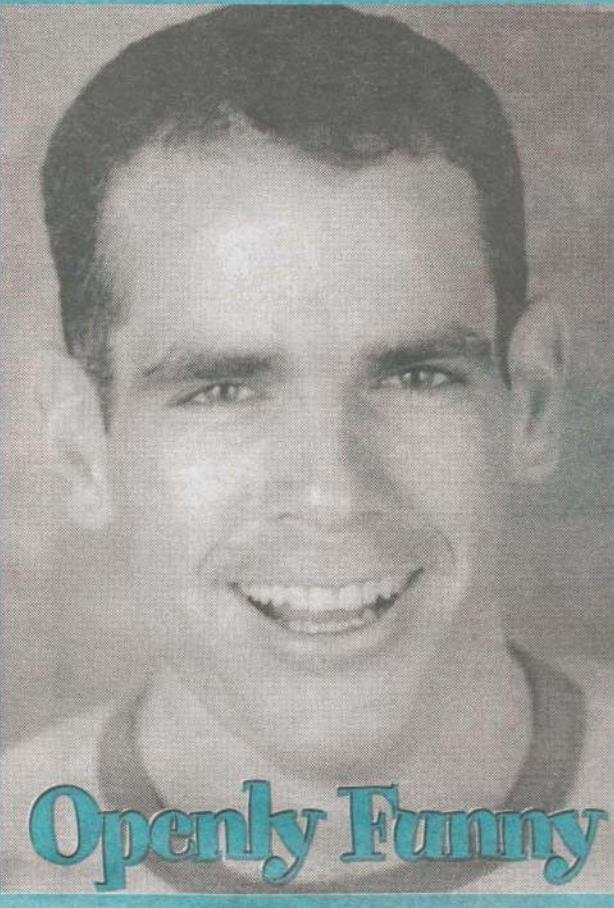


HeatStroke

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August 24—September 6, 2000



Openly Funny

Family Plot

Burns & Balan?

Comic Eddie Sarfaty polished his laugh act in gay clubs

By John Thomas Lotardo, Contributor

Speaking from his New York apartment, comedian Eddie Sarfaty says he's excited about coming to Phoenix to be part of The Community Center's *A Night of Comedy*, which is set to jar your queer funny bone on Aug. 26.

His mom is excited too. But what self-respecting Jewish Mother from New York wouldn't be? True to what he calls her uncanny knack for calling at the wrong time, he finished up a call with her just before sitting down to speak with *HeatStroke*.

The handsome young comic explains that he was a fat kid who was born in New York City and grew up in a part of New York where his family was the first Jewish family on the block.

This, he says, enabled him "to develop a sense of being an outsider" and provided "the neurotic tendencies so important to a comic." Sarfaty figured

See "Sarfaty," page 17

For funnywoman Kit Stewart, blood proves thicker than laughter

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"I don't do a lot of gay humor," says out comedian Kit Stewart, describing her schtick. "I talk mainly about my family—they're my inspiration and the source of most of my act."

Stewart is calling Phoenix from a pay phone near her workplace just east of New York City to talk about her coming appearance at The Community Center's *A Night of Comedy* benefit on August 26.

Right now, we could benefit from some fiber optics. Stewart's on lunch break from her day job and the connection is fading in and out.

"So far, it's been a typical Monday," she sighs. Given the post-weekend blahs, the phone's constant clicking and Stewart's East-Coast accent, it's a struggle to catch everything she's saying. But she perks up as our conversation progresses.

The comic was born and raised on Long Island—

See "Stewart," page 17

Borscht Belt legends inspired modern-day comic Michele Balan

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"Make anything up. I don't care what you say about me," insists stand-up comic Michele Balan.

She's on the phone from Massachusetts to discuss an Aug. 26 show in Phoenix, where she'll be one of three out comics in the lineup for The Community Center's annual *A Night of Comedy* benefit.

"Tell people I was a man in another life, I don't care," Balan quips.

Of the summertime Phoenix audience she claims, "They're really gonna like me. I may not seem so spunky now, but I'm up in Cape Cod and it's cold and rainy and I don't feel that great today."

The Brooklyn-born New Yorker apologizes for her mood. She is vacationing in the queer mecca of Provincetown "and the air is really shitty. It's damp and cold."

See "Balan," page 17

Inclusiveness in L.A. —

By Rex Wockner

LOS ANGELES—If you needed definitive proof that the Democrats are much more gay-friendly than the Republicans, all you had to do was attend their respective conventions.

Gay outreach during the GOP event was limited to sending Republican strategist Mary Matalin around to say nice things to the gay Log Cabin Republicans, letting openly gay U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., give a brief speech to the convention on trade issues, and allowing vice-presidential candidate Dick Cheney's openly les-

bian daughter Mary to stand on the stage with her family. There were 19 openly gay delegates and alternates in Philadelphia.

There were 212 openly gay delegates, alternates and standing committee members in Los Angeles, and gay people and gay issues were everywhere.

Al Gore mentioned them in his acceptance speech, although without saying the 'g' word.

"Hear me well, we will pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act," Gore said. "And we will honor the memory of Matthew Shepard, Joseph Ileto and James Byrd, whose families

all joined us this week, by passing a law against hate crimes. It's time."

While most listeners probably did not know that the Employment Non-Discrimination Act bans job discrimination based on sexual orientation, nearly everyone knows that Matthew Shepard was gay.

Democratic vice-presidential candidate Joe Lieberman mentioned gays more directly in his acceptance speech, saying: "I believe that the time has come to tear down the remaining walls of discrimination in this nation, walls of discrimination based on

Gay delegates & gay issues welcomed at Democratic Convention

race, gender and sexual orientation. And we will. Together we will."

Earlier in the day, in a visit to the gay caucus, Lieberman said: "In our time, I think the frontier of this historic and uniquely American effort is to secure the fullest protection of law and liberty for the gay and lesbian community. That is just what this is all about."

There were numerous other gay developments:

- Hillary Clinton visited the gay caucus and said: "One of the greatest thrills of my life was marching in the gay-pride

parade in New York City. I've never seen anything like it. It was such a great afternoon.

"The stakes are huge [in this election]," Clinton said. "They're huge for everybody who cares about a strong economy, about a good education system, about health care that is available and affordable, about the environment, about a woman's right to choose, about gun-safety measures, about ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation—on everything that we have fought for for the last eight years, and some of you for the

See "Democrats," page 6

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Voice
602/264-3646

Fax
602/294-9695

Managing Editor
Kelly Justin Reidhead
reidhead@idt.net

Editor
Allen Kalchik
alkalphx@aol.com

Contributors
Alison Bechdel, Eric Orner,
David Horowitz, Karyn Riedell,
Andrew Collins, Jill Dearman,
Glen Hanson & Allan Neuwirth,
Mario Rodriguez, Michael Thomas Ford,
Dave Brousseau, Kathie Gummere,
Rex Wockner, Romeo San Vincente,
Deb Price, John Lotardo

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Horowitz:

The boys (and girls) of summer

league nickname was Easy Out.

If I sound bitter about my early baseball experience, it's because I am. As an adult, I came to realize that the coaches, parents and team members squandered an opportunity to teach and learn both baseball skills and sportsmanship.

Regardless of skill level, children are inherently teachable. It would have been wonderful if someone had taken the time to teach some fundamental baseball techniques. Children's sports have become so competitive that they engender extreme competitiveness and even violence rather than exercise, fitness and camaraderie.

Imagine if my ignorant coach or any of the other adults watching had taken the time to find out that I had a knack for baseball strategy. I have become a huge Diamondbacks fan primarily because the game of baseball is intellectually and statistically fascinating—and I still like the way the uniforms look.

The effeminate boy lacking coordination and power could have contributed in so many ways never discovered. Team managers, first- and third-base coaches, agents and scouts are often people who love the game but can't compete physically.

Eloy's little league softball team members became world champions because they went beyond traditional gender roles and came together for the joy of playing the game. They showed that boys and girls can play together safely and in a sportsmanlike manner. I wish more little league teams, parents and coaches would do that.

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

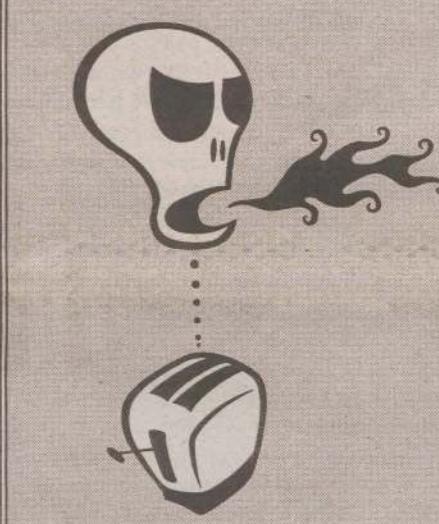
If I sound bitter about my early baseball experience, it's because I am. As an adult, I came to realize that the coaches, parents and team members squandered an opportunity to teach and learn both baseball skills and sportsmanship.

I spent much of my time praying that no one would hit the ball anywhere near me because I was sure to misplay it. Taunts from other children—and even parents—were frequent responses to my lack of baseball prowess. I would tell you I threw the ball like a girl, but the girls threw the ball harder, faster and with more accuracy.

During my first at bat, I just stood there watching the baseball sail by me on its way to the catcher's mitt. Our team's coach came up and whispered in my ear that if I didn't swing on the next pitch that I would never play again. When the pitcher released the ball, I closed my eyes and swung the bat with all my might.

The next thing I heard was, "Run, you idiot, run!" Without knowing it, I managed to hit the ball somewhere into the infield. I ran toward first base, but half way there I slipped in the muddy baseline and got myself covered from head to toe.

Amazingly, the children playing defense were no more adept than I was, and I managed to get up and get to first base safely. I had no idea what I had accomplished. I just knew that my uniform—the only part of little league I liked—was filthy. The only other time I made it to first base that season was when I was hit with a pitch. It hurt like hell, but I wasn't going to let anyone know. My



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people in the greater American community. The Democratic platform explicitly calls for "the full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of the nation", and it supports "continued efforts, like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to end workplace discrimination against gay men and lesbians".

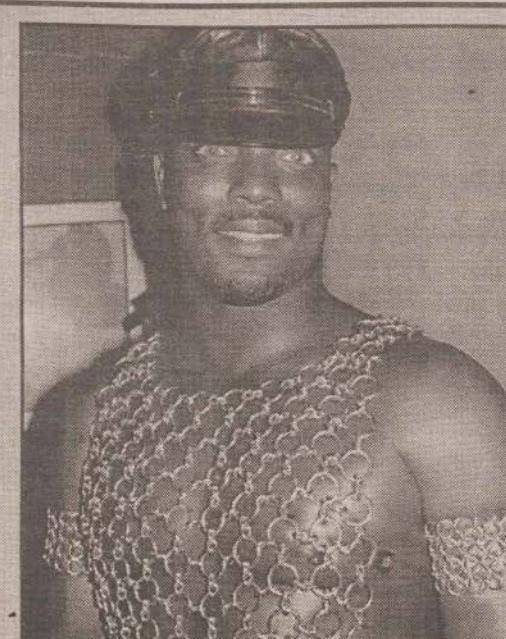
Bush-Cheney hold the mirror opposite of this view. They have repeatedly voted and acted against the interests of the gay community, and we have every reason to believe that they would continue to do so if elected this fall. The Republican platform explicitly states that "sexual preference should [not] be given special legal protection or standing in law". In one breath, the Republicans say that the "fam-

ily is society's central core of energy", while in the next they make it abundantly clear that they do not consider gay and lesbian families to be within the breadth of that vision.

Family is, of course, where we find love and warmth and grace and light. One of the starker contrasts between the two campaigns is their understanding of this.

If we are to hold on to the gains that have been won in the last seven years, and if we are to make any further gains in the next four years, we must choose carefully when we vote in November.

Lee Bolin
Tempe



Mr. Southwest Drummer, Seeing/Being Scene, p. 22

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Deb Price

Gore hits ball out of the park with Lieberman choice

The us-against-them atmosphere of politics rarely makes it feel as if all Americans are playing on the same team. That explains what's so uplifting about the choice of Joe Lieberman, the first Jewish vice-presidential nominee: Everybody wins.

No matter whether Lieberman actually becomes vice president, he symbolizes what most of us—no matter our party leanings—have learned to cherish about America: its rich diversity. When one American breaks through a barrier, all of us advance toward the day when no American will be judged by irrelevant traits like religion, race, gender or sexual orientation.

Most Americans are telling pollsters that the selection of an Orthodox Jew

"Although gay candidates are riding in the caboose, they're clearly on the freedom train that is carrying all sorts of minorities beyond prejudice-based barriers."

won't influence their vote one way or the other. That's a sign of how far we've already come toward creating a society where difference is celebrated, not feared or punished.

For those of us who were born after World War II, it's hard to grasp the level of anti-Semitism that poisoned pre-war America. No annual group photo of Supreme Court justices exists for 1924: Justice James Reynolds refused to pose beside a Jew, Justice Louis Brandeis. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was born in 1930 and became the sixth Jewish justice in history in 1993, has described the pain of seeing a "No Jews or Dogs Allowed" sign outside a Pennsylvania resort as a girl.

But as a new baseball documentary—*The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*—powerfully illustrates, one individual's success can inspire countless others to dream that they, too, can break barriers. In the 1930s and 1940s, Detroit Tiger Hank Greenberg pounded home run after home run, as anti-Semitic slurs rained down on him. A generation of Jewish boys and girls saw the success of Greenberg—twice the American League player of the year—and raised their own sights.

When Jackie Robinson, the first black player in modern major league baseball, suffered even more insults, Greenberg reached out to him, knowing that despite their different uniforms, they were both trying to defeat intolerance.

The recurring theme of one of the 20th century's most inspiring stories was one of Americans helping one another achieve new levels of success. Male lawmakers enabled women to win voting rights in 1920. President Bush appointed Colin Powell the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. President Clinton elevated women to attorney general and secretary of state, tapped openly gay people for offices high enough to require Senate confirmation and, just this summer, appointed the first Asian-American Cabinet member.

Meanwhile, all nine women of the U.S. Senate—a record—have joined forces across party lines to write *Nine and Counting* (Morrow), their saga of overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., successfully ignored advice that she run in 1992 as "Pat" so some voters might think she was male. The senators' message, especially to girls, is simply this: Don't be held back by other people's low expectations.

Today's voters are wonderfully open to playing follow-the-leader with candidates who are "different." A 1999 Gallup poll found 95 percent willing to support a hypothetical black candidate who was their party's presidential nominee. Likewise, most would back a nominee who was Catholic (94 percent), Jewish (92 percent), female (92 percent) or gay (59 percent).

Although gay candidates are riding in the caboose, they're clearly on the freedom train that is carrying all sorts of minorities beyond prejudice-based barriers. At 59 percent support, gay Americans have progressed to the place that Catholics passed in 1937, as Jews did in 1958, blacks in 1969 and women in 1971. (For details on this marvelous window into how attitudes have advanced, go to www.gallup.com.)

John F. Kennedy, the first Roman Catholic president, inspired Lieberman to enter politics. The future will show us how many young Americans Lieberman's success encouraged.

Al Gore's decision to choose Joe Lieberman was an all-American grand slam.



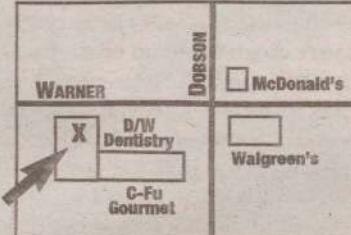
Deb Price of The Detroit News' Washington bureau writes about gay civil rights in this column, which is distributed by Gannett News Service and syndicated by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate. Price is co-author with Joyce Murdoch of *And Say Hi to Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out!* (Doubleday).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



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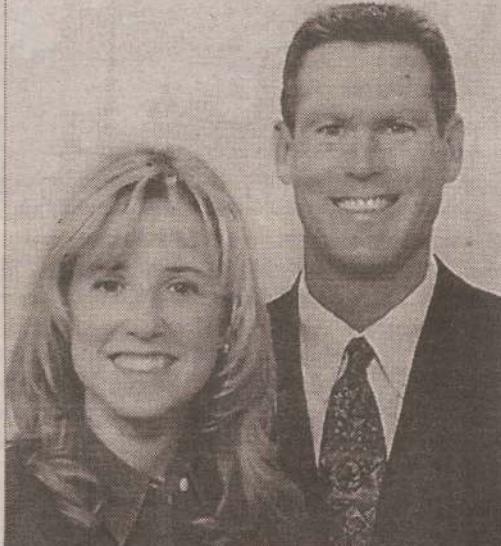
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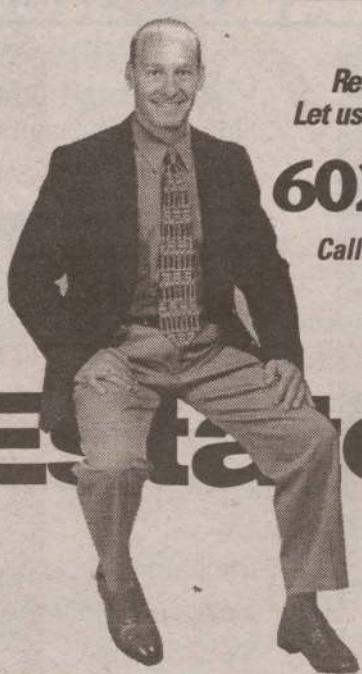
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SLOUCHING THROUGH Gomorrah

By MICHAEL ALVEAR



Manufacturing Fake Controversies the Gay Activist Way

The 22nd Anniversary of the first and oldest circuit party in the country got politically corrected last week. Tens of thousands of partiers from all over the country descended on Atlanta for the famous "Raft Race Weekend" only to find the event roiled in controversy.

Organizers of Hotlanta River Expo made the mistake of using "Year of the Dragon" as a theme for the annual Party with a Purpose. This did not sit well with the Gayatola Khomeinis who police language to ensure it's covered from head to toe in the proper veils.

"A co-optation of Asian culture," said the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice about the theme. "Offensive, racist, and just plain wrong," they went on. And on, and on, and on, as activists are wont to do. "Blah, blah, blah," they said.

"...Grassroots, take action, something-or-other," they asserted. "...Reinforcing negative stereotypes" they blathered.

What a load of MSG.

If I had a dime for every whimpering, simpering, juvenile rant from that thumb sucking, navel-gazing corner of gassy gay activists, I could pay the Clinton Legal Defense Fund out of petty cash.

"Do you not get it?" asked a liberal friend, reading from the paper and trying to enroll me in Activist Anger. "The orga-

nizers gave Asian themes to individual events during the weekend, including "China Doll" for the Miss Hotlanta pageant, "Tsunami" for the raft race, "Dragon Dance" for the big party, and "Fried Rice" for the closing party."

But the more my friend read the article, the more his outrage sagged like a balloon snorting day-old helium. Even he, who served the righteous wing of liberal orthodoxy with distinction, could not buy the dog food being peddled as racist meat.

If the organizers had used an Asian slur they would have been justified in the outraged pose they have perfected just so. But, come on. "Year of the Dragon?" This is what passes for a cultural insult?

Pity the Hotlanta organizers. The point of raft race weekend is to get nailed, but not to the cross. All they were trying to do was stuff a couple of well-deserved bumps up Atlanta's nose. "We did not intend for anyone to be offended," said the organization president, caving like a cheap roof. "I was mortified to find out that people were."

The president offered to add a line to future advertising "apologizing to anyone we had offended," and write a letter of apology to local publications.

Man, forget the roof, he caved like a Honduran mudslide. I would have taken the activists aside and said, "Listen, falling out always starts with hallucinations, like the ones you are having now. It usually comes from snorting that cheap shit you have in your pocket. Get rid of it and, here, have some of the stuff we have

got reserved for the weekend."

You just have to know how to talk to these people.

If it were not so dangerous to the cause of fighting injustice, we could simply dismiss the controversy as a worthy source of entertainment.

But dumbing down the meaning of racism, diminishing the ugliness of discrimination, equating silliness with bigotry, makes the real battle for equality harder to win.

What an insult to equate the theme of a fun event to the kind of racism where banks redline black neighborhoods to deny them loans. What a disgusting mockery of principled values to equate an innocent party slogan to the plight of minorities like exploited migrant workers. What kind of a sick, twisted mind puts people who planned a weekend of fun on the same plane as corporations who refuse to promote black people?

How are people supposed to get motivated and fight *real* injustices when we have got blowhards ringing false alarms? What we have here is the gay version of the boy who cried wolf. In this parable, the gay boy screamed "Chicken Hawk" once too often, and when the troll finally swooped down and offered him a modeling audition no one came to his rescue.

These activists of constant complaint are professionally angry, obsessively listening to Hooked-on-Vomit tapes to feed their addiction to spewing. Why make yourself throw up over imaginary ills when there is enough real injustice out there to make you gag without help?



Michael Alvear lives with his lesbian Labrador Zoey and his girlie-boy Vizsla Zac. Write to him in care of HeatStroke.

