

HeatStroke

Volume 1, No. 1

Phoenix, Arizona

November 20, 1996

District 25 elects 2nd gay-friendly Rep.

Pivotal District ousts ultra-conservative Updike

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"ROBERT UPDIKE WAS ABSOLUTELY THE worst kind of legislator for central Phoenix. He's a slum lord, an embarrassment. He's homophobic, he's anti-choice; in fact, he's anti-woman." So says candidate Christine Weason, the 32 year-old attorney who unseated Updike on November 5.

Weason, a Democrat, was elected to one of two House seats in state legislative District 25. District 25 is known to have a large gay and lesbian population and Weason made no secret of courting the gay vote. "I have many gay friends and I truly believe in equal rights for everyone." She says.

The new legislator will be serving next to re-elected Representative Ken Chevront. Chevront, also a Democrat, holds the distinction of being Arizona's only openly gay state legislator.

Weason is bright, eager and outspoken. She doesn't hide her distaste for the defeated Updike and his brand of right-wing politics. "He was

way out there," she says. "There was a consensus at the capital that he was an extremist, and this district certainly didn't need to be represented by an extremist. He was really a disgrace."

"Christine will be an excellent representative for our District," says Joe Della Rocca, the openly gay Vice Chair of the Democratic party in District 25. "I wasn't sure at first how she would do, but the results in the September primary were so strong that we knew the Democrats had a good chance of beating Updike and taking both seats."

The Arizona Republic's editorial board recommended both Weason and Chevront in the election, as did the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), a gay and lesbian political action group. Weason says she believes in, "Equal rights, equal access, equal protection for everyone." She was also endorsed by the Arizona Education Association and the National Organization for Women.

The district in which Weason won has a history of electing polarized Representatives from opposite parties who end up working- and vot-

ing- against each other. Gay Democrat Chevront has been serving in the statehouse alongside Mormon Republican Robert Updike since both were elected in 1994.

In her regular editorial column after the 1994 election, Kevin Willey, the Arizona Republic's political correspondent, attempted to explain how one region could elect two such vastly different representatives.

Willey lauded the election of Chevront, casually mentioning his sexuality in the mainstream press for the first time and calling the successful election of a gay candidate in Arizona "refreshing to see." She then described shady campaign tactics of which Updike had been accused, involving the distribution of gay-bashing fliers in some precincts. She called Updike a "Mormon activist and a defender of Evan Mecham." Willey also referred to the hotly contested district itself as "schizophrenic" and having a "split personality."

"Yes, that's probably still an accurate description, two years later," says Della Rocca. "I call it the northern-southern split myself. The north sec-



Democratic Representative Christine Weason



Charlie's

Coming Events

Wednesday, November 20

Tupperware Party
Fundraiser/Show for Stevee Barr—
Miss AGRA Contestant

Thursday, November 21

Casino Night
with Charlie's Renegades

Sunday, November 24

2nd Annual Turkey Bowling

Tuesday, November 26

November Birthday Party
50¢ well and domestic longnecks
Rainbows for Relief Party

Wednesday, November 27

pre-Thanksgiving after hours

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving—Open at 6 pm

Daily Specials

Monday

Undie Mondays. 1/2 Price on everything, 7-midnight, if you party in your undies. 50¢ Blue Margaritas.

Tuesday

Draft Blowout. 25¢ glass, \$1.50 pitchers, premium draft, 7-midnight.

Wednesday

Top Shelf Night. \$2.00 call, \$1.25 well drinks, 7-midnight. Dance lessons with Troy—7:30.

Thursday

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Friday

75¢ Happy Hour 7-9. 75¢ well and domestic longnecks

Saturday

Progressive Happy Hour Noon-7.
\$1.50 iced teas and a movie with popcorn.
75¢ Happy Hour 7-9. 75¢ well and domestic longnecks. Dance lessons with Marque—7:30.

Sunday

Brunch. Noon-2 and *BBQ* 2-6 on our patio. 50¢ draft until midnight and \$1.50 iced teas, noon-7.
75¢ Happy Hour 7-9. 75¢ well and domestic longnecks. Dance lessons with Dan—7:30.

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A production of 1 nightstand publications, Ltd.

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Editorials

THANKS FOR PICKING UP THE FIRST ISSUE OF HeatStroke, Phoenix's newest gay & lesbian community publication. We hope you'll find something of interest between our pages.

Conceiving of, developing and producing a new product is never easy; when your product is going to be seen by several thousand people right away, the pressure to do it well is even more intense. The support we've received from the community so far has been great. Kelly and I continue to be pleasantly surprised by the many, positive reactions we get to this new venture. There are people out there we haven't even met who would like to see HeatStroke succeed as much as we would and, for that, we're grateful. We owe big thanks to our premiere advertisers as well.

Of course, we have grand ideas. And every grand idea has to start somewhere. We want to include more bar information and to thoroughly cover community events. We also plan to cover sports and politics in addition to our regular features and columns (more of which are on the way).

There will be a full page of bar photos in upcoming issues as well. Any other ideas? We'd love to hear 'em.

Public input matters in a business like this. At least, it does to us. So let us know what you're reading, what you like and even what you don't. Our goal is to provide the Valley with a thought-provoking, well-written publication we can be proud of, one with style and substance.

Enjoy the first issue, please make an effort to patronize our advertisers and keep an eye out for us every two weeks. Just when you thought things were hot enough... HeatStroke has finally settled over the Valley of the Sun, and it's here to stay.

Allen Kalchik, Editor

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT PHOENIX, WHAT ARE the first things that come to mind? Warm weather? Beautiful sunsets? Urban Sprawl? Apathetic—and virtually invisible—lesbian and gay community?

In Phoenix, the term "queer activism" is an oxymoron. Why? I think its because the vast majority of our community is content to remain in its collective closet.

I've asked a lot of folks about this issue. Inevitably, they give me the same response: "Phoenix is too conservative," they explain, "gays and lesbians just can't be as open here as they can in other, more 'progressive,' cities."

When I question them—maybe point out the dizzying rate of growth Phoenix has sustained in the last ten years, and the inevitable effects of such change—they look at me as though I've just been vomited up by aliens.

"You poor, naive, boy," they manage to say, heads shaking and tongues clucking. "Phoenix is the wild west, and there's never been any room for queers here. But let's talk about my new house/car/boat/boy/girlfriend. Politics is just so boring."

Ok, let me see if I've got this right. Phoenix's gay and lesbian population is undetectable because we're all intimidated by this town's conservative reputation. There's no point in trying to resist or to demand the dignity and respect we deserve.

Haven't you heard? Phoenix is too conservative—we just accept the hand we've been dealt by the evil conservatives. (But we sure do like the house/car/boat/boy/girlfriend we have here.)

Of course the real reason Phoenix has an invisible gay community is that most of us are afraid, lazy, and homophobic. But we can't resist blaming the bogey man—Phoenix's conservative reputation—for our inability or unwillingness to coalesce and become a force for change.

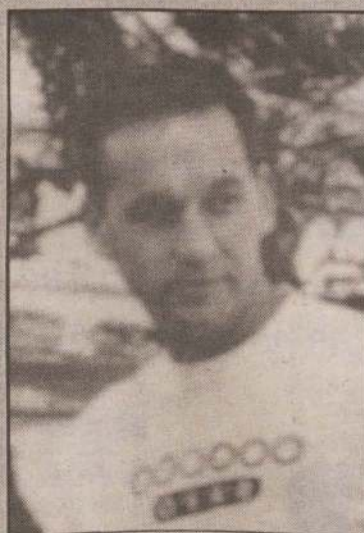
One of the many things I want to do in the pages of HeatStroke is take a long, hard look at the "Phoenix is too conservative" mantra chanted by so many in this town. What does it mean? And, more importantly, why does it confer on so many queer Phoenicians such a satisfying justification for sitting on our butts while injustices and humiliations are heaped upon us?

The "Phoenix is so conservative" incantation has tranquilized activism rather than ignite it. A rational human being resists the forces of oppression—in Phoenix, we've perversely enabled our oppressors by our own inaction.

I want to know why. I want to know how we can change things. I hope you do too. Stay tuned.

Kelly J. Reidhead, Managing Editor

CONTENTS



Representative Ken Chevront, p.5

Politics, cont'd	5
National news.....	4
GLAAD Alert	6
Community Works	8
Out on Film.....	11
Goings On.....	12
City Guide.....	13
the funnies	14
Dear Cowboy.....	12
Community Directory ..	15



Lucy and Ethan Green, p.14

Chastity Bono tapped to direct GLAAD's entertainment relations

Entertainment Media Director started November 1

LOS ANGELES, CA Chastity Bono, writer and former spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, a national lesbian and gay political organization, has been named Entertainment Media Director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Chosen after a national search, she assumed her role with GLAAD on November 1, 1996. "This is an exciting time in Hollywood," said Ms. Bono. "With Ellen's imminent 'coming out' and with more than twenty lesbian and gay characters already out on television, GLAAD is uniquely positioned to take a proactive approach to how we are represented on television and in film."

As Entertainment Media Director, Chastity Bono will act as GLAAD's lead representative in dealings with entertainment industry professionals and will develop strategies addressing lesbian and gay concerns.

Ms. Bono will design public forums and educational events that

focus on lesbian and gay issues and trends unfolding from within the entertainment industry.

"We are putting Chastity Bono's lifetime of experience in the entertainment industry to work for GLAAD — it's a natural fit," said William Waybourn, GLAAD's Managing Director.

