

HeatStroke

Volume 5, No. 55

Phoenix, Arizona

December 17 — 30, 1998

Not yet Over the Rainbow

This Phoenix couple channels gay pride into big business

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Wasn't it only ten or twelve years ago that gay men and lesbians were whispering and winking about the hidden meaning of that discreet rainbow sticker in the corner of a bar window?

Remember quietly thrilling to the Celebrate Diversity message affixed to the rear bumper of a passing car when it was still only an occasional sight?

But check out the vendor tents at a pride festival today, or pop into a gay-theme gift shop anywhere in the world.

There are risqué refrigerator magnets. Prideful pet collars. Pink triangle ball caps. Leather flag lapel pins



and in-your-face bumper stickers. There's giftware, stemware, candleware and anything you can wear, all emblazoned with rainbows, rainbows, and more rainbows.

In the gay nineties, pride merchandise abounds. And the popularity—not to mention the variety—of items sporting the now-familiar rainbow

motif continues to astonish those of us who remember a time before Stonewall.

Maybe that's why we queerfolk buy all this stuff nowadays—simply to prove that we can. We're showing the larger culture that at the very least, we've achieved consumer group status. These are our cars, we're say-

ing, and these are our houses. We may not have our rights, but dammit, we've got our t-shirts.

Whatever the reason, the fact that so many modern homosexuals are forking over a healthy portion of our discretionary incomes to accessorize our lives with pridestuff is just fine by one Valley couple. Jim Horne, 43,

See "Rainbows," page 14

Medical Board files long-delayed complaint against gay doctor

Bomex holds emergency meeting, includes new allegations of sexual misconduct; medical license at stake

By Kelly J. Reidhead, Managing Editor

The state agency that regulates medical doctors has taken another step toward terminating the license of Dr. Ken Fisher to practice medicine. Fisher is an openly gay Phoenix physician who is one of the first local clinicians to specialize in treating HIV patients.

The Arizona Board of Medical Examiners (BOMEX) held an emergency meeting Dec. 11 to discuss additional allegations of sexual misconduct brought by two of Dr. Fisher's former patients. The members of BOMEX unanimously voted to include the new allegations in a written complaint against Dr. Fisher that was filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings later that day.

BOMEX originally voted to direct its attorneys to prepare the written complaint, the product of several years of investigation, on Sept. 26, 1997. (See *HeatStroke*, Volume 2, Issue 24, October 9-22, 1997 for more details.) In the nearly 15 months since that vote, the Medical Board has been beset with numerous administrative and personnel problems—

including the ouster of former Executive Director Mark Speicher and the resignation of its chief attorney. Claudia Foutz, the current Executive Director of BOMEX, was appointed in May, 1998.

In a Sept. 14, 1998 interview with *HeatStroke*, Melissa Cornelius, BOMEX Deputy Director offered an additional explanation for the long delay. According to Cornelius, the previous BOMEX administration did not place a high priority on processing complaints.

"Unfortunately," Cornelius said, "the Board received some bad legal advice about the Office of Administrative Hearings; the Board was concerned that the Office was not qualified to hear cases against physicians, so very few cases were sent there to be decided." This

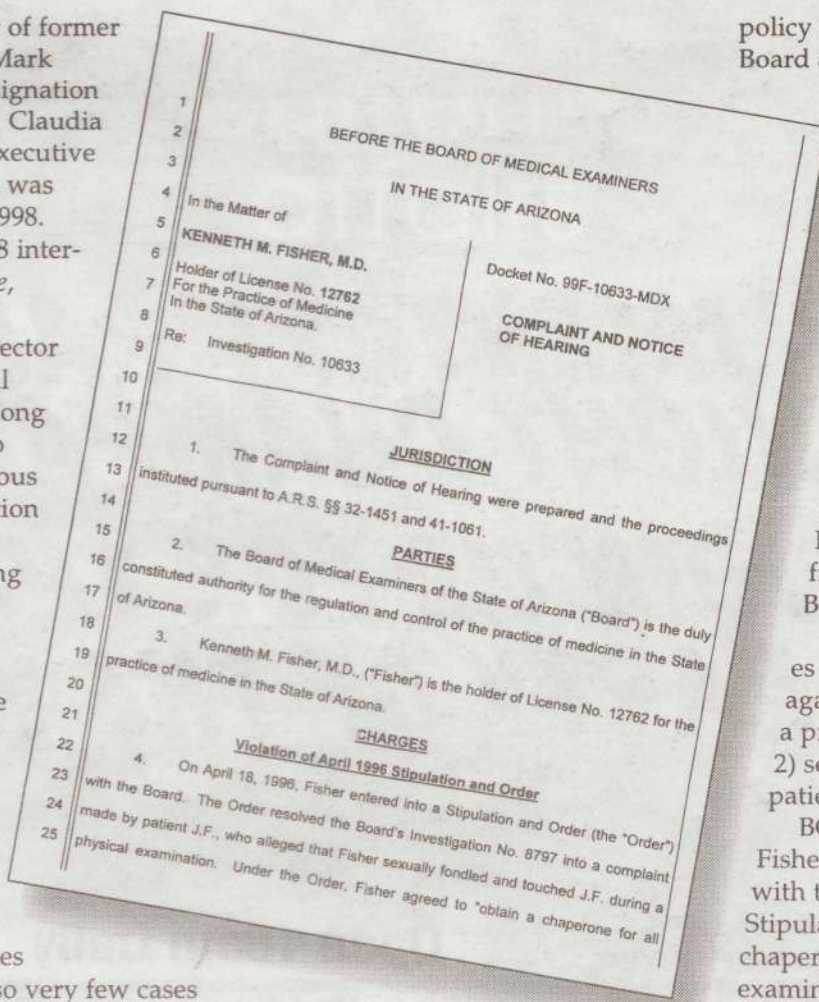
policy was reversed by the current Board and Executive Director. "It was just taking too long to process cases," Cornelius said.

The Dec. 11 complaint outlines the specific charges against Dr. Fisher that BOMEX attorneys will attempt to prove at a formal hearing scheduled for January 11. Arizona law requires a hearing before the Medical Board may revoke or suspend a physician's license for more than 12 months. Dr. Fisher has 20 days in which to file a written response to the BOMEX complaint.

In its complaint, BOMEX raises two categories of charges against Dr. Fisher: 1) violation of a previous order of the Board, and 2) sexual improprieties with patients.

BOMEX first alleges that Dr. Fisher violated a 1996 agreement with the Medical Board—called a Stipulation and Order—to "obtain a chaperone for all patient physical examinations," and to require "that

See "Dr. Ken Fisher," page 7



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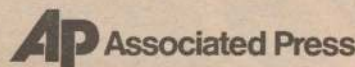
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Horowitz:

Victories in Georgia and Florida

In my last column, I suggested that our civil rights movement concentrate on winning some quick victories. Ask, and you shall receive!

The Georgia Supreme court overturned Georgia's infamous sodomy law, and Florida's Dade County Commissioners added sexual orientation to the county's anti-discrimination ordinance.

I learned about Georgia's sodomy law in law school before I came out. We studied *Bowers v. Hardwick* in Constitutional Law. In the United States Supreme Court's landmark antigay ruling, five of nine justices found that a state had the right to proscribe sodomy between consenting adults in the privacy of their own homes.

Justice Stevens was said to indicate that he would have made a different decision if he had it to do all over again. The court's decision has legitimized the argument that gay people are criminals and deserving of discriminatory treatment.

When I first read about *Bowers* in my casebook, I remember being incensed even though I was supposedly straight. No government action belongs in our bedrooms—period.

While the U.S. Supreme Court decision still stands as law, the Georgia Supreme Court has ruled that Georgia's sodomy law violates the state's own constitutional guarantee to privacy. The justices overwhelmingly overturned the archaic law. The Georgia attorney general's office cannot appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court because the Georgia Supreme Court has the final say in matters of the state constitution.

Arizona has a similar law on its books and a similar privacy clause in our state's constitution.

The Arizona Human Rights Fund has made overturning our sodomy law a priority for the next legislative session. The odds are stacked against us. Republican leadership has managed to keep the sodomy repeal legislation stuck in committee each year it has been introduced. We have new hopes this year with the introduction of Steve May into the Republican ranks, but we still have a tough row to hoe.

The Georgia Supreme Court decision could help. Legislative action, however, remains vastly different from judicial action, and Arizona's legislature has wackos like Karen Johnson for us to contend with.

The amazing victory in Dade County, however, tells us we can win. Some of you will remember—and many of you have heard of—the long-standing battle of gay rights in Dade County. Anita Bryant became as known for her antigay campaign

against the Dade County civil rights ordinance as she was for hocking Florida orange juice.

In the seventies, Bryant, a former Miss Florida, successfully led a campaign to get sexual orientation removed from the list of protected classes under the law. The fight has raged on since that time, with many unsuccessful attempts at adding the protections back in.

Well, the Dade County gay rights contingent finally did last week. The Dade County Commission

The Arizona Human Rights Fund has made overturning our sodomy statute a priority for the next legislative session. The odds are stacked against us.

passed the resolution by one vote. An organization called SAVE Dade (Safeguarding American Values for Everyone) did the lion's share of the work, much as AHRF will do in Arizona. SAVE began an education program that spoke to the religious issues involved to help find some middle ground.

SAVE taught people who disapprove of homosexuality that they could maintain their religious beliefs and still support a law that supports the dignity of human life and the value of nondiscrimination.

SAVE Dade won the endorsements of the NAACP, the United Teachers Association of Dade, the American Jewish Congress, the Dade County Bar Association, the AFL-CIO, and the Miami-Dade Community Relations Board. Cities throughout the area also supported the ordinance. Miami-Dade mayor, Alex Penelas, who didn't support the ordinance previously argued, "Adoption of the proposed policy, rather than offering special rights, will simply extend protection against discrimination to a currently unprotected group."

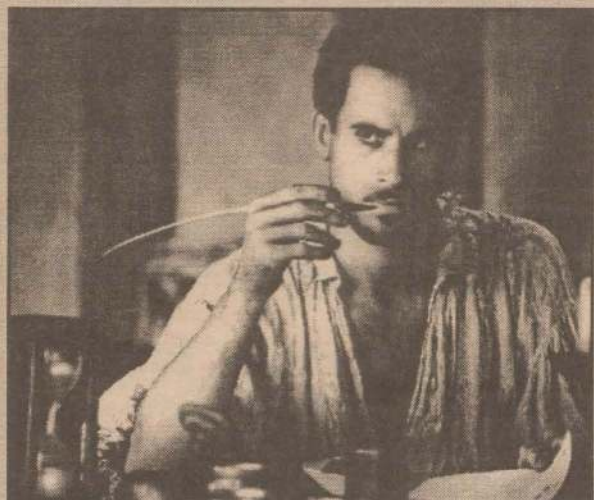
Perhaps most importantly, SAVE won over the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami. The Archdiocese stated that "opposition to homosexual activity and homosexual lifestyles can never be construed as acceptance of bigotry, hatred, or discrimination against people with a homosexual orientation." The battle wasn't easy, but SAVE did its homework and managed to prevail.

If AHRF can do the same thing in Arizona, perhaps I won't be a criminal next year.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and President of the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project.

On page 1: Jim Horne (l) and Chuck Harnish, owners of PHS Inc.

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Psychiatrists condemn treatment to convert gays

DENVER (AP)

The American Psychiatric Association's board voted unanimously Dec. 11 to reject therapy aimed solely at turning gays straight, saying it is harmful and could contribute to violence like the murder of Matthew Shepard.

"All the evidence would indicate this is the way people are born. We treat disease, not the way people are," said Dr. Nada Stotland, head of the association's joint committee on public affairs.

The American Psychological Association made a similar decision last year.

Gay activists applauded the decision. Proponents of converting gays said the decision could deny patients the treatment they want.

Some fundamentalist Christian religious groups attempt to persuade homosexuals to undergo treatment, sometimes called "reparative therapy," to convert to heterosexuality. Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council and the Christian Coalition began a national advertising campaign just before Shepard's killing, urging gays to convert.

Stotland, of Rush Medical College in Chicago, said, "The every existence of therapy that is supposed to change people's sexuality, even for people who don't take it, is harmful because it implies that they have a disease. There is evidence that the belief itself can trigger depression and anxiety."

Stotland, chair of psychiatry at

Rush, asked whether efforts to convert gays could result in attacks like the killing of Shepard in Laramie, said spreading the idea that homosexuality is a disease or evil could make people "feel less inhibited about beating up gays, or not giving them jobs."

Some of the groups trying to turn gays straight came under fire after Shepard's death. The 21-year-old openly gay University of Wyoming student died Oct. 12 after a severe beating.

Police believe he was attacked in part because he was gay. Two men suspected of luring him out of a bar and beating him while driving around have been charged with first-degree murder.

Stotland said during the psychiatric group's quarterly meeting that there is no evidence that sexual orientation can be changed.

John Paulk, a specialist on homosexuality and gender for the Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family, disagreed. He said there is no evidence that homosexuality is "biologically predetermined."

"This makes it more difficult for clients who want to be treated for unwanted homosexuality," Paulk said. "Furthermore no scientific study has given conclusive evidence that homosexuality cannot be successfully treated."

Paulk, who also is chairman of Exodus, the world leader in "helping men and women come out of homosexuality," agreed with the board's comment that gays and lesbians

should not be told that all homosexuals are lonely and unhappy.

Paulk attracted national attention in July by appearing in a full-page ad in newspapers featuring him and his wife. The two said they were homosexuals who were "cured" through faith in God.

"You cannot discount the stories of thousands of men and women who have successfully overcome homosexuality," he said.

David Smith, chief strategist for the Human Rights Campaign, said, "We applaud ... the condemnation of this thoroughly discredited practice that causes great harm to people who are gay but not yet comfortable with

their sexual orientation."

Smith's group defends the rights and interests of homosexuals.

He said "'reparative therapy' is nothing less than psychological terrorism used by political religious groups as a tool to undermine fair public policy for lesbian and gay groups."

The question of whether homosexuality is a disease or a choice is sometimes the focus of legislative debates on whether to enact laws defending gay rights. Those who argue gays are born that way defend such protection, while opponents contend homosexuality is a behavior, not an inborn characteristic.

Controversial bill nears a vote in lower house of French Parliament

PARIS (AP)

French lawmakers on Dec. 9 adopted a controversial bill that would give legal status to unmarried couples, but the measure could still be tripped up and is unlikely to become law before mid-1999.

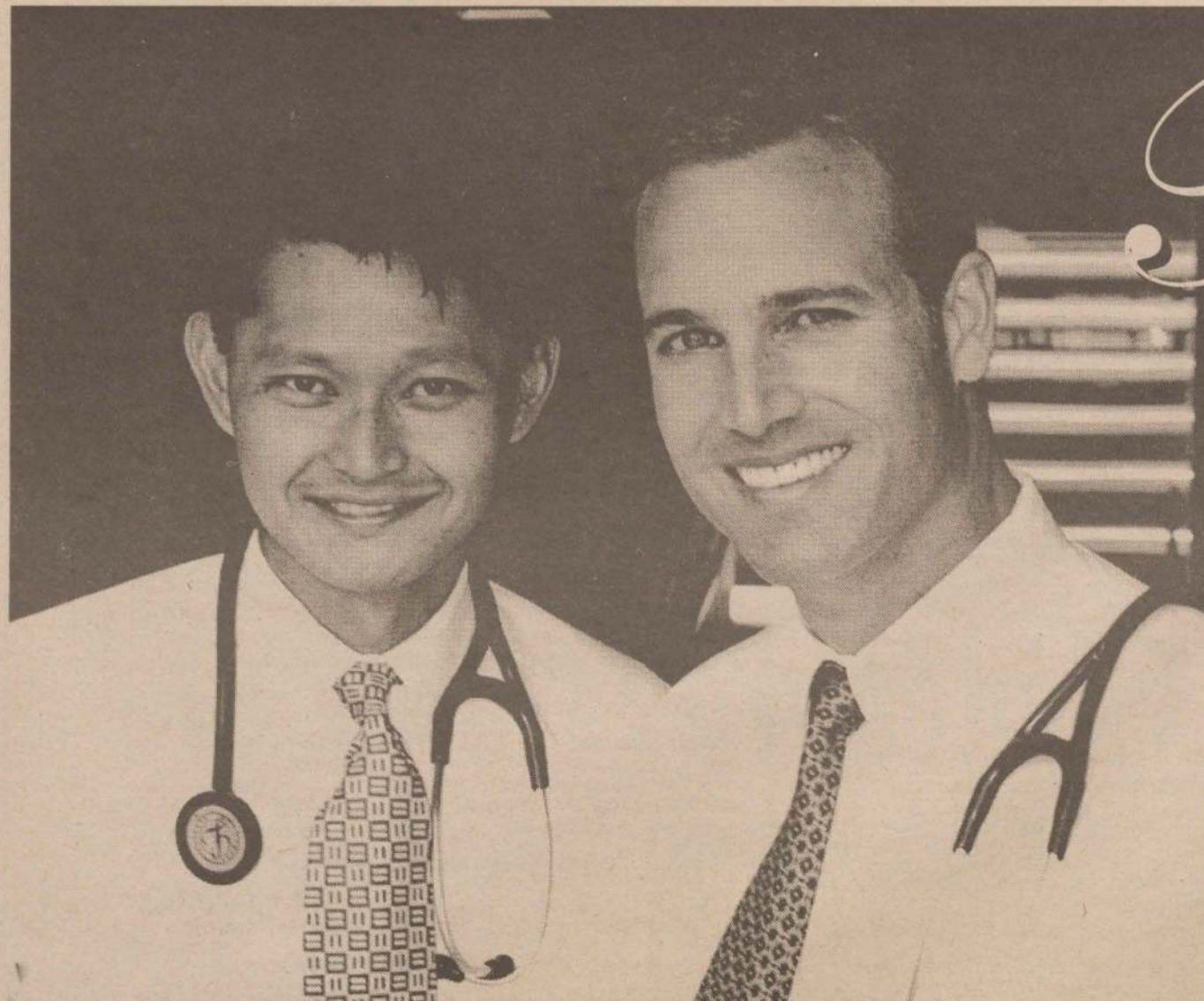
The so-called Civil Solidarity Pact, or PACS, was adopted in a first reading 316-249, with the opposition right voting against the bill that it has called a carte blanche for homosexual marriages.

The bill next goes to the Senate—probably in March. Then it must be

taken up by the Constitutional Council.

This was the second attempt at passage in the lower house of parliament. Rightist politicians finally stopped their delaying tactics on Tuesday.

The bill, which has been laden with hundreds of amendments, would allow two unrelated people to form a union that would, among other things, allow them to file joint tax returns, gain inheritance benefits, and share social security coverage.



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Malta Center slated to close

After ten years of providing HIV/AIDS services in the Phoenix area, the Malta Center is in the process of downsizing with the ultimate goal of closing down completely.

The Center, at 3033A North Seventh Avenue in Phoenix, has provided services for more than a decade under the wing of the Phoenix area's Catholic Diocese.

Interim Executive Director Joe Mioduszewski said in statement released this month that the number of clients the Malta Center has been seeing on an annual basis has been declining, new sources of funding are becoming increasingly difficult to come by, and the costs of providing client services have been rising year

by year.

The result was a decision to discontinue programs. Although all details have not been decided, Father Lou Bishop has agreed to work with Catholic Social Services of Phoenix in support of client's needs for spiritual support.

Mioduszewski and other staffers are working with other members of the Coalition of Meal Providers and Catholic Social Services to continue HIV/AIDS food services and Saturday evening dinner.

When the transition has been successfully completed, Mioduszewski will step down as Director. He expects all of this to take place in the first few months of 1999.

Sodomy ban still law in Arizona, 18 other states

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)

Anti-sodomy statutes in Arizona may seldom be enforced but remain an intrusive threat, according to legal experts.

The laws against anal and oral sex have been in effect in Arizona for 97 years—preceding statehood—and apply equally to heterosexual and gay couples. Gay rights proponents contend that they're viewed as a legal tool for discriminating against homosexuals.

Arizona and 13 other states bar consensual sodomy among all couples; five states ban only same-sex sodomy. Penalties range up to life in prison in Idaho.

People convicted in Arizona of "lewd or lascivious acts" or the "crime against nature" can be fined \$500 and sentenced to up to 30 days in jail.