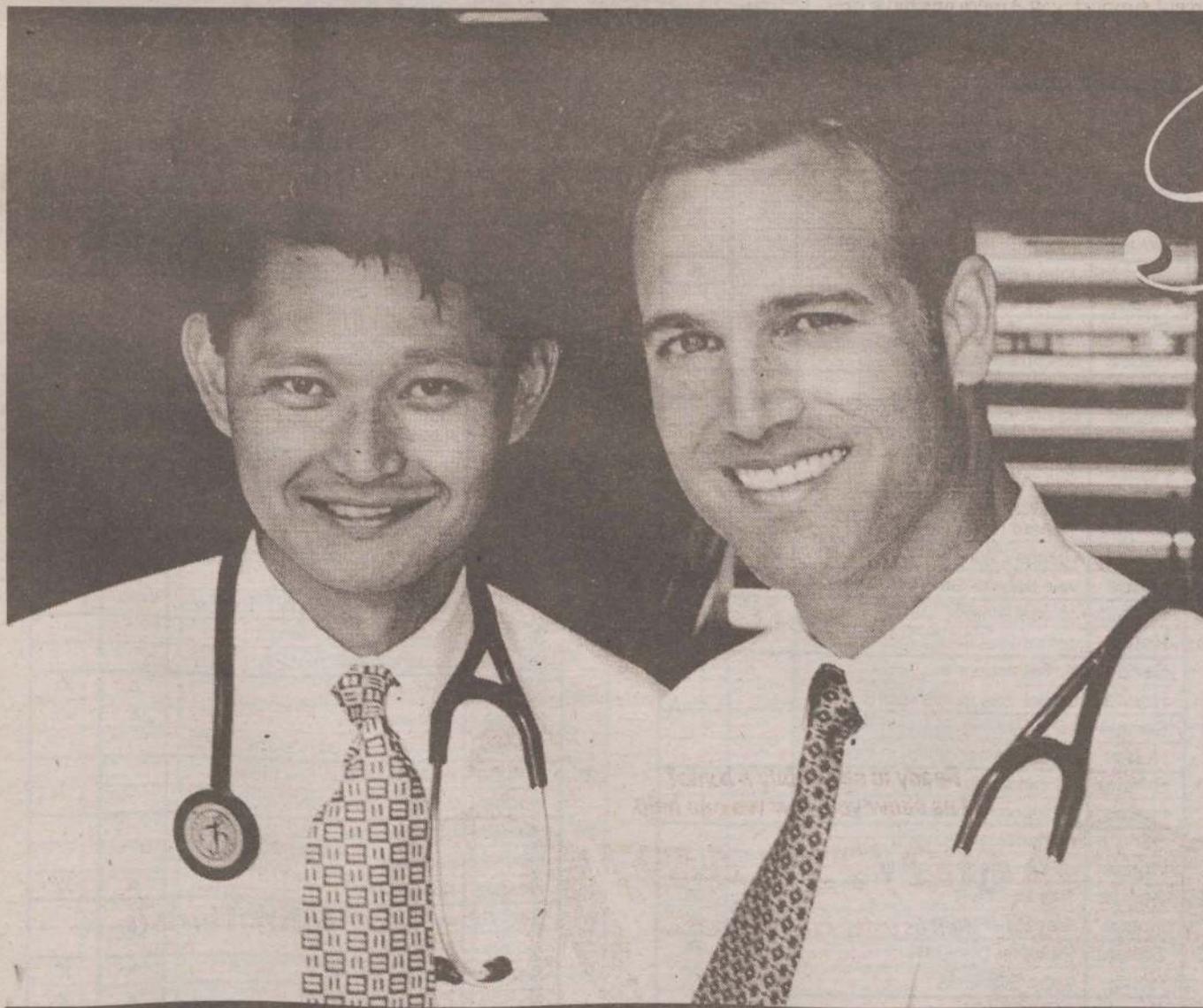
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Democrats embrace gays & lesbians at convention

Continued from page 1

last decade. It is all at stake in this election.

"Make no mistake about it. We are either going to continue to go forward or we are doing a U-turn back to the days not just of deficits and disinvestment but of discrimination and derision. We're going back to the days when people think it's acceptable to look down on their fellow human beings, to draw walls and lines between us."

Four Cabinet members and several members of Congress also spoke to the GLBT caucus.

- Several gay men and lesbians addressed the convention itself including U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., San Francisco school-board member Juanita Owens, New Mexico activist Gloria Nieto, Democratic National Committee Treasurer Andy Tobias, New Hampshire state Rep. Ray Buckley and, in prime time, Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch.

"Not a single gay American seeks special rights or favored treatment," Birch said. "We seek simple equality—the equal right to work, raise a family, serve our country in every way and be free from the shackles of brutality and hate."

All 231 Texas delegates held up placards and chanted slogans against hate crimes as Birch spoke. The action, orchestrated by HRC, was a response to the Texas delegates at the Republican convention who took off their cowboy hats, bowed their heads and prayed when Rep. Kolbe spoke.

- Lesbian rocker Melissa Etheridge sang for the delegates in prime time, performing a medley of The Star Spangled Banner, America the Beautiful and This Land is My Land.

- Democratic Party Chair Joe Andrew spoke out strongly for gay people on several occasions.

"The Republicans put on a parade of diversity on their convention stage, but when it comes right down to it, they only had a handful of gay and lesbian participants," he said. "The Democrats ... are proud to host a record number of gays and lesbians—a true sign that we are the true party of diversity and inclusion. ... We don't care ... what gender you want to hold hands with—as long as you want to hold hands, you are welcome in the Democratic Party."

- The parents of the late Matthew Sheppard addressed the convention.

- Former Democratic candidate Bill Bradley told the delegates, "Whenever I meet someone who can see beyond skin color or eye shape or sexual orientation to the individual, I think to myself, All of us could be that good."

- The California delegation, which had 34 gay members, booted when Boy Scouts appeared to lead conventioneers in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"It's such an affront," said Assemblywoman Carole Migden of San Francisco.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently affirmed the Scouts' gay ban.

- The Democratic platform expressed support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, hate-crimes legislation and lifting the military gay ban. It also called for "full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of the nation" with "an equitable alignment of benefits." This is understood to be an endorsement of Vermont-style civil unions, which provide gay couples every right of marriage except the right to call their union "marriage." (The Republican platform denounced gay rights, gay adoption, gay marriage and gay Boy Scouts.)

"We've got a very strong platform, there's no question about that," said Jean O'Leary, chair of the Democratic National Committee's Gay & Lesbian Caucus.

"There were nine openly gay people on the platform committee."

"That's how far we've come in terms of our place in the party and our position at the table," O'Leary said. "We are a very, very important voting bloc. We have arrived. People are aware the gay and lesbian community could swing the election."

THE NEXT STEP

With all the support, and with the platform affirming every gay goal except legalization of marriage itself, some gay and lesbian delegates found themselves wondering where to go from here.

"Where we go is two-fold," Rep. Frank said in an interview. "In the current situation it's important to point out to gay and lesbian people that the Democrats are much better than the Republicans. The Democratic National Committee does

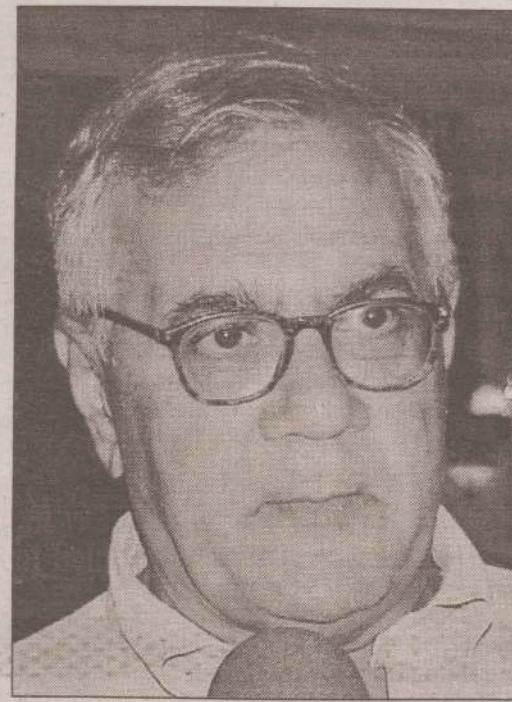
that. But it's also important to push the Democrats so they'll be even better. The Human Rights Campaign does that. We're the ones who can preach gay rights to Democrats and preach voting Democrat to gay people, and we do."

In an interview, Rep. Baldwin added: "We have to translate the platform into action. The platform is really the basis, the values statement, the ideal. To implement it is clearly the next set of steps. The open-

ly gay and lesbian delegates play a tremendous role in communicating the need for the next steps."

National Organization for Women President Patricia Ireland said she was in town to push for full-fledged gay marriage.

"We're at that beginning stage with the issue of marriage and of long-term, loving, committed relationships that should actually fit very well with the cur-

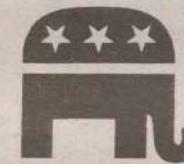


Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis. at a convention fundraiser for the National Stonewall Democratic Foundation.

All photos by Rex Wockner



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VOTER GUIDE 2000

Republican Party Primary Election # Legislative Races

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1	Senate	do not vote in this race!		
	House	Linda BINDER	X	X
	House	vote only for LINDA BINDER!		
2	Senate	John VERKAMP	X	X
	House	do not vote in this race!		
3	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	no candidates running		
4	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	do not vote in this race!		
5	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	Jim CARRUTHERS	X	X
	House	vote only for Carruthers!		
6	Senate	Richard KYLE (as write-in)		
	House	Glenna TWING	X	X
	House	vote only for GLENNA TWING!		
7	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	do not vote in this race!		
8	Senate	do not vote in this race!		
	House	do not vote in this race!		
9	Senate	no recommendation in this race		
	House	no recommendation in this race		
10	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	no recommendation in this race		
11	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	no candidates running		
12	Senate	Toni HELLON	X	X
	House	Steve HUFFMAN	X	X
13	Senate	Kathleen DUNBAR	X	X
	House	Carol SOMERS	X	X
14	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	no recommendation in this race		
15	Senate	Edward CIRILLO	X	
	House	Bill ARNOLD	X	X
	House	vote only for BILL ARNOLD!		

Dist. #	Chamber	Recommended Republican Party Candidates	Friend of AHRF	Pro-Choice
16	Senate	do NOT vote in this race!		
	House	no recommendation in this race		
17	Senate	no recommendation in this race		
	House	vote only for JOHN NELSON		
18	Senate	Susan GERARD	X	X
	House	Deb GULLETT	X	X
	House	James KRAFT	X	
19	Senate	no recommendation in this race		
	House	Roberta VOSS	X	X
	House	vote only for ROBERTA VOSS		
20	Senate	do NOT vote in this race!		
	House	do NOT vote in this race!		
21	Senate	do NOT vote in this race!		
	House	do NOT vote in this race!		
22	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	no recommendation in this race		
23	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	no candidates running		
24	Senate	Tom HORNE	X	X
	House	Barbara LEFF	X	X
	House	vote only for BARBARA LEFF		
25	Senate	do NOT vote in this race!		
	House	do NOT vote in this race!		
26	Senate	do NOT vote in this race!		
	House	vote only for STEVE MAY!		
	House	Steve MAY	X	X
27	Senate	do NOT vote in this race!		
	House	Mike GARDNER	X	
28	Senate	Randall GNANT	X	X
	House	Carolyn ALLEN	X	X
	House	Astria WONG SAVARESE		X
29	Senate	do NOT vote in this race!		
	House	do NOT vote in this race!		
30	Senate	do NOT vote in this race!		
	House	do NOT vote in this race!		

VOTE SEPT. 12!

Paid for by AHRF PAC
Kathie Gummere & William MacDonald, Co-Chairs
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's campaign committee.

rent political climate," she said in an interview during a party at the L.A. gay center. "So, as a caucus, inside and outside, we have to keep bringing that message forward."

Ireland said that when she first heard about gay marriage, she thought to herself, "Why would anybody want to buy into that patriarchal, hierarchical relationship where one person essentially, traditionally, owned the other person?"

"Then, of course, I had to be educated—remember all the legal and tax and other benefits that go along with legal marriage," she said. "There's also a benefit in having the community recognize your relationship, take concern for your relationship, be supportive. That means something."

"So, while a lot of people say: 'OK, civil unions, that's all we need. That's the legal, that's the economic, that's the tax benefits,' I think we should push for marriage. We need the ceremony, the symbolism, the celebration, as well as the legal and economic."

Hollywood gay celebrities were also out doing their part.

Ellen DeGeneres, *Hollywood Squares* star Bruce Vilanch and *Party of Five* star Mitchell Anderson appeared at several convention-related events and parties.

"Baby, I've been political for a long, long time," Anderson said in an interview. "For gay and lesbian issues, there's no choice. Al Gore and Joe Lieberman will continue the inclusiveness that Bill

Clinton has given us in the last eight years.

"It's really important to me now to be able to use my voice—whatever kind of visibility I have—to get out there in front and talk about the things that I'm passionate about," Anderson said. "I'm very passionate about equal opportunity for all people, including gay and lesbian people. That means marriage, health care, inheritance, all of the things that everybody else takes for granted, all those rights, I'm very interested in having that for all

Americans."

IN THE STREETS

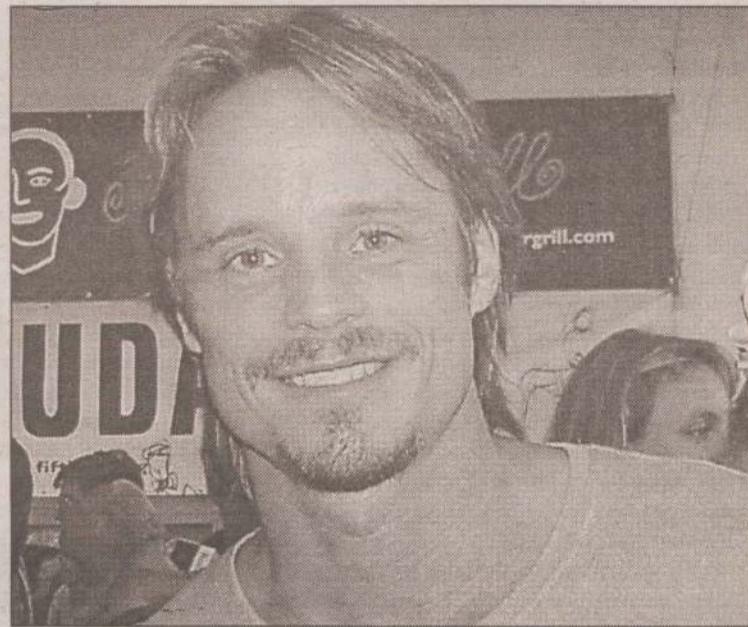
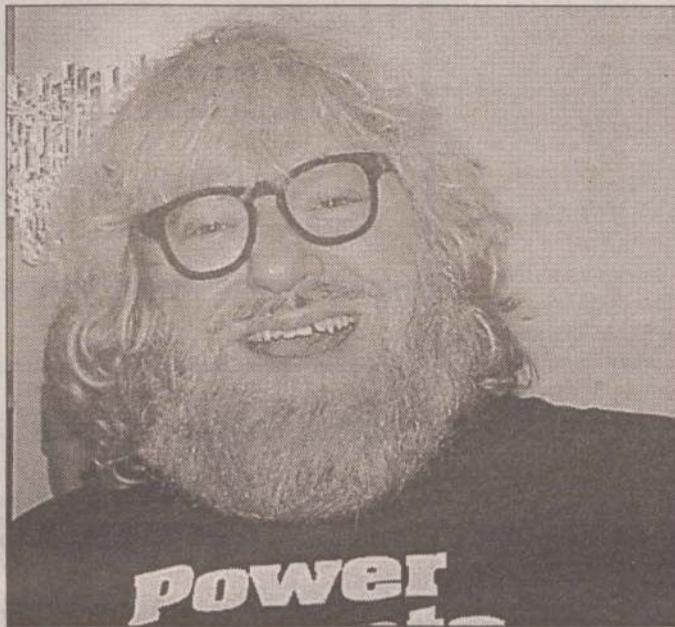
Meanwhile, a bizarre game played out in the streets the evening of Aug. 15 between 1,000 gay protesters and 500 police officers.

It started with speeches and a kiss-in in downtown's Pershing Square. But when the gay advocates set off on a march to the Ronald Reagan state-government building and to the Federal Building, the cops got nervous.

At each intersection, 40-50 LAPD officers stood ready to rumble—helmets on, visors down, clubs drawn and tear-gas canisters at the ready.

When the protesters arrived at the Reagan building, they were greeted by scores of California Highway Patrol officers standing shoulder-to-shoulder across the front and side of the building.

The march was scheduled to end with a "die-in" (activists lie in the street and draw chalk outlines around their bodies to remember people lost to homophobia



From left: comedy writer and TV personality Bruce Vilanch (*Hollywood Squares*) at a convention fundraiser for the National Stonewall Democratic Foundation; gay TV actor Mitchell Anderson (*Party of Five*) at a convention-week party at the Los Angeles gay center.

VOTE SEPT. 12!



ARIZONA HUMAN RIGHTS FUND



VOTER GUIDE 2000

Democratic Party Primary Election # Legislative Races

Dist. #	Chamber	Recommended Democratic Party Candidates	Friend of AHRF	Pro-Choice
1	Senate	no recommendation		
	House	no recommendation		
2	Senate	Rita JOHNSON	X	X
	House	Josh ALLEN	X	X
3	Senate	Matthew CAPALBY	X	X
	House	Jack JACKSON	X	
4	Senate	Ken "Ja Nez" HALLOCK	X	X
	House	vote only for KEN HALLOCK		
5	Senate	no recommendation		
	House	no recommendation		
6	Senate	Herb GUENTHER	X	X
	House	no recommendation		
7	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	Richard WENZEL	X	
8	Senate	no recommendation		
	House	Hugh SMITH	X	X
9	Senate	Peter VILLAVERDE	X	X
	House	Marsha ARZBERGER	X	X
10	Senate	Mark MAIORANA	X	X
	House	Ruth WILSON	X	X
11	Senate	Matt WELCH	X	X
	House	Dave BRADLEY	X	X
12	Senate	Sally Ann GONZALES	X	X
	House	Betty LIGGINS	X	X
13	Senate	House		
	House	Debora NORRIS	X	X
14	Senate	no recommendation		
	House	Mort NELSON		
15	Senate	House		
	House	vote only for MORT NELSON		
16	Senate	Andy NICHOLS	X	X
	House	Colette BARAJAS	X	X
17	Senate	House		
	House	vote only for COLETTE		
18	Senate	Ruth SOLOMON	X	X
	House	Marion PICKENS	X	X
19	Senate	no candidate running		
	House	Bunny GOLDFARB	X	X

Dist. #	Chamber	Recommended Democratic Party Candidates	Friend of AHRF	Pro-Choice
16	Senate	Mark WINEMILLER	X	X
17	House	no candidates running		
18	Senate	no recommendation		
19	House	no candidate running		
20	Senate	Mary HARTLEY	X	
21	House	Bill BROTHERTON	X	X
22	Senate	Kathi FOSTER	X	
23	House	no recommendation		
24	Senate	Joe Eddie LOPEZ	X	X
25	House	John LOREDO	X	X
26	Senate	Richard MIRANDA	X	X
27	House	Carlos AVELAR	X	
28	Senate	Leah LANDRUM	X	X
29	House	no candidate running		
30	Senate	Laurie LARSON	X	X
30	House	Chris CUMMISKEY	X	X
30	House	Ken CHEUVRONT	X	X
30	House	Christine WEASON	X	X
30	Senate	Ed RANGER	X	X
30	House	Joan FITZ-RANDOLPH	X	X
30	Senate	Harry MITCHELL	X	X
30	House	Meg Burton CAHILL	X	X
30	Senate	no candidate running		
30	House	Ginny CHIN	X	X
30	Senate	no recommendation		
30	House	no candidates running		
30	Senate	Jay BLANCHARD	X	X
30	House	Eileen FELLNER	X	X
30	House	Linda TONGE	X	X

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or AIDS) at the Federal Building at Temple Street and Los Angeles Street near Union Station. But the situation there quickly turned ugly.

As the marchers filled the intersection, around 500 police officers surrounded them on all four sides. As the die-in proceeded, the police officers periodically grunted very loudly in unison, then ran en masse to a new location and assumed another ready-to-fight formation. Each time this happened, several protesters hopped up from the pavement and ran, fearful of an impending police attack.

Finally, the die-in finished but the police then refused to let the protesters leave. For half an hour, the demonstrators and scores of reporters remained trapped in the intersection with all avenues of exit blocked.

"We just want to get on the subway," they pleaded. "We want to pee and go home," they said. "We're done, let us leave."

After extended negotiations, the protesters and the reporters finally were forced to retrace their steps all the way back to Pershing Square (two subway stops away), again with the police rushing ahead and blocking each intersection so the protesters could not disperse.

Openly gay member of the West Hollywood City Council Steve Martin, who took part in the protest, commented: "This is like bizarre intimidation tactics. It's really strange. ... But, you know, when we were here [at the Reagan building] back in 1991 we smashed the windows during the AB 101 demonstrations, so that might explain some of it. But throughout this convention, the police ratio to demonstrators has been awfully high."

The demonstrators said they were protesting the failure of the Democratic Party and the Clinton administration to deliver in such areas as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, hate-crimes legislation, domestic-partnership rights, increased AIDS funding, cheaper AIDS drugs, AIDS education, the HIV immigration ban, the military gay ban and universal health care.

As they marched, they chanted: "We're here, we're queer, we're not going shopping," "What do we want? Queer rights. When do we want it? Now," and "Racist, sexist, anti-gay—LAPD, go away."

"This feels great," Martin said, noting that there had been no GLBT street protests in Los Angeles since the heyday of ACT UP and Queer Nation.



Politically Speaking



Arizona Human Rights Fund

By Kathie Gummere, Contributor

It's late August, and even I am already a little tired of the hoopla surrounding the upcoming elections. However, I still strongly believe in the power of the vote. Therefore, I am going to continue to harp on everyone to GET OUT AND VOTE.

To help you sort the real from the rhetoric, Arizona Human Rights Fund publishes a Voter Guide for each election. The Guide for the Sept. 12 primary is in the mail as of this writing, and is also found on pages 6 and 7 of this issue. Use it to guide your selections.

The format was changed for this Guide to make it more reader friendly. There are actually two listings—one for Republicans and one for Democrats. If you are registered in one of those parties, that is the ballot you will receive. If you are registered Independent, you may vote in either (but not both).

There are two columns after candidates' names, one indicating if the candidate is "AHRF-friendly", the other if the candidate is "Pro-Choice". Pro-Choice candidates were chosen in connection with Planned Parenthood. AHRF-friendly candidates were chosen on the basis of their prior voting records, their responses to the AHRF candidate questionnaire, and other public records reporting their stands on our issues.

If the guide states "no recommendation", then either AHRF didn't have enough information (because the candidate doesn't yet have a record and didn't respond to our questionnaire), or their record was neither strongly supportive or strongly negative.

To contain the size of the Guide,

AHRF did not list all candidates. In some races there are five or six people running for one or two spots, therefore, either only the recommended candidates are listed, or there is a statement of "no recommendation" or "do not vote in this race". When the Guide states "do not vote in this race", the candidates in that race are strongly opposed to our positions on all issues.