"Chastity's personal experience as an out lesbian in Hollywood gives her firsthand knowledge of what it takes to promote fair and accurate images of lesbians and gay men in the media."

Chastity Bono is accustomed to being in the limelight. Viewers of the quintessential '70s television classic "The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour" will remember a young Chastity's cuddly cameos at the end of her parents' popular variety show.

In 1990, as a young adult, Ms. Bono became acutely aware of the other side of the entertainment industry: a 1990 Star Magazine cover story proclaimed Chastity's sexual orientation, "outing" her as a lesbian.

She has since become one of the nation's most visible advocates for lesbian and gay rights. Ms. Bono received national recognition in 1995 for "coming out" on the cover of *The Advocate*, a national lesbian and gay magazine. This summer, she interviewed her mother, Cher, in an acclaimed *Advocate* cover story.

As a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, she traveled the lecture circuit making stops at major universities and lesbian and gay events nationwide.

"Working with GLAAD provides Chastity with a wonderful opportunity to work in an environment she grew up in and with which she is very familiar," said Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign. "I believe Chastity will flourish in her new duties and we look forward to working closely with her and GLAAD, as together we continue to educate America about its lesbian and gay citizens."

Chastity Bono is keenly aware of the importance of unbiased media

representation of lesbians and gay men.

"The battle for fair treatment must be fought on several fronts. The cultural front—the way we are portrayed in the media—has a huge effect on how we are viewed by the public," said Ms. Bono. She added, "Growing up in the entertainment industry and working in the gay rights movement enables me to combine two worlds to have an impact and change things for the better."

According to William Waybourn, Chastity Bono is an important addition to GLAAD's national team.

"Chastity has grown up with the best and the worst of media coverage and it is exactly that perspective that GLAAD was seeking: someone that can go beyond an abstract articulation of the power and influence of media on our lives. Chastity speaks from the heart," concluded Waybourn.

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Weason wins in District 25

Democrat to Join Chevront in House of Reps

Continued from Page 1

tion has the more conservative precincts where a lot of elderly people still live, many of them die-hard Republicans. To the

south, you have the historical districts which tend to be more liberal and where Chevront carried the lead." Della Rocca explained even though his district has often elected one candidate from each party, he was thrilled to have this election turn out differently.

"We beat Updike and elected two gay-friendly Democrats this year in District 25.

And not so much from riding on the coattails of the President but because both our candidates really stood up on their own merits." The Vice-Chair, who worked full time for the Clinton/Gore campaign, believes replacing the ultraconservative Updike with a moderate

Democrat like Weason will greatly benefit the gay and lesbian community.

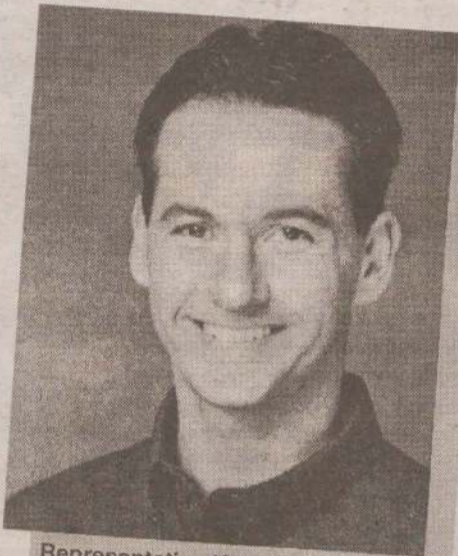
"Ken is a spoken voice for the gay community, but as an openly gay official in Arizona, you can only get so far," he says. The activist is quick to point out that another political friend to the gay and lesbian community is also a Democrat from District 25, re-elected State Senator Chris Cummisky. "Chris has been great, he's straight but very in tune to our issues. He's another spoken voice at the State Capital."

ROBERT UPDIKE AVOIDED MAKING overtly antigay statements in public during his campaign. Yet, he worried many gay and lesbian activists due to his religious ties and his conservative, "Family Values" message.

His own family's values came into question earlier this year when his wife switched parties and ran against Chevront and Weason as a Democrat in the primary. Margaret Updike had won a District 25 election once before, when she campaigned for the House as a conservative Republican in 1988. She shared representation at that time with freshman Democrat Sue Laybe, a gay-friendly candidate who was later indicted in the infamous Azcam scandal.

Margaret Updike was often laughingly referred to by colleagues during her single term as "The Church Lady" and made her mark with an extreme right-wing voting record. Indeed, Kevin Willey's 1994

post-election column said that Robert Updike's wife was best remembered for a "...brand of conservatism that makes Newt Gingrich look liberal."



Representative Ken Chevront

Many party insiders believe Mrs. Updike was using the system in a desperate attempt to serve next to her husband. They assumed that, once elected, she would have cut all ties to the party and its platform. Others suspect the unusual move was

intended as a direct attack by the quirky Mormon housewife on the openly gay Chevront, whom she specifically targeted in a flier mailed to 10,000 District 25 voters before the September primary. The flier implied that Chevront wanted

"I truly believe that 'all' means for everyone," says Weason

ed schools to teach that homosexuality was a viable lifestyle.

"It's pretty amazing, what Margaret Updike tried to pull over on the Democrats," says Christine Weason. "I figured she had to be kidding, and that's why I used 'No Kidding' as the slogan for my own primary campaign. Believe me, that lady is no Democrat." Whatever the former Republican's reasons, the party switch didn't work and neither did the mailing. Mrs. Updike's results in the race were remarkably poor and she finished a very distant third, far behind both Chevront and Weason.

ONE BOOST TO THE DEMOCRATIC campaign in district 25 came from the Arizona Republic's editorial pages. "The Kevin Willey article probably helped," says Della Rocca, referring to a witty piece by the respected political columnist that appeared in late July. In the article, Willey explained and then lampooned the party-jumping of Mrs. Updike, ultimately calling the move a "cheap political trick."

The state's largest newspaper has also helped the human-rights cause in District 25 by consistently endorsing Chevront, even after acknowledging his sexuality. He was the Arizona Republic and Phoenix Gazette (R & G)'s pick for the primary and general election campaigns not only this year but

also during his first House race in 1994. Weason is glad the R&G recommended her to voters this year,

Updike, her opponent, never received the widely read daily's endorsement. The fact that a mainstream newspaper with a conservative reputation repeatedly endorsed gay-friendly candidates over right-wing Republicans may come as a shock to some of the R & G's lesbian and gay readers. A number of local activists, however, have closely followed the paper's editorial positions concerning gay and lesbian issues over the years and are much less surprised.

"Phoenix Newspapers, the owners of the Republic and Gazette, appreciate Ken Chevront as a talented Legislator," says Bill MacDonald, Chair of the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), a Phoenix-based gay and lesbian political action organization. "Their editorial staff seems to recognize his intelligence and moderation, rather than giving him some special status as a gay candidate. It's as if it's a non-issue with them."

Paul Schatt, Editor of the Arizona Republic's Editorial pages, confirms MacDonald's impression. "Our Editorial Board doesn't have litmus test issues when we look at a candidate," he says. "We're basing our decisions on the person's record and on his or her standing in totality, trying to make the best recommendation we can as far as who the readers should vote for in that district." Referring to the sexuality of a

been criticized from within the gay and lesbian community by those who would like to see the young legislator take a more visible stand.

"Ken represents us very well on many levels and, while there are certainly a large number of gay constituents in his district, you have to realize that most of the people he represents are straight. In his position, he can't be out there and be waving a gay flag without getting burned- at least, not in this state," explains Della Rocca. He adds, "Times have changed, but not that much."

CHIRSTINE WEASON IS A DETERMINED young woman who didn't mince words when calling upon support from the gay and lesbian community. "When children recite the Pledge of Allegiance in school," she says, "they talk about '...liberty and justice for all'. Well, I truly believe that 'all' means for everyone, I'll support legislation to eliminate discrimination against gays and lesbians."

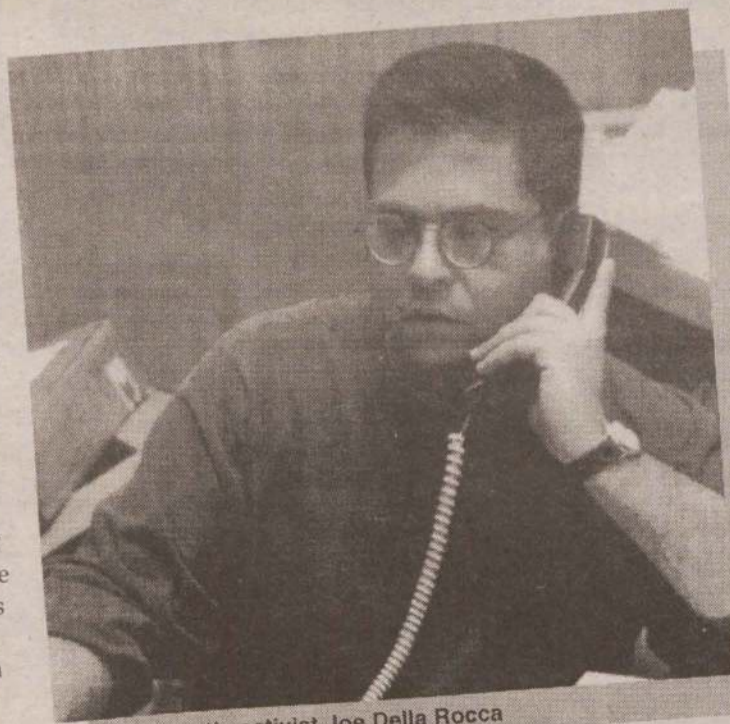
"I'm also concerned about the rights of gay and lesbian people to work, and to inherit the property of a deceased lover. Lawmakers may be able to introduce legislation to that affect in this term or the next. And I support the repeal of archaic state laws regarding sodomy."