Arizona's sodomy laws "absolutely pose a threat," said Suzanne Goldberg, a civil rights attorney in New York who is challenging similar laws in Arkansas and Texas.

"As long as these laws are on the books, they are a tremendous danger because a prosecutor could wake up one day and charge someone with violating the law."

"It's an outrageous invasion of privacy, and the laws are particularly used to stigmatize lesbians and gay men.

"As long as these laws are on the books, they are a tremendous danger because a prosecutor could wake up one day and charge someone with violating the law," Goldberg said.

Criminal justice and law enforcement officials in Arizona say the laws, Class 3 misdemeanors, are harmless because they are not prosecuted, though they agree the statutes are invasive.

"As long as it's consenting adults, and it doesn't involve children or animals, it's not a crime we should prosecute," said Deputy Pima County Attorney Kathleen Mayer, who spe-

cializes in sex crimes.

The head of the Tucson Police Department's sexual assault unit, Sgt. Betty Whitmore, said police won't enforce the laws if they are not going to be prosecuted.

"If it involves two consenting adults in the privacy of their own home, we aren't interested," she said.

In 1961, every state in the country had anti-sodomy laws, but many were overturned by state courts or legislatures in the 1970s and 1980s. Georgia became the sixth state since 1990 to lose its law when its Supreme Court struck down the ban last month.

Gay rights activists said the Texas case illustrates the intrusion on private lives. Two gay men engaged in anal sex were arrested after a police officer entered their Houston apartment, responding to a neighbor's false report of an armed intruder.

The officer said the men were engaged "in deviate sexual intercourse." Texas' criminal code includes a ban on "homosexual conduct."

Goldberg said the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, for which she works, hopes to topple the remaining sodomy statutes within the next decade.

"It takes fortitude to challenge these laws," said Jennifer Martinez, counsel attorney for the Arizona Legislature. "Do you want to be the legislator to introduce this and

have your name on it? Any statute relating to sex has a stigma attached to it. It's embarrassing."

Martinez said most lawmakers would prefer to ignore the laws rather than face public scrutiny for challenging them.

David Bucchiere of Wingspan, a gay advocacy organization, said as long as the statutes are on the books, police can walk into a home and arrest anyone "for something they're doing in the privacy of their own bedroom."

"Just because it isn't prosecuted, that doesn't offer any protection," said University of Arizona law professor Robert Glennon, who teaches constitutional law. "People have a right to feel threatened."

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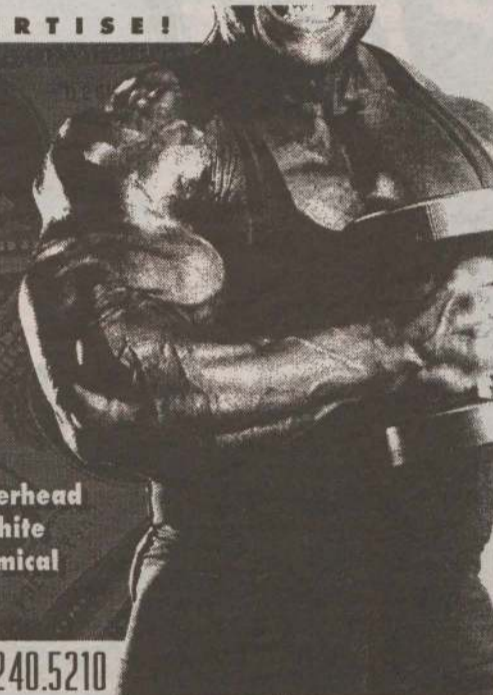


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Hegyzi to be honored at MLK tribute

Bob Hegyzi, office manager and volunteer coordinator at Phoenix Body Positive and for more than 20 years a proponent of equal rights for gays, lesbians and those infected with HIV, will receive one of five Living the Dream Awards at the Mayor's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute in Phoenix this January.

The Award, presented annually by the Phoenix Human Relations Commission, recognizes individuals who have exemplified the ideals and teachings of Dr. King by embracing cultural diversity, promoting social and economic justice, defending civil rights and enhancing the dignity of all persons.

In addition to Hegyzi, others to receive the award are Joel Breshin, director of the Arizona regional office of the Anti-Defamation League; Bill Moseley, a reporter for KTVK-3TV for more than 20 years; Dr. Ann Hart, an

educator in the Phoenix Elementary School District and a community fellow at Arizona State University's Morrison Institute for Public Policy; and Manuel Luis Ortega, who will receive the award posthumously for his work as a Hispanic activist and entertainer.

Hegyzi overcame strong prejudices in championing the civil rights of gays, lesbians and those infected with HIV. More than 20 years ago, he began promoting social and economic rights for all people in the Phoenix community, regardless of sexual orientation, by founding the Arizona AIDS Fund-Trust, which continues today as AIDS Project Arizona, and the Alternative Relations Center.

The awards will be presented at Phoenix Symphony Hall at 7 pm Friday, Jan. 15 at the Mayor's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute, *Imagine the Dream*.

ACP gears up for 1998-99 Pride Season

By Beth Verity, Special to HeatStroke

Summer is thankfully over, fall has arrived, the holidays are upon us and the 1999 Pride Parade and Festival is only five months away!

The Arizona Central Pride board of directors has been busy getting things done for the 1998-99 season. Things like meetings, planning, fund-raisers, paperwork and the International Conference, to name just a few.

Only five months and there is so much to be done. "What has this got to do with me," you ask? Well, one of the things you can do is become a volunteer. Volunteers are needed to help with various office tasks, fund-raisers between now and the event, as well as for the event itself. If you have some time, ideas, or interest call Jan (Director of Volunteers) on the Pride Line at (602)279-1771.

Another way you can get involved is by becoming a contestant for the Mr., Miss, and Ms. Gay Pride contest and Pageant. The applications are now available. We will be accepting applications until Feb. 1, 1999—but remember, the earlier you start the more points you can earn in the contest. For more information, call Garry or Beth on the Pride line at 279-1771. call the line for contestant meeting schedules.

For all you artists out there, there is yet another way to become involved. Submit a logo design for the 1999 Parade and Festival. The theme that has been chosen this year is: "Millions of Lives... One Voice in Pride."

Your logo submission should be camera ready, reflect the chosen theme and be turned in no later than noon, Jan. 10, 1999 at The Community Center, 24 West Camelback in Phoenix. The Board of Directors will hold a board meeting that day and the winning logo will be chosen at that meeting.

You can mail your design to: Arizona Central Pride, PO Box 16847,

Phoenix, AZ 85011, bring it to the Jan. 10 meeting, or call the Pride line to make other arrangements. The artist(s) of the winning logo will receive two 1999 logo t-shirts, two each of any other 1999 logo products, a plaque, two VIP tickets to the event, honorable mention in the 1999 souvenir program, introductions form the stage at the event, and \$100 in cash. So get your pens, paper, watercolors, computers, etc. and start designing.

Six members of the board spent five busy, work-filled days in Los Angeles in October at the 16th Annual Conference of the International Association of Lesbian/gay Pride Coordinators, Inc. There were several meetings to attend along with many workshops designed to help us produce better and better festivals and parades.

It is at the conference that the inter-



Tish Tanner—aka Garry Mangum—is a member of the ACP Board of Directors; shown here at last year's event.

national pride theme is selected. The international theme chosen for 1999 is: "Prideful Past... Powerful Future." Some of the organizations use the international theme, while others select a theme of their own design, as we in Arizona Central Pride opted to do this year.

Please take a moment now to decide how you can best help. If you have questions, need more information or want to get involved, call us on the Pride line at 279-1771. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the Parade and Festival on April 17, 1999.

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BOMEX moves forward with case against Dr. Ken Fisher

Continued from page 1

the chaperone sign his or her name in the chart for each physical examination." Approximately 10 months after Dr. Fisher agreed to have a chaperone present, BOMEX received a complaint from Access Blue Connection (a licensee of Blue Cross and Blue Shield) that stated Dr. Fisher was not requiring a chaperone to sign off on

order. The investigation revealed that Dr. Fisher failed to document the presence of chaperones on 57 different occasions between April, 1996, and March, 1997. BOMEX also learned from three of Dr. Fisher's former employees that he "did not use chaperones for all patient examinations after April, 1996.

BOMEX also charges Dr. Fisher with sexual improprieties during the treatment of six of his patients. (See the accompanying sidebar for the complaint's description of these alleged sexual improprieties.)

Dr. Fisher was represented by his attorney, Raymond Lee, who objected to the emergency meeting. He said, "we don't feel that there has been due process in having this meeting convened on such short notice, without being aware of what the accusations are or who the accusers are."

In response, BOMEX attorney Gordon Bueler said, "Dr. Fisher was notified of the allegations made by these two individuals in writing. As

soon as the Board received the letters from these individuals, Dr. Fisher was notified, and was given the opportunity to respond in writing, which he did."

Dr. Patrick Connell, a member of the Board, stated that, because of the repetitive nature of the alleged sexual improprieties, BOMEX should consid-

discussion are not available. Upon reconvening the public meeting, however, the Medical Board did not discuss the summary suspension, and voted to include the new allegations in the complaint.

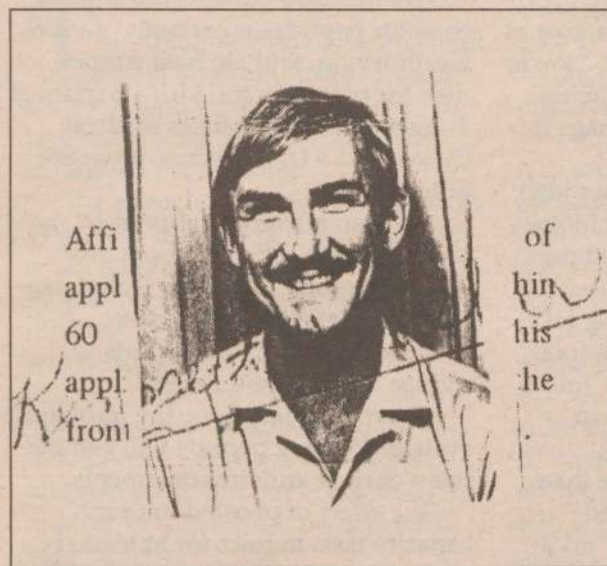
BOMEX Deputy Director Cornelius later explained that the members of the Board believed a

summary suspension of Dr. Fisher's license was not necessary because the Jan. 11 hearing will provide a relatively quick resolution of the matter.

When asked to comment after the emergency meeting concluded, Mr. Lee told *HeatStroke*, "to the best of our knowledge, Dr. Fisher has complied with all protocols imposed by BOMEX. Dr. Fisher is trying to be the best physician he can be—he really cares about his patients."

At the conclusion of the Jan. 11 hearing, the assigned Administrative Law Judge will weigh the

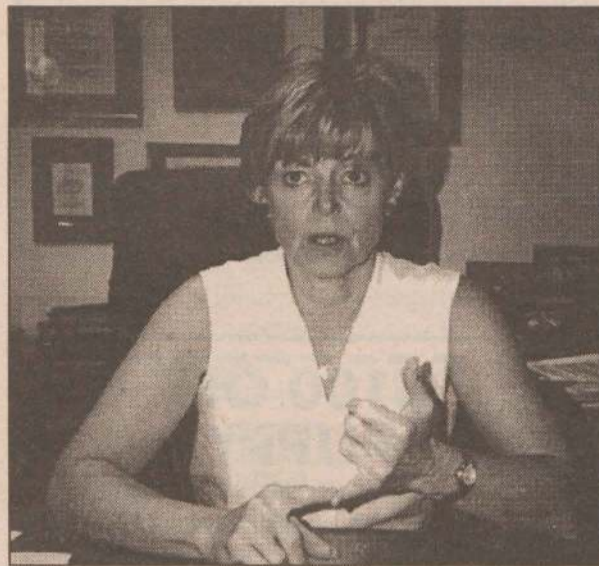
evidence and arguments presented by the attorneys for BOMEX and Dr. Fisher. The judge will then draft findings of fact and conclusions of law, which will then be sent back to BOMEX for consideration by the Medical Board at public meeting. At that point, BOMEX will make a final decision as to whether Dr. Fisher will be allowed to continue to practice medicine in Arizona.



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

his patient examination charts.

After receiving this complaint, BOMEX staff investigated Dr. Fisher's compliance with the stipulation and



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

er suspending Dr. Fisher's license on a summary basis—without waiting for the results of the evidentiary hearing. Dr. Connell moved to adjourn the meeting to executive session to discuss a summary suspension with the Board and its attorneys. The motion was carried, and the Board convened an executive session.

Because executive sessions are not open to the public, the specifics of the

In the matter of Kenneth Fisher, M.D. BOMEX complaint details allegations of sexual misconduct with 6 patients

The following passages have been reprinted directly from the BOMEX complaint. Because of confidentiality laws, the BOMEX complaint against Dr. Fisher refers to each patient only by his initials.

Patient R.G.

R.G. became a patient of Fisher's in the 1980s. At almost all of R.G.'s appointments, Fisher made sexually suggestive remarks. During examinations, Fisher fondled R.G.'s testicles in a manner inconsistent with standard practice for patient examinations, and placed his genital area on R.G.'s knee or buttocks.

R.G. ended his treatment after Fisher grabbed his penis while giving an injection and when Fisher rammed his fingers into his rectum during a rectal exam. Before performing the rectal exam, Fisher stated to R.G.: "just pretend that this is a big black man."

Patient S.H.

S.H. was a patient of Fisher's from April, 1994 to October, 1996. While treating, Fisher fondled S.H.'s testicles in a manner inconsistent with standard medical practice. Fisher also improperly performed a prostate exam, pushing his finger in and out of S.H.'s rectum several times.

Patient R.C.

In February of 1993, R.C. went to Fisher's office with his partner, who was also a patient of Fisher's. R.C. agreed to a physical exam by Fisher. During the exam, Fisher grabbed R.C.'s penis and testicles and held them in front of his face. While holding R.C.'s genitals, Fisher

said, "You're lucky to have a partner."

Patient J.T.

J.T. was first seen by Fisher in October, 1995. At the initial physical examination, Fisher fondled J.T.'s penis and testicles in a medically inappropriate fashion. Fisher also rubbed J.T.'s prostate gland until J.T.'s penis became erect. During other examinations, Fisher fondled J.T.'s penis and testicles. J.T. was made to disrobe each time he went into the patient examination room no matter what his physical complaints or symptoms.

Patient R.R.

On or about September 6, 1994, Fisher conducted a physical examination of R.R. at Fisher's office. Fisher examined R.R. after instructing him to remove all his clothes and to put on a gown. During the examination, Fisher manipulated R.R.'s penis until R.R. had a full erection. Fisher then told R.R. to stand up and Fisher positioned himself on a low stool directly in front of R.R.'s genitals. During the examination, Fisher made sexual comments about R.R.'s penis.

Patient D.B.

D.B. was a patient of Fisher's from June, 1990 to December, 1996. During office examinations, Fisher frequently made sexually suggestive remarks to him. At one office examination, while giving D.B. an injection in the buttocks, Fisher reached around D.B. and grabbed D.B.'s genitals. Fisher kissed D.B. on the buttocks after the injection.

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U of A researchers hope treatment will jump-start immune system

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)

Two University of Arizona researchers have developed a therapy they believe will jump-start the immune systems of people infected with HIV.

"Most people attempt to treat AIDS by killing the virus," said Ronald Watson, a research professor at the Arizona Prevention Center. "We're not trying to kill the virus. We're trying to reduce the immune damage it does."

Watson and fellow researcher John Marchalonis, head of the microbiology and immunology department at the UA College of Medicine, patented the therapy, which involves treating HIV-positive patients with a protein fragment called a receptor peptide, found in human T cells—key players in immune defense.

Repeated studies with more than 600 mice have shown the peptide helped animals infected with "mice-HIV" fight off the opportunistic infections that typically rage unchecked in infected animals.

Marchalonis and Watson's patent goes into effect next month. Though the two are listed as the inventors, the patent belongs to the university, which contributed about \$30,000 to start the study.

San Mateo, Calif.-based Allergene has purchased technological development rights to the peptide for an undisclosed amount.

The company plans to begin clinical trials of the peptide with HIV-positive patients by late 1999, said Bill

Friedman, Allergene chairman and chief executive.

Clinical trials can explore whether the peptide boosts T-cell counts or enhances T-cell capacity, Marchalonis said. In people with AIDS, T-cell counts fall nearly tenfold.

Giving AIDS patients more T-cell receptor peptides is certainly an idea worth trying, said Dr. Neil Ampel, director of the clinical HIV program at Tucson's Veterans Affairs Medical Center and a UA associate professor of medicine.

"It is an intriguing approach," he said. "What's different about HIV than other viral infections is that people don't develop a protective immune response, so attempts to induce that are reasonable."

The researchers hope the immune-system-boosting peptide will complement current antiviral treatments.

The effect of boosted immune capacity lasts in mice for at least six months, a significant time in the life span of a mouse, Marchalonis said.

The researchers have published their findings in several scientific journals, including Nutrition Research and the Journal of Immunology.

They were awarded a five-year, nearly \$1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health last year to find out if the peptide can help lessen heart disease in infected mice.

More than half of AIDS sufferers are afflicted with heart disease, and scientists surmise this may be because their immune systems are compromised by HIV, Watson said.



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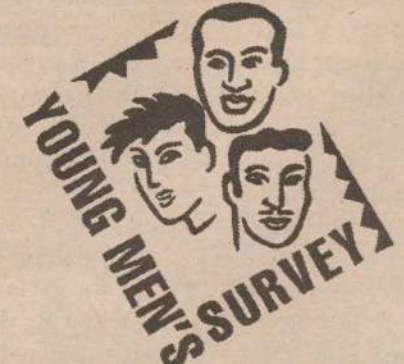
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Politically Speaking



By Kathie Gummere, HeatStroke Contributor

The Arizona Human Rights Fund Board and committees have set their legislative goals for the current legislative year, and they are both ambitious and exciting.

The prime focus will be to assist in 1) passing legislation repealing archaic sex laws and 2) passing a state Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA). Another important focus will be to get protection for same-sex couples under the domestic violence laws. These are ambitious goals, and if successful, will have far-reaching effects throughout our community. In order to be successful, we will need your support.

As most of you know, Arizona currently has statutes prohibiting sodomy, co-habitation and "lewd and lascivious conduct." By and large, these laws are seldom enforced. They apply to homosexuals and heterosexuals alike.

However, these laws can be used, not just in criminal cases, but as evidence in all sorts of other actions. Similar laws have been used in other states to deny individuals the right to custody of their own children, be appointed to public offices and private employment.

Until these laws are off the books, they hang as a threat. Will they again be used? Will a judge decide that just because a man is gay, and therefore may be engaging in illegal conduct, he should be denied access to his own children? Will a state official decide that an otherwise highly qualified applicant should not be hired just because he or she may be subject to prosecution under these statutes? These laws are at the very core of our fight for equal rights.

A state ENDA would add sexual orientation to the list of protected categories under the non-discrimination rules of state employment. The cities of Phoenix and Tucson already have such provisions, but the state does not. It is perfectly legal for a state agency to refuse to hire someone merely because that person is lesbian or gay.

Under the Domestic Violence statutes, same-sex victims of domestic violence are treated much differently than married couples. For instance, it is much harder to obtain an order of protection. Treating same-sex couples the same as opposite-sex couples is not only necessary for the victims of such crimes, but is another piece of the quilt of equal rights for everyone.

In order to accomplish the above changes, we will need help. Individuals and small groups from AHRF will be working with various legislators to write, propose, enlist sponsors for and shepherd these bills through the legislative process.

Public sentiment will be an important factor. Phone trees are being developed by the Community Action Network (CAN) committee of AHRF to include as many people in our community as possible. When one of our bills is at a critical stage, it will be important to contact our state legislators to encourage support of the bill.

Legislators do listen to their constituency, and need to be able to show they have support from their districts. We will be asking for help particularly in contacting swing votes—legislators that could go either way in voting for or against a particular bill.

Scripts will be given, so callers will know exactly what to say when they contact a legislator's office. It will only take a few minutes of your time. Please help us by calling the AHRF office at 650-0900 and volunteering to become part of this network.

If you are not a member of AHRF, at least leave your name, phone number and address (so we know which district you are in), and state that you are willing to call your legislator or become part of the tree and help

call others. These calls may mean the difference between passage of a bill or its defeat.