If the Guide states, "vote only for XXXX" it is because we strongly support a particular candidate and do not want to dilute the vote by voting for others in the same race. If there are three candidates running for two spots, the top two vote getters will win. Adding a vote to another candidate could actually hurt our strong ally. An example is the District 19 Republican race, where you are urged to vote only for Roberta Voss, a strong supporter.

In many of these races, every vote counts. We are a very large community, whether our foes want to admit it or not. There are many who believe that our community made the difference in electing Bill Clinton. Our state races are certainly much closer. If we vote, and if we make those votes known, we can make a difference. Please vote!

And if you can go that extra step, please call the campaign office of your candidate of choice, either in local, state or national elections, and volunteer. Or call the AHRF office and volunteer. We always need volunteers to help with mailings, phone banks, voter registration drives and "walking for the candidate." We would love to have you join us!

Kathie Gummere is a Phoenix attorney and a co-chair of AHRF.

Would YOU like to help prevent HIV?

The Central Arizona Community Planning Group (CPG) is a community group that helps decide how HIV funding is spent in Maricopa, Gila and Pinal counties. Using research, data and the experiences of our members, we recommend what populations should be targeted for HIV prevention.

Open membership, you can join at any time. No experience necessary. Let your voice be heard!

For more information, call Michelle Holman at the Office of the CPG, 602.506.6005.

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APOLLO'S

Daily Specials

Sunday	Wednesday
Happy Hour 10am-8pm	Happy Hour 8am-8pm
"Booze & Cruise", 8pm-12am	"Booze & Cruise"
Reduced prices on well	8pm-12am
drinks, domestic beer & shot	Reduced prices on
specials	well drinks, domestic beer
	& shot specials
Monday	Thursday
Happy Hour 8am-8pm	Happy Hour 8am-8pm,
Beer Bust 8pm-12 am	Beer Bust 8pm - 12am
Domestic Beer \$1.75	
Draft \$1.25	
Free Pool all day	
Tuesday	Friday
Happy Hour 8am-8pm	Extended Happy Hour
"Vulgar Vodka" Night	8am - 9pm
Well Vodka \$2.00	
	Saturday
	Happy Hour 8am - 8pm

Upcoming Events

Fri., Sept. 22:
Betty's Bedpan Benefit: The Road to Recovery
Fri., Sat. & Sun., Sept. 15, 16 and 17:
See you at Bartlett Lake for Bartlett Bash!

Best in Town

KARAOKE

Wednesday • Thursday • Saturday

No Cover

Friday, 9 pm on August 25th and September 8th...

The Goddess Revue

hosted by Lady Casondra
with Special Guests each week!



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"A historic faith for a contemporary world"

Jerry Cook, Pastor
Joy Haupt-Black, Assistant Pastor

Phoenix, Arizona
602-564-7895

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY:

Dear Community!

AT LAST!

A new church designed for those who've given up traditional church services! Let's face it. Many people aren't active in church these days.

WHY?

Too often...

- The sermons are boring and don't relate to daily living
- Many churches seem more interested in your wallet than in you
- Members are unfriendly to visitors
- You wonder about the quality of the care for your children

Do you think attending church should be enjoyable?

WE'VE GOT GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!

VALLEY OF THE SUN COMMUNITY CHURCH is a new church designed to meet your needs. We're a group of friendly, happy people who have discovered the joy of the Christian lifestyle.

At Valley of the Sun Community Church ...

- Meet new friends and get to know your neighbors
- Enjoy upbeat music with a contemporary flavor
- Hear positive, practical messages which encourage you each week
- Trust your children to the care of dedicated workers

WHY NOT GET A LIFT THIS SUNDAY?

We invite you to be our special guest at a celebration service this Sunday, at 11:00 a.m. We are currently meeting in the Parkway Inn located on the northbound frontage road of I-17 between Northern and Dunlap. If you don't have a church home, give us a try!

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE!

Sincerely,

Jerry Cook, Pastor
Joy Haupt-Black, Assistant Pastor

A Nasty Win

Phoenix women's team nabs world softball title

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

A Phoenix softball team came back from this year's Gay World Series in Toronto with a title and a trophy, marking the first time in the history of the 24-year-old competition for gay and lesbian athletes that an Arizona team has earned a number-one spot.

Nasty's Sports Bar's Ah-So-Sensuous women's team clinched the Women's Alternative Division championship by beating a team from Philadelphia 20-19 in a riveting final match on Saturday, Aug. 19.

"It was a real barn burner," said Andi Warren, who traveled to Toronto to support all four Phoenix-area teams that took part in the week-long competition.

The Phoenix teams earned the right to compete in Toronto by placing in the 2000 season standings of the Cactus Cities

Softball League (CCSL). Warren is the CCSL's newly elected Women's Commissioner. The Phoenix-based league for gay men and women plays annually from February through June.

The World Series is held in a



different North American city each August. Three CCSL women's teams took part this year, along with one men's team sponsored by Wink's. Overall, all the CCSL teams performed well.

"At the end of the round robin competition, all four of our teams were seeded higher than we have been in the past," said Warren. The Nasty's team, seeded in the number-one position, remained undefeated throughout four round-robin

matches and five double-elimination playoffs, giving the squad a 9-0 record for the tournament.

But the week was about more than winning.

"The weather was fantastic,"



Above left: BJ Reynolds, owner of Nasty's Sports Bar, and CCSL Women's Commissioner Andi Warren show off the signed game ball and crystal trophy awarded to Nasty's champion team at the Softball World Series in Toronto.



Warren said, "Two of the ball-fields were right on the lake, and it was very cool and very beautiful." Players, she said, were

"definitely able to take in the sights."

Warren also said the Arizonans really supported one another while in Canada. "The guys came and cheered on the women, and the three women's teams cheered on the guys and each other, too," she said. "The teams from Tucson even got into the act, cheering for the [Nasty's] team in the final."

When the victorious team's plane landed in Phoenix on Aug. 20, the players were met at the airport by nearly 40 cheering fans, including Nasty's bar owner B.J. Reynolds. "They did great," Reynolds said. "This is really something."

Warren said that it's important to thank all the supporters of the CCSL, particularly those who pitched in to help send the players all the way to Toronto via a variety of fund raisers held throughout the summer. "It was a really great example of a community-wide effort," she said.



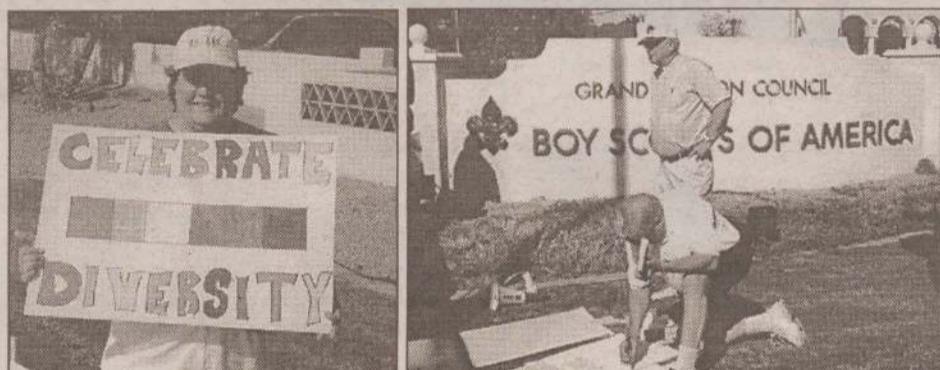
Anti-gay Boy Scout policies protested in Phoenix

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Approximately 25 people gathered outside the Grand Canyon Council headquarters of Boy Scouts of America in Phoenix on the afternoon of Aug. 21 to protest the BSA's policies toward gay scouts and gay scout leaders.

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that, as a private organization, the BSA has the right to deny membership to gay youth and adult leaders.

Nationally, protesters in as many as 36 cities hosted simultaneous events on the 21st, according to Amy Culver, coordinator of the Phoenix effort. Culver heads a Safe Space program for the Phoenix



Above left: PFLAG's Amy Culver organized the protest at the Boy Scouts' Phoenix offices. Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

Culver worries about the message the BSA's policies send to gay youth. "They

are giving kids the wrong message," she said.

"Boy Scouts are children, and they need safe space, too," Culver explained. "If a 16-year-old who's been a scout all his life realizes he's gay, he's then being told he's not good enough."

Phoenician Vern Sutter is also a member of PFLAG, as were most of the protesters. He said he braved the afternoon heat because "being gay, I believe in our rights, and you've got to make a stand."

The protest was called for by Scouting For All, a nationwide organization dedicated to creating awareness and overturning the BSA's discriminatory policies.

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September
13th - 20th

*Tropical Drinks & Decor
Wild Jungle Parties Nightly.
Premium Liquor Promo's Every Night.*

*A Camren Miranda Costume Contest
Sun, Sept. 17th at 3pm*

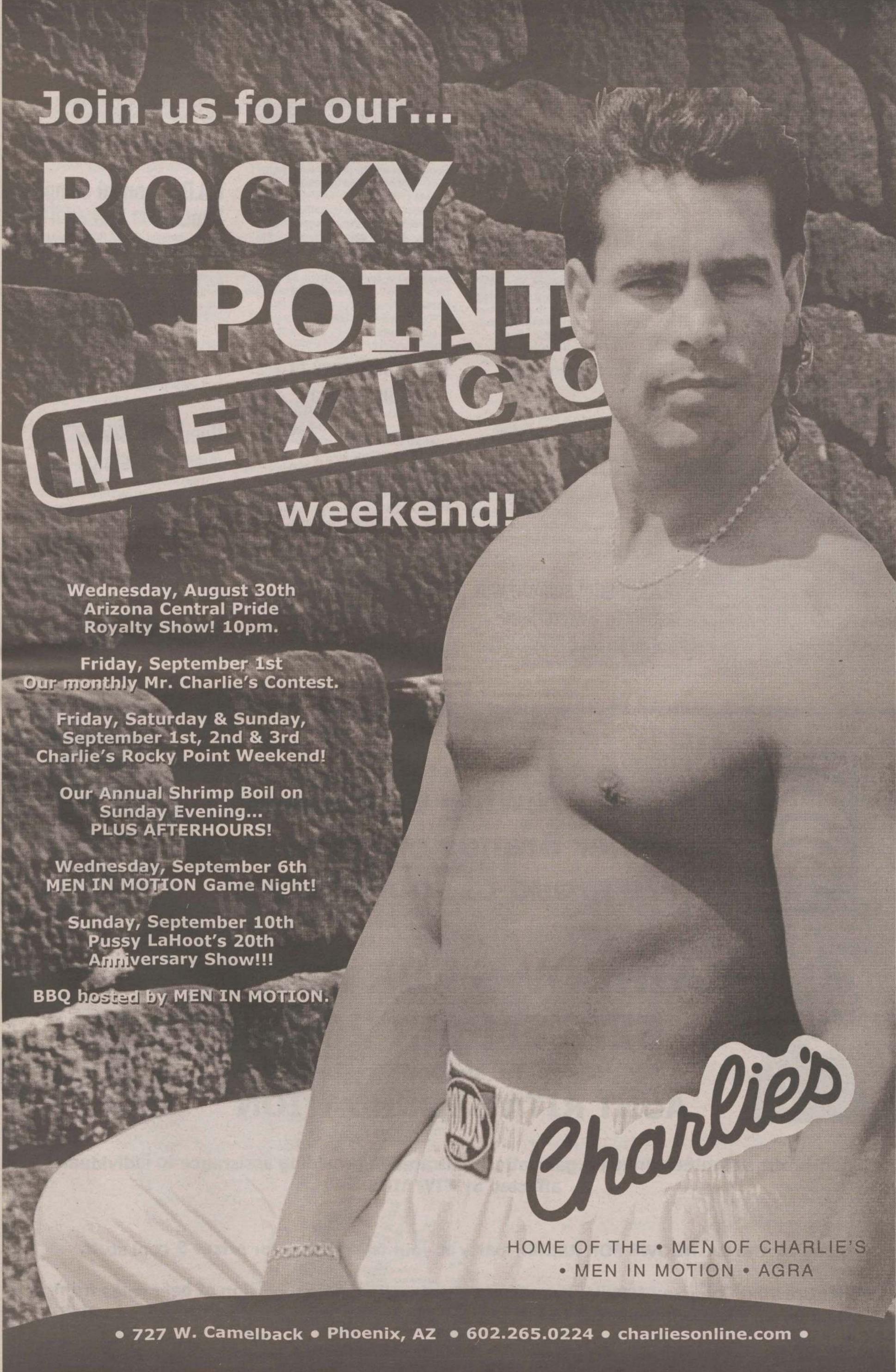
*\$100.00 for the Tallest Fruit Head-Dress!
\$50.00 for the Widest Fruit Head Dress!*

PUMPHOUSE II

*Volcano Party Kick off
Weds 13th*

*The Detox Party
Weds 20th*

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Wednesday, August 30th
Arizona Central Pride
Royalty Show! 10pm.

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Our monthly Mr. Charlie's Contest.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday,
September 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Charlie's Rocky Point Weekend!

Our Annual Shrimp Boil on
Sunday Evening...
PLUS AFTERHOURS!

Wednesday, September 6th
MEN IN MOTION Game Night!

Sunday, September 10th
Pussy LaHoot's 20th
Anniversary Show!!!

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Goings On

Register on the web

Arizonans can now register to vote over the Internet. Forms are available to download and print at the secretary of state's home page, at www.sosaz.com. The forms must be filled out, signed and mailed in to the Secretary of State's Office at the address given on the site.

Arizona Human Rights Fund Co-Chair Kathie Gummere reminds *HeatStroke* readers that candidates for local and state offices "want our support" and that they "know [the glbt community] can make a difference." But, Gummere warns, "nothing can be done at all if you are not registered."

The online registration forms are one more way in which local officials are making it easier for more voters to take part in this year's process. Registration forms can also be requested by calling 1-877-THE-VOTE.

Comedy Festival Full of Laughs

The Community Center's 7th Annual Comedy Festival *A Night of Comedy* will be held Saturday, Aug. 26 at 7:03 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Phoenix. This year's comedic talent includes Kit Stewart, Eddie Sarfaty and Michele Balan (see page 1 for related story).

Advance tickets range in price from \$10 - 27 for general reserved seating and \$45 for preferred reserved seating, which includes a post-show reception with the entertainers. Day of show tickets are \$27-\$45. Tickets can be purchased at the Civic Plaza Box Office, 602/262-7272; through Tickets.com at www.tickets.com, or by calling 800/905-3315.

General information regarding the

Comedy Festival can be directed to 602/265-7283 or Comedyfest2000@aol.com. Proceeds from the event will help to support the programs and services of The Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

Dr. Laura protest scheduled

Despite the efforts of local and national activists to convince a Phoenix TV station to cancel its purchase of "Dr." Laura Schlessinger's controversial new TV talk/advice show, Channel 3 has decided to go ahead with its plans to air the Paramount program, starting Sept. 11.

Local anti-Laura forces will be holding a protest at the station on Saturday, Aug. 26 at 10:00 a.m. KTVK-TV 3 is located at 5555 N. 7th Ave. in Phoenix.

GCMC: auditions in August

The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale will hold auditions for the fall season on Tuesday evening, Aug. 29 at the First United Methodist Church located at Central Ave. and Missouri in central Phoenix.

For more information and to be scheduled for an audition time, contact Rick at 602/266-4987 or BassoProfundo@liinkii.com. Rehearsals will begin the following Tuesday, September 5.

XXX model search: win a trip to Switzerland

Boom nightclub is hosting a video model search in Phoenix in conjunction with Ikarus Entertainment. The

Switzerland-based gay erotic video/modelling company will hold four weeks of preliminary competitions at the Phoenix club, culminating in a week-long party and contest finals on Sept. 10.

The preliminaries are continuing on Aug. 25, Sept. 1 and Sept. 8. Interested applicants must sign up at Boom before 10:30 p.m. the night of each preliminary. Contestants will be judged on appearance, underwear, and question-and-answer categories.

The winner of the overall competition will receive an all expenses paid trip to Europe, a cash prize, and the chance to appear in an Ikarus video production along with other modeling opportunities. Several other competitors will be selected for a private Ikarus photo shoot to be produced in Phoenix Sept. 11.

For information, contact Lee Andrew at 602/274-9225.

Activist/attorney to speak on Russia

Phoenix attorney and longtime gay-equality activist Dianne Post has just returned from a two-year working trip to Russia. She will present a talk and slide show about her experiences in the former USSR on Tuesday, Aug. 29 at The Community Center, 24 W. Camelback, at 7:00 p.m. The talk is free and all are welcome.

Rep. Barney Frank in town Sept. 8.

The Arizona Stonewall Democrats and the Arizona Human Rights Fund are joining forces to host a fundraiser entitled "Pride and Politics: An Evening with the Honorable Barney Frank".

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

The openly gay Mass. congressman will speak at a reception at a private home in Paradise Valley at 6:00 p.m. on Sept. 8. Tickets are \$50.

The reception will be followed by a dinner with the congressman at Coup Des Tartes, tickets are \$250. For information or to order tickets, contact Wally Straughn at 602/864-6092.

L.A.D.S. annual campout Sept. 22

Los Amigos del Sol (L.A.D.S.) is one of the oldest social clubs for gay men and lesbians in the Phoenix area, and the group has a long and proud history of bringing men and women together for fun and philanthropy.

From Sept. 22 - 24, the L.A.D.S. group will hold its annual fall camping trip in the Upper Wolf Creek area near Prescott. The cost of the trip is \$20 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Call 602/997-2411 for information on the campout, or to learn more about this active group.

Upcoming Center events, meetings

The Community Center, located at 24 W. Camelback Rd. in Phoenix, has released its calendar of coming events and meetings.

The Youth Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. every Thursday, followed by the Horizons youth program (ages 18-22), meeting Thursdays at 9:00 p.m. Lesbian Night Out meets every Friday from 7-10:00 p.m. The Valley One in Ten (VOIT) group for youth aged 14 - 18 meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

The Center's Discovery Support Group for newly out gay people meets



Miller Brewing Company & Miller Brands of Phoenix are proud to sponsor the



**RAINBOWS FOR RELIEF
SEPTEMBER 2000**
To support
AUNT RITA'S FOUNDATION



A non-profit, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to providing assistance to individuals affected by HIV/AIDS.

Look for the RAINBOWS FOR RELIEF party at your favorite bar for prizes & cool stuff.

Miller Brewing Company & Miller Brands of Phoenix will donate a portion of beer sales from participating establishments to AUNT RITA'S FOUNDATION during the month of September.

Mondays from 7-10:00 p.m., and Light of the Lamb Church holds services Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Delta Lambda Phi meets at the Center every Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

AVIV, for Gay & Lesbian Jews, will meet on Monday, Aug. 28 at 7:00 p.m. Seniors in a Gay Environment (SAGE) will meet on Saturday, Sept. 2 at 10:00 a.m. Rainbow Families will meet that same afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

For more information on organizations and meetings, or to find out how you can volunteer at The Center, call 602/265-7283.

OUToberfest scheduled, moved to zoo

The Community Center has announced the date of this year's National Coming Out Day celebration and picnic. The eighth annual OUToberfest will be held October 7, 2000 at the Phoenix Zoo.

Event planners promise food, drinks and a wild time, with proceeds going to benefit the Community Center's programs. Tickets will go on sale Sept. 1.

GPGLCC news

The Greater Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is adding a presentation on ballot Proposition 302 to the itinerary for the organization's Sept. 5 Lunch Bunch meeting. Prop. 302 deals with funding a Cardinals' Stadium, pro baseball's Cactus League, tourism funding, and the Fiesta Bowl.

Other upcoming ballot proposal discussions will be held Tuesday, Sept. 19 (discussing Prop. 108 - Telecommunications Rates); Tuesday, Oct. 3 (Props. 200 and 204 - Health Care); and Tuesday, Oct. 17 (Prop 202 - Urban Growth Restrictions). The cost is \$11, and no RSVP is required.

The GPGLCC Lunch Bunch for central Phoenix is held at Pookie's the first and

third Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Social and networking lunches for gay and lesbian professionals are also held monthly in northeast Scottsdale and in Tempe. For information, call 602/225-8444.

20 years of LeHoot

Female impersonator Pussy LeHoot (a.k.a. Kevin McSweeny) is celebrating 20 years in entertainment in Phoenix with a three-night extravaganza, Sept. 8-10. Many local entertainers will be participating, along with several out-of-town guests.

LeHoot was born and raised in Flagstaff and has held several drag titles in the Phoenix area, including Miss Gay Phoenix 1989, Miss Gay Arizona 1992, Miss AGRA 1996, and Miss Arizona Central Pride 1997.

Her anniversary party will consist of a show at Wink's on Friday, Sept. 8, a show at Pookie's on Saturday, Sept. 9, and a show at Charlie's on Sunday, Sept. 10. For information, e-mail Pussy herself at plehoot@aol.com.

Women in Tune need musical members

As the premier lesbian vocal group in the state, Arizona Women in Tune are currently seeking women with an interest in music. The group meets at 7:00 p.m. every Thursday at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 N. 14th St. in Phoenix.

"We need women singers of any voice range, anyone who can play an instrument or anyone who has a desire to meet some great women and have some fun," says soprano and board president Terry Gunn.

The group sings a broad range of music and can be seen at many community events, such as AIDS Walk Arizona and area Pride festivals. The choral group

recently returned from the GALA festival in San Jose, where they performed two concerts, received a standing ovation, and attended workshops.

For information, contact Barbara Wodrich at 623/878-5430.

Gay AZ Reps. to debate

Three local political organizations are planning a debate between out Reps. Ken Cheuvront (D-Dist. 25) and Steve May (R-Dist. 26) at 7:00 p.m. on October 11. The debate will take place at the IBEW Union Hall at 3232 N. 20th Street (just south of

Osborne) in Phoenix.

The purpose of the debate is to educate and motivate potential voters. Organizers especially want to involve young people in the community and show them how vitally important their vote is.

The event is cosponsored by the Arizona Stonewall Democrats, Arizona Human Rights Fund, and the Log Cabin Republicans of Central Arizona. The moderator will be AHRF board member Ron Passerelli. Questions will be presented by representatives from the gay & lesbian media.

Gay event raises \$5,000 for House hopeful

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Members of the Arizona Human Rights Fund joined other Phoenix-area backers of gay-friendly political candidates to sponsor a reception for Tucson's Linda Lopez on Aug. 9 at the historic Phoenix home of Rep. Ken Cheuvront (D-Dist. 25).