Weason has a long road ahead of her as she prepares to take her place in the legislature. But thanks to her, Robert Updike- one of the

most conservative and purportedly homophobic members of the Arizona State legislature- is out of office, Gay rights advocates and Democratic party activists statewide are justifiably elated.

"We now have an openly gay man and a professional woman instead of this jerk, and they are both going to be great," Della Rocca says, adding, "When I

think of Updike in office, I'm reminded of that popular anti-tobacco ad. He's a nasty, anti-gay slum lord and he was a stinking, puking legislator."



Democratic activist Joe Della Rocca

candidate, Schatt says simply, "We are aware of the need for having a legislature that represents a lot of diverse interests."

With that kind of support from the mainstream press and with advocacy groups like AHRF behind him, Chevront managed to serve his first term out of the spotlight. He is respected by his colleagues and not once has his sexuality become an issue. In fact, he avoids the topic to the extent that he has

GLAAD MEDIA ALERT

Gay AZ Republican Blasts GOP Homophobes

In the November 11 Sunday edition of the *Scottsdale Progress Tribune*, the lead front-page story, headlined, "Gay Candidate Says County GOP Shut Him Out" by David Leibowitz, was a powerful testimony to the courage of one openly gay Republican candidate, Steve May, for the State Senate and the ignorance of local party leaders unable to reconcile their ideology and his sexual orientation.

The article discusses how May, a tireless worker and donor for his local Republican party since his teens, had his campaign systematically torn apart by party leaders. Maricopa County GOP chairwoman Bernice Roberts refused to give May the same \$1,300 donation made to two other heterosexual District 25 Republican candidates, telling the *Tribune*, "I do not support that homosexual agenda...I feel that it's wrong." Leibowitz quips, "Gosh Bernice, so much for 'inclusiveness' and a 'big tent,' huh?" Several other examples, including Republican committee members going door-to-door to denounce May, follow.

May, in the article, says he was "outed" by religious radical Charlotte Reed (District 25 party chairwoman) during the primaries, and describes her as "an ignorant, undereducated liar....The truth is, she has handed our district over to the Democrats... because she won't support anyone unless they adhere to her radical, right-wing philosophy."

Since May is publicly attacking his own party's homophobia while also being opposed to same-sex marriage and, as Leibowitz puts it, "teaching homosexuality in the classroom," the columnist wonders if he might be "too gay to be Republican and too Republican to be gay." The article ends with May saying that, "This is my mission in life, I guess. I have to help teach the voters that you can be gay and Republican. I have to teach Republicans that, and I have to teach gay people that. The question is, are the people going to let me have a chance?"

Please let the *Scottsdale Progress Tribune* know that such an interesting and challenging article is appreciated and thought-provoking, and encourage them to continue to cover lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. Contact: Hal DeKeyser, Editor-In-Chief, *Scottsdale Progress Tribune*, 7525 East Camelback Road, Suite 100, Scottsdale, AZ 85251, fax: 602.970.2360, e-mail: azforum@aol.com.

Coming Out in the *Wall Street Journal*

In Hal Lancaster's "Managing Your Career" column in the November 5 *Wall Street Journal*, he looked into the question, "Should Managers Tell Colleagues That They Are Gay?"

It examines several issues, including possible discrimination and harassment by others, the discomfort and inconvenience of being in the closet and the appropriateness of the venue for coming out. Additionally, the article gives strategies for how to determine whether or not coming out is the right decision for a person, and, if so, some tips for how to do it.

"Map out a plan. Use role-playing to practice the conversation with friends," Lancaster writes after speaking with Sharon Silverstein, author of *Straight Jobs, Gay Life*. "Also, have some realistic career options in mind, just in case." Lancaster adds to "keep in mind that the longer you work somewhere, the more likely it is people will know or strongly suspect, anyway," and ends by noting that the corporate environment is becoming increasingly gay-friendly.

Let the *Wall Street Journal* know that articles like this one are incredibly helpful not just to closeted lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers, but also the people with whom they work. Contact: *The Wall Street Journal*, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10281, fax: 212.416.2658, e-mail: editor@cor.dowjones.com.

Turning Point Does a Good Turn

On November 7, ABC's *Turning Point* looked at the issue of same-sex marriage by featuring four gay and lesbian couples and their families leading up to and following their marriage ceremonies. The show, by focusing on the love and emotions involved, put gay marriage into an appropriate context without clouding the issue with anti-gay hate-mongering.

One ceremony was Jewish, one Episcopalian, and the other two were non-denominational, and the show explored a controversy among the Episcopalian diocese that arose when ABC wanted to film the ceremony within the church. While most family members were supportive, several struggled to adjust to the idea of same-sex marriage. In the end, however, they embraced their gay and lesbian loved ones and endorsed their weddings. Even the one fundamentalist Christian, who was completely opposed to her sister's marriage to another woman, and, for that matter, her sister being a lesbian, attended the reception and told her sister that she loved her.

Most significantly, the program conveyed the love that the couples felt. It showed the all-important ceremonial kisses and emphasized that, whatever some people in society might feel, and whatever religious radical doomsayers might say, these unions are based upon love and commitment.

Congratulate *Turning Point* on finding an excellent angle to sensitively cover the misunderstood issue of same-sex marriage. Contact: *Turning Point*, ABC, 77 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023, e-mail: abcaudr@ccabc.com.

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GLAAD MEDIA ALERT

Sparks Fly: Education 1, Stereotypes 0

Last week the new UPN (Universal Paramount Network) sitcom *Sparks*, starring James Avery and Robin Givens, took a comical swipe at all brands of stereotypes.

On its November 11 episode entitled "Good for the Gander," African-American attorney Maxey Sparks (Miguel A. Nunez, Jr.) crudely attempts to turn-on the openly gay judge, Judge Parker (Richard Bradford), when his defense of a hip-hop artist starts to go awry. He unbuttons his shirt, sprays on too much cologne, swaggers around the court, winks at the judge and uses an effeminate lisp to address the entire court. This, and the announcement that the judge wants to see him alone in his chambers, is met with delight and laughter by the audience.

In chambers, attempting to make the point that the defendant could not be recognized in a stocking mask, the judge hands Sparks stockings. Sparks, misunderstanding, horrifyingly begins to put them on his feet. When the judge questions why he is putting the stockings there, Sparks screams, "I don't know how you like it!"

The judge then turns the tables on not only Sparks but the audience, when he tells him that as an African-American he should know how hurtful and wrong stereotypes are. He

asks how it feels when Sparks sees an old movie that portrays blacks as lazy and stupid, and then proclaims to Sparks, "that's how I feel when you prance in my courtroom." The stunned audience's silence turns to boisterous applause as Sparks apologizes.

Please thank UPN and *Sparks* for reminding its audience that all stereotypes are degrading. Contact: Lucie Salhany, President-CEO, UPN, 11800 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025, fax: 310.575.7201.

Exit polls show strong numbers of out voters

While the results of Election Day themselves were arguably a mixed bag for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender voters, one interesting note is that, according to the Voter News Service exit poll, 4 percent of the voting public identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

As one activist noted, "Keep in mind that this is the number of people comfortable with their sexuality to express their real preference to a total stranger. When one considers all the closeted people in the community, 10 percent [of the general population as gay, lesbian or bisexual] looks better and better. And 1 percent looks like a joke."

Please let the Voter News Service know that it is especially noteworthy

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

and valuable that they are considering "bisexual" in their surveys along with "gay" and "lesbian." In doing so, they recognize the validity, and political visibility, of an identity too often dismissed as transitory if it is mentioned at all. Contact: Voter News Service, c/o National Assignment Desk, ABC News, 47 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023, e-mail at ABC: abcaudr@ccabc.com.

Doonesbury lovers talk it out on the air

After a week of on-air debate between Mark, a liberal talk show host and his conservative guest, Chase, *Doonesbury* artist Garry Trudeau surprised readers on November 4 by having the two characters come out as a couple while on the air.

The entire week has been devoted to a dialogue between interested listeners and the left-right couple. When in the November 6 strip one caller asks Mark, "Isn't a right-wing apologist kind of a weird match for you?" Mark replies, "I resent that question. Political beliefs don't always reveal the person behind them. Besides, Chase has a first-rate mind. I like having my cherished assumptions tested by a formidable intellect." Chase interjects, "Tell him about my spinach casserole," and Mark adds, "Also, I'm finally eating right."

Please let Garry Trudeau know that his continued inclusion of and

discussion about gay men is clever, meaningful and appreciated. Also, encourage him to continue to expand his progressive message by introducing lesbian, bisexual and transgender characters. Contact: Garry Trudeau, *Doonesbury*, 459 Columbus Avenue, Suite 113, New York, NY 10024.

"Gay Animal House?"