Finally, but not at all least in this process are the activities planned for March. AHRF will be sponsoring public activities calling on the legislature to enact our legislation. No violent protests, just large and small meetings with legislators, and a public meeting on the steps of the capital. Please join us today.



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

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International Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

Indian zealots close down lesbian movie

Hundreds of female zealots from India's Hindu Shiv Sena party stormed at least 12 cinemas across the nation in early December and intimidated managers into suspending screenings of the lesbian-themed film *Fire*.

The demonstrators smashed windows and snack counters and ripped down posters. Among the ransacked facilities was New Delhi's prestigious Regal theater.

A few days later the film was "sent back for recertifying to the censorship board," said Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, junior minister of state for information and broadcasting. "We will wait for their comments," he said.

The movie had played to packed houses during the three weeks it was shown. It depicts two sisters-in-law who are unhappy in their arranged marriages and turn to each other for love.

"Women seeking satisfaction from other women is alien to Indian culture," said Bombay Shiv Sena activist Meena Kulkarni. "This film poisons

our women. It makes them curious about something immoral."

Shabana Azmi, one of the film's stars and a member of parliament, responded: "One has

the right to dissent but violence of this kind is not the answer. This is a matter of breaking the law. The censorship board had approved the film."

The other lead actress, Nandita Das, said, "The censors passed the film without a cut, the public gave their verdict and we should not undermine the intelligence of the people."

Leading gay activist Ashok Row Kavi commented: "Our criminal laws on homosexuality were bequeathed to

us by the British, who had a Christian view of things. ... Hinduism, on the other hand, defines sex as one of the three ways of attaining salvation. Hinduism does not run away from sexuality and

does not pass judgement on people who have different preferences."

On Dec. 6, about 400 women, including *Fire* Director Deepa Mehta, picketed a theater in New Delhi's Connaught Place demanding that screenings of the film be resumed.

"Lesbian relationships are part of the Indian heritage and the film brings into the public domain the hypocrisy and tyranny of the patriarchal family, the issue of women's sexuality, and makes a strong statement about women-women relationships," Mehta said.

"It is the responsibility of the government to demonstrate to the citizens that their fundamental rights cannot be trampled upon by criminal acts of violence. The constitution guarantees everyone [the] right to expression. Forceful shutdown

of the film by a handful ... is a blot on the freedom of expression."

Mehta also petitioned the Supreme Court demanding that screenings of the film be protected from attacks.

Protests against the movie continued Dec. 12 when about 100 Shiv Sena party members demonstrated outside the home of Bombay actor Dilip Kumar—a vocal supporter of the film—wearing only their underwear.

The protesters said they stripped down because that was the only language Kumar would understand.

Gays march in Zimbabwe

A dozen gay activists marched in Zimbabwe Dec. 10 behind a banner declaring "Out and Proud in Zimbabwe."

They were a contingent in a procession marking the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The members of the group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe were emboldened to march by the presence of 4,000 delegates from more than 100 countries who were in Harare, the capital, to attend the World Council of Churches' eighth convention.

"I doubt walking down a few city blocks with a banner is really going to change anything," said GALZ Program Director Keith Goddard. "But people are getting braver now."

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe loathes homosexuals and has conducted a vocal campaign against them. He has said: "[They are] repugnant to my human conscience ... immoral and repulsive. ... Animals in the jungle are better than these people because at least they know that this is a man or a woman. ... I don't believe they have any rights at all. [Gay sex is] an abomination."

French National Assembly OKs partner bill

France's National Assembly passed a partnership-registration measure Dec. 9 that grants unmarried couples—gay and straight, romantic or not—spousal rights in areas such as inheritance, housing, taxation, workplace benefits, social security and social-welfare programs.

The vote was 316-249. The proposal will move to the Senate next spring then return to the lower house before predicted enactment in late 1999.

The bill was controversial from its inception and consumed over 70 hours of Assembly floor time as conservatives tried every approach imaginable to derail it. They were ultimately doomed to failure, however, since the measure is supported by Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's ruling Socialist Party, which holds 320 of the Assembly's 577 seats, and by the Communists and the Greens.

Tasmania bans anti-gay discrimination

The Upper House and the House of Assembly of the Australian state of Tasmania voted last week to ban discrimination, incitement of hatred and severe ridicule based on sexual orientation.

The comprehensive legislation also bans discrimination on 19 other grounds, including pregnancy and breastfeeding.

"This is one of the best pieces of anti-discrimination legislation in the country and its enactment reflects and enshrines the tolerant, inclusive and diverse society which Tasmania has become," said Rodney Croome, spokesman for the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group.

"It allows lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people to participate fully in Tasmanian society without fear of exclusion and unfair treatment."

Gays kicked off tram win settlement

Seven gays and lesbians thrown off a tram in Melbourne, Australia, for singing songs from *The Sound of Music* have been awarded an undisclosed payment by the Victorian Equal Opportunity Commission.

The fines will be paid by the Victorian Public Transport Corporation whose driver evicted the group while shouting: "I'm not taking your type any further!" "Don't touch me!" and "Fag!"

Scientific-Humanitarian Committee reborn

The world's oldest gay organization, Berlin's Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, has been relaunched by veteran German activists as an association of autonomous regional groups.

The original organization was formed in 1897 by sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld for the purpose of decriminalizing homosexuality. It was dissolved in 1933 under Nazi pressure and Hirschfeld's writings were publicly burned.

The new group has "declared that its work will not be limited to the fight for the civil rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons."

"The [Committee's] program negates the possibility of sexual emancipation in a generally un-emancipated society," said a spokesman. "Consequently, [the Committee's] explicit left-wing and anti-capitalist program is directed against repressive societal systems, structures and laws in general — for example the restrictive traditional concept of marriage or the criminalization of abortion."

One of the group's first political actions was a campaign in support of Norbert Lindner, the mayor of Quellendorf in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt who was removed from office by a voters' referendum Nov. 29 after he began dressing as a woman and announced plans to undergo gender-reassignment surgery.

Gay lawyers organize in Israel

"Gay Bar," the Israeli Association of Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Bisexual lawyers, held its first meeting Dec. 9. To contact the group, phone 011-972-3-640-6382 or e-mail israel-gaybar@hotmail.com.



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**South African gay leader
Simon Nkoli dies**

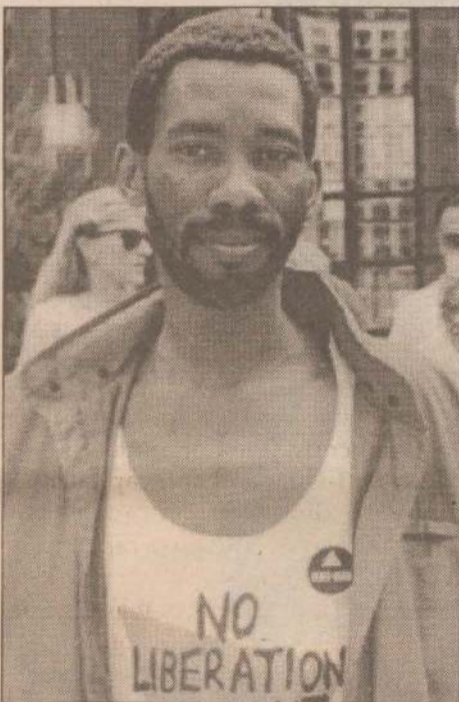
South Africa's most well-known gay activist is dead of AIDS.

Simon Tseko Nkoli died Nov. 30 at Johannesburg General Hospital.

In a joint statement, the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of Witwatersrand and the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality—both of which Nkoli helped found—said: "We mourn the loss of an important anti-apartheid activist, gay and lesbian rights activist and HIV/AIDS activist.

Simon was a courageous person who dared to declare his sexual orientation and his HIV status at a time when few were prepared to do so. Through these acts he defied the notion that being gay is unAfrican.

"As a founding member, of both GLOW and the NCGLE, Simon played an important role in ensuring that equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons has been entrenched in the South African Constitution as an unalienable right. Simon played an important role in putting lesbian and gay issues on the



Simon Nkoli

agenda of the African National Congress."

At the time of his death, Nkoli was president of GLOW, a board member of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, a member of the 1999 ILGA World Conference Organising Committee and a member of the African National Congress.

Nkoli was jailed for treason for three years in the mid-1980s. In a 1989 interview with this news column, he explained: "It was because

of my previous political involvement. I was involved in anti-apartheid organizations and demonstrated against unjust laws such as detention without trial, inferior education and the increase of rent. I was held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act and didn't get bail until I gave evidence for my defense in June 1987."

A memorial service was held in Johannesburg Dec. 4. Other memorials and a funeral were planned.

Nkoli is survived by his lover, Roderick Sharp.

**Wilde statue erected in
London**

A statue of scandalous gay author Oscar Wilde was unveiled in London's Adelaide Street near Trafalgar Square Nov. 30.

Wilde's larger-than-life bronze head rises from a nine-foot block of black marble that is inscribed: "A Conversation with Oscar Wilde 1854-1900. We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars."

"The idea is that he is rising, talking, laughing, smoking from this sarcophagus and the passerby, should he or she choose to, can sit on the sarcophagus and have a conversation with him," said sculptor Maggi Hambling. "It is actually completed when a member of the public, a passerby, chooses to sit down and have a chat with him."

Attendees at the unveiling included Wilde's grandson Merlin Holland and great-grandson Lucian Holland, actor Stephen Fry (who starred in the film "Wilde") and gay Culture Secretary Chris Smith.

"It is ... a wonderful monument for the people of London and of England," Fry said. "He is depicted with a cigarette which in his day was a symbol of a young man's decadence and modernity and which is now a symbol of political incorrectness. Showing him smoking is yet again a big finger shoved in the face of society."

Smith said: "He wrote like an angel, challenged prejudice, he took on the establishment and its perceptions. It's due to Oscar Wilde in many ways that we today can celebrate a society that generally appreciates diversity."

The \$249,000 cost of the monument was raised by a group of writers, actors, academics, philanthropists and journalists.

Wilde died in exile in France after serving a debilitating jail sentence for engaging in gay sex.



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All profits from this ornament will be donated to the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation. Come see "Sugar Holiday" and our entire assortment of ornaments from Christopher's breathtaking 1998 collection.



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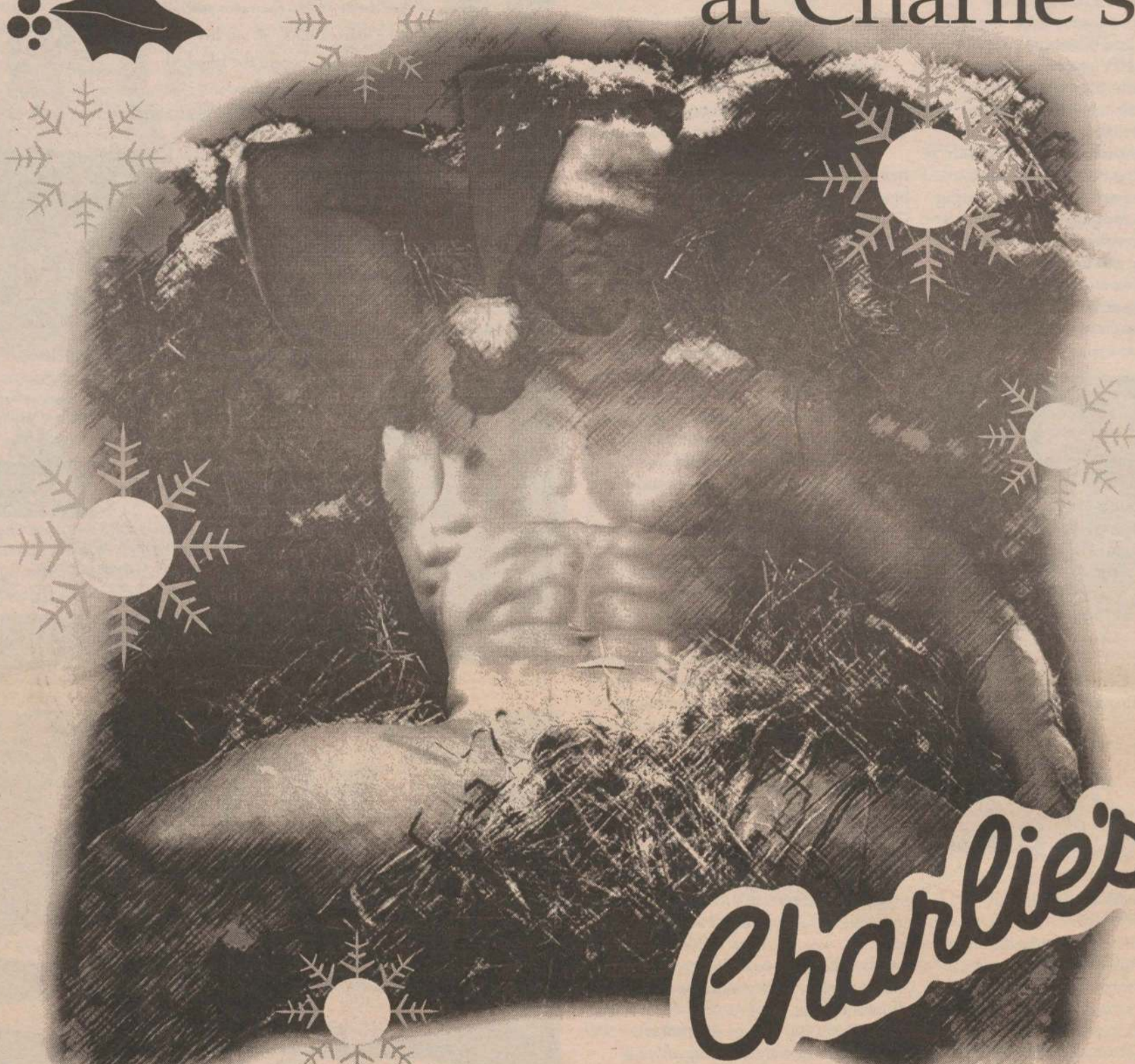
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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the
Phoenix Queer Community

Ring in the New Year with CBPA, Center

The Camelback Business and Professional Association and The Community Center are joining forces to host a New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance Party for the Valley's gay & lesbian community at The Mill in Tempe on Dec. 31.

The party will begin at 7:30 pm, with dinner followed by entertainment featuring Hollie Woods and DJ dancing after hours. The Mill is located at 3300 South Price Road, on the corner of Southern and Price just off the 101 freeway.

Tickets for the event are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. Pick them up at Obelisk, Unique on Central, Harley's 155, Cruising Central, The Mill, The Waterhole and The Community Center. RSVP early at any of these locations.

Center forms women's group

A new social group for women has been formed at The Community Center and has been meeting on a regular basis.

Lesbian Night Out is an alternative to—or before—going to the nightclubs. Join women from all over the Valley for fun, games (board & card games), videos, discussions, networking, socializing and education.

Lesbian Night Out meets at The Community Center, 24 West Camelback Road at 7 pm on Friday, Dec. 18 and Friday, Jan. 8, 1999. For more information, call (602)265-7283

and leave a message for Sue with Lesbian Night Out.

Toy drive for needy kids

The Community Center has joined forces with Honey Bear's BBQ to collect toys and stockings for children in need this holiday season.

The Center is an official collection site for this venture and community members are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals, holiday stockings (filled or unfilled), dolls, trucks, books and other gift items.

Gifts should be brought to The Community Center, 24 West Camelback Road, Suite C. All items will be collected at 10 am Dec. 22 for distribution at a special holiday celebration on Dec. 24.

For more information, call the Center at (602)265-7283 or Honey Bear's at (602)273-99148.

Gay Dems meeting on Tuesdays

The new Gay & Lesbian Caucus of the Arizona Democratic Party is meeting on the third Tuesday of every month at party headquarters, 2005 North Central Avenue in Phoenix, in Suite 180.

Caucus members say the "D" in Democrat stands for diversity, so join, support and get involved with the only political party that accepts the gay and lesbian community. Meetings will resume in January, so call (602)257-9136 for more information.

Feinstein knew 1994 Senate opponent was gay

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein said she knew during her bitter 1994 senate campaign that opponent Michael Huffington was gay, but never considered outing him.

Ms. Feinstein, D-Calif., said Dec. 7 that a candidate's sexual orientation is not relevant to a political cam-

divorced.

In 1992, Huffington won a seat in Congress after spending \$5.4 million on the campaign. Two years later, he spent \$28 million in a campaign against Ms. Feinstein that was dominated by negative ads.

When Ms. Feinstein was asked whether there was any talk within her campaign of Huffington's sexuality, she said, "A little bit, not a great deal. We weren't going to do it, period, the end."

Her former consultant, Bill Carrick, said Ms. Feinstein's campaign had no direct

knowledge that Huffington was gay.

"Outside people would come to us and support it with various anecdotes," Carrick told the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

He added that outing a candidate could backfire.

"I think it's becoming clear that people's sex lives are not something the public wants to hear a lot about," he said. "And at the same time, the public takes the issue of privacy very seriously."

"[Huffington's sexuality] wasn't germane. For me, if I have to do things like that, I should stop running."

paign.

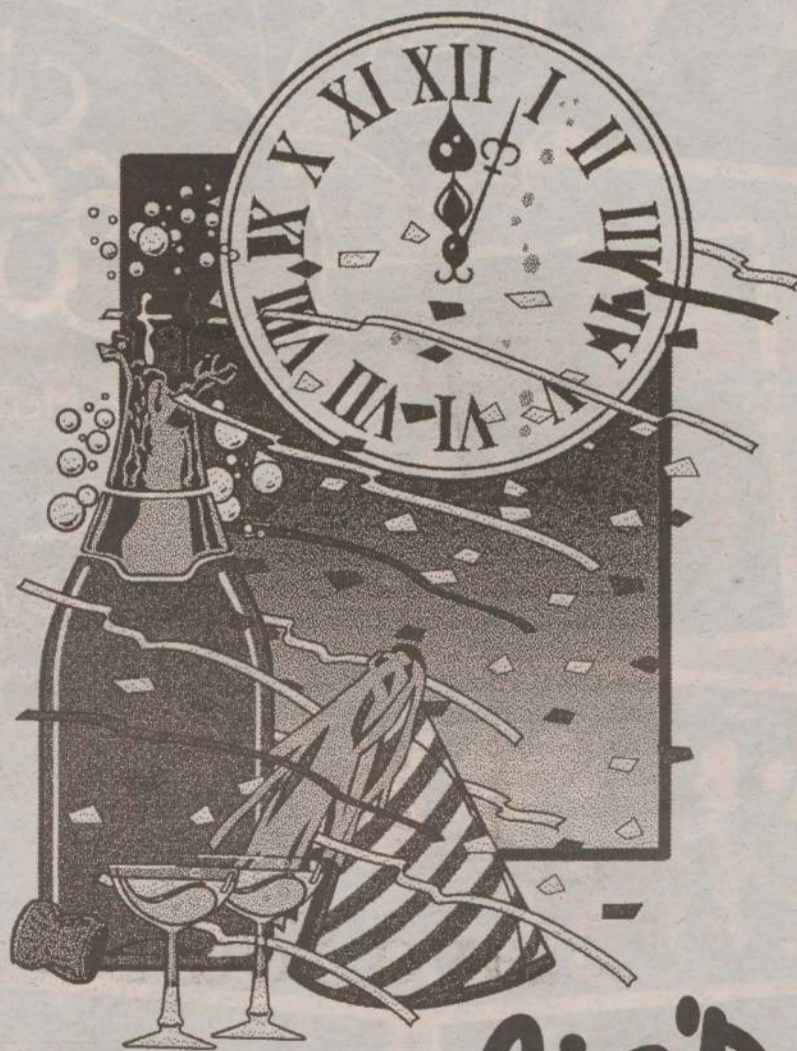
"It wasn't germane," she said. "For me, if I have to do things like that, I shouldn't be running."

Reports that the conservative Huffington is gay stem from an *Esquire* reporter's interview with Huffington, who was quoted in the January issue discussing his sexuality.