Lopez is running for the State House

of Representatives in Legislative District 10, which encompasses rural parts of Pima County as well as portions of the City of Tucson. She is one of six Democrats who have declared their candidacy, which means the Sept. 12 primary race will be particularly crucial.

The gay event raised \$5,000 for Lopez' campaign. "I was very happy," she said after the reception. "They really came through—[the

\$5,000] has made all the difference in my campaign."

Though Lopez is not gay, she said she is particularly sensitive to the issues of discrimination and inequality that gay men and lesbians face in Arizona. "Two of my daughters are gay and so is my brother," she said, adding, "I still don't know how I got missed!"



From left: Rep. Ken Cheuvront, Tucson House of Reps. candidate Linda Lopez, and local businessman Frank Contreras.

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Not Just for Breakfast: Log Cabin Republicans seek a seat at the GOP table

By Dennis Scott-Bush, Contributor

Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) are here, they're queer—though not necessarily comfortable with that word—and the gay and lesbian community should get used to it. Or, at least, find out more about these would-be political movers and shakers.

Despite having more than 10,000 members nationwide, Log Cabin is, for many people, still just a brand of pancake syrup. Even with chapters in cities from Boston to San Diego and Kalamazoo to Boca Raton, their profile in the gay and lesbian consciousness remains relatively low.

The organization's national headquarters articulates that their mission is "to work within the Republican Party for the equal rights of all Americans, including gay men and women." They hold a "firm belief in the principles of limited government, individual liberty, individual responsibility, free markets and strong national defense."

Chief among their goals is to elect Republican candidates. The group asserts that, "through education, we intend to demonstrate that Republicans who are also openly gay can contribute substantially to the building of our Party."

"How can you possibly be gay and Republican?" is a question the organization continually strives to address. The charge that the term "gay Republican" is an oxymoron generates a variety of responses. The members' justification is that they are Republicans because they support the traditional Republican ideals—smaller government, lower taxes—and don't see those tenets as being exclusive of gay people.

Most LCR members consider themselves to be Republican, first, and gay, second. John Barr, president of the organization's Central Arizona club, affirms that ordering of self-identifiers and adds, "being gay is just one aspect of our life."

For \$65 per year—\$40 of which is passed along to the national office—one can join the Central Arizona chapter. Currently, the group has approximately forty-five members; about half of whom actively participate in the club's events on a regular basis. An estimated ninety-five percent of the local members are male. At their most recent meeting, held Aug. 15 at a central Phoenix restaurant, that percentage was a complete one hundred—the vast majority of members are also Caucasian.

Barr emphasizes that the organization's goal is education. They seek to "educate other Republicans about who we are and educate the gay and lesbian community about who the Republicans are."

"We educate the community that it's okay to be both gay and conservative," reiterates member Nick Shinstine.

Barr believes that "our two-party system will work best when both parties court the gay community. The Democrats have taken us for granted and the Republicans weren't interested." He sees the latter changing, noting, "When no Congress members would listen to traditional AIDS or gay rights organizations, LCR has served as a conduit between the gay and lesbian community and the Republican Congress."

He points out that the current, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was a compromise between conservative congressional Democrats and a Democratic president who had vowed to end the ban on gays in the military during his election campaign. More than two-thirds of the Democrats in Congress were against allowing gay men and women to openly serve in the military, while one of the most vocal supporters of eliminating the restriction was a conservative Republican—the late Barry Goldwater.

The current Republican presidential nominee, George W. Bush, and his vice presidential running mate, Dick Cheney, have received the official backing of the national LCR organization. Their public affairs director has stated: "George Bush is going to be the next president, even if no gays and lesbians in the country vote for

him. The question is if the gay community is going to have a seat at the table or be dragged into the mud."

Barr thinks that statement is "subject to misinterpretation" and hopes that its closing sentence won't be taken out of context and used in an incendiary manner. The local group has, for the most part, expressed its support for the Republican ticket, though not with any official endorsement. With rare exception, club members would not go on record with anything but positive comments on the Bush/Cheney tandem.

Travis Hussey, the Central Arizona club's secretary, demonstrates candor in his desire for "more than just the generalities" being promulgated by the Bush campaign. He disagrees with the Republican plan for a tax cut instead of using the current and projected surplus to pay down the national debt. He isn't planning to vote for Bush, "at this point."

His take on Gov. Bush aside, Hussey remains committed to the Republican cause. His partner of nine years is not a Republican and, at 31, Hussey appears to be at least a decade younger than the average LCR member. He contrasts the Republican and Democratic parties as "a trampoline instead of a safety net."

Hussey explains, "There will always be people who need help" and sees Republicans finding better ways to accomplish that by using their credo of individual responsibility. He is "not fond of" the planks in the Republican platform that disparage gay people but acknowledges that "no organization can ever be perfect."

Hussey thinks the biggest misconception about LCR members is that they "are embarrassed by the drag queens." He expounds, "each individual is going to be embarrassed by different things—whether it's drag queens or uppity dykes or any other community stereotype—but it's not their political affiliations that will make them embarrassed by one thing or another."

While cautiously trying to avoid issues like abortion—"because we have members who feel strongly about both sides"—Barr characterizes the group's key issues as "passage of a federal hate crimes bill, passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and advances in and increases in AIDS funding."

On another hot-button issue in the gay community, the organization is less clear. Same-sex marriage engenders waffling due as much to the semantics of the word "marriage" as other reasons. "We'd like some type of legal recognition for same-sex relationships for the equal benefits and responsibilities under the law, but I'm not sure 'marriage' is what it needs to be called," Barr comments.

Many LCR members across the country ardently describe themselves as "straight-acting" and "very discreet" about being gay. Does that merely reflect the mindset of being "Republicans who also happen to be gay", or is it the result of other factors?

Non-Republicans in the gay community often contend that LCR members are mostly affluent, white men who haven't experienced the same sort of discrimination with which others in the community have struggled.

There is a further assertion that LCR members' conservative conduct and their self-descriptions like "discreet" and "straight-acting" are essentially an issue of trying to achieve acceptance and validation from heterosexuals.

Local and national Log Cabin Republicans refute those claims by voicing one of their themes: "We want to work for change from the inside of the Republican party."

Local club member Tom Von Hapsburg adds, "There's a very good chance that Bush will be elected and, then, we'll have the access."

In which case, gays and lesbians had better, indeed, get used to it.

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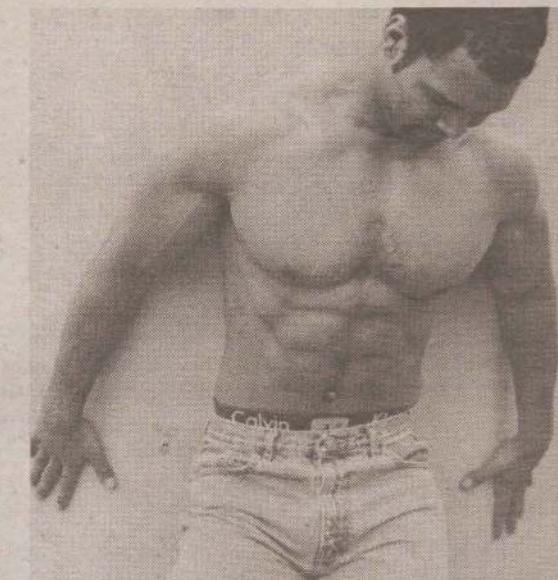
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GALA Festival 2000: In Their Own Words

Phoenix singers reflect on their musical sojourn in San Jose

Compiled by Rick Myrick, special to HeatStroke

The Phoenix-based Grand Canyon Men's Chorale (GCMC), under the directorship of Dr. Craig J. Westendorf, performed in the GALA 2000 Choral Festival in San Jose, CA during the last week of July.

They joined more than 140 Gay And Lesbian Association (GALA) Choruses—represented by about 6000 singers and their spouses—from various parts of the world.

The first gay and lesbian choruses began performing in 1979, and the first GALA Festival was held in San Francisco in 1983. This year, there were choruses from Germany, France, England, Ireland, Canada, and the U.S.A. present, each having "26 minutes of fame" in which to perform for all the others.

Arizona was well represented. Also from Phoenix was Arizona Women In Tune (AZWIT) directed by Kim McCreary. Choruses from Tucson were there, too; the Reveille Gay Men's Chorus performed under James H. Gall, as did Desert Voices, under Keith Koster.

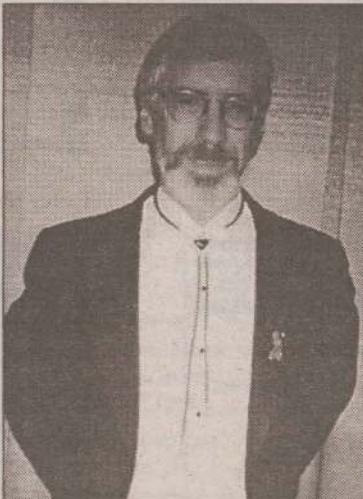
The GCMC sang in one previous festival, GALA V in Tampa in 1996. The other three Arizona choruses were "GALA Virgins". The following statements came directly from some of the 24 GCMC members who traveled to San Jose for the international event.

"I have been to choral festivals of all sorts. But the GALA festivals stand out in the love and mutual support shown to absolutely ALL the choirs performing, from the very largest to those of even ten singers. When choirs are organized to unite a community and express its most intense desires, feelings of competition simply cannot arise."

"It still amazes me that the GLBT com-

munity has found its most public expression in choral music. On one hand, this should be self-explanatory. To participate in a choir means simply bringing yourself—no instruments to hide behind, no great outlay to purchase equipment, just the instrument you have carried since birth. It simply is the most immediate and direct way to make music.

"On the other hand, we do not

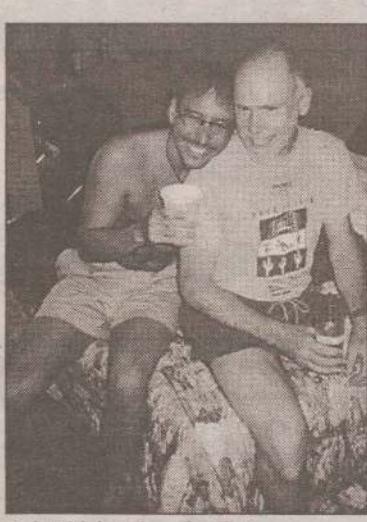


Dr. Craig Westendorf

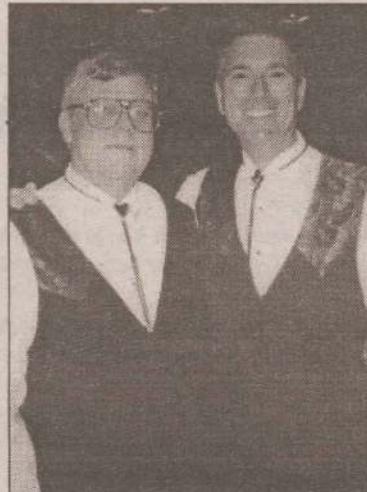
have a 'choral culture' like much of western Europe, where community choirs fill out social and cultural aims parallel to those often sought by GALA choirs.

"It thrills me no end to see and hear hundreds—even thousands—of singers coming together not only to express what has so often been repressed, but adding so much to the vitality of American music. As long as the song keeps going, our common desires will be known."

Dr. Craig J. Westendorf,
Artistic Director



Bob Hidalgo (l) and Bill Moran.



Rick Myrick (l) and Ray Baccala

backstage, the 300-plus Turtle Creek Chorale was winding up their performance. Following this famous power-chorus did little to calm my anxiety. They finished; the audience thundered its approval and it was now time for all 24 of us to go out there. We filled the next 25 minutes with one of the best GCMC performances ever! As the audience thundered its standing approval all I could think was 'Watch out Turtle Creek—we're right behind you!' Now, for those room and phone numbers."

Ray Baccala (Bass)

"Our sound has matured noticeably in the four years since GALA V in Tampa, and we were very well received in San Jose. To be appreciated by audiences of choral singers from around the world brings a sense of pride that is almost indescribable. And after seeing how dozens of other choruses have evolved to new performing heights, believe me, we've come home with more than a few good ideas to share with our friends in Phoenix."

Bill Moran (Bass)

"My fondest memories are of those moments of being touched and touching others. My favorite experience was the opportunity to spend time with almost every Choral member.

"Next best was the interactions with members of other choruses and local residents either in shops, restaurants or on the light rail. Enthusiasm and joy radiated from most of the chorus members I encountered. There were men and women from all over the country and the world who shared common chorus experiences, spoke of their choruses' histories, lamented their difficulties and bragged about their home towns. There was even some spontaneous singing. There is really a temptation to want times like these to go on and on"

Larry DeMoor
(GALA Liaison; Second Tenor)

"Is this what Heaven will sound like? As I closed my eyes and listened to Unison, a men and women's chorus from Chicago, I truly believed I was in Heaven listening to angel's voices—so pure, and the blend so balanced. This is what "one voice" sounds like. Is it God? No, the closest thing to perfection, though.

"GALA 2000 offered so much to all of us. I even met a special man that I can't get out of my mind, and I don't want to.

Life-long friendships were formed that can only be strengthened now and at future GALA festivals. I'm convinced that GALA is a small sample of Heaven"

Bob Hidalgo (Baritone)

"It was an atmosphere where we were all given the opportunity to show our best stuff and, in return, were given more adulations than we could ever realize! This is a place where you perform for your peers who know and understand and participate in some of the finest music in the world.

"The other overwhelming aspect for me is the bonds of friendship that were started or strengthened. Among members of our group I saw a deeper understanding of each other as individuals, a sharing of our innermost selves and a new love that will strengthen our group as we continue to serve our community through song (not to mention some matching tattoos!).

"There were also bonds formed between groups, plans outlined for future smaller festivals, hopes for joint concerts, sharing of ideas ... a true atmosphere of community and of working together to change the world one note at a time."

James "Big Hair" Fousek (Bass)

"When I heard "It's Raining Men!" I looked and there they were! Men were everywhere. Lesbians were just as ecstatic about the numbers of women.

"You realize some of the choruses sing better than others, but all were singing their hearts out and doing the choral-ography like chorines. Arizona was well represented by our four groups: Arizona Women In Tune did us proud by turning in one of their best-ever performances.

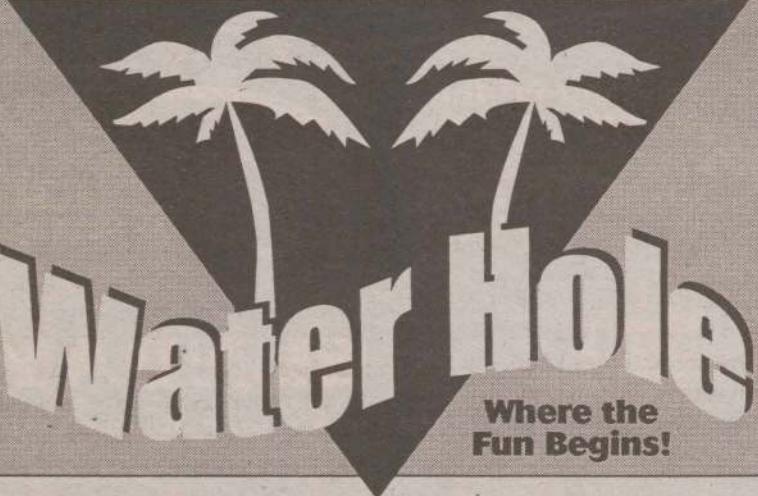
"You have to go to a GALA Chorus Festival to see: a yodeling cowboy riding a pink flamingo; crossdressers named Ethel; a German chorus from the Rhein/Rhur region dressed in green and black outfits singing the most avant-garde music you have ever heard and telling jokes dry as desert heat; a well-scrubbed boy-next-door male chorus from Vancouver B.C. singing and dancing their hearts out in yellow rain slickers straight out of a Busby Berkeley musical; another German chorus dressed in speedos and chaps (you should have heard the heavy breathing during that segment); huge parties most nights and the London Gay Men's Chorus hosting an English tea party in Chavez Park, complete with freshly made scones they baked the night before. You cannot help but love those gorgeous Brits."

Alban Gray
(Assistant Director; Baritone)

"Of the 12 GCMC members who went to the GALA V festival in Tampa four years ago and are still in GCMC, every single one went to San Jose! Last year, our president asked us Tampa vets to stand, and then asked how many of us did not plan on going this time. We burst into spontaneous laughter! None of us could even imagine not going—that's the kind of experience it was.

"We had been preparing for GALA 2000 for 4 years. There's a lot of stress in trying to learn music perfectly to entertain and impress our peers, our friends, and our most critical audience. As we left the stage our efforts were rewarded by a standing ovation. We had done it! We were overwhelmed with feelings of exhilaration... and relief. That night Craig Westendorf summed up what we all felt. He said 'I wish I could say I'm glad it's all over, but I'm not!'

Rick Myrick (Bass)



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Kit Stewart

Continued from page 1

"Lawn Guyland"—as she proudly pronounces it—and she still lives there. She performs mainly in nearby Manhattan at renowned comedy clubs like Caroline's and The Last Laugh. "Oh yeah, I'm a city person, absolutely," she says.

Hers is an unconventional family in some ways. "I'm one of six kids—three boys and three girls. And three are gay and three are straight, so that's a whole comedy act in itself, right there."

Growing up, Stewart was clearly the budding comedian in the brood. "Oh definitely. I was always the funny one in the family, and then in school I was the class clown."

Stewart reports that the coming-out process in her home environment was not a problem. "I'm one of those people who was never really in. I've been gay since birth and so it was no shock to anybody, believe me."



How do her relations feel about having their family business aired (and, ideally, laughed at) before a roomful of strangers?

"They come and support me and cheer me on, and then nobody ever says anything to me about what I've said about them. It's really funny how they won't mention it—I keep thinking that it's building up and one day I'm going to get a 'Dear John' letter from one of my siblings saying they will have nothing more to do with me."

So far, though, no letter has arrived. "They really do support what I'm doing and they have all been just great about it."

Stewart dabbled in comedy ten years ago, playing a few colleges and small events. Then she took some time away from the stage. "I didn't really know what I wanted to do for a while, there."

Three years ago she got back into show biz, made a commitment to it, and hasn't looked back.

"I took a [comedy] class, worked on the act, and got more serious about it. I'm so happy I did. These last three years have been wonderful and everything is going really well."

By way of influences, she cites Carol Burnett, Lucille Ball and Goldie Hawn as "some early ones". In modern times, "there's Ellen, of course, and I also think Paula Poundstone is fantastic."

Another Lawn Guyland gal,

Rosie O'Donnell, scored big in comedy clubs prior to her current gig as daytime chat's number-one celebrity kiss-up artist. "I remember seeing Rosie perform standup at a local chain called the Ground Rounder when I was in high school," Stewart relates. "We're close in age, so it's especially great to see someone from the area who made it."

Stewart isn't turned on by national politics and hasn't brought the 2000 election into her act. "That's more for Jay Leno," she says. "Frankly, I'm just bored by both of [the major-party presidential choices]."

She adds, "I do vote, but I prefer to pay attention to local candidates. I like to know what's going on in the neighborhood, to know where people stand on issues at the local level. That's where I feel like my vote has more of an effect."

She differs from many out comics in that gay-advocacy issues don't make up a significant portion of her material. "It's really all about my family, and

so it appeals to a lot of people, and I think just about everyone can relate."

Stewart has played for crowds both gay and nongay and says that either way, the reaction is generally the same: lots of laughter.

The comic and her partner are looking forward to their trip to Phoenix—she's never been here before, but she's heard good things about the Center's annual multi-comic fundraising event.

"That's quite a major show you guys have out there, and I am so looking forward to being a part of it. I can't wait," she says. "I've got my portable fan, so I'm ready for the heat."



Tickets for the comedy festival are \$10-\$24 in advance and \$27 the day of the show. It's scheduled for 7:03 p.m. on Aug. 26 at the historic Orpheum Theatre in downtown Phoenix. For the show and a Meet the Comics Reception, tickets are \$45 each. Call 602/265-7283.

Michele Balan

Continued from page 1

Considering how poorly she's feeling, it's a good thing Balan isn't on another working vacation; performing for queer crowds at upscale holiday spots is one of her specialties.

She's been a featured performer on numerous RSVP gay cruises and is a favorite on the all-male ships, in particular. "I'm not doing comedy just for the lesbians, or for this group or that group. I do comedy for all."

Her humor wins over non-gay crowds as well. "It's across the board. For everyone." Balan has also performed at the lesbian-heavy Dinah Shore weekend in Palm Springs several times. "Oh, yeah, the lesbians like me too," she says, lowering her voice suggestively. No doubt, they do.

There was a lot of humor in the Balan household, which nurtured young Michele's flair for comedy and eventually led her to tackle standup as a profession. "My family is very funny. Very dysfunctional but very funny. I'm the only one who's doing this—I don't know why. But actually my father's funny, and my younger brother's very funny," she explains.

The family has no quibble with her chosen career. "They love it. At first they were like, 'Get a job. Pay the rent.' But once you start to [make it], then it's like, 'Oh, okay. We get it.'"

Family members attend a lot of Balan's shows and don't mind a bit that she's onstage talking about life as a Jewish lesbian. "They've known forever," as she puts it.

"Except for one time I was in Miami, and my father brought my very religious Uncle Vance—the only one who's like, religious, kosher, all that stuff—to the show. And all I kept focusing on was his face in the audience and thinking, 'Oh my God.'"

Balan feared her material would induce a heart attack in the elderly relative. "I thought, 'the man is gonna die.' Because I do a lot of jokes about what a terrible Jew I am, and about being a lesbian."

Immediately after the show, she cornered her cousin and asked how the old guy was doing.

"And my cousin said, 'I think he just went mumbling



out the door!' Other than that though, I think pretty much everybody is fine with it, and they all come to my shows whenever I'm in their town."

The conversation turns from family matters to Al Gore's pick of Joe Lieberman as his Democratic running mate. "I think it's about time," she says, "Then again, I'm Jewish. But even if I wasn't, I'd still think that. He's done fine in Connecticut and I really don't think [religion] should even matter."

She adds, "It's funny to me to look at the way that gay people struggle, and then if you look at [the media obsession with Leiberman's religion] you can see that, you know what? The Jews haven't come much further, either."