Boysfriends, a romantic comedy set in a gay fraternity house at a conservative Midwestern college, is currently in development at New Regency Productions' Regency Vision division and getting wide support from within the film industry. The executive producer of the film, Joel Schumacher, has produced such past hits as *A Time to Kill*, *Batman Forever*, and *The Lost Boys*, and Warner Brothers has plans to distribute the film worldwide.

Please praise New Regency for developing a major lesbian- or gay-themed Hollywood film and urge them to follow suit with other films involving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters. Contact: Alexandra Milchan and Elinor Milchan, Regency Vision, New Regency Productions, 4000 Warner Boulevard, Building 66, Burbank, CA 91522-0001, fax: 818.954.3295.

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Community Works

Focus: Project Lifeguard Director, Clay Spillman

by Thom Rowley, Staff Writer

Project Lifeguard is an HIV prevention and education program aimed specifically at men who have sex with men, no matter how they self-identify. It's the only federally funded program in Arizona directed toward this target group.

Clay Spillman has served as Project Lifeguard's Project Director for about six months. He first became involved with the organization (formerly the Gay Men's Sex Project) the way many men do, by attending a program discussion group. At that time, GMSP was an offshoot of the Community AIDS Council (CAC).

Spillman met the CAC Executive Director at a party during what he describes as, "a bad space in my life, having recently broken up with my lover..." He went to the GMSP program, was later asked to host a discussion group in his home and then to pose nude for an ad campaign.

He explains:

It was interesting because I had never done a nude layout. I felt that if the ad could save one life, it was worth it. Out of six people who signed up for the pictures, only myself and one other guy showed. The layout's purpose was to depict guys and their different levels of intimacy: intellectual, emotional, spiritual, sexual, and physical. It was done in a very tasteful way, it took six hours and it was great doing these different poses. The ads ran for the next couple years.

How did you get into your present position?

I kept in touch with the CAC director, and when I heard of a job opening, I applied. I was Project Coordinator. When CAC lost their Executive Director, our director took his position and, in the interim, I became Project Manager. Later, I was asked to take the position of Project Director.

And what do you like most about being the Director now?

The knowledge that this organization is making a difference. I really believe it is, and I wouldn't be here if I didn't.

What's the worst thing about your position?

The reporting and paperwork involved in a federally funded agency. They want to know their money is being put to good use. There's a lot of time spent doing those things, which takes me away from being more actively involved in fundraising, shows and groups. I let the incredible staff and our wonderful volunteers here really run the program.

It's nice to know that they are so capable...

Yes, it is. Obviously, none of us are here because we are looking to get rich! They're here because they care.

Does anything piss you off about the Phoenix gay and lesbian community?

There is still a lot of infighting between people that needs to be healed. With shrinking funds, it's difficult not to have your own agenda. It clouds judgments in this community. We could do so much more if we all worked together.

family didn't know and his was not very open to it. We decided we needed to start our own life, so, since he'd gone to ASU for two years, we moved out here.

What's the best date you've ever been on?

Best date? (long pause) Well... I met a guy I barely knew one night.

Haven't we all?

No, no, no... he called me the next day and asked if he could steal me away for a few hours. I asked where and he said he wanted it to be a surprise. He picked me up



How do you think the community is maturing?

There's a point that we can more loudly express ourselves. There are, however, a lot of openly gay people now in government and major corporations. This says a lot about how our community has progressed in the last thirty years.

We're seeing more non-stereotypical gays and lesbians portrayed on TV. This is a big move... Ellen is coming out of the closet this year in a healthy and supportive way.

Let's talk personal. Where did you grow up and how did you end up in Phoenix?

I'm from Highland, Indiana (just outside Chicago). I lived there until I went to Butler University in Indianapolis. I went back home and met someone. My

and drove to the top of South Mountain. He pulled out a blanket, candles and a thermos of hot cocoa. We sat up there and talked, watching the city lights.

What do you like to do when you're alone?

That's just it—be alone. In this job, I'm so inundated and I know so many gay people that I can't go anywhere without running into someone. I like to get out of the city; San Francisco is a favorite. I also like to get dressed up in my leather and go out. It's like creating a fantasy person. I don't see Clay in the Leather, but someone else. I am okay with being alone now; I actually enjoy it. Not that I would turn down a relationship!

I also like to play softball on the gay softball league here. I like to hike, but now that I'm thirty, my joints aren't what they used to be.

Interested in Sports?

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GLAAD MEDIA ALERT

Gay marriage is a way of Life

The November issue of *Life* magazine features a strong, affirming story entitled, "When We Talk About Gay Marriage, What Do We Really Mean?," featuring Steve Habgood and Mark Sadlek, a Dallas gay couple.

As with most articles in the magazine, the story is told primarily through a series of photographs: A two-page spread of the two men relaxing in bed with their dog, Chevas; a traditional black-and-white of the two exchanging vows at their commitment ceremony; a shot of the two mowing their lawn; a full-page view of Mark shaving while his ten-year-old nephew looks on; Mark and his old fraternity brothers and all of their spouses (including Steve) at a reunion; Steve chairing a meeting of the local American Cancer Society; and the couple attending church with Steve's sister, Karen.

The images show the traditional and upstanding nature of the two men's relationship and life. Accompanying text explains how in Texas, "even their cohabitation is illegal." It also notes that, "though they would like to marry legally, says Mark, 'legislation won't give our relationship any more emotional value.'"

It discusses how the families of both partners came to accept and embrace them, and how unequal gov-

ernmental treatment is for gay couples then it is for straight couples. Finally, it states that the two "find it ironic that much of the opposition to civil marriage comes from churches. Says Steve, 'Christianity is about acceptance and love.' Those, they say, are their family values."

Life's more conservative readers will undoubtedly be sent negative letters about the article. Please write *Life* and let them know how important it is to provide such positive and honest portrayals of our lives together. Contact: Life, Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020, fax: 212.522.0379, e-mail: lifedit@life.timeinc.com.

20/20 Coverage of Etheridge/Cypher

While the November 1 *20/20* presented an interesting and in-depth interview with rock star Melissa Etheridge and her partner Julie Cypher about their relationship, their expected child and lesbian and gay parenting in general, they also fell into the now archaic trap of interviewing an anti-gay religious radical.

Under the guise of "balanced journalism," *20/20* featured infamous homophobic radical Lou Sheldon of the hate group the Traditional Values Coalition, who spewed his hatred by condemning lesbian and gay families.

Would a show about interracial parents and their children have a

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

member of the Ku Klux Klan for "balance?" A hate group is a hate group, whether it deals with race, sexual orientation or religion, and such groups should not be dignified as a valid "opposing viewpoint" in an otherwise engaging and balanced story.

The interview with Etheridge and Cypher tells the story of how in love and devoted they are to one another, how they met and how excited they are about their child. *20/20* also provided viewers with information about how the children of lesbian and gay parents neither suffer great discrimination nor have any more issues about their own sexuality or gender roles due to having same-sex parents.

Tell *20/20* that the story and information about parenting was great. However, the piece fell flat by giving hate a soapbox from which to preach. Contact: Victor Newfeld, Executive Producer, *20/20*, 147 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10023, fax: 212.456.2969, e-mail: abcaudr@ccabc.com.

USA Today prints ad from hate group

On page 4D of the October 31 *USA Today*, a large advertisement by the anti-gay hate group "Americans for Truth About Homosexuality" is headlined, "In 1992, the Homosexual Lobby gave Bill Clinton \$3.5 million. Here's what they got for their money."

The anti-gay ad then catalogues many of President Clinton's lesbian and gay civil rights and AIDS advocacy accomplishments. The advertisement then states the hate-group's position on lesbians and gay men: "We believe, like most Americans, that homosexuality is WRONG and should NOT be encouraged...by governments, schools, or popular culture...or by the President of the United States. Americans for Truth is dedicated to exposing and countering the powerful homosexual movement in America."

USA Today, like any newspaper devoted to high journalistic standards, should not accept advertising from hate groups of any stripe. The Americans for Truth organization was founded by the same bigoted people that publish the virulently anti-gay Lambda Report on Homosexuality, which uses malicious lies and heinous stereotypes about lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people to forward their hateful agenda. One must wonder if *USA Today* would have accepted a similar ad from an anti-Semitic or racist hate group.

Write *USA Today* and encourage them not to allow themselves to become a forum for hate. Contact: *USA Today*, 1000 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22229, fax: 703.247.3108, e-mail: Editor@usatoday.com.

The GLAADAlert is the weekly activation tool of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Mistletoe & Memories

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Depressin' era drama

By Allen Kalchik

IF YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH ABEL Ferrara's movies, you know that they are usually filled with well developed characters and teeming with atmosphere. For the uninitiated, Ferrara is an independent director who makes daring, provocative films that are angry, rife with tension, often graphically violent and sexual, and pointedly dark. Not exactly a day at the beach.

His latest work, *The Funeral*, is indeed no exception. It lives up to its dour title as the controversial director succeeds masterfully in creating a mood of tension, mourning and bleak despair. There's also enough well-acted sexual and mental dysfunction to grab the attention of even the most jaded indie film buff. It's too bad he can't keep it.

Where Ferrara generally runs into dramatic trouble is in the on screen pacing. His languid cinematic eye

directs his characters too slowly toward conclusions the audience has already reached; there's no question that the performances, lighting, music, and atmosphere work. And yet several key scenes are played out so heavily that the action has no choice but to linger a step behind the intellect. From the midpoint on, you may find yourself silently chanting, "Okay! I get it... now, get on with it!" That's probably not the kind of tension the director had in mind when editing his work, but it's what he consistently delivers.

