Gay & Lesbian Life, Commentary and Culture

HeatStroke

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School's Out:

Will our teachers ever be?



A peek into one of Arizona's most tightly shut closets.

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

As a tenured, 16-year veteran of a West Valley public school district, high school French teacher Darryl Moreton has earned the respect of his students, administrators and colleagues by dedicating himself—in every professional way—to the art of educating young people.

Personally, however, he keeps his distance.

Because he's gay and has been in a relationship with the same man during his entire teaching career, 41-year-old Moreton has always been careful about not getting too friendly with students or colleagues, afraid of losing his job if he were to talk about his orientation.

Except among two or three good friends on the faculty, his home life is not open for discussion on campus. And, even after 16 years in the same department at the same school, he plans to keep it that way.

"I had a friend who thought she needed to share it with everyone and anyone," Moreton said of a former lesbian art teacher at his school. "One year, she lasted. And she was gone."

Moreton's views seem to represent the feelings of many closeted teachers in Arizona.

Despite a trend toward social acceptance of being out in the workplace and a general shortage of teachers nationwide, enacting anti-discrimination protection for gay and lesbian educators and administrators isn't even on the agenda of most school boards here. And as long as religious conservatives rule the roost at the Arizona legislature, state laws are unlikely to take a supportive turn anytime soon.

A 1999 Gallup poll showed that 83 percent of Americans support equal rights for gay people in the workplace. But when asked specifically about hiring and retaining uncloseted teachers, support for equality dropped to 54 percent for elementary teachers and 61 percent for high school teachers. A 1997 Gallup poll showed that 33 percent of those surveyed felt schools should have the right to fire gay teachers.

Patty Likens, spokesperson for Arizona Superintendent of Education Lisa Graham Keegan, said that, due to the special legislative session on education, she would be unable to reach Graham Keegan for a comment on whether the state's education head supports employment equality for Arizona's gay and lesbian teachers.

"[Graham Keegan] may have an opinion, but it may not necessarily—I don't want to say it won't count, but it doesn't have as much authority, because it's an employment issue," Likens said.

"The most frustrating thing is that all these people who say they worry about gay teachers influencing their children are so out of it. They don't know that their kids already have gay teachers, and that they probably had gay teachers when they were growing up, too."

She said that discrimination is not a topic normally handled by the state office.

"At the Department of Education, what we do is we certify teachers. So they come in, we have a checklist—did they do so many hours of college? Did they do this, did they fulfill this requirement? Did they student teach? And then we give them their certificate."

According to Likens, the state's interest in the job security of its educators more or less ends there. "Once [teachers] go out, we pretty much stay out of all employment issues, whether it's discrimination or otherwise. If anyone has a complaint about a district, or [anti-gay bias] or any other complaint having to do with how they are treated or employment or whatever, we pretty much stay out of it. That's really dealt with at the district level. They have their own human resources people who do the hiring, the firing, and so forth."

Moreton and other Arizona teachers may then be justified in remaining closeted, but at what expense to the community, and to their gay students?

"If every gay and lesbian teacher came out at the same time, people would be astounded," said Bart Kenmore, a gay middle school teacher and teachers' rights advocate who also finds it necessary to hide his home life from colleagues and students, even though he works for a private school.

Earl Waverly teaches music to grade schoolers in a West Valley public school district and also keeps a personal distance between himself and his colleagues. He says he wouldn't even consider coming out in his present position. "I can't be out at all, I feel, where I am now," he said. "I don't know of any gay teachers there who are out, in my school, although there is one other person in the district who I think is gay."

Prior to working in his present position, Waverly taught high schoolers at an arts-oriented charter school in Phoenix. "I could have been completely out there," he said. "It was hip. The head of it was gay, the second-in-charge was gay, there were teachers who were gay. I didn't discuss it particularly, but I'm sure everyone knew."

If Arizona had an Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in place, Waverly said, he would feel less threatened with job loss if he did come out, but he said he probably wouldn't make his sexual orientation known anyway, because he works in "such a conservative district."

Moreton agrees that attitudes of individuals working in administration can effect the climate for homophobia from school to school and district to district. The principal he works under now, he said "probably wouldn't care" if she knew for certain that he is gay. But for ten years, he worked for a man he characterized as "the most anti-gay, homophobic principal in the free world. And while we never talked about my being gay, he certainly knew."

It appears that in many cases, administrators are eager to ignore the subject altogether, which buys gay teachers time on the job while perpetuating the idea that homosexuality is something to be ashamed of and kept quiet about.

Kenmore said, "The most frustrating thing is that all these people who say they worry about gay teachers influencing their children are so out of it. They don't know that their kids already have gay teachers, and that they probably had gay teachers when they were growing up, too. And the way things are right now, it's not in our best interest to let them know that."

In researching her 1996 book, *The Last Closet: The Real Lives of Lesbian and Gay Teachers*, Rita M. Kissen discovered that most gay and lesbian teachers experience tremendous relief and lead generally happier lives after coming out.

Many gay teachers, according to Kissen's book, honor an unofficial Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, assuming their colleagues and students alike assume they are gay, without them endorsing rumors and/or speculation one way or another.

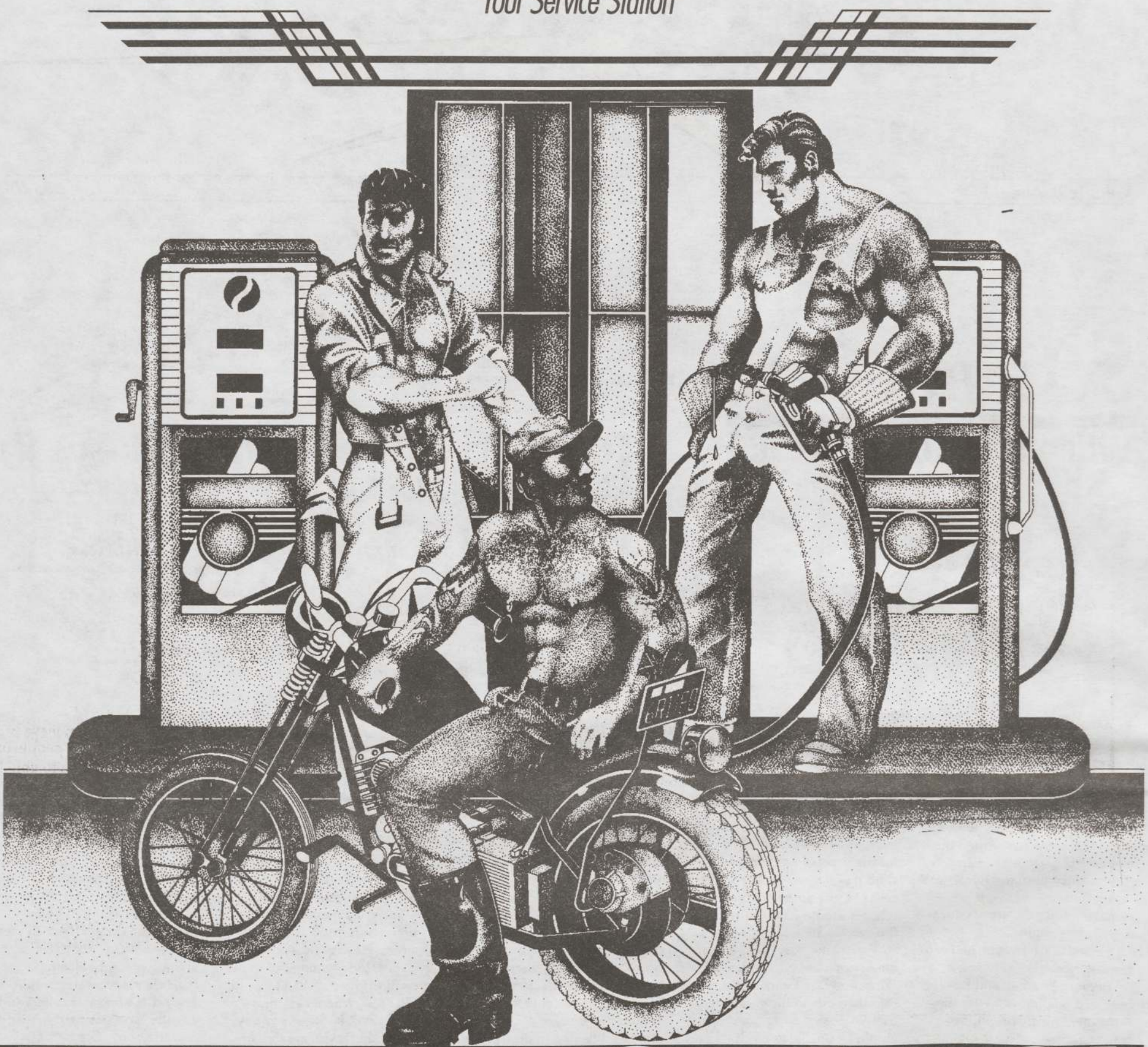
Mary Wright, 37, is the art teacher Moreton mentioned who left Arizona after the district they both taught in fired her. She said she thinks teachers can be positive gay role models without being fully out. "It means not lying, though. Not making up stories to cover for not being married, or a shared address, or that same person coming to all your games or concerts. Lying sends a message of shame, to be sure."

Wright now lives in New

See "Gay Teachers," page 14

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Horowitz: *Redistricting Initiative will Restore Fairness*

Governor Jane Hull's education funding plan includes a six tenths of a cent increase in the state sales tax. The governor's office hopes to place her proposal on the November general election ballot. Public opinion polls show widespread support of Hull's plan among the electorate and the legislature. A clear majority of legislators favor allowing voters to decide whether we want to pay more in sales taxes in order to better educate our children.

A few ultra-conservatives, however, oppose the tax increase. More importantly, they oppose letting the voters decide because polls show that voters would overwhelmingly approve the increase in sales tax.

The same small group of representatives that so often frustrates the GLBT community's efforts to pass gay-friendly legislation is putting a burr under the governor's saddle this time. Legislators have been working overtime in the special education session called by the governor to maneuver the political process to keep the bill from reaching the House floor where it will surely pass.

Earlier this week, the governor's bill cleared the Senate Education Committee by a vote of 7-2. There is little doubt that by this printing the bill will have passed the entire state senate. The House Appropriations Committee, however, defeated Hull's plan by a vote of 7-4.

Which representatives are on that appropriations committee? Members include Karen Johnson, John Huppenthal and Barbara Blewster. Need I say more? The infamous Mrs. Johnson said, "I am a Republican and Republicans don't raise taxes." Read her lips.

Instead of the governor's proposal, the right wing conservatives prefer a plan by House Speaker Jeff Groscost (surprise, surprise) that takes money from the state's portion of the tobacco settlement and delays standardized AIMS testing for 13 years. Additionally, conservatives in the senate have tried to tack on items to Hull's plan, including a $1.8 million budget for a statewide character education program. The Mesa Republicans are really outdoing themselves this time.

Frankly, it doesn't bother me that these legislators oppose the governor's attempts to shore up education funding. They are absolutely entitled to disagree.

Unfortunately, they use their powerful political positions to prevent the majority will from occurring. By virtue of the GOP majority, a Republican chairs every legislative committee. Every committee's membership roster contains a majority of Republicans. In this particular case, seven or so conservative Republicans are successfully thwarting the majority of their colleagues and the citizens of Arizona.

Moreover, legislative seniority determines committee placement and control. Senators and representatives who have been around the longest get the best appointments. Incumbents use their political manipulation to keep getting themselves reelected and reappointed to powerful posts.

Arizona voters may have an opportunity in November to vote on education spending. Arizonans may also have the chance to vote on a measure designed to put fairness back into the legislative process.

There is an initiative underway to form an independent redistricting committee to redraw legislative district lines in the fairest way possible to insure adequate representation in the state legislature and congressional districts. The aforementioned arch conservatives oppose this approach because control of the redistricting process currently rests with these same self-serving "public" servants.

If you haven't yet done so, it is vitally important to sign a petition to get this measure on the ballot. Petitions can be found at most Basha's markets. If you have already signed, get a friend to sign—the deadline is drawing near. Fair districts may be our best defense against the dynasty of representatives who refuse to follow the will of the people.

The majority of the public believes that gays and lesbians deserve equality of opportunity in employment, housing and public accommodations. A majority of Arizonans thinks that our archaic sodomy statutes should be repealed. Most Arizonans are fair-minded people. Significant civil rights legislation may only be as far away as a few signatures on an important ballot initiative.

Most Arizonans are fair-minded people. Significant civil rights legislation may only be as far away as a few signatures on an important ballot initiative.

And we shouldn't be surprised that Groscost, Blewster and Johnson oppose increasing taxes to fund education. The more educated the people of Arizona become, the less likely they'll be to vote for them.

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

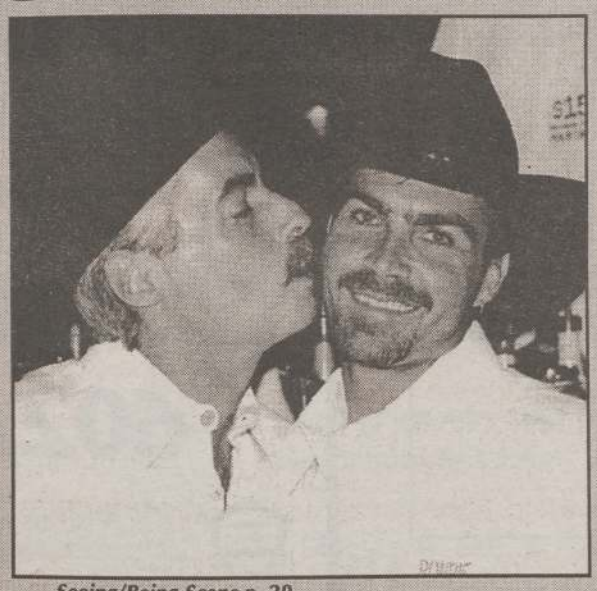


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Deb Price



Supreme Court accepts non-traditional families

Stepping into the role of referee in a family squabble, the U.S. Supreme Court recently demonstrated a surprisingly keen grasp of the fact that American families take a multitude of shapes. That's wonderful news for nontraditional families, especially gay ones.

"The demographic changes of the past century make it difficult to speak of an average American family," Justice Sandra Day OíConnor noted in an opinion joined by three other members of a 6-to-3 majority.

O'Connor was writing in the case of *Troxel v. Granville*. In that June 5 decision, the court declared that a Washington state law allowing "any person ... at any time" to seek visitation rights was so "breathtakingly broad"—as O'Connor put it—that it violated parents' decision-making rights.

Though ruling against one particular set of grandparents, the court waded very carefully into the tangled thicket of American family relationships. While wisely reminding lawmakers and judges that courts normally should not interfere with fit parents, the court strongly signaled that more carefully tailored laws can protect the legitimate interests of grandparents and other family members trying to maintain close ties to a child.

The court hardly spoke with a unified voice in *Troxel*, since six justices wrote separately (see http://www.supremecourtus.gov). Yet, together, the opinions revealed a court refreshingly unwilling to try to shoehorn every family into a traditional style that now fits very few.

"There is a clear recognition on the part of the court that our legal structures cannot be built around a conventional nuclear family, which for many people, no longer exists," says attorney Michael Adams, who specializes in gay family law at the American Civil Liberties Union.

"A common thread running through the opinions is that our society's once-rigid definition of family is evolving and that our domestic laws need to reflect that," he added.

Even though *Troxel* wasn't a gay case and none of the justices mentioned anything gay, the up-to-date messages that the ruling sent should encourage positive outcomes in two common gay family legal disputes.

In the first, a gay parent is hauled into court by a meddlesome relative or ex-spouse who disapproves of homosexuality. The Supreme Court's *Troxel* decision reminds judges to tip the scales in favor of fit parents. Justice Anthony Kennedy stressed that happy children often aren't raised in families conforming to a cookie-cutter pattern.

In the second, a lesbian mother seeks to maintain contact with the children that, legally, belong only to her ex-partner. The *Troxel* decision was careful not to give legal parents an absolute veto in child visitation contests. It encouraged states to keep innovating to protect all sorts of families. Kennedy hinted that he would be sympathetic to claims by anyone who has served as a "de facto" parent.

It was especially encouraging to see Kennedy and O'Connor dealing so comfortably with the complex realities of modern family life. They're the key swing votes in any major gay case. And they may be ready to deal directly and fairly with a gay family dispute.

Together the six opinions revealed a Supreme Court refreshingly unwilling to try to shoehorn every family into a traditional style that now fits very few.

Meanwhile, Justice John Paul Stevens, gay Americans' most reliable ally, spoke up for children growing up in an "almost infinite variety of family relationships."

Besides protecting the rights of legal parents, government must actively defend "the child's own ... interest in preserving relationships that serve her welfare," Stevens wrote. That's exactly the kind of thinking needed by judges when an ex-partner has been fenced out of a child's life by a spiteful parent.

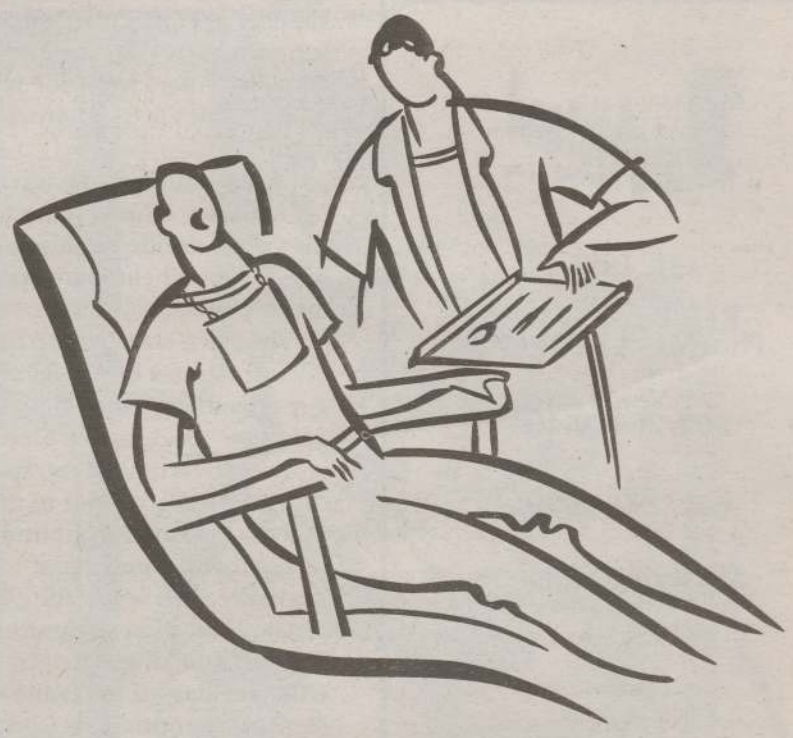
"What really comes through in the (*Troxel*) decisions is that the Constitution has the flexibility to come to terms with changes in the American family," notes attorney Pat Logue of the gay Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

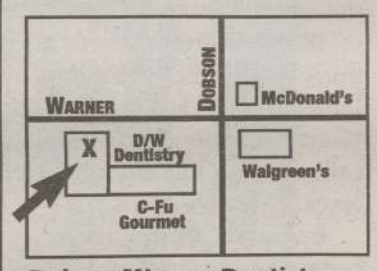
When the Supreme Court refused to create a single yardstick for measuring all visitation claims, the American family—in all its grand diversity—was the real winner.

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

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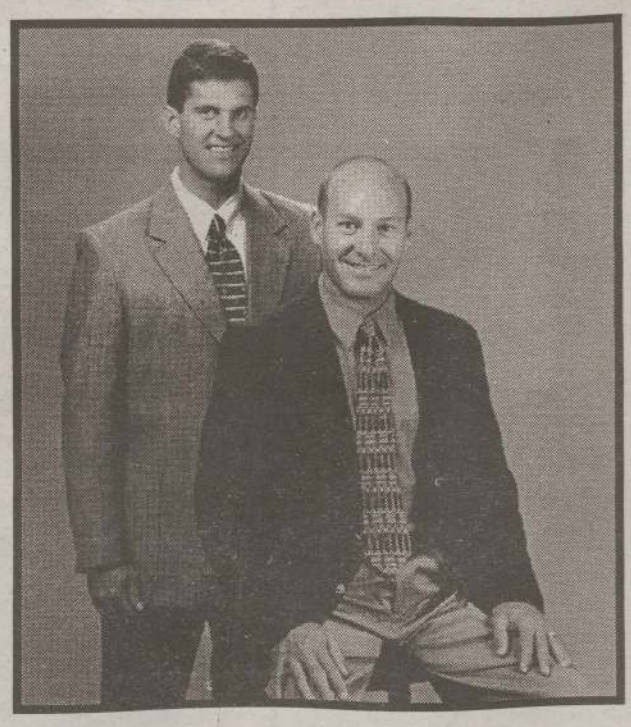
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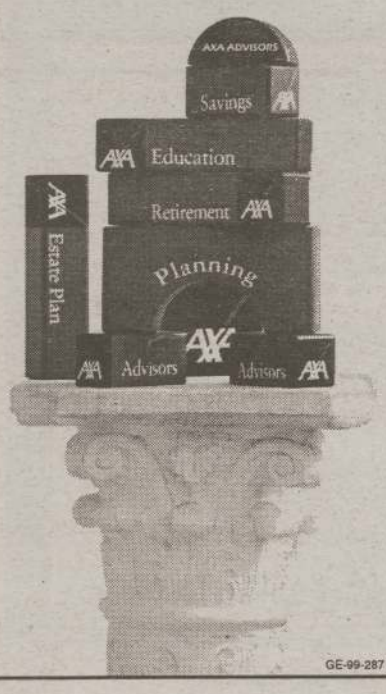
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GM, Ford, Chrysler to give benefits to same-sex partners

DETROIT (AP)—The three biggest American automakers are banking on health care benefits for the partners of gay employees as a low-cost way to lure new workers in a tight labor market.