Until last year, he was married for 11 years to socialite and columnist Arianna Huffington, with whom he had two daughters. They have since

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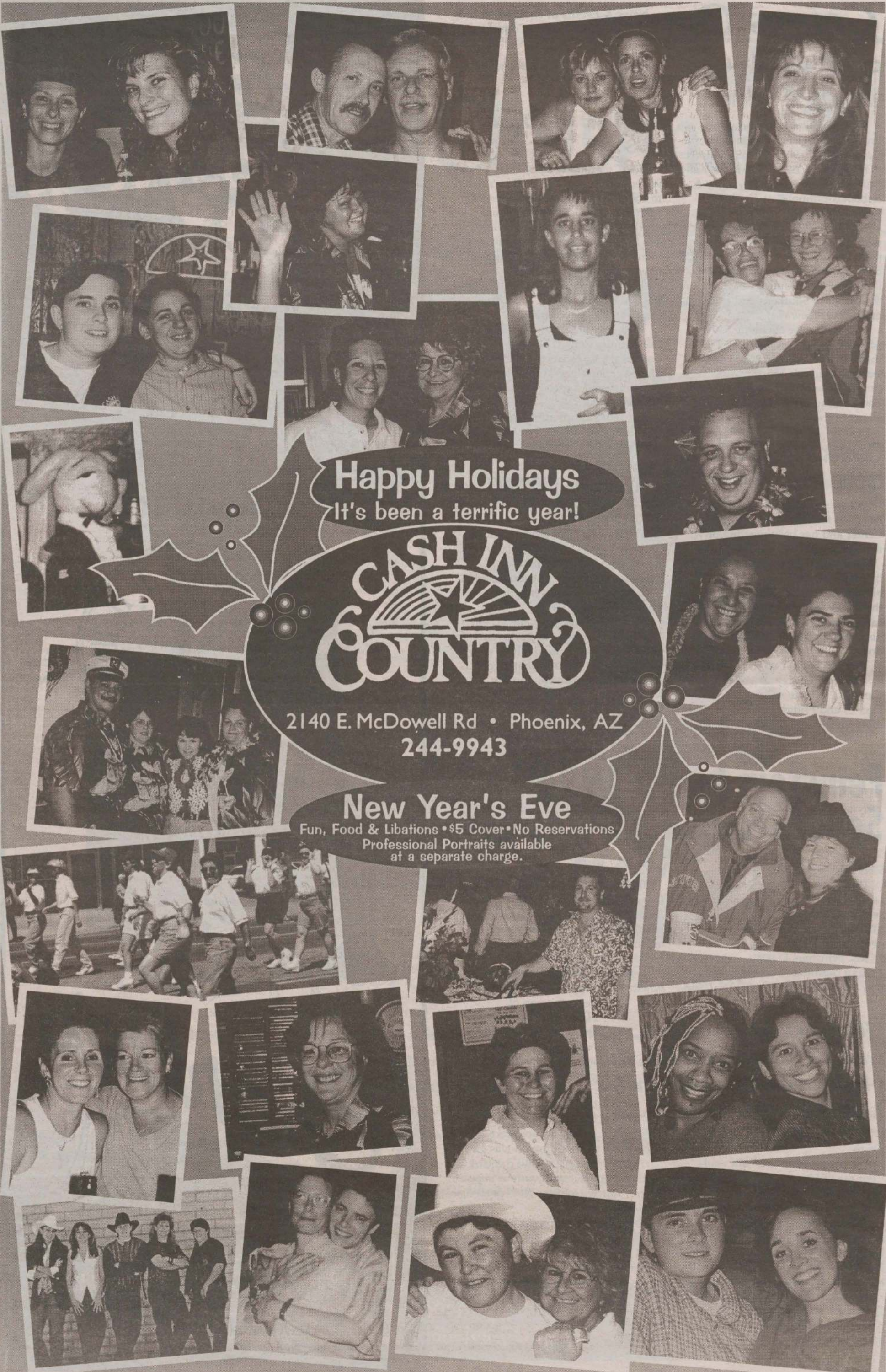
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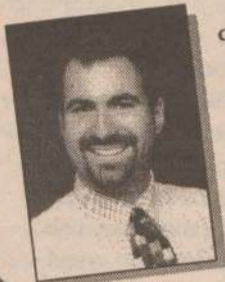
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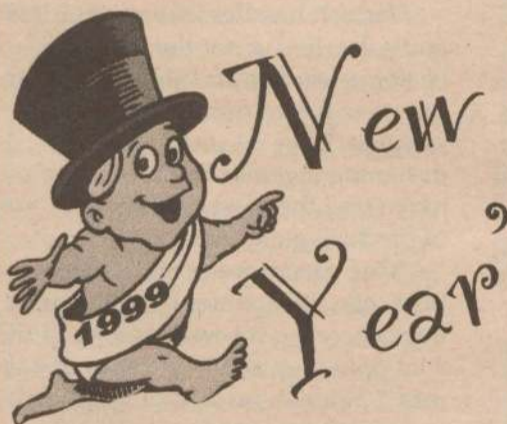
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Rainbows mean big business for PHS Inc.

Continued from page 1

and Chuck Harnish, 39, are finding a pot of gold at the end of the pride rainbow and loving every minute of the trip.

Both are handsome, sharp-witted and creative. They fell in love on a Caribbean cruise nine years ago. Back then, Harnish was living in San Francisco and Horne was running a successful, home-based medical supply business in Phoenix.

Harnish transferred to Phoenix, they moved in together and then merged their artistic flairs and marketing backgrounds to form a company that has exploded into one of the largest wholesale distributors, manufacturers and suppliers of gay giftware and spectrumed memorabilia in the country.

It's called Phabulous Handcrafted Stuff and it's the very definition of a cottage industry. Horne and Harnish run the whole shebang via phone, fax and computer out of their two story home on a quiet street in central Phoenix.

Although hugely successful today, PHS is in truth not a business they ever planned to be in. It's something that evolved from their common interests, their gay pride and their dedication to what they are doing.

"The main reason we're successful is because we are both completely addicted to the business," Harnish says with a laugh. "We're thinking about it and talking about it whenever we aren't working, and we're working a lot."

It all started, Harnish recalls, when he and Horne had the idea to assemble and market Christmas wreaths and decorations through a predominantly gay gift store called Snow Goose in the Park Central Mall. That



was about six years ago.

Horne's company existed as Professional Healthcare Supplies, or PHS. Rather than incorporating a new company in order to move Harnish's handmade items, they came up with "Phabulous Handcrafted Stuff" and expanded PHS to include the small line of Christmas gifts that Harnish was making in his spare time.

They took Harnish's creations to Snow Goose and sold them on consignment. Harnish earned extra money while continuing to work full time as a restaurant manager, and Horne maintained a healthy business selling wholesale vitamins, splints, braces and various medical equipment to Valley doctors and chiropractors.

They quickly established a rela-

tionship with the store's owner, who complained that it was hard to find interesting rainbow merchandise and that the gay giftware on the market was too expensive.

So the couple started handcrafting primarily gay items. "Real cheap stuff," Harnish says, "Plastic pony bead necklaces, key chains. We'd go down to this local bead company and see whatever they had in the rainbow colors, and whatever looked interesting."

The wholesale company began "with about ten or twelve items that we carried around in a fanny pack." When the men went on vacation to the Gay Games in New York in 1994, they took along their samples.

To anniversary their first meeting, they booked an all gay cruise through RSVP that sailed from the Gay Games to Provincetown and Boston. They showed their fanny pack full of samples to the owners of gay gift stores in every port.

"Each place we went, we wrote up all these orders. Then we went back to our cabin, sorted the orders, boxed everything up and shipped it across town while the cruise ship was still docked."

That's right. Instead of packing extra party clothes or the latest novels to read on deck, these guys had loaded their suitcases with PHS merchandise and then moved it right off the ship. The quick turnaround surprised and impressed the retailers, thereby earning the company several new—and very loyal—clients.

For Horne and Harnish, merging sales with their vacation back in '94 set an informal precedent for the way they apply themselves to their company, especially now that business has grown beyond their wildest imaginations.

When they watch TV at night, they keep their hands busy stringing beads on key chains. When they head to their cabin near Cave Creek for the weekend, they take their crafts along.

"We call it our knitting," jokes Harnish. "Our friends make fun of us but we take things to make with us everywhere." At the office, 70-hour work weeks are not unheard of, nor is staying up until two in the morning to assure that all items are shipped within 24 hours, as their catalogue claims.

And what a catalogue it is. From those original ten or twelve handcrafted pieces they photographed on their dining room table, PHS now offers thousands of items in a 50-page booklet that is updated almost monthly. In four years, the company has become one of the top three wholesalers in the gay market.

Much of the merchandise is still handmade, with supplies now purchased in large quantities. Apart from their own "knitting", they pay by the piece to have local artisans assemble beaded key chains, chokers, nylon pet collars, necklaces and other items.

Still more crafts, such as stained glass night lights and jewelry, and a line of leather wallets and key chains, are manufactured locally by gay men and women who contract with PHS. They love working with other gay people and are always looking for creative and crafty people in the community with new items to sell.

In addition to the handmade goods, the company carries many original designs that are produced out of state by mainstream manufac-

turers. Chief among these items are the refrigerator magnets—Horne has designed more than 250 on his computer—and the thousands of decals and stickers.

"We sell tons and tons of stickers," Horne says. The long, thin bar of rainbow colors that stretches across the back of a car below the window is currently popular. A squiggle rainbow design he came up with earlier this year is also selling well. He designs many of the stickers himself, and PHS gets the best possible price because they buy in such quantity.

During the pride months—May through July—they ship a lot of small items such as stickers, pins, buttons, jewelry and magnets. "Things people can take with them to a festival," Horne says. It's their busiest season, with faxes and phones ringing off the hook and packages leaving every day.

"We can't even take a long weekend in May or June, and summer vacations are out of the question," Harnish says.

The couple then faces a second busy season when most American retailers do, around the holidays. "We sell more of the giftware in November and December—things like candles, votives, mugs, windsocks, the larger items," says Horne.

One of their big sellers this season is pride stemware. They order anodized aluminum pride rings and clip them onto the stems of wine and martini glasses purchased from a Valley glass company. They also buy glasses that are made with the different rainbow colors tinted into the bases. They box them in groups of six and sell them as a rainbow set.

"Some of these companies, like the candle makers, never thought about the pride market until we approached them with the rainbow colors. Now we sell tons of the stuff," explains Horne.

PHS also stocks and sells towels, ball caps and a few t-shirts that are designed and made to their specifications, and that feature the wit of their openly gay creators. Slogans like, "Focus on your own damn family," and, "god loves ellen" are PHS originals.

Perhaps surprisingly, one area they haven't jumped too heavily into is the t-shirt business. "It's very competitive," Harnish says. "It's flash in the pan." He explains that you have to hit with your slogan while it's popular or you get stuck with them. "They take up a lot of room in storage."

And storage at PHS is at a premium.

A local architect and close friend named George Forgeuss designed the couple's 2300 sq. ft. house with their home-based wholesale business in mind. But when they moved in two years ago (after Harnish left the restaurant industry to push pride merchandise full time), neither the couple nor the architect anticipated the company's phenomenal growth.

A quick tour reveals that what would otherwise be upstairs guest bedrooms are fully utilized as storage rooms and an office. There's not an inch of wall space that isn't holding or displaying something related to the business, and even the linen closets are packed to the brim with goods for sale.

Easy-to-assemble rollaway shelv-

ing is everywhere. Soft goods are kept in plastic bins, other items are in their original boxes or cases. Everything is clearly marked and labeled. In the garage, the couple's organizational skills reach their zenith.

At knee level, just below floor-to-ceiling shelves stacked high with mugs, umbrellas and flags, the front grille of a car can be glimpsed. Just left of the tiny packing/shipping area, there's a narrow passage that allows one person to open the car door and squeeze behind the wheel. Little else of the vehicle can be seen.

"We built the shelving around the car," Harnish points out. "We had to sell our Cadillac because it was too long and the garage door wouldn't close." Indeed, with merchandise pressed directly against the windshield in front, their new sedan's rear bumper clears the door by a scant three inches. The car's niche is the only place within the three-car garage not relegated to PHS.

"We have two areas of the house where I won't let any boxes pile up, where no orders can linger after the UPS truck drops them off," Harnish states. "Those are in the living room and our bedroom." He says it's important to have some sense of closure and escape at the end of the day, even though they both love what they're doing.

Every evening at around 6:30, they ease into their hot tub and catch each other up.

"It's pretty funny," says Harnish. "We sit at desks right across from each other all day, then at night we babble for an hour about what we both got done. You'd think we'd be tired of talking about work."

"But I don't know what Chuck does and he doesn't know what I'm doing because we keep our different areas so separated," Horne says.

Harnish handles incoming orders and sales, hiring out the piecework, customer service and shipping. Horne manages the accounts and buys the supplies. They do much of the designing together, but it's Horne's job to find the most cost-effective way of producing an item.

"One reason we're more successful than other companies that have tried this is because we were willing to risk a lot of money and buy things in volume," Harnish says. That way, PHS can offer better prices to its retail clients.

"We had a lot of equity in our last house," Harnish says. "We sold it, built this house, and that's when we put a lot of money back into the business."

They live in a comfortable, custom home designed for entertaining and can afford to vacation well, but the couple insists they aren't rich—yet. "We put all of our money back into the business at this point. Still, if sales keep growing we should be able to retire our debt in a couple more years," Harnish says.

But its more than deep pockets that contributes to the success of PHS.

Mark Jackson and his partner own a gay gift shop in Atlanta called Brushstrokes. He says they do business with PHS not because of the prices, but because of the quality of customer service.

"I've been in this business nine years, and I'm always wary of new businesses because a lot of people come and go. But Jim and Chuck stand behind everything they sell. If something isn't selling, they take it

back. They care about their stores and they are not just in this to make money."

Jackson said that Horne and Harnish also give to the community in ways most people who know them don't even realize. "They don't brag about themselves and they don't want credit, but they support a lot of gay causes and AIDS fundraisers."

He said PHS has donated merchandise to AIDS fundraisers in Atlanta, where Horne and Harnish are unknown, just because they felt it was the right thing to do. "They take no credit for it. They really support their community and we just love them to death."

Harnish admits he learned a lot about customer service and developed

Horne. "It costs too much money and we don't have the time to deal with that. That's just a part of being in this business, and they'll be out of business and gone by the time you sue them anyway. It's a compliment, really, when they steal your ideas."

Besides, he says, he and his lover are creative enough that by the time someone else copies their designs, they are already onto something new.

In spite of the long hours and the unique craziness of supplying retailers through two busy seasons annually, neither Horne nor Harnish would trade their current occupation. Horne still stocks a few medical supplies for longtime clients, but PHS today is about the rainbow more than anything else.

"Where else could we work at home, and see our dogs every day? It's great," says Harnish.

"I was in the restaurant industry which is the worst as far as pressure. Any pressure we feel now, we put on ourselves. We are in charge and we are in control of how hard we work. And we work very hard"

"Even though sometimes," Horne adds with a laugh, "it feels like it's the orders that are in control of us."

Both men have the full support of their families, who also live in the Phoenix area. Although Horne says that when he tells straight neighbors and family members that they distribute pride merchandise for a living, most "have no idea what that means."

They agree that there are few other things they could be doing where they could be so out and openly gay, and that the gay atmosphere they work in every day fosters their creativity when it comes to designing still more stickers, slogans and developing new merchandise.

It's apparent that our days of whispering and winking while scanning each other's cars, clothes and dwellings for discreet clues to one another's sexual inclinations are fast waning. Brightly colored bumper stickers are replacing our previously relied-upon (and often inaccurate) gaydar with each musical ring of the cash register, from Vancouver to Boca Raton.

Like it or not, we're purchasing our visibility in a market economy. And though this proliferation of rainbows doesn't wave any significant banners in front of our clueless lawmakers, at the very least it can play a part in rallying the troops.

So if someone has to cash in on the trend to spend, it may as well be a couple of business saavy gay men as creative, committed and community-minded as Horne and Harnish.

And you can bet your Baptist-bashing buttons that with guys like these behind the next wave of pride products, the reign of the rainbow is in no imminent danger of decline.

Who knows? The most Phabulous Stuff may well be yet to come.



his business acumen in his years in the restaurant industry. Now he goes out of his way to please the stores he works with.

"Our top 20 clients get a gift for Christmas," he says. "Every new customer gets a Thank You note a week after ordering. Everything is shipped within 24 hours."

"A lot of people think they are going to make it in this business just because they're gay, and gay people should buy from other gay people based on nothing else," Horne says. "Well, it doesn't work that way. You need to service your customers. I used to work with doctors, and they can be sort of difficult, so I thought working with gay stores would be fun. But it's just like any other business really, and queens can be picky."

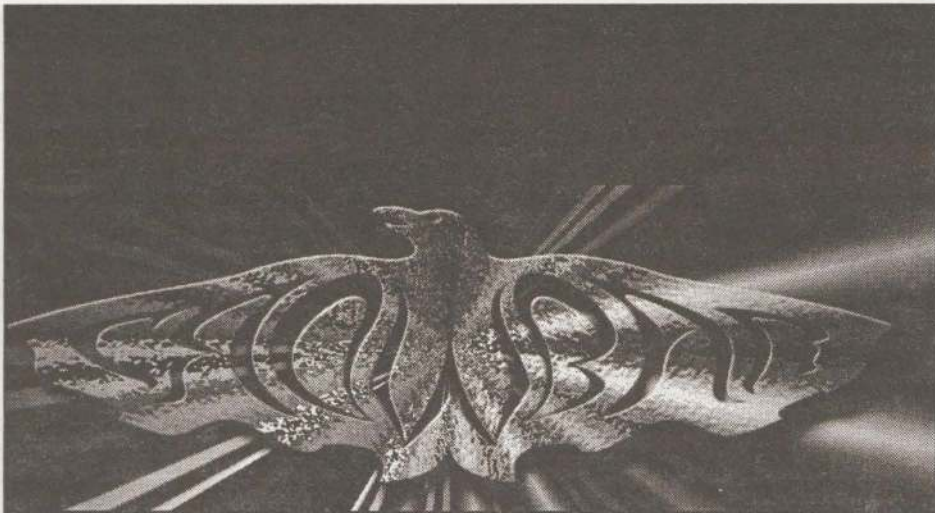
The gay niche PHS presently occupies suits Horne and Harnish fine. "We have about 400 retailers in the country and Canada to deal with," Horne says. "If we sold mainstream gift items—we have tried a few—but it would be too much. There are thousands of stores in Arizona alone." He says the defined market allows them to focus, and makes the business manageable.

Manageability is important when sales double every year over the year before. "We keep thinking it's going to reach a plateau, but it hasn't so far," Harnish says in amazement. "We took orders from 20 new customers in November. There are months when we get more new stores than that."

The men sell goods all over the U.S. and as far away as Australia and Europe. They have regular clients in Montreal and Toronto. Their wares have appeared in the Shocking Gray catalogue, and are presently under consideration by other gay catalogue companies.

Their designs have also been copied and produced by other wholesalers, a phenomenon that flatters more than phases them.

"We aren't going to sue," says



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Programming Diversity

Redford's Sundance Channel makes a queer-positive point—but Phoenix viewers don't get it

By Ty Robins, HeatStroke Contributor

In a recent monologue, Jay Leno perhaps unwittingly summed up the state of network television. Referring to financial cutbacks at NBC he said, "They had to let ten million viewers go."

While it may have been a joke, the reality is that viewers are deserting the broadcast networks in huge numbers. Across the board, the nets are watching their ratings and profits decline.

Consumers, meanwhile, are looking to cable and satellite providers for fresh alternatives to network fare.

While many U.S. cable subscribers are aiming their remotes at the onslaught of shows devoted to either professional wrestling or 24-hour game shows, others are finding more intellectually stimulating choices across the dial.

For gay men and lesbians, one choice is obvious: the Sundance Channel.

Launched in February 1996 as a joint venture of Robert Redford, Showtime Networks Inc. and Polygram Filmed Entertainment, the Sundance Channel's goal is to present the best and newest in independent film.

And the realm of independent film includes many voices and viewpoints, with one of the most resounding being queer cinema.

Instead of ignoring or avoiding gay-themed movies like the unmarried uncle your family never talked about, the Sundance Channel offers them a prominent place at the table.

Where else on television can you see films like *It's My Party*, *Beautiful Thing*, *Poison*, *French Twist* and the dubiously titled *Totally F***ed Up*?

In January, the 1997 comedy *Kiss Me Guido* will make its television premiere on the Sundance Channel. Many of the aforementioned films also debuted on Sundance.