Such was the case with Ferrara's best-known film, 1992's contemporary police drama *Bad Lieutenant*, and it's also true here, although we're given a good deal more plot to meander around this time.

The Funeral is a crime drama, set in New York in the early thirties. The Tempios are a mob family struggling to hold themselves together following the murder of Johnny, the youngest of three brothers. The oldest brother, Ray (Christopher Walken), deals with his grief by planning to avenge the family. He's determined to find his brother's killer and to see him put away before Johnny's funeral can take place. Ray's educated and guilt-ridden wife, Jeanette (Annabella

Sciorria), begs him to let the deed lie, even as young Johnny lies state in their drawing room.

Embattled Ray can't let go of his need for revenge and everyone around him gets nervous, even more so when the volatile middle brother, Chez (Chris Penn— in his best and most demanding performance thus far), shows up. Chez teeters on the brink of sanity and it's all his devoted wife Clara (Isabella Rossellini— beautiful but miscast opposite a man nearly young enough to be her son) can do to hide his unstable mental condition from the rest of the family and the outside world.

The events leading up to the murder of Johnny (Vincent Gallo) are revealed through flashbacks, as is the brutal Mafioso childhood of the three Tempio brothers. Papa Tempio shot himself when the boys were still young, leaving many relatives with old world traditions to view the unstable family as cursed by his suicide.

The adult Johnny becomes intrigued by leftist politics and repeatedly scrapes against a rival mobster over the rights of union

workers. This lizard-like rival, Gaspare (Benicio Del Toro), has more than enough motive to have killed Johnny and is the chief suspect in his death. Ray has his minions haul Gaspare in for a little torture session, thinking he can gain some insight into his baby brother's death and achieve his retaliation. But in a film

There's enough sexual and mental dysfunction to grab even the most jaded film buff's attention

about a family this twisted, insight doesn't come without a price.

As Ray continues his search for Mafia justice and Chez spirals further into madness, the Tempio women struggle to preserve what dignity they can, in marked contrast to the depravity of their men.

The stark conclusion is also typical of Ferrara and makes a fitting statement. Although astonishing in its nature, it's too long in coming and so only adds to the apathy we already feel for his tortured and unattractive characters.

Once again, Ferrara and screenwriter Nicholas St. John prove that they know how to create in-depth characters and a dynamic atmosphere on film but are unable to set a compelling pace. If you enjoy outstanding ensemble acting and can get into a gritty exploration of the darker side of humanity, then the violent beauty of this drama may be right up your alley. But if you like more adventure with your action and prefer that crime tales be told in a more straightforward style, your interest in this slow-moving story may be killed long before *The Funeral* ends.

Lassie comes home

By Kelly Reidhead

THERE HAS BEEN AN EXTENDED buzz generated by the British film *Secrets and Lies* since it garnered two of the highest prizes at this year's Cannes film festival—the Palme d'Or, for best picture, and the Best Actress award, for Brenda Blethyn's portrayal of Cynthia.

The film has received attention not only because of the acclaim at Cannes, but also because of the unconventional techniques used by Writer/Director Mike Leigh.

Leigh's films are the product of an intensive and time consuming collaboration between himself and his cast. They begin with no script—just a bare-bones outline. Leigh gives his actors only limited bits of information about their characters. The actors then develop the characters by improvising in extended rehearsals.

Throughout this process Leigh writes the script, incorporating the characters that the actors have created. He doesn't permit the actors to see the full script, however. Instead, he releases only segments to the actors before shooting a scene. Consequently, each actor becomes intimately familiar with his or her character, but remains in the dark about the other aspects of the storyline until the film is completed.

Secrets and Lies is a testament to the success of Leigh's unusual methods, and to his skill as writer and director. The Cannes Jury called this one right: the film is terrific. In my book, *Secrets and Lies* ranks dead even with John Sayles's *Lone Star*—easily the two best movies I've seen this year.

The plot revolves around a woman's search for her birth mother, and the waves created by their reunion—both in their own lives, and in the lives of those around them.

Marianne Jean-Baptiste plays Hortense, a young, black, successful optometrist who decides, after the death of her adoptive parents, to locate her birth mother. She is astonished to learn that her birth mother, Cynthia—a lower-class factory worker—is white, but is nevertheless determined to make contact with her.

Brenda Blethyn's performance as Cynthia is incredible. She perfectly captures Cynthia's vulnerability and fragile self-esteem. Cynthia gave up her first baby at 16, then raised her brother and second daughter alone, only to be emotionally abandoned by them as adults. As her brother Maurice (Timothy Spall) guiltily admits, "Cynthia just never got enough love."

But Cynthia is much more than needy and depressed; she's also warm and funny. Throughout the film, Cynthia spouts—in her cockney accent—colloquialisms that are hilarious. Complaining that she's never met her daughter Roxanne's boyfriend, she says, "Why I wouldn't know 'im if 'e stood up in my soup."

The best scene in the film is when Cynthia and Hortense meet for the first time. Cynthia insists that the birth records are a mistake. After Hortense asks her to look more closely at the documents, Cynthia states

The Cannes Jury called this one right: the film is terrific

the obvious: "Oh, sweet'eat, I ain't never been with a black man—I'd a remembered that, now, wouldn't I?"

Cynthia's memory returns in a painful flash, however, when she recognizes her own signature on the birth certificate. She admits to Hortense, with shame, that she never looked at the baby she gave away for adoption. Blethyn is sublime in rendering the parade of conflicting emotions that march through Cynthia—from wracking sobs to the stress-

induced, irrepressible giggles of a mourner at a funeral.

As Hortense, Marianne Jean-Baptiste is also wonderful. Baptiste has a big, expressive face that communicates without words; she would have made a great silent film star.

There isn't, in fact, a bad performance in entire film.

I have only a few complaints about the movie. At two hours, 22 minutes, the movie was unnecessarily long. Leigh should have been more diligent in excising some of the superfluous scenes. In particular, a lengthy scene takes place in Maurice's photographic studio, when he is visited by its derelict former owner. I kept expecting that character to reappear, but he never did. The scene did nothing for the film except add to its running time.

And, although I enjoyed the musical score, the small orchestral arrangements were overblown in some of the crucial scenes. The audience doesn't need to be hit over the head with a cloying violin crescendo to know that something important has just happened.

Notwithstanding these minor problems, I highly recommend seeing *Secrets and Lies*—particularly if you enjoy character-driven films and strong performances.

Smear the queer

By Kelly Reidhead

LIKE THEIR HETERO COUNTERPARTS, many gay people fantasize about escaping the pollution and pressures of an urban environment for a healthier life somewhere in the country. Gay and lesbian couples, especially, are attracted by country life; the bars and other social amenities of a city, so important to life as a single person, frequently take on a diminished role in the lives of coupled queers.

Although a rural existence seems benign, gays and lesbians who actually live in the boondocks face a hazard that is more insidious than urban crime and pollution: the intolerant, and potentially dangerous, attitudes of their rural neighbors toward their sexuality.

Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills, a new documentary by independent film makers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, is a grim reminder that life in the city can be a lot safer for people outside the mainstream than life in the sticks.

In some parts of the country, simply being different from your neighbors may constitute a severe enough "crime" to justify being rounded up by the police, charged with triple murder, and sentenced to death.

Paradise Lost is about the 1993 murder and sexual mutilation of three 8-year-old boys in a small Arkansas

town, and the aftermath on those affected by these heinous crimes.

After a month of investigation—with mounting public pressure to find a suspect—the police arrested three local teenagers, and charged them with killing the little boys as part of a satanic ritual.

The evidence consisted of a factually inconsistent, and likely coerced, confession from one of the teenagers (with an IQ of 70), and a book about Wicca—purchased from the local library's discard pile—seized from the bedroom of another of the accused teenagers.

Also figuring prominently in the prosecution's case were the indicators of "Satan worship" that the teenagers exhibited on a regular basis: none of them enjoyed sports, they liked to wear all black clothes, sometimes they colored their nails and hair black, they sported various tattoos, and they liked to listen to the music of Metallica and Slayer.

Based on these criteria, at least 75% of teenagers in Phoenix must be worshipping the Dark One. Ridiculous? Sure, but two different juries convicted these kids with this kind of "evidence".

As one of the defense attorneys aptly put it, "The police had to do something, so they said 'let's call it a cult killing and find somebody weird.' This is a case about satanic panic, and that's a scary thing. But

it's scarier to convict someone with no evidence."

The film is non-narrated, but the directors have done a remarkable job of weaving the many pieces together into a coherent product that documents the various aspects of the crime and trial. Although the footage of the crime scene is gruesome, even more horrifying are the

This film is a grim reminder that life in the city can be a lot safer for people outside the mainstream than life in the sticks.

scenes that feature the families of the slain boys.

After the conviction of Jessie, the kid with substandard intelligence, a mother of one of the victims sneers into the camera: "prison's not a safe place, Jessie, sweetie—I'm going to mail you a skirt." During the trial of the other two accused teenagers, the filmmakers capture a different set of parents and a grandmother describing their fervent desire to hurt and kill the defendants.

Although the rage and grief of these families is understandable, it is shocking to see the extent of their hatred recorded on film. While many people under similar circumstances might have the same reactions toward

the accused killers, I think most would voice these reactions only in private—maybe to their spouse, therapist, or cleric.