Balan thinks it's "interesting to see. In this day and age—in the year 2000, we should be able to be gay, we should be able to be Jewish

and be a vice president. None of it should matter. But it still does."

Talking about her comedic influences, Balan says, "I've been labeled the George Burns of Lesbian Comedy, which I think is very funny."

That doesn't mean Balan looks like the long-lived, cigar-chomping vaudevillian. "Not from my appearance, but from my type of comedy and my mannerisms. I don't look like that—although I can do a face that kind of looks like him."

She explains, "I love that old, Jewish, Borscht Belt kind of stuff: 'Take my wife, please!'"

Balan is too young to have worked at the famed, mostly Jewish family resorts that made up the Borscht Belt circuit in the Catskills and Poconos, but she's been there. She grew up in New York in an era when "every Jew had to go to the Catskills." Her visits came "before the Beatles—when I was a kid, 11 or 12—but I didn't go that much, just one year on vacation. And I never, ever went to camp in my life."

She continues, "But I love those old Jew comics. They're more my influence than any of the comics we have today."

So maybe she was a man in another life, after all. Which begs the question of whether Balan has found her own little Gracie Allen to play off of her George-Burns personality.

"At home you mean? Hah—usually a new [Gracie] a week. I like to say I just got out of a five-year relationship with four different women. Or else I say that I've got so many exes, I can start my own ex-files."



Tickets for the comedy festival are \$10-\$24 in advance and \$27 the day of the show. It's scheduled for 7:03 p.m. on Aug. 26 at the historic Orpheum Theatre in downtown Phoenix. Call

Eddie Sarfaty

Continued from page 1

out that he was gay during puberty after "discovering that boys weren't yucky after all."

He complains about New York's humidity, then says he looks forward to the "dry heat of Arizona" (Shh... Don't tell him about our Monsoon Season).

Sarfaty has appeared all over the East Coast. For two years he toured as one half of *Two Consenting Adults*, earning great reviews from both gay and non-gay audiences. He even got some unexpected fan mail from Pat Robertson.

He likes the variety that comes with touring and the chance to periodically get away from the urbanity of the East Coast. "An audience here in New York—which is an urban audience—is definitely different from the suburban audience which is different from a semi-rural audience," he says.

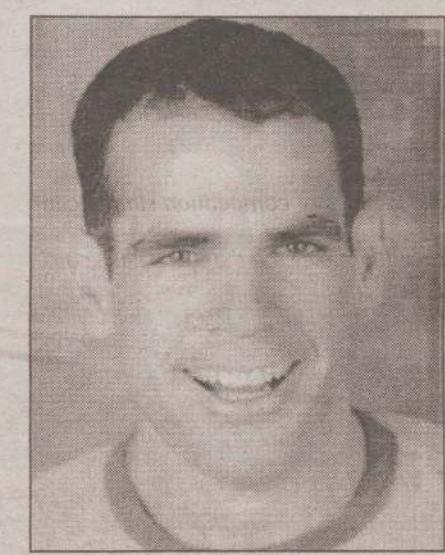
"I think it is actually really nice to go outside of the cities. If you are a gay person in New York on a Saturday night, there are 50 things to do. But if you are in some little town somewhere, there is one gay bar or maybe two and there's not a lot of different events for gay people to go do and feel comfortable about."

That's where he comes in. "Comedy is something that is easy to set up and people really appreciate having a different kind of event like that come in. I find going to a small town or somewhere that is not a cosmopolitan place is really a lot of fun."

His humor is not shock humor, nor is it strictly gay humor. "When I first started doing comedy," he explains, "I went to 'open mikes' and got very good responses from the owners who were very encouraging for my ability—but some of whom were very leery about the fact that I was doing gay material. They were like 'Oh I'm open, but I don't know if our audience would like it, I don't know if we would hire someone, etc.'"

And yet his choice to out himself had its advantages. "At about the same time, I started getting calls from people who were from gay venues because I was doing material that was openly gay. It's not all I do. It's not like every joke is gay related. In New York, there are five billion people trying to be stand-up comics. You're fighting tooth-and-nail for five minutes of showtime at two in the morning to play to the last table of drunken people."

The gay-audience gigs provided the newcomer with a less competitive training ground. "For me to do these gay venues was really great because it was a way for me to get lots of experi-



ence on what I was doing because the only way you can really learn what you are doing is by doing it in front of an audience. Now when I go back to straight venues I get a great response."

Being out is what makes his act different from what most young comics are doing out there, Sarfaty says. "Everybody has Comedy Central on their cable dial. You see a thousand white men between 25-45 who do stand-up comedy and they are all talking about the same thing because they have a lot of things in common. I get up there and start talking about something that's a little different. It's honest and it is different for the straight people, so I get a great response."

To whet your humor appetite in anticipation of the Aug. 26 benefit, you may want to check out Sarfaty's website at www.keeplauging.com. In addition to the usual biographical profiles and glowing reviews, it actually has some neat video and audio clips from his act. Just don't listen to all of them if you are one of those people who can't keep a punchline to yourself.



Tickets for the 7th Annual *A Night Of Comedy* Festival are \$10-\$24 in advance and \$27 the day of the show. For the show and a Meet the Comics Reception, tickets are \$45 each. They can be purchased at the Civic Plaza 602/262-7272. For more information, call the Community Center at 602/265-7283.

The eyes have it

Gay filmmaker Fenton Bailey on his latest documentary: *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*

By Bradley David, Contributor

When filmmaker Fenton Bailey and his boyfriend/creative partner Randy Barbato completed editing on their latest documentary, *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, they were more than a little apprehensive about showing the finished product to the woman whose life they had just dissected.

"We were cowards," says the British-born Bailey, explaining that a videotape of the documentary wasn't mailed to the former televangelist with the garish makeup until a few weeks before the film's world premier at this year's Sundance Film Festival. "We just stuck it in the post, and when she got it, she put off watching it until the day before she left for Sundance. Her husband, Roe Messner, eventually sat her down and said, 'Look, you've got to watch this.'"

Bailey's fears were unwarranted. After viewing the film, Tammy called to say that she approved.

"I think when she first watched it she found it very emotional because so much of it is going back into the past," says Bailey. "But she was pretty much inured to all the ridicule about her in the press, and I think she was quite taken by surprise with the tone and angle of our story."

Since Sundance, where she was the toast of the town, Tammy has been actively promoting the film, which is now playing in about 50 theaters across the country. The film opens at Scottsdale's Camelview theater Aug. 25.

"The thing about Tammy is that she's smarter than a lot of people give her credit for," says Bailey. "She makes fun of herself, so our film can't really ridicule her because she is the author of her own joke. She kind of sets it all up so everybody else can't

have the punch line."

Of course there were parts of the film that Tammy was uncomfortable watching, says Bailey, like the scene that shows her earnestly pitching her idea for a puppet-based children's TV show to a disbelieving studio executive.

"I think there are bits that she would sooner weren't in there, but we didn't give her any editorial control," says Bailey.

As one might expect, getting Tammy Faye's initial cooperation for the project was not easy. Fascinated with her for many years (he had even visited her theme park, Heritage USA, as a film student in the mid-'80s), Bailey finally met her when she was a guest on VH1's *The RuPaul Show*, which was produced by Bailey and Barbato (RuPaul narrates *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*).

"It took us about a year to persuade Tammy to do it," Bailey says.

Asked if he and Barbato had to convince her that the film would present her in a positive light, he says, "We couldn't honestly put our hands on our hearts and say that, because we didn't know when we set out to make it what we would discover. But we knew we were really interested in this personality and we knew that the personality was very different from the rather two-dimensional media portrait that everybody was familiar with. We expected that our film was going to be somehow different from this kind of camp, cartoon-joke person."

What he didn't know was what he would uncov-

er about the scandal that brought down Tammy Faye and her then-husband Jim Bakker and their PTL (Praise The Lord!) tele-

about Tammy and we just didn't want to go into a big side digression," he says. "We asked Tammy what she thought about the rumors and she said, 'Well as far as I know, he's not.'"

The film portrays Tammy Faye as a gay icon, not only for her campy persona but for her breaking with the religious right and openly embracing gay people and people with AIDS.

"Tammy doesn't allow other people's criticism or ridicule of

ture film), and the same year, Bailey and Barbato were recognized with a GLAAD Award for outstanding contribution to gay and lesbian programming.

Other documentary credits include *The Real Ellen Story* (Bravo), *Juror #5: 58 Days on the O.J. Simpson Civil Trial*, and *Drop Dead Gorgeous* (HBO), which told the story of HIV-positive comedian Steve Moore and won a Cable Ace Award for Best Direction.



Photo: Greg Gorman

Above: The heroine of *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*; from left: Co-directors Randy Barbato and Fenton Bailey

vision ministry.

"Our assumption about PTL going in was that they probably WERE just a bunch of crooks," says Bailey. "What we discovered was that PTL was not the criminal organization that it was portrayed as. The trial of Jim Bakker was a complete mockery of justice. It was more about the court of public opinion and the need of a scapegoat for the greed decade. The only thing Jim Bakker did was supposedly oversell these timeshares, and the detail of the case really hinges on a very technical definition of whether or not they were actually in the business of selling timeshares."

Tammy Faye was instrumental in convincing Jim Bakker—now out of jail and remarried—to be interviewed for the documentary. Bailey and Barbato decided, however, not to go into the allegations by a former PTL employee that Bakker had been involved in a homosexual relationship with him.

"We absolutely admit to leaving that out, and the reason was that we were making a film

her to change who she is," says Bailey. "I think the film resonates with a gay audience because it tells the story of someone who is rejected and who is outcast, and who survives that discrimination."

The Eyes of Tammy Faye has garnered more attention (including the coveted "thumbs up" from film critic Roger Ebert) than anything else Bailey and Barbato have done in their nearly 20 years as a creative team. Bailey came over from England in 1982 to attend film school at New York University, where Barbato, an American, was one of his classmates. The two became involved romantically and later professionally, forming World of Wonder Productions. The company now employs around 50 people in its Los Angeles and London offices.

Bailey and Barbato—both 39—have been heavily involved in the reality-based television and film movement. Their 1998 Cinemax documentary *Party Monster* won an Emmy for editing (World of Wonder is now developing the story for a fea-

Besides producing RuPaul's television variety show, the duo directed RuPaul's videos for "Supermodel" (which won a Billboard Music Video Award), "Back To My Roots" (named one of the 50 best videos of all time by *Rolling Stone*), and "Don't Go Breakin' My Heart" (with Elton John). Their controversial six-part British TV documentary *Pornography: The Secret History of Civilization* will air in the U.S. on Cinemax this fall in a condensed, two-hour version.

Bailey says he and Barbato aren't limiting themselves as to what kind of projects they might do in the future.

"This distinction between documentaries and narrative features is slightly overdone," he says. "Telling a story is telling a story, and whether a film is a fictional feature or a documentary, they're not so very different."

"But yes," he jokes, "we would like to make \$100 million action movies."

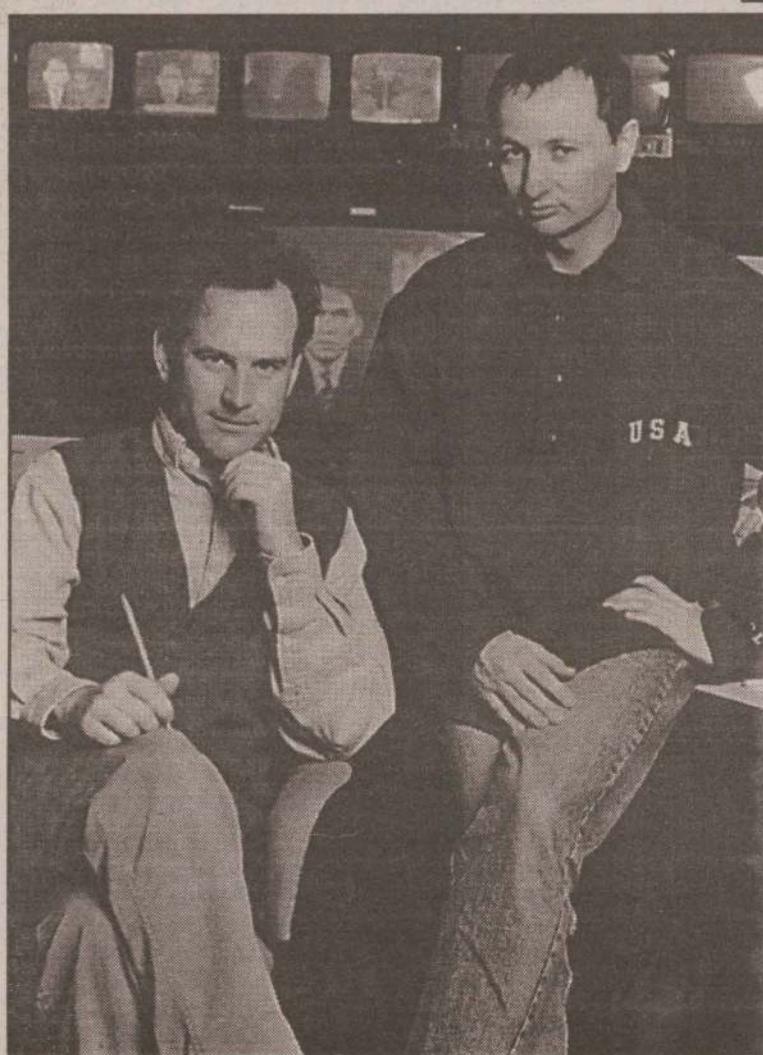


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Gammage 'Wilkommens' Cabaret star to Tempe Sept. 5

By John Thomas Lotardo

"You are more like a fly on the wall here than you ever were in other productions of *Cabaret* or in the movie," says actor Jon Peterson of the new touring production of the revived Kander & Ebb show. Peterson stars as the wild and eccentric emcee when the musical comes to ASU's Gammage Auditorium for a week-long engagement, opening Sept. 5.

"You'll be witnessing a little more of what actually happened," Peterson adds.

As he explains it, the story touches "more on the subject of homosexuality and the persecution. They're a little more open with the realities of life, and of what actually went on. What was hidden in the script and the lines of the songs is now framed."

This production of *Cabaret* also stars Kate Shindle, Miss America 1998, as Sally Bowles. Revitalized and revived for Broadway a few years ago, the 30-year-old show won four 1998 Tony Awards.

Director Sam Mendes of *American Beauty* fame (he won the 1999 Academy Award for Best Direction) gets some help from co-director and Choreographer Rob Marshall. Marshall garnered a Tony nomination for *Cabaret*.

With lyrics and music by John Kander and Fred Ebb, and book by Joe Masteroff, *Cabaret* is based on the memoirs of gay great Christopher Isherwood set against the background of deteriorating Germany at the beginning of the Third Reich. It features some of the most well-

known tunes in musical theater including "Wilkommen," "Tomorrow Belongs to Me," "Money" and "Cabaret."

It's a great opportunity for the lanky Peterson to shine as the sensual, teasingly bisexual emcee. He sees this show as a real crowd-pleaser, declaring it "more fulfilling to watch than ever before."



He really has taken on the role. He explains: "To prepare for it, I try to think about what the emcee really represented. I think he represents fate— everybody's fate." With the touring company since it started more than a year and a half ago, he insists on making the role his. "It's not a retread; the schedule is grueling, but Peterson comes prepared, "I try to get a good night's sleep and eat properly. I have a juicer that I bring with me. That keeps me well."

His phone message aptly informs

callers that he is not quite sure what city he is in at the time, but to leave a message and he'll track you down. When we caught up with him, Peterson was in Costa Mesa performing there for a few days.

Peterson is a veteran of the British West End. Musical and revue credits

Peterson has also appeared in many pop videos, including in Duran Duran's *Wild Boys* (though Peterson insists he is not a wild boy). Originally from London, he studied dance for years but found the theater to be his true calling.

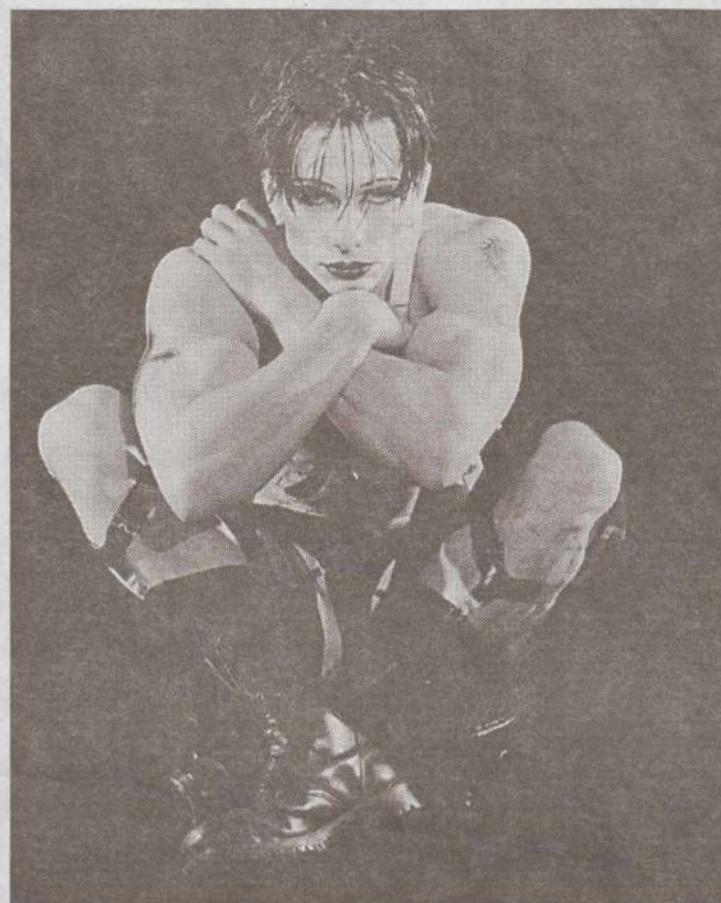
"My love is theater," Peterson confides. "I trained as a dancer. I was at the Royal Ballet for years. I think of dance as a lover who's wronged me. Even while I was a dancer it was a love/hate thing. So now I am quite glad that we are apart."

He does admit, however, that he has not traveled far. In fact, his agility comes in handy throughout the *Cabaret* production. Peterson now sees dance as a supplement to his theatrical persona. But, as he puts it, dance "no longer rules" him.



Cabaret opens Tuesday, Sept. 5 and runs through Sunday, Sept. 10. Ticket prices range from \$19.75 to \$54.75 and can be purchased at Gammage and all TicketMaster Outlets.

For more information about *Cabaret*, call Gammage Box Office at 480/965-3434, these two websites, and Chita's.



include *The Sound of Music* with Petula Clark, *Lucky in Dames at Sea* with Kim Criswell, Mr. Mistfooles and Skimbleshanks (at different times) in *Cats*, Paul in *A Chorus Line* and Chita's.

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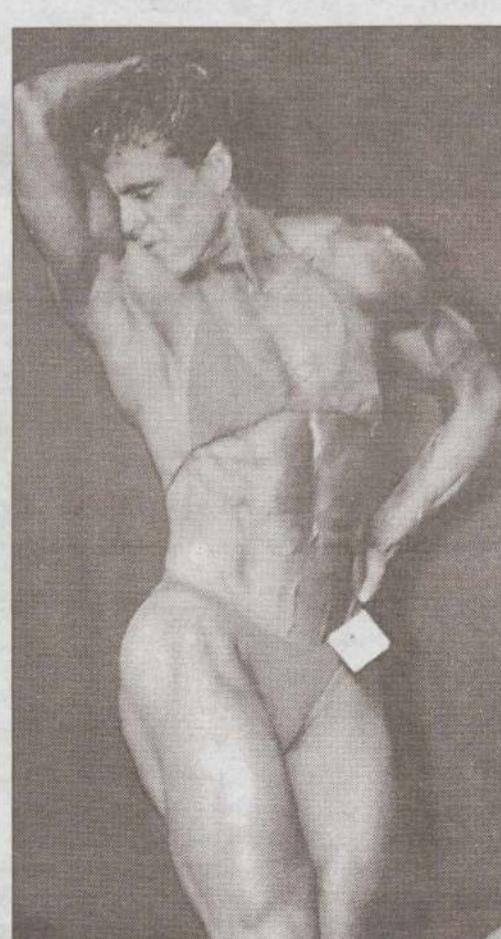
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Local lesbian qualifies in international body building competition

Phoenician Julie Melson, 34, is the reigning Ms. Arizona Heavyweight and Ms. Southwest Physique in the sport of body building.

Melson next has her sights set on the Ms. USA competition in New York City on Sept. 14. She's also the only American body builder to date invited to represent her country in the run for Ms. Universe, to be held in London Sept. 23.

A native Arizonan, Melson works as a fitness trainer for Bally's International in Phoenix. She played a variety of sports in her youth and discovered strength training at the age of 15.