"We play gay and lesbian films all the time, but we've also selected specific times of the year to make a bigger push. So during Gay Pride Month we said, 'We're gay every day!' because we showed a gay/lesbian short, feature or documentary every day during the month of June.

Liz Manne is the Senior Vice President of Programming and Creative Marketing for the channel, which remains under the creative direction of Robert Redford. In a phone interview with *HeatStroke* from the Sundance offices in New York, she said the high level of gay content on the channel is no mistake.

"Sundance Channel is very committed to the notion of diversity and it's not lip service—it's a bona-fide, living, breathing diversity. That means we're committed to showing films that are really different in form

and in content and point of view," she said.

"I think that the world of independents is the world that's not mainstream, which means a community



Liz Manne is Senior Vice President of Programming for the Sundance Channel, a joint venture of Robert Redford, Showtime Networks and Polygram Filmed Entertainment.

that has been historically a little bit disenfranchised," she said.

"I think what you see in terms of trends in film over the last fifteen years is all of sudden you saw a year where there was this explosion of gay male cinema, then five years later there was an explosion of lesbian cinema, and somewhere in there was an explosion of African-American cinema. What happens is, a group can find a voice [in independent film]."

Manne adds that the luxury of having 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to fill with programming enables Sundance to be somewhat of a maverick with its selections.

The channel is operated separately from Redford's Sundance Film Festival, and not all of the films shown on TV have been screened at the festival. According to Manne, the Sundance Channel runs 300 to 400

films per year—far more than the festival can accommodate. Selections are chosen by an acquisitions panel that screens thousands of films every year.

"We play gay and lesbian films all the time, day in and day out," Manne said, "but we've also selected specific times of the year and opportunities to make a bigger push. So during Gay Pride Month we said, 'We're gay every

day!' because we showed a gay/lesbian short, feature or documentary every day during the month of June."

Other significant events which have been observed by the channel include National Coming Out Day on October 11, when the short *Boy Next Door* and the feature *When Night is Falling* premiered.

On World AIDS Day the channel acknowledged the pandemic by not only showing the AIDS-themed films *Grief* and *Savage Nights* but also by running the red remembrance ribbon on screen all day.

As if that weren't enough, the Sundance Channel is also a sponsor of annual gay and lesbian film festivals in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Minneapolis, San Francisco,



Tampa and Chicago.

Clearly, the Sundance Channel has proven itself a friend of our community. The question now is, what channel do I find it on?

If you live in Phoenix, the answer is that you don't.

The Valley's largest cable provider, Cox Communications, does not carry the Sundance Channel. When contact-

ed for this story, their media relations department had never heard of it. Two requests for comment by the company went unanswered.

But in Mesa and the East Valley, Cable America offers Sundance as part of an additional package of channels for \$7.95 per month over their basic cable rate.

If you can't wait for your cable company to come around, you might consider investing in a satellite dish. The Sundance Channel is carried by all of the satellite programming providers.

For Manne, who co-founded Fine Line Features and oversaw the marketing campaigns of such films as *The Sweet Hereafter*, *Shine* and *My Own Private Idaho* during her seven years there, supporting gay and lesbian programming is a no-brainer.

"It's just something a major network can't do, an HBO can't do—but we can. And if we can, we should. Because it's right and it's important."

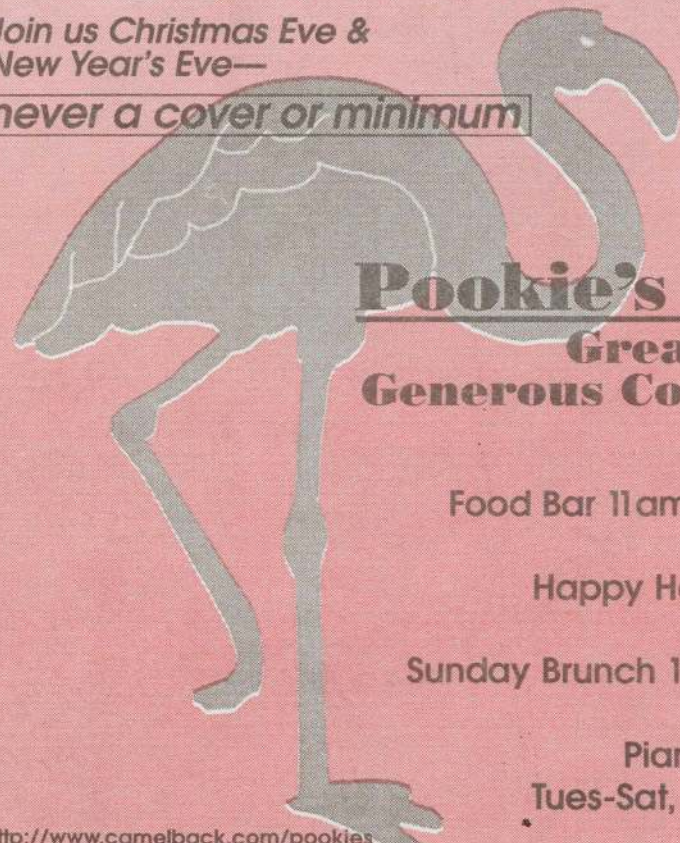


Viewers living in areas serviced by Cox who would like to express support and demand for the Sundance Channel are encouraged to call the cable giant's administrative offices at 866-0072. The Sundance Channel has also set up a toll-free number to help spread the word, 1(800)SUN-FILM.

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HEATSTROKE SHORT TAKES

Little Voice

Jane Horrocks gives a thrilling, Oscar-worthy performance as the introverted title character, so nicknamed by her overbearing, boozy mother (Brenda Blethyn) in this powerful British comedy from Mark Herman, director of last year's geographically similar *Brassed Off*.

Little Voice and her widowed mum, Mari, warily share space above an old record store in a downtrodden English industrial town near the sea. Their dislike for each other is palpable, but together they harbor a secret. When L.V. is alone in her room at night, she's able to deftly mimic—both vocally and physically—the divas whose LP's she's spent countless hours listening to on her beloved papa's old phonograph.

Michael Caine is outstanding as Ray Say, a washed up agent who overhears L.V.'s special gift while pawing her trumpy mother downstairs. Ray convinces Mari there's money to be made off the strange girl's amazing talent. He soon finesses the unwilling lass toward the stage with everything he's got and more than he can borrow.

As a conniving Bitch who's in over her head from the beginning, Blethyn is also likely to earn an Oscar nod, as she did for *Secrets and Lies* in 1996. The always endearing Ewan McGregor turns up as Billy, a bumbling, blue collar pigeon enthusiast who takes an unlikely shine to L.V. and strives to save her from her impending exploitation.

Horrocks, best known in this country for her recurring bit on the British

sitcom *Absolutely Fabulous*, reprises a role she originated on the London stage—a role that was specifically written to showcase her remarkable ability to conjure the likes of Judy Garland, Marilyn Monroe, Shirley Bassey and Marlene Dietrich with goose-pimpling accuracy.

The ending is a bit tidy and the story takes a predictable turn here and there, but the actors—especially Blethyn and Horrocks—are so good that the movie on the whole more than makes up for such minor flaws.

Despite having no gay characters or content, *Little Voice* simmers with an undeniable gay sensibility. That sensibility boils over in the climactic scene that features L.V.'s ballsy, one-time only nightclub performance with a full band behind her and a stunned audience in front.

Few movie moments in recent history have been as sad, joyful, stirring and complete as in that scene, and many a lad who once favored singing along to a Cher or Bette Midler album over a pickup basketball game will readily relate to the character's fleeting triumph.

There have been a handful of films released this year that no gay man—indeed, no one—should go without seeing on the big screen as soon as possible. *Little Voice* is one of them.

Gods and Monsters

Few people realize that the look of one of this century's most memorable film icons was created by a gay man. James Whale not only directed *Frankenstein* and *Bride of Frankenstein* (among many others), but he also sketched the original designs for the monster that made Boris Karloff famous.

Born to a lower-class family in Britain, Whale was extraordinarily gifted—besides directing, he was a talented designer, painter and actor—and he was unashamedly queer in a time when such a thing was unheard of. *Gods and Monsters* is a fictional account of a relationship between Whale (Ian McKellan) and his hunky, but hetero, gardener (Brendan Fraser), during the days leading up to Whale's 1957 death. Whale committed suicide, not because of his sexual orientation, but to cut short the lingering effects of a stroke.

All of the performances are nicely crafted, but Ian McKellan (who is openly gay) does a particularly fine turn as Whale. Brendan Fraser, while always fun to watch, delivers a surprising amount of energy and finesse as Clayton Boone, the macho but not insensitive gardener. And Lynn Redgrave is a hoot as Whale's loyal but disapproving housekeeper.

The production design also really stands out: the film beautifully recreates the sumptuous glamour of 1957 Hollywood, as well as the elaborate make-up, props and sets of *The Bride of Frankenstein* in the flashback scenes.

The only real shortcoming of *Gods and Monsters* is the script. Bill Condon, the writer/director, obviously took pains to make his characters multi-dimensional. Although he succeeded with Whale, he should have spent more time refining Boone—a complex character who isn't given much of a chance to develop.

Overall, *Gods and Monsters* is a film that shouldn't be missed by gay audiences. James Whale was one of our own, and watching the film is a bit like discovering a piece of our own history that we never knew existed.

Out on film

Shakespeare in Love

Joseph Fiennes plays a struggling playwright named Will Shakespeare in this smart, witty comedy set in 1593 and based ever-so-loosely on the Bard's younger days, when Christopher Marlowe was the most famous playwright in London and Elizabeth I ruled the country—and the arts—with an iron fist.

Gwyneth Paltrow is a lovely, virginal socialite who yearns to act in an age when women are forbidden from the stage. She falls in love with Will and he with her, and she becomes his muse, all the while serving as his lead actor—after auditioning for his new play while disguised as a man and (of course) betrothed to someone else. His play's called *Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter*, but comedy soon gives way to love, which in turn gives way to tragedy, and by the end the groundlings are being treated to the premiere of *Romeo and*—you guessed it.

Guessing it is half the fun with this clever concoction that blends Shakespearean plot devices, modern language and timeless attitudes toward the entertainment industry. The story is packed with swordfights, spies and mistaken identities, and the script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard features a laugh every minute in addition to the continual riffs on Shakespeare's true works and themes. It's unashamedly sophisticated and thoroughly delightful. Judi Dench, Geoffrey Rush, Colin Firth and Ben Affleck also star.

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-Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"A spectacular performance by Ian McKellen!"
-Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"A deeply touching, elegant and inventive biographical fantasy."
-ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"Witty and haunting, Brendan Fraser excels...Lynn Redgrave is fantastic!"
-Peter Travers, ROLLINGSTONE

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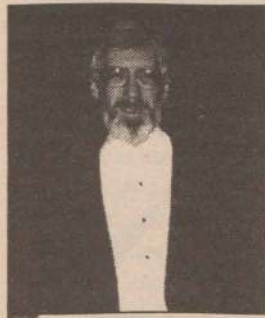
GCMC serves Phoenicians another fabulous aural treat

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Take heart, Valley music lovers. The annual holiday extravaganza from Phoenix's creative and clever gay male chorus, the Grand Canyon Men's Chorale, is right around the corner.

This year's production, entitled *A Winter Solstice*, is scheduled for Dec. 19 and 20 at the First United Methodist Church in central Phoenix.

The 1998 GCMC show promises to be every bit as entertaining as the chorale's previous musical outings. Examples from concerts past include a performance last spring that featured pioneering lesbian folkster Holly Near,



and the group's memorable 1997 Christmas-time concert, *The Nutcracker: Men in Tights!*

GCMC Musical Director, Dr. Craig Westendorf (l).



The chorale is now in its eighth year and boasts 42 voices—from bass to first tenor—singing and performing under the artistic direction of Dr. Craig J. Westendorf.

Bill Moran is a six-year veteran of the choir. He sings bass and currently serves as board president. He said that under Dr. Westendorf's talented direction the choir has really come into its own.

"Craig is not only professional and very astute but also very human, and his involvement has given the chorale an incredible boost," Moran said. He explained that membership typically hovered in the 20-25 member range prior to Westendorf's arrival in 1995.

"Now we always have about 40 members, and a lot of that is due to Craig."

He said that in addition to the knowledge and commitment of the group's director, a love of music and a sense of coming together as family are a big part of what keeps the chorale going strong.

"We recently did a concert for PFLAG. They requested that we each talk about ourselves between songs." He said there were about 40 members present, so hearing all the individual stories that night took a while, and members learned a lot about one another other.

"We heard coming out stories and being out stories that we had never heard before. It was really wonderful." He said a recurring statement at the PFLAG event was that "the chorus has become my family."

"It certainly has become mine," Moran added.

The winter solstice theme was chosen this year for several reasons. "We stopped being just about Christmas a few years ago, and wanted to celebrate the change of seasons."

He said the idea of doing an entirely Christmas-themed holiday concert was nixed because it is exclusionary, "And obviously, that's not what our choir is about."

Instead, there will be seasonal music, Hanukkah songs and African songs in the offering, along with the traditional Christmas music that the choir does so well.

Fans of the chorale's eclectic shows should know that just because the group chose a poetic-sounding name this year, the 1998 concert won't be without humor.

"Oh, don't worry. We had to keep in some of the humor," Moran said.

One of the highlights along that line will be a skit featuring the "Pantomonks", a group of monks doing pantomime. "It's definitely not the kind of concert where people just stand up there and sing," he added.

Nor is that the kind of concert anyone should expect from a chorale comprised of so diverse a group of gay men—men who've learned not to take themselves too seriously over the years.

One example of the kind of fun these chorus members have together is an annual event they call "Ladies Night Out", after the popular Bud-light TV ads from a few years

back.

Each December finds several members powdering their mustaches and polishing their heels for a wild night of what Moran calls "bad drag". The "ladies" pile into vans and embark on a city-wide, Saturday-night bar tour to drum up interest and promote ticket sales the week before the winter concert.

Community spirit is also important to the chorus. The group appears at pride events and AIDS memorials and benefits throughout the year.

Most recently, the GCMC participated in the TLC women's choir's holiday concert on Dec. 12, and the women of the TLC will likewise appear at the men's event for some featured numbers.

"We make a nice sound together," Moran said of the gay male/female chorus combo.

Also appearing at *A Winter Solstice* will be the Forever Young Dancers out of Sun City. The golden girl chorines participated in GCMC's spring show and were invited back by popular demand to help celebrate the current season with a repeat performance.

The biggest payoff for those involved in the chorus, according to Moran, is the musical satisfaction felt between the audience and the people on stage following a job well done.

"Whenever we finish a concert, we're on cloud nine. And when there isn't another show to look forward to, it's kind of a letdown. So this year we're doing two."



The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale will present *A Winter Solstice* on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 8 pm and on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 pm at the First United Methodist Church, just north of Missouri on Central Avenue. Tickets are \$15 reserved, \$12 general admission.

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MY QUEER LIFE ODD DUCKS

Michael Thomas Ford,
HeatStroke Contributor

At one of the ponds that my dog, Roger, and I like to walk around in the mornings, there is a small flock of ducks.

There's nothing especially interesting about that; where there's water, there are usually lots of ducks around. But this particular group of ducks is different in that it's made up of five members—two male/female couples and one lone male. Ducks always pair up, so it surprised me the first time I saw the solo male swimming behind the two couples.

At first, I assumed that his mate was just paddling around somewhere else. But day after day I would see the fivesome trolling around in the reeds or treading water, tails-up, as they nosed around in the pond grasses at the bottom. The lone male was definitely a bachelor.

Naturally, I started wondering about the little male duck. Ducks, for the most part, do not engage in threesomes. So what was his story? Was he the duck equivalent of the son who never left home? Had his mate been killed? Better yet, was he gay?

One of the arguments that some homophobes use to "discredit" gays and lesbians is that queerness does not appear in the animal kingdom, so therefore must be unnatural. I always find this line of reasoning fascinating.

I'm no expert on animal behavior, but I have a pretty good window into their world, particularly through the dogs in the play group Roger meets every evening. And if canine behavior is any indication, humans aren't the only ones with a gay bent.

Take, for example, Stormy. Stormy is a big bitch. Literally. A cross between a shepherd and a husky, she's an enormously strong dog. Ever since she began coming to the park, she's been taking toys from the other dogs whenever she wants them and putting in their place any dogs foolish enough to put their noses near her butt.

At least until Patsy came along. Patsy is a dainty little black cocker spaniel. She couldn't hurt a fly if she threw all of her twenty pounds on it. Not that she would ever do that. It would mess up her fur.

The first time Patsy trotted into the park, Stormy charged over to give her the usual once-over. Then, as we looked on in amazement, she rolled over, put all four paws in the air, and started licking Patsy's face. To the straight folks in the park, this was a miracle. Stormy had been transformed.

But I'd seen it before. Stormy had simply met her femme. They've been inseparable ever since.

For the first time since Kendall's departure, he is a happy dog again because he is in love. Whenever Ezra comes into the park, Roger runs over to meet him, tail wagging. Ezra's stumpy little tail wags back, and the two of them are off.

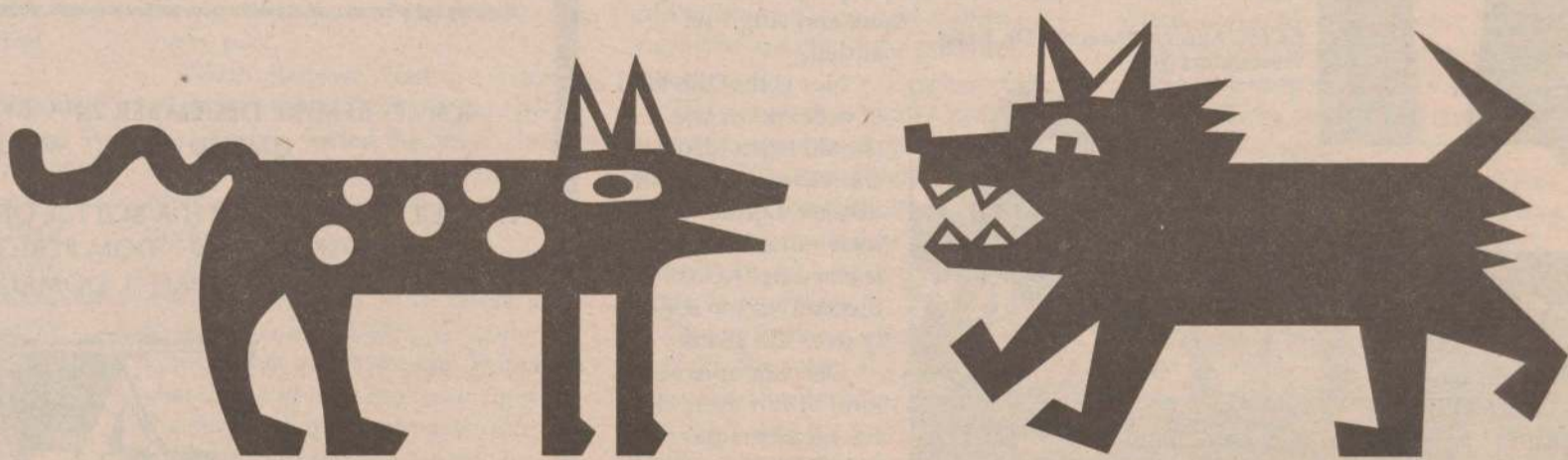
It's quite a sight watching a huge Labrador and an equally huge Rottie tear through a park, knocking each other over and pulling on each other's ears. Sometimes one of them will bring the other a ball or stick and lay it on the ground as a gift, looking on expectantly until the offering is accepted. Then it's all kisses and grunts.

Sometimes the two of them engage

doesn't try to interest Ezra in the female dogs any more, and he even has a picture of the two boys sharing a stick up on his refrigerator.

As for that little bachelor duck, I feared he would have to spend the long New England winter all by himself. Maybe the other ducks would invite him to holiday dinners and introduce him as "funny Uncle Walter" or something, but it wouldn't be the same as having his very own mate.

Then, a couple of days ago, I saw another flock of ducks land on the pond. Like the first group, there was a lone male among them, a shiny black and brown guy with a hand-



When Roger and I first started going to the park, Roger was enamored of a spunky mutt named Kendall, whose name and appearance both provided no gender clues. As it turned out, Kendall was a female, and she and Roger formed a friendship that excluded all the other dogs.