As I watched these people spit out these vitriolic comments, I wondered what had happened to their sense of dignity, or, at least, vanity. It seemed that they were almost performing for the camera—just as the participants

in sensational television talk shows have no qualms revealing the most personal, and unflattering, aspects of their lives to a national audience.

Paradise Lost is a disturbing film about a disturbing event. The film is skillfully made, and is probably one of the most interesting documentaries you will see about the weaknesses of our justice system. For those still scratching their heads over the O. J. Simpson verdict, this film explores the flip side of the same coin: juries that convict defendants with no evidence. *Paradise Lost* also provides a unique, and almost voyeuristic, view into the human condition—and it's not a pretty picture.

Blokes in the 'hood

By Allen Kalchik

HERE'S A TOUCHING, SWEET coming-of-age love story that warms the heart like few other films have in recent years—and it's a gay love story, at that.

Take two adorable 16 year-old boys living next door to each other in a low-rent tenement in the south of London, establish both as misfits in their respective worlds, then ask them to share a bed.

That's the recipe for first time British Director Hettie MacDonald's new film, *Beautiful Thing*, and it cooks up admirably.

Glen Berry plays Jamie Gangel, a cute, sensitive kid who has trouble fitting in with his sports-minded mates. Jamie's neighbor Ste (Scott Neal), is more popular at school, but is being battered at home by his alcoholic father and cocky older brother.

Jamie's single mum, Sandra (Linda Henry), takes pity on Ste and convinces her son to let the neighbor kid sleep over for his own safety.

And that's where the romance in the story begins. The boys discover a need in each other they were previously unaware even existed, and realize that love is indeed a beautiful thing, despite the obstacles.

The obstacles here are plenty. The underage lovers are initially unaware of how to accept or even voice what they feel for each other, and think that they have nowhere "safe" to go.

There's Ste's abusive family to contend with, as well as inquisitive Leah (Tameka Empson), a trouble-making, teenage party-girl-next-door, who's as obsessed with the local gossip as she is with old Mama Cass



albums.

What MacDonald and screenwriter Jonathan Harvey manage to convey so perfectly is the elation young gays feel at discovering a physical relationship that feels so "right", while believing their joy must be kept hidden from everyone else. Given their cramped quarters and Jamie's close relationship with his mother, the lads are unable to keep their secret for long.

The film is essentially about the relationship between the boys, but it really belongs to Linda Henry in the

pivotal role of Sandra. She gives an honest portrayal of a tough fighter, a working class gal with a kind heart who is used to controlling every element of her life in her quest for something better.

What she can't control are the feelings of grief, rage, empathy, and acceptance she moves through in learning the truth about Jamie's relationship with Ste. It's a powerhouse performance and it's Henry's believability that carries the movie.

The leads are supported nicely by Ben Daniels as Sandra's handsome,

hang-dog younger boyfriend, Tony. Empson's hilarious retro costumes and camp posturing as the delusional dropout, Leah, provide many of the film's lightest moments.

You don't want to miss this film. *Beautiful Thing* is charming, funny, honest and poignant—not unlike love itself. Gee, it kinda makes you wonder what they were thinking of when they came up with the title.

Goings On

CAC Seeks Board Members

The Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center is currently seeking applicants for its Board of Directors. This is an opportunity to be a vital part of the community while serving as a leader in a growing organization. Fundraising, accounting or public relations experience is desired but not mandatory.

The Board of Directors meets in the evening on the first Tuesday of every month. A regular term is three years in length.

In addition, the board is seeking volunteers to serve on a variety of committees and to work on various fundraising projects.

The Community Center, located at 3136 N. 3rd Ave., offers several programs including the Anti-Violence Project, The Arizona AIDS Information Line, The Gay and Lesbian Community Switchboard and The B.J. Budd Memorial Library, Valley One in Ten Youth Group. The Center also houses several community organizations including Arizona Central Pride, Arizonans for Fairness, Project Lifeguard, Women's Central News, the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project and the Lesbian Resource Project. For more information or an application, contact Lyle Miller at The Center, 265-7283

Lesbian Resource Project Events

The Lesbian Resource Project has several events for women planned for the month of November. The LRP is located at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 3136 N. 3rd Avenue in Phoenix. All of their meetings and programs are held at the LRP.

The Lesbian Mom's Support Group meets on November 18. The group meets at 6:30 pm and is facilitated by Sandra Hardin, MA. A \$2 donation per session is requested. Space is limited, so LRP requests that interested women call to make reservations.

TLC, the women's chorale, practices on November 18 and 27 at 7:00 pm.

The Lesbian Feminist Book Discussion Group is scheduled for November 22 at 7:00 pm.

Women of Color Organizing will meet on November 20 at 7:30 pm and there will be a Happy Hour at Options restaurant on November 21 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

Call the LRP for information on these or any other upcoming events or services, or to find out how to join the organization. They can be reached at 266-5542.

CBPA Schedules November Meeting

The Camelback Business and Professional Association will hold their monthly general meeting on November 21 at 6:30 pm at The Eggery on Camelback and Central Avenue.

The featured speaker will be Sherman Bendalin, addressing the issue of Domestic Partnerships.

Mr. Bendalin has practiced law in Arizona since 1969. He has developed an increasing interest in elder law.

He aids people and families—including gay & lesbian families cope with the personal and financial stress of living together. He also assists in planning for incapacity and infirmity when appropriate.

The Camelback Business and Professional Association is a professional organization comprised of gay and lesbian professionals and business owners and operators. There are many social and business opportunities available to members. For information on joining, contact the CBPA membership at 257-4595 or 253-1766.

Desert Adventures Plans November Activities

Desert Adventures, a social group geared toward outdoor activities, has planned several activities for the Month of November.

On November 28, the group will combine forces with Valley Career Women and host a Thanksgiving feast. The afternoon meal will be served at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4735 North 19th Avenue in Phoenix. The pot luck will cost \$6 for all attendees, turkey and ham will be provided.

The group will head to Nogales on Saturday, November 30, for their annual Christmas shopping trip, on a chartered bus. The cost for members will be \$20, \$22 for non-members.

Seating is limited, so the planners are encouraging those interested to make reservations early. A film will be shown on the bus each way. To find out more about these events, or to join the organization, call Desert Adventures at 266-CAMP.

The group plans many trips throughout the year and holds its regular membership and core-group meetings on Tuesdays. Men and Women 21 years of age or older may join, the annual dues are \$25.

"DEAR COWBOY"

A REGULAR ADVICE COLUMN



Back when Arizona was still a territory and cattle ranged all over the high desert, the big ranches were worked by real cowboys. In those days, a man out on the plains had a lot of time to himself. He'd use that time to sing, write poetry and reflect on nature and life; to study his place in the society he was so far removed from. When he finally returned to the ranch, his cohorts found him to be calmer and wiser. If they ran into trouble, they'd seek out the lone cowboy's advice. Thus started a fine western tradition.

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

Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ. Watch for our "Dear Cowboy" e-mail address, available soon.

Dear Cowboy,

I'm in love with someone who sees me only as a friend. We slept together when we first met. He's attractive and popular in a crowd while I'm a little more ordinary looking and quiet. We truly enjoy each other's company. We'll spend entire days together, having a great time.

But when evening comes and we head to a bar or a party where there are more gay men around, he's off trying to pick up other guys and I'm on my own. It really hurts to watch because I'm so attracted to him myself, even though I know he doesn't want me. I want to tell him that I can't be his friend if I can't be his boyfriend. Is this the right thing to do?

Signed, Out of my League.

Dear Beleaguered,

Sounds to this ol' boy like you have a bit of a self esteem problem.

You've been bucked off and you're hung up in the rigging of this relationship. Let go of your amorous feelings before you get hurt worse than you already are. Friends are hard to find these days and the only thing holding you back from enjoying his friendship is his relative attractiveness to your poor view of yourself. Buck up, take a good look at all the things that make you a friend to him, then compare that to his qualities and I'm sure you'll see things differently.

Here's a trick: focus on the things about him that you don't like. Bad breath? An irritating gesture? There has to be something! I don't recommend trashing the friendship, it can still work. You just need to take some time to mend your bruised heart and salvage your self esteem. If you do need to go that far, try not to blame him for what you're feeling when you end it. Just harken back to Cowboy Rule #1: The most positive way to

deal with any negative situation is to turn your back and walk away.

Dear Cowboy,

I've been seeing a woman from out of town for over a year. Either I commute to Southern Cal or she comes to Phoenix about twice a month, and we get along great except for two things:

her weight and her haircut. She had a nice body when we met, but she's gained about thirty pounds and I'm afraid I'm losing my attraction to her. She also has a very trendy, spiky, short/long haircut that drives me nuts. Should I end it? I don't know how to bring these issues up without sounding shallow.

Signed, Airline Annie

Dear Airline,

First of all, you can't bring these

issues up without sounding shallow, because they are shallow. Your question reminds me of a line from Randy Travis' song *Forever and Ever, Amen*, where he says, "Honey, I don't care, I ain't in love with your hair..." He forgets that the hair is attached to the head and is pretty hard to separate from one's overall appearance. But then, he's singing about long term love and commitment, not long-distance love in bloom. The fact that you're content to keep a relationship going with someone you only see twice a month tells me more about where your head is at than hers.