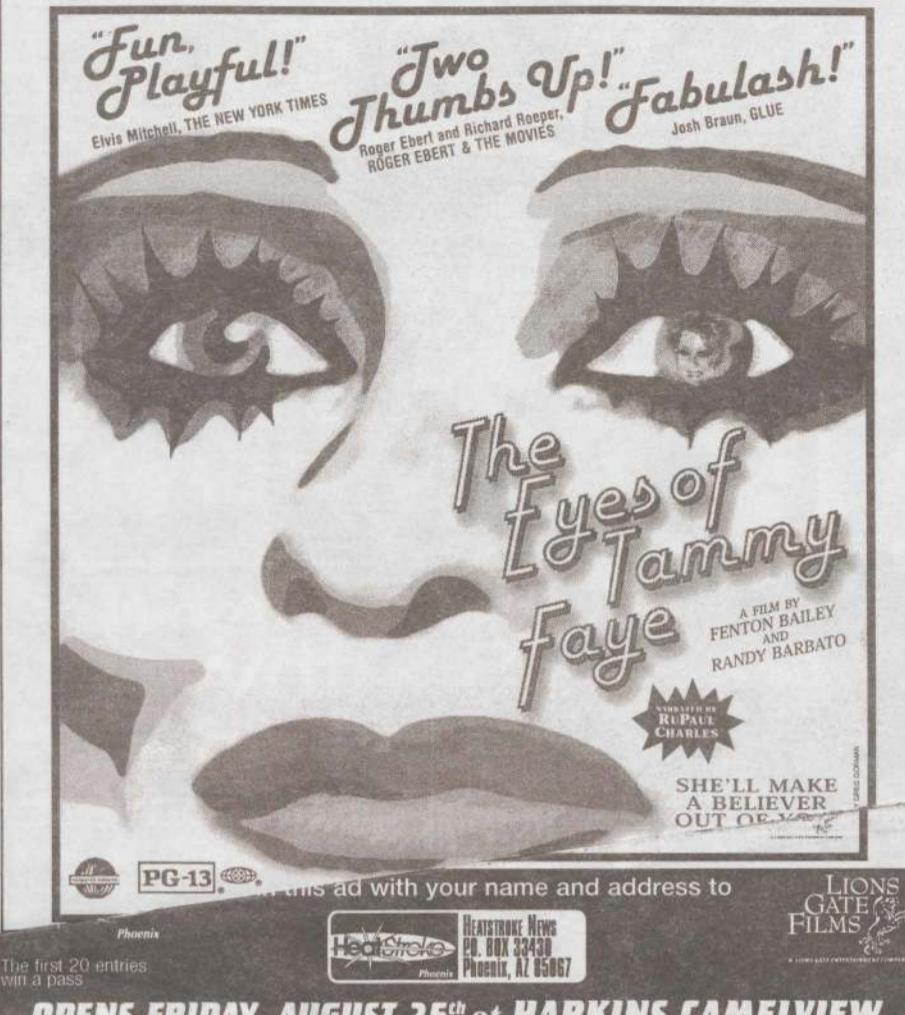
"I immediately fell in love with body building and have made it an integral part of my training regimen ever since," she says. Melson competed in marathons and other endurance tests until undergoing back surgery for a bulging disc. It was then that she turned to amateur body building.

"I had always considered competitive body building but was intimidated about going on stage," she says. "My girlfriend, who was also a personal trainer, really helped me to face my fears and just go for it."

In just over a year, Melson has earned two titles. She is looking for financial sponsorship to help bring

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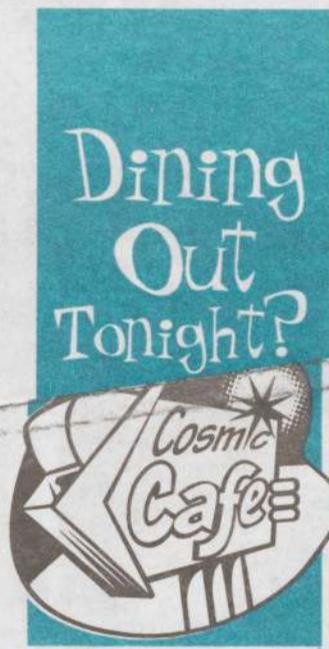
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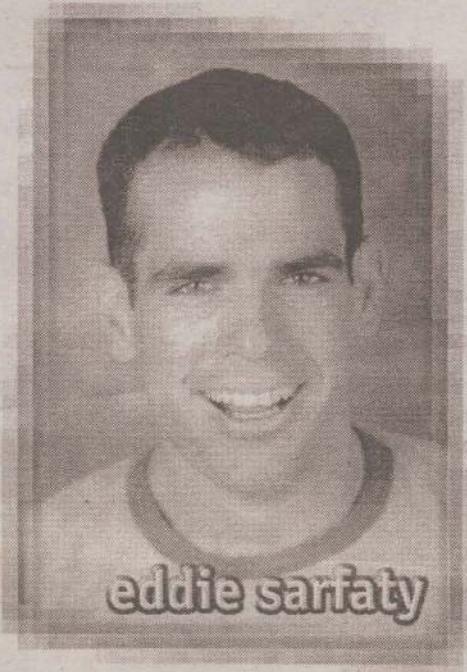
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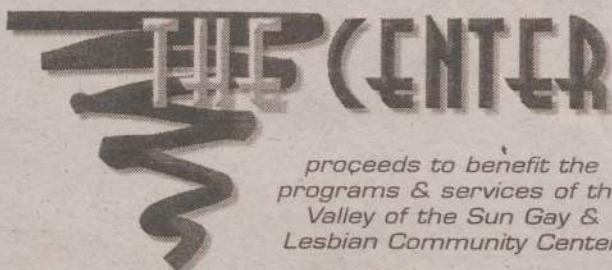
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Naked Curiosity

By Dennis Scott-Bush

Black & White & read all over

Do I owe it all to having been barred from *Mandingo*?

I think I can trace the roots of my interracial relationship back to the night my family and our next door neighbors all went to the movies together. The kids—including a 13-year-old pubescent me—were hustled into some generic, G-rated flick, while the adults slinked into the other theater to see that Old South potboiler, *Mandingo*.

When I moved from the East Coast to San Francisco to be with my partner, there were gay men of his acquaintance who referred to me as his "little white boy" and "his piece." I was not amused.

While innocuous dreck played out on the screen in front of me, I wondered what scandalous images were being projected for my parents on the other side of the wall at the Eric Twin Cinema in King of Prussia, PA.

I had long been subjected to selective film and television prohibition. My brother and I were discouraged from watching *Room 222* because there were "too damn many colored people on it," according to

my father. And Lloyd Haynes never did to Karen Valentine what my mother told her card club pals Ken Norton did in *Mandingo*.

The *Room 222* ban takes on even greater significance when one considers the sitcom-non-grata status conferred by our household on *The Odd Couple*. "Two men that age living together have got to be queer!" my father declared. I was shielded from both *Room 222* and *The Odd Couple* as a teen and, now, I'm a gay man in an interracial marriage. Nature or nurture?

There have been interracial relationships throughout history. Who's to say that the fountain of youth discovered by Ponce de Leon wasn't in the loincloth of a friendly Native American? How can we be sure that Alexander the Great didn't get his moniker from some conquered soldier of another race, after an especially exciting night of Macedonian mating? And do we have irrefutable proof that Marco Polo wasn't really a butch-looking lesbian who had a torrid affair with a silkworm-raising Asian beauty?

My partner's family can track their heritage back to a white slave owner and a mulatto slave mistress. Their family reunions look like a shading spectrum chart from an elementary-school art class. I'm certain that plenty of gay and bisexual plantation owners plowed more than cotton fields, and that just as many were on

the receiving end of some serious butter churning.

But what of interracial couples that come together as equals, in the modern model? What struggles must cross-cultural pairs face in a world that is often as vocal about different-race relationships as same-gender ones? Are the stereotypes still as pervasive?

When I moved from the East Coast to San Francisco to be with my partner, there

My partner, Martin, has always been attracted almost exclusively to white men. I, on the other hand, have dated a variety of types, though primarily dark-haired white guys. Then I fell in love with a man who happened to be Black.

And when I told my family and friends that I was moving across the continent to be with him, my mother screeched, "They'll all jump you and have their way with you, then leave you in the street!"

She was a woman of the world. She'd seen *Mandingo*. I suppose she assumed that Martin had a "posse" like a rap star, and that I was going to be passed among them like a tray of hors d'oeuvres.

In the ten years that have passed since then, she has grown to love him. So has my father, who was an unrepentant bigot before Martin became part of the family. My brother's children, who live in the hills of Tennessee, know only one non-white person—their Uncle Martin.

Do I still have a cultural crisis, from time to time, that warrants a call to Martin's mother? Indeed. Does he continue to shake his head at some of my family's traditions? Oh, most definitely. Are both sides of the family better off for having been

joined together by Martin's and my coupling? Without a doubt. And we owe it all to *Mandingo*.

HeatStroke
Dennis Scott-Bush is a Phoenix-based writer and public relations consultant. His work has appeared in a variety of publications throughout the country. E-mail may be directed to phxwordsmith@home.com.



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Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"I do love her, but if a reporter were coming to my home, I wouldn't have Judy Garland playing. They'd think maybe upstairs I had a room devoted to her. A gay man loving Judy could almost be like a black person watching a minstrel show."

—Filmmaker John Waters to the *Atlantic Monthly*, August issue.

"In her last movie, *I Could Go On Singing* (1963), she [Judy Garland] even gave homosexuals in the audience a wink. I've already drunk enough coffee to float Fire Island," she says in a throwaway line near the end of the film. To gay men in that closeted time the flicker of recognition must have seemed like a bolt of lightning."

—Michael Joseph Gross writing in the August *Atlantic Monthly*.

"It's apparent to gay people that we're talking about being gay, but straight people don't know what's going on."

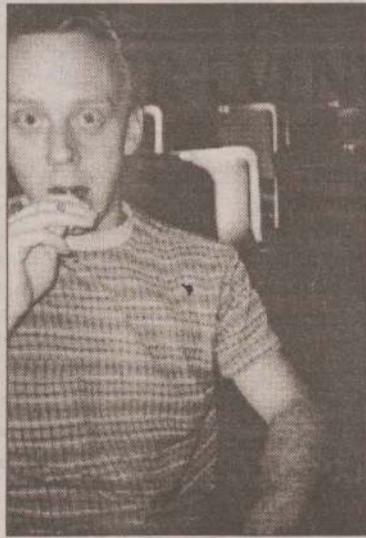
—Paul Poux of the advertising

agency Poux Co. on the Subaru ad that shows a car carrying two men's bicycles along with the slogan "It's not a choice. It's the way we're built," to the *London Evening Standard*, July 26.

"There are very few swear words, there's no nudity at all and I made the film for gay teens. The fact that it received an 'R' [rating] is really offensive to me. I'm tired of being told by these people that my sexuality is a bad thing. It's not. It's wonderful."

—Jamie Babbit, director of the film *But I'm A Cheerleader*, to Ohio's *Gay People's Chronicle*, July 21.

"We've always had a strong gay following, which is great. It's not something we ever thought of consciously. Because I just want anyone to get into the band, I've never differentiated at all. I think a certain amount of androgyny has always been a part of us. We sort of came out of the things we grew up with: glam-rock, which was a major influence, and then disco and punk rock somewhere along the way. We always had a very strong bond."



Actor and writer Michael White

"I'm not aware of myself as a sex symbol—I wouldn't object if I were. It's one of the functions of actors to let people fantasize."

—Gay actor Sir Ian McKellen to Chicago's *Outlines*, July 19.

"If anything, my career has taken off since I came out [in 1988]. And of over 20 film parts that I've played since then, only three have been gay."

—British actor Sir Ian McKellen to the *Advocate*, Aug. 15.

"Most gay people may say they're opposed to outing, but ask them if it's right for a public figure's homosexuality to be reported on—or at least questioned—when it is relevant to a larger story, and most will probably agree. And that attitude is the real measure of how far equal reporting on gay public figures has come in the past ten years."

—"Outing inventor" Michelangelo Signorile writing in the Aug. 15 *Advocate*.

"I'm feeling the kind of exhilaration I felt when I first moved to San Francisco, I think because Montreal is so friendly and

so, to my eyes, foreign. And I enjoy a certain anonymity here that allows me to go crazy. I've always felt the one drawback to fame was that it makes anonymous sex impossible, but in Montreal all sorts of possibilities present themselves! So I've been spending my [film shoot] per diem at Stock [a gay strip joint] and experiencing the most exhilarating combination of creative work and creative play that I've had in a long time. ... I think Montreal is the most sex-positive city I've ever seen and that it comes without the jaded arrogance that often characterizes so-called liberated scenes. It only makes it that much more wonderful."

—Nick Rhodes of the band

Duran Duran to Florida's *The Weekly News*, July 13.

"My personal belief is that we're all bisexual. A lot of that informs what *Chuck & Buck* is. In terms of myself, there's no shame. I could say I'm gay but that

doesn't feel completely true either. ... Instead of saying we're different and should be treated equal, we should be saying sexuality is complicated."

—Mike White, writer and star of the film *Chuck & Buck*, to syndicated journalist Steve Warren in Florida's *The Weekly News*, July 20.

"I'm beginning to get creeped out by organizations like [U.S. media watchdog] GLAAD that start issuing the official party line on what a positive gay role model is and what isn't. That may have been useful ten years ago. I'm not so sure it is today. Gay people have nothing to prove [to bigots] in this world about themselves, nor should we be in the position to think we can do that by creating some glossy, rose-tinted version of ourselves."

—Tales of the City Author Armistead

Maupin to Montreal's *Hour*, July 20.

"Now it's like there are times when you look at the front-page meeting and ... literally three-quarters of the people deciding what's on the front page are not-so-closeted homosexuals."

—New York Times national political correspondent Richard Berke as quoted in the July 28 *Washington Times*.

"If you're talking about political rights in the civil realm, the Bible argument is totally irrelevant. There are people who still think divorce is a sin. They are entitled to their religious opinions, but they are not entitled to have those opinions be the basis and justification of our laws. That shouldn't affect the rights of my son, just because he has a different sexual orientation."

—PFLAG Executive Director Kirsten Kingdon to Michigan's *Between The Lines*, July 6.

"No, I don't think so."

—Singer k.d. lang when asked by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "Do you think you're going to make some babies with David Crosby?"

"The gay audience is more open and just basically more faithful. They just have continued to follow my career over the years. I guess they just like to hear good singing. Basically, I think that's it."

—Martha Wash (of It's Raining Men fame) to Michigan's *Between The Lines*, July 13.

"As of August 1, 2000, EchoStar Communications Corporation and the DISH Network will no longer advertise on the 'Dr. Laura' radio show. As a communications company, EchoStar supports the right of free speech guaranteed under the First Amendment but we also assert our right to choose where to place our advertising dollars. As an equal opportunity employer, EchoStar's corporate culture does not reflect or support Dr. Laura's views nor did we make a conscious effort to 'stand by' as a sponsor of her show. With all the programming options available to us, we will find a more suitable environment for our advertising."

—Aug. 1 corporate statement. Because of her anti-gay statements, Laura also has been dumped by United Airlines, Procter & Gamble, ToysRUs.com, Xerox, AT&T, Sears, American Express, Kraft, the Ohio State Lottery, Amica Insurance, Box.com, Geico, SkyTel and TCF Bank, according to www.stopdrlaura.com.

"We've had a gay following since day one. Why? I don't know. But they have always been very receptive, and we probably have more gay fans than straight. Maybe it has something to do with our glamour, and things of that nature."

—Mary Wilson of Supremes fame to San Diego's *Gay & Lesbian Times*, July 27.

"I'm so in love with the guy, if there was a fire in my apartment, the one thing I would save is the photo of David [Furnish] as a little boy that sits by the bed."

—Elton John to British Airways' in-flight magazine, July issue.

"Money is wonderful. It enables me to travel in the most lovely way and see and acquire beautiful things, but it also nearly destroyed me with drugs and drink, which was a huge price to pay."

—Elton John to British Airways' in-flight magazine, July issue.

"Even though I am an unashamedly pro-life conservative, I fully understand that the GOP is not a church. Rather, it is a political institution that maintains members with a wide range of political and social views—some of which I embrace and some of which I do not. I believe conservative Christians would be unwise to expect any political party to uphold identical values that we require from our churches and church leaders. The Republican Party obviously has members who are homosexual, atheist, and even pro-choice."

—Fundamentalist Christian spokesman the Rev. Jerry Falwell in an Aug. 3 public e-mail.



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Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Queer Road Trip, Part Two: Lawrence, Kan. to Chicago

Part one of this road trip—detailed in my previous column—followed a path from Albuquerque, N.M., to Lawrence, Kan., largely without having to use interstate highways. From here, a good plan is to spend a night in Kansas City before continuing east across Missouri with an overnight in St. Louis, then north along much of the old Route 66, with an overnight along the way, before finishing in Chicago—the origin of the great Mother Road.

This journey passes by an intriguing mix of sleepy farming villages and river hamlets, by retro motels and drive-in hot dog stands, and through vibrant cities with great gay nightclubs and queer-friendly accommodations.

From Lawrence it's just a 45 minute-drive to Kansas City. Hilly, green, laced with parks, and with more fountains than any city but Rome, this vastly underrated metropolis is blessed with colorful neighborhoods and some excellent museums.

Stay either at the gay-friendly Doanleigh Wallagh Inn, a beautifully restored 1907 mansion, or at the swanky boutique hotel, the Raphael, a classic 1920s former apartment building within walking distance of great shopping and dining.

If you have just a day to take in the best of this delightful river city, be sure to set aside time to visit the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, which is one of the finest in the country. Saunter around Country Club Plaza—a 55-acre Spanish-style shopping and dining district of ornate 1920s buildings patterned after Kansas City's sister city, Seville, Spain.

If you've got your heart set on a romantic, upscale dinner, book a table at Metropolis, which presents an oft-changing menu of New American favorites—same-sex couples often celebrate special occasions here. I never leave Kansas City without first stopping for a tuna melt and a vanilla shake at gay-popular Otto's Malt Shop, which is open 24 hours and has some of the friendliest waiters in town.

Kansas City has a down-to-earth nightlife, top hangouts being the mostly male (but lesbian-friendly) Club Cabaret—which is right by Country Club Plaza—and the women's club, Tootsie's, which is closer to downtown.

The drive from here to St. Louis is eas-

iest via I-70, but I like to stick with an itinerary that cuts through several engaging little towns in Missouri.

Leave Kansas City by heading east on U.S. 50 for about 90 miles alongside rolling carpets of corn and wheat to reach a quirky little town called Sedalia, where Ragtime composer Scott Joplin once lived. It's here that, if you're feeling truly adventurous, you need to stop at a retro-looking burger stand called the Wheel Inn Drive-In, which has been famous for more than 50 years for something called a "guberburger." If it sounds strange, it is; this all-beef-patty is smeared with peanut butter. And believe it not, it's actually pretty tasty.

From here it's another 60 miles to Jefferson City, the somewhat unremarkable but perfectly pleasant capital of Missouri. You can tour the neoclassical State Capitol building for free during business hours.

From this point, ditch U.S. 50 and go with scenic, narrow Highway 94, which parallels the north bank of the broad, meandering Missouri River. You'll pass through several postcard-perfect villages; at McKittrick turn south and cross the river into the neatly preserved German village of Hermann, which contains dozens of grand old 19th-century mansions and storefronts, plus a few wineries right along the river. It's a good place to catch your breath and relax a bit, or maybe even attend a couple wine tastings.

Continue now toward St. Louis along enchanting Highway 100, which runs along the south side of the Missouri River, passing through the historic city of Washington, and then pick up I-44 for the final leg into St. Louis. All told it's 130 miles from Jefferson City to St. Louis via this itinerary.

St. Louis is a big baseball city, a beer city, a working-class city—a place with the sorts of all-American attractions you might have visited as a kid on a family vacation, but also with dozens of urbane museums and parks, and a restored train station decked with shops and restaurants. Of course, you simply can't comprehend St. Louis without paying a visit to the Gateway Arch, which soars gracefully 630 feet above the banks of the mighty Mississippi.

Many of the best museums are found west of downtown in and around 1,300-acre Forest Park, but if you have time for only one, make it the acclaimed St. Louis Art Museum. Its diverse collections touch on just about every arts movement of the past few hundred years, from works by contemporary Americans like Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein to a significant cache of 17th-century Dutch works to fine Oceanic and Pre-Columbian selections.

Plan to spend one night in St. Louis. If you're a fan of B&Bs, opt for the gay-operated Napoleon's Retreat, an imposing mansard-roof Victorian near gentrifying Lafayette Park, or if you're simply seeking comfortable but affordable chain digs, try the Drury Inn Union Station, a former YMCA. During World War II, troops mov-

ing east to west were housed in this building midway through their journey—many a gay trick is said to have been turned during these stopovers. During the 1950s, a gay bar, Martin's, was run out of the basement.

Numerous homo-popular eateries line Euclid Avenue in the city's elegant but hip Central West End. T.J.'s Wildflower

Restaurant and

Bar is as much a gay-popular drinking hole—with live piano many nights—as a great eatery. For a real local treat, spring for dessert at Ted Drewes Frozen Custard, whose delicious (though concrete-like) shakes are so thick you can hold them upside down without losing a drop. The kitschy old custard stand has been a fixture on Old Route 66 since 1929. Top off the evening with drinks or dancing at the city's most festive club for lesbians and gay guys, the Complex/Angles.

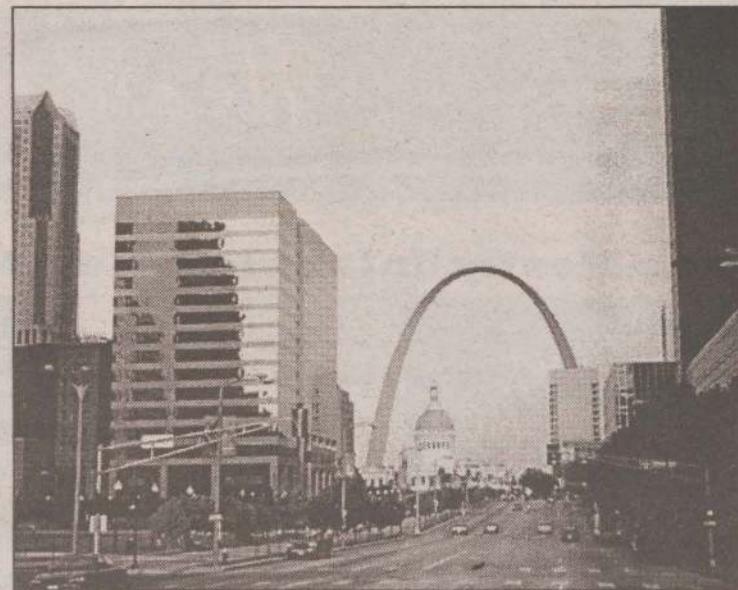
The following day cut out of town via I-64/I-55, exiting at Highway 111 and heading north into Mitchell (just about 15 miles north of St. Louis), home of the supremely tacky yet strangely inviting Luna Cafe, a brash steak-and-seafood house with cheap beer, juicy chicken wings, and dart boards and pool tables galore. This is about as hetero a hangout as you'll find along this trip, so you might exercise a little discretion—still, the staff is friendly enough (if a little gruff) and used to tourists ducking in.

After enjoying a fairly unhealthy but tasty lunch, take I-270 east to I-55, and continue up the highway—you need to hop off in various towns along the way to see old Route 66 attractions, as this interstate has sadly replaced the original road. In Hamel, for instance, you can browse for bric-a-brac among the 70 stalls at Princess Antiques & Craft Mall; in the old mining city of Litchfield you'll see countless divey-looking motels and funky old commercial buildings.

A little more than 100 miles after having left St. Louis, you'll come to the capital city of Illinois, Springfield, where history buffs interested in the career of the allegedly bisexual 16th U.S. president will find numerous memorials and historic sites dedicated to Honest Abe. The Cozy Dog Drive-In is a favorite Route 66 landmark and an apt spot for a meal.

There are several motels and hotels downtown, if you'd like to spend the night, but a more characterful option is the gay-friendly Inn on Edwards, a lavishly restored 1860 Italianate mansion that's just a block from the National Lincoln Home Historic Site.

Fans of circuit parties may not be



The Gateway Arch soars 630 feet above the Mississippi River, framing downtown St. Louis.

impressed, but Springfield does have a handful of queer bars, the most festive being the strangely named Zoo Babies, a disco and show bar with a mixed boy/girl following.

From Springfield it's a little more than 200 miles north along I-55 to Chicago, but again you can break up the drive with various Route 66-related excursions. You'll very quickly come upon Lincoln, the only town named for the president during his lifetime; Bloomington is the home of former presidential hopeful Adlai Stevenson, as well as his cousin McLean—the actor who played Colonel Henry Blake in TV's *M*A*S*H*; and just 60 miles short of Chicago—in Braidwood—you'll come to perhaps the best short-order eatery on this trip, the '50s-style Polk-A-Dot Drive-In, whose chili-cheese fries and ice-cream sundaes can't be beat.

End your long and colorful road trip in Chicago, a city far too immense and impressive to sum up in just a paragraph or two. But in keeping with the theme of this journey, do at least be sure to make three stops: head to Ann Sather (there are many locations but the one in Lakeview is arguably the best and easily the gayest) for warm and gooey cinnamon rolls and above-average diner fare; have cocktails at any of the several fun gay bars along Halsted Street in Boys' Town, where you can regale your fellow revelers with strange tales of the road; and browse for campy memorabilia at the Route 66-inspired Hit The Road travel store. Here you'll find everything from souvenir key chains and mugs to vintage postcards and photos of the Mother Road to guidebooks dedicated to the very art of road-tripping. What better place to finish one journey and get inspired for the next?



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.

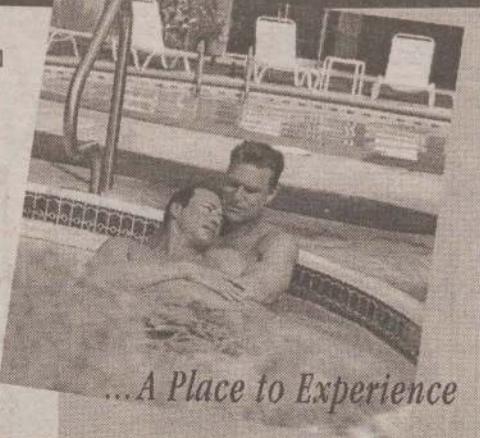


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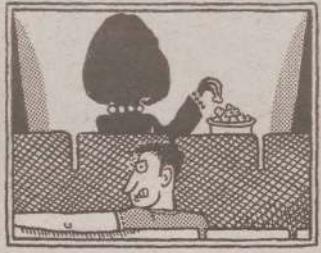
HeatStroke's Funny Page

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

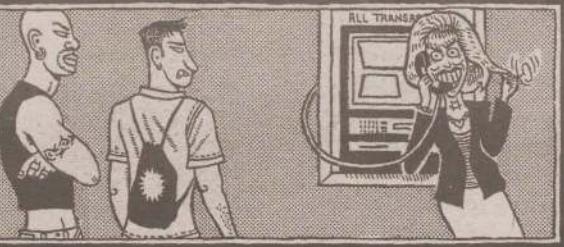
...by Eric Orner

Other
Reasons
to
Hate
Dr. Laura

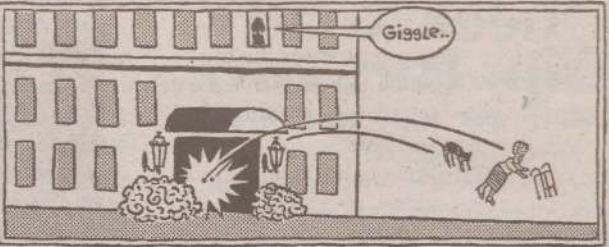
Always in front of
you at the movies
with that big hair.



Makes personal calls at phone
attached to ATM during morning
rush hour.



Marked on old lady neighbor with
Contraband kitty to building's
Gestapo-like Co-op board.



Callously dumps nail polish remover
down drain without concern of ultimately
poisoning local waterways.



Has leopardskin cat suit &
masseuse named Jorge, both of which
you covet.



Sent your parents those undercover
surveillance photos of you in
drag a few HALLOWEENS ago...



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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

DOG
Daze

© 2000 by ALISON BECHDEL

THE DOG STAR IS
RISING WITH THE
SUN, USHER-
ING IN THAT
PERIOD OF TOR-
POR, HOT AIR,
AND STAGNATION
KNOWN AS
"THE POLITICAL
CONVENTIONS".

344

WE FIND
LOIS PACKING
FOR THE DEMO-
CRATIC SHOW.

HAS ANYONE SEEN
MY CHARTREUSE
"LADIES CHOICE?"

8/8

IN THE
DISH-
WASHER.

112

UH... IS THAT
REALLY
SANITARY?

112

WILDFIRES WORST
IN DECADES
WEST NILE
VIRUS SPREADS
GREENLAND
THAW RAISES
SEA LEVEL

112

GOOD TO KNOW.
WELL, I'M OFF TO MY
SPINNING CLASS. BE
CAREFUL OUT THERE.
DON'T BE A HERO.

112

I'M SO GLAD I DECIDED TO DO
THIS! I FEEL LIKE A YOUNG PUNK
AGAIN! YOU SHOULD COME,
GINGER. IT'LL TAKE YOUR
MIND OFF MISSING DIGGER.

112

MM-HMM. ENCOUNTERS
WITH THE L.A.P.D.
ARE KNOWN FOR
THEIR POWERFUL
RESTORATIVE EFFECT.

112

YOU SHOULD AT LEAST
THINK ABOUT GETTING OFF
THE COUCH. WHY DON'T
YOU GO FOR A JOG? YOU
USED TO DO THAT A LOT.

112

BACK
BEFORE
DIGGER'S
RHEUM-
ATISM
GOT BAD.

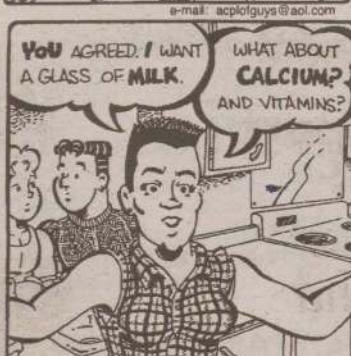
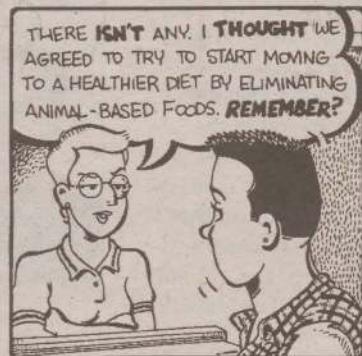
112

C'MON. YOU'VE
BEEN LYING
THERE SO LONG
IT'S STARTING
TO SAG.

112

AND SHE'S
NOT TALK-
ING ABOUT
THE COUCH.

112



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Deep Inside Hollywood

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

FISH HOOKS SPIELBERG

Gay *American Beauty* producers Dan Jinks and Bruce Cohen are close to finalizing a deal with überfilmmaker Steven Spielberg to direct the feature film version of *Big Fish*.

Based on the Daniel Wallace novel, *Big Fish* has been adapted for the big screen by mega-talented gay screenwriter John August, who counts *Go* and *Charlie's Angels* among his credits.

Big Fish is a magical drama, akin to *Forrest Gump* in tone, about the tenuous relationship between William Bloom and his prone-to-exaggerate father Edward. William only gets to know Edward after he's passed away, when William goes on a journey to separate the true man from his "larger-than-life" myth. Much of the story unravels through a series of flashbacks.

Big Fish will most likely roll before cameras next spring or summer on location in Alabama.

BLAIR WITCH MAKERS CROSS-DRESS

The production company behind *The Blair Witch Project* has optioned Jeffrey Hatcher's cross-dressing-themed play *Complete Female Stage Beauty* in the hopes of turning it into another low-budget box-office hit.

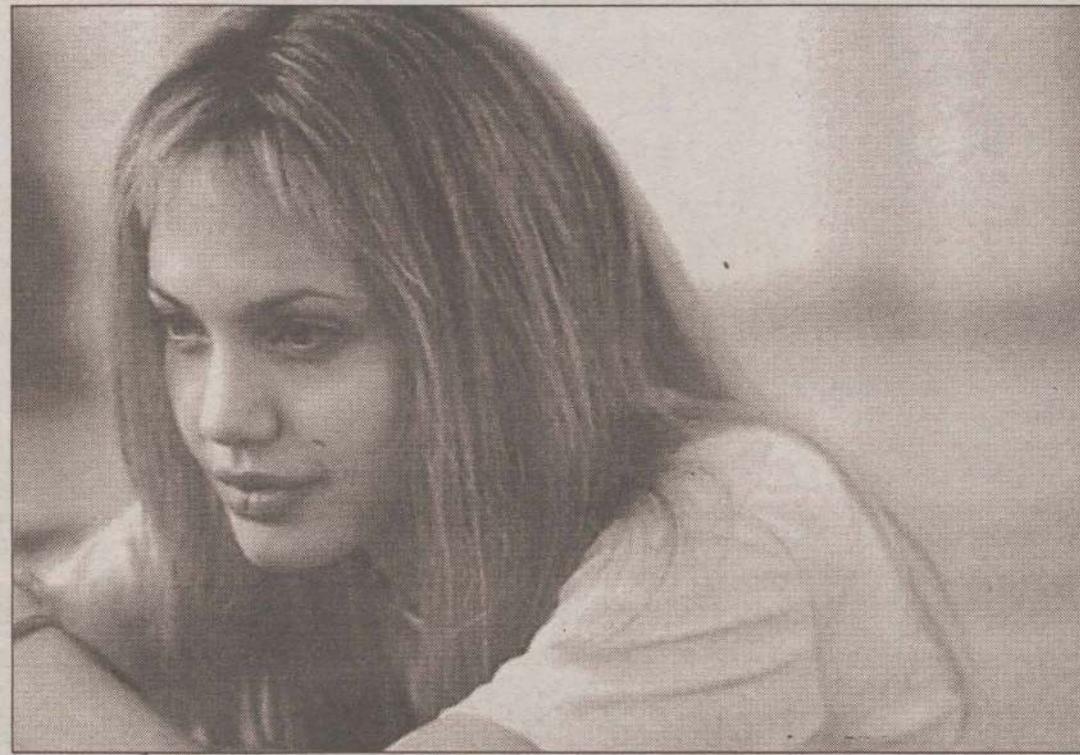
Set in London in the 17th century, *Beauty* is a dark comedy centered around the real-life story of actor Edward Kynaston, a pompous (but successful) actor who made his living portraying females on stage. When King Charles II issues a decree that bans men from cross-dressing for women's roles, the actor battles to reclaim his rightful position as a drag queen of theater.

The play has been described as "sexy" and "risqué," and Artisan has no plans to change that in the feature-film version. Hatcher will adapt his play for the big screen, which may go into production sometime next year with a budget of less than \$20 million.

CBS's FUNNY UNCLE

We've come a long way since *Love, Sidney*. Twenty years after that sitcom had Tony Randall as a gay man (whose sexuality was never discussed) suddenly confronted with helping to raise a little girl, CBS is developing *Say Uncle*, in which a gay yuppie inherits his teenage nephew and niece.

Openly gay *Friends* producer Jeffrey Richman told *Variety* that the show will address some of the feelings heterosexuals have when they walk into the perfectly decorated home of a gay friend and wonder what it would look like if only he had kids. Richman came up with the idea after his sister made him the guardian for her



Oscar winner Angelina Jolie has two projects in the pipeline: *Beyond Borders*, to be directed by Oliver Stone, and *Tomb Raider*, where she'll play the live-action version of Lara Croft.

children should anything happen to her. Look for *Say Uncle* no later than fall 2001.

HOMO BOX OFFICE?

HBO has just given a go-ahead to Moisés Kaufman's script for *The Laramie Project*. Kaufman will also direct the HBO movie version of his play, which focuses on the brutal murder of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard. No word yet on when *Laramie* will air.

JOLIE JOURNEYS BEYOND BORDERS

Don't expect bisexual bombshell (and recent bride of *Billy Bob Thornton*) Angelina Jolie to be staying home barefoot and pregnant anytime soon.

The Academy Award winning actress is currently in negotiations to star opposite Kevin Costner in the Oliver Stone directed *Beyond Borders*, a highbrow romance about a relationship that develops while doctors are involved in a U.N.-sponsored relief effort in Africa. Previously, actresses Catherine Zeta-Jones and Meg Ryan were attached to the role.

Jolie will begin the international shoot in October after she wraps her current gig—bringing computer-animated buxom babe Lara Croft to the big screen in the feature version of *Tomb Raider*. No doubt Jolie's payday will help cover the mortgage on the \$4 million Beverly Hills love shack that she and Billy Bob just bought from former Guns 'N Roses member Slash.

HE MUST LOOK LIKE HIS FATHER...

Cagney & Lacey vet Sharon Gless has joined the cast of the Showtime remake of *Queer as Folk*. Gless will start her new job this month portraying a "blowsy waitress" named Debbie, the mother of Michael (played by Hal Sparks).

Perry, whose character Dylan graduated from college last year on *90210*, has signed a deal to play a prisoner-slashed-faith-healer this season in the gritty HBO prison series *Oz*. No word yet on whose cell Perry will get to share.

SHARP DRESSED ICON

Hart-Sharp Entertainment, which catapulted into prominence after producing *Boys Don't Cry* with Christine Vachon, has a full slate of projects prepping for production.

Hart-Sharp is hard at work on *Icon: The Life and Times of Leigh Bowery*, currently being adapted for the screen by *Beautiful Thing* scribe Jonathan Harvey. Focusing on the life the Australian-born Bowery, who became a major force in the '80s London club scene, as well as a model for painter Lucien Freud, *Icon* will be shot in London when the script is ready.

Hart-Sharp is also hard at work in post-production on the \$2.5 million *Lift*, which recently finished filming in Boston and was written and directed by DeLane Davis and Khari Streeter. It's a difficult story about an African-American family told from the point of view of the

mother and deals with the consequences of what often happens when there are no male role models at home.

But most people don't know that Hart-Sharp likes show tunes, too—they are also a force behind the current B'Way mountings of *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Chicago*.

Romeo San Vicente wouldn't mind sharing a cell (or a summer house) with *90210*'s Jason Priestley. Jason (or you) can reach Romeo in care of *HeatStroke* or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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Meet the actors & finalists

Sun 10 Sept 5:30-10:30pm

BOOM Luau & T-Dance

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ADVANCE TICKETS: \$15 for 3-Day Pass at Movies on Central

Photo courtesy of Ikarus Entertainment



Q-S-C-O-P-E

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES:

The new moon in your health sector on August 29 should give you just the boost of physical and spiritual awareness that you need. It's easy for you to make the changes you need in your life during this cycle. The key is to concentrate on the minutiae. A Taurus digs it when you slow down and enjoy yourself.

TAURUS:

Jupiter opposite Pluto in your money houses suggests that you could be doing a lot better financially. You could stand to do 50 percent more gambling and 50 percent more cautious planning. If there's any hint of unvirtuous selfishness running through your behavior, give it a rest. Sexually, you were born to serve a Scorpio in the days ahead. Get busy!

GEMINI:

You may need to revamp your home a bit while the Sun and Mercury are stirring up excitement and nervousness in that area of your life. Muse over how to integrate your true self into your love life and how to bring other people into your bizarre little fantasy world. Do some naked Feng-Shui-ing with a Libra.

CANCER:

Put together some pre-Labor Day festivities and you may be surprised by how many pals pop in to say, "I've missed you." The Sun is currently in your communication sector, so if you have a smidgen of writing or public speaking talent, now would be the time to get down with it. An Aquarius speaks your language in bed.

LEO:

The new moon on August 29 falls in your financial sector, which suggests that money-making plans made now can reap great benefits over the next six months. Put worries about your old age aside and concentrate on recapturing your youth now. A Gemini can make you feel mighty real.

VIRGO:

The Sun, Mercury and new moon could conspire to bring your life full circle in a most positive way. Align yourself with your talents instead of fighting against them. If you've been collaborating with various people, now may be the time to strike out on your own. A Pisces will happily stand in your shadow... for a little while.

LIBRA:

This is a great time for you to push a complicated relationship to the limit and see what it's made of. Do what you do best and focus all your smarmy, sexy, sweet charms on one special person. A Virgo is ready to worship the ground you walk on.

SCORPIO:

When push comes to shove and you need a little love, you need to ask yourself what you are really longing for, darling. Stop judging others so harshly and admit that you're the one with monoslut potential! A Leo can't bear to hear you spout false morality any longer.

SAGITTARIUS:

This is the best time of year for you to flash your sweetest smile and ask for forgiveness from those ex-lovers (and future lovers) whom you've accidentally dissed. Look for a lover who can bring out the best in you. Go to extremes with a Capricorn and you may finally find the perfect balance you've been (unconsciously) yearning for.

CAPRICORN:

The new moon on August 29 falls in your house of travel and adventure, so book a flight or book a room in a local dive and have some exotic sex. Use your gifts to hook up with folks who can give you what you desire. Start with a Pisces.

AQUARIUS:

Mars in your house of love is inducing the open, receptive side of you to come out with a vengeance. A business partnership could lead you to the kind of success you've been yearning for. However, you may have to give up just a tad of creative or intellectual control. An Aries can teach you the deliciousness of letting go in bed.

PISCES:

The time has come for you to put a relationship trauma behind you and look for something new to fill that empty space. Your job? Like a *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, you just need to hang on. A Cancer won't let you self-destruct.

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. For more Q Scopes.

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Dear Cowboy,

During all my years of being a very regular participant in the local bar scene, I never once was able to go home with a guy for an easy fling, even though I desperately wanted to many times. I just never had the knack for tricking, or knew the right things to say.

About a year ago, I started messing around in the Internet chat rooms. I stopped going out on weekends altogether, and I found out that I'm a lot better at instigating and going through with quickie sex encounters when it's all about typing back and forth instead of dealing with a cute guy face to face.

Ten minutes after I meet a guy online, I'm asking what he likes to do in bed and

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

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

what he's looking for in a man, things I could never ask in real life. I've had some really hot sessions meeting guys this way, and a few duds but that didn't really phase me. I think it's par for the course.

I'm enjoying this newfound sexual freedom, but I'm getting tired of the chat room phonies. Also, I'm sick of being home alone on Friday and Saturday nights.

I want to get back into circulation with some live bodies but I don't know how to turn my bravery in the computer-chat situation back into bar conversation, and I am worried that I've completely forgotten how to interact with real, live people. Any suggestions?

Signed, Geeky and Getting It

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Dear Getting It,

I'd say you're already setting off down a good trail by knowing what you're looking for, and admitting you want to spend less solo time parked behind your machine and more time out among the rest of the herd.

You say that in the past, you've had trouble connecting conversations in a sexual way. You aren't alone there—many a cowboy has headed to the saloon planning to set up some bunk-sharin' and has ended up instead heading back to the ranch alone, usually due to his own lack of confidence in expressing his attractions more than anything else. Don't knock yourself in the noggin over it.

The trick—if you'll pardon the expression—is to take the confidence you've learned from the computer and apply it to

face-to-face meetings. Don't think you've forgotten how to talk to live people—instead, tell yourself you've simply been improving your flirting skills in a less pressured environment. Who says you can't ask a guy what he's looking for, or what he likes to do in bed ten minutes after meeting him? Try it, and see what happens.

Apply what you've learned about meeting men on the Internet: keep a sense of humor, don't confuse sex with emotional intimacy, and don't dwell on rejection. Bear all that in mind, and

you'll be surprised how easy it can be to connect in "real life," too.

There's nothing sexier than self-confidence in a cowboy, no matter how he's built or what he looks like. If you start pretending you have it, then you will.

Don't think you've forgotten how to talk to live people—instead, tell yourself you've simply been improving your flirting skills in a less pressured environment.