I confess that I was disappointed. But after a few months of hoping he might change, I accepted that my boy was indeed heterosexual.

Six months ago Kendall moved away, breaking Roger's heart. For a long time he wouldn't even look at other dogs. He ignored their attempts to get him to play chase. He didn't want to walk around the pond with anyone but me.

Then Ezra came along. Ezra is a hunky 130-pound Rottweiler with a spiked leather collar circling his tree-trunk neck. When he appeared at the park one evening, he and Roger eyed one another for an hour or so and then finally introduced themselves. They've been together ever since.

in more carnal delights, mounting one another clumsily with their big paws while their hind ends bounce back and forth futilely.

There don't seem to be any particular rules to their amorous encounters, and neither one seems to have a preference for who's on top. But if any other dog tries to horn in on the action, both Roger and Ezra growl and chase him or her away.

As you can imagine, I'm thrilled that Roger has found a boyfriend. Finally, I can stop trying to hide his heterosexuality from my friends by saying that he "just hasn't met the right guy yet."

Ezra's dad isn't as thrilled. The first time he saw the two of them going at it, he tried to pull them apart, and made all kinds of apologies for his son's behavior. "I don't know what's gotten into him," he said with embarrassment. "Maybe I don't play enough catch with him."

But slowly he's come to accept Roger and Ezra's relationship. He

some purple band around his throat. He shook his tail feathers and swam around proudly.

This morning when Roger and I walked by, accompanied by Ezra and his father, most of that second flock was gone. But the original group was still there, the two males and the two females.

And there, swimming along beside them, was the former bachelor duck and the purple-throated newcomer. The two males preened one another like any married duck couple, and the two hetero couples didn't seem to care one bit.

Odd ducks, all of us.



Michael Thomas Ford is the author of *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me & Other Trials from My Queer Life*. His new book, *That's Mr. Faggot to You: Further Trials from My Queer Life*, will be out in February.

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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities
& Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"We need to stop asking permission to exist! We do exist, this is it. You've really got me on a soap box now. I feel like we're asking people to understand our lives. Well, they'll never completely do that. What they need to do is to take our lives at face value. ... There's a point where our community has to get to where we just start demanding ... that our lives be valued."

—Gay actor Wilson Cruz
(Ricky on *My So-Called Life*) to
Milwaukee's In Step, Nov. 17.

"I was definitely the Lenny Bruce of lesbian comedy, the nasty one, the dirty one. But there has been a swing, a change in attitudes in the '90s, [a] swing back to radicalism. ... Audiences have finally caught up with me. I seem to have become the gay poster child."

—Lesbian actress/comedian/singer
Lea DeLaria to the
New York Blade News, Nov. 13.

"As nicely as they could, the Conan O'Brien [TV show] people said, 'You can't be a homosexual on our show, because we're trying to appeal to a Middle American audience.' Now it's not like I have to talk about that every time I open my mouth, but you hate for somebody to

say you can't talk about it. But, you see, ten minutes before you go on, they give you a list of things you'll be talking about. So if instead I get up there and decide to talk about, say, finding a dildo in somebody's silverware drawer, they would kick my ass, basically."

—Gay author and National Public
Radio star David Sedaris to
UNO MAS magazine, Nov. 28.

"I'm going to visit him [my former boyfriend Michael] in Bristol next week. It's possible Michael and I might end up back together again. More than anyone in my life, Michael, without even knowing it, changed me as a person because he is so vulnerable that I couldn't be a bully any more. He never put me down. Never made me feel insecure about myself. Was never cruel. Never insulted my music. Never, ever called me fat. Or ugly."

—Singer Boy George to London's
The Times, Nov. 28.

"Everything that I ever feared happened to me. I lost my show. I've been attacked like hell. I went from making a lot of money on a sitcom to making no money."

—Gay actress Ellen DeGeneres to the
Los Angeles Times Magazine, Nov. 29.

"I'll fight anybody to this day who says the show [*Ellen*] was not good. We did some great episodes that last season, and someday their brilliance will be recognized. ... My show wasn't appreciated, and my talent isn't

appreciated, and I wish people could get beyond the fact that I'm gay. I'm sure even talking like this brings it up again — 'If she would just shut up for two years, then we'd hire her.' That's what people say: Has it been enough time, has it died down? But we're just trying to be truthful, and what we've learned is that this is a hard town to be truthful in."

—Ellen DeGeneres to the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, Nov. 29.

"When you discover discrimination for the first time, which I did with Ellen, there is no other calling except to be an activist."

—Actress Anne Heche to the
Los Angeles Times Magazine, Nov. 29.

"Each Tuesday night, Ellen [DeGeneres] and I teach a class for homeless kids. They ask a lot of questions, but basically these kids just want love. They've been kicked out of their homes and are afraid and confused. What we try to do is tell them, 'You are perfect just the way you are.' That's what the workshop at the Gay and Lesbian Center is all about. Helping kids discover that they didn't deserve to be treated like they were. They are perfect and they are loved."

—Actress Anne Heche to
Entertainment News Service, Nov. 28.

"If I had to put the philosophy that I hold very dear into words, it would be this: You are God. I believe in love as the foundation of everything. I also believe this foundation has gotten trapped in a lot of separation and hate, fighting and warring against individuals and groups, and everything else. My personal belief is

that we are all God. If you look to another, you can see that in him. And you can pass that along. If we all just started passing that along, we'd have a much better place to live, and then the foundation would return to love. That's what keeps me going. I know there is that world, that universe, that is truly accepting of all individuals. I believe that's really the only important thing. To get people to understand this about themselves is a gift we must give every time we see someone. ... When I was 18, I began therapy for the first time. Dr. Bernie Rosenbloom, who I'm still in touch with, started me on this course, or made me aware of it. It's the most incredible experience to start on this journey of self-exploration. My reward was meeting and falling in love with Ellen [DeGeneres]."

—Actress Anne Heche to
Entertainment News Service, Nov. 28.

"The only reason anybody should go see *Psycho* is to see Anne Heche get assassinated."

—Writer Camille Paglia as quoted in
the *New York Post*, Dec. 3.

"Ellen [DeGeneres] went on to turn her dying sitcom into a preachy, self-congratulatory forum for lesbian issues, then was shocked, shocked that the ratings continued to plummet, resulting in cancellation. She accused ABC of yanking support for the show out of homophobic fear, when, in all probability, Ellen's making her homosexuality the issue mau-mau'd ABC execs into giving the foundering little show more time than it otherwise would have had."

—*New York Post* columnist
Rod Dreher, Dec. 3.

Notable Quotes continues on page 32

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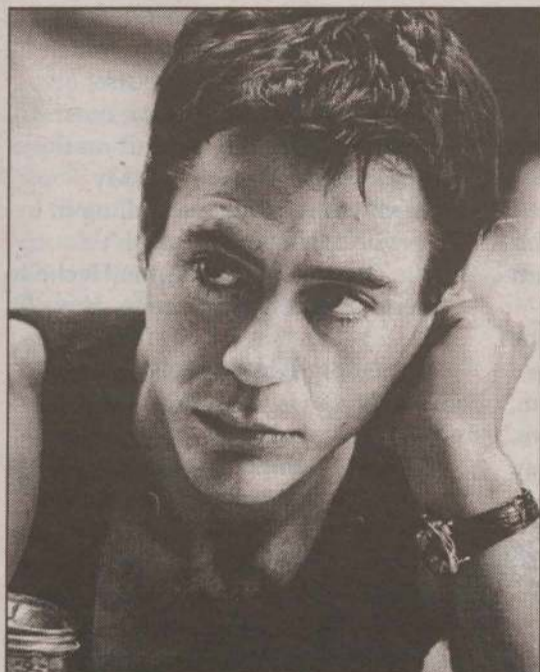
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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Downey Goes Bi

Talented on-again off-again junkie Robert Downey Jr. seems rehabilitated enough to go back in front of the



Robert Downey Jr. is set to play a bisexual character in James Toback's new film *Black and White*.

camera.

In *Black and White*, Downey stars as Brooke Shields's husband—who also happens to be a flamboyant bisexual. The film, which reunites the actor with *Two Girls and a Guy* director James Toback) is about a group of wealthy New Yorkers who get wrapped up in black hip-hop culture.

Ben Stiller and the cuter-with-every-passing-year Elijah Wood also star. This is far from Downey's first queer role—remember *Less Than Zero* and *Home for the Holidays*?

Cruise Beats Geisha

Uber-director Steven Spielberg has put his film adaptation of *Memoirs of a Geisha* on ice, ice baby in order to work with Tom Cruise.

Geisha, based on the Arthur Golden bestseller of the same name, was long thought to be the *Jurassic* director's next project. But Steven has balked, claiming that the worldwide publicity *Saving Private Ryan* has generated has kept him from prepping the project properly.

In other words, Steven is writing his Academy Award speech and doesn't want to have to jet in from *Geisha*'s Japanese locations for the ceremony.

While Spielberg insists *Geisha* is still on, he's instead focusing on working with the one-time Top Gun as soon as the cruise ship finishes up *Mission: Impossible II* at the end of next summer.

The two will most likely collaborate on 20th Century Fox's *The Minority Report*, a futuristic thriller about a policeman who is forced to go on the run for a crime he has not yet committed.

You'll also be able to see Mr. Kidman in an uncredited cameo in the new movie from *Boogie Nights* director Paul Thomas Anderson. *Magnolia* is a series of vignettes about love, loss, and family as seen through the eyes of San Fernando Valley-ites and will reunite many members of the *Boogie Nights* cast, including the hyper-talented duo Julianne Moore and William H. Macy.

A Star is Born—Again

In 1937 there was the original. Then there was Judy. Then Barbra. Now there is Will—as in Smith.

Warner Bros. is planning a third remake of *A Star Is Born*, asking the Fresh Prince to bring some of his Big Willie Style to the project. The genders will swap in the new take on the film—this time, an actress whose career is on the decline helps a young actor to achieve fame.

No word yet if D.J. Jazzy Jeff is being considered for the Kris Kristofferson role.

Cross-Dressing Cameo

Rocking transvestite Marilyn Manson is making a cameo appearance sans makeup and latex breasts in Sony's black comedy *Jawbreaker*, which will be released early next year.

The Antichrist Superstar will sport cheesy polyester threads and a fake mustache in the film, which stars Manson's main squeeze, *Scream* actress Rose McGowan.

Busy Single Moms

Jodie Foster, who has made 33 films in her 34 years, has a new project.

The super-talented mom/producer/director/movie star has found her

six-year old production company, Egg Pictures, a new home at Paramount. Foster recently entered into a three-year deal with the studio to produce, direct, and star in Paramount projects.

Sandra Bernhard's one-woman Broadway show, *I'm Still Here—Damn It!* has been extended at New York's Booth Theater after good reviews. The show, a combination of comedy and music, pokes fun at everything from celebrity deaths (*Princess Di*, *Versace*) to the (lack of) sexual dynamics between Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

Ms. Bernhard also pipes a satirical tribute to diva Liza Minnelli. But Sandra's foxy post-partum figure is what's getting most of the rave reviews, since she sports a see-through dress in the show.

Will Grace Still Have a Job?

On the TV front, it's been a tough season for gays. NBC's gayest sitcom is facing some stiff competition from its hetero opponent, *Ted Danson*.

CBS has just ordered a full season of Paramount's *Becker*, starring the former *Cheers* bartender after airing just three episodes opposite *Will & Grace*.

Will & Grace's ratings have fallen 25 percent since "Becker" debuted. Perhaps the peacock network will now allow Will to get a life (and a relationship) in an attempt to boost ratings.

Williamson's Wasteland

It's never too soon to start planning next season's schedule.

That's why ABC has inked a 13-episode commitment with gay writing powerhouse, Kevin Williamson of *Scream* and *Dawson's Creek* fame. *Wasteland* is a one-hour drama about former college buddies living in New York City, including a closeted soap actor and those ubiquitous NYC staples: a cop and a reporter.

Hopefully, *Wasteland*'s gay character will get more action than perpetual virgin Dawson.

Spacey Looking Fine

Academy Award-winning actor Kevin Spacey, who so convincingly portrayed a gay man in *Midnight in the Garden Of Good and Evil* has decided what he really wants to do is direct.

While his directing debut *Albino Alligator* didn't wow much of

Hollywood, he has signed a "first-look" production deal with New York-based Fine Line Features (a division of New Line Cinema) to act in, produce, and possibly direct films.

The first film to unfurl under Spacey's Trigger Street Productions banner is *Ordinary Decent Criminal*, an Irish gangster film in which Spacey stars with Linda Fiorentino (*After Hours*) and Helen Baxendale of *Friends* fame.



Kevin Spacey, pictured with Faye Dunaway on the set of *Albino Alligator*, has struck a production deal with Fine Line Features.

Unlike most actors' production companies, Spacey is not limiting his interest to film. Trigger Street is also producing the revival of *The Iceman Cometh* on Broadway next April.

The Busiest Couple in Hollywood

The busiest partners in Tinseltown are writing/directing/producing wunderkinds Dean Devlin and Roland Emmerich, who brought us the fun *Independence Day* and the mega-flop *Godzilla*.

Apparently, the *Godzilla* box-office receipts (or lack thereof) weren't enough to keep the studios from investing again in this dynamic duo.

Devlin and Emmerich are now attached to two high-profile film projects. The first is *Patriot*, a story about American Revolutionary Francis "The Swamp Fox" Marion. Devlin and Emmerich, who swore they'd never work on a project they didn't write seem to be going back on their word (perhaps *Godzilla* taught them not to be cocky), trusting the very capable hands of screenwriter Robert Rodat (*Saving Private Ryan*).

Also in the works is *Twilight's Last Fading*, a thriller about an impeached U.S. President who refuses to abandon the office.

Romeo San Vicente, who will never be a single mom (but if he were, he'd be happy to discuss how he got pregnant), can be reached in care of HeatStroke or at RSVicente@aol.com.



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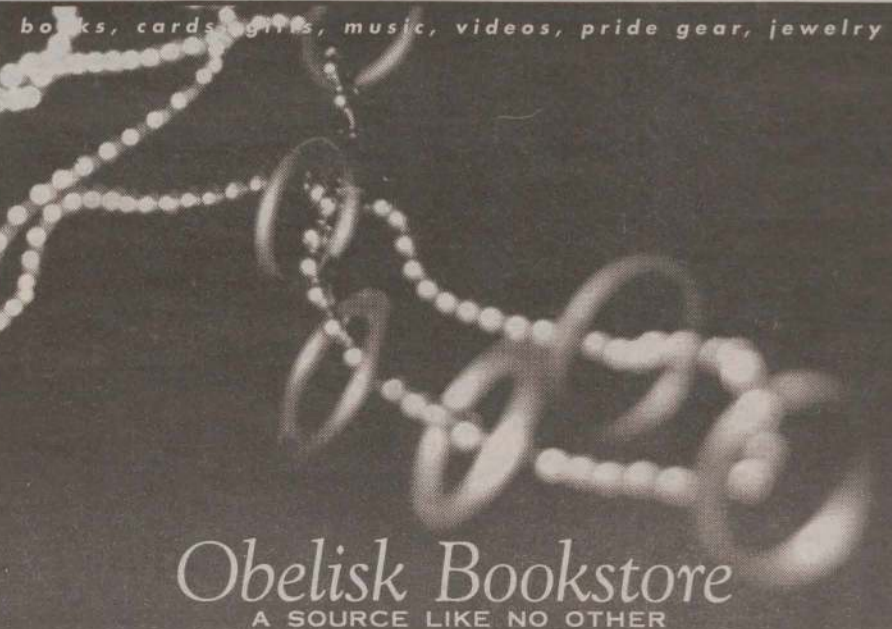
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Out of Town

By
Andrew Collins



Memorable Nighttime Diversions

It's long been my belief that travel writers are in the business of match-making—we journey, inspect, sample, evaluate, and assess not necessarily according to our own tastes but according to those of our typically vast and eclectic readership.

I've always argued that a list of my own likes and dislikes is subjective. However, because I get asked so often, I've decided to lift my veil of objectivity.

What follows is an entirely random list of 10 of my very favorite evening-oriented places, from restaurants to nightclubs to country inns.

Out On Main, Columbus.

The fast-food capital of the nation, Columbus, Ohio, is where Bob Evans, White Castle, and *Ellen*-phobic Wendy's got their starts. The city is better known in queer circles, however, for opening the first gay theme restaurant, Out On Main.

I came here first simply to admire the vast repository of memorabilia, including costumes of Elton John, an African-American lesbian and gay pride mural, a display of homo-pulp novels, and photos of famous queer and bi entertainers and historic figures. Little could I have imagined the New American cuisine would be similarly enticing.

Inn of the Turquoise Bear, Santa Fe.

If the walls here could talk, some American history might have to be rewritten. The inn was fashioned out of the 30-room estate of the late gay poet Witter Bynner, who hosted Willa Cather, Stephen Spender, Christopher Isherwood, W. H. Auden, Thornton Wilder, Errol Flynn, and other famous gays of his era. Rooms in many shapes and sizes are tastefully and authentically furnished—not lavish, but full of charm.

Amnesia, Memphis.

Anybody looking to open a queer nightclub could learn a few tricks by

observing the success of this slick, well-designed disco with several cool lounges and a debonair lanai and swimming pool (I've witnessed some scandalous goings-on in that pool). Corridors connect the one outdoor and three interior spaces, making it easy to flirt, cruise, ogle, and otherwise chase after the object(s) of your affection.

The Theater District, Detroit.

My love of Detroit's historic Theater District is somewhat rooted in compassion for what is a gritty and underappreciated city but mostly out of enormous respect for its wealth of painstakingly restored performing arts spaces.



Sacramento's Hartley House is one of California's most romantic B&Bs.

Highlights include the 1920s-era Gem Theatre, the Bonstelle (where local girl Lily Tomlin got her start), the Music Center for the Performing Arts, and the Detroit Opera House.

The pinnacle is the 1927 Fox Theatre, a fantastically elaborate C. Howard Crane creation whose Arabian tent-inspired design incorporates Siamese, Byzantine, and Chinese elements.

The Boiler Room, New York.

I lived for a while in the East Village, around the corner from this weeknight neighborhood bar that on weekends turns into one of Manhattan's most riveting gay singles scenes.

Thursdays (part of the weekend among New Yorkers) are tops, crowd-

ed but not packed to the point of mob rule (as on Saturdays). Aesthetically, the place is a dump, but with a loveable aura nobody has ever quite placed a finger on.

Inn at Swifts Bay, Lopez Island.

It seems like every gay and lesbian couple I know in the Pacific Northwest has made at least one pilgrimage to this romantic hideaway on sleepy and scenic Lopez Island, my favorite among Washington's fabled San Juan Islands.

It's run like a first-rate small hotel, but with none of the formality. Guest rooms are exquisitely furnished; the most romantic suite has wine-color walls, skylights, a separate sitting

memorabilia—P.J. Harvey's guitar, the touring costume of Chris Isaak, etc. A plus are several great restaurants and among the classiest hotel rooms in town.

The Hotel Congress, Tucson.

The rooms at this deliriously non-conformist hotel are a bit threadbare, although clean, dirt-cheap, and exuding character. But my favorite attributes are the hotel's Cup Cafe, where I usually sip espresso among the freaky sexually ambivalent alternates, ranging from waifish Bjork wannabes to boys in black mascara.

Off the lobby is the rowdy Tap Room, which draws cutting-edge live music acts; a recent venture is the hotel's Library of Congress, a cozy space where you can surf the internet.

Greektown, Toronto.

Culinarily speaking, no North American city's ethnic enclaves compare with Toronto's, which include Jamaican, Portuguese, Chinese, and German communities, to name a few.

My favorite is Greektown, a dapper upbeat community within a short subway ride of the city's gay section. One winter night not long ago, at a trendy restaurant called Pan, I devoured an immensely satisfying plate of pan-fried shrimp with a tangy sauce of feta, lemon, and garlic.

Hartley House, Sacramento.

I've long loved this city and its abundance of early-20th-century homes and tree-shaded streets (I always seem to meet cute guys here, too, for whatever that's worth).

Sacramento's Hartley House is a marvelously restored turn-of-the-century building with stained wood-working, stained-glass windows, and rooms with every amenity you can think of. You could easily build a special weekend around this cozy inn and leave wondering why Sacramento remains an unknown among vacationers.