The announcement June 8 from General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and the Chrysler division of DaimlerChrysler AG could signal that such benefits will become standard in corporate America.

``This is really a landmark,'' said Kim Mills, education director with the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group in Washington that tracks company benefit programs. ``We've never really seen an industry get together as a group and say, `We're going to institute these benefits.'''

The automakers have 465,000 hourly and salaried workers in the United States.

The companies said they decided to extend health benefits to employees' same-sex domestic partners after agreeing to study the issue as part of new contracts reached last fall with the United Auto Workers.

Starting Aug. 1, employees can apply for medical, dental and prescription benefits for their same-sex partners. The programs do not cover current retirees, but workers and their partners who receive the benefits will keep them after the workers retire.

David Murphy, Ford vice president of human resources, said the No. 2 automaker expects only about 1 percent of its 159,000 blue- and white-collar U.S. employees to take advantage of the benefits, adding less than $5 million to Ford's annual $2.4 billion employee health care bill.

``The benefit is saying to employees and future employees, `Look, we are a diverse company and we do recognize not only race and gender but sexual orientation,''' Murphy said. ``When we're in the labor market recruiting, we're sending a signal about how inclusive the Ford Motor Co. is.''

Mills said about 3,400 companies, including 93 Fortune 500 companies, now offer benefits to same-sex domestic partners. She said the number of companies offering such benefits had grown sharply since the early 1990s.

``One factor is certainly the tight labor market,'' Mills said. ``There's also the rise of openly gay employees within society generally and in the workplace, sitting down with managers and saying this isn't fair and managers recognizing it's an inequitable system.''

A San Francisco city ordinance requiring that companies doing business with the city offer such benefits has led about 2,000 companies to adopt them, Mills said.

At GM, the benefits will be offered to 152,000 hourly employees and 54,000 salaried employees. Chrysler will offer the benefits to 71,200 hourly workers and 29,000 salaried workers; other corporate divisions of DaimlerChrysler with U.S. employees, such as Mercedes-Benz and Freightliner, will not offer the benefits.

Workers at Visteon Corp., the parts division that's being spun off of Ford, will be eligible for the domestic-partner benefits. GM's former parts division, Delphi Automotive Systems, said it was still studying whether to offer the benefits.

Murphy said Ford considered whether the move would create a backlash from employees or customers. The Southern Baptist Convention urged its members in June 1997 to boycott Walt Disney theme parks in part because the company offered same-sex domestic partner benefits.

``We decided the business case for moving ahead was a strong one,'' Murphy said.

HRC hails automakers' move to offer domestic partner benefits

Decision by big three punctuates growing trend toward equal benefits for equal work, says HRC

WASHINGTON DC—The Human Rights Campaign hailed as unprecedented the announcement June 8 by the Big Three automakers that they plan to offer health coverage to the same-sex domestic partners of their employees.

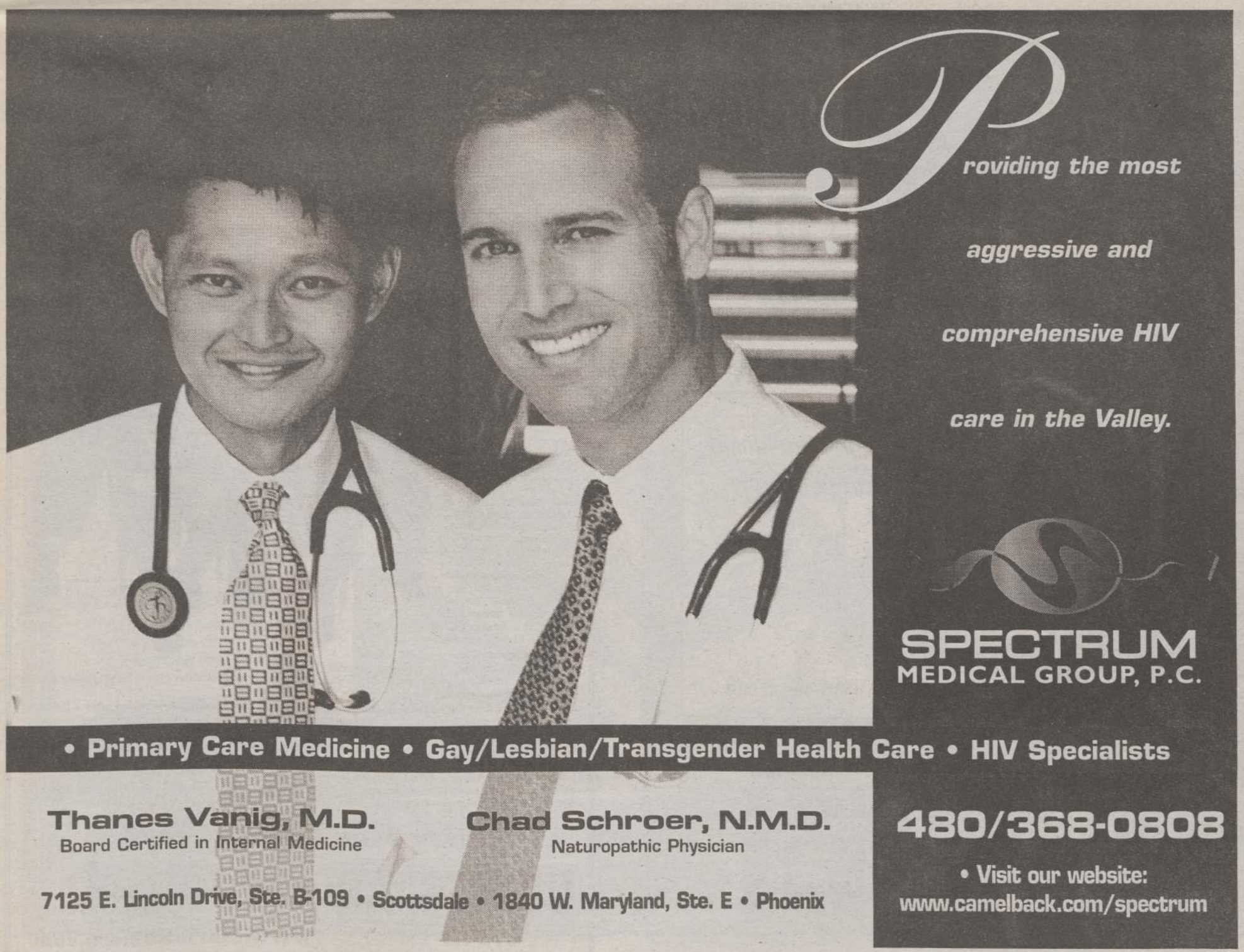
"This is a landmark announcement," said Kim I. Mills, HRC's education director who oversees WorkNet, the organization's workplace project. "Never before have we seen virtually an entire industry, along with its leading union, announce domestic partner benefits simultaneously. And the fact that these are three of the largest companies in America, with hundreds of thousands of employees, demonstrates that domestic partner benefits are becoming a standard business practice."

The three automakers—Daimler-Chrysler Corp., Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp.—issued a joint announcement, along with the United Auto Workers. The decision to offer the benefits came after a pledge to study the subject that was part of current United Auto Workers and other labor union contracts, according to the auto companies and the UAW. The expanded coverage will begin Aug. 1, with specific details left up to each company. To qualify for benefits, employees will have to meet certain criteria, which include being in a committed relationship with a partner of the same-sex for no less than six months.

"By taking this step together, the Big Three have bolstered the traditional American value of equal pay for equal work, regardless of sexual orientation" Mills said. "Domestic partner benefits are one of the strongest signals a company can give to demonstrate that it values its lesbian and gay employees."

More than 3,400 private and public employers provide these benefits to their employees. Since the beginning of this year, an average of nine employers have announced these benefits each week, according to HRC's WorkNet, which tracks such trends. Many of America's leading companies offer these benefits, including: IBM, Microsoft, Shell Oil, Walt Disney, Fannie Mae, Citigroup, Xerox, Time Warner and United and American Airlines. With today's announcement, at least 97 Fortune 500 companies provide these benefits or have announced that they intend to. This includes at least 12 that have announced the benefits since January. Additionally, more than half of the Fortune 500 include sexual orientation in their written non-discrimination policy. (A complete list is available on HRC's website at www.hrc.org/worknet).

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.



Clinton issues Pride Month Proclamation

June 2, 2000
Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, 2000
A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Gay and lesbian Americans have made important and lasting contributions to our Nation in every field of endeavor. Too often, however, gays and lesbians face prejudice and discrimina-tion; too many have had to hide or deny their sexual orientation in order to keep their jobs or to live safely in their communities.

In recent years, we have made some progress righting these wrongs. Since the Stonewall uprising in New York City more than 30 years ago, the gay and lesbian rights movement has united gays and lesbians, their families and friends, and all those committed to justice and equality in a crusade to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices and to protect gays and lesbians from prejudice and persecution.

I am proud of the part that my Administration has played to achieve these goals. Today, more openly gay and lesbian individuals serve in senior posts throughout the Federal Government than during any other Administration. To build on our progress, in 1998 I issued an Executive Order to prohibit discrimination in the Federal civilian workforce based on sexual orientation, and my Administration continues to fight for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would outlaw discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation.

Yet many challenges still lie before us. As we have learned from recent tragedies, prejudice against gays and lesbians can still erupt into acts of hatred and violence. I continue to call upon the Congress to pass meaningful hate crimes legislation to strengthen the Department of Justice's ability to prosecute hate crimes committed due to the victim's sexual orientation.

With each passing year the American people become more receptive to diversity and more open to those who are different from themselves. Our Nation is at last realizing that gays and lesbians must no longer be "strangers among friends," as the civil rights pioneer David Mixner once noted. Rather, we must finally recognize these Americans for what they are: our colleagues and neighbors, daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, friends and partners.

This June, recognizing the joys and sorrows that the gay and lesbian movement has witnessed and the work that remains to be done, we observe Gay and Lesbian Pride Month and celebrate the progress we have made in creating a society more inclusive and accepting of gays and lesbians. I hope that in this new millennium we will continue to break down the walls of fear and prejudice and work to build a bridge to understanding and tolerance, until gays and esbians are afforded the same rights and responsibilities as all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2000 as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that celebrate our diversity and recognize the gay and lesbian Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our national life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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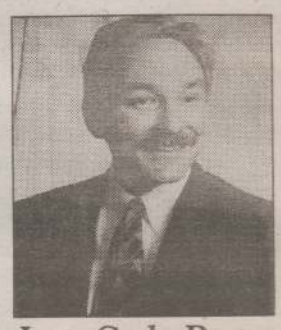
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AHRF to honor Mary Bonauto, Steve May & more at June 17 dinner

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

The Arizona Human Rights Fund will host its annual awards dinner at the Camelback Inn on Saturday, June 17 2000, honoring Massachusetts-based gay rights lawyer Mary Bonauto with its prestigious Barry Goldwater National Award.

"I'm very honored," Bonauto told *HeatStroke* by phone a few days prior to the benefit event. She had just returned to her home in Cambridge following some much-deserved R&R, and was sounding pretty relaxed. For more than a week, she'd been holed up with her law-professor partner on a remote island off the coast of Maine.

"I'm very much an in-the-trenches kind of person, so to be acknowledged by such a reputable organization that's been doing great work in its own right for such a long time—really, it does feel like an honor."

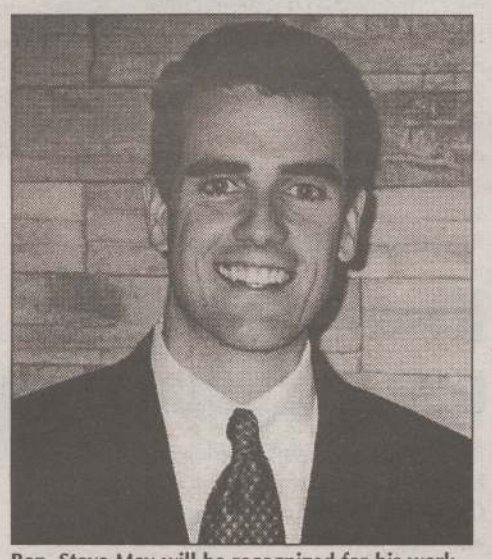
In her ten years and counting as the Civil Rights Director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), Bonauto has lent legal expertise to a half-dozen precedent-setting cases. She most recently served as co-counsel to three couples who sued the State of Vermont for the right to marry, which led to the state's first-of-its-kind Civil Unions Bill, signed into law this spring.

Bonauto said she had no idea how many hours she'd spent on the Vermont case. "That's practically impossible to ascertain. First of all, marriage—recognition of our relationships as the families that they are—has been the focus of what I have been doing for the last ten years."

What occurred in Vermont's last legislative session on behalf of equal treatment for gay men and lesbians may well have a permanent effect on the entire nation, she admitted. "The Vermont case—at some level it's very obviously about Vermont—but in another way, it really steps into sort of a pattern of increasing recognition and support for equality of gay people as individuals, but also lesbian and gay people as families."

She added, "So when you say 'The Vermont Case' it's obviously a marriage case, but there's a lot of background work, in a sense, that led up to it."

It's for all of her work with GLAD that Bonauto will receive the award, and she and her partner are looking forward to their first visit to Arizona. "We've been wanting to go to the Southwest forever," she said, apologizing for never having visited before. "I know it's embarrassing. I'm sorry. I've had my nose to the grindstone."



Rep. Steve May will be recognized for his work at the Arizona legislature at the June 17 event.

She'll deliver the keynote speech at the AHRF dinner and accept the award, she said, "on behalf of myself but also on behalf of the other people in my organization who also really labor very hard to achieve the victories that we do. And also on behalf of all those other people in Vermont who are working very hard to bring the Civil Union Bill to fruition."

With conservative groups fighting the Vermont law every step of the way and now mobilizing to place repeals on the ballot and toss out the legislators who voted for fairness, Bonauto admitted that it isn't really over.

"It is and it isn't. Frankly, at some level none of this will be over until we have complete equality under the law—federally, and in the states as well. I don't mean to be a wet blanket, because I believe that what's happening in Vermont is a monumental achievement and really, I think, opens up a new era in this country."

She added, "At the same time, it's not complete equality because it's not marriage. And until same-sex couples, gay and lesbian people have that same choice available to them—along with whatever other choices may exist, because we've been pushing—then we don't have complete equality. But I do recognize that this is, by far, the most significant protections we've been able to access ever in this country. So I don't mean to denigrate it—I just ... when you say 'it's not over', you're right—it's not over."

Last year, more than 800 people attended the AHRF dinner and this year, organizers are hoping for more than 1000 attendees to take part and support the organization.

In addition to Bonauto, honorees at the 2000 dinner will include Chase Manhattan Bank and the City of Tucson's mayor and city council.

Longtime AHRF member and grassroots activist Ron Passarelli will be recognized for his tireless efforts within the organization, and Steve May, Arizona's out-and-proud GOP state representative, will also be given an ward.

The theme for the 2000 dinner is "If not now, when? If not us, who?" AHRF is a statewide organization dedicated to influencing the political process and government in order to fight prejudice and discrimination, and secure equal rights for all people—regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

HeatStroke

Valley help line gets support from phone personals company

InteractiveMale, a leading gay telephone introduction service in the Phoenix area, contributed more than $500 on June 1 to the Valley's gay help line, based in The Community Center at 24 W. Camelback in Phoenix. The money was raised through sales of the InteractiveMale 2000 calendar.

"We are supporting and raising awareness for the help line because it is an often underlooked, but imperative service to the community," said Manson Osmond, brand manager of InteractiveMale. "The help line provides vital front line information and support resources on diverse issues, ranging from health to homophobia and peer support to suicide prevention."

InteractiveMale demonstrates its dedication to the gay and lesbian community through active involvement with the center. "We appreciate InteractiveMale's commitment to giving back to the community through this awareness and fund-raising effort," said Lyle Miller, the center's executive director.

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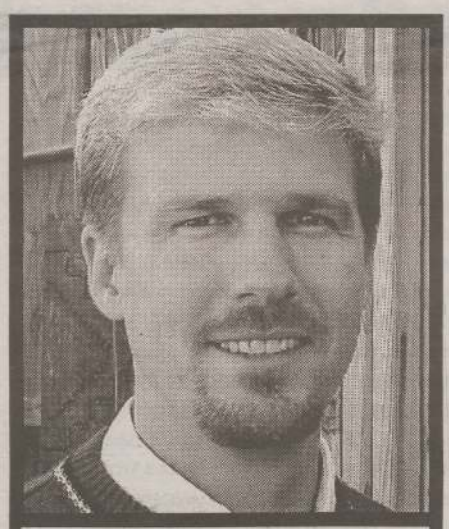
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Arizona Methodist pastors call for including gays in the church

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—A group of 32 United Methodist pastors from metropolitan Phoenix have signed a declaration calling on the denomination to include homosexuals in the full ministry and work of the church.

``We commit to proclaim that homosexuality (no less or more than heterosexuality) is compatible with Christian teachings,'' reads the statement circulated over the June 10 weekend at the Desert Southwest Annual Conference at the Sheraton Mesa Hotel. It was signed by about 20 percent of the 252 lay delegates and 13 percent of the pastors attending.

The statement was a response to a decision by the General Conference of Methodists in Cleveland last May to retain doctrines calling homosexuality incompatible with Christian teachings and to ban gay and lesbian clergy as well as their blessing same-sex unions. It also reflects a gradually mounting acceptance of homosexuals in congregational life in their denomination and others.

``We wanted to give people the opportunity to express their consciences on this issue,'' said the Rev. Jeff Proctor-Murphy, pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church in Phoenix, where a third of the congregation is estimated to be openly gay or lesbian. ``In the aftermath of General Conference, there is just a lot of pain, so a lot of clergy and lay people welcomed the opportunity to take a stand countering the recent action of General Conference.''

Brazilian bishops propose condom use to check spread of AIDS

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)—In a break with Vatican doctrine, some Roman Catholic bishops in Brazil are proposing allowing the use of condoms in some cases to check the spread of AIDS.

``We are reflecting whether the use of condoms is less serious, morally speaking, than getting infected or infecting other people with the AIDS virus,'' the Most Rev. Eugenio Rixen said by telephone June 13. Rixen is the bishop of Goias and a member of the Brazilian Catholic church's Health Pastoral, a group of religious and lay social workers that debates health issues.

Rixen's opinion—that condom use should be allowed among what he called ``high-risk groups,'' including homosexuals and prostitutes—is not the official position of the National Bishops Conference but could be eventually. The Brazilian church is discussing the issue, and the position of its pastoral committees weighs heavily in its decisions.

Leandro Lindner, a spokesman for the Health Pastoral, did not specify how many church leaders endorse the idea but said ``influential bishops'' support it—including Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, former archbishop of Sao Paulo.

Allowing restricted use of condoms was first suggested by the French Bishops Conference in 1996, but the Vatican insisted that artificial birth control is unacceptable for any reason. Monsignor Elio Sgreccia, vice president of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life, said recently that the remedy for AIDS ``lies in chastity before matrimony and in faithfulness during marriage.''

Rixen contends his proposal has a theological basis. People should have the freedom to choose the lesser of two evils, he said, and that idea applies to AIDS.

``It's like in a war,'' he said. ``Killing is always bad, but sometimes you have to kill to save your own life.''

Brazil is the world's largest Roman Catholic country, with 80 percent of its 165 million people registered Catholics. It has 200,000 registered HIV cases and an estimated 400,000 unreported cases.

The Vatican's ban on artificial birth control methods was laid out in 1968 by Pope Paul VI in his *Humanae Vita* encyclical. The ban, however, has not prevented Catholic women here and elsewhere from using birth control. The Brazilian government even distributes free condoms during Brazil's annual Carnival bash.