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P.O. Box 32778
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HIV Care Directions
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Phoenix 85016 602/277-7526

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Phoenix 85006 602/307-5330

Phx. Shanti Group
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49. **Phoenix Art Museum**
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50. **Phoenix Central Library**
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54. **South Mountain Park**
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56. **Phoenix Theatre**
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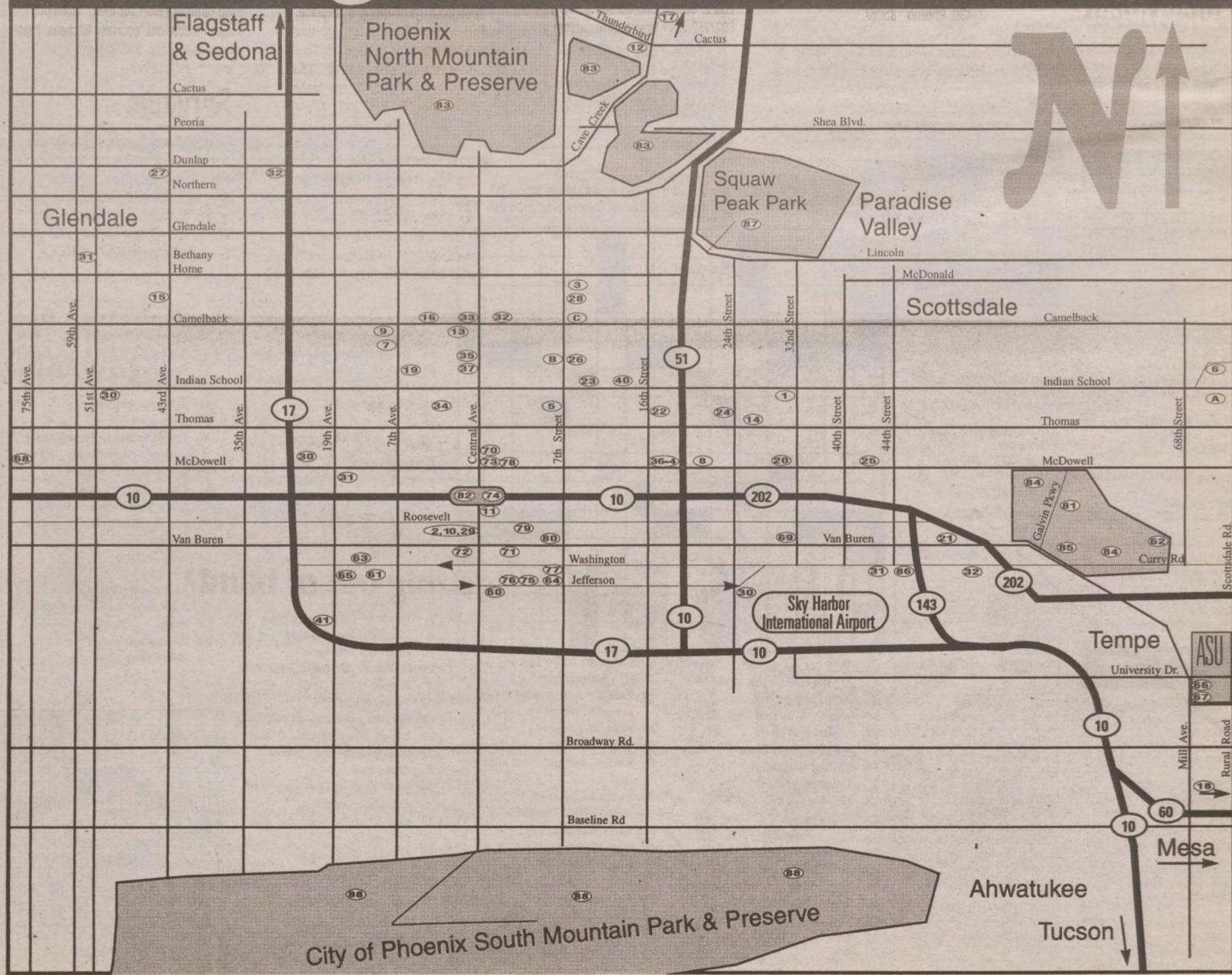
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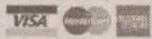
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Announcements

Like to Sing? Join Us! The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale will hold auditions for the fall season on Tuesday evening, August 29th at the First United Methodist Church, Central Avenue and Missouri in Phoenix. For more information, and to be scheduled for an audition time, please contact Rick at 602/266-4987 or BassoProfundo@iinkii.com. Rehearsals will begin the following Tuesday, September 5th.

Employment

Wanted: energetic, organized, motivated individual with experience overseeing large events and coordinating diverse people toward a common goal to act as event coordinator for the largest gay/lesbian event in Arizona. Must have supervisory experience; prefer prior experience with volunteer organizations. Contract position beginning in fall of 2000. Send resume to erin@azpride.org or P.O. Box 16847 Phoenix, AZ 85011-6847.

Looking for a fun job? Are you someone who likes to work hard and have a good time while doing so? Come and join our team at FLEX! Hiring now for all shifts, back-ups, clerks, security. Part time or full time is available. Don't waste any more time—come and fill out an application. 1517 S. Black Canyon Hwy, Phoenix.

Advertising Sales Representatives— HeatStroke is seeking motivated self-starters with experience in sales, full or part time. Great opportunity with lots of flexibility for the right people. Send resumé and cover letter to PO Box 33430, Phoenix 85067.

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

Real Estate Sales

Palm Lane Estate—\$475,000

Downtown at its Best! 2/3 Acre, 2400 square feet plus a basement. Totally remodeled, 3 bedrooms / 2 baths in stone, formal dining, french doors & more! Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate, 602/230-7600.

Great Coronado Brick Ranch—1945 3BR/1BA, 1200+SF, concrete floors, AC+Evap, formal dining, eat-in kitchen, inside laundry & more. \$111,000. **Your Community Vintage Home Specialist—** Lisa L. Seeley, Dan Schwartz Realty 602/252-7777 lsrealty@home.com

\$123,000—Yaple Park—Circa 1940, 3 bedroom / 1 bath, 1040 square feet, great house, central location. Slate tiled bathroom. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate, 602/230-7600.

The Story's . . . a little Melrose Place just waiting to happen! 5-Plex in the FQ Story Historic District. Great place, looking for a new owner to maximize its potential. \$310,000. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate 602/230-7600

Mummy Mountain—Town of Paradise Valley—Updated in 95-96, approx. 3500 sqft; 4bd+den/game room; 3ba; pool; 2G; greatroom kitchen; slate flrs; expansive views of N. Scotts, the McDowells, Pin, Peak, Saddleback & Mummy Mountain; last home in neighborhood sold for \$1MIL & was TORN DOWN!! Great Neighborhood. Offered for \$864,000; Call The Real Estate Consultants Sam Wercinski 602/228-4497 direct, West USA 480/948-5554.

Cactus/32 St—New in 1997, 2100+sqft; 4bd, 3ba; fenced diving pool; large 2G; huge greatroom concept; loads of tile; vaulted ceilings; recessed lighting; guest room w/bath; workshop; truly an incredible home offered for ONLY \$169K; Call The Real Estate Consultants Sam Wercinski 602/228-4497 direct, West USA 480/948-5554.

Greenway/56th St—Pride of Ownership!—Beautiful upgrades; 3bd, 2ba split plan, open kitchen to the family room, newer appliances, cabinets w/pull-outs, vaulted ceilings, desert landscaping, built-in spa. Large screened patio, north/south exposure. Pampered by owners! \$205K Just listed! Call The Real Estate Consultants Sam Wercinski 602/228-4497 direct, West USA 480/948-5554.

homes in the area sell for \$350K+. Get in before the next big price jump for only \$279,000. Call The Real Estate Consultants John Walsh 602/319-0692 direct West USA 480-948-5554.

Brand New this September! Two new homes now under construction in the hot new area of Desert Ridge west of Tatum & north of the 101 freeway. The single story home has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, greatroom concept. Priced at \$183,500. The two story also has 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with a loft, ideal for game room or office space. Beautiful views from the master suite. Priced at \$195,500. Both homes have ideal backyard exposures to the NE. . . no hot afternoon sun! Expect a major value boost when the 101 is completed soon! We can fax you a floorplan. Call The Real Estate Consultants Sam Wercinski 602/228-4497 direct. West USA 480/948-5554.

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

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The Story's Apartments— 1 bedroom / 1 bath, 2nd floor, wood floors, F.Q. Story Historic District, balconies, slate in kitchen & bath. \$550 mo. Rod Whitt, HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

Out-of-Town

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

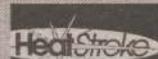
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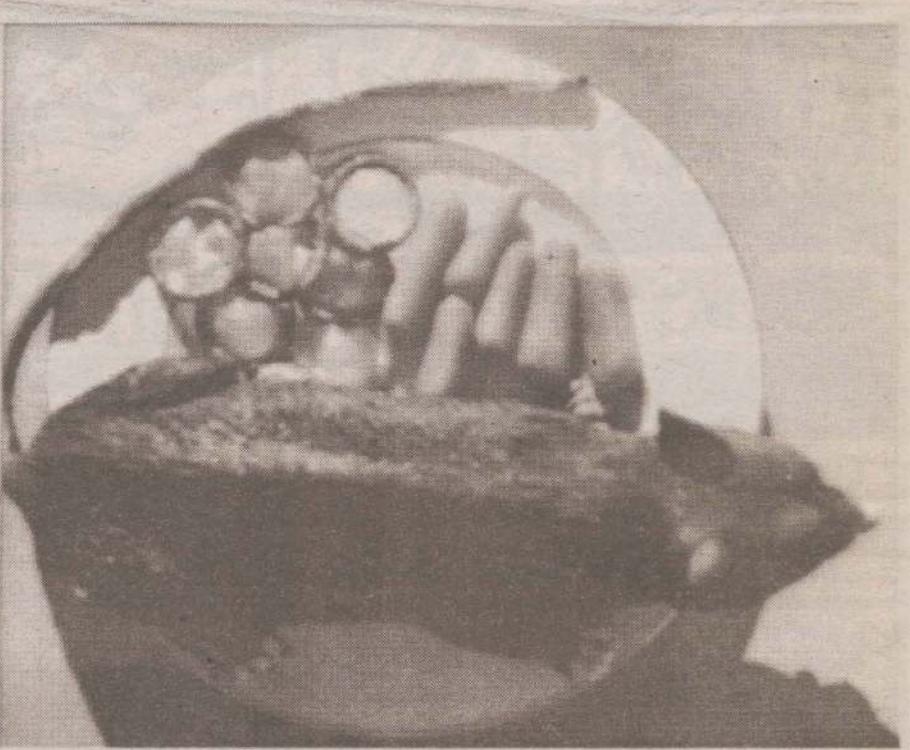
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Need Wood?

TIPS FOR GETTING TIMBER

Sex Advice for Gay Men

By Woody Miller, Contributor

Hey, Woody!

I'm new to the circuit scene and I have a question about circuit party sexual etiquette.

Okay, the meth's kicking in, right? The music's tribal, your arms are vibing, your teeth are grinding, and then—oh, wait. I forgot the question...oh yeah! Then you see a guy you've had a crush on for years on the dance floor.

Do you go up and tell him you've wanted him all this time? He's friendly and all, but I can't tell if he's interested. I figure if I tell him and he doesn't react well I can just blame it on the drugs next time I see him. It's only when I'm high that I have the nerve to tell him. Should I?

—Short-circuited at the Circuit

Dear Shorty:

No. Talking in a circuit party is like talking in a porno flick. It's annoying and it gets in the way. Groping is the preferred method of communication when you're visiting Circuit Nation. Basically, the rule is "never say with words what you can say with your hands."

Understand the concept of "Buzz Management." Like diabetics, party boys are constantly regulating their Buzz sugar levels and they do not appreciate anyone making the meter go south on them. If you're going to open your heart to him on the dance floor while you're both tripping you might as well spray a can of "Buzz-Be-Gone" in his face.

No, you're much better off grinding your sweaty teeth over to him when he's at the pre-orgiastic group-dance-hug-huddle thing on the floor and do the tribal laying-on of hands. That way, you get to cop a feel without unnecessary damage to your ego.

I don't think it's a bad idea to tell him—eventually—but not at a circuit event. There is no room for personal disclosures in the swirling potpourri of dick, drugs and disco.

Hey, Woody!

I like to have dirty, hot, sweaty nasty piggy sex but my boyfriend is one of those people who blow-dries his hair before going to the gym. The idea of having pre-showered, pre-baby powdered, pre-anti-perspiranted, pre-cologned, pre-mouth-washed sex leaves him less than limp.

I on the other hand, pop zippers when I smell glandular malfunction in the arm pit area. How do we bridge the grime gap between us?

—This little piggy went to bed without any

Dear Piggy:

You've got your work cut out for you. Getting Nancy Drew to lick your stinky pits when you can't even get her to look at your dirty shorts is going to be a real accomplishment. But it can be done.

First, sit down with him when you're not horny (this is critical) and tell him that making him sexually fulfilled is important to you. Ask him what he needs you to do to him or for him to keep him peaked. You'll score points for asking and more for delivering. And by all means deliver.

Once you've brought home the goods,



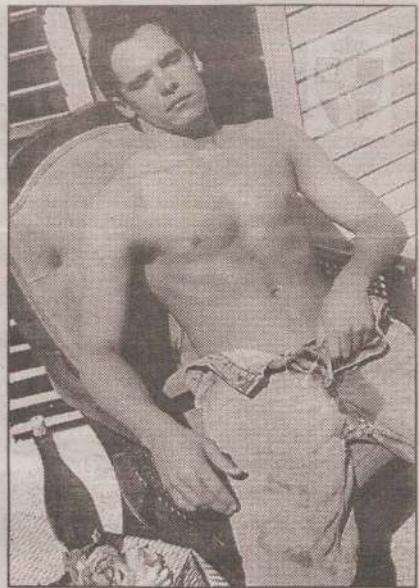
it's time for him to deliver. But don't demand. Ask. And one of the things you should ask is what would make it easier for him to enjoy the pigginess you so crave. In other words, don't dirtbag him all at once. He might be willing to let you sniff the smelly pits as long as your underwear is clean. Soak him slowly, if you get my drift, and you'll desensitize him to the joys of a pungent man-marinade. Remember, the difference between rape and seduction is salesmanship.

Hey, woody!

My pothead boyfriend smokes at least every other day and he's got zero interest in sex. He puts the lack in slacker. The only thing standing upright in my house is the vacuum cleaner. Would it help if I slipped him some Viagra? Is it safe for him to take the big blue pill while he's stoned?

He just doesn't seem to want me or anyone else for that matter.

—Begging for it



© 2000 Lee Andrew

Dear Begging: I'm still trying to figure out how you "slip" Viagra into somebody. I guess you could crush it into a powder and mix it with water like Tang. We could call it Bang.

There are no known interactions between Viagra and pot; as long as he doesn't have any blood pressure or heart conditions he shouldn't have any problems. But I doubt it'll do any

good. Viagra can give you a boner but it can't give you what comes before it—desire.

Sexual arousal starts above the belt, not below it. Brain cells get activated, which start the blood flow to you-know-where. If brain cells can't process a sexually-exciting image (say, you in *Dance Fever* leotards) because there's enough marijuana haze to make asthmatics long for the cleanliness of Los Angeles air, then what good is Viagra going to do?

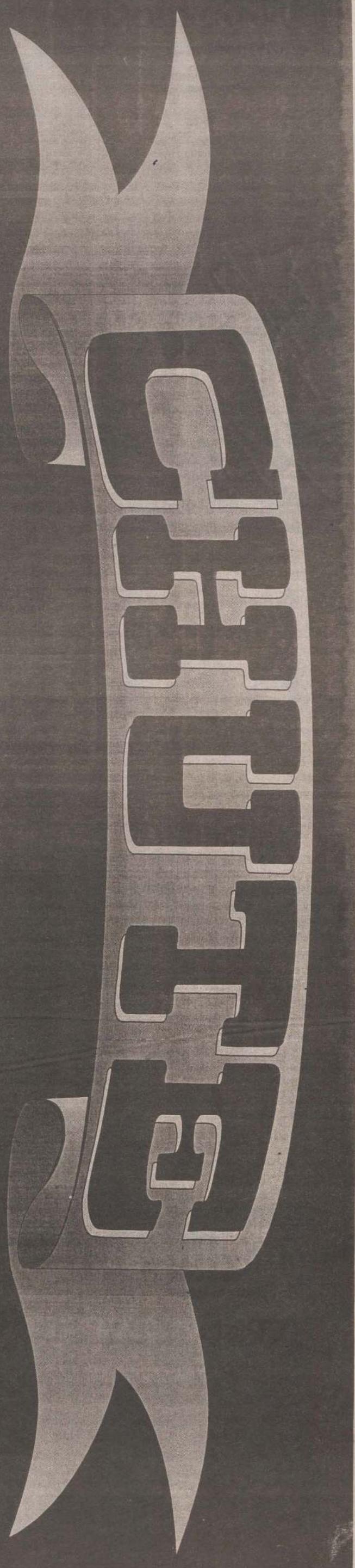
A lot of scientists believe marijuana decreases testosterone, sperm count and consequently, sexual desire. It's been proven in bar flies that marijuana changes the chemistry of the nerve cells in the brain affecting sexual behavior, the same cells that regulate hormones producing testosterone and sperm.

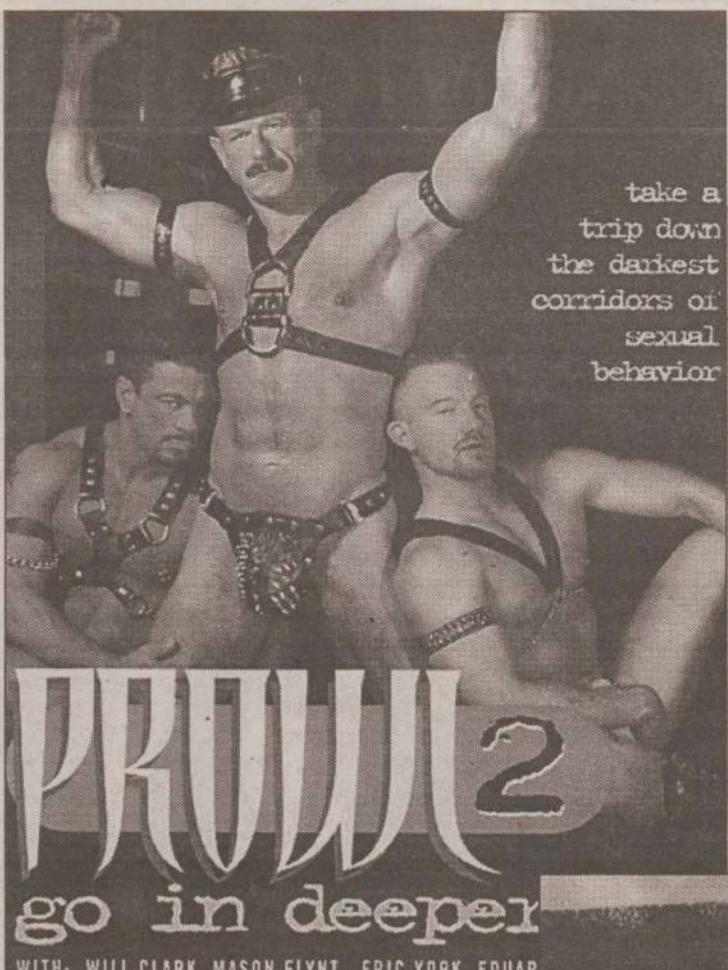
Did I say bar flies? I meant lab rats. Rats, schmats, nobody really knows marijuana's sexual effects on humans. The limited research is contradictory. Some studies show decreases in testosterone and sperm count; some don't.

The studies may be contradictory but don't be a fool. You can't do anything in excess and not have it affect your sex life. I'm afraid you're going to have to give your boyfriend something harsher than Viagra—an ultimatum. It's decision time: Your ass or his pot. Maybe he needs an unbiased source for a decision. Send a naked picture of yourself and a sample of his stash and let me be the judge.

Need Wood? E-mail Woody at kneadwood@aol.com.

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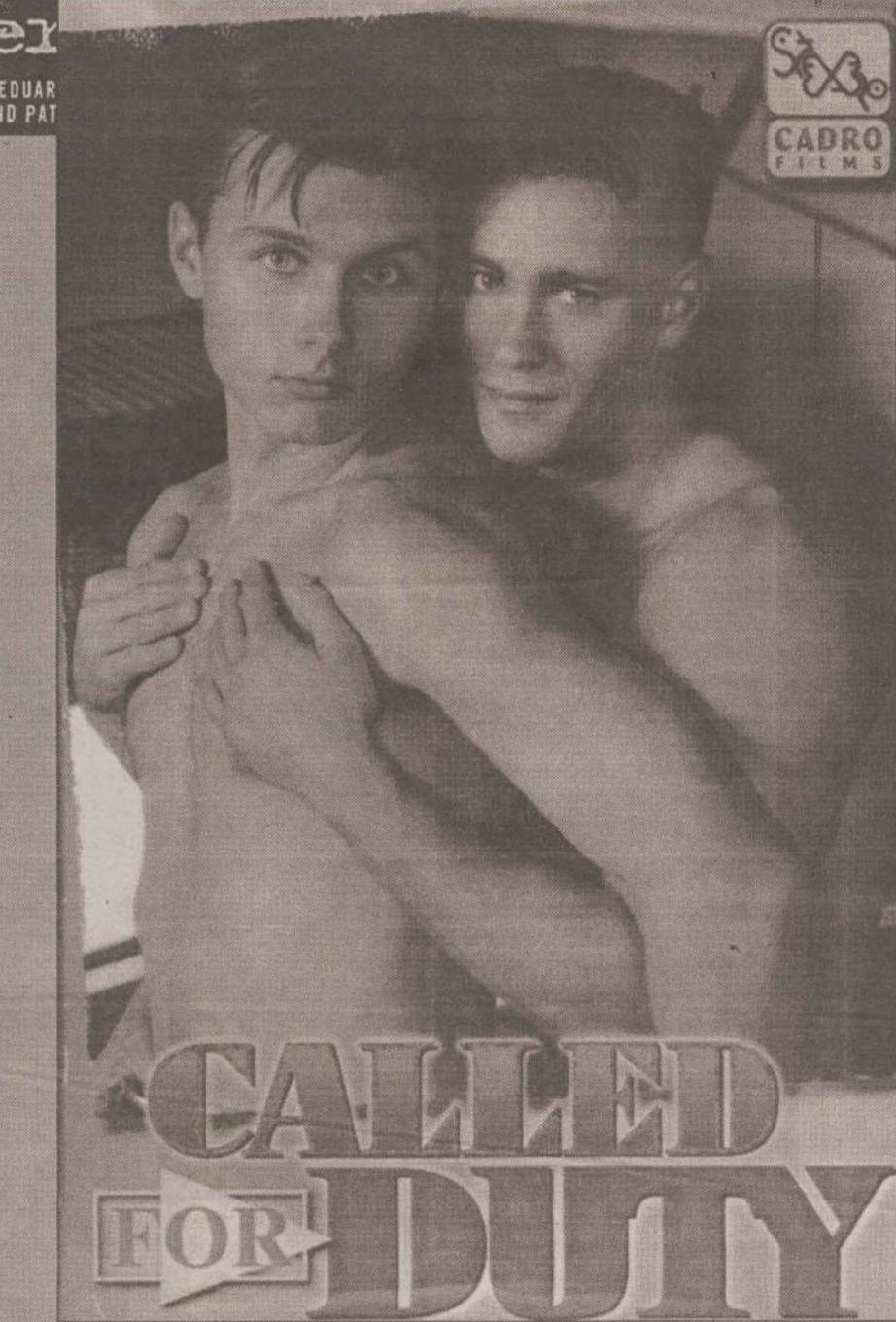
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