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

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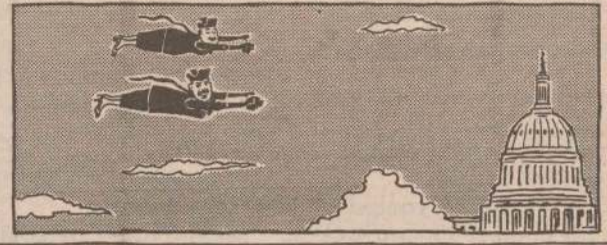
by Eric Orner

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"This has gone on quite long enough" said Number One. "Too True" said Number Two.



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First stop was at the office of the Independent Counsel. Whose mouth was washed out with soap, the gritty kind used to clean gas station sinks..



Next they paid a visit to the White House, where the President was outfitted with a chastity belt made from the toughest polymer plastics. Number 2 swallowed the key.



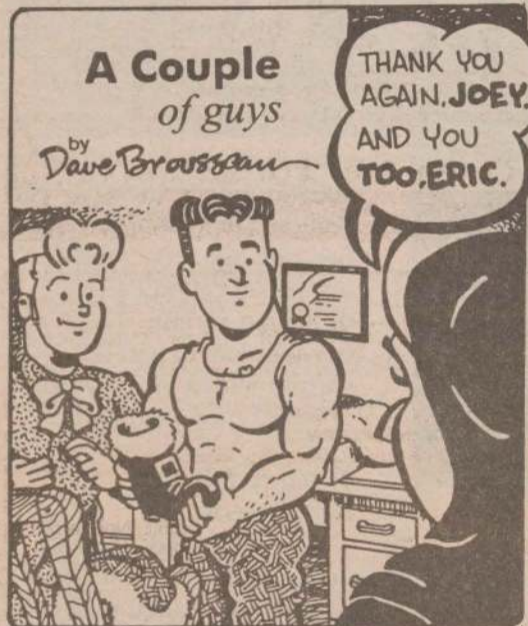
Then the sisters posed as sympathetic gals and lured Monica out of her mom's apartment.



And gave her ruby slippers which whisked her off to Rome to model for fabulous Italian fashion magazines, & where hopefully, oh so hopefully, she'd never be heard from again..



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Dear Cowboy,

My boyfriend won't get a haircut even though he knows I don't like his hair the way it is.

When we met last year, he had a crew cut. It looked very sexy, not to mention butch. Now he's letting it grow out. I've asked him several times to go back to the way it was but he refuses. He says he's, "trying something."

It really makes me mad because if he asked me to change my hair, I would do it in a minute to please

him. But he won't do the same to please me. Don't you think that's unfair?

Signed, Ready With the Clippers

Dear Ready,

Unfair? Not hardly. Part of being in a relationship is learning to accept your cowboy as he is instead of roping him into whatever you'd like him to be.

How he wears his hair, or what duds he chooses to wear, or even whether he wants to get himself

branded with a tattoo—these are all things that don't really matter in the long run. You are certainly allowed to offer your two cent's on all these issues when you're emotionally intimate with somebody else—but the ultimate decision belongs to them and you either live with the results or you don't.

Holster the hair clippers and ease up on those reins in general, buddy. You'll both be happier.

Dear Cowboy,

I met a really great guy a few weeks ago and we've been seeing each other regularly ever since. He's cute, stable, has a good job, and the sex is great. There's only one problem: I met him the night after he moved here from California and he says he isn't ready to have a relationship until he feels more settled.

But we keep going out anyway and we have a lot of fun. Should I continue seeing him even though he

says he doesn't want a commitment?
Signed, Welcome Wagon

Dear Welcome,

It's mighty honorable of you to show this new cowpoke such a good time, him being new in town and all. But it sounds like you're already expecting more than you are going to get.

You need to change either your behavior (stop asking him out, and stop saying "okie-doke" when he asks you) or your expectations (take it one event at a time and don't worry whether there's a buckle waiting for you at the end of this relationship rodeo).

If he isn't looking to settle down, it's better to face it now. It might be hard to do, but I'd try giving him some time to do things on his own and meet other people. If your company's as good as you believe it is, he'll come looking for a re-ride. Good luck.

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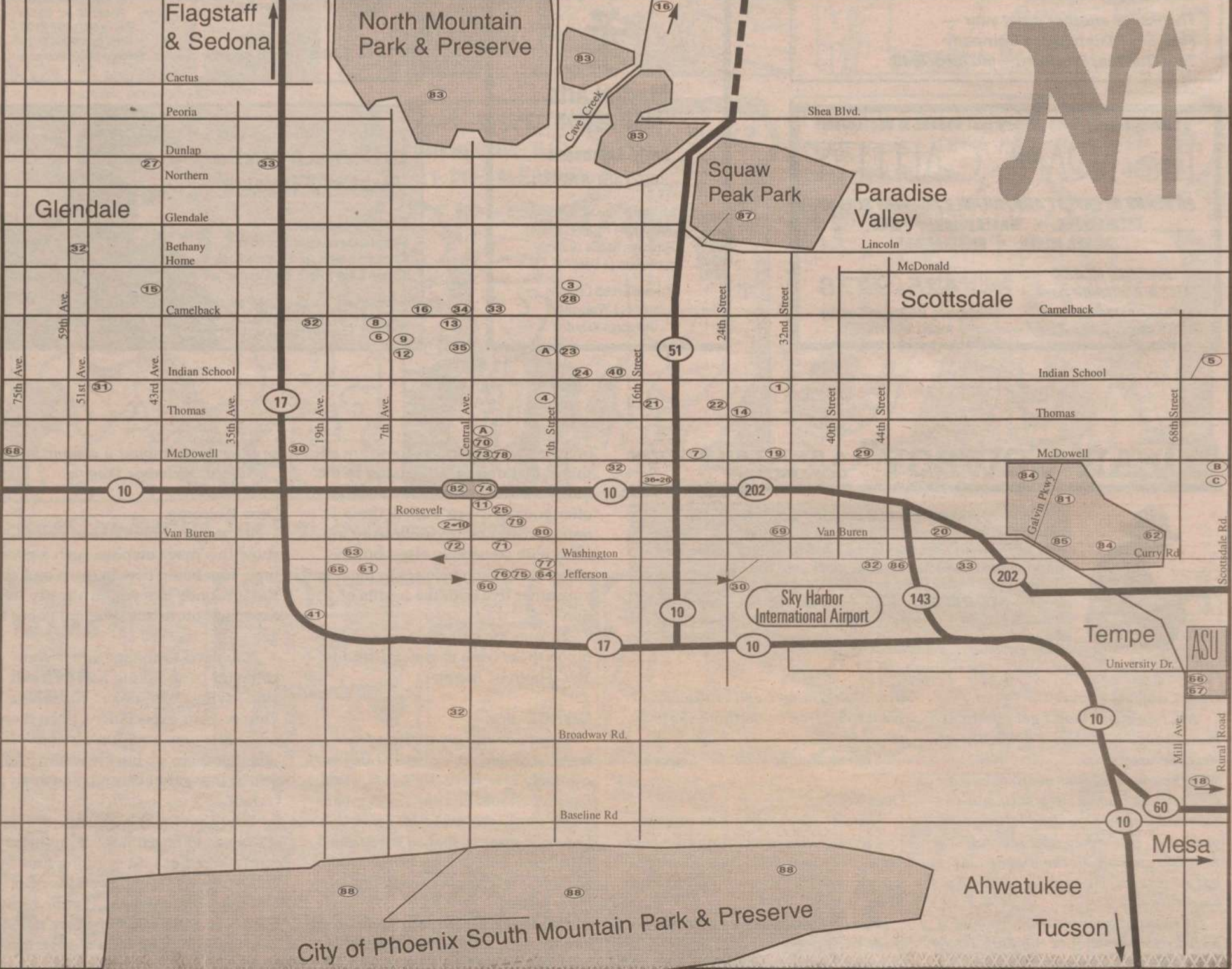
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Phoenix, AZ 85015 279-2369

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Phoenix, AZ 85032 996-8622

Casa De Cristo
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Phoenix, AZ 85014 265-2831

Community Church of Hope
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Phoenix, AZ 85014 234-2180

Dignity and Integrity
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Gentle Shepherd MCC
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Phoenix, AZ 85067 285-9020

Goddess Womyn's Network
P.O. Box 17312
Phoenix, AZ 85011 266-4111

Healing Waters Ministries
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Lutherans Concerned
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Phoenix, AZ 85011 870-3611

Presbyterians for Lesbians & Gays
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Phoenix, AZ 85082 275-0506

Southwest Miracles Center
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Phoenix, AZ 85008 244-9001

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
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840-8400

Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch.
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Chandler, AZ 85224 899-4249

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Phoenix, AZ 85011 265-0618

Cactus Cities Softball League
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Phoenix, AZ 85064 848-8562

Charlie's Renegades
P.O. Box 17602
Phoenix, AZ 85011 277-9142

Desert Adventures
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Phoenix, AZ 85001 266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares
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Phoenix, AZ 85067 248-0048

Gay League Association of Darts
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Phoenix, AZ 85082

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Social Tennis Club 279-0709

Grand Canyon Men's Chorale
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Phoenix, AZ 85011 340-7640

Lambda Car Club
P.O. Box 36211
Phoenix, AZ 85067 409-3160

Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling Alliance (PUGBA)
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Phoenix, AZ 85064 246-9643

Spartan Wrestling Club-340-8070
e-mail: mattbins@aol.com

Sunburst Squares
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Phoenix, AZ 85013 265-0224

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Phoenix, AZ 85067 464-1461

TLC Chorale
PO Box 37855
Phoenix, AZ 85069 878-5430

Valley of the Sun Comm'ity Band
Jayne: 947-0907; Terry: 954-9244

Q Puzzle

"Family Viewing"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14						15				16					
17						18				19					
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				55				56					57		
58	59	60						61					62		
63								64					65		
66								67					68		

ACROSS

- 1 Like a whip?
- 6 Truckers may hold them near their mouths
- 9 Writer Baldwin
- 14 *Untamed Heart* actress Marisa
- 15 No longer closeted
- 16 Grammarian's concern
- 17 What Gertrude Stein was, briefly
- 18 Cole Porter, in college
- 19 Dionne Warwick's "A House ___ a Home"

20 NBC sitcom featuring an openly gay title character

- 23 Go out with
- 24 Pinocchio's was long
- 25 Rich guy who did other men?
- 29 My, to Michelangelo
- 30 *Father and the Boys* playwright George
- 31 ___ one's way with (conquered sexually)
- 32 Nellie friend of the title character in 20-Across
- 36 He has a whopper

- 38 *Deathtrap* playwright Levin
- 39 Warhol or Bell
- 40 Actor who plays the first half of 20-Across
- 45 Diddly-squat
- 46 Feeling when one is hot
- 47 Give a chit
- 48 St. Francis of ___
- 50 Like a just-spanked butt
- 52 *Zadora of Hairspray*
- 55 Actress who plays the second half of 20-Across
- 58 Less pleasing to Miss Manners
- 61 Melissa Etheridge's "___ Wanted To"
- 62 *Autopornography* author Scott
- 63 *The ___ Suspects*
- 64 Pussy, to some
- 65 Painter of many famous nudes
- 66 One way to be in love
- 67 Destinations for EMTs
- 68 Eat away at

DOWN

- 1 They are hot and meaty
- 2 Balls
- 3 More than enough
- 4 ___ Sex
- 5 She went down
- 6 Word in some straight porn titles
- 7 Erection indication
- 8 Wuzzle your stick
- 9 Better, gossip-wise
- 10 A big endowment, e.g.
- 11 *Playgirl* reader, often
- 12 It may be swelled
- 13 Get hard
- 21 Cozy corner
- 22 *And the Band Played On* star
- 26 Word after "Wham-bam"
- 27 Fairy or fantasy follower
- 28 *Ab Fab* nickname

- 29 Composer Blitzstein of fashion designer Jacobs
- 30 Worship from ___
- 32 Places to see men in bondage
- 33 They explore holes and eat cheese
- 34 ___-Magnon man
- 35 Leather partner
- 36 She's Horne-y
- 37 Rainbow goddess
- 41 Penny-pinching
- 42 What few gay men ever have to buy
- 43 Insatiable one's desire
- 44 Causing one's mouth to open wide
- 49 Best possible
- 50 Like sex with condoms
- 51 Doesn't put it in
- 52 Liberace's pool shape
- 53 *The Woman* ___ (Gene Wilder flick)
- 54 Semiprecious gem
- 56 Like edible cherries
- 57 ___-Pei (Chinese fighting dog)
- 58 Tom and Jerry ingredient
- 59 *Up All Night* network
- 60 It doesn't explode

A	B	C		A	T	L	A	S		S	A	L	A	D		
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D	I	S	C					R	O	N		M	A	L		
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A	S	S	E	S		R	E	L	A	X		E	S	P		

Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle: "Of Comics and Cartoons."

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HOROSCOPES

By Deane Jaye, *HeatStroke*
Contributor

Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)

My, my, my. What with all the coming and going and looking for love and career success all at once, and getting so worked up over the holidays, you're acting about as goofy as that skinny lil' lawyer gal on Fox on Monday nights. She's at least got a wise and wacky roommate to bounce ideas off of—you've been so wrapped up in yourself that you've likely alienated friends and coworkers. Play nice. 'Tis the season to make amends.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)

There are so many things on your wish list, Aquarius, that you're not going to be able to separate the naughty from the nice unless you take a step back and make an earnest attempt to prioritize before deciding what you really want. Fantasies can come true around the 27th, but there could be some sort of dues to pay once reality sets in. If the stage is set carefully enough beforehand, it will all be worth it.

Pisces (February 21 - March 20)

Your ideas and opinions carry much weight with those who surround you these next few weeks, so be sure you truly mean what you say before vocalizing your approval—or disapproval, as the case warrants. You're particularly empathetic to the plight of strangers later in the month and you might exhibit that tendency toward depression as a result. Sex and shopping are often the cure-alls you need, so try shopping for sex and see where that gets you.

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

Strap on the black boots and buckle up the silver chains, you're feeling the need for a little domination and you are ready to play. Take charge, get bossy, throw some weight around. Just be sure to let your submissive subordinates know it's all in good fun before you take the game too far. Feats of strength will lead to feats of passion around the 26th, so stock up on supplies and stay focused on your intimate goals until the dawn breaks.

Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

Your present Bah Humbug mood is hardly reason enough to snuff the holiday spirit from those around you. Entertain the idea of a pagan ritual or two, throw something sexy into the mix, and see if you can't get re-excited about the season by looking at it through new eyes. Parties and reunions will hold little appeal—you'd do well to keep the numbers down. Swear off your regular dependencies altogether if overindulgence threatens.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

It's better to light a single candle than to sit and curse the darkness, but when you're as funny and articulate as you've been lately while railing on about the negative things in your life, it's a heck of a lot easier and more interesting to curse. Resist the temptation to draw inward after the 22nd, and spend some of that pent-up energy healing old wounds where family is concerned. Spicy and/or unusual dishes may help to reveal secrets later this month.

Cancer (June 21 - July 20)

Aint it good to know you've got a friend isn't just a line from an old Carole King song for you crab people—especially not when the holidays come around and you start longing for the people and places you've known the longest. Make it your business to make Miss King's famous line come true by sharing your thoughts with those who care to hear. A big bash toward the end of the month could prove overwhelming.

Leo (July 21 - August 20)

You're a maniac, maniac on the floor, Leo. And you're dancing like you've never danced before. Maybe that's because you never really *have* danced before. At any rate, the emphasis is all on the physical this month as you stretch and shape your body with health and fitness in mind. And if you're able to show off a bit while doing it, so much the better. Someone on your periphery—an honorable Taurus native, perhaps—is pointing the way.

Virgo (August 21 - September 20)

There's a plane for everything and everything belongs on its plane, as traveling and itinerary become paramount these next weeks. You know where you're going and how long you need to spend there, and you won't mind having a little fun here and there along the way. If you'll sharpen your pencil and carefully plot your route, your exploratory genius will impress companions and prove your leadership role once again.

Libra (September 21 - October 20)

Your tree is trimmed, the stars are shining brightly, and honey—your goose is cooked. That's right, whatever it is you've been up to or whatever you might think you've been hiding, you are about to get caught and there won't be any room for excuses and alibis. 'Fess up and face the music and you'll be better trusted next time. And then you'll really be able to get away with something. Good cheer could go too far on or near the 19th.

Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)

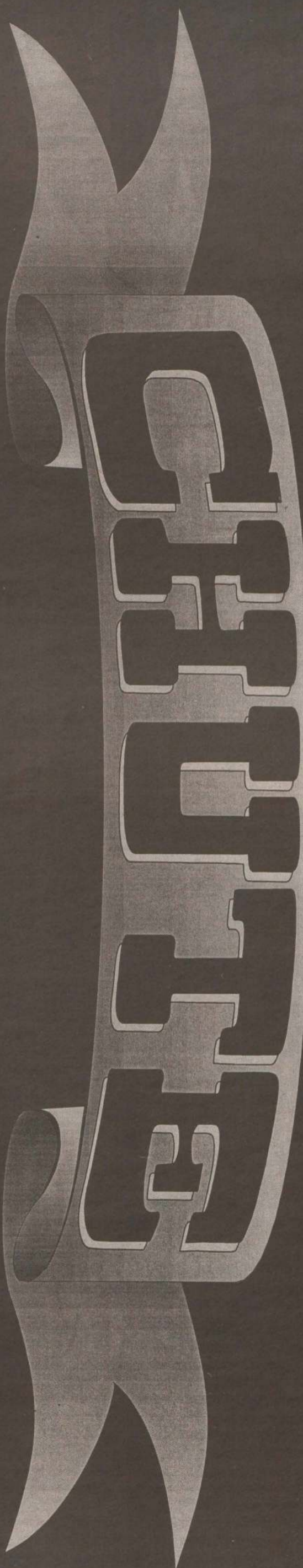
If a door won't open, jiggle the key in the lock. And if the door to the heart you're attempting to persuade is not unfolding and letting you inside, give your charm and determination another chance. You've chosen well this time, and a moment that feels right is worth hanging onto. Give in to hope for a little while longer. An Aquarian to whom you've paid little attention in the past may be more deserving of a look today.

Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)

There's no business like show business and you've been doing your best to maintain your little song and dance for weeks now. The real you is tired of waiting backstage, so if you really want to make things happen you're going to have to merge the public persona with the private and let the chips fall where they fall. Your true nature may be more likable—and lick-able—than you realize. Let nature guide you after the 28th and you'll be pleasantly surprised.

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WHERE THE BEARS & LEATHERMEN ARE IN PHOENIX...



Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



Continued from page 23

"When the history of gay life in the 20th century is finally written, a small chapter might be devoted to explaining how an overgrown school-boy and Tory moralist named Andrew Sullivan managed to emerge as the most prominent voice of the gay rights movement in America; how, in fact, the whole issue of gay liberation was hijacked in the wake of the AIDS epidemic by a band of reactionary, middle-class gay commentators in a dither over 'gay promiscuity,' urging marriage and monogamy on their wayward brothers and decrying 'the cult of masculinity' as the source of all evil in homosexual life.

... That marriage has never put a dent in the promiscuous nature of men is of no concern to the 'neo-culturalists,' as they like to call themselves. Bruce Bawer, Gabriel Rotello, Michelangelo Signorile, and the inevitable Larry Kramer have, with Sullivan and a few others, secured a virtual lock on gay commentary in the American media, appearing with depressing regularity on talk shows and op-ed pages, spinning out books and magazine articles in what amounts to an incessant rant about the crippled psyches and empty lives of male homosexuals."

—Peter Kurth, writing in *Salon Magazine*, Nov. 30.

mean, put 200 condoms in a box in some place in the house where everybody isn't all the time, so that your kids can take them. If they want to make water balloons out of them, great. If they want to carry them so they feel tough, great. If they want to give them to their friends, even better."

—Actress Sharon Stone in a speech at the United Nations on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1.

"If I'm going to be remembered in America as the guy that got caught playing with himself in the toilet, then I want people to know my take on it. ... I saw this guy cruising, an undercover cop who was basically pretending to cruise. He was very cute; he wasn't Karl Malden. I didn't get out of my car until everyone left the park. Then I followed him in. [Then] there was like a SWAT team! Once they got their man, eight of them jumped out of nowhere. I heard one officer say, 'Did you get one?' I'm not a fish. With the shit that goes on in this town, it's unbelievable that tax money pays for this. ... There were reports in the papers about me being led away crying. Not true. I wasn't thinking, 'I'm ruined.' I was absolutely furious. It was clearly entrapment,

"I believe that if you truly, truly love your children, you need to supply condoms in a place in your home, at a quantity that makes it a non-judgmental situation for them to have them. I

not an accident. ... The minute it happened, I knew it would be massive news and hugely embarrassing. But within a day, after the anger died down, I started to see how funny it was. I had helicopters flying around my house because I got my willy out. It pushed something of monumental importance off the front pages. You really start to understand how crazy the media are."

—Pop singer George Michael to *USA Today*, Dec. 3.

"I've probably done more with [my new] *Outside* video [about cruising and public sex] than I could have done with 10 years of speaking at Stonewall events. I have a problem with activists because I believe in assimilation totally. Almost every Western culture is being attacked by this plague of separatism. I would be ineffective as an activist because I'm too moderate. My arrest brought me into the political arena, and I've said my piece about what the police should and shouldn't be doing. I made a video on the subject. This issue is part of my life right now, but it won't be part of my life next year."

—Pop singer George Michael to *USA Today*, Dec. 3.

"Although I'm a gay person, I'm definitely a man on the ice. That's as simple as it is: I'm a man on the ice and I'm a man off the ice. Because I'm 'outed' doesn't mean I'm going to be a different person."

—Canadian figure-skating champ Brian Orser—outed via a palimony suit—to the *Ottawa Sun*, Dec. 2.

"Brian never skated soft. He was masculine in his skating. He never flaunted it on the ice. He skated male, and I respect that a lot. I believe in that, because so many people can end up bashing the sport. We have some very colourful characters, like Rudy [Galindo, a gay U.S. skater] who's also a great friend, but we can't have it all like that."

—Canadian figure-skating champ Elvis Stojko in response to the outing of skating champ Brian Orser, to the *Ottawa Sun*, Dec. 2.

"You must realize that neither you nor anyone else was 'born gay.'"

Unless you are in the minuscule percentage of those suffering from innate endocrinological or developmental conditions, you were intended by Mother Nature to function heterosexually. That is your ancient heritage, which gay militants have tried to deny and hide from you. It is what connects you to the sensory experience of the overwhelming majority of men who have walked this earth."

—Lesbian writer Camille Paglia in her Nov. 25 column at *Salon Magazine*, responding to a letter from a male reader.

"Your attraction to men relates to what your father gave or did not give you. Alas, in the marooned household of the middle-class nuclear family, individual fathers cannot supply everything a son needs to secure a stable masculine identity. Male homosexuality today is a quest for that missing term, just as it is also a recoil from the decline in glamour and appeal of female archetypes like mother and wife."

—Writer Camille Paglia in her Nov. 25 column at *Salon Magazine*, responding to a letter from a male reader.

"We know more about family values than most straight people will ever realize. We know what it is to hold a family together when we can't hold hands with our spouses on the street safely, when our partners can't share in our health benefits, when we worry whether our children will be attacked because of the identity of their parents."

—Windy City Times columnist Jennifer Vanasco, Nov. 19.



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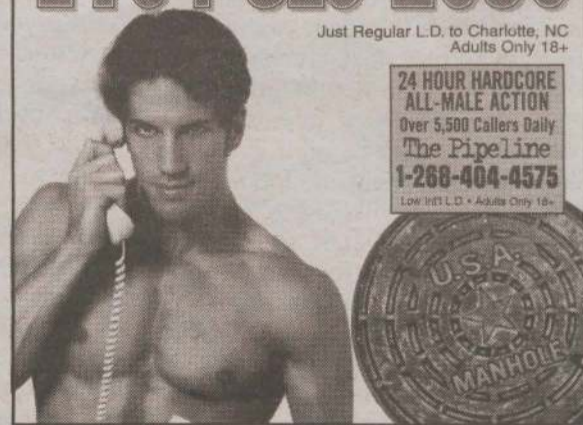
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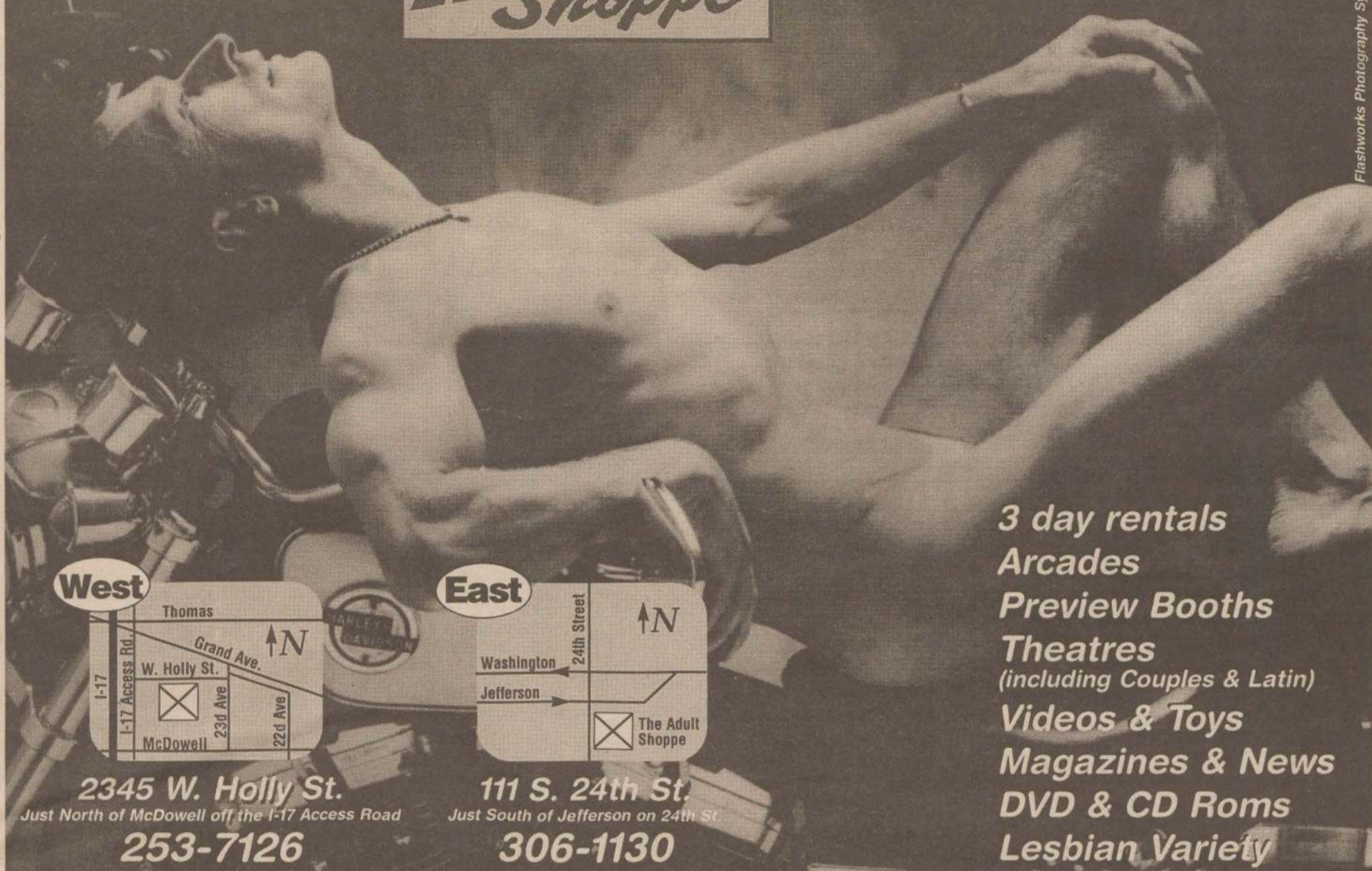
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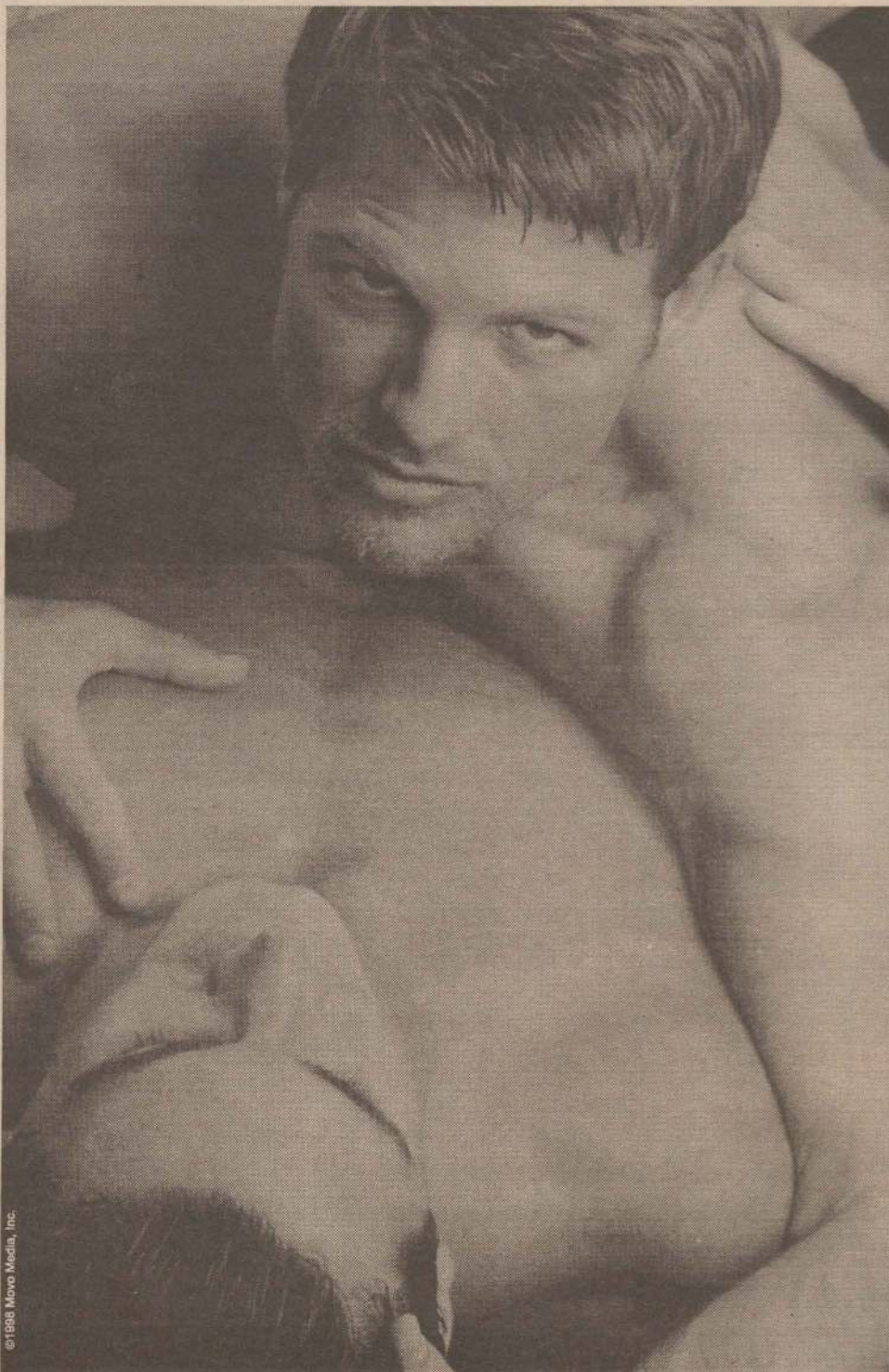
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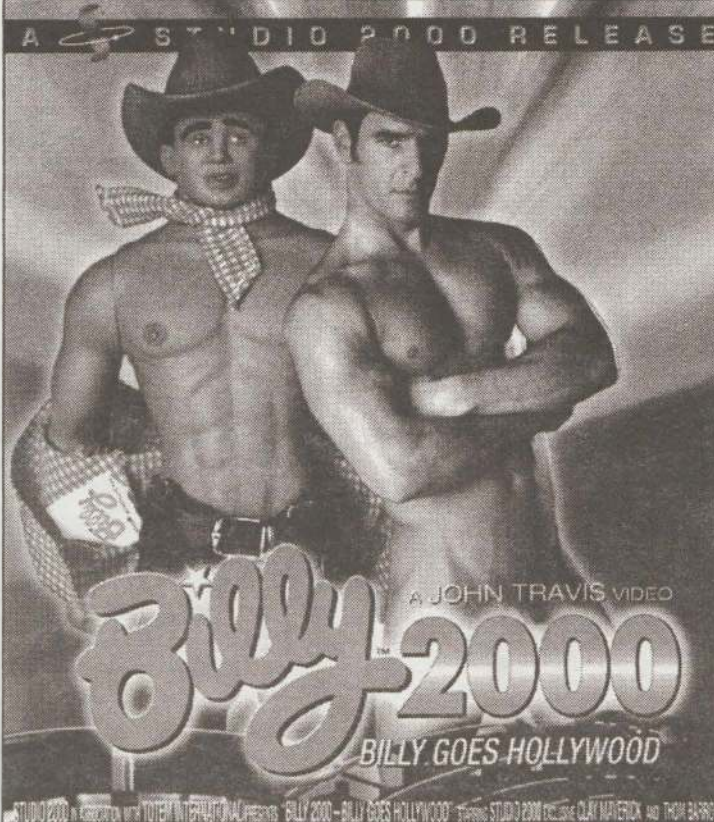
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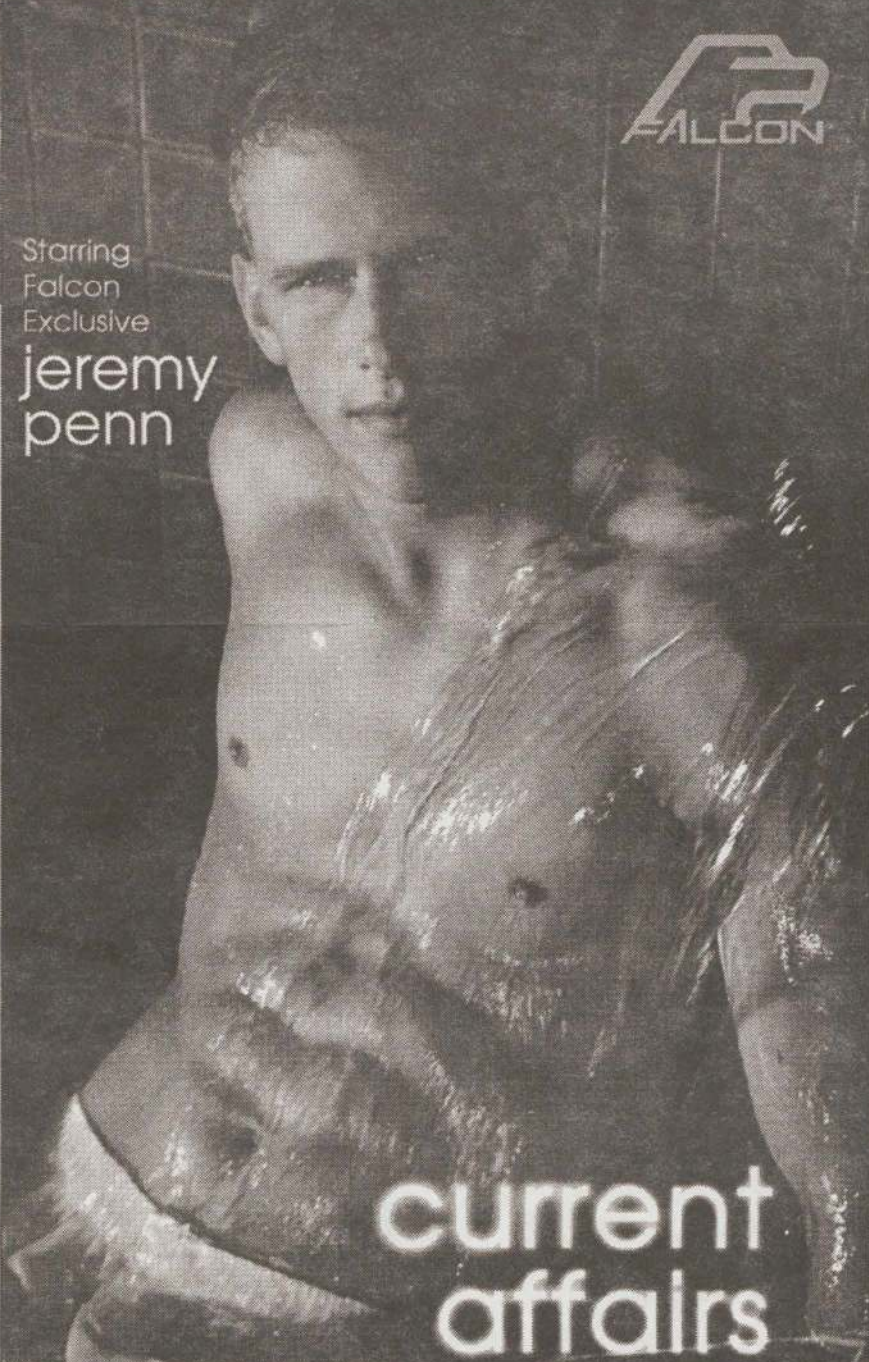


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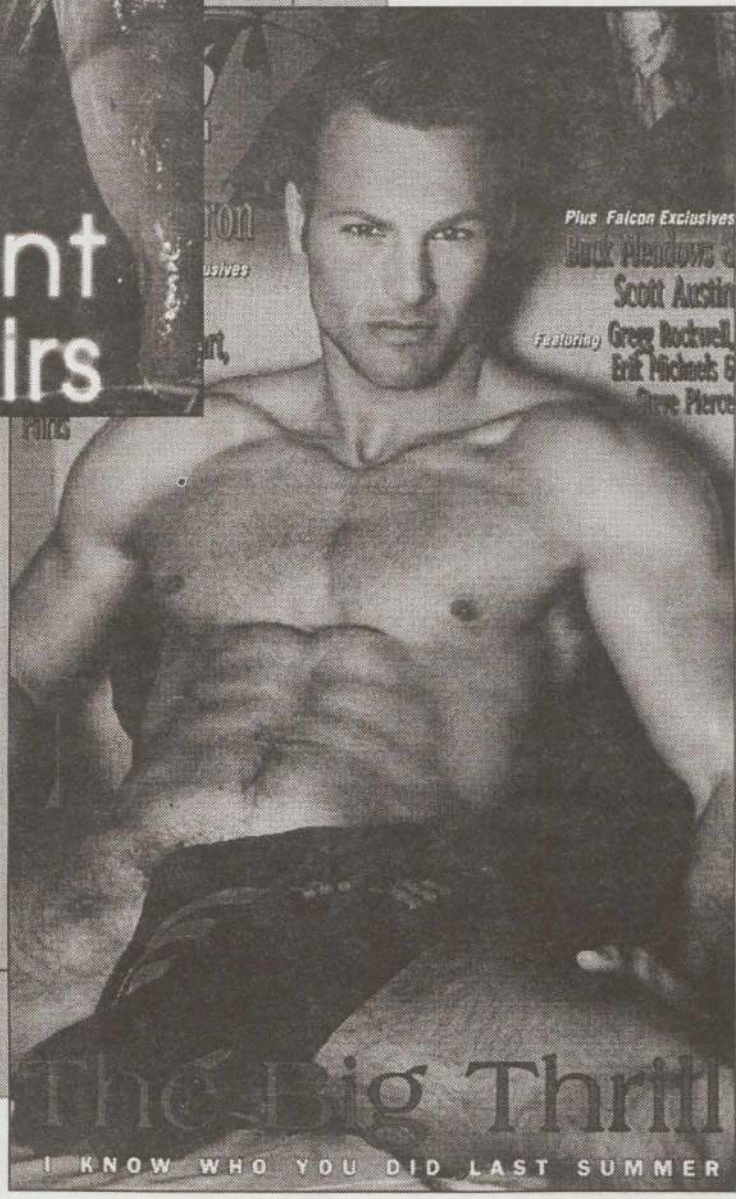
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