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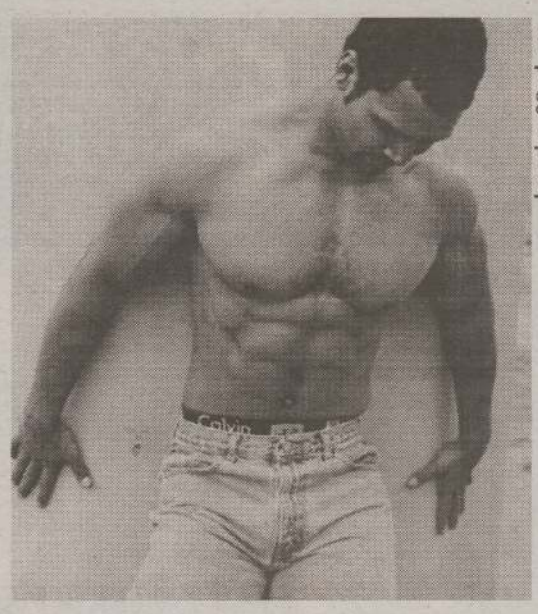
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The "Chelsea Boys" meet Wonder Woman

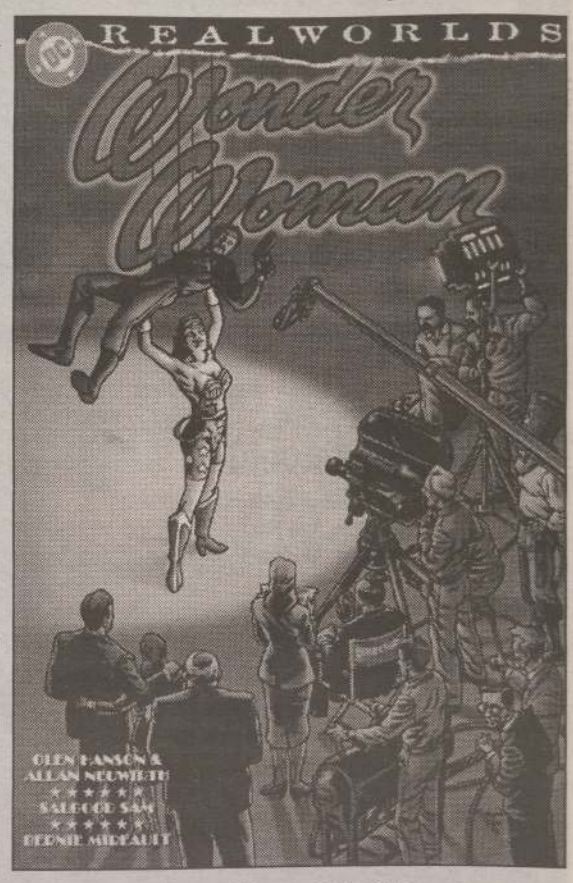
Glen Hanson and Allan Neuwirth, creators of the internationally syndicated comic strip *Chelsea Boys*, which appears biweekly in *HeatStroke* as well as in dozens of gay and alternative publications across the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and South Africa, have given birth to a new collaboration. Their new, cutting-edge comic book, *Wonder Woman vs. The Red Menace*, is the latest addition to DC Comics' brand new line of Real Worlds comics.

The team had previously written and illustrated numerous stories together for DC Comics' Cartoon Network comic books, including *The Flintstones & The Jetsons*. This effort marks the out duo's first entry into the superhero genre, but they're doing it with a major twist.

DC Comics plan with the Real Worlds series is to reimagine the superheros of the past in more reality-based situations. Hanson and Neuwirths's Wonder Woman is re-envisioned as Brenda Kelly, a '40s actress who plays Wonder Woman in a series of low-budget action films.

Set in Hollywood just before the McCarthy era, Wonder Woman fights stereotypical Reds on screen and in real life, Brenda Kelly is tapped to represent the studio by attending and speaking out at anti-commie rallies. When she resists the assignment, she finds herself caught in a battle over patriotism and artistic freedom.

Entertainment Weekly gave the Comic Book a glowing review in May, and the *Washington Post*'s "Style" section took an in-depth look at the new comic series earlier that month. The Hanson/Neuwirth Real Worlds edition is available through bookstores and at comics specialty shops everywhere. Meanwhile, *Chelsea Boys* can be found in the Phoenix area on *HeatStroke*'s "Funnies" page every other Thursday.



Texas sodomy law ruled unconstitutional by appeals court panel

HOUSTON (AP)—A Texas appeals court declared the state's sodomy law unconstitutional June 8, throwing out the case of two Houston men who were arrested inside a home in 1998 for having sex with each other.

Texas has had a sodomy law since 1860 but decriminalized it for opposite sex partners in 1974.

A three-member panel of the 14th Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 decision, said the law was not legal under the Texas Constitution because it made it illegal for same-sex partners to engage in this activity while making it legal for opposite sex partners.

``The simple fact is, the same behavior is criminal for some but not for others, based solely on the sex of the individuals who engage in the behavior... We hold that (the sodomy law) violates the Texas Equal Rights Amendment's guarantee of equality under the law,'' Justice John S. Anderson wrote in the majority opinion.

In its decision, the court did not address the additional privacy or federal constitutional arguments in the case because it invalidated the sodomy law on other grounds.

The law was challenged after John Geddes Lawrence and Tyron Garner were arrested on Sept. 17, 1998 when police entered Lawrence's unlocked apartment and found the men engaging in consensual sex. They were charged with ``deviant homosexual conduct,'' a misdemeanor.

Texas' sodomy law makes homosexual oral and anal sex a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to $500.

The officers entered the home after a third man falsely reported an armed intruder was there. That man, Robert Royce Eubanks, who was Garner's roommate, was convicted of filing a false report and sentenced to 30 days in jail. Police said Garner and Eubanks had a history of filing false reports on each other.

Lawrence and Garner pleaded no contest in a justice of the peace court and later in a Harris County Criminal Court-at-Law so they could start the legal challenge.

The appeals court, with its ruling, dismissed the complaints filed against Lawrence and Garner.

``We are extremely pleased with today's decision,'' said Suzanne Goldberg, a staff attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a gay and lesbian advocacy group that helped defend the two men. ``We consider this a tremendous victory for lesbians and gay men throughout Texas. The state can no longer have a special rule allowing it to police the bedrooms of same sex couples.''

``At least this nightmare brought some benefit for all of us in Texas,'' Lawrence said. ``I am thankful and relieved that this horrible experience may finally be over.''

The Harris County District Attorney's office is expected to appeal the ruling, said Bill Delmore, an assistant district attorney who worked on the case.

``I expected the privacy argument to fail,'' Delmore said. ``I was very much surprised when the equal rights argument carried the day. I had not anticipated that. I think that it's a pretty significant decision because it expands what the equal rights amendment was about. That's if it stands.''

The first appeal option will be to ask the entire nine-member 14th Court of Appeals to consider the case. If that fails, the second option would be to ask the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin to review the case.

``If they say no, that would be it,'' Delmore said. ``This case was decided only on state constitutional grounds. The U.S. Supreme Court could not get involved because it dealt with state constitutional matters.''

David Crump, a professor at the University of Houston Law Center, said the ruling was important.

``But I don't know if anybody enforces this law anyhow,'' he said.

Portland to establish domestic partners registry

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Gay and unmarried heterosexual couples could document their relationships officially and publicly under a draft of a domestic partner law released Friday by the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

Mayor Vera Katz first announced the registry in January, following the state of California and three dozen U.S. cities that have set up registries. Many of the details remain the same and parallel Oregon's marriage requirements.

Each partner has to be over 18, show photo identification and sign a notarized certificate saying he or she is not married or registered as a domestic partner elsewhere.

The certificate also affirms that the partners are not related by blood, are living together, are responsible for each other's welfare and intend to remain each other's sole domestic partner indefinitely. There is no requirement that partners live in the county or city to register.

But there are two key differences from Katz's initial announcement:

Unlike the city of Ashland, Portland's registry will not allow couples to remain anonymous. Ashland is the only city that allows anonymity, Portland officials said, and city and county attorneys concluded that allowing private registrations would undermine the registry's ``core purpose'' as a means of official recognition.

The county, not the city, will issue the domestic-partner certificates. That approach makes sense because the county already issues marriage certificates, officials said.

But the switch has delayed the registry past a planned debut this month, in time for a Gay Pride celebration next weekend. The county board is now scheduled to vote on the registry at the end of July.

The City Council and county board are expected to unanimously support the registry, staff members said.

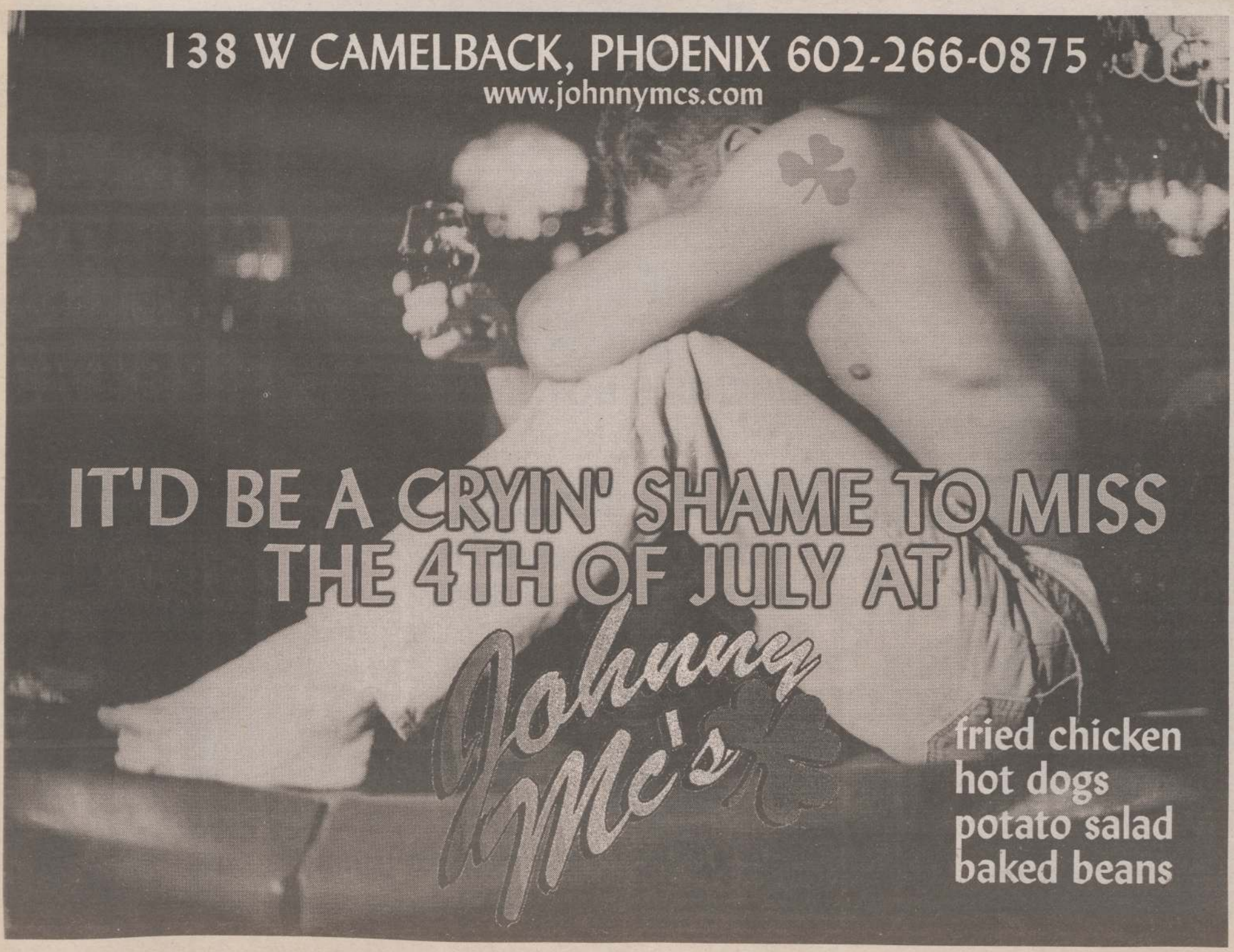
Gay rights advocates say registries are a step toward gay marriage and to equal legal and tax treatment of gay couples.

And with government agencies and an increasing number of companies offering health benefits to domestic partners, it provides a fairly simple way for employers to verify a relationship.

Opponents, including the Christian Coalition, see the registries as an underhanded way for public agencies to promote gay marriage. They also object to extending the registry to unmarried heterosexual couples, saying that could also undermine marriage.

City and county officials say domestic partnerships are popular with heterosexuals as well. Of the 168 City of Portland employees who have signed up their domestic partners for health benefits, about three-quarters of them have partners of the opposite sex.

The certificate the partners would sign commits them to file a statement of termination if they break up or their relationship no longer fits the statements on the certificate. And it bars them from filing for a new partnership if they have terminated one within the last six months.



International Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

Brazil Embraces Gay Couples

The government of Brazil issued a decree June 8 granting same-sex couples spousal rights in the areas of pensions, social-security benefits and income taxation.

"This decision is historic and unprecedented [in] all of Latin America," said Toni Reis, director of the gay group Dignidade.

The move came as a gay "civil partnership" bill remains stalled in Congress. The bill's sponsor, Congresswoman Marta Suplicy, said the decree "increases the chances that my bill can be approved after the [October] elections."

Brazil is both more and less gay-friendly than other nations in the region. On the one hand, 77 municipalities ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and 54 percent of the population supports the idea of a gay partnership law. But the nation also has the highest recorded rate of anti-gay murders in Latin America.

Rome Vacillates on World Pride

Bowing to ferocious opposition from the Vatican and conservative politicians, Rome's leftist mayor, Francesco Rutelli, on May 30 withdrew logistical and monetary support for World Pride Rome 2000, a gay extravaganza scheduled for June 28-July 9.

Anti-gay forces oppose the events because they coincide with the Catholic Church's Holy Jubilee Year festivities, which will attract tens of thousands of pilgrims to the city at the same time.

Pride organizers vowed to proceed without the city's $150,000 subsidy. But hours after his announcement, Rutelli mostly reversed himself in response to harsh criticism from the left. He restored the funding and promised to help with permits, but declined to back down on a demand that organizers remove the city logo from promotional materials.

Following Rutelli's original announcement, gay activist Franco Grillini called him a "subaltern to the will of the clerics" and activist Massimo Consoli said Rutelli wanted to be "an altar boy for the next pope."

Among the scheduled Pride events are conferences, a fashion show, a large parade, a leather dance, and a concert featuring Gloria Gaynor, The Village People, RuPaul and Geri Halliwell.

No Equality in Aussie Military

Partners of gays in the Australian Defence Forces have only one spousal right, a spokeswoman for the Minister for Defense confirmed in late May.

The partner will be notified if the gay soldier is killed.

Activists have been pushing for equal recognition of same-sex couples in the Defense Forces in areas such as pensions, relocation expenses and on-base housing.

"The military will say, 'We want you to travel from one end of the country to the other,'" said Rodney Croome of the Australian Council of Lesbian and Gay Rights. "Gay and lesbian personnel will have to go to extraordinary lengths to move their partners and sometimes it causes great stress and even breakdown of relationships."

Australia's ban on gays in the military was lifted in 1992.

Council Says Attack on Lesbians was OK

Sri Lanka's Press Council ruled June 2 that a letter published in a daily newspaper that called for convicted rapists to be unleashed on lesbians did not breach media ethics.

Gay activists Sherman de Rose of the organization Companions on a Journey had filed a complaint against the paper for publishing the letter. The council rejected the case and ordered de Rose to pay 2,100 rupes ($28) in costs.

The council said: "Lesbianism itself is an act of sadism and salacious publication of any opinion against such activities does not amount to a promotion of sadism or salacity. Therefore the complainant is the one who is eager to promote salacity and sadism and not *The Island* newspaper."

De Rose called the ruling "a clear indication of the strength of discrimination against gays and lesbians in this country."

Namibian Gays Open Office

The gay and lesbian community of Namibia has opened an office in Windhoek, the Panafrican News Agency reported June 1.

The National Society for Human Rights will attempt to persuade bigots to be more "tolerant," a spokeswoman said.

"We have to start in schools," said the group's Rianne Selle.

Activist Sam Nakata added: "Top government officials who are lashing out against the gay and lesbian community should not forget their promise to uphold the constitution because human rights do not divide gays and lesbians from other people who are regarded as straight. As long as you do it in privacy, why should someone worry?"

In May 1999, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Jeremiah Nambinga said: "Homosexuality is evil. Homosexuality is anti-social and should not only be condemned but should also be legislated against. Homosexuals are patients of psychological and biological deviations."

In November 1998, Home Affairs Minister Jerry Ekandjo told parliament: "Gay rights can never qualify as human rights. ... They should be classified as human wrongs which must rank as sin against society and God. I earnestly call upon homosexuals in Namibia to repent their wrongs."

President Sam Nujoma has said, "Homosexuals must be condemned and rejected in our society."

Italian Agriculture Minister Comes Out

Italy's agriculture minister, Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, said June 3 that he is bisexual.

Asked by the newsmagazine *Panorama* if he is gay, Pecoraro Scanio said: "I'm against both a choice of homosexuality alone or a rigid, old-style heterosexuality. As far as I'm concerned, I choose total sexual freedom."

Pecoraro Scanio, 41, is a Green Party member from the southern city of Salerno.

Hong Kong Gays Sue

The Hong Kong gay group Horizons is suing the Inland Revenue Department, the tax agency, over its refusal to grant the group tax-exempt-charity status.

The department said it doubted Horizons' activities meet such requirements as promoting the mental and moral improvement of the community, training the mind, raising the artistic taste of the city, and improving the sum of communicable knowledge.

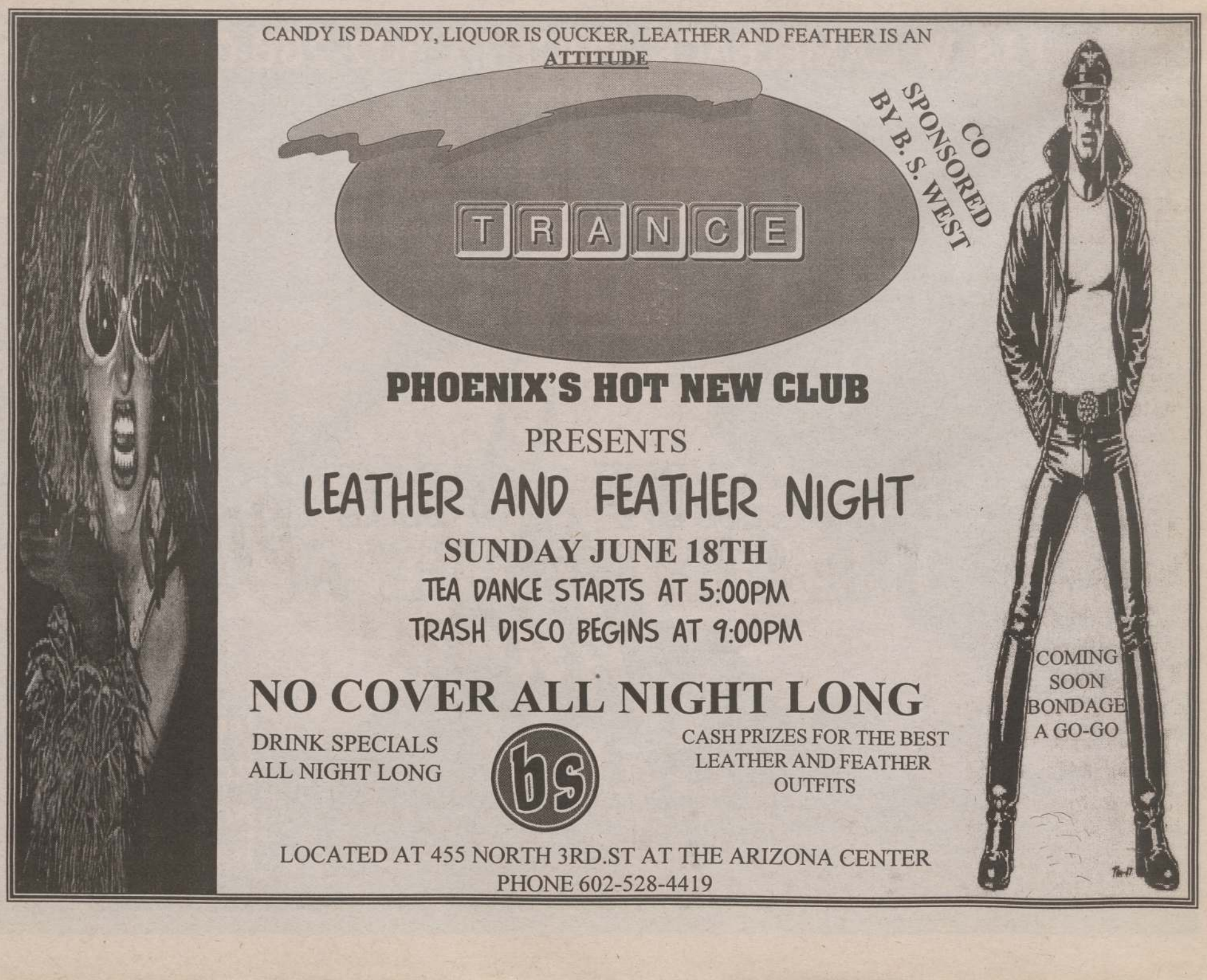
Horizons runs a phone line which gets more than 1,000 calls a year, publishes a newsletter, and promotes gay equality through various public functions.

Cop Fired for Posing Nude

Marcelo Clua, a policeman in Brasilia, Brazil, was fired June 9 for posing nude in the gay magazine *Homen*.

Clua, 28, hopes to file a discrimination suit with help from human-rights groups.

"Why can't I pose naked and be a police officer?" he asked reporters. "The truth is they think I'm gay because I posed in a gay magazine. That's why they fired me."



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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

Softball team auction June 16

With the close of the 2000 Cactus Cities Softball League season in Phoenix, the number-one Legacy women's softball team won the right to attend to the Gay World Series of Softball, to be held in Toronto in August.

To help raise the money needed to send these athletes to Canada, the team is holding an auction at Cash Inn Country in Phoenix on June 16 from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. For information, call 602/244-9943.

Clinic on bi-national gay relationships June 17

The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force is sponsoring a legal clinic in Phoenix to answer questions about gay/lesbian immigration, HIV, asylum, bi-national couples, and other issues related to problems with immigration for gay men and lesbians.

The meeting will be held June 17 at The Community Center, 24 W. Camelback Rd., at 4:00 p.m. For information, call 623/337-8338, or e-mail wcalvo@quepasa.com.

APAZ Family Gathering June 17

AIDS Project Arizona will hold a "Family Gathering" at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 17 at its offices, 1427 N. 3rd St. in Phoenix. This will be an opportunity to come together for education and knowledge, and explore attitudes related to living with HIV and its effect on family communication, The gathering will be facilitated by Mary Lou Weyer.

To register or for further information on APAZ, call 602/253-2437.

PFLAG meets June 19

The next monthly meeting of the Phoenix Chapter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays will be held Monday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Palo Christi Presbyterian Church, 3535 E. Lincoln Dr. in Paradise Valley. Guest speaker will be local attorney and *HeatStroke* columnist David Horowitz, who will share his personal story of coming to terms with his sexual orientation.

PFLAG also has support groups in the East Valley and in Sun City, although the Sun City group has suspended meetings for the summer months. For information on chapter activities and regular meeting times and locations, call 602/843-1404.

Team AZ gets into Northern AZ Pride

The Northern Arizona Pride Association and Team Arizona are co-hosting the first ever 2 or 4 mile "Run for Pride in the Pines" and five-mile "Bike Ride for Pride"on Saturday, June 17, in conjunction with Flagstaff's annual Gay Pride celebration.

The bike course and the run course will share the same start area, at Buffalo Park in Flagstaff and both beginning at 10:30 a.m. For information and applications, contact Team Arizona at www.teamarizona.org, or call 602/408-4311.

No Show dinner to support Catholic Social Services

Catholic Social Services of Phoenix is holding a benefit dinner on June 30 and nobody is coming—they aren't supposed to. The "No Show Black Tie Dinner" is being held in memory of Herb Power to raise funds in order for CCS to continue and expand services for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The vision of Catholic Social Services is to fill the void for spiritual and pastoral support that was created by the closure of the Malta Center. Tickets for the dinner are $125 per person or $1,250 per table. To Join in support of this program, call agency director Maureen Webster at 602/997-6105.

DA plans future events

Desert Adventures, the Valley's outdoor gay and lesbian social club, has several fun activities coming up.

There will be another fun quarterly party on June 25, with a day of swimming, food and great people at a member's home in central Phoenix. Then DA will get back to the wilds with a campout in Lewis Canyon (that's up in the Apache-Sitgreaves national Forest) over the weekend of June 30 through July 4. The group site can accommodate up to 150 people, so come to escape the heat in the cool pines for Independence Day weekend.

To find out more about DA activities or to join the club, call 602/266-CAMP.

Dignity/Integrity meets, socializes

The Phoenix area chapter of Dignity/Integrity for Gay & Lesbian Catholics and Episcopalians has several services & activities planned this summer.

From June 16 through 18, there will be a gay & lesbian retreat at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Paradise Valley. On Saturday, June 17, there will be a Catholic mass at Augustana Lutheran Church in central Phoenix at 6:30 p.m., followed by a chapter potluck dinner at 8:00 p.m. The next mass will be Saturday, June 24.

The organization's board will meet Monday, June 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Depot Cantina in Tempe, and all members and friends are welcome to attend. On Saturday, July 1, there will be a celebration of the Episcopal Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m. at Augustana.

Other upcoming events include a pool party, concert, and the July 15 "Christmas in July" party. For information about the organization's worship and social events, call 602/222-8664.

Major STD/HIV symposium to be held June 22-23 in Tempe

"Arizona Symposium 2000" will be held on June 22-23 at the Wyndham Buttes resort in Tempe.

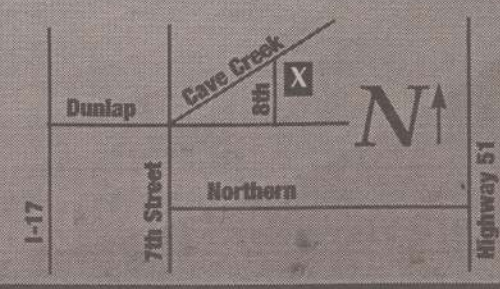
Sponsored by nine pharmaceutical companies and Phoenix Body Positive, the Symposium is being planned and organized by a number of state and community agencies in order to bring together a diverse group of providers and consumers to exchange the latest information relating to HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, TB and Hepatitis.

Registration is $75 before June 9, $100 after that date. Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch and breaks on both days—dinner is not included. A limited number of scholarships are also available. For information, contact Lynn Sagara at 602/336-6691.

Old Tucson's Gay West fundraiser June 24

The Old Pueblo's popular theme attraction, Old Tucson Studios, will play host to a day of Gay Pride celebration and community fundraising during "Gay West", a special evening party slated for Saturday, June 24 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate pride and dance under the stars with live salsa and rock music, a dance mix deejay, and a drag revue. The Reveille and Desert Voices choruses will participate, and there will be fun, food

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and the excitement of Old Tucson Studios throughout the event.

Tickets are $12 in advance and $14 if purchased the day of the event. Contact Dillard's, or buy yours on line at www.oldtucson.com.

Eat out to battle AIDS July 25

The fourth annual Valley-wide "Dining Out for Life" fundraiser to help fight AIDS will be held July 25.

The benefit is sponsored by AIDS Project Arizona, and will include local Ethnic restaurants, fancy restaurants, coffee shops, bistros, and cafes all stepping up to donate from 25 to 100 percent of their days' sales to the program.

For information, call 602/253-2437, and watch upcoming issues of *HeatStroke* for ads and lists of participating eateries.

TV-Land fashions inspire PBP's June 25 soiree

The seven castaways from *Gilligan's Island* are part of the inspiration behind *Cool Dooos and Hip Fashions from TV Land*, the theme of the second annual "Much Ado, A Summer Soiree". The choreographed display of hairstyles and fashions benefiting Phoenix Body Positive will be held Sunday, June 25 at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts.

Other popular and fondly remembered TV shows offering hair and clothes as creative motivation for the 6:30 p.m. event are *Charlie's Angles*, *Laugh-In*, *Dynasty*, *Dallas*, *Mission: Impossible* and *Hawaii 5-0*.

A silent auction featuring a signed guitar from Clint black and an autographed copy of Elton John's biography will start the festivities, followed by the fabulous fashion parade. Tickets are $50 each, with reservations encouraged due to space limitations. Call Phoenix Body Positive at 602/955-4673 for information or tickets.

VSCC services & parties

The Valley of the Sun Community Church will honor fathers for its Father's Day services on Sunday, June 18. Services are held at the Parkway Inn in north Phoenix at 11:00 a.m.

Some social activities coming up on the gay and gay-friendly church's agenda include a pool party at the Parkway Inn on July 2, and a singles pool party and BBQ at a church member's home on July 15. In other news, the VSCC is establishing a children's ministry, and members will be attending the Gay Night at Old Tucson Studios on June 24.

For information on this busy new Christian congregation, call 602/564-7895.

LADS for everyone

Los Amigos Del Sol is a long-established gay & lesbian social and fund-raising group in the Phoenix area that promotes a friendly interaction between men and women. The group is planning its next general meeting and Family Feud party, set for July 8 at 3:00 p.m. at Cash Inn Country, and then there will be a Casino Night event at Johnny Mc's on July 16. For information about LADS, call 602/997-2411.

Queer bikers sought for new group

Delta Flyers mountain biking club is looking for people who want to join other gay and lesbian biking enthusiasts. You do not need an expensive bike or the latest fashions, just the need to ride.

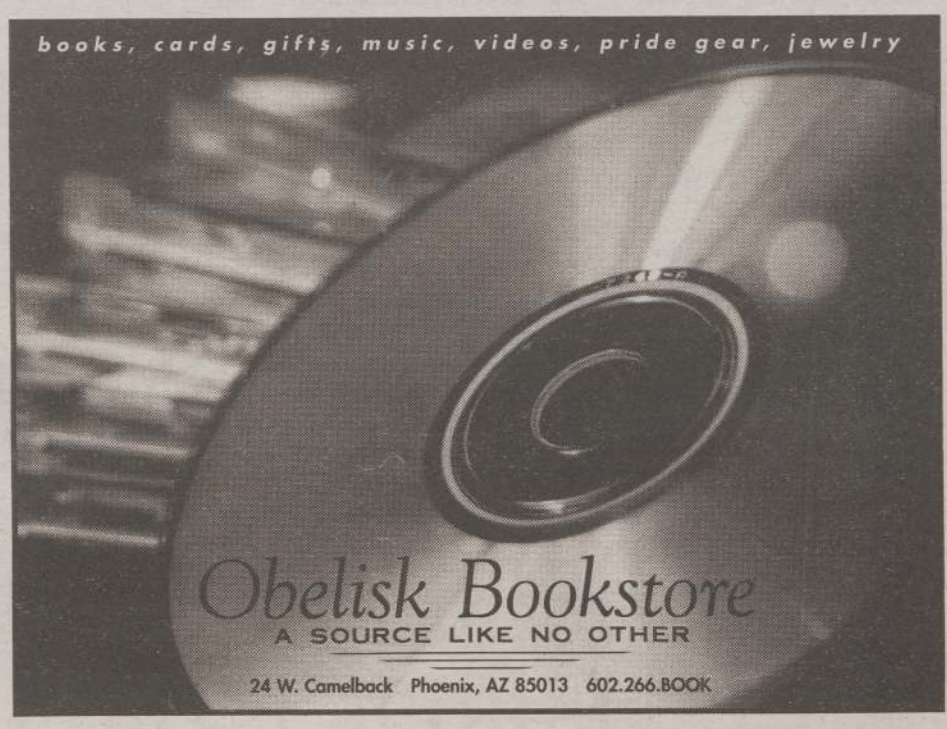
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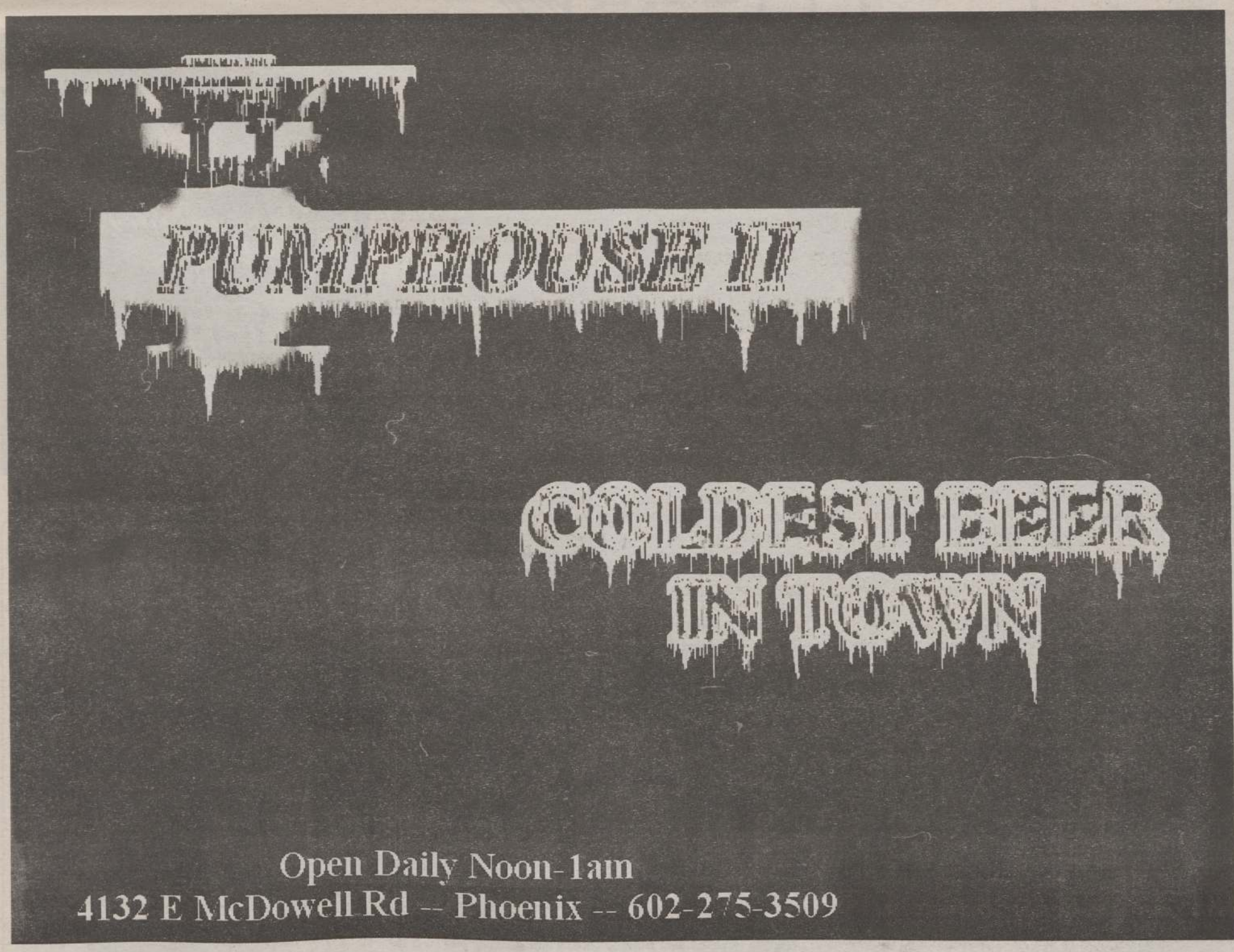
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Gay Teachers

Continued from page 1

England and teaches at an all-girls Catholic school. She lives with her partner and the five-year-old daughter she had with another woman when they were living together in Arizona. She also shares custody of their eight-year-old son.

In the East, as in Phoenix, Wright is completely out. But it is different there. "I have never been in such a supportive environment," she said of her present situation. "There are several other lesbians teaching here and we are treated with respect for the hard work that we do. In other words, no differently than any other teacher here."

She didn't find that kind of support in Arizona. While Wright was teaching at a public high school in Phoenix from 1990-93, she and her partner (who taught the same subject at another school in the district) were also quite open about their relationship with faculty and administrators.

When word got out that Wright and her partner had initiated the second of their two-mommie pregnancies, Wright was abruptly dismissed. "I was not rehired because my principal learned I was trying to become pregnant through artificial insemination," she explained.

The firing led her to file a lawsuit against the school district, which was settled out of court in 1995 to Wright's favor. Although technically Wright sued over the language of her part-time contract rather than over the more complex (and harder to prove) issue of anti-gay discrimination, she still believes bias was at the heart of the issue. "I took the money and moved out of state."

The handful of gay teachers in Arizona who were aware of Wright's firing, Moreton said, saw it as an indication that coming out here might cost your job. But Wright sees it differently.

"I like to think that we gave a positive message—it is possible to live your life genuinely and true to your values, without waving flags and being loud. Yes, we suffered some tough and unjust consequences, but perhaps the powers that be think twice now when they are considering discriminating."

Kissen's book makes clear that the gay teachers who struggle most with staying closeted are those who form the closest bonds with their students. A just-published memoir, *Trailblazing: The True Story of America's First Openly Gay Track Coach*, by high school health teacher and long distance running specialist Eric Anderson, backs up that view.

As a young coach, Anderson socialized heavily with his teenage runners and their families. When he began to struggle with accepting his sexuality in his mid-20s, it seemed natural to him to confide in his students and their parents, which caused some turmoil in the Orange County, CA district where he worked but eventually earned him the respect and support of his athletes and their community.

"That could happen in California, yes, but I don't see it happening here," said Moreton in regard to Anderson's autobiography. Moreton also thinks socializing with teenage students—whether a teacher is gay or otherwise—is a professional mistake.



"I have a problem with colleagues who will open up and share their dating and social lives with kids," he said. "They don't need to hear all that—they are kids. Adolescents."

Though Moreton doesn't discuss his sexual orientation at school, he has overheard kids tell one another that he is gay. When that happens, he chooses not to comment. When he hears anti-gay comments in general, though, he steps in.

"I don't allow people in my class to be picked on for any reason," Moreton said, acknowledging that he was teased in high school himself and that his own experiences have likely made him more empathetic to his students. "When I hear comments—no matter what it is—'you dress funny, you look funny, you smell funny, you are funny', nothing like that is allowed in my classroom, and I think that's a pretty important message. And unless you're completely blind, you can read into that, anyway."

Moreton also tries to help kids he suspects are dealing with sexuality issues or depression related to being gay or lesbian by steering them toward counselors, or even outside gay groups (some teens at his school were recently denied their request for a gay/straight alliance on campus). He's found it effective to pass support information on to the students via other, non-gay faculty members who understand the delicacy of his situation.

"Out of 180 days I work, maybe ten of those days are where I'll hear an offhand comment about homosexuality, or see a student who might be dealing with being gay. And that's not a significant part of my time."

Many gay rights advocates would argue that teachers like Moreton aren't doing enough to further change if they aren't willing to come out and be role models for Arizona's next generation. But Kenmore says society isn't ready for that yet.

"Maybe if we had legal anti-discrimination protections, we'd get to the point where people would know that their jobs would be protected. But coming out—even in a private school—is still pretty risky," he said.

One Michigan educator who was outed in an unsafe environment was Gerry Crane. The Grand Valley music teacher resigned in 1996 after being harassed by people in his community and called an unfit role model by his school board after a local newspaper reported that he and his partner had held a commitment ceremony a year earlier. Five months later, he died of a heart attack at the age of 32. His surviving partner has blamed the pressure and threats Crane publicly suffered for causing his death.

While experiences like Crane's keep many teachers in the closet, there are also stories, like Eric Anderson's, that demonstrate that coming out can be both inspiring and productive personally as well as for the community.

Wright says that all depends upon how willing a teacher is to take the risk, and in her experience, Arizona isn't the best place to do that.

"I have only taught in Arizona and [where I teach now]," said Wright. She recognizes that anti-gay prejudice varies from region to region. "It is not the same everywhere. And Arizona is very far behind."

In a new state and with a new partner, also a high school teacher, Wright sees positive changes happening, albeit slowly. "As I raise our kids now, we have to face it daily. We will not lie, and the most beautiful truth is that the kids their ages (five and eight) and even in high school are much more open to different family structures than in our generation."

Wright's daughter's classmates know Wright as her "mimi", her current partner by her first name, and her former partner (who lives across town) as "mommy". As Wright puts it, "they care more about the color of her nail polish than the fact that she has two moms. I really am encouraged by this, and I like to think the kids in Arizona would be the same. There is hope, and by the time [my daughter] is looking for a job, I think it will be almost a non-issue. But I am known to be an idealist."

Wright thinks passage of federal and state ENDA-type laws could be an important first step toward across-the-board honesty, but she understands the reluctance of teachers like Waverly to come out, even when legally protected the way teachers are in most other Western nations, including Canada, Great Britain and Australia.

"It would take time for teachers to learn to trust that they would be secure and protected," Wright said. "The ones who lived out like we did and have had no problems with it would probably be the first to adjust. Once a few brave souls take that step and see that there will be no repercussions, more will follow."

For Moreton and plenty of others, that step is one they never plan to take, no matter whom future laws may protect.

"I know that by remaining silent, it perpetuates homophobia," Moreton said. "And on a larger scale, I agree that life is easier and more fulfilling when you're out. But I'm just not willing to throw myself on that sword."

Ed. note: The names and curricula of the teachers interviewed for this article were changed, for reasons that should unfortunately be obvious.

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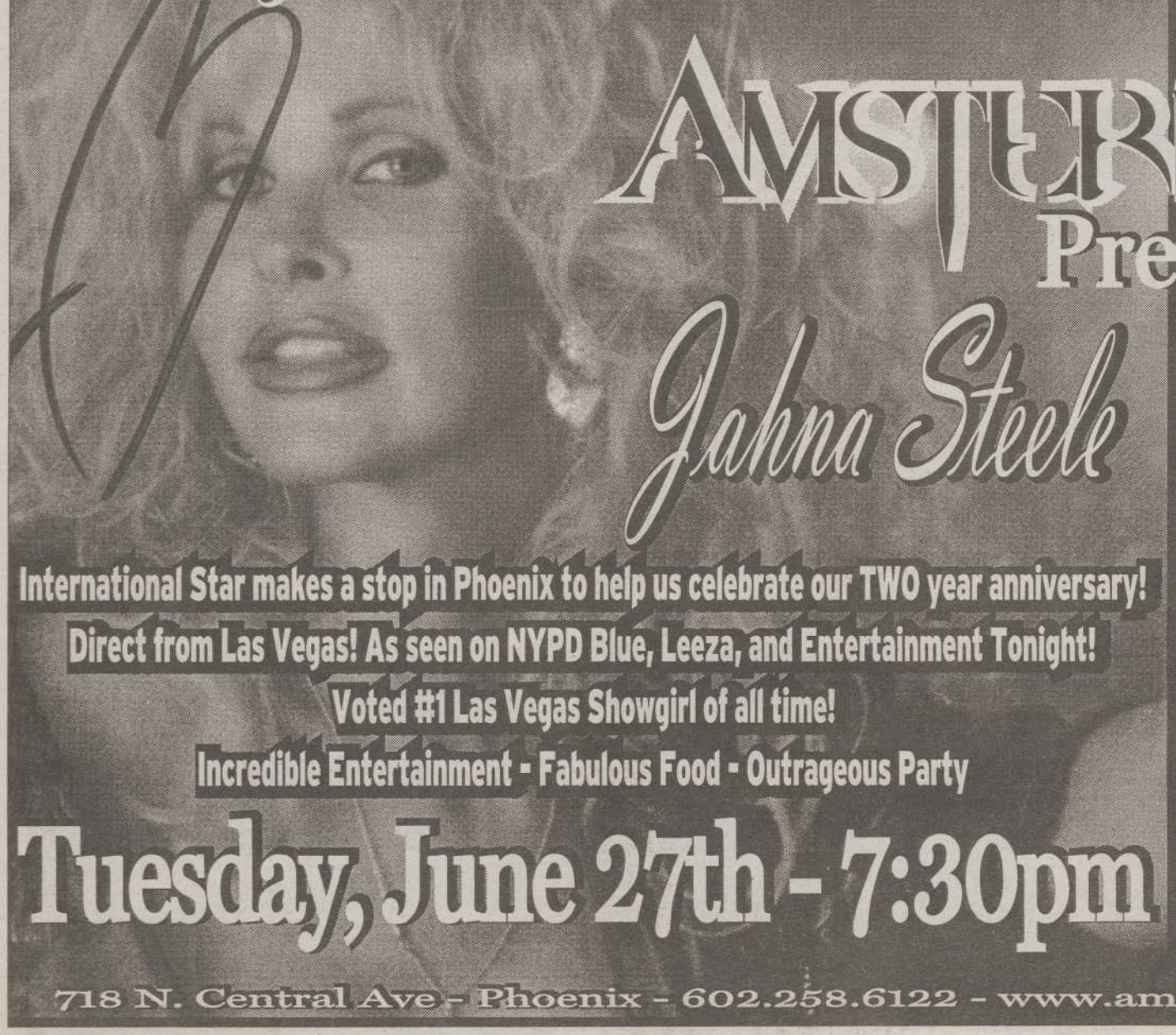
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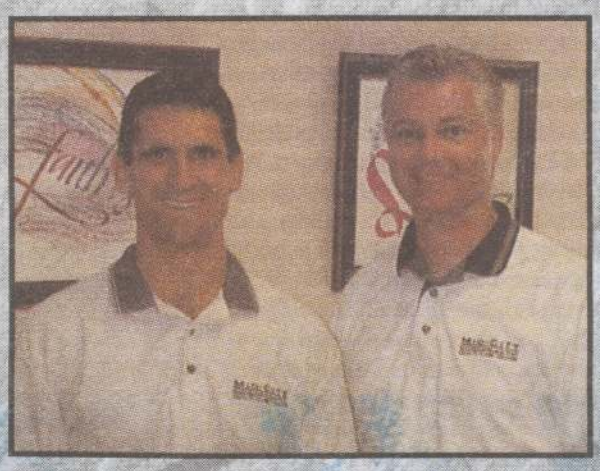
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Howard Crabtree's 'Pigs' will fly into Phoenix June 21

By John Thomas Lotardo

The over-the-top queer comedy show *When Pigs Fly* is set to run at Phoenix Theater from June 21 through July 9 and Lyman Goodrich, producer/choreographer of the Phoenix production, is thrilled.



Goodrich sees his role as a facilitator in bringing the show to the stage. He explains, "I think the best thing that I can bring to theater is that I have lots of wonderful friends that are extremely talented. My energies are most enjoyably spent putting those people together."

This he has done fabulously well, with an ensemble cast of well-known theatre veterans that includes Michael Barnard, Jerry Wayne Harkey, D. Scott Withers, Hal Adams, and Greg Marzullo. Jim Linde directs.

It wasn't hard to put this A-list team together, Goodrich says. He was in California to see the LA production of *When Pigs Fly* and he ran into Barnard. The Phoenix Theatre artistic director—long known around the Valley for his primo choreography and direction of classic musicals—was in California checking up on his own show, *Animazement* being performed at Disneyland.

They attended *When Pigs Fly* together and, even though both of them had already seen the New York production, they were quickly in tears laughing. After that, it was easy to lure Barnard back to the stage.

Goodrich says the feeling of camaraderie was most important to him in approaching this project. He elaborates, "I remember when I started this whole process with Michael and Jerry [Harkey] and told them 'I only wanted to do this show if I can play with you guys.' When you have good quality people who are your friends it really ends up being an incredibly uproarious, playful experience and that is exactly what it has been."

Although the spirit of the show is gay, gay, gay in every sense of the word, it is also inclusive in its humor. *When Pigs Fly* bubbles over with song and dance, running gags and outrageous visual humor.

Underneath the four-foot wigs adorning some of the actors runs a shameless message to have fun and laugh. This makes the show accessible for anyone who appreciates theater that's both clever and silly.

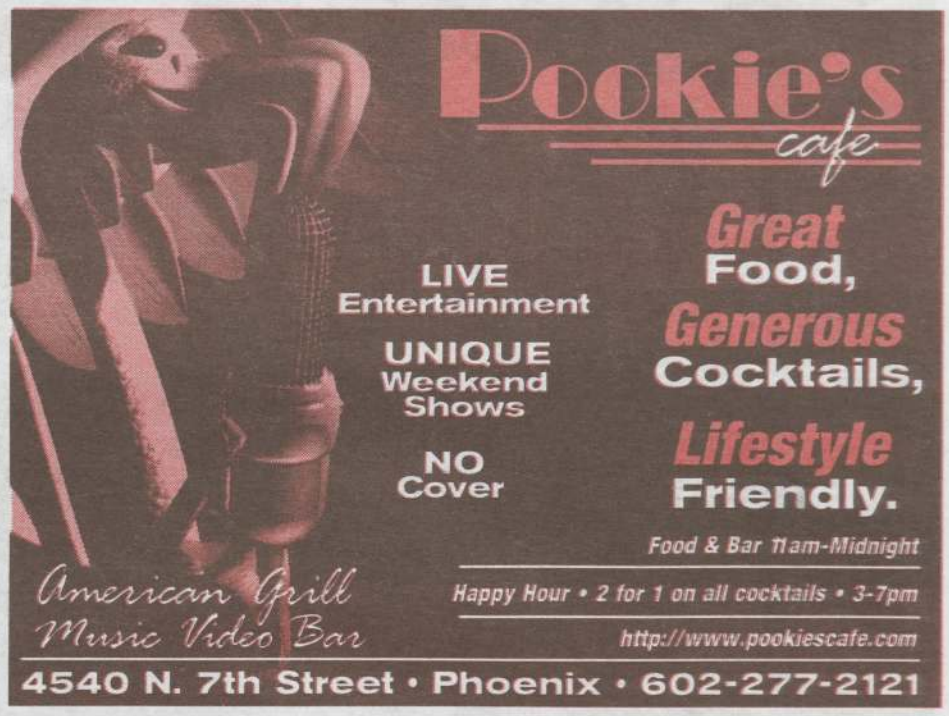
The show earned raves when it was performed in New York City and Los Angeles, so Goodrich stays true to the zany collage of silly antics. However, he has re-costumed the production.

All the costumes were created locally and just for Phoenix. "They are based on the originals by Howard Crabtree," Goodrich says, "we have done the most we could to hold true to the design." Since the show ran for three years in New York and more than a year in L.A., it's understandable he wanted to freshen the show visually. Even *Cats* likely replaced a leg warmer or two.



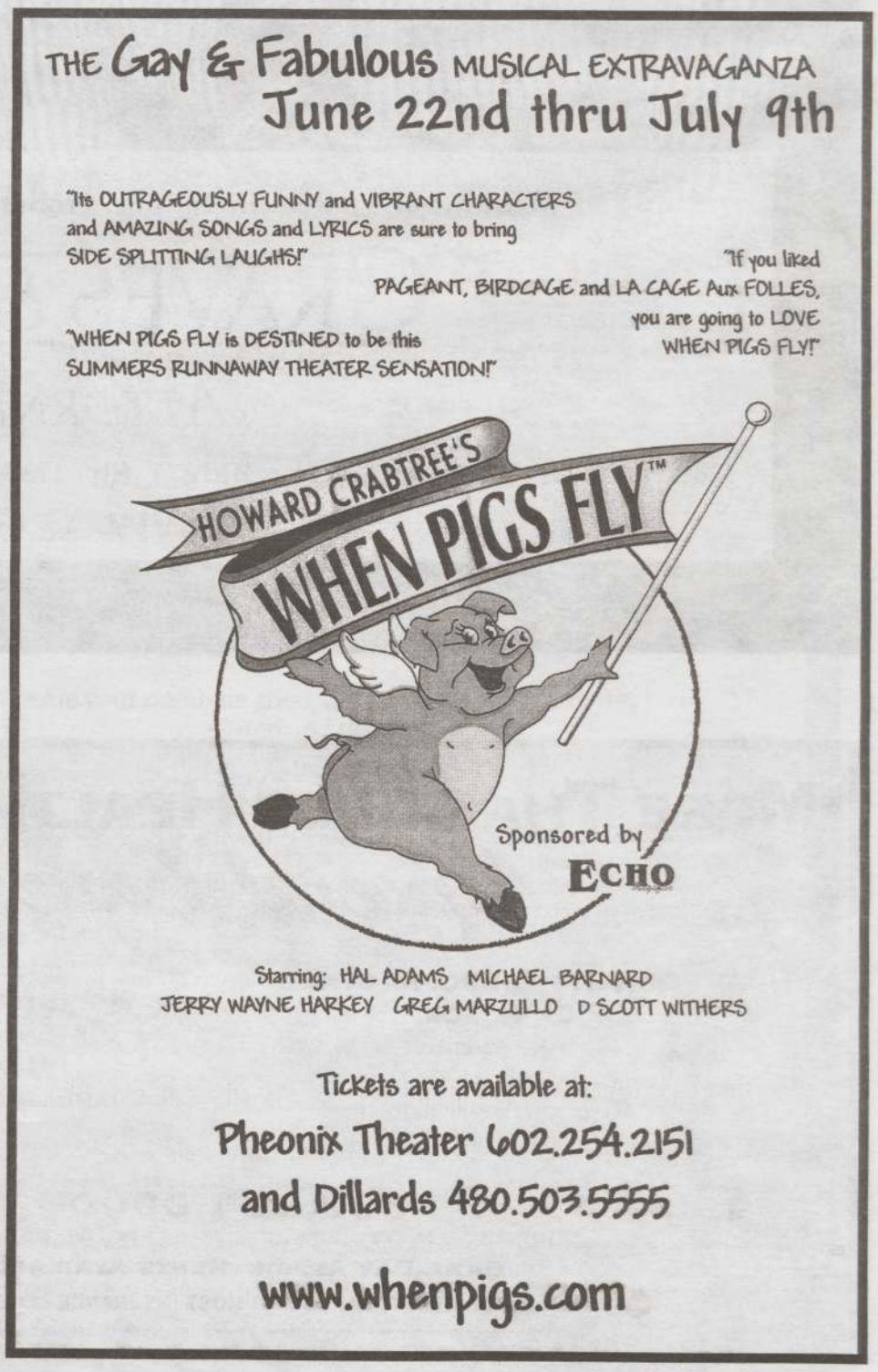
The humor found in the script playfully overtakes even its website, www.whenpigs.com. You'll find flying pigs all over the place and some other surprises. Goodrich had an ulterior motive: "I always dreamed of looking like Rex Chandler all my life and now finally my dreams have come true." Check the website out to get the whole picture—and check out this show. It's funny.

When Pigs Fly runs June 21 through July 9 at Phoenix Theater's Little Theatre,100 E. McDowell Rd. Performances are at 8:00 p.m.on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. 3:00 p.m. matinees are on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are $25 for general admission and can be purchased through Dillard's at 480/503-5555 and Phoenix Theatre at 602/254-2151.









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ATC's *A Night in Vegas* hits comic jackpot

By John Thomas Lotardo

"It's a gay version of *Plaza Suite*," Joe Marshall, artistic director for the Alternative Theatre Company says of his new show, *A Night in Vegas*, now playing at On The Spot theater in central Phoenix.

A Night in Vegas is a collection of gay-themed vignettes all set in a Las Vegas hotel room. "We were here at the theater until one in the morning putting the set together—it's supposed to be a cheap hotel, but unfortunately, it's not. It looks too nice," says Marshall.



Assured that the set looks cheap enough, Marshall laughs, enjoying the sarcastic irony. The play, written by Marshall, is unquestionably a major switch from their earlier shows this season. This one is pure entertainment.

Previous ATC shows have been more dramatic, dealing with such serious issues as murder and discrimination (*Lummox Texas*) and urban infidelity (*Dirty Secrets*).

Marshall clarifies his initial description of his new play: "Actually, in writing [*A Night in Vegas*], I didn't have *Plaza Suite* on my mind at all." He explains, "it just turned out that I started writing a full-length play and got bored with the first scene. I turned it into vignettes eventually. That was a lot more fun to write anyway, because the characters change with each scene."

One show that ATC premiered in Phoenix earlier in the season, *Dirty Secrets*, just completed a successful run in San Diego. Marshall was thrilled to have *Dirty Secrets*, also written by him, performed in California. "The show did very well there," he pronounces like a proud father. He adds, "it received great reviews and good responses from the audiences. I went to see it during the opening weekend and it was excellent. It worked even better than how it was originally here."

Marshall said that some of the scenes were changed slightly and some nudity that was originally in the show but was cut from the Phoenix production was included in the California show. "The nudity went back in for San Diego," he explains. For the Phoenix audiences, Marshall pushes as far as he can artistically when it comes to including scantily clad eye candy for theatergoers.

But foremost, he includes some true situational comedy. Describing some of the memorable scenes in *A Night in Vegas*, Marshall says "I think the mother and father going to their gay son's wedding is really funny. It should be relatable to any gay person in the audience, as well as some of the parents. The deaf scene I am very fond of, because it was so different to write. And it is very slapstick."

The scene he refers to is scene four, "The Big Flame", and has the character Mark (played by deaf actor Marc Burton) in the room with Tom (played by Mathew Carey), who is blind. The scene—although irreverent—is full of wild, silent-movie style slapstick.

Marshall also enjoys the final scene. "The last scene in the play, the 40-year-old man who wakes up with an 18-year-old boy, is fun," Marshall says and he grins, remembering the scene. He refuses to divulge how it ends, saying the audience should see it live for the true effect.

The shows also stars D. W. McKim, Romeo Green, Matt Harris, Gary Riggs, David Weiss, Peter Lovalente, Julia Thomson, Shawn Hoctor, Aron Peters, and Marshall himself.

The writer/director/actor makes it plain that the true, inner meaning of *A Night in Vegas* is that there is none. He says, "There is no message. Trust me, there is nothing to hit someone over the head with. I am not trying to make a statement. I wrote this play purely to make people laugh."

He continues, "People want a comedy because many of them go to the theater to escape reality. I thought this would be a good chance to do that. In earlier seasons we got a lot of response for comedies and that is what we give them in this show."

As Marshall explains, comedy is actually much harder to write than a drama since there is intense pressure to have the right tempo and a universal appeal. Though he is writing material that is gay specific, he finds some universal situations that are funny no matter what your erotic persuasion. He admits that the vignette format helps greatly to ensure a something-for-everyone success.

"That is the wonderful thing about vignettes. If you don't enjoy one of them, you may like the next one." Each situation that gives rise to outbursts of laughter is different, even with the show's universal comic nature. From dealing with gay weddings, prostitutes, and bellhops in heat, this show is bound to strike your funny bone.

HeatStroke

A Night in Vegas **runs Wednesdays through Sundays until July 2 at On the Spot Theater, 4700 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix. Performances are at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday with Sunday performance at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $15 for Thursday through Sunday, $10 for Wednesday, and can be purchased by calling 623/ 934-0979.**

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My Queer Life

Happily Ever After

by Michael Thomas Ford

I never thought I'd be saying this, but I watched a movie last night starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks—and I liked it.

It was late, I was flipping through the channels aimlessly, and there it was. It was *You've Got Mail*, a film I was sure would make me want to retch. But it was that or reruns of *The Brady Bunch* on Nick at Nite. You can only watch Marcia's nose get broken by that football so many times, so I decided to take a chance on Meg and Tom.

Much to my surprise, it was charming. Of course, it had the advantage of being based on the wonderful 1940 Jimmy Stewart film *The Shop Around the Corner*, which was made at a time when people still knew how to make charming films. Still, even in its updated version it managed to retain something that very few films these days have: it made me believe in romance again.

I know, I always complain that romance is dead. Well, it is, especially in the movies that pass for romantic comedies these days.

Gone are films like *It Happened One Night* and *The Philadelphia Story*, movies that had you really hoping the main characters would get together by the end of the picture. Now we just have anxiety-ridden star vehicles where we're forced to watch the characters undergo ninety minutes of therapy while they try to figure out why they can't commit to one another and decide they're better off single.

Let's face it, the last movie that really gave us a good romantic ending featured Julia Roberts as a hooker doing Richard Gere a favor. Hardly the stuff of fairy tales.

Perhaps I was particularly susceptible to *You've Got Mail* because I'd just come from a screening at my local queer film festival of a movie that was anything but romantic. I won't embarrass the creator by naming the film. I will just say that it was a painful, not very original look at the demise of a dysfunctional gay relationship.



It was one of those movies where you hate all the characters, don't want any of them to end up happy, and feel the need to shower immediately upon returning home because everyone in the film smoked too much.

As I watched Tom and Meg doing their courtship dance, I found myself wondering why all of the queer films I've ever seen about relationships are so depressing. I couldn't think of one of the many I've watched over the years where I felt a sense of hope at the end, a feeling of happiness because the characters really seemed to be enjoying being in love and getting lost in the joy of being together. Instead, they all seemed to be about how dismal it is trying to find someone to love.

This surprises me. As a rule, gay audiences go wild for those old romantic comedies. At least most of the guys I know do.

We love to see other people's lives turn out well. But not, apparently, our own lives. The films we make about our romances tend to be pretty bleak, filled with one night stands that never call back, boyfriends who cheat, and lots and lots of drinking.

I think *Jeffrey* was supposed to be a romantic comedy, but it came off more as a farce than anything heartwarming. And *Love! Valor! Compassion!* was sweet in its way, although it didn't exactly leave me with a warm fuzzy feeling.

The closest gay cinema has come to creating anything truly like an old-fashioned romantic comedy is last year's *Trick*. But it was hard to really become caught up in the trials and tribulations of two guys trying to find a place where they could get off.

Although the film tries to redeem itself with a sweet, non-sexual ending, it comes a little too late. A stripper nicknamed "Beer Can" is no match for Cary Grant or Clark Gable.

My friend Jeff says that there will never be a true queer romantic comedy because only straight people still fall for the notion of happily ever after. He thinks that gay filmmakers opt for bitterness over sentimentality because it's more realistic.

"Watching two guys looking for a place to have sex is a lot more believable to most of us than watching them do a courtship dance," he said. "It's probably because we know that even if they do fall in love, one of them will leave the other for a guy at the gym six months later."

That does indeed seem to be the basic message of most gay films about relationships. But is it because we really aren't good at romance, or is it because it's easier to jump straight to the bitterness and save ourselves the risk of getting hurt by trying something else?

Maybe it's time we gave it another try. After all, if Tom and Meg can do it, so can we.



Michael Thomas Ford recently won his second Lambda Literary Award for his book *That's Mr. Faggot to You*. He welcomes e-mail at Shopiltee@aol.com.

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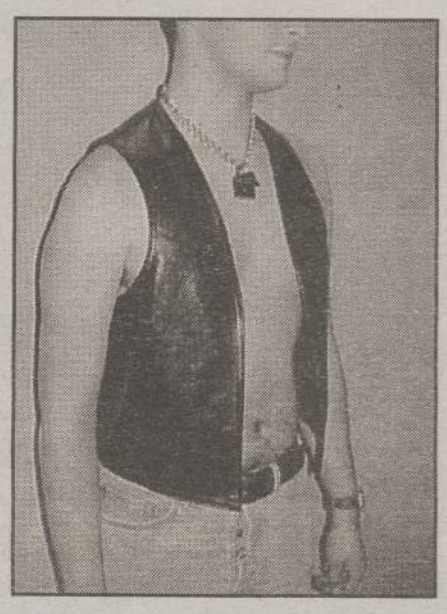


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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"If you dream of a world in which you can put your partner's picture on your desk, then put his picture on your desk and you will live in such a world. And if you dream of a world in which you can walk down the street holding your partner's hand, then hold her hand and you will live in such a world. If you dream of a world in which there are more openly gay elected officials, then run for office and you will live in such a world. And if you dream of a world in which you can take your partner to the office party, even if your office is the U.S. House of Representatives, then take her to the party. I do, and now I live in such a world. Remember, there are two things that keep us oppressed: them and us. We are half of the equation. There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it's now OK to express ourselves publicly. We must make that day ourselves, by speaking out publicly—first in small numbers, then in greater numbers, until it's simply the way things are and no one thinks twice. Never doubt that we will create this world, because, my friends, we are fortunate to live in a democracy, and in a democracy, we decide what's possible."

—Lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., speaking from the stage of the Millennium March on Washington.

"The best thing that's happened about it [my coming out] is nothing. The world didn't end, my career didn't come to a complete halt, I didn't get ridiculed, I didn't get yelled at. Life went on just as I'd hoped it would. I hope that is the thing that I can sort of give to people. Nothing went wrong, it's all going pretty darned well. I think that's the day that we're all kind of struggling toward; the day that will be the case for everyone, when everyone will be able to be out and who they are and no one will care ... and life will just carry on."

—Actor Bill Brochtrup of TV's *NYPD Blue*, to Portland, Oregon's *Just Out*, April 7.

"If you take a time perspective—look at where we were 30 years ago, before Stonewall, the rate of progress has been enormous. ... You don't go from being despised to being prom queen. There's a period [in between], and what's interesting is that we have kind of won substantially intellectually and culturally the battle, for instance, over discrimination."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., to PlanetOut.com, April 28.

"What's my purpose in life? I don't know yet. I am passionate about gay rights. If this is the biggest contribution I make to this world, that is OK. But there are a lot of other causes I believe in. I am all for animal rights. I like to speak for those who can't speak for themselves. The bottom line is this: I want to leave the Earth a better place than when I found it. Hopefully, I am doing my share."

—Martina Navratilova to gfn.com, May 9.

"I get letters all the time from gay kids who can't tell their parents because they will be disowned. They thought about committing suicide until they saw me on TV. I was somebody they knew, and I was gay, too. My telling the truth makes a big difference between a kid pulling a trigger or not? Wow."

—Martina Navratilova to gfn.com, May 9.

"If a kid discovers if she or he may be gay, or thinks they may be, in high school, they do everything they can to hide it. It is a very uncomfortable and difficult experience for them. In fact, the suicide rate among gay and lesbian teenagers is about three times the rate of that for teenagers who are not gay or lesbian. That's a terrible struggle for them to go through. I think nobody would willingly go through that struggle. Most of the evidence is that people are born heterosexual or born homosexual."

—Vermont Gov. Howard Dean to Vermont Public Television, April 18.

"I had no trouble kissing Valeria [Golina in the movie *Things You Can Tell Just By Looking at Her*]. We had chemistry. And I've kissed Courtney [Thorne-Smith], Jane [Krakowski] and Lucy Liu on *Ally McBeal*. It's more about whether they have bad breath or not. There are guys who come on *Ally McBeal* whom I have to kiss, and I'd rather kiss my dog."

—Actress Calista Flockhart to the *New York Post*, May 15.

"Laura Schlessinger—a.k.a. Dr. Laura, based on her PhD in physiology—has been taken to task by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council for characterizing homosexuality on her radio show as 'deviant,' 'dysfunctional,' 'aberrant,' 'abnormal' and biologically 'an error.' ... What is most astounding about 'Dr. Laura's' proposition is that she clearly missed taking a course in evolutionary biology. Biology is all about deviance. Species arise because variant traits are selected for by the environment. Because you can never tell which traits are going to be selected for, as a general principle, biology favours significant genetic variance in populations. Homosexuality seems to be among the variations favoured by nature in humans. We say this because, as far as we can tell, it is found in all cultures and throughout human history, not to mention in other species. ... 'Dr. Laura's' central intellectual failure is not that she gives offense to homosexuals, but that she gives offence to biology as it proudly proclaims: Variancy is part of normalcy. Back to school, Ms. Schlessinger."

—Editorial, *Toronto's Globe and Mail*, May 16.

"If Laura does get her TV show, then it's time to really act up: I know many of you would find it divine to be seen, unexpectedly, by 90 percent of the country."

—*Out* magazine columnist Steven Drukman writing in the June issue.

"If homosexuality were in fact a biological error [as Dr. Laura says], there would be little point in telling gays to seek any sort of psychotherapy for it [as Dr. Laura does]. We do not normally tell people who have diabetes, or sickle cell anemia or a defective heart valve to get psychotherapy to fix their biological error. Why do so with homosexuality?"

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

"It is the most exciting—and I do not exaggerate—day of my life. It totally came as a surprise to me. I had no inkling. It was just like, 'Whaaat. I can't believe it! Me! Getting a dameship!"

—Elizabeth Taylor as she was 'damed' May 16 in London.

"He had a party for all of us in 1966 ... to meet his boyfriend. It was a bigger deal for him than for all of us. He was harboring all these fears. ... It was not a big deal, but a huge thing for him."

—Eric Idle of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* fame on fellow castmember Graham Chapman, who is deceased, to PlanetOut.com, May 19.

"There were speakers [at the Millennium March on Washington rally] from every conceivable ethnic and racial minority, all represented more on stage than in the crowd, all bemoaning their exclusion from the movement, even as they occupied center stage."

—Editorial, Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, May 4.

"As with any group whose history bears deep scars, expressing ourselves culturally—particularly through the gay-influenced worlds of fashion and the arts—is not a simple issue of leisure. It's a passionate matter of survival."

—The new editor of *Out* magazine, Brendan Lemon, writing in the June issue.

"Puppet face. Protease Paunch. Crix Belly. Buffalo Hump. Boobs- on-a-Stick. These monikers have become part of the PWA vernacular, dark humor used in private among those who know firsthand that lipodystrophy wreaks havoc on bodies. Ropy veined legs, sacks of skin for butts, protruding bellies, carved-out faces, triple-D-cup breasts and lumps of fat on the neck or shoulders are some of the physical manifestations of a syndrome neither fully defined nor curable. While the mainstream may not have caught on to these telltale signs, PWAs recognize one of their own instantly. They pass one another on the street and exchange knowing looks."

—*POZ* magazine, June issue.

"Sex in the park! Hello? And then they complain to me when they get arrested. My cops have a reputation for being bad-assed, and I love it. I tell [gay men] to keep their pants zipped up and don't have sex in the park and you won't get arrested."

—Democrat John Fiore, openly gay mayor of Wilton Manors, Fla., on men who have sex in the city's Colohatchee Nature Preserve, to *George* magazine, June issue. Three of the five City Council members are also gay.

"I've been out forever. I never even mentioned being gay in my ads. It's just that the local media mentioned it many times. I wasn't a single-issue candidate. I didn't have a gay agenda. I mean, there's no 'gay' way to fill a pothole."

—John Fiore, mayor of Wilton Manors, Fla., to *George* magazine, June issue.

"In South Africa, the estimate for the HIV positive is something like four million [people]. Our minister of health has had discussions last week with UNAIDS and WHO in the aftermath of the announcement by the UNAIDS that they had reached agreement with five pharmaceutical companies to reduce drug prices. The consequence of that reduction in cost terms would be that we would then have to spend the entirety of the public health drug budget on antiretrovirals only. What do we do?"

—South African President Thabo Mbeki speaking May 24 in San Francisco.

"Sean [Hayes] and I just have this simpatico that money can't buy. We feel each other's timing and we totally enjoy each other. I feel like our true affection for each other and our enjoyment of each other's humor also play a part in fleshing out the relationship between our two characters."

—Actress Megan Mulally, Karen on Will & Grace, to *TV Guide*, May 20.

The LifeGuard Stand — PROJECT LIFE GUARD

Leather's no drag

Asked to write a story about fetishes, colorful images immediately started dancing in Miss Barbra Seville's head.

When Project LifeGuard coordinator Frank Repice asked her to cover the Leather Community, images of Gucci handbags and Prada ankle boots ran through her simple little mind.

Little did she know.

This is where Tom enters the picture. He's a bartender at one of several Valley bars that cater to the Levi/Leather community.

We met at the bar on a quiet Friday afternoon.

Seville: So, Why Leather?

Tom: It feels good, very sensual.

S: Tell me about the "Brotherhood" in the Leather Community.

T: "We are a group that definitely looks out for each other, we always watch each other's backs.

S: Interesting choice of words...You find it easier to identify 'Tops and Bottoms' in the leather world?

T: Oh yeah. You can send messages about your preferences through wristbands, hankie codes, color codes, and other ways.

S: Are the leather goods expensive, and do a nice pair of leather pumps with matching belt count?

T: Only during Gay Pride. Seriously, smart shoppers go to second hand stores, estate sales. We also buy them from friends who have passed away. It's one way we show respect.

S: So do you think I could make it as a Leatherman, Woman, Person?

T: Sure, You've got great dominatrix potential. "Mistress Seville" actually kinda sounds like a new kind of Cadillac.

S: Tell our readers about the feelings about safer sex within the Leather Community.



T: There are lots of opportunities for safer sex. Voyeurism is a huge part of our sexual play, as is exhibitionism, and role playing.

S: All safer, that's good...

T: Unfortunately, there is still a certain segment of our community that chooses not to engage in safer activities. But, I think you'd find that segment in any community.

S: So would someone who is not a 'member' of the leather community feel welcome here?

T: Oh, sure. Believe it or not, it's really just a big family.

S: That leads me to my last question—what do you think is the biggest misconception about the Leather Community?

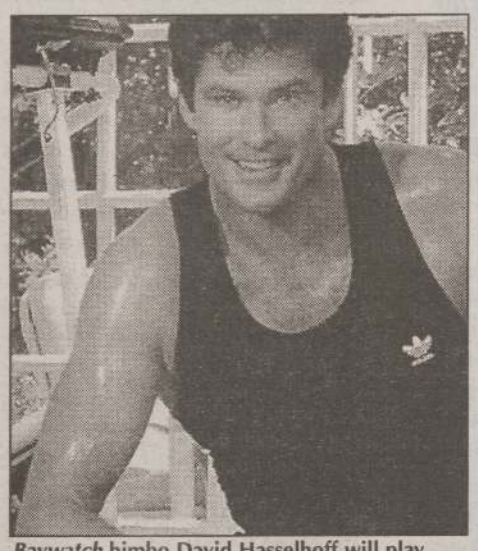
T: Because of the harshness of our leather, people sometimes feel intimidated. But leather guys are some of the nicest people you'll ever meet.

HollyWood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, *HeatStroke* Contributor

Hasselhoff Touches Dieter's Monkey

Hollywood's latest bit of genius camp casting puts international recording superstar and seminal *Baywatch* hunk **David Hasselhoff** opposite **Mike Myers** in *Dieter*, the big-screen adventure of Myer's *Saturday Night Live*-born *Sprockets* host.



***Baywatch* himbo David Hasselhoff will play himself in Mike Meyer's upcoming SNL big screen spin-off, *Dieter*.**

The film's plot has Dieter, Germany's top television personality, venturing to America when his pet monkey (and uber-popular co-host) is kidnapped. Since Dieter's *Sprockets* show beats even *Baywatch* in ratings, Dieter has his suspicions that über-jealous David Hasselhoff is the mastermind behind the crime and ventures to the United States to find him.

Dieter hooks up with his wacky American relatives (one played by fellow SNL funnyman **Will Ferrell**) along the way. *High Fidelity* co-star **Jack Black** will play Dieter's best friend.

Show Us the Monty

Fox Searchlight Films and San Diego's Old Globe Theatre are looking to muscle in on Broadway's current hot trend—adapting movies into Broadway shows—with their musical adaptation of *The Full Monty*.

The show plays close to the original script about six unemployed, mostly out-of-shape blue-collar men who decide to strip for money, though the setting has been moved to Buffalo, N.Y., from England.

For gay fans of the film, the subplot of the two strippers falling in love is intact. In fact, the two men get a sad love song together, "You Walk with Me," as Ethan comforts Malcom after Malcom's mother dies. The musical manages to capture the modest charm of the film by keeping a relatively small cast and going for jazz and funk influences for the songs rather than typical Broadway bombast.

Gay playwright **Terrence McNally** (*Love! Valour! Compassion!*) wrote the musical's book. Producers are hoping to line up a theater to bring it to Broadway in the fall after it closes in San Diego—no doubt they just got a boost from a mention by **Rosie O'Donnell** on the Tony Awards June 4.

But do they actually give the Full Monty? Romeo's not saying, but since the ending of the play takes a page from Tinkerbell's "death" in *Peter Pan* and rewrites it for the Red Light District, let's just say you have to *believe*...

Kalin Swoons for Savage Story

Indie film director **Tom Kalin**, who directed the Leopold and Loeb flick *Swoon* back in '92, has teamed up with lesbian producer **Christine Vachon** to bring another twisted tale to the big screen.

Savage Grace is based on the 1992 book by **Natalie Robins** and **Steven M. L. Aronson** and examines the dark family secrets (including incest) of a young man who is the heir to the Bakelite fortune. *Savage Grace* is expected to hit theaters in early 2002.

CBS Puckers Up for Guido

CBS has ordered six episodes of the gay-themed sitcom *Kiss Me, Guido*, starring **Jason Bateman** and **Danny Nucci**, as a midseason replacement.

Based on the 1997 film of the same name, *Guido*, about a straight man (Nucci) and his gay roommate (Bateman), was a surprising no-show when CBS announced its fall TV slate. Rumor has it the producers of the show were playing hard to get—holding out for a more generous 13-episode commitment, but ultimately sealing the deal for six.

Kiss Me, Guido will most likely debut sometime next television season.

"Thank U" HBO

Lesbians, "You Oughta Know" that *Sex in the City* star **Sarah Jessica Parker** is the latest starlet to jump on the bisexuality bandwagon.

The latest rumor around Hollywood is that her character, Carrie Bradshaw, will lock lips with banshee **Alanis Morissette** this season on the HBO hit series *Sex In The City*. In the episode titled "Boy, Girl, Boy, Girl," set to debut June 25, Carrie gets bi-curious after her new boyfriend (played by drag-rocker-slash-actor **Donovan Leitch** from the band **Nancy Boy**) reveals he's rolled in the hay with both guys and gals.

Word is that Morissette plays a character who hooks up with Carrie at a party and the two try out the girl-girl thing.

Vachon a Nut for Fluffer

Boys Don't Cry producer **Christine Vachon** has decided to explore the world of gay porn in the upcoming film *The Fluffer*.

Scott Gurney, who played a hunky athlete in the doomed 1998 television show *Push*, and **Blondie**'s lead diva **Deborah Harry** will star in the movie, about a straight aspiring actor (Gurney) who finds himself getting lots of offers to be a star—in blue movies of the gay variety.



Alternative rocker Alanis Morissette will soon make a Sapphic appearance on HBO's *Sex in the City*.

The project will be co-directed by porn veteran **Wash** *Naked Highway* **West** and is said to be *Player*-esque in tone.

Rudin Commits to Male Model

Homo Hollywood heavyweight **Scott Rudin**, who counts *South Park: Bigger, Longer, and Uncut* among his many producing credits, has a new significant other: fictional, naive male model Derek Zoolander. The producer has signed on to bring the dimwitted, aspiring supermodel character **Ben Stiller** created for the VH-1 Fashion Awards three years ago to a theater near you.

The film's plot will center on Derek's struggle to become the founder, CEO, dean and chairman of the Zoolander University of Modeling for Men in a satire of the fashion industry. Stiller sidekick **Janeane Garofalo** and *Shanghai Noon*'s **Owen Wilson** will co-star in the spoof. No word yet on when cameras will roll on *Zoolander*.

Spice Girl: The Sequel?

Geri Halliwell, George Michael's best bud and the artist formerly known as **Ginger Spice**, apparently doesn't fear multi-tasking. Halliwell is currently planning on releasing her upcoming album in conjunction with her new film, *Therapy*, in which where she will star as a patient who gets romantically involved with her therapist.

Halliwell is expected to create two or three new music tracks specifically for the $15 million dollar flick in addition to producing the film's soundtrack album. Director **David Green** will add extra days to the production schedule to shoot Halliwell's music videos, which will accompany the release of her new singles.

Porn-umentary

Documentary filmmaker **James Ronald Whitney**, who wrote and produced the award-winning sexual molestation documentary *Just, Melvin* (shown at this year's Sundance Festival), is hard at work on another sexually charged project.

Amateur porn star **Sharon Alt** is the subject of Whitney's latest documentary; Alt conceived a son while in a relationship with another woman. No word on when the new film will be finished, but *Melvin* has recently been acquired by HBO.

Romeo San Vicente wouldn't mind dating a male model who looks like Ben Stiller. You can reach Romeo in care of HeatStroke or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.



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Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Fire Island or Provincetown?

The Northeast's two premier gay vacation destinations both evolved in isolated, tip-of-the-universe communities within an afternoon's drive of major cities, but that's where their similarities end. Cape Cod's Provincetown and Long Island's Fire Island are entirely different breeds of the same general species.

It's not uncommon to find a lesbian or gay man who loves both towns, albeit for different reasons, but most queer summer-resort habitues have developed a clear, stubborn preference.

Somewhat complicating comparisons is the fact that Fire Island's queer communities, Cherry Grove and the Pines, are themselves in constant competition, separated both geographically—by a cruisy swath of sand and forest—and philosophically—by a vast gulf of attitude.

Cherry Grove is the senior of the two villages, catering to a motley crowd: dykes with tikes, retirees, campy queens, African-Americans—everyone is made to feel very welcome. Houses here are generally funkier and more affordable than those in the Pines, which was developed more recently and has an almost exclusively male following.

Domiciles in the Pines tend to be angular, sleek, and palatial; the crowd at restaurants and bars tends to be gorgeous, muscular, affluent, and at times arrogant. You'll find elements of both these populations in Provincetown, but without such sharp divisions.

If getting away from civilization is truly your intent, either of the Fire Island communities is a better choice than the whole of Provincetown. The Pines and Cherry Grove are accessible only by boat and are without streets or automobiles; they're also virtually devoid of heteros (this can be fun for a few days but can grow a little Twilight Zonish after a week or two).

Provincetown is certainly remote (it's at the tip of Cape Cod), but even during its summer peak, it's still only about 50% gay, drawing hordes of breeders to its handful of museums, scads of shops, dozens of restaurants, and eerily beautiful swath of Cape Cod National Seashore.

If you're traveling with your lover or with friends, you'll find that both destinations have plenty going for them, but on Fire Island your day may revolve more closely around those in your party—there simply aren't many opportunities to wander off and do your own thing. It's a good place to read, lie in the sun, and relax.

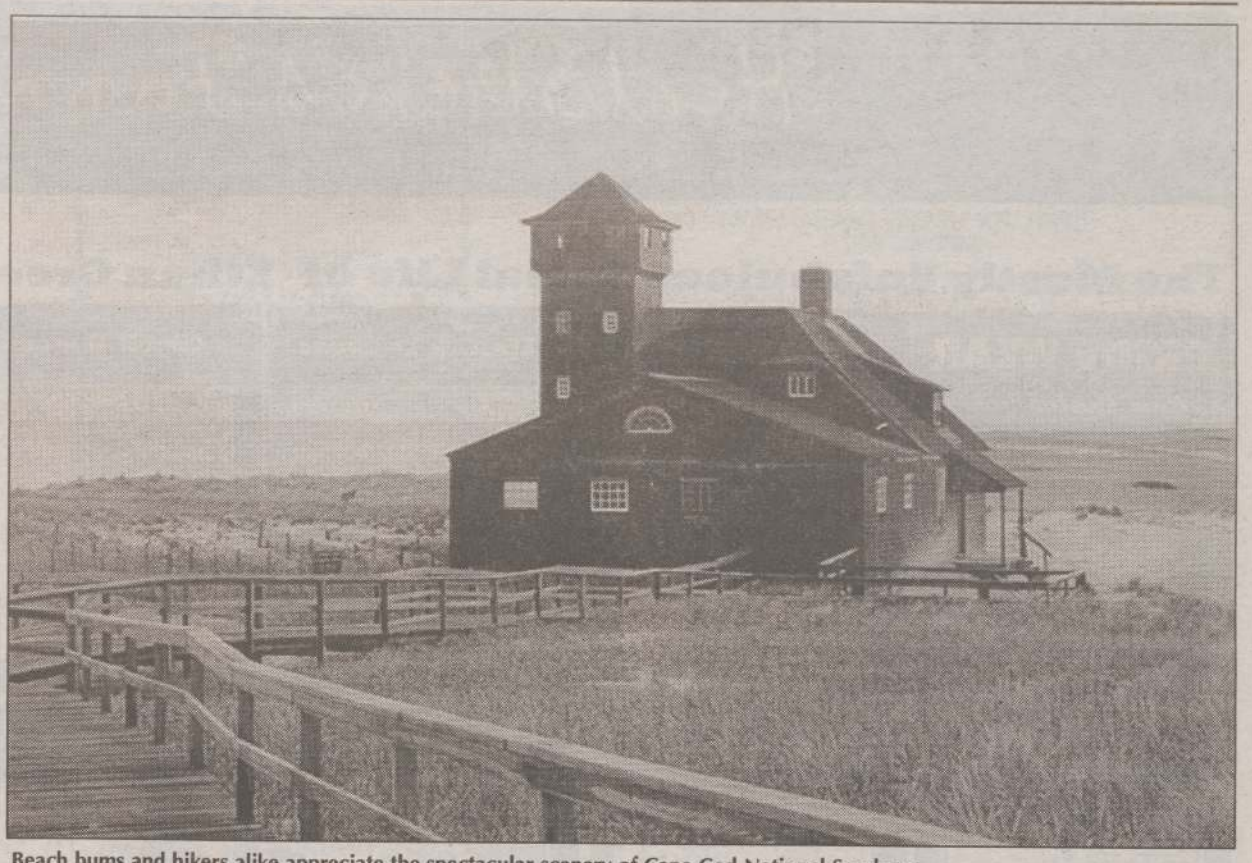
In Provincetown, it's not unheard of for a group of friends to arrive together and see each other only three or four more times during the rest of their stay. This is a sprawling town with numerous distractions and plenty of chances to meet new friends. For these reasons, if you're traveling alone, Provincetown is probably the better choice.

Because it has only a few hundred hotel rooms (most of which command more than $200 nightly), Fire Island draws fewer short-term visitors than it does weekly, monthly, or seasonal sojourners. If you're an outsider, you may find it somewhat difficult to crack such an established, cliquish social scene. On the other hand, newcomers, especially by summer's end, are often ogled enthusiastically by the regulars who've by now soured on the island's insularity.

Provincetown has more than 80 gay-oriented guesthouses and inns and enjoys a steady turnover of visitors—you rarely see the same folks in the same bars every night, at least on more than a few consecutive days.

Both towns offer plenty of dance clubs and bars, but again, on Fire Island you'll have a more difficult time meeting other single people. And should you meet somebody interesting, the odds that either of you has landed a single, private bedroom are rather slim, given how many visitors share rooms or crash with friends.

Because rooms are on average cheaper in Provincetown, there's a better chance that you'll meet somebody with a room. Also, Provincetown has two great dyke bars, and a couple others with a mixed following or women's nights once a week. Single lesbians will definitely find more to do here.



Beach bums and hikers alike appreciate the spectacular scenery of Cape Cod National Seashore.

Fire Island makes for an ideal day-trip from New York City, whereas Provincetown requires at least an overnight from Boston or any other New England city. Total travel time (by car or train) from Manhattan to Sayville (site of the ferry terminals to Cherry Grove and the Pines) is a bit more than an hour; add another 30 to 45 minutes for the ferry ride.

To get from Boston to Provincetown (which you can reach by ferry or by car), you should allow three to four hours (although without traffic two-and-a-half hours is entirely doable). If you are in Boston and seek a quick gay retreat, make the 75-minute drive north to Ogunquit, Maine, a low-keyed, smaller cousin to Provincetown.

Finally, although both communities enjoy maximum crowds from about Memorial Day through Labor Day, Provincetown continues to draw a significant number of visitors through the late fall, and even into the barren but broodingly romantic winter months. Fire Island is a ghost town from October through April.



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

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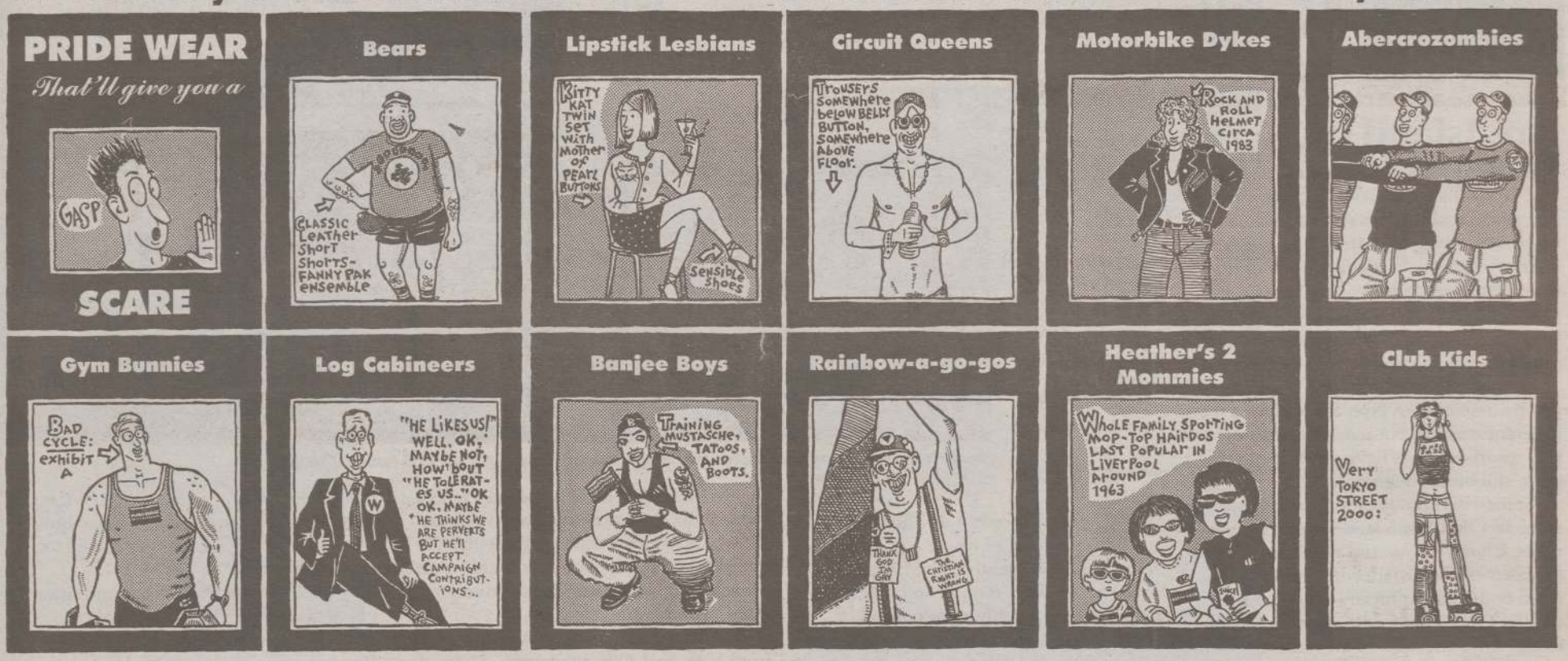
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Ed. note: The cowboy is off for a few weeks, mending fences in a cooler climate. The following advice column was culled from the archives.

Dear Cowboy,

I 'm dating a guy who really likes to sniff poppers during sex. It was only occasional at first but now he claims he can't have sex without them. I hate the smell and I have always heard that poppers are very bad for you. What should I do?

Signed, Sensitive Schnozz

Dear Schnozz,

The latest information that I could rustle up on poppers (amyl nitrate) says that there is no clear-cut indication that sniffing the stuff causes any medical problems. It was commonly thought during the early part of the AIDS epidemic that there was some relationship between using poppers and contracting AIDS, but most docs nowadays say that wasn't correct.

Amyl nitrate is no longer legally sold over the counter in this country—what your boyfriend is probably getting is butyl nitrate or some other form of nitrate. These knockoffs generally have a weaker effect than the amyl original, yet they often smell stronger. Unless your boyfriend is taking Viagra (which can cause serious problems if taken with amyl nitrate—even death) or is an asthmatic, he's likely not doing himself any real harm.

On the other hand, for a lot of people, the stuff just plain reeks. My concern is his claim that he can't have sex without them, and why you continue having sex with him if it bothers you that much.

Does he mean that he can't relax enough for receptive anal sex without the rush poppers provide? Or does he mean he likes the intensity of his orgasm while he's sniffing the liquid? Or does the smell make him feel raunchy and less inhibited? these are some of the more common reasons for using poppers and you guys need to talk out what his reasoning is before you can address some alternatives as far as relaxations and turn-ons.

If he won't discuss it or try to change, you need to weigh how much you hate the smell against how well this relationship meets your other needs. It might seem harsh to toss him from your arena for a habit you hate. But it's valid. Good luck.

Dear Cowboy,

My lover and I have been living together for almost three years. We dated for a year before that. We currently have sex around twice a week. Our best friends, also a male couple, have been together more than ten years and are constantly bragging that they have sex every night.

They have insinuated more than once that our relationship is in trouble because we aren't doing it as often as we should be. Do you think that is true? How often should we be having sex after four years?

Signed, Getting Plenty in Peoria

Dear Plenty,

If you and your pard both feel like you're getting plenty, you shouldn't need me or anyone else to back you up.

Sexual frequency varies and what goes on in your bunkhouse is really no one else's business. Show some backbone. Tell your friends your sex life and relationship are great as is, and let them know you can do without hearing the details of their own nightly tussles.

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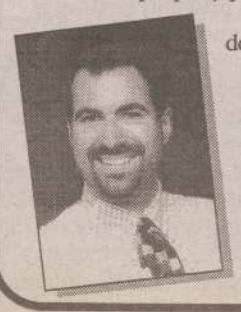
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PO Box 45101
Phoenix 85064 602/287-9573

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phoenix Tennis Alliance 602/359-0936

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

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

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



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Kathie J. Gummere----------602/952-0293
Bernard Rethore----------602/381-6253

Counselors

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

Dentists

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

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

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

Graphic Design

Matt Cochran----------602/301-9545
Bill Knoop----------602/262-2524
Jack A. Komnick----------602/254-6977
Smith Pro Graphics----------480/816-4443
Salon Exodus (Eric or Robert)--602/955-2121

Health Care

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

Home Services

Colt Heating & Cooling--------602/712-1244
Don Williams Builders, Inc.----602/246-8591
Rainbow Home Repair---------602/440-5367
Voltiac Electrical Services------602/957-3602

Insurance

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

Internet

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

Nightlife

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

Out-of-Town

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

Pet Services

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

Realtors

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Lisa L. Seeley----------602/252-7777
John Walsh----------480/922-6943
Sam Wercinski----------480/922-6943
Rod Whitt----------602/230-7600

Restaurants

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

Retail

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

Spiritual Groups

Casa de Cristo----------602/265-2831
Gentle Shepherd MCC--------602/864-6404
Valley/Sun Comm. Church----602/564-7882

Tanning Salons

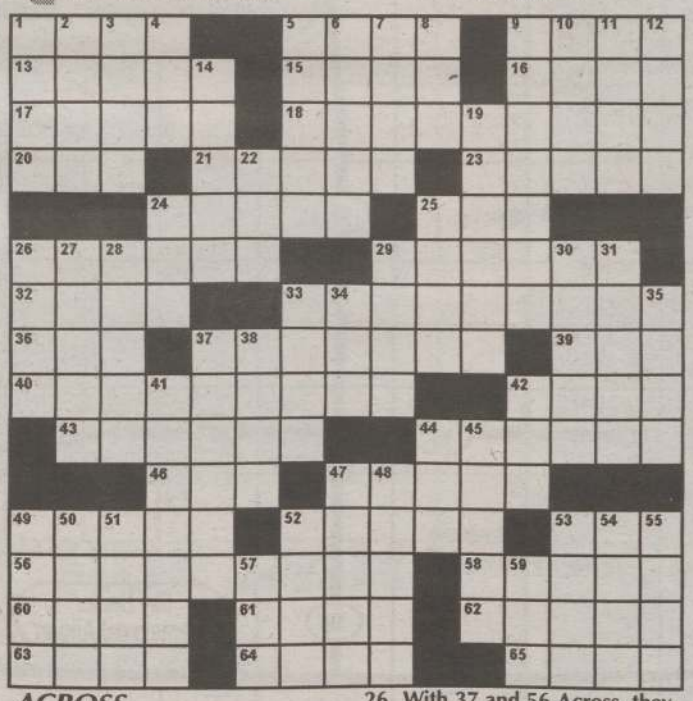
Tangible, Inc.----------602/274-4664

Viatical Svcs.

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

Q Puzzle

"Burning Desire"



ACROSS

1 With 18, 44, and 65 Across, song about refusing sex with Apollo?
5 Armed conflicts
9 "___ la vie!"
13 Drag queen Joey
15 Vows illegal for gays in most states
16 Drag queen ___ Phace
17 Movie about a cross-dresser
18 See 1-Across
20 Queer ___ three-dollar bill
21 Nurses' assistants
23 Prudential rival
24 Like a bottom
25 Bank acct. earnings
26 With 37 and 56-Across, they recorded the song in this puzzle
29 Like sex without condoms
32 Julia of Hollywood
33 Pick up
36 Baseball Hall of Famer Mel
37 See 26-Across
39 Cereal box info
40 Musician Ricky Wilson, for one
42 It sticks out in front of a sailor
43 Took off one's togs
44 See 1-Across
46 Those of Subaru may include Navratilova
47 "___ Children of Heterosexuals"
49 Big name in farm equipment
52 Shoot your wad
53 Well-put
56 See 26-Across
58 China's Zhou ___
60 One kind of opera queen
61 Ken of *thirtysomething*
62 Where a queen may rule
63 Consider
64 Winterson's *Written on the* ___
65 See 1-Across

Down

1 Rod Stewart's "___ Think I'm Sexy?"
2 Bauxite and others
3 Actor Hartley
4 Make a doily
5 Douglas' lover
6 "Doe, ___..."
7 Becomes compost
8 One that comes quickly
9 One that comes quickly
10 Gay Chinese film ___ *Palace, West Palace*
11 Turned Rapidly
12 Clothing designer Chow
14 Informal jargon
19 Fairy tale guy
22 Chemical suffix
24 www.stopaids.org, e.g.
25 Concerning
26 Rum drink
27 Take in enthusiastically
28 Mauve hanky delight
29 ___ the crack of 35-Down
30 *The Family of Max Desir* author Robert
31 Give a large one to
33 Etcher's need
34 Levels of 33-Down
35 Sunrise time
37 Karl of *A Streetcar Named Desire*
38 Angers
41 A doily signals this
42 Summer hrs. in California
44 You can shoot off with this
45 Like a chickenhawk to a chicken
47 One that sucks some sap
48 Pansy Division song
49 Harlan Greene's *What the* ___ *Remember*
50 Fashion mag
51 Feminizing tail
52 Like sex for one
53 *The Spell* author Hollinghurst
54 Compass Inc., of West ___ Beach
55 Monette's *Borrowed* ___*: an Aids Memoir*
57 Blow follower
59 It can start a -phyte?

S	C	A	R	■	F	L	A	B	■	T	O	T	A	L
T	A	L	E	■	O	O	Z	E	■	I	V	O	R	Y
A	G	E	S	■	R	A	U	L	■	G	I	M	M	E
B	E	C	O	M	E	F	R	A	Y	E	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	I	B	■	E	Y	E	■	■	A	V	G
L	I	T	T	L	E	R	■	■	S	A	Y	L	O	R
I	D	O	■	■	A	I	D	A	■	L	U	C	I	E
Q	U	A	K	E	R	T	O	P	S	P	L	A	C	E
U	N	T	I	E	■	A	H	S	O	■	■	P	E	N
O	N	E	D	G	E	■	■	E	C	L	I	P	S	E
R	O	E	■	■	E	D	D	■	R	I	G	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	U	L	E	O	F	A	Q	U	E	E	N
B	A	G	E	L	■	S	N	I	T	■	A	B	L	E
I	M	E	A	N	■	I	N	R	E	■	N	A	I	L
F	E	L	L	A	■	R	A	M	S	■	A	N	A	L

Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle: "The Wizard of Ahs"

Edibles

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

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

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

Libations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. Incognito
2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix 602/955-9805

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Staples

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

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

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

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

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

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

37. Unique on Central
4700 N. Central
Phoenix 602/279-9691

Tubs

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

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

Culture

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Outdoors

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

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

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

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

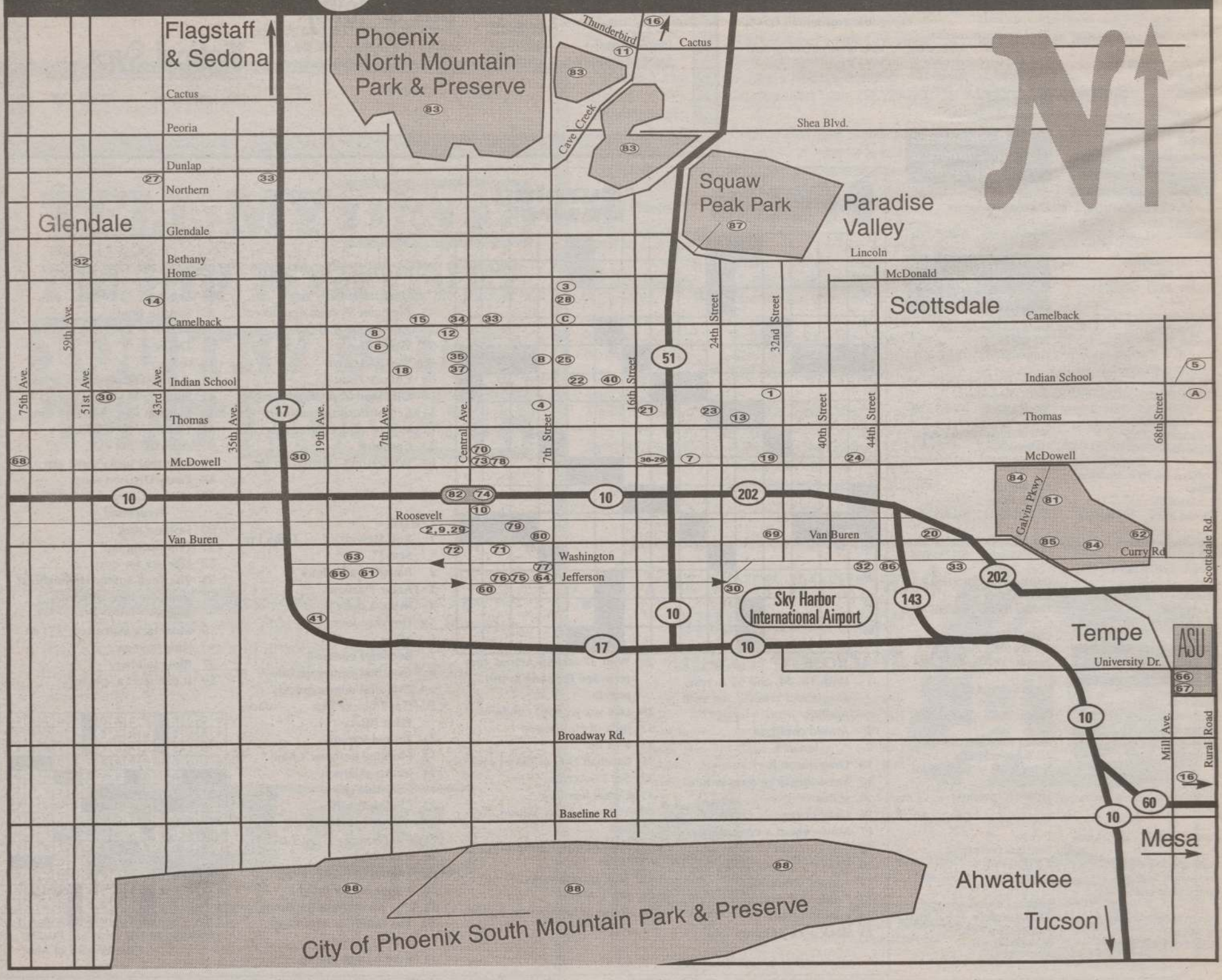
85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 602/273-1431

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

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

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

Finding it in Phoenix



Q SCOPES

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES: Summer officially arrives and the Sun moves into your house of home and family. Suddenly life gets a lot cozier. Explore the real meaning of the word intimacy. Focus it on the person who really deserves you, you whore! If you're on the make, make a beeline for a stable and sensual Taurus.

TAURUS: The Sun moves into the more socially arousing sector of your chart June 21. Plan some Gay Pride soirees. You are able to charm your way into the hearts of many. You have the right vibe about a new relationship—follow it, and allow a bizarre but sexy dream to come true. A Cancer plays an important role.

GEMINI: As Venus moves through your money house, pay extra attention to presentation. Your ideas are as fab as always, but present them without your usual acerbic wit. Build up a reputation as the person that everybody needs for something. An Aquarius can't fulfill all your needs, but can supply one amazing night of kinky thrills!

CANCER: The Sun moves into your sign June 21 and puts you in the spotlight, baby. Take charge and let your fans know you've arrived. A wish could come true, but only if you get goal-oriented. A leisurely approach will not win the heart of an oblivious Virgo. Come on strong!

LEO: You need to calm down and reserve your energy for the things that are most important to you. If ever there was a perfect time to do yoga, it would be now. You really can learn a lot about your past and present by concentrating on and listening to your body. A Sag has a few poses to teach you.

VIRGO: The Sun moves into your house of friends June 21, so you should do well if you travel in packs. You are able to see into the hearts of many but are a little oblivious to your own motivations during this cycle. A pal really helps your love life by introducing you to a sassy Scorpio, but may want in on the action.

LIBRA: Pluto retrograde in your house of socializing may make you feel insecure about how others see you. Screw that! Your career could take a radical turn in an upward direction, if you follow up on a project you started over a year ago. A Leo wants to get into a very exhibitionist scene with you.

SCORPIO: The Sun enters the travel sector of your chart June 21, so consider a trip to a faraway land. Learn another language. Speak in tongues with a Taurus who you always thought had the upper hand over you. Discover just how wrong you've been!

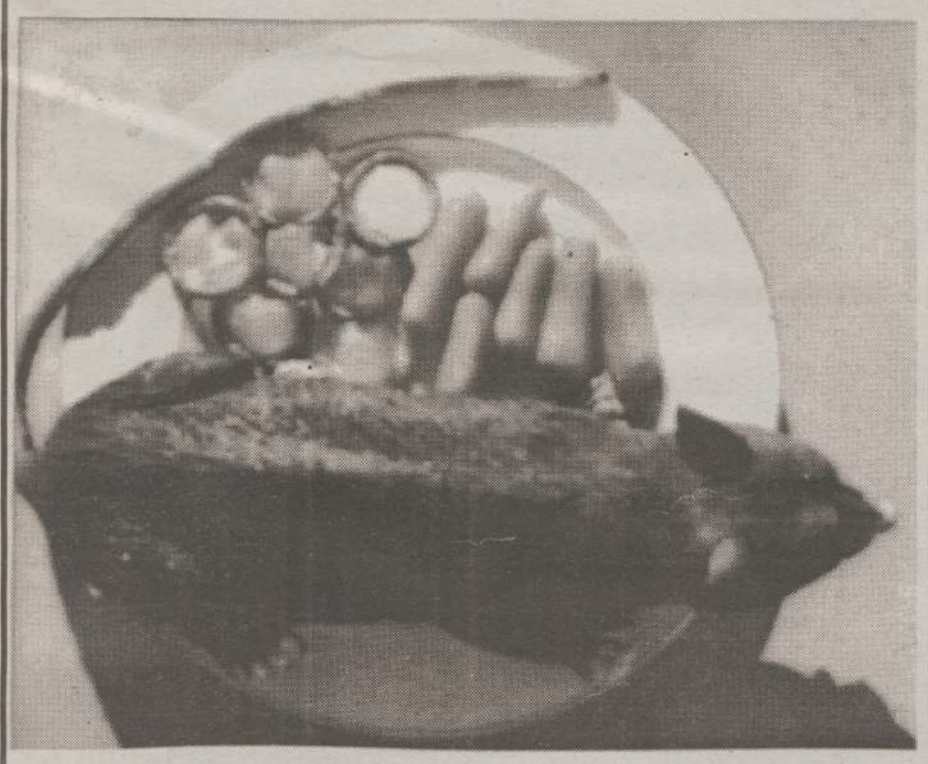
SAGITTARIUS: Venus conjuncts Mars in your house of other people's money, suggesting that a business collaboration could be lucrative for you. In relationships, forget the petty stuff and ask for what you really need. Your worst fears lead you to the greatest sense of closeness, particularly if your baby is an Aries.

CAPRICORN:
You may not understand what exactly is going on with your love life, and you're not supposed to! So many people want to dirty dance with you, you may want to change your name to Patrick Swayze. Save the most soulful spin around the floor for another Capricorn.

AQUARIUS: The moon in your sign on June 21 brings you an emotional revelation. You may be moved to ask two different close comrades: "What's *really* going on?" Your body holds the secrets to your low-level *ennui*, darling. Do some heavy duty working out or running around the block. A Leo moves you to a deeper place.

PISCES: The Sun enters your house of creativity June 21, so I hope you have some work lined up. If not, create your own buzz. You need to push yourself through a wild but draining period in your life. A Gemini eggs you on to do all the things you've been afraid to succeed at.

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



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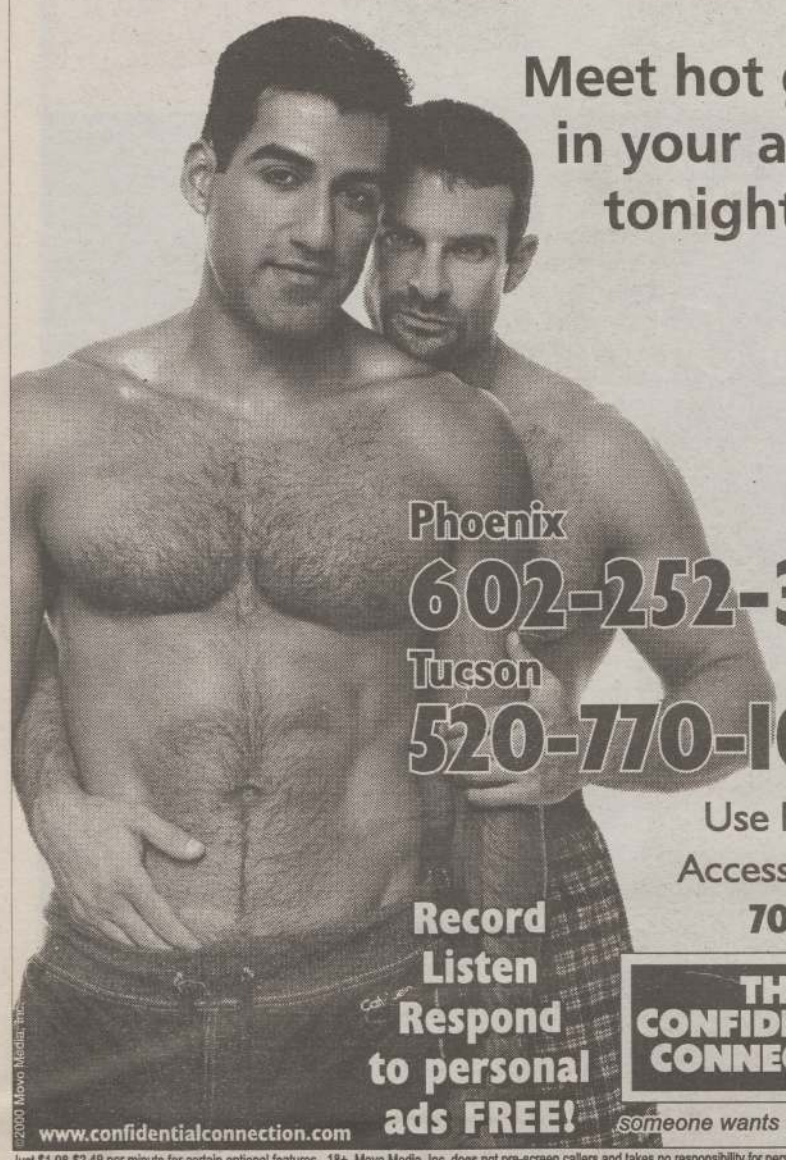


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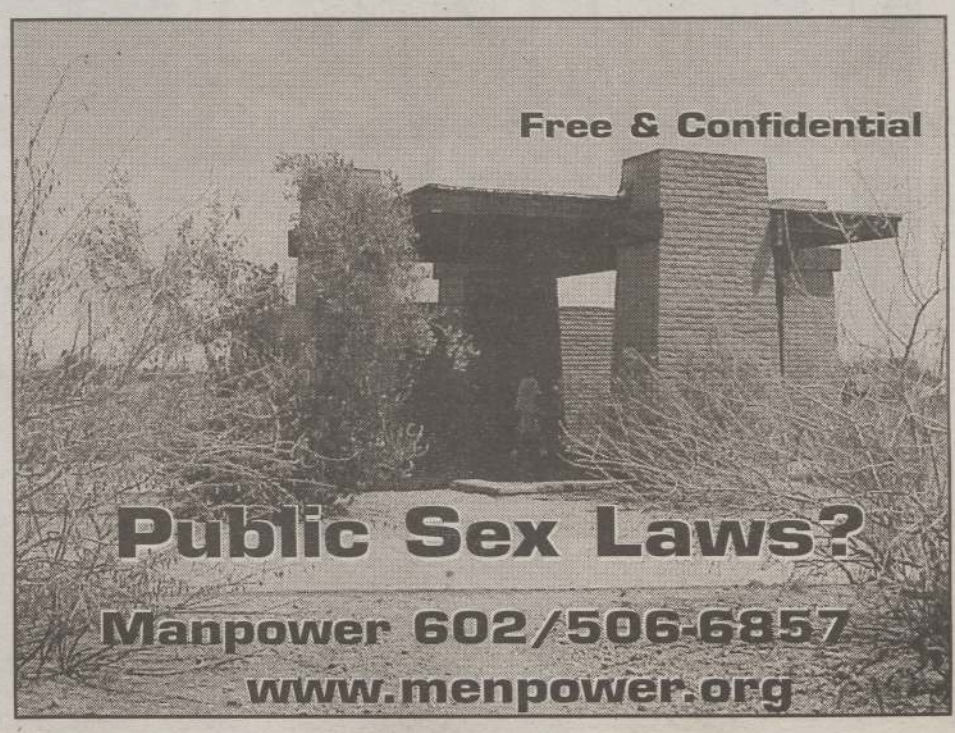
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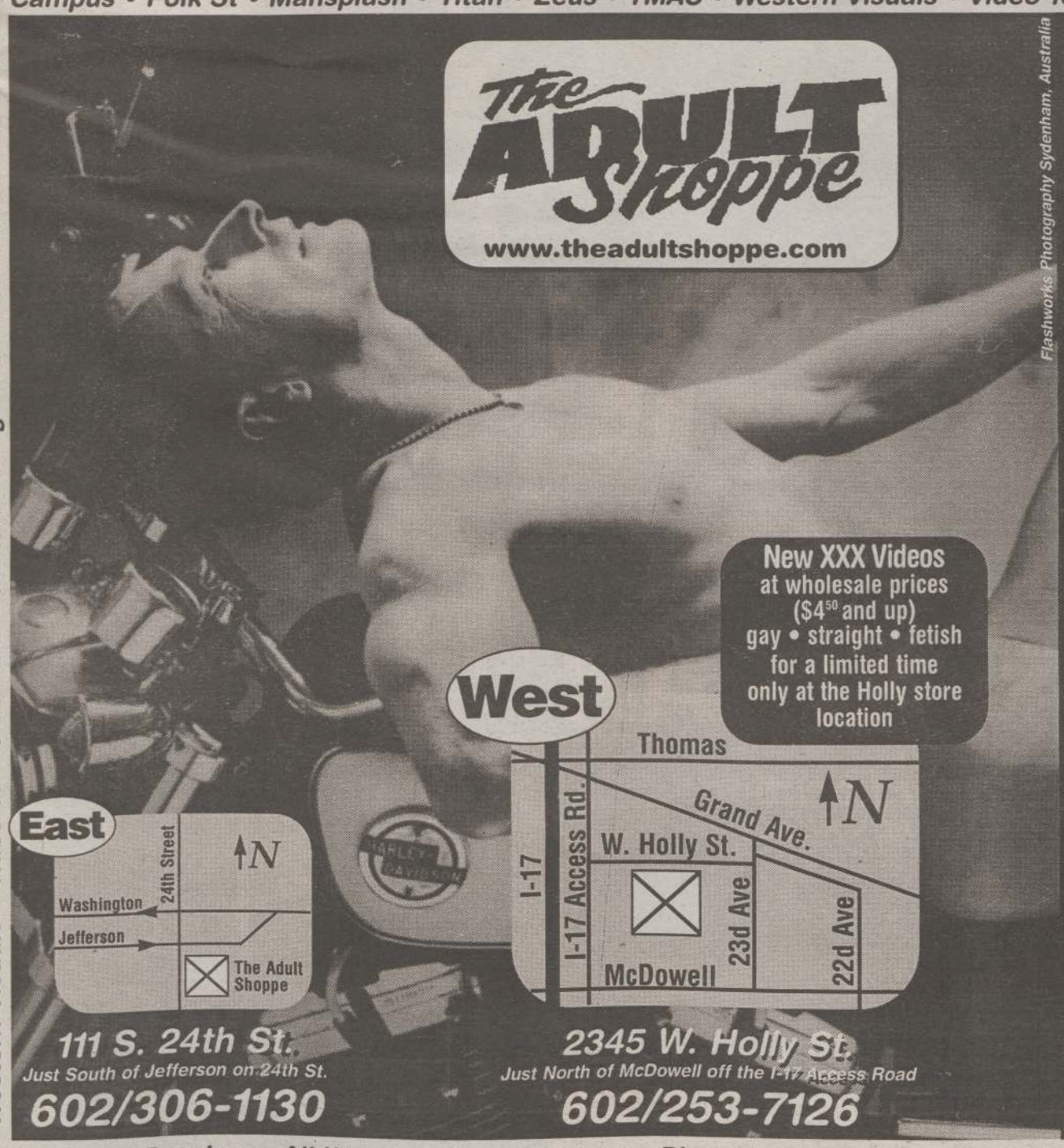
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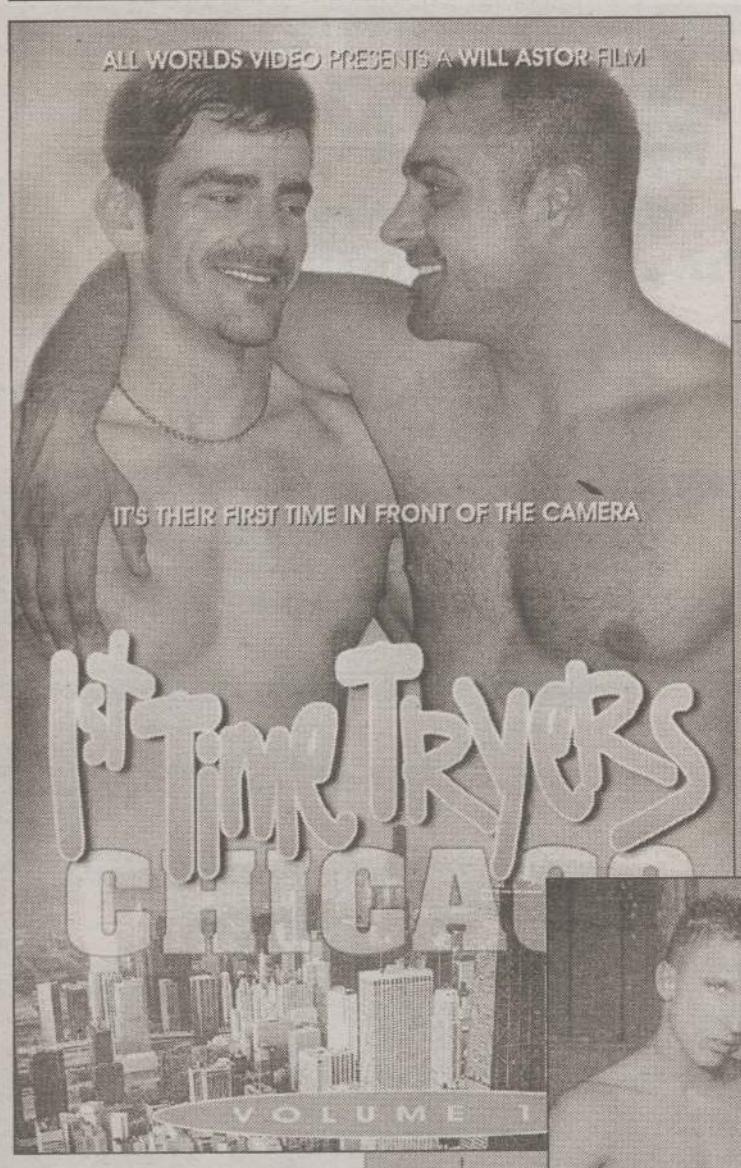
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BOOK CELLAR

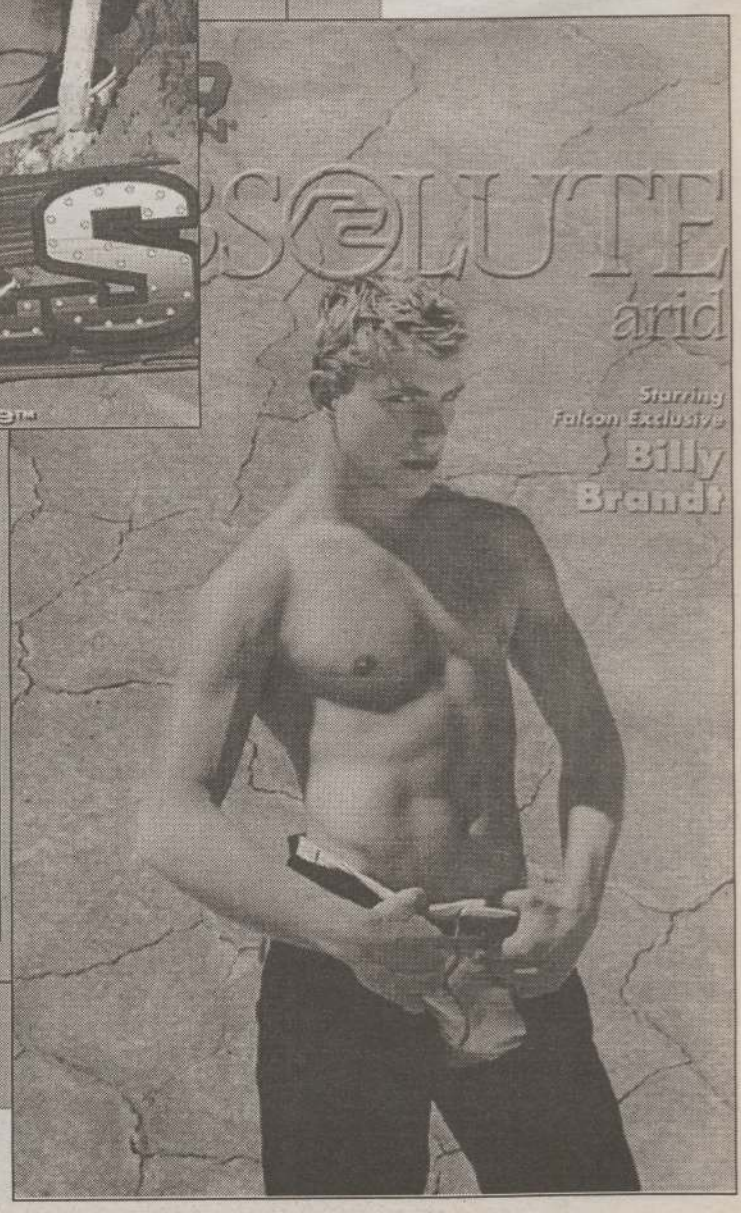
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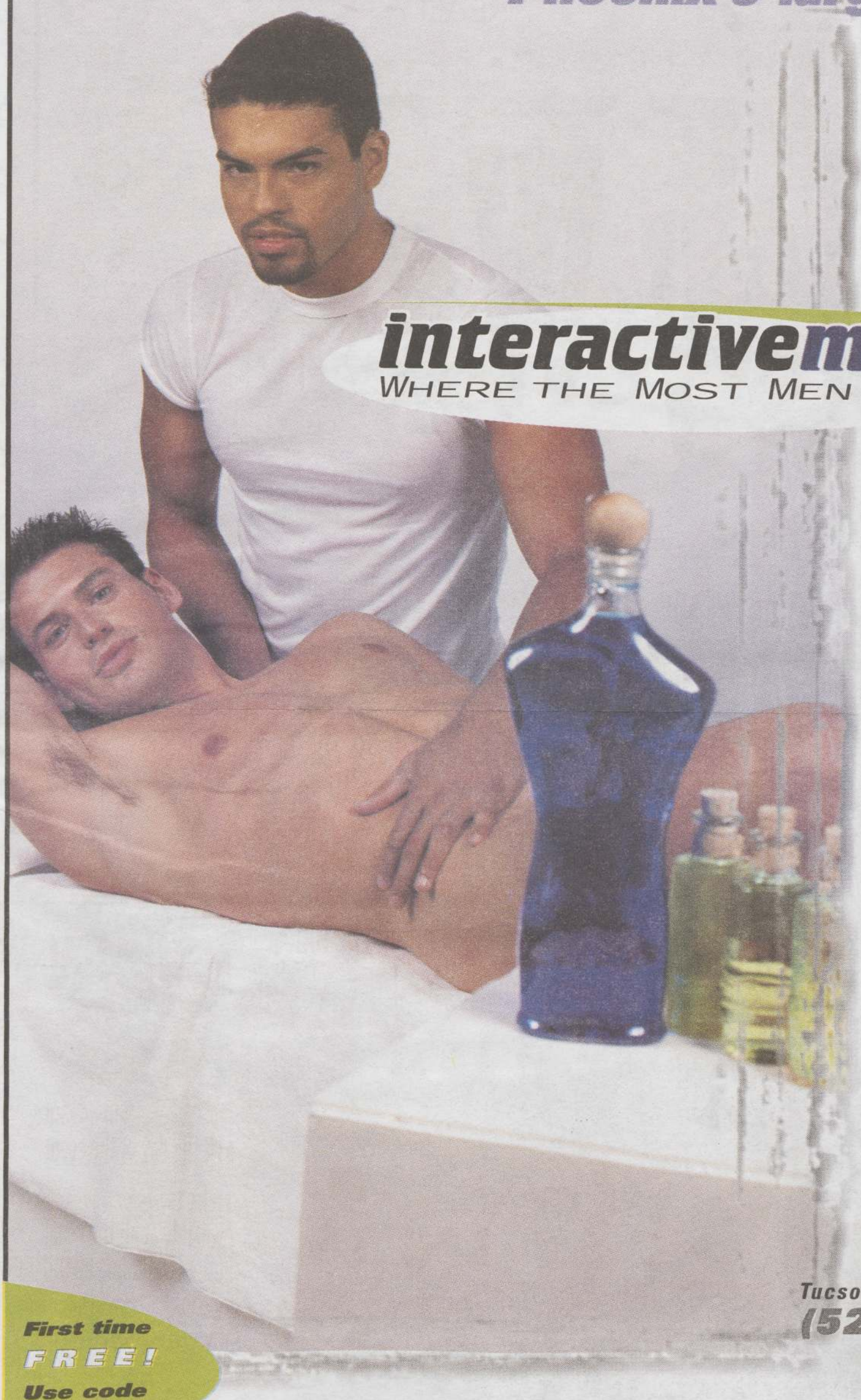
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