That's why the commuting thing makes it even more important to get issues like this out on the table. Tell your gal exactly how you feel about her scary new bob and sudden corpulence ASAP. Careful how you put it, though. Avoid confrontational statements like, "your haircut makes you

look goofy and you've gotten fat." That will only lead to trouble. Who knows? If

you put it right, she might lose the 'do and a few pounds. More likely though, you'll both realize this physical thing is only an indication that she isn't the one for you and you'll find yourself looking for a love that's unconditional— maybe even one that isn't affected by flight delays.

"You can't bring this up without sounding shallow. You are shallow..."

Cocktails Dining & Diversions

Libations

- 1) Ain't Nobody's Bizness (The Biz) 3031 E. Indian School #7 Phoenix 224-9977
- 2) Apollo's 5749 N. 7th Street Phoenix 277-9373
- 3) BS West 7125 5th Avenue Scottsdale 945-9028
- 4) Cash Inn 2140 E. McDowell Phoenix 244-9943
- 5) Charlie's 727 W. Camelback Phoenix 265-0224

6) Country Club
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix
264-4553

7) Cruisin' Central
1011 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix
253-3376

8) Desert Rose
44301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix
265-3233

9) Detour
4102 E. Thomas
Phoenix
224-9471

10) Foster's
4343 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix
263-8313

11) Harley's Club 155
155 W. Camelback
Phoenix
274-8505

12) Harley's Too!
125 W. Camelback
Phoenix
274-7117

13) Incognito
2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix
955-9805

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

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

16) Marlys'
15615 Cave Creek
Phoenix
867-2463

17) Metro Dance Factory
4102 E. Thomas
Phoenix
224-9457

18) Nasty Habits
3108 E. McDowell
Phoenix
267-8707

19) NuTowne
5002 E. Van Buren
267-9959

20) The Pumphouse
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix
275-3509

21) Roscoe's
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix
285-0833

22) 307 Lounge
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix
252-0001

23) TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix
254-0231

24) Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix
265-9002

25) The Works
7223 E. 2nd St.
Scottsdale
946-4141

26) Zarape
1728 E. McDowell
Phoenix

Edibles

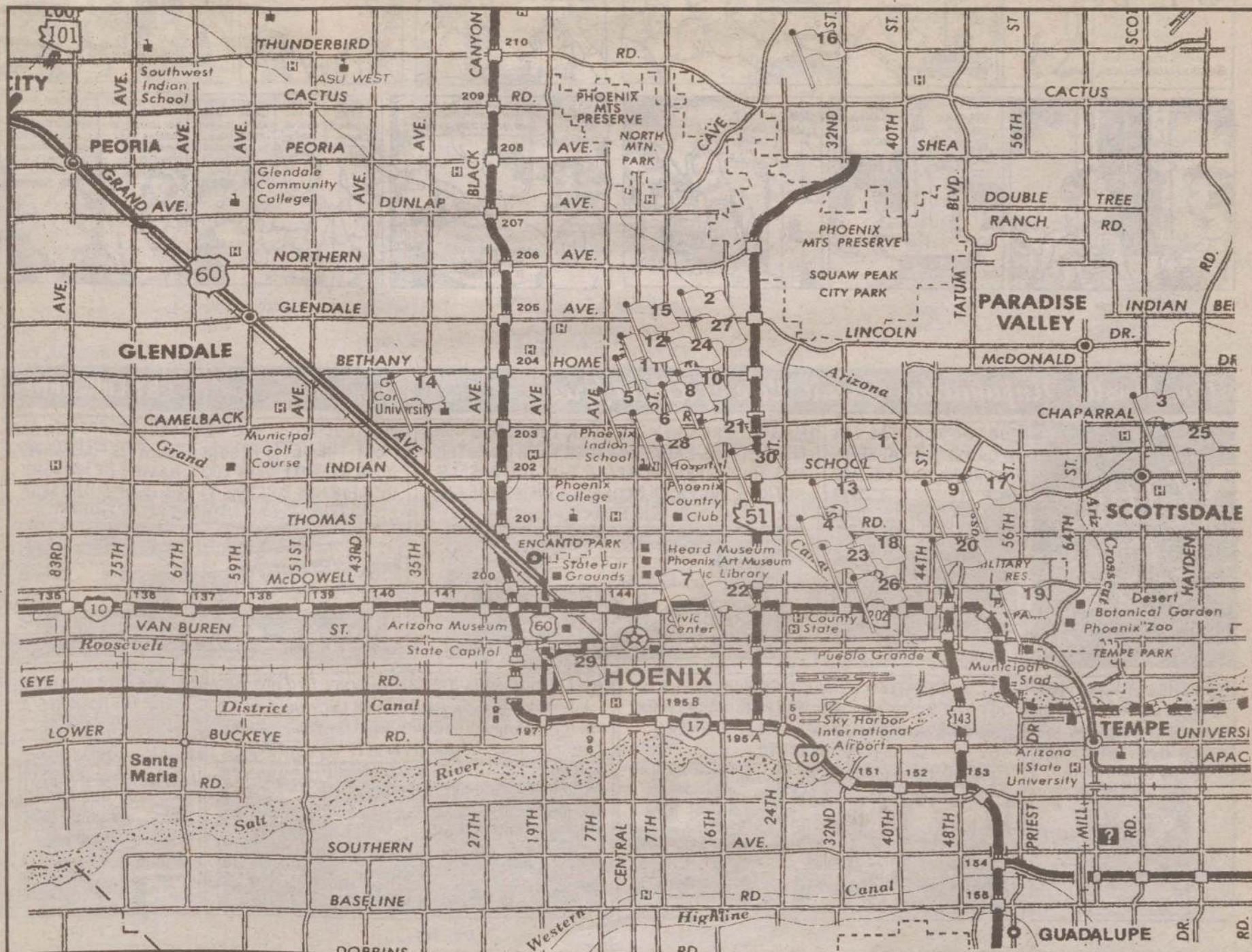
27) Options
5111 N. 7th St.
Phoenix
263-5776

28) Pookie's
4540 N. 7th St.
Phoenix
277-2121

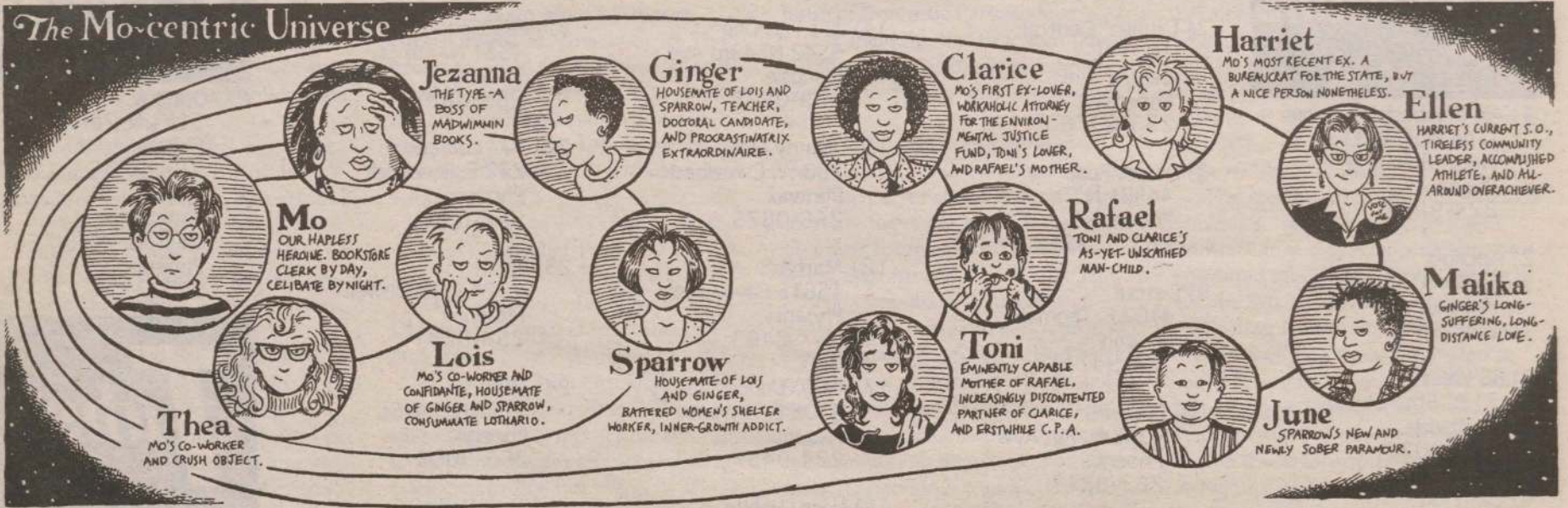
Tubs

29) Flex
1517 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix
271-9011

30) The Chute
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix
234-1654



the funnies



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

<http://www.visi.com/~oprairie/>

Ph.D. & Sympathy 250

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I'LL BE THE LEXUS LESBIAN WITH A FLAT TIRE, AND YOU BE THE SURE BIKER WHO STOPS TO HELP.

GEE, I DUNNO, BABETTE. I'M KINDA TIRED.

OKAY, OKAY. THE FED EX DRIVER DELIVERING THE GOOD VIBRATIONS PACKAGE TO THE BORED HOUSEWIFE.

YENOW, I THINK I'M JUST GONNA GO HOME.

MEANWHILE...
...SO THIS WOMAN'S HUSBAND SHOWS UP AT THE SHELTER TODAY WITH A DOZEN ROSES AND A HUNTING RIFLE.

LONG-STEMMED?

GINGER!

