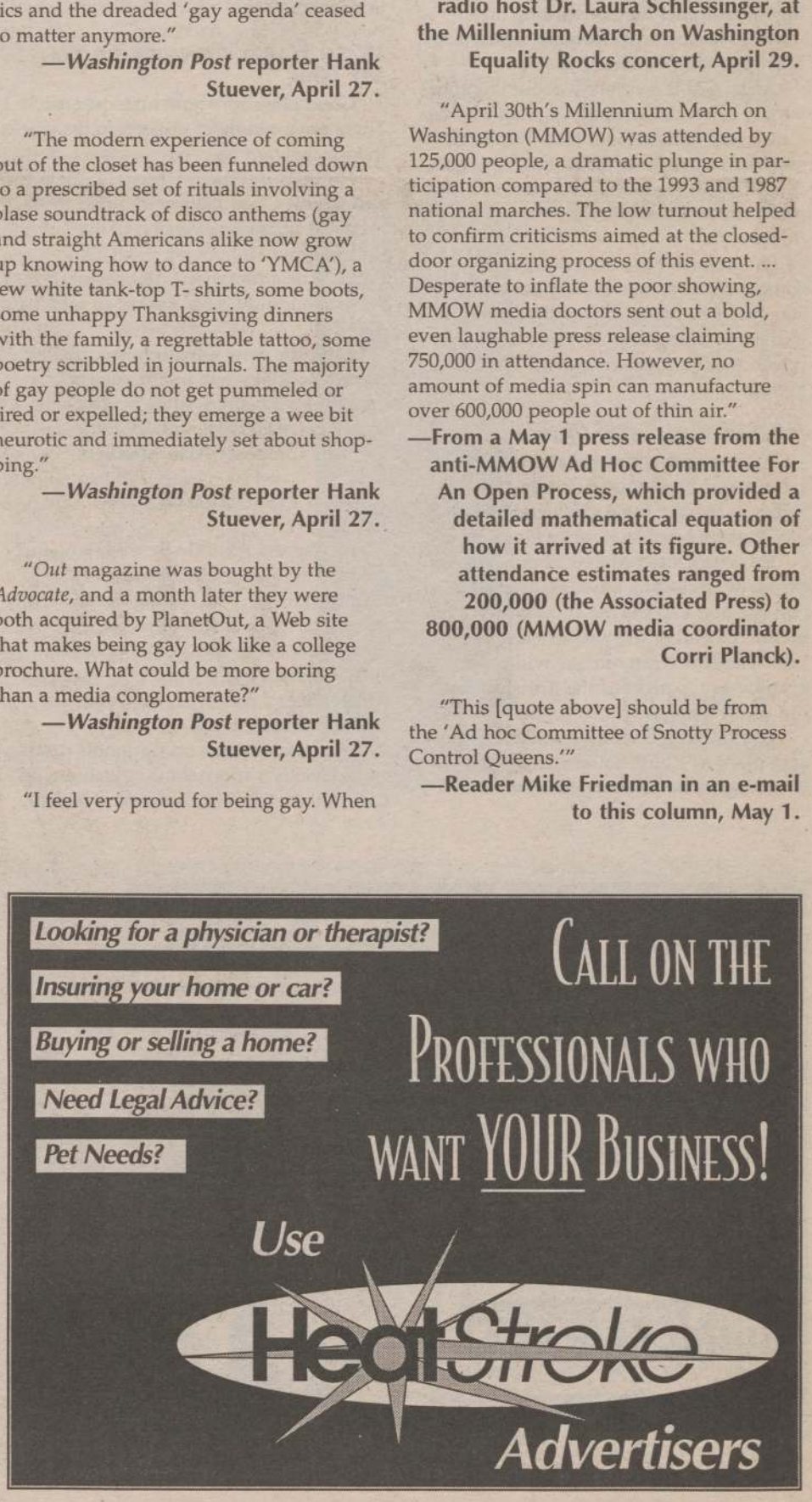
—Actor Nathan Lane on anti-gay radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger, at the Millennium March on Washington Equality Rocks concert, April 29.

"April 30th's Millennium March on Washington (MMOW) was attended by 125,000 people, a dramatic plunge in participation compared to the 1993 and 1987 national marches. The low turnout helped to confirm criticisms aimed at the closed-door organizing process of this event. ... Desperate to inflate the poor showing, MMOW media doctors sent out a bold, even laughable press release claiming 750,000 in attendance. However, no amount of media spin can manufacture over 600,000 people out of thin air."

—From a May 1 press release from the anti-MMOW Ad Hoc Committee For An Open Process, which provided a detailed mathematical equation of how it arrived at its figure. Other attendance estimates ranged from 200,000 (the Associated Press) to 800,000 (MMOW media coordinator Corri Planck).

"This [quote above] should be from the 'Ad hoc Committee of Snotty Process Control Queens.'"

—Reader Mike Friedman in an e-mail to this column, May 1.



HollyWood Deep Inside

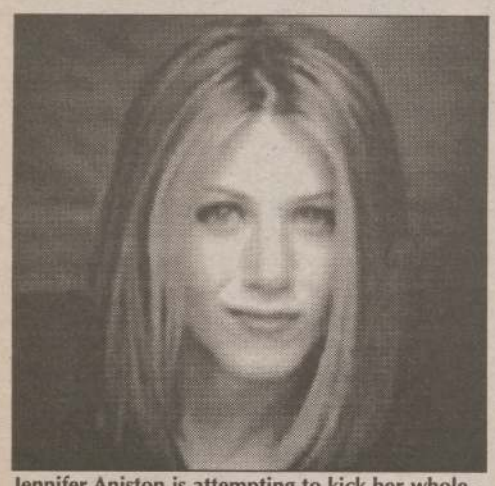
By Romeo San Vicente, *HeatStroke* Contributor

Sex, Drugs, Rock and Roll, and Trannies?

Locking lips with boyfriend **Brad Pitt** apparently isn't enough to satisfy *Friends* star **Jennifer Aniston**.

The brunette beauty recently shot a scene for the film *Metal God* where she makes out with a beautiful woman who turns out to be a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual (but will played by a woman).

Rumor has it Aniston wants to break away from the good-girl image she's been stuck with on television. So, she's spending her summer hiatus working on a movie with the artist formerly known as **Marky Mark** (Wahlberg, that is).



Jennifer Aniston is attempting to kick her wholesome image in *Metal God*—which will also star former underwear spokesmodel Mark Wahlberg.

Metal God is a comedy about an office supply salesman who gets a chance to be a rock star. Aniston will play Wahlberg's supportive pre-fame girlfriend, who gets caught up in the fast-paced world of rock music. Production should wrap up later this month.

Aniston isn't the only one getting some girl-girl action. Newly departed *ER* star **Julianna Margulies** will play a dyke in the upcoming drama *What's Cooking?*—which will hit theaters around Thanksgiving.

It's Showtime for Queer as Folk

After months of negotiations, fearless cable outlet Showtime has snagged the rights to remake the controversial British gay-themed television series,*Queer as Folk*.

Showtime has ordered 22 episodes of the show, including a two-hour pilot episode and expects the show to air before the end of the year or early next year. The American remake will be as graphic and explicit as the British version, but some changes will be made.

The Showtime version will most likely take place in a blue-collar city like Pittsburgh. The 15-year-old newly out character will be aged to 17, since the American age of consent is 18 (older than the UK's consent age of 16). The U.S. version will also include several of the supporting characters from the original *Queer*, including a lesbian couple.

The series will be shot in Toronto and is expected to begin production in July. Writer-producers on the series already have oodles of gay experience; they include **Jonathan Tolins** (*Twilight of the Golds*), **Richard Kramer** (*Tales of the City*), and **Jason Schafer** (*Trick*).

Viva South Park!

Kings of lowbrow humor **Trey Parker** and **Matt Stone** have just clinched a multi-million dollar deal to keep their crude humor alive on Comedy Central. You can count on at least 10 new episodes of *South Park* for each of the next three years, as well as a new live-action series expected to debut next year.

Details are sketchy on the new series, which is described as "a 180-degree turn from *South Park*," and the duo will not appear in the show.

Wash Harry Connick Outta My Hair

Good news for show tune queens! There are a couple of projects in the works to look forward to.

Hunky piano man **Harry Connick**, Jr. and **Glenn Close** have committed to star in ABC's upcoming version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein hit *South Pacific*. The adaptation will be shot in Australia in July. ABC has yet to set an air date.

Also, the great dance choreographer **Busby Berkeley** will be the subject of a new musical being written by *Tootsie* scribe **Larry Gelbart** and *The Little Mermaid* composer **Alan Menken**.

Bening Headed Over the Rainbow

Fab actress **Annette Bening**, who just gave birth to hubby **Warren Beatty**'s fourth child, may be cutting her maternity leave short. The actress is at the top of Fox's wish list to star as the legendary **Judy Garland** in the upcoming feature *Rainbow's End*, based on the **Coyne Steven Sanders** book.

The story focuses on Garland's disastrous weekly variety show, which ran on CBS in the early '60s. **Bronwen Hughes**, director of *Forces of Nature*, will direct the project. Judy's ex-husband **Sid Luft** and **Oliver Stone** are executive producing the film, which will use the soundtracks from the original television series.

In other Judy-related news, gay producers **Craig Zadan** and **Neil Meron** are hoping to start shooting a three-hour telepic based on **Lorna Luft**'s book *Me and My Shadow* for ABC, with Aussie actress **Judy Davis** playing Ms. Garland. The three have worked together before in the biopic *Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammemeyer Story*.



Mrs. Warren Beatty—a.k.a. Annette Bening—is being eyed to play Judy Garland in the film version of *Rainbow's End*, which focuses on the gay icon's weekly variety show that aired in the early '60s.

Cheadle Plays Ball

Don Cheadle, who played **Sammy Davis Jr.** in *The Rat Pack*, is gonna swing his bat to play gay second baseman D.J. in the big-screen adaptation of **Peter Lefcourt**'s *The Dreyfus Affair*.

Rumor has it that good old boy **Ben Affleck** is still being eyed for the lead role of clean-cut, married-with-twins shortstop Randy Dreyfus, whose life goes awry when he falls for his teammate. Should Affleck decide not to play ball, the other names being bandied about include **Jim Carrey**, **John Cusack**, and **Keanu Reeves**.

Leigh and Cumming's Anniversary Party

Jennifer Jason Leigh and **Alan Cumming**, last seen together on stage in *Cabaret*, will be spending their summer vacation together. The duo will debut as a directorial team and star in a low-budget feature film, *The Anniversary Party*.

The project was scripted by the pair and tells the story of a party hosted by a couple that recently broke up and reconciled. The party goes awry when conversation turns into an adult game of "Truth or Dare." Actors **Jennifer** *Flashdance* **Beals**, **Kevin** *In & Out* **Kline**, **Phoebe Cates**, **Gwyneth Paltrow**, and **John C.** *Boogie Nights* Reilly have all been mentioned as members of the ensemble film. *Anniversary* starts filming in July and will be shot on digital video for release next year.

Prozac for Heche and Williams

Leading lesbian **Anne Heche** and *Dawson's Creek* star **Michelle Williams** are set to join **Christina Ricci** in the independent film *Prozac Nation*, based on **Elizabeth Wurtzel**'s 1997 memoir.

Prozac tells the tale of a heavily medicated music critic (played by Ricci) who lives life in the fast lane while fighting depression. Heche will play Ricci's shrink, Dr. Sterling and Williams will portray Ricci's best friend, Ruby.

The project is a reunion of sorts for Heche and Williams, who both worked on HBO's lesbian-centric *If These Walls Could Talk II*. Heche directed a segment, and Williams starred in another.

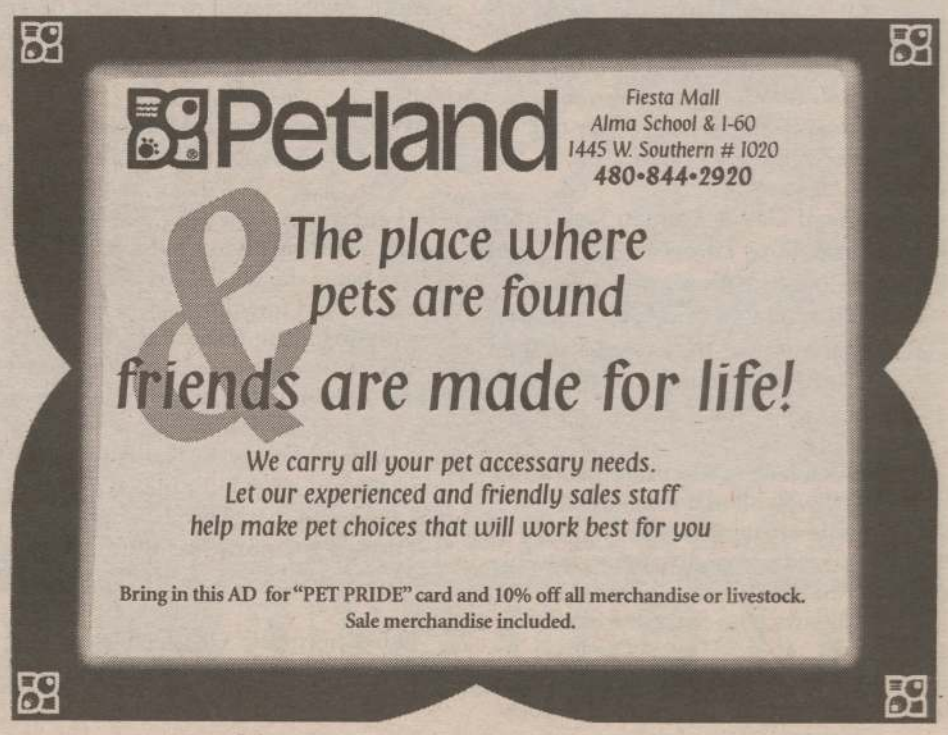
Musketeers in Drag

Move over, Xena, dykes are about to get another warrior to lust over. In the new television pilot *MK3*, a reworking of *The Three Musketeers*, the role of key musketeer D'Artagnan will be played by a babe. **Zoe McLellan**, who starred in *Inventing the Abbotts*, just snagged the role.

Romeo San Vicente owns *The Wizard of Oz* on DVD. You can reach Romeo in care of *HeatStroke* or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.







Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Touring Chicago's Neighborhoods

To many visitors, Chicago is about downtown's bounty of marquee attractions, from the shopping along the Miracle Mile to the museums in Grant Park. Local Chicagoans, however, know America's third-largest city as a remarkably varied collection of ethnically and socially distinctive neighborhoods.

To experience the real Chicago, venture away from the skyscrapers and department stores and off the beaten path. This is especially true if you want to partake of the city's vibrant gay and lesbian scene.

If you're new in town, or would appreciate a little guidance before setting out on your own, consider taking one of the outstanding half-day Chicago Neighborhood Tours offered by the city's office of tourism. These informative rambles, which provide an intimate look at several parts of town, cost $30 per person and depart from the Chicago Cultural Center at 10 o'clock on Saturday mornings.

The tours rotate among nine itineraries; additionally, special-themed tours are given throughout the year, with topics such as Puerto Rican culture, the roots of Chicago's blues, gospel, and jazz, the women of Chicago, and gay and lesbian history.

Here's the low-down on a few neighborhoods you shouldn't miss.

Hyde Park and Kenwood

Tourists don't often venture into Chicago's South Side, an expanse of working-class and, in places, dicey neighborhoods; Hyde Park and neighboring Kenwood, however, strongly deserve detours.

The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was held in Hyde Park. The University of Chicago, built a year before the exhibition opened, now commands a formidable cultural presence here and boasts some impressive Gothic architecture; academically outstanding, the university counts more than 60 Nobel laureates among its graduates.

The 184-acre campus takes up the bulk of the neighborhood, which has retained its historic integrity through strict zoning laws and generally successful urban renewal projects.

In the lakefront park east of the university you'll find one noteworthy remnant of the Columbian Exposition, the Palace of Fine Arts; it now houses the Museum of Science and Industry, one of the country's first hands-on museums and home to the exhibit, "AIDS: The World Within," which discusses the origins and effects of the disease, as well as the battles against it. On or near the campus are several notable sites, including the David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art, with a diverse collection numbering 5,000 items.

From here you're only a 10-minute drive to the core of Chicago's African-American queer scene, with several noteworthy establishments. The granddaddy of them all is Jeffrey Pub, an often-packed and mostly male high-energy club that draws patrons from throughout greater Chicago and even Indiana. A somewhat new kid on the block is Club Escape, a nicely laid-out and well-decorated mega-disco with a more of a gender mix.

Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park is the name for both a lush expanse of green and for one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, settled in the early 1840s by German and Eastern European immigrants. The 1,200-acre park includes the small but impressive Lincoln Park Zoo.

The yuppified blocks nearby make for terrific sidewalk strolling and people-watching and are less crowded and chaotic than downtown; many well-heeled, same-sex couples live in these parts, too.

Much of the area's dining and shopping is near handsome DePaul University; a highlight, and arguably the most culinarily revered restaurant in Chicago, is Charlie Trotter's. Outside the nearby Biograph Theater, a local landmark that still shows first-run movies, the notorious John Dillinger met his demise.

Homo nightlife is minimal in these parts with one major exception: Girlbar, a mammoth bi-level disco that's easily Chicagoland's hippest and hottest dyke club.

Wicker Park and Bucktown

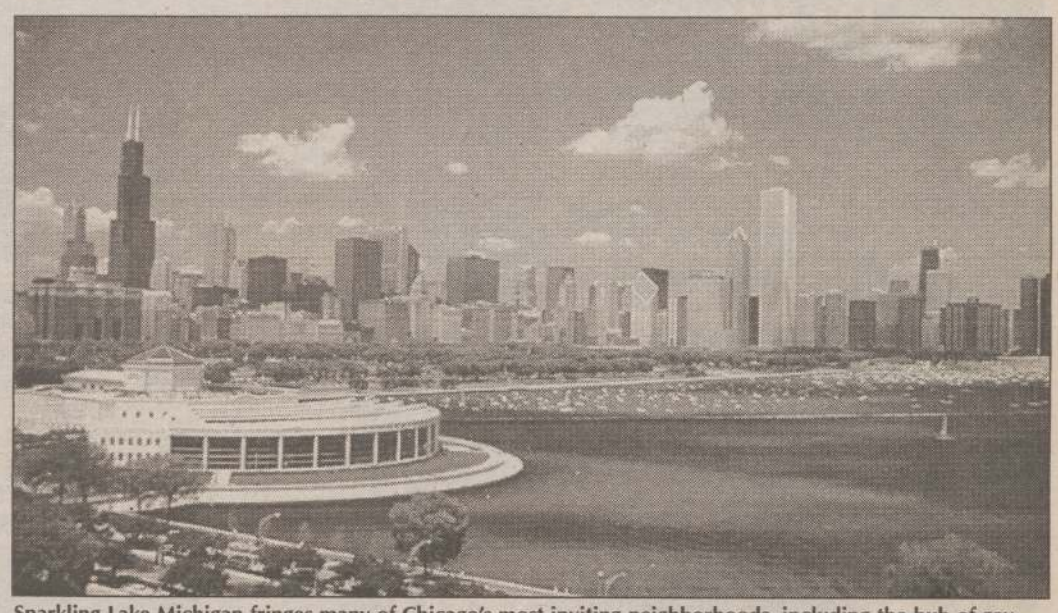
Originally home to immigrant Poles, Ukrainians, and other Eastern Europeans, then later to Puerto Ricans, these two ultra-fabulous neighborhoods draw a hodge-podge of ethnicities and lifestyles. They're not particularly gay but are so predominantly countercultural they're sometimes called the "new Seattle."

Several restaurants, coffeehouses, bars, and offbeat shops thrive here: Big Horse is one of the neighborhoods' typically androgynous venues, where indie-music fans congregate. Outstanding, cutting-edge restaurants include Meritage Cafe and Wine Bar; the Korean favorite, Soju; and Restaurant Watusi, a pan-Latin and Caribbean standout whose gorgeous clientele makes it a favorite for people-watching.

Andersonville

An old Swedish enclave that has steadily developed into a low-key lesbian and gay residential district, Andersonville has some cheap eats and coffeehouses, some friendly bars—a couple of them big with the leather crowd—and some good shops, including Women and Children First, a locally famous bookstore that stocks a vast array of women's titles, as well as music videos and magazines.

Be sure to have dinner at Tomboy, a hip lesbian-frequented bistro (the name should have clued you in) whose kitchen has earned rave reviews from top critics.



Sparkling Lake Michigan fringes many of Chicago's most inviting neighborhoods, including the hub of gay nightlife, Lakeview.

If leather's your thing, you'll want to stop by the Eagle, one of the city's top hardcore leather hangouts; it adjoins a popular bathhouse. The Leather Archives and Museum used to be next-door, but it moved recently into new and improved digs a couple miles north of here, but it's still packed with erotica, memorabilia from various international leather contests, Tom of Finland art, and other related gear.

Lakeview and Boys' Town

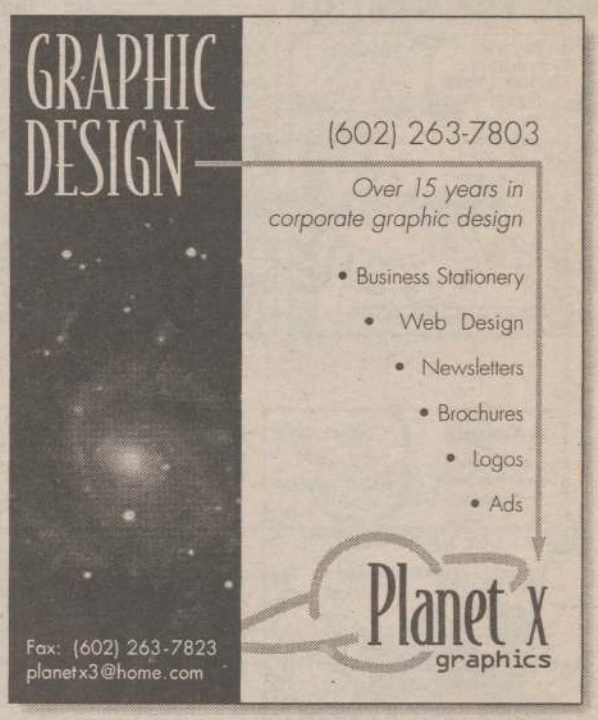
The epicenter of Chicago's queer entertainment scene, New Town (a.k.a. Boys' Town), lies at the heart of Lakeview, a highly eclectic neighborhood representing many backgrounds and adjacent to the sparkling shoreline of Lake Michigan. Halsted Street is lined with long-running gay bars: The most famous are Berlin, Cocktail, Roscoe's, and Sidetrack, which have a mostly young, stand-and-model following, and Cell Block and the Manhole, which are both a huge hit with the leather-and-Levi's set.

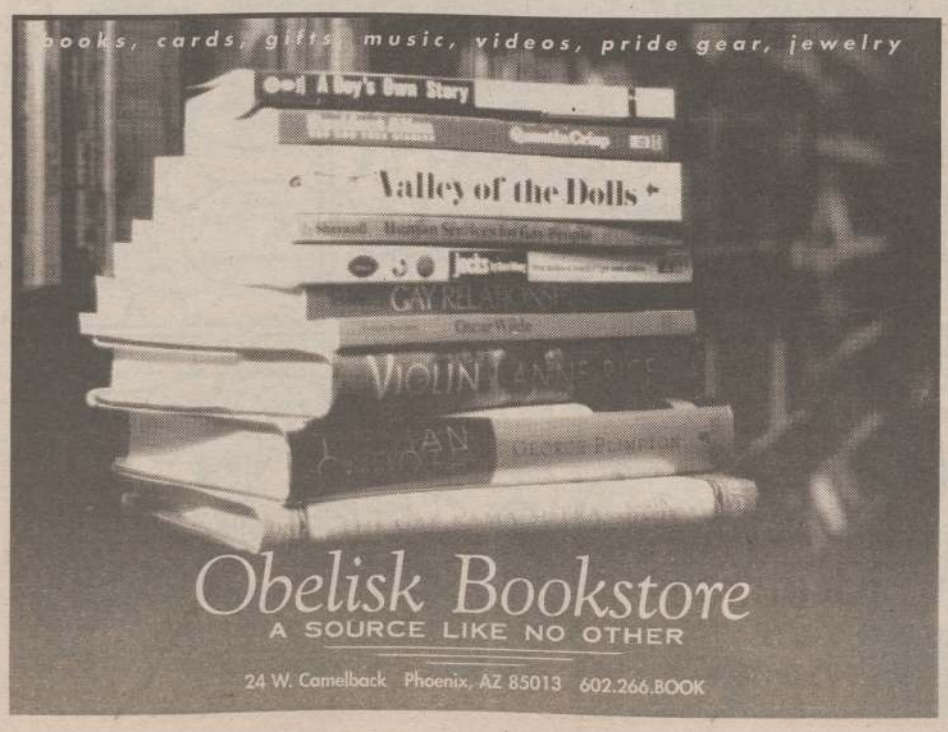
Many other gay businesses thrive here, as well as on nearby Clark Street, Broadway, and Belmont Avenue, plus such notable eateries as the internationally influenced Yoshi's; Jack's, which offers reasonably priced contemporary American, Asian, and Italian fare; the cheap and cheerful all-veggie Chicago Diner; and Mexican favorite, Mamacita's, which has two branches in Lakeview.

Big Chicks

No, it's not an actual neighborhood, but Big Chicks exemplifies Chicago's neighborhood-y personality: it's the quintessential locals' bar, with a crowd that is largely gay and lesbian but otherwise too eclectic to pigeonhole. Located north of Lakeview and east of Andersonville, this festive watering hole is decked with local art and has a video screens, darts, a convivial patio, a minipool table, and a great vintage jukebox with every imaginable kind of music. If you're alone and looking to make friends or get to know a few locals, you won't find a more genuine and sincere bunch of barflies.

Andrew Collins authored *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 in care of *HeatStroke* reached care of this publication or at GayFodors@aol.com.







HeatStroke's Funny Page

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Orner



WWW.STONEWALLINN.COM (ETHANHOMEPAGE) or ericsorner@aol

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

Revisit the early stages of Mo and Sydney's courtship in this archive episode while the cartoonist takes a brief rest stop.







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"Dear Cowboy" A REGULAR ADVICE COLUMN



We've rounded up a real cowboy who's tough as rawhide but gentle as a poet. Ask him anything. Calmer and wiser than most of us, he's full of strong coffee and good advice. And he never squints into the sun.

Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ 85067, or e-mail to alkalphx@aol.com—we'll pass them along to the wise one for you.

Dear Cowboy,

I had become very uninterested in meeting anyone anymore until I read with interest your letter from Younger to Older.

I'm 48 and my friends think I'm crazy because I'm attracted to guys younger than myself. But someone who is mature for their age, knows what they want, and is comfortable with themselves—I would not consider them just any young guy. It sounds like they are special and have special needs.

I took the advice you gave him and placed an ad this weekend. I believe it will appear on the Internet also. If at all possible, please forward my letter to Younger for Older.

It's sometimes difficult for people to understand what the attraction is between older and younger. Most think it is strictly a sexual thing. but the beautiful thing is only understood between those two people. Thanks again.

Signed, Older for Younger

Dear Older,

I don't have any way of contacting the young cowboy who wrote, but if he reads this and writes me back, you can bet I'll pass your contact info along.

I'm real glad you took the step of placing an ad for yourself. I'm also glad to hear that I may have helped you get interested in meeting people again.

If you are looking for a special pardner to ride trails with, be open to every possibility. Most riders sit back in the saddle and just wait for a fella they are attracted to to ride up and say howdy. And if he never shows up, they complain and blame the world. That's the easy way to approach meeting new people.

The tough thing is putting yourself out there, getting and giving out phone numbers, and asking men out on dates. I admire you for taking action and not waiting.

That said, I think it's important to recognize that you are in a slightly different arena than Younger for Older, because the competition among the older bulls who are looking for younger steers is a lot more fierce than when the attraction is the other way 'round.

If you are looking for a special pardner to ride trails with, be open to every possibility. Most riders sit back in the saddle and just wait...

Be realistic and try not to limit yourself—you'll be surprised where partnerships might occur, once you've dropped your restrictions and expectations.

Dear Cowboy,

I have a question that involves etiquette more than advice. My boyfriend likes using dinner coupons and almost every time we eat out, he uses some kind of two-for-one deal or some other type discount. I'm not crazy about his frugality but I have gotten used to it. Until it comes time for the tipping.

I say we should tip the waiter 15 to 20 percent, based on the total of the check before the coupon is figured in. He agrees about the percentage but says that he has always tipped only on the amount paid and people never seemed to mind. Who is right?

Signed, Eating Out Again

Dear Eating,

You are. Your server should be tipped on the full dollar value of your vittles, no matter what kind of "deal" you're getting from the house. The hard-working waiters probably *did* notice in the past, and were behaving professionally by ignoring the mistake. Tell your coupon-clipping cowpoke to start rectifying the situation ASAP.



HeatStroke CLASSIFIED ADS

Buy it, Sell it, Give it away, Announce it, Look for it, Find it...

CLASSIFIED AD RATES:

INDIVIDUAL AND NON-PROFIT AD RATES—
Individuals and non-profit ads are $10 (plus tax) for up to 30 words; each additional word costs 25¢. Shared housing solicitations are considered individual ads; real estate sales or rentals are subject to business ad prices.

BUSINESS RATES—
Ads placed by businesses are $15 (plus tax) for up to 30 words; each additional word costs 50¢.

AD FORMATTING UPGRADES—
Each Classified Ad is printed in 10-point type and includes a bold headline of up to five words. Additional formatting (all caps, all bold, centered headline) is available at $1 for each format upgrade. 15-point bold headlines are available for $5.
This is 10-point type. **This is 15-point bold.**

PLACEMENT, DEADLINE & PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

ALL CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE PLACED IN WRITING—
Mail your ads to *HeatStroke* Classifieds, PO Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ 85067. Fax your ad to 602/294-9695. E-mail your ad to either alkalphx@aol.com or reidhead@idt.net. (Please type "Classified Ad" in the subject line.)

DEADLINES—
Classified ads must be received no later than one week (Thursday) before the next *HeatStroke* street date. **Next deadline: 4/27.**

ALL CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE—
Payment must be provided at the time the ad is placed. Payment may be made by check, money order or by major credit card (Visa, MasterCard or AMEX).

Announcements

Get Pied, Get Paid! Ever want to take a pie in the face? Men needed for slapstick video project. Casting now for summer shoot. Modeling/acting experience helpful but not necessary, just a desire to have messy fun while earning extra money. Detailed info at http://members.tripod.com/~dw_m/pievideo.htm Contact 602/352-4023 or pie_thrower@webtv.net

Autos for Sale

1990 Mazda B-2200 Truck–4 cylinder, 5-speed, a/c, alarm, custom wheels and newer tires. Excellent mechanical condition, serviced regularly with all records. 145k miles & going strong. Asking $2,850. 602/264-3646.

Business Opport.

Antiques/Collectibles– Fun Business! Great cash flow. Owner relocating. Call GME, 480/443-9487.

Bar/Restaurant– Upscale. Italian/seafood. East Valley. #12 license–turn key! Seats 100+. Call GME, 480/443-9487.

Beauty Salon– High traffic, large, Scottsdale location. High Net!!! Established nine years. Call GME, 480/443-9487.

Employment

Group Homes–$100 Hiring Bonus; You can make a difference in someone's life!!
Personal Support Assistants for FT/PT/on-call, evening and weekend shifts working with developmentally challenged individuals. Raise after 90 days. Additional $.50/hr paid for sign language skills. LOW staff to client ratio. Clean driving record required. Paid training. Excellent benefits package (med/dent/life/paid time off). Interviews Daily @ 3227 E. Bell Rd. #245 or 602/788-0803.

Personal Assistant– Female adult entertainer needs female appointment setter. Mon-Fri, 6am - 5pm. Must be open minded, with friendly personality and dependable. Some house cleaning. Must be able to give good directions. Kris, 602/956-7383.

Now Hiring Bartenders. Experience preferred but not required. Apply in person at 8830 North 43rd Ave., Glendale. Call for an appointment at 623/937-3139.

Chute, a private men's health club, is accepting applications for employment for our 12pm – 8am shift. Call Patrick at 602/234-1654.

Dancers Wanted. Footwork Dance Project, a professional dance company in Arizona, is looking for male and female dancers. Paid rehearsals, Paid performances, depending upon experience. Interested? For more information and audition schedule contact: John Lotardo (Artistic Director) via Phone or fax 602/249-0285, or mail resume to: P.O. Box 33204 Phoenix, Arizona 85067-3204

Real Estate Sales

Why rent? Central Phoenix condo, 2bd, 2ba, $67,000. Updated complex, great location, many upgraded features/appliances. Jack Addington, Dan Schwartz Realty, 602.228.3145.

Central Phoenix– Credit a problem? Money not? 3bd/2ba plus guest house, like new in the Coronado District. Newly remodeled, saltillo tile throughout. Very large lot. A diamond in the rough. $138,500. Seller will carry with $15,000 down. Se habla español. Owner Agent. 602/709-9556.

Fairview Place Historic District– 2001 N. Laurel Lane. 2bd/2ba. Newly remodeled with original historic flavor. Corner lot, 1 car garage w/alley access. $149,900. Owner will finance if buyer has credit problems with 10% down. KWAZ Realty. 602/889-7526.

$199,000–North Phoenix, 4 bedroom/2 bath, loft, family room, den, kitchen w/stainless steel appliances & island, vaulted ceilings, corner lot & much more. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate 602/230/7600.

Super Downtown 4-Plex–1925 Brick Bungalow plus 1946 block tri-plex on huge lot. Net income over $1000 per month. Perfect for investor or owner-occupant. Priced at current appraisal, for $111,000. **Your Community Vintage Home Specialist–**
Lisa L. Seeley, KLM Realty 602/252-7777 lsrealty@home.com

Great Coronado Brick Ranch–1945 3BR/1BA. 1200+SF, concrete floors, AC+Evap, formal dining, eat-in kitchen, inside laundry & more. $117,000. **Your Community Vintage Home Specialist–**
Lisa L. Seeley, KLM Realty 602/252-7777 lsrealty@home.com

$125,000–Yaple Park–Circa 1940, 3 bedroom/ 1 bath, 1040 square feet, great house, central location. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

$166,000–Circa 1939–2 bedroom/ 1 bath. Great downtown location–Ashland Street, 1250 sqft, stone kitchen counters, stainless steel appliances, travertine tiled bath, brick walkways & patios, formal dining, french doors to the back yard. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

Lofts Space–Downtown Phoenix! Turn of the century conversion! Granite/marble/ fireplaces/wood floors/+++ 900-1600 sqft, $140s to $270s Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600

Gorgeous Tudor Revival– 3 bedroom, den, 1 3/4 baths, fireplace, wood floors, formal dining room, 2 car garage, and a sparkling pool for only $214,800. Mario Romero's Success Team, The Melcher Agency, 602/943-3003

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$138,500–Willo Historic District, Circa 1929, 2 bedroom/ 1 bath, 1 car garage, sparkling pool. Perfect little house w/tons of charm & character. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

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High Rise Living! Condos downtown $75,000 to $2,500,000. Yes, you can live in Phoenix in *Style*! Studios, 1, 2, 3+ bedrooms 300 to 4,000 sqft. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

1920s Craftsman Bungalow– 3 bedroom, hardwood floors, fireplace & a 2 car garage, $139,800, Mario Romero's Success Team, The Melcher Agency, 602/943-3003. Visit our website: www.MarioRomero.com

For Rent or Lease

The Story's Apartments– 1 bedroom/1 bath, 2nd floor, wood floors, F.Q. Story Historic District, slate in kitchen & bath. $575 mo. Rod Whitt, HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

1920's English Cottage Duplex– in the Story Historic Dist.rict, 2 bedroom, formal dining room, wood floors, fireplace for $775/mo. Mario Romero's Success Team, The Melcher Agency. 602/943-3003.

Fierce Environment–Scottsdale 2bd/2ba condo–candles set the mood, poolside, w/balcony & furnished to a "T". Available daily, weekly, monthly. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600

Roommates

FREE RENT FOR COLLEGE BOY–
Professional GM seeks gay college boy to help care for chocolate labrador and do light housekeeping in exchange for free rent in fully furnished luxury apartment within biking distance of Phoenix College. e-mail: amexdan@bga.com or call 512/671-6655.

Responsible Gay Male Roommate to share large 3 br/2 ba house in Central Phoenix, with pool. $390 per month includes utilities, cable, housekeeping, and parking. Call Jack, 602.228.3145.

Out-of-Town

Give Yourself a Break–Spend a relaxing weekend in the heart of Warm Sands, Palm Springs' gay ghetto. Call for reservations at Bacchanal, an intimate, clothing-optional resort for men. Luxurious accommodations, courtesy kitchens, heated pool and spa. 800/806-9059; www.Bacchanal.net

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

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AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix 85064 602/234-6143

AIDS Project Arizona
1427 N. 3rd Street, Suite 125
Phoenix 85004 602/253-2437

A Place Called Home
3431 W. Thunderbird #13-403
Phoenix 85023 602/942-1572

Arizona AIDS Information Line
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
Phoenix 85013 602/234-2752

Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance
6523 N. 14th St., #112
Phoenix 85014 602/279-4805

AZ AIDS Services for the Deaf
111 E. Camelback
Phoenix 85012 602/265-9953

Aunt Rita's Foundation
5501 N. 7th Ave#215
Phoenix 85013 602/532-7025

Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593

HIV Care Directions
1366 E. Thomas#105
Phoenix 85014 602/264-2273

Native American Community Health Center
3008 N. 3rd Street, Suite 302
Phoenix 85012 602/279-5262

Joshua Tree Feeding Program
P.O. Box 7056
Phoenix 85011 602/264-0223

Maricopa County Health Dept.
1825 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 85006 602/506-6900

Planned Parenthood
5651 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 85016 602/277-7526

Phx. Body Positive
4021 N. 30th St. #2
Phoenix 85016 602/955-4673

Phx. Shanti Group
2020 W. Indian School Rd.#53
Phoenix 85015 602/279-0008

Terros, Inc.
320 E. Virginia Ave.
Phoenix 85004 602/234-8900

Volunteers in Direct Aid
P.O. Box 40476
Phoenix 85067 602/279-8432

Wellness Center
1840 W. Maryland, Suite E
Phoenix 85016 602/864-0710

Political Action & Education

American Civil Liberties Union
P.O. Box 17148
Phoenix 85011 602/650-1967

Arizona Central Pride
P.O. Box 16847
Phoenix 85011 602/279-1771

Arizona Human Rights Fund
P.O. Box 25044
Phoenix 85002 602/650-0900

Arizonans for Fairness
P.O. Box 34766
Phoenix 85067 602/265-7283

Arizona Stonewall Democrats
Wally Straughn, Chair
602/864-6092

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project
P.O. Box 60881
Phoenix 85082 602/351-3080

Log Cabin Republicans
P.O. Box 60994
Phoenix 85082 602/428-3596

Maricopa Cty. Libertarian Party
P.O. Box 501
Phoenix 85001 602/248-8425

Social & Support Groups

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Phoenix, AZ 85071
480/837-1067

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602/415-1123

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www.aznudedudes.org
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602/864-6092;
AZRainbowVets@aol.com

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www.bearsazdesert.com

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Phoenix, AZ 85067

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903 S. Rural Rd., Suite 101-317
Tempe 85281 602/248-5270

Desert Adventures
P.O. Box 2008
Phoenix, 85001 602/266-2267

Entre Nosotros
546 E. Osborn, #22
Phoenix 85012 602/285-0970

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Phoenix 85029
www.psn.net/~damour

Gay Lesbian Yavapai Alliance
PO Box 3241
Prescott, AZ 86302-6558
520/541-6558

Girth and Mirth of AZ
P.O. Box 16605
Phoenix 85011 480/655-8229

The Leatherlords 602/254-9651

Lesbian & Gay Alanon
2622 N. 16th Street
Phoenix 85006 602/548-0936

Lesbian & Gay Overeaters Anon.
480/607-7640;
cave4bear@hotmail.com

Los Amigos del Sol (LADS)
PO Box 27335
Phoenix 85061 602/997-2411

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
P.O. Box 7625
Phoenix 85011 602/843-1404

Prime Timers of Phoenix
480/895-6906
www.primetimers.org/phoenix

Project LifeGuard
Project Q
TRIBE
1427 M/ 3rd Street, Suite 120
Phoenix 85004 602/254-3233

The Community Center and Youth Services 602/265-7283
Lesbian & Gay Community Switchboard 602/234-2752
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
PO Box 33367
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

Professional Enrichment & Networking

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

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Mormons)
P.O. Box 26601
Tempe, 85285 602/553-8674

Asbury United MethodistChurch
1601W Indian School
Phoenix 85015 602/279-2369

AVIV of Arizona (Jewish Group)
PO Box 66904
Phoenix 85082 602/952-1612

Casa De Cristo
1029 E. Turney
Phoenix 85014 602/265-2831

Christ of the Desert Catholic Ch. of the Antioch 602/230-5358

Community Church of Hope
4400 N. Central
Phoenix 85014 602/234-2180

Dignity and Integrity
P.O. Box 60953
Phoenix 85082 602/222-8664

Gentle Shepherd MCC
7810 N. 27th Ave.
Phoenix 85051 602/864-6404

Healing Waters Ministries
225 W. University,105
Tempe 85281 480/894-8681

Lutherans Concerned
P.O. Box 7519
Phoenix 85011 602/870-3611

More Light Presbyterians
P.O. Box 61162
Phoenix 85082 602/275-0506

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Paradise Valley 85253
602/840-8400

Valley of the Sun Commtunity Church 602/564-7895

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

Music, Sports & Hobby Groups

Arizona Frontrunners
azfrontrunners@hotmail.com
602/954-3983

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix 85011 602/265-0618

AZ Women in Tune
PO Box 37855
Phoenix 85069 623/878-5430

Cactus Cities Softball League
PO Box 45101
Phoenix 85064 602/287-9573

Charlie's Renegades
P.O. Box 17602
Phoenix 85011 602/277-9142

Desert Adventures
PO Box 2008
Phoenix 85001 602/266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 34615
Phoenix, AZ 85067 480/990-2562

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

Grand Canyon Men's Chorale
P.O. Box 16462
Phoenix 85011 602/340-7640

Lambda Car Club
P.O. Box 36211
Phoenix 85067 602/409-3160

Phoenix Tennis Alliance 602/359-0936

Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling Alliance (PUGBA)
PO Box 44422
Phoenix 85064 602/246-9643

Team Arizona
P.O. Box 36431
Phoenix 85067 602/408-4311
teamarizona.org

Valley of the Sun Comm'ty Band
Jayne: 480/947-0907;
Terry: 602/954-9244



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Conrad Egge, PhD----------602/230-2025
Bob Fernie, PhD----------602/230-2025
Jean Parsons, PhD----------602/230-2025
ManPower (Keith Thompson)---602/506-6857

Dentists

Dobson-Warner Dentistry------ 480/917-0181

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Affordable Credit Counseling---602/685-0423
Paul Ringgenberg----------602/744-7717

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Community Florist----------602/266-6648

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Matt Cochran----------602/301-9545
Bill Knoop----------602/262-2524
Jack A. Komnick----------602/254-6977

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Salon Exodus (Eric or Robert)--602/955-2121

Health Care

Chad Schroer, NMD----------480/368-0808
Thanes Vanig, MD----------480/368-0808

Home Services

All About Patio Furniture------602/992-3533
Colt Heating & Cooling--------602/712-1244
Don Williams Builders, Inc.----602/246-8591
Facilities Maintenance Co.-----602/956-8515
Rainbow Home Repair---------602/440-5367

Insurance

Murray Sullivan (Farmers)-----480/860-0920

Internet

Rapid Media Technologies-----480/855-4845

Nightlife

Apollo's----------602/277-9373
Bunkhouse----------602/200-9154
Cash Inn----------602/244-9943
Charlie's----------602/265-0224
Doc Gireaux----------602/997-9461
JC's Fun One Lounge----------623/939-0528
Johnny Mc's----------602/266-0875
Nu-Towne Saloon----------602/267-9959
Pumphouse II----------602/275-3509
The Water Hole----------623/937-3139

Out-of-Town

Bacchanal (Palm Springs)-----800/806-9059

Pet Services

Most Valuable Pet (Joe)-------602/955-3471
Petland (Ed)----------480/844-2920
Alicia Ruiz, DVM----------602/277-5155

Realtors

Jack Addington----------602/228-3145
Mario Romero----------602/943-3003
Lisa L. Seeley----------602/252-7777
John Walsh----------480/922-6943
Sam Wercinski----------480/922-6943
Rod Whitt----------602/956-5500

Restaurants

Durant's----------602/264-5967
Malee's on Main----------480/947-6042
Pookie's----------602/277-2121
Punky's Corner----------602/265-6956

Retail

Gift of Light Metaphysical------480/425-8945
Obelisk, The Bookstore--------602/266-BOOK
Third Eye----------602/344-8766

Spiritual Groups

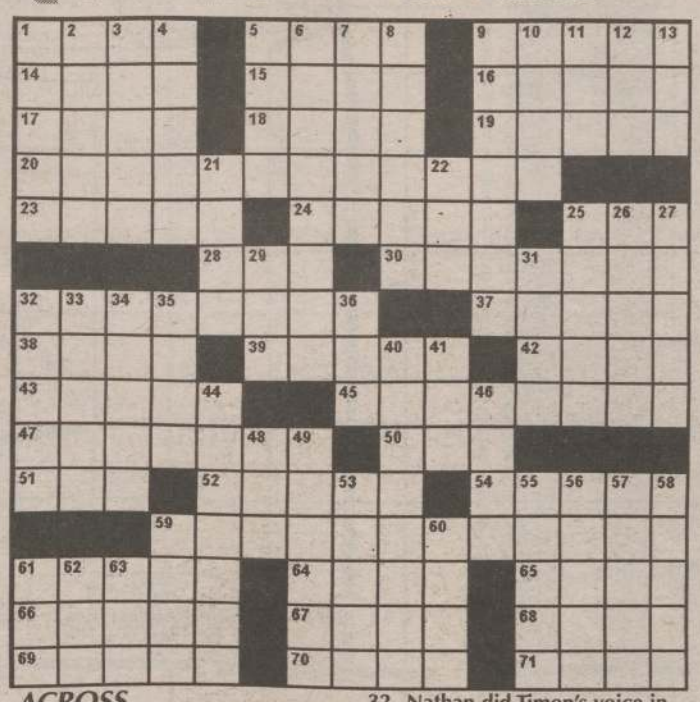
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Gentle Shepherd MCC--------602/864-6404
Valley/Sun Comm. Church----602/564-7882

Viatical Svcs.

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

Q Puzzle

"For Lovers of Lane"



ACROSS

1 Decided not to swallow
5 Muslim holy man
9 Upright member
14 Oral refuser
15 Leon Uris novel ___ *18*
16 Over the top in the middle
17 Strong as ___
18 Bedfellow
19 Put the move on
20 Nathan did Snowbell's voice in this movie
23 Hung like a ___
24 With one's socks blown off
25 Binge
28 *Foucault's Pendulum* author Umberto
30 S and M regulation?
32 Nathan did Timon's voice in this movie (with *The*)
37 Practices autoeroticism, e.g.
38 Pennsylvania lake city
39 Type of Indian or orange
42 Hair coloring
43 City in India that sounds like a sandwich shop
45 Nathan played Robin Williams's lover in this movie (with *The*)
47 12th of a foot
50 Merry or like "Mary"
51 Beatty of *Deliverance*
52 Band members blow his horn
54 "Homosexuality is not a four-letter word," for one
59 Nathan was in this 1992 Broadway revival
61 Handle for a tool
64 Nathan wore one in *L!V!C!*
65 "___ Her Go" (Frankie Laine song)
66 French town, often after 50-Across
67 Chief Norse god
68 Sixty-___
69 Arouses
70 Adams of TV's *The Rebel*
71 Some think it determines sexual orientation

Down

1 Break into smithereens
2 Kind of bean or Ford
3 Love, to Genet
4 State of the Best Little Whorehouse
5 "___ my wit's end"
6 Thousands of thousands
7 ___ *the Family*
8 Washer of the lonely repairman
9 Limbs spread apart
10 A reed player gives it a blow
11 Keanu's role in *The Matrix*
12 Language suffix
13 Cherry color
21 Stink to high heaven
22 US Airways rival
25 Architect Morgan
26 "Merrily, we roll ___"
27 *Beau* ___
29 AFL's partner
31 It prepares officers not to ask or tell: Abbr.
32 Gave false hopes to
33 "Goodnight" girl
34 Prepared to rub the right way
35 Grape drink favored by Radar O'Reilly
36 Indulge orally
40 Like 9-Across, to the owner
41 Steinem pitched it?
44 Covers with a policy
46 Two in a relationship
48 Like a tease
49 John who played Loner in *Myra Breckinridge*
53 Native of Arabia
55 Having sex, with "it"
56 Kate's sitcom partner
57 Outfielder Burke who came out
58 First name in cosmetics
59 Grandpa Walton actor
60 Slam through the hoop
61 Letter's second afterthought
62 "___ It" (Weird Al's Jackson parody)
63 Like a menage a trois (prefix)

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

Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle: "Kate"

Edibles

A. Malee's on Main
7131 E. Main Street
Scottsdale 480/9476042

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

C. Punky's Corner
816 E. Camelback Rd
Phoenix 602/265-6956

Libations

1. Ain't Nobody's Bizness
3031 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/224-9977

2. Amsterdam
718 North Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/ 258-6122

3. Apollo's
5749 N. 7th Street
Phoenix 602/277-9373

4. Boot Camp
3702 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/212-9888

5. BS
7125 5th Avenue
Scottsdale 480/945-9028

6. Bunkhouse
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 602/200-9154

7. Cash Inn
2140 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/244-9943

8. Charlie's
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/265-0224

9. Crowbar
702 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/258-8343

10. Cruisin' Central
1011 N.Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/253-3376

11. Doc Gireaux
12032 N. Cave Creek
Phoenix 602/997-9461

12. Harley's Club 155
Harley's Too!
155 / 125 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/274-8505

13. JC's Fun One
5542 N. 43rd Ave.
Glendale 623/ 939-0528

14. Johnny Mc's
138 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/266-0875

15. Marlys'
15615 Cave Creek
Phoenix 602/867-2463

16. Millennium 2001
3300 S. Price Rd.
Tempe 602/756-2445

17. Mine Shaft
4343 N. 7th Ave
Phoenix 602/230-2515

18. Misty's
4301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 602/265-3233

19. Nasty's Sports Bar
3108 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/267-8707

20. NuTowne
5002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 602/267-9959

21. Paco Paco
3045 N. 16th St.
Phoenix 602/263-8424

22. Padlock
998 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/266-5640

23. The Park
3002 N. 24th Street
Phoenix 602/957-6055

24. Pumphouse II
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/275-3509

25. Roscoe's on 7th
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/285-0833

26. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/254-0231

27. Waterhole
8830 N. 43rd Ave
Glendale 623/937-3139

28. Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/265-9002

29. World
710 N. Central
Phoenix 602/258-8343

Staples

30. The Adult Shoppe
111 S. 24th Street
Phoenix 306-1130
2345 W. Holly St.
Phoenix 602/253-7126
5021 W Indian School
Phoenix 623/245-3008

32. Book Cellar
4029 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/275-0015
(other Valley locations)

33. Castle Boutique
5501 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/231-9837
(other Valley locations)

34. Obelisk Books
24 West Camelback
Phoenix 602/266-Book

35. Movies on Central
4700 N. Central,#121
Phoenix 602/274-0994

36. Tuff Stuff
1714 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix 602/254-9651

Tubs

40. Chute
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/234-1654

41. Flex
1517 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix 602/271-9011

Culture

60. America West Arena
201 E. Jefferson
Phoenix 602/379-7800

61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum
1101 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/255-2110

62. AZ Historical Society
Museum
1300 N. College
Tempe 480/929-0292

63. AZ Mining & Mineral
Museum
1502 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/255-3791

64. AZ Science Center
600 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/716-2000

65. AZ State Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/542-4675

66. ASU Art Museum
Nelson Fine Arts Center
Mill Ave. & 10th Street
Tempe 480/965-2787

67. ASU Gammage Center
Apache & Mill Ave.
Tempe 480/965-3434

68. Blockbuster Desert Sky
Pavillion
2121 N. 83rd Ave.
Phoenix 623/254-7499

69. Celebrity Theater
440 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix 602/267-9373

70. Heard Museum
22 E. Monte Vista
Phoenix 602/252-8848

71. Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
Phoenix 602/254-7399

72. Orpheum Theatre
203 W. Adams
Phoenix 602/262-7272

73. Phoenix Art Museum
1624 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/257-1222

74. Phoenix Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/262-4636

75. Phoenix Civic Plaza
225 E. Adams St.
Phoenix 602/ 262-6225

76. Phoenix Symphony Hall
225 E. Adams
Phoenix 602/ 262-6225

77. Phoenix Museum of History
105 N. 5th Street
Phoenix 602/253-2734

78. Phoenix Theatre
100 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/254-2151

79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural
Theatre
909 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix 602/241-1821

80. Union Hall
512 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 602/253-7100

Outdoors

81. Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 480/941-1217

82. Margaret T. Hance Park
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 602/534-2406

83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/262-6696

84. Papago Park
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 602/256-3220

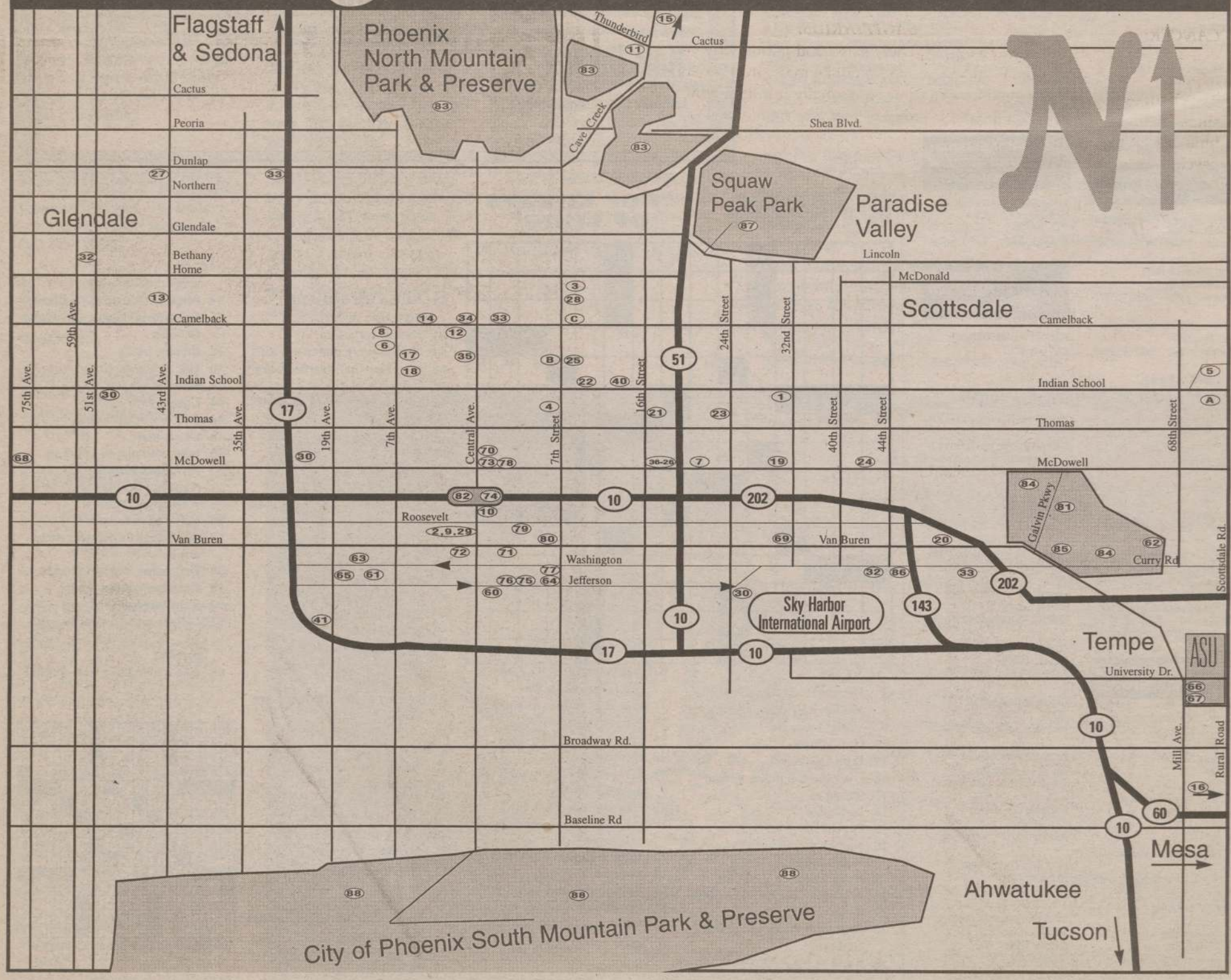
85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 602/273-1431

86. Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/495-0900

87. Squaw Peak Park
2701 E SquawPeak Dr
Phoenix 602/262-6696

88. South Mountain Park
10919 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/495-0222

Finding it in Phoenix



Q SCOPES

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES:
After paying your dues all winter and part of spring, finally an unexpected treat comes your way. Accept it graciously! This a great time for you to put some of your most assessable user-friendly concepts into words. A Taurus has a lot to give you, but there may be a price tag attached.

TAURUS:
Venus is sliding through the most social house in your chart this week, sweetie, so I hope you are out there flirting. You are so close to making some serious money, darling. The catch? You may have to do more self-promoting than you're used to. That's okay—a Leo can teach you all about the ways of spin.

GEMINI:
Stop acting so low-key, baby. It's fine if your ego gets a little out of control this week. You have never been more popular, in demand, and eerily in sync with the masses. You're in the driver's seat when it comes to your life, especially in love. So butch it up and do something to show a Pisces who's boss!

CANCER:
Follow your hunches and you could happen upon a breakthrough idea that changes your wacky relationships for the better. This is a great time of year for you to hone your psychic skills and develop your mystical gifts, honey. Rituals are lucky for you (non-Satanic, of course!), and so are Scorpios.

LEO:
Life is strangely normal during this wacky week. Take this solid period in your life and turn it into magic. The usual routine could bore you to tears. Seek out people who stimulate your mind and challenging situations. A Capricorn expects more from you, so don't just rest on your laurels.

VIRGO:
It's been a long, strange trip, but at last you are ready to announce to the world just what you've been working on for the last several years! Take your work and your talents seriously. Now is the time to take a stand and allow yourself to be the boss. An Aquarius provides you with psychic and sexual release.

LIBRA:
You can have a lot of fun this week if you put your obsessions aside. For such a laid-back individual, you've been acting like quite the control queen (king? whatever!). It's time for you to escape out of town for a private little adventure, perhaps to enjoy a shallow little lust-fest with a Gemini.

SCORPIO:
Stay calm, cool, and collected this week, even if an obnoxious type pushes all your buttons. Your co-ruler Mars is pushing you to make a commitment to the one you love. Be honest about what turns the two of you on, sexually and spiritually. If your partner's a Cancer, the answers should be especially fascinating.

SAGITTARIUS:
There's no good reason why you should not be in the most exciting and emotionally fulfilling relationship of your life right now. Put it all on the line—no more half-assed statements and mildly grand gestures. Do whatever you have to do to convince that Virgo you mean business.

CAPRICORN:
Do something to improve your physical well-being, Capricorn, and you will feel a renewed sense of lust for life. Don't avoid your work. Be a slave to your craft, and you will receive the rewards you crave. An Aquarius holds the bar high—rise to the occasion.

AQUARIUS:
This is the week to be creative and put the logical side of your nature in a box. Don't worry, you can let it out soon enough. Hang with people who are *real* this week, because you can't afford to be influenced by folks who are even more confused than you are. Stick close to a Sag!

PISCES:
You can get whatever you want on the home front if you show just the tiniest bit of patience. I'm just trying to encourage you to put some closure on a family issue that's been hanging over you for years. Another Pisces will celebrate with you after you've faced a fear.

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

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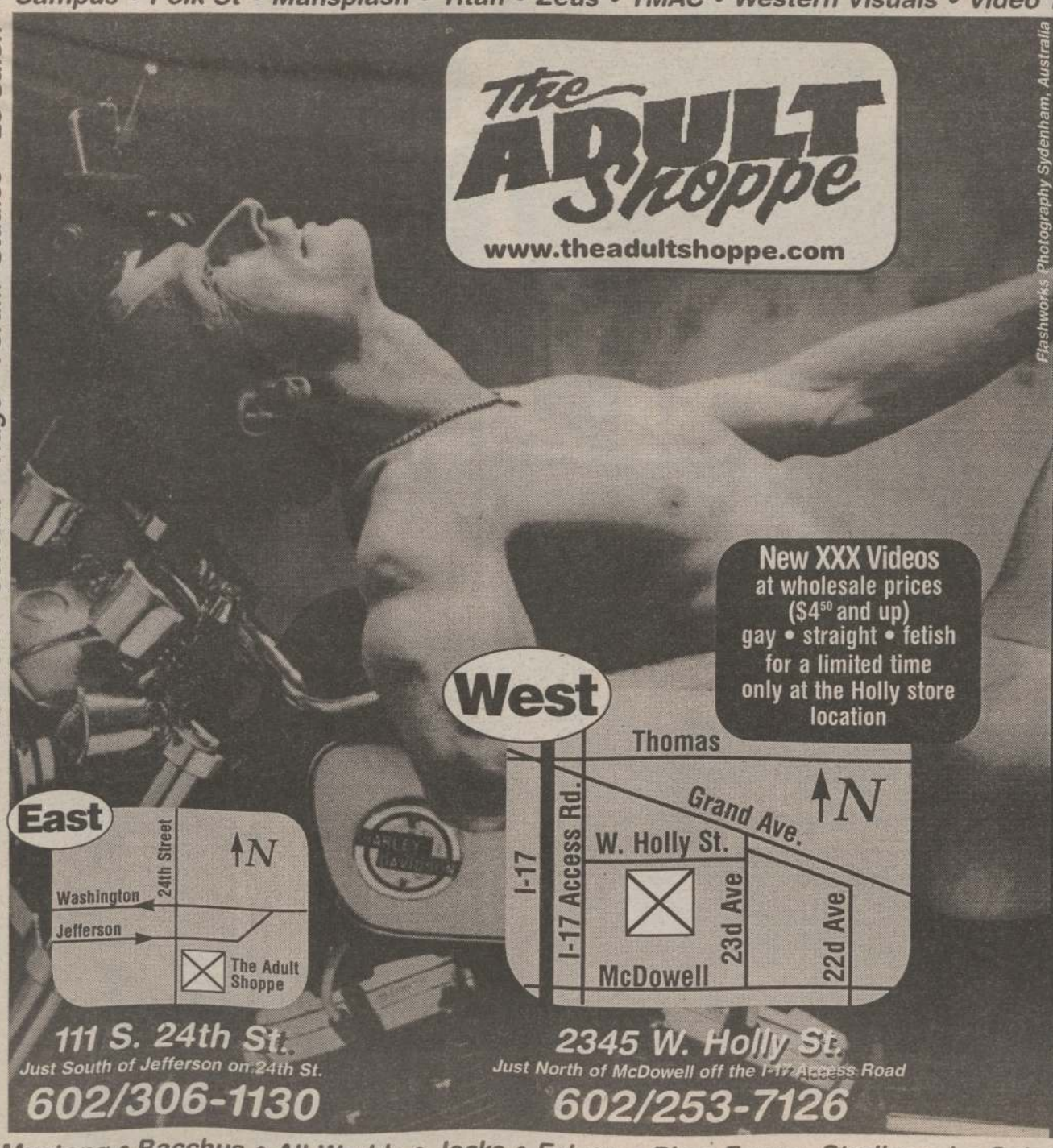
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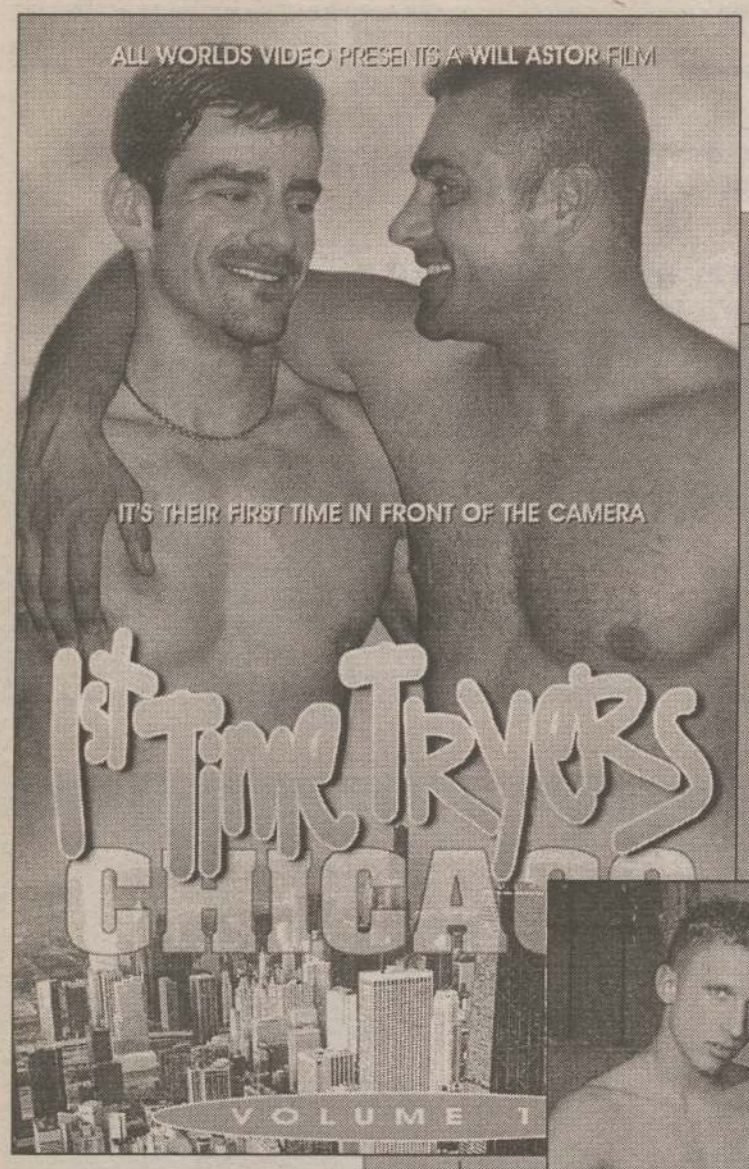
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• Mustang • Bacchus • All Worlds • Jocks • Falcon • Big • Forum Studios • Le Salon • Bel Ami • Kristen Bjorn • Huge •



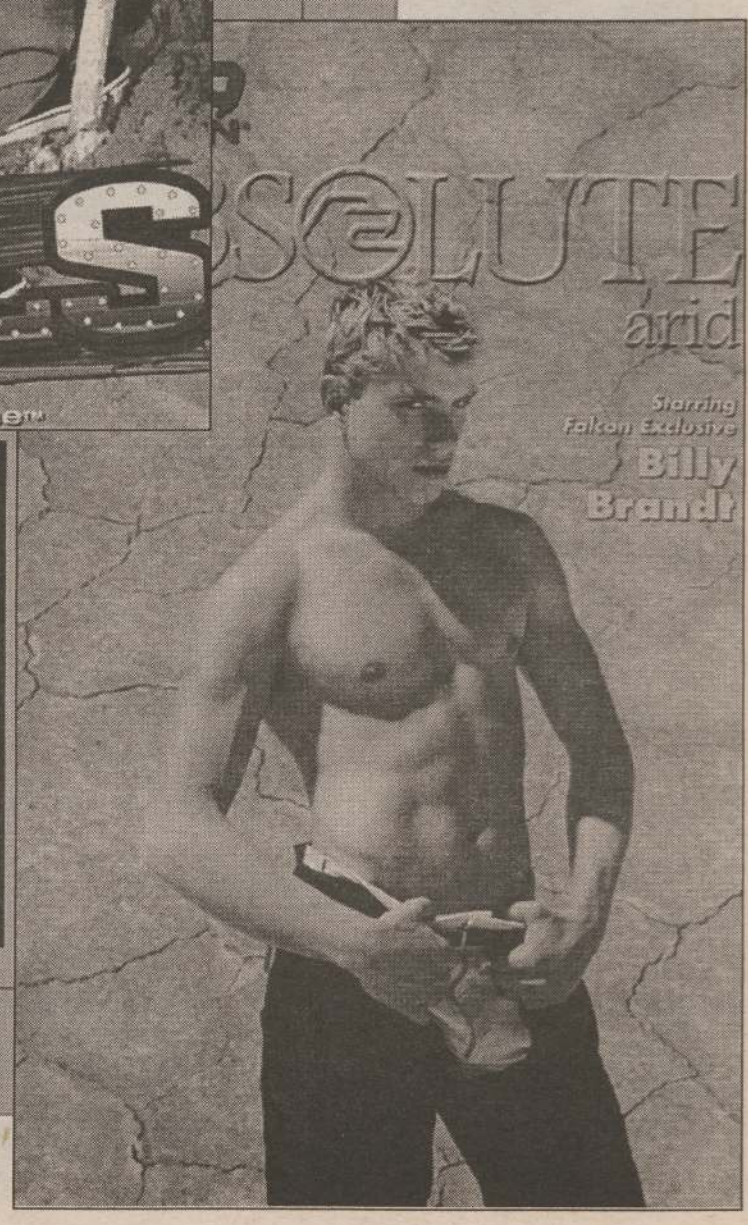
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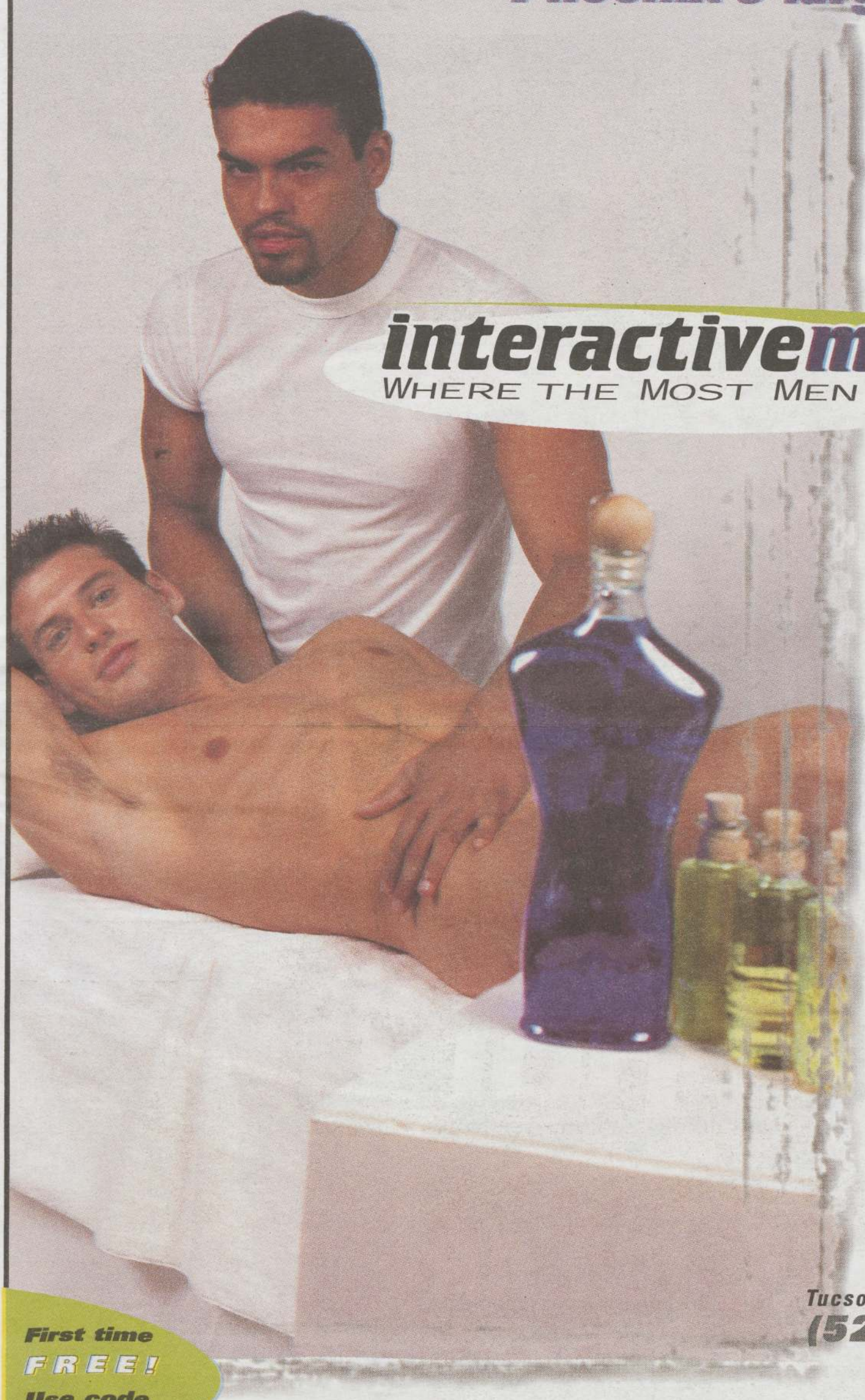
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