SPARROW, EVERY DAY YOU HAVE SOME NEW HORROR STORY! I CAN'T LET IT IN ANY MORE. HOW DO YOU DO THAT JOB?

WELL, WE CAN'T ALL SIT AROUND NOT WRITING OUR DISSERTATIONS.

KA-KLUCK

WTF?

WE'VE GOTTA TALK TO HER.

YEAH. GENTLY, THOUGH, OR SHE'LL FREAK.

CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP

NOK NOK

LOIS? CAN WE COME IN?

WHAT IS UP WITH YOU, GIRL? MO SAYS YOU'RE POPPING PROZAC! WHAT ARE YOU DEPRESSED ABOUT?

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. SHE THOUGHT WE KNEW.

YEAH. SO HOW COME WE DIDN'T?

OH, YOU GUYS HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT WITH YOUR CAREERS AND ALL. YOU DON'T NEED TO HEAR ABOUT MY PROBLEMS.

ARE YOU KIDDING? I'D MUCH RATHER HEAR ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS THAN WORK ON YOUR DISSERTATION.

THANK YOU, GINGER. CONSIDERING YOU'D RATHER FELLATE BILL CLINTON THAN WORK ON YOUR DISSERTATION, THAT'S VERY GENEROUS.

THAT WOMAN! SHE TOLD YOU, WITH A FRIEND LIKE NO, WHO WOULDN'T BE DEPRESSED?

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

BY ERIC ORNER

Vetting the issue

SO YOU'RE AT THE VET BECAUSE THE CAT KEEPS HAVING HAIRBALL ATTACKS.

AND YOU'RE CHEWING OVER THE PROS & CONS OF GETTING BACK TOGETHER WITH DOUG. THIS HAS YOU SO PREOCCUPIED THAT YOU BARELY NOTICE LUCY'S CARRYING-ON DURING THE CAR RIDE OVER.

RIDICULOUSLY, YOU'VE NEVER BOTHERED TO CORRECT THE VET'S RECORDS. "LUCY" IS FILED UNDER YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND LEO'S NAME. (HE BROUGHT HER FOR HER FIRST VISIT) THIS ALWAYS CAUSES A LITTLE SCENE WITH THE RECEPTIONIST...

ON THE ONE HAND, YOU SPENT LAST WEEKEND TOGETHER IN BED... ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE MUST BE AN OTHER HAND.

LUCY, STARTLED BY A BOXER PUP, HAS RUN OUT THE DOOR AND INTO THE PARKING LOT WHERE SHE IS HIDING UNDER A CAR & SPEWING KITTY INVECTIVE...

RECEPTIONIST IS TRYING TO COAX HER OUT WITH A BOWL OF fancy feast, WHICH LUCY WOULDN'T EAT IF IT WAS THE LAST BOWL OF KITTY FOOD ON GOD'S GREEN PLANET.

MAYBE YOU & DOUG WILL SPEND THE HOLIDAYS AT YOUR MOM'S...

WELL THIS IS GONNA COST AN ENT. MAYBE NEXT TIME HILLARY WILL GIVE US HEALTH CARE FOR PETS.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT YOU REALLY OWN HER?

CAN YOU IMAGINE SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T BOTHERING?

I'LL BUZZ THE DOCTOR.

ON SWELL.

WOOF WOOF

HERE PUSS PUSS THATS A PUSS PUSS. MESSIN' WITH ME NEVER GETS GOOD FOOD WERE GETS AT HOME. HOHO.

HONEY OF COURSE DOUG CAN COME.

I THOUGHT YOU STOPPED SEEING DOUG.

Directory of Community Services

Aids Services

AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix, AZ 85064
234-6143

AIDS Project Arizona
265-2437

Arizona AIDS
Information Line
P.O. Box 16423
Phoenix, AZ 85011
234-2752

Arizona AIDS
Services for the Deaf
4460 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85012
265-9953

Aunt Rita's
Foundation
5501 N. 7th Ave.
#215
Phoenix, AZ 85013
279-0716

Coalition of Meal
Providers
922-6593

HIV Care Directions
1366 E. Thomas Rd.
#105
Phoenix, AZ 85014
264-2273

Indian Community
Health Services
1427 N. 3rd St. #100
Phoenix, AZ 85004
254-0456

Joshua Tree
264-0223

MALTA Center
2000 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85006
340-1881

Maricopa County
Health Dept.
1825 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix, AZ 85006
506-6900

Planned Parenthood
5651 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85016
277-7526

Phoenix Body
Positive
4021 N. 30th St. #2
Phoenix, AZ 85016
955-4673

Phoenix Shanti
Group
2020 W. Indian
School Rd. #53
Phoenix, AZ 85015
279-0008

Project Lifeguard
3136 N. 3rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85013
266-7233

Project Q
3136 N. 3rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85013
266-7233

Teros, Inc.
320 E. Virginia Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
234-8900

Volunteers in Direct
Aid
P.O. Box 40476
Phoenix, AZ 85067
279-8432

American Civil
Liberties Union
P.O. Box 17148
Phoenix, AZ 85011
650-1967

Political Organizations

Arizona Central Pride
Committee
P.O. Box 26139
Tempe, AZ 85285
279-1771

Arizona Human
Rights Fund
P.O. Box 25044
Phoenix, AZ 85002
530-1660

Arizonans for
Fairness
P.O. Box 34766
Phoenix, AZ 85067
265-7283

Coalition for
Immediate Action
P.O. Box 33233
Phoenix, AZ
246-8277

Feminist Lesbian
Activist Coalition
P.O. Box 26031
Tempe, AZ 85285
966-4521

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

Professional Organizations

Camelback Business
and Professional
Association
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix, AZ 85001
225-8444

Valley Career Women
P.O. Box 33393
Phoenix, AZ 85067
460-4481

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay
Mormons)
P.O. Box 26601
Tempe, AZ 85285
433-1321

Casa De Cristo
1029 E. Turney
Phoenix, AZ 85014
265-2831

Conference for
Catholic Lesbians
947-8187

Dignity and Integrity
P.O. Box 21091
Phoenix, AZ 85036
222-8664

First Unitarian
Universalist Church
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Paradise Valley, AZ
85283
840-8400

Gentle Shepherd
MCC
285-9020

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

Healing Waters
Ministries
225 W. University
#105
Tempe, AZ 85281
894-8681

Lutherans
Concerned
P.O. Box 7519
Phoenix, AZ 85011
870-3611

Mishpachah Am
P.O. Box 7731
Phoenix, AZ 85011

Moon Goddess
Coven
P.O. Box 48918
Phoenix, AZ 85075

Presbyterians for
Lesbians & Gays
P.O. Box 61162
Phoenix, AZ 85082
275-0506

Southwest Miracles
Center
3644 E. McDowell
Phoenix, AZ 85008
244-9001

Valley Unitarian
Universalist Church
1700 W. Warner Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85224
899-4249

Social & Support Groups

Alpha Zeta
P.O. Box 24459
Tempe, AZ 85285
246-1966

Alternative Young
Adult Alliance
P.O. Box 40472
Phoenix, AZ 85067
202-7973

Arizona 2-somes
905-1898

AZ Bisexual Network
5501 N. 7th Ave.
#1054
Phoenix, AZ 85013
352-4023

Arizona Nude Dudes
P.O. Box 32776
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Battered Lesbians
Support Group
361 N. 4th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85003
258-5344

Concillo Latino Y
Alianza Latina
3136 N. 3rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85014
285-0970

Copperstate
Leathermen
P.O. Box 40472
Phoenix, AZ 85067
274-8194

Couples of Arizona
P.O. Box 7144
Phoenix, AZ 85011
831-6432

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

East Side Social Club
P.O. Box 7681
Mesa, AZ 85246
807-9737

Gay & Lesbian
Parents Support
Network
P.O. Box 66823
Phoenix, AZ 85082
892-8075

Gender Outlaw
P.O. Box 55863
Phoenix, AZ 85078
274-9599

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

Leatherlords
8036 N. 35th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85051
841-8953

Lesbian & Gay Alanon
2940 E. Thomas
Phoenix, AZ 85016
581-8850

Lesbian & Gay
Community
Switchboard
P.O. Box 183
Phoenix, AZ 85011
234-2752

Lesbian & Gay
Seniors Group
241-1604

Lesbian Moms
5608 N. 29th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85017
249-4559

Lesbian Resource
Project
3136 N. 3rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85013
266-5542

Los Amigos del Sol
P.O. Box 27335
Phoenix, AZ 85061
843-1329

Parents & Friends of
Lesbians and Gays
P.O. Box 37525
Phoenix, AZ 85069
843-1404

Phoenix Social
Couples
391-0085

Valley One in Ten
3136 N. 3rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85013
234-2752

Music, Sports & Hobbies

Arizona Gay Rodeo
Association
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix, AZ 85011
265-0618

Arizona Lambda
Yacht Club
951-9481

Cactus Cities Softball
League
254-0648

Charlie's Renegades
727 W. Camelback
Rd.

Phoenix, AZ 85013
265-0224

Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 34615
Phoenix, AZ 85067
252-0048

Gay League
Association of Darts
P.O. Box 941
Phoenix, AZ 85013
841-4489

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

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

Our Gang Bowling
League
2644 E. Birchwood
Mesa, AZ 85204
969-4629

Spartan Wrestling
Club
451-3891

Sunburst Squares
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85013
265-0224